

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 219	Press <u>Mis.</u>
432.433	
Dated	28-1-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 432. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Ootacamund, 12th January 1866, No. 1,542 :—

1. I have the honor to solicit the orders of Government upon a reference by Lieutenant C. Walker, Deputy Conservator Salem, enquiring whether bamboos are to be exported into Mysore in very large quantity, from Denkencottah, without seigniorage or license of any kind.

2. From the beginning of Forest Conservancy, firewood and bamboos have been placed in the same category, the *boni fide* Ryot has received them free of charge as warranted by immemorial usage, while the merchant and house-builder pay for them, except in Districts, such as Burmah, Malabar and Goomsoor, where the abundance of wood and bamboos renders restriction unnecessary. On this point Government has supported my views in the Madras Presidency, and other parts of India. A column of receipt for this item of forest produce is given by the Financial Department to all the Governments and Administrations.

3. The entire abolition of the bamboo seigniorage (G. O. 31st July 1865, No. 1,767,) has occasioned great difficulty in carrying out measures of forest improvement, will entail a considerable loss of revenue,* and causes more or less mischief in the various forest ranges of the Presidency.

* Probably between Rupees 35,000 and Rupees 40,000.

4. In this letter, being desirous of having the early orders of Government, I shall only refer to the question of *export*; previous orders as to the rates of seigniorage in different Districts, and local regulations, are scattered through the records, these I shall endeavour to collate and put before Government in a connected form at an early date, when reviewing the general question.

5. Seigniorage for export was first proposed about 1854, by Mr. F. N. Maltby, Collector of North Canara, as the immense demand from the Bombay Presidency was supplied to a great extent from that District. Millions of bamboos were taken away by traders, sometimes as far as the Persian Gulf, and a seigniorage of 5 Rupees per one thousand large, and 3½ Rupees per one thousand small, was sanctioned by Government.

6. Again, bamboos being exported inland in very large numbers from North Canara to Dharwar and Bellary, 8 Annas per one hundred was sanctioned about the same time; this seigniorage was levied formerly by the Madras Government, and since the transfer of territory is charged by the Bombay Government.

7. In the Mysore territory a seigniorage is levied, and also in Cochin, when bamboos are used for making rafts, or exported. The Zemindars and Poligars near the Railway derive very considerable revenue from this source, and have always done so, and in consequence of the recent order, there has been a general invasion of the Government forests, rendering conservancy of tree saplings (particularly Sandal and Teak, which naturally grow mixed with bamboo,) very difficult and almost impossible.

8. The continued export of bamboos from Salem to Madras, Bangalore, and Trichinopoly has altered the face of the country. This valuable product is becom-

ing scarce near the Railways, and in a few years it may be necessary to demarcate bamboo reserves for the supply of large towns, and to cut them upon a regular system.

9. Under the circumstances, I venture to recommend that a light seigniorage 12 Annas per bandy load, should be imposed when bamboos are cut for sale; the amount levied in different Districts to be determined by the Collector in concert with this Department. This is requisite, not as a revenue measure, but as a necessary means for preventing damage to the forests.

NOTE.—The abolition of seigniorage on bamboos leads to a great consumption of this useful reed as firewood and charcoal, which pay seigniorage under other circumstances.

10. At present the inhabitants of Mysore, where the seigniorage is maintained, have recourse to the Salem forests, and receive bamboos free, to the disadvantage of the villagers. Certain tracts should be allotted, in communication with the Collector, which are the most convenient to the traders, and where reserved trees are in small proportion. The impression now prevails that all bamboo jungles are open to felling under the recent order of Government.

11. The opinion of Captain Beddome with the estimated loss of revenue in this District, are recorded in Proceedings of Government 13th October 1865, No. 2,479, and 17th October No. 2,519.

No. 433. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1866, No. 219.

Forests, No. 7.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for their information. The early submission of the report called for in G. O. 13th October 1865, No. 2,479, is requested. The Board need not wait for the replies of all the Collectors, as the circumstances of different Districts vary greatly.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Note. The abolition of seigniorage on bamboos leads to a great consumption of this useful reed as firewood and charcoal which pay seigniorage under other circumstances. H.C.

list, and also in felling, where bamboo is cut for use by the people. The residents and villagers near the Railway derive very considerable revenue from this source and have always been in the possession of the same. There has been a general impression of the Government that the seigniorage on bamboo is a great source of revenue, and that it is necessary to maintain it. But the fact is, that the seigniorage on bamboo is a great source of revenue, and that it is necessary to maintain it. But the fact is, that the seigniorage on bamboo is a great source of revenue, and that it is necessary to maintain it.

8. The continued reports of the Mysore District to the Government, Bangalore and Srirangapatna, has already the fact of the country. This valuable forest is becoming scarce near the Railways and in a few years it will be impossible to supply the demand for the supply of bamboo, and to cut them upon a regular system.

9. Under the circumstances, I venture to recommend that a light seigniorage 12 Annas per ^{bandy} load should be imposed when bamboos are cut for sale, the amount to be determined by the Collector in concert with this Department. This is requisite, not as a revenue measure, but as a necessary means for preventing damage to the forests.

10. At present the inhabitants of Mysore, where the seigniorage is maintained, have recourse to the Salem forests and receive bamboo free to the disadvantage of the villagers. Certain tracts should be allotted, in communication with the Collector, which are the most convenient to the traders, and where reserved trees are in small proportion. The impression now prevails that all bamboo jungles are open to felling under the recent order of Government.

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No 13 Oct 1865 No 223-224

17-11-302-303

34 July 11-11-335-341

12 Dec 1865 33-39

16 April 1864 18-24

The specimens of the *Bettina* with the estimated
of amount in the list are recorded in Proceedings of
Government 13th October 1865, 16th July, and 17th October 1865.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Yours

H. Cleghorn

Rev-

FOREST DEPARTMENT 1866.
Being for Q. 1866.
From

The Conservator of Forests,

To The Secretary to Govt.
R. B.

And dated 1866.

Dated 12 Jan 1866.

Received 16th

From 13 July 1866
5th 1866

No. 1542

Enclosure No. 1

1866

Section for order reference
regarding the export of *Bettina*
from *Bettina*. 1866 and
measures as to its export.

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1866

No 132 1863.

With an order of

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20 Jan 1866

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submission of the report

called for in 1866

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