

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 966

Press

~~Mis.~~

162-163

Dated

10. 5- 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

**Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1865.**

No. 162. Read the following letter from H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 24th April 1865, No. 826:—

Sir,

* No. 1,933.

1. I beg to forward a letter* from Captain Biddome, dated 8th ultimo, referring to various matters alluded to in Proceedings of Government, dated 4th February 1865, No. 215. I have lately had an opportunity of conferring personally with the Collector of Salem as to the management of the forests in his District, which he reports to be improving, and the evils complained of are being remedied.

2. *Sandal-wood*.—This valuable tree grows over a circumscribed area, and should be carefully preserved. In Mysore it is a Royalty, and in British territory it is reserved and *sold upon pass*, yielding a

	1862-63.	1863-64.
	Rs.	Rs.
* Salem ..	8,573	9,758
Coimbatore ..	27,072	38,829
Total ..	35,645	48,587

very considerable and increasing revenue* in the Salem and Coimbatore Districts. I have never objected to any Ryot cutting down Sandal-wood in cultivated land, but the wood, unless planted,

is always credited to Government. A fuller notice of this subject will be submitted in a separate letter.

3. *Charcoal burning*.—I agree with Captain Biddome that the supervision and limitation of charcoal burning is a necessary part of the system of Forest Conservancy, and a register of iron smelters and charcoal burners is needful, in order to have some control over them.

4. *Limited licenses*.—Limiting the periods of licenses is a great check against unauthorized felling. Formerly, when licenses were granted for an undefined period, the unauthorized felling was much greater. The applicant should always consider what quantity of wood he can carry out of the forest in a given period, and arrange accordingly.

5. With reference to the Salem District I may remark that the range is an important one. The better forests are much scattered, and require active supervision. The mileage of Railway is greater than in any other District, and the denudation has consequently been very marked, as any one acquainted with the country must observe. When the line was being commenced, the late Collector and I were in frequent consultation to prevent Ryots, Weavers, and Bunnyahs from becoming timber merchants, and selling what was not their own.

6. The management of forests is so intimately blended with Revenue administration that constant communication and co-operation with the Collector is indispensable to successful conservancy.

7. When an Officer is appointed to this District I would recommend that he should take the advice of the Collector upon all local questions, transmitting his returns and referring any technical difficulties for consideration to this office.

8. In the event of fire-wood plantations being hereafter considered necessary, the bank of the Cauvery, near Errode junction, would probably be a suitable locality.

No. 163.

ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1865, No. 966.

Forests, No. 6.

1. The Government are glad to learn from Dr. Cleghorn that the working of the Forest Department in the Salem District is improving, and that the grounds of complaint have, to some extent, been removed.

2. In regard to the question of Sandal-wood growing on lands in the occupation of Ryots, the Government observe that the proprietary rights of the Ryots must be scrupulously maintained, and they are not aware that the practice of dealing

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1865.*

with Sandal-wood in such positions as a Royalty has ever received the sanction of Government. Wood in hedgerows, though it may be *renewed* by spontaneous growth, must often have been originally planted by the land-holder; and if the hedgerow is included in the field for which he pays assessment the Government cannot authorise any interference with the exercise of his rights of ownership.

3. If unoccupied land containing Sandal-wood trees is applied for on *puttah*, the District authorities have it in their power to reject the application or to reserve for Government the right to this species of wood. The Collector will state his views on the propriety of adopting this course in any part of his District. In respect to land already in occupation, the law will not allow of this course being adopted.

4. The Government do not claim the right to insert new and additional conditions of tenure in *puttahs* on renewal, as Captain Beddome appears to suppose.

5. No further orders appear necessary on the subject of Charcoal burning. The Government have already expressed their opinion that the taxation of Timber felled for this purpose is perfectly legitimate.

6. The Government fully concur with Dr. Cleghorn that a limitation of the period for which a felling license shall continue in force, is absolutely necessary for purposes of Forest conservancy.

7. With reference to paragraph 5 of Dr. Cleghorn's letter it has come to the knowledge of Government that the *whole* of the Salem jungles are considered to be in the charge of the Forest Department, and that no Village Jungle Conservancy Fund exists, as elsewhere, under the Revenue authorities.

8. The Government consider it desirable that the attention of the Special Department should be devoted solely to the more important forests for which alone they have establishment; and that mere village jungles should be left under the management of the Collector according to the established rules for local planting and conservancy operations. The Officiating Conservator will place himself at once in communication with the Collector of Salem, in view to the separation of their several charges in accordance with the above view.

9. The Government trust that this arrangement will promote efficient conservancy and harmonious administration. The Forest Department should everywhere endeavour to secure the cordial co-operation of the Revenue authorities, and avoid any appearance of antagonism or separation of interests.

10. The Government await the further report promised on the Sandal-wood questions, and the Planting operations.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

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

Revenue 1865-68

Copy

Proceedings of Madras

Dated 11 May 1865

Order passed in the
Conservation of Forests in
the subject of Sandalwood
growing in
Salun

No. 1233

Class of...
Office of Conservation of Forests 8th March 1865

From

Captain R. H. Beddome
1st Deputy Conservator of Forests

S. D. Linn Esq
Secretary to Government No. 10
Fort Saint George

Sir

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt
of the Government Proceedings No. 215 of the 4th of February 1865.

2. Government have passed no order upon the Sub Collector's opinion that Ryots have a right to all Sandalwood growing on their puttah land. I have always understood that Sandalwood was a royalty and it is so considered. I have lived in Mysore it has hitherto always been reserved but since the Sub Collector's decision it will be felled by all the ryots in the Sandalwood districts as it springs up spontaneously in the hedge rows of all the fields. Major Morgan informs me that whilst he was Acting Conservator it was always considered a reserved wood and as such the Ryots who renewed their puttahs annually could not touch it. I would suggest that some clause to this effect be inserted in all the puttahs renewed at the annual Jamma bandi in the following taluqs (which comprise the Sandalwood districts)

Drucknicottah
Cottampatty
Javadi

Salun District

Collegat

Collegal

Bhawan

Sattimangalam.

Nilgiri.

Commissaries

District

3 The collector seems to think that the damage done by Charcoal burners is greatly over-rated and states that dry wood is always felled for charcoal, this is quite against my experience, in all our forests I have invariably found green wood felled for this purpose. In Enurval my assistant has lately caught some charcoal burners in the act of felling young green Sea R. Large trees are constantly felled and their branches only used, the trunk being left to be burnt in the annual fires, or to rot.

4. The collector states that the Forest Conservancy rule which requires all wood to be removed within 3 months has given rise to great discontent. This rule is one of our greatest checks against smuggling and I cannot see that it entails any hardship. The collector states as an example that a man who pays for 50 bandy loads of timber and cannot remove it within the 3 months, finds his timber confiscated. If a timber merchant requires 50 bandy loads but has not the means of removing such a quantity within the specified time, he can take out licences for only 5 or 10 bandy loads at a time. If the state of the roads or fever or any such mishap really prevented a man from removing his timber, his licence would always be renewed by our department, and I much doubt if any such case ever occurred as that instanced by the collector in para 8 of his letter published in the Proceedings alluded to, if it did Sirist Borradale must have pressed the observance of the rules to a far greater extent than is usual in our department. I have however known instances formerly where parties were found removing timber with a licence several years

3 0 5
years old, which had been originally only granted for 2 or 3 bandy loads and had been probably in use from the date of its issue. If licences are granted for a lengthened period and parties can elude the stations where the number of bandy loads being brought out of the forest are checked off on the back of the document, the licences can be used to bring out a far larger amount of timber than they were given for, hence the object of our three months rule and it is certainly one of our best checks against timber theft. I have no doubt it has given rise to discontent as it has put a stop to much illicit felling. Forest Conservancy is moreover quite a new institution and not understood by the natives but looked ^{upon} altogether as an innovation and hardship. When it is remembered too that a considerable portion of the revenue now derived by Government formerly went into the pockets of the Native Revenue officials and the more wealthy and influential ryots, it is not surprising that there are numerous complaints against the department. That cases of reaction or attempted reaction on the side of the Forest people do occasionally occur I have no doubt, I have issued a circular to all my assistants to do their best to guard against this and to prosecute any parties found guilty of such acts, the police and native revenue authorities would naturally report any complaints of this nature, and if the Forest officer made inquiries during his tours through his district any such cases of reaction or oppression would be sure to come to light.

5. The fuel for the locomotives in the Salem district (as far as the Government forests are concerned) is entirely drawn from the low scrub jungle in the vicinity of the Athoor ghat, there are many square miles

No. 966

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 10th May 1865.

Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests.

Forwarding letter from Captain Beddome regarding the forests of Salem, and offering remarks on the management.

(Here enter 24th April 1865 at 226)

The Government are glad to learn from Mr. Blegghorn that the working of the Forest department in the Salem District is improving and that the grounds of complaint have to some extent been removed.

In regard to the question of sandalwood growing on lands in the occupation of

165-957

Forest Department 1865

1st Place by General Beddome

The Secretary to Govt

and Forest Dept.

Recd 8th March 1865

No 1233

Recd 10/9/65.

acknowledging the receipt of the 215 of the 12th of February and offering his remarks on the same

10/11/65
966

of Byots, the Government observe that the proprietary rights of the Byots must be scrupulously maintained and they are not aware that the practice of dealing with sandalwood in such positions as a Royalty has ever received the sanction of Government. Wood in hedgerows tho it may be renewed by spontaneous growth must ^{often} ~~actually~~ have been originally planted by the landholder and ~~the~~ Government ^{can} not ~~prepare~~ to authorise any interference with the exercise of ^{his} ~~private~~ rights of ownership.

If unoccupied land containing sandalwood trees is applied for ^{as} ~~puttaka~~ ^{puttaka} the District authorities have

if the hedge rows is included in the field for which he pays assessment

11 6 5
have it in their power to reject the application or to reserve for Government the right to this species of wood. ^{The} ~~but~~ ^{one} will state his view on ~~it does not appear necessary~~ the propriety of a ~~stoping~~ ^{the} ~~transferring~~ ^{each} ~~restriction~~ ^{cause} in any part of his ~~transferring~~ ^{to} ~~case of land in~~ District. In respect to land already in occupation, ^{until} ~~the~~ ^{not} law ~~would~~ allow of this course being adopted.

The Government do not claim the right to insert new and additional conditions of tenure in puttaka on renewal as Captain Beddome appears to suppose. No further orders appear necessary on the subject of charcoal burning. The Government have already expressed their opinion that the taxation of timber felled for this purpose is perfectly legitimate.

legitimate.

The Government
fully concurs with Dr.
Cleghorn that a limita-
tion of the period for which
a felling licence shall con-
tinue in force is absolutely
necessary for purposes of
forest conservancy.

With reference to para-
5 of Dr. Cleghorn's letter
it has come to the knowledge
of Govt. that the whole of
the Salem jungles are con-
sidered to be in the charge
of the Forest Department
and that no Village Jungle
Conservancy fund exists, as
elsewhere under the Dist. authorities.

The Govt. con-
sider it desirable that the
attention of the special de-
partment should be devoted
solely

solely to the more important
forests for which alone they
have establishment; and that
mere village jungles should
be left under the manage-
ment of the Collector
according to the established
rules for local planting and
conservancy operations.

The off^r. Conservator
will place himself at
once in communication with
the Collector of Salem, in
view to the separation of
their several charges in
accordance with the above
view.

The Government trust
that this arrangement will
promote efficient conservancy
and harmonious administration.
The Forest department should

every where endeavour
to secure the cordial co-opera-
tion of the Revenue autho-
rities and avoid any ap-
pearance of antagonism or
separation of interests.

The Government
await the further report
promised on the Sandalwood
questions and the Planting
operations.

JAS

14. To the Officer in Charge of Forests & De. 11/1/1904
1. & the Collector of Salem N
14. & the Board of Revenue N

165-168

Revenue 1865 Sept.
Pro: of Govt. for May

Pro. no. 77-78
4-2-65

No. 966.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
of 10th May/65.

12
In the Pro 5 August/57 No 1797

Passing orders on the
Consolidation letter and
the subject of Sandalwood
growing in Salem.

162-163