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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>2046</u>	Press ☒
B.P. No.		Mis. ☐
Dated	<u>15.12.196</u>	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th December 1876.*

No. 345. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Denfincottah, 2nd December 1876, No. 1,376:—

With reference to the first portion of paragraph 4 of the G.O. No. 1,351, of the 26th September last, I have the honor
* No. 188, dated 15th November 1876. to forward a letter* from the Deputy Conservator of Tinnevely. I am of opinion that all the Government grant forests in the Tinnevely District should be considered Imperial forests, and that beyond grazing and the collecting of wood for agricultural purposes, which are generally confined to certain limits near the base of the hills, there are no immemorial communal rights.

2. Regarding the latter part of the same paragraph I forward letters, as per margin, from all our divisions, except Trichinopoly (where we have at present only charge of plantations); it will be seen that in Madura the fruit of some Tamarind trees growing within village boundaries appears to have been leased out; but that in all other divisions the officers report that the Government have no contracts for the collection of forest-produce within village boundaries.
1. Deputy Conservator, North Arcot, No. 458, dated 23rd October 1876.
 2. Deputy Conservator, South Arcot, No. 203, dated 13th November 1876.
 3. Deputy Conservator, Cuddalore, No. 354, dated 11th November 1876.
 4. Deputy Conservator, North Coimbatore, No. 475, dated 3rd November 1876.
 5. Deputy Conservator, South Coimbatore, No. 187, dated 26th October 1876.
 6. Deputy Conservator, Guntur, No. 747, dated 24th October 1876.
 7. Deputy Conservator, Kandyol, No. 272, dated 8th November 1876.
 8. Deputy Conservator, Madura, No. 557, dated 2nd November 1876.
 9. Assistant Conservator, Salem, No. 520, dated 1st December 1876.
 10. Acting Head Assistant Collector in charge Palenau Forests, No. 71, dated 30th October 1876.
 11. Deputy Conservator, Wynnad, No. 140, dated 27th October 1876.
 12. Principal Assistant Collector in charge Chingach Forests, No. 203, dated 1st November 1876.

3. Until demarcation has been carried out, it will be almost impossible to say what are village boundaries or communal tracts; but our officers always act under instructions from the Collectors of their divisions with respect to such tracts.

4. The taxation of minor forest-produce in all tracts, whether Imperial or communal, receives much more attention in other parts of India than it does in this Presidency; and this is, I believe, the chief reason, as often pointed out, that the forest revenues are much less in this Presidency than elsewhere, and it will before long be very apparent that a well-regulated taxation is necessary not only for the upkeep of the department, but also for the upkeep of the supply of the articles themselves. Some Collectors have given much attention to this question, and advocated well-considered systems; but the Board have always been averse to any taxation, as they have considered it would be oppressive to the natives and poorer classes; but the fact is that any well-considered plan of taxation would only touch consumers and not the parties who collect. The natives might be immensely benefited if they could be relieved from the grasp of the Chettars in the plains, and this is the opinion of many of the Revenue officers as well as of the officers of this department, and the same may be brought about until the whole system of the collection of forest-produce is placed

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15th December 1876.

under this department, subject, of course, to the control and advice of the Collectors and higher Revenue-officers.

No. 340. ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1876, No. 2,046.

Forests, No. 15.

This letter should have been submitted through the Board of Revenue. It will now be transferred to the Board for remarks.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
the Conservator of Forests.

No. 1876.

Office of Comr of Forests
Camp, Dartmouth
2nd December 1876

From,

Lieut. Col. R. St. Beddome,
Comr of Forests

To The Hon. J. F. Kennedy,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to the first por-
tion of para 4 of the G.O. No. 1051 of the
26th September last I have the honor to

forward a letter from the Deputy
Commissioner of Pinjanny, dated 21st Sep-
tember last, in which the Government of Pinjanny
forests in the Pinjanny District should
be considered Imperial forests and the
beard grazing and the collecting of
wood for agricultural purposes which
are generally confined to certain limits
near the base of the hills, there are no
numerical boundaries.

2. Regarding the latter part of the
above para I forward below a list of
forests in the Pinjanny District which are
Imperial forests and the collecting of
wood for agricultural purposes which
are generally confined to certain limits
near the base of the hills, there are no
numerical boundaries.

(where we have no regular Revenue
 have not been collected since 1857/58 - or
 present only 1/2 of the Salan, at 220 of 1st class 1/2
 Charge of 1st class Collector, in the
 Plantations, 12 Doh, Caw, Weyand, at 190 of 1st class 1/2
 it will be 12 Doh, Caw, Weyand, at 190 of 1st class 1/2
 that the 12 Doh, Caw, Weyand, at 190 of 1st class 1/2
 that the 12 Doh, Caw, Weyand, at 190 of 1st class 1/2

in the case of the fruit of some of the
 trees growing within village boundaries
 appear to have been taxed out, but
 that in all other Divisions the Officers
 report that the Department never sells
 Contracts for the collection of forest
 produce within village boundaries.

3. Until demarcation has been
 carried out it will be almost im-
 possible to say what are village
 boundaries or communal lands,
 but our Officers always act under
 instructions from the Collectors
 or other authorities with respect to such
 lands.

The location of the forest
 produce in all the districts is different
 or communal woods much more
 common in other parts of the area
 than it is in the Presidency and
 it is believed the chief reason for
 this is that the forest land is
 not under the control of the
 Government.

However, as we have seen, the
 prevalence of these abuses and the
 well known fact that they are very apparent in
 that a well regulated taxation is
 necessary not only for the support
 of the Department but also for the
 support of the dignity of the authorities
 themselves, some Collectors have given
 much attention to this question and
 advocated well considered systems,
 but the Board have always been
 averse to any taxation as they have
 considered it would be oppressive
 to the hill tribes and poorer classes
 but the fact is that any well con-
 sidered plan of taxation would only
 benefit the hill tribes and not the poorer
 classes, the hill tribes might be
 benefited if they could be
 released from the grasp of the
 in the plains and this is the opinion
 of many of the Revenue Officers as
 well as of the Officers of this De-
 partment and this can easily be
 brought about with the whole
 system of the collection of forest
 produce is placed under the De-
 partment, subject of course to the
 Control

and a donee of the Collectors
and higher Revenue Officers.

I have the honor to be

Yours most obedt servt.

Wm. Brown Esq
Secretary of the Board.

