M.R.O. 14—15,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2171 Press ~~Misc~~

569-570

Dated 22-8- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 22nd August 1866.

No. 569. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th August 1866, No. 5,667.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th July 1866, No. 138 :—

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 5th July 1866, No. 4,558, I have the honor to report that there is not the slightest probability of private enterprise being sufficient to meet the growing requirements for fuel of the Railway in this District.

2. The present consumption of wood (as fuel) by the Railway in Salem amounts to 13,500 tons per annum, and this is all they are able at present to procure; but if the supply of fuel was equal to the demand, about 30,000 tons would be required annually by the Railway alone.

3. As I pointed out in my letter to the Board, dated 2nd August 1864, the destruction of all our firewood jungles, within ordinary distance of the line of rail, must speedily take place, unless means are adopted to check the Railway consumption, and at the same time to conserve the jungles with the greatest possible care.

4. At present the Railway authorities pay on an average Rupee 1-6-5 per 1,000 lbs. of firewood, the Government seigniorage being only six annas per 1,000 lbs.

5. I would, in the first place, raise the seigniorage to at least one Rupee on every 1,000 lbs. of fuel consumed by the Railway.

6. In the second place, I would fence in large tracts of jungle contiguous to the line of Railway by means of trenches and earth embankments, and put a stop to all felling in these reserves, and also exclude cattle, sheep, and goats from grazing.

7. In a few years, if thus preserved, the jungles would recover themselves without further expense than that of enclosing.

8. I may observe that small scrub jungle is useless for Railway fuel, which must be of considerable size, from six to twelve inches in diameter.

9. Many of the useless scrub jungles in the Uttengherry Talook might be turned into profitable firewood jungles, simply by enclosing and excluding men and animals.

10. I believe that not less than ten or twelve square miles of good firewood jungles might be thus obtained in the Uttengherry Talook alone, within a short distance of the Railway.

11. I have made a commencement, and ordered about 200 acres near Samulputty station to be enclosed.

12. If this plan were adopted along the line, and large tracts enclosed for future use, with alternate tracts left open for present consumption, and the seigniorage raised as proposed above, there would be sufficient fuel for at least some years to come.

13. But if the Railway consumption rises to 30,000 tons per annum, the whole fuel of the District (*i. e.*, within a reasonable distance of the line) must

disappear in a year or two, and I think the importance of saving wood by using more coal ought to be strongly pressed on the attention of the Railway authorities, for to coal they must come at last, if the consumption of wood increases.

Submitted for the consideration and orders of Government. It seems desirable that the Forest Department should at once adopt measures of conservancy proposed by the Collector.

No. 570. ORDER THEREON, 22nd August 1866, No. 2,171.

Forests, No. 19.

Forwarded to the Officiating Conservator of Forests for his observations and an approximate estimate of the probable charges and receipts (annually) of carrying out the measures proposed.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Pxd. S. T. Augustin.