

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2479	Press ~~Mis.~~
223-224	
Dated	18. 10. 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 223. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Ootacamund, 12th September 1865, No. 1,410:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from Lieutenant Walker, Deputy Conservator of the Salem District, as it treats upon several points of Forest administration, which I wish to bring before Government for their orders.

2. With reference to the indiscriminate felling of bamboos, it appears that most of our best Sandal-wood trees grow in the shelter of bamboo forest. I would suggest that where the growth of Sandal-wood depends upon the shelter of the bamboo, our Department shall be authorized to reserve such tracts; this can be arranged by the Deputy Conservator in communication with the Collector.

3. I also request you will inform me whether we are to allow bamboo to be cut for firewood and charcoal free of any tax, as there is a tax upon firewood; if the indiscriminate felling of bamboos is allowed for this purpose, I anticipate that this valuable forest product will, in a few years, entirely disappear in tracts near the Presidency, on river banks and other localities where it is desirable to preserve it.

4. Alluding to the total abolition of the tax upon bamboos, I do not know whether Government are aware of the very large revenue it has been yielding, this too, without ever taxing the poorer classes or even the rich Ryots; as all Ryots and villagers take as much as they require for building and agricultural purposes, and the tax is only levied on the article when cut for sale (chiefly export from the Districts). By Lieutenant Walker's statement Government will perceive that the revenue derived from bamboos last year amounted to Rupees 7,630-13-8 in the Salem District only, it is very large also in Cuddapah, North Arcot, Madura, and South Canara, and is a steady increasing revenue and in no way oppressive, and is not even complained of as the tax upon timber often is.

5. With reference to Lieutenant Walker's remarks regarding Sandal-wood growing on puttah land, I beg to inform you that until a few months ago all Sandal-wood growing on puttah land was reserved by our Department the same as Teak, and I had always been under the impression that there was a clause in all Puttanamas, stating that the reserved timbers belonged to Government. In G. O. No. 966, of the 10th of May 1865, Government recognize the right of Ryots to all Sandal-wood on their puttahs, and it now appears that the Ryots in the Sandal-wood Districts are regularly entering upon a Sandal-wood trade, and Lieutenant Walker fears that much of our Sandal-wood will be cut by them, and without an enormous Establishment it is, as he states, quite impossible to prevent this. I would suggest that this portion of the Deputy Conservator's letter be referred to the Collector, and that Government pass some orders on the subject, or I greatly fear that our Sandal-wood revenue will entirely disappear. I may here add that I have never known a single case of a Ryot planting a Sandal-wood tree; it is bird-sown in the Sandal-wood Districts, and comes to maturity in edge rows, because it finds the shade which seems necessary for its growth, the finest trees are found in these localities.

6. With reference to the concluding portion of the Deputy Conservator's letter, I am aware that throughout our Presidency an immense amount of smuggling is caused by Zemindars, Jaghiredars, and other holders of private forests, never granting any pass or license for timber removed from their forests. Government will not probably order such passes to be granted; but I do think that Collectors might be asked to recommend all holders of private forests to use some regular printed form when possible, particularly as it will be greatly to their own interests, as they would soon find out after the system was introduced, and we were enabled thereby to bring to light any smuggling in their own as well as in Government forests. Without some orders on this subject the proper conservation of Government forests and a thorough check against smuggling are impossible, and I am sure the subject deserves the consideration of Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th October 1865.*

From Lieutenant C. J. WALKER, Deputy Conservator of Salem and South Arcot Forests, to
Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated Camp, Tripatore,
3rd September 1865, No. 214.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward herewith a Statement, shewing the amount of revenue derived from the tax on bamboos in this District during the past official year, as requested in your Circular No. 1,370, dated 5th August 1865.

2. The amount, as you will observe, is large, and I anticipated that it would be still greater this year.

3. I am not aware on what account Government decided on the abolition of this tax, but I would respectfully submit that doing so especially in the Districts under my charge is injudicious, and most detrimental to the interests of our Department, both as regards revenue and the proper preservation and conservation of our forests.

4. Salem has always been a District noted for the excellence and quantity of its bamboos, and large quantities are hourly and daily cut for the purpose of supplying the Madras and the Bangalore markets. Our tax on them was not oppressive (12 Annas per bandy-load), and was only imposed on those who cut them for the purpose of sale. Ryots and villagers were allowed to cut as many as they chose for the erection of their houses, &c., &c., and not one complaint having come to my notice on this head. But the *direct* loss of revenue is not what I most fear, our young trees, especially the Sandal, require until they reach a certain height, to be surrounded by bamboos to give them shelter and moisture, and the Sandal-wood tree growing almost invariably in bamboo jungles great care was always necessary in felling bamboos not to deprive the young trees of the shelter they require, and also when the tree was old enough not to require the aid of the bamboo any longer, to fell the latter carefully and in such a manner that it should not in falling damage the more valuable Sandal tree. This we were able to effect by not granting passes for bamboos in jungles where our Sandal trees were young and delicate; and knowing always *where* parties were felling, we could keep a watch that such felling was conducted carefully and without damage to the young trees. Now not only will the bamboos often be felled where we most wish them to remain, but the felling will doubtless be conducted without a thought as to the young trees around, and as we cannot now interfere in any way, I apprehend great danger to the forest trees in general, and more particularly to the Sandal, our most valuable tree in this District. These are a few of, but not all, the evils I fear will arise from an order which is no boon to the Ryot or villager in this District, but only to the merchant of Madras or Bangalore, who doubtless found the trade sufficiently remunerative before otherwise he would not have continued it. Whilst on this subject I would beg respectfully to request that some definite order be given with regard to Sandal-wood growing on puttah land. By the decision of Government and Order thereon, dated 10th May 1865, No. 966, all Sandal-wood growing on said puttah land belongs to the Ryot who holds the puttah. Now these patches of land are generally surrounded by Government forests, in which more or less Sandal-wood is growing, and there is nothing now to prevent the Ryot in addition to cutting down his own Sandal-wood trees, to cut down a few of ours also, and pass them all as his own. We cannot sufficiently watch every puttah to prevent this.

5. I would suggest that the best remedy or preventative for this would be to make a rule that the Ryot must sell his wood to the Department, and not elsewhere; we could afford to give him the fair market price for it, deducting what it would cost us to cart and clear it, he would not therefore be a loser, and we would be gainers, for although we would not *directly* make anything out of wood thus bought, still we could then check exactly the several amounts, as it would be easy to count all the trees growing on the Ryot's puttahs, and we would then know that anything in excess of that belonged to Government, and check it accordingly. Whereas at present, as the Ryot can take the wood where he likes and sell it, we cannot in any way check the evil: as even should we count the trees on the puttah ground, we dare not detain a bandy *said to be puttah Sandal-wood* even to count the number of trees. I spoke to several Ryots about this, and they all seemed to be willing that such a rule should be brought in; they would, as a rule, get more from us than from the merchants, who cheat them. I would also suggest some rule be made with regard to timber cut on Jaghire land; at present we have no check on this at all, the Jaghiredars do not generally give passes, and the Collector says he has not power to make them do so. The consequence is that although we place Tannahs near the Jaghire land, an immense amount of smuggling from Government jungles takes place, as they have only to state at the Tannah that it is Jaghire timber to enable them to pass it without a license. The Peon cannot detain them even for enquiry, unless he is certain it is our wood and can prove it, for should it turn out to be Jaghire timber, or we could not prove it to be ours, a civil action could instantly be brought against the Deputy Conservator of the District. Surely this could be remedied, either by causing the Jaghiredars to give passes or by buying up their right to the timber. In either case I am sure the revenue would improve, and much illegal and reckless felling would be stopped.

6. I shall anxiously await your reply on these subjects.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Captain,
Officiating Conservator of Forests.

C 7 2

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th October 1865.*

Statement shewing the Revenue derived from Bamboos in Salem and South Arcot Forests, for 1864-65.

Months.	Salem.		Namcul.		Ahtoor.		Oosoor.		Durampury.		Tripatore.		Utengherry.		Trinamallay.		Chengum.		Total.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
May ...	384	0 0	5	8 0	1	14 0	40	4 0	57	2 0	47	10 0	10	4 0	40	12 0	86	2 0	671	8 0
June ...	394	14 0	5	2 6	2	15 0	48	14 0	33	6 0	12	10 0	12	6 0	22	14 0	39	2 0	572	3 6
July ...	387	8 0	14	11 0	0	15 6	51	14 0	67	2 0	18	6 0	20	4 0	12	12 0	39	2 0	612	10 6
August ...	322	14 11	16	8 0	2	8 0	132	14 0	32	4 0	22	6 0	21	2 0	12	14 0	34	8 0	597	14 11
September	378	15 0	2	4 0	0	8 0	75	0 0	32	4 0	58	0 0	10	8 0	19	12 0	19	6 0	596	9 0
October ...	526	12 2	1	2 0	1	4 0	155	4 0	20	10 0	36	2 0	11	0 0	7	6 0	4	6 0	763	14 2
November	342	0 4	5	6 0	0	0 0	124	0 0	37	2 0	63	7 9	7	8 0	10	8 0	5	10 0	600	10 1
December	293	10 0	12	3 0	3	6 0	92	2 0	46	14 0	110	12 0	19	10 0	1	6 0	47	12 0	627	11 0
January ...	535	2 0	7	15 0	1	2 0	211	12 0	77	4 0	90	11 6	11	6 0	5	4 0	13	0 0	953	8 6
February	347	13 0	3	8 0	0	10 0	138	14 0	32	12 0	49	0 0	18	12 0	7	14 0	21	10 0	620	13 0
March ...	249	4 0	8	8 0	3	12 0	96	10 0	29	0 0	51	6 0	21	2 0	13	12 0	32	4 0	505	10 0
April ...	219	7 0	14	12 0	8	4 0	92	10 0	36	10 0	76	6 0	9	6 0	20	6 0	30	0 0	507	13 0
Total ...	4,380	4 5	97	7 6	27	2 6	1,260	2 0	502	6 0	636	13 3	178	4 0	175	8 0	372	14 0	7,630	13 8

(Signed) C. J. WALKER, Lieutenant,
Assistant Conservator of Forests.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Captain,
Officiating Conservator of Forests.

No. 224.

Forests, No. 6.

- (True Extract.)

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

6 With reference to ^{the} concluding portion of the Deputy Commissioner's letter I am aware that throughout our presidency an immense amount of smuggling is caused by Amildars, Jagherdars, and other holders of private forests to never granting any passes because for timber removed from their forests. Government will not probably order such passes to be granted but I think that Collectors might be asked to recommend all holders of private forests to use some regular printed form when possible particularly as it will be greatly to their own interests as they would soon find out after the system was introduced and we were enabled thereby to bring to light any smuggling in their own as well as in Government forests. Without some orders on this subject the proper conservation of Government forests and a thorough check against smuggling are impossible and I am sure the subject deserves the consideration of Government.

Home de

16-5-95

John C. Home Captain

the University of South

No 223 & 224.

Post Office

To the Rev. Mr. Secretary

[illegible]

Dated 12th
Received 440 } £ 10 0 0
1865

Throu Sept. Jan'y 66
Chas. H. Davis
No. 1217

Enclosure No. 2.

Forward copy of tickets and
receipts in the name of
Paulson & Co.

1847-1848
with an order

Ms. 249.

Stewart

del front after

Sumner & Kirk
1880

Dr. J. J. Smith.

known in existence among Indians
south of the Suquia river.

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✓ 13:00 / 65.

7 St. Louis
14 2nd Broadway N