

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1282	Press ~~Mis.~~
288-39 Dated	13-8-	18.20

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th August 1870.*

No. 238. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd April 1870, No. 2,644 :—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 11th January 1870, No. 203.

Read also the following letters :—

From the Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chatterpore, 7th March 1870, No. 228.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 203, of the 11th January last, I have the honour to state, for their information, that the quantity of firewood required per annum for the use of the Aska Factory is estimated at 10,000 tons or 22,400,000 lbs., that the amount realized by the issue of licenses is about Rupees 500, and that no undue clearance is made in the vicinity of Aska, there being no jungles in its vicinity. All the wood required for the use of the factory are brought from the Suradah and Gumsoor forests both by rafts and carts, and violation on the part of license-holders of the terms of licenses is dealt with magisterially.

2. A copy of the Factory Manager's letter, dated the 24th ultimo, expressing his views regarding the enhanced rates, is herewith sent. The statement therein contained, that supplies are drawn from inaccessible wilds fatal to European life, or that the factory wood-cutters are composed of the very tribes that have been in years past so troublesome to the Government, and that the factory people have drawn them into peaceful occupation, is in my opinion somewhat too highly coloured.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Manager of the Aska Sugar Works, to the Acting Collector of Ganjam, dated Aska, 24th February 1870.

I HAVE to apologize for so long delaying to reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th January 1870, and which you were so good as to send me some fifteen days ago. My time is just now much occupied, this being our busy season.

2. I beg now to submit the following remarks for the information of the Board, and will answer their queries in the order they are given :—

1.—The quantity of fuel required per annum by these works is about 10,000 tons. The proposed rate of duty of 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs. would impose on this Company an annual duty of Rupees 22,400 over and above the charges of cutting and transport, a charge that would virtually compel us to close our works.

2.—The amount per annum of licenses taken by wood-cutters in my employ is on an average about 500 Rupees.

3.—There never were in our time any jungles in the vicinity of this station.

3. The Board are good enough to request my views regarding the enhanced rates; I can only point to their prohibitive character and remind the Board that our supplies are drawn largely from inaccessible wilds fatal to European life, that our wood-cutters are composed principally of the very tribes that have been in years past so troublesome to the Government and whom by the spending among them of some quarter of a lac of Rupees a-year, we have drawn into peaceful occupation; so that the cutting of this wood, while surrounded with difficulty to us, is of actual benefit to the country and the Government; and when I further remind the Board that we have been now established here over a quarter of a century, I think they will admit with me that we have some claim to remission from further taxation of our fuel, especially when it

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th August 1870.*

is remembered that Government have, in one instance, if not in more, conceded to a quite recently established Company the privilege of cutting firewood for their works free of any charge.

Leaving the matter with every confidence in yours and the Board's hands, I have, etc.

From the Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 15th March 1870, No. 93.

In their Proceedings of the 26th October 1869, No. 7,912, the Board have laid down a scale of seigniorage in modification of the rates prescribed in their Circular Order, No. LXXXVI., dated 27th November 1860. On receipt of those Proceedings the necessary notice was published in the *District Gazette*. This augmentation of the rates has provoked very general remonstrance, and the ryots, particularly in the sugar-cane growing parts of the district, the Chendragherry and Palmanair Talooks, clamour against the imposition of 1 Rupee on every cart-load of fuel required for the manufacture of jaggery. Heretofore the old rate of 5 Annas per cart-load has been paid almost without murmur, and something I felt had to be done in behalf of an industry which might otherwise be seriously affected, and this at a time when there had been in these parts very serious loss of agricultural produce owing to the unseasonable rains in January. I have therefore ventured, on my own responsibility, to hold the new scale of rates in abeyance as respects this kind of fuel, and a seigniorage of 8 Annas per cart-load is only being levied.

2. The demand for fuel for sugar-boiling will cease about the end of this month; but I have thought it right that I should report my action in this matter, in order that the Board may favour me with any instructions they may see fit to pass for future guidance.

In their Order of the 19th July 1869, No. 2,093, Government increased the seigniorage on wood from 10 Annas to 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs. The cause of this measure was the large consumption of fuel by locomotives, and the Conservator recommended that it should apply only to fire-wood of large size, such as is used on railways, and not to the small wood used for ordinary consumption, but this limitation was not approved of by Government, because it seemed likely to give rise to complications.

2. The Collector of Ganjam has brought to notice the serious extent to which this enhancement of seigniorage affects the Aska Sugar Factory. The quantity of wood annually consumed in the Factory is 10,000 tons. It is collected in feverish and inaccessible tracts and principally by individuals belonging to the Hill-tribes. Under Board's Proceedings, dated 13th June 1861, No. 3,096, licenses are now issued to persons cutting fuel for the factory at a Rupee a-year. The amount annually paid for such licenses is Rupees 500.

3. If the enhanced rates are introduced the seigniorage to be paid by the Company will be no less than Rupees 22,400 a-year, and the Board have good reason to believe that the Manager is not exaggerating when he affirms that this charge would compel the Company to close the concern. This would, of course, put a stop to the interesting Abkarry experiment which is being tried in Ganjam. Considering all the circumstances of the case the Board resolve to recommend most strongly that the present system may be allowed to continue.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th August 1870.*

4. The Collector of North Arcot reports that the enhanced rates of seigniorage have been felt to be ruinous by the sugar factors of his district, and that to save the industry from destruction he thought it necessary to hold the new rates in abeyance pending a reference to the Board.

5. The Board approve of his action in the matter, and resolve to recommend Government to allow the old rates to continue in favour of sugar factors in all districts.

6. Sugar gardens bear an exceptionally heavy assessment, and the industry, though remunerative, is precarious, and it is to the advantage of the country that it should be encouraged.

No. 239.

ORDER THEREON, 13th August 1870, No. 1,252.

Forests, No. 9.

THE Government are unable to accede to the recommendation of the Board, that the proprietors of the Aska

Sugar Factory should be specially exempted from paying the usual rate of seigniorage for wood-fuel, viz., 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs.

2. The Board, by their Proceedings, dated 13th June 1861, No. 3,096, have apparently authorized, in the case of the Aska Sugar Factory, a totally different system from that which obtains elsewhere, without obtaining the sanction of Government. No seigniorage is paid on the wood-fuel supplied to factory, but licenses are issued to the wood-cutters employed by the proprietors in return for the payment of 1 Rupee per annum for each wood-cutter. By this means an annual revenue of Rupees 500 is realized—an amount which, if the rules had been adhered to, would have been swollen to Rupees 22,400.

3. If, for considerations based on the policy of providing occupation for the Hill-tribes, or for any other reason, the Board are desirous of lowering the seigniorage paid on firewood in any part of the Ganjam District, or substituting some other plan of realizing the Government dues, they should submit their proposals with reference to a particular locality, and not to a particular branch of industry.

4. The Government, however, do not wish to entail upon the Aska Factory an unprovided-for source of expenditure. The present arrangements will therefore be allowed to continue in force until the close of the current official year, prior to the close of which the Board will, after communication with the Collector and Conservator of Forests, report what rate of seigniorage should be levied in Ganjam, which is in some respects an exceptional district.

5. The Board's recommendation, that the new rate of seigniorage be declared inapplicable in the case of all wood cut for the use of Sugar Factories, cannot be acceded to generally, but the circumstances of particular localities will be separately considered, if brought forward, in fixing the rate of seigniorage.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

H. E. STOKES,

Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantlemant.

No. 7,942.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th October 1869.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 19th July 1869, No. 2,093,
Revenue Department:—

No. 418. Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Manantoddy, 1st June 1869, No. 1,436.

In reply to the Government Order, No. 1,436, of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I fully agree with the views expressed by the Consulting Engineer for Railways as to the importance of raising the rate of seigniorage on locomotive fuel from 10 Annas to 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs., and would recommend that the increased rate should be put in force after one month's notice. The increased rate should only be for firewood of large size, such as that used by the locomotives, and should have no reference to small wood for ordinary consumption, which is often only small sticks, etc.

2. The question of a large plantation on the banks of the Cauvery above Erode is still under consideration. Colonel Morgan has been in communication with the Revenue authorities, and he has been over the ground, but reports that no suitable land is available: if a plantation is to be formed, it will probably be necessary to purchase land at a high rate. I am about to visit the localities with Colonel Morgan, and had delayed any decision in the matter till my visit, which will probably be in July. The Locomotive Superintendent informed me that the highest rate he would be prepared to give for fuel at Erode would be 4½ to 5 Rupees per ton, and Colonel Morgan estimated that it could not be delivered there at less than 10 Rupees.

3. There are very large, I may say almost inexhaustible, forests within short distances of the Cauvery above Erode: if a tramway could be made from any of these to a navigable part of the river, large rafts of timber and boats laden with fuel might be brought down to Erode. The subject is well worth the careful consideration of the Railway Company.

4. The dense shola forests on the Belampatty hills, the Palghaut hills, and the Anamallays, may be said to be quite inexhaustible, and are within a short distance of the line; the advisability of having tramways to any of these tracts should be considered.

5. There is a very large extent of hill forest in the Salem District quite contiguous to the line. The jungles of the plains have been heavily indented upon for fuel to a considerable distance, but no timber has as yet been taken from the hills, or the ravines on the slopes. These hills contain a great deal of wood that is of no use except for fuel; but I am not sure that the supply is sufficient to authorize a tramway, but a timber slip would probably pay well.

6. We have little or no data to enable us to make even a rough estimate of the cost of producing fuel from plantations. With the exception of Casuarina I believe it will be very heavy in those districts where it is most required. Under these circumstances, I do not think we should attempt plantations at first on any very large scale, and unless they are upon an enormous scale they will, I feel sure, be quite inadequate to meet future requirements, and tramways will eventually be resorted to. If this is the case the sooner they are commenced the better. The traffic in timber, besides fuel from tracts like the Anamallays and Pennagra forests, would be very considerable.

7. Plantations are mostly required in dry timberless countries like the Gooty District: it is in these districts, however, that they will be most expensive. We have now commenced a large plantation of upwards of 600 acres in a most favourable locality near Gooty, and two smaller ones between that place and Cuddapah. I am not very sanguine as to the results, as I am afraid the cost will be very heavy, particularly if we have unfavourable seasons like this and the last three years. It is, however, quite right that it should be tried; but I would not recommend any great extension till we see the results of two or three years. I am giving every attention to the trial of various kinds of trees.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Ec, Ac, &c

Dated August, 18th.

Recd.

G. O., 13th August 1870, No. 1,532.

AUGUST.

NO. 238-239.

Seigniorage on wood cut for the use of Sugar factories.—Orders on Board's recommendation to action continuance of old rates.

8. The Casuarina plantation at Trivellum promises to be a success: it is about 350 acres in extent, and we now have upwards of 30,000 young trees planted out, which show rapid growth; the nurseries are full of plants ready for transplanting out, but the season has been most unfavourable.

9. I cannot quit this subject without pointing out the importance of bringing all fuel-yielding tracts in the vicinity of the railways under one administration. At present certain tracts under Collectors dovetail with ours; these are not worked on any system, and have no establishment, and the fuel from them is certainly in some instances brought in without any payment for seigniorage, and they interfere much with our arrangements for checking smuggling. Again, there are considerable tracts of Zemindary or private forests, which it would be advantageous if Government controlled at almost any cost.

No. 419.

ORDER THEREON, 19th July 1869, No. 2,003.

Forests, No. 14.

THE Government sanction the proposed increased rate of seigniorage for wood fuel, viz., 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs., and grant authority for its being brought into force from 1st September next. The suggestion of the Officiating Conservator of Forests in paragraph 1 of the foregoing letter, viz., that this rate should apply only to firewood of large size, such as that used by the Railway, and that it should have no reference to small wood for ordinary consumption, does not commend itself to the Government, as such an arrangement would necessarily lead to complications.

2. It is observed from paragraph 2 of the Officiating Conservator's letter, that the question of a large plantation on the banks of the Cauvery above Erode is under the consideration of that Officer, and that he proposes to visit the localities. Major Beddome, as already ordered, * should also consult the Collectors of Salem and Coimbatore prior to submitting his report on the subject.

* Government Order, 21st May 1869, No. 1,436.

3. In paragraphs 3 to 5 the Officiating Conservator advocates the formation of tramways, etc., to certain forest tracts therein mentioned contiguous to the Railway, with the view of facilitating the transit of wood therefrom. He should communicate with the Consulting Engineer for Railways on this subject, and submit definite proposals for the consideration of Government.

4. With reference to paragraphs 7 and 8 the Government request the Officiating Conservator to submit half-yearly reports on the plantations therein referred to, showing the progress made in them, and the cost incurred on their account up to date.

5. In paragraph 9 Major Beddome urges the importance of bringing all fuel-yielding tracts in the vicinity of the Railways under one administration, as certain of these tracts at present under Collectors are not systematically worked, and interfere much with the arrangements of the Forest Department for checking smuggling. He also states that there are considerable tracts of Zemindary or private forests which might be advantageously leased by Government. On these points definite proposals should be laid before Government, with particulars of the localities referred to.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secy. to Govt.

To the Board of Revenue.

COMMUNICATED to all Collectors, who will observe that in paragraph 4 of their Order of the 21st May 1869, and paragraph 1 of the Proceedings recorded above, Government have directed that wood fuel in all jungles shall be charged one Rupee per 1,000 lbs. load without reference to size, and whether intended for consumption in locomotives or by the general public. * These orders will be at once carried out. It should, however, be remarked that it is not intended hereby to cancel rules actually in force whereby under certain restrictions ryots are permitted to cut fuel

gratis for their own consumption. By paragraph 10 of the Rules for the preservation of Jungles, circulated with Board's Circular Order, No. LXXXVI., dated 27th November 1863, a scale of commutation was laid down which will now be modified as under:—

	lbs.	RS.	A.	P.
1 Man's load.....	50	0	0	9
1 Bullock load.....	200	0	3	0
1 Bandy load.....	1,000	1	0	0

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. T. MAYNE,
First Assistant.

To all Collectors,
with copies of Government Orders, Nos. 1,436 and 403 of 1869.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Proceedings, 26th October 1869, No. 7,942.	Received	1869.	Board of Revenue, MADRAS.
OCTOBER. No. 7,942.	Encl.	305/70	Wood fuel.—Proceedings of Government sanctioning levy of a sovereign of one rupee per 1,000 lbs. on—without reference to size and whether intended for consumption in locomotives or by general public, communicated to all Collectors, with remarks.

No. 203.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th January 1870.

Read the following letter from G. ELLIS, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chatterpore, 25th November 1869, No. 1,306:—

With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 26th ultimo, No. 7,942, raising, under the Orders of Government, dated 19th July last, No. 2,093, the

	lbs.	rs.	a.	p.
Man's load...	50	0	0	9
Bullock load...	200	0	3	0
Bandy load...	1,000	1	0	0

rates of duty on fuel, as detailed in the margin, I have the honour to bring to their notice that, under the sanction conveyed in their Proceedings of the 13th June 1861, No. 3,096, licenses for cutting firewood for the use of the Aska factory and other private persons, are granted on payment of one rupee per annum, and to solicit their instructions as to whether this system is to be continued. If so, the order, for obvious reasons, will be a dead letter in this district. If it is discontinued, the Aska Sugar factory, which consumes an enormous quantity of firewood, will hardly be able to pay a duty of one rupee for every bandy load it consumes, besides the charges of cutting and transport.

2. I take the same opportunity of asking the Board's instructions as to whether, in reference to the reasons adduced in Mr. Forbes' letter of the 23rd February 1861, No. 56, the rates of duty now sanctioned may not be relaxed in favour of this district.

Previous to disposing of the subject of this letter, the Board desire to obtain, from the Acting Collector, information on the following points, viz:—

- (1.) The quantity of fuel required per annum, for the use of the Aska Sugar factory?
- (2.) The amount, per annum, realized by the issue of licenses to the wood-cutters who supply the fuel?
- (3.) What precautions are now taken for the prevention of undue clearance in the vicinity of the station of Aska?

2. The Acting Collector will also be good enough to ascertain and report the views of the Manager of the factory regarding the enhanced rates.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Ganjam.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Revenue Sept.

Memo. for orders
on No. 1305-

In these proceedings the Board recommended that the amount due in the rate of 10 annas shall not apply to firewood taken for sugar factories, and that the existing system in Bangalore under which the sugar factory at Aska is supplied with firewood cut under licenses, for which only an annual fee of one rupee is paid, may be allowed to continue. The recommendation is based upon communication

The pt. cannot make an exception in favor of any particular branch of industry - If the Board can show that the rate of 10 is too high, it should be reduced. At all consumers must pay alike - In fact there is so much work that a lower rate of 5 annas for all alike seems better - It is to be understood that the

Received in 1870
22 April 1870 No. 2644

1870.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

No. 1305/70.

PROCEEDINGS, 11TH JANUARY 1870, No. 203.

Encl.

Received

JANUARY.
No. 203.

Licenses for cutting firewood—in Ganjam District, for use of Aska Sugar Factory and certain private parties.—Collector requested to furnish certain information, with reference to his application for instructions as to whether present system of granting—on payment of one rupee per annum, is to be continued, and whether sanctioned rates of remuneration on firewood may not be relaxed in favor of district.

X
arrangement. If he
only get 500 R. for
10000 tons - the savings.

is less than one arm.
Says I do not
have an extra at all
ment - because it is
says - but he can't
it can never have
water & is long
in the ground.

I would let the
 present system continue
 at a low and not needing
 make an exception
 price for the foreign
 District. It is really
 most important not to
 keep the ash factory
 which does a wonderful
 good in the country.

* Also paid of
Collis letter printed
with Receipt. Deed
cedings dated 11th
Jan'y 1870. It
seems that one man
by the payment of
\$1.00 had a number
cans cut as much
wood as he likes
but only for the
Asker factory
M

4. The increased rate of squiring was adopted after due consideration, and in view to conserving the timber tracts of the several localities, especially those situated in the Railway District. It is submitted that nothing has been decided by the Board to justify the general suspension of the orders recommended and that it will be sufficient if its adoption in regard to the full supply of the sugar factories of North Africa not be suspended during the present season, as some only have been contemplated by

by the collector, and
if the present system
be allowed to continue
at Aska in consider-
ation of the local
nature of the loca-
lity from which the
fuel supply is obtained

Done

Rev. Department
No 1252
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 13 August 1870

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Recommendation to sanction con-
tinuance of old rates of seigniorage
on fuel in favor of sugar factories
in all Districts. H.C. 22^d April 70 R. 2644

I agree to this draft.
If there are exceptions in any District
that under the circumstances
the seigniorage is going to be reduced
a State would be benefited thereby
in a different system the Board should
show that I think the law there should be
maintained
that is the
Carnates

The Government
are unable to accede to
the recommendation of the
Board that the proprietors
of the Aska sugar factory
should be specially exemp-
ted from paying the usual
rate of seigniorage for wood
fuel - viz one rupee per 1000 lbs.

The

2 The Board by
their Pro: dated 13th June 1861,
No. 3096 have apparently
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totally different system
from that which obtains
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the sanction of Govt. No
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wood fuel supplied to
factory, but licences are
issued to the wood cutter
employed by the proprietors
in return for the payment
of one rupee per annum
for each wood cutter.
By this means an annual

revenue of Rs. 500 is real-
ised - an amount which
if the rules had been adhered
to, would have been smaller
to Rs. 22,400.

3 If for considerations
based on the policy of promoting
occupation for the Hill tribes
or for any other reason,
the Board are desirous
of lowering the seigniorage
paid on firewood in any
part of the Garojam
district or substituting
some other plan realising
the Govt. dues, they should
submit their proposals
with reference to a particular
locality

locality and not to a particular branch of industry.

4. The Government, however, do not wish to entail upon the Aska factory an unprovided for source of expenditure. The present arrangements will therefore be allowed to continue in force until the close of the current official year.

W. H.

Is? add
prior to the close
of the fiscal year
the value, after
comm. with the
Coll. & Cust. of
free to report what
rate of duty would
should be levied in
Gang and which is
in some respects an
exceptional District
to S. M.

S. H. B. 11

10.
5. The Bd's recommendation that the new rate of duty be declared in application in the case of all wood cut for the use of sugar factories cannot be acceded to generally, but the circumstances of particular localities will be separately considered. If brought forward in fixing the rate of duty.

W. H.

14. For the Bd's Blue Dept 20
13 Comog Forests

191 Sept
determination on
full of the degree
of action

Chie

Common
identified

Herpatic rock
addition of para 5

MS

191 Sept 11 1911