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OF THE
BELLARY DISTRICT.

Extract from Mr. William Thackeray's Report,

Dated 8th September 1807.



NOTE.—These papers are printed merely for convenience of reference, and do not acquire any authority thereby.

BELLARY:
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1895.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To

THE COLLECTOR IN

BELLARY.

SIR,

I am directed by the President and Members of the Board of Revenue to transmit, for your information, and for the purpose of being placed in the records of your Office, an Extract from a report dated 7th September 1807, made by Mr. William Thackeray on the revenue affairs of the Ceded Districts.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. HANBURY,

Secretary.

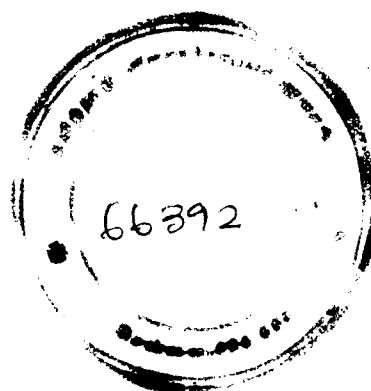
FORT ST. GEORGE,

11th April 1814.

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EXTRACT

FROM

Mr. William Thackeray's Report,

Dated 8th September 1807.

THE Ceded Districts contain more ground and people than Scotland. They occupy the very heart of the peninsula. Adhoni is nearly equidistant from the

BY SURVEY ACCOUNT.				
Males	...	...	...	10,12,208
Females	...	...	...	9,05,168
Total				19,17,376
as the woman are perhaps not all included the population may be taken at two million.				but
Black cattle	...	...	...	11,98,613
Buffaloes	...	...	...	4,93,906
Sheep	...	...	...	11,47,492
Goats	...	...	...	6,94,633
Sirkar land cultivated, acres.	...	...	...	33,03,859
rent of	...	...	S. Ps.	18,52,955
Waste since 20 years, acres	...	...	...	21,33,363
Old waste land uncultivated.	...	...	...	41,29,953
Enam land, acres...	...	...	...	25,99,747
an estimated rent of Star	...	...	...	at
Pagodas	...	...	...	12,35,458
Sirkar and Enam, acres	...	...	...	1,20,63,925
At a Survey rent of Star	...	...	...	...
Pagodas	...	...	...	39,54,417

long. This plain whether it be considered as an object of agriculture, or as a landscape affords a grand prospect.

* The labor and expense of clearing black land is very great. For acres 100. They cut down the trees and bushes then plough East and West for a month then North and South another month they are then employed in grubbing up the roots, it is then harrowed with a ponderous machine for a month and half. The machinery used is so heavy as to require 12 or 16 bullocks which work from morning till noon and then in general rest. After the first great harrowing, they harrow with two smaller machines with 6 bullocks each for a fortnight, then with three smaller still with four bullocks each for a week, again with still smaller drawn by only 2 bullocks, then with labourers clear the ground of roots for a fortnight, then harrow again with the light harrows. After all this preparation, Cotton and Korraloo are sown together by a drill machine 3 days after it is harrowed and smoothened with bushes dragged over it. They let it alone for a month and then drill hoe it with the machine called Kuttlamettoo. In another fortnight drill hoe it again and a week after hoe it. This being ought thus to be repeated after a month; and in another month or about 3 or 4 months after the seed is sown the crop is ripe, and they gather it three or four times for a month perhaps. Next year they may sow any grain suited to black land. There is no occasion to plough a field prepared in this manner for 20 years if it be taken care of, but it is annually harrowed with four bullocks and sown. If it is neglected the great plough and heavy machinery might be again brought out. Good black land pays a Pagoda per acre. The farmer has a favourable rent to enable him to bring such land under cultivation. A remission of 25 per cent. on the survey rent of this land would bring a good deal of it under culture.

two Seas. This inland situation seems to be the cause of the frequent droughts which take place in the Ceded Districts. The soil, however, is good, the black land especiallay, which, when once cleared and properly ploughed, requires nothing more than a harrowing for the next 20 years. A farmer may cultivate a field of this kind his whole life without perhaps ploughing it more than once. This black soil is most common in the western Districts. A noble plain of it is seen from the top of the Adhoni hill extending N. W. and S. E. from the Gootty District to the Toombuddra, sixteen or twenty miles broad, and fifty

It is one of the first plains of black land in the country.* It is the produce of this black soil which is so valuable. It seems to be pure black mold, runs from 2 to 12 feet deep, but how it was produced is difficult to guess. There are no vestiges of decayed trees. The red and black soils are often abruptly mixed. The black soil is sometimes found among rocks where trees could never have grown and I can account for its production no other way than by supposing with the natives that God had deposited it there. Round the hills and rocks which abound, the soil is usually a red gravel which I attribute to the ferruginous particles which are washed down perpetually from the hills. Both black and red land are mixed with sand, Calcarious stones and particles. In some red fields they cannot, nor ever attempt to, clear the land of stones; the more they plough, they raise stones, they may carry them away, but raise more next ploughing. In some respects they may be useful. The northern

boundary of the Ceded Districts is well defined, and the river affords a sure protection for many months in the year. The River also fills some watercourses which fertilize the country about Beejanuggur the ancient capital of the peninsula and at Rampoor in *Adhoni*.

THE great armies which have so often traversed the Ceded Districts have destroyed the trees except a few Topes which are met among the hills chiefly; no expence should be spared to plant trees especially palmiras. The bare rocks and want of trees give the Ceded Districts a rugged, if not a savage, appearance which well agrees with the character of the people who are more laborious and hardy and also more ferocious than the people below the ghats. Their food, dress and form is more manly than those of other Indians whom I have seen. Even Rayets carry arms, every village to the westward especially is fortified, and the village people furnish an experienced garrison. The soil is more fertile than that of Canara and Malabar, 2 or 3 nights rain in the Ceded Districts will ensure a greater crop in proportion to the ground and seed than six months drizzling in Canara. The black soil is the most fertile and when once well ploughed requires little further trouble; but as the red soil is worked with slighter and cheaper tools the poorer farmers are generally found upon it. Drill husbandry is universal. The rains are uncertain. It ought to fall in June, and at that time the Rayets are all looking out for a shower. One good nights rain is enough to put the seed into the ground, but if it fails in June there is danger of the Crop being lost. In September and October the rains are heavy and often do as much damage by bursting the Tanks as the want of rain in the earlier months had occasioned. If a little of that rain which deluges Canara, tears up its soil, and perhaps injures agriculture in some respects, could be brought into the Ceded Districts, they would be the most fertile perhaps in the peninsula. Dew in the Cold months in some measure supplies the want of rain and Wheat, and White Jonna is perhaps assisted by it. The want of rain during 1800 and this year too had given the Ceded Districts a most melancholy appearance, and I was much disappointed at seeing nothing but rocks or the bare red or black soil when everything should have been green. I had hoped to have observed the extension of cultivation from

ACCOUNT OF CULTIVATION IN THE CEDED DISTRICTS.

1	2	3	4	5	
Years.	Dry land acres.	Garden acres.	Wet land acres.	Total cultivation of each year acres.	
Fusly.					
1210	19,01,050	...	2,14,325	31,15,375	These four years are taken on an estimate of the Veewara or seed.
1211	22,44,381	...	2,58,592	24,62,973	
1212	23,98,324	...	2,46,281	26,44,605	
1213	24,39,364	...	2,54,839	26,94,203	
1214	27,48,574	1,00,676	1,74,356	30,23,606	These 3 on survey chiefly.
1215	30,20,327	1,03,069	1,88,509	33,11,995	
1216	26,67,004	95,007	1,23,157	28,85,168	

the extent of green fields but from the hills I could only tell how much land had been brought under the plough from the industry of Fusly 1215. In *Adhoni* I could see the cultivation had been considerably extended since my time and in other Districts I was surprized to see how much land had been lately under cultivation more than perhaps in most large countries of the peninsula. However the land can bear a much higher culture. There is much waste in Malabar and Canara, because the Valleys only are fit for the plough. But what there is fit for the plough is thoroughly cultivated. In the Ceded Districts poverty

cramps the efforts of the Rayets. I saw some putting the seed into the ground with the drill plough without any previous preparation with a busk pressed down by a large stone upon it dragging behind instead of a harrow. This slovenly husbandry is common in the red land. However I am sorry to say I had little

opportunity of observing the husbandry of the Ceded Districts because every thing was at a stand for want of rain.

THE people of the Ceded Districts are the poorest perhaps under this Government. So far from having any property in the soil like the land holders of

They often club together and carry on their cultivation. This joint farming and the habit of wandering is a symptom of poverty.

are now only beginning to settle. Even

* So in the Original.

pretty well cultivated. These Enams were established under the Beejanuggur Government. They were resumed by Tippoo who allowed a salary in lieu of them; however as they usually kept their lands and charged their pay as Sirkar rent the resumption was in reality fictitious. Major Munro has described the several Enams of the villages very amply.

THE Duswant Enams were originally granted to persons who undertook to build tanks and are of 3 kinds. In one kind the builder of the tank is allowed to cultivate a certain field according to the quantity of water in the tank, or else he gets a certain share of the produce, or else a certain extent of land under the tank. This Enam is therefore a landed estate which is the more valuable to the Hindoo because connected with the useful and estimable work of having constructed a tank.

By an average of 15 years accounts of prices it appears that suppose a Rayet of the middle class occupied $158\frac{1}{4}$ acres of dry, 5 acres of garden, and 13 acres of wet land, in the whole $176\frac{1}{4}$ which he cultivates with the bullocks. His dry

Vide Statement No. 2.

* It is difficult to get true accounts. The account of one Rayet would not either be correct in itself nor would it show the general state of husbandry. The following is the result of an investigation of Rayets and accounts for small parts of the Ceded Districts—a Rayet cultivating in this manner is a considerable farmer, tho' only reckoned in the second class; poor Rayets who have only 30, 40 or 50 acres or less raise less produce and live worse and they are enabled to live at all only by their getting as wages of labor what this Rayet would pay to hired laborers. But tho' this farm may be said to be cultivated pretty well, yet it would be susceptible of much higher cultivation and of course would produce a greater profit to the farmer since the rent has been fixed by the survey.

In his second sort of land of which he may have 40 acres he will sow 194 seers of different grains, five or six different species together—which will produce 6354 seers, which will sell for Pagodas 48-8-0; the Sirkar rent for these 40 acres will be 24-0-0.

In his third sort of land of which he may have 60 acres he will have several species, among the rest 40 acres of Cotton and grain together; he will sow seed $324\frac{1}{4}$ seers and reap 7,845 seers which may sell for 40-5-0 and of which the Sirkars rent may be 18-0-0.

In his gurrug or stony ground of about $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres he will sow 6 seers of kungoni and reap 600 seers which will sell for 2-6-0 and pay Sirkar rent 1-6-0.

In his $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of sandy soil he will sow 27 seers and reap 666 seers of grain which may sell for Pagodas 3-4-0 and pay Sirkar rent 0-9-0.

THE whole of his $127\frac{1}{2}$ acres of black land supposing them cleared in the way described will therefore be cultivated

* Chiefly Jonna which is the grain of the Ceded Districts and which is worth Madras Pagodas 6-6-0 per 960 pukka seers on an average of 17 years. Cotton is another chief product of black land, and the price at the same average is Madras Pagodas 11-0-0 per Maund. The net produce of black land is about half the gross produce.

with 4 bullocks, will require $566\frac{1}{4}$ seers of seed grain, will produce 18,585 seers of different kinds* which are worth 114-5-0; add price of straw it will be 121-5-0, from which 22-4-8 must be deducted for merah, &c., and of the balance 99-1-8 the Sirkar's rent is 56-9-0, the Rayet's share 42-4-8. This sum is absorbed by the expences of husbandry which may be taken at an annual charge of 47-8-13 viz.

2-6-4 Implements of husbandry.

4-0-0 Annual charge of bullocks calculating the original purchase and dividing it upon the 8 years the animal is supposed to work.

11-3-0 The keep of cattle including grain cotton seeds for fattening and salt and masal.

15-6-0 The household expences of the Rayet which may be charged against the produce of his black land being $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers of grain per diem, and salt, and masal.

10-8-8 The wages of labor which he pays in grain chiefly 6 seers per diem for 260 days.

3-9-1 The expence of seed grain $566\frac{1}{4}$ seers is the whole expence of cultivating $127\frac{1}{2}$ acres of black land.

47-8-13

THE same Rayet will cultivate, it may be supposed, $30\frac{3}{4}$ acres of red land of which there may be 3 sorts. Of the first sort he may have 12 acres in which he will sow 90 seers of different species of grain, and raise 2,133 seers which may sell for Pagodas 11-3-13, of which the Sirkar rent may be 4-5-6.

HE will have $6\frac{3}{4}$ acres of the second sort of red land in which he will sow 55 seers of different grains and raise 756 seers which may sell for 2-7-13 and pay Sirkar rent 1-6-6. In 12 acres of the 3rd sort he will sow 149 seers of grain chiefly gram which is the best thing to put in bad red land and raise 1,080 seers of produce which may sell for 3-11-4 and pay Sirkar rent 1-3-12.

THE account of his $30\frac{3}{4}$ acres of red land will therefore stand thus—he will have four bullocks, will sow 294 seers of different species, will raise 3,969 seers which are worth 17-10-14, to which add price of grass and from which merah and sundries being deducted leaves 14-2-12 of which he will pay 7-2-8 as Sirkar rent and keep 6-11-4. The charges may be as follows:—

Implements of husbandry	...	...	...	...	1	2	0
Price of bullocks	...	...	...	...	2	3	0
Keep of cattle	...	...	...	...	1	8	0
Household expences to be charged against the produce of red land	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Wages of labor	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Price of seed grain	...	...	...	...	1	1	10
Total expences of $30\frac{3}{4}$ acres of red land	...	...	...	...	14	2	16

* Red land has been arranged in more classes by survey paying from † to † per acre; the average rent of red land mayor † † This kind of soil requires much turning and ploughing 10 or 12 bullocks may be requisite for 100 acres tho' they are now usually badly cultivated with fewer. It is first cleared by hand labor with the hoe and hatchet; and then well ploughed. It is generally stony in some places, they do not even attempt to remove the stones. They manure either by keeping sheep on it. 1,000 sheep may be kept 10 nights on 6 acres and will manure them pretty well, but this must be annually repeated. They sometimes manure with ashes, dust, &c., collected in the village and such a manuring may last 4 years. It is either bought or comes from their own yards. This spread thinly after a shower, and ploughed in. They then level the ground with a kind of harrow. The seed is then deposited by means of a drill machine of a simple but good construction. It is very light, consists of 3 shares which make 3 furrows about 3 inches deep, and 3 hollow bamboos placed directly over; the shares join at top in one cup or receiver, in which the seed is poured, and drops thro' the bamboos into the furrows. A woman follows the plough holding a hollow bamboo perpendicularly with a cup at top into which she pours seeds of a larger size. This bamboo is towed along by the drill machine to which it is affixed by a string 5 or 6 feet long. The woman holds it steady with one hand and pours in the seed with the other. The paloogoo or plough with a horizontal share drawn by 2 bullocks follows, cutting the earth horizontally and filling up the furrows. 4 persons and 4 bullocks are necessary to manage the drill and Horizontal ploughs. One person drives the bullocks which draw the drill machine, another pours in the seed, a woman generally conducts the hollow cylinder which follows and a man or boy drives the bullocks which follow with the horizontal plough. 8 different kinds of seed are frequently sown together. This machine is so simple, light and I may say elegant that I have thought it worth while to describe it. Before they begin work it is painted and consecrated. The nett produce of red land may be $\frac{1}{3}$ the gross, when land is given by Enamdars or others for a share in kind that is the usual proportion. Gram and Vargo are the chief productions of the red land. Gram usually is sown after the first clearing and when the season allows of nothing else it sells on an average of 17 years for Madras Pagodas 4-1-0 per 960 pukka seers.

† So in the original.

The annual charges against garden land may be as follows:—

Price of bullocks	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Keep of do.	...	...	...	...	...	7	0	0
Wages of laborers	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	0
Weeding	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	0
Repairing wells	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Expence of seed grain	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	8
Expence of a draw well Rope for drawing up water.	1	6	0					
2 large leather bags for holding it and drawing it up.	4	0	0					
Iron ring for the mouth of the bag	...	...	3	0	0			
Sundries	...	...	...	...	3	0	0	
						6	0	0

Total expence of 5 acres of garden ... 28 2 8

* In his 5 acres of garden he will have 3 sorts of land which require different management and produce 2 crops in the year. His first crop in one acre of the best land will be the grain called Ragge of which he will sow 12 and reap 1,536, Seers which may be worth 8-9-0, his second crop will consist of Indian corn, brinjal and chillies and may be worth pagodas 8-6-0. His two crops will therefore produce 17-3-0 but out of this he must pay Sirkar rent 10-0-0.

Or the second kind of garden land he may have 2 acres and 2 crops, his first crop will be Jari and a root termed Rutnah and be worth 21-0-0 his second crop garlic. Tobacco and Onions may be worth 13-6-0. His two crops on 2 acres of second sort of garden land will be worth 34-6-0 but he will pay Sirkar rent 16-0-0.

HE will have 2 acres of a third sort on which his first crop will be grain of which he will sow $14\frac{1}{2}$ and reap 1,776, Seers which may be worth 10-0-0. His 2nd crop be worth 8-9-0 total 2 crops on 2 acres of third sort of garden land will be worth 18-9-0 and pay Sirkar rent 10-0-0.

THE total produce therefore of 5 acres of garden land cultivated with 4 bullocks will be 6,432, seers of grain besides Onions, Tobacco, &c., which will be altogether worth 70-6-0 add price of straw and it will be 73-0-0 from which merah, &c., 7-6-0 must be deducted and there will remain ... 65-6-0 of which the Sirkar rent will be 36-0-0 There will remain to the Rayet 29-6-0

* By the Survey account there are 50,258 wells in the Ceded Districts of which 13,914 are out of repairs. Garden produce is supposed to pay $6\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. of the whole land rent.

† He may sometimes have sugarcane. By one account which I got near Kodikonda an acre cultivated with sugarcane may produce Ky. Pags. 38-0-0 the charges are ... Pags. 28-9-0 the Sirkar rent ... Pags. 5-0-0 but I prefer the general average taken from the cutteri by which it appears that. ‡

‡ So in the original.

In his 13 acres of wet or paddy land the Rayet may with 4 bullocks sow 1,512 seers and raise 26,160 seers of grain. † Out of 13 there may be 3 acres of the first sort of land which may require 288 seers of seed for two crops, the first of fine, the second of coarser, and may produce 7440 seers of grain

I must here remark how important an object garden cultivation is, how the revenue and the subsistence of the people are secured by wells.*

P. F. C.
which may be worth 40-10-8 but out of which he must pay Sirkar rent 24-0-0.

In his second sort of wet land of which there may be 4 acres, he will have two crops sowing 576 and reaping 8,160 seers of grain worth 40-6-0, out of which he pays Sirkar rent 24-0-0.

In 6 acres of a third inferior sort of land he may sow 648 and reap 10,560 seers of grain in two crops worth 52-6-0 and pay Sirkar rent 30-0-0.

THE total produce of 13 acres of wet land therefore will be 26,160 seers of grain worth 133-10-8, from which merah, &c., sundries must be deducted and price of straw added, and there will remain 123-10-8 of which the Sirkar rent will be 78-0-0, the Rayet will get 45-10-8. The charges will be as follows:—

Price of bullocks	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Keep of cattle	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Wages of labour	...	...	...	...	4	10	11
Weeding, manuring, sowing, &c., sundry charges	...	...	...	...	16	3	0
1,512 seers of seed grain	...	...	...	...	7	5	7
Total charges of 13 acres of wet	...	...	...	...	31	7	2

* Wet land pays $36\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole land revenue of the Ceded Districts. The survey accounts makes 8 different kinds of wet land tho' 3 was the old division and is sufficiently nice for such a general average as this.

PERCENTAGE TO THE SIRKAR, TO RAYET.
On the gross produce ... 43-57=100
On the produce deducting merah, &c. 55-45=100

Implements of husbandry	...	...	...	...	3	8	4
Price of 16 bullocks divided on each year	...	...	...	...	11	3	0
Keep of cattle	...	...	...	...	20	11	0
Keep of Rayet's family which are not better treated than his cattle	...	...	...	...	20	6	0
Hire of labourers	...	...	...	...	24	11	3
Weeding, &c.	...	...	...	...	19	7	0
Repairing of wells	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Expense of seed grain	...	...	...	...	13	10	10
Expense of a draw well	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Total charges	...	...	...	...	121	9	1

But to the total produce of the land as above stated or
Pagodas ... 124 8 4

Must be added the clear profit on sundries on							
2 buffaloes	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
5 cows besides milk for the family	...	...	...	...	2	6	0
100 sheep	...	...	...	...	4	8	0
4 cock and hens	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
3 boar and sow	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
The spinning of an old woman and girl besides cloths for the family produces 2-5-0, but taking 4 persons spinning in a Rayets house of this class it may be reckoned	...	...	...	...	4	10	0
Straw	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Hire of bullocks let out	...	...	...	...	0	9	0
Picking cotton	...	...	...	...	0	3	0

					M. Pagodas	...	21	0	0
Total income of the Rayet, Madras Pagodas	...	...	...	...	...	...	145	8	4
Deduct charges as above	...	...	...	...	...	...	121	9	1
And it will seen that a profit remains of	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	11	3

A Rayet of the fist class gets more, a Rayet of the third less than this. This account is drawn out on an average of 15 years prices. The average of 17

* Because two years of scarcity are added in which grain was uncommonly dear and the value of the produce is consequently taken higher.

of different statements which I got out of the Collector Colonel Munro's Cutteri and have translated will shew the particular items and the detail. The result of the whole makes the Rayet's share somewhat more and it may be taken at $52\frac{1}{2}$ per

† The merah is part of the charges of husbandry not of the rent. The Rayet gets service in return for it. It contributes therefore to raising the produce and is not part of the rent or clear profit derived from the sole agency of mother earth.

It appears therefore that the whole landlord's rent is taken by the Sirkar.

† By one average M. Ps.	...	...	...	...	23	11	0
By another	...	...	...	...	46	8	$\frac{1}{4}$
By third	...	...	...	...	42	6	$\frac{1}{4}$

The profit ‡ which appears to accrue to the Rayets in the form described arises chiefly from his live stock, and when bad seasons are taken into the account

during which he must maintain his family and stock on the profit of former years, there seems no danger in asserting that generally the whole landlord's rent goes to the Sirkar. In Canara and Malabar it is proposed to give the land holders 40 per cent. of the landlord's rent. But there bad seasons never occur, so that even 40 per cent. of the rent would not put the Rayets of the Ceded Districts on the same footing as those of Canara and Malabar. Supposing that one season out of five is so bad as to prevent the cultivation of his land the Rayet ought to get 20 per cent. of the landlord's rent of common years or rather the landlord's rent taken as the standard ought to be 20 per cent. below the nett produce of each year, and 40 per cent. remission or such a rent would put him on the footing of a Malabar proprietor. We ought therefore to remit as much as possible to the

Rayets of the Ceded Districts and other surveyed Provinces, whether we consider the climate or the present assessment, rather than to the subalpine proprietors

SURVEY.				
* Rental of cultivated lands in the Ceded Districts is Ky. Pags. ...	21,19,158	8	8½	
If the Malabar plan were adopted it would be necessary to remit ¼ of this rental or ...	8,47,663	5	6½	
There would remain therefore to the Government only ¼ ...	15,02,089	7	10	

This shows the difference between the situation of the people and the nature of the Revenue in those Provinces.

management of Colonel Munro, but it requires a share of the rent to enable them to become small proprietors and extend cultivation to the utmost a remission of

I consider it unnecessary to argue on the advantages of a light rent as it regards the country, because it appears as clear as any moral conclusion can that industry stock and population must be increased by a light rent.

the Company's Government that a remission of rent seems unnecessary; however they might improve still more under a management equally efficient and under a land revenue which should leave the Rayets a share of the landlord's rent.

MAJOR MUNRO in his Report of the 12th August 1801 has given a full account of the former state of the land revenue in the Ceded Districts. He observes that as the troubles which have prevailed having occasioned the destruction of former accounts it is difficult to ascertain the state of the revenue in ancient times, however from the facts he states and from his inferences it is apparent that the land has all along been the property of the Sirkar, for the ancient Princes used to grant away the property in the soil as well as the Government rent, a proof that the soil itself belonged to the sovereign. Tradition says that the Beeganuggur Government took half the produce estimated in kind and converted into money at a rate unfavorable to the Rayets.

FROM the nature of the system the revenue must have varied. However it most likely exceeded 24,84,188-3-6½, the Kamil settlement which was fixed by the Mahometans a few years after the conquest of Beeganuggar, because a great loss of people and stock must have attended the forcible subversion of that Government and the revenue must have fallen in consequence.

THE avowed principal of the Mahometan settlement was an equal division of the produce between the Government and the Rayet and conversion of produce in kind into money at the average price of 10 preceding years, but the Rayet was further burthened with the payment of fees.

THERE were, it is said, at that period but few chiefs like the present Poligars. Those who existed were rated at the full Kamil and their services remitted. The Polligars of Anantpoor, Raydroog and Owke were great Officers of State under the Beeganuggur Government and held their Districts as personal Jageers for their maintenance. Even the Annagoody Rajahs, the descendants of the Royal race who governed the southern part of the peninsula, were at last subdued and tho' permitted to hold a few districts were subjected to a peshkush.

THE numerous Polligars who have done so much mischief arose between that period and the time of Aurungzebe.

THERE is no ascertaining the amount of revenue under Aurungzebe, but it was most probably below the Kamil, because in his sunnuds the Kamil, is taken as the standard, and deductions are usually made for waste. This waste was probably occasioned by the devastations of the Polligars who started up between the subversion of the Beeganuggur Empire, and the conquest of the Moghals.

THERE is no possibility of ascertaining the amount of revenue between the date of the Kamil and the year A.D. 1756, when the Mahrattas got possession of great part of the country.

HYDER's assessment was Ky. Pagodas 19,77,776 and tho' augmented by the resumption of Enams, exceeded but little that of 1756, because the Troops had committed ravages probably during the conquest and Hyder himself had but little leisure to attend to revenue affairs.

THE revenue rose from 1779 to 1788, from Tippoo raising rents, driving out the Polligars, and in some degree establishing a vigorous Government. The increase took place chiefly in Goorrumkonda, where Tippoo was enabled to add considerably to the revenue, because his father had driven out the Polligars.

FROM A.D. 1789 to A.D. 1799, there was a great decline of revenue chiefly in those Districts, which fell under the Nizam's Government in 1792 and originated in the frequent change of Managers, the weakness of the Government, the

Vide Major Munro.

return of the Polligars, whose old Districts were not only restored but even increased, from raising the rent and exacting fines, from letting loose horsemen to dragoon the country and from anticipating the revenue.

THE collections however under the Nizam's Government usually exceeded the settlement, because his officers did not care what they settled, but got all they could. Their unskillful mode of collection rather than the amount they collected ruined the country previous to the Company's Officers taking possession in 1800. The Nizam's people had regularly plundered part of the country.

THE decline of revenue from 1789 in the Eastern Districts was almost entirely owing to the rebellions of the Polligars.

THE decline of revenue in the western districts was occasioned in some degree by rebellion but chiefly by the famine which ravaged those Districts in 1792-3, the effects of which were aggravated by measures of Government which is said to have raised the assessment 50 per cent. and consequently the price of grain in the same proportion,

IN Gurrunkonda the decline of revenue was owing to the violence of the Polligars.

IN Adhoni in the year 1752 the revenue was fixed at Ky. Pagodas 31,7001-0-0 at which rate it continued till 1757, when owing to the famine and the indolence of Bazzalut Jung it fell to Ky. Pagodas 2,27,727-8-4. It remained near that level till 1781, when Mahabut Jung proceeded to that Jageer when it fell to Ky. Pagodas 1,98,022-5-0, at which it stood till 1792, excepting the year 1787-8, when Tippoo took Adoni. The famine in 1792, lowered it in 1793 to Ky. Pagodas 1,56,000-0-0, and it continued to decrease till A.D. 1799, when it was reduced to 1,32,451-7-4.

Thus the two famines of 1752 and 1792-3 seem to have almost ruined Adoni, but the bad management of the Government aggravated the effect of scarcity. *Vide Major Munro.*

The first Mysore war also contributed very much to injure the Ceded Districts, because the Troops and Brinjaries had time to plunder the country deliberately.

THE revenue of former times is stated by Major Munro, viz.—

The Kamil after deducting $2\frac{1}{2}$ lacs supposed never collected ...	...	...	...	22,34,188	3	$6\frac{3}{4}$
Revenue between 1750 and 1750 *	...	...	...	19,79,975	1	$8\frac{1}{4}$
Revenue in 1779 after deducting 30,000 over assessed in Kumbum ...	...	...	...	19,47,776	2	$10\frac{1}{4}$
Revenue after deducting 2,30,000 from 1784 to 1788 ...	...	...	...	20,54,224	3	$2\frac{1}{4}$
Medium Kanteroy Pagodas ...	...	...	...	20,54,046	0	3

which sum Major Munro then considered to be about the proper amount of revenue from the Ceded Districts when they should have been restored to that state in which they were during any period of the last century previous to 1796.

WAR, famine and bad management all appear to have combined to reduce the Ceded Districts, but the rebellions of the Polligars seem to have been the chief cause of the decline of the revenue. The Polligars were originally either Public Officers who held Villages for their personal maintenance or they were renters who set up for themselves or they were mere usurpers. Some received their Districts as personal Jageers either at the usual rent, or for the maintenance of a body of Troops, some were renters who in the course of time got Peshkush substituted for rent and so became Zamindars, some were merely Potails or Head Farmers. These people took advantage of the weakness of Government and the strength of the country and withheld the revenue with which they supported Troops.

THESE self-created chiefs kept up all the state and were installed with the forms of a prince, tho' their income did not sometimes amount to more than two or three hundred Pagodas; few of them however were acknowledged to hold any independant authority by the different Governments which preceded us in the Ceded Districts, but neither the Cuddapah Nabobs nor the Maharattahs could keep them all in subjection and make them pay their peshkush with regularity; the attempts of the Sirkar to reduce them to, and their struggles to avoid, subjection, produced continual Civil wars which distracted the country during the last century.

HYDER was so continually engaged in war that he could not annihilate the power of the Polligars so effectually as he wished, but he did all he could to prevent their doing much mischief by keeping those who had absconded out of the country by strong detachments, and by obliging those who remained to attend his person in camp. Tippoo began in the same way; but when his power was weakened by the English and by his own mismanagement, the Poligars, tho' they did not return themselves contrived not only to collect their fees, but even to rent their former villages. The Officers of Government, allured by a share of the profits, or feeling themselves incapable of protecting the country against the Polligars, connived at their collections, so that for many years previous to the death of Tippoo

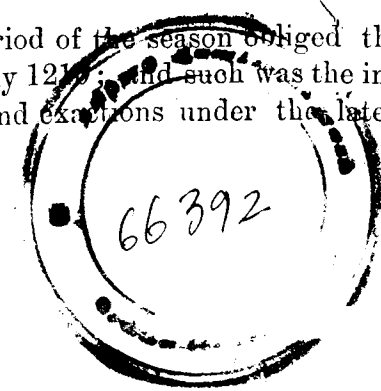
* So in the original.

the Polligars were annually drawing large contributions from the country without his knowledge. In those parts of the Ceded Districts, which fell to the Nizam, his Officers from weakness or corruption not only allowed the Polligars to return but gave them even the management of Sirkar villages. Constant Civil wars were the consequence. The Polligars spent the revenues on peons instead of paying

them into the Treasury. An army was sent to reduce them, and their rebellion and reduction were equally injurious to the country they plundered in the first instance to raise a force to defend themselves. The army which marched to reduce them plundered the country and the result of the expedition was the restoration of the Polligars on the payment of a fine which he exacted from the miserable inhabitants—so that the Mysore system which drove out the Polligars and levied an army to keep them out was in every respect better than the temporizing system of the Nizam which at a greater expence permitted them to set the Government at defiance, and commit every kind of depredation with impunity.

THE Company's Officers entered the Ceded Districts in November 1800, and found every thing in confusion. The inhabitants had been plundered not only by the Revenue Officers but by every person who could pay a bribe for the privilege of extorting money. The chief inhabitants of the different villages had not only been permitted but encouraged to carry on a predatory warfare against each other on the same terms. The indolence or corruption of the Nizam's Officers had made them abandon the management of the revenue to Polligars, Zemindars and Potails, who had by their exactions impoverished if not almost depopulated the country by their hostilities. Every village was a garrison. One village often turned out and fought a pitched battle with its neighbour. The Troops of the Sirkar were always besieging some Fort or another; the exactions of those armed with the authority of the Sirkar and the obstinacy of the village people made it difficult to say which were in the right. Murders were so common, that in some parts of the country there are few families of any consequence which have not had one of their heads assassinated within the last twenty or thirty years. In Adhoni there are few even of the most respectable leading people in the District, unpolluted with blood. The Potal or the Kurnum acted like a little prince in his own village and the anarchy which generally prevailed might in some measure justify his taking upon himself the Government of his little Republic; but the impunity which a few hundred rupees secured for the most atrocious crimes tempted every man who could afford it to indulge his rapacity, enmity, or ambition. In most parts of the Ceded Districts, the Potal or head Rayet and the Kurnam, so peaceable in our other provinces, had become captains of banditti garrisoning independant castles. In the Districts to the eastward things were worse, because the Polligars had generally resumed their former situations and depredations. The impotence in short and corruption of the Sirkar Officers, the predatory habits and Military turn of the peons who swarm, and who have learnt their trade by attending or resisting the great armies, which have so often invaded the Ceded Districts, the frequent transfers from one Government to another which weakened the Sirkar authority, the frontier situation which enabled offenders to escape had introduced such a state of anarchy that it appeared a most arduous task to restore order. I had an opportunity of seeing the effect of these disorders when we took possession of the Ceded Districts.

THE advanced period of the season obliged the Collector to make a village settlement only in Fusly 1215; and such was the impoverished state of the country from the confusion and exactions under the late Government, that the settle-



ment of Fusly 1210 was supposed to be the lowest ever concluded. However every measure was taken which promised to secure a better revenue for the next year.

THE Jumabundy of the next year, Fusly 1211, was begun early and was made Kulwar or direct with each farmer. The rents were in money but regulated upon the supposed produce, and varied under different circumstances, it was thought, from $\frac{2}{5}$ th to $\frac{3}{5}$ th of the gross produce.

THE country had begun to recover from the desolate state to which the anarchy under the late Government had reduced it when a severe drought which in Fusly 1212, extended over every part of the Ceded Districts reduced the settlement a Lac of Pagodas below what was expected. Some Tanks were empty having received no supply of water, some having received a little contained some water at the sowing season but getting no further supply were dry before the grain was ripe. In many places the failure of the dry crop was so complete that the blade never appeared above ground, in others it never produced an ear, but withered or was abandoned to the cattle and in no one District, perhaps except Adhoni, was there an average crop. The failure was not partial it spread over great tracts of country and in many villages which usually paid 5,000 Pagodas rent not a single field of grain was reaped. The Collector was therefore obliged to make remissions of rent. In doing this he did not make the actual loss so much as all the circumstances of each village, the standard for remission; for he considered that rent is supposed to be the equivalent not for a certain proportion of the produce of one, but of an average of years comprizing the good and the bad. This reasoning was supported by able arguments and by experience, because it has since appeared from the improvement of the country under subsequent bad seasons and other difficulties that it is well adapted to alleviate the hardship of a heavy rent in a bad year.

THE same drought which prevailed during Fusly 1212, continued with unabating severity over every part of the country during Fusly 1213, but it was attended in a higher degree with all the evils of a scarcity. The Tanks no where received water for the first crop. In two only out of thirty seven Districts, did they receive a full supply for the second. In some they received enough for one half or a quarter of the land usually watered from them, but in most places they were left entirely dry. The dry cultivation was begun but failed in many places, the deep black land were ploughed in many villages but left unsown for want of rain. The continuance of the drought for two seasons had parched up the ground, there was no grass in the pastures and straw being enormously dear great part of the cattle perished. Provisions were from two to three hundred per cent. dearer than usual, and altho' an actual famine did not ensue many of the poorer inhabitants were forced to quit their homes. This unfortunate state of things retarded the settlement of Fusly 1213 and when it was at last concluded at much below what had been expected it was thought to press harder upon the inhabitants than a much higher assessment would have done in another more favorable season. Colonel Munro has so amply explained the circumstances attending this settlement, that I have only to refer to his letter of 28th May.

THE drought was this year so severe that nothing but the prudent measures adopted by the Principal Collector to alleviate and his abstaining from those measures which so often aggravate the effect of a drought could have saved the country from all the horrors of a famine such as that which at the very same time desolated the Nizam's country and such as had formerly in seasons not so bad desolated the Ceded Districts. The drought was as great, there is every reason to suppose in the Ceded Districts, as it was in the Nizam's or Mahrattahs'

country, and had those countries been under the Company's Government it is probable that actual famine would not have ensued. In June 1804 rice was at 2 rupees in the Ceded Districts, but on the other side of the River at the distance only of 30 miles it was at 5 seers. The communication was impeded by bad management, otherwise the difference would only have been one seer. The soil and produce of Adhoni and of Rachore in the Nizam's country are nearly the same. They are separated by the River only, yet in Rachore there was a famine, while there was but a scarcity in Adhoni. Both Rachore and Adhoni were protected by the army under General Campbell and were equally supplied from the southward. Therefore the famine of Rachore can only be attributed to the bad management of the Sirkar Officers and exactions of Zemindars on the Nizam's side of the River and it may be justly inferred that the system observed in the Ceded Districts preserved Adhoni from the famine which ravaged Rachore. Again it appears from revenue accounts that the drought was less severe, that there was more cultivation in the year 1792-3 in the Ceded Districts than in Fusly 1213; yet in 1792-3 rice sold for 2 rupees the seer, and the mismanagement of the officers of Government produced the famine which desolated the Ceded Districts. But in Fusli 1213 a scarcity only ensued tho' the season was perhaps more unfavorable than that of 1792-3.

THOSE general measures which prevented a famine are, however, comparatively easy and plain the great difficulty under such circumstances is the settlement of the rent. The Collector must make a minute investigation into the state of the crops and the amount of the loss. He must ascertain what farmers can and ought to pay and what farmers ought to get remission. Subsequent improvement or loss of revenue always shews whether this investigation has been accurately and judiciously conducted.

IN Fusly 1214, the ensuing year, a great increase of revenue took place in consequence of a favorable season following the last two years of dearth. The increase arose from waste land brought under the plough, and from raising rent to the standard which had been kept down by the drought, and by the favorable leases on improvement not having expired. The increase of cultivation was chiefly in the wet. The dry crops wanted the early rains. The late rains this year were more violent than had ever been known, and in some places did considerable mischief. A vast number of Tanks, Wells, and Watercourses were injured or broken down. However, upon the whole the season was considered one of the most favorable ever known in the Ceded Districts, while the scarcity in the other provinces still kept up the price of grain so that the Rayets had the benefit of both a dear and a plentiful season—of a great produce and high price.

THE season of Fusly 1215 was generally favorable and a considerable addition was made to the settlement of last year, about half of which arose from increased cultivation, the rest from an augmentation of the rate of assessment. This augmentation was of two kinds that which arose from the expiration of favorable leases, and that imposed by the survey where the old rate was found lower than that of contiguous lands of the same description. The settlement of this year exceeded the schedule valuation by Star Pagodas 77,949-3-39.

I have thus briefly described the settlement of 6 Fusly years which gradually not only restored, but raised the revenue of the Ceded Districts above the schedule valuation. The method by which this gradual improvement has been effected is amply detailed in the very long and I may say philosophic papers from Colonel Munro.

PROPER principles were adopted and have been persevered in for the administration of the revenues for the occupation of waste, the issue of Tukavi, the

repairs of Tanks and the settlement of the rent. All this Machinery has been well managed and the prosperity of the country in spite of these four unfavorable seasons has been the consequence. Under its former rulers the Ceded Districts would most probably have exhibited at this moment the same scene of desolation which the southern parts of the Nizam's country exhibit. Until the survey was completed the settlement of the rent was the most important part, perhaps, of the Collectors duty. He was the steward of the Company, the great landlord, and had to make an annual settlement of the rent of each farmer.

THE rent was considered to be an equivalent in money for a certain share of the average produce not of one but of all years. Taking the good and the bad, however, when bad seasons or losses have made remissions absolutely necessary, they have been allowed. Poverty, bad crops, loss of the cattle, death and the desertion of the Rayets were the causes of failures during the first three years of the Company's Government, but the vigilant administration which during the three last years has had time to take effect has prevented the frequent occurrence of failures.

THE Ceded Districts have improved very much under the Company's Government, in spite of bad seasons, in spite of a numerous population of turbulent peons, and in spite of many obstacles. About the great improvement no doubt can exist. But whether this great improvement be owing to the Rayetwar system or to the excellent police, or rather the complete establishment of the authority of Government, some doubt may arise. It appears to me that this excellent police which has secured tranquillity, has been established by the proper administration of the Rayetwar system that all the ability of Colonel Munro could not have produced it under any other system, and that nothing but his ability could have produced it so soon under the Rayetwar system.

RESPECTING the future system to be adopted for the management of the Ceded Districts, I am humbly of opinion that the introduction of the Mootahdars would be prejudicial to the Rayets and to the Company for the reasons which have been so often stated. I think that when the Government can afford it, a remission ought to be granted to the Rayets to give them a share of the landlord's rent. A small remission would tend to make them thriving farmers, a greater remission would make them proprietors. I think that it must be the object of Government to nurse them into thriving farmers if the exigencies of the state will not allow it to constitute them proprietors; but this is not to be done by farming the land-rent, and giving a remission to the Mootadars. I have written so long a paper on the subject and Colonel Munro has discussed it in so ample and able a way that it seems to me unnecessary if not presumptuous in me to say any thing more on the subject. I shall only observe that the permanent settlement is meant to benefit the Government and the Rayet. That in respect to the Rayets it is admitted that it is necessary to grant them a remission to give them an increase of stock and spirit if not to make them comfortable. Shall we then refuse it to them and grant it to a set of farmers to be created on purpose to enjoy it?

In respect to Government it is admitted that the revenue depends on the stock and spirit of the cultivators under any system shall we then increase their stock and excite their spirit by a direct remission or shall we leave them to struggle with bad seasons under their present high rent, and give the remission to a set of farmers to ensure them against losses which our own, I may say, harsh and impolitic conduct towards the Rayets must probably occasion.

(A true Extract.)

J. HANBURY,
Secretary

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