Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5th December 1873.

No. 67. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd November 1873, No. 2,236, Forest No. 71 :—

Read the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 14th August 1873, No. 844, Revenue Department.

Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 12th August 1873, No. 1,862.

With reference to paragraph 8 of Mr. Wedderburn's letter, No. 54, of the 18th April last, recorded in the Proceedings of the Board, No. 1,254, dated 11th July last, and to paragraph 13 of the same Proceedings now before Government, I have the honour to suggest that it is very necessary that Government should lay down some rules by which the ryots' rights to timber beyond their own village-limits (if any such rights exist) can be defined, as at present such rights are very vague and not understood by any of our officers or by the Revenue authorities.

2. The Collector of Coimbatore informed me that the ryots were only entitled to timber and firewood, free of any seigniorage, in cases where such existed in jungles within their village-boundaries, and that where they have cleared away and cultivated all their woodlands such rights, of course, ceased to exist; upon which I reported* to the Board that *free passes* would not be required in villages situated in the jungles. Some other Collectors hold quite similar views, and do not recognize any rights beyond village-boundaries. If, therefore, such rights are to be allowed, it is important that it should be clearly laid down to what distance from the jungles they extend.

* *Vide* Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,415, dated 28th July 1873.

3. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Proceedings alluded to, and to paragraph 3 of Colonel Morgan's Memorandum recorded in the same, I think that it would be a very good plan that a portion of the Trichinopoly forest officer's time should be given to the floating operations on the Cauvery if he can be spared by the Collector of that district. At present, the planting operations in the padugays are not, I think, such as to occupy all his time; but, if this planting was undertaken on a scale which I now think it ought to be, it is very doubtful if his services could be spared. I have already reported to Government that I consider the planting operations in the vicinity of the Trichinopoly line of railway require the earnest attention of the Collectors of Trichinopoly and Tanjore.

4. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Board's order, I believe that nearly all the required area has now been taken up and reserved, and I hope shortly to have maps prepared, showing the area and situation of all the blocks. In the Salem District, much more has been taken up than was at first proposed, as we could not get the nine square-miles required for Coimbatore within that district: the reservation and demarcation was long ago finished in this district, and maps prepared. In North Arcot, we are still, I believe, six square-miles short of the required area. A block of this extent, selected by the Revenue authorities, has been twice handed over to us, and partly fenced in by our department; but on both occasions it has been taken back, and now finally* disallowed by Government upon a petition

* *Vide* G. O., No. 501, of the 11th June 1873.

from the ryots of the district, though, I believe, that this block was selected out of a very large area of grazing ground, as being the portion of least benefit to the ryots, and the Collector himself reported that its reservation would in no way trench upon any communal rights. This has delayed the settlement of the reserves in this district, and I have not heard if anything further has been done to secure this required area elsewhere. In Cuddapah several large blocks have been taken up, but here also several hitches and disputes have occurred, and, at the date of my last visit, the fourteen square-miles required had not then been reserved; but the Collector promised to give the matter immediate attention, so I presume the question has been settled ere this, but a map and final report are still wanting. Near Walyar, on the confines of Coimbatore and Malabar, a tract has been, or is about to be, purchased; but the arrangement of this is entirely in the hands of the Collector of Malabar. In Tinnevelly and Madura a sufficient area has, I believe, been taken up; but imperial and local reserves are mixed up together and under the same management, and a final report and map, clearly showing all the former, are both required, and the question requires immediate attention in the Trichinopoly and Tanjore Districts.

5. I am not now in correspondence with any of the forest officers, and I do not even see any of the monthly reports (except Tinnevelly, which is forwarded by the Collector), so that I am much in the dark as to what is going on, and Collectors of districts are so constantly changing, that, even in cases where they are able to give some time and attention to forest-work, there is often much hindrance, as a new man generally has views quite at variance to those of his predecessor.

ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1873, No. 844.

Forests, No. 3.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue for their observations.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

From Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 30th August 1873, No. 1,802.

WITH reference to your docket No. 174-5,436, of the 26th instant, I have the honour to inform you that previous to receiving the G. O., No. 859, of the 15th instant, I had submitted remarks on the Proceedings in question direct to Government; I now enclose copy of my letter.

2. I may add that I have myself visited the Cauvery forests with Colonel Morgan, and I do not think that his estimates are at all exaggerated: the forests are very extensive where we are now felling, and most of the trees are such as will not reproduce themselves from coppice if cut before arriving at a certain age. If these forests are systematically worked block by block, they will, I think, meet the railway requirements at Erode without even being worked beyond the rate of reproduction.

3. The systematic planting with Acacias of the padugays in the vicinity of Trichinopoly should receive careful attention, as these are really tracts in which fuel can be grown to advantage. The Casuarina does not appear to thrive well at Negapatam, and I do not myself advocate growing fuel at the coast where coal is available at reasonable rates. The railway should burn coal between Negapatam and Trichinopoly.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of letter from Inspector of Forests to Government, dated 12th August 1873, No. 1,862.

MAJOR BEDDOME's further letter is submitted to Government, with reference to the Government Order above read.

2. In his letter of the 12th August, he states that it is very necessary that rules should be framed defining the rights of ryots to timber beyond their own village-limits if such rights exist; and he asserts that some Collectors do not recognize any rights beyond village-boundaries.

3. The Board do not at all concur in the views here attributed to Collectors. In their Proceedings, dated 29th May 1873, No. 897, they have called for reports from all Collectors on the whole question of free timber and fuel-supply and the best means of reconciling the rights of the ryots and the State. These reports are not yet complete, but, as at present advised, the Board may state what, in their opinion, are the principles upon which the question should be settled.

4. The most obvious is that, in speaking of the rights of ryots to fuel and timber, reference is not intended to the great forests, properly so called, of the country, which can be easily indicated and defined, and in which no rights other than imperial should be recognized, saving only on behalf of the half-savage inhabitants of the forest itself, and so far as to make due provision by leaving passes open and by setting apart adequate tracts for pasture, though not for felling, for preserving to the people the indispensable grazing rights, which in almost all, even the great, forests are still claimed or exercised.

5. As regards what may be called the minor jungles of the country, in which alone the rights of the ryots need definition and regulation, the State is in a position to dictate where and how these rights shall be exercised, and to rule that when a village has more jungle than required for its population, the surplus should be made available for other villages less favourably situated. The task before Collectors is to draw up descriptive lists of such minor jungles, showing their area and position, and the distance of all villages within ten miles, and to prepare schemes allotting the jungles of their districts among the circumjacent population. Villages, which have no source of supply, must be left to purchase their fuel and timber, as they probably have all along done. There will always be tracts worked on the license system for the supply of the general market.

6. The Board approve the suggestion that a portion of Trichinopoly forest officer's time should be given to the floating operations on the Cauvery if he can be spared by the Collector. The point should be noticed in Mr. Pennington's reply to paragraph 8 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 11th July 1873, No. 1,254. Major Beddome has not stated his opinion as to the proposed employment of an additional

Overseer. The reports called for from the Collectors of Trichinopoly and Tanjore as to what has been done in their districts are awaited. The Board quite concur in Major Beddome's remarks as to the importance of the padugay planting.

7. Major Beddome does not consider that Colonel Morgan's estimate of the capabilities of the Cauvery forests, which was opposed to that of the Collector of Coimbatore, was overrated; and his opinion is doubtless correct. With the excess reserve in Salem, the requirements of the two districts are probably sufficiently provided for.

8. The question of the reserves in North Arcot is not yet finally settled, and correspondence on the subject is now before Government. The reserves in North Arcot aggregated 4,722 cawnies, or 9·74 square-miles, of which, however, the Amboor reserve now under discussion comprised 5·32 square miles. The Collector of Cuddapah should report at once as to the formation of reserves in his district. The purchase of the Walliar reserve has probably been completed by this time (G. O., dated 20th June 1873, No. 637).

Board's Proceedings, dated 26th September 1873, No. 1,946.

9. The Board consider that Major Beddome should be told to correspond freely with Collectors who are now in charge of forests, and who, the Board believe, will gladly keep him informed and seek his advice as to forest matters. There is no reason why he should continue to be "much in the dark" under the present system.

No. 68. Order thereon, 5th December 1873, No. 1,347.

Forests, No. 2.

The Government await the Board's further reports; but wish it to be understood that they are decidedly of opinion that villagers have no rights beyond their village limits.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
" the Inspector of Forests.

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EURASIAN REGIMENTS.

Schemes of military reform are easily worked out on paper, but very difficult to put in practice. So much we grant, but the consideration should not be allowed to crush the inventive genius of writers on this subject. Whatever may be done at some time in the future to improve the Indian army, under the pressure of urgent necessity, we may be sure of this,—the improvements then realised will have previously passed through the stage in which they were impatiently rejected as impracticable. This reflection lends a certain interest even to projects which are not likely to be taken up by the authorities at present, and may excuse a passing reference even to a scheme lately advocated in Madras for raising Eurasian regiments. It is a fact that in all the discussions on this subject not a word has been said in disparagement of the Eurasian soldier, either as regards discipline or efficiency. In the Madras Presidency, English officers of experience have offered to raise a Eurasian local force, which in time might be made as efficient as any regiment of the line. Such a course would save transport expenses in more ways than one, as Eurasian soldiers are less liable to be invalided than European troops. Confidence in their loyalty, again, would be unquestioned. A Madras writer, therefore, suggests that, to begin with, a local infantry regiment should be raised in each Presidency, and placed on the same footing, as to pay and rations, with line troops. If this experiment succeeded, a small effective brigade of the three arms could be raised in each Presidency, and if, combined with that, judiciously selected sites on the Himalayas, in the Highlands of Central India and on the Anamallies or Nellgherries, were set apart as military colonies, and old soldiers, European as well as East Indian, encouraged to settle there, the question of recruits for an Indian local army of sufficient strength for our wants would soon cease to give us trouble. It may be added that the organization of the railway volunteer force throughout India would, in conjunction with a localization of troops, greatly counteract the danger which arises from the present general service system of the Indian army against which both the Home and Indian Governments have so often and forcibly been warned—especially by Sir Neville Chamberlain.—*Graphic*.

Rev. 1873. Dept.
A 3675

1873.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD NOVEMBER 1873, No. 2,230.

Rec'd 18 Nov 1873

Encl.

G.O. No. 1855, 5 Nov.

Received 14th Nov.

OCTOBER.

Forest No. 74.

Fuel supply to Railway.—Letter from Inspector of Forests on certain points connected with—, submitted to Government, with remarks.

Revenue Department.

No. 1357

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 5th December 1873.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,

Submitting letter from Inspector of Forests on certain points connected with Fuel supply to Railway.

} (G.O. 3rd Nov. 1873 No. 2230.)

The Government cannot see their way to sanction the proposed reservation of the Forests mentioned, as they are already all reserved. Nor can they sanction the proposed transfer of Forest Villages.

By order of Revenue Board,
(Signed) [illegible]
Secretary.

Gobt. of India.

REVENUE.

To

The Board of Revenue,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December 5th.

Read

Rule

G. O., 5th December 1878, No. 1,357.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 67-68.

Rights of Ryots to Timber and Firewood.

Awaiting the further report of the Board of Revenue on the —— [illegible] to be understood that Government are decidedly of opinion that villagers have no rights beyond their village limits.