

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 830

Dated 8th December 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forest offences.

Approving, with remarks, the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue in the matter of — & the regulation of forests during the first year 1898-99.

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 (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 7399



From

The Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue.)

FOREST No. 468

Dated 4 November 1899

Received 16/11

Registered 17/11

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Reviewing the subject of forest offences and regulation of grazing during the forest year 1898-99 and issuing certain instructions in the matter.

71. 11. 246

Order Run No. 830
8-12-99

The Bd's rules & instructions are
advised.

11/11/1899

20.12.28

40
2

11/11/1899

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	844		29-11-90

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed November th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 468, 4th November 1899.

NOVEMBER.

Reviewing the subject of forest offences and regulation of grazing during the forest year 1898-99 and issuing certain instructions in the matter.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(LAND REVENUE).

The Hon'ble Mr. J. STURROCK, I.C.S.

READ—extracts from the District Forest Administration Reports relating to—

(1) Breaches of Forest Laws.

(2) Regulation of Grazing.

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 468, dated 4th November 1899.

The total number of offences reported in the various districts is noted below:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.
South Arcot ...	2,564	2,966
South Canara ...	2,523	2,379
North Arcot ...	1,282	2,126
Salem ...	1,403	1,938
Cuddapah ...	1,035	1,137
Kistna ...	892	1,011
Kurnool ...	1,053	944
Chingleput ...	452	915
Trichinopoly ...	823	887
Madura ...	527	861
Vizagapatam ...	758	809
Bellary ...	427	595
Tinnevely ...	481	593
Nellore ...	344	518
Anantapur ...	343	501
North Coimbatore ...	384	478
Gódvári ...	613	453
Ganjám ...	356	415
South Coimbatore ...	392	365
The Nilgiris ...	129	140
Tanjore ...	62	74
South Malabar ...	25	21
North Malabar ...	11	15

2. There is again a considerable increase in the number of offences reported from most districts. The recent strengthening of the subordinate establishments and the additional time which, owing to the gradual completion of settlement operations, many of the controlling officers are now able to devote to the supervision of the general work of the department, make it probable that this increase of reported forest crime may go on for some years to come, as it is evident that in many localities the people still prefer to risk detection, or bribe forest guards and watchers, rather than pay the prescribed dues. As might be expected, for the reasons given by the

Board when dealing with this subject last year, the district of South Arcot again heads the list with the largest number of reported offences, and North

Malabar again shows the lowest figures. The Board has, however, to express its regret that South Canara should again stand second on the list with a decrease of

only 154. It is true that 1,846 of the total number of 2,379 were petty offences for which the parties were only admonished, but so long as acts of the kind are treated as offences at all the people are liable to be harassed and oppressed. South Canara is a district in which forest growth is abundant, and liberal concessions can therefore be afforded, but it would seem from the Conservator's latest inspection report that in his opinion the restrictions placed on the removal of manure leaves and of firewood have been too severe. It is now proposed to set aside lands in reserved areas from which manure leaves can be removed free, and to facilitate arrangements for the removal of firewood on payment, and it may, therefore, be hoped that next year's figures may show an improvement.

3. The Board fully recognizes that forests cannot possibly be adequately protected without a certain number of prosecutions every year, and at the present stage of forest operations, when the controlling officers have only recently been placed in a position to see that a serious attempt is being made to enforce the Forest laws and rules, it is probable that offences must be expected to be more numerous than they will be when the position has been correctly apprehended by the people. It desires, however, to impress upon all District Forest-Officers the necessity of carefully looking into matters whenever it is found that offences are numerous in any particular locality, and seeing whether anything can be done to render necessary conservancy operations as little onerous as possible to the public. The decision to afford facilities for the removal of manure leaves and firewood in Canara is a case in point, and in Gódvári where the number of offences has dropped from 613 to 453, the District Forest-officer reports that the decrease was due to some extent to special arrangements having been made for the supply of firewood and other produce on payment, or by permit, in localities in which people have been in the habit of stealing from reserves for which permits for the removal of produce of any kind had formerly either not been given at all, or had not been readily obtainable.

4. The reported cases of illicit grazing were as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.
South Arcot ...	1,132	1,352
North Arcot ...	642	1,285
Salem ...	640	850
Cuddapah ...	469	614
Kistna ...	499	621
Trichinopoly ...	556	486
Madura ...	233	462
Kurnool ...	243	366
Nellore ...	180	342
Chingleput ...	177	309
North Coimbatore ...	201	278
Anantapur ...	159	255
Vizagapatam ...	120	195
Bellary ...	93	189
Tinnevely ...	147	174
Gódvári ...	205	125
South Coimbatore ...	109	110
The Nilgiris ...	51	57
Ganjám ...	65	51
Tanjore ...	29	26
South Canara ...	17	18
North Malabar ...	4	8
South Malabar ...	...	...

5. The general increase in forest offences was of course accompanied by an increase in the detection of illicit grazing. There are few, if any, districts in which closure of forests to grazing of any kind has been carried to an excessive extent, and so far as cattle are concerned the offences are mainly due to attempts to evade payment of the very moderate fees which have been prescribed. It seems probable, however, that in some districts the offences have been swelled by the permits issued being restricted to a single reserve without due enquiry having been made as to how far such an arrangement suited the convenience of cattle owners. This is reported

to have been the case in Kurnool, and arrangements are now being made for the issue of permits for a working circle instead of for a single reserve. Even in Kistna where the parcellaire system was very carefully worked out, it has been found necessary to make special arrangements for a compounded fee for the herds of professional breeders and graziers who have to move from one reserve to another at different seasons of the year. This point should be looked into by Collectors of districts in which grazing offences are numerous.

6. As in last year, a large proportion of the grazing offences seems to have been due to the browsing of goats in forests to which they were not admitted even on payment of a fee. The form prescribed in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, No. 49, dated 26th January 1899, to show the number of animals impounded for illicit grazing has not been prepared on a uniform plan. The Board's intention was that column 2 should show all cases of illicit grazing and column 3 only those in which animals grazed in areas closed to that particular animal; but some Collectors have restricted column 3

South Arcot	...	...	35,436
North Arcot	...	...	32,659
Cuddapah	...	...	22,721
Salem	...	...	18,895
Madura	...	...	13,972
Kistna	...	...	11,708
Anantapur	...	...	10,161
Kurnool	...	...	7,616
Chingleput	...	...	6,193

to areas closed to grazing of any kind.

It can, however, be gathered that over 5,000 goats were impounded in each of the districts noted in the margin. In five out of these nine districts some provision has already been made for goat browsing in reserved forests, as many as 80,159 goat permits having been issued in Kistna, and in most of these five further extensions are under consideration; while

in three out of the remaining four districts schemes have either been completed or are under consideration. In Anantapur none is said to be required as there is ample unreserved waste available, but the goat owners prefer to risk driving them into the reserves where the forest growth is better than on the unreserved waste.

7. In paragraph 6 of Board's Proceedings, No. 49, dated 26th June 1899, the Board directed all Collectors to adopt the scheme for goat grazing sketched by Mr. Popert unless they could devise one better suited to the conditions of their districts, or show that the unreserved lands are sufficient to meet all reasonable requirements. Some Collectors have shown that, if area alone be looked to, the unreserved waste ought to be ample, but it is really insufficient because the goats have already completely cleared it, while the reserved forests are of very limited

extent; and on a reference from Vizagapatam it has been pointed out * that the instructions above quoted referred only to cases in which under Government Order,

No. 844, dated 29th October 1890, large areas were brought under reservation, which, under the orders previously in force, would have been left unreserved and set aside as village forests. The Forest Member has recently visited the district of South Arcot, where the goat difficulty is most pressing, and, after a conference with the Collector and the District Forest-officer, it has been decided, with the concurrence of the Conservator, Central Circle, that even where considerable areas of village waste have been brought under reservation, provision for the admission of goats into reserved forests should not be made if the number of permits actually issued for cattle and sheep is already excessive and shows that no spare ground is available for goat browsing. Collectors of other districts may act on the same principle. Goats are now kept in very large numbers, as the demand for their skins is very great, and as they increase very fast, and it is impossible to provide unlimited areas for browsing, the necessity of adopting stringent measures to prevent their completely denuding all forests near villages must be faced sooner or later; the time for doing so seems to have arrived when it is found that the existing areas are really insufficient for the local cattle and sheep. It will be noted that this decision has been arrived at in the interests of the villagers themselves. If revenue were what was looked for it could easily be obtained by admitting goats into the forests near villages, goat owners being willing to pay at least three times the fee now charged for permission to browse goats in forests of the

kind. They will not, however, as a rule, take advantage of permission to browse in tracts distant from villages where the forests are extensive enough to permit of a certain portion being set aside for goat browsing.

8. The cases disposed of during the year contrast as below with those dealt with in 1897-98:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	—
Withdrawals	4,316	4,210	— 106
Compounded	7,694	10,070	+ 2,376
Acquitted	650	754	+ 104
Convicted	3,824	4,943	+ 1,119
Total	16,484	19,977	+ 3,493

9. In cases in which the number of withdrawals is large it is mainly due to lenient treatment of petty offences, such as those treated with an admonition in South Canara, and cases of grazing without permit in the early months of the year when the offence is due more to carelessness in renewing permits than to any intention to evade payment. The increase in the number of compounded cases will be considered when dealing with the detailed figures for the different districts. The percentage of acquittals to prosecutions again shows an improvement having fallen from 14.5 to 13.2.

10. Detailed figures for the different circles and districts are given in the following table:—

Districts.	Compounded.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Percentage of acquittals to prosecutions in the year.	
				1898-99.	1897-98.
<i>Northern Circle.</i>					
Ganjám	158	27	192	12 ✓	18
Vizagapatam	275	47	363	11 ✓	6
Gó dá va ri	237	19	89	17.6 ✓	14
Kistna	712	24	141	14.5 ✓	9
Kurnool	348	45	397	10 ✓	16
Bellary	416	21	88	19 ✓	16
Anantapur	209	63	176	26 ✓	13
Total, Northern Circle ..	2,355	246	1,446	14.5	12.5
<i>Central Circle.</i>					
Cuddapah	586	41	269	13 ✓	14
Nellore	66	29	335	8 ✓	11
Chingleput	736	23	104	18 ✓	10
North Arcot	1,552	39	262	12.9 ✓	21
South Arcot	1,759	65	681	8.7 ✓	16
Salem	1,168	96	474	16.8 ✓	23
Trichinopoly	492	64	254	20 ✓	10
Tanjore	31	3	28	9.6 ✓	..
Total, Central Circle ..	6,390	360	2,407	13.0 ✓	15
<i>Southern Circle.</i>					
South Canara	264	50	171	22.6 ✓	20
North Malabar	7	4	7	36.0 ✓	..
South Malabar	4	..	13	..	10
The Nilgiris	21	5	115	4 ✓	4
North Coimbatore	137	31	192	13.9 ✓	25
South Coimbatore	232	15	95	18.6 ✓	11
Madura	265	37	455	7.5 ✓	12
Tinnevely	395	6	41	12.7 ✓	25
Total, Southern Circle ..	1,325	148 ✓	1,090	11.9 ✓	16.8
Total, Presidency ..	10,070 ✓	754 ✓	4,943	13.2 ✓	14.5

11. The number of compounded cases is large in South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Chingleput and Kistna, but those are all districts in which grazing offences were numerous and there is ordinarily no objection to compounding a grazing case. Only a few reports give any definite information regarding the nature of the cases compounded, but the instructions on the subject are well understood. The Board remarked last year that cases calling for deterrent penalties should not be compounded but prosecuted, and it is therefore glad to find a reduction in the average amount of compensation paid per person involved in each circle as well as in the Presidency generally.*

	1897-98.	1898-99.
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
* Northern Circle ...	3 4 4	2 11 9
Central Circle ...	3 1 2	2 8 5
Southern Circle ...	2 14 2	2 10 11
Presidency ...	3 1 9	2 9 7

The proportion of acquittals to prosecutions improved slightly in the Central Circle and largely in the Southern Circle, but was worse in the Northern Circle, the net result being a gain of 1.3 † per cent. for the Presidency. The worst figure of all is for North Malabar, but the total number of prosecutions was only

	1897-98.	1898-99.
†		
Northern Circle ...	12.5	14.5
Central Circle ...	15	13
Southern Circle ...	16.8	11.9
Presidency ...	14.5	13.2

11 and the acquittals 4. In Bellary the number was swelled by several careless prosecutions for cultivation which was eventually proved to have been made outside the limits of reserved forest. Mistakes of such a kind are much to be regretted and ought not to have occurred. In Anantapur, where the percentage of acquittals was as high as 26, the District Forest-officer attributes this unusual state of things to perverse decisions on the part of one of the Sub-Magistrates. The attention of the District Magistrate is said to have been drawn to the matter, and the Board would be glad to learn if he accepts the view taken by this District Forest-officer. In Chingleput the high percentage of 18 is said to be due to the Sub-Magistrates treating as acquittals all cases in which the compounding fees were paid into court. It does not appear how they could have done otherwise if the cases had been actually brought on the file. A few other District Forest-officers have complaints to make against the Magistrates, but the general impression which the Board gathers from the reports and the figures is that, after allowing for exceptional cases, all due support has been received from the courts.

12. The Board is again glad to see that very few rewards have been paid to informers. The District Forest-officer of North Arcot proposes to grant more in future. Of course there are cases in which it is desirable to do so, but it is noted that very good results have been obtained in many districts without resort to a practice which is open to so much objection.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To all Collectors (District Forest-officers, Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Revenue Officers),

Conservators of Forests.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Enl. C. M. Thambaswa my.

Cur No. 7399/99

From The Board of Revenue
Land Revenue
Forest No. 468.
Dated 4 November 1899.

FOR ORDERS.

To Under Secretary

In the above Progs. the Board of Revenue in detail the sub. (let of Forest offences and the regulation of grazing during the Forest year 1898-99 and issues certain further instructions in the matter

The total number of offences reported in the various districts during the period under review is 20,141 as against 16,889 in 1897-98 and the increase is more marked in the Dist. of South Arcot, North Arcot and Salem. The increase in most of the Districts is attributed by the Board as due to the "recent strengthening of the Subordinate establishments" and the additional time which "many of the Controlling officers" are now able to devote to the

Supervision of the general work of the
 "cept" and this increase will thus
 go on, the Board believes, for some
 years to come. As regards South
 Canara the Board is in favour
 of liberal concessions being allowed
 and it proposes therefore "to set aside
 lands in reserved areas from which
 manure leaves can be removed
 free and to facilitate arrangements
 for the removal of firewood on pay-
 ment." As a general principle the
 Board "desires to impress upon all
 District Forest Officers the necessity
 of carefully looking into matters
 whenever it is found that offences
 are numerous in any particular
 locality and seeing whether anything
 can be done to render conservancy
 operations as little onerous as
 possible to the public."

The total number of
 reported cases of illicit grazing
 during the year 1898-99 is 8164 as
 against 5771 for 1897-98 and the
 increase has been most marked
 in the case of North Arcot D.
 The offences are reported to be
 mainly due to attempts to evade

"payment of the very moderate fee
 prescribed." In some Districts (as in
 Kurnool) the offences seem to have
 been swelled by the ~~custom of~~
 permits issued being restricted
 to a single reserve without due
 enquiry having been made as
 to how far such an arrangement
 suited the convenience of cattle
 owners. Accordingly the Board
 instructs Collectors of Ds where
 grazing offences are numerous to
 look into this point and see
 whether special arrangements
 for a compounded fee for the
 herds of professional breeders and
 graziers may not be made

A large proportion of
 offences seems to have been due to
 the browsing of ^{in restricted areas} goats, and as
 goats are now kept in large
 numbers the Board impresses
 on Collectors the necessity for seeing
 that stringent measures are
 adopted to prevent the goats
 from denuding all forests near
 villages

Among the cases disposed
 of during the year there has been

4
decrease in the number of with-
drawals and increase in the
number of cases compounded,
acquitted and convicted.

The percentage of ac-
quittals shows an improvement
having fallen from 14.5 to 13.2.

There has been some
complaints from District Forest
officers about the conduct of the
magistrates but the general im-
pression which "the Board gathers
from the reports and the figures is
that, after allowing for excep-
tional cases all due support has
been received from the Courts"

As to the grant of
rewards very few rewards have
been paid during the year and
the Board observes that though
there are cases in which it is desirable
to grant rewards, good results
have been obtained without resort
to this objectionable method in
many districts.

Submitted that the
R.P. may be recorded as there
seems to be nothing in the instruc-
tions issued ^{which is not} consistent with, & in pursuance of

(1) H.M.
(2) H.G.

5
the forest policy of this Govt

St
26.11.98

Long Draft on docket submit for appn
27.11.98

H.M.

The Board's instructions
are very judicious.

The increase in reported
crime is a natural con-
sequence of the strengthening
of the dept. The strict & more
vigilant enforcement of the
law now will in the end
instruct & discipline the people
into its observance.

Please see draft on
docket for approval
S.D. 1/12/98

H.M. - 29
4-12-98
A.E.H.
7.12.98

c 2/12
18/12

Government (1899) of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 830, 8th December 1899.

DECEMBER.

Forest Offences.

Approving, with remarks, the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue in the matter of — and the regulation of grazing during the forest year 1898-99.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 468, dated 4th November 1899:—

The Hon'ble Mr. J. STURROCK, I.C.S.

Read—extracts from the District Forest Administration Reports relating to—

- (1) Breaches of Forest Laws.
- (2) Regulation of Grazing.

Resolution—Forest No. 468, dated 4th November 1899.

The total number of offences reported in the various districts is noted below:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.
South Arcot ...	2,564	2,966
South Canara ...	2,533	2,379
North Arcot ...	1,282	2,126
Salem ...	1,403	1,938
Cuddapah ...	1,035	1,137
Kistna ...	892	1,011
Kurnool ...	1,053	944
Chingleput ...	452	915
Trichinopoly ...	823	887
Madura ...	527	861
Vizagapatam ...	758	809
Bellary ...	427	595
Tinnevely ...	481	593
Nellore ...	344	518
Anantapur ...	343	501
North Coimbatore ...	384	478
Gódávári ...	613	453
Ganjám ...	356	415
South Coimbatore ...	392	365
The Nilgiris ...	129	140
Tanjore ...	62	74
South Malabar ...	25	21
North Malabar ...	11	15

2. There is again a considerable increase in the number of offences reported from most districts. The recent strengthening of the subordinate establishments and the additional time which, owing to the gradual completion of settlement operations many of the controlling officers are now able to devote to the supervision of the general work of the department, make it probable that this increase of reported forest crime may go on for some years to come, as it is evident that in many localities the people still prefer to risk detection, or bribe forest guards and watchers, rather than pay the prescribed dues. As might be expected, for the reasons given by the

Board when dealing with this subject last year,* the district of South Arcot again heads the list with the largest number of reported offences, and North

Malabar again shows the lowest figures. The Board has, however, to express its regret that South Canara should again stand second on the list with a decrease of

only 154. It is true that 1,846 of the total number of 2,379 were petty offences for which the parties were only admonished, but so long as acts of the kind are treated as offences at all the people are liable to be harassed and oppressed. South Canara is a district in which forest growth is abundant, and liberal concessions can therefore be afforded, but it would seem from the Conservator's latest inspection report that in his opinion the restrictions placed on the removal of manure leaves and of firewood have been too severe. It is now proposed to set aside lands in reserved areas from which manure leaves can be removed free, and to facilitate arrangements for the removal of firewood on payment, and it may, therefore, be hoped that next year's figures may show an improvement.

3. The Board fully recognizes that forests cannot possibly be adequately protected without a certain number of prosecutions every year, and at the present stage of forest operations, when the controlling officers have only recently been placed in a position to see that a serious attempt is being made to enforce the Forest laws and rules, it is probable that offences must be expected to be more numerous than they will be when the position has been correctly apprehended by the people. It desires, however, to impress upon all District Forest-Officers the necessity of carefully looking into matters whenever it is found that offences are numerous in any particular locality, and seeing whether anything can be done to render necessary conservancy operations as little onerous as possible to the public. The decision to afford facilities for the removal of manure leaves and firewood in Canara is a case in point, and in Gódávári where the number of offences has dropped from 613 to 453, the District Forest-officer reports that the decrease was due to some extent to special arrangements having been made for the supply of firewood and other produce on payment, or by permit, in localities in which people have been in the habit of stealing from reserves for which permits for the removal of produce of any kind had formerly either not been given at all, or had not been readily obtainable.

4. The reported cases of illicit grazing were as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.
South Arcot ...	1,132	1,352
North Arcot ...	642	1,285
Salem ...	640	850
Cuddapah ...	469	614
Kistna ...	499	621
Trichinopoly ...	556	486
Madura ...	233	462
Kurnool ...	243	366
Nellore ...	180	342
Chingleput ...	177	309
North Coimbatore ...	201	278
Anantapur ...	159	255
Vizagapatam ...	120	195
Bellary ...	93	180
Tinnevely ...	147	174
Gódávári ...	205	125
South Coimbatore ...	109	110
The Nilgiris ...	51	57
Ganjám ...	65	51
Tanjore ...	29	26
South Canara ...	17	18
North Malabar ...	4	8
South Malabar ...	—	—

5. The general increase in forest offences was of course accompanied by an increase in the detection of illicit grazing. There are few, if any, districts in which closure of forests to grazing of any kind has been carried to an excessive extent, and so far as cattle are concerned the offences are mainly due to attempts to evade payment of the very moderate fees which have been prescribed. It seems probable, however, that in some districts the offences have been swelled by the permits issued being restricted to a single reserve without due enquiry having been made as to how far such an arrangement suited the convenience of cattle owners. This is reported

to have been the case in Kurnool, and arrangements are now being made for the issue of permits for a working circle instead of for a single reserve. Even in Kistna where the parcellaire system was very carefully worked out, it has been found necessary to make special arrangements for a compounded fee for the herds of professional breeders and graziers who have to move from one reserve to another at different seasons of the year. This point should be looked into by Collectors of districts in which grazing offences are numerous.

6. As in last year, a large proportion of the grazing offences seems to have been due to the browsing of goats in forests to which they were not admitted even on payment of a fee. The form prescribed in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, No. 49, dated 26th January 1899, to show the number of animals impounded for illicit grazing has not been prepared on a uniform plan. The Board's intention was that column 2 should show all cases of illicit grazing and column 3 only those in which animals grazed in areas closed to that particular animal; but some Collectors have restricted column 3

South Arcot	...	35,436	It can, however, be gathered that over
North Arcot	...	32,659	5,000 goats were impounded in each of
Cuddapah	...	22,721	the districts noted in the margin. In
Salem	...	18,895	five out of these nine districts some pro-
Madura	...	13,972	vision has already been made for goat
Kistna	...	11,708	browsing in reserved forests, as many as
Anantapur	...	10,161	80,159 goat permits having been issued
Kurnool	...	7,616	in Kistna, and in most of these five further
Chingleput	...	6,193	extensions are under consideration; while

in three out of the remaining four districts schemes have either been completed or are under consideration. In Anantapur none is said to be required as there is ample unreserved waste available, but the goat owners prefer to risk driving them into the reserves where the forest growth is better than on the unreserved waste.

7. In paragraph 6 of Board's Proceedings, No. 49, dated 26th June 1899, the Board directed all Collectors to adopt the scheme for goat grazing sketched by Mr. Popert unless they could devise one better suited to the conditions of their districts, or show that the unreserved lands are sufficient to meet all reasonable requirements. Some Collectors have shown that, if area alone be looked to, the unreserved waste ought to be ample, but it is really insufficient because the goats have already completely cleared it, while the reserved forests are of very limited extent; and on a reference from Vizagapatam it has been pointed out * that the instructions above quoted referred only to cases in which under Government Order,

* Board's Proceedings, No. 438, dated 19th June 1899.

No. 844, dated 29th October 1890, large areas were brought under reservation, which, under the orders previously in force, would have been left unreserved and set aside as village forests. The Forest Member has recently visited the district of South Arcot, where the goat difficulty is most pressing, and, after a conference with the Collector and the District Forest-officer, it has been decided, with the concurrence of the Conservator, Central Circle, that even where considerable areas of village waste have been brought under reservation, provision for the admission of goats into reserved forests should not be made if the number of permits actually issued for cattle and sheep is already excessive and shows that no spare ground is available for goat browsing. Collectors of other districts may act on the same principle. Goats are now kept in very large numbers, as the demand for their skins is very great, and as they increase very fast, and it is impossible to provide unlimited areas for browsing, the necessity of adopting stringent measures to prevent their completely denuding all forests near villages must be faced sooner or later; the time for doing so seems to have arrived when it is found that the existing areas are really insufficient for the local cattle and sheep. It will be noted that this decision has been arrived at in the interests of the villagers themselves. If revenue were what was looked for it could easily be obtained by admitting goats into the forests near villages, goat owners being willing to pay at least three times the fee now charged for permission to browse goats in forests of the

kind. They will not, however, as a rule, take advantage of permission to browse in tracts distant from villages where the forests are extensive enough to permit of a certain portion being set aside for goat browsing.

8. The cases disposed of during the year contrast as below with those dealt with in 1897-98:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	—
Withdrawals	4,316	4,210	— 106
Compounded	7,694	10,070	+ 2,376
Acquitted	650	754	+ 104
Convicted	3,824	4,943	+ 1,119
Total	16,484	19,977	+ 3,493

9. In cases in which the number of withdrawals is large it is mainly due to lenient treatment of petty offences, such as those treated with an admonition in South Canara, and cases of grazing without permit in the early months of the year when the offence is due more to carelessness in renewing permits than to any intention to evade payment. The increase in the number of compounded cases will be considered when dealing with the detailed figures for the different districts. The percentage of acquittals to prosecutions again shows an improvement having fallen from 14.5 to 13.2.

10. Detailed figures for the different circles and districts are given in the following table:—

g table.

Districts.	Compounded.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Percentage of acquittals to prosecutions in the year.	
				1898-99.	1897-98.
<i>Northern Circle.</i>					
Ganjām	158	27	192	12	18
Vizagapatam	275	47	363	11	6
Gōdāvari	237	19	89	17.6	14
Kistna	712	24	141	14.5	9
Kurnool	348	45	397	10	16
Bellary	416	21	88	19	16
Anantapur	209	63	176	26	13
Total, Northern Circle ..	2,355	246	1,446	14.5	12.5
<i>Central Circle.</i>					
Cuddapah	586	41	269	13	14
Nellore	66	29	335	8	11
Chingleput	736	23	104	18	10
North Arcot	1,552	39	262	12.9	21
South Arcot	1,759	65	681	8.7	16
Salem	1,168	96	474	16.8	23
Trichinopoly	492	64	254	20	10
Tanjore	31	3	28	9.6	..
Total, Central Circle ..	6,390	360	2,407	13.0	15
<i>Southern Circle.</i>					
South Canara	264	50	171	22.6	20
North Malabar	7	4	7	36.0	..
South Malabar	4	..	13	..	10
The Nilgiris	21	5	115	4	4
North Coimbatore	137	31	192	13.9	25
South Coimbatore	232	15	95	13.6	11
Madura	265	37	456	7.5	12
Tinnevely	395	6	41	12.7	25
Total, Southern Circle ..	1,325	148	1,090	11.9	16.8
Total, Presidency ..	10,070	754	4,943	13.2	14.5

11. The number of compounded cases is large in South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Chingleput and Kistna, but those are all districts in which grazing offences were numerous and there is ordinarily no objection to compounding a grazing case. Only a few reports give any definite information regarding the nature of the cases compounded, but the instructions on the subject are well understood. The Board remarked

	1897-98.			1898-99.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
* Northern Circle	3	4	4	2	11	9
Central Circle	3	1	2	2	8	5
Southern Circle	2	14	2	2	10	11
Presidency	3	1	9	2	9	7

last year that cases calling for deterrent penalties should not be compounded but prosecuted, and it is therefore glad to find a reduction in the average amount of compensation paid per person involved in each circle as well as in the Presidency generally.*

The proportion of acquittals to prosecutions improved slightly in the Central

	1897-98.		1898-99.	
	...	...	...	...
† Northern Circle	12.5	14.5	13	11.9
Central Circle	15	13	13.2	
Southern Circle	16.8	11.9		
Presidency	14.5	13.2		

Circle and largely in the Southern Circle, but was worse in the Northern Circle, the net result being a gain of 1.3 † per cent. for the Presidency. The worst figure of all is for North Malabar, but the total number of prosecutions was only

11 and the acquittals 4. In Bellary the number was swelled by several careless prosecutions for cultivation which was eventually proved to have been made outside the limits of reserved forest. Mistakes of such a kind are much to be regretted and ought not to have occurred. In Anantapur, where the percentage of acquittals was as high as 26, the District Forest-officer attributes this unusual state of things to perverse decisions on the part of one of the Sub-Magistrates. The attention of the District Magistrate is said to have been drawn to the matter, and the Board would be glad to learn if he accepts the view taken by this District Forest-officer. In Chingleput the high percentage of 18 is said to be due to the Sub-Magistrates treating as acquittals all cases in which the compounding fees were paid into court. It does not appear how they could have done otherwise if the cases had been actually brought on the file. A few other District Forest-officers have complaints to make against the Magistrates, but the general impression which the Board gathers from the reports and the figures is that, after allowing for exceptional cases, all due support has been received from the courts.

12. The Board is again glad to see that very few rewards have been paid to informers. The District Forest-officer of North Arcot proposes to grant more in future. Of course there are cases in which it is desirable to do so, but it is noted that very good results have been obtained in many districts without resort to a practice which is open to so much objection.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. FRANCIS,
Acting Secretary.

To all Collectors (District Forest-officers, Divisional Officers,
Tahsildars and Revenue Officers).

„ Conservators of Forests.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—No. 830, Revenue, dated 8th December 1899.

Forest No. 246.

The Board's views and instructions
are judicious and are approved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

Exd. Shaik Kar'im.
40 Copies.