M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 784 Press ~~Mis.~~

558-89.

Dated 20th March 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th March 1869.

No. 558. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Camp at Mysore, 9th March 1869, No. 1,220:—

1. Referring to my letter No. 1,082 of the 18th of December last, recorded in the Government Order, No. 25 of the 6th of January 1869, I have the honor to inform you that I have lately had a conference with some of the Members of the Board of Revenue on the subject, and as a feeling prevails that there is a desire on my part to get all sources of the Jungle Conservancy Revenue out of the hands of Collectors, and that the handing over of further tracts to our department would be a hardship to the ryots, and that it is my wish to detract from the authority of Collectors over the jungles of their districts, I wish to state my views more fully.

2. Instead of wishing to take authority out of the hands of the Collectors, I am most desirous to see our establishments much more under them than they are at present, in all matters, except in reference to reserved tracts worked departmentally, and other purely departmental work. Unless our establishments are to be made more of a branch of the Revenue than they are at present, and unless we are to have the cordial support of Collectors and the assistance of their Subordinates, I fear that our department can never produce the results that Government have a right to expect from it. I have long felt that we could never have the cordial support of the Revenue Authorities when there was a separate establishment as it were, working for a very similar object under them, not working with us; but often in direct opposition, and of whose operations we are never kept informed. I have already pointed out some of the evils of this system in my letter alluded to above, and I recommended that in those districts where we have establishments, Jungle Conservancy operations as carried on separately from our department, should be confined to topes and avenues, &c. Now that our department is being more fully developed, and planting and nurseries are being commenced on a large scale, I would recommend that the whole operations including even topes and avenues should be transferred to the Special Department, there would then be only one establishment for the same object in each district: our establishments must be increased, but the revenue would be greatly enhanced, in the working of the reserved tracts and other departmental work, our Assistants would be under the Conservator, but in all other matters they would be almost entirely under the Collector. Reserved and unreserved tracts would have separate establishments, our Assistants might have their Office near the Collector's and should attend constantly at his Office, and they or the Overseers should occasionally accompany the Collector in his tours, when it may seem necessary; by this arrangement our Officers and Establishments will know all that is going on in all the jungles and forests of their districts, which is not the case at present, and smuggling and many other irregularities will be far more difficult than at present, and the 2nd class forest tracts and all the machinery of working them successfully and without any hardship to the ryots will at the same time be as much under Collectors as they choose. In some districts, certain tracts of forest are under Collectors, and various operations are set on foot quite unknown to any of our Officers or Establishments in charge of adjoining tracts; some Collectors are good foresters and take a great interest in the jungles and their conservancy arrangements, as far as the tracts alluded to are concerned, may be successful; but then

they are liable at any time to be removed elsewhere or to go on leave, and then the results are often unfortunate: but in any case the system is bad, as adjoining tracts are being worked under different rules and different seigniorage rates.

3. To illustrate some of the difficulties of the present system, I forward for perusal, the correspondence* as per margin, relating to forest matters in the Salem District. It is essential to the welfare of our Department, that all monies should be received by the Revenue Authorities, but it is nowhere quite understood on what footing we stand, or what amount of assistance we are entitled to. The Collector of Salem does not seem inclined to allow us the amount of assistance we might expect from his Subordinates.

* Letter from Collector of Salem, to the Officiating Conservator, No. 5, dated 3rd February 1869.
Do. from Collector, to Deputy Conservator, No. 43, dated 22nd December 1868.
Do. from Deputy Conservator, to Collector, No. 257, dated 14th of January 1869.
Copy of letter from Officiating Conservator, to Collector, No. 1,210, dated 8th March 1869.

4. I have lately discussed all this subject with Mr. J. Robinson, the Collector of North Arcot, and I believe he fully agrees with my views, and he informed me that he would support them if there was a Government guarantee that a sufficient sum of money should be allowed in our Budgets for forest improvements in his district; this is of course most important, as the Jungle Conservancy Fund will be done away with, but there is no reason why a large percentage of our profits in each district should not be annually allowed and entered in our Budgets for conservancy and improvements, and the formation of large nurseries, plantations, topes, &c., and I consider it very necessary now, in districts contiguous to the line of Railway; the revenue of large forests like those of the Anamallays, Mudumallays, &c., may well go to Imperial revenue, but it is becoming necessary to lay out nearly all our profits in some of the less wooded districts.

No. 559. ORDER THEREON, 20th March 1869, No. 736.

Forests, No. 19.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for their remarks, in continuation of the Proceedings of Government under date 6th January 1869, No. 25.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. TALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

No 786.

(3)

20 March 1869

14 Copies Forwarded to Revenue Dept. 29
18 " " Board of Revenue

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 20th.

Recd. *Encl:*

G. O., 20th March 1869, No. 786.

Pro- of the Board of Rev dy 6 Novr 68
No 1955

MARCH.

Nos. 558-559.

Jungle Conservancy.—Further letter from the Conservator of Forests on this subject, referred to the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

Rec. 6 Jany 1869 Nos 53-54.

Peronne 1868-69.

(4)

~~Forest~~ Department.

From

No. 809.

The Offg Comr of

Forests.

To,

The Asst Secretary to

Govt R.D.

Dated 9th

Received 13th } March 1869.

No 1220.

Enclosures No 4. Pencils

Office

Subject

Office Boards

Requests return of enclosures

Conservancy arrangements.