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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	3297	Press. / Mis.
Dated	23.11.1877.	197 .

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Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

23rd November 1877, No. 3,297.

Read the following paper :—

No. 240. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th October 1877, No. 4,762.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 20th August 1877, No. 2,536, Revenue Department :

Read the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st June 1877, No. 2,911.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 12th August 1876, No. 2,052.

Read also the following papers :—

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 7th September 1876, No. 190.

In reply to Proce[illegible] of Reven[illegible] dated 12th Au[illegible]876, [illegible] Forest No. 73, requesting to know whether it is advisable to place greater restriction on the grant of permits for cutting wood in jungles which adjoin the line of rail, I have the honor to state that the only jungles which adjoin the line of rail in this district are the Walliar, otherwise called Shonkerray Reserve, and the Mettapolliem jungles, near the Mettapolliem terminus.

2. The Railway is supplied from the private forests of Malabar at a rate which would not pay private persons to supply wood from our forests ; the Mettapolliem engine is supplied with wood from Pothanore Depôt, and the train stops only a minute or so at Walliar.

3. It does not appear that there is the opportunity, if there were the inclination, to supply the train with smuggled wood, and not in the least likely that the Railway authorities would connive at such a practice, if it were practicable.

4. No wood (which is all c[illegible]e left bank of the Bhowany) can come into Mettapolliem without passing the Mettapolliem bridge, where there is a tanna which secures that the wood so brought in is covered by a pass. If the Forest Officer finds that a too large cutting is denuding the jungles on the license system, he can propose a restriction thereon ; it is not, however, very remunerative to rail in wood for fuel to Coimbatore, whose domestic supply comes chiefly from the Walliar and Bolumpatti jungles, duly protected by tannas on the roads.

5. I therefore do not see the need of any more stringency being imposed in this district in regard to the permits for cutting wood.

From C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Salem, 7th October 1876, No. 254.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th August 1876, No. 2,052—73, I have the honor to state that I quite concur in the opinion that some restriction should be placed on the issue of licenses for the free felling of timber.

2. As regards this district, I would prohibit the issue of such licenses by the village Munsifs in all villages through which the Railway runs, and would vest the power solely in the hands of Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars.

3. In other villages the Munsifs may, I think, be still allowed to grant free fuel licenses, on the understanding that a register for the same is kept up. These registers should be examined and initialled by Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, and Revenue Inspectors in their tours, and should invariably be produced before the Settling officer at Jammabundy.

From J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddapah, 23rd October 1876, No. 264.

In reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 2,052, dated 12th August 1876, Forest No. 73, I have the honor to state that, in my opinion, free permits should not be given by village heads to cut firewood for fuel in the jungles of the taluqs through which the Railways run.

2. This is the unanimous opinion of every officer in this district.

3. In the more distant jungles to the north-east of the district there can be no harm in allowing village officials to grant free permits, because there is no conservancy, and the wood is now taken without license.

4. The power to grant free licenses might be given to Sheristadars; this would obviate any inconvenience from the absence of the Tahsildar; it might even be given to Revenue Inspectors.

From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp Shembaganur, 5th May 1877, No. 287.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th August 1876, No. 2,052, Forest No. 73, I have the honor to report that, in my opinion, village officers should not be permitted to grant free permits for felling in the Madura jungles. I would give this power to Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars only.

2. In Madura and Tirumungalum no village officers have this power now, and in Melur only seven heads of villages have it. The Sub-Collector does not state the number empowered to grant permits in his taluqs, but the villages with Government jungles are not numerous. He recommends that Revenue Inspectors alone be permitted to grant permits. In Periakolam, where Government forests are extensive, the ryots can easily go to the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar. The taluq is a long valley, with one of these officers at each end of it.

3. On the whole I do not think the ryots would be put to serious inconvenience by the proposed restriction. Our best forests are in zemindaries, and in the large zemindaries of Ramnad and Shevagungah there are no forests except some thorn trees near the coast.

In their Order, dated 26th February 1875, No. 313, the Government sanctioned a modification of the rule relating to issue of free permits for felling wood for agricultural purposes, under which heads of villages were authorized to grant free permits. The Collector of North Arcot represented that heads of villages were not to be trusted, and that it was essential, if conservancy was to be maintained, that the issue of licenses should be restricted to Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. The Board, however, considered that the restriction advocated would entail great hardship on the ryots. The Conservator thereupon protested, especially as regards Railway Districts, in which he asserted that an immense amount

Procs., dated 19th February 1876, No. 500.

of illicit felling was going on. The Board were inclined to modify their previously expressed opinion to the extent of recommending that some restriction should be placed on the grant of free permits to cut in jungles adjoining the line of rail. They resolved to consult the Collectors of Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, and Madura, which are the districts principally concerned, and the foregoing letters are their replies.

2. The Collector of Coimbatore states that the question does not affect his district, as there are ample means for checking denudation of the jungles, and the Railway does not draw on the local jungles for its supply. The other three Collectors consider that greater stringency is required as regards felling in jungles within taluqs through which the line passes, and it is proposed that to obviate any inconvenience Sheristadars and Revenue Inspectors should be authorized to grant permits, as well as Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. The Board think that this arrangement will sufficiently protect State interests without putting the ryots to any real inconvenience, and they recommend that the power to grant passes for free felling in jungles situated within 30 miles of a line of rail be confined to Tahsildars, or Taluq Sheristadars in their absence, Deputy Tahsildars, and Revenue Inspectors, registers being of course maintained. Mr. Longley's suggestion that the registers kept by village officers should be examined and initialled by Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, and Revenue Inspectors on their tours, and should be produced before the settling officer at the Jammabundy, is a good one, and should be adopted; similarly the registers maintained by Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, and Revenue Inspectors should be scrutinized by Divisional Officers on their tours.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary.

Order thereon, 20th August 1877, No. 2,536.

Forest, No. 14.

His Grace the Governor in Council is not disposed to approve the Board's proposal to withdraw from the heads of villages within 30 miles of a Railway the power to issue free passes to *bonâ fide* cultivators of such villages for the timber they require for their own purposes.

2. To require them to obtain these from the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar or the Revenue Inspector must entail a considerable amount of inconvenience in the exercise of their common right, which, His Grace in Council does not think it is shown, the public interests necessitate.

3. If the heads of villages are furnished with printed and numbered files of passes with counterfoils and required to maintain registers, and if these are frequently and periodically examined and initialled by the taluq officers and produced to the settling officer at Jammabundy, there will be considerable check on any abuse of the power.

4. His Grace in Council accordingly directs that the Board of Revenue issue the necessary instructions for giving effect to these views.

(True Extract.)

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

The Board have not sufficient information as regards the practice in force in the several districts in the matter of the issue of free permits to enable them to draw up rules applicable to all alike. All Collectors, except the Collector of Madras and

Revenue Department, 23rd *November* 1877, *No.* 3,297.

Commissioner of the Nilgiris, where the jungles are in charge of the Conservator, will accordingly be requested to report what classes are entitled to free permits, and the purposes for which they may obtain wood; whether any limit as to quantity is imposed, and what precautions are taken to ensure the enforcement of the restrictions; what are the rates of seigniorage; whether passes and registers are now in use; and what procedure should be adopted in future when fuel or timber is removed from Government jungles. It would be well to frame rules and devise forms that will serve both for jungles under the Collectors and those under the Conservator; the rules embodied in the Board's Standing Order No. 86 have been modified from time to time to suit the circumstances of different districts, and varying rates of seigniorage are in force, but it may be possible to secure greater uniformity, and Collectors will forward their reports through the Conservator of Forests, by whom they will be transmitted with his own recommendations; it would be well if he would furnish a draft of rules and a form of register that could be adopted for all jungles in which felling is allowed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary.

No. 241. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1877, No. 3,297.

Forest, No. 9.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

G. MASTER,
...y to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. T. D...yan.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

No.

REVENUE.

The BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November 23rd,

Recd.

Read

G.O., 23rd November, 1877, No. 3,207.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 240-241.

Permits for felling wood for agriculture purposes.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue intimating that they have not sufficient information to enable them to draw up rules applicable to all districts in connection with the issue of *fowl*—and requesting Collectors to report on certain points on this subject.

No. 4,762.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th October 1877.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 20th August 1877, No. 2,536, Revenue Department:—

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st June 1877, No. 2,911.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 12th August 1876, No. 2,052.

Read also the following papers:—

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 7th September 1876, No. 190.

IN reply to Proceedings, Board of Revenue, dated 12th August 1876, No. 2,052, Forest No. 73, requesting to know whether it is advisable to place greater restriction on the grant of permits for cutting wood in jungles which adjoin the line of rail, I have the honor to state that the only jungles which adjoin the line of rail in this district are the Walliar, otherwise called Sholakerray reserve, and the Mettapolliem jungles, near the Mettapolliem terminus.

2. The Railway is supplied from the private forests of Malabar at a rate which would not pay private persons to supply wood from our forests; the Mettapolliem engine is supplied with wood from Pothanore Depôt, and the train stops only a minute or so at Walliar.

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From J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddapah, 23rd October 1876, No. 269.

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2. This is the unanimous opinion of every officer in this district.

3. In the more distant jungles to the north-east of the district there can be no harm in allowing village officials to grant free permits, because there is no conservancy, and the wood is now taken without license.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary.

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* * *

Order thereon, 20th August 1877, No. 2,536.

Forest, No. 14.

His Grace the Governor in Council is not disposed to approve the proposal to withdraw from the heads of villages within 30 miles of a Railway the power to issue free passes to *bonâ fide* cultivators of such villages for the timber they require for their own purposes.

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Secretary to Gover[illegible]

The Board have not sufficient information as regards the practice in force in the several districts in the matter of the issue of free permits to enable them to draw up rules applicable to all alike. All Collectors, except the Collector of Madras and Commissioner of the Nilgiris where the jungles are in charge of the Conservator, will accordingly be requested to report what classes are entitled to free permits, and the purposes for which they may obtain wood; whether any limit as to quantity is imposed, and what precautions are taken to ensure the enforcement of the restrictions; what are the rates of seigniorage; whether passes and registers are now in use; and what procedure should be adopted in future when fuel or timber is removed from

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(True Copies and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" all Collectors except Madras and the Commissioner of Nilgiris.
Copy to the Conservator of Forests.

Revenue

No 4762

1877.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 17TH OCTOBER 1877, No. 4,762.

Encl.

Received 13/10/77

OCTOBER.

No. 4,762.

Issue of free permits for felling wood for agricultural purposes.—Informing Government that Board have not sufficient information to enable them to draw up rules applicable to all districts like in the matter of — and requesting all Collectors except Collector of Madras and Commissioner of Nilgiris to report on certain points in connection therewith