No. 1225 Cover Sept.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Dt. 31 Oct. 73

Read the following Proceedings of
the Board of Revenue.

Submitting replies of Collectors
to Board's Proceedings regarding levy
of seigniorage on charcoal and on
fuel cut for sugar factories &c. — } N. D. 23d August 1871 No. 3644

Read also the following Minute
by H.E. the Governor, the Hon. J. D. Sim. C.S.
& the Hon. W. Robinson. C.S.I.
(Dt. 3. 18. Sept & 23 Oct. 73)

The Governor in Council
has given his careful consideration
to these Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue and has come to the
conclusion that there is much
force in their remarks regard-
ing the rapid rise which has
of late years, been permitted
to take place in the rate of
seigniorage charged upo[n]

2. Moreover it was elicited in the Enquiries made during the past year regarding the general incidence of taxation in this Presidency that in some localities the fuel tax pressed with special severity upon the poorer classes of population. It is a tax too directly opposed to the principle upon which articles of first necessity are held by the best writers on Political Economy not to be proper subjects of taxation and it should therefore be kept at the lowest possible rate at which the funds necessary for the proper conservancy of the village jungles can be realized. Further to cheapen fuel will probably be as easy a mode as could be devised of lightening the burden of life among the

I think this might be omitted, should be omitted as unnecessary & a place in a G.O.

7

To cheapen fuel too will

3. Under these circumstances, the Governor in Council is pleased to authorize the Board of Revenue to issue instructions reducing the general rate of Seigniorage to the old rate of six annas per 1000 lbs and for the continuance of the special privileges in the Ganjam and Kurnool Districts which are referred to in para 11 of their Proceedings. The Governor in Council is further of opinion that it is in accordance with immemorial usage to permit

So far as may be possible consistently with their own interests

the inductrious poor of the Presidency and is in full accordance with the recognized policy of the British Government to continue to the people the privilege which they enjoyed under previous rulers.

permit villagers to cut firewood free for the manufacture of the produce of their own lands and provision to this effect should be made in the Jungle Conservancy Rules.

4 The present rate of Seigniorage of Rs 1-4-0 per 1000 lbs will continue to be charged to the Railway Companies and it will be necessary for the Board of Revenue to prescribe such rules for the guidance of Collectors in this matter as will ensure no evasion of the rate. These Companies require not merely a supply of fuel, but a supply near to

to their lines and this requires a special conservancy on the part of the Forest Dept. which the Govt cannot be expected gratuitously to supply. ~~Further more they have not, like the people, any prescriptive right to fuel free of tax.~~

I will avoid

5 With adverstence to para 8 of their Proceedings the Board of Revenue are requested, after consultation with the Inspector of Forests, the Collectors of Railway Districts, and the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to submit a full report on the general question of the Railway fuel supply of

of this Presidency with such suggestions as may occur to them for the prevention of the rapid disforestment of the country which is reported to be taking place in some parts of the country from for this cause.

The other important questions which are discussed in the Board's Proceedings will be disposed of in connection with their remarks upon the draft Forest Bill which are now under the consideration of Govt.

Bo. Rs. of Revenue
5 Augt 71. No 3284

14 Board of Revenue
3 Institute of Trusts
21 Public Works Depts

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Fuel Tax

I have to propose draft Rules that, without further delay, the assessment on fuel, which is now 16 annas per 1000 lbs, should be reduced (as recommended by the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings of 24 Aug/71) to 8 annas per 1000 lbs. I have a very distinct recollection that this question was discussed in Council last year, with reference to the replies to the ~~of~~ of our Collectors to the Taxation

circular letter from Prof. of Medicine, and from which replies it clearly appeared that the particular case was felt as extremely and exceptionally oppressive pressing the President. I remember also that the prevailing opinion among the members of Prof. was that the case ought to be reduced. I had written a private letter suggesting the reduction: but the subject coming up for discussion, I was disappointed: and I never could see that it was a satisfactory state of things: and that it was not time to decide either to act or not to act in the matter.

I beg to Report to the Board of Revenue, on the subject of proceedings consequent on the petition of the Students of the Law. They recommend "it is clear that the present system of frequent concessions & occasional appeals to the supply of provisions has given rise to a feeling of oppression over the greater part

"of the Presidency, - to deprive them and of
"wood-cutters of their only means of gaining
"an honest livelihood, - and by making
"firewood an unattainable luxury to
"drive men & more of the poorer classes to use
"as fuel the manure & stubble which
"are essential to the prosperity of their farms!
(in other and indirect to diminish the
receipts of Govt from the land).

They say that "it is believed that with
"careful conservancy there is every prospect
"of supplying the people of the country from
"indefinite period!" They consider