M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2278 Press ~~Mis.~~

798-799

Dated 30-8-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 798. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th August 1866, No. 5,895.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th July 1866, No. 134 :—

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,558, dated 5th July 1866, I have the honor to inform you that I do not think that any assistance on the part of Government would avail any thing in getting the natives to speculate in forming plantations which might afterwards become available for the requirements of fuel for the Railway and the general community. Natives, as a rule, look to immediate returns for any outlay, and the example of how, as far as this District is concerned, the Ryots avail themselves of the privilege granted under the Tope Rules will shew how apathetic they are.

2. The following example or two, of land given to Ryots for topes, will shew how they take advantage of what ought to be considered a boon to them :—

Name of the village.	Name of the grantee.	Date of grant.	Number of trees required to be planted.	Number of trees actually planted till now.	Balance.
Venkolum ...	Periamootoo Viziamachi Reddy.	16th January 1850.	90	4	86
Poolombody ...	Nat Nulluppa Reddy... ...	11th December 1856.	830	262	568
Do.	Senkarian	Do.	590	...	590

3. No doubt the requirements of the Railway for fuel will increase as the traffic increases, and instead of vainly hoping that any of the natives will by private speculations, Government assisting them, meet the exigencies that will occur, I consider that our attention ought to be returned towards the strict conservating the forests and jungles which we already have. The first thing that I would propose would be the prohibiting any extension of cultivation to the hill tribes. The system of Koomery cultivation *which exists* in Canara is the most destructive and wasteful that could be imagined. Though Koomery is not prevalent here, yet it is well known that, on the Collemalay and Patchamallai Hills, the Malyallies extend or change their patches of cultivation as often as it suits them, and this is only done at a loss to Government by the trees on the new patch being cut. It is also well known that newly cleared forest land when planted, for the first year or two, yields treble and quadruple what land in regularly yearly cultivation does, and this is the reason why those tribes on the Hills so frequently change their lands. As for the Kurnums visiting their villages for the purpose of rendering their yearly accounts of the cultivation, it is a fact that few, if any, find their way further than villages three or four miles from the foot of the Hills, and that all their accounts are made up without inspection. The fear of fever is the great cause of these servants of Government not leaving their own villages to visit those to which they stand as appointed Kurnums. I doubt very much if any of the Tahsildars in this District have ever paid the hill villages a visit since appointed to their present post. There

are three villages containing fifty-nine hamlets, Acres 3,476, assessment 2,027 ; a regular survey and measurement have not been made ; the mere accounts of the Kurnums have been taken for granted as being correct. But to return to the matter of conservancy, I think that, as the timber is getting more scarce, Government would be quite justified in putting on a higher tax than they do, and the doing so, I consider, would, in all probability, have the effect of checking waste. Should you be of opinion that the prohibiting the extension of cultivation on the Hills where jungle exists, would work injuriously or hardly on the Maliyalies, I think that, at least, where such extension or change does take place, an enhanced rate of taxation might be imposed, and this might have the desired effect also of making this description of cultivators take more care and manure better the lands actually in their possession.

1. Submitted for the consideration of Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 20th June 1866, No. 1,510, Revenue Department.

2. The Acting Collector's suggestion to restrict the legitimate extension of cultivation on the Hills appears to the Board to be wholly inadmissible.

No. 799. ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1866, No. 2,278.

Forests, No. 23.

1. The Government agree with the Board.

2. The Collector should be called on to propose some definite system of conservancy for the jungles of the District.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2278.

The Govt agree with the Bd.

The Collr should be called on to propose some definite system of Conservancy for the Jungle of the District.

J. D. S.

30th August 66.

14 Copies Letter Bd of Revenue dated 31st
4 Offg Conservator of Forests

Po. 30 June 66 No 4184 849

Reported to England
D/ 12th February Pub 2 of 1867 Mis.
Forest

Rev — 1866. Department.
Pro: of Govt for August

No 2737.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 20th August 1866.

Cons 23
Received 24

No. 5,895.

Submitting for consideration with remarks, letter from Acting Collector of Trichinopoly reporting on expediency of forming plantations on behalf of Government to supply requirements for fuel of Railway and general community.

GT

No 798 to 799

No 2278 30 Aug 66
With order

24 Aug 66 No 27