

APPENDIX- I

Rules for the Regulation of Grazing by Professional Graziers, Assam Valley Districts Division.

Definition:- In these rules the term “professional grazier” means a cattle owner who derives the main part of his income from the sale of cattle or their produce and whose profits from cultivation (if he cultivates at all) are merely subsidiary to the income he derives from cattle keeping; and includes persons who herd cattle on behalf of others solely or principally for trade purposes.

1. Professional graziers are prohibited from grazing cattle on any land at the disposal of Government, except in accordance with the provisions of a permit.
2. Before the 1st of June each year all professional graziers must apply in writing for a permit to the Deputy Commissioner, Subdivisional Officer, the Special Officer in Charge of graziers’ business of the district or subdivision in which the bathan or khuti is situated, or to any other officer authorized by the Deputy Commissioner, and declare at the same time the number and kind of cattle in their possession and the places where they desire their cattle to graze. Professional graziers arriving in a district after the 1st of June must apply for a permit within one month of the date of their arrival.
3. At least two-thirds of the grazing dues must be paid to the officer issuing the permit at the time when the application is filed. The remaining one-third will be paid to the mauzadar or mohisrdar not later than the 1st of December following. Full fees will be charged to persons arriving in the district before January 1st, half fees to those arriving after that date, but allowance will be made for any fees for the year in question already paid in any other part of the province. Deputy Commissioners are authorized to remit the unpaid portions of the fees in cases in which their realization would cause serious hardship, e.g., in the case of a number of cattle undoubtedly destroyed by an outbreak of cattle-disease or cattle sold by order of the court.

4. Permits will cover the land revenue year from 1st of July to 30th of June following.
5. If after the issue of a permit and before the close of the year, a professional grazier becomes possessed of more cattle liable to tax than are included in the permit, he must apply to the mauzadar or mohsirdar within 15 days for an additional permit. If such additional permit is issued before the 1st of January, he will be required to pay the fees for a full year at the time of issue of permit, if after the 1st January he will pay half the annual fees.

A purchaser of cattle shall not be entitled to exemption from the payment of grazing fees under this rule on the ground that the cattle in question are covered by a permit, taken out by his vendor unless the transfer of ownership was notified at the time to the mauzadar or mohsirdar and all fees due for the year were paid in full.

6. No fees will be charged on cattle which are under one year old at the time of the issue of the permit.
7. Any professional grazier, who fails to apply in time for permits for the full number of cattle in his charge which are liable to pay dues, may be required to pay double the amount of the fee due on the cattle omitted from the application. Rewards up to the whole of the value of the excess fee realized may be granted by the Deputy Commissioner to any person giving information as to the existence of unreported cattle.
8. Fees shall be payable at the rate of rates prescribed by the Chief Commissioner and notified from time to time in the *Assam Gazette*.
9. The Deputy Commissioner may prescribe the areas in which grazing is permissible under these rules and the maximum number of cattle which can be grazed in each area. In the office of the Deputy Commissioner and the Subdivisional Officer a register shall be maintained of grazing areas for professional graziers.
10. The Deputy Commissioner may fix the site of the khutis or bathans in each grazing area, and no professional grazier shall be allowed to shift his cattle from one

bathan or khuti to another without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer.

11. An appeal against erroneous or improper assessment or enumeration will lie to the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer as the case may be and must be filed within one month of the receipt of the permit issued.
12. Any person who infringes any of the above rules may be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to Rs. 100, or with both, in addition or as an alternative to any other penalty prescribed by these rules.

Source: The Assam Gazette, May 30, 1917, page, 760

The 26th May, 1917, No. 2596R.- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 34 (2) (e), 35 (2) and 72 (e) of the Assam Forest Regulation, VII of 1891, and in supersession of all previous orders on the subject as far as the Assam Valley and the Garo Hills districts are concerned, the Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following rules for the regulation of grazing by professional graziers in unclassified State forests.

APPENDIX- II

Grazing Rules 1926.

Rules to regulate the grazing of cattle or buffaloes in Unclassed State Forests and village forests in the Assam Valley Division and the districts of Cachar and Sylhet.

1. Definition:- (a) The term “Unclassed State Forests” means any land at the disposal of Govt. and not included in a reserved or village forest or in a village grazing ground.

(b) The term “village grazing” means an area reserved as such by a Deputy Commissioner under chapter I A of the rules made under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, as subsequently amended.

2. Liability of fees:- Grazing fees on all elephants, cattle and buffaloes grazing in the Unclassed State Forests or in village grazing grounds shall be payable at the rates and by the persons prescribed in Appendix B to these rules, with the following exceptions:- (i) No fees shall be charged for cattle under two year old (date of filling application for permit).

(ii) These rules shall not apply to the Hakaluki Haor in the district of Sylhet.

(iii) The cattle and buffaloes of the following persons are exempted from grazing tax.

- a. Cultivators, who are not interested in a dairy or cattle or buffalo breeding or cattle or buffalo trading business.
- b. Residents other than cultivators, who keep cattle for their private milk supply and do not trade in dairy produce or cattle or buffaloes.

(iv) A herdsman, as well as the owner of the animals, shall be liable for all dues payable in respect of animals found in his charge.

(Note.- A person who trades in dairy produce, etc. is not exempted under this rule merely because he happens to have land under cultivation: nor does an owner of cattle, etc., become liable to assessment merely because from time to time he disposes by sale of his surplus stock of dairy produce or cattle, etc. The question whether any person is or is not a trader or trader or interested in a business under these rules is a question of fact to be

decided by the officer making the assessment. In cases of doubt the cultivator should get the benefit of it.)

(Note:- Occasionally the cattle belonging to a number of owners are placed temporarily in charge of a few men for shorter or longer periods as a matter of temporary convenience. These men generally sell the dairy produce. Whether any such herd is or is not liable to assessment under these rules is a question of fact to be decided by the officer making the assessment.)

3. Village grazing grounds shall be reserved primarily for the cattle of those villages for which they were constituted, but if they are not overcrowded may be thrown open to cattle from elsewhere. The mauzadar in the Assam Valley and elsewhere the *panchayat* shall decide in any dispute on this point, *subject to the general control of the Subdivisional Officer and the Deputy Commissioner.*

4. Grazing permits:- (i) No person [other than a cultivator domiciled in the district or a servant of or member of the family of such a cultivator *or a resident owner as defined in rule 2 (iii) (b)*], shall graze cattle or buffaloes or elephants in the unclassified State Forests *or village grazing grounds*, except under and in accordance with the provisions of a grazing permit as prescribed in Appendix- A to these rules; and all such persons shall take out permits for all cattle or buffaloes or elephants kept in their charge whether they belong to them or not.

(ii) Grazing permits shall be issued on payment, in the manner hereinafter specifies, of fees at the rates prescribed in these rules, and shall cover the period from 1st July to 30th June following.

(iii) Applications for permits shall state the number and kind of cattle or buffaloes or elephants and the place or places where it is proposed to graze them, and shall be made before the 1st of June each year in writing to the mauzadar. Graziers arriving in a district after the 1st June shall apply for a permit in a similar manner within one month of the date or their arrival.

In areas where there are no mauzadars the application shall be made to the Sub-Deputy Collector, Mohsirdar or other officer, as the Deputy Commissioner may direct.

(iv) Two-thirds of the grazing fees due on a permit at the prescribed rate shall be paid to the mauzadar or other officer issuing the permit at the time when the application is filed. The remaining one-third shall be paid to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or any other officer authorized by the Deputy Commissioner at the prescribed rates not later than the 1st of December following. Full fees shall be charged to graziers arriving in a district before the 1st of January and half fees to those arriving after that date, but allowance shall be made for any fees for the year in question already paid in any other part of the province. Deputy Commissioners are authorized to remit the unpaid portions of the fees in cases in which their realization would cause serious hardship, e.g., in the case of a number of cattle destroyed by the outbreak of cattle-disease or cattle sold by an order of the Court.

(v) If after the issue of a permit and before the close of the year a permit-holder becomes possessed of more cattle or buffaloes or elephants liable to tax than are included in the permit, he shall apply to the Mauzadar or the Mohsirdar or other authorized officer within 15 days for an additional permit. If such additional permit is issued before the 1st of January he shall be required to pay the fees for a full year at the time of issue of permit; if after the 1st January, he shall pay half the annual fees.

A purchaser of cattle or elephants shall not be entitled to exemption from the payment of grazing fees under this rule on the ground that the cattle in question are covered by a permit taken out by his vendor unless the transfer of ownership was notified at the time to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or any other authorized officer and all fees due for the year were paid in full.

(vi) Any person, who fails to apply in time for permits for the full number of cattle or buffaloes or elephants in his charge on which grazing fee is payable, may be required to pay double the amount of fee due on the cattle omitted from the application. Rewards up to the whole amount of the excess fee realized in such cases may be granted by the Deputy Commissioner to the Mauzadar or any person giving information as to the existence of unreported cattle or buffaloes.

(5) Reservation of Special areas for graziers: (i) The Deputy Commissioner may reserve areas for grazing for the general public apart from areas reserved as village grazing grounds. Such reserves shall be entered in a register in the office of the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer.

(ii) The Deputy Commissioner or *Subdivisional officer* may fix the sites of the *khutis* or *bathans* in each grazing area and no grazier shall remove his cattle or buffaloes from one *khuti* or *bathan* to another without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer.

6. Fees at the special reduced rates to be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner may be charged for grazing cattle or buffaloes in Unclassed State Forests or grazing reserves in cases where the permit holders undertake to supply pure milk for sale in towns in the Assam Valley Division. The conditions under which such concessions are granted will be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner.

7. An appeal against any assessment of grazing fee or enumeration or against any order made under these rules will lie from any subordinate authority to the Subdivisional Officer or to any Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioner at headquarters appointed by the Deputy Commissioner to hear such appeals. All such appeal from the Subdivisional Officer or from such Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioner at headquarters shall lie the Deputy Commissioner, if made within one month. The orders of the Deputy Commissioner shall be final.

8. Arrears: Arrears of grazing fees due and any sums payable under these rules are recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

9. Penalties: If any person infringes any of the provisions of rule 4 or 5 (ii) above, he shall be liable to be punished with either simple or rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees, or with both, in addition to any other penalty prescribed in these rules.

10. Power of the Commissioner:- The Commissioner of the Division shall have general control in all matters relating to grazing within his division. But no appeal or application

by way of revision shall lie to him as a matter of right against any orders passed by a subordinate authority.

Notice:- 1. The holder of this permit is entitled to graze the number of cattle or buffaloes entered in columns 3 and 4 of the permit in the locality entered in column 1.

(2) He shall not shift his cattle or buffaloes or elephants from one *bathan* or *khuti* to another without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer.

(3). A person wishing to graze cattle or buffaloes or elephants in the Unclassed State Forests, or *village grazing grounds* shall apply before the 1st of June each year to the mauzadar for a permit and shall declare the number and kind of his cattle or buffaloes or elephants and the place or places where he desires to graze them. He shall pay to the mauzadar or officer issuing the permit two-thirds of the grazing fee at the time of issue. The balance of the fee shall be paid to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or other authorized officer not later than the 1st of December following. All permits shall expire on the 30th June.

(4). Any person who fails to apply in time for permits for the full number of cattle or buffaloes in his charge which are liable to pay dues, may be required to pay up to double the amount of fee due on the cattle or buffaloes omitted from his application.

(5). If after the issue of a permit and before the close of the year a permit holder becomes possessed of more cattle or buffaloes liable to tax than are included in the permit, he shall apply to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or other authorized officer within 15 days for an additional permit. If such additional permit is issued before the 1st January, he shall be required to pay the fees for a full year at the time of issue of permit; if after 1st January, he shall pay half the annual fees.

6. No fees shall be charged on cattle or buffaloes which are under two year old on the 1st of June (date for filling application for permit).

7. The penalty for the infringement of grazing rules is either simple or rigorous imprisonment not exceeding one month or fine up not exceeding to one hundred rupees, or both.

Appendix B.

Rates of fee payable by the owner or possessor or by the head of a joint family which owns or has in its possession any cattle or elephants grazing in Unclassed State Forest.

Kind of animal	Rates leviable in Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Kamrup and Goalpara	Rates leviable in Garo Hills.	Rates leviable in Sylhet and Cachar.
Buffaloes	Rs.3 per head per annum	Rs. 6 per head per annum	Re. 1 per head per annum
other horned cattle	6 annas per head per annum	12 annas per head per annum.	4 annas per head per annum
Elephants	Rs. 15 per head per annum or Re.1 and 8 annas per mensem.	Rs. 15 per head per annum or Re.1 and 8 annas per mensem.
Elephant calf	Half the rate for elephants	Half the rate for elephants

Source: Revenue A, June 1926, 30-103, Letter No. 2122-31R., dated Shillong, the 14th August 1925. From- G.T. Lloyd, Esq., I.C.S., Second Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, To- Rai Bahadur Sivaprasad Barua, M.L.C., Jorhat, Srijut Mahadeva Sarma, M.L.C., Mangaldai, Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha, M.L.C., Jorhat, Maulavi Faiznur Ali, M.L.C., Dibrugarh, Srijut Sadananda Dowerah, M.L.C. Dibrugarh, Srijut Nilamoni Phukan, M.L.C., Dibrugarh, Babu Krishna.

APPENDIX- III

Grazing Rules 1935.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 34 (2) (e), 35 (2) and 72 (c) of the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 (VII of 1891), and by section 13 of the Assam Land Revenue Regulation, 1886 (I of 1886), and in supersession of all previous orders on the subject, the Governor in Council is pleased to prescribe the following rules for the regulation of grazing in the Assam Valley Division and in the districts of Cachar and Sylhet (excluding the Hakaluki Haor in Sylhet and the North Cachar Hills in Cachar) and the payment of fees therefore:-

GRAZING RULES

RULES TO REGULATE GRAZING IN THE UNCLASSIFIED STATE FORESTS AND VILLAGE GRAZING GROUNDS IN ASSAM.

Extent.

1. The following rules shall govern the grazing of buffaloes, cattle and elephants in unclassified State forests, whether reserved for grazing or not, and in village grazing grounds, in the Assam Valley Division and the districts of Cachar and Sylhet (excluding the Hakaluki Haor in Sylhet and the North Cachar Hills in Cachar), and the payment of fees therefor.

Note:- Those portions of the rules which are printed in italics shall apply only to notified areas as defined in rule 2 (e) in modification of the remaining rules, which shall apply mutatis mutandis to such notified areas.

Definitions.

2. (a) The term 'unclassified State forests' means any land at the disposal of Govt. and not included in a reserved forest or in a village forest or in a village grazing ground.

(b) The term 'village grazing ground' means an area of land reserved as such by a Deputy Commissioner under the rules made under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, as subsequently amended.

(c) The term 'officer in charge of grazing' denotes, in each district, an Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioner entrusted with this work by the Deputy Commissioner or if no officer has been so entrusted the Deputy Commissioner himself.

(d) The term 'office making the assessment' denotes, in each district, the Grazing Superintendent or a sub-Deputy Collector or other officer deputed by the Deputy Commissioner for the purpose of checking the numbers shown in applications for grazing permits, assessing the fee payable and issuing permits for grazing.

(e) The term 'notified area' means an area of grazing land which has been notified by the Deputy Commissioner in the Assam Gazette as an area where the procedure of enumeration and the incidence of grazing fees shall be determined with the assistance of the Agricultural Department.

DETERMINATION OF GRAZING RESERVES AND NOTIFIED AREAS, LIMITATION OF NUMBERS GRAZING, AND MOVEMENT OF CATTLE.

3 (i) The Deputy Commissioner may reserve areas for grazing for the general public and for professional graziers apart from areas reserved as village grazing grounds. Such reserved areas shall be entered in a register in the office of the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional officer. The maximum number for the cattle of grazing in such areas should, from time to time, be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner. He may forbid the issue of permits in excess of such number as he may deem fit and may, at his discretion, distribute the maximum by way of ration between the owners or graziers concerned and order the owners or graziers not to keep or graze any animal in excess of such ration in the reserve. The orders of the Deputy Commissioner shall be served on the owners or the graziers by a notice stating therein the time, running from the date of the service of the order, within which the animal or animals in excess should be removed.

Any person or persons, on whom the notice is served, intentionally disobeying the order shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to two hundred rupees, and in case such disobedience is continued to a further penalty which may extend to Rs. 50 (fifty) for each day during which such breach continues.

Note:- The object of this rule regarding numbers is to give powers to prevent over-grazing of any particular area, even to the extent of practically closing it for recuperation.

(ii) The Deputy Commissioner or the subdivisional Officer may fix the site of the *khutis* or *bathans* and these shall not be moved to a new site without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer. Elephants shall be moved from one reserved area or village grazing ground to another without similar permission.

Any person infringing this rule shall be liable under section 35(2) of the Assam Forest Regulation to a fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

(iii) *The Deputy of Agriculture, Live-Stock, shall apply to the Deputy Commissioners for notification of such areas as are suitable, when required. The Deputy Commissioner shall if he sees no objection to the proposal cause a copy of the office of the Sub-Deputy Collector concerned if any, and at the office of the Mohsirdar or Mauzadar concerned. The Deputy Director of Agriculture (Live Stock) shall ensure that the graziers concerned receive warning of the changes in procedure and fees caused by the area being constituted a notified area.*

LIABILITY TO FEES:

4. Grazing fees on all buffaloes, cattle and elephants grazing in unclassed State forest or in village grazing grounds shall be payable at the rates and by the persons prescribed in Appendix B to these rules with the following exceptions:-

i. No fees shall be charged for buffaloes or cattle under two years old on the 1st of July of the year for which a permit is applied for.

ii. The following persons are exempted from the payment of grazing fees for buffaloes or cattle provided they are domiciled in the neighbourhood:-

a. Cultivators who are not interested in a dairy business, or in a cattle breeding or trading business, or in a buffalo-breeding or trading business and who do not keep their cattle in areas reserved for professional graziers.

b. Residents other than cultivators, who keep their cattle for their private milk supply, and do not trade in dairy-produce or cattle or buffaloes, and who do not keep their cattle in areas reserved for professional graziers.

Note 1.- A herdsman, in the absence of the owner of the animal, shall be liable for all dues payable in respect of animals found in his charge.

Note 2.- A person who deals in dairy-produce, etc., is not exempted under this rule because he happens to have land under cultivation; nor does an owner of cattle, etc., become liable to assessment merely because he occasionally sells his surplus stock of dairy-produce or cattle, etc. Whether any person is or is not a trader or interested in a business under these rules is a question of fact to be decided by the officer in charge of grazing. When there is any doubt the assessee should get the benefit of it.

iii. *In “notified areas” no fees shall be charged for breeding bulls or for young bulls destined to be future breeding bulls- in the case of cattle only- provided such bulls and young bulls are, in the opinion of the officer of the Agricultural Department (who shall not be below the rank of Inspector) deputed for this work by the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Live-Stock) necessary and suitable for the purpose of breeding.*

Note:- To qualify for exemption bulls mentioned in clause (iii) should be of the best quality not sufficient to justify exemption under (iii) should be classified as ‘Uncastrated Males’ and assessed accordingly.

ENUMERATION:

5(i) All persons liable in accordance with Appendix B to the payment of fees for grazing, not being exempted under rule 4 shall take out permits for all buffaloes, cattle or elephants kept in their charge in the form prescribed in Appendix A to these rules.

ii. Before the end of May in each year the mohsirdar, or (where there is no mohsirdar), the mauzadar or other person directed by the Deputy Commissioner to do so, shall send in to the officer making the assessment a list of all persons whom he considers liable to assessment under these rules. He shall at the same time serve on every person in the list

the form prescribed in Appendix C, and note that he has done so against each name in the list. The officer making the assessment shall take similar action in the case of any other person whom he considers liable to assessment and shall submit the complete list to the officer in charge of grazing.

iii. In 'notified area' the officer of the Agricultural Department, not below the rank of Inspector, deputed for the work, and not the mohsirdar or mauzadar or other persons directed by the Deputy Commissioner to do so outside such areas shall send in the list of all persons liable to assessment to the officer making the assessment after inspecting cattle, and shall show in this list the number of cattle classified according to Appendix A. He shall send a copy of this list to the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Live-Stock) and shall at the same time serve on the graziers the form prescribed in Appendix C and note that he has done so against each name in the list. The officer making the assessment shall submit the complete list to the officer in charge of grazing.

iv. After filling in the particulars in the appropriate columns of the aforesaid form and signing the *affidavit* thereon the grazier shall apply for a permit by presenting the form before the 1st of July each year (or within one month of supply of the form of application whichever shall be later) to the officer in charge of grazing, the Grazing Superintendent or any other officer specially authorized by the Deputy Commissioner to receive such applications, and issue permits.

Note.- It shall be the duty of the grazing clerk or the officer authorized to receive the application, to fill in the form of application for illiterate graziers at their request and without fee.

CHECK AND ASSESSMENT:

6. i. The officer making the assessment whether application has been made to himself in accordance with the orders of the Deputy Commissioner under rule 5 (iv), or he has received the lists and applications for permits from the officer in charge of grazing, shall check the actual number of cattle liable to assessment, in unclassed State forests or

village grazing grounds with the permits issued. He shall be empowered to make summary assessment of unreported cattle on the spot.

ii. Graziers who commence to graze their cattle in a district during the course of the year shall apply for a permit stating the number of assessable animals in their charge within one month of the date of their doing so. Similarly, graziers who have received a form of application as prescribed in rule 5 (ii) or (iii), in the current year, and who move to another district without having obtained a permit, shall apply for a permit within one month of the date of their arrival in the district to which they have moved.

In 'notified areas' such applications will be made to the Agricultural Inspector concerned who will classify the cattle and forward the application to the officer in charge of grazing or other officer authorized by the Deputy Commissioner to receive such applications.

Summary Assessment: (iv) Any person who fails to apply in time for a permit for the full number of animals liable to assessment will be liable to summary assessment on the spot by the officer making the assessment and may be required to pay double the amount of due on any unreported animals found in his charge.

(v) Rewards up to the whole amount of the excess fees realized in such cases may be granted by the Deputy Commissioner to the mohsirdar or mauzadar or any other person, not being a gazetted officer or the officer making the assessment, who gives information of the existence of unreported animals.

(vi) *In 'notified areas' young bulls, other than those necessary and approved for breeding, which reach the age of two years subsequent to the issue for the permit, shall, if they remain uncastrated, be liable to summary assessment at the rate for uncastrated males. Requisition for such summary assessment will be made by the Agricultural Inspector concerned to the officer making the assessment, a copy being sent to the Deputy Director of Agricultural (Live-Stock).*

PAYMENT AND RECOVERY OF GRAZING FEES:

7. (i) Two-thirds of the grazing fees prescribed in Appendix B of these rules shall be paid at the time the application is presented and a permit shall then be issued which shall cover the period from the 1st July to 30th June following. The remaining one-third shall be paid to the mohsirdar or mauzadar or any other officer authorized by the Deputy Commissioner not later than the 1st of December following. Full fees shall be charged for cattle buffaloes and elephants arriving in a district before the 1st January and half fees to those arriving after that date, but allowance shall be made for any fees for the year in question already paid to Government in any fees for the year in question already paid to Government in any part of the province. Such fees shall be payable at the time of the issue of the permit.

Variation in fees:- (ii) Deputy Commissioners are authorized to lay down a scale of fees differing from those prescribed herein in the case of grazing reserves to which a cattle breeding or milk-producing scheme approved by the Local Government/ Commissioner has been applied.

(iii) In 'notified areas' the modified rates of fees shewn in the Appendix shall be applied according to the classification made by the Agricultural Inspector concerned, viz., necessary and approved breeding bulls shall graze free and uncastrated males other than breeding bulls shall be assessed at three times the ordinary fees. Castration done subsequently to the Agricultural Inspector's classification shall not entitle the owner or herdsman to any reduction in this assessment.

Arrears of fees:- (iv) Arrears of grazing fees payable under these rules are recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

REMISSION OF FEES:

8. (i) Deputy Commissioners are authorized to remit the unpaid portion of the fees in cases in which their realization would cause hardship, e.g., in the case of a number of animals destroyed by an outbreak of disease or when animals are sold by an order of a court.

(ii) The Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer may remit the fees payable by poor persons in case of hardship.

(iii) When animals have been assessed to grazing fees by the Forest Department for grazing in Forest Reserves, they shall not also be liable to assessment for grazing in unclassified State forests or village grazing grounds, provided that the owner or grazier can produce a valid Forest Department permit. Similarly animals which have been assessed to grazing fees in unclassified State forests or village grazing grounds shall not be liable also to assessment to grazing fees in Reserved Forests where such grazing is allowed provided that the owner or graziers can produce a valid permit issued under rules. In each case this prohibition expires with the expiry of the period covered by the permit.

ENQUIRIES AND APPEALS:

9. (i) When the return made under rule 5 (iv) differs from the assessment list sent by the mohsirdar or mauzadar or other person directed by the Deputy Commissioner to do the officer in charge of grazing will send all cases which he deems deserving of enquiry to the officer making the assessment. The latter will inform the assessee of the result of his enquiry and it will be open to the assessee to appeal to the officer in charge of grazing for a further enquiry. This enquiry will be conducted as a proceeding of a judicial nature. When the Deputy Commissioner himself conducts the enquiry there will be an appeal to the Commissioner, when he does not, there will be an appeal to the Deputy Commissioner. Provided that no appeal shall lie after the expiry of six weeks from the date of the order appealed against.

(ii) An appeal against summary assessment shall lie within 30 days of such assessment to the Deputy Commissioner of the district; provided that if the assessment has been made by the Deputy Commissioner himself no appeal shall lie.

(iii) *In "notified areas" appeals against enumeration and classification made by an officer of the Agricultural Department shall be referred to the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Live- Stock) for the first inquiry.*

CONTROL:

10. The Commissioner shall have general control and revisionary powers in all matters relating to grazing within his division.

APPENDIX A

PERMIT FOR GRAZING.

(Words in italics apply to 'notified areas' only)

District..... Book No..... Permit No.....

Name.....

Residence.....

1	2	3	4	5	6			7			
Locality	Date of Expiry of Permit.	Description of animal over two years of age	No. of animals	Date of payment	Fee paid			Remarks			
					1 st kist	2 nd kist					
		1. Buffaloes. 2. Cattle			Rs.	As.	p.	Rs.	As.	p.	
		(a) Cows (b) Castrated males. (c) Uncastrated males (other than breeding bulls)									
		3. Elephants 4. Elephant calves up to the age of two years.									

Date of issue.....

.....

Signature and designation of officer
Issuing permit.

NOTICE

1. The holder of this permit is entitled to graze the number of buffaloes, cattle and elephants entered in Columns 3 and 4 of the permit in the locality entered in column 1.

2. He shall not move his *bathan* or *khuti* to a new site or his elephants from one grazing area to another without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer. The penalty for the infringement of this rule is a fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

3. (i) A person wishing to graze buffaloes, cattle or elephants in unclassified State forests or village grazing grounds shall apply for permit before the 1st of July each year to the officer in charge of grazing, the Grazing Superintendent, or any other officer specially authorized by the Deputy Commissioner to receive such application, and shall declare the number of his buffaloes, cattle and elephants and the place or places where he desires to graze them. He shall pay to the officer issuing the permit two thirds of the grazing fees at the time of issue. The balance of the fee shall be paid to the mauzadar or mohsirdar or other authorized officer not later than the 1st of December following. All permits expire on the 30th June.

(ii) *In the 'notified areas' persons grazing cattle under this permit shall castrate their male oxen, other than those passed as suitable and necessary for breeding by an officer of the Agricultural Department not below the rank of Inspector, before they reach the age of two years. Persons disregarding this rule are liable to have their uncastrated males, other than breeding bulls, assessed at three times the ordinary rate. Bulls passed as suitable and necessary for breeding shall graze free. (Does not apply to buffaloes.)*

4. Any person who fails to apply in time for permits for the full number of buffaloes, cattle or elephants in his charge which are liable to pay grazing fees, may be required to pay double the amount of fee due on any unreported animals omitted from his application.

5. If after the issue of a permit and before the 30th June following, a permit holder becomes possessed of more buffaloes, cattle or elephants liable to grazing fees than are

included in the permit, he shall apply to the officer in charge of grazing, the Grazing Superintendent or other authorized officer, within fifteen days for an additional permit. If the date on which he becomes possessed of such animals is before the 1st January, he shall be required to pay the fees for a full year at the time of issue of the permit; if after the 1st January he shall pay half the annual fees.

6. No fees shall be charged on buffaloes or cattle which are under two years old on the 1st July of the year for which a permit is issued; except that in the '*notified areas*' *male oxen not selected for breeding, which attain the age of two years, during the year, shall, if uncastrated, be liable to assessment at any time throughout the year.*

APPENDIX B

Rates of fees payable by the owner or possessor or by the Head of a joint family which owns or has in its possession any cattle or buffaloes or elephants Grazing in Unclassed State forests and village grazing grounds.

Kind of animal	Rates leviable in Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup and Goalpara	Rates leviable in the Garo Hills	Rates leviable in Sylhet and Cachar
1. Buffaloes	Three rupees per head per annum.	Six rupees per head per annum.	One rupee per head per annum.
2. Cattle	Six annas per head per annum.	Twelve annas per head per annum.	Four annas per head per annum.
3. Elehants	Fifteen rupees per head per annum or one rupee and eight annas per head per mensem	Fifteen rupees per head per annum or one rupee and eight annas per head per mensem	Fifteen rupees per head per annum or one rupee and eight annas per head per mensem
4. Elephant calves up to the age of two years	Half the rate for elephants.	Half the rate for elephants.	Half the rate for elephants.
<i>(Modification in rates of fees payable in notified areas only)</i>			
1. Selected breeding bulls	Free	Free	Free
2. Castrated males	<i>Six annas per head per annum.</i>	<i>Twelve annas per head per annum.</i>	<i>Four annas per head per annum.</i>
3. Uncastrated males (other than breeding bulls)	<i>One rupee and two annas per head per annum</i>	<i>Two rupees and four annas per head per annum</i>	<i>Twelve annas per head per annum.</i>

APPENDIX C

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR GRAZING PERMITS.

Date	Name of grazier, his father's name and residence	Situation of <i>bathans</i> or <i>khuti</i>	Number and kind of animals in his ownership or charge	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
			1. Buffaloes. 2. Cattle 3. Elephants 4. Elephant calves up to the age of two years.	

I solemnly declare that the statement made above is true to my knowledge, that it conceals nothing and that no part of it is false.

Dated.....

.....

Signature of Applicant.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR GRAZING PERMITS IN ‘NOTIFIED AREAS’ ONLY.

Date	Name of grazier, his father’s name and residence	Situation of <i>bathans</i> or <i>khuti</i>	Number and kind of animals in his ownership or charge	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
			1. Buffaloes. 2. Cattle a. Cows b. Castrated males. c. Uncastrated males other than breeding bulls. d. Breeding bulls 3. Elephants 4. Elephant calves up to the age of two years.	

I solemnly declare that the statement made above is true to my knowledge, that it conceals nothing and that no part of it is false.

Dated.....

.....

Signature of applicant.

S.P. Desai,

Secretary to the Government of Assam
in the Revenue Department.

Source: Revenue-A, March 1935, 39-83

Sub:- Modification of Grazing Rules. pp.36-42

No. 2912R., dated Shillong the 25th September 1934.

APPENDIX- IV

Government of Assam ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

RESOLUTION

The strike at Digboi and the developments in that connection have been for sometime past the subject of intense public agitation, particularly with regard to the firing incident of 18th April, and the demand for an independent Tribunal has been insistent from various quarters. But though the Magistrate enquired into that incident in a public enquiry and some matters still being before the Court are obviously *sub judice*, Government do not think it fit to ignore the persistent public demand for an independent Tribunal to enquire into the matter as far as is legally possible, and they have therefore decided to refer certain matters arising out of the strike at Digboi and the events related thereto to a Committee of Enquiry to be presided over by Sir Manmatha Nath Mukherji, a retired Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. As regards the firing incident the scope for further enquiry into it will evidently be limited by the fact that matters which are or may become *sub judice* could not be the subject matter of direct enquiry by this Committee. This Committee will however be authorized to make such further enquiries in the matters which are not or are not likely to be *sub judice* as they may consider necessary. Mr. G.D. Walker, M.B.E., I.C.S., Commissioner of Divisions, will be associated with Sri Manmatha Nath Mukherji in regard to item (2) of the terms of reference, as Member of the Committee of Enquiry. The Government also think it desirable to obtain some impartial opinion regarding the origin and causes of the strike in order that they may take action by which strikes of this nature can be avoided in future. Government sincerely hopes that all possible help and co-operation will be extended to the Committee by all concerned so that the Committee might get all the available evidence to come to a just and proper finding on the issue involved.

The terms of reference will be-

- 1 To enquire into the events leading to the incident of the 18th April and into those subsequent thereto in so far as they are not *sub judice*.

- 2 To enquire into the measures and actions taken by local authorities before, during and after the occurrence; and
- 3 To consider the origin and causes of the strike and to suggest means whereby strikes of this nature can be avoided in future.

ORDER- Ordered that a copy of the resolution be published in the *Assam Gazette extraordinary* for information.

By order of the Governor of Assam
H.G. Dennehy
Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam

Source: Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Assam in the Home Department, No. 4420-H., dated the 10th July 1939.

APPENDIX- V

TREATY OF SUGOWLEE 1815

Treaty of Peace between the Honorable East India Company and Maharajah Bikram Sah, Rajah of Nipal, settled between Lieut. Colonel Bradshaw, on the part of the honorable Company, in virtue of the full powers vested in him by His Excellency the Right Honorable Francis, Earl of Moira, knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, one of his Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, appointed by the Court of Directors of the said Honorable company to direct and control all the affairs in the East Indies, and by Sree Gooroo Gujraj Misser and Chunder Seekur Opedeea on the part of Maharajah Girmaun Jode Bikram Sah Bahauder, Shumseer Jung, in virtue of the powers to that effect vested in them by the said Rajah of Nipal.

Whereas war has arisen between the Honorable East India Company and the Rajah of Nipal, and whereas the parties are mutually disposed to restore the relations of peace and amity which, previously to the occurrence of the late differences, had long subsisted between the two states, the following terms of peace have been agreed upon.

Article 1st: There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the Honorable East India Company and the Rajah of Nipal.

Article 2nd: The Rajah of Nipal renounces all claim to the lands which were the subject of discussion between the two states before the war, and acknowledges the right of the honourable company to the Sovereignty of those lands.

Article 3rd: The Rajah of Nipal hereby cedes to the Honourable the East India Company in perpetuity all the undermentioned territories, viz.-

First- the whole of low lands between the River Kali and Rapti,

Secondly, the whole of the low lands (with exception of Bootwal Khass) lying between the Rapti and Gunduck.

Thirdly, the whole of the low lands between the Gunduck and Coosah, in which the authority of the British Government has been introduced or is in actual course of introduction,

Fourthly, all the territories within the hills eastward of the River Mitchee, including the fort and lands of Nagree and the pass of Nagarcote, leading from Morung into the hills, together with the territory lying between that pass and Nagree. The aforesaid territory shall be evacuated by the Gurkha troops within forty days from this date.

Article 4th: With a view to indemnity the Chiefs and Barahdaras of the State of Nipal, whose interest will suffer by alienation of the lands ceded by the foregoing Article, the British Government agrees to settle pensions to the aggregate amount of two lakhs of rupees per annum on such Chiefs as may be selected by the Rajah of Nipal, and in the proportions which the Rajah may fix. As soon as the selection is made, Sunnuds shall be granted under the seal and signature of the Governor-General for the pensions respectively.

Article 5th: The Rajah of Nipal renounces for himself, his heirs and successors, all claim to or connexion with the countries lying to the West of the River Kali and engages never to have any concern with those countries or inhabitants thereof.

Article 6th: The Rajah of Nipal engages never to molest or disturb the Rajah of Sikkim in the possession or his territories; but agrees, if any difference shall arise between the State of Nipal and the Rajah of Sikkim, or the subjects of either, that such differences shall be referred to the arbitration of the British Government by which award the Rajah of Nipal engages to abide.

Article 7th: The Rajah of Nipal hereby engages never to take or retain in his service any British subject, nor the subject of any European or American state, without the consent of the British Government.

Article 8th: In order to secure and improve the relations of amity and peace hereby established between the two states, it is agreed that accredited Ministers from each shall reside at the Court of the other.

Article 9th: This Treaty, consisting of nine Articles, shall be ratified by the Rajah of Nipal within fifteen days from this date, and the ratification shall be delivered to Lieut. Colonel Bradshaw, who engages to obtain and deliver the ratification of the Governor-General within twenty days or sooner, if practicable.

APENDIX- VI

Judicial Enquiry on Firing incident at Digboi.

The following statement has been issued by Sjt. Hem Ch. Barua, B.L. President of the Assam Provincial Congress Committee, Sjt. Bishnuram Medhi, Ex-President APCC, Sjt. Omeo Kumar Das, Secretary, Congress Assembly Party, Siddhinath Sarmah, Secretary APCC, Sjt. Baliram Das, MLA, Rajani Kanta Barua, MLA, who were presented at the Judicial Enquiry at Digboi:-

The tragedy which happened on the night of the 18th April at Digboi is to our mind a sequel to the allegation made by the Labour Union about the military police helping the AOC authorities in recruitment of labour from neighbouring bastis to suppress the strike. It is clear that the episode which ended in firing happened only when the AOC van containing a batch of Government of Assam Rifle entered the Charali Basti to bring new recruits. The part played by the District administration of the Government of Assam was that of absolute partiality since the commencement of the strike and this was being objected to by Labour Union. They persistently refused to lend any car to the allegations made by Labour Union that the Assam Rifle posted at Digboi on the plea of protecting AOC's property were being used for recruiting. Omeo Kumar Das MLA, who met the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur and also Superintendent of Police and asked them to inquire in this allegations against the Labour Union were being made at the police station and the District Executive on these reports promulgated an order under section 144 Cr. P.C restricting the carrying lathis by volunteers and also Khukuri by Nepalis, though there were no specific cause of violence against any of these volunteers. If there were any at all the ordinary law was sufficient to deal with them, not a single volunteers was prosecuted for any act of violence. But on the other hand the District Executive refused to inquire into the allegations made in writing to the police officers. It is clear that the AOC authorities with the district and indirect help of the military played the old game of provoking the Union volunteers to violence although to no success.

Though Mr. Tanish in an exasperated manner tried to vide over a picket of volunteers and provoked them to violence they kept quite. Though Mr. Gunning, Deputy Commissioner admitted this fact before Mr. Omeo Kumar Das and regretted it as sad he did make no attempt to restrict this European officer though he restricted the volunteers under Section 144 Cr. P.C.

Even on the evening of the 18th April Mr. A.K. Choudhury, Secretary of the Labour Union complained to the Magistrate that 4 of the Labour Union volunteers were assaulted by some Rifleman without any reason and that the attitude of the Military police was provocative and that something might happen. But he seemed to pay no heed at all.

On the 18th April, night however, three persons were killed by firing. Even after the tragic incident the part played by the District Executive clearly indicates that they have bias against the trade union movement- the first of its kind in Assam. The incident occurred at about 9.30 p.m. and since 9.30 to 11 p.m. Digboi town seemed to have passed outside the pale of any Government at all. Anarchy and chaos became the order for the time being. The Magistrate who was specially posted at Digboi was not brought to scene by the police authorities. Though reinforcements after reinforcement were being brought from the Military headquarters but no one paid any heed to the fact that there was a Magistrate nearby and that the town of Digboi was still without the benign British administration and British Law a Magistrate was required to order dispersal before any order of firing could be given. But curiously enough however it was the Labour Union Secretary who ran to the Magistrate to inform him of the firing and to seek his protection.

Though the Superintendent of police who came immediately after the occurrence was informed by the eye-witness who came there that certain European an employee of the AOC shot down some people, yet he refused to take cognizance of the information and he had the hardhood to state in the judicial enquiry that he did not believe them. He without any enquiry sent a report of these incidents by telegram to the higher authorities at 1.20 a.m. and he did not mention that there was another version of the incident i.e.,

some European Employees of the AOC under cover of the Military Police shot dead some men and the Government of Assam was not informed of this version. Information was lodged at the police station that two dead bodies were seen being removed to Refinery enclosure at night by some AOC Officers at night and these bodies still remained untraced. But no step was taken by the police authorities to search the Refinery area.

The ambulance men of the AOC were being fired at when they were removing the dead and wounded. It was stated by a witness who was the driver of the ambulance van that the stretcher he used on the night was broken due to its being struck by a bullet. No steps was taken by the authorities to seize this stretcher, which was an important place of evidence for indiscriminate firing, till 4 days after and that too after being hardly pressed by us. It was brought out from the General workshop after repair. The revolver used by the military Commandant on the night which he stated was responsible for the death of one of the victims and as such ought to have been an important exhibit in the judicial enquiry is not yet seized through Sjt. Bishnuram Medhi pressed upon the Magistrate to do so.

The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur went to Digboi on the 19th afternoon along with the Inspector General of police. He met Superintendent of Police, who staying in an AOC Bungalow and the AOC officials but they, it is reported did not go to the AOC Hospital to have a look on the injured persons lying there. The Deputy Commissioner did not leave any instruction to the Magistrate what action he should take regarding the firing incident. The Magistrate could not say what he was going to do, whether the enquiry he was making was a Judicial Enquiry or anything. It was after being pressed by us that he issued on the 20th April a general notice asking any people knowing anything relating to the firing incident to appear before him and he was conducting a Judicial Enquiry.

The injured persons who are lying in the AOC Hospital are not still being examined by the Civil Surgeon or any independent Medical man. The District Executive has failed to requisition the services of the civil surgeon or medical man independent of AOC.

After our arrival at Digboi, we noticed Assam Riflemen patrolling in the streets of Digboi on AOC vans where there can be no question of protecting AOC property. If we had not rushed to Digboi after the incident, Digboi would have been converted to another Jalinwallabag and from the oil wells would have caused forth the blood of the workers.

Even during the Judicial Enquiry though several eye-witness have made definite statements that Mr. Towler, Labour Superintendent, Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Tanish were responsible for firing three persons which resulted in their death, yet no arrest has been made. The Magistrate is not yet empowered under section 190A and 13 Cr. P.C. to take cognizance of the offence.

Though another Magistrate is posted at Digboi, yet none of them is authorized to receive any complaint against European Officers about their intimidation. The other day we saw two men alleged to Digboi Railway Station who were brought to the police station by the Union Volunteers last they would be held responsible if they did not appear before the AOC authorities. We saw then refusing to go to work at first inspite of persuasions by the AOC Officials. However we were told that they were taken to work after we left the police station. When a Bungalow servant disappeared and when information to that effect given by a European Officer at the police station and not only the Superintendent of Police with some Police Officers but also Mr. M. Umarddin, the Special Magistrate were seen to hurry off to the place.

On the 19th April Omeo Kumar Das, Lakheswar Baruah, Rajanikanta Baruah, MLA, met the Superintendent of Police at Digboi regarding a complaint made by certain person that he was prevented by the Assistant Superintendent of Police and a military Commandant from going to the Hospital for medical aid, after firing who did so when they learnt that he was striker saying "you bugger get out." The Assistant Superintendent of Police who was present admitted that he did prevent him from going to hospital as he had a minor injury. They take him that the Government will be held responsible for their conduct and it was no business for him as he was not a medical man to judge whether the injury was a minor one.

From our experience on the spot of the whole situation forces itself on us that there has been misuse of the military police to maintain peace and order and that the District Executive have failed to do its duty to bring the culprits to book and this advantage was taken of by the AOC officers.

We asked the Government to take immediate steps to hold an independent enquiry into the gross negligence of duty on the part of whole District Executive, which resulted in firing upon some persons at Digboi and to appoint a special tribunal to inquire into circumstances happening in Digboi resulting the shooting incident. Sending the enquiry the District Executive should be transferred to restore the confidence of the people.

We enjoin upon the Ministry to make the Executive realize that they are the servants of the people and the Congress coalition party means to rule the province according to true Congress ideals.

Sd./-

Omeo Kumar Das, Secretary, Congress Assembly Party,
Hem Ch. Barua, President, Assam Provincial Congress
Committee,
Bishnuram Medhi, MLA,
Baliram Das, MLA,
Lakheswar Baruah, MLA,
Rajani Kanta Barua, MLA,
Siddhinath Sarmah, MLA,
Debeswar Sarmah, MLA.

Source: AICC Paper, Roll No. 79, R. 8640, SL. No. 66, G/39, TL. No. 1161, 1939, Digboi, Microfilm. (NAI).

APPENDIX- VII

Letter to Jawaharlal Nehru, Anand Bhawan, Allahbad, from Captain Prince Hem Shumshare Jung Bahadur Rana, Secretary All India Gurkha League, 6 Circular Road, Dehra Dun India, Dated- 30-05-1931.

D/Sir,

I beg to forward herewith, for your information and favour of perusal, a copy of Bulletin No. 1 of 1931, issued on behalf of this Association at the express request of Gurkha in India, by way of an appeal to those of our friends, benefactors, and well-wishers, who we know, would only be too pleased to take up the cause of Gurkhas with a view to assist them in their difficulties in this country. The document is an outspoken statement of the actual conditions under which we Gurkhas have been living and are still struggling, as a community in this country. We are characteristically a patient and reticent people but a time has come when, we hope, it may be realized in our case also that, “there was never yet philosopher that could endure the toothache patiently.”

The Gurkha League is a patriotic, loyal and progressive organization whose watchword is- patience for all, and prejudice against none. We only seek justice done to ourselves; and have no desire or ambition whatsoever to overlap the rights and privileges of any other community. We have taken good care not to enter too deep into the troubled water of Indian politics, and have contented ourselves with asking what is demanded by sheer justice and necessity. If, in our attempt to enlist your sympathy for a purely humanitarian, friendly, and fraternal mission, we are able to be favoured with your active support, we shall have the satisfaction of feeling that our labours have not gone in vain.

Source: R.8587, Sl.No. 87, File- G.93 T.L. 326, 193, NMML.

APPENDIX- VIII

THE NEW GRAZING RULES 1917.

The new rules for the regulation of grazing by professional graziers in the Assam Valley may be said to mark the culmination of the policy which has been openly pursued by the Local Administration for last few years of preventing, by every means, the natural expansion of a growing industry by which a large number of Indians, though mostly immigrants from other provinces, are making a living and which is supplying the residents of our towns with some of the most indispensable requirements of Indian dietary. Englishmen who care not for *ghee* and prefer fats of sorts in its place for cooking their food and few among whom drink fresh milk excepting with tea and who bring up their children on all manner of artificial substitutes for milk, can hardly conceive the hardships caused to the Indian population of our towns, whether Hindus or Mahomedans, by the steady rise in the price of milk and milk products directly caused by the increasing burden of taxation which has lately been laid upon this useful industry. Since the first introduction of the new rates of taxation on graziers' cattle, prices of milk and *ghee* have been almost doubled in the Dibrugarh market. Pure cow's milk and unadulterated *ghee* are no longer available in the bazaar or from even the *gowalas*, for any price. We now get only 4 to 5 seers of what passes for milk for a rupee in place of the 7 or 8 seers that we used to get for the same value about 3 years back. Bad enough as has been the result to the public of the sudden and heavy increase of the rates decided upon by the Government of Sir Archdale Earle, 3 years ago, we wonder what straits things will come to when the new rules are passed by the Administration. The rules, so far as we can see, on the face of them, are harassing innovations which are bound to prove a bane to the graziers' business in this valley. The rules at once impose some apparently purposeless restrictions on the trade and create some irksome obligations for the graziers. If these new restrictions and obligations should succeed in securing a slight increase of revenue immediately, by means of a more accurate census of the cattle owned by the graziers, we have serious doubts if the gain will in any way be commensurate to the trouble and hardship they will cause directly to the graziers and indirectly to the public

by an ultimate rise in the price of all forms of dairy produce. But evidently the new rules are framed more with the object of controlling the industry and checking what is considered, perhaps, its inordinate growth, rather than of better securing the Government revenue. Thus it would appear that the system of issuing permits to the graziers as contemplated by rule 2 is intended to fix the graziers to specified limits and to throw a penal responsibility on them of submitting an accurate statement of the number of cattle in their possession. Any professional grazier who fails to apply in time for permits or make an accurate statement of the number of cattle in his possession is liable under rule 8 to pay up to 5 times the amount of the fees due on the cattle omitted from the application. We need hardly say that it would also mean some additional expense and no small amount of trouble and worry, specially to graziers settled at some distance from the towns, every time they have to approach the authorities with written applications for issue of permits or to notify the sales of their cattle as required by rule 3. The provision made in rule 4 for payment of two-thirds of the grazing dues to the officer issuing the permit at the time when the application is made for it, is also an additional hardship and an innovation upon the existing arrangements under which graziers are allowed to pay their dues at any time during the year. Rule 7 only exempts cattle under one year from payment of charges, but it is well known that the young calves are of no use and are not saleable before they are at least 3 years old. Rules 10 and 11 authorising the Deputy Commissioner to prescribe the areas in which grazing is permissible and even to fix the sites of the *khutis* or *bathans* in each grazing areas would also put the graziers to all sort of petty annoyances and inconveniences and must ultimately affect the normal expansion of the industry. As far as our information goes, the present system of unrestricted grazing in Government forests has done no particular mischief to Government and if rule 10 is intended to afford protection to the migratory cultivation of the Miris, the object could be easily attained by telling the latter to keep out of such areas as may be used by graziers. We are further told that the graziers generally have to shift their *khutis* three to four times during the course of a year, and rule 11, by restricting their free movements, would seriously affect the health and productive capacity of their cattle. Lastly, it appears clear to us that rule 13, which penalizes the breach of the rules and makes a grazier liable to imprisonment for 6 months or to fine which may extend to Rs. 500 for every such

breach, can only mean ultimately a death blow to the whole industry. It is also apparent that over and above the direct consequences resulting from the adoption of these rules, the graziers will also virtually find themselves helplessly at the mercy of the underlings of the Forest and Revenue Departments who may be entrusted with the task of looking to their proper enforcement. We must, however, wait till our next for further discussion of the subject.

Source: Extract from the “*Times of Assam*”, dated the 14th April 1917.
