M.R. O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1882 Press
~~Mis.~~

708-709

Dated 30th June 19 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 708. Read the following letter from the Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, dated Madras, 12th June 1869, No. 4,225 :—

With reference to your letter of the 29th April 1869, No. 548-5, addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government, I am directed to forward a file of papers containing full information on the subject of Coomery cultivation in South Canara.

2. You will observe that a great distinction is made between Circar Coomery and Wurgdar Coomery. Circar Coomery is Coomery carried on in forests which undisputedly belong to Government. It was placed under the following restrictions in 1847 :—

(1.)—Coomery prohibited within nine miles of the sea-shore and three miles of the bank of any river.

(2.)—Only jungle-tribes to cultivate. Each man to cultivate first three, afterwards one-and-a-half acres only.

(3.)—The assessment to be one Rupee an acre.

3. In 1859, Government ordered that Circar Coomery should never be carried on, except with the previous permission of the Collector, and that such permission should be given sparingly, and never for spots in timber-forests. There are probably not a thousand acres now cultivated as Circar Coomery in the whole district.

4. Wurgdar Coomery is carried on by Wurgdars or estate-owners in the southern part of the district, who have Coomery shist or shamil* entered in their wurgs or puttahs. They claim an absolute proprietary right to the forests and waste lands of their villages, and urge that they cannot be legally forbidden to cultivate Coomery to any extent within the boundaries of what they call their estates.

* The "shist" is the original entry by the Bedenore Government.
The "shamils" are additions made by subsequent Governments.

5. This claim to forests and waste lands has never been admitted, but it has been considered that the right to cultivate Coomery had gained some degree of validity by long prescription, and hence Wurgdar Coomery was allowed to continue when Circar Coomery was stopped.

6. The following are the chief rules regarding it now in force :—

(1.)—Coomery is forbidden in virgin forest or forest uncut for more than nine† years.

† Or twelve.

This rule is grounded on the fact that forest renews itself in eight‡ years, and on the hypothesis that the right to cultivate is limited to a block of forest sufficiently large to give the Wurgdar his annual Coomery, that is, eight times the extent which may be cultivated in a year.

‡ Or twelve.

(2.)—One acre of Coomery is allowed for each four Annas of Coomery shist or shamil entered in the wurg or puttah.

(3.)—Government may plant on any spot cleared for Coomery and no Coomery is afterwards allowed in a place so planted.

(4.)—No ryot can cultivate on any spot, except within the boundaries of his own village, or of that in which by the Government Accounts he is entitled to cut.

(5.)—The assessment to be Rupee 1 an acre.

(6.)—A block of forest is allotted to each wurg for Coomery which is eight times as large as the annual clearing allowed.

(7.)—Before clearing, permission must be obtained.

7. Questions as to the right of these Wurgdars to cultivate Coomery to any extent, as to the size of the blocks of forest to be assigned to the wurgs for Coomery and as to the rules under which Coomery shall be carried on are still under consideration. Hence, the file of papers which is sent herewith ends somewhat abruptly.

No. 709. ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1869, No. 1,882.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,

Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Pro-5. May 1869 N° 107-8

Revenue 1869. Depart.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

N°. 2029.

LETTER, 12TH JUNE 1869, No. 4,225.

Dep. Sec. to Govt. Rev. Encl.
Received 18

JUNE.

No. 4,225.

Coonery cultivation—in South Canara,—Papers relating to, forwarded to Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner of Mysore, with information on certain points connected therewith.

Recorded

W.S. 709

c 17th June 69 R. 21st R.C. 23rd " R 28th "

A/A 30th June 69.

In Letter No. 2 to Rev. Dept. dated 12th June 1869.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June, 1869.

Read

Copy of a letter from the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, dated 5th May 1869, No. 107-8, forwarded to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, for information on the points noted in the margin.

Commissioner's letter.