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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. ~~B.P. No.~~ ~~326~~ 313 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 26- 2- 18~~196~~75.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th February 1875.

Read the following papers :—

No. 326. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th April 1873, No. 670, Forest No. 19.

Read the following letter from E. TURNER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, in charge of Kurnool, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st March 1873, No. 98.

I have the honor to forward, for submission to the Board of Revenue, the accompanying application for promotion from Forest Overseer E. Dampier, in charge of the Cumbum and Markapur Taluqs, received through the Forest Assistant at Nandial.

Enclosure No. 1.—Application from Forest Overseer.

It does not often fall within the province of the Board to submit applications for promotion to Government, but they resolve to do so in this instance.

2. In the memorandum recorded with G. O., 15th March 1873, No. 322, the Inspector of Forests gave, what seem to the Board, unanswerable reasons why the promotion of Overseers and appointments of this nature should be regulated by the head of the department, but Government ordered that the Forest Establishment in each district should be obtained like the Revenue Establishment, appointments and promotions vesting in the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 327. From Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspr. of Forests, to J. STURROCK, Esq., Acting Under-Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th December 1873, No. 1,964.

With reference to the G. O., No. 1,255, of the 10th November last, I have the honor to forward copy of letter which I lately submitted to the Board on this question.

2. If Government take this and my letter, No. 1,835, dated 12th July 1873, published in the Proceedings of the Board, No. 1,619, of the 21st August 1873, into

I certainly think that there will be little chance of keeping up any proper system or uniformity, unless the head of the department can correspond with his officers.

7. Considering how constantly Collectors and even Members of the Board are changed, I would strongly recommend that the head of the department or the Inspector as he is called should be made a Forest Member of the Board or an Under-Secretary to Government in the Forest Department, or at any rate that he should have more power and responsibility than he at present holds. At present, Government can scarcely hold any one responsible if anything goes wrong in a district, and a newly-appointed Collector might make the gravest errors in connection with plantations, sales, or such like matters, without the Inspector or even the Forest Officer knowing anything on the subject until it was too late.

8. I believe that our present system was supposed to have been remodelled on the Bombay system. I have lately travelled through a portion of the North Canara District with the Conservator and one of his deputies, and find that they are on a very different footing. They are, to a certain extent, under the Collector of the district, but the Conservator corresponds with his deputies, and has the general control of the department. Their rules are concise and always acted up to; their concessions to ryots and others having forest rights in the forest districts are liberal, but not excessive, and there are few or no attempts to encroach on these privileges. Regular Registers are kept in each taluq showing the amount of timber granted free to every individual, and ryots get unreserved timbers to a certain amount free, and reserved timbers to a certain amount (50 candies in ten years) at a considerably reduced seigniorage to what the general public are charged; but, if they require timber in excess of these allotments, they have to pay the full seigniorage; all timber obtained on free passes or at reduced seigniorage rates must be *bona fide* for the use of the ryot obtaining the permit, and it can in no case be sold. In some parts timber is worked almost entirely departmentally, and there ryots obtain permits on the depôt at the reduced rate for seigniorage *plus* the actual cost of felling and delivery at depôt; their conservancy arrangements altogether are much in advance of ours, and it was quite a treat to me to see a system thoroughly understood and strictly acted up to. I am forwarding a report on the subject to the Board of Revenue. North Canara is a district which is almost all forest and without a railroad in or near it, yet we find a strict conservancy with rules fully acted up to. I would refer Government to a letter from the Collector of North Arcot, recorded in Proceedings of the Board, No. 1,205, dated 5th July last, to show what conservancy is like in our *oldest* railway district where all the woodlands have been disappearing as rapidly as a most improvident administration could possibly make them. This is not, however, the fault of my department, as I have for years been persistently putting it before the Board and Government most forcibly. In paragraph 28 of my letter, No. 1,779, dated 15th May last, forwarded to the Board for transmission to Government, I informed them that even all the engine drivers were carrying on a fuel-trade between this district and Madras on their own account; but this received no attention, and this letter, which also fully dilates upon the utter want of system or conservancy at all worthy of the name in this district, and is a report upon my tours in almost all the districts of the Presidency, and points out the shortcomings in each range, has never even been published, though I have since been on tour again throughout most of the some ranges.

No. 328. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th April 1874, No. 830, Forest No. 44:—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March 1874, No. 462, (Forest No. 17.)

Read also the following letters:—

From Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 26th December 1873, No. 1,977.

ADVERTING to the G. O., No. 1,357, of the 5th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I am very doubtful if we can lay down rules to disallow all rights beyond village limits; but I have fully discussed the question in my letter, No. 1,976, of this date.

2. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Board's remarks in their Proceedings recorded in the same Government Order, I wish to remark that Collectors, as a rule, do not seek my advice as to the Forest matters, or even keep me informed of important changes. My position is often quite ignored, and in many cases my letters are unanswered.

From the same Officer, dated Ootacamund, 29th December 1873, No. 1,987.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, with the sanction of Government, I lately passed from South Canara into North Canara and made a tour of the forests and plantations, depôts, etc., in that district, giving particular attention to the working of their system, regulations relative to communal rights, etc. I was accompanied throughout my tour by their Conservator and Deputy Conservator.

2. I forward herewith a copy of their rules relating to grants for permits and ryots' rights to timber, etc., in the forest districts, as I think that these may be of service to the Board in framing rules for this Presidency. I may mention that all these rules are thoroughly understood by the Forest Officers and subordinates, by the Revenue authorities, and by the population generally, and that they are all strictly acted up to and enforced—a thing which I should much like to see in this Presidency.

3. In all tracts distant from forests the ryots have no rights, but within the forest districts all *bona fide* cultivators are entitled to jungle timbers, fuel, bamboos, etc., free of seigniorage, for all agricultural purposes; but this does not include squared timber for the better class of houses, or planks for solid wheels of carts, wood for rice grinding-mills, or the rollers of sugar-mills, etc., and they are never allowed to trade with the wood, etc., so cut.

4. Ten of the best timbers are strictly reserved and are never granted to ryots except under special sanction and at special rates, but all other timbers are open to the ryots for building and such like purposes at considerably reduced rates to those charged to merchants and the public; these trees are divided into three classes, and the rates charged to ryots vary from one-fourth to half that charged to the public or to traders. No ryot, however, can trade in timber so cut nor can he have more than a certain quantity (fifty candies in ten years) at this reduced rate, and where forests are being worked departmentally he cannot cut

himself, but he receives a permit on the Forest Depôt for the timber he requires at the reduced seigniorage, *plus* the actual cost of felling and delivery. Registers are kept in each taluq showing the amount of timber every man receives under these rules year by year.

5. These rules are of course of late introduction, but I heard of no complaints.

6. Another good rule is that all permit felling has to take place between the 1st of November and the 31st of May; this restricts the operations to a certain time, checks smuggling, and enables the Forest Department to give up almost all their time at that period to going round and measuring the timber so cut.

7. Ryots living within the forest boundaries, but having no jungle within their own village limits, have adjacent tracts allotted to their villages.

8. Great reductions on the seigniorage are made when timber is cut for works of public utility, such as village schools, or such like buildings erected by private contributions, temples, and churches, or for the re-construction of houses destroyed by fire.

9. Our present re-organization was, I believe, supposed to have been modelled on the Bombay system, where the forests are also to a certain extent under the Collectors. I forward extracts from the Bombay G. O., No. 3,756, dated 6th August 1870, which fully explain the Bombay system, and shows how very different it is to ours. Our present system is working so badly and will, I am sure, result in such a failure if persisted in that I earnestly request the Board to give this subject their attention, and to endeavour to introduce into this Presidency a system more like that in force in Bombay.

10. In Trichinopoly the Collector has been changed six times within the last two years or so and is just about to be changed again, and in many other districts the changes have been frequent. Our present system is one that could never work well unless the Collector thoroughly knew his district, had a good knowledge of forestry, and was willing and able to go much into the forests. However willing a Collector may be to run the risk of fever by going into the forests (and the risk is great and will not be incurred by many), or even if he makes forests his hobby his duties now are so multitudinous that it is impossible he can give sufficient time to the work.

11. Government will also find that they can now hold no one responsible if anything goes wrong; with the constant changes amongst the Collectors it is impossible that they can be held responsible, and all responsibility is taken out of the hands of the head of the department, and he is often quite ignored even in his position as Inspector and adviser.

12. I find often that when I have fully explained the working of a range and all other matters connected with the forests to a Collector he suddenly quits that district and is succeeded, temporarily or more or less permanently, by some one else, who probably has quite different views; this is most disheartening, and all our officers complain of it very much. They receive often the most contradictory orders and hardly know how to act, and they one and all complain that they have now become little more than Overseers under men who have little or no knowledge

of the work. Our Overseers too are all discontented, and have lost almost all chance of rise and promotion, and consequently nearly all zeal in their work.

13. If the present system is persisted in the department must cease to exist as a department and become a quite local affair in each district, and the Inspector should become a Forest Commissioner under the Board, or a Forest Member of the Board, or an Under Secretary to Government in Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Rules for the grant of Permits to cut Timber, Bamboos, etc., in Canára Collectorate.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Extract from Bombay Government Order, No. 3,756, dated 6th August 1870.

MEMORANDUM *read by the Conservator of Forests at a Meeting of the Board held on the 23rd January* 1874.

WHEN the Conservator of Forests first proposed that the department should be placed to a certain extent under the Collectors in each district he supposed that it would lead to a complete amalgamation of all forest interests under one establishment and one department. This has not taken place. The Jungle Conservancy is still kept distinct from the Imperial forests, and is managed separately in each district by the Collectors with their own establishments; hence the same jealousy and clashing are liable to take place, and the same confusion of different rules and seigniorage rates, and the same difficulty about prevention of smuggling and illicit felling. This amalgamation could have easily been effected without crediting the proceeds of village forests, etc., to Imperial Funds; the accounts could be kept quite distinct.

2. The Conservator had no idea that Government would take all control and responsibility out of his hands; he wished to see Collectors supreme in all matters relating to communal rights, village forests, disputes about land, criminal prosecutions, etc., but he did not anticipate that they would interfere in the management and working of our larger reserved forests, such as Mudumally and the Anamallays, or in plantation work, or such like things of a purely departmental character, or that the posting, exchange, promotion, etc., of the Overseers would be taken out of his hands, or that he would be prohibited from corresponding with his officers.

3. The present system will, it is feared, prove a great failure, and as it at present stands no two Collectors are acting alike; the Forest Officers and their subordinates are all dissatisfied and complaining, and the Inspector could hardly explain what his own duties really are. If anything goes wrong Government can hold no one responsible: all responsibility and control has been taken out of the hands of the head of the department, and as Collectors are most constantly changing it is impossible that they can be held responsible in any way. Every Collector just now is acting as he thinks proper, or according to his own hobby, and there is no uniformity of action. The Collectors' duties are so multitudinous that it can hardly be expected that they can go thoroughly into forest work. Few will attempt to do it, or have the time or inclination for it; but those who so do must go a great deal into the forests before they learn the nature of the work, or

know enough to control it or understand anything about it, etc., and this will most certainly result in fever, and it has already told severely upon some of the Collectors. Some Collectors are leaving everything to their Forest Officers, and not attempting any control or inspection; others are interfering most injudiciously. If Colonel Morgan and Mr. Douglas were called upon by the Board for a report about the late transfers of Overseers, and the results therefrom, it will be seen what great detriment has already arisen by Collector's interference in matters upon which they really have no knowledge.

4. The re-organization has placed most of the officers on a better footing as regards pay and travelling allowances, but it has taken nearly all responsibility out of their hands, and placed a complete check upon departmental zeal.

5. It is impossible that either the Board or Collectors can undertake the training, posting, exchange, or promotion of Overseers, nor can they be expected to be cognizant of the requirements of the Timber and Railway Fuel trade, etc., throughout the Presidency, and if a Collector acts only upon the requirements of, or experience obtained in, his own district he may make grave errors.

6. The Inspector or head of the department should have the Account Department under his charge, and he should send in the annual report, and all periodical reports on reserves, plantations, and similar subjects: the Board cannot well undertake these.

7. The "Permanent Advance Fund" account recently introduced by the Board will eventually, it is feared, lead to great confusion and delay in the adjustment by bills of all outstanding advances, besides it is unsafe; an officer if so disposed can get through the whole year's allotment in a few months by simply forwarding abstracts to the Treasury Officer and then abscond with all the money. Under the old system of obtaining funds on "Letters of Credit" a certain amount only could be drawn for expenditure during each quarter and no more, the Letter of Credit being based upon actual requirements.

8. It is feared that many forest orders are now drafted in the offices of the Board and Government by parties who really cannot be expected to have much knowledge on the subject. It is a pity that the head of the department is not always fully consulted at first and his experience utilized, as much delay and inconvenience would often be obviated. To illustrate this I may mention two important subjects. In June 1869 (*vide* my letter recorded in G. O., No. 2,093, dated 19th July 1869) I informed Government that, though the railway might be charged one Rupee per 1,000 lbs. for their fuel, it would be too heavy a charge to put upon the public for ordinary fuel. After nearly five years, and after much correspondence and complaints from all quarters, Government have just come to the same conclusion (*vide* G. O., No. 1,225, dated 31st October 1873). In several paragraphs of my letter, dated 23rd December 1872, recorded in G. O., No. 328, dated 15th March 1873, the Board will perceive that I informed Government that the upper slopes of the Nilgiris must be worked under the Commissioner, and the lower slopes under the Collector of Coimbatore; this advice was not listened to, but now after a lapse of more than a year, and after much inconvenience and detriment to conservancy, and not a

little ill-feeling between the different Revenue Officers, etc., Government arrive at the same opinion—*Vide* G. O., No. 42, of the 12th January 1874.

9. The head of the department not being allowed to correspond with his officers has already caused very great delay and inconvenience in important matters, and can only result in a round-about and expensive way of carrying on business matters.

MADRAS, (Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut.-Colonel,
23rd January 1874. Inspector of Forests.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue,

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut.-Colonel.
Inspector of Forests.

THESE papers relate to two subjects, *first*, the organization of the Forest Department, and, *second*, the rights of ryots to fuel and timber and the regulations under which permits for exercising those rights should be issued.

2. I. *The Organization of the Forest Department.*—In his report on a tour through North Canara the Inspector of Forests submits an extract from an order of the Bombay Government, which explains the Bombay forest organization, and says:—"Our present system is working so badly, and will, I am sure, result in such a failure if persisted in that I earnestly request the Board to give this subject their attention, and to endeavour to introduce into this Presidency a system more like that in force in Bombay." He urges that districts change hands so often, and Collectors have so much to do, that they cannot pay sufficient attention to, or secure uniformity in, forest management; that the Inspector is often "ignored even in his position as Inspector and Adviser;" that no one is responsible for failures; that all the Forest Officers are complaining of the contradictory orders they receive; and that the Overseers are disheartened, because they have lost their chance of regular promotion.

3. From the enclosures to this report it appears that, under the Bombay system, the Conservator (Inspector of Forests) issues all orders on the subject of forest management, passes bills, reviews periodical reports, controls patronage in the subordinate grades, keeps the accounts, and prepares the annual plans of operations, but all communications between him and the Forest Officers pass through the Collectors.

4. In a memorandum submitted to the Board in January, the Inspector reiterates the opinion that the forest reorganization, as it stands at present, must result in failure. He states that he is disappointed, because Jungle Conservancy and Forest Conservancy are not amalgamated, the accounts only being kept distinct, because Collectors manage the larger reserved forests and plantations, and interfere in other departmental work, because the posting, exchange, promotion, etc., of Forest Overseers is taken out of the Inspector's hand, and because the Inspector is not allowed to correspond direct with Forest Officers. He declares that the reorganization has taken all responsibility out of the hands of Forest Officers and

placed a complete check on departmental zeal. He advises that the Inspector should have charge of the accounts, prepare the annual report, and submit all periodical reports. He fears that the Permanent Advance System will facilitate defalcations and delay the adjustment of outstanding advances.

5. Most of the Inspector's strictures arise from his own want of power to accommodate himself to alterations determined on by Government. If Colonel Beddome has had little influence with Collectors, it is because he has not communicated with them so freely, or helped them so opportunely as he might have done. If contradictory orders have been common in important matters, the cause is the same. If Colonel Beddome has been kept in ignorance of things which he ought to know, it is because he has not asked Collectors or pointed out to the Board what information he wanted. It cannot be disputed that much of Colonel Beddome's experience and skill have been absolutely lost to Government since the new system was introduced, but he has never made a single suggestion as to reports which ought to be sent to him, or as to communications from him to Collectors which have not received sufficient attention, nor has he advised the Board as to any measures (consistent with the new system) which would give him greater influence.

6. After Captain Campbell Walker took charge of the Inspector's office, the Board were told, for the first time, that the monthly reports of Forest Officers, which show exactly what they are doing, have been sent to the Inspector in some cases irregularly, and in some not at all. Colonel Beddome ought to have informed the Board of this, and got orders issued on the subject, but he never did, and the ignorance of forest operations, which he complains of, was a necessary consequence, but it was his own fault. Directly the Board were made acquainted with this state of things, and the way in which it could be remedied, they issued their Standing Order XI. of 1874, and henceforward the Inspector will be kept informed of what is going on in every part of the Presidency, and will always be able to give advice and point out mistakes.

7. With regard to the Permanent Advance Fund, the Board do not agree with Colonel Beddome. They cannot see how it will delay the adjustment of advances, except in so far as sending the bills through Collectors to the Central Office takes longer. Forest Officers will have no greater opportunity for defalcations than Salt Officers have always had with no ill results. The only danger is that a Forest Officer might get through his whole year's allotment without spending much in a few months, and then abscond with the remainder. This assumes that the Forest Officer will be able to commit wholesale forgeries without detection, and that his demands, when irregularly great, will not attract the attention of the Treasury Officer. The Board do not anticipate any defalcations of this sort. The only danger to the finances is involved in the power which a Forest Officer unavoidably has of misappropriating the stock under his charge without immediate detection, as was done in Turnbull's case, and this can only be guarded against by stipends and pensions sufficient to attract trustworthy men, and by the vigilance of superiors. A report on the working of the Permanent Advance System by the Accountant-General is probably before Government now (G. O., dated 10th January 1873, No. 28).

8. The Board do not understand precisely what is meant by the Inspector with regard to the amalgamation of Jungle Conservancy with Forest Conservancy. If he means that Collectors should take advantage of the experience of Forest Officers in supervising Jungle Conservancy, this is already done, and from the nature of the case will be done more and more as time progresses and experience is gained. If he means that the establishments should be amalgamated, this is impossible so long as the Jungle Conservancy Fund is a special fund, and Government refuse to consider service under it as qualifying for pension.

9. Nor can the Board understand how Forest Officers have lost any part of the responsibility which attached to them under the old system.

10. There are, however, some points in which a change seems to the Board to be imperatively demanded.

(1.) The Inspector should control the appointment, etc., of Overseers. This subject is already before Government. The existing orders are prompted by the idea that Forest Overseers may become an integral part of the revenue establishment of the district, so that an Overseer may be made a Clerk or a Clerk an Overseer without regard to skill in forestry. This seems to the Board to be a mistake. If an Overseer is successful and trustworthy and has served a long time, there is great reason why he should be promoted so as to draw a higher salary in a more important range; but there is none, why he should be taken from the forests and sent to bury in a Cutcherry the peculiar skill which he has acquired by long experience in forests. There has been no instance, since the reorganization, of an Overseer being promoted into a better paid place in a Revenue Office, but there have been many in which great difficulties would have been obviated, if some one at the head of the department had been authorized to direct transfers from one district to another.

(2.) The Inspector ought to be allowed to correspond direct with Forest Officers on specified subjects, such as the collection of seed, the habits and qualities of particular sorts of trees, etc. The Inspector might be told to prepare a list for sanction. In addition to this, the Board think the Inspector should be allowed to write and receive demi-official communications, not being of the nature of orders.

(3.) All periodical reports should be submitted to the Board through the Inspector. Experience has shown them that they have neither the time nor the knowledge necessary to prepare useful abstracts or orders in such cases.

(4.) The Inspector ought to be in Madras when the Budget and the Annual Report are being prepared, so that the Board may consult him on important points which are familiar to him but not to them. For instance, if it is necessary to reduce the charges by a certain amount, the Inspector can say which ranges will suffer least by the stoppage of forest operations. If the annual report from a district officer omits any information of importance with regard to any peculiar forest difficulties existing in the district, he will be able to point out the omission.

11. To do all this work the Inspector will, of course, need a stronger office establishment.

12. II. *The rights of Ryots to fuel, etc.*—In the report already alluded to, the Inspector calls attention to the rules for granting permits to cut timber, etc., in the

Canara Collectorate. The chief points in the rules which require notice are the following:—Villagers may cut fuel, timber for small houses, and wood for fences and agricultural implements, etc., free of charge and without permits in jungles situated within their village limits, and if there are none so situated, *with permits* in assigned jungles beyond the village boundaries, but they cannot trade with firewood or timber thus cut, and they must pay for squared timber for houses of a superior description, wood for rice-grinding mills, etc., and get seigniorage permits before they cut. The amount of the timber for which officers of various grades may give permits is restricted. A register of applicants for permits is kept in each village, and no permit is granted until the register is examined, and it is found that the applicant has been a reasonable time without getting wood and really wants what he asks for. Permits are to run during a limited period only, and wood is not to be cut except between the 31st May and the 31st October. When wood is cut, it must be measured and stamped before it is removed. The whole or part of the permit fees is remitted when the wood is wanted for certain purposes of public utility, for purposes connected with temples, mosques, etc., and for building houses in specified cases. When valuable trees are cut down surreptitiously the village in which the depredators are known to be may be punished under Section 37 of Regulation XII. of 1827. (This Regulation is not in force in the Madras Presidency.)

13. In his letter of the 26th December, No. 1,977, the Inspector says, with reference to G. O., dated 5th December 1873, No. 1,357, that he is very doubtful if rules can be laid down disallowing all rights of villagers in jungles beyond the village limits, and he gives reasons for this view in the letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March 1874, No. 462. He goes on to suggest a rule embodying all the rights of ryots to fuel and timber which have been admitted by Government from time to time, and this rule, if approved, should be substituted for No. 10 of the Forest Conservancy Rules now in force throughout the Presidency. He advises that another rule should be added to those now in force, allowing timber to be granted at a greatly reduced seigniorage for temples, houses destroyed by fire, and on special occasions.

14. The first point which it is necessary to notice is the decision of Government in G. O., dated 5th December 1873, No. 1,357, that ryots have no rights in jungles beyond their village limits. This decision took the Board by surprise, for they know of no evidence in existence on which it can be based. On the contrary, they know of numerous cases in which such rights have been and are being exercised. The practice of driving cattle to distant jungles for pasture is notorious, and the practice being of ancient date and never contested must be held to show that villagers have prescriptive rights in jungles scores of miles away from their village boundaries.

15. The next point is the expediency of allowing reduced seigniorage to be levied in certain cases as is allowed in Bombay, village registers being kept to show that the permission is not abused. The Board do not think that this is feasible. There is already difficulty enough in determining how the collection of the different rates charged on railway fuel and other fuel is to be managed. If any number of rates may be levied according to circumstances, the temptation placed in the way of village officers and forest subordinates will be too great, and the difficulties in the way of determining what is really due to Government will

be insuperable. The Board think that, if there is sufficient cause for reducing the seigniorage in any case, it should be remitted altogether. The village registers, however, seem to the Board to be practicable and likely to be very useful in regulating free felling.

16. The third point is the possibility of limiting the cutting of wood to a particular time in the year. In the Bombay rules this limitation is in force with regard to wood cut on permit, seigniorage being paid, but not with regard to free felling. In this Presidency, if reduced seigniorage on wood cut for specified purposes is not allowed, free felling must be more extensive, and the question must be considered with regard to free felling as well as seigniorage permits. On the one hand, it may be argued that the restriction will infringe the rights of ryots, and cause inconvenience to them. On the other hand, it may be argued that the rule will not be an infringement but a justifiable regulation of rights, that after the rule has become widely known and ryots have been taught to calculate the annual supply of fuel, etc., which they will want, no great inconvenience will be caused, that the rule may be framed so as to allow cutting to take place during that part of the year when the forest establishment has least work, and that this is the only way in which cutting can be supervised efficiently so as to prevent ryots from exceeding their permits or damaging the forests. The Board are inclined to think that Collectors should be allowed to prescribe the time within which free permits as well as seigniorage permits may be used, but that this time should, for the present at all events, not be less than eight months.

17. The Board have already submitted, on more than one occasion, that a law giving Government the power to restrain forest rights should be passed. When this is done, the Forest Conservancy Rules,* which are at present without any solid foundation, must be revised with reference to that law; but, in the mean time, Rule No. 10 should be altered as proposed by Colonel Beddome, so as to recognise rights which undoubtedly exist, but are at present altogether ignored by the rules.

18. The new rule might be worded as follows:—

19. *Bona fide* cultivators may get free permits and cut free of seigniorage from unreserved jungles within their village limits, if there are any such, fire-wood required for domestic use or for manufacturing the produce of the cultivator's own lands, and *unreserved* trees and bamboos required for agricultural purposes, such as ploughs, sheds, fencing, etc., or for huts and small houses; but they must not sell such fire-wood or timber outside their village limits, and they must not cut timber for substantial houses without paying seigniorage and getting a seigniorage permit.

20. If there be not sufficient unreserved jungle within the limits of any village, the Collector may assign a tract outside the limits where felling on free permits will be allowed, and the villagers will not be suffered to cut anywhere else without paying seigniorage and getting a seigniorage permit.

21. The heads of villages are authorised to give free permits. They will keep a register showing the date of each permit, the man to whom it is granted, and the

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* Dated the 20th May 1863.

amount of timber which it allows him to fell, and care will be taken that any limits which the Collector may impose, such as the maximum of fuel allowed to the head of a family for domestic use within a year, etc., are not exceeded.

22. Cut fuel or timber not covered by a permit (either a free permit or a seigniorage permit) will be liable to be seized and confiscated if it is found in the jungle or in transit from it.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 329. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th July 1874, No. 1,826, Forest No. 103.

Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 1st June 1874, No. 128.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to paragraph 3 of G. O., No. 595, dated 13th ultimo, to report that Mr. Morgan has been directed to relieve Mr. Ross in the charge of the Mettapoliem, etc., Forest Range, and the latter officer to assume temporary charge of the Niligiri Forests and Plantations, pending the result of the reference made by the Board, under date 19th May, (Proceedings Forest Miscellaneous No. 138-3,313.)

2. This arrangement has been made in accordance with G. O., No. 649, dated 28th May 1874; on receipt of which I issued the necessary instructions to Mr. Morgan, who proceeded to join on the 30th May, and communicated with the Collector of Coimbatore and Mr. Ross.

3. Regarding the latter portion of the paragraph under reference, it would, I think, be found preferable and save time if the order stood that "Forest Officers returning from furlough should report themselves at the Board's Office to the Inspector, or, in his absence, to the Forest Assistant." By this means, if I were at Madras or head-quarters, the necessary orders would be issued at once and reported to the Board; and, should it happen that I were on tour in some remote part of the Presidency, the Forest Assistant would invariably know my address, and the Board would be enabled to issue orders if emergently required, and communicate with me as deemed necessary.

4. I make this suggestion, as it appears very desirable that our officers should bear in mind that they have a departmental head, in whose office a record of their service, leave, etc., is kept, and who is responsible to the Board and Government for their proper performance of the duties entrusted to them, and for posting them to the districts where they will be of most service. I trust that the Board will concur in recommending this modification. A short Standing Order regulating the course to be adopted in forwarding and disposing of Forest Officers' applications for leave, transfers, etc., might be drawn up when I next visit Madras.

So long as existing orders are in force, the Board do not think Captain Walker's suggestions can be carried out.

2. The whole subject of the position of the Inspector of Forests is now before Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 330. Minute by the Hon. J. D. SIM. C.S.I.

I QUITE concur with the Board of Revenue that Colonel Beddome's strictures on the late re-organisation are owing to his inability to adapt himself to the changes determined by Government after very careful consideration and the experience of a good many years. Any stranger reading Colonel Beddome's letter would imagine that the department had been previously extremely well administered, whereas there was, in fact, very little administration at all. He hurriedly visited the forest districts at long intervals, and intermediately the Assistants were under no real control. In two districts (Madura and Wynaad, serious frauds occurred without being detected by him, and everywhere it was patent that if a Deputy or Assistant Conservator were inclined to neglect his duty or even to defraud, the Conservator could neither prevent nor detect him. It was these considerations,—real not imaginary,—that led the Government to place the conservancy of districts under Collectors, giving each a trained Assistant, and placing the Conservator in the position of Inspector and adviser. If Colonel Beddome finds his position as such ignored, it is, as the Board remark, entirely his own fault. He was anxious that the department should be so remodelled that he should retain all his patronage and power, while the responsibility should devolve on the Collector. His assertion that the Collector of Trichinopoly has been changed six times within the last two years or so is untrue; but the district has no forests, and if it had, a trained Assistant would be attached to it, who would not be similarly changed thrice a-year. In the present Acting Conservator, I believe we have an officer who will adapt himself to circumstances and perform the duties assigned to him.

2. I agree with the Board in paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of their Proceedings.

3. The question regarding Overseers is under consideration. We have informed the Board that they are mistaken in supposing that Overseers should be men who might be made clerks and *vice versa*, "without regard to skill in forestry." How they could have made such a mistake is marvellous. I see no reason why the Inspector should be allowed to correspond on certain subjects with Assistant and Deputy-Conservators *direct*, that is, without reference to the Conservator. A man cannot serve two masters, and there is no reason assigned or assignable why the Inspector should not correspond with the Conservator who can easily get him all the information he requires. The Revenue Board do not correspond direct with even Sub-Collectors, nor the High Court with Sub-Magistrates; why should it be necessary for the Inspector to correspond direct with the Collector's Forest Assistant? It should be impressed most strongly on the Inspector that the Conservator is the person with whom he is in direct relation.

4. I see no objection to periodical reports reaching the Board through the Inspector; such an arrangement, though possibly entailing some delay, will be otherwise productive of good results.

5. The Inspector should certainly be in Madras when the Budget and Annual Report are being prepared. This is the rule already I believe.

6. I would ask sanction for the extra Clerk and Peon required, or sanction it if we can. The Board speak of some impending re-organisation, but I am not aware of any.

7. With regard to rights of villagers beyond their own village limits, I differ from the Board. It is true that cattle are driven to distant jungles for pasture, but these jungles are not within real village limits; they are tracts of forest and woodland such as those on the hills, separating the Nellore and Cuddapah Districts; those on the western side of the Salem District, and the like, which do not appertain to any particular village.

8. I am averse to the proposal in paragraph 15 of the Board's Proceedings and also to that in paragraph 16, so far as village jungles are concerned; a ryot cannot and does not lay in a stock of fuel.

9. I have no objection to paragraph 19.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

No. 331. MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

IT is unnecessary to follow Colonel Beddome through his sketch of forest administration in North Canara. The spirit of that administration has always been grasping and adverse to the people's interests, if not subversive of their rights. It is wholly unsuited to this Presidency. We have had experience of Bombay conservancy in Canara between 1807 and 1823, when it was done away with, in consequence of its oppressive and unjust character, by Sir Thomas Munro. In North Canara the condition of property had differed from that of South Canara and our Presidency (with its village communal rights); in fact, the great forest districts were escheats before the British Government entered on the rule of Canara, and the forests had then become the property of the State. What may be right in North Canara is wrong in this Presidency.

N.B.—Vide correspondence between 1807 and 1822 of Malabar and Canara *passim*.

It is sad to see the experience and wisdom of the past of Madras' best men, Thackery, Munro, etc., never even alluded to now.

2. I should not commit myself specifically on the matter of the late re-organisation of the Forest Department. As a matter of administration it has advantages; but I believe that it is fraught with some danger to the rights of the people. Collectors are under little or no control, and have no law to guide them.

3. As regards the executive department, I think much confusion exists. No executive can be properly managed, which is, for all practical purposes, without a head. This highly-paid *Inspector* cannot inspect all forests himself, but he has not a single subordinate at his disposal, and his inspection is naturally viewed with some jealousy. However, it may be well to let the present status be, until we consider the Forest Law.

4. I entirely agree with the Board in regard to G. O., dated 5th December 1873, No. 1,357. The doctrine laid down in that G. O. is at variance with the actual conditions of half the village communities in the country; and I think that it is exceedingly dangerous for the Government to assume *quasi*-legislative or judicial functions, and to enunciate a doctrine of this kind without evidence of its justice and in anticipation of legislation, which can alone settle points of right, usage, etc., of this character. I would modify the G. O. as suggested.

5. I agree with the Board as to the matters alluded to in paragraph 15. But I would not increase the vexatious institution now existing as proposed in paragraph 16.

6. I would sanction the proposed rule, paragraph 19. But I entirely disagree with the last clause of the paragraph. The right to free timber is not contingent on style of dwelling which a villager may be able to construct. It is a right which appertains to him as a member of the community without restriction, and is a right which, in the interest of public policy and on sanitary grounds, we should comfort and promote by any means in our power. We do not withdraw the right to free *gramanatton* (village-site), because a man is able to improve his dwelling. Why should we withdraw other contingent and equally indefeasible right? I consider that the decision of Government should be firmly and strongly enunciated on a point of such vital importance.

29th July 1874. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

No. 332. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

THE administration of "Forest Conservancy" in this Presidency, under the new organisation has always appeared to me to be singularly anomalous, inconsistent, and indefensible. We have a trained establishment of Forest Officers, headed by an Inspector of great scientific acquirement; and the result of the new organisation seems to be that, for almost all practical purposes, the business of forest conservancy has been taken out of the hands of the Inspector and his establishment and given to Collectors, who have neither the time nor the knowledge required to conduct it. There was no doubt much to be said respecting the inefficiency of the old system, and the expediency of giving more control to the Collector; but to train and pay a "Forest Department," which is in no way responsible for forest management, and may or may not be "consulted" by Collectors, who (like other people) are fond of authority and apt to confide in their own opinions however uninstructed, seems to be a course altogether unsupported by reason. It appears, indeed, that the Inspector not only may, but does, "explain his views" occasionally to Collectors, but that in the face of constantly changing appointments the explanation is useless; and, indeed, I should not in any case be inclined to put much faith in its efficacy.

2. Bombay, for reasons no doubt not dissimilar to those referred to by the Hon. Mr. Sim as those which prompted our re-organisation, lately re-organised its Forest Administration, and seems to have made the best, in practice, of the not very logical though no doubt necessary change. Captain C. Walker assures me that the Bombay system, notwithstanding some theoretical confusion of authority, works well. It appears, moreover, in itself to be reasonable; and I think that our own system of organisation may be modified with advantage so as to adopt *mutatis mutandis* the general arrangements which have been made in Bombay. I would, with this view, send the Rules prescribed by the Bombay Government Order, No. 375, of 6th August 1870, to the Board of Revenue on the one hand, and to Captain C. Walker on the other, for their opinion on the proposal to apply these rules to the Forest Administration of this Presidency.

3. I agree with the Board as regards paragraph 10 of their Proceedings. As regards paragraph 14 I have no recollection of the order of 5th December 1873, to which the Board refer. If I passed it, I did so inadvertently. I do not agree in the sweeping assertion which it makes; and I regret that it should have been issued.

4. I do not agree with the Board as regards paragraph 16, and would impose no such limitations on the felling of timber. Nor would I (as regards paragraph 17) make any such change in the rules as to place any further restriction on the privileges of the ryots.

1st August 1874. (Signed) HOBART.

No. 333. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I CONSIDER that this draft does not go far enough in this respect. I would adopt Nos. 2, 4, and 5* of the Bombay Organisation Rules. All that is done in this draft of any importance in that direction is to allow the Inspector

* See printed paper "1870," "Re-organisation" of Forest Department, (Bombay).

to *correspond* with forest officers on "*specified* subjects, such as collection of seed, etc." This is but little.

2. The anomalous and unsatisfactory character of our present organisation has attracted the serious attention of the India Office, and especially of the Secretary of State; and I am sure that they will not be more satisfied than I am with the extent to which this draft applies a remedy.

3rd October 1874. (Signed) HOBART.

No. 334. MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

WITH regard to the adoption of the Bombay Rules, I think that the draft goes far enough I would not object to the 2nd Rule as an administrative direction, but it, in a measure, contravenes the system which we have adopted. The two other Bombay Rules absolutely alter it in spirit and letter. I would, therefore, be content with the draft at all events at present, and as a tentative measure, which we can extend at some future time in case it is found not to work harmoniously.

4th November 1874. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

No. 335. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

THE system recently adopted in this Presidency by which the Collector is constituted Conservator of Forests within his own district appears to me to place in the hands of an untrained man, duties for the efficient performance of which, the highest practical training is absolutely necessary. I therefore concur with His Excellency the President in his proposal to adopt Nos. 2, 4, and 5 of the Bombay Organisation Rules, which confer on the Inspector of Forests control over the more important operations of forestry.

2. With regard to paragraph 19 of the Board's Proceedings, I concur with the Hon. J. D. Sim, and would adopt its provisions, limiting the grant of free permits to *bonâ fide* cultivators as set forth.

3. The ryot, as a rule, does not construct a substantial house, and any desire to do so would tend to show that he is a man of substance capable of paying seigniorage, and thus contributing to the revenues of the country. The same may be said of wood suitable to the construction of oil-mills, etc. Conformity to the Board's proposals in this respect would infringe no prescriptive rights as far as I am aware, and would be protective of forest revenue, which seems to me to be in considerable danger.

21st November 1874. (Signed) FRED. P. HAINES.

No. 336. MINUTE BY THE HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I.

As His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief concurs with His Lordship in considering it advisable that Rules 2, 4, and 5 of the Bombay Forest Code should be adopted here, orders must be issued accordingly.

2. I dissent, because these Rules are, in my judgment, opposed to the fundamental principle of our system of forest administration, subversive of all discipline in the department, and destructive of all real control and responsibility.

3. A reference to G. O., 24th January 1872, and especially to the Minutes of the Members of the then Government, will show that the re-organisation of the department on its present footing owed its origin to the comparative failure of the pre-existing system. The Government duly considered the system in force in the other Presidencies, and devised the scheme which they considered best suited to this Presidency, which was that of making each Collector the Conservator of his district, and giving him the services of a trained Assistant as his executive officer in this special department. They had, in fact, no option but to adopt this arrangement, or to add very greatly to the strength and cost of the special establishment. Experience had shown that the Conservator-General could not, and did not, exercise any real control over his departmental officers who were left for long intervals in practically independent charge of their ranges. A glance at the map will show the impossibility of a single officer doing what was expected of the Conservator, and is absolutely necessary for efficient administration. Captain Campbell Walker has been very very active in his inspections during the past year; but he has only been able to visit the southern districts, and it is abundantly clear that, except in a hurried and comparatively useless way, each district cannot be inspected more than once in eighteen months or so. Considering the character of the work and the agency available, an annual effective inspection is essential. If, then, the Government had adhered to the plan of a special department, they must have applied for an additional Conservator, and probably also several Deputies in charge of circles. The expense would have been very great, and would have swallowed all the profits of the department.

4. The Government, as the papers to which I have referred will show, considered that better results would be obtained at much less expense by placing forestry under Collectors as a branch of the Land-revenue Department, and the present system was introduced with the concurrence of the Conservator and Board of Revenue. Under it, as I have said, the Collector is the Conservator, and the trained Assistant is of necessity his subordinate; while the special officer is the Inspector of Forests, "his functions mainly consisting of inspection and advice". The new system has only been in operation for some eighteen months, and practically has worked, and is working, well. Collectors are taking more and more interest in the work, and the department is under constant local supervision and control. The Inspector in his visits sees what is doing, and advises the Collector who must either adopt the advice or refer the matter to higher authority. The result of each tour of inspection is specially reported to Government, who issue such orders as they deem necessary. We have thus combined professional advice and inspection with local control and responsibility; the Inspector-General sees, advises, and reports all which duties he can efficiently perform, but is relieved from executive duties which he cannot perform, and freed from a responsibility which can only be nominal.

5. If, however, the Bombay Rules be adopted, this sound distribution of duties and responsibilities will be at an end. By Rule 2, "all orders of a professional character relating, for example, to felling, planting, and other operations, will emanate from the Conservator (here Inspector), but are to reach the district officer (*i.e.*, Deputy-Conservator), through the Collector," who may object if he sees cause. Thus all executive work passes back to the Inspector, and the Collector becomes again a powerless, irresponsible intermediary. The local Deputy—now his subordinate—becomes independent of him; for by Rule 4 "the Collector is not to issue orders to the district officer affecting forest management direct". Rule 5 declares the Conservator (here the Inspector) "the controlling authority in all matters of patronage" * * * and "departmental discipline." Rule 2 declares him "specially responsible for the economical working of the department". Thus in all administrative and financial matters, the Collector and Board of Revenue will be set aside, and the present system abrogated. At this present moment, under the proposed Rules, no one would be responsible; for Captain Campbell Walker, the Inspector, is out of the Presidency; he will be absent again in September next, attending the Forest Conference at Simla. Even when present, it seems to me simply impossible for him to do what will now

devolve on him. Collectors must, of course, be absolved from all responsibility, for they can issue no orders, and have no one to obey their instructions, and, in reality, the Deputy-Conservator will be supreme and practically uncontrolled. It is quite a mistake to suppose that the Inspector is now powerless; his inspections show what has been and is being done; and his "advice" must be followed or submitted for the final decision of the Government.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

No. 337. MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

I HAVE already minuted against the introduction of the Bombay Rules, under date 11th November 1874; and I am inclined to attach great weight to the strong remonstrance of my Honorable Colleague Mr. Sim.

10th January 1875. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

No. 338. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1875, No. 313.

Forests, No. 29.

THESE papers refer chiefly to the difficulties which have been met with in the working of the new forest organisation, as described in G. O., 24th January 1872, No. 148.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that sufficient grounds exist for a partial modification of that system, and that, as far as they go, the suggestions in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th April 1874, No. 830, are in the right direction.

3. It appears, however, to His Excellency in Council that a further approach to the Bombay Rules may be advantageously attempted, and he desires that the Board will, in communication with the Inspector, prepare a set of draft rules on the basis of those recorded in paragraph 10 of the Resolution of the Government of Bombay, dated 6th August 1870, No. 3,757, but with such variations as the experience already acquired may suggest as desirable, in order that the responsibility of forest administration may be fairly apportioned between the Board and Collectors on the one hand and the Inspector of Forests on the other. It must be remembered that the latter officer will often be out of the way on tours of inspection, and no arrangement will be suitable which will tend to overwhelm him with details more easily managed by a local or central authority.

4. In regard to patronage in the subordinate branches, the Governor in Council thinks this should be with the Board, promotions being made, as a rule, from class to class. All Foresters should be borne on one general list, first appointments to lower grades remaining with Conservators. Thereafter Conservators will be at liberty to bring forward the claims of those employed under them whenever they see fit to do so; but as they cannot be equally cognizant of the claims and qualifications of those employed in other districts, it is necessary that the ultimate selection should vest in the Board aided by the advice of the Inspector.

5. The rights of ryots to fuel and timber, with reference to certain suggestions of the Inspector, are discussed in the 12th and following paragraphs of the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th April 1874, No. 830. As the general question is under consideration with reference to other Proceedings, dated 7th September 1874, No. 2,520,

the Governor in Council will only remark here that, on reconsideration, he concurs with the Board in the view which they have taken in paragraph 14 in regard to G. O., 5th December 1873, No. 1,357. He is averse to the adoption of the system discussed in paragraph 15, the proposed register excepted, and cannot consent to the further restriction suggested in paragraph 16.

Bona fide cultivators may get free permits and cut free of seigniorage from unreserved jungles within their village limits, if there are any such, fire-wood required for domestic use or for manufacturing the produce of the cultivator's own lands, and *unreserved* trees and bamboos required for agricultural purposes, such as ploughs, sheds, fencing, etc., or for huts and houses, but they must not sell such fire-wood or timber outside their village limits.

If there be not sufficient unreserved jungle within the limits of any village, the Collector may assign a tract outside the limits where felling on free permits will be allowed, and the villagers will not be suffered to cut any where else without paying seigniorage and getting a seigniorage permit.

The heads of villages are authorised to give free permits. They will keep a register showing the date of each permit, the man to whom it is granted, and the amount of timber which it allows him to fell.

Cut fuel or timber not covered by a permit (either a free permit or a seigniorage permit) will be liable to be seized and confiscated if it is found in the jungle or in transit from it.

6. The revision adverted to in paragraph 17 must ultimately take place whether a law is passed or not. In the mean time, the rule proposed in paragraphs 19—22 as marginally modified may be substituted for No. 10 of those printed in G. O., 20th May 1863, and sanctioned in G. O., 22nd June 1863, No. 1,099. It must be worked so as not to interfere with prescriptive rights.

7. No report upon the working of the Permanent Advance Fund has been received from the Accountant-General, whose attention will now be drawn to G. O., 10th January 1873, No. 28. It should be expedited.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Original

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated February 26th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 26th February 1875, No 313.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 326—338.

New Forest Organisation.—Approving generally the suggestions of the Board for a partial modification of the system of working the —, and desiring them, in communication with the inspector, to prepare rules similar to those of Bombay. Remarking and the question of the rights of ryots to fuel and timber, on requesting the Accountant-General to expedite the report on the working of the Permanent Advance Fund.

Ch? 157/81

10-10-90 ✓
16-3-91 ✓
16-7-91 ✓
11-6-08
14-9-1

FOREST No. 19.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th April 1873, No. 670.

Read the following letter from E. TURNER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector in charge of Kurnool, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st March 1873, No. 98 :—

I have the honour to forward, for submission to the Board of Revenue, the accompanying application for promotion from Forest Overseer E. Dampier, in charge of the Cumbum and Markapur Taluqs, received through the Forest Assistant at Nandial.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Application from Forest Overseer.

It does not often fall within the province of the Board to submit applications for promotion to Government, but they resolve to do so in this instance.

2. In the memorandum recorded with G. O., 15th March 1873, No. 322, the Inspector of Forests gave, what seem to the Board, unanswerable reasons why the promotion of Overseers and appointments of this nature should be regulated by the head of the department, but Government ordered that the Forest Establishment in each district should be obtained like the Revenue Establishment, appointments and promotions vesting in the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. Grose

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with one original Enclosure.

,, the Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Here 10/3/73 Dept

1873. No 1233

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 29TH APRIL 1873, No. 670.

Dept. 1 May/73

Encl. / c

Sch 26 February 18

Received 5 May/73

15 March/73 No 165—66

APRIL

Forest No. 19.

Forest Overseer E. Dampier — of Kurnool District.—Application of — for promotion, submitted to Government with remarks regarding regulation of appointments and promotions in Forest Department.

P—3 26

No. 98. Cumbum 3rd March 1873.

13

To

I. A. N. Chase Esquire
Conservator of Forests
Kurnool.

Sir,

With the humble yet not, I trust, unreasonable hope that, amid the changes recently introduced into the Forest Conservancy Deptt., I may not be deemed presumptuous in seeking for advancement to a higher grade than that I now hold in the subordinate branch of Overseers, I beg leave to address you on the subject and, in so doing, to submit for your favorable consideration a brief statement of my past career, as follows:—

1. That I entered the Deptt. as English Clerk in the then called Asst. Consr's. Office at Nundial on the 1st of April 1868, and after a long course of training at the Nursery there, as well as at the Voncarum and Smitty Conda Plantations, under Mr. Sheffield — (the present Dy. Consr. of North Arcot Forests) — was appointed temporary overseer to superintend the felling and supplying of a large number of telegraph posts to the several Engineers in the Kurnool and Cuddapah Districts; upon the complete and satisfactory accomplishment of which object I was at once brought on the permanent Establishment with the sanction of Major Beddome, the at that

time Offg. Consr. of Forests, on 1st April 1870, as 3rd class overseer on a salary of Rs 60— with Rs 15-„-„ allowance per mensem — a post which I still fill, and placed in charge of the Govt. timber Depôt at Cumbum and of the forest tracts in the two talugs of Cumbum and Markapoor.

2. That when I first took over charge of this Range, not only did it reveal generally a very disorderly state of affairs, but smuggling was carried on to so considerable an extent as to demand the exertions of my utmost energies to put a stop to the practice; and as showing that my efforts in this direction were not altogether unsuccessful, I would refer to one of the Asstt. Consr's monthly Reports+ to the Head of the Depth., wherein that Officer observes that since my appointment to the Range I had brought it into good working order.

+On the recds of the Mundial Office.

3. That whilst my predecessor, who drew the same Emoluments I am in receipt of, did comparatively little in the way of travelling or of Office work, and never kept any but one timber depôt book, I have, on the contrary, to constantly visit the tannah stations, of which there are eleven, in the two talugs under my more immediate supervision, at distances from my Head quarters (Cumbum) varying from 10 to 35 miles, besides having to traverse the several forests whenever occasion renders it imperative; and my Office business — gradually increased from time to time — is such that I have now every month to prepare for submission to my Official Superior the numerous Returns marginally× noted, after duly entering them in Books, with only one Goomastah to assist me in conducting the telugu correspondence and keeping the telugu accounts: superadded to all of which duties is one other, not by any means the least important, viz., that of personally attending the Court of the Head Asstt Magistrate, or of the Subordinate Magistrate, to prosecute all parties charged with offences against the forest rules.—

×
1. Monthly Progress Report
— do — Diary.
Abstract Contingent Bill.
Detailed A/c of — do —
Statement of timber felled
— do — collected into Market Depôt.
7. List of do sold pounds
8 Cash Balance Report
9. Memo. of wood Supplied to D. P. W.
10. Pay Abstract.
11. Statement of service Stamps Expended &c.
12 Monthly A/c Current.
13. Account sales of confisc. wood
14 Acquittance Roll
Besides Quarterly & half yearly Returns — as well as correspondence with Dy. Conservator, Officers of D. P. W. and other Officials.

4. That consequent upon the transfer of Mr. Sheffield, in 1870, from Kurnool to North Arcot, and the rapid succession of several other Officers to his appointment, I was for short intervals twice left in sole charge of the District, but received no additional remuneration whatever for the heavy responsibilities that thus devolved on me.—

5. That at the expiration of the present month I shall have served in the Depth. full five years, during which period I have often, in the zealous and faithful discharge of duty, been exposed not only to inclemencies of weather and to man-Eating

tigers, (more especially on my frequent journeyings to and from Nundial and Cumbum over the Nundycummana pass) — but also to ~~constant~~ attacks of jungle fever, by which I was several times prostrated: my allowance of 15 Rs being so inadequate to the up-keep from month to month of a cart and pair of bullocks, that I have not seldom had to pay for their hire out of my limited monthly stipend of 60 Rs, and to pass days and nights in the forests without a poney or even a small tent to shelter me, which latter I was forced to provide myself with only lately by contracting a loan. —

6. Permit me, in conclusion, respectfully to beg that you will, in view of all the circumstances represented above, in connection with the accompanying copies of testimonials — (one from my present official Superior's predecessor, Mr. J. S. Boileau, who spontaneously left it on record when resigning his appointment to take up his commission in the army — the other from Mr. Sheffield, the Officer under whom I served longest) — be so good as to recommend me for promotion to a 1st class overseership, should there appear to you to be any good grounds for regarding my case as a special one, with reference to my past services amidst many hardships and privations, to the amount of labour imposed on me and to the general unhealthiness of the climate of

this

this District. —

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servant,

Edwd. Dampier

Forest Overseer, in charge

of Cumbum & Markapoor talugs

Forest Department

From

The Forest Overseer

Cumbum

To

T. F. F. Chase Esq.,

Conservator of Forests

Kurnool

Dated 3rd } March 1873.

Recd.

No 28

Enclosures Two.

Submitting application for promotion to 1st class overseership. —

In Nidl. No 57/73.

Memorandum.

Mr. E. Dampier has been an overseer under me for 8 months. He has always done his work to my satisfaction, and I have always found him thoroughly honest.

As he has two talugs under his charge – and much travelling work to do – I would recommend that it should be proposed to the Conservator to raise his allowance to Rs. 1-0-0 per day – as his present allowance is insufficient. –

As he has never had any privilege leave, I would recommend also that he should be allowed to take advantage of what is due to him, as some of my Establishment were on leave, and I could not spare him. –

Camp Chakalamurry } (Sd.) T. Boileau
31st January 1872 } Ag. Asst. Conr.
of Kurnool Forests.

(True copy)

Edwd. Dampier
Forest overseer

No. 410. Office of the Dy. Commr. of Forests
North Arcot, Ranepett,
10th December 1872.

From

The Deputy Commr. of Forests
North Arcot

To

Mr. E. Dampier
Forester, Kurnool District

Sir,

In reply to your letter I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the efficient manner in which you conducted your duties during the time (nearly 3 years) you were under my orders, while you were in my Office, all the accounts were well kept and the English correspondence well conducted, and from the time you took charge of the Cumbum and Markapoor Talugs as Forest Overseer till I left the district you did your duty with zeal and diligence and to my entire satisfaction.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) Thomas Sheffield
Dy. Commr. of Forests
North Arcot.

(True Copy)
Edwd. Dampier
Forest Overseer

Rev 1235/73

Procs: 26th Feby/75 No 326

Camp Manontoddy
No. 1946. 23rd October 1873. 18

From

Major R. H. Beddome
Inspector of Forests.

To,

H. E. Stokes Esqre
Ag. Secretary to the Board of Rev.
Madras.

Sir,

Adverting to the Proceedings of the Board No. 2067 dated 10th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I stated exactly what the Deputy Conservator brought to my notice, about the Collector stopping the sale of our timber and interfering with our established rules on the subject; the timber subsequently selling by auction at the same rates fixed by Mr. Douglas only proves that he was charging a Government Departthe fair market rate or rather an auction rate and not an excessive one as suggested by the Collector, but it in no way alters the facts of the case, Viz. that a Government Department had to look to merchants or the general market for its requirements, at a time when the Forest Department was ready to supply its wants - Our timber for ought the Collector then knew, might have been sold off at half its real value which is too often the case at auctions, or it might have remained unsold.-

With reference to the exchange of Overseers, both Colonel Morgan and Mr. Douglas brought to my notice that the Collector's arrangements were most injudicious and certain to result in

the

nothing but detriment to the forests concer -ed, Colonel Morgan complained bitterl of the interference and stated that he ha heard nothing of it until the exchange was effected and Mr. Taylor had joined at Collegal, the Overseer taken away fro him was a Native who had been carefully trained for 6 years in Sandal wood planting (the particular work of which he had charge) and a man that would be of little or no use in the Anamallay forests, Mr. Taylor had suffered much from fever and required a change but to send him to Collegal was as bad or worse than keeping him at the Anamallays. I am not in Official communication with any of our Officers except during my periodical visits and I am not even furnished with the monthly reports of these two ranges but some two months after my visit to the Anamallays and my report on the Collector's injudicious arrangements Mr. Douglas informed me privately that his work was nearly at a stand still in consequence and that it would be very hard if he was to be held responsible for the proper working of the range under existing circumstances; I would suggest therefore that both these officers should be called upon to report fully on the subject.—

I have &c. &c. &c.

Signed/ R. H. Beddome Major
Inspector of Forests.—

(A true Copy)

R. H. Beddome Major
Inspector of Forests.

20

Enclosure

In a letter No. 1964 of 20th December 1873, from the Inspector of forests to the Ag. Under Secretary to Govt. R.D.

In No. 4104/75
Pro: 26th Feby/75 L. L. 327. –

not to be printed

2

Office of Inspector of forests.
Ootacamund 20th December 1873.

No. 1964.

From

Major R. H. Beddome
Inspector of Forests.

To,

J. Sturrock, Esqre.
Ag. Under Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Departt.

Sir,

With reference to the Govt. Order No. 1255 of the 10th November last, I have the honor to forward copy of letter which I lately submitted to the Board of this question.–

2.– If Government take this, and my letter No. 1,835 dated 12th July 1873, published in the Proceedings of the Board No. 1,619 of the 21st August 1873 into consideration I do not think it can be said that I complained before ascertaining the facts of the case.–

3.– The Collector of Coimbatore in his letter recorded in the Board's Proceedings No. 1016 dated 16th June 1873 makes quite an erroneous report as to certain sales and transactions of Colonel Morgan's and proposes a set of Sale Rules of his own which he thinks applicable to his range without ever consulting me or Colonel Morgan on the subject and in apparent ignorance of the Circular

sanctioned

sanctioned in the Proceedings of Govt. No. 2,513 dated 4th September 1869.– In my letter No. 1,853 of the 2d August/73 recorded in the Board's Proceedings No. 1838 of the 15th September 1873. I point out to the Board how mistaken the Collector was in his statements, but the Board put the Collector's proposed Rules in force for the whole Presidency and declare the Government Circular on the subject superceded.– Colonel Morgan complains that the powers invested in him by Government have been taken away and that he has become little more than an Overseer under the Collector of his district, an Officer who has been and may be constantly changed. Collectors are constantly changing and few of them know much of the working of our Department. The Members of the Board too are constantly changing and under the present system Government will find that they cannot hold any one responsible if any thing goes wrong. I do not think that Government can wish that highly paid Forest Officers of Colonel Morgan's standing should have their work and responsibility taken

Repetition
of charges v. Br
Conservator in Lower
Burma: vide last Govt
in G.O. 15
March 73 No. 322

taken out of their hands by the Collectors, or that they should be interfered with to the extent of their Overseers being removed against their wish and other such like arrangements and I trust that Government will place more power in the hands of the head of the Department and his Deputies with reference to all Departmental arrangements leaving the Collectors supreme control with reference to communal rights and the working of our open tracts &ca. During my late tours I have had nothing but complaints from all our

Officers and Overseers upon the present working of the new system and I am bound to bring this to the notice of Government as I think the Officers are being placed in a false position and the Overseers have lost almost all chance of increase in pay or promotion.–

4. The orders which preclude my corresponding with our Officers have resulted in a most round about way of doing business, trebled and quadrupled correspondence, expenditure for stationery, postage &c., to illustrate this, I want the Forest Officer of the

Anamallays

Anamallays to collect certain seeds for transmission to the Mauritius Government, instead of writing at once to the Forest Officer and ordering him to collect the seed, and despatch them as soon as collected to the Assistant in charge of the Office at Madras to be forwarded at once to the Mauritius, I have to address the Collector of the District on the subject though I do not know whereabouts he may be, or what his address may be at the time, the Collector sooner or later refers my letter to the Forest Officer, and when the seeds have been collected that Officer forwards them to the Collector, after their receipt the Collector refers the matter to Government, and says that he has received the seeds but requests instruction as to whom he should forward them: upon this Government refer the Collector to the Inspector of Forests, and the Collector then addresses me on the subject, but I am travelling and he does not know where to address, and I do not get his letters for a long time, and during all this unnecessary delay

and

and complication the seeds have probably lost all their vitality or at least they have been given the best chance of so doing. I am not giving an imaginary case but quoting what has actually occurred.

5.– In G.O. dated 16th August 1873 No. 862, I am requested to submit reports on the Fuel Reserves in all districts. Nearly all of these Reserves have been selected by me and I have been constantly visiting them and until lately constantly in correspondence with the Forest Officers in

connection

So ! Major B
was blamed for
not reporting. Himself
the Board were
directed to submit
the quarterly reports
in future. See also
para 5
G.O. 13 Dec. 73 No. 1047

connection with their upkeep, working, Conservancy &ca and I have submitted reports to Government on them from time to time though many are as yet in their infancy. I have lately under this new organization had no means of knowing what was going on unless I actually visited a district. I never even see the monthly reports of the Forest Officers nor have I been able to correspond with them on this or any other subject but on receipt of this Government Order, I called upon

Collectors

Collectors to send me in quarterly reports, the Collector of South Arcot asks the Board if his report should be submitted to me or to the Board and the Board say that it should be submitted to them and Government concur Vide G.O. No 1312 dated 27th November last. These orders appear to me contradictory and it is impossible for me to know in what position I stand or how I am to act. Reports of this nature should surely be submitted by the Head of a Department.- The Board can know little or nothing of these tracts and the Collector may perhaps never visit them even if he had the chance, or he may probably have just arrived in the district and not even have had the chance of so doing.-

6.- In para 9 of their Proceedings No. 2,236 dated 3rd November last, the Board consider that I should be told to correspond freely with Collectors who are now in charge of forests and who they believe will gladly keep me informed and seek my advice as to forest matters. Collectors however have multitudinous duties and often have neither the time nor inclination to

to attend properly to forest matters and with some exceptions seldom go near the forests or like to incur the risk or rather the certainty of fever; they are besides constantly changing and after I have explained our working system and gone thoroughly into matters with the Collector in charge he perhaps suddenly leaves the district for good or on leave and is succeeded by some one with quite opposite views or with no views or knowledge whatever on the subject. I certainly think that there will be little chance of keeping ~~of~~ up any proper system or uniformity unless the Head of the Department can correspond with his Officers.

7.– Considering how constantly Collectors and even Members of the Board are changed, I would strongly recommend that the Head of the Department or the Inspector as he is called should be made a Forest Member of the Board or an Under Secretary to Government in the Forest Department or at any rate that he should have more power and responsibility than he at present holds, at present Government can scarcely hold any one responsible if anything goes wrong in a District and a newly appointed Collector might make the gravest errors in connection with plantations, sales, or such like matters, without the Inspector or even the Forest Officer knowing anything on the subject until it was too late.

8.– I believe that our present system was supposed to have been remodelled on the Bombay system, I have lately travelled through a portion of the North Canara district with the Conservator and one of his Deputies, and find that they are on a very different footing; they are to a certain extent under the Collector of the District but the Conservator corresponds with his Deputies and has the general control of the Department, their rules are concise and always acted up to, their concessions to Ryots and others having forest rights in the forest districts are liberal but not excessive and there are few or no attempts to encroach on these privileges- Regular registers are kept in each taluq shewing the amount of timber granted free to every individual and Ryots get unreserved timbers to a certain amount

free

free, and Reserved timbers to a certain amount (50 Candies in 10 years) at a considerably reduced seigniorage to what the general public are charged, but if they require timber in excess of these allotments they have to pay the full seigniorage, all timber obtained on free passes or at reduced seigniorage rates must be bona fide for the use of the ryot obtaining the permit and it can in no case be sold, in some parts timber is worked almost entirely departmentally and there Ryots obtain permits on the depôt at the reduced rate for seigniorage plus the actual cost of felling and delivery at Depôt, their Conservancy arrangements altogether are much in advance of ours and it was quite a treat to me to see a system thoroughly understood and strictly acted up to. I am forwarding a report on the subject to the Board of Revenue. North Canara is a district which is almost all forest and without a Railroad in or near it yet we find a strict Conservancy with Rules fully acted up to, I would refer Government to a letter from the Collector of North Arcot recorded in Proceedings of the Board No 1205 dated 5th July last to show what Conservancy is like in our oldest Railway district where all the woodlands have been disappearing as rapidly as a most improvident administration could possibly make them, this is not however the fault of my Department as I have for years been persistently putting it before the Board and Government most forcibly, in para 28 of my letter No 1779× dated 15th May last forwarded to the Board for transmission to Government I informed them that even all the Engine drivers were carrying on a Fuel trade between this district and Madras on their own account but this received no attention and this letter which also fully dilates upon the utter want of system or Conservancy at all worthy of the name in this district and is a report upon my tours in almost all the districts of the Presidency and

and points out the shortcomings in each range, has never even been published though I have since been on tour again throughout most of the some ranges.-

× This was not yet disposed by the Board

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servant.

R H Beddome Major
Inspecter of forests.-

Rev. 1873 Dept.
1873-74.

No. 4194

Forest Department.

From
The Inspr. of Forests

To,
The Asst. Under Secry. to Government, R.D.

Dated 20th } December 1873
Received 24th }
S.O. No. 313-26 February 1875
No. 1,964.

Enclosure No. 1.

Subject
Submits report with reference to G.O. No. 1255 of the 10th November 1873.-

J. 327
C 10 Feby/75. Rt. [illegible] Feby/75.
[illegible] Robinson on the 11th - R 13th - Rt 14th
C 17th Jany/74 R 9 March - Sent 8th

FOREST No. 17.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd March 1874, No. 462.

Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 26th December 1873, No. 1,976:—

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,553, dated 12th instant, I have the honour to inform you, that I have carefully considered the set of Forest Rules drawn up by Colonel Morgan and Mr. Douglas for the Coimbatore district; I have proposed a few trifling alterations in the margin, but with these exceptions, I approve of all the rules, and think that there can be no doubt about any of them except Rule 20.

2. In G. O., No. 1,357 of the 5th instant, Government have declared that villagers have no right beyond their village limits; I am afraid that such a rule strictly enforced might trench upon some rights. Ryots living at certain distances from forests will probably have no such rights, either they have never existed, or they have disappeared since many years in the face of extended cultivation, railways, etc., but there may be ryots living close to tracts of forests who have rights in such though they may not be actually in their village limits. Again firewood cut by cultivators might, I think, be offered for sale within village limits, though it should not be allowed to be exported to towns or regular markets. Most of our rules sanctioned by Government distinctly disallow timber free for building purposes and it is disallowed in this Rule 20; the Board, however, have generally upheld that ryots are allowed timber for building houses, and they have just circulated for general use some Rules drawn up in Madura where a very large allotment of building timber is to be given free. I would allow unreserved timber and bamboos free for building all huts and the inferior sort of houses erected in jungle villages; but for sawn timber for substantial houses of the better sort erected in large, well-to-do villages in the vicinity of the jungles I would propose a small tax, if of the unreserved class say one-fourth the rate charged to outsiders or timber merchants, this would be 4 Annas a bandy load; or this tax might be imposed by the house, say 2 or 3 Rupees on each house, a ryot could then take out a permit or license for *unreserved* sawn timber for building a house for which he could pay a fixed price.

3. The reserved timbers might also be given to all ryots erecting houses (not in regular towns) within ten miles of jungle at a much reduced seigniorage rate, say one-half of the ordinary rate.

4. This Rule 20 should, therefore, run somewhat as follows, and should, when sanctioned by the Board and Government, be put in force in the whole Presidency, as the want of a distinct understanding, and concise rules on these points has more than anything else tended to make conservancy a difficult matter and to puzzle our officers and the Revenue Authorities:—

Rule 20.—Ryots and others living quite away from forests and jungles (the limits will be laid down by the Collector and Conservator of the district) and having no such tracts within their village boundaries, have no claims whatever on the Government forests. *Bona fide* ryots living in the vicinity of the jungles or having such tracts within their boundaries, are allowed the privilege of cutting free of tax all such *unreserved wood and bamboos* as they may require for agricultural purposes (such as ploughs, sheds, fencing, etc.) or for the erection of huts and small houses in the fields or agricultural villages, and all *firewood* for domestic use or for sale within their village limits (but not for export to towns or regular markets for the purpose of trade).

The reserved and unreserved timbers will also be given to such ryots requiring sawn timber for the erection of substantial houses (not within regular towns) at reduced seigniorages (the rates will be fixed and published by the Collector and Conservator of the district).

Firewood or timber for ploughs, fencing, etc., worked up in the jungles cut under this rule, will not require a ticket or license, but parties exercising this privilege, must procure a general permit to that effect from the head man of their village (the Forest Department arranging about the form and issue of these) and be able to produce it when called upon by the Forest Department. All building timber so cut must be covered by a free pass, (arrangements for which will be made by the Collector and the Conservancy Department) and registers must be kept in each village or taluq showing the amount so granted, (the totals of these grants will be incorporated in a general Register kept by the Forest Department).

5. A concise rule on this subject is a thing very much required in this department, let the Board and Government re-model this proposed one as they may please (I have drawn it up on liberal principles and much in accordance with rules in force in the Bombay Presidency), but let it be fully understood by all our officers and by the Revenue authorities and have it circulated in all the villages.

6. I would also propose an extra rule to be added to this set:—

Rule.—Collectors or Conservators are allowed to grant timber at a greatly reduced seigniorage for the erection of Temples, or for houses destroyed by fires, or on special occasions to grant the same free.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Forest and Seigniorage Rules for Coimbatore District.

THE Board are of opinion that the Forest Conservancy Rules issued on the 22nd May 1866 which are now in force throughout the Presidency should remain unaltered pending a revision which is likely to take place soon.

2. Accordingly the only rules which the Collector of Coimbatore (or any other Collector) should issue at present are supplemental rules.

3. Of those submitted by the Collector of Coimbatore the following seem to answer this description, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, and they may be published after modification as shown below:—

Rule 1. In accordance with Major Beddome's advice Venteak and Manja Kadambai should be removed from this list. The amount of seigniorage to be levied on these timbers should be given in the supplemental rules. The Statement should be prepared by the Collector and forwarded to the Board through the Inspector of Forests.

Rule 2. Manja Kadambai, Venteak and Jack should be entered in this list.

Rule 3. The Tariff appended to the rules must be revised with reference to G. O. 31st October 1873, No. 1,225, and the charge for 1,000 lbs. of fuel must not be more than 6 Annas. The reason why different rates are to be charged in the Mettapolliem and Bolumputty ranges should be explained. The rate for unsplit bamboos in Bolumputty is given as 1 Anna but this is evidently a mistake for 1 Rupee.

Rule 18. The words "within one month" should be substituted for "at one time" which is a very indefinite phrase.

Note to Rule 20. The number of other implements besides ploughs allowed for each pair of bullocks, might be given as in the Madura rules circulated with Board's Proceedings, dated 21st October 1873, No. 2,151.

4. It must be remembered that forest prosecutions cannot be instituted without the consent of the Collector (G. O., dated 20th December 1873, No. 2,052, Judicial Department,) but this need not appear in the rules.

5. Major Beddome's remarks with regard to the rule about the right of *bona fide* cultivators to fell free of tax, which is one of the original rules will be noticed by the Board in disposing of his letter of the 29th December 1873, No. 1,987, part of which refers to the same subject.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.
,, the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

1874.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD MARCH 1874, No. 462.

Rev: 1388/74 Encl.

Pro: dd 15th A/74 No 328.

Received

MARCH.

Forest No. 17.

Forest Rules—proposed for Coimbatore District.—Some of — to be published, with certain modifications, as supplementary to Forest Conservancy Rules now in force throughout the Presidency.

34

Memorandum

2 original enclosures returned to Board. 8 ~~[illegible]~~ March 1875

The Undersigned requests that the Registrar Govt. Office, R. D., will be good enough to return the 2 Enclosures forwarded with Pro: 15th April 1874 No. 830, the same not having been returned with G. O. thereon dated 26th February 1875, No. 813.

Rev: Bd. Office
6th March 1875

C. Haughton
Registrar.

To
The Registrar, Govt. Office,
Revenue Deptt,
Fort St. George

FOREST No. 44.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th April 1874, No. 830.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March 1874, No. 462, (Forest No. 17).

Read also the following letters :—

From Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 26th December 1873, No. 1,977.

ADVERTING to the G. O., No. 1,357, of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I am very doubtful if we can lay down rules to disallow all rights beyond village limits; but I have fully discussed the question in my letter, No. 1,976, of this date.

2. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Board's remarks in their Proceedings recorded in the same Government Order, I wish to remark that Collectors, as a rule, do not seek my advice as to the Forest matters, or even keep me informed of important changes. My position is often quite ignored, and in many cases my letters are unanswered.

From the same Officer, dated Ootacamund, 29th December 1873, No. 1,987.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, with the sanction of Government, I lately passed from South Canara into North Canara and made a tour of the forests and plantations, depôts, etc., in that district, giving particular attention to the working of their system, regulations relative to communal rights, etc. I was accompanied throughout my tour by their Conservator and Deputy Conservator.

2. I forward herewith a copy of their rules relating to grants for Permits and Ryots' rights to timber, etc., in the forest districts, as I think that these may be of service to the Board in framing rules for this Presidency. I may mention that all these rules are thoroughly understood by the Forest Officers and subordinates, by the Revenue authorities, and by the population generally, and that they are all strictly acted up to and enforced—a thing which I should much like to see in this Presidency.

3. In all tracts distant from forests the ryots have no rights, but within the forest districts all *bonâ fide* cultivators are entitled to jungle timbers, fuel, bamboos, etc., free of seigniorage, for all agricultural purposes; but this does not include squared timber for the better class of houses, or planks for solid wheels of carts, wood for rice grinding-mills, or the rollers of sugar-mills, etc., and they are never allowed to trade with the wood, etc., so cut.

4. Ten of the best timbers are strictly reserved and are never granted to ryots except under special sanction and at special rates, but all other timbers are open to the ryots for building and such like purposes at considerably reduced rates to those charged to merchants and the public; these trees are divided into three classes, and the rates charged to ryots vary from one-fourth to half that charged to the public or to traders. No ryot, however, can trade in timber so cut nor can he have more than a certain quantity (fifty candies in ten years) at this reduced rate, and where forests are being worked departmentally he cannot cut

himself, but he receives a permit on the Forest Depôt for the timber he requires at the reduced seigniorage, *plus* the actual cost of felling and delivery. Registers are kept in each taluq showing the amount of timber every man receives under these rules year by year.

5. These rules are of course of late introduction, but I heard of no complaints.

6. Another good rule is that all permit felling has to take place between the 1st of November and the 31st of May: this restricts the operations to a certain time, checks smuggling, and enables the Forest Department to give up almost all their time at that period to going round and measuring the timber so cut.

7. Ryots living within the forest boundaries, but having no jungle within their own village limits, have adjacent tracts allotted to their villages.

8. Great reductions on the seigniorage are made when timber is cut for works of public utility, such as village schools, or such like buildings erected by private contributions, temples, and churches, or for the re-construction of houses destroyed by fire.

9. Our present re-organization was, I believe, supposed to have been modelled on the Bombay system, where the forests are also to a certain extent under the Collectors. I forward extracts from the Bombay G. O., No. 3,756, dated 6th August 1870, which fully explain the Bombay system, and shows how very different it is to ours. Our present system is working so badly and will, I am sure, result in such a failure if persisted in that I earnestly request the Board to give this subject their attention, and to endeavour to introduce into this Presidency a system more like that in force in Bombay.

10. In Trichinopoly the Collector has been changed six times within the last two years or so and is just about to be changed again, and in many other districts the changes have been frequent. Our present system is one that could never work well unless the Collector thoroughly knew his district, had a good knowledge of forestry, and was willing and able to go much into the forests. However willing a Collector may be to run the risk of fever by going into the forests (and the risk is great and will not be incurred by many), or even if he makes forests his hobby his duties now are so multitudinous that it is impossible he can give sufficient time to the work.

11. Government will also find that they can now hold no one responsible if anything goes wrong; with the constant changes amongst the Collectors it is impossible that they can be held responsible, and all responsibility is taken out of the hands of the head of the department, and he is often quite ignored even in his position as Inspector and adviser.

12. I find often that when I have fully explained the working of a range and all other matters connected with the forests to a Collector he suddenly quits that district and is succeeded, temporarily or more or less permanently, by some one else, who probably has quite different views; this is most disheartening, and all our officers complain of it very much. They receive often the most contradictory orders and hardly know how to act, and they one and all complain that they have now become little more than Overseers under men who have little or no knowledge of the work. Our Overseers too are all discontented, and have lost almost all chance of rise and promotion, and consequently nearly all zeal in their work.

13. If the present system is persisted in the department must cease to exist as a department and become a quite local affair in each district, and the Inspector should become a Forest Commissioner under the Board, or a Forest Member of the Board, or an Under Secretary to Government in Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Rules for the grant of Permits to cut Timber, Bamboos, etc., in Canara Collectorate.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Extract from Bombay Government Order, No. 3,756, dated 6th August 187

MEMORANDUM *read by the Conservator of Forests at a Meeting of the Board held on the 23rd January* 1874.

WHEN the Conservator of Forests first proposed that the department should be placed to a certain extent under the Collectors in each district he supposed that it would lead to a complete amalgamation of all forest interests under one establishment and one department. This has not taken place. The Jungle Conservancy is still kept distinct from the Imperial forests, and is managed separately in each district by the Collectors with their own establishments; hence the same jealousy and clashing are liable to take place, and the same confusion of different rules and seigniorage rates, and the same difficulty about prevention of smuggling and illicit felling. This amalgamation could have easily been effected without crediting the proceeds of village forests, etc., to Imperial Funds; the accounts could be kept quite distinct.

2. The Conservator had no idea that Government would take all control and responsibility out of his hands; he wished to see Collectors supreme in all matters relating to communal rights, village forests, disputes about land, criminal prosecutions, etc., but he did not anticipate that they would interfere in the management and working of our larger reserved forests, such as Mudumally and the Anamallays, or in plantation work, or such like things of a purely departmental character, or that the posting, exchange, promotion, etc., of the Overseers would be taken out of his hands, or that he would be prohibited from corresponding with his officers.

3. The present system will, it is feared, prove a great failure, and as it at present stands no two Collectors are acting alike; the Forest Officers and their subordinates are all dissatisfied and complaining, and the Inspector could hardly explain what his own duties really are. If anything goes wrong Government can hold no one responsible: all responsibility and control has been taken out of the hands of the head of the department, and as Collectors are most constantly changing it is impossible that they can be held responsible in any way. Every Collector just now is acting as he thinks proper, or according to his own hobby, and there is no uniformity of action. The Collectors' duties are so multitudinous that it can hardly be expected that they can go thoroughly into forest work. Few will attempt to do it, or have the time or inclination for it; but those who so do must go a great deal into the forests before they learn the nature of the work, or

know enough to control it or understand anything about it, etc., and this will most certainly result in fever, and it has already told severely upon some of the Collectors. Some Collectors are leaving everything to their Forest Officers, and not attempting any control or inspection; others are interfering most injudiciously. If Colonel Morgan and Mr. Douglas were called upon by the Board for a report about the late transfers of Overseers, and the results therefrom, it will be seen what great detriment has already arisen by Collectors' interference in matters upon which they really have no knowledge.

4. The re-organization has placed most of the officers on a better footing as regards pay and travelling allowances, but it has taken nearly all responsibility out of their hands, and placed a complete check upon departmental zeal.

5. It is impossible that either the Board or Collectors can undertake the training, posting, exchange, or promotion of Overseers, nor can they be expected to be cognizant of the requirements of the Timber and Railway Fuel trade, etc., throughout the Presidency; and if a Collector acts only upon the requirements of, or experience obtained in, his own district he may make grave errors.

6. The Inspector or head of the department should have the Account Department under his charge, and he should send in the annual report, and all periodical reports on reserves, plantations, and similar subjects: the Board cannot well undertake these.

7. The "Permanent Advance Fund" account recently introduced by the Board will eventually, it is feared, lead to great confusion and delay in the adjustment by bills of all outstanding advances, besides it is unsafe; an officer if so disposed can get through the whole year's allotment in a few months by simply forwarding abstracts to the Treasury Officer and then abscond with all the money. Under the old system of obtaining funds on "Letters of Credit" a certain amount only could be drawn for expenditure during each quarter and no more, the Letter of Credit being based upon actual requirements.

8. It is feared that many forest orders are now drafted in the offices of the Board and Government by parties who really cannot be expected to have much knowledge on the subject. It is a pity that the head of the department is not always fully consulted at first and his experience utilized, as much delay and inconvenience would often be obviated. To illustrate this I may mention two important subjects. In June 1869 (*vide* my letter recorded in G. O., No. 2,093, dated 19th July 1869) I informed Government that, though the railway might be charged one Rupee per 1,000 lbs. for their fuel, it would be too heavy a charge to put upon the public for ordinary fuel. After nearly five years, and after much correspondence and complaints from all quarters, Government have just come to the same conclusion (*vide* G. O., No. 1,225, dated 31st October 1873). In several paragraphs of my letter, dated 23rd December 1872, recorded in G. O., No. 328, dated 15th March 1873, the Board will perceive that I informed Government that the upper slopes of the Nilgiris must be worked under the Commissioner, and the lower slopes under the Collector of Coimbatore; this advice was not listened to, but now after a lapse of more than a year, and after much inconvenience and detriment to conservancy, and not a little ill-feeling between the different Revenue

Officers, etc., Government arrive at the same opinion—*Vide* G. O., No. 42, of the 12th January 1874.

9. The head of the department not being allowed to correspond with his officers has already caused very great delay and inconvenience in important matters, and can only result in a round-about and expensive way of carrying on business matters.

MADRAS,
23rd January 1874.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut.-Colonel,
Inspector of Forests.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut.-Colonel,
Inspector of Forests.

THESE papers relate to two subjects, *first* the organization of the Forest Department, and *second* the rights of ryots to fuel and timber and the regulations under which permits for exercising those rights should be issued.

2. *The Organization of the Forest Department.*—In his report on a tour through North Canara the Inspector of Forests submits an extract from an order of the Bombay Government, which explains the Bombay forest organization, and says:—"Our present system is working so badly, and will, I am sure, result in such a failure if persisted in, that I earnestly request the Board to give this subject their attention, and to endeavour to introduce into this Presidency a system more like that in force in Bombay." He urges that districts change hands so often, and Collectors have so much to do, that they cannot pay sufficient attention to, or secure uniformity in, forest management; that the Inspector is often "ignored even in his position as Inspector and Adviser;" that no one is responsible for failures; that all the Forest Officers are complaining of the contradictory orders they receive; and that the Overseers are disheartened, because they have lost their chance of regular promotion.

3. From the enclosures to this report it appears that, under the Bombay system, the Conservator (Inspector of Forests) issues all orders on the subject of forest management, passes bills, reviews periodical reports, controls patronage in the subordinate grades, keeps the accounts, and prepares the annual plans of operations, but all communications between him and the Forest Officers pass through the Collectors.

4. In a memorandum submitted to the Board in January, the Inspector reiterates the opinion that the Forest Reorganization, as it stands at present, must result in failure. He states that he is disappointed, because Jungle Conservancy and Forest Conservancy are not amalgamated, the accounts only being kept distinct, because Collectors manage the larger reserved forests and plantations and interfere in other departmental work, because the posting, exchange, promotion, etc., of Forest Overseers, is taken out of the Inspector's hand, and because the Inspector is not allowed to correspond direct with Forest Officers. He declares that the reorganization has taken all responsibility out of the hands of Forest Officers and placed a complete check on departmental zeal. He advises that the Inspector should have charge of the accounts, prepare the annual report, and submit all

periodical reports. He fears that the Permanent Advance System will facilitate defalcations and delay the adjustment of outstanding advances.

5. Most of the Inspector's strictures arise from his own want of power to accommodate himself to alterations determined on by Government. If Colonel Beddome has had little influence with Collectors, it is because he has not communicated with them so freely, or helped them so opportunely as he might have done. If contradictory orders have been common in important matters, the cause is the same. If Colonel Beddome has been kept in ignorance of things which he ought to know, it is because he has not asked Collectors or pointed out to the Board what information he wanted. It cannot be disputed that much of Colonel Beddome's experience and skill have been absolutely lost to Government since the new system was introduced, but he has never made a single suggestion as to reports which ought to be sent to him, or as to communications from him to Collectors which have not received sufficient attention, nor has he advised the Board as to any measures (consistent with the new system) which would give him greater influence.

6. After Captain Campbell Walker took charge of the Inspector's office, the Board were told, for the first time, that the monthly reports of Forest Officers, which show exactly what they are doing, have been sent to the Inspector in some cases irregularly, and in some not at all. Colonel Beddome ought to have informed the Board of this, and got orders issued on the subject, but he never did, and the ignorance of forest operations, which he complains of, was a necessary consequence, but it was his own fault. Directly the Board were made acquainted with this state of things, and the way in which it could be remedied, they issued their Standing Order XI. of 1874, and henceforward the Inspector will be kept informed of what is going on in every part of the Presidency, and will always be able to give advice and point out mistakes.

7. With regard to the Permanent Advance Fund, the Board do not agree with Colonel Beddome. They cannot see how it will delay the adjustment of advances, except in so far as sending the bills through Collectors to the Central Office takes longer. Forest Officers will have no greater opportunity for defalcations than Salt Officers have always had with no ill results. The only danger is that a Forest Officer might get through his whole year's allotment without spending much in a few months, and then abscond with the remainder. This assumes that the Forest Officer will be able to commit wholesale forgeries without detection, and that his demands, when irregularly great, will not attract the attention of the Treasury Officer. The Board do not anticipate any defalcations of this sort. The only danger to the finances is involved in the power which a Forest Officer unavoidably has of misappropriating the stock under his charge without immediate detection, as was done in Turnbull's case, and this can only be guarded against by stipends and pensions sufficient to attract trustworthy men, and by the vigilance of superiors. A report on the working of the Permanent Advance System by the Accountant-General is probably before Government now (G. O., dated 10th January 1873, No. 28).

8. The Board do not understand precisely what is meant by the Inspector with regard to the amalgamation of Jungle Conservancy with Forest Conservancy. If he means that Collectors should take advantage of the experience of Forest Officers in supervising Jungle Conservancy, this is already done, and from the nature of the case will be done more and more as time progresses and experience is gained. If he means that the establishments should be amalgamated, this is impossible so long as the Jungle Conservancy Fund is a special fund, and Government refuse to consider service under it as qualifying for pension.

9. Nor can the Board understand how Forest Officers have lost any part of the responsibility which attached to them under the old system.

10. There are, however, some points in which a change seems to the Board to be imperatively demanded.

(1.) The Inspector should control the appointment, etc., of Overseers. This subject is already before Government. ? The existing orders are prompted by the idea that Forest Overseers may become an integral part of the revenue establishment of the district, so that an Overseer may be made a clerk or a clerk an Overseer without regard to skill in forestry. This seems to the Board to be a mistake. If an Overseer is successful and trustworthy and has served a long time, there is great reason why he should be promoted so as to draw a higher salary in a more important range; but there is none, why he should be taken from the forests and sent to bury in a Cutcherry the peculiar skill which he has acquired by long experience in forests. There has been no instance, since the reorganization, of an Overseer being promoted into a better paid place in a Revenue Office, but there have been many in which great difficulties would have been obviated, if some one at the head of the department had been authorized to direct transfers from one district to another.

(2.) The Inspector ought to be allowed to correspond direct with Forest Officers on specified subjects, such as the collection of seed, the habits and qualities of particular sorts of trees, etc. The Inspector might be told to prepare a list for sanction. In addition to this, the Board think the Inspector should be allowed to write and receive demi-official communications, not being of the nature of orders.

(3.) All periodical reports should be submitted to the Board through the Inspector. Experience has shown them that they have neither the time nor the knowledge necessary to prepare useful abstracts or orders in such cases.

(4.) The Inspector ought to be in Madras when the Budget and the Annual Report are being prepared, so that the Board may consult him on important points which are familiar to him but not to them. For instance, if it is necessary to reduce the charges by a certain amount, the Inspector can say which ranges will suffer least by the stoppage of forest operations. If the annual report from a district officer omits any information of importance with regard to any peculiar forest difficulties existing in the district, he will be able to point out the omission. +

[illegible]

11. To do all this work the Inspector will, of course, need a stronger office establishment.

12. II. *The rights of ryots to fuel, etc.*—In the report already alluded to, the Inspector calls attention to the rules for granting permits to cut timber, etc., in the Canara Collectorate. The chief points in the rules which require notice are the following :—Villagers may cut fuel, timber for small houses, and wood for fences

and agricultural implements, etc., free of charge and without permits in jungles situated within their village limits, and if there are none so situated, *with permits* in assigned jungles beyond the village boundaries, but they cannot trade with firewood or timber thus cut, and they must pay for squared timber for houses of a superior description, wood for rice-grinding mills, etc., and get seigniorage permits before they cut. The amount of the timber for which officers of various grades may give permits is restricted. A register of applicants for permits is kept in each village, and no permit is granted until the register is examined, and it is found that the applicant has been a reasonable time without getting wood and really wants what he asks for. Permits are to run during a limited period only, and wood is not to be cut except between the 31st May and the 31st October. When wood is cut, it must be measured and stamped before it is removed. The whole or part of the permit fees is remitted when the wood is wanted for certain purposes of public utility, for purposes connected with temples, mosques, etc., and for building houses in specified cases. When valuable trees are cut down surreptitiously the village in which the depredators are known to be may be punished under Section 37 of Regulation XII. of 1827. (This Regulation is not in force in the Madras Presidency).

13. In his letter of the 26th December, No. 1,977, the Inspector says, with reference to G. O., dated 5th December 1873, No. 1,357, that he is very doubtful if rules can be laid down disallowing all rights of villagers in jungles beyond the village limits, and he gives reasons for this view in the letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March 1874, No. 462. He goes on to suggest a rule embodying all the rights of ryots to fuel and timber which have been admitted by Government from time to time, and this rule, if approved, should be substituted for No. 10 of the Forest Conservancy Rules now in force throughout the Presidency. He advises that another rule should be added to those now in force, allowing timber to be granted at a greatly reduced seigniorage for temples, houses destroyed by fire, and on special occasions.

14. The first point which it is necessary to notice is the decision of Government in G. O., dated 5th December 1873, No. 1,357, that ryots have no rights in jungles beyond their village limits. This decision took the Board by surprise, for they know of no evidence in existence on which it can be based. On the contrary, they know of numerous cases in which such rights have been and are being exercised. The practice of driving cattle to distant jungles for pasture is notorious, and the practice being of ancient date and never contested must be held to show that villagers have prescriptive rights in jungles scores of miles away from their village boundaries.

15. The next point is the expediency of allowing reduced seigniorage to be levied in certain cases as is allowed in Bombay, village registers being kept to show that the permission is not abused. The Board do not think that this is feasible. There is already difficulty enough in determining how the collection of the different rates charged on railway fuel and other fuel is to be managed. If any number of rates may be levied according to circumstances, the temptation placed in the way of village officers and forest subordinates will be too great, and the difficulties in the way of determining what is really due to Government will be insuperable. The Board think that if there is sufficient cause for reducing the seigniorage in any case it should be remitted altogether. The village registers, however, seem to the Board to be practicable and likely to be very useful in regulating free felling.

16. The third point is the possibility of limiting the cutting of wood to a particular time in the year. In the Bombay rules this limitation is in force with regard to wood cut on permit, seigniorage being paid, but not with regard to free felling. In this Presidency, if reduced seigniorage on wood cut for specified purposes is not allowed, free felling must be more extensive, and the question must be considered with regard to free felling as well as seigniorage permits. On the one hand it may be argued, that the restriction will infringe the rights of ryots and cause inconvenience to them. On the other hand it may be argued, that the rule will not be an infringement but a justifiable regulation of rights, that after the rule has become widely known and ryots have been taught to calculate the annual supply of fuel, etc,, which they will want, no great inconvenience will be caused, that the rule may be framed so as to allow cutting to take place during that part of the year when the forest establishment has least work, and that this is the only way in which cutting can be supervised efficiently so as to prevent ryots from exceeding their permits or damaging the forests. The Board are inclined to think that Collectors should be allowed to prescribe the time within which free permits as well as seigniorage permits may be used, but that this time should for the present at all events not be less than eight months.

17. The Board have already submitted, on more than one occasion, that a law giving Government the power to restrain forest rights should be passed. When this is done, the Forest Conservancy Rules* which are at present without any solid foundation, must be revised with reference to that law; but, in the meantime, Rule No. 10 should be altered, as proposed by Colonel Beddome, so as to recognize rights which undoubtedly exist, but are at present altogether ignored by the rules.

18. The new rule might be worded as follows:—

19. *Bona fide* cultivators may get free permits and cut free of seigniorage, from unreserved jungles within their village limits if there are any such, firewood required for domestic use or for manufacturing the produce of the cultivator's own lands, and *unreserved* trees and bamboos required for agricultural purposes, such as ploughs, sheds, fencing, etc., or for huts and small houses, but they must not sell such firewood or timber outside their village limits, and they must not cut timber for substantial houses without paying seigniorage and getting a seigniorage permit.

20. If there be not sufficient unreserved jungle within the limits of any village, the Collector may assign a tract outside the limits where felling on free permits will be allowed, and the villagers will not be suffered to cut anywhere else without paying seigniorage and getting a seigniorage permit.

21. The heads of villages are authorized to give free permits. They will keep a register showing the date of each permit, the man to whom it is granted, and the

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*Dated the 22nd May 1866.

amount of timber which it allows him to fell, and care will be taken that any limits which the Collector may impose, such as the maximum of fuel allowed to the head of a family for domestic use within a year, etc., are not exceeded.

22. Cut fuel or timber not covered by a permit (either a free permit or a seigniorage permit) will be liable to be seized and confiscated, if it is found in the jungle or in transit from it.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J Grose
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two original enclosures to be returned,
and Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March
1874, No. 462.

,, the Inspector of Forests.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

1874.

PROCEEDINGS, 13TH APRIL 1874, No. 830.

Encl. 3

Received 21 April

APRIL.

Forest No. 44.

Forest Department.—Papers from Inspector of Forests, containing remarks of that officer on recent reorganization of — and as to rights of ryots to fuel and timber, and regulations under which permits for exercising those rights should be issued, submitted to Government with remarks.

FOREST No. 103.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th July 1874, No. 1,826.

Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 1st June 1874, No. 128 :—

I HAVE the honor, with reference to paragraph 3 of G. O., No. 595, dated 13th ultimo, to report that Mr. Morgan has been directed to relieve Mr. Ross in the charge of the Mettapoliem, etc., Forest Range, and the latter officer to assume temporary charge of the Nilgiri Forests and Plantations, pending the result of the reference made by the Board, under date 19th May. (Proceedings Forest Miscellaneous No. 138-3,313.)

2. This arrangement has been made in accordance with G. O., No. 649, dated 28th May 1874; on receipt of which I issued the necessary instructions to Mr. Morgan, who proceeded to join on the 30th May, and communicated with the Collector of Coimbatore and Mr. Ross.

3. Regarding the latter portion of the paragraph under reference, it would, I think, be found preferable and save time if the order stood that "Forest Officers returning from furlough should report themselves at the Board's Office to the Inspector, or in his absence to the Forest Assistant." By this means, if I were at Madras or head-quarters, the necessary orders would be issued at once and reported to the Board; and, should it happen that I were on tour in some remote part of the Presidency, the Forest Assistant would invariably know my address, and the Board would be enabled to issue orders if emergently required, and communicate with me as deemed necessary.

4. I make this suggestion, as it appears very desirable that our officers should bear in mind that they have a departmental head, in whose office a record of their service, leave, etc., is kept, and who is responsible to the Board and Government for their proper performance of the duties entrusted to them, and for posting them to the districts where they will be of most service. I trust that the Board will concur in recommending this modification. A short Standing Order regulating the course to be adopted in forwarding and disposing of Forest Officers' applications for leave, transfers, etc., might be drawn up when I next visit Madras.

So long as existing orders are in force, the Board do not think Captain Walker's suggestions can be carried out.

2. The whole subject of the position of the Inspector of Forests is now before Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J Grose
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Inspector of Forests.
Copy to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

Exd. A. Grubert.

13 — 159-60
28 — 268-69

No. 2472.

Revenue 1874. Department

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH JULY 1874, No. 1,826.

Desp. 18 July 1874.

Encl.

Received 20 July/74.

JULY.

Forest No. 103.

Forest Officers.—Opinion expressed to Inspector of Forests that, so long as existing orders are in force, his suggestions with regard to disposal of applications of — for leave, transfers, etc., cannot be carried out. Whole subject of Inspector's position now before Government.

For orders in continuation of Bd. Pro: 13 April/74 No. 830 now in circulation

N: 329.

8/12/74.

Proof

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Minute by the Hon. J. D. SIM. C.S.I.

I QUITE concur with the Board of Revenue that Colonel Beddome's strictures on the late re-organisation are owing to his inability to adapt himself to the changes determined by Government after very careful consideration and the experience of a good many years. Any stranger reading Colonel Beddome's letter would imagine that the department had been previously extremely well administered, whereas there was, in fact, very little administration at all. He hurriedly visited the forest districts at long intervals, and intermediately the Assistants were under no real control. In two districts (Madura and Wynaad, serious frauds occurred without being detected by him, and everywhere it was patent that if a Deputy or Assistant Conservator were inclined to neglect his duty or even to defraud, the Conservator could neither prevent nor detect him. It was these considerations,—real not imaginary,—that led the Government to place the conservancy of districts under Collectors, giving each a trained Assistant, and placing the Conservator in the position of Inspector and adviser. If Colonel Beddome finds his position as such ignored, it is, as the Board remark, entirely his own fault. He was anxious that the department should be so remodelled that he should ~~maintain~~ all his patronage and power, while the responsibility should devolve on the Collector.

~~2.~~ His assertion that the Collector of Trichinopoly has been changed six times within the last two years or so is untrue; but the district has no forests, and if it had, a trained Assistant would be attached to it, who would not be similarly changed thrice a-year. In the present Acting Conservator, I believe we have an officer who will adapt himself to circumstances and perform the duties assigned to him.

2. ~~3.~~ I agree with the Board in paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of their Proceedings.

3. ~~4.~~ The question regarding Overseers is under consideration. We have informed the Board they are mistaken in supposing that Overseers should be men who might be made clerks and *vice versa*, "without regard to skill in forestry." How they could have made such a mistake is marvellous. I see no reason why the Inspector should be allowed to correspond on certain subjects with Assistant and Deputy-Conservators *direct*, that is, without reference to the Conservator. A man cannot serve two masters, and there is no reason assigned or assignable why the Inspector should not correspond with the Conservator who can easily get him all the information he requires. The Revenue Board do not correspond direct with even Sub-Collectors, nor the High Court with Sub-Magistrates; why should it be necessary for the Inspector to correspond direct with the Collector's Forest Assistant? It should be impressed most strongly on the Inspector that the Conservator is the person with whom he is in direct relation.

4. ~~5.~~ I see no objection to periodical reports reaching the Board through the Inspector; such an arrangement, though possibly entailing some delay, will be otherwise productive of good results.

5. ~~6.~~ The Inspector should certainly be in Madras when the ~~b~~ B udget and Annual Report are being prepared. This is the rule already I believe.

6. ~~7.~~ I would ask sanction for the extra Clerk and Peon required, or sanction it if we can. The Board speak of some impending re-organisation, but I am not aware of any.

7. ~~8.~~ With regard to rights of villagers beyond their own village limits, I differ from the Board. It is true that cattle are driven to distant jungles for pasture, but these jungles are not within real village limits; they are tracts of forest and woodland such as those on the hills, separating the Nellore and Cuddapah Districts; those on the western side of the Salem District, and the like, which do not appertain to any particular village.

8 ~~9.~~ I am averse to the proposal in paragraph 15 of the Board's Proceedings and also to that in paragraph 16, so far as village jungles are concerned; a ryot cannot and does not lay in a stock of fuel.

9 ~~10.~~ I have no objection to paragraph 19.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

Minute

I quite concur with the Board of Revenue that Col. Beddome's strictures on the late reorganization are owing to his inability to adapt himself to the changes determined by Government after very careful consideration and the experience of a good many years. Any stranger reading Col. Beddome's letter would imagine that the Department had been previously extremely well administered, whereas there was in fact very little administration at all. He hurriedly visited the Forest districts at long intervals, and intermediately the Assistants were under no real control. In two districts (Madura & Wynaad) serious frauds occurred without being detected by him, and everywhere it was patent that if a Deputy or Assistant Conservator were inclined to neglect his duty (or agree to defraud, the Conservator could neither prevent nor detect him. It was these considerations – real not imaginary – that led the Government to place the conservancy of districts under Collectors, giving each a trained Assistant, and placing the Conservator in the position of Inspector and Adviser. If Col: Beddome finds his position as such ignored, it is, as the Board remark, entirely his own fault. He was anxious that the Dept. should be so re-modelled that he should maintain all his patronage and power, while the responsibility should devolve on the Collector. His assertion that the Collector

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of Trichinopoly has been changed six times within the last 2 years or so is untrue; but the district has no forests, and if it had, a trained Assistant would be attached to it who would not be similarly changed thrice a year. In the present Acting Conservator, I believe we have an officer who will adapt himself to circumstances and perform the duties assigned to him.

I agree with the Board in paras 5-6-7-8 & 9 of their Proceedings.

The question regarding Overseers is under consideration; we have informed the Board they are mistaken in supposing that Overseers should be men who might be made clerks, and vice versa, "without regard to skill in forestry" – How they could have made such a mistake is marvellous.

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I see no objection to periodical reports reaching the Board through the Inspector; such an arrangement, though possibly entailing some delay, will be otherwise productive of good results.

The Inspector should certainly be in Madras when the Budget and Annual Report are being prepared. This is the rule already, I believe.

I would ask sanction for the extra clerk and peon required, or sanction it, if we can. The Board speak of some impending re-organization, but I am not aware of any.

already sanctioned

There is some correspondence going on between the Board and the Inspector on this subject.

With regard to rights of villagers beyond their own village limits, I differ from the Board. It is true that cattle are driven to distant jungles for pasture, but these jungles are not within real village limits; they are tracts of forest and wood land such as those on the hills separating the Nellore & Cuddapah districts; those on the Western side of the Salem District, and the like.

I am averse to the proposal in para 15 of the Boards' Proceedings and also to that in para 16, so far as village jungles are concerned; a ryot cannot and does not lay in a stock of fuel.

I have no objection to para 19.

J. D. Sim.

Minute by the Hon. Mr. Gov.
on matters relating to the
Forest Department 1880

Minute

G.O. 26 February/75
No. 313

Print

f. 330

R. D. 1336

N.B.

vide Corresp: between 1807 & 1822 of Malabar & Canara passim — It is sad to see the experience & wisdom of the best of Madras's best men Mackey, Munro &c never even alluded to now

It is unnecessary to follow Col. Beddome through his sketch of Forest administration in North Canara. The spirit of that administration in ~~of them~~ has always been grasping and adverse to the people's interests – if not subversive of their rights. It is wholly unsuited to this Presidency. We have had experience of Bombay Conservancy in Canara between 1807 and 1823 when it was done away with in consequence of its oppressive & unjust character by Sir Thomas Munro. In North Canara the condition of property had differed from that of South Canara and our Presidency (with its village communal rights) — in fact — the great Forest Districts were escheated before the British Government entered on the rule of Canara and the Forests had then become the property of the State. What may be right in North Canara is wrong in this Presidency.

I should not commit myself specifically on the matter of the late reorganization of the Forest Department. As a matter of administration it has some advantages, but I believe that it is fraught with great danger to the rights of the people, who indeed are feeling that a Collector's little finger is thicker than a Conservator's loins. — Collectors are under little or no control and have no law to guide them.

As regards the Executive Department, I think much confusion exists. No Executive can be properly managed, which is for all practical purposes without a head. This highly paid *Inspector* cannot inspect all Forests himself & he is simply an alien in the Department. He has not a single subordinate at his disposal & is kept as much as possible from seeing or Communicating with the persons enrolled on his Establishment. His inspection is naturally viewed with jealousy. As an adviser – no one seeks his advice or at all Events is obliged to do so and I cannot see whence he is to obtain such information as would enable him to give useful advice, if his subordinates are practically removed from Communication with him. Captn C. Walker may try to do more in his hands than Col: Beddome did, but I do not look for heartiness or success. However it may be well to let the present status be until we consider the Forest Law.

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Minute

Print

I agree with the whole of the Boards recommendations in Para 10. It will be observed that they are in accordance with the views of Dr. Brandis as shewn in his Memo. on the Conference at Allahabad.

I Entirely agree with the Boards in regard to G. O. of 5 December 1873 No. 1357. The doctrine laid down in that G. O. is at variance with the actual conditions of half the village ~~[illegible]~~ Communities in the Country and I think that it is Exceedingly dangerous for ~~the~~ Government (to Enunciate a doctrine of this kind without Evidence of its justice & in anticipation of

& assume quasi legislative or judicial functions and of Legislation, which can alone settle points of right, usage &c. of this character. I would modify the G. O. as suggested.

I agree with the Board as to the matters alluded to in Para 15. But I would not increase the vexatious institutions now existing as proposed in Para 16.

I would sanction the proposed rule Para 19

29/7 W Robinson

But I entirely disagree with the last clause of the Para. The right & free timber is not contingent on style of dwelling that a villager may be able to construct. It is a right that appertains to him as a member of the community without restriction & is a right that in the interest of public policy & sanitary interest we shd encourage & promote by any means in our power. We do not withdraw the right of free grama nattam (village site) because a man is able to improve his dwelling. Why shd we withdraw other gratuitous & indefeasible rights. I can conceive no policy more at variance with sound administration & the progress of the condition of the people & I trust that the decision of Govt shd be *

* firmly & strongly enunciated on a point of such vital importance

qually

Remarks by Hon: Mr Robinson
on No 1388 d/ 29 July 1874

Recd.
G.O. 26 February/75
No 313

Print

2

No 331

Proof corrected

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I CONSIDER that this draft does not go far enough in this respect. I would adopt Nos. 2, 4, and 5* of the Bombay Organisation Rules. All that is done in this draft of any importance in that direction is to allow the Inspector to *correspond* with forest officers on "*specified* subjects, such as collection of seed, etc." This is but little.

2. The anomalous and unsatisfactory character of our present organisation has attracted the serious attention of the India Office, and especially of the Secretary of State; and I am sure that they will not be more satisfied than with the extent to which this draft applies a remedy.

Same

3. ~~[illegible] to this and to [illegible] other Note [illegible] ready to pass the draft. If it is passed [illegible] as I have suggested, I should wish to record a Minute of [illegible]~~

[redacted]

31st October 1874.

3rd Octr. 1874.

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* See printed paper "1870," "Re-organisation" of Forest Department, (Bombay).

G.O. 26th February/75
No. 313

original wanting

No 333

No 1338

Proof corrected

Minute by His Excellency the Governor.

The administration of "Forest Conservancy" in this Presidency, under the new organisation, has always appeared to me to be singularly anomalous, inconsistent, and indefeasible. We have a trained establishment of Forest Officers, headed by an Inspector of great scientific acquirement; and the result of the new organisation seems to be that, for almost all practical purposes, the business of forest conservancy has been taken out of the hands of the Inspector and his establishment and given to Collectors, who have neither the time nor the knowledge required to conduct it. There was no doubt much to be said respecting the inefficiency of the old system, and the expediency of giving more control to the Collector; but to train and pay a "Forest Department," which is in no way responsible for forest management, and may or may not be "consulted" by Collectors, who (like other people) are fond of authority and apt to confide in their own opinions, however uninstructed, seems to be a course altogether unsupported by reason. It ~~seems~~ appears, indeed, that the Inspector not only may, but does, "explain his views" occasionally to Collectors, but that in the face of constantly changing appointments the explanation is useless; and, indeed, I should not in any case be inclined to put much faith in its efficacy.

2. Bombay, for reasons no doubt not dissimilar to those referred to by the Hon. Mr. Sim, as those which prompted our re-organisation, lately re-organised its Forest Administration, and seems to have made the best, in practice, of the not very logical though ~~probably~~ no doubt necessary change. Captain C. Walker assures me that the Bombay system, notwithstanding some theoretical confusion of authority, works well. It appears, moreover, in itself to be reasonable; and I think that our own system of organisation may be modified with advantage so as to adopt *mutatis mutandis* the general arrangements which have been made in Bombay. I would, with this view, send the Rules prescribed by the Bombay Government Order, No. 375, of 6th August 1870, to the Board of Revenue on the one hand, and to Captain C. Walker on the other, for their opinion on the proposal to apply these rules to the Forest Administration of this Presidency.

3. I agree with the Board as regards paragraph 10 of their Proceedings. As regards paragraph 14 I have no recollection of the order of 5th December 1873, to which the Board refer. If I passed it, I did so inadvertently. I do not agree in the sweeping assertion which it makes; and I regret that it should have been issued.

4. I do not agree with the Board as regards paragraph 16, and would impose no such limitations on the felling of timber. Nor would I (as regards paragraph 17) make any such changes in the rules as to place any further restriction on the privileges of the ryots.

1st August 1874.

(Signed) HOBART.

The administration of Forest Conservancy in this Residency, under the new organisation, has always appeared to me to be singularly anomalous, inconsistent, and indefensible. We have a trained establishment of Forest Officers, headed by an Inspector of great scientific acquirements; and the result ~~seems~~ of the new organisation seems to be that, for almost all practical purposes, the business of Forest Conservancy has been taken out of the hands of the Inspector and his Establishment, and given to Collectors, who have neither the time nor the knowledge required to conduct it. There was no doubt ~~very [illegible]~~ much to be said respecting the inefficiency of the old system, and the ~~of~~ expediency of giving more control to the Collector: but to train

& pay a 'Forest Department' which is in no way responsible for Forest management, and ~~in~~ may ~~[illegible]~~ or may not be 'consulted' by Collectors, who (like other people ~~[illegible]~~) are fond of authority and apt to confide in their own opinions, however uninstructed ~~[illegible]~~ — seems to be a course altogether unsupported by reason. It seems indeed that the Inspector not only may, but does "explain his views" ~~a~~ "occasionally to Collectors:—

~~but~~ in the face of constantly changing ~~[illegible]~~
appointments the explanation is useless:
and indeed I should not in any case
be inclined to put much faith in its efficacy.

Bombay, for reasons no doubt
not dissimilar to those reported
by ~~[illegible]~~ Col Sim; ~~its~~ as ~~[illegible]~~ upon which
prompted our reorganisation, lately reorganised
its ~~own~~ Forest administration: and
seems to have ~~[illegible]~~ made the best,
in practice, of the not very logical
though ~~[illegible]~~ probably necessary change.
Capt C. Walker ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~

assures me that the Bombay
system, notwithstanding some
theoretical confusion of authority,
works well. It appears necessary
in itself to be reasonable: and
I think that ~~the~~ our own system of
in time ~~may~~ be modified with advantage
so as to adopt "in toto" certain of
the general arrangements which have
been used in Bombay. I would
~~accord~~ with this view send the
Rules prescribed by the Bombay
Govt Order No 375 of 6 Aug 70 &

to the Board of Revd. on the one hand and to Capt. C. Walker on the other, for their opinion on the proposal to apply these rules to the Forest ~~[illegible]~~ ~~Dep~~ administration of this Presidency.

I agree with the Board as regards para 10 of their Rep. As regards para 14 — I have no recollection of the Order of 5 Dec/73 to which the Board refer. If I passed it, I did so inadvertently: I do not agree in the necessary exception which it makes; and I regret that it shd have been issued.

I do not agree with the Board as regards Para 16: and would ~~place~~ impose no such limitations ~~[illegible]~~ on the felling of timber. Nor would I ~~make~~ (as regards para 17) make any such changes in the rules as to place any further restriction on the privileges of the Ryots.

Hobart

1/8/74

Forest Dept

Minute
of Aug/74

G.O. 26 February/75
No 313

No 332

Have examined the Bombay System & [illegible] noting that this gradual relaxation — I prefer that the relaxation should be gradual & adapted to the need is shown — is quite dependent of present wants & existing conditions ×

Hobh

I consider that this Dept does not go far enough in this respect. The ~~Dept~~ Dept No. 2 4 & 5× of the Bombay organization Rules. ^ All that ~~we~~ [illegible] is done — that draft of any importance in that direction is to allow the Inspector to correspond with Forest Officers on "specified subjects, such as collection of seed &c." This is but little — The anomalous ~~character of the present~~ ~~and~~ ~~[illegible]~~ unsatisfactory character of our present organization has attracted the serious attention of the higher Officers: and I am sure that ~~the~~ all will be more satisfied than ~~[illegible]~~ we

× See Printed paper 1870 "Reorganization of Forest Dept (Bombay)"

and especially ~~[illegible]~~ of the Sec. of State with the extent to which this Dft applies a remedy.

Subject to these, & by the [illegible] and I am ready to pass the Draft. If it is passed, unaltered as I have suggested - I shd. wish to record a Minute of protest.

[illegible] 31/10

With regard to the adoption of the Board's rules I think that the Dft. goes far enough. It is not adopted & the 2d rule stands as an administrative direction but it is a measure contravenes the system which we have adopted the two others absolutely alter it in spirit & letter - I wd therefore be content with the Dft. at all events at present & as a tentative measure which we can extend at some future time in case it is found not to work harmoniously.

W. H. [illegible] 4/11

c 29/10/74
2/11/74
~~28/10/74~~

Print

Bounty Rules

No.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the October 1874

Read the following
Pro: of the Bd. of Rev:

Subj. application of Mr. E. Dampier Overseer of Kurnool Divn. for promotion with remarks regarding regulation of appts. & promotions in Forest Dept.	H.E. 29th April 1873 No. 070
Subj. remarks of Inspr. of Forests on present reorganization of Forest Dept. and as to rights of ryots to fuel & timber &c.	H.E. 13th April 1874 No. 830
Minute by the Hon. Mr. Sim	H.E.
" — " Hon. Mr. Robinson	" 29th July 1874
" — " H.E. the Governor	" 1st Augt. 1874

Before passing this Draft I wish to know how far the changes here proposed to be made (as regards the relations of the Forest Dept. to Collectors and its general boundary) agree with the Bombay system. The changes appear

[illegible] 25/10

See 22nd [illegible]

In the second Proceedings recorded above the Board review communications from Lieut. Colonel Beddome in which he comments upon (1) the present organization of the Forest Department (2) the rights of ryots to fuel and timber and (3) the rules that should regulate those rights.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs generally in the remarks recorded in paragraphs 5 to 9 of these Proceedings. The time has not come for any organic changes in the system now in force which has not had a sufficient trial, nor does it follow that arrangements which may be suitable in North Canara are adapted to the circumstances of this Presidency. [The Board also point out what has not escaped the perception of Govt. viz: that most of the "Inspector's strictures arise "from his own want of "power to accomodate him"self to alterations determined on by Govt."]

3. No report upon the

It was the concurrent
cap decided than the
case requires.
I cannot find among
the papers the "Rules
"prescribed ~~for~~ the
"Bombay Govt. Order
"No. 775 of 6 Aug /70"
referred to in my
Minute ✗
26/10

This is unnecessary
and I think unfair.
It is undeniable that ~~forest~~
~~[illegible]~~ did make remarks of this kind
upon [illegible] officers, ~~[illegible]~~
who are conscientiously
doing their duty to the
best of their ability, under
for [illegible] reasons
26/10

I quite agree
with H.E.'s remarks

+ The Bombay mode of dealing
with Forests rights is
probably such as we could
not profitably adopt here.
But from a conversation
which I had with Capt.
Walker I judge that the
present organization of
the Department there
is much to recommend
it, as compared with
our own.
26/10

the working of the Permanent Advance Fund has been received from the Accountant General whose attention will now be drawn to G.O. 10th Jany 1873 No. 28. It shd. be expedited

4. With reference to the first paper recorded above and to paragraph 10 of the ~~its~~ Proceedings the Governor in Council agrees with the Board that some modifications of existing orders in respect to the Inspector's duties are necessary.

5. The Board consider that the promotion of Overseers and appointments ~~and the of~~ postings of officers of a like nature ~~should~~ ~~of Inspection districts~~ be regulated by the Inspector. His Excellency in Council is accordingly willing to modify para 2 of G.O. 15th March 1873 No. 322 so far

as to direct that all foresters shall be borne on one general list and that promotions shall be made, as a rule, from class to class by the Board of Revenue on the recommendation of the Inspector. The first appointments to the lowest grades will rest with the Conservators [who will invariably consult the Inspector] Conservators will be at liberty to bring forward the claims to promotion of those already employed under their own orders whenever they see fit to do so but as they cannot be equally cognizant of the claims and qualifications of those employed in other Districts it is necessary that the ultimate selection should vest in the Board

It is also absolutely
necessary that the Inspector
should be mainly responsible
for the posting of
Forest Officers better
is said about there
here. 26/10

Is this necessary?
If so, I would say
should however consult the Inspector – the
preference should
principally be given
to natives of the
District. But
I'd rather omit –
the Collr. appoints
much higher important officers of
his own authority
and I see no
reason why the
patronage should
be thrown into
the hands of the Inspector while the
responsibility rests
with the Collr. In
the other Depts. is
this allowed & I
would not allow it
here. X

Think that the Dy. & Do. [illegible] is proposed addition [illegible] the Collr. appoints & high Revenue charges [illegible] his Special knowledge

1st Class	100 Rs.	–	7
2nd	80	–	5
3rd	60	–	13
4	50	–	3
5	30	–	1
			29

X Words
"who should however
consult the Inspector"
This does not take
away the patronage
from the Collector.
26/10

See no advantage in the Collector's retaining the patronage whose personal patronage is ~~not~~

Board ~~guided~~ aided by the advice of the Inspector.

6. The subordinate establishment of Foresters evidently requires to be re-modelled in such a way as to hold out reasonable prospect of promotion to deserving men. At present it appears to consist of 29 Foresters graded as shown in the margin. The Board of Revenue should in consultation with the Inspector revise the establishment carefully on the usual principle of so apportioning the higher to the lower grades as to afford promotion.

7. All first appointments should be on probation for a year – and a certain amount of knowledge of Forestry and of

the rules &c. of the Dept should be prescribed to ensure fitness before confirmation.

8. Promotion from one class to another need will not entail removal from a District. In the case of a few very important charges, if such there be, a special allowance might be attached to the charge.

9. It is unnecessary to do more than allude to the statement that under existing rules Forest Subordinates may be clerks one day and Foresters the next, as the intention of Govt is explained in paragraph 9 G.R. 1st April 1874 No 420.

10. The recommendations in clauses (2) (3) & (4) of paragraph 10 Boards Proceedings 13th April No 830 are approved. The last is a pure matter of arrangement within the Boards' authority.

11. The Inspectors' Office has recently been strengthened. If further aid should prove necessary the Board will report.

12. The rights of ryots to fuel and timber with reference to certain suggestions of the Inspector are discussed in the 12th and following paras of the Boards' second Proceedings d/13 April 1874 No 830. As the general question is under consideration with reference to other Proceedings dated 7th Sept. 1874 No 2520 the Governor in Council will only remark here that

in other professional laws it is more essentially required than administrative supervision of the Collr. would be more severe I would put

which ought never to have been so mis-understood

+ not ~~par~~ clause 2 - ~~as~~ he cannot have an imperium in imperio - why can't he write to the Collr?

(2) I think the D.F.O. should stand it seems to me utterly unreasonable to cut off the working head of a dept from his subordinates - this is the practice in Bombay.

on reconsideration
that he concurs with the Board in the view which they have taken in para 14 in regard to G.O. 5th December 1873 No. 1357. He is averse to the adoption of the system discussed in para 15, the proposed register excepted, and cannot consent to the further restriction suggested in para 16.

13. The revision adverted to in para 17 must ultimately take place. In the meantime the Rule proposed in para 19–22 (as marginally modified) may take the place of No. 10 of those printed in G.O. 20th May 1863 and sanctioned in G.O. 22nd June 1863 No. 1099. It must be worked so as not to interfere with prescriptive rights.

EW

No. 334

X Para 13, I omitted [by inadvertence] to notice this para when the paper was first sent to me. In my minute I have stated that para 17 ~~[illegible]~~ principle ~~[illegible]~~ be acted upon, if it is done with due regard to prescriptive rights. But on reconsideration I do not think that this is suitable, or that any such restriction is required ~~at all~~ ~~[illegible]~~ to be made. I am altogether opposed to any further restrictions upon the Ryots in this respect, ~~and~~ I would not commit the Board to a Forest Law, or its consequences.

I have altered my minute accordingly.

WR
30/10

If this suggestion is not adopted I would con- -sent this point not [illegible] a minute – Support the [illegible]

EW

Not as ground for restricting the village right to cut timber for substantial houses (stone construction or other permanent) – a right as well established as the right to wood for unsubstantial houses – we do not – or shall draw a [illegible] villagers right to grant [illegible] [illegible] -lar site (free) to cause [illegible] his dwelling – The restriction is opposed both to right & public policy – I would instruct the Board expressly & distinctly

W Robinson
28/10

Proof

Govt 61

MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

WITH regard to the adoption of the Bombay Rules, I think that the draft goes far enough. I would not object to the 2nd Rule also as an administrative direction, but it, in a measure, contravenes the system which we have adopted. The two other Bombay Rules absolutely alter it in spirit and letter. I would, therefore, be content with the draft at all events at present, and as a tentative measure, which we can extend at some future time in case it is found not to work harmoniously.

4th November 1874. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

Original sent to Govt

Proof

Minute by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(a) The system recently adopted in this Presidency by which the Collector is constituted Conservator of Forests within his own district appears to me to place in the hands of an untrained man, duties for the efficient performance of which, the highest practical training is absolutely necessary. I therefore concur with His Excellency the President in his proposal to adopt Nos. 2, 4, and 5 of the Bombay Organisation Rules, which confer on the Inspector of Forests control over the more important operations of forestry.

2. With regard to paragraph 19 of the Board's Proceedings, I concur with the Hon. J. D. Sim, and would adopt its provisions, limiting the grant of free permits to *bonâ fide* cultivators as set forth.

3. The ryot, as a rule, does not construct a substantial house, and any desire to do so would tend to show that he is a man of substance capable of paying seigniorage, and thus contributing to the revenues of the country. The same may be said of wood suitable to the construction of oil-mills, etc. Conformity to the Board's proposals in this respect would infringe no prescriptive rights as far as I am aware, and would be protective of forest revenue, which seems to me to be in considerable danger.

(Signed) FRED. P. HAINES.

21st November 1874.

The system recently adopted in this Presidency by which the Collector is constituted Conservator of Forests within his own District appears to me to place in the hands of an untrained man, duties for the efficient performance of which the highest practical training is absolutely necessary. I therefore concur with His Excellency the President in his proposal to adopt No. 2. 4 & 5 of the Bombay organization rules which confer on the Inspector of Forests ~~the~~ the more important control over the operations of Forestry.

With regard to Para 19 of the Boards Proceedings I concur with the Hon'ble J. D. Sim and would adopt its provisions limiting the grant of free permits to bona fide

Cultivators as set forth.

The Ryot as a rule does not construct a substantial house and any desire to do so would tend to show that he is a man of substance capable of paying seignorage and thus contributing to the revenues of the country. The same may be said of wood suitable to the construction of oil mills &c. Conformity to the Boards proposals in this respect would infringe no prescriptive rights, as far as I am aware, and would be protective of Forest revenue which seems to me to be in considerable danger.

Matt. Davies

Madras
21-11-74

Minute by H. E. the Commander-in-Chief

d/ 21 Nov 1874

G.O. 26th February/75
No 313

No 335

Proof

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

As His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief concurs with His Lordship in considering it advisable that Rules 2, 4, and 5 of the Bombay Forest Code should be adopted here, orders must be issued accordingly.

2. I dissent, because these Rules are, in my judgment, opposed to the fundamental principle of our system of forest administration, subversive of all discipline in the department, and destructive of all real control and responsibility.

3. A reference to G. O., 24th January 1872, and especially to the Minutes of the Members of the then Government, will show that the re-organisation of the department on its present footing owed its origin to the comparative failure of the pre-existing system. The Government duly considered the system in force in the other Presidencies, and devised the scheme which they considered best suited to this Presidency, which was that of making each Collector the Conservator of his district, and giving him the services of a trained Assistant as his executive officer in this special department. They had, in fact, no option but to adopt this arrangement, or to add very greatly to the strength and cost of the special establishment. Experience had shown that the Conservator-General could not, and did not, exercise any real control over his departmental officers who were left for long intervals in practically independent charge of their ranges. A glance at the map will show the impossibility of a single officer doing what was expected of the Conservator, and is absolutely necessary for efficient administration. Captain Campbell Walker has been very very active in his inspections during the past year; but he has only been able to visit the southern districts, and it is abundantly clear that, except in a hurried and comparatively useless way, each district cannot be inspected more than once in eighteen months or so. Considering the character of the work and the agency available, an annual effective inspection is essential. If, then, the Government had adhered to the plan of a special department, they must have applied for an additional Conservator, and probably also several Deputies in charge of circles. The expense would have been very great, and would have swallowed all the profits of the department.

4. The Government, as the papers to which I have referred will show, considered that better results would be obtained at much less expense by placing forestry under Collectors as a branch of the Land-revenue Department, and the present system was introduced with the concurrence of the Conservator and Board of Revenue. Under it, as I have said, the Collector is the Conservator, and the trained Assistant is of necessity his subordinate; while the special officer is the Inspector of Forests, "his functions mainly consisting of inspection and advice". The new system has only been in operation for some eighteen months, and practically has worked, and is working, well. Collectors are taking more and more interest in the work, and the department is under constant local supervision and control. The Inspector in his visits sees what is doing, and advises the Collector who must either adopt the advice or refer the matter to higher authority. The result of each tour of inspection is specially reported to Government, who issue such orders as they deem necessary. We have thus com~~prised~~ professional advice and inspection with local control and responsibility; the Inspector-General sees, advises, and reports all which duties he can efficiently perform, but is relieved from executive duties which he cannot perform, and freed from a responsibility which can only be nominal.

bined

5. If, however, the Bombay Rules be adopted, this sound distribution of duties and responsibilities will be at an end. By Rule 2, "all orders of a professional character relating, for example, to felling, planting, and other operations, will emanate from the Conservator (here Inspector), but are to reach the district officer (*i.e.*, Deputy-Conservator), through the Collector," who may object if he sees cause. Thus all executive work passes back to the Inspector, and the Collector becomes again a powerless, irresponsible intermediary. The local Deputy—now his subordinate—becomes independent of him; for by Rule 4 "the Collector is not to issue orders to the district officer affecting forest management direct". Rule 5 declares the Conservator (here the Inspector) "the controlling authority in all matters of patronage" * * * and "departmental discipline." Rule 2 declares him "specially responsible for the economical working of the department". Thus in all administrative and financial matters, the Collector and Board of

Revenue will be set aside, and the present system abrogated. At this present moment, under the proposed Rules, no one ~~is~~ responsible; for Captain Campbell Walker, the Inspector, is out of the Presidency; he will be absent again in September next, attending the Forest Conference at Simla. Even when present, it seems to me simply impossible for him to do what will now devolve on him. Collectors must, of course, be absolved from all responsibility, for they can issue no orders, and have no one to obey their instructions, ~~Discipline is, of course, at an end;~~ and, in reality, the Deputy-Conservator ~~is supreme.~~ It is quite a mistake to suppose that the Inspector is now powerless; his inspections show what has been and is being done; and his "advice" must be followed or submitted for the final decision of the Government. ?

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

would be

will be supreme & practically uncontrolled.

GO 26 February /75

No 313

As His Ex: the Comr in Chief
concurs with his Lordship
in considering it advisable
that Rules 2. 4 & 5 of the
Bombay Forest Code should
be adopted here, orders must
be issued accordingly –

I dissent because
these rules are, in my judgment,
opposed to the fundamental
principles of our ~~Bom~~ system

No 336.

No 1338 – Forests

of Forest Administration, subversive of all Discipline in the Dept., and destructive of all real control & responsibility.

A reference to G.O. 24th Jan/y 1872 – and especially to the minutes of the Members of the then Govt. – will show that the re-organisation of the Dept. on its present footing owed its origin to the comparative failure of the pre-existing system. The Govt. duly considered the systems in force in the other Presidencies – ~~[illegible]~~ and devised the scheme which they considered best suited to this Presidency – which was that of making each Collector Conservator of his District & giving him the ~~[illegible]~~ services of a trained Asst. – as his Executive Officer in this Special Dept. – They had in fact no option – but to adopt this arrangement – or to add very heavily to the strength & cost of the Special Establishment — Experience had shown that the Conservator-Genl. could not & did not exercise any real Control over ~~the~~ his Departmental Officers who were left for long intervals in practically independent charge of their Ranges. A glance at the Map will show the impossibility of a single Officer doing what was expected of the ~~the~~ Conservator — and ~~it~~ is absolutely necessary for Efficient administra-

tion. Capt Campbell Walker has been very active in his Inspections during the past year but he has ~~not~~ only been able to visit the ~~Northern~~ Southern Districts. ~~[illegible]~~ and it is abundantly clear that except in a hurried & comparatively useless way, each District cannot be inspected more than once in 18 months or so. Considering the character of the work and the Agency available, an annual, elaborate inspection is essential. If the Govt. had adhered to the plan of a Special Dept. they must ere this have applied for an additional Conservator and probably also several Deputies in charge of Circles – the expense would have been very great – and would have swallowed all the profits of the Dept.

The Govt. – as the papers to which I have referred will show – considered that better results would be obtained at much less expense by placing Forestry under Collrs. as a branch of ~~Rev~~ the Land Revd. Dept. & the present system was introduced with the concurrence of the Conservator & Bd. of Revd. – Under it, as I have said – the Collr. is the Conservator & the Trained Assistant is of necessity his subordinate while the ~~Sup~~ Special Officer is the Inspector of Forests. "his functions mainly consisting of inspection & advice." The new system has only been in operation for some 18 months — and practically has worked & is working well. Collrs. are taking more & more interest in the work and the Dept. is under constant local supervision & control. The Inspector in his visits, sees what is doing — and advises the Collr. who must

either

either adopt the advice or refer the matter to higher authority. The result of each tour of Inspection is specially reported to Govt. who issue such orders as they deem necessary — We have thus combined professional advice & inspection with local control & responsibility — the Inspector Supt. sees — advises — and reports all which duties he can efficiently perform — but is relieved from executive duties which he cannot perform and freed from a responsibility which ~~could~~ can only be nominal.

If however the Bombay Rules be adopted, this sound distribution of duties & responsibilities will be at an end. By Rule 2 – "All orders of a Professional character – relating, for Example, to felling, planting & other operations will emanate from the Conservator (here Inspector)." etc are

to reach the District Officer (or Depy Consr) through the Collr." who may direct if he sees cause. – ~~[illegible]~~ Thus all executive work passes back to the Inspector – and the Collr. becomes again a ~~[illegible]~~ powerless, irresponsible intermediary. – The Local Authority – now his subordinate – become independent of him – for by Rule 4 – "the Collr. is not to issue orders to the District Officer, affecting Forest Management direct." Rule 5 declares the Conservator (here the Inspector "the controlling authority in all matters of patronage" ... and "Departmental Discipline" - Rule 2 declares him "Specially responsible for the economical working of the Dept." Thus in all administrative & financial matters the Colr. & Bd. of Revt. will be set aside - and ~~at~~ the present system abrogated - [illegible] At this present moment - under the proposed rules - no one is responsible - for Capt C. Walker - the Inspector - is out of the Presidency; - he will

4/

be absent again in Sept. next, attending the Forest Conference at Simla. Even when present it seems to me simply impossible for him to do what will now devolve on him - Colr. must as of course be absolved from all responsibility - for they can issue no order & have no one to obey their instructions. Discipline is of course at an end & in reality the Deb.y Conservator is supreme. It is quite a mistake to suppose that the Ins-pector is now powerless — his inspections show what has been & is being done — and his "advice" must be followed. or submitted for the final decision of the Govt.

J. D. Sim

Proof

Contd

MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

I HAVE already minuted against the introduction of the Bombay Rules, under date 11th November 1874; and I am inclined to attach great weight to the strong remonstrance of my Honorable Colleague Mr. Sim.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

10th January 1875.

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agt. the introduction of
the Bounty Rules in Or. d. 11 Nov /74
and I am inclined
to attach great weight
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of our Hon. Colleague Mr Lai
1876 C.S. Robinson

Rd
Minute

Read.
G.O. 26th February /75
No. 313

330-6
2-337

Revenue Dept.

Memo. for Orders on No. 1235.

Submitting application of Forest Overseer J. Dampier for promotion. } Pros: of the Board of Revenue Dt. 29th April 1873 No. 670

I should like [illegible] to [illegible] list of the [illegible] & [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Please see list
sent up [illegible]

In a Memo recorded in the G.O. dated 15th March 1873, the Inspector of Forests pointed out that as the grades and pay of Overseers in the Forest Department varied very considerably, and their duties in some districts were much more important than in others, it was desirable that their nomination and promotion &c should be regulated by him in order that they might receive such advancement as their services entitled them to, and that qualified and trained men might be obtained for the important ranges. He suggested accordingly that Deputy Conservators might be permitted to correspond with him direct upon such subjects. The Govt, however, declined to allow this and observed that the Forest Establishment would as a rule be obtained in each District, and that Forest subordinates would be appointed by the Collector and would be eligible for employment in other Depts.

2 The Board now appeal against this ruling in submitting to Govt an application from Overseer Dampier of Karnool for promotion. He is the only Overseer in the District and consequently can only get promotion by removal to a higher grade in some other District.

3. It is submitted that Collectors might be directed before filling up vacancies in the grades of Overseer or Forester invariably to refer to the Inspector in view to the claims of deserving Overseers of the lower grades who may be employed in other Districts, being duly considered.

I think this is absolutely necessary. — & that except for very special reasons the Collectors should accept the Inspector's recommendation.

I think so.

[illegible]

Regulation of appts & promotion in the Forest Dept with reference to an application for promotion of Messrs [illegible] of Kumaon Divn.

Circ

1st Class.	100 R. –	7
2 –	80 –	5
3 –	60 –	13
4 –	50 –	3
5 –	30 –	1
		29

78

1. The subordinate establishment of Foresters is duly represented to be constituted in such a way as to hold out but small prospect of promotion to deserving men. At present we are allowed to have 29 Foresters, graded as shown in the margin and would instruct the Bd. of Revd. in consultation with the Chief Inspector – to revise the establishment carefully on the

usual

use of principles
of & appertaining
the higher & the
lower parts, with
to attend promotion.

2 The appointments
of Members [illegible]
of Circle [illegible] with
the Consideration, as
it is eminently
desirable that
men belonging to a
District should
be selected.

3 But I would
require all first
appointments to
be on probation for
a year - and a
certain amount
of knowledge of Forestry

and of the rules of
the Dept should be
prescribed to ensure
fitness before Con-
firmation.

4 As the Transfers
I should think it
be borne on one
General List. &
promotions be made
from class to class
as the rule on the
principle recommenda-
tion of the Inspector
& Supts. of Govt. [illegible]
[illegible] of Circle bring
forward the claims
of those employed
under their own
orders, as [illegible] - they
see fit to do, but
as they cannot be

especially copying out of the classes & classifications of those employed in other Districts it is necessary that the Inspector & Clerk should be called. Promotion from one class to another will not entail removal from a District - In the case of a few very important changes - if such there be - a special allowance may be attached to the change.

[illegible]
17. 10. 74

Note on No 1235/73

not to be printed

Revenue Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the January 1874.

READ the following letter from the Inspector of Forests.

Submitting report with reference to G. O. No. 1255 of the November 1873. } H. E. 20 December 1873 No. 1944.

From a conversation I had with the present Inspector of Forests it ~~[illegible]~~ that the present system as actually worked is quite inconsistent with efficient administration -

[illegible]

I believe that our badly organised system of Forest administration is on the plan

The Government observe that the objections to the present system, now advanced by Lieut. Col. Beddome, were passed by him on a former occasion, and were specifically disposed of by the Government in an order (G. O. 15 March 1873 No. 322.) which should have been accepted as final.

2. Lieut. Col. Beddome must definitely understand that

Forest Conservancy is no longer the business of a special department of which he is the head, but is a branch of the regular revenue administration, and that the Forest Officers have therefore ceased to be his subordinates.

3. The Government Order of the 13th December 1873 No 1417 will have effectually removed any doubts as to the authority by whom the regular reports on Fuel reserves are to be submitted.

4. The difference of system remarked upon by the Inspector of Forests in para 8 of his letter, having been created advisedly, the Government are not prepared to discuss that question, but the Board will, without doubt, give due consideration to Lieut. Col. Beddome's observations regarding the working details of

system which has
for some time
been in force
in Bombay — but
it wd appear that
in Bombay the
arrangement
~~[illegible]~~ is so
worded as to avoid
an appearance
of the ~~dispute~~ defect
of [illegible] — [illegible]

(the Inspector [illegible] 24th
Nov [illegible] No 48.)
(for instance)
as emphasizing
authority, uncertainty
undefined
duties etc etc

of the system adopted in Bombay.

I wd be disposed
to obtain the opinion
of Capt. Campbell
Walker (who is thoroughly
conversant with
the Bombay system as
well as with the
arrangements of Forest
in Coorg), ~~officially~~ & have it officially
on the subject —

I believe that our present
System contains every element
of confusion & inefficiency — that it
practically deprives the people of an
appeal to the Collr against irregularity
on the part of Forest officers & is meddlesome
& unworkable — I wd refer the papers to the
Bd of Revenue for report in communication
Conservators

With the Act. Inspector of Forests as suggested
His Lordship
12/3
RC

Reminder on the 11th March, R 13th – RC 18th –
C 17th Jany/74 R 9th March. Sent & [illegible]

Revenue Department.

Note

Letter from the Inspector of Forests Submitting report with reference to G.O. No. 1255 of 10th November 1873. } (B. P. 20th December 1873 No. 1964)

x pol. a/c

1. At the time of the reorganization of the Forest Department the Bombay scheme was fully before this Government, and ~~the~~ that papers are still on record. Lieut Colonel Beddome's objections easily divide into two heads:
(1) That he cannot correspond direct with Forest officers.
(2) that he no longer controls matters of patronage.

2 The papers above referred to show that the 1st objection holds good equally against the system adopted in Bombay, for, though

the Conservator there does issue orders to the District Forest Officers still, those orders must pass through the Collector who is empowered to object.

3 The 2nd objection is a radical one, but, as Collectors are now directly responsible for the efficient working of the Forest establishment of their Districts, it is obvious that the power of controlling appointments and removals must rest with them, if their authority is to be respected. This direct responsibility of Collectors is an integral portion of the new organization scheme. By it the sympathies of the Head Executive officer of the District are enlisted on the side of Forest Conservancy, and while he has thus every inducement to further its aims and plans, he is also enabled to see that these do not unduly trench on other claims.

4. How this scheme works in practice time alone can shew, and

and it is submitted that sufficient time has not yet been allowed it. Nominally introduced in October 1872, it nowhere came into full working until within the present official year. While the machinery is new, a certain amount of friction is unavoidable, but apart from this the objections raised are personal and theore

Personal, for the Senior Forest Officers find their former powers restricted, if not superseded; and theoretical, for there has not been time really to test the practice. Captain Walker's objections indeed must be theoretical, for his personal acquaintance with the practice is of no older date than the 2nd sitting, when he took charge from Lt. Col. Beddome. Moreover, his knowledge of the arrangements in Bombay was obtained in the Presidency town between the 19th and 29th of December last, and was, it is believed, derived from Forest Officers.

It is therefore necessarily onesided and defective, and it is submitted that, if information is desired as to the details of the Forest arrangements in Bombay, it will be better to obtain it from the Government of that Presidency, who are in a position to give it in a complete form, and to express an unbiassed opinion as to the merits and defects of the system.

No. [illegible]

Working of Forest Dept.

C 18 March /74.

Memo: for Orders

The Board forward and review a Memo and certain letters written by Lt. Coll: Beddome in which he describes -

(A) The present organization of the Forest Deptt:-

(B). The rights of ryots to fuel and timber.

(C). The rules that should regulate those rights.

II. Lt. Coll: Beddome's views on A have already been communicated to Govt. on various occasions. Some of his communications are still under review and it seems unnecessary to notice again what are in fact repetitions to the Board of arguments already advanced direct to Government.

The Board also point out what has not escaped the perception of Govt. Viz: "that most of the Inspector's strictures arise from his own want of power to accommodate himself to alterations determined on by Government."

III. Lt Coll: Beddome takes objection to the Permanent Advanc system introduced by the Board.

A report on this subject is due from the Accountant General in accordance with G. O. 10th Jany: 1873 No 28.

A reminder can be sent to him and this matter be disposed of separately.

IV. In para 10 Cl. (1) the Board repeat the error of Lt Col: Beddom regarding Forest Subordinates a being Clerks one day and foresters the next. This has now been set right by para 9 of G. O. 1st April 1874 No 420.

In Clause (2) they recommend that the Inspectors should be allowed to correspond direct with the Forest Officers on certain subjects:

And in Clause (3) that all periodical statements should be submitted to them through him.

In Clause (4) They state that they require his assistance in Madras when preparing the Budget and the Annual report.

This last is a pure matter of arrange=ment and needs no orders, but orders are

×5th Decr /73 No 1357.

are requested as to the recommenda=tion in clauses (2) & (3).

V. As regards B the Board and Lt Coll: Beddome join issue with the Govt regarding the recent G. O. in which it was laid down that villagers have no rights beyond their village limits. The Board know of no evidence in existence on which it can be based; observe that "they know numerous cases in which such rights have been and are being exercised" and consider that "the practice of driving cattle to distant jungles for pasture" shows that villagers have prescriptive rights in jungles scores of miles away from their village boundaries."

VI. Lt Coll: Beddome thinks that "there may be ryots living close to tracts of Forests who have right in such though they may not be actually on their village limits."

He next points out that the Board have generally allowed "timber free for building purposes" though the sanctioned rules disallow it. He proposes and the Board concur with him that "Sawn timber for substantial houses should be paid for."

VII. Lastly as to C.

Lt.Col. Beddome proposed a rule embodying "the above and also allowing reduced rates for timber required for building temples or for reerecting houses that have been burnt down.

The Board adopt the rule but "would have only one rate, with power to grant timber free. They would further „allow Collectors "to prescribe the time within which free permits as well as seignorage permits may be used" and only stipulate that this time should at present "not be less than 8 months".

Six months only are allowed in Bombay and the Board think that "this is the only way in which cutting can be supervised efficiently".

(Heads of Villages are to grant permits & keep registers.

VIII. The rule is given in para 19-22 and may it is presumed be sanctioned.

Minutes for Orders

L

Board's recommendation that Depts of Govt shd correspond direct with Dist Officers on Revenue subjects, and that Statements &c shd be submitted to them thro' him &c

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Eight Memoranda & Notes in Connexion with the papers on the Depts for being furnished & Proceeds sent.

19 January 1875

[illegible]

I have nothing to add to my minute – I D S

Shd be [illegible]

[illegible]

R from Mr Swi 17th Septr/74
C 2d May/74 R 3d Augt/74

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 2472

88

From Pro: Bd of Revs

Dated 15th July 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

A Dist Officer returning from furlough he should report himself, as Collector &c, to the Secy to Govt R D— and the Bd of Revl

I D S 27-7 ~~[illegible]~~

Would it not be well to say
"that for the present no change
"can be made in the Rules. The
"Forest Officer retiring must report himself to
"the Collector & to Govt & the Bd. of
Revenue". ?

I think that when the question ~~amendment~~ as to the general functions of the Inspector is considered, this matter will have to be attended to; The Inspector ought to know what Officers are available.

H 29/7

I see no reason why an exception should be made in the Forest Dept. as the proper report to the Head of the Dept & Provincial Govt & the Bd. of Rev. is made ~~to~~ –

A Forest Subordinate is not in the position of a Covenanted Civilian returning from furlo'

W Johnstone

1/8

No. 313

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 26th February 1875

Read the following Papers:—

Pro: Board of Revenue.	
Subm.g application of Forest Overseer J. Damfile of Kurnool district, with remarks regarding regulation of appointments and promotions in the Forest dept.t	(H.E. 29th April 1873. No. 670.)
Letter from Inspr. of Forests	
Subm.g report with reference to G.O. No. 1255 of the 10th November 1873	(H.E. 20th December 1873. No. 1964
Pro: Board of Revenue.	
Regarding recent re-organization of Forest dept.t and rights of ryots to fuel and timber &c.	(H.E. 13th April 1874. No. 830.)
Pro: Board of Revenue.	
Expressing opinion on suggestions of the Inspector of Forests with regard to disposal of applications of Forest officers for leave, transfers &c.	(H.E. 15th July 1874. No. 1826.)
2 Minutes by the Hon: Mr. Sim	(H.E.
Minutes by Hon Mr. Robinson.	(H.E. 29th July/74. 4th Nov./74 & 10th Jan.y/75.)
Minutes by H.E. the Governor.	(H.E. 1st Aug.t/74 & 31st October/74.)
Minute by H.E. the Comm.r in Chief.	(H.E. 21st November 1874

J.D.S. See my minute

These papers refer chiefly to the difficulties which have been met with in the working of the New Forest Organization as described in G.O. 2d January 1872. No. 148.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that sufficient grounds exist for a partial modification of that system and that, as far as they go the suggestions in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings dated 13th April 1874. No. 830 are in the right direction.

3. It appears however to His Excellency in Council that a further approach to the Bombay rules may be advantageously attempted and

13/2

Subject to my minute
14/2

and he desires that the Board will, in communication with the Inspector, prepare a set of draft rules on the basis of those recorded in paragraph 10 of the Resolution of the Govt. of Bombay dated 6th August 1870. No. 3757, but with such variations as the experience already acquired may suggest as desirable, in order that the responsibility of Forest Administration may be fairly apportioned between the Board and Collectors on the one hand and the Inspector of Forests on the other. It must be remembered that the latter officer will often be out of the way on tours of Inspection, and no arrangement will be suitable which will tend to overwhelm him with details more easily managed by a local or central authority.

4. In regard to patronage in the subordinate branches, the Governor in Council thinks this should be with the Board, promotions being made as a rule from class to class. All foresters should be borne on one general list, first appointments to lower grades remaining with Conservators. Thereafter Conservators will be at liberty to bring forward the claims of those employed under them whenever they see fit to do so, but as they cannot be equally cognizant of the claims and qualifications of those employed in other districts, it is necessary that the ultimate selection should vest in the Board aided by the advice of the Inspector.

5. The rights of ryots to fuel and timber with reference to certain suggestions of the Inspector are discussed in the 12th and following paras of the Board's Proceedings dated 13th April 1874, Nº 830. As the general question is under consideration with reference to other Proceedings dated 7th September 1874, Nº 2,520 the Governor in Council will only remark here that on reconsideration he concurs with the Board in the view which they have taken in para 14 in regard to G. O. 5th December 1873, Nº 1357. He is averse to the adoption of the system

discussed in para 15, the proposed register excepted, and cannot consent to the further restriction suggested in para 16.

6 The revision adverted to in para 17 must ultimately take place whether a law is passed or not. In the meantime the Rule proposed in paras 19–22 as marginally modified may be substituted for No 10 of those printed in G. O. 20th May 1863 and sanctioned in G. O. 22d June 1863, No 1099. It must be worked so as not to interfere with prescriptive rights.

7. No report upon the working of the Permanent Advance Fund has been received from the Accountant General whose attention will now be drawn to G. O. 10 January 1873, No 28. It should be expedited.

Bona fide cultivators may get free permits and cut free of seignorage, from unreserved jungles within their village limits if there are any such, firewood required for domestic use or for manufacturing the produce of the cultivator's own lands, and unreserved trees and bamboos required for agricultural purposes, such as ploughs, sheds, fencing, &c.a, or for huts and houses, but they must not sell such firewood or timber outside their village limits.

If there be not sufficient unreserved jungle within the limits of any village, the Collector may assign a tract outside the limits ~~where~~ felling on free permits will be allowed and the villagers will not be suffered to cut anywhere else without paying seignorage and getting a seignorage permit.

The heads of villages are authorized to give free permits. They will keep a register showing the date of each permit, the man to whom it is granted, and the amount of timber which it allows him to fell.

Cut fuel or timber not covered by a permit (either a free permit or a seignorage permit) will be liable to be seized and confiscated, if it is found in the jungle or in transit from it.

14. To the Board of Revenue, dd 27 Feb
3. the Offg Inspector of Forests, do
5 the Accountant General do

80/4

No 70

Frank B