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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	927	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		Mis.
Dated	18. 6. 1875	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th June 1875.

No. 141. Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 29th May 1875, No. 147 :—

I HAVE the honor to lay before Government Proceedings of the Revenue Board as per margin (to be returned), and to solicit attention to the following remarks.

Board's Standing No. 320/2, Circular No. XI. of 1874.
Board's Proceedings, No. 111/1,121, dated 22nd July 1874.
Board's Proceedings, No. 209/3,171, of 4th November 1874.
Board's Proceedings, No. 52/886, of 12th April 1875.
Board's Proceedings, No. 77/1,187, of 7th May 1875.
Board's Proceedings, No. 79/1,200, of 8th May 1875.
Board's Proceedings, No. 84/1,254, of 13th May 1875.

2. It will be observed that the Monthly Progress Reports submitted by forest officers to Collectors are forwarded to me for information and remark, and in paragraph 6 of their Proceedings, No. 41/830, dated 13th April 1874, the Board take credit for this, and state that the "Inspector will always be able to give advice and *point out mistakes*".

3. On the first instance of my expressing views not exactly in accordance with those of the Acting Collector of Salem, the Board characterise my remarks as "very objectionable," and direct that, if the Inspector thinks that orders which Collectors have issued should be modified, or believes that he can show that they have fallen into mistakes, he must address them formally by letter (Proceedings, No. 111/1,021, dated 22nd July 1874). My explanation is contained in Proceedings, No. 209/3,171, of 4th November 1874, to paragraphs 5 and 6 of which I would request special attention.

4. On perusing the Progress Reports of the Deputy Conservators of Annamallay and Mettapolliem for January, I observed—

(1.) That the latter had been employed on the Upper Annamallays, where we have no real forests to conserve, from the 14th to 31st January, whilst Mr. Douglas, the Annamallay officer, who had been with me at Bombay, had, I was aware, returned to his division on the 14th, having previously announced the date of his return by telegraph to his office, of which Mr. Morgan was in temporary charge.

(2.) That Mr. Morgan had spent two or three days (not sanctioned holidays) at Coonoor ostensibly with the object of inspecting certain forest land at Tyemallay which, however, he did not do, and which I consider can best be done by the plateau officer in accordance with G. O., No. 689, dated 4th June 1874.

(3.) That cattle had been admitted "to trample down the grass" in the Sholakurray reserve.

5. Considering that these points, on which the Collector made no remark, demanded attention, I considered myself fully justified in addressing the Collector of Coimbatore "formally by letter" in accordance with the Board's former orders, and asking him to be kind enough to give me further information, and favor me with Mr. Morgan's explanation, with an expression of his own opinion. I think that a perusal of my letter recorded in Proceedings, No. 52/896, will satisfy Government that it is studiously courteous in tone, and contains no such "assumption of authority" as the Collector suggests in his letter to the Board.

Mr. Wedderburn's reply to me is recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 79/1,200, and his explanation in Board's Proceedings, No. 52/896, dated 8th May and 12th April 1875, respectively.

d. He states that (1) he was not aware of Mr. Douglas's return; (2) that Mr. Morgan was returning from holiday leave; and (3) that the admission of cattle into the reserve commended itself to him with the view to prevent a total conflagration.

7. The Government will be in a position to form an opinion as to the real merits of the first two points, and, as regards the latter, I would merely submit that the point was clearly one on which the Inspector's opinion and advice might reasonably have been taken; that admission of cattle to *graze* down the grass is one thing, whilst admitting them to *trample* it down is another. The former is a preventive measure which has been tried, not unsuccessfully, in other districts under certain restriction; the latter I regard as a chimerical notion much more likely to lead to than prevent fire, for, if the grass was so dry, a spark from the cowherd's cheroot would ignite it, and the temptation to burn and so get at the young grass shoots below would be almost irresistible, I have little doubt that the admission of these men and cattle resulted on the fire reported in Mr. Morgan's letter of 4th March 1875, though that officer attributes it to "sparks from a passing engine, it is supposed," and states that "little damage has been done owing to the grass having been trampled down." (Proceedings, No. 74/1,187, dated 7th May 1875). It is noteworthy that this report was before the Board when they passed their Proceedings of 12th April, in which they state (paragraph 2) that the Collector's action "seems to have been the best possible for immediate emergency." I considered it the worst and most dangerous, and that the result fully justifies me.

8. The question, however, which I beg respectfully to submit for the orders of Government is not one of detail, but of general principle of the greatest importance, especially as the whole subject of the interior economy of the department and the position of its professional head are under consideration.

9. If Collectors are to take forest officers out of their own divisions for a fortnight without any useful object from a forest point of view, approve of their being absent from their duties and beyond the limits of their charge, and support the action of young and inexperienced officers against that of the Inspector, the sooner that the latter's post is abolished the better, and each Collector allowed to manage or mismanage the forests of his district as seemeth unto him good. Mr. Douglas, the Assistant or Deputy Conservator, is a thoroughly efficient officer, and could have afforded Mr. Westerhorn any information he wanted as to the Upper Annamallays, and accompanied him there if required. He feels naturally aggrieved at his junior being brought into his division to report on a portion of his charge,—a course which, I believe, is very unusual in any branch of the service. The Commissioner and Deputy Conservator of the Nilgiris resent Mr. Morgan's intrusion on the plateau, and, of the Board's opinion that I should not have interfered, and that my "interference was justly resented," be correct, I fail to see any object in the Monthly Progress Report coming before me at all, or in my being asked to make comments which are "highly objectionable" or "justly resented" if they do not coincide with the views of the Collectors of the Board.

10. I submit the matter with confidence for the consideration and orders of Government, and shall, meanwhile, refrain from making any remarks whatever on or with reference to the Monthly Progress Reports.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1875, No. 927.

Forests, No. 9.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor in Council is of opinion that the Inspector of Forests' call on the Collector for explanation was beyond his competence.

2. In order to obviate the tendency to such misapprehension of relative position, it seems desirable that the Progress Reports should go through the Inspector to the Board of Revenue; he will then have an opportunity of calling their attention to any irregularity, and of thus securing weight to his legitimate interference.

3. The Board should arrange for the adoption of this course if they see no objection, justifying a reference to Government.

4. It is not necessary that the reports should come on the printed Proceedings of the Board. It will be sufficient if the reports are framed with four columns for the Deputy Conservators, Collectors, Inspector, and Board, respectively.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

Ext. F. R. Beatterson.

Vide 15th Rep. 3 Appx.
pp. 42 2160.

FOREST No. 111.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd July 1874, No. 1,921.

Read the following letter from F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madighorry, 12th June 1874, No. 205:—

I HAVE the honor to transmit, for the perusal of the Board of Revenue, the Forest Progress Report (to be returned) of this district for the month of April last.

2. I do so as I consider that the Inspector of Forests is assuming an authority which he does not possess, and that the tone of some of his remarks, especially of one beside which I have placed a long red pencil mark is objectionable.

3. If Captain Walker continues to remark in the way to which I take exception, all the good done by the transfer of the Forest Department to Collectors of Districts, will be undone.

4. As I read the Orders of Government, the Collector of the district is the Conservator of Forests and the Deputy Conservator his Forest Assistant, neither of them being in any way subordinate to the Inspector, whose sole duties seem to be inspection and advice.

5. These I am at all times only too glad to receive from Captain Walker, for whose energy and professional ability I have much regard, but I must respectfully and most strongly deprecate his assuming in any communications or remarks any authority over either myself or the Deputy Conservator. If I am to be held responsible for my charge, I must be sole master within it.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Progress report.

THE observations referred to by Mr. Price are very objectionable and all the more so because they are scribbled on a document which will in ordinary course go back to the Deputy Conservator.

2. The Board resolve to request the Inspector to remember the position which is assigned to him by the orders now in force. Collectors are in no way subordinate to him, and if he thinks it desirable that orders they have issued should be modified or believes that he can show that they have fallen into mistakes, he must address them formally by letter.

3. The remarks made by the Inspector on the margin of Progress Reports should be strictly limited to suggestions arising from technical or professional knowledge.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Salem, with Progress Report, returned.
" the Inspector of Forests.
Ext. G. A. Taylor.

suggestions arising from technical or professional knowledge" although I cannot promise to address separate letters to Collectors on points with regard to which I may think that they have fallen into mistakes, a duty which would require a much stronger office than I have got, nor can I guarantee that Collectors, if anxious to take offence when none is meant, shall not find an excuse for doing so.

6. I can only assure them and the Board that I have no wish to trench on the position which Government has assigned them, and that I trust to their doing what they can to support me and give effect to such suggestions as I may make, remembering the very difficult position which, under existing orders, I am called upon to fill.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of Salem.
(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Salem.

Copy to the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

E. 1. C. S. Tytler.

FOREST No. 52.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th April 1875, No. 896.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th March 1875, No. 66 :—

I HAVE the honor to annex copy of a letter* from the Inspector of Forests to my address, in which he animadverts on the proceedings of my subordinate under my sanction, and consequently on me as Collector, and calls for an explanation.

2. This, I think, will be more fittingly afforded to the Board of Revenue.

3. I had occasion to make an inspection of the Anamalai mountains, and as it was an object to do this at an early date, and as Mr. Douglas was absent in Bombay, and Mr. Morgan in charge of the Range, I took the latter officer with me. It is true that Mr. Douglas returned, but as, at the time of my starting, I did not know the date of his return, or had received any intelligence from him, and as, on a previous occasion, when I intended visiting the upper ranges, he became unable to accompany me, I was unable to delay my journey.

4. As regards the admission of cattle to an imperfectly-fenced reserve to trample down the grass, it was a measure which commended itself to me with the view to prevent the total consumption of grass as soon as the rights of other castes would have involved the Sholakarai reserve, and, indeed, even after the clearance of a fire trace, the whole grass has accidentally, or otherwise, been consumed by fire fortunately without much damage.

5. Taking deep interest in, and exercising due control over, my subordinates' work in the Forest Department, the "call for explanation" by Captain Walker is in reality an assumption of authority over myself, and I am not aware that such is intended by Government.

* No. 671, of 1st March 1875.

One copy of letter from the Officiating Inspector of Forests, No. 671, of 1st March 1875.

One copy of extract from Mr. Morgan's Progress Report for December 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forest, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ootacamund, 1st March 1875, No. 671.

In returning the Progress Reports and the assessments of the Deputy Conservators in charge of Anamalai and Metropolitan forests for the month of January, I have the honor to remark that Mr. Morgan would appear to have given himself much unnecessary trouble in preparing the assessments without having first arranged a meeting with Mr. Hodgson for that purpose. I should imagine that the Tramway land could scarcely have been of the arrangement recently made with regard to the charge of the cattle shows that the plateau officer should reside with the Metropolitan officer when forest in the vicinity of Coonoor, Kotagherry, &c. could best be supervised by the former (G. O., No. 1010, dated 4th June 1874).

† Notes by Collector.—Notes on the four above—A. W.

MADRAS:
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS.
1875.

This was done with the view of obviating the necessity of the Mettapolliem officer *visiting* the hills* except under special circumstances, and I regret that the arrangement does not as yet appear to have been carried out or acted upon.

2. Mr. Morgan states that he proceeded on the 14th with you to the Anamalais where he remained till the end of the month. This calls for remark, as Mr. Douglas, the Anamalai Deputy Conservator, returned to duty on the 14th within the time prescribed by G. O., No. 1,521, dated 8th December 1874, for his being on special duty, and appears to have taken charge on the 16th. There would appear, therefore, to have been two officers on duty in the Anamalai Range from the 14th to 31st January, and none in Mettapolliem and Bolampatty. I shall feel much obliged by your affording me some information on this point at your early convenience. I observe that Mr. Morgan states that he has submitted a special report on the subject.

3. With regard to the Sholakarai reserve, Mr. Morgan states that "cattle have been admitted to trample down the grass." I am not aware under what authority this has been done, as entirely opposed to my views regarding the proper treatment of a close reserve such as Sholakarai.

4. In the report for December I observed that Mr. Morgan advocated the course he would appear to have since adopted on which you pertinently remarked, "What would become of your saplings," † or words to that effect. I have not any file with me to refer as to whether I made any remark on this or not, but certainly understood that nothing would be done until you and I had been further consulted. I beg, therefore, that Mr. Morgan may be called upon for an explanation of his action in the matter, and that it may be forwarded to me when received with an expression of your opinion.

(True Copy)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

* Note.—Mr. Morgan was returning from holiday leave at Coimbatore.—A. W.

† Note.—Fire is even a worse enemy than cattle.—A. W.

‡ (Do not find this remark in December Progress Report.—E. H.)

Extract from the Inspector's Diary and Tour for December 1874.

Sholakarai Reserve.—A fire-track has been cut nearly half round the reserve, and about 600 cubic feet of wood stacked. Sparks from the engine set fire to the reserve across the fire-track, and was with difficulty attended; some five or six acres of grass were burnt. I do not believe it possible to keep out fire if cattle are excluded, and the grass allowed to grow, and would suggest that cattle should be permitted to enter and trample down the grass *at once*.

Notes by the Collector.

This has been prohibited. It has not been found feasible to cut and stack the grass, as it forms in the monsoon when it cannot be made use of. The best plan would be to fire the grass in parties as at present, in August, before the hot weather, as the trees will be less injured when they are in green leaf.

Notes by the Inspector of Forests.

We are making the latter of the grass in some of the older fuel reserves. As the trees grow and cover the ground, the grass dies off. Even if/when the grass should be fired, it is better to keep cattle (one footed) on certain clearly laid down conditions and without allowing the drivers to take in head-loads of trees. This is done in Salem where there are rules. Would say one time the grazing on some areas and reserve the grass.

Notes by the Collector.

How then is revolver [illegible] would retain our grass if let in now?

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

THE reasons assigned by the Collector for having taken Mr. Morgan with him to the Anamalai Hills appear to the Board to be satisfactory. As Conservator in his district the Collector is competent to employ his range officers as he thinks best on any legitimate duty.

2. As to the admission of cattle to the Sholakarai reserve in order to trample down the dry grass, the Board are of opinion that it was properly within his discretion to select what seemed to him the best means of avoiding danger of fire, and in the particular case his action seems to have been the best possible for the immediate emergency. The admission of cattle was certainly better than firing the grass as the event proved.

3. Although recording the above remarks the Board wish the Collector to understand that they desire him to consult in the fullest manner with the Inspector on matters wherein his experience and judgment must be of weight.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

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

Encl. A. (Trailer).

1875.
23 JUN 23
MADRAS.

Proceedings 19th April 1875, No. 806.

Encl.

Received

APR 15

Forest No. 82.

Subject.—Deputy Conservator of Forests in Coimbatore District.—Remarks upon of regarding reserves assigned by Collector for taking.—which how far the accessible hills, and for estimating, while on the Shoolcherai reserve to trample down dry grass with a view to avoid danger of fire

FOREST No. 77.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th May 1875, No. 1,137.

Read the following letter from Mr. R. W. MORGAN, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mettoopolliem and Bolamputty Ranges, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector and Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore, dated Karamaday, 4th March 1875, No. A-117 :—

I HAVE the honor to report that the whole of the Walliar Reserve has been burnt, notwithstanding the fire-trace which had been cut 30 feet wide. Sparks from a passing engine, it is supposed, were blown into the dense grass. I am however, happy to say that but little damage has been done, owing to the grass having been trampled down by the cattle which were admitted. Whether the origin of the fire was due to accident or not, it is impossible at present to tell.

No. 68.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue with reference to Captain Walker's letter, No. 671, of 1st March 1875, forwarded this day.

COIMBATORE,
9TH March 1875.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

ARRANGEMENTS should be made to set back the boundary of the reserve or clear and feed down a broad belt between the reserve and the railway.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Coimbatore.
Copy to the Inspector of Forests.

Ed. W. H. French.

10104/75

Received 23 OCT 1875
MADRAS.

Proceedings 7th May 1875, No. 1,233.

Revised

Read

MAY

Forest No. 79.

Free—By Military Reserve, in Coimbatore District—Collector informed with reference to his report on—, that arrangements should be made to set back the boundary of the reserve as clear and feed down a broad belt between it and the ryotwary.

FOREST No. 79.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th May 1875, No. 1,200

Read the following Official Memorandum from the Officiating Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 17th March 1875, No. 697 :—

REFERENCE.—Paragraph 2, Board's Proceedings, No. 111-1,921, dated 22nd July 1874.

THE Officiating Inspector of Forests has the honor to forward an original letter received from the Collector of Coimbatore with a copy of the letter to which it is a reply.

2. Under existing arrangements it appears doubtful whether the procedure as to Progress Reports prescribed by Board's Standing Order, No. 320-2, dated 12th March 1874, serves any good purpose, as Collectors resent all comment on the action of the Forest Officers, no matter in what shape it may be conveyed.

(Signed) CAMPBELL WALKER,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to Captain CAMPBELL WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, dated 9th March 1875, No. 109.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st March 1875, and, as it contains animadversions on my subordinate officer, for whose acts I am responsible, I have afforded explanation thereon to the Board of Revenue.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Copy of letter from Inspector of Forests to Collector.

THE Board are of opinion that Captain Walker should not have interfered with the employment of his subordinates by the Collector of Coimbatore, and that his interference was justly resented.

2. The matter referred to has been disposed of in Board's Proceedings, 12th April 1875, No. 896, Forest No. 52.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Officiating Inspector of Forests, with enclosure returned.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Rad. J. W. Fischer

Received
MAY
Forest No. 79.
Subordinates—of the Forest Department.—
Remarks passed on the propriety of Captain
Walker's interference with the proceedings of
— by the Collector of Coimbatore District.
Encl.
Received on the 24th May 1875.
Recorded the 31st May 1875. No. 1,200.
OFFICE.

FOREST No. 84.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th May 1875, No. 1,254

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd April 1875, No. 112:—

WITH reference to the Board's remarks in Proceedings, No. 52-896, of 12th April 1875, that the Inspector of Forests should be consulted with in the fullest manner, I have the honor to inform the Board that I invariably do so on all occasions when it is necessary to avail myself of his advice and experience.

2. The matter before the Board was, whether he could call on me for explanations connected with my orders to, or employment of, my subordinates.

THE answer to the Collector's question is, that the Inspector has no such power. The Board did not imagine that the Collector had any doubt on the subject.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

1875.

Board of Revenue.

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 13TH MAY 1875, No. 1,254.

Rev 2057 of 1875

Encl

In G.O 18th June 1875
No 927.

Received.

MAY

Forest No. 84

Forest Subordinates.—Collector of Coimbatore informed that the Inspector of Forests has no power to call on him for explanations in connection with his orders to or employment of —.

his remarks were
began in
professional expenses
were calculated
Evelina resentment.
that whereas
any thing
which in his favour
towards another
his self sufficiency

Resumed from the
Reduction to take
a Foundation for
Lots & not Tithes
which called Tread
Mill & Mr Lane
filed his Bill
1819 Jan

Seneca Stark
Capt. Calvin Hyde.
Stephen & two quit
by his confession.
Sandstone Flat Stone
Bryan Lyndon
& Ch. Co. Stone
Edward Lyde
Nick & Co. Stone
& by Contract &
Ch. & Lane Cisterns
Lent Check Adm.
& Co. Engs. Grindstone
in Cyclone in Cistern
& Sandstone Lane Bridge
Griffin & Lucina Co.
Zenas Co. 875

Comm is & Search the
attention of the Board
of Revs. Rec'd

Stones on Regards the Cards made
Effective. The Mrs Stevens
will attend the Settlers

Mr Brown & Mr Gold
Lane 1819

Office Inspector of Arms

Copy of a Letter for Consideration of the Board of Revenue, and obtaining attention to his remarks on the subject of monthly Returns submitted by Brass Officers

No 927 Fort St George

28th December 1815

K. S. 29 : Copy 5 pp. 1815

19

R. E. to forward
a T. & Memorandum
that the Inspection
of Brass Cast on
the Coast &c &c
Plantation was first
begun in the
Year 1809 and
the Duty of
the Brass Inspector
Salem Inspection of
Brass Received
the Inspection
Brass Cast
Received to Augt 1815
Inclusive Since
Year 1809
of Rec. the Duty
Brass