M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-19.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 970 Press Mis.

209-210

Dated 9th April 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th April 1869.

No. 209. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1869, No. 653:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Salem, 11th December 1868, No. 278.

In accordance with the request contained in paragraph 8 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 8,372, dated 27th ultimo, I beg to inform you that I referred, in paragraph 7 of my letter, No. 21, dated 19th March last, to Government, to the collection of the *bona fide* fruits of jungle-trees, such as tamarinds, wood-apples, etc., which have always, up to the present date, brought in a very fair revenue. I by no means was thinking at the time of my writing the last above-mentioned letter, of such products as dammar, wax-honey, and barks used for dyes. I believe the Deputy Conservator wished to rent out the fruit, etc., of the above trees through his department, but I objected, as also my predecessor did, (*Vide* No. 71, dated 25th April 1864;) and the Board, in paragraph 2 of their Proceedings, No. 3,367, dated 2nd June 1864, ordered that the Revenue Department should rent out all, but that the collections of the sale of such trees as were under the surveillance of the Forest Department should be credited accordingly.

In paragraph 10 of his report on the forests of the Javady and Yellaghiry Hills, Lieutenant Walker alluded to the damage inflicted on the forest by the system of what he termed the indiscriminate collection of forest-produce, and suggested that such products should be reserved for Government, and that the Hill-men should be employed to collect them.

2. In paragraph 7 of his letter of the 19th March, the Collector of Salem stated that he was altogether opposed to letting out of the products of the forest by the Conservancy Department, and that whatever was rented out by the Revenue Department was done with the greatest care.

3. In paragraph 7 of their Proceedings of the 26th August 1868, the Board remarked that the taxes on forest-produce had been abolished, as, while yielding little revenue, they afforded scope to the renters for oppressing the jungle-tribes; and they deprecated any renewal of them. At the same time they saw no objection to the Forest Department collecting and selling those products on their reserves, on condition of employing the classes customarily so engaged.

4. In disposing of the correspondence in their Order of the 9th October 1868, No. 2,603, the Government desired a further report on the collection of forest-products, remarking that, with reference to the long since abandonment of such taxes, they were unable to understand to what the Collector referred.

5. Mr. Pochin now explains that he alluded to the "collection of *bona fide* fruits of jungle-trees, such as tamarind, wood-apples, etc.," and not to "such products as dammar, wax-honey, and barks used for dyes."

6. If, as is presumed, the tamarind and wood-apple trees are growing wild in the same localities as the trees from which dammar and bark is obtained, the distinction between the two classes of products in respect to the effects of renting them out, is not very apparent.

7. In either case the renter has to work a monopoly against parties little able to take care of themselves.

8. The Board see no reason for treating such products differently, and would recommend that the Forest Department should be allowed to collect them all in "*reserved*" forests by the agency of the Hill-tribes at liberal rates of remuneration as in Streeharicottah, and that the rents should be discontinued from the date of expiration of the present lease.

No. 210. ORDER THEREON, 9th April 1869, No. 970.

Forests, No. 4.

THE Government concur in the remarks made by the Board of Revenue in paragraphs 6 and 7 of their Proceedings. The rents of jungle-fruits should clearly have been discontinued by the local Collector when the Orders of Government, directing that all taxes on jungle-produce should be abandoned, were issued. The Collector should adopt this course at the expiration of the present leases.

2. The Government are of opinion that it will not be advisable for the Forest Department to collect jungle-products of any description by the aid of the Hill-men in the reserves. There is no reason to suppose that these semi-savage tribes would be better treated by the subordinates of the Forest Department than they were by the agents of the merchants, who formerly rented from the Collector the privilege of collecting jungle-products; and the mere fact of persons being engaged for the Forest Department in making these collections will afford an opening for persons not so employed to trespass on the area of the reserved tracts. These reserves should be accessible only to Government Servants, and other persons found within their limits should be regarded and treated as trespassers.

(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 (1869) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE, &c. &c. &c.

Dated April, 9th. Recd.

G. O., 9th April 1869, No. 970.

Forest-products on reserved tracts.—Passing Orders on Board's Proceedings regarding their collection.

APRIL

Nos. 209-210.

Revenue Depart.

No. 970.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt under date the 9 Apr./69.

Read the following Pro: of the Bd of Revenue —

Recommending that the collection of Forest products should be undertaken by the Forest Depart in all Reserved forests, by agency of hill tribes, and that rents of Javady and Yellagherry Hills in Salem Dt should be discontinued on expiration of present lease — (Dt. 1st Feby 1869 No 653/.)

Order

N.

A.J.

The Govt concur in the remarks made by the Board of Revenue in paras 6 and 7 of their Proceedings. The rents of Jungle fruits should clearly have been discontinued [by the local Collector] when the orders of Govt directing that all taxes on

on jungle produce should be abandoned were issued. The Collector should adopt this course at the expiration of the present leases.

2. The Govt are of opinion that it will not be advisable for the Forest Department to collect & in jungle description by the aid of the Hill men products of any in the Elevels. There is no reason to suppose that these semi-savage & tribes would be better treated by the subordinates of the Forest Department than they were by the agents of the merchants who formerly claimed from the Collector, the privilege of collecting jungle products, & the mere fact of Firemen being engaged for the Forest Department in making these collections will

& and treated

will afford an opening for persons not employed to trespass on the area of the Reserved tracts. These Reserves should be accessible only to Govt servants, and other persons & found within their limits should be regarded as trespassers.

14 Copies Letter Bd of Rev Dept &c
13 " " Offg Conservator of Forests

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Ed Balfour

Pro No. 175-1968 9-10-68

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