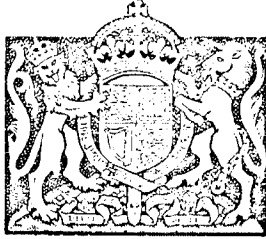


GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR



ADMINISTRATION REPORT
ON THE
FOREST DEPARTMENT
IN THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE
31ST MARCH 1939

NAGPUR
GOVERNMENT PRINTING, C. P. & BERAR
1940

**Agents for the Sale of Publications issued by the Government of the
Central Provinces and Berar**

[NOTE.—Appointments of all official Agents in the United Kingdom and on the Continent for the Sale of Government Publications have been terminated with effect from the 1st April 1925. All publications in future are obtainable either direct from the High Commissioner for India, India House, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2, or through any bookseller.]

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Tajnapeth.

ALIGARH

The Manager, Rama Book Depot, University
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ALLAHABAD

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Press.

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The Book Company, 4/4-A, College Street.
Butterworth & Co. (India), Ltd., Avenue
House, Post Box No. 251.
The Indian School Supply Depot.
M. C. Sircar & Sons, 75, Harrison Road.
Newman & Co.
R. Cambay & Co.
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CHHINDWARA

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Paota, Civil Lines, Jodhpur (Rajputana)

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The Manager, Educational Book Depot,
The Proprietor, Nerbudda Book Depot.
The Manager, Bhargava Book Co., Pub-
lishers, Booksellers & Stationers.

JUBBULPORE—concl'd.

Radhamohan, Esq., Proprietor, Shyam
Stationery Mart, Andherdeo.

KARACHI

The Standard Bookstall.

KHAMGAON

Sakalkale Typewriting Institute.

LAHORE

The Punjab Sanskrit Book Depot.
Rai Sahib M. Gulab Singh & Sons.
Messrs. Careers & Co., Moheni Road.

LUCKNOW

The Proprietor, Newal Kishore Press.
The Upper India Publishing House, Ltd.
41, Aminabad Park.

MADRAS

Higginbotham & Co.
S. Murthy & Co., Post Box No. 152.
The Proprietor, The City Book Co., Post
Box No. 283.

NAGPUR

Aidan Binzani, Proprietors, Karmavir
Book Depot, Mahal.
G. G. Khot & Sons, Sitabuldi.
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The Proprietors, Bhisey Brothers, Book-
sellers & Publishers.
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Book Binding Works.
The Manager, Nagpur Law Journal,
Central Law House, Tulsi Bag Road,
Mahal.
Neston Jacques & Co., Kamptee Road.

PATNA

The Patna Law Press Co.
Laxmi Trading Co., Padri-Ki-Haveli,
Patna City.

PESHAWAR CANTONMENT

Faqirchand Marwah, Bookseller.

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The Manager, "Harijani", Fergusson
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RAIPUR

The Proprietor, Chaube Printing Works.

RANGOON

The Superintendent, American Baptist
Mission Press

VELLORE

A. Venkatasubban, Law Bookseller.

YEOTMAL

V. N. Saraswat.
Mr. M. G. Bakshi, Law Books Agent

No. 442-1258-XI OF 1939
GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 27th May 1940.

READ—

The report by the Chief Conservator of Forests on Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1939.

RESOLUTION

The salient features of the working of the department during the year were satisfactory financial results, grant of a number of concessions and introduction of ameliorative measures in the lowest ranks of Forest Department employees. In spite of adverse agricultural conditions and continued economic depression, the net surplus was the highest since 1927-28, with the exception of 1929-30. There was a drop of Rs. 1·82 lakhs in the revenue over the figure of the previous year due mainly to lack of buying capacity of the people, grant of concessions, and abandonment of departmental collection of lac and kullu gum, but this decrease in revenue was converted into a net surplus by improved returns obtained from departmental operations and from the Raipur Forest Tramway and rigid economy in expenditure, which fell by more than Rs. 2·19 lakhs in comparison with the previous year. In fact the expenditure has been so severely curtailed that there is danger of a loss of revenue if the process is carried any further. The economies effected include abolition of one division and seven ranges. The audited commercial accounts for Allapilli and Pedigundam ranges of South Chanda show an increase of profit from Rs. 1·34 lakhs to Rs. 1·49 lakhs, and the Allapilli Saw Mill had a successful year with a considerably increased outturn of 1·03 lakhs cubic feet of timber compared to 0·89 lakh cubic feet for the previous year. Milling costs were also reduced with the result that the receipts from sales of sawn timber rose from 1·36 lakhs to Rs. 1·52 lakhs, and there was a reduction in expenditure from Rs. 43,426 to Rs. 41,785. The gross revenue derived from sales of timber from depots in the Nimar, Hoshangabad and Melghat divisions registered an increase of Rs. 49,351 owing to higher prices obtained for timber from the Hoshangabad division. Similarly the sal sleeper operations were further extended and yielded an increase in net profits of nearly Rs. 45,000.

2. The Raipur Forest Tramway also had a more satisfactory year. Its gross earnings amounted to Rs. 1·56 lakhs, the highest figure since 1933. The working expenses, which amounted to Rs. 1·01 lakhs, slightly exceeded the figure of the previous year owing to abnormal expenditure on repairs to an engine. The net financial results, however, show a considerable improvement over the previous year. The surplus of gross earnings over expenses, which amounted to Rs. 55,152, is more than sufficient to cover the depreciation charges, but if interest on the capital sunk is also taken into account, there is still a net deficit, the amount of which, however, was less than in any year since 1931. It may be mentioned that the Raipur Forest Tramway, in addition to serving the needs of the department, is also supplying a real public need. The tramway carried about 18,000 passengers and 671,000 maunds of goods. Efforts to increase its usefulness to the general public are being continued, and the question of introducing through booking of goods with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway is under examination. The chief problem before the Raipur Forest Tramway is overloading, which not only reduces the revenue but also wears out the rolling-stock. The question of installing a weigh-bridge to check this evil, which has been kept in abeyance so far on account of financial stringency, has become urgent and is being re-examined.

3. The aspect of the administration of the department which touches the agriculturist more intimately than perhaps any other is grazing. The report contains an exhaustive exposition of the policy of Government. During the year Government introduced a number of measures calculated to give relief to the agriculturist and the cattle-owner. A reduction of 25 per cent in the privileged and ordinary grazing rates, wherever the existing rates were more than Re. 0-1-6 per head of cattle, was sanctioned with effect from the commencement of the year. In the Nimar and Seoni divisions the commercial rates were also reduced as their incidence was too high. The net result of these concessions was that the number of animals which grazed in Government forest increased by 92,540, while the revenue actually realized fell by Rs. 79,585. This, however, does not reveal the full extent of the value of the concession. The grazing revenue at the original rates for the actual number of cattle which grazed in the forests would have exceeded the actual receipts by Rs. 1·32 lakhs. The provincial finances are not in such a condition as to justify Government in regarding with equanimity this heavy reduction in grazing revenue, and the general effect of the concessions will have to be carefully watched.

4. In addition to the above-mentioned reduction in the grazing rates, the grazing rules were modified and the date of commencement of the grazing year was changed from the 1st July to the 1st April, with a view to granting cattle-owners a longer period for taking out grazing licences. The change in the grazing year has given rise to a number of administrative difficulties which will need examination. In addition, the system of issuing grazing

certificates by patwaris in the Central Provinces was abandoned for the Berar system, under which recourse to the patwari for grazing certificates is not required. This alteration should result in considerable convenience to the people.

5. The other concessions granted include free removal of grass in areas where it has no commercial value, and free extraction of mahua and achar in certain backward areas. With a view to encouraging sheep farming, possible areas totalling 777 square miles have been set aside for 'gwari' grazing of sheep, and in order to encourage stall feeding of agricultural cattle—considered by many to be the only solution of the grazing question of this province experiments on silage operations are being made on the extensive grass areas along the Raipur Forest Tramway.

6. In order to improve the efficiency of the Forest Guards and increase their utility to the public, a system of local training for all junior Forest Guards has been introduced and they have also been supplied with a printed list of their duties. The Forest Guards have to serve under most onerous conditions and a long overdue measure of improvement in the conditions of their service, *viz.*, increase in their minimum salary by Re. 1, was introduced at the close of the year. It has also been decided to supply each Forest Guard annually with a pair of shoes at a cost of Rs. 2. It is hoped that the effect of these measures will be to give encouragement to these lowest paid forest employees on whose efficient working the success of the operations of the department to a large extent depends. Government has noted with much regret the increase in the number of assaults on Forest Guards including one unprovoked fatal assault by a poacher. Government believes that this increase was due to fortuitous circumstances and does not connote any deterioration in the relations between Forest Guards and the public.

7. The experiment of opening village schools which was initiated last year was carried a step further by the opening of 21 new schools during the year. Timber worth Rs. 11,784 was supplied for the construction of 66 Vidya Mandirs. This involved considerable strain on the forest staff which was entrusted with the duty of felling and carting the timber to its destination. An area of 4,208 acres of Government forests in the Saugar district has been transferred to the Veterinary Department for the opening of a cattle-breeding farm. Government has also passed orders designed to encourage private plantation of fruit trees in open forest lands.

8. The discussion on the report of the relative advantages and disadvantages of clear-felling *vis-a-vis* an improvement-*cum*-selection system is instructive. In view of the great part which Government forests play in the well-being of the province, Government trusts that the policy best suited to the interests of the province will be evolved after careful experiments and examination of all relevant facts and circumstances.

9. Attached to the report is a brief review of the quinquennium ending the 31st March 1939. The main features of the quinquennium are economic depression and the preparation of 14 new working plans in divisions with the result that practically the whole area under Government forests is now under regular working plans.

10. Government desires to place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Cox, the Chief Conservator, who retired after the close of the year. Its thanks are due to him and the officers of the department for their zeal and industry in the discharge of their duties.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests and to the Conservators of Forests, Central, Eastern and Western Circles, for information and guidance; also that it be published in Part I of the *Central Provinces and Berar Gazette*.

By order of the Governor,
Central Provinces & Berar,

K. B. L. SETH,
Secy. to Govt., C. P. & Berar,
Forest Department.

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