

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2723

DATED 28th May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording P.S.P. forwarding to all Collectors
certain papers relating to the working of minor
produce in view to the submission of a report
as to whether any modification in the working
of minor produce in their districts is required
&c.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

<i>cm</i> G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed May 13th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 177, 4th May 1897.

25/5/97
The Hon. Mr. Rose C. J. 8

Order misc *2423 of 28th May 97* MAY.

Recorded

21.5.97

11/5/97. J. J. J.

20.5.97

Forwarding to all Collectors certain papers relating to the working of minor produce in view to the submission of a report, at an early date, as to whether any modification in the working of minor produce in their districts is required; and stating that in submitting the reports attention should be paid to the instructions issued by Government in its order printed in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 355, dated 7th August 1896.

22/5/97

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue),
Forest Mis. No. 335, dated 9th April 1897:—

Resolution—Forest Mis. No. 335, dated 9th April 1897.

In paragraph 22 of his letter recorded as an appendix to Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 236, dated 28th May 1896, the Acting Conservator Southern Circle, remarked that the extent to which the smallest items of minor produce are leased out to uncontrolled contractors constitutes a grave harm to the service.

Mr. Hooper is requested to illustrate his meaning by citing specific instances, and to state the measures he would propose for the removal of the grievance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

To the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

READ—also the following letter from E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 23rd April 1897, No. 3793:—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Proceedings, Forest Mis. No. 335, dated 9th April 1897, asking me for an illustration in support of my remark in paragraph 22 of my letter printed in Proceedings, Forest No. 236, dated 23th May 1896, when acting in the Northern Circle of the Presidency and not in this Southern Circle, as recorded in the Proceedings under reply.

2. As it is nearly three years since the remarks were made and having been away from the circle for nearly two years, I cannot reply as fully as I could have done earlier and with the Northern Circle records to consult, I would however mention that the passage quoted was based upon opinion formed after discussion and enquiry into a general petition to Government complaining of the application of the Forest Contract system in the Ceded Districts to petty items of produce, among others to fuller's earth in the form of "choudu" soil, which contractors were said to charge a seigniorage upon not only within the areas of production but in municipalities and towns.

This was, I think, the case in the town of Gooty in the Anantapur district, and I strongly advised the Collector Mr. Tate to restrict the system of forest contracts in the open country to the more important items of minor produce and to keep the levy of seigniorage under control and, so far as possible, to limit it to the area of production.

3. Speaking again entirely from memory, the petition referred also to the contracts for babul fruits and the hardship resulting from the contracting out of this item was represented as caused by the levy of fees from goat owners on lines of communication where a few Government babul trees might be met with. This I think had more especial reference to the black-cotton soil taluks of Bellary and Anantapur, and to my knowledge the Collector of Bellary had the matter under his serious consideration.

4. If any further information be required as to the grounds for my remark I would, before answering, require to peruse the lists of items of produce so leased out in the various districts of my then circle charge. I would merely add on this occasion that the policy I advocated was the withdrawal from operations which harass the general population without securing any adequate revenue for the department.

5. The state of things to which I took exception was most rife where the department actively interfered in waste lands adjoining and intermingled with cultivated areas and in the neighbourhood of towns. The orders of Government issued since 1895 have materially increased the average distance of forests from village-sites by eliminating from reserved forests most of those less than 640 acres in extent. The alteration in the rules under section 26 also in a way guarantees villages from interference by the department, though they do not expressly vest in the villagers the usufruct of classified or reserved trees in unreserved lands.

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 177, dated 4th May 1897.

The papers read above will be forwarded to all Collectors in view to the submission of a report, at an early date, as to whether any modification in the working of minor produce in their districts is required. The object to be held in view is to ensure "the withdrawal from operations which harass the general population without securing any adequate revenue for the department." In submitting the reports attention should be paid to the instructions issued by Government in its order printed in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 355, dated 7th August 1896.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To all Collectors (except Madras).
" Conservators of Forests.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

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