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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
~~B.P. No.~~

1774

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 8-12-1875-196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 111. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th November 1875, No. 3,208, Forest No. 232:—

Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 23rd October 1875, No. 633:—

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, Forest Miscellaneous Nos. 215-5,351, 238-5,858, and 332-8,109, dated 15th and 29th June and 7th September 1875, I have the honor to state that no information has yet been collected in this office with regard to dye-stuffs of Indian production.

2. The first proceedings on the subject were sent into the office for collection of any former references or information on record on the subject, but owing to the absence of the head clerk, who is alone familiar with the records, on sick leave, the papers were not brought up again for disposal until his return.

3. There is no information on record in this office on the subject beyond a memorandum by Dr. Cleghorn on the collection and utilization of minor forest products (a copy of which is enclosed), and forest officers have been so much precluded from interfering in any way with the collection of such products, that it is probable that they know little or nothing about them.

4. Reference has, however, now been made to the forest districts marginally noted, and on receipt of replies, a report will be submitted embodying all that is known on the subject.

Salem, Cuddapah, Madura, Tinnevely, Malabar and South Canara.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

MEMORANDUM.

The question of collecting and utilizing articles of minor forest produce (gums, resins, dyes, drugs) will gradually attract attention as the forest administration is improved; and in anticipation of the coming demand, it is important to decide the general principles by which these miscellaneous products should be turned to account.

2. It is one of the special duties of forest officers to watch the effects of railway extension, and to husband the resources of those reserved tracts which have been demarcated and are exclusively the property of Government, *i.e.*, free of prescriptive rights.

3. The main points to be kept in view by the forest officer are—1st, to maintain the purity of the article, and to see that the supply is not wasted by improvident treatment; and, 2nd, to arrange that Government should receive a fair revenue by seigniorage or otherwise.

4. To want of care in the collection, and to improvidence in the treatment, may be attributed the security or inferiority of various drugs and dyes, which formerly were considerable articles of trade (*vide* Milburn's "Oriental Commerce").

5. Two methods of procedure may be adopted in regard to the collection of resins, dyes, and the like, which prove to be valuable. They may be collected by a renter, "Guttedar," or by departmental agency.

6. The first method may be suitable when the article is not easily adulterated without detection, as in the case of *Myrobolans* (*gall-nuts*), and when the process of extraction is simple, as some resins, a convenient tract, say, from 50 to 100 square miles, might be assigned to the renter, under certain conditions, at an annual rent. It would not, probably, be worth his while to take the lease of a smaller area; if, on the other hand, the tract was very extensive, the renter would, to a certain extent, possess a monopoly, and might raise the price of the article.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th December 1875.

The renter would be directly responsible to the Range Officer for any wilful damage done in the forests, and sub-letting should not, as a rule, be permitted.

7. Departmental agency would be preferable in the case of articles easily and frequently adulterated, as the *Kamela* powder (*Rottlera tinctoria*). Professor T. Anderson, of Glasgow, and Mr. D. Hanbury,* of Plough Court, inform me that the best consignments of this valuable dye and drug were obtained direct from the forest officers. In the bazaar samples there is

* Mr. Hanbury mentions that it is difficult to procure good samples of the country Sarsaparilla (*Hemidesmus Indicus*) and Chirayita (*Ophelia Chiretta*), in the London Market.

always an admixture of sand and other impurities. Doubtless, there is the risk of adulteration by whomsoever the article is collected, but practically it is found that departmental agency ensures more readily the delivery of a genuine product.

8. The tendency for some years has been to remove all restrictions from the collection of jungle produce, but, with a net-work of railways, this principle may be carried too far, and the forest officers' hands may be weakened. The Collector of the district and the Range Officer should consult and recommend a seigniorage, taking care that the interests of the people are protected, and the supply of the products are guarded and developed. The charge of the miscellaneous forest produce should then remain in the hands of the forest officers.

18th February 1869.

(Signed) H. CLEGHORN.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) R. S. JAGO, Major,
Deputy Conservator,
for Offg. Inspector of Forests.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.Os., dated 18th May 1875, No. 759, 9th June 1875, No. 895, and 24th August 1875, No. 1,270.

2. The delay which has occurred is much to be regretted, and the Board trust that no effort will now be spared to collect the information required with speed and completeness.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 112.

ORDER THEREON, 8th December 1875, No. 1,774.

Forests, No. 7.

THE Government hope to receive the Inspector's promised report at an early date.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

Exd. W. H. French.

1774
2

File No. 865/76.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy, Secy, Secy.

Dated December, 8th

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 8th December 1875, No. 1,774.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 111-112.

Dye-stuffs of Indian production.—Expressing a hope to receive the promised report of the Inspector of Forests relating to the — at an early date.

FOREST No. 232:

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th November 1875, No. 3,208. Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 23rd October 1875, No. 633:—

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(True Copies and Extract.)

H. H. H. H.
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

Exd. W. H. French

The Govt. hope to receive the report of the Inspectors promised before an early date.

14. To the Officer in Charge, Forests, 10 Dec 1875
15. To the Offg. Inspector of Forests, 10 Dec 1875

8th Dec^r 1875

Received 1st Dec^r 1875

NOVEMBER.
Forest No. 232.

Dye-stuffs of Indian production.—Submitting to Government report of Inspector of Forests that no information has yet been collected in his office with regard to—

20/1/74-8 Dec^r 1875

W. H. French

Copy 309100/75
Encl.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH NOVEMBER 1875, No. 3, 208.

BOARD of GOVERNMENT,
MADRAS.

No 4632

Resoln 1875. No. 10