Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2455

DATED 29th June

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B. P requesting Collectors to instruct their D.J. a
and DC officers to meet at Convenient Centres during the
January and for disposing of petitions complaining of the
working of the forest rules and for giving effect to the principles
~~mentioned~~ in the resolution of the Bengal Govt

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
G.O No	1978		23-10-00				
7th No	1622/00						
			1229				
			14-12-00				

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 4257

G.O.

This appears to be a very wise instruction, likely to prove of great advantage to the people.

Order issued 2755 A. 19th June 98.

Recorded

22-6-98

To the Board (A.R.) Rep. 2-7-98

(Editor's Table. Post St George Gazette 17/6/98.

G.O. 1399 Part I-p 864)

From The Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue Board of Revenue

To

No.

Dated 6 June

Received 14 "

Registered 15 "

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Requesting Coll^rs to instruct their Divl Forest Officers and Divl Officers to arrange to meet at convenient centres during jamabandi for taking up & disposing of the petitions complaining of the working of the forest rules & for getting effect to the principles inculcated in recent Statement of the forest policy in the Madras Press.

Circulated 22/6/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	569 -	1213-7-97	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed June th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 217, 6th June 1898.

JUNE.

Requesting Collectors to instruct their District Forest-officers and Divisional-officers to arrange to meet at convenient centres during jamabandi for taking up and disposing of the petitions complaining of the working of the forest rules and for giving effect to the principles enunciated in recent statement of the forest policy in the Madras Presidency.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(LAND REVENUE).

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 217, dated 6th June 1898.

In Government Order, No. 569, Rev., dated 13th July 1897, the Government laid down certain liberal principles to be observed in the administration of the forests of the Presidency, but the Board has little information as to how far the directions therein issued have been given effect to in practice. The task of carrying on forest work without disappointing the reasonable expectations of an agricultural community, for whose prosperity forest conservancy is a necessity, is not an easy one. A District Forest-officer's ordinary duties do not bring him into close relation with more than a very small section of the people; a Collector has rarely time to devote much attention to the details of forest administration; and the demands made in the petitions which are received from time to time from individuals or from villagers as a body afford little aid towards the determination of what real grievances exist, as the demands are almost invariably so impracticable and exaggerated that nothing but summary rejection is possible. This exaggeration unfortunately is often due to the fact that owing to the unavoidable complexity of the rules villagers have frequently great difficulty in discovering what privileges they really do enjoy, and it would be a great assistance to all concerned if officers of all grades of the Forest and Revenue branches could be brought into as close relations as have been established between the Collector and the District Forest-officer, but the impracticability of laying down any definite rules to secure this has been given expression to by the Forest committee of 1882 in paragraph 21 of its report, and the Board has reason to believe that Collectors have not in practice found it possible to avail themselves to any appreciable extent of the suggestion made by the committee that when Divisional officers show any particular aptitude or liking for forest work, arrangements should be made to admit of their assistance being utilized to the full. Divisional officers to this day have ordinarily little or no means of acquiring any real knowledge of forest work, while the officers of the lower grades of both the Forest and Revenue branches can hardly be said to have grasped in any degree the idea of co-operation in order to secure the necessary requirements of forest conservancy with the least possible interference with the ryots' comfort and convenience.

2. A suggestion recently made that there might be some joint action at the time of jamabandi commends itself to the Board, and it resolves to direct Collectors to instruct their District Forest-officers and Divisional officers to arrange to meet from time to time when jamabandi is being held at a station in the neighbourhood of the forests, or at some other place at which petitions complaining of the working of the Forest rules can conveniently be taken up for disposal. Complaints should then be investigated jointly, any points on which the officers concerned are unable to agree being referred for the orders of the Collector. In arranging to give the people this opportunity of having their grievances enquired into and the real position with regard to forest privileges explained to them, great care must be taken not to unsettle their minds by giving rise to a belief that some new departure is contemplated. The utmost concessions that can be sanctioned have been formulated in Government Order, No. 569, Rev., dated 13th July 1897, already quoted and every one must be clearly given to understand that any agitation to secure anything further must fail to be productive of any good.

3. During these conferences enquiry should also be made, irrespective of any complaints, as to whether the forest administration is being carried on in the manner best adapted to meet local conditions; whether, for instance, satisfactory arrangements exist under which ryots can easily obtain wood for agricultural implements on payment when none is available on unreserved lands; whether the periodical closure of grazing grounds is being carried out with as little inconvenience as possible, and ryots are encouraged to cut and remove fodder from the closed areas; whether forest prosecutions are instituted with discrimination; whether it is possible to enlist the co-operation of the villagers in fire-protection, and so on. Special attention should also be given to the question of encouraging the growth of manure-yielding coppice in reserved forests adjoining cultivated lands in the manner indicated in the papers recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 195, dated 20th May 1898.

4. It is expected that every District Forest-officer or one of his assistants not below the rank of an Extra Assistant Conservator will meet each Divisional officer at least once a year. The number of the conferences and any results which may have been obtained from them should be noted in the annual report without fail.

(True Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To all Collectors (District Forest-officers), except Madras.
" Conservators of Forests.
Copy to the Special Forest Settlement-officers.
" " Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Xxl. P. Seetharam.

Government (1898) of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., Mis. No. 2755, 29th June 1898.

JUNE.

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" " Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—Mis. No. 2755, Revenue, dated 29th June 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

Exd. P. Seetharama.

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IN G.O., No. DATED
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In G.O., No. 569, Revenue, dated 13th July 1897, the Government laid down certain liberal principles to be observed in the administration of the forests of the Presidency, but the Board has little information as to how far the directions therein issued have been given effect to in practice. The task of carrying on forest work without disappointing the reasonable expectations of an agricultural community, for whose prosperity forest conservancy is a necessity, is not an easy one. A District Forest-officer's ordinary duties do not bring him into close relation with more than a very small section of the people; a Collector has rarely time to devote much attention to the details of forest administration; and the demands made in the petitions which are received from time to time from individuals or from villagers as a body afford little aid towards the determination of what real grievances exist, as the demands are almost invariably so impracticable and exaggerated that nothing but summary rejection is possible. This exaggeration unfortunately is often due to the fact that owing to the unavoidable complexity of the rules villagers have frequently great difficulty in discovering what privileges they really do enjoy, and it would be a great assistance to all concerned if officers of all grades of the Forest and Revenue branches could be brought into as close relations as have been established between the Collector and the District Forest-officer, but the impracticability of laying down any definite rules to secure this has been given expression to by the Forest committee of 1882 in paragraph 24 of its report, and the Board has reason to believe that Collectors have not in practice found it possible to avail themselves to any appreciable extent of the suggestion made by the committee that when Divisional-officers show any particular aptitude or liking for forest work, arrangements should be made to admit of their assistance being utilized to the full. Divisional-officers to this day have ordinarily little or no means of acquiring any real knowledge of forest work, while the officers of the lower grades of both the Forest and Revenue branches can hardly be said to have grasped in any degree the idea of co-operation in order to secure the necessary requirements of forest conservancy with the least possible interference with the ryots' comfort and convenience.

2. A suggestion recently made that there might be some joint action at the time of jamabandi commends itself to the Board, and it resolves to direct Collectors to instruct their District Forest-officers and Divisional-officers to arrange to meet from time to time when jamabandi is being held at a station in the neighbourhood of the forests, or at some other place at which petitions complaining of the working of the Forest rules can conveniently be taken up for disposal. Complaints should then be investigated jointly, any points on which the officers concerned are unable to agree being referred for the orders of the Collector. In arranging to give the people this opportunity of having their grievances enquired into and the real position with regard to forest privileges explained to them, great care must be taken not to unsettle their minds by giving rise to a belief that some new departure is contemplated. The utmost concessions that can be sanctioned have been formulated in G.O., No. 569, Revenue, dated 13th July 1897, already quoted and every one must be clearly given to understand that any agitation to secure anything further must fail to be productive of any good.

3. During these conferences enquiry should also be made, irrespective of any complaints, as to whether the forest administration is being carried on in the manner best adapted to meet local conditions; whether, for instance, satisfactory arrangements exist under which ryots can easily obtain wood for agricultural implements on payment when none is available on unreserved lands; whether the periodical closure of grazing grounds is being carried out with as little inconvenience as possible, and ryots are encouraged to cut and remove fodder from the closed areas; whether forest prosecutions are instituted with discrimination; whether it is possible to enlist the co-operation of the villagers in fire-protection, and so on. Special attention should also be given to the question of encouraging the growth of manure-yielding coppice in reserved forests adjoining cultivated lands in the manner indicated in the papers recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 195, dated 20th May 1898.

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" " Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—Mis. No. 2755, Revenue, dated 29th June 1898.

Recorded.

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To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

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Recorded.

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forest]

Government {1898} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.
Regd. } 1898.
Enclosures
Spare copies

G.O., Mis. No. 2755, 29th June 1898.

JUNE.

Recording Board's Proceedings requesting Collectors to instruct their District Forest-officers and Divisional-officers to meet at convenient centres during the jamabandi for disposing of petitions complaining of the working of the forest rules and for giving effect to the present forest policy.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue, Forest) No. 217, dated 6th June 1898.

Resolution—Forest No. 217, dated 6th June 1898.

In G.O., No. 569, Revenue, dated 13th July 1897, the Government laid down certain liberal principles to be observed in the administration of the forests of the Presidency, but the Board has little information as to how far the directions therein issued have been given effect to in practice. The task of carrying on forest work without disappointing the reasonable expectations of an agricultural community, for whose prosperity forest conservancy is a necessity, is not an easy one. A District Forest-officer's ordinary duties do not bring him into close relation with more than a very small section of the people; a Collector has rarely time to devote much attention to the details of forest administration; and the demands made in the petitions which are received from time to time from individuals or from villagers as a body afford little aid towards the determination of what real grievances exist, as the demands are almost invariably so impracticable and exaggerated that nothing but summary rejection is possible. This exaggeration unfortunately is often due to the fact that owing to the unavoidable complexity of the rules villagers have frequently great difficulty in discovering what privileges they really do enjoy, and it would be a great assistance to all concerned if officers of all grades of the Forest and Revenue branches could be brought into as close relations as have been established between the Collector and the District Forest-officer, but the impracticability of laying down any definite rules to secure this has been given expression to by the Forest committee of 1882 in paragraph 24 of its report, and the Board has reason to believe that Collectors have not in practice found it possible to avail themselves to any appreciable extent of the suggestion made by the committee that when Divisional-officers show any particular aptitude or liking for forest work, arrangements should be made to admit of their assistance being utilized to the full. Divisional-officers to this day have ordinarily little or no means of acquiring any real knowledge of forest work, while the officers of the lower grades of both the Forest and Revenue branches can hardly be said to have grasped in any degree the idea of co-operation in order to secure the necessary requirements of forest conservancy with the least possible interference with the ryots' comfort and convenience.

2. A suggestion recently made that there might be some joint action at the time of jamabandi commends itself to the Board, and it resolves to direct Collectors to instruct their District Forest-officers and Divisional-officers to arrange to meet from time to time when jamabandi is being held at a station in the neighbourhood of the forests, or at some other place at which petitions complaining of the working of the Forest rules can conveniently be taken up for disposal. Complaints should then be investigated jointly, any points on which the officers concerned are unable to agree being referred for the orders of the Collector. In arranging to give the people this opportunity of having their grievances enquired into and the real position with regard to forest privileges explained to them, great care must be taken not to unsettle their minds by giving rise to a belief that some new departure is contemplated. The utmost concessions that can be sanctioned have been formulated in G.O., No. 569, Revenue, dated 13th July 1897, already quoted and every one must be clearly given to understand that any agitation to secure anything further must fail to be productive of any good.

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