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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

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 :—

Letter Nos. 24 to 33, dated 30th June 1871.
Letter from Government of Madras, No. 1233, dated 1st July 1871.
" Government of Panjáb, No. 453, dated 1st July 1871.
" Government of Panjáb, 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 30th September 1871.
" Chief Commissioner of Oudh, No. 2, dated 26th January 1872.
" Chief Commissioner of Oudh, No. 2854, 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 18th November 1871.
" Government of Bombay, No. 6309, dated 1st December 1871.
" Chief Commissioner of British Burma, dated 17th February 1872.

RESO.

THE attention of the Governor General has been called to the evils likely to result from the indiscriminate destruction of fruit and forest 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 respective jurisdictions, and on the measures they considered it desirable to adopt.

2. The following paragraphs briefly summarize the information received from the Government of India on this subject.

3. The Government of the Panjáb report that the destruction of trees has been taking place in many of the districts, owing to the increase in the population, the high rates of fuel, and the introduction of railway lines, and that the demand for wood for fuel and other purposes has been so great that the supply has been far in excess of any new supply that can be obtained.

4. As regards remedial measures, the Government of the Panjáb attach great importance to the subject of district arboriculture, and have directed the Forest Department, in extensive plantations, and trusts that by careful management and a uniform procedure, a great deal may be accomplished.

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

- (1.) By the people themselves, by grant of land or by compulsion or compensation by law, (including the planting of trees by the people);
- (2.) by district officers and local authorities;
- (3.) by canal officers;
- (4.) by Public Works and Railway authorities;
- (5.) by the Forest Department.

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 :—

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ON.

A Council having been called to consider the subject of the indiscriminate destruction of fruit and forest 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 respective jurisdictions, and on the measures they considered it desirable to adopt.

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PUNJAB.

6. The first plan, when at Ludhiána district it is said that 8. The Financial Commissioner has ca system in force there of encouraging the attention of the Settlement Co great opportunities which occur whi promoting arboriculture. In the J have been planted in the same wa the Panjáb Government proposes to far the orders of the Board of Admini stration, 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

7. It is suggested by the Conservator that in the new Forest Act a power should be reserved to the Local Gov in fields, either by prohibiting the felling altogether, or by making it conditional on replanting, or by fixing a rate 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 Government to appropriate an Lieutenant-Governor attaches gre tracts of land suitable for planting

(2.) Planting by district office

9. The result of the orders g planting of trees round every desc very satisfactory, only 17,119 acres suggests that complete returns, shew of trees, the length of road planted different authorities which plant, at 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 tions in each district, as suggest

(3.) Planting by canal office

10. The Canal Department Commissioner and the Panjáb the immediate neighbourhood of

(4.) Planting by Public

11. For planting on the little; and it is recommended planting every line of road und should be laid down.

(5.) Planting by the Forest

12. The Forest Department sion to nearly 18,000 acres, a maunds of fuel a year, and other more than ample work for the p.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

13. *N. W. Provinces.*—T edly is being cut down in great wood-fuel was used by the Lahore considerable acceleration of this railways also materially aid in t

14. As regards the remed that on the Eastern Jumna Ca Irrigation Department at Ku Northern and Meerut Division of seed for the supply of fuel

pted, has generally failed, but in the villages have plantations made voluntarily. led for a report from this district, on the villagers to form plantations, and has called the Commissioner and Settlement Officers to the le settlement operations are in progress for elum district about 266 acres are said to y. On the suggestion of the Conservator, make an enquiry in each district as to how have been carried out, and whether many grants.

15. The Conservator that in the new Forest Act a power ments to protect village groves and trees felling altogether, or by making it conditional of rates; this power to be exercised in nor might deem necessary, where destruction

ises the question as to the right of t newly-formed alluvial lands, and the importance to the acquisition of large oses.

and local committees.

by the Board of Administration for the n of Government building, has not been ing been planted. The Conservator sug e details of plantation, such as the kind , should be obtained from each of the rs numerous and important suggestions nting and selection of nurseries, watering table for the several varieties of soil, fence are approved by the Local Government, om the several Departments concerned, municipalities the remarks about arbori- finite yearly scheme for planting opera the Conservator.

been addressed, both by the Financial ment, on the subject of tree planting in

and railway officers.

something has been done, but very me definite system of operations for arge of the Public Works Department

ment.

he large plantation capable of exten- i will yield ultimately eight lakhs of rable extent, so that at present there is aff employed.

Government says that wood undoubt- tion than it is planted, and that while ili Railways, the result was a very con- Brick-burning operations on the new done.

ures that have been adopted, it appears. all plantation has been formed by the that Rs. 6,042 have been spent in the anges Canal, in increasing the sowing ajáb Railway.

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

16. *Oudh.*—In Oudh the present? than at the time of settlement, the a being compensated for by extension, Forests states that some of the lands of twelve miles north of Faizabad, are b sold as fuel to the railways and to b however, that these grants contain no va the grantees could not, under the ter cutting it.

17. The remedies employed have assessment up to 10 per cent. of the tot practice also to notify that—

(1.) Land exempted from asses shall be liable to immediate assessment is not planted at the same time.

(2.) Whenever land, which has b or firewood, such land shall be exen cent. upon the cultivated area of the

18. *Central Provinces.*—In the going on in agricultural tracts or villa provinces are peculiar. They extend one-fourth is under cultivation. Th any other province in India, and the as elsewhere, while the means for m certain amount of waste land has been der has been reserved as Governme which is covered with jungle is avail wants in the way of small timb They obtain their supplies under cert the management of the Deputy Con is being paid to these wastes, and their recognized.

19. Measures have been taken for the future, any excessive cutti lands; and in the settlement, with private lands, due provision has been principles of forest conservancy in reg

20. In bare and treeless district rent-free grants of land, under certai but with no particular result.

21. The remedies proposed are the careful tending of Government fo

22. *Bengal.*—In Bengal, the or indiscriminate destruction has taken the districts of Patna, Gaya, Ha Monghir have, to some extent, been

23. In Orissa, partly owing to of land, and partly to the demand fo Works Department, numbers of old being destroyed to meet the demand f

24. In Sárán, a very steady dest

25. In Shahabad, extensive fel Department for brick-burning purpose

26. In Patna, timber used to b and consequently many orchards w been replacd since by new plantatio

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

under groves is considerably greater OUDH. 2 construction along the lines of railway other places. The Conservator of antees in the Gonda district, about ng rapidly denuded of wood, which is k-making contractors. It is believed, able sal timber, and even if they did, of their grants, be prevented from

the exemption of all groves from ea of the village, and it has been the

on account of being under grove, he grove is cut down and another

essed, has been planted with trees from revenue up to limit of 10 per

Provinces no special destruction is ds. The circumstances of these large area, of which only about lation is scanty beyond that of for fuel is therefore not so great he demand are more ample. A to village areas, and the remain- perty. Most of this waste land he people for the supply of their agricultural purposes, fuel, &c. tions, and the wastes are under er. Year by year more attention nce and value are now generally

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

ocal Administration to prevent, removal of timber from these and proprietors of village and the adoption of the established timber on their land.

ers and others have been offered an inducement to plant trees,

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

in which it appears that any BENGAL. 2 brissa, Sárán, and Shahabad, but fúrshedabad, Bhágalpur, and trees.

ultivation and enhanced value burning bricks by the Public s and fine groves of trees are

rees is taking place.

ied on by the Soane Irrigation

ly felled for railway purposes, ed, but very many trees have southern and eastern parts of

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 valuable fruit-tree without planting?

(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 persons should be encouraged to plant gardens, especially "dhurmbaghs," or gardens consecrated to religion purposes, or planted *pro bono publico*; these on 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 Hyderabad 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, and (2), district forests and fuel forests. The State forests are strictly under the control of the Forest Department, while the district forests and fuel forests are practically abandoned to ryots, and protected under the rules of the Forest Department, while licenses to fell timber or charcoal are granted to ryots. These tracts have in consequence been considerably over-worked, especially during the past two years, in consequence of the growing demand for wood for 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 existence 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 sale of fire-wood and the grant of power to Deputy Superintendents to close public forests to the general public. The result, however, has not been successful.

35. The remedies proposed are the imposition of a tax in certain districts on the sale of fire-wood and the grant of power to Deputy Superintendents to close public forests to the general public. The result, however, has not been successful.

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

2.—The abolition of the license system.

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 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 cultivation involving the clearance of wood is due more to the extension 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 Commissioner suggests 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 a large number of trees; that a sanad should issue under the authority 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 stand in growing and preserving them; that trees should be planted on the sides of all cross country roads, and, when possible, 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.

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 Dindori Collectorate, is confined to that portion of them where the forests border the sea, 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 that on application being made by a ryot for permission to cultivate with trees on it, on which the assessment has been fixed, he be allowed to give security that he will pay the assessment on it for at least five years; 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 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 Commissioner suggests that Government should adopt 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 roadsides should be planted; and that of those lying in cotton or black soil should be planted with babul. The principal resource and mainstay of the country already wooded, the ration must be an entire stoppage of cutting by private parties on payment of a fee, and the sole resort to departmental cutting and collection of the wood in specially situated depôts.

43. The Revenue Commissioner suggests 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 length be taken up and specially reserved, and that many spurs and hills, which are comparatively useless to the cultivators, be planted with trees. He suggests special legislation to obtain land

for the purpose, and to check the 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 catch and 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 places, the evil does not appear to have as yet assumed, regarding the dimensions of the evil, such formidable proportions as was at one time anticipated. His Excellency in Council is gratified to perceive that the authorities have already been adopted to meet the circumstances, and especially have adapted 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 enquiries may prove to be desirable for the Governments and Administrations of the several provinces.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy

Government of Madras.
" Bombay.
" Bengal.
" North-Western Provinces.
" Panjab.
Chief Commissioner of Oudh.
" Central Provinces.
" British Burma.
" Mysore and Khurda.
Resident at Hyderabad.

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

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 wood already caused by the Government of India, published in the *Gazette of India*,

of private wood by the levy of a fee.

is issued stringent instructions to the district officers for the prevention of indiscriminate destruction wherever it exists.

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(True Extract)

R. D. Hume

Secretary to the Government of India.

12-7-72
C. H. P.

Memorandum 1872. Oct.
7-1584.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
REVENUE AND COMMERCE.

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.

RESOLUTION—CIRCULAR.

Dated the 25th apt
Received 7th May.

No. 4.
183.

Is

W. 33.

Comd. & the W. H. P. &
the Pres. of Ind. L. H.
7th May 72

SUBJECT.

Indiscriminate destruction of trees.

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

1. Board of Rev. 8th 11th May/72
C. H. P.