M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2603	Press ~~Mis.~~
175-76 Dated	9-10-	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th October 1868.

No. 175. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th August, 1868, No. 6,141:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 9th May, 1868, No. 1,285, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—Referring to the Board, for their remarks, a letter from the Collector of Salem, giving his opinion on certain particulars with reference to the report of the Forest Department on the Zavadi and Yelligherry Hills.

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1. In the above Order, Government refer to the Board, for their remarks, a letter from the Collector of Salem, giving his opinion on certain particulars with reference to a report of the Forest Department on the Zavadi and Yelligherry Hills.

2. The Board see no objection to the proposed reserves being made by the Collector and Assistant Conservator conjointly. Captain Walker appears, from his report, to be sensible of the rights of the people, and anxious neither to encroach on them, nor to evince any want of consideration towards those whose privileges of very old standing will be necessarily exercised within narrower limits than heretofore. The Board are, therefore, assured that the interests of the people will be scrupulously regarded by the Officers employed in these arrangements.

3. They observe that when Mr. Pochin wrote his letter, he was not in possession of the orders of Government, dated 26th March last, and consequently was not aware that it was their intention that the Revenue Officers should be duly consulted in these operations.

4. The Board do not understand Mr. Pochin's proposal that the cultivation in the hill villages shall be restricted to "two Acres per head." It seems to be the custom to let land lie fallow for one year, and the proper course, in the Board's opinion, would be to reserve twice the area now under cultivation, *plus* a liberal margin for increase, the Forest Department of course having the privilege of removing the timber on the latter reserve. The people must have the means of gaining an honest livelihood by agriculture and such other sources of maintenance as they are accustomed to rely upon, including of course the privilege of cutting firewood for village use, and small timber for sheds and houses, and they will continue to graze their cattle in the smaller jungle as usual. It is very important also that the forest operations should accord with their natural sense of justice, and that their good-will should thus be secured. Captain Walker mentions isolated patches of cultivation among some of the reserves. Probably the Collector could buy out these rights, and a little liberality in this way would remove present and future difficulties. The price proposed in paragraph 6, clause 9, of Captain Walker's report would not, however, form a just compensation.

5. As to the sandalwood trees in the "Podugal" lands, the Board are of opinion that they may fairly be regarded as belonging to Government, the land having been relinquished by the ryots. If the Forest Department see fit to assume them, a corresponding extent of land must, of course, be given up for the people.

6. The Collector is right in assuming that it is only from the reserves that cattle are to be excluded. He has it in his power, under the orders of Government,

dated 26th March, 1868, No. 790, to arrange with the Forest Department so as to secure a sufficiency of pasturage, which, as he justly remarks, is a most important consideration.

7. As to the taxes on forest products it should be observed that they were abolished because, while yielding little revenue, they afforded most undesirable scope to the renters for oppressing the jungle tribes, and depriving them of their only means of livelihood. The Board deprecate any renewal of these rents; but at the same time, they see no objection to the Forest Department collecting and selling these products in their reserves, on condition that they employ in the work the class which is customarily so engaged; fair treatment and just remuneration would secure their services. The arrangement would be similar to that prevailing in the Streeharicotta jungles, and the tribes would, as there, be gainers by the plan, for no doubt they are now defrauded, though they cannot be ill-treated, by the merchants.

No. 176. ORDER THEREON, 9th October, 1868, No. 2,603.

Forests, No. 5.

1. The Government concur with the Board of Revenue, and authorise them to issue instructions to the Collector in accordance with the views expressed in paragraphs 1 to 6 of the Proceedings above recorded.

2. It is of paramount importance that the rights of the hill tribes, in their cultivation, should be scrupulously guarded, and that the prescriptive grazing rights of the people should be carefully preserved, and the Collector must bear this in mind in the demarcation of the proposed forest reserves, which must be carried out by the Forest Department in direct communication with the Collector.

3. The Government desire a further report on the collection of forest products referred to in paragraph 7 of the Collector's letter. As observed by the Board the tax on such products was long since abandoned, (G. O. 22nd August, 1864, No. 1,525,) and the Government do not understand to what the Collector refers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of [1868] and [illegible]

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October, 68.

Recd.

G. O., 9th October 1868, No. 2,003.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 175-176.

Zemindi and Yellagherry Hills.—Proceedings expressing their views with r... to the rights of the Hill tribes in their cultiv... &c., with orders thereon.

No 2829/68.

I do not object to paras 1 and 2 of the draft order below but I doubt whether para 3 should issue.

I do not like the idea of authorizing the Forest department to collect, even within the limits of what are to become Govt reserves, the miscellaneous bill products which these papers refer, and of which one of the Hon'ble Board admits that the collection is illicit. — When they were farmed out for the sake, numerous complaints & hardships occurred. Their real profit value was trifling and the Govt acted wisely in resolving to abandon the practice of farming & abandon the yielded an item of revenue.

Lieut. Walker, as all our correspondence shows, is a most zealous officer of the Forest department, but from all I know both of the hills, I am not clear that I can go as far in the sanguine

The 3rd para of the draft is not included in the above. It entitles for a report from the Collector

vieis which the 18th take in para 2 of their proc: under remark - 26 augt 68. -

The Forest department at Ponda ought to have quite enough legitimate work to do, without supervising the labors of a few miserable, half-starved, brick kill coolies in collecting what need to be called Hill products. I doubt whether these coolies would be more fairly worked by Forest dept. Rents with bills of authority on them, than by the merchants who formerly rented of the collectors the privilege of collecting these products. -

The mere fact of persons being employed by the Forest dept in making these collections, will afford an opening for pleas not so simple & otherwise in the area of the reserved tracts usually of course the plea of their being their, if discovered trespassing,

as helps to keep coolies & some brother Collectors in their vicinity. I think I see many occasions for the Fo: dept to be bully people & accuse illicit fairs & an encroachable talent & temper deprecate the grant of power to the Fo: dept to make these collections & themselves sell them -

The receivers should be accessible only to good accounts. Persons found within these limits should be rebuked as trespassers, and although, as the F. dept. have occasional urged, the maritime are disposed to nominally punish such trespasses, matters will change when we can bring to bear upon the people the proper Forest law

19 Septr 1868.

It appears from the Collectors letter that some of these products are rented still, and I prompt it were advisable to ascertain whether this is so or not - for record of his answer refers to the above which was issued.

Rev = 1868. Department.
Proc of Govt for October

No. 2829.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 26th August 1868.

No. 6,141.

Submitting remarks on letter from Collector of Salem containing his opinion on certain particulars of the report of the Forest Department on the Zavadi and Yelligherry Hills.

No. 6,141.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th August 1868.

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ABSTRACT.—Referring to the Board, for their remarks, a letter from the Collector of Salem, giving his opinion on certain particulars with reference to the Report of the Forest Department on the Zavadi and Yelligherry Hills.

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3. They observe that when Mr. Pochin wrote his letter, he was not in possession of the Orders of Government, dated 26th March last, and consequently was not aware that it was their intention that the Revenue Officers should be duly consulted in these operations.

4. The Board do not understand Mr. Pochin's proposal that the cultivation in the Hill villages shall be restricted to "two acres per head." It seems to be the custom to let land lie fallow for one year, and the proper course, in the Board's opinion, would be to reserve twice the area now under cultivation, *plus* a liberal margin for increase, the Forest Department, of course, having the privilege of removing the timber on the latter reserve. The people must have the means of gaining an honest livelihood by agriculture, and such other sources of maintenance as they are accustomed to rely upon, including, of course, the privilege of cutting firewood for village use, and small timber for sheds and houses, and they will continue to graze their cattle in the smaller jungle as usual. It is very important also that the Forest operations should accord with their natural sense of justice, and that their goodwill should thus be secured. Captain Walker mentions isolated patches of cultivation among some of the reserves. Probably the Collector could buy out these rights, and a little liberality in this way would remove present and future difficulties. The price proposed in paragraph 6, Clause 9 of Captain Walker's Report would not, however, form a just compensation.

5. As to the Sandalwood trees in the "Podugal" lands the Board are of opinion that they may fairly be regarded as belonging to Government, the land having been relinquished by the ryots. If the Forest Department see fit to assume them, a corresponding extent of land must, of course, be given up for the people.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

F. Brandt.

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Wright.