M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1238 Press / Mis.

Dated 25-5- 18 66.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th May 1866.

No. 439. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 24th April 1866, No. 1,772:—

1. With reference to Proceedings of Government, dated 8th February, No. 349, I beg to explain the causes of the falling off in the revenue of certain ranges as follows.

2. *Salem and South Arcot.*—The decrease in these Districts is chiefly owing to the abolition of seigniorage on bamboos, of which an immense quantity are exported by merchants to Madras, Bangalore, and Trichinopoly. A light seigniorage has existed for many years, and as the Collector and local Officer consider it necessary for the maintenance of the jungle, as well as for local climate, I beg to propose its restoration in a separate letter.

In South Arcot the East India Iron Company have the exclusive privilege of felling the jungle; this circumstance, taken along with the abolition of the Bamboo seigniorage, has reduced the receipts. The organization in Salem is much improved, and as the forests in South Arcot occupy the opposite side of the same range of mountains, it is hoped that the same rules may be adopted.

3. *Anamallay.*—I regret to state that no sales of Anamallay timber took place at the auction held at Ponany in presence of the Deputy Collector, who ascribed the failure to a combination of the wood merchants to keep down the price, not more than one Rupee per cubic foot of Teak having been offered. Under these circumstances it is doubtful whether any extensive sale of Anamallay Teak will be effected within the official year.

4. *Mudumallay.*—Major Morgan states that the returns from this Forest will be rather in excess if the Department Public Works receive 20,000 cubic feet of timber now lying in the Ootacamund Depôt, and stored expressly for them, according to their indent, at a heavy cost of carriage up the Segoor Ghât. It seems doubtful if more than 80,000 Rupees will be realized from the entire sales.

5. *Bhowany.*—About 4,000 Maunds of Sandal-wood have been stored, and sales will soon take place, when it is hoped that the result may be equal to the estimated receipts.

6. *Collegal.*—Major Morgan anticipates that the whole sum entered in the Budget Estimate will be realized.

7. *South Canara.*—One-third of the estimated amount was exhibited in the Revenue Statement submitted in December. Mr. Thompson observes that the seigniorage on bamboos having been abolished, (always a large item on the Western Coast,) there has been a loss under this head. The market having been glutted with timber, sales have not taken place to the extent expected. There are at present 5,592 Candies of various timbers in the depôts, besides a large number of Poon Spars, which in the aggregate should yield at least 27,000 Rupees. There is every probability of 12,000 Rupees being realized within the year, which with the receipts adverted to will give a fair return of 20,000 Rupees.

8. *Wynaad.*—As formerly reported, the Bangalore merchants prefer purchasing Moulmein Teak, which is delivered at a lower price than it can be brought out of Wynaad. Lieutenant Fullerton, however, expects to realize the full amount of the Budget Estimate.

9. *Nelambur.*—The diminished income from the Forests is owing to a Captain of a ship failing to pay for and remove the whole quantity of timber purchased by him for about 18,000 Rupees. Of this he appears to have removed a portion, of the value of 6,000 Rupees, and prefers to pay the stipulated penalties for breach of two contracts rather than remove the rest. The matter has been referred to the Board of Revenue. The low price of the Teak saplings is also attributed to a combination amongst the merchants.

10. *Cuddapah.*—In Cuddapah, where the Railway pressure is heavy, there is an increase.

11. *Madura.*—In Madura there will be a slight increase of revenue.

12. The value of wood made over to Department Public Works will probably bring the total receipts up to 2,75,000 Rupees. We cannot expect that the Forest sales will every year be equally large. Several Forests (as the Anamallay) require rest for a time, during which the large stock of timber must be disposed of.

13. *Village Conservancy.*—Connected with the financial results of Forest Conservancy two points require careful consideration; one is that the Village Conservancy Department be not established in the same Talooks as those under Forest officers. If the Village Conservancy is pushed too far imperial revenue will suffer; the other point is in relation to Forest products. I concurred in the policy of giving up ivory, honey, wax, and medicinal roots, and I have always upheld the free use of every prescriptive right of villagers within their boundaries; but I demur to being more liberal than the adjoining Native States in giving up Gallnuts, &c.,* which are very valuable, being exported in large quantities to London and Liverpool, and which are naturally associated with Tamarinds, Soap-nuts, &c. These fruits are entered in the Budget classification of receipts. The abandonment of these items does not apparently involve much loss of revenue, but it created a great opening for mischief and trespass, and has weakened the hands of the Forest Officers, who unanimously desire the extension of Act VII. of 1865 to this Presidency. The free admission of all comers with cutting implements throws obstacle in the way of improving the reserved Forests by the ordinary methods of forest management.

Forest products.

* A renter informed me that he would give 100 Rupees for the produce of a forest in Collegal, which before the Railway reached was not worth more than 5 Rupees.

No. 440. ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1866, No. 1,238.

Forests, No. 13.

1. The explanation of the causes for the large falling off in the Forest Revenue below the Budget Estimate for 1865-66, submitted in Dr. Cleghorn's letter above recorded, is generally satisfactory. The restoration

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th May 1866.

of the seigniorage on bamboos in those Districts in which the Collector and the Conservator agree upon re-imposing it, has already been ordered.

2. The Government must, however, remark with reference to paragraph 12, that although it cannot be expected that the Forest sales will every year be equally large, such care and forethought must be exercised in preparing the Budget Estimate as will ensure reasonable accuracy.

3. The Board of Revenue will be requested to submit their remarks on the suggestions made by Dr. Cleghorn in the concluding paragraph of his letter.

4. The Board will also call on the Collector of South Arcot for a report on the present operations of the Porto Novo Company, with reference to the orders* marginally noted, granting them the privilege of continuing to cut fuel free of charge.

* 24th December 1860, No. 2,511.
5th September 1865, ,, 2,095.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department.

No. 1238.

PROCEEDINGS *of the* **MADRAS GOVERNMENT.**

Under date the 26th May 1866.

Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests—

Explaining the causes of the falling off of the Revenue in the Forest Conservancy Settlement—

(Here enter 24th April 1866. No. 1772.)

The explanation of the causes for the large falling off in the Forest Revenue below the Budget estimate for 1865/66, submitted in Mr. Gleghorn's letter above recorded is generally satisfactory. The restoration of the seigniorage on bamboos in those districts in which the Collector and the Conservator agree upon re-imposing it, has already been ordered—

2. The Govt. must however remark with reference to para 12 that although it cannot be objected that the

the Forest sales will every year be equally large, such care & forethought must be exercised in preparing the Budget estimate, as will ensure reasonable accuracy.

3. The Board of Revenue will be requested to submit their remarks on the suggestions made by Mr Gleghorn in the concluding paragraph of his letter.

The Board will also call on the Collector of South Arcot for a report on the present operations of the Porto Novo Company, with reference to the orders* marginally noted, granting them the privilege of continuing to cut fuel free of charge.

J. D.

* 24th Dec 1860, No 2611.
5th September 1866, No 2075.

4 Copies to the Conservator of Forest Despt. 25
14 Bd of Revenue

Revenue 1866 Dept
Pro of Govt for May

N: 1238

Pro of the Madras
Government dt
25th May 1866.

Explanation of the
Conservator of Forests
regarding the falling off
in Forest Revenue

No 165 dt 2.6.66.

N: 439-440.