M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT**

G.O. No. 2027 Press ~~Mis.~~

286-89
Dated 14-12-1870 ~~19~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, *14th December* 1870.

Read the following papers:—

No. 286. Petition from the inhabitants of the villages of Mylamookanadu and other villages on the Shervaroy Hills attached to the taluq of Salem, to the Government of Madras.

SHEWETH,

YOUR petitioners beg to state that their ancestors have been the Hill residents ever since the existence of the Shervaroy Hills. During the time of Messrs. Gleig and Cockburn, they had paid the Teervah that had been imposed upon them. But ever since Fasli 77, Teervah having been fixed at one Rupee per acre, they are unable to pay the same, and request that it may be reduced to what it had originally been.

2. As your petitioners are unable to get a Pass to erect their houses as well as for their tools of husbandry, they pray that they may be allowed free Pass as was before. That your petitioners, who carried on their livelihood by cutting jungles, which is now put a stop to, humbly pray that permission may be granted to them to cut jungles, etc.

REFERRED to the Collector of Salem for report—

1st.—As to the action of Forest Department on the Shervaroy Hills, what establishment is kept, and what arrangements made regarding petitioners' rights to cut firewood and wood for their huts and tools.

2nd.—What has been the usage in this respect, and what Collector recommends as to the issue of Passes.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

19th July 1869.

No. 287. From the Collector of Salem, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, Madras, dated 7th November 1870, No. 33.

I HAVE the honour to submit the report called for by Government in their endorsement, dated the 19th July 1869, on the Memorial addressed to them by the inhabitants of Mylamookanadu and other villages on the Shervaroy Hills.

2. The orders and rules of the Forest Department now in force, relative to the cutting of firewood and wood for agricultural purposes, allow a *bona fide* ryot to cut firewood in small quantities from scrub-jungles, and to take it away without any interference on the part of the Forest Department. But should he wish to take away a bandy-load of wood, he is required to obtain a *free Pass* from the Deputy-Tahsildar of the Shervaroy Hills. The privilege is restricted to three bandy-loads a-month. The object of this rule is, to check any abuse on the part of the ryots, cutting large quantities of wood for sale, instead of for *bona fide* domestic use. Only ryots at a distance from the jungles are required to take out free Passes. Those living on the spot obtain their supply daily or weekly, as it may be most convenient to them by *head-loads.*

3. The following are the different descriptions of wood which the ryots are allowed to cut free for agricultural purposes and for their houses; a seigniorage of

[illegible]

three Annas per head-load being levied only in the case of branches of Caroongaly and Satinwood:—

(1.) Timber of the unreserved class and bamboos for agricultural purposes.

(2.) Head-loads of Achawood (branches) for ploughs.

(3.) In case of accidental destruction by fire, wood of the unreserved class and bamboos.

4. A ryot, wishing to obtain any timber of the above description, is required to make an application to the Village Munsiff, who certifies to his being a *bona fide* ryot. The certificate and application are then presented to the Forest Overseer or the Deputy-Conservator of Forests, who issues a free Pass.

5. The establishment entertained by the Forest Department on the Shervaroy Hills consists of one Peon, whose duty is to collect the Passes issued by the Deputy-Tahsildar.

6. I would suggest that the issue of free Passes for timber required by *bona fide* ryots for agricultural purposes and for building houses, be entrusted to the Deputy-Tahsildar in the same way as he does for firewood. This concession will, I think, remedy any grievance on the part of the Malayalies.

7. The delay in reporting on this petition arises from the petition having only been found the other day among the papers of the late Collector.

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Referred to the Conservator of Forests for his remarks. To be returned without delay.

Fort Saint George,
19th November 1870.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 288. From the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Salem, 2nd December 1870, No. 2,451.

In returning the correspondence as per margin, I have the honour to submit a letter from the Assistant Conservator of this range. The Tahsildar of Yercaud has always had the privilege of issuing the free Passes, and they could have been supplied to him, if he had indented for them. I have now requested the Assistant Conservator to see that a supply is always in his hands.

1. Memorial addressed to His Excellency the Governor by certain Hillmen on the Shervaroys.
2. Mr. Longley's letter to the Chief Secretary, No. 4,033, dated 7th November.

2. The chief object of the Memorial from the Hillmen is, I suspect, to obtain from Government an order for unlimited Kumari cultivation, which could not, of course, be acceded to.

Enclosure No. 1.

From the Assistant Conservator of Forests, to the Conservator of Forests, Salem, dated 1st December 1870, No. 163.

With reference to the Memorial addressed to His Excellency the Governor, by the inhabitants of certain villages on the Shervaroy Hills, I have the honour to inform you that the complaint of petitioners is groundless, as *no* seigniorage is or ever has been levied on firewood; also that the Deputy-Tahsildar of Yercaud is empowered to issue "free Passes" for building or agricultural purposes to any *bona fide* Government ryot.

2. With regard to the latter part of the petition, it is evident petitioners desire to resume Kumari cultivation, which is strictly forbidden by Forest Rules.

3. The establishment on the Shervaroy consists of one Peon to collect Passes, etc., and one permanent Cooly in charge of the plantation.

No. 289. Order thereon, 14th December 1870, No. 2,027.

Forests, No. 8.

Ordered that the following endorsement be passed on the petition:—

"The Government learn from the Collector and from the Forest Department that petitioners can obtain free Passes for firewood and timber for their own requirements on application to the Deputy-Tahsildar on the Shervaroy Hills."

2. Major Beddome will consider and report whether any purpose is served by maintaining the Shervaroy establishment, described by Mr. Nisbet as consisting "of one Peon to collect Passes and one Cooly in charge of a plantation."

3. It appears to the Government that the whole management might well be entrusted to the Revenue authorities, if so trifling a special establishment is sufficient for conservancy purposes.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Conservator of Forests.
,, the Collector of Salem.
,, the Petition Department.

Exd F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of (1870) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated December, 18

Read

G. O. 14th December 1870, No. 2027.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 288—289.

Petition from certain Malayalies on the Shevaroys relating to firewood and timber for their own use.—Letters from the Collector of Salem and the Conservator of Forests on this subject, with orders thereon.

Revt. Department

No. 2027

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 14th December 1870.

Read the following papers—

From the Collr. of Salem.

Subg. a report on the memorial addressed by the inhabitants of Malayamtkanadoo & other villages on the Shevaroy hills. } Dt. 7th November /70 No. 33

From the Consr. of Forests

Returning the memorial of certain Malayalies on the Shevaroy Hills, & expressing his opinion thereon. } „ 2nd Decr. „ „ 245

Ordered that the following endorsement be passed on the petition.

"The Government learn from the Collector and from the Forest department that

J. D. S.

[illegible] by

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[illegible]

that Petitioners can obtain free passes for Firewood and Timber for their own requirements on application to the Deputy Tahsildar on the Shevaroy Hills"

Major Beddome will consider & report whether any purpose is served by maintaining the Shevaroy Estab. described by Mr. Nisbet as consisting of one peon to collect passes & the Cooly in charge of a plantation" - It appears to the Govt. that the whole management might well be entrusted to the Rev. authorities

I would add - as stated by the last Conservator "and that no seigniorage is or ever has been levied on firewood"

L. B.

if so trifling a special Estab. is sufficient for conservancy purposes -

14 Bd. of Rev. - dated 15

13 Conr. of Forests d

5 — Collr. of Salem

1 — Petition dated