$\frac{0}{9}$. 3,000—5-8-98.

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1914

DATED 2nd May

[Despatch Abstract.]

According with remarks Pr Collector proposals for the leasing of Govt palmyra trees for tapping for sweet toddy in the Nellore Dist

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 (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2213.

2/3/98

Hon Sir H Blair
Does he see me. Secretary below

S.B. 25/4/98

Order No. 1914 of 2.5.98

Recorded.

2/5/98

2. The Govt considers the condition proposed by the Collector to be unnecessary, viz, that any tree leased for tapping for sweet toddy should be surrendered, if required for tapping for fermented toddy. The lease being annual, the abkari dept can decide before hand ~~and without difficulty~~ what trees are required for tapping for fermented toddy. The remaining trees may then be leased to the drawers of sweet toddy.

KR
15/4/98

S.B. 25/4/98

From The Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue

No. (7)

Dated 28 February 1898
Received 18 Mar
Registered 19 —
Enclosures
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Approving Nellore Collr's proposals for the leasing of Govt palmyra trees for tapping for sweet juice in the Nellore dist.

Apparently the Coll. took 3½ years to take action on W.P. No 465/12-8-93! Is no action to be taken of this? and what is the use of the W.P. if it has no effect? subsequent?

The B. of Rev (A.R.) (S.R.) Dated 6.5.98
Do.

(From orders).

C.S. 14/9

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1	345	R.	19-2-98
2	3605	R.	25-2-98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

To Secy

B.O. 465 / 12-8-93 was intended to apply only to the Kistna district, the Collr of which was permitted by it to try a new system - ie - that of leasing Govt. palm trees for a fixed fee per tree. This permission was extended to other Collectors only in August 1895 by B.O. 271 / 3-8-95, and even then it was left to their discretion to adopt it or not. In these circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that the Collr of Nellore cannot be found fault with for any delay or remissness in the matter.

KD
28/4/98

Issue the Draft as pencilled thus

[illegible] 1-5-8

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed March th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 83, 28th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Approving Nellore Collector's proposals for the leasing of Government palmyra trees for tapping for sweet juice in the Nellore district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(Land Revenue).

Read—the following letter from E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 27th January 1898, Ref. No. 911-Eng. :—

In Board's Proceedings, No. 465, Land Revenue, dated 12th August 1893, it was decided that Government toddy trees should be leased out only to toddy renters or shop-keepers licensed to tap trees, the revenue that might be realised from the usufruct of trees which are not tapped being foregone. The enclosed order, Ref. No. 228-Eng., dated 24th March 1897 (enclosure A) was in consequence issued from this office prohibiting the leasing out of Government trees for tapping for sweet toddy.

2. I have the honour to request a reconsideration of this order, and that the Board will be pleased to sanction the leasing of Government palmyra trees for tapping for sweet toddy for the following reasons.

3. In the first place the order has caused no little hardship to a considerable number of poor gaundlas and others in this district who have hitherto maintained themselves entirely by tapping for sweet toddy, which they either sell or use for the manufacture of jaggery. They have complained on several occasions of the existing rules, and in a bad season like the present the order bears especially hardly on them.

4. In the second place the restriction has increased the price of jaggery and of palmyra leaves, a matter of no little importance in a poor district like Nellore. The present price of palm jaggery in Nellore is Rs. 1-5-4 per maund against Re. 1 per maund two years ago, showing an increase of 33 per cent., which I have little doubt is partly due to the restrictions placed on tapping for sweet juice. In Kavali taluk it is almost impossible to get palmyra leaves, though a year or two ago they could be had at Re. 1 per 1,000.

5. Further the following extract from a letter No. 4169, dated 27th December 1897, of the Assistant Commissioner in reply to some queries put to him by me justifies the removal of the restriction in the interests of the toddy revenue:—

"As regards the trees themselves it is a prevailing opinion and it is borne out by experience that all toddy producing trees except dates deteriorate in their yield if they are not tapped occasionally and that palmyras chiefly become less productive and gradually unfit for purposes of tapping unless they are tapped yearly. Under the tree-tax system new trees are never tapped for fermented toddy for the first time unless their yield has been tried in the first instance by being tapped for sweet juice which is a less costly concern. Thus the tapper has no other alternative than to fall back year after year upon the same trees, the yield of which he is sure of. He is therefore limited in his choice so long as the prohibition continues to be in force Thus it is conceivable that after a few years there will grow into existence a class of trees which, but for the restriction, would be a great source of revenue, but which under the existing rules will sooner or later become a dead waste unless their usufruct is leased out, which however does not yield quarter as much revenue as leasing them out for toddy. The object of the prohibition is, I understand, to afford facility to tappers of toddy, so that they may never be in want of trees. But considering that the toddy manufacturers do not ever choose a new tree for the purpose and generally select their trees from amongst those whose yield has been tried in other ways, it appears to me that the object of the Government is after all frustrated inasmuch as the tapper is deprived of the source from which he can easily recoup himself whenever he feels a want."

6. I am informed by the Assistant Commissioner that all his subordinate officers with one exception are in favour of the leasing of Government trees for tapping for sweet toddy, and he himself strongly supports them subject to the issue of rules similar to those in force in Malabar. I cannot agree with the Assistant Commissioner that such rules are necessary; private trees are being tapped throughout the district for sweet juice to a large extent in parts, as much of the district is zemindari, and were such rules called for we should have heard of it before now. I think all that is necessary is to permit the tapping of trees for sweet juice subject to a condition that any tree must be surrendered for tapping for fermented toddy when ordered by an Inspector of the Abkári department. I propose to lease out trees for tapping for sweet juice in the same manner as they are leased out for tapping for fermented toddy, four annas being levied for each tree, the right to tap including the right to the leaves and fruit. When a tree being tapped for sweet juice is applied for for tapping for fermented toddy, a fresh fee will be levied from the applicant and three annas of the fee already paid by the tapper for sweet juice will be refunded. The deduction of one anna is made to allow for the value of any sweet juice, leaves or fruit already removed from the tree. Persons who have taken trees for tapping for sweet juice will not be given trees for tapping for fermented toddy and *vice versâ*.

7. The reference deals only with palmyra trees, as there are but few cocoanut trees in this district and as it is desirable that the restriction should remain in force in respect of date trees which require as much rest as possible.

8. I request the favour of early orders.

Reference on the above, dated 7th February 1898.

Referred to the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, for early remarks.

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

To the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle,
with letter and enclosure to be returned.

Read—the following letter from E. P. POPERT, Esq., Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Camp, Madanapalle, 11th February 1898, No. 1346 :—

[*Reference.*—Board's Reference on Forest Register No. 225, dated 7th February 1898.]

I have the honour to return the letter forwarded with the above with the following remarks.

2. I quite agree with the Collector that every facility should be offered for the extraction of the juice of palmyras for jaggery manufacture and think the conditions proposed by him in paragraph 6 of his letter are all that is necessary.

3. The difficulty will be to ensure that holders of these licenses do not sell the sweet juice to the toddy farmers. Doubtless the Abkári department will take the necessary steps to prevent this. As far as I am aware all juice when extracted from the trees is sweet; the process of fermentation takes place after the collection of the juice from the trees. I do not understand the Assistant Commissioner's remarks as to trees being "tapped for fermented toddy."

Enclosure No. 1.—Gazette notice.

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 83, dated 28th February 1898.

The Collector's proposals in which the Conservator concurs are approved.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Collector of Nellore.
" Conservator of Forests, Central Circle.
" Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department. ✓

Exd. P. Seetharam.

B.P under G.O.
3461
9-9-93, para 1.

B.P. under G.O.
3605
5-9-95

First page of the Current

Though they can be drawers of fermented toddy

B's Proc Forest No 83 (Cus 2213)
28-2-98

To Secretary

In 1893 the Board of Rev permitted the Collector of Kistna to lease Govt palm trees to toddy drawers for a fixed fee per tree in lieu of the usual system of selling the usufruct of the trees by auction. The arrangement having been found to work well, the attention of other Collectors was drawn to it, and it was left to their discretion to adopt it in preference to the other system. The officers in the Nellore district appear to think that under existing orders the trees cannot be leased to drawers of sweet toddy. In the current read above, the Collector accordingly obtained the Board's sanction to his leasing them to these

these persons.

2. It is proposed to lease the trees on the same terms as for tapping for fermented toddy – i.e. a fee of four annas a tree will be levied, and the lessee will have the right to take the leaves and fruit. It is proposed further that he should surrender a tree which is required for tapping for fermented toddy on receiving a refund of three annas [a fee of four annas will be levied from the drawer of fermented toddy] The necessity for this provision may well be questioned. At the beginning of the lease which is only for one year, it may be decided what trees are required for tapping for fermented toddy, and the remaining trees may be leased to the sweet toddy drawers of ...

(Para 6 of the Collr's letter in the Current).

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} 189 .

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

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO .

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