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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1148 Press

B.P. No. ~~Mis.~~

Dated 8-9-1874 ~~196~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1192

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th September 1874.

No. 89. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd July 1874, No. 1,673, Forest No. 92:—

Read the following letter from A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Angadipuram, 18th May 1874, No. 122.

I HAVE the honor to report upon paragraph 9 of G. O., dated 1st March 1873, No. 240, communicated with the Board's order of the 14th idem.

2. The principal valuable products of forests under the Government conservancy in this district are those noted in the margin. Their value cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

Cardamoms. Honey. Bees Wax. Cam. Ginger. Turmeric. Dammer. Gall-nuts. Soap-nuts.

3. Cardamoms have for the last two or three years been collected from the ghaut forests in Wynaad, and the revenue now amounts to some 3,000 Rupees. Coolies are employed to gather under superintendence of the taluq authorities and Deputy-Collector. The revenue is undoubtedly capable of development, and the collection appears unobjectionable, as the Government forests lie interspersed with private forests, the latter preponderating in area. When for a time the cardamom revenue was relinquished in the Government forests, natives took advantage of the fact to set up extensive and utterly unfounded claims to proprietary right which we find some difficulty in now repelling. I have no doubt the cardamom revenue could be worked up to 10,000 Rupees a-year. The other articles are mostly collected by the tribes inhabiting the dry forests on the east of Wynaad towards Mysore, and are as a rule bartered for grain, salt, fish, tobacco, cloth, and other necessaries of life, the purchasers being the people of the plains and the interior, who again sell them to petty traders, and these carry their purchases to the several towns and bazaars of the district. Merchants from Mysore, who are also purchasers of these products, take them into that territory for sale.

No. 91. ORDER THEREON, 8th September 1874, No. 1,148.

Forests, No. 6.

G. O., 8th Sept. 1874, No. 1,107

THE Government having rescinded the orders referred to by the Board in paragraph 2 of the foregoing Proceedings are unable to sanction any interference with the hill-men in Malabar and those who trade with them.

2. They desire to be further informed regarding the collection of cardamoms noticed in paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter. The authority under which such produce is considered to be the property of Government, and is collected under the superintendence of Government officials, should be quoted.

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

the forests, the system would greatly increase the command of labor which is so necessary for forest operations.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., 1st March 1873, No. 240.

2. The position of the hill tribes in Malabar as in Salem seems to require that they should be assisted to free themselves from the clutches of the traders of the plains who take advantage of their ignorance and cheat them out of the fair reward of their labor. This must, of course, be done cautiously, so as not to interfere with legitimate trade, or prevent the hill tribes from resorting to the peculiar barter-system which is conducted by the Chetties if they choose to do so; but the Board think it would be quite safe to introduce in the Wynaad the system approved for Salem in G. O., dated 27th February 1874, No. 267.

3. The Board also think the Collector should be authorized to assist the hill tribes in defending themselves against the fraudulent suits which are frequently filed against them by the Chetties and Moplahs who trade with them, as an easy means of coercion.

No. 90. MINUTE BY THE HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I.,

I ENTIRELY concur with the Collector and the Board. Mr. Macgregor sees and knows much of these hill-tribes, and his testimony, supported as it is by facts, shows how much they need protection. I have so fully expressed my views on the subject in my Minutes on the Salem forest-produce (G. O., dated 1st September 1874, No. 1,107) and Anamallay forest-reserve (G. O., 26th May 1874, No. 634) that I will not say more here.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

4. The hill tribes are ignorant, helpless people, having no idea of accounts or the value of the articles they collect, and the consequence is that their neighbours, generally Chetties and Moplahs, with whom they exchange their products are enabled to effect their purchases for inadequate considerations.

5. It is very doubtful whether the hill tribes really gain anything by the present free system.

6. By means of a small advance, the merchant gets them completely in his power, and ever after they have to deliver the whole of their earnings to him, and receive in exchange bare subsistence under threat of civil proceedings, if they fail to collect largely.

7. The Deputy-Conservator of Forests mentions a case where a hill-man whom he was employing was threatened with a suit by a man with whom he declared he had had no dealings. Mr. Peet engaged a vakil, and the consequence was that the plaintiff and his witnesses did not put in an appearance.

8. Another instance came to my notice when a suit brought against a hill-man was in consequence of assistance he received in his defence so clearly shown to be false, that the plaintiff made for the door of the court and ran, and has never been heard of since.

9. As showing how much these hill-men require protection, a case recently occurred in which a man was brought before a Sub-Magistrate for breach of contract, and a decision given against him. On looking into terms of the contract, they were found to amount to an agreement which virtually constituted perpetual slavery, and on this ground the High Court, on my reference, quashed the proceedings.

10. I am of opinion that the Deputy-Conservator of Wynaad should do all he can to inaugurate a system of purchase from the hill tribes, excluding as much as possible the employés of speculators from the plains. In the case of suits being brought against the hill tribes, the matter should be brought to the notice of the Collector who should assist them to defend the suits if they are clearly fraudulent, or to make arrangements for gradually discharging the debts if *bonâ fide*. In addition to benefiting the position of the hill tribes, by improving their

Govt. of India Selections.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD'S REVENUE.

Fort St. George, Sub.

Fort, 8th September 1874, No. 1113.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 89—91.

Hill-tribes, Malabar District—Deputation to [illegible] with them—and [illegible] regarding [illegible]

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

MINUTE BY THE HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I.

I ENTIRELY concur with the Collector and the Board. Mr. Macgregor sees and knows much of these hill-tribes, and his testimony, supported as it is by facts, shows how much they need protection. I have so fully expressed my views on the subject in my Minutes on the Salem forest-produce (G. O., dated 1st September 1874, No. 1,107) and Anamallay forest-reserve (G. O., 26th May 1874, No. 634) that I will not say more here.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

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FOREST No. 92.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd July 1874, No. 1,673.

Read the following letter from A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Angadipuram, 18th May 1874, No. 126 :—

I HAVE the honour to report upon paragraph 9 of G. O., dated 1st March 1873, No. 240, communicated with the Board's order of the 14th idem.

2. The principal valuable products of forests under the Government conservancy in this district are those noted in the margin. Their value cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

Cardamoms.	Gum.	Dammer.
Honey.	Ginger.	Gall-nuts.
Bees Wax.	Turmer.	Soapnuts.

3. Cardamoms have for the last two or three years been collected from the ghaut forests in Wynaad, and the revenue now amounts to some 3,000 Rupees. Coolies are employed to gather under superintendence of the taluq authorities and Deputy Collector. The revenue is undoubtedly capable of development, and the collection appears unobjectionable, as the Government forests lie interspersed with private forests, the latter preponderating in area. When for a time the cardamom revenue was relinquished in the Government forests, natives took advantage of the fact to set up extensive and utterly unfounded claims to proprietary right which we find some difficulty in now repelling. I have no doubt the cardamom revenue could be worked up to 10,000 Rupees a year. The other articles are mostly collected by the tribes inhabiting the dry forests on the east of Wynaad towards Mysore, and are as a rule bartered for grain, salt, fish, tobacco, cloth, and other necessaries of life, the purchasers being the people of the plains and the interior, who again sell them to petty traders, and these carry their purchases to the several towns and bazaars of the district. Merchants from Mysore, who are also purchasers of these products, take them into that territory for sale.

4. The hill tribes are ignorant, helpless people, having no idea of accounts or the value of the articles they collect, and the consequence is that their neighbours, generally Chetties and Moplahs, with whom they exchange their products are enabled to effect their purchases for inadequate considerations.

5. It is very doubtful whether the hill tribes really gain anything by the present free system.

6. By means of a small advance, the merchant gets them completely into his power, and ever after they have to deliver the whole of their earnings to him, and receive in exchange bare subsistence under threat of civil proceedings, if they fail to collect largely.

7. The Deputy Conservator of Forests mentions a case where a hill-man whom he was employing was threatened with a suit by a man with whom he declared he had had no dealings. Mr. Peet engaged a vakil, and the consequence was that the plantiff and his witnesses did not put in an appearance.

8. Another instance came to my notice when a suit brought against a hill-man was in consequence of assistance he received in his defence so clearly shown to be false, that the plaintiff made for the door of the court and ran, and has never been heard of since.

9. As showing how much these hill-men require protection, a case recently occurred in [illegible] looking into terms of the contract, they were found to amount to an agreement which virtually constituted perpetual slavery, and on this ground the High Court, on my reference, quashed the proceedings.

10. I am of opinion that the Deputy Conservator of Wynaad should do all he can to inaugurate a system of purchase from the hill tribes, excluding as much as possible the employés of speculators from the plains. In the case of suits being brought against the hill tribes, the matter should be brought to the notice of the Collector who should assist them to defend the suits, if they are clearly fraudulent, or to make arrangements for gradually discharging the debts, if

bond fide. In addition to benefiting the position of the hill tribes, and improving the yield of the forests, the system would greatly increase the command of labour which is so necessary for forest operations.

Submitted to Government with reference to G. O., 1st March 1873, No. 240.

2. The position of the hill tribes in Malabar as in Salem seems to require that they should be assisted to free themselves from the clutches of the traders on the plains who take advantage of their ignorance and cheat them out of the fair reward of their labour. This must, of course, be done cautiously, so as not to interfere with legitimate trade, or prevent the hill tribes from resorting to the peculiar barter-system which is conducted by the Chetties if they choose to do so; but the Board think it would be quite safe to introduce in the Wynaad the system approved for Salem in G. O., dated 27th February 1874, No. 267.

3. The Board also think the Collector should be authorized to assist the hill tribes in defending themselves against the fraudulent suits which are frequently filed against them by the Chetties and Moplahs who trade with them, as an easy means of coercion.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

D. Grote
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Collector of Malabar, with G. O., 27th February 1874, No. 267.
Copy to the Inspector of Forests.

Revd. Proceedings 3rd July 1874 - 247 45

No. 2284.

Read the Report of the Conservator of Forests, Malabar, dated 18th June 1874, No. 1,677.

Proceedings, 3rd July 1874, No. 1,677.

Read

Letter from Collector of Malabar, dated 8th June 1874, No. 1145.

Received

Forest No. 92.

Produce — of Malabar District.—Collector's letter, furnishing certain information regarding —, submitted to Government with report regarding steps to be taken for ameliorating condition of hill tribes.

Revenue Department.

No. 2284

From Pres. Bd of Revs.
Dated 3rd July 1874

FOR ORDERS.

I entirely concur in the Collr & the Bd Revs Proceedings - from the Reports for Wynaad & the Hill tribes - and the testimony

Ord. W. H. French.

subsistence as it is by fact. Shows how much they need protection. Shows

I. O. Seim
14.

Establishes the Forest Bill & trade certificate with the Bill. Gives history of Depredation of timber. Specifies are to be set apart but will be destroyed under Sandy Act. Shows the necessity of Protection of the Free Trader. Cases of fraudulent Suits brought against Settlers and Coupons. Defendants.

Forest Bill (Geo. Dibbs) [illegible] Act. Suits not say more here.

1148/1

(Leader Interrupts.)

1162/6

help I am positive mistaken on been already decided, or a second such, against any interference by for in order to protect the timber in jungle produce the trade, and after hours of Debate leaders for the perfect (accidental) / of "protecting" the timber. I know that I quote a Minister stating objection to the proposal, which / the Undersecretary for the Colonies Resolution, in the case of Mr. Rhodes,

(A)

FOR ORDERS.

Nos 3184 & 3185

Revenue 1874 Dept

Minutes by the
Hon'ble J. D. Sim. C.S.I.
and H.E. the Governor.

Dated 14 & 29 July 1874

3 Copies sent to Hon'ble
Hon'ble M. Sim

Bill Files with the Statistical
Sketch

90

G.O. & Selections 74 No 1148

C.S. of Bills Rec'd

1148

Revenue Department.

No. 1118

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 8th September 1874.

READ the following Pro. of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting letter from Collector of Malabar furnishing certain information regarding forest produce of Malabar, and steps to be taken for ameliorating condition of hill tribes. — H. E. 3d July 1874 No. 1673.

Read also the following

Minute by Hon'ble J. D. Sim C. S. I. — — — — M. C. 14th July 1874.

G.O. 1st Sept. 1874 No. 1107.

The Government having rescinded the orders referred to by the Board in para 2 of the foregoing proceedings are unable to sanction any interference with the hillmen in Malabar and those who trade with them.

Then

2. They desire to be further informed regarding the collection of Cardamums noticed in para 3 of the Collector's letter. The authority under which such produce is considered to be the property of Government and is collected under the superintendence of Govermt officials should be quoted.

Sec

Collr

14 B of Revenue Dr 2/10/74
2 Inspector of Salt Customs Revenue

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