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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

996

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

2-7-1875-196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 29. Read the following despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India :—

Revenue,

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,

No. 15.

27th May 1875.

SIR,—The despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 26th January, No. 4 of 1875, forwarding a report by Mr. Thornhill, of the Board of Revenue, on the kunchas or grazing farms in the district of Nellore, and also on the fuel-reserves of that district, has been considered by me in Council.

2. Mr. Thornhill's report states the general question relative to the kunchas with great clearness. I understand your Excellency in Council as concurring in the opinion of that gentleman that the system of putting the waste lands of a village up to auction, after the reservation of a portion to the villagers for free pasture, should be abandoned; but your Excellency in Council considers that waste in the proportion of 150 per cent. to the cultivated area is too large an amount to be reserved for the villagers, and proposes that the proportion be 50 per cent. instead of 30 per cent., which has been the amount since 1867. I approve of the modification suggested by your Excellency in Council, with the proviso that the overplus be rented only when of material extent.

3. For the purpose of ascertaining what will be the result, as a matter of revenue, of Mr. Thornhill's proposals, and also of obtaining explanation from the Board of Revenue as to the exact manner in which it is intended to carry out the scheme of leasing the excess of pasture land at a certain fixed ratio per acre, your Excellency in Council has made a reference to the Board. I shall await the reply of that authority, and of the further proceedings of your Government.

4. With respect to the fuel-reserves, Mr. Thornhill's report abundantly proves that there has been great mismanagement, and that the interests of the ryots have suffered for the mere object of creating reserves when, in many instances, they were not wanted. Before pronouncing a final decision on the questions involved in this discussion, your Excellency in Council has determined to depute the Inspector of Forests to visit and report on the reserves. I shall await the result of his inquiries.

5. I concur in the commendation bestowed by your Excellency in Council on Mr. Thornhill.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) SALISBURY.

To His Excellency the Honorable
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

No. 30.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1875, No. 296.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, 3rd November 1874, No. 1,390, and 16th June 1875, No. 919.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd July 1875.*

2. Communicated, also, to the Inspector of Forests, with reference to paragraph 35 of the first of the orders above quoted.
3. Copy of this despatch will be furnished also to Mr. Thornhill.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
the Officiating Inspector of Forests,
G. Thornhill, Esq.

Ed. F. R. S. S. S. S. S.

India Office,
London, 27th May 1875.

Revenue,
No. 15

To His Excellency The Honourable The Governor
in Council, Fort St. George.

Sir,

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council dated 26th January, No. 4 of 1875, forwarding a report by Mr Thornhill, of the Board of Revenue, on the kunchas or grazing farms in the district of Nellore, and also on the fuel reserves of that district, has been considered by me in Council.

2. Mr. Thornhill's report states the general question relative to the kunchas with great clearness. I understand your Excellency in Council as concurring in the opinion of that gentleman that the system of putting the waste lands of a village up to auction, after the reservation of a portion to the villagers for free pasture, should be abandoned; but your Excellency in Council considers that waste in the proportion of 150 per cent. to the cultivated area is too large an amount to be reserved for the villagers, and proposes that the proportion be 50 per cent. instead of 30 per cent. which has been the amount since 1867. I approve of the modification suggested by your Excellency in Council, with the proviso that the overplus be rented only when of material extent.

3. For the purpose of ascertaining what will be the result, as a matter of revenue, of Mr. Thornhill's proposals, and also of obtaining explanation from the Board of Revenue as to the exact manner in which it is intended to carry out the scheme of leasing the excess of pasture land at a certain fixed ratio per acre, your Excellency in Council has made a reference to the Board. I shall await the reply of that authority, and of the further proceedings of your Government.

4. With respect to the fuel reserves, Mr. Thornhill's report abundantly proves that there has been great mismanagement, and that the interests of the ryots have suffered for the mere object of creating reserves when, in many instances, they were not wanted. Before pronouncing a final decision on the questions involved in this discussion, your Excellency in Council has determined to depute the Inspector of Forests to visit and report on the reserves. I shall await the result of his inquiries.

5. I concur in the commendation bestowed by your Excellency in Council on Mr. Thornhill.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant.

Extract from the Despatch of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for India in Council, dated 27th May 1875, forwarding a report by Mr. Thornhill, of the Board of Revenue, on the kunchas or grazing farms in the district of Nellore, and also on the fuel reserves of that district.

1875

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

REVENUE

GOVT. OF INDIA

No 11

Revenue
27th May 1875

The
Letter to Fort St. George
No 15

Recd 26 June 75

Passing observations on
Mr. Thornehill's report on the Kunches, respecting
foreman, and on the first resumes, of the Melur B.

Nº 996

Communicated to the B.
of Revenue with reference to the
Copy of J. 3rd Nov. 1874, p. 1390,
and 18 June 1875, p. 919.

Communicated also to
the Inspector of Tracts with reference
to para 35 of the first of the
Orders above quoted.

Copy of this Despatch
will be furnished also to Mr.
Gardner.

2nd July 75

Original to be sent to the B. of Revenue
2nd July 1875
1st July 1875