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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th January 1873.

No. 121. From the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, Forests, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 21st December 1872, No. 1,529.

I am directed to invite attention to the correspondence, noted in the margin, on the subject of the re-organization of the Forest Department in Madras, and to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council will be good enough to re-consider the question as to the fund to which the revenues collected for Jungle Conservancy should be credited.

From the Government of Madras, No. 2,003, dated 23rd November 1871.
From the Government of Madras, No. 149, dated 24th January 1872.
To the Government of Madras, No. 534, dated 29th April 1872.

2. Under the revised system of forest management introduced in Madras, the Collectors of districts are charged with the administration of the forests proper, and the Forest Officers are placed under their immediate orders. The Government of India has also placed the establishment of Forest Officers on the footing desired by the Government of Madras, and defrays the increased cost thereby incurred by a charge on forest revenues. Moreover, the tracts from which the Jungle Conservancy Fees are levied are under the same supervision as the forests proper, and the Governor-General in Council would, therefore, be glad to be favoured with an expression of the views of His Excellency the Governor in Council as to why the revenues collected for the Jungle Conservancy Fund should be treated differently from other forest revenue, and why, while the Imperial Government pays for the supervision of these tracts, the Local Funds should have the benefit of the assets.

(True Copy.)

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
17*th January* 1873.

No. 122.

No. 60.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

Forests, No. 11.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 1,529 of 21st December, ultimo.

2. In sanctioning in the Financial Department, after they had been considered in the Agricultural Department, the proposals of this Government for a re-organization of the Forest Establishment in the Madras Presidency, the Governor-General in Council was pleased to "approve of the Madras Government's suggestion that the revenue collected for Jungle Conservancy be credited to Local Funds instead of to Imperial Revenues." These orders were issued on the 29th April last, but the Governor in Council is now called upon to show cause why they should not be reversed.

3. I am respectfully to point out that the assumption on which the inquiry is based is entirely erroneous. It is not the fact that the tracts from which the Jungle Conservancy Fees are levied are under the same supervision as the forests proper. On the contrary, village jungles are conserved by the village community acting through their headmen, the interest of the latter being enlisted by allowing them a percentage on the fees collected. The rest of the money is devoted under the general control of the Collector of the district to new plantations or to the preservation and improvement of existing ones.

4. There is thus no Imperial expenditure whatever in the system under which Jungle Conservancy is supervised and maintained. Moreover, these village jungles are communal, not State, property. The ryots from time immemorial have enjoyed the privilege of cutting firewood and wood for their agricultural implements, of pasturing cattle in them, etc., free of all charge, etc. The injury which resulted from indiscriminate and unregulated enjoyment led the Government a few years ago to tax only the cutting of wood *for sale*, the proceeds being devoted to the preservation and extension of these jungles—generally mere scrub—in the interests of the village communities, and not as an item of revenue.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue 1872 Dept

No 4096

From

The Govt. of India

Dept. of Agril. &c.

Dated 21st Decbr.

Recd. 27 "

No. 1529.

S L No 60 - 17th January 1873

Requesting reconsideration of the question as to the fund to which the revenues collected for Jungle Conservancy should be credited, under the reorganization of the Forest Dept.

Nos. 121-122

R.C. to Hon. Mr. Ellis 15th Jany R 16th Jany

C. 11 Jany/73 R 14th Jany/73

Copies Dec 18 Jany

17th Jany/73.

No. 60.

To the Secy. Govt. of India

Agricultural Dept

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge Vr. letter No 1529 of 21st Decr. ulto.

2. In sanctioning in the Financial Dept, after they had been considered in the Agricultural Dept, the proposals of this Govt. for a reorganisation of the Forest Establishment in the Madras Presy, the E. G. in C. was pleased to "approve of the Madras "Govt's suggestion that the revenue "collected for Jungle Conservancy "be credited to Local Funds instead "of to Imperial Revenues". These orders were issued on the 29th April last, but the E. in C. is now called upon to show cause why they shd. not be reversed.

2. I am respectfully to point out that the assumption on which the inquiry is based is entirely erroneous. It is not the fact that the Jungle Conservancy fees are levied under the same supervision as the Forests proper

On the contrary Village Jungles are conserved by the Village Community acting through their Headmen, the interest of the latter being enlisted by allowing them a percentage on the fees collected. The rest of the money is devoted under the general control of the Collr. of the District to new plantations or to the preservation & improvement of existing ones. There is thus no Imperial expenditure whatever in the system under which Jungle Conservancy is supervised & maintained.

Thereby

[illegible] 14/1

I would add

"Moreover these Village Jungles are communal, not State, ~~[illegible]~~ property. The rights from time immemorial have enjoyed the privilege of cutting fire wood & wood for their agricultural implements & of pastoring

cattle in them & free of all charge. The injury which resulted, & led the Govt. a few years ago to tax only the cutting of wood for sale, ~~[illegible]~~ being ~~to a [illegible]~~ the Proceeds, & the Preservation & Extension of these Jungles — generally mere scrub — in the interests of the Village Communities — and not as an item of Revd.

a firm indiscriminate & unregulated enjoyment

a being devoted

R.C. to Hon: Mr Ellis 15: Jany R 16: Jany
C. 11 Jany: 73 R 14: Jany 73