Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 291

DATED 18 Jany 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B. P. approving the proposal of the Collr. of Vizagapatam in regard to the levy of tree-tax on Fruit trees in the Golgonda Agency

BACK PAPERS.

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

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Revenue (1896) Department.

CURRENT No.

SECT. GOVT. MADRAS 17 JAN 9 REV. DEPT.

The Hon. Mr. Grose C. I. E

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Order Mis 291 of 18th Jany 1897

JG 15/1/97

Recorded.

11/1/97.

To the Board (L.R.) Dd. 21.1.97

KD 9/1/97

From The Board of Revenue
Land Revenue
~~Forest~~ Branch

No. 543

Dated 2 December 1896

Received 7th January 1897

Registered 8th " "

Enclosures "

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Approving the proposal of the Collector of Vizagapatam in regard to the levy of tree-tax on fruit trees in the Golgonda Agency, Vizagapatam Dt.

c. 14/1/97
R. 18/1/97

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BACK PAPERS.

G O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

READ—the following letter from W. O. HORNE, Esq., Acting Collector, Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 12th November 1896, Dis. No. 2964-A:—

Adverting to the concluding sentence of Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 469, dated 8th October 1896, I have the honour to report that the tree-tax referred to cannot conveniently be amalgamated with the regular rent as suggested by the Board, for the reasons given by Mr. Scott, late Principal Assistant Collector, in his letter dated 4th November 1894, No. 1145, copy of which is herein enclosed, Mr. Wolfe-Murray, late Acting Collector, concurred with Mr. Scott and directed the continuance of the existing system. I agree with these officers, and have therefore issued instructions for the leasing out of the produce of the fruit trees on patta and *unreserved* lands as hitherto and for the abolition of seigniorage on tamarinds and mangoes. I request that my action may be approved.

G.O. 1920 2-12-96

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Principal Assistant Collector, Vizianagram, to the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 4th November 1894, Dis. No. 1145.

With reference to your Proceedings, No. 2925, dated 4th October 1892, I have the honour to report that it is impossible to obtain details of how the calculations given in this office No. 681, dated 28th September 1892, were arrived at. There was no personal inspection by the Divisional officer and apparently practically none by the Tahsildar.

2. In this office letter No. 438-1, dated 6th August 1892, Mr. Shipley stated that the calculations were made by the then Deputy Tahsildar of Palkonda at the rate of a few pies for each tree of specified girth taking also into consideration the nature of the soil on which the trees stand, their yield and the distance between the trees and the market to which the produce will have to be carried for sale. As there are 9,849 tamarind trees and 10,515 mango trees according to the statement given in the same letter, it seems to me evident that the information on which the calculations are said to have been based could not possibly have been obtained unless the Deputy Tahsildar had spent a good many months in the agency which he never appears to have done. In fact from paragraph 2 of this office letter No. 681, dated 28th September 1892, it seems clear it was not obtained. The Asamwar list referred to in this office letter No. 681, dated 28th September 1892, is not in this office and personally I should not be inclined to put much faith in it if it were. I doubt very much if it is possible for any one to state what the fruit-bearing properties of a tree are from mere examination of it.

3. It seems to me then that the only proper course, supposing it to be necessary, to fix the value of the trees is to fix the value of each tree with reference to its timber and make each pattadar pay for the trees on his land. This is practically what was recommended by Mr. Shipley in his letter No. 438, dated 6th August 1892, and I would therefore request a re-consideration of your Proceedings, No. 2399, dated 18th August 1892. The amount which each pattadar would have to pay could be collected in yearly instalments without difficulty.

4. To ascertain the value of the trees in this way, the assistance of the Forest department would be necessary as in the ordinary tracts and I am perfectly certain that the District Forest-officer would find considerable difficulty in sparing any of his subordinates for the work which would take some considerable time, nor could the Tahsildar spare the time necessary. If the work is to be done at all, some one will have to be specially deputed for it.

5. Further from your Proceedings, No. 2399, dated 18th August 1892, I gather that it is not intended to increase the present revenue from the trees. I do not therefore understand why the existing system should not be allowed to continue in force. I would respectfully submit that Board's Standing Circular Order No. 6 does not, as stated in your Proceedings, No. 58, dated 16th

January 1889, apply to Agency tracts, and in your Proceedings, No. 908, dated 19th March 1890, this view seems to have been taken. The present system has several advantages; the hill people are accustomed to it, and any change would probably add to their present dissatisfaction arising from the forest reservation; it is fair and is liked because when there are bad fruit seasons, it is easy at jamabandi to reduce the amount of tree rent payable, whereas this would not be possible if the tree rent and land assessment were merged; it is easy to reduce the rent when any trees cease to bear and the renter complains thereof at jamabandi; it is more profitable to Government than the proposal in paragraph 3 *supra* as we get a yearly rent and still own the trees.

6. On the other hand there is one grave objection to the proposed changes. If any hill man declines to pay the increased rent or the value of the trees it will be impossible to force him to do as we wish or to turn him out of his land. In such a case we would be obliged to stick to the present system whether we wished it or not, unless we cut down and removed the trees, for the hill man would take good care to prevent any one coming on to his land to get the produce, and as already pointed out cutting down the trees is not to our advantage and is for other obvious reasons out of the question.

7. Further to increase the assessments so as to obtain an additional amount equal to the tree rent we now get from the trees on the holdings is manifestly not equitable. The production value of the trees is not the same each year, and in time, I fancy myself it is the case already, must steadily decrease year by year.

8. In conclusion what I recommend is that fruit trees on holdings and unreserved lands in the Agency be rented as at present to the hill villagers, fruit trees on reserved lands being of course under the management of the Forest department.

Resolution—Forest No. 543, dated 2nd December 1896.

In the circumstances stated the Collector's proposal is approved.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Collector of Vizagapatam.
" Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.
Copy to the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
" " Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1896.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed December th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 513, 2*nd December* 1896.

Approving of the proposal of the Collector of Vizagapatam in regard to the levy of tree-tax on fruit trees in the Golgonda Agency, Vizagapatam district.

When given for copying ____
When copied ____
When examined ____
When signed ____
} 189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH, DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

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