

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 609

DATED 22nd July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Delegation of Powers.

Sang. the Board's proposals for the delegation of some of the powers possessed by the D.T. Forest-officer, Godavari, to the Sub-divisional officer at Bhadrachalam.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

48
The Secy: Mr. George C. J. J.
15 JUL 97
REV. DEPT.
From
The Board of Revenue, Land Revenue
Madras
Order No. 609 of 22nd July 1897
21/7/97
The Govt agrees
with the Board and same
trans its proposals contained
in the Prop read above.
Dated 8th July 1897
Received
Registered
Enclosures
Spare copies
Forest No. 669 Misc

26-8-01-1897
The Board of Rev: C.R. with enclos.
Acct. General.
note
The facts are clearly
stated and discussed in the
Board's Resolution and no
separate note is therefore
submitted.
16. VII 97
17.7.97
17.7.97
SUBJECT.
Submitting to Government with re-
marks certain papers relating to the
delegation of some of the powers
possessed by the D.F.O. to the S.D.O.
at Bhadrachellam in the Godavari Dt.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE), FOREST No. 203, 9TH MAY 1896.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE).

READ—the following letter from A. W. PEET, Esq., Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Waltair, 28th March 1896, C. No. 1776 :—

[Subject.—Proposed relaxation of orders in section 208 of the Forest Code directing that District Forest-officers should inspect all Range offices half-yearly.]

I have the honour to state that it has struck me in some of my tours that this order in the Forest Code that each Range office is to be inspected half-yearly might be prejudicial to a more important duty of the District Forest-officer, namely, the inspection of works. I have taken the opinion of local officers with the result that in—

Ganjām no difficulty is experienced about a half-yearly inspection, because four out of the five ranges are in one taluk.

Vizagapatam there are four ranges, and the local officers are of opinion that each Range office can be inspected twice in the year, but not always once in each half year conveniently.

The opinion from *Gōdāvari* is that a half-yearly inspection is utterly impracticable, and judging from the difficulty of getting about that district I am inclined to agree with this opinion.

From *Kistna* it is reported that no trouble has been experienced about a half-yearly inspection and an annual audit, but the District Forest-officer has been helped in this by an Assistant Conservator.

The opinion from *Bellary* is that the work is practicable as a rule, but circumstances may easily arise which would render it not only inconvenient but prejudicial to other work.

The opinion from *Anantapur* is that the rule is often likely to be most detrimental to the inspection of works.

It was when in *Kurnool* that I was much impressed with the difficulties that might arise from a strict observance of this rule, and I think a strong case has been made out by the District Forest-officer, in which he is supported by the Collector. He has shown that taking the shortest way round the district, and allowing only time for the inspection of Range offices and depôts, 32 days would be required in each half year, or 64 days in each year out of 182 days of minimum touring. However this is not the whole matter, but there is the further drawback that time may be taken from the inspection of important ranges in order to satisfy the exigencies of Geography. The District Forest-officer should often spend 30 days in an important range inspecting works, against 10 in an unimportant one; but with a hard and fast rule compelling him to cover certain distances in a given time he may be forced to neglect what appears to him the more important duty. Besides this there are numerous other calls on the time of a District Forest-officer: settlement work with the Forest Settlement-officer, inspection of boundaries, departmental timber operations and some others, such as the visits of inspecting officers.

On a review of the whole question I would submit that there is more likelihood of waste of Government money if the inspection of works is subordinated to the inspection of offices; and that better results are turned out when an officer is trusted to use his discretion rather than bound by hard and fast rules; and I would request that the point may be considered whether for half-yearly inspection, a yearly inspection may be ordered as a minimum, with perhaps a suggestion that more frequent inspections should be made when practicable.

Reference on the above, dated 10th April 1896.

Mr. Peet's letter will be forwarded in original to the Conservators of Forests, Central and Southern Circles, for remarks. The letter will be sent first to the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, who is requested to forward it with his remarks to the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, with letter
in original to be returned with remarks (through
the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle).

Endorsement by E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests,
Southern Circle, dated Coimbatore, 21st April 1896, Dis. No. 844.

Forwarded as desired in Proceedings, Reference on Forest Register No. 1262, dated 10th April, to the Secretary to the Land Revenue Commissioners, through the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle. The undersigned considers that, whereas a Range office found in good order need not be again examined by the District Forest-officer for twelve months, it might be left to the Conservator to advise the Collector as to the re-examination being undertaken after even a shorter interval than six months. It is in jungly districts that the chief drawback occurs in carrying into effect the present order.

Endorsement by E. P. POPERT, Esq., Conservator of Forests, Central Circle,
dated Madras, 23rd April 1896, No. 1915.

Forwarded. My experience is that District Forest-officers are inclined to be very lax in their periodical inspections of Range offices. In this circle the Cuddapah district is the only one where a District Forest-officer cannot personally inspect all Range offices once in six months without interfering with more important work, and this difficulty has been temporarily overcome by permitting the Assistant and Extra Assistant to make inspections (submitting their reports to the District Forest-officer for orders). This is not strictly in accordance with Code, section 208. I am not in favour of altering the Code. If it be found impossible or impracticable in any instance to carry out the provisions of section 208, a District Forest-officer can easily furnish an explanation.

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 203, dated 9th May 1896.

The Board agrees with the Conservators of Forests of the Southern and Central Circles.

2. It is intended that the rules relating to inspection duties should be worked with discretion and important work should never be sacrificed in order to secure a

slavish compliance with the letter of any rule. It is the duty of Collectors and Conservators to see that District Forest-officers ordinarily inspect all Range offices twice a year, and it is open to the Conservator to require a more frequent inspection in particular cases. There is no objection to the inspection duty being entrusted to an Assistant or Extra Assistant Conservator, if available.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

(True Copy.)

(Signed) V. A. PARTHASARATHY MUDALIAR,
Forest Assistant.

To the Conservators of Forests.
Copy to all Collectors, except of Madras.
" to Accountant-General.

1896.
Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed May 23rd.

Proceedings, Forest No. 203, 9th
May 1896.

Passing orders on proposal by the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, requesting a relaxation of the orders in section 208 of the Forest Code directing that District Forest-officers should inspect all Range offices at least once every half year.



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Land Revenue)

Forest NO 669 Misc, dated 8th July 1897

Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, Madras, dated 24th April 1897, R.C. NO 2055, and the following reference thereon dated 19th May 1897.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of an office note from the District Forest Officer Godavari for favor of orders. I think that Mr. Ward is fully to be trusted with the powers which it is proposed to delegate to him, and that work would be expedited thereby. Mr. Ward would under the circumstances require another clerk most probably, and inquiries ^{are} being made on this subject. If necessary a proposition statement will be sent in subsequently.

The "pattas" referred to under (8) are really "leases" of land for cultivation within reserve, and the following reference thereon dated 19th May 1897.

Forwarded to the Accountant General who is requested to state whether there is any objection to the delegation of the powers referred to in clauses 1, 2, 3 and 6 of the District Forest Officer's Office-note.

Read endorsement of the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated 25th May 1897, R.C. NO 2055, forwarding ^{proposition} statement ~~of~~ ~~proposition~~ for revision of establishment of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhadrachellam, Godavari District.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Accountant General to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, Madras, dated 14th June 1897, NO 1791.

In reply to ^{the} Board's Reference ^{on} Forest Register NO 1217 dated the 19th of May 1897, I have the honor to state that there is no objection to the delegation to the Sub-Divisional Officer in the Godavari District of the powers exercised by the Forest Officer of that District under the Forest Department Code, 2nd Edition and referred to in clauses 1, 2, 3 and 6 of his note except as regards the sanction of works which are directly under the Sub-Divisional Officer's charge. I think ~~that~~ however that it would be better not to allow him to sanction ~~the~~ estimates for such works as they are not subject to any check before sanction.

2 The delegation of the powers requires the sanction of the Local Government.

3 The enclosures received with the Board's Reference are herewith returned.

Resolution.

Submitted to Government.

2 The District Forest Officer requests in his office-note - forwarded with the first paper read above, that certain ^{powers} now possessed by him may be delegated to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhadrachellam. It is urged that the Head-quarters of the District Forest Officer and of the Sub-Divisional Officer are situated at a distance of 112 miles apart and that much inconvenience and unnecessary delay in the despatch of work in the sub-division is caused by letters having to be sent to the District Forest Officer for orders and back again to the Sub-Divisional Officer. It is also added that the present subdivisional officer, Mr. Ward is fully competent to dispose of the matters referred to.

3 The Conservator supports the District Forest Officer's request and states that if the proposed powers are transferred, another clerk will probably be required for the subdivision. In the second paper read above, the Conservator forwards a proposition statement recommending the employment of an additional temporary clerk on Rs. 50 per mensem for the subdivisional office.

4 The powers proposed to be delegated are:-

- (1) Checking and passing pay rolls and travelling allowance bills of the Range Officers and their subordinates in the sub-division;
- (2) sanctioning works in the sub-division estimated to cost not more than Rs. 50 in each case, out of the funds placed at the disposal of the Sub-Divisional Officer;

(5)

- 28
- (3) Opening a cheque book on the Bhadrachellam treasury and issuing cheques thereon from the funds placed at his disposal.;
 - (4) Half-yearly inspection of the subdivisional Range Offices,
 - (5) sanctioning free grants of timber etc and issue of permits for reserved timber;
 - (6) Making his own arrangements with regard to appointments promotions and transfers of subordinates of permanent and temporary establishments in the subdivision, drawing Rs. 10 and less per mensem.
 - (7) Revising the boundaries and notifications of Reserves, where necessary, without reference to the District Forest Officer in each case;
 - (8) Issuing puttahs to the ryots whose cultivation has been included in the Reserves;
 - (9) Modifying the rates for timber and Forest produce when he thinks it necessary subject to the existing orders of the Collector the Board and Government;
 - (10) Making contracts, sanctioning sales and generally supervising and controlling the collection of Revenue;
 - (11) Arranging about fire protection, number of patrols etc and all other matters of forest protection.

Representing the District Forest Officer in the coming survey of duparti lands.

5 The Accountant General who was consulted, in the matter has no objection to the delegation of the powers referred to under items 1, 2, 3 and 6. He states, however, that the Sub-Divisional Officer should not be empowered to pass estimates for works which are directly under his charge, as they will not then be subject to any ~~any~~ check before being sanctioned. The Board agrees in the Accountant General's remarks and would recommend that estimates for such works should be passed by the District Forest Officer himself as usual.

6 Item 4

The Board has already expressed its opinion in para 2 of its Proceedings Forest NO 203 dated 9-5-96 to the effect that there is no objection to the inspection of Range Offices being entrusted to an assistant or Extra Assistant Conservator, if available. A copy of these Proceedings will be submitted for the information of Government.

7. Item 5

Free grants of timber and other forest produce are sanctioned under the authority of the Collector and not under that of the D.F.O. (vide S.104 of the Forest Code). The sub-divisional officer cannot, therefore, be entrusted with this power. As regards the issue of permits by the Sub divisional Officer for reserved timber, the Board has, however, no objection to the course proposed.

8. Item 7

The power described in this item may be exercised by the Sub divisional officer, if his name is entered in the notification under section 4 (of Act V of 1882) as the officer who is to represent Government at the Forest Settlement enquiry. (vide clause 8 of para 6 of the Forest Settlement S.O. printed at page 5 of B.P.F. NO 442, dated 10-6-95).

9. Item 8

The Conservator explains that the "pattas" referred to in this item are really leases of land for cultivation within reserve. If the lands have been treated as enclosures within reserves and demarcated out, the Revenue Officers are alone competent to grant pattas for them as in the case of ordinary lands. It is presumed however that temporary leases of land included in the reserved forests themselves are referred to, and in that case the delegation of the power cannot be supported. Such leases ought to be very rare and it is desirable that the Collector should be aware of their existence in view to his taking steps for the disafforestation of any portion of a reserve which is in practice habitually given up to cultivation.

10. Items 9, 10 and 11

The Board has no objection to the delegation of the powers mentioned under these items provided that all contracts entered into are submitted to the D.F.O. by the Sub divisional officer for confirmation.

11. The Board requests the sanction of Government for the delegation of the powers above referred to, subject to the foregoing remarks and modifications.

12. The Board does not consider it necessary to increase the establishment of the Sub Divisional Office in consequence of the proposed delegation, which is intended to relieve both the District Forest Officer and the Sub Divisional Officer of a portion of their present work. The Sub Divisional Officer instead of forwarding proposals for the sanction the Sub-

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of the District Forest Officer will, under the system proposed, himself pass final orders. There will thus be no increase of work in the Sub-Divisional Office but a reduction in that of the District Forest Office

(True Copies and Extract)

M. K. Srinivas
Acting Secretary

To the Secretary to Government, R.D., with a copy of B.P.F. NO 203, dated 9-5-96 and with the D.F.O.'s Office note in original to be retained Copy to the Collector of Godavari thro' the Conservator, N.C.

189.
Board of Revenue
(Land Revenue),
MADRAS.

To

Subject.

Government (1897) of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 609, 22nd July 1897.

JULY.

Delegation of Powers.

Sanctioning the Board's proposals for the delegation of some of the powers possessed by the District Forest-officer, Gódávati, to the Sub-divisional officer at Bhadráchalani.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest Mis. No. 669, dated 8th July 1897:—

Read—the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, Madras, dated 24th April 1897, Ref. on Cur. No. 2055:—

I have the honour to enclose a copy of an office-note from the District Forest-officer, Górávari, for favour of orders. I think that Mr. Ward is fully to be trusted with the powers which it is proposed to delegate to him, and that work would be expedited thereby. Mr. Ward would, under the circumstances, require another clerk most probably, and inquiries are being made on this subject. If necessary, a proposition statement will be sent in subsequently.

The "pattas" referred to under (8) are really "leases" of land for cultivation within reserve.

Reference on the above dated 19th May 1897.

Forwarded to the Accountant-General who is requested to state whether there is any objection to the delegation of the powers referred to in clauses 1, 2, 3 and 6 of the District Forest-officer's office-note.

Read—endorsement by the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated 25th May 1897, Ref. on Cur. No. 2055.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding proposition statement for revision of establishment in the office of the Sub-divisional Officer, Badráchalam, Górávari district.

Read—also the following letter from F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, Madras, dated 14th June 1897, No. 1791:—

In reply to the Board's Reference on Forest Register No. 1217, dated the 19th of May 1897, I have the honour to state that there is no objection to the delegation to the Sub-divisional officer in the Górávari district of the powers exercised by the Forest officer of that district under the Forest Department Code, Second Edition, and referred to in clauses 1, 2, 3 and 6 of his note except as regards the sanction of works which are directly under the Sub-divisional officer's charge. I think, however, that it would be better not to allow him to sanction estimates for such works as they are not subject to any check before sanction.

2. The delegation of the powers requires the sanction of the Local Government.

3. The enclosures received with the Board's reference are herewith returned.

Resolution—Forest Mis. No. 669, dated 8th July 1897.

Submitted to Government.

2. The District Forest-officer requests in his office-note, forwarded with the first paper read above, that certain powers now possessed by him may be delegated to the Sub-divisional officer, Badráchalam. It is urged that the head-quarters of the District Forest-officer and of the Sub-divisional officer are situated at a distance of 112 miles apart and that much inconvenience and unnecessary delay in the despatch of work in the sub-division is caused by letters having to be sent to the District Forest-officer for orders and back again to the Sub-divisional officer. It is also added that the present Sub-divisional officer, Mr. Ward, is fully competent to dispose of the matters referred to.

3. The Conservator supports the District Forest-officer's request and states that if the proposed powers are transferred, another clerk will probably be required for the sub-division. In the second paper read above, the Conservator forwards a proposition statement recommending the employment of an additional temporary clerk on Rs. 30 per mensem for the Sub-divisional office.

4. The powers proposed to be delegated are —

(1) checking and passing pay rolls and travelling allowance bills of the Range officers and their subordinates in the sub-division;

(2) sanctioning works in the sub-division estimated to cost not more than Rs. 50 in each case, out of the funds placed at the disposal of the Sub-divisional officer;

(3) opening a cheque book on the Badráchalam treasury and issuing cheques thereon from the funds placed at his disposal;

(4) half-yearly inspection of the Sub-divisional Range offices;

(5) sanctioning free grants of timber, &c., and issue of permits for reserved timber;

(6) making his own arrangements with regard to appointments, promotions and transfers of subordinates of permanent and temporary establishments in the sub-division, drawing Rs. 10 and less per mensem;

(7) revising the boundaries and notifications of reserves, where necessary, without reference to the District Forest-officer in each case;

(8) issuing pattas to the ryots whose cultivation has been included in the reserves;

(9) modifying the rates for timber and forest produce when he thinks it necessary subject to the existing orders of the Collector, the Board and Government;

(10) making contracts, sanctioning sales and generally supervising and controlling the collection of revenue;

(11) arranging about fire protection, number of patrols, &c., and all other matters of forest protection;

(12) representing the District Forest-officer in the coming survey of dupartii lands.

5. The Accountant-General who was consulted in the matter has no objection to the delegation of the powers referred to under items 1, 2, 3 and 6. He states, however, that the Sub-divisional officer should not be empowered to pass estimates for works which are directly under his charge, as they will not then be subject to any check before being sanctioned. The Board agrees in the Accountant-General's remark and would recommend that estimates for such works should be passed by the District Forest-officer himself as usual.

6. *Item 4*.—The Board has already expressed its opinion in paragraph 2 of its Proceedings, Forest No. 203, dated 9th May 1896, to the effect that there is no objection to the inspection of Range offices being entrusted to an Assistant or Extra Assistant Conservator if available. A copy of these Proceedings will be submitted for the information of Government.

7. *Item 5.*—Free grants of timber and other forest produce are sanctioned under the authority of the Collector and not under that of the District Forest-officer (*vide* Survey No. 104 of the Forest Code). The Sub-divisional officer cannot, therefore, be entrusted with this power. As regards the issue of permits by the Sub-divisional officer for reserved timber, the Board has, however, no objection to the course proposed.

8. *Item 7.*—The power described in this item may be exercised by the Sub-divisional officer, if his name is entered in the notification under section 4 (of Act V of 1882) as the officer who is to represent Government at the Forest Settlement enquiry (*vide* clause 8 of paragraph 6 of the Forest Settlement Standing Order printed at page 5 of Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 442, dated 10th June 1893.)

9. *Item 8.*—The Conservator explains that the "pattas" referred to in this item are really leases of land for cultivation within reserve. If the lands have been treated as enclosures within reserves and demarcated out, the Revenue officers are alone competent to grant pattas for them as in the case of ordinary lands. It is presumed, however, that temporary leases of land included in the reserved forests themselves are referred to, and in that case the delegation of the power cannot be supported. Such leases ought to be very rare and it is desirable that the Collector should be aware of their existence in view to his taking steps for the disafforestation of any portion of a reserve which is in practice habitually given up to cultivation.

10. *Items 9, 10 and 11.*—The Board has no objection to the delegation of the powers mentioned under these items, provided that all contracts entered into by the Sub-divisional officer are submitted to the District Forest-officer for confirmation.

11. The Board requests the sanction of Government for the delegation of the powers above referred to, subject to the foregoing remarks and modifications.

12. The Board does not consider it necessary to increase the establishment of the Sub-divisional officer in consequence of the proposed delegation, which is intended to relieve both the District Forest officer and the Sub-divisional officer of a portion of their present work. The Sub-divisional officer instead of forwarding proposals for the sanction of the District Forest-officer will, under the system proposed, himself pass final orders. There will thus be no increase of work in the Sub-divisional office but a reduction in that of the District Forest office.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) N. S. BRODIE,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a copy of Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 203,
dated 9th May 1896, and with the District Forest-
officer's office-note, in original, to be returned.
Copy to the Collector of Gôdâvari (through the
Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle).

ORDER—No. 609, Revenue, dated 22nd July 1897.

Forest No. 128.

The Government agrees with the
Board and sanctions its proposals con-
tained in the Proceedings read above.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), with enclosures,
,, the Accountant-General.

End Shaik Karim,

40 Copies.

Copy sent to Press.

ned for signature.

atched in print.

AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

Forest No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BRING WANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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