14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2352 Press ~~Mis.~~

88.89

Dated 5-9-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 88. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd August 1866, No. 5,984.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1866, No. 274 :—

1. In reply to the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,558, dated 5th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the supply of fuel in most parts of this District is sufficient for the wants of the community; along the coast the palmirahs afford all that is needed, and to the west the Forests on the Ghauts furnish an almost inexhaustible supply; the open cotton plains mid-way between the coast and the western Ghauts are less favorably situated in this respect, but even here the cotton stalks and droppings of cattle supply a large quantity of fuel. It would be a great boon to the people if topes for fire-wood could be conserved in this locality; but the soil (a stiff black clay overlaying a substratum of limestone) is not favorable to the growth of trees, and land is in such demand for cultivation that I doubt if the Ryots could be induced to turn their attention to the growth of fuel. When visiting this part of the country, I will endeavour to establish Government topes in the neighbourhood of villages, wherever practicable.

2. If a branch railway ever connects Trichinopoly with Tuticorin, it must cross these cotton plains; but as it must also pass through the thickly-wooded country between Trichinopoly and Madura, there will be no deficiency of railway fuel for many years to come.

3. I propose growing casuarinas on the coast, and planting some fifty acres near Tuticorin this year. Several European gentlemen have expressed a wish to take up land for this purpose, and the only aid at first required will be, to grant the land (which is all sheer sand) at the lowest rate of assessment (4 Annas an acre) to provide seedlings for the first year or two; and to allow stakes and thorns to be cut on Government waste free of charge for fencing the plantations.

4. If found to be a profitable investment, natives will readily engage in casuarina planting, as thousands of acres just now planted with palmirahs will be utterly unprofitable for years. While casuarinas planted with palmirahs will not only tend to preserve the latter, and thereby hasten their growth, but will yield at least two profitable crops while the palmirahs are growing up.

5. The Forest Department has lately taken charge of the Forests on the Western Ghauts in this District, and the tax imposed on timber felled is high enough to check waste; the rules proposed are excellent in theory, but cannot be enforced in practice, and are set at defiance every day. The two or three peons deputed to conserve vast tracts of hill and jungle, are content with laying an octroi duty on certain lines of road; indiscriminate felling for making charcoal, and the wanton destruction of young seedlings by annually burning the grass and undergrowth still goes on unchecked in those Districts with which I am acquainted, and until the hill villagers are held responsible, and punished for every fire that occurs, and until tracts of Forest are set aside, (as at Streeharikottah, near Madras,)

Vide enclosed list.

and carefully guarded for some years to recover from a previous felling, I cannot think that the Forest Department will ever effectually conserve, though they may raise a revenue on certain products carted away from the jungle.

List of reserved, &c., timber trees, and the seigniorage payable thereon.

	Per cart load. Rough.	Worked.
	RS.	RS.
Teak ... ... / Black-wood	6	8
Kongu ... ... / Nangu ... ... / Malai ... ... / Vengai ... ... / Shenbagapalai	3	4
Kurungali ... ... / Devadaram ... ... / Akil Devadaram... ... ... / Anjali ... ... / Semmaram ... ... / Madagiri Vembu... ... ... / Pumbatarai ... ... / Manjakadambu ... ... / Nirka'mbu ... ... / Veckalli ... ... / Mangoe ... ... / Senkaranai ... ... / Vagai ... ... / Kunghiliam	2	3

Jungle-wood at one Rupee per cart load.
Bamboos at four Annas per do.
Fire-wood at four Annas per do.
Do. per head load at three Pies.
Charcoal at one Anna for seven Merkals.

TINNEVELLY,
19*th July* 1866.

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Collector.

1. The Board request the Collector to spare no effort for the useful employment of his District Planting Fund in the formation of topes and nurseries for avenues. The first step should be to select favorable sites, and to sink a good well at each site; next to fence the spot, and to raise the seedlings. The Collector should require all his subordinates, whenever they visit a village which does not already possess a good public tope, to make the best selection they are able of a site, and have it marked out and entrust it to the headman of the village, and to apply at once for a grant from the fund for the purpose of sinking the well. When once water for irrigation has been secured, it is a comparatively easy matter to ensure the success of the planting operations.

2. The Collector will explain why the land sought for Casuarina plantations, as stated in paragraph 3, cannot be given free of assessment for twenty years, as provided in the Tope Rules.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5th September 1866.

No. 89. ORDER THEREON, 5th September 1866, No. 2,352.

Land Revenue.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

...ns.

2. The Collector w... ... in

paragraph 3, cannot be given fi... of as... ...les

(True Copies and ...

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with reference to Government Order, dated 20th June 1863, No. 1,510.
„ the Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. J. Wright.

In Copies To the Bd of Revenue Despatch 6th

Dated 22nd August 1866.

No. 6,994.

Requesting Collector of Tinnevelly to spare no effort for useful employment of District Planting Fund in formation of topes and nurseries for avenues, and desiring to know why land applied for for Casuarina plantations on coast, cannot be given free of assessment for twenty years.

RECORDED.

Dept. 1866. Department.

No. 2707.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.