Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th November 1873.

No. 33. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th October 1873, No. 2,134, (Forest No. 64):—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 24th September 1873, No. 599:—

I HAVE the honour, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 28th ultimo, Forest No. 45-1694, to submit that it has been the custom in this district to make free grants of wood to ryots whose houses may be accidentally burnt down to enable them to re-build the same as, in the great majority of cases, the poor ryots lose along with their huts the greater portion, if not all, of the moveable property they possess. I am aware that in these cases, the sufferers are almost invariably exorbitant in their demands for wood, but it has been a rule with me to cause careful enquiries to be made in every case to ascertain the loss actually sustained by each ryot, and to grant him indulgence with reference only to such loss, and to the amount of revenue payable by him to Government.

2. Since the transfer of the Imperial Forest Conservancy to the Collector, it has been my practice to request the Deputy Conservator of forests to issue the free licenses, and to point out to the ryots the portion of jungle where their requirements could be best met, as it is of course best known to that officer what portion of the jungles require rest, and what portions require, or would admit of thinning.

3. Under these circumstances, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to inform me, whether under the tenor of the Government Order, quoted in the Proceedings under reference, the privilege to which the ryots have been accustomed must now cease, or whether the practice hitherto in vogue may be continued.

THE Board are not aware of any order putting an end to the hitherto invariable custom of freely granting wood to re-build royts' houses when they have been destroyed by fire.

2. The practice should be continued and the grant of timber should if possible be from jungles within easy reach of the applicant.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1873, No. 1,246.

Forests, No. 2. APPROVED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. 1873: Dept
No 3507

1873.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 17TH OCTOBER 1873, No. 2,134.

Dup 29 Oct 73.
Encl.

Received 3d Nov

OCTOBER.

Forest No. 64.

Free grants of wood to ryots—for re-building houses destroyed by fire.—Practice prevailing in North Arcot District of making—to be continued.

No 1246
Approved
HD & #1