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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	33	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	7.5.1872	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

[AGRICULTURE AND ARTICULTURE.]

READ the undermentioned papers destruction of trees in certain agricultural districts of India, and the measures adopted for the prevention and cure of the evil :—

the subject of the indiscriminate destruction of trees in certain agricultural districts of India, and the measures adopted for the prevention and cure of the evil :—

- Letter Nos. 24 to 33, dated 30th June 1871.
Letter from Government of Madras, No. 1233, dated 1st July 1871.
" Government of Panjab, No. 453, dated 1st July 1871.
" Government of Panjab, No. 41F, dated 1st July 1871.
" Chief Commissioner of Mysor and Khurda, dated 31st August 1871.
" Resident at Haidarabad, No. 13, dated 1st July 1871.
" Resident at Haidarabad, No. 23, dated 1st July 1871.
" Government, North-Western Province, dated 27th idem.
" Government, North-Western Province, dated 7th November 1871.
" Chief Commissioner of Oudh, No. 4174, dated 1st October 1871.
" Chief Commissioner of Oudh, No. 1725, dated 20th September 1871.
" Chief Commissioner of Oudh, No. 2, dated 26th January 1872.
" Chief Commissioner of Oudh, No. 235, dated 15th February 1872.
" Government of Bengal, No. 3973, dated 1st October 1871.
" Government of Bengal, No. 4334, dated 1st November 1871.
" Chief Commissioner of Central Province, dated 1500-159, dated 18th November 1871.
" Government of Bombay, No. 6308, dated 1st December 1871.
" Chief Commissioner of British Burma, dated 42, dated 17th February 1872.

RESOLUTION.

THE attention of the Governor General has been called to the evils likely to result from the destruction of trees in many of the agricultural districts of India, the several Local Governments and Administrations were requested to report on the extent to which this destruction had been carried within their several jurisdictions, and on the measures they considered it desirable to adopt.

A Council having been called to consider the question and the measures already adopted, or which were to be adopted, the following information was received from the several Local Governments and Administrations.

2. The following paragraphs bring before the Government of India on this subject.

to summarize the information received from the several Local Governments and Administrations on this subject.

3. The Government of the Panjab has been taking pains to state the extent to which the destruction of trees has been taking place, looking to the great increase in the population, the high rates of fuel, and the introduction of railways, and the demand for wood for fuel and other purposes has been so great that the destruction of trees must be far in excess of any new supply that can be obtained.

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4. As regards remedial measures, the Panjab Government attaches great importance to the subject of district arboriculture, both on a large scale by the Forest Department, in extensive plantations, and trusts that by careful management and by enforcing a scientific and uniform procedure, a great deal may be accomplished.

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5. In a report on district arboriculture, submitted by the Officiating Conservator of Forests, it is suggested that the planting of districts might be accomplished by the following means:

submitted by the Officiating Conservator of Forests, it is suggested that the planting of districts might be accomplished by the following means:

- (1.) By the people themselves, by simple encouragement, (b) conditions in grants, &c.);
- (2.) by district officers and local agents;
- (3.) by canal officers;
- (4.) by Public Works and Railways;
- (5.) by the Forest Department.

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PUNJAB.

6. The first plan, when adopted in the Ludhiána district it is said that the Financial Commissioner has been in force there of encouraging the attention of the Settlement Commissioner and Settlement Officers to the great opportunities which occur while promoting arboriculture. In the Jhelum district about 266 acres are said to have been planted in the same way. The Panjáb Government proposes to make an enquiry in each district as to how far the orders of the Board of Administration, regarding the free grant of plots of land for the plantation of groves, have been carried out, and whether many applications have been made for such grants.

7. It is suggested by the Conservator that in the new Forest Act a power should be reserved to the Local Governments to protect village groves and trees in fields, either by prohibiting the felling altogether, or by making it conditional on replanting, or by fixing a scale of rates; this power to be exercised in such districts as the Lieutenant-Governor might deem necessary, where destruction was threatened.

8. The Conservator further suggests the question as to the right of Government to appropriate and newly-formed alluvial lands, and the Lieutenant-Governor attaches great importance to the acquisition of large tracts of land suitable for planting groves.

(2.) Planting by district officers and local committees.

9. The result of the orders given by the Board of Administration for the planting of trees round every description of Government building, has not been very satisfactory, only 17,119 acres have been planted. The Conservator suggests that complete returns, shewing details of plantation, such as the kind of trees, the length of road planted, different authorities which plant, and as to district arboriculture generally, and transplanting the species of trees and grafting. These suggestions which proposes to call for the return and to circulate to the district office culture. It is proposed to lay down conditions in each district, as suggested.

(3.) Planting by canal officers.

10. The Canal Department, the Commissioner and the Panjáb Government, on the subject of tree planting in the immediate neighbourhood of canals.

(4.) Planting by Public Works and railway officers.

11. For planting on the railways, something has been done, but very little; and it is recommended that a definite system of operations for planting every line of road under the charge of the Public Works Department should be laid down.

(5.) Planting by the Forest Department.

12. The Forest Department has been addressed, both by the Financial Commissioner and the Panjáb Government, on the subject of tree planting in the immediate neighbourhood of canals and railway officers.

13. *N. W. Provinces.*—The Government says that wood undoubtedly is being cut down in greater quantity than it is planted, and that while considerable acceleration of this is being done, the result was a very considerable burning operations on the new railways also materially aid in the done.

14. As regards the remedies that have been adopted, it appears that on the Eastern Jumna Canal all plantation has been formed by the Irrigation Department at Kurpa, that Rs. 6,042 have been spent in the Northern and Meerut Division of the Ganges Canal, in increasing the sowing of seed for the supply of fuel in the Panjáb Railway.

15. The remedy proposed is the course of the Eastern Jumna Canal and the line of the Ganges Canal.

16. *Oudh.*—In Oudh the present under groves is considerably greater than at the time of settlement, the destruction along the lines of railway being compensated for by extension in other places. The Conservator of Forests states that some of the lands of grantees in the Gonda district, about twelve miles north of Faizabad, are being rapidly denuded of wood, which is sold as fuel to the railways and to brick-making contractors. It is believed, however, that these grants contain no valuable sal timber, and even if they did, the grantees could not, under the terms of their grants, be prevented from cutting it.

17. The remedies employed have been the exemption of all groves from assessment up to 10 per cent. of the total area of the village, and it has been the practice also to notify that—

(1.) Land exempted from assessment shall be liable to immediate assessment if the grove is cut down and another is not planted at the same time.

(2.) Whenever land, which has been assessed, has been planted with trees or firewood, such land shall be exempted from revenue up to limit of 10 per cent. upon the cultivated area of the village.

18. *Central Provinces.*—In the Central Provinces no special destruction is going on in agricultural tracts or villages. The circumstances of these provinces are peculiar. They extend over a large area, of which only about one-fourth is under cultivation. The population is scanty beyond that of any other province in India, and the demand for fuel is therefore not so great as elsewhere, while the means for meeting the demand are more ample. A certain amount of waste land has been reserved as Government property. Most of this waste land is covered with jungle is available for the people for the supply of their wants in the way of small timber for agricultural purposes, fuel, &c. They obtain their supplies under certain conditions, and the wastes are under the management of the Deputy Commissioner. Year by year more attention is being paid to these wastes, and their value are now generally recognized.

19. Measures have been taken for the future, any excessive cutting of timber from these lands; and in the settlement, with and proprietors of village and private lands, due provision has been made for the adoption of the established principles of forest conservancy in regard to timber on their land.

20. In bare and treeless districts, removal of timber from these lands; and in the settlement, with rent-free grants of land, under certain conditions, and the adoption of the established principles of forest conservancy in regard to timber on their land.

21. The remedies proposed are for the future, any excessive cutting of timber from these lands; and in the settlement, with private lands, due provision has been made for the adoption of the established principles of forest conservancy in regard to timber on their land.

22. *Bengal.*—In Bengal, the measures proposed are for the future, any excessive cutting of timber from these lands; and in the settlement, with private lands, due provision has been made for the adoption of the established principles of forest conservancy in regard to timber on their land.

23. In Orissa, partly owing to the indiscriminate destruction has taken place in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Haughly, and Monghir have, to some extent, been cultivated and enhanced value of land, and partly to the demand for burning bricks by the Public Works Department, numbers of old trees and fine groves of trees are being destroyed to meet the demand for fuel reserves, and waste lands.

24. In Saran, a very steady destruction is taking place.

25. In Shahabad, extensive felling is being done by the Soane Irrigation Department for brick-burning purposes.

26. In Patna, timber used to be felled for railway purposes, and consequently many orchards have been replaced since by new plantations.

ion of additional plantations on the line of the Ganges Canal.

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Others and others have been offered an inducement to plant trees, and the adoption of the established principles of forest conservancy in regard to timber on their land.

Secure and a good example in fuel reserves, and waste lands.

In which it appears that any indiscriminate destruction has taken place in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Haughly, and Monghir have, to some extent, been cultivated and enhanced value of land, and partly to the demand for burning bricks by the Public Works Department, numbers of old trees and fine groves of trees are being destroyed to meet the demand for fuel reserves, and waste lands.

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Timber felled for railway purposes, and consequently many orchards have been replaced since by new plantations.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

BENGAL

(4)
this district, where fuel is very scarce, trees are still cut down. Mango groves, when the trees have become past fruit-bearing, are not unfrequently removed by zamindars for the purpose of bringing the land under cultivation. But the indiscriminate felling of mango-trees is now of much rarer occurrence than formerly.

27. In Gaya and Hazaribagh, mango-trees and other trees are often cut down to meet the demands of the Public Works Department.

28. In Murshedabad, where there is a large demand for fuel on account of silk filatures, valuable fruit-bearing trees are cut down, but the destruction is not indiscriminate, and mango-trees are carefully preserved.

29. In the Bhagalpur and Monghyr districts, mango-trees are cut down to a certain extent for fuel, but the loss is compensated for by fresh planting.

30. The remedial measures proposed by district officers are—

(I.) That a law be passed empowering the Government to restrain proprietors from felling trees, and to make it illegal for any man to cut down a valuable fruit-tree without planting a young tree in or near its place.

(II.) That the Public Works Department be forbidden the use of large timber as fuel for brick-burning, and that the use of coal by that Department and private individuals be encouraged.

(III.)—That Government should take up waste and unculturable lands from private proprietors and plant them with trees.

(IV.)—That zamindars and others should be encouraged to plant gardens, especially "dhurmbaghs," or gardens consecrated to religion purposes, or planted *pro bono publico*; these to be registered in the Collector's office, with a view to prevent their future destruction.

31. The Lieutenant-Governor does not recommend any legislative enactment, but he would cause the proposal for using coal in place of wood-fuel to be carefully considered in the Public Works Department, and, if necessary, he would have experiments made.

32. *Haidarabad*.—In the Haidarabad Assigned Districts, the destruction of timber has been so extensive as to be led to the almost universal adoption of cow-dung fuel.

It is proposed to start plantations in various parts of the Berars and to encourage the private cultivation of trees by the offer of reductions or remissions of revenue on lands taken up for the purpose of timber plantations.

33. *Mysor*.—In Mysor there are two classes of forests, not being private property, *viz.*—(1), State forests, under the control of the Forest Department, and (2), district forests and fuel forests, under the revenue authorities. The State forests are strictly controlled and protected under the rules of the Forest Department, while district forests and fuel tracts have been practically abandoned to ryots, and others who may take out licenses to fell timber or chop fuel without the payment of any fee. These tracts have in consequence been considerably over-worked, especially during the past two years, in consequence of the growing demand for wood of all kinds for building purposes. Indiscriminate and excessive felling is being carried on in the majority of the Mysor forests which are under the control of the revenue authorities. This is the result mainly of the bad license system now in vogue, and the absence of a proper conservancy establishment under the revenue authorities.

34. The remedial measures that have been adopted are the imposition of a tax in certain districts on the cutting of fire-wood and the grant of power to Deputy Superintendents to close the district forests to the general public. The result, however, has not been successful.

35. The remedies proposed are—

1.—The reservation of all important district forests and fuel tracts throughout the district, and their systematic working by the Government agency instead of the Revenue Department.

2.—The abolition of the license system.

HAIDARABAD.

MYSOR.

33/3
3.—The establishment of a number of small depôts whence wood will be sold to all alike.

4.—That felling in each forest be regulated according to its condition; that all charcoal-burners be registered and compelled to adopt a rational method of burning charcoal; and that planting operations be extended and the growth of sandal-wood fostered.

36. *Khurg*.—In Khurg there is no reason to fear any dearth of fuel, nor is there, with certain exceptions, any excessive or wasteful felling of forests. KHURG.

37. *Madras*.—In this Presidency the indiscriminate destruction of trees has long been arrested as far as possible. MADRAS.

38. *Bombay*.—In the Northern Division, a considerable diminution in the stock of trees has taken place of late years in many of the districts. The destruction in the agricultural districts of the plains is ascribable to the removal of all restrictions affecting the cutting of trees, and vesting the property in them unreservedly in the occupants of the land, at a time when the price of wood happened to be unusually high, and to demands for railways and for steam factories. But in the ghâts the clearance of wood is due more to the extension of cultivation involving the clearance of waste-tracts, than to the high price of wood, the effect of the latter cause being confined to parts easily accessible to large markets. BOMBAY.

39. The Revenue Commissioners suggest that Government should assert its right to trees (of kinds peculiar to each district) growing on all Government lands, which have not been already auctioned; that rewards should be offered annually to patels who plant the greatest number of trees; that a sanad should issue under the name of the Collector, renouncing on the part of Government, for all future claims to the trees or their fruit, with a view to make the people take a st in growing and preserving them; that trees should be planted on the sides of all cross country roads, and, when possible, made roads, and, in places where there are steam factories, a sufficiently heavy tax should be levied on firewood to discourage its use and to make the substitution of charcoal paper.

40. In the Southern Division the action of trees in past years was great, but the Conservator states that the destruction of trees now takes place in the Canara, Bilgaon, and Dharwar Collectorates, is confined to that portion of them where the forests border and get mixed with, the cultivated districts. The destruction is attributed to the spread of cultivation, but mostly to the high price of fuel.

41. The remedies he proposes are—(1), that on application being made by a ryot for permission to cultivate with trees on it, on which the assessment has been fixed, he will be given security that he will pay the assessment on it for at least one year; that no land with trees on it shall be given up until it has been cleared by a Forest Officer, who should have power to reserve it altogether for the purposes, or to remove or value the timber before the lot is put up for sale, the wood being credited to the Forest Department, instead of to Revenue.

42. The Survey Commissioners suggest that a policy of entire non-interference with agriculturists. He suggests that when suitable spots of ground, measuring 10 to 15 acres, are available in treeless districts, plantations should be formed of the tree which best in the selected soil; that all of those lying in cotton or black soil should be planted with babul. of country already wooded, the principal resource and mainstay of the ration must be an entire stoppage of cutting by private parties on per a sole resort to departmental cutting and collection of the wood in c-ly situated depôts.

43. The Revenue Commissioners suggest that very careful and persistent attention has of late years been paid to the planting and preservation of trees on roadsides, and he suggests that the ghât slopes of the Ratnagiri Collectorate throughout their entire extent be taken up and specially reserved, and that many spurs and hills, which are comparatively useless to the cultivators, be planted with trees. I special legislation to obtain land

for the purpose, and to check the exportation of private wood by the levy of an export duty, is needed.

44. In Sindh, no indiscriminate destruction appears to have taken place. On the contrary, district officers pay attention to the subject of arboriculture: there is no fear whatever of a falling off in the supply of wood for fuel in that province. The Conservator of forests recommends the discouragement of exportation of wood felled on private holdings, by rendering it unprofitable by the levy of a fee.

45. The Government of Bombay has issued stringent instructions to the district officers for the prevention of indiscriminate destruction wherever it exists.

BRITISH BURMA.

46. *British Burma.*—The Commissioner at present does not desire to interfere with the destruction of trees for fuel. The population of this province is so very sparse, compared with the enormous tracts of forest available for fuel, that there is no reason to apprehend any evil results from the destruction of trees. He is, however, of opinion that the destruction of catechu trees should be restricted under the forest conservancy rule of the Forest Department.

47. Lamentable as is the destruction of trees that appears to have occurred, and to be still in progress in isolated districts, the evil does not appear to have as yet assumed, regarding the dimensions of the evil, such formidable dimensions as was at one time anticipated. His Excellency in Council is gratified to perceive that the authorities where fully appreciate the magnitude and importance of the subject, and have already been adopted to measure the evil. Under these circumstances, and especially having regard to the necessity of carefully adapting each measure designed for the protection of trees, and the promotion of their culture to the particular requirements of the several provinces, the Governor General is of opinion that no further action on the part of the Government of India is at present called for, and that the initiation of such further measures, as the present or future enquiries may prove to be desirable, may safely be left to the several Governments and Administrations.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy

Government of Madras.
" Bombay.
" Bengal.
" North-Western Provinces.
" Panjab.
Chief Commissioner of Oudh.
" Central Provinces.
" British Burma.
" Mysor and Khurg.
Resident at Haidarabad.

indiscriminate destruction of trees, and to check this practice, will receive the most

Ordered also, that this Resolution be forwarded to the several Governments and Administrations noted in the margin, with an expression of His Excellency the Governor General in Council's confidence that this important subject, prominently brought to notice, will receive the attention it merits, and the assurance that any well-considered proposition for the restriction of the exportation of injury already caused by the destruction of trees, may safely be left to the several Local Governments and Administrations.

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(True Extract)

B. D. Hu me

Secretary to the Government of India.

12.7.72

Revenue — 1872. *Sept*
8-1584

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
REVENUE AND COMMERCE.

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.

RESOLUTION—CIRCULAR.

Dated the 25th apt
Received 7th May

No. *4*
183

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33.

Comd. & the M^{rs} Thos. &
& the pres^r of Ind. L^g
7th May 1872

SUBJECT.

Indiscriminate destruction of trees.

O. S. G. P.—No. 70, A., R. & C.—25-4-72- 105.

1. Board of Rev. the 16 May 1872
Care of Forests