

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3267

DATED 29th June

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm^d with memo^s to the Secy of Forests.
Letter from the Secy of Forests to the Govt. of India
forwarding copy of circular re: the future
maintenance & control of forest working
plans.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
See 8068 757							

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 5080

The Hon: Mr. J. C. S.

Order misc no. 32677/29th June 97
D.O. 6/7/97

From

The Inspector-General
of Forests, to the
Govt. of India

No. 123. W.P.

Communicated to
the Board of Rev: for infor-
mation and for report as
to whether it proposes to issue
any similar instructions for
the guidance of the Conservators
under it

Dated 11th June 1897

Received 18.6.97

Registered

Enclosures 1

Spare copies 15

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Copy of
Circular re: the future
maintenance and control
of forest working-plans.

2

10 the Board of Rev. L.R.
(A.O.)

18/7/97

223/5/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1897.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS.

WORKING PLANS.

To

CONSERVATORS OF FORESTS.

Circular No. 9 W. P.

Dated Simla, the 3rd June 1897.

SUBJECT.

Asks for opinion on certain proposals relative to the maintenance and control of Forest working-plans in India in future.

Circular No. 9 W. P.

From

B. RIBBENTROP, Esq., C.I.E.,

Inspector General of Forests to the Government of India,

To

THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,

(Working-Plans.)

Simla, the 3rd June 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to address you as follows on the subject of the maintenance and control of forest working-plans, with a view to the curtailment of the rapidly increasing work in this office so far as the check and supervision of Forms Nos. 2, 2a, 3 and 33 are concerned.

2. I would first bring to notice that it has always been my intention that the position in regard to the control of working-plans should be considered from time to time with a view to its gradual decentralization, and it appears to me that the time has now arrived when it should be considered how far the detailed control of the execution of the provisions of sanctioned plans now exercised by my office should be placed in the hands of Conservators. I have therefore obtained the permission of the Government of India to circulate, for the opinion and remarks of Conservators and working-plan officers, the following proposals which have been framed from a note left on record by Mr. J. L. Pigot, Deputy Conservator of Forests, who for five years so ably assisted me in the control of working-plans.

3. The orders under which the present procedure came into force were issued in 1884. The existing orders, contained in sections 82 to 92 inclusive of the Forest Department Code, remain in all essential respects unchanged, except as regards the submission to the Inspector General of Forests of a preliminary report on every proposed working-plan (Code section 83).

4. In 1884, when the first orders were issued, the work was altogether new, and only one regular plan was then in force. The preparation of working-plans was shortly afterwards undertaken in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, and now regular plans are in force in all forest circles with the exception of the Northern Circle of the Central Provinces, the Western Circle of Upper Burma, Baluchistan and the Andamans. Gradually with the process of time, and as each new working-plan was compiled and sanctioned, the work in my office has increased. Each new plan, whilst under preparation, formed the subject of much correspondence, though as time went on, and the lines on which the reports should be framed became better understood, less difficulty was experienced. Up till 1889, but little control was exercised over the execution of the prescriptions

of the plans; but since that year detailed criticisms on the working, past mistakes, etc., have been issued, and this has led to very satisfactory results.

Some of the earlier plans still in existence are very faulty, or are so complicated that they are difficult to understand. But of these, short résumés were prepared in this office, and in consequence they have been fairly well worked up to; whilst as regards the more recent plans, such as those for the Oudh Circle for example, the schemes are so simple or so well constructed that the control of each plan presents no difficulty.

5. The number of plans, however, is increasing so rapidly and the work involved in criticising and controlling them in this office is getting so considerable, that a continuation of the present procedure must, in a comparatively short time, result in such an amount of work as to necessitate an increase in the clerical staff, if not the appointment of a second officer to assist in the Inspector General's work. The number of regularly sanctioned plans which will be in force in a few years' time will certainly be at least double the present number, which is about 80. The increase will occur principally in both circles of the Central Provinces, as well as in Bengal, Punjab and Burma. And it is unquestionable that the work in this office connected with the preparation of new plans will be much increased in the near future.

6. The business of the working-plans section of my office falls under the following two heads:—

(i) Ensuring that the plans are prepared on proper principles. This consists (a) in the consideration and check of the facts and figures of the outline plans submitted by Conservators under Code section 83 and the advice or instructions sent to Conservators in reply; and (b) in the similar but more laborious procedure in respect of the finished plans forwarded by the Conservator under section 88, through the Inspector General of Forests, to the Local Government for final orders.

(ii) *Controlling sanctioned plans.*—This work, to be effective, entails the comparison of the returns furnished by Conservators in Forms 2, 2a, 3 and 33, not merely with the orders as contained in the plans, but with the returns for previous years.

7. The Government of India's Resolution No. 21-F., dated 6th December 1884, prescribing generally the present procedure, did not, it is true, foreshadow that the control to be exercised by the Inspector General might subsequently be relaxed. But the orders were mainly intended to place the work on a proper footing, and could, especially as regards control, scarcely be expected to be final; and I am of opinion that the time has come when their modification should be taken into consideration. It is not proposed, however, to make any alterations in the orders for ensuring the correct preparation of new plans: because although doubtless in some instances the "preliminary working-plans report" might safely be dispensed with, yet in many cases this would not be so; moreover, for specially valuable forests the more safeguards there are the better. And it is considered that the preliminary discussion of proposed plans, the fixing of the possibility, the method of sylvicultural treatment, and the like, is really the most important business of any central working-plans controlling bureau.

8. As regards the control of the execution of plans already sanctioned, the case seems different, and it is in this direction that an alteration in the orders appears

indicated with a view to the reduction of work in the Inspector General's office. It appears to me that the Conservator's control should in future be sufficient to ensure that the provisions of each plan are properly carried into effect; and that their report as to what has been done during the year concerned might be accepted without any detailed check. It is true that, in some circles, the check in the Inspector General's office has revealed deviations not noticed in the Conservator's office or by the Conservator; but this is probably due to the fact that some Conservators, knowing that a detailed check will take place in the Inspector General's office, do not lay sufficient stress on such a check in their own offices.

9. It is proposed, therefore, to retain Control Forms 2, 2a, 3 and 33, in which the results of working will be recorded in detail in the Divisional and Conservators' offices, and to amend Code section 92, so that the Conservator will be responsible that the provisions of the plans in force and the work done under them are properly entered in the control forms, and that deviations are brought to notice and reported to Government for the necessary sanction. Next, the Conservator will forward to the Inspector General signed summary abstracts from his control books, not in tabular form, but in the form of a brief report, which will state for the principal works only (A) what has been done in accordance with the provisions of the plan and (B) what has been done contrary to the plan. This is all the information that is ordinarily required in this office; and for all the working-circles included in a plan, the brief summary need not usually exceed a page or two of foolscap.

10. The summary report might be arranged as follows:—

The report might commence with *exploitation*, taking each working-circle separately, and stating in abbreviated language (a) the balance of area, of volume of material or number of trees available from the previous year; (b) the prescriptions for the year; (c) the work done; and (d) departures from the plan and the sanctioning orders. The total outturn in cubic feet may be given.

Next as to *works of improvement*, the report might continue by treating of *all* the working-circles together, but mentioning only important points or results connected with road-making, climber-cutting, fire-conservancy, and the like, with a memorandum showing any deviations which may have taken place, together with the authority under which they have been sanctioned.

Lastly, for Form 33 the report might conclude by stating the gross receipts, the charges under A and B separately, and the net results.

11. Such abstracts would be accepted as correct in this office; and the Inspector General's intervention would be limited to such matters as a perusal of the report may suggest as requiring notice. To ensure uniformity, it is proposed that forms of the report should be supplied in the first instance from this office, and accordingly I append for information a copy of the suggested form, filled up as an example of what is required, with a summary report of work done under the plan in force in the Kumaun Division of the Central Circle, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, during the year 1895-96.

12. It is believed that the procedure above suggested, whilst greatly lightening the work in the Inspector General's office, will not entail any additional work on Conservators, nor upon their office establishments. Conservators already sign the control forms in token of their correctness. Yet it must be remembered

4

that the relaxation of the control in the office of the Inspector-General will throw extra responsibility on Conservators, who, should these proposals be adopted, will in future be solely responsible not only for the correct preparation of their control forms but also, which is of far greater importance, for the whole control over the correspondence of the actual working of the forests with the prescriptions of the working-plans; and who will perhaps be obliged to exercise a more careful detailed check in these matters than has sometimes been the custom in the past.

13. I beg to request that I may be favoured at an early date with your views on the above proposals.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Sy. A. Kibben
Inspector General of Forests.

Sections 88, 89, 90 and 92.

Suggested Form.

Working-plan for the Kumaun Forest Division, Central Circle Conservatorship.

Summary abstract from the entries in the Conservator's Control books. Year 1895-96.

(1) Abstract from Form No. 2 [or 2 (a)]. Separate particulars for each working circle.

(1) *Hill Working-Circle.*

No regular fellings of green timber prescribed. The demands of rightholders were satisfied in accordance with paragraphs 148 and 149 of the plan. Total outturn in cubic feet (solid) was 88,863 for purchasers, 11,853 for rightholders and 166 for departmental use. Minor produce removed was valued at Rs. 10,991.

(2) *Faula Sal Chandni Working-Circle.*

No balance from previous years. The prescription of the year was to carry out improvement fellings over 445 acres in compartment 3; this was not done. Seven sal trees were cut for departmental use. The total outturn in cubic feet solid, including the removal of dry wood and fuel over the whole circle, was purchasers—17,711; rightholders—106,162; and 137 for departmental use. Minor produce removed was valued at Rs. 1,047.

(3) *Sarkhet Working-Circle.*

No balance from previous years. Prescription of the year is the felling by the selection method of 200 sal trees in coupes I to IV in the Chungadh block. The prescription was carried out in full. In addition 456 trees of various species were cut (selection fellings) as permitted in paragraphs 90, 94, 148 and 149 of the plan. Including the removal of dry timber and fuel, the total outturn in cubic feet (solid) was purchasers—21,662; rightholders—6,953; and 63 for departmental use. Minor produce=Rs. 711.

(4) *Nandhaur Working-Circle.*

Coupe II remained open for the third year for the exploitation of hollow sal trees only; 14 trees were cut. Coupe III was open for the second year with a deficit balance of 1,135 trees; 313 sal trees were felled, leaving a deficit balance of 822 sal trees. The prescription of the year was the felling of 1,302 sal trees by the selection method in Coupe IV opened for the first year; 51 sal trees were cut, leaving a deficit balance of 1,251 trees to be cut in the following years. 101 sein, 61 tun, 90 jaman and 47 dhauri were also felled by purchasers in accordance with paragraph 94 of the plan. Total outturn=32,955 cubic feet solid by purchasers. Minor produce=Rs. 2,665.

(5) *Kalaunia Working-Circle.*

In Coupe I opened for the third year there was a deficit balance of 498 sal trees; 486 trees were felled, leaving a deficit balance of 12 trees. Coupe II remained open for the second year, with a deficit balance of 902 sal trees and was fully exploited. The prescription of the year was the felling of 874 sal by the selection method in Coupe III opened for the first year, but no trees were cut. Two sal and 2 haldu were felled in compartment 20, Kumia, for departmental use. Total outturn by purchasers was 61,421 cubic feet solid. Minor produce removed=Rs. 2,831.

(6) *Sanani Working-Circle.*

Coupe II, area 1,114 acres, remained open for the second year during which improvement fellings were completed. Coupe III (area 986 acres) was prescribed to be worked by improvement fellings during the year and was opened for the first year; fellings were carried out over the whole area. Rightholders' demands were satisfied. Total yield in cubic feet (solid) was 71,159 for purchasers and 7,614 for rightholders. Minor produce=Rs. 10,193.

(7) *Lakhmanmandi-Horai Working-Circle.*

Coupe II, area 649 acres, was opened for the second year and improvement fellings were completed over it. Coupe III (area 447 acres) was prescribed for the year and was opened to fellings which were duly carried out. Total outturn in cubic feet (solid) was—purchasers 17,398; Government use 67; and 11,367 of dry wood and fuel.

(8) *Kalaga Working-Circle.*

No balance from previous years. Selection fellings over 184 acres in Coupe III were prescribed for the year and were duly executed. Total outturn in cubic feet (solid) was—purchasers 6,948 and rightholders 4,485. Minor produce=Rs. 821. From 1896-97 this circle will be included in the Khair Working-Circle.

Abstract from Form No. 2—continued.

(9) *Khair Working-Circle.*

Coupe II (area 1,549 acres) remained open for the second year and Coupe III (area 2,209 acres) was open for the first year for exploitation by the selection method. 94 haldu, 32 shisham and 2,625 khair (for cutch) trees were cut during the year in both the coupes. 112,129 cubic feet of woods other than khair, including dry wood and fuel, were removed from the whole circle. Minor produce=Rs. 4,334.

(10) *Sarda Islands Working-Circle.*

No regular fellings prescribed, but 30 shisham trees were sold under paragraph 149 of the plan. Total outturn, including dry timber, was 1,860 cubic feet. Minor produce=Rs. 306.

Bamboos.

All the bamboo blocks were worked as prescribed, excepting Lowernala (southern half), Kholdunga and Dogari. Deviations sanctioned in North-Western Provinces and Oudh G. O. No. 784—XIV—545-A., dated 21st November 1896.

There were no other deviations requiring Government sanction during the year.

Abstract from Form No. 2—continued.

(2) Abstract from Form No. 3 (for all working-circles together).

Fire-conservancy.—Several fire lines were cut and cleared of all refuse wood. Fire protection was in force over 194,431 acres, the cost of which amounted to Rs. 8,443.

Roads and paths.—Various small paths and roads were constructed as prescribed, costing Rs. 633. Rs. 6,216 were expended on repairs to existing roads. No large works were carried out under this head during the year.

Buildings.—Rs. 237 were spent in constructing huts, etc., and Rs. 1,174 in repairing existing buildings. No large works were undertaken during the year.

Creeper-cutting.—In the prescribed areas climbers were cut over 8,191 acres at a cost of Rs. 209; 2,109 acres remain to be cut. 1,628 acres were cut in non-prescribed areas, costing Rs. 76.

Other works.—No other large or important works of improvement were taken in hand.

The total expenditure under A.—Conservancy and Works amounted to Rs. 27,252 as against Rs. 33,500, the estimate given in the plan.

There were no deviations requiring Government sanction during the year.

Abstract from Form No. 3—continued.



No. 123 W.P.

FROM

B. RIBBENTROP, ESQ., C.I.E.,
Inspector-General of Forests to the Govt. of India,

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Revenue Department.

Working-Plans.

Simla, the 11th June 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, a copy of this Office Circular No.9 W.P., of the 3rd instant, containing proposals regarding the future maintenance and control of forest working-plans.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Inspector General of Forests.

P.C.B.

(3) Financial results (all the working-circles together).

	R	R
Receipts		1,17,181
Charges A.	27,252	
" B.	25,343	52,595
Surplus or deficit		+64,586

No.

Forwarded to the Inspector General of Forests for information.

Dated

, the

1897

Conservator of Forests.