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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

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

979

Press  
Mis.

Dated 20. 7. 1876 - 196 .

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

979

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
20th July 1876.*

No. 208. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th June 1876, No. 1,599, Forest No. 54:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 26th April 1876, No. 577.

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 679, dated 10th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the estimate of only three cart-loads of wood being required for one of charcoal is not a correct one; as natives generally prepare the article, it takes, I believe, from five to seven times the amount of wood to prepare a given amount of charcoal, but, of course, much depends upon the style of kiln and the superintendence, and some woods give a better return than others.

2. Mr. Sheffield, the Deputy Conservator of the North Arcot Range, lately reported that the contractors employed by the Napier Foundry Company were using seven to eight tons of wood to turn out one of charcoal, I knew that there must be great waste going on, and I arranged with the Napier Foundry Company

for careful experiments; by Mr. Sheffield's letter, as per margin, herewith

No. 717, dated 27th March 1876. forwarded, the Board will perceive that, with careful preparation, it has taken about four tons of wood to turn out one of charcoal; this moreover with superior kilns and every care.

3. Our officers have long felt that the seigniorage on charcoal is too low and out of proportion to that on wood, and it was lately raised in one or two districts; the making of charcoal at all inside the forests is a very destructive practice, often resulting in forest fires, and, as long as the seigniorage is on the article itself and not on the amount of wood consumed, the burners have no interest in preventing the waste of wood, and the preparation is generally carried on in a most careless manner; for these reasons I should much like to see all charcoal prepared outside the limits of the forests or jungles and the seigniorage paid on the wood and not on the charcoal; it will doubtless have to come to this before long in all our railway districts, but for the present this might cause some amount of hardship, and I will assume that the Board would not sanction this, and therefore proceed to propose rates that, I think, will be fair for our different districts:—

|                                                                                                                |              |     |                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Railway districts in which forest is rapidly disappearing, although its upkeep is of great importance.         | Cuddapah     | ... | Rupees 1-8-0 per bandy-load                                                    |
|                                                                                                                | North Arcot  | ... | (1,000 lbs.) from the date of                                                  |
|                                                                                                                | South Arcot  | ... | publication of orders on the                                                   |
|                                                                                                                | Trichinopoly | ... | subject or from the 1st of                                                     |
|                                                                                                                | Madura       | ... | April 1877.                                                                    |
| Districts without railways in which the present annual demand is not estimated beyond the annual reproduction. | Tinnevely    | ... | The same to be raised to Rupees 1-12-0 or 2 Rupees from the 1st of April 1878. |
|                                                                                                                | Coimbatore   | ... |                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                | Salem        | ... |                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                | Ganjam       | ... |                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                | Vizagapatam  | ... | 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs.                                                         |
|                                                                                                                | Godavery     | ... |                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                | Kistna       | ... |                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                | Kurnool      | ... |                                                                                |

4. In the districts of Nellore, Bellary, Tanjore, and Chingleput, the forests have been and now are entirely under the Collectors, and I think that they should be allowed to adopt whichever of these rates they think most suited to their districts; the present rate in Nellore appears to have been reduced from 1 Rupee

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20th July 1876.*

per 1,000 lbs. to 8 Annas in 1869; this is an exceedingly low rate for a district so close to Madras and commanding canal carriage, and requires the attention of the Board.

5. In Malabar no charcoal is made in any tracts of forest under this department, and I trust it never will be.

6. In South Canara exceptionally high rates prevail; no charcoal is made there as far as I remember in any forests under this department; it is, I fancy, entirely drawn from the coast jungles hitherto and now entirely under the Collector, and the rates may be necessary to keep exportation in check, and I do not propose any alteration.

7. I do not advert to the Nilgiris in this report; exceptionally high rates for both firewood and charcoal are in force here which are hardly authorized by the very rapid growth of wood, and I may have to report separately on this subject with reference to this district.

8. The maximum rate which I propose should be introduced two years hence may be considered high; but it must be borne in mind that, as long as the seigniorage is paid on the charcoal, there will be no inducement to economy in the use of the wood to prepare it, and by fixing the rate a little in excess of what might be the seigniorage on the amount of wood required for a careful and systematic preparation, the burners may be induced to have their kilns outside the forests and pay the seigniorage on the wood; a very desirable arrangement.

9. Mr. Gass, our last trained Assistant from Germany, has gone through a very practical instruction in the preparation of kilns and the manufacture of charcoal on economic principles, and I hope shortly to utilize his services in this branch.

10. The twenty enclosures accompanying the Board's Proceedings are herewith returned.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From T. SHEFFIELD, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Arcot Division, to Lieut.-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, dated Vellore, 27th March 1876, No. 717.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that from eight tons of wood carefully weighed, packed in two kilns of four tons each, and lighted in my presence on 21st instant, my Forest Ranger took on Saturday last, 25th instant, from one kiln 1 ton 10 lbs. of charcoal and 2½ cwt. of partially charred wood, and from the other kiln 1 ton 1 cwt. of charcoal and 2½ cwt. of partially charred wood.

2. From the time the kilns were lighted, my peons watched night and day, and when the kilns were closed up, I placed my official seal on all the openings, so that nothing could be taken from, or introduced into, the kilns.

3. As I saw the wood weighed and packed, I thought it would be more satisfactory for all parties that the Ranger should weigh out the charcoal in place of me. The Napier Foundry Company's Agent was present. I am glad that such a high return of charcoal has been produced, and, with a little more practice, I think it possible to get a ton of charcoal from 3½ tons of wood.

4. Arrangements have been made with the Agent for the Company to pay at the rate of Rupees 2-4-0 per ton of charcoal from 1st April next on bills sent in from this office monthly.

5. I trust that the Company will now have no further hesitation in signing the agreement (the seigniorage to be reckoned on the ton of charcoal, not on the wood) and taking the survey and demarcation of the tract to be given over to them in hand at once.

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6. Although it is now proved that the consumption of wood is only four tons to one of charcoal, the Company's Agent freely admits that when I wrote complaining of the quantity of wood used I was correct; but explains that just at that time he was away on other work, his maistry was laid up with fever and the charcoal burners in a panic on account of cholera being very prevalent there at the time.

P.S.—Copy of this letter has been forwarded to Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.

SUBMITTED for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. In their Order, dated 31st October 1873, No. 1,225, the Government decided that the general rate of seigniorage on fuel should be 6 Annas per 1,000 lbs., except in Ganjam and Kurnool, where the special rates\* then in force were allowed to continue, but no orders

having been passed regarding the seigniorage on charcoal, the Collectors of the several districts in charge of forests were called upon to report on the existing rates. The letters received in reply show that no charge is made in Ganjam; that no charcoal is taken from Government Forests in Malabar; and that in the other districts the rate of seigniorage varies from 8 Annas per 1,000 lbs. in Nellore to Rupees 2-3-6 per 1,000 lbs. in South Canara. The several rates now in force in each district are shown in Board's Proceedings, dated 10th March 1876, No. 679.

3. The Conservator of Forests states that natives generally take from five to seven tons of wood to turn out one of charcoal, and that the Napier Foundry Company in North Arcot were only able, with superior kilns and every care, to make one ton of charcoal from four tons of wood. To prevent waste, Colonel Beddome would like to see all charcoal prepared outside the limits of the forests or jungles, and the seigniorage paid on the wood and not on the charcoal; but, assuming that such a course would not be sanctioned, he proposes the following rates:—

Rupees 1-8-0 per 1,000 lbs. in all the Railway Districts from 1st April 1877 to be raised to Rupees 1-12-0 or Rupees 2 after one year.

Rupee 1 per 1,000 lbs. in all other districts from 1st April 1877.

It is proposed that the above rates be declared applicable to all districts except South Canara, where the existing high rate, *i.e.*, Rupees 2-3-6 per 1,000 lbs., may be necessary to keep exportation in check; the Collectors of Nellore, Bellary, Tanjore, and Chingleput, however, who have sole charge of the jungles in their districts, being permitted to adopt whichever rate they prefer.

4. The quantity of charcoal removed on seigniorage from each forest is not known, but the Board imagine that it is not large. Whatever may be the quantity, the Board are decidedly of opinion that the people ought not to be prevented from making charcoal within the forests. It would needlessly increase the cost of the article to the manufacturer, without commensurate advantage to Government. The rates of seigniorage proposed by Colonel Beddome are fair, and the Board recommend that they may be sanctioned for adoption, from 1st April 1877, in all districts except South Canara and Ganjam, the higher rate being held applicable to all railway districts alike, whether the jungles are under the Collector or Forest Department. In South Canara the existing rate should continue in force till further orders, and the Collector will be requested to report whether there is

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any objection to its being reduced to 1 Rupee. In Ganjam the rate may be fixed at 10 Annas considering the very low rate of seigniorage on firewood. No exception need be made in Kurnool, as the present proposals do not involve any enhancement of the existing rate.

5. As regards the proposed increase of the rates of seigniorage in the railway districts after one year, the Board do not think it necessary to enhance the rate so soon. The question may be left for future consideration.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 209. ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1876, No. 979.

Forests, No. 13.

In these Proceedings the Board make certain proposals for fixing a uniform rate of seigniorage on charcoal; their attention having been turned to the subject from the date of G.O., 31st October 1873, No. 1,225, reducing the general rate of seigniorage on fuel to 6 As. per 1,000 lbs.

2. Reference to the Collectors shows that the present rates of seigniorage on charcoal differ widely from each other, none being levied in Ganjam and Malabar; and in the other districts the rates prevailing are shown below:—

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Vizagapatam ... ..    | 12 Annas per 1,000 lbs.         |
| Godavery ... ..       | 1 Rupee " "                     |
| Kistna ... ..         | " " "                           |
| Nellore ... ..        | 8 Annas " "                     |
| Cuddapah ... ..       | 1 Rupee " "                     |
| Bellary ... ..        | 10 As. 8 P. " "                 |
| Kurnool               | 1 Rupee " "                     |
| North Arcot           |                                 |
| South Arcot           |                                 |
| Madura                |                                 |
| Tinnevely             |                                 |
| Salem                 |                                 |
| Trichinopoly } ... .. | 1 Rs. 8 As. per 1,000 lbs.      |
| Coimbatore } ... ..   | 2 Rs. 3 As. 6 P. per 1,000 lbs. |
| South Canara ... ..   | 4 As. per head-load.            |
| Nilgiris ... ..       |                                 |

In Malabar no charcoal is taken from the Government forests.

3. The Conservator of Forests is of opinion that seigniorage should be levied on wood alone, and not on charcoal, as, under such a system, the practice of making charcoal inside the forests, which is very destructive as leading to forest fires, and which further leads to much waste of wood and careless preparation of charcoal, can be put a stop to. The Board, however, consider that the people ought not to be prevented from making charcoal within the forests, as it would needlessly increase the cost of the article to the manufacturer without commensurate advantage to Government. They accordingly propose that a uniform rate of 1 Rupee 8 Annas be

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levied in all districts traversed by the railway, and 1 Rupee only in other districts, the special rate for South Canara being

\* Rupees 2-3-6.

for the present allowed subject to report from the Collector, and a reduced rate of 10 Annas being proposed for Ganjam as the tax is to be newly imposed for that district. These proposals are, to a great extent, concurred in by the Conservator of Forests; and as they proceed on the hypothesis that 4 tons of wood produce one of charcoal,—a result arrived at after a careful experiment,—there appears no objection to their adoption.

4. The Government accordingly sanction the enhancement of the duty in the various districts as proposed by the Board of Revenue; but they desire that it should be distinctly understood that the rate fixed for Ganjam is subject to future consideration and revision. It is presumed that separate proposals will be submitted for the Nilgiris. These should be expedited.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.  
„ the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.



districts; the present rate in Nellore appears to have been reduced from 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs. to 8 Annas in 1869; this is an exceedingly low rate for a district so close to Madras and commanding canal carriage, and requires the attention of the Board.

5. In Malabar no charcoal is made in any tracts of forest under this department, and I trust it never will be.

6. In South Canara exceptionally high rates prevail; no charcoal is made there as far as I remember in any forests under this department; it is, I fancy, entirely drawn from the coast jungles hitherto and now entirely under the Collector, and the rates may be necessary to keep exportation in check, and I do not propose any alteration.

7. I do not advert to the Nilgiris in this report; exceptionally high rates for both firewood and charcoal are in force here which are hardly authorized by the very rapid growth of wood, and I may have to report separately on this subject with reference to this district.

8. The maximum rate which I propose should be introduced two years' hence may be considered high; but it must be borne in mind that, as long as the seigniorage is paid on the charcoal, there will be no inducement to economy in the use of the wood to prepare it, and by fixing the rate a little in excess of what might be the seigniorage on the amount of wood required for a careful and systematic preparation, the burners may be induced to have their kilns outside the forests and pay the seigniorage on the wood; a very desirable arrangement.

9. Mr. Gass, our last trained Assistant from Germany, has gone through a very practical instruction in the preparation of kilns and the manufacture of charcoal on economic principles, and I hope shortly to utilize his services in this branch.

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2. From the time the kilns were lighted, my peons watched night and day, and when the kilns were closed up, I placed my official seal on all the openings, so that nothing could be taken from, or introduced into, the kilns.

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4. Arrangements have been made with the Agent for the Company to pay at the rate of Rupees 2-4-0 per ton of charcoal from 1st April next on bills sent in from this office monthly.

No. 679.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th March 1876.  
Read the following replies to Board's Official Memorandum, dated 16th April 1876,  
No. 547, regarding seigniorage on charcoal:—

| From the Collector of Ganjam, | dated 11th June | 1875, No. 1,350. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| " " of Vizagapatam,           | 6th July        | " " 1,180.       |
| " " of Godavery,              | 7th "           | " " 280.         |
| " " of Kistna,                | 16th June       | " " 800.         |
| " " of Nellore,               | 16th July       | " " 359.         |
| " " of Bellary,               | 7th June        | " " 195.         |
| " " of Cuddapah,              | 14th September  | " " 188.         |
| " " of Kurnool,               | 12th June       | " " 202.         |
| " " of Chingleput,            | 3rd "           | " " 305.         |
| " " of North Arcot,           | 4th "           | " " 308.         |
| " " of South Arcot,           | 11th "          | " " 250.         |
| " " of Tanjore,               | 16th "          | " " 217.         |
| " " of Trichinopoly,          | 6th August      | " " 201.         |
| " " of Madura,                | 11th June       | " " 247.         |
| " " of Tinnevely,             | 1st "           | " " 287.         |
| " " of Coimbatore,            | 12th "          | " " 179.         |
| " Commissioner of Nilgiris,   | 22nd "          | " " 58.          |
| " the Collector of Salem,     | 5th "           | " " 149.         |
| " " of South Canara,          | 21st "          | " " 1,124.       |
| " " of Malabar,               | 12th "          | " " 194.         |

In their Order, dated 31st October 1873, No. 1,225, the Government decided that the general rate of seigniorage on fuel should be 6 Annas per 1,000 lbs. No orders, however, having been passed regarding the seigniorage on charcoal, the Collectors of the several districts in charge of forests were called upon to report the existing rates. The letters above recorded are their replies.

2. It apparently takes three cart-loads of fuel to make one-cart load of charcoal, and the rate of seigniorage on charcoal should, therefore, be three times that on fuel. But in some districts the charge is higher, while in others it is lower as shown below:—

1. Ganjam.—No charge is made.
2. Vizagapatam.—Anna 1 per cavity = 12 Annas per 1,000 lbs.
3. Godavery.—Anna 1 per piled para or basket = 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs. under Jungle Conservancy Rules.
4. Kistna.—Do. do.
5. Nellore.—Pice 6 per do. do. = ½ Rupee per 1,000 lbs.
6. Cuddapah.—Anna 1 per para or basket = 1 Rupee per 1,000 lbs.
7. Bellary.—Pice 8 per do. = Annas 10-8 per 1,000 lbs.
8. Kurnool.—Rupee 1 per bandy-load = 1,000 lbs.
9. North Arcot.—Do. do. do.
10. South Arcot.—Do. do. do.
11. Trichinopoly.—Rupee 1-8-0 per do. do.
12. Madura.—Rupee 1 per do. do.
13. Tinnevely.—Do. do. do.
14. Coimbatore.—Rupee 1-8-0 per cart-load of 1,000 lbs.

15. *Salem*.—Rupee 1 per cart-load of 1,000 lbs.  
 16. *South Canara*.—Rupees 2-3-6 per 1,000 lbs.  
 17. *Malabar*.—No charcoal is taken.  
 18. *Nilgiris*.—Annas 4 per head-load.

2. The Conservator of Forests is requested to take the subject into his consideration and report whether the estimate of three cart-loads of fuel to each cart-load of charcoal is correct, whether it would not be desirable to introduce a uniform rate in all the districts, and what the charge should be.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,  
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) M. JORDAN,  
First Assistant.

To the Conservator of Forests, with twenty original reports from Collectors, to be returned.  
 Copy to all Collectors except Madras and Sea Customs.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

5. I trust that the Company will now have no further hesitation in signing the agreement (the seigniorage to be reckoned on the ton of charcoal, not on the wood) and taking the survey and demarcation of the tract to be given over to them in hand at once.

6. Although it is now proved that the consumption of wood is only four tons to one of charcoal, the Company's Agent freely admits that when I wrote complaining of the quantity of wood used I was correct; but explains that just at that time he was away on other work, his maistry was laid up with fever and the charcoal burners in a panic on account of cholera being very prevalent there at the time.

P.S.—Copy of this letter has been forwarded to Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.

SUBMITTED for the consideration and orders of Government.

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\* Ganjam, 2½ Annas per cart-load or 1,000 lbs.  
 Kurnool, 4 do. do. do.

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Rupee 1 per 1,000 lbs. in all other districts from 1st April 1877.

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4. The quantity of charcoal removed on seigniorage from each forest is not known, but the Board imagine that it is not large. Whatever may be the quantity, the Board are decidedly of opinion that the people ought not to be prevented from making charcoal within the forests. It would needlessly increase the cost of the article to the manufacturer, without commensurate advantage to Government. The rates of seigniorage proposed by Colonel Biddome are fair, and the Board recommend that they may be sanctioned for adoption, from 1st April 1877, in all districts except South Canara and Ganjam, the higher rate being applicable to all railway districts alike, whether the jungles are under the Collector or Forest Department. In South Canara the existing rate should continue in force

1876.  
 Board of Revenue,  
 MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 10TH MARCH 1876, No. 679.

End.

Received

MARCH.  
 No. 679.

Charcoal.—Calling for report on certain points from Conservator of Forests in connection with charge of seigniorage on —.

Tachinops } 1 R. p. 6 mm. 6000  
 C. 6 mm. 6000  
 1 Canara -  
 Helgeris - 2 R. 6 mm. 6000  
 1 R. 6 mm. 6000

The Conservation of Forests is of great  
 importance to the people as it leads  
 to wood being sold as charcoal.  
 as under such a system the practice  
 of making charcoal inside the  
 forests, which is very destructive  
 already to forest trees, &  
 which further leads to much  
 waste of wood & carelessness  
 in the use of charcoal, can be  
 put a stop to. The Board however  
 consider that the people ought  
 not to be prevented from making  
 charcoal within the forests  
 as it would be entirely in-  
 accord with the policy of the  
 Government to encourage  
 the manufacture of charcoal  
 to the advantage of the  
 people. They accordingly propose  
 that a uniform rate of 1 Rupee  
 should be levied in all the  
 districts by the Revenue &  
 1 Rupee in the other districts, the  
 actual rate for S. Canara being  
 for the present allowed but  
 not to be paid from the Collector.  
 & a reduced rate of 10 annas  
 being proposed for Panjama & the  
 other districts. It is to be  
 noted that the new proposed  
 rates. These proposals are not  
 yet sanctioned by the  
 Government.

I have repeated of interest  
 this, as a Collector

x 11. 2. 3. 6

11. To the Secretary of the  
 21. The Government of India

only one of the  
 4 tons. 100 lbs = 24 annas  
 100 lbs = 100 annas  
 100 lbs = 100 annas

Not the Government  
 to the people of the  
 district, but the  
 people of the district

19-7-76  
 Addition to the above now proposed by the  
 Government according to the  
 Ministry of the district in the various districts as proposed  
 by the Board of the district, but they desire that it should  
 be distinct & understood that the rate fixed  
 for Panjama is subject to future consideration  
 & revision. This proposal must be separate  
 proposal, will be submitted for the Ministry  
 these should be approved.

979/1  
 serving Forests; & asking pro-  
 ceed on his hypothesis that  
 4 tons of wood produce one  
 of charcoal — a result ar-  
 rived at after a careful experi-  
 ment —, there appears no ob-  
 jection to their adoption.  
 The enhancement of the duty for  
 the various districts will be —

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Vizagapatam. | 10 annas.         |
| Bahar.       | 8 annas.          |
| Cassapatam.  | 8 annas.          |
| Bahar.       | 10 annas. 4 pice. |
| K. Anant.    | 8 annas.          |
| S. Anant.    | 10 annas.         |
| Madras.      | 10 annas.         |
| Madras.      | 10 annas.         |
| Salim.       | 10 annas.         |

It is not clear from the papers  
 submitted how the Ministry  
 will be affected by the pro-  
 posed arrangements.

[Redacted]

Ms. 100-1  
Qs 20-1 July 176-10 1779

desp. July 17

sent to Hm. for 10 July R 18 July  
C-7 July 176 R 10 July

[Redacted]