Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th May 1871.

No. 251. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 5th April 1871, No. 16 :—

In reply to paragraph 2 of the Government Order, No 610, of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have already reported to the Board of Revenue that I consider that firewood cut beyond a distance of 20 miles from any line of railway might be reduced to 8 Annas the 1,000 lbs., but that all cut for sale and for other than agricultural purposes and domestic use within that distance should continue to carry the present seigniorage of 1 Rupee the 1,000 lbs. This rule would give our department some chance of keeping the necessary growth of forest and jungle in the vicinity of railways; the return in the way of seigniorage would be such as to authorize the necessary expenditure, and in many cases the wood that would otherwise be cut at a distance varying from 12 to 20 miles from the railway would be felled beyond the 20 miles radius. If this rule should be approved of by Government, I would not recommend any deviation in North Arcot or elsewhere. The up-keep of the North Arcot, Salem, and Cuddapah forests, is particularly necessary.

2. From paragraph 3 of the Government Order under reply, I would infer that the consideration of what seigniorage should be charged for firewood used for sugar-boiling in North Arcot is unnecessary. If all wood used by ryots for the manufacture of the produce of their own lands is to be granted free of seigniorage, all such used for the manufacture of sugar, indigo, iron, sandal-wood oil, etc., must, in future, be given free, as any man can, I believe, make himself out to be a ryot. Hitherto all timber cut for *bona fide* agricultural purposes and all firewood for domestic use has been given free; but all wood used in the manufacture of articles for sale has been liable to seigniorage, and the present concession should not, I think, be made without a careful consideration for the future up-keep of forest-land. The manufacture alluded to is generally carried on at a large profit by wealthy individuals, and the small seigniorage necessary for the up-keep of the woodland can scarcely be felt. If it is to be entirely removed many tracts must, I am afraid, in time become entirely deforested, and I should be afraid to look to the future in some of our railway districts. If Government really wish to give up all revenue of this nature, it will be necessary before long to demarcate tracts of woodland for these purposes; but even then I do not think that there would be any chance of their up-keep being attended to by ryots and others for whose benefit they are intended, and in time they would be destroyed.

3. Every tour I make I became more and more impressed with the difficulty of anything approaching proper conservancy under the present system, by which some portions of a district remain under the Revenue authorities and others under the Forest Department. The whole should be under one and the same department, and this should form a branch of the Revenue; otherwise there will always be clashing, and it will be impossible to prevent smuggling and much indiscriminate abuse of privileges and encroachment upon the forests in various ways, etc., etc. After some such amalgamation or re-organization, I do not see why our department should not have the cordial assistance of the Revenue authorities. I would then

propose that certain tracts should be assigned to the inhabitants of each district for free felling (to whatever extent Government may consider necessary, whether it be only for agricultural and domestic use, or whether for trades of certain natures). The demarcation and up-keep of these tracts must then be considered. Shall the latter be a charge against Government or against the parties who benefit, and shall it be carried out by the villages or by the Forest Department? A certain staff will be necessary, such as watchers, to prevent theft and the encroachment of timber-traders, etc., and in some cases gardeners for nurseries, etc. If left to the ryots, it will probably never be properly carried out. The best plan would, I think, be a small paid staff raised from the villages that benefit under the direction of the heads of those villages, subject only to the supervision of the Forest officer, and paid for by the villages themselves. The whole of these arrangements could easily be carried out by our district officers with the assistance of Collectors and their subordinates; Government forests would not then be overrun in the indiscriminate way that they now are, and it would be easy to introduce a Forest Act and a Code of rules that might really be enforced. The want of arrangements of this nature is at present only urgent in the vicinity of railways, but sooner or later they will become generally necessary; and the longer delayed the greater will be the difficulty. No one conversant with the forest history of other countries would deny that they are for the benefit of the inhabitants.

No. 252. ORDER THEREON, 19th May 1871, No. 881.

Forests, No. 15.

IN their Order of 1st April last, No. 610, the Government allowed the old rates of firewood seigniorage to stand, as a special case, in the Ganjam District, so far as regards the jungles which supply the Aska Factory.

2. A proposal to make the same concession in favour of certain jungles in North Arcot, whence a great deal of wood is taken by ryots engaged in the manufacture of their own sugar-cane, was referred to the Conservator of Forests for his opinion. His attention was drawn to the differing circumstances of North Arcot: a railway passing through the district, the absence of hill tribes who are largely employed in the felling in Ganjam, and the non-necessity of clearings on sanitary grounds.

3. Major Beddome, in reply, advocates a general rule that "firewood cut "beyond a distance of 20 miles from any line of railway may be reduced to 8 Annas "per 1,000 lbs.; but that all cut for sale and for other *than agricultural and* "*domestic* use within that distance shall continue to pay 1 Rupee."

4. He then takes exception to paragraph 3 of the G. O., which declares that the ryots' privileges in respect of fuel from unreserved jungles "have been "expressly declared applicable to the manufacture by ryots of the produce of their "own lands."

He denies *in limine* that there is any such rule or practice. Were it otherwise, many tracts would be rapidly deforested, and he would be afraid to look to the future in some of our railway districts.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th May 1871.

5. The rest of his letter pleads for an amalgamation of Forest with Revenue, the introduction at that stage of a Forest Act and Code of rules, etc., etc.

6. The Government resolve to refer this correspondence to the Board of Revenue for an enunciation of their views.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Conservator of Forests.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

sale

Office of Conservator of Forests

No. 16. Camp Cotacamund 5th April 1847

From

Major R. A. Beddome

Conservator of Forests.

To,

W. Sudleston Esqre.

Secretary to Government

R. D.

Sir,

In reply to para 2 of the Government Order No. 610, of the 1st instant, I have the honor to inform you that I have already reported to the Board of Revenue that I consider that firewood cut beyond a distance of 20 miles from any line of Railway might be reduced to 8 Annas the 1000 lbs but that all cut for sale

sale and for other than agricultural purposes and domestic use, within that distance should continue to carry the present seigniorage of 1 Rupee the 1000 lbs, this rule would give our Department some chance of keeping up the necessary growth of forest and jungle in the vicinity of Railways; the returns in the way of seigniorage would be such as to authorize the necessary expenditure, and in many cases wood that would otherwise be cut at a distance varying from 12 to 20 miles from the Railway would be felled beyond the 20 miles

radius. If this rule should be approved of by Government I would not recommend any deviation in North Arcot or elsewhere, the upkeep of the North Arcot, Salem and Cuddapah forests is particularly necessary.

2. From para 5 of the Government order under reply I would infer that the consideration of what seigniorage should be charged for firewood used for Sugar boiling in North Arcot is unnecessary. If all wood used by ryots for the manufacture of the produce of their own

own lands is to be granted free of
Seigniorage, all such used for the
manufacture of Sugar, indigo, iron,
Sandal wood, oil &c must in future
be given free; as any man can I
believe make himself out to be a
ryot - hitherto all timber cut for
bonâfide agricultural purposes and
all firewood for domestic use has
been given free, but all wood used
in the manufacture of articles for
sale has been liable to seigniorage
and the present concession should
not I think be made without a
careful

3

careful consideration for the future
up-keep of forest land. The manufac-
ture alluded to is generally carried
on at a large profit by wealthy
individuals and the small seigni-
orage (necessary for the up-keep of
the wood-land) can scarcely be felt.
If this is to be entirely removed many
trucks must I am afraid in time be-
come entirely deforested and I should
be afraid to look to the future in some
of our railway districts. If Govern-
ment really wish to give up all
revenue of this nature it will be
necessary before long to demarcate tracts
of

of wood lands for these purposes
but even then I do not think that
there would be any chance of their
up-keep being attended to by ryots
and others for whose benefit they
are intended, and in time they would
be destroyed.

5. Every tour I make, I became
more and more impressed with the
difficulty of anything approaching
proper Conservancy under the present
system, by which some portions of
a district remain under the Revenue
authorities and others under the
Forest

Forest Department, the whole should
be under one and the same Depart-
-ment and this should form a branch
of the Revenue, otherwise there will al-
-ways be clashing, and it will be im-
-possible to prevent smuggling and
much indescriminate abuse of privi-
-leges and encroachment upon the
forests in various ways. I should
some such amalgamation or reorga-
-nization. I do not see why our
Department should not have the
cordial assistance of the Revenue
authorities. I would then propose
that

which certain tracts should be assigned to the inhabitants of each district for free felling (to whatever extent Government may consider necessary whether it be only for agricultural and domestic use or whether for trades of certain natures) The demarcation and upkeep of these tracts must then be considered. Shall the latter be a charge against Government or against the parties who benefit and shall it be carried out by the villages or by the Forest Department & certain staff will be necessary such as

as watchers to prevent theft and the encroachments of timber traders &c and in some cases Gardeners for nurseries &c. If left to Ryots it will probably never be properly carried out. The best plan would I think be a small paid staff raised from the villages that benefit under the direction of the heads of those villages, subject only to the supervision of the Forest officers and paid for by the villages themselves. The whole of these arrangements could easily be carried out by our district officers with the assistance of the Collectors and

and their subordinates. Government forests would not then be overrun in the indescriminate way that they now are, and it would be easy to introduce a Forest Act and a Code of Rules that might really be enforced. The want of arrangements of this nature is at present only urgent in the vicinity of Railways but sooner or later they will become generally necessary and the longer delayed the greater will be the difficulty. No one conversant with the Forest history of other countries would

would deny that they are for the benefit of the inhabitants.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servt.
[illegible] Major
Conservator of Forests.

1/124

Forest Department.

19-8-1871

No 881-

Letter from Con. Forests

dated 5th April 1871

In reply to your No 610, dated 1st April 1871, I have the honor to forward herewith a specimen of Teak wood, as specified in the margin, which has been received from Gunjam District.

The Gunjam district, so far as is known at present, is the only forest from which Teak timber is exported, and the Commissioner of Ganjam reports that a quantity of wood is likely to be available for export from that district during the present season.

The timber now sent down is of inferior quality, and is not such as would command a ready sale in the market, but it is the best that could be procured at present.

I have &c

(Signed) [illegible]

Conservator of Forests.

Revenue 1871-72. Dept.

Forest Department.

From No 1154

The Conservator of Forests.

To, The Secretary to Govt. R. D.

Dated 5th April 1871

Received 11th April 1871

No. 16.

Enclosure None.

Subject

Letter No 881 - 19 May 71

Replies to para 2 of the Govt. Order No 610 of the 1st April 1871.

Govt Order No 610 1st April 1871 Read 1-13

No 251-252

8th May 71 R15

Capt B. has made
this Visit to the
Ward. I shall call
for their Heirs first.

J.D.

Captain Beddome in reply advocates
"general rule that "forest cutting
"beyond a distance of 20 miles
"from any line of Railway may
"be reduced to Rs 5 per 1000 cts; but
"that all cutting for sale & for other
"than agricultural & domestic
"use, within that distance shall
"continue to pay 1 R-

He then takes exception to
Para 3 of the G.O. which declares
that the Rights & privileges in respect
of such forest unreserved jungles
"have been expressly declared
"applicable to the manufacture
"by Ryots of the produce of their
"own Lands".

He denies in limine that there
is any such rule, or practice.
Were it otherwise, many tracts
would be rapidly deforested & he
would be afraid to look to the
future in some of your
Railway districts.

The rule is that
the Act keeps for
all he cuts for sale
but for use - The
Resolution hinges on
what is to be given
Essentially by letting
them have such free
use by encouraging
the growth of Jungle &
such various means -
- I should be
for the whole letter
to the Board - it calls
for consideration
& comparison

N. L.D.

4 Letters Mr Pearce Despatch
2 Bin Covering Trustees
21 — Bd Despatch

The rest of his letter pleads for
an amalgamation of Forest with
Revenue - the introduction, at
Madras, of a Forest Act & Code
of Rules &c -

Mr Huddleston has a strong mind
- prepossessed that there is such a
Ruling of Govt: but it cannot
be found & certainly Capt B.
ought to know -

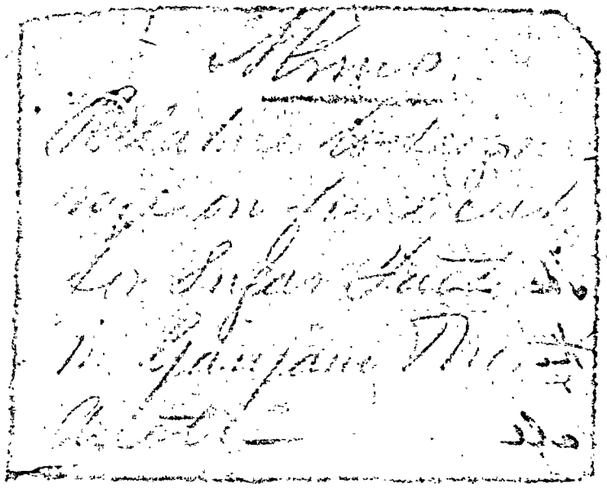
Is the Ruling, at all events,
to be made now - or the
whole question reconsidered?

D.E. 4/5/-71.

6. The Govt resolve to
report his correspondence
& the Govt Resolution on
enumeration of their views.

D.E. 15/5/71

70
7-4



8 Sicily/41 R15