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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	267	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated	27-2-	1874 -196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

267
1.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th February 1874.*

No. 247. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th February 1874, No. 213, Forest No. 12:—

Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ahtur, 5th December 1873, No. 355:—

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,818, dated 13th September last.

2. I beg to state that I had no intention of conveying to the Board that the forest officers of this district had had any considerable transactions with the Hill-men. Indeed, I used with reference to them, as will be seen from paragraph 8 of my letter, No. 237, dated 18th August last, the term "limited."

3. That these were limited has been occasioned by two causes: first, the prohibition, which the Forest Officers, in common with those of the Revenue Department, have hitherto believed, was placed by Government on the collection of forest products; second, the want of sufficient funds.

4. But though the transactions under this head have, for the causes stated, been but small, the Hill-men have in other ways entered into the Government pay and attached themselves to the Forest Department. In the Sub-division they are our fellers, trimmers, and clearers: all the sandal-wood and a great deal of other timber is cut and trimmed by them. They receive advances which they work out punctually and honestly, and some of them are employed as watchers. In the rest of the district, several Malayalies are Hill watchers, paid a monthly salary, and Mr. Brougham is gradually extending the system, and doing his best to get the Hill-men into our pay. There is no doubt that with kindness, prompt payments, and a strict adherence to all our agreements, we shall be able to secure the services of as many of these men as we wish. In the Sub-division, owing to the careful and considerate management of Overseer Mahomed Ali Saib, the experiment has been perfectly successful; and the Forest Department has in every way benefitted by it. These people can be employed during the produce season in collecting for Government, they being paid the prices agreed upon for what they bring in. I may perhaps be too sanguine in my ideas on the scheme, but I do not think that I am outrageously so.

5. I beg to transmit, for the information of the Board, a Statement showing the sums spent in purchasing Forest produce, the quantity so purchased, and the profits obtained by the sale of them during the year 1872.

6. I beg to deprecate most strongly any such illiberal views as the Board seems to have thought, in paragraph 4 of their Proceedings, that I entertained. I understood that Government, in paragraph 11 of their Order, Revenue Department, No. 240, dated 1st March last, wished to have an expression of the views of Revenue Officers regarding the comparative merits of renting out, or granting licenses to collect in a particular tract of forests containing natural products. I did not understand that I was required to give any opinion on the subject from a general point of view, and I regret extremely that it should have been thought that, in paragraph 12 of my letter, No. 183, dated 24th June last, I spoke of anything else than the two systems as compared with one another.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th February 1874.*

7. I can assure the Board that I have no such wish as to increase the revenues of the country by grinding down the Hill people or treating them unfairly. I have seen a great deal of them, and admire their simplicity and comparative honesty; but at the same time, I would respectfully submit that, when I think I see a means of making what has hitherto been either wasted or only gone to fatten designing traders, a source of revenue, I am bound to bring it and the circumstances attending it to notice.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement of Forest Products.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 13th September 1873, No. 1,818.

2. Mr. Price's explanation in paragraphs 6 and 7 is perfectly satisfactory, and the Board are convinced that he and Mr. Brougham may be safely trusted to protect the interests of the Hill tribes.

3. The Board think that Rupees 10,000 should be placed at their disposal in order that they may try the experiment of buying forest produce from the Hill tribes on behalf of Government. There is every reason to believe that a large profit will be realized in this way without exposing the Hill-men to any risk of oppression, and the experiment must result in a better knowledge of the Forest products and their value, and of the method which should be pursued in utilizing them.

No. 248.

ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1874, No. 267.

Forests, No. 10.

APPROVED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Erd. G. A. Turton.

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Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

FOREST No. 12.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th February 1874, No. 213.
Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ahtur, 5th December 1873, No. 355:—

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,818, dated 13th September last.

2. I beg to state that I had no intention of conveying to the Board that the forest officers of this district had had any considerable transactions with the Hill-men. Indeed, I used with reference to them, as will be seen from paragraph 8 of my letter, No. 237, dated 18th August last, the term "limited."

3. That these were limited has been occasioned by two causes: first, the prohibition, which the Forest Officers, in common with those of the Revenue Department, have hitherto believed, was placed by Government on the collection of forest products; second, the want of sufficient funds.

4. But though the transactions under this head have, for the causes stated, been but small, the Hill-men have in other ways entered into the Government pay and attached themselves to the Forest Department. In the Sub-division they are our fellers, trimmers, and clearers: all the sandal-wood and a great deal of other timber is cut and trimmed by them. They receive advances which they work out punctually and honestly, and some of them are employed as watchers. In the rest of the district, several Malayalics are Hill watchers, paid a monthly salary, and Mr. Brougham is gradually extending the system, and doing his best to get the Hill-men into our pay. There is no doubt that with kindness, prompt payments, and a strict adherence to all our agreements, we shall be able to secure the services of as many of these men as we wish. In the Sub-division, owing to the careful and considerate management of Overseer Mahomed Ali Saib, the experiment has been perfectly successful; and the Forest Department has in every way benefitted by it. These people can be employed during the produce season in collecting for Government, they being paid the prices agreed upon for what they bring in. I may perhaps be too sanguine in my ideas on the scheme, but I do not think that I am outrageously so.

5. I beg to transmit, for the information of the Board, a Statement showing the sums spent in purchasing Forest produce, the quantity so purchased, and the profits obtained by the sale of them during the year 1872.

6. I beg to deprecate most strongly any such illiberal views as the Board seems to have thought, in paragraph 4 of their Proceedings, that I entertained. I understood that Government, in paragraph 11 of their Order, Revenue Department, No. 240, dated 1st March last, wished to have an expression of the views of Revenue Officers regarding the comparative merits of renting out, or granting licenses to collect in a particular tract of forests containing natural products. I did not understand that I was required to give any opinion on the subject from a general point of view, and I regret extremely that it should have been thought that, in paragraph 12 of my letter, No. 183, dated 24th June last, I spoke of anything else than the two systems as compared with one another.

Cost. of 1874

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated February 27th

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 27th February 1874, No. 267.

FEBRUARY.
Nos 247-248.

• Forest products of Salem District. - Approves Board's Proceedings regarding transactions between Forest Officers and Hill-men in - and their proposal to place 10,000 Rs. at the disposal of the Collector and Forest Officer for buying forest produce from Hill-tribes.

7. I can assure the Board that I have no such wish as to increase the revenues of the country by grinding down the Hill people or treating them unfairly. I have seen a great deal of them, and admire their simplicity and comparative honesty; but at the same time, I would respectfully submit that, when I think I see a means of making what has hitherto been either wasted or only gone to fatten designing traders, a source of revenue, I am bound to bring it and the circumstances attending it to notice.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement of Forest Products.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 13th September 1873, No. 1,818.

2. Mr. Price's explanation in paragraphs 6 and 7 is perfectly satisfactory, and the Board are convinced that he and Mr. Brougham may be safely trusted to protect the interests of the Hill tribes.

3. The Board think that Rupees 10,000 should be placed at their disposal in order that they may try the experiment of buying forest produce from the Hill tribes on behalf of Government. There is every reason to believe that a large profit will be realized in this way without exposing the Hill-men to any risk of oppression, and the experiment must result in a better knowledge of the Forest products and their value, and of the method which should be pursued in utilizing them.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. G. Price
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with one original enclosure to be returned.
Copy to the Acting Collector of Salem.
,, to the Inspector of Forests.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

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Recd 1874. 24th Feb
BOARD OF REVENUE
MADRAS.
27 Feb 1874
PROCEEDINGS, 4TH FEBRUARY 1874, No. 213
27 Feb 1874
FEBRUARY.
Forest No. 12.
27 Feb 1874
Forest products — of Salem District. — Col. Price's letter forwarding report called for regarding transactions between Forest Officers and Hill-men in — submitted to Government. Opinion expressed that Rupees 10,000 should be placed at disposal of Collector and Forest Officer for buying forest produce from Hill-tribes on behalf of Government.