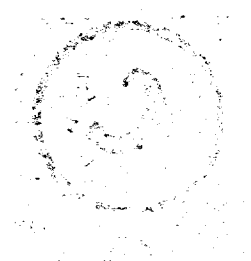


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A NEW MODE OF SETTLEMENT
OF THE LAND REVENUE



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A.S.O. (D)

PAPERS RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION

A NEW MODE OF SETTLEMENT OF THE LAND REVENUE.
FOR THE DISTRICT OF TANJORE.

Presented to the President and Members of the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George.

1817-1818

1. The Board of Revenue, in a resolution passed on the 10th of the current Fasly, the Board was directed to send him to address upon the subject.

2. It was then proposed that on that occasion merely to recapitulate, that for the 3, or from Fasly 1210 to 1213 inclusive, as prevailed, and under its Government received never may appeared most advantageous. For 1214 to the end of 1216, the revenue was by means of annual settlements formed by a money rate was fixed.

price in the first of these two years per Cullum and in the second fasly

At the produce scanty and Mon fifteen composed of the three

The next year or Fasly 1214 was one of plenty of rain, and the produce consequently increased from the neighbouring countries, which suffered in...

The Jummabundy price fixed was fanams 4-10 per Cullum and the average selling price was fanams 5-11, an increase of 14 per cent. upon the commutation rate. The price now season, and regulated by the it was of course high, but the demand being great, the people lost nothing by it.

6. In Fasly 1215 the prices still kept up, in consequence of the insufficiency in the neighbouring Districts from want of rain. The Jummabundy price however having been fixed with reference to the existing state of the season, the people suffered no loss from it.

7. The next year Fasly 1216 was a very unfavorable one generally all over the Peninsula in respect to rain, and it was rendered still more so here particularly in the eastern Talook watered by the Cauvery, which burst its banks in a violent manner in the early part of the season, and greatly injured the land. In consequence therefore of a scanty produce, prices were high, but being people suffered no loss. This year was the highest price grain has been in the province.

ordinary times, must be looked for in the average price at which the Government share for the triennial lease was commuted, was composed of the prices obtaining during the four years of amanie, and the three of the annual settlements. In the first of these periods, the country, all the disposable produce of which was in their hands. Under such a system, the market must always have been liable to fluctuation. From the perishable nature of the article, and the waste of hired agents in its disposal, a desire to get rid of it as quickly as possible overwhelmed the advanced one, the whole remaining stock in the country was left in the hands of comparatively a few capitalists, who of course availed themselves of the advantages their situation gave them to raise the price and diminish the supply as far as they prudently could, the consequence of which was, that there was a considerable scarcity experienced at the latter end of the season for several of the first years after the transfer of the Province, which formed the subject of many reports from Mr. Harris to the Board, accompanied with different suggestions for a remedy. These months of high prices being all included in the average for the year, of course raised it beyond what it could have reached had one of the causes just described prevailed. Independent however of the amanie system, there were further peculiarities in the period in question, which also had a share

Table Statement No. 1.

The average selling price of grain in the first of these years was fanams 3-30 per Cullum. In the second 3-

there, and also from the price of the produce

pointed by order of Government of this Province, the different proposed systems to all others, a rent by Villages was formed, commencing with Fushy 1220, the average produce of former years as shown in the annual leases and checked again, the price was applied, and the amount of rent was

It was found, that the average price fixed upon the settlement had been taken at too high a rate, and when it was taken the price in five years more, from the commencement of Fushy 1220, the price of grain fell to a lower rate, unless some reduction were made in the amount of the settlement. Several causes seem to have combined in producing the fluctuation experienced at this time in the price of Grain from what it had formerly been, some of which tended to lower its value in the market while the cessation of the effects of others that had at different periods prevailed, and had from peculiar circumstances affected the price of Grain and tended to raise it to an unusual height while they continued, but having now ceased, left it much too high for the altered condition of the country. Amongst the first of these may be mentioned the effects of settled steady system of Government, which was not driven to the same measures for raising money from the country as the former one--the superior attention paid to the irrigation and their repair, upon which alone the prosperity of the District depended, throwing open of the Grain market where the multitude of separate interests, with it were exempt from all control and tended to produce that reduction of price which always follows a free competition, and lastly the increased quantity of grain raised by a more careful system of cultivation, encouraged by the Government, and the efforts of the proprietors. The causes on the other side, which rendered

8. At this period the triennial lease was formed, and the materials for determining the average price were those of the preceding years above detailed, from which the Jummabundy commutation rate, for the whole lease was fixed at 5½ fanams per Cullum.

9. The first year of this lease or Fushy 1217 following immediately one so unfavorable as the preceding, the high prices still continued partly in the early part of the season, and therefore that year suffered no loss in the price. The Jummabundy price was 5½ fanams the selling price 4-30 per cent.

10. In the second year of the lease however or Fushy 1218, its effects began to show themselves, partly in consequence of the attention paid to the cultivation in a lease for a period of years, partly from the Grain market having been entirely thrown open, and in some degree from a diminution of demand from other quarters, all of which produced a fall in the price of more than 10 per cent. below the commutation rate.

11. In the third year or Fushy 1219, the price continued next year, and although the District suffered considerably by inundation, yet, there being no great demand from the neighbouring provinces, the price of grain continued at 10 per cent. below the commutation standard.

12. With this period the lease was terminated, and the experience of the fluctuation in price obtained in the two last years of it, made the renters reluctant to renew their leases, unless a decrease was made in the commutation rate, and in consequence of the recommendation of Mr. Harris, he was authorized by Government to make a reduction of ten per cent. in the new proposed Quinquennial lease, below the amount of the one just expired, which reduction of money would have amounted to rupees 3,09,423 upon the whole settlement of the country, and fully with this intention, the commutation rate was lowered from fanams 4-5½ per Cullum to fanams 3-24 for the new lease, but the discretion vested in the Collector was not used by him to the full extent sanctioned, for the actual reduction made in the new leases amounted to Rupees 2,15,593, only upon the settlement, or 6½ per cent. being 3½ per cent. below the latitude granted him.

The prices of the Quinquennial lease are inserted with the others in the Statements to show the whole of the prices at one view, yet as they are of most importance to the subject, they have been thrown into a separate statement by themselves to which some comparisons are added, that I hope may be of use.

Table Statement No. 2.

14. In the first of the series of years for which this lease was concluded Fushy 1220, the District suffered again from inundation, and the produce in consequence not proving very abundant, the prices stood at an increase of 8½ per cent. above the Jummabundy rate, which upon the settlement, amounted in money to Rupees 2,97,650 in favor of the renters.

15. In the second year of this series, the price fluctuated still more in favor of the renters in consequence of an adverse season not only here, but in the neighboring Districts, the supply of which raised the average 33½ per cent. above the commutation rate, making a difference in money of Rupees 90,01,073 on the Jummabundy. The whole of this however could not have been enjoyed by the renters, unless the crop had amounted to an average one, which it proved considerably short of.

16. In Fushy 1222 the third of this lease, the province itself suffered from inundation while the neighbouring Districts were affected by Drought, the demands from which with the scanty produce here, raised the price to 41½ per cent. above the Jummabundy. This,

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supposing there had been an average crop, would have been Rupees 12,79,131 in money in favor of the renters, but the season proving adverse, their profits fell much below this sum.

17. The next Fussy 1223 the fourth of the lease was a fair medium year neither good nor bad, and the price accordingly varied very little from the commutation. That little was however in favor of the renters for whose grain there was a ready demand particularly at beginning of the season, none of the previous stock being left. The price accordingly stood this Fussy at 4 per cent. above the Jambund rate, which in money was Rupee 1,32,797 in favor of the renters. In the course of this year my management of the revenue here commenced.

18. The next Fussy 1224 was the last of the first Quinquennial lease. In the course of the preceding years of it however, a great deal of attention had been paid to the state of the rivers, which had been much improved; and large sums of money had been expended upon them. These benefits now showed themselves; and no untoward circumstances of inundation or other kind having occurred this year, the produce was abundant, and the price

The selling price this year was $\frac{1}{2}$ per Dullum. fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rate or in money renters.

19. The result of the above detail therefore shows that the Quinquennial lease, the advantage of the renters was 25,50,556 which balanced by the loss in the last year of Rupee 15,76,341. This is only however on the assumption of the crops being average ones, but as some of the high prices were produced by a deficiency of produce, it is clear that their advantage could not have nearly equalled that amount. Upon the whole however, the lease was undoubtedly favorable to the people.

20. At this period the lease was ordered to be renewed for five years more, generally on the same terms as in the former one. Although the prices for the year in which the renewal took place were not favorable to the renters, yet as they had the benefit of high prices in the four others, and this was the first occasion during that lease when the prices had fallen below the commutation, trusting to better times they made no objections generally to renew their engagements, which was done without any variation, excepting in a few instances which are not deserving of notice here.

21. Since that period however circumstances have sustained a remarkable change in respect to the price of grain, which has undergone, and has maintained for a length of time, a degree of depression in price that never could have been calculated upon. For this great and important change, there is no other mode of accounting, that I am aware of, than the continuance to a greater extent of the same causes as are before stated to have produced this effect. The great improvements that have been made to all the sources of irrigation, particularly in the Cauvery near Trichinopoly, have secured such an abundant and certain supply of water, as is fully sufficient for every part of the District, and the eastern Talooks where complaints of a want of it were constant, and where the crops suffered annually from a deficiency of water, have now enough for all their wants, and these lands of late have generally yielded a full crop. This with the addition which the general produce of the country receives in quantity from a more careful system of cultivation, to which the people are impelled both by the hope of profit under their rent, and with the view of making up in some degree for the deficiency of price by the increase of produce, and from their being no particular demand from the surrounding countries, in none of which of late years has there been any failure of season, together with all the benefits of a mild and steady system of Government, and the protection it affords to persons and property, and the entire absence of all disturbances or compulsions, have altogether tended to produce a great degree of prosperity and plenty in the community at large, but from that very abundance, at the expense of great comparative depression in the grain market. It is not however in this District alone, that of late years the price of grain has been falling, as I believe the produce has generally for some time past so much increased in quantity as to have

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fully affected the value of grain. It is quite certain, that if the neighbouring Districts of raised grain sufficient for their own consumption, they would have been supplied from there. Latterly however their has been little or no export grain trade by land, it has been sent to Madras and Ceylon.

22. The first year of the renewed Quinquennial lease, or Fussy 1225, was one of great success likewise, the season was favorable, all the sources of irrigation in an excellent state, and no demand for grain from the neighbouring Districts, in consequence of which the price stood for the year at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below the commutation rate, making in money a difference of Rupees 8,19,336 against

renters, and as their case now was very different from that under a deficiency of produce, must have borne as much of this loss as they had not an extra quantity of produce to cover.

23. The next year was one when the crops suffered somewhat from want of rain, which course again raised the price a little, but after all it could be reckoned but as an average year, as grain only brought $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the commutation rate during the course of it. This however in money if the produce reached

the renters, would have been Rupees 1,01,927 in favor of the renters.

24. In the third year of the series Fussy 1227 the produce was more abundant than even, and the price consequently suffered a depression of 30 per cent. below the commutation, making a difference in money of Rupees 8,25,200 against the renters, who must have borne the loss in proportion as their quantity of produce varied between an average crop and one-third more, which the difference in price required to save them.

25. In the Fussy 1228 just expired, although the District suffered very severely from two inundations, the price of grain still continued in the same depressed state, and the rate this year has been 26 per cent. below the commutation, being in money Rupees 7,30,373 against the renters. Their proportion of this loss, course depended in this, like other similar years, upon the quantity of produce their lands yielded above the average, and although the state of the market, if it be taken as the criterion, would allow that there was actually a superabundance of produce, yet as many tracts of lands suffered partially from the inundations, in numerous instances, no surplus produce was found, and under such circumstances, the renters' loss was great, and altogether from these causes the last has been by far the most unfavorable season to them that has occurred, during the present lease, and there is no denying, but that it has left the resources of the country and means of the renters considerably affected by it.

26. The result of these four years of the second quinquennial lease (the fifth having just commenced) is, that the total loss to the renters in money (always compared with an average crop on which the settlement was made) amounts to Rupees 23,72,909 from which deducting their profit in one year of Rupees 1,01,927 leaves a net loss to the renters of Rupees 22,70,982 upon the whole four or upon an average, including the advantageous year Rupees 5,67,745 per annum.

27. The above details will have sufficiently satisfied the Board, that the settlement, or grounds on which the amount of revenue here is calculated, are founded upon two data, the first, the quantity of produce yielded by the District, and secondly, the price which is applied to the Government share of that produce to form the money rent, and I think there is now little doubt but the Board will be of opinion that from a great and unforeseen alteration, in the circumstances of the District, the grounds on which one of these data, the price, was formed are

In all these collections I have taken the averages both as the present grounds at any rate, and also, because it was upon a series of averages that the settlement was originally made. The data therefore being the same, the result drawn from the comparisons are the more to be depended upon.

is calculated, are founded upon two data, the first, the quantity of produce yielded by the District, and secondly, the price which is applied to the Government share of that produce to form the money rent, and I think there is now

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no longer applicable to the altered conditions of things. From this I hope I shall not be understood as condemning the price as at first determined, which at the time it was made, was a just and judicious rate of commutation, as the experience of several of the first years of quinquennial lease shewed.—Indeed it was found to be adverse to the renters in one year out of five of the first term, which is as sufficient a test of its accuracy as could be wished or expected. It is during the present lease only that circumstances have changed so materially, and that so suddenly, and unfortunately in such a situation, that a remedy could have been well applied till now, as in justice to a subject of this importance, it was not taken up in a hurry nor upon insufficient grounds, but demanded the sanction of some expert to warrant the alteration of what former experience had sanctioned. That period seems however to have received, when the experience of the present lease brings the subject of future revenue managements into discussion.

28. From all that has gone before, the Board will, I think, concur with me in the conviction that a reduction of the commutation price, or what is the same thing in the present rent, is absolutely requisite. In fact it is positively necessary, as the people neither would nor can continue longer to pay the same revenue as they do at present.

29. On comparing the result of the first quinquennial lease with the four years that have elapsed of the second, it will be remarked, that in the first of these periods, the per centage of the price of grain proved 87½ per cent. in the favor of the renters, and 32½ per cent. against them, the average of the whole including the year of loss, 10¼ in their favor. In the five elapsed years of the second however, circumstances had so altered that the difference again, there was 86 per cent. while they only had in one year 31 in their favor, making the net annual average against them 20½ per cent., including the only year when there was any thing for profit, which was however so moderate that the season in which it occurred could easily be considered as one ordinary out of four, and the three others adverse.

30. While noticing however, one of the two data, on which the settlement here was formed, and one that, from an alteration in the state of the District, has become no longer applicable to its present circumstances, and has consequently proved detrimental to the interests of the renters, it must at the same time be admitted that the other, the quantity of produce, has undergone a variation also and that in their favor, although not to an extent equal to the balance of the price against them. Referring to the averages for grounds of copy it would appear, that in the last four years, the increased quantity of produce required to cover the decrease of price would have been 20½ per cent. or more than one-fifth of the whole produce of the country. Great as this may however appear, if it is taken as the utmost limit to which the lands are capable of yielding an augmented produce, it would not of itself have been sufficient to preserve the renters from present loss in three out of the four years, as one of them being rather above an average crop, the whole deficiency of produce fell upon the three others and raised it to 27½ annually even after crediting the advantages they had in the other year, the extremes varying from 26½ to 39 per cent. a rate of increase which would have been necessary again to restore the relative proportions of the two principles of price and produce, to what they were at the formation of the lease. Important however as the improvements have been to the sources of irrigation in this District, and considerably as a careful system of cultivation may have augmented the produce of the country in quantity generally, still it cannot be supposed that these two causes could alone have increased it for a series of years to the extent of nearly one-third more than the average of a number of other years proved it to have been. In Districts which have long been the seat of war and have suffered from hostile armies, and where a great portion of the lands are uncultivated, and those under the plough but indifferently managed, an increase of one-third in the gross produce, after the establishment of a settled and liberal Government, would be nothing surprising, from the improvement of the old, and the occupation of new lands, but in this, which has for many years been the most tranquil, the most populous, and the best cultivated province in the Peninsula, and where the whole of the land fit for cultivation is already occupied, no circumstances could occur that could produce so great an increase to the quantity of produce as is here required to save the renters from loss, unless all the former accounts from which the extent of that produce was calculated,

been falsified to a degree, and for a length of time which the circumstances that occurred, and materials from which they were taken render impossible. Granting however even that the produce was capable of an increase of one-third in quantity for a series of years, still it is doubtful whether that of itself would be sufficient to bear the renter harmless; far less to enable him to accumulate a provision against adverse season, as grain is so bulky and shabby an article, and the successful sale of it depends so much on the demand, and the circumstances of the moment, as to render the value of any given quantity of it much more various than its computed value in money. For these reasons therefore, while making any allowance for the advantages from an increased produce, still I should think it is entirely obvious that a considerable reduction in the money price must be made to hold out any prospect of a successful future settlements of the revenue. In respect to the amount of this deduction no consideration of it depends principally upon the system of Management to be adopted, and whether a ryotwari is to be introduced, or the present system to be continued for a term longer.

31. From the reports that have gone into the Board upon the subject of the survey of the two villages, that have been experimentally surveyed, ryotwari, it will have been noticed, that the peculiar circumstances, the localities, the nature and condition of private landed property, and the habits and social institutions of the people, all tend to render the establishment of a ryotwari system here a very difficult operation, and it is much to be doubted if a successful one. Those Provinces where it has been most successfully introduced had all been either recently conquered or ceded by Mahomedan powers, and had suffered for a long series of years the greatest state of anarchy and oppression by which most of the aboriginal Hindoo institutions and customs had either been greatly weakened or altogether destroyed. In them from the insecurity of property, land was of no value and large portions of it left uncultivated and without owners. At the first introduction of the regular Government into such countries, it was easy to declare the occupied lands the property of the holders, and to grant the occupancy and property of the others to the first who would cultivate them, as there was sufficient for all. A new order of things naturally sprang up under the new Government, and from the disorganized state of the old, it violated no prejudices and customs to render each man's property and concerns independent of others.

32. Here however a very different state of things exists. This Province has never been under a Mahomedan Government. It has from the earliest records till its transfer to the British Government, been governed by its own Hindoo Princes, by whom all the rites, manners, customs, and usages of the Hindoo law and religion have been scrupulously maintained, and adhered to. And the people have had all these rights and privileges fully guaranteed to them, and confirmed, by the introduction of a system of jurisprudence founded upon that Hindoo law. There is no country in the Peninsula therefore where these laws and customs are to be found in equal purity as in Tanjore, and one of the most important of them is, that minute division of landed property, and that unity of interest through the whole of the proprietors of the villages, which the surveys of these two have exhibited, and from landed property having always been recognized here, this is not a nominal right only, but has generally been a substantial valuable property, and as such, esteemed above all others by the natives. In referring to the question of the projected change to be introduced, its first principal point of view is, the effects it will have upon the revenue to separate and render independent, so many interests that have hitherto supported each other and stood as a whole. In managing the concerns of a village here, much is performed by the division of labour amongst the community instigated by an unity of interests through all the members of it. One part of the proprietors attend the Talukdar or Collector, and conduct the business of the village there, another portion of them are agents with the grain merchants and disposing of the produce, and for that purpose, resorting to the sea ports and large towns, another number is gone to the neighbouring Districts to supply the want and rear of cultivating cattle, and the

remainder stay at home to manage the cultivation and other interior concerns of the village. In this way all these indispensable operations are performed not only in the most efficient manner, but they take care to select such as are respectively best qualified for each separate pursuit, by the cheapest manner to the whole body, in which all the actors have a direct interest. all these interests however at one divided and broken under, every individual of the community would be obliged personally to conduct all these various undertakings, to many of which he would prove comparatively unequal, and his neighbour, if applied to, has now lost stimulus of interest to do it well.

33. Independent therefore of the extreme difficulty, and the great expense, of performing the details arising out of separately assessing and dividing the numerous small interests and properties prevailing here, the people besides must be remunerated in some way for additional loss of time they must now suffer from the destruction of this system of division of labour that has hitherto prevailed amongst them, and this can only be done by a reduction of the rent, as a reimbursement to them for drawing them away from their homes and to create sufficient individual stock to enable each of them to bear those contingencies and fluctuations which, although bearing heavy upon an individual, would in a community be little felt. It besides not very probable, particularly at first, that this change will prove very satisfactory to the people whose customs and usages it so much interferes with, and circumstanced as the District is, there is no future increase of revenue by the occupation of new lands to be looked for to meet the reduction made in the first instance, as there are no additional lands left to cultivate, the whole that are capable of tillage being already under the plough, any remission of revenue therefore granted now will, for this reason, become permanent, without the chance of recovering by increased cultivation.

34. The comfort of the people is also another view in which the subject may be considered and how far it may tend to their happiness to introduce the new system. By the one at present prevailing they are left the uncontrolled management of their own concerns in their own way and so long as they pay their revenue regularly no interference is exercised towards them, although there are disputes constantly arising amongst themselves, yet the undisturbed control of their own affairs, which a village rent for years gives them, strongly impresses them with ideas and feelings of freedom and independence. On the other hand, it may be held as an opinion that an annual ryotwari rent, from its minuteness of detail, tends to lessen these feelings of independence and creates too intimate an interference on the part of Government and one constantly in the notice of the people to preserve its due respect. The less the direct hand of Government, generally, is seen, unless in cases so palpably obvious as to carry the conviction of all men along with the propriety of it, the more efficacious and more popular will it prove when it does exercise its powers, but when it or its agents are seen and felt and mingle with the daily occurrences of ordinary life, it loses much of its effect, and gives rise to unfavorable feelings towards it on the part of the people, as being to their observation the sole and immediate source whence all their grievances and annoyances of every kind spring.

35. When it was first in agitation many years ago to introduce a Ryotwari system in this Province, it was then reckoned by my Predecessor that a reduction of from 15 to 20 per cent. would be necessary to create sufficient separate capitals to secure the safety of the Revenue and as this opinion was entertained before the price of grain was so depressed as it has been of late, subsequent circumstances have not certainly tended to render a smaller remission necessary. If Ryotwari therefore is now introduced, an abatement to the extent of 1

Or in money Rupees 1,05,514
Or in money Rupees 17,341

Total 1,22,855

per cent. will at least be required in all the Peshabogum or Peshabogum villages, and probably about one per cent. more on the Jumman, to be further remitted, in different proportions,

to such villages as are greatly reduced in circumstances from situation, inundated, or whatever other cause. If the remission fall short of this extent, it is apprehended that the people will not be able to undertake the rents with success, seeing that they are liable in some years to a fluctuation to double the extent in the price of grain which a capital must be provided them to meet.

36. If however the present system of village rents from these being already a capital in the community of interests and in the division of labour which prevails, a remission of one-third, or ten per cent. upon the present rents generally, and none should have less, and one per cent. more to be divided upon the poorest villages in different proportions, it will be quite sufficient to ensure as great security, unless from unforeseen accidents, as can be possessed by Government for the payment of its revenue. The price of land will soon rise again, in consequence of the decrease of rent rendering it once more a valuable property and this of itself always secure the due payment of the revenue.

37. Of late years a good deal of attention has been paid to improving the communications in this District, which were hardly practicable before for the greater portion of the year, and especially by leading the roads wherever it was possible, along the tops of the banks of the rivers, which have been much strengthened by it, the intercourse between the different parts of the country has been greatly improved, and but for the facilities which this has given to the transport of the immense surplus produce of this District, the prices must have suffered a still greater depression, which the renters could not have borne. This improvement of the roads has also produced another great and beneficial effect upon the resources and general prosperity of this province, which has now from the facility of the transit become the principal country of export to the southward, particularly in grain, of which it is now one of the chief sources of supply to Madras as well as Ceylon, and it seems to be rapidly attaining that situation which its natural advantages always seem to have intended it should hold, that of being the resort and emporium of trade and traders of all description, instead of their industriously avoiding the richest and most abundant province on the coast, the place of all others they would most naturally have resorted to, as they have hitherto been obliged to do on account of the difficulty of its communications, a persevering therefore in the same system, and a reduction in the rents, sufficient to enable the renters to meet the charge of circumstances, appears all that is required to render this a happy and flourishing a country as any Government could wish to have under their authority.

38. The grounds on which the remission of ten per cent. is recommended are, that in the last four years the average loss in price to the renters has been above 20 per cent., but occasionally fluctuating to 30. If therefore the increase in the quantity of produce be taken on an average of years at 10 per cent., and the other ten falling in the price to be remitted, it will upon a mean of years enable the renter to meet his payments, leaving the decrease of produce above the average of ten per cent., to cover the decrease of price, which an abundant season may cause, upon the principle, that to a certain extent, the price and produce will still, in an inverse ratio, preserve their relative proportions. The settlement, however, I think ought to be revised at farthest at the end of five years more, to see how far it may then be adapted to the actual state of circumstances, and to meet any change in them which may have occurred in the intermediate time.

39. Having mentioned the subject of the export of grain, I cannot pass over this branch of trade without some notice, as it has lately attained a degree of importance that makes it well worthy of attention and encouragement, and strongly marks the flourishing condition of the country at large. From grain paying no inland duty, no accounts of it on its transit are kept in the Custom Department, unless what passes by land into Foreign settlements. It is only therefore from the Collector of Sea Customs that these informations can be obtained, and upon my application a memorandum of the quantity exported by sea from the different Ports for the two last official years, has been furnished by that officer, and to it I have added the value of that taken into Foreign settlements, which shows that in the year 1817-18 the value of grain exported amounted to Rupees 11,09,275, and in the last or the year 1818-19 it was increased to the sum of Rupees 14,42,814 or together Rupees 2,55,15,587.

40. This very important trade, if not entirely sprung up, has attained its present extent within these five years. As twelve years ago, it was stated from high authority, that this was not a country of export, and it is quite evident that the grain trade was very trifling compared to what it has since become. As a whole of this grain pays a duty of three

cent, that amount paid upon the spot, may not unfairly be reckoned as so much in addition to the direct revenue of the province, and its importance forms a strong argument in favor of a system of improving the interior communications of the country, which has even in its imperfect state, produced such important results. The grain trade was considerably affected in the early part of this year, by the fear of the epidemic which has been numerous severe in Negore, the principal place of export, and has deterred many grain merchants from coming; who have been in the habit of resorting here for cargoes themselves. It must be recollected however, that the present account only comes up to the 30th of April last, and that the grain trade to Madras for the year is only then beginning, and from the activity it has been carried on this season, there is every reason to think that it has considerably exceeded in extent that of last year. This trade however seems now to be firmly established here, and the merchants have of late got much into the habit of beating the paddy into rice before exportation, a great improvement in it, in every point of view. In the last two years, it will be seen, the proportion in favor of rice was about three to two. Another cause has greatly tended also to the growth and encouragement of this trade, arising from the facility with which the merchants can now remit their funds for the purchase of cargoes by Government Bills upon the Treasury here, an arrangement producing the greatest benefit to the country at large, and not confined alone to the accommodation experienced by the merchants from it, but being the means of immediately returning a great portion of the money paid as revenue into circulation upon the spot, instead of its being locked up for months in the Government Treasuries, and finally sent out of the country altogether to Madras. In the course of these last four months, there were 4 Lacs of rupees here paid upon bills issued here to merchants for money paid by them, without any expense of remittance, into the general Treasury at Madras, and this money has doubtless passed through the Treasury here two or three times, and by never being allowed to be all, has fully supplied the wants of circulation, and thereby saved the renters from the less attending, a dearth of specie, in addition to the low price of grain. The system of the Accountant General and the despatch and facility with which the merchants are accommodated, it is but justice to say, has operated most beneficially in its consequences to this District.

41. The question of the introduction of money rents into Tanjore, cannot, it appears to me, well be concluded without adverting to a statement made by Colonel Munro respecting it, in which he says that traces remain of a money Teerwa having been once generally established in the District, even on the Nayak lands. As this officer's opinion may be considered highly authoritative, it becomes necessary, as it may otherwise have great effect upon the subject, that his statement be examined, and in doing so, I feel it fortunate, that this can be done upon other authority than my own experience, and that founded upon the evidence of men infinitely superior to myself both in abilities and knowledge.

42. It will be sufficient for the present purpose to go back only to the committee of 1798 who entered into a very detailed investigation of the state of the country and all its concerns, particularly of its revenue, and although so intimately conversant with the subject, I believe there is no mention in their proceedings of their having been able to discover any thing of the kind stated by Colonel Munro.

43. In all Mr. Harris's numerous and valuable reports upon the revenue and revenue administration in all its branches when Collector, and no person acquainted with that Gentleman will deny him the talent of the greatest perseverance and research, nor of abilities to display the results of his labours. Yet there is not one expression in the whole course of his correspondence that at all accords with Colonel Munro's position.

44. When the committee was appointed in 1807, the question of individual money Teerwas formed the principal part of the subject committed to their consideration, and it accordingly occupied the chief part of their attention. Two of these Gentlemen, independent of the general knowledge of them all, possessed the most intimate local acquaintance with Tanjore and every part connected with it, and yet, although their report fully embraces this question, there is not a word in it to show that they had discovered any thing like traces of money Teerwas ever existing generally prevailed here.

45. During the whole of the correspondence of my predecessor also, a man of acknowledged sense and clear judgement, there is nothing to be found that in any way supports the idea of any such system ever prevailed, and I must acknowledge, that in all the researches I have been able to make myself during the course of five years' management, every circumstance of information I have received tend to a directly contrary conclusion.

46. If the above authorities should not be considered sufficient, there is the still older evidence afforded by the District of Keeralore and Nagore, in which the landed tenure was exactly similar to those in other parts of the province. This District has been now nearly half a century under the British Government, and has often in the course of that period, been managed by some of the most distinguished men of their time, and yet none of them ever discovered any thing like the system traced by Colonel Munro.

47. With the exception of this one authority therefore, and Colonel Munro only remained out three weeks altogether, I believe, in the District, and was accompanied entirely by a single person (all his servants being from thence) who could not speak the vernacular language of this country, every other testimony goes to a direct contradiction of the fact of money Teerwas ever having obtained here. Under such circumstances, it is much to be regretted that Colonel Munro did not state the grounds on which his statement was made, that they might serve as guides for the introduction and establishment of that system now, to which great difficulties have always hitherto appeared to oppose themselves.

48. While upon the subject of the affairs of this District generally, I present seems a good opportunity for me to acknowledge, and to offer some explanations in consequence of the observations contained in an extract from a general letter from England of the 22nd May 1818.

49. The first point to which the Honorable Court advert, is the indulgence granted to the teemsciders in the periods of the payment of their kists in the year 1815, in consequence of an unusual low price of grain, to which they object chiefly on the principle, that it must have produced the effect of an indirect interference on the part of Government in the grain market, a species of interference which ought, as much as possible, to be avoided. That this measure had an influence on the grain market is no doubt the case, although probably, it can hardly be said to have amounted to an interference, and the influence it did produce, without being injurious to any individual, certainly proved of a nature highly beneficial to the country at large and its revenue. It was a season of superabundant produce, the whole of which, had the people been pressed for their payments, must have been thrown into the market at once, where it would have caused such an overflow that the renters must have suffered severe loss from it, and the only persons benefited would have been a few dealers in grain and capitalists, at whose entire mercy the renters must then have been placed. By allowing them however a short extended period of time to dispose of their grain in the security for the ultimate payment of the revenue was increased, in the same degree as the value of the grain was upped, while to the Government it made no difference whatever, as the greater portion of the money, if earlier collected, would have lain dead in their Treasury, without returning into circulation, for a longer period than the whole indulgence to the renters extended to, besides the continually being deprived in the intermediate space of the advantages arising, as such times, out of the use of that money. The only persons affected, therefore, were the grain merchants, and they only through the indirect medium of an overabundance of grain not being forced at once into the market, and compelling the renters to sell it for any price they could obtain for it.

50. The next subject to which the honorable Court have turned their attention, is the sale of lands for the security and payment of the revenue, which they seem to think falls with peculiar hardship upon the Mearasidars of this District, if the regulations in this respect are strictly enforced against them.

51. This custom of rendering all the Mearasidars of the village jointly responsible for rent, was introduced here, for the first time, with the money rents, but it has never yet, in instance, been carried to the length of selling the lands of any one Mearasidar for the debt of another. Notwithstanding, however, the system has never yet been extended to that extent, still it has otherwise operated very beneficially for the revenue, by means of the security afforded by the obligation the renters are under jointly and individually for the payment of it, which proved an excellent preventative against the misappropriation of means from extravagance either cause, on the part of any of the individuals composing the body of renters, as the whole being interested, naturally keep a strict watch over each others to see that no part of the produce is wasted or made away with, before the rent is paid, for fear of their being rendered responsible for their neglect, and the operation of this feeling has more tended to secure the Government its just portion of the produce of the land, than any other check that probably could be devised, and thus, for certainly, the system has proved beneficial, without having been carried to the length of producing any individual hardship.

52. Considering however the circumstance under which the rent here was formed, and the fluctuations the state of the country is annually liable to, and particularly the adverse turn which have of late years taken towards the renters, there is no dispute, but that an indiscriminate and strict enforcement of the regulations would, in many instances, have operated as a most cruel and unmerited punishment of misfortune alone, which it was not in the power generally of the parties to prevent. For these reasons therefore, the extremity of the law, the sale of lands, and imprisonment of Defaulters, have been removed as seldom as possible by me (particularly during the latter years, when the renters were exposed to great difficulties) and never for the misfortune, or failure of the seasons alone, when it was so manifestly apparent, that the people had done all in their power to satisfy the demands against them. Indeed imprisonment is not employed unless some fraud has been practiced to evade the discharge of their due, to Government, as in the fraudulent transfer of property, or in the dissipation of the proceeds of the produce, which being considered as mortgaged for the payment of the rent in the first instalment, the misappropriation of it, without the possession of other means, is defrauding the Government of its just rights. It is in cases such as these only, that the defaulters have been imprisoned.

53. In respect to the sale of lands for arrears, which the honorable court seem to think in some cases have been collective, and purchased by the public servants, as has frequently occurred in England, the principal security against such an occurrence, is, the small portions which they are sold, not holding out a sufficient temptation to the public servants, to run the risk of detection in such a transaction. The greatest extent of land ever sold by me at once in one village was 100 acres, about 132 acres, and the most that ever has been disposed of once at any time, was in Fasly 1230, and amounted to about double that quantity, the possession of neither of which, would have been considered sufficient by any native servant to risk the loss of his situation. The sale of land is a subject to which great attention has constantly been paid by me, and it is invariably conducted by myself personally, and almost always in the presence of the natives themselves, who have every interest in seeing that the strictest justice is done to them.

54. Land has always been recognized here as private property and has always been considered as the most valuable of any. This value however depends principally upon the revenue to be paid by it. In seasons favorable to the renters the value of land increases, while in adverse ones, it falls, and the latter unfavorable ones here have had a visible effect upon the price of land, which has decreased greatly in the middle and indifferent descriptions, where the soil does not possess strength enough to yield a sufficient additional quantity of produce, to meet the decrease in the price of grain in the market, as sales for arrears of revenue, the lands

are never sold for less than one year's revenue, and of late, many portions of them have had no bidders at that rate. The better lands of the province still however retain their value, and from the best information I can obtain upon the subject, they sell for about eight years' purchase. I must however explain what this means. In a hundred parts, either in grain or money, about 52, say Rupees, will, upon an average, go to the cultivator as his share, out of this his labourers receive 2, leaving 25 Rupees for his own subsistence, and that of his family, to cover the inequalities of seasons and other expenses incidental to his cultivation and situation, these last, independent of the seasons, may be taken about 9 or 10 per cent., leaving him 15 clear. The price therefore that a piece of land yielding this sum would sell for, would be 120 Rupees, or eight years' purchase of what is calculated as the proprietor's clear gain, and if he has a large family, it is frequently calculated that after their subsistence and cloths are provided, land does not give a return much above one per cent. for his money.

The value of land must of course depend every where upon the extent of the burdens upon it. The above statement will show that in situations where it pays so large a portion of its produce as a direct revenue, how entirely dependent it is upon the nature of the soil, and whether it is of any value at all or not, and there are abundant instances in Districts ceded by Mahomedan powers, where landed property had lost all value whatever from excess of assessment to which state some of the worst lands here have of late very nearly approached from the unfavorable state of the grain market, all however that is necessary to remedy this here, is, to grant such reductions on the new leases as will ensure the ability of the land to pay its revenue, and its price will soon rise of course, and by again becoming valuable property, will afford to the Government the best of all security for their revenue.

55. Besides that of the lands themselves, it would be difficult to devise any other security for the revenue as most of the renters have little else to offer, and if they all become security for each other it would be but their lands that yielded it after all, as lands are however held responsible for private debts by the courts of justice, there does not seem any reason why the state, by relinquishing this security, should place itself on a worse footing in respect to security, than a private creditor, when of the two it is undoubtedly, entitled to the preference, as far as the land, from which nearly all its revenue springs, is concerned.

56. I regret to find from the honorable court's letter that my explanation in stating to the Board that much land is allowed to be disposed of by public sale, in preference to private bargain, should have appeared insufficient. Every days experience however confirms me in the actual existence of the fact, both in respect to the buyer and seller, which may be accounted from the following reasons. It must be recollected that land in this country, is like all the kinds, generally the joint property of the family, and cannot like an estate in England, be transferred by the signature of the proprietor alone, but must be accompanied by that of all having any contingent interest in it. From the extent of these contingent interests, the branches of each family are frequently absent seeking their fortune in various ways, leaving one branch of it to manage their concerns in the village. This is the person who rents the land, and is the only owner known to the Government Officers, and he alone is personally responsible for the rent, and liable to all the penalties of the law in case of failure. If he fails to pay however, and wishes to dispose of any portion of the land, no person will buy it from him alone, it must be purchased from the whole family, and not only all the forms required by Hindoo Law, and in the sale of lands their intricacy is well known to be great, but all those called on it by the Regulations, must be gone through to render the purchase valid. To obtain the consent of these collateral proprietors, the ostensible owner must of course give them a portion of the purchase money equal to their interest in it, to induce them to consent to the sale at all, and by the time he has thus satisfied the whole, the remainder is probably not sufficient to clear the balance, and relieve him from a responsibility which he alone bears, under the circumstances therefore, even after defraying the expenses of attachment and sale, it is to his interest, that the land should be sold by the Government Officers for the arrears, so that he should purchase the consent of his relations, as in the first case, he is sure that the whole of the purchase money will go to the relief of his responsibility, and in a greater proportion, even although bearing the expenses of a public sale, than it could do, by a private

one. The surplus purchase money is not often considerable, and it is no doubt in the power of the defaulter to defraud his relations of their share of it, and I have in a few instances known disputes to have arisen from this cause. They were always however settled amongst themselves, without having had recourse in any case to a law suit.

58. To the purchaser the preference to buying at a public sale is still more decided, as he avoids it once a very tedious and intricate process, for, if in his private bargain any of the prescribed formalities are overlooked, or any of the collateral interests however remote be omitted, he must either satisfy them in addition to the purchase money, or run the chance, risk and uncertainty of a law suit, and all the vexation attending it. The sale of lands for arrears cuts short all those claims, and the Collector's certificate at once constitutes his right without further question or dispute, which of course gives it a preference infinitely over the purchase of a private purchase.

59. I trust these explanations will satisfy the honorable court and the Board, that statement respecting the preference given to a public sale of lands over a private purchase founded on reasonable grounds, and that it has its origin in the common law of the court, and does not in any way proceed from the nature of the revenue administration. The entire difference of circumstances too, under which the sale of lands takes place here for arrears revenue, and those under which abuses are stated to have sprung up in Bengal, will probably lead to a persuasion, that if they do occur here, of which I am not aware of any instance having happened, they must be of infinitely smaller magnitude and importance than those in Bengal which have attracted the honorable court's observation.

I have the honor to be,

Respectfully,

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,

Collector.

Collector of the Collectory of Tanjore,
12th August 1810.

No. 1.

COMPARISON between the Jummabundy Price and the current selling Price in Tanjore.

Years.	Jummabundy Price per Collum.	Current Price per Collum.	INCREASE.		DECREASE.		REMARKS.
			Rs.	C.	Rs.	C.	
1210	3	28	0	11	0	0	The Jummabundy price in the many years is; that at the end of every year an estimated Jummabundy was sent to Madras and the value of the Paddy which then remained on hand was entered in the account at an estimated price which is there called Jummabundy price. The current price is that at which the Government sold their grain, but not the retail price in the market.
1211	3	20	0	2	0	0	
1212	5	11	0	1	0	0	
1213	4	25	0	0	0	1	
1214	4	13	0	19	0	0	
1215	4	17	0	13	0	0	
1216	4	26	1	10	29	0	
1217	4	5	0	12	9	0	
1218	4	5	0	0	0	26	
1219	4	5	0	16	0	21	
1220	4	2	0	10	8	0	The Jummabundy price in the many years is; that at the end of every year an estimated Jummabundy was sent to Madras and the value of the Paddy which then remained on hand was entered in the account at an estimated price which is there called Jummabundy price. The current price is that at which the Government sold their grain, but not the retail price in the market.
1221	4	31	1	7	32	0	
1222	3	3	0	5	1	0	
1223	3	2	0	0	0	1	
1224	3	2	0	0	0	1	
1225	3	2	0	0	0	1	
1226	3	2	0	0	0	1	
1227	3	2	0	0	0	1	
1228	3	2	0	0	0	1	

Collector of the Collectory of Tanjore,
12th August 1810.

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,

Collector.

COMPARISON between the Jummabundy price and the current selling Price in the following years in Tanjore.

Years.	Jummabundy Price per Collum.		Current Price per Collum.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.		Amount of Increase in Rupees.		Amount of Decrease in Rupees.		Net Increase.		Net Decrease.		Per cent.
	Rs.	C.	Rs.	C.	Rs.	C.	Rs.	C.	Rs.	C.	Rs.	C.	Rs.	C.	Rs.	C.	
1220	3	28	4	21	0	10	0	0	237,050	0	0	0	237,050	0	0	0	17 1/2 per cent.
1221	3	20	4	31	0	1	0	0	9,01,078	0	0	0	9,01,078	0	0	0	
1222	5	11	4	3	0	17	0	0	12,79,131	0	0	0	12,79,131	0	0	0	
1223	4	25	4	3	0	4	0	0	1,32,797	0	0	0	1,32,797	0	0	0	
1224	4	13	4	17	0	0	0	7	0	0	9,74,351	0	0	0	9,74,351	0	
Total of the 1st Quinquennial									12,25,50,556	0	0	0	12,25,50,556	0	0	0	10 1/2 per cent.
1225	4	2	3	21	0	0	0	1	0	0	8,19,356	0	0	0	8,19,356	0	17 1/2 per cent.
1226	4	5	3	25	0	0	0	0	1,01,927	0	0	0	1,01,927	0	0	0	
1227	4	5	3	2	0	1	30	0	0	0	8,23,200	0	0	0	8,23,200	0	
1228	4	5	3	2	0	1	26	0	0	0	7,30,373	0	0	0	7,30,373	0	
Total of the 2nd Do.									1,01,927	0	0	0	1,01,927	0	0	0	0 or 20 per cent.
Result of the whole nine years									26,52,583				26,52,583				
									83,47,960				83,47,960				
									5,94,677				5,94,677				

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
Collector.

Collector of the Collectory of Tanjore,
12th August 1810.

8. STATEMENT showing the quantity and value of the Paddy and Rice exported from the Ports in Tanjore and into Foreign settlement in the years 1817-18 and 1818-19.

[illegible]

E. H. (Eugene) J. Lillibury, Collector.

CUTCHERY OF THE COLLECTOR OF TANJORE,
12th AUGUST 1816.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, under date the
15th November 1819.

Read again the following letters :-

From Mr. Henson, 12th August 1919.

FROM Mr LAMINGTON, 20th

Para. 1. The first of the letters abovementioned contains the sentiments of the Collector in Tanjore, respecting the settlement to be introduced into that district, upon the expiration of the present village lease; the other is a similar communication from Mr. Lushington, respecting the future settlement of the wet lands of Trichinopoly.

2. The whole of the province of Tanjore, with the exception of a small tract on its northern border, forming the district of Pudukottah, as well as all the district of Trichinopoly and Tinnevely, consist of what is termed *Nagah* lands; or lands cultivated with paddy only, requiring copious irrigation.

5. These lands, in common with those in the Carnatic, and other countries east of the Ghats, partake of the benefit of the rains which accompany the north east monsoon; but, indeed, evidently of this season's advantage, they possess others peculiarly their own, which render them particularly fertile. The Caverry, Coomeroon, Tambraparnoy, and other considerable rivers, which have their sources of supply in the western Ghats, watered by the rains of the south west monsoon, intersect these provinces severally in various directions; and their waters, being directed by extensive artificial works for irrigation, are diffused generally over the face of the country.

The Board have frequently had occasion to explain to Government that in all Nuyah, and in Coddie lands, of the description abovementioned, the revenue payable to the sovereign and his heirs appears immemorably to have been a certain portion, generally one half, of the produce, whatever that might chance to be. This was paid to the Government in kind; the

Ch. J. Moore indeed has alluded to tennas having formerly existed in Tangier, but, with every respect to the party whence the opinion has issued, it appears more than probable, that Mr. Hepburn's present letter, as containing in opposition of this error.

5. Although it may not be easy to trace back this system of revenue to its origin, there can be little doubt that its mutual convenience to the Government and its subjects, must have suggested its adoption, and induced its continuance, where, as in India, the quantity of the produce, and its value in money are liable to such great variations, where the Government demand is equivalent to nearly one half of the produce of the soil; and where the stock of the several classes engaged in agriculture is so exceedingly limited, it is obviously more the interest of the Ruler to pay a revenue in kind, ever varying with, yet bearing the same proportion to his means; than to incur the responsibility necessarily attendant on the payment of any fixed rent, but especially of one in money, unless it be reduced so materially, as completely to cover this additional risk.

3. It is not disputed that, on general principles, it is highly desirable that a variable rent in kind should gradually be commuted into a fixed rent in money; and it is admitted that a fixed money rent, if moderate is highly beneficial to the Ryot; but however clear the policy of reducing the rent may be, the immediate wants of the state have operated against its adoption; and until, by favorable rents, the condition of the farmer is sufficiently improved to enable him to take upon himself exclusively the responsibility attendant on the fluctuations in produce, price, and the value of the precious metals, it is not surprising that he

should continue desirous to divide it with the land-lord. It was this poverty of the farmer which formerly rendered so prevalent on the continent of Europe the *Métayer* system of cultivation, under which half of the farming stock was supplied by the land-lord, who divided the produce with the farmer. It was this same poverty of the Ryot that gave rise to advances of *Taccavy*, and to a similar *amance* system in India; and it is this which, in every Tanjah district, renders the ryota clamorous for its renewal. "Having had the task of abolishing this system," says Mr. Wallace in Tanjore,

Para. 12.
12th June 1810.

"I can fully testify to the extreme reluctance with which it was relinquished; and although I have not importuned the Board with the statement of difficulties which had been overcome, I certainly could, on the renewal of each year's lease, have filled their records with statements of objection on objection, to all plans of money rent, and with clamours for the restoration of the favorite system."

7. It is not to be denied that this same feeling is still prevalent in most of the Nurjah districts. Mr. Cotton, in Tinnevely, expressly states that the ryots will object to the renewal of any engagements, except such as may be founded on the basis of an *amance* division of the produce; Mr. Cooke states that in many instances this is the case in Chingleput, and a struggle for the restoration of this system, similar to that which took place in 1810, is to be apprehended in Tanjore, on the expiration of the present lease.

8. If the poverty of the ryots, under the heavy demand of Government, and the great fluctuation in the quantity and the price of produce, rendered, and still renders this system

*The native Government usually paid their servants in grain at a value above that of the market, and frequently imposed the grain upon merchants at a rate above the market price. This indeed was done by Mr. Grant, when Collector in Tanjore, but that proceeding was highly disapproved by Government.

acceptable to the people, it was no less so to the former Government, who derived from it an additional tax. Being in possession of nearly one half of the whole produce of the country, they were enabled, in some degree, to

monopolise the whole sale grain trade; and by hoarding their grain, and prohibiting, as was formerly the case in Trichinopoly, the importation of other supplies, they raised its price artificially, and added to their landlords' rent, the profit of an extensive wholesale grain-dealer.

9. The very great details, the numerous and repeated checks, and the constant and minute scrutiny requisite under such a system, though perhaps practicable whilst the people and the Government were one, were soon found incompatible with a foreign Government, whose agency is extremely limited, whose intimate acquaintance with the people is impossible, whose knowledge of their habits, customs, and manners is confined, and whose control is necessarily of a general nature. The propriety of opening a free market for grain, the chief necessity of life also rendered extremely desirable, and it was resolved to commute for a fixed demand in money, the variable demand of Government in kind.

10. This last principle, indeed, has been common to each of the different systems of revenue administration introduced into these territories by the British Government; whether Zemindary, ryotwary, or village lease. In each, it has been a principal object to commute payments in kind from the Nurjah lands, and money payments. The Zemindar for the Zemindary, the ryot for his fields, and the collective body of the *Mettanidars* or head ryots for their village, as each, as regards these lands, contractors, who relieve the Government from the burden of *amance*, and take upon themselves exclusively the risk arising from fluctuation in the extent and price of produce, or in the value of the precious metals, which risk has hitherto been divided between Government and the ryot, and the revenue, payable by each of these different persons, whether assessed in perpetuity on a large extent of country; limited in perpetuity on each field, yet liable to annual remission; or fixed for a term of years only upon each village, is, for the period of the settlement, a certain defined sum in money.

11. In Tanjore and in the *met* lands of Trichinopoly and Tinnevely before mentioned, this change was only gradually effected. Upon our acquisition of these countries, the *amance*

division of the produce was either found established, or reverted to. At a subsequent period, the Government share of the produce, instead of being received in kind, was made over to the ryots, at the current price of the day, but it was not until the introduction of the village lease settlement that the variable payment in kind, from the Nurjah lands of these countries, was systemically converted into a fixed payment in money.

12. It is true that, under the village lease, the assessment was not ostensibly fixed with immediate reference either to produce or to price. These had been found inexhaustible themes of misrepresentation by the ryots; and the intention was to sink all further discussion respecting them. The average collections of former years were therefore assumed as the basis of the village money settlement; but these collections were founded upon previous settlements, formed by converting the Government share of the produce into money, at the variable prices of the day; they were therefore in fact the amalgamated result of former average price and average produce; and, as such were deemed a fair and just standard of assessment, because no variation was contemplated, either in produce, or price.

13. Experience of the village settlement has confirmed the belief of the Board that, at the time when it was formed, it was in general a moderate assessment; and had not circumstances changed, it would have continued to be so. There is reason however to believe that circumstances have occurred, especially in the three districts before mentioned, which were not anticipated when the settlement was framed; and that the average result of produce and price is not what it was in those years, which gave the actual collections that form the basis of the village settlement.

14. In the course of the lease, the extraordinary reduction which has taken place in the price of grain has been the subject of repeated representation to the Board, particularly by the Collectors of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Tinnevely. These representations however have, until of late been met by the argument, that the produce must have increased in the same rates that the price had fallen; and as the average of both was included in the actual collections of former years, upon which the village settlement was founded, the circumstance of one only being reduced was not deemed sufficient to invalidate the correctness of the settlement, so long as it was believed that the other had risen in proportion.

15. Notwithstanding this argument, the influence of the reduced price of grain upon the resources of the ryots has gradually forced itself into notice, and has in fact been admitted both by the Board, and Government, in the shape of reduced settlements in the *amance* villages, and of remissions to the renters; for, though the remissions which have been granted to the renters, especially in the last year, have been chiefly on account of extraordinary inundations and other unusual accidents, they are, in part, to be ascribed to the reduced price of grain.

16. This admission that the increase in produce has not kept pace with the decrease in price, is strongly confirmed by the two letters from the Collectors in Tanjore and Trichinopoly, now before the Board, the object of which is to urge the fact, that price does not now bear the same proportion to produce, that it did during those years of which the actual collections form the basis of the village settlement; and that, therefore, these collections are no longer a fair standard, by which to regulate the Government demand upon the country.

17. There seems to be no doubt that the quantity of produce has increased of late years in the southern Districts, particularly in Tanjore; and that the demand has also increased. It is true that a large portion of our troops are now withdrawn from the southern Districts to a far distant frontier; but the loss of their consumption must have been more than compensated by the increase of population which has taken place, during many years of plenty, and peace, in a country the usages of which are proverbially favorable to a progressive increase of the species. This increase in the population has been estimated by one who possesses good opportunities for statistical observation, (the abbé Dubois) in a memoir on the condition of the Hindoos, lately addressed to the Board, at one fourth, in the Barahmucki and Coimbatore districts, within the last 25 years; and it may be calculated as high in the very abundant, fertile, and populous

provinces of the south. Independently, however, of the increased demand arising from the decrease which has taken place in the price of grain has of itself, or resources of demand; and Tanjore, which formerly produced merely sufficient for consumption, now exports grain to the value of 1½ lacs of Rupees per annum, by underselling the Bengal merchants, and has been able to transfer the supply of the market, from Bengal, to itself.

18. If it were universally true, as has been maintained by some, that the price of produce depends solely on the proportion of supply to demand, or demand to supply, it would follow that, as the demand for grain in the three districts in question, within the last 10 years, has not decreased, its price could not have fallen to a greater extent than that in which the produce has increased; and, in this case the increase of produce would have compensated for the decrease in price, and the fact now urged by the Collectors would be unaccountable.

19. The Board however are inclined to believe, that the circumstances which have deranged the proportion which price and produce formerly bore to each other, may be traced to causes independent entirely of temporary variations either in demand or supply. 1st, The former price of grain having been artificially raised, by a system of Monopoly and restriction, above its natural level; to which by the gradual abandonment of this system, it is now returning. 2ndly, To a reduction having actually taken place in the cost of the production of grain.

20. The circumstances which directly contributed to raise artificially the former price of grain above its natural level in the three southern districts before mentioned were 1st, the absolute prohibition of importation, as formerly established in Trichinopoly; 2ndly, the Monopoly throughout the three districts of one half of the produce by the Government.

21. The effect of the former measure, which was confined chiefly to Trichinopoly, was to raise the price of grain in that province higher than in the surrounding districts, where free importation was allowed. The Board believe that this restriction was not entirely removed until the period of the village lease settlement, and, that then it was only gradually discontinued. The consequence of a free importation has naturally been to reduce the prices in Trichinopoly nearly to those in the surrounding districts. But this operated in Trichinopoly only, while the other cause beforementioned affected that province in common with Tinnevely and Tanjore.

22. By monopolizing one half of the produce in all of these districts, an artificial price was given to grain by Government, which entered into all the current prices of former years, as did the profit of this Monopoly received by the Government, enter into the account of former years' collections. Therefore, as a free market for grain has been gradually opened, it was to be expected that Government would gradually lose the profits of this monopoly; or, in other words, that the money value of their share of the produce, or, what is the same thing, their collections, would be reduced; while it was equally to be expected that price would fall, beyond the increase in produce; to the extent of the difference between the former artificial price of a Government monopoly, and the present fair wholesale price, arising from free competition among the grain merchants.

23. Independently, however, of these causes, which operated directly in the three districts in question to raise artificially the market price of grain, there was another which operated immediately upon the neighbouring districts, to produce the same effect, and which indirectly must have also affected them. This it is of the more importance to notice, as it still in some degree continues, and is connected with the reduction in the price of grain which has been generally experienced throughout the country.

24. It is, the Board believe, a received principle that as "land of an inferior quality is taken into cultivation, the exchangeable value of raw produce will rise, because more labour,

is required to produce it". If it be thus true that the price of grain will rise, as the inferior and less productive soils, requiring more labour to produce a given quantity, come under cultivation, it will be obvious that any measures of the Government which have a tendency to induce the cultivation of inferior land, (say No. 3 producing only 60 Garces) before superior land (say No. 1 producing 100 Garces) has been fully occupied, must cause an artificial rise in the price of grain; and that so soon as, by relinquishing this system, things are left to return to their natural state, the inferior soils will be abandoned for the cultivation of the superior, and the price of grain will fall as the cost of its production is reduced.

25. This is what the Board believe to have occurred in the greater number of the districts under the Government, where field assessments have been introduced. The general tendency of field assessments has been to tax the superior soils so highly, in comparison with those of inferior quality, that the ryots in many cases have abandoned the former, for the latter, even at variance perhaps with the theoretical principles of ryotwar which contemplated occupation of land, it soon became in several districts one of its principal practical checks this, by "tacking" the over assessed which are generally the best soils, to the less or inferior soils. This system however, where it was introduced, was only carried into effect and in many cases even there, as well as in other Districts such as Madras, where the occupation of land was left free, the excessive teerwas imposed, upon the descriptions of soils, tended unnaturally to induce the occupation of land of an inferior description; the Board have already stated that

See minutes of the 5th January 1813. from this cause, in Madras alone 49,000 got. of the finest land, or about one-eighth of the whole under cultivation, was abandoned, and the proportion of the less productive waste brought under the plough. By these means, the ryots are driven to cultivate the inferior descriptions of soils, and the price of grain rose, as they were under cultivation. But the ryots, under the village leases having either reduced the teerwas upon the overassessed, which are generally the best soils, or resorted to a division of the produce, a reaction has taken place; the inferior and less productive soils have been relinquished; stock and labour have been concentrated upon the superior and more fertile land; the same quantity of grain has been produced by less labour; its price has consequently fallen, and it may be expected still farther to fall, as the teerwas on the finer soils become more moderate, and the occupation of land is left free.

26. The abandonment of all restrictions upon the importation or transit of grain, the abolition of the Government monopoly of one half of the produce, and the gradual relaxation, in the neighbouring districts, of the unpolitic restrictions imposed on the occupation of land, and of the overassessments fixed upon the superior soils, by thus releasing labour from the shackles imposed on it, and allowing the grain market to return to a free and natural state, would alone derange the artificial proportion which price formerly bore to produce; and, by causing the former to fall, which both supply and demand may have continued stationary would produce the result which the two Collectors state to have actually occurred. But, while it is to this cause principally, that the Board are inclined to attribute the decrease which has taken place in the price of grain, beyond the increase in its produce, it may also be attributed partially, to the improved irrigation of the country, and to a more careful system of agriculture under the village settlement, which by increasing the natural fertility of the soil and concentrating the stock and labour of the ryot upon the most productive fields, may have enabled him to produce the same quantity of grain at less cost and labour, and thereby lowered its price.

27. If this view of the causes which have produced the fall in the price of grain be correct it would follow that it is no occasional or temporary reduction, arising from a deficiency of demand, or excess of supply; but one originating in permanent causes, and likely to be of considerable duration. A very favorable or unfavorable season must always produce some fluctuation; but the ultimate average price, on either side of which these fluctuations may

take place, is not, for the reasons stated, likely to be equal, for a considerable average price of former years, upon which the present village settlements were

28. These settlements being in fact the result of average produce applied to, and it being admitted that the latter has fallen in a greater proportion than the increased, it is obvious that the demand in money, upon the people is higher intended to be; and that if a fixed demand in money be continued, its amount reduced. "From all that has gone before," says Mr. Hepburn, the Collector in Tanjore, "the Board will I think concur with me in the conviction that a reduction of the estimation price, or, what is the same thing, in the present rent, is absolutely requisite. In fact, it is positively necessary, as the people neither would, nor could, continue longer to pay the same revenue as they do at present."

29. Notwithstanding the very considerable increase of produce which is admitted to have taken place in the province of Tanjore, Mr. Hepburn does not think that the difference that increase, and the great reduction in price, can be taken at less than 10 per cent. decennial settlement, or Rupees 2,73,036. He accordingly proposes that the village revenue, by granting this remission upon the present rents generally, and a further of one per cent, or Rupees 27,803, to be divided upon the poorest villages in different tractions. But if, instead of the body of the Meerassidars taking upon themselves collect responsibility, arising from variation in the extent and price of produce, each Ryot is it upon himself individually, he estimates that a further reduction of 5 per cent, or 1,36,618, will be required in the Pasmugaree Villages.

30. Mr. Lushington, the Collector in Trichinopoly, strongly points out the over-assessment in that district, which is the more severely felt there, as, from the limitation formerly on importation, the artificial price of grain was raised higher in that district than elsewhere; while the quantity of produce has not increased to any such extent as in Tanjore, nor do they enjoy the same facilities for its exportation. Mr. Lushington justly observes that it is of so much importance to determine the system to be pursued as to make the demand of Government moderate; and under the great fluctuation in the price of grain, he recommends that Government should "enter into new engagements with the Meerassidars, to receive 50 per cent. the gross produce, computed at the actual price, procurable at the time the lists become due."

31. The existing settlement in Tanjore expires with the current year, and the Collector in Trichinopoly has been authorized by Government to accept the surrender of the lands of the wet Talooks of that district; specific orders are therefore now required, as to the settlement to be introduced into both of these Districts, on the commencement of the next fiscal year, and whatever decision may be passed on this point will be equally applicable to the wet lands in Tanjore; the Board accordingly proceed to lay before the Government their sentiments respecting the proposals of the Collectors in the two former districts, as above stated, and their opinion as to the settlement which ought to be introduced into the wet lands of the three provinces.

32. With regard to the extension to Tanjore, or to the wet lands in Trichinopoly, Timmavally, of a field assessment, similar to that established by Colonel Munro in the ceded districts, the Government cannot have overlooked the virtual abandonment of the field assessments which has taken place, in nearly all of the old Ryotwar districts. In Bellary, part of the ceded districts, the over-assessment of the survey in the black lands is stated by the present Collector to have rendered some talooks "bankrupt," and a reduction of 25 per cent. has been proposed by Colonel Munro himself. In Coimbatore, and the Northern Division of Arcot, it is proposed to relinquish them for a Patent, or assessment on the entire farm of each Ryot. In Cuddalore and Barramahal, as in Madurai and Dinidigul, they are undergoing modification. In the Southern Division of Arcot they were only partially introduced, and in Nellore their existence was nominal. If, even where they have been the most ably conducted, it has thus been found impossible to continue them, it seems inadvisable to incur a heavy additional expense, in order further to extend them particularly if it should be found practicable to make, in most

Districts, a Patent Rent, which will in fact be a Ryotwar settlement, without the detail of a Rent upon each field.

33. It further to be observed that a field assessment which taxes the soil itself, and varies the amount of assessment with each different description of soil, has a tendency to tax the best soil highly, to drive the Ryots to the occupation of inferior land; to raise artificially the price of grain; and to check the natural increase of capital, food, and population. That this was its practical result in Madurai has been shewn; and there is no doubt that in every other district similar over-assessment has, more or less, taken place, in the nice operation of appraising the soil. In every district, also the inequality of the field assessment has been the theme of representation by the Collectors, now such over-assessment of the superior soils, and such inequalities cannot exist, where the Tax is a single sum upon a Village or farm, including every variety and description of soil.

34. A reference also to the reports lately submitted by the Board, respecting the experimental Ryotwar survey of a village in several of the districts, will show how very differently it has been conducted in each; how exceedingly difficult it will be to establish it on a uniform plan, and on correct principles; and how inapplicable it is to *Nanjah*, wet, or paddy villages, where there has never existed, but particularly to those held in *Pasmugaree* tenure. This last point is further illustrated in Mr. Hepburn's present letter.

35. There can be no doubt that in *Nanjah* lands the produce depends as much upon abundant and certain irrigation, as upon the nature of the soil. To make the latter, therefore, as in the Ryotwar survey, the principal standard of assessment, would seem in such lands to be highly inexpedient, though in *Poonjah* or dry lands, such as in the ceded districts, this might not have been the case.

36. In the *Pasmugaree* villages, likewise, it has been shewn that every thing is variable, except the number of shares into which the village was divided on its first establishment, and the *ki* stays, or large subdivisions containing many fields, into which it is apportioned. The number of fields in a village varies to the extent of a hundred in each year, as suits the conversion of the ryots. The Ryot who occupied last year fields No. 1, 2 and 3, may this year have half of No. 4, and half of No. 7, thrown into one field, to cultivate; or his property in the village, from one of sixty shares, may have been reduced, by sale, to one half, one third, or one sixteenth of a share; and instead of fields No. 1, 2 and 3, he may be the occupant of only sixteenth part of No. 36, and a thirty second part of No. 53 and 90. Under such a system, it is obviously impossible to establish any assessment upon each field or upon each Ryot without dissolving the unity of interest which pervades the whole, and forms the basis of the tenure.

37. In these corporate villages a community of stock exists, and in managing their concerns a division of labour amongst the community takes place in consequence of the unity of interests which prevails through all the members of it. "One part of the proprietors attend

See Mr. Hepburn's letter.

"the Tahsildar or Collector, and conduct the business of the village there; another portion of them are agents with the grain merchants; and disposing of the produce, and for that purpose resorting to the sea ports and large towns; another number is gone to the neighbouring districts to supply the wear and tear of cultivating cattle; and the remainder stay at home to manage the cultivation and other interior concerns of the village." To dissolve this unity of interest and a common stock of labour, by requiring each, to take instead of the share which he possesses, a defined part of the whole lands of the village, in order that Government, instead of its present assessment upon the body collectively, may assess each Ryot according to the soil of the fields composing his portion, would not be very different from dissolving any joint stock company in England, and requiring each proprietor to trade upon his own portion of it, in order that it might be separately taxed.

38. The additional labour that would be thrown upon the Ryot, by the himself the various duties in which he is now assisted by his brethren; the ability which he would incur by undertaking alone that risk which he now divides with them; and the increased difficulty he would experience in carrying on cultivation individual stock, instead of upon the joint stock of the village, would require the rent should reduce their demand upon him; and the reduction necessary for alone, is estimated by the Collector in Tanjore at 5 per cent. upon the land revenue annually so large a sum of money, in the purchase of what is at best of doubtful advantage would in the opinion of the Board be extremely unwise.

39. Under these considerations, the Board are of opinion that the extension of field assessments to Tanjore, or to the districts of Tinnevely and Trichinopoly is no less impracticable than inexpedient, and they think that the parties with whom the new settlement ought to be made are the collective body of the Meerasidars in each village. The proportion of the total assessment to be paid by each of them, where there is more than one, may be clearly defined, by assessing it upon the lands held by each, or upon each ryot; and in the Pussangaree villages where both are liable to variation, by apportioning it upon the share held by each. If there is only one Meerasidar, he will pay the whole; if more than one, each will pay in proportion to his share. Supposing a Pussangaree village, at the period of its first establishment, to have been divided into 60 shares, of which at present 10 are held by A, 20 by B, 5 by C, 2 by D, half a share by E, 5 and a half by F, 7 by G, and 18 by H, and the collective assessment on it to be 600 Pagodas, this will give 10 Pagodas to each share; the sum payable by A, who holds ten shares, will be 100 Pagodas, by B, who holds 20, 200; by C, 50; by D, 20; by E, 5; by F, 55; by G, 70; and by H, 100. Again if H were to sell 4 of his shares, to a new Ryot K, he will transfer with it a proportion of the assessment; H, in this case would pay 60 Pagodas only, and K the remaining 40. These would be the portions of the collective assessment payable by each individual, but the whole would be responsible for any deficiency. The Collector in the first instance, would protect against the individual who might fail, and assess each ryot in these Pussangaree villages for the eventual balance irrecoverable from the defaulter in proportion to his shares in the village.

40. In illustration of this branch of the subject, the Board beg leave to re-annexed copy of a cowrie recently issued by the Collector in the Zillah of Chinglegat practically exemplifying this proposed subdivision of the collective assessment; and they understood that Colonel Munro admitted a settlement of this kind to be sufficiently near to meet what he understood to be the intention of the authorities in England.

41. Having thus submitted their sentiments as to the parties with whom the settlement should be formed, it remains for the Board to discuss its nature and amount, respecting which three distinct plans have been suggested.

1st. That the assessment on each village should continue, as at present, to be a fixed sum of money, but that the amount should be lowered to the extent in which the decrease in the average price of grain, is calculated to exceed the increase in its average produce. This plan is proposed by Mr. Hepburn, the present Collector in Tanjore.

2ndly. That the assessment on each village should be a sum of money varying annually with the price of grain. An assessment of this kind, termed "a grain measure" was proposed by the late Mr. Wallace in 1810, while Collector in Tanjore, under which it was intended to assess each village with a defined quantity of grain, calculated on the average produce of past years, and convertible into money at the current market price in each year. This mode of settlement does not seem to have been objected to by the authorities at home, as noticed in the general letters in the Revenue Department of the 6th June 1814 and 22nd May 1818, and as the present village settlement is, in fact, the average produce of past years, converted into

money at an average price, this would be much the same as allowing the present settlement, to increase or decrease, in proportion as the current price of grain is above or below the commutation price.

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3rdly. That the assessment in each village should be a sum of money varying annually, both with the price, and the quantity of produce. This is the plan proposed by Mr. Lushington, the Collector in Trichinopoly, who recommends that one half of the actual annual produce be converted into money, at the current prices of the day, and the result assumed as the assessment.

42. The Board conclude that it is the intention of Government to oppose any return to the amanee division of the produce, so much desired by the people on the ground of its incompatibility with the system of revenue administration which is the wish of Government to establish its excessive frauds and abuses, its great and baneful interference with the grain market, and its being less beneficial to the people than a moderate fixed money rent. Unless however the Government consent to revert to it, they must offer a money assessment to the Ryots, sufficiently moderate to induce them voluntarily to abandon the amanee system, which their present poverty induces them to prefer.

43. The last of the plans before noticed, as suggested by Mr. Lushington, which contemplates the money assessment as varying annually both with produce and price, is the first remove from an amanee division of the produce. But it is open to many of the objections to which that system itself is liable. It is true, that, under it, the Government would not monopolise or divide of the produce nor would they be exposed to the losses of a great dealer in grain, in order to control his inferior servants. But it would involve an annual estimation both of the crop and of the price of grain; and the annoyance to the people, and fraud upon the Government, to which such detailed and annual inquiries would give rise, render it in the opinion of the Board little less objectionable than an actual division of the produce itself.

44. The second proposal, which contemplates the money assessment as varying with price only, is a further remove from amanee; but it is not by any means free from material objection. Under the assumption of an average produce for each village, the detailed inquiries respecting the extent of produce, which would be annually necessary under the last mentioned plan, would be avoided, and much annoyance to the people and fraud on the Government would be prevented. But there would still remain the very difficult and nice operation of fixing the price of grain; and the assessment would be much more variable than under Mr. Lushington's plan, or than would be desirable.

45. In explanation of this last point, it is to be observed that price in the countries under consideration fluctuates to a much greater extent than produce. Mr. Lushington, in his present letter, states that in Trichinopoly, the memory of man can scarcely supply more than "one instance of a variation of 16 per cent. either above or below 23,15,000 cullams" of produce; whilst he goes on to show that fluctuations in price have taken place to a much greater extent; and he instances the extreme case of July 1817, a year immediately following one of great scarcity, when price rose upwards of 200 per cent. Mr. Wallace, the former Collector of

Para. 19.

Tanjore, in his letter of the 25th June 1810, also shows that (excluding the years of Hyder's war, when great fluctuations took place) during the long period of 23 years, from 1776 to 1779 the quantity of produce varied only 30 per cent. above, and 33 per cent. below that of 1776; while the price varied 40 per cent. above, and 51 per cent. below that of the same year. It is obvious, therefore, that if an average produce is taken, and turned into a money assessment at prices liable to such great fluctuation, the demand upon the people would be much more variable, than under Mr. Lushington's plan of settlement, under which an increase of assessment from high price would in some degree, be counterbalanced by a decrease from reduced produce; and vice versa. Thus, supposing the average produce to be 100 lacs of cullams, and the variation to be 25 per cent. on either side of it, and the average price to be

10 fanams per cullum and the variation 50 per cent. on either side of it the result of the two variable settlements before described for 10 years.

	Produce lacs cullums.	Price fanams per cullum.	Actual produce at actual price lacs of fanams.	Average at lacs	Produce at price fanams.
Decrease	75 ...	15 ...	1,125 ...	1,400	1,300
	80 ...	14 ...	1,120 ...		
	85 ...	13 ...	1,105 ...		
	90 ...	12 ...	1,080 ...		
	95 ...	11 ...	1,045 ...		
Average	100 ...	10 ...	1,000 ...	1,000	
Increase	105 ...	9 ...	945 ...	900	800
	110 ...	8 ...	880 ...		
	115 ...	7 ...	805 ...		
	120 ...	6 ...	720 ...		
	125 ...	5 ...	625 ...		
Total	1,100	110	10,450	11,000	
Average	100	10	950	1,000	

43. Although this statement is supposititious, it will sufficiently illustrate the much greater variation which will take place under the second, than under the last plan of assessment. In fact, they would in the end be nearly the same, but under the second plan the assessment would vary to the full extent of the variation in price, or 50 per cent. on either side of the average revenue; while under the last plan the variation of price would be counter-balanced by a contrary variation in produce, and the assessment would not vary more than 37 per cent. below, and 12 per cent. above the average revenue. This, however, is not all, the last plan of settlement would, in fact, take from the Ryot precisely what he got for the Government grain and would therefore be comparatively proportioned to his means; but the other mode of settlement would raise the demand upon him with the price, without reference to the decrease in produce; and when the former was at its highest, and the latter at its lowest extreme, it would assess him with 1400 lacs of fanams, when for the same grain he has been able to obtain only 1125 lacs. His means would be unequal to this payment, and the Government would lose the difference, while they would also relinquish to him unnecessary advantages when the price of grain fell 50 per cent. by reducing their demand to 500 lacs, at the time that he would receive 625 for the Government grain.

44. This was in some degree foreseen by Mr. Wallace, who proposed his plan of assessment, and who therefore suggested in the 11th para of his letter of the 25th June 1810 that when the price of grain fell to certain specified rates, the Government demand should be reduced from 10 to 20 per cent. This would be a very arbitrary estimate of the reduction which ought to be made, a similar increase ought to take place when price fell greatly and without a detailed enquiry as to the extent of the produce, it would be extremely difficult to adjust this proposed reduction or increase of the assessment on any grounds at all satisfactory.

45. It is further to be remarked respecting both of these variable settlements that, under either, it would be requisite annually to ascertain the actual price of grain. An error of

half a fanam on either side of the correct price might affect the settlement to the extent of 20 per cent. and it is doubtful whether with every care the fair price of grain could annually be correctly ascertained.

46. Independently however of the objections above stated against each of these plans of variable assessment, it appears to the Board that to adopt either would be a retrograde instead of a progressive step in the revenue administration of the country. It has before been shown that, under every different system which has been hitherto introduced under the British rule, the object has been to convert a grain into a money assessment, and to substitute a fixed for a variable demand. To revert to a variable demand, therefore, would be partially to abandon the policy hitherto universally observed, and could be justified only by the clearest proof of its expediency.

47. To enter into any argument in order to prove the great superiority of a fixed over a variable demand would be to repeat the most trite maxims of established authorities in political economy and to demonstrate what is already sufficiently obvious. The tax which a demand varying with produce or price, or with either, must ever impose upon improvement is so generally admitted, as to require no elucidation from the Board, and by the universal conversion, under every system, of a variable into a fixed demand, each successive British Government in India has the best evidence of its sense of the great advantage and importance of the latter.

48. The foregoing statement though supposititious, will sufficiently show that a fixed demand founded upon average produce converted into money at average price, will in total amount be very nearly the same as a variable demand, founded upon either actual or average produce, converted into money at actual price while it will not be so unequal, so variable, nor so intricate, as the second of the two plans before discussed; and though sometimes above, and sometimes below, what the Ryot may receive for the same produce, the excess on either side will not be great. Besides this, it will not tax improvement, and will obviate all invidious and partial inquiries whatever, into either produce or price, attendant on the other two systems.

49. Under any of the three plans of assessment a reduction in the revenue must take place. Under the two variable plans, the amount of the settlement will fall precisely to the extent to which the price of grain may rise or fall in the market. Under the fixed plan, an estimated reduction must be made to the extent of the permanent depression which is understood to have taken place in the price of grain.

50. If the Government should doubt the correctness of the Board's reasoning respecting the fall in the price of grain being likely to continue for a period of some duration; or if they think that the Collectors would be apt to over-estimate the reduction which should be made on this account, rather than incur the prospective reduction which would become requisite under the plan of a fixed assessment, they might prefer the eventual retrospective reduction of the variable plans of assessment, and adopt them notwithstanding the objections to which they are radically obnoxious. May the Board believe their reasoning respecting the fall in the price of grain to be founded upon solid grounds; not upon theory, but on facts, and they apprehend that the Collectors will be apt rather to underrate, than overrate, the reduction to be made on this account.

51. It is for these reasons that the Board see no sufficient grounds for departing from the established revenue policy of the Government, and that they prefer the first of the three plans before detailed, under which the demand shall be fixed, not variable. In short, they are of opinion that the principle of the decennial lease should be continued, and that average produce should be converted into money at average price, instead of either actual or average produce, at actual price.

52. For this purpose, it will not be requisite to involve the Collectors in any intricate discussion respecting price or produce, it will be sufficient, as Mr. Hepburn proposes, to reduce the existing settlement so much per cent. to the extent considered requisite to ensure to the peasant an ordinary seasons a profitable rent.

56. If the East India Company were to be considered as holding a lease of India, for the remaining term of their charter; and as limiting their views to the present, when it will expire, some excuse might be offered for departing from that line of policy which, in permanency, will prove indisputably the best, both for the Government, and the people, and for resorting to temporary expedients in order to draw as much as possible from the country, before their lease expires. But it is to be viewed as the organ through which the British Government administer the affairs of a great dependent state, in which it has a permanent and lasting interest it is surely the duty of their servants in this country, earnestly to exert themselves steadfastly to maintain that line of policy which in permanency is the best.

57. In the districts under consideration, the variable demand in grain has been converted into a fixed demand in money; but it has not been lowered sufficiently to make a change acceptable to the people, whose burden has been doubled, by throwing upon them the whole of that weight, which, under the amano system, was divided between the Government and them. As landlords of a vast estate, whose tenants are possessed of little more stock than their own labour, it was incumbent on the Government, if they introduced money rents, to make such a sacrifice as would induce their tenants voluntarily to accept their terms. This has not yet been done; nay, it has been attempted to secure advantages without paying their price, and to transfer risk and responsibility without compensation.

58. In renewing engagements with the people, the Board of Revenue might justly be accused of narrow and illiberal views, did they recommend a retrograde approximation towards the defective and impolitic systems which have been deliberately abandoned, on actual experience of the evils attending them; merely because that compensation is demanded, under the existing approved system, which ought to have been granted at first. Landlords on the continent of Europe were formerly reproached with adopting a narrow and contracted policy, in not relinquishing a portion of their high rents, to improve the situation of their *Metayers* and thus lead to the abolition of that objectionable system of agriculture no less injurious to the people than themselves. How much more forcibly would this apply to a landlord possessing India, who against the advantages of the corresponding amano system, yet hesitates in making that sacrifice requisite for a voluntary abandonment by the people.

59. The extent of this sacrifice has been estimated by Mr. Hepburn at 11 per cent. of the existing settlement in Tanjore; in Tinnevely a reduction to the amount might be sufficient, but in Trichinopoly, which has the most suffered from overassessment, more might be required. As the reduction however is proposed to be limited to the wet land only of the two last mentioned districts the total reduction would not amount to ten per cent. of the aggregate land revenue from the whole.

60. Should the Government feel inclined to approve of the general principles upon which the Board propose to re-assess the existing settlement in these districts, they will further direct each of the Collectors on this important point. To enter further into detail until the Government have decided on the plan of settlement to be adopted, would be premature.

61. Resolved that a copy of these proceedings be immediately transmitted to the Government for their orders, and that they be solicited to favor the Board with early instructions on the subject, as the existing settlement in Tanjore expires with the current fasly year and unless a new settlement is concluded before the existing one expires, much difficulty, confusion and loss of revenue may be expected.

62. Resolved also that a copy of these proceedings be sent for the information of the Collectors in Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Tinnevely.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. D. CAMPBELL,

Secretary.

To the Collector in Tanjore.

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, dated the 3rd instant conveying the orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council on the subject of the settlement to be introduced into the District under the new lease on the expiration of the present one.

The views of the Board regarding the different modes of settlement which it has been in contemplation to adopt, are very fully explained, and discussed, in their Proceedings of the 15th November forwarded to you on the 9th December last it seems unnecessary to furnish you, at present, with any detailed instructions. You will observe that Government, in concurrence with the opinion expressed by the Board, give the preference to the first plan of settlement, as described in the 41st Para of the Proceedings, and the Board rely upon your using your best endeavours to conclude a settlement, upon the principles therein laid down, for one year only.

The Board in their Proceedings, pointed out the numerous objections which existed, to returning to an summary division of the Produce, and you will see that Government are inclined to incur even a greater sacrifice of Revenue, than what has been estimated by Mr. Hepburn, rather than revert to that system of management.

I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and to inform you that the Board will delay issuing any orders thereon, until they receive your reply to this letter. They will merely remark, that the settlement proposed by you, and that now directed to be carried into effect, will, in amount, be nearly the same, as deducting 10 per cent. from the Inhabitants' share and adding it to the Government share, and calculating the latter, at a value, estimated to be 20 per cent. below the *Jumamahundy* Price, must produce a similar result, to making a deduction of 10 per cent. from the present lease settlement, but under the plan of settlement recommended by the Board and approved by Government all discussion respecting Price and Produce will be obviated, and the difficult operation of fixing the price at which the *Malwaram* is to be commuted into money, will be unnecessary.

Fort St. George, 9th March 1820.

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) R. C. Secretary.

To the President and Members of the Board of Revenue.

GENTLEMEN,
Para. 1. I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter under date the 3th December last, transmitting extract from your Proceedings dated the 15th November respecting the new settlement proposed to be introduced into the Province of Tanjore and into the wet Lands of Trichinopoly and Tinnevely.

2nd.—Upon reference to these Proceedings, and to the papers accompanying them, it appears that the Lease settlement of Tanjore which will expire with the current Fasly 1220 was made on the average collections of former years, founded upon calculations of average produce, applied to average price, and that the money Rent so determined was, at the commencement of the Lease, in general, moderate, and had not circumstances changed would have continued to be so.

3rd.—This change of circumstance is stated to be, the extraordinary reduction which has taken place in the price of grain, in the course of the Lease, and although the Produce has increased, it has not been to such a degree, as to counter-balance the loss occasioned by the great fall of price. The money assessment has consequently become higher than it was intended the people should pay, and if a fixed demand in money, is to be continued, the amount of it requires to be reduced.

4th.—It is not considered necessary to enter at length into the reasoning you have adduced, to account for the fall in the price of grain, in the southern Districts. It is sufficient to observe, that the Governor in Council concurs in the opinion you have expressed, that the fall of price has arisen, from causes, not of a temporary nature, but from such, as will probably continue to keep down the price, and that a reduction of the money Rent, has become unavoidable. The immediate points, therefore, for consideration, are the extent of this reduction and which of the three plans of settlement described by you should be adopted.

5th.—The Governor in Council agrees with you as to the superiority of a fixed, over a variable demand, and under this view of the case, gives the preference to the first mode of settlement proposed by you, in the 41st Para. of your Proceedings. You are accordingly authorized to renew the Lease upon the principles therein laid down, but reduced, in amount to such extent as you may, on further communication with the Collector consider to be necessary.

The Government are aware of the expediency of adhering to local custom under the explanations lately afforded to the Honorable Court of Directors, approve of a joint settlement with all the Merassidars, for all the Lands are the more persuaded of this, as under the explanations given in the 39^a Proceedings, they observe that under the proposed plan of settlement, it will define the amount of assessment to be paid by each person so that it may, in fact, be a Ryotwar settlement.

6th.—I am desired however, to observe that as this subject is now under the of the Honorable Court, the Government are desirous of avoiding the adoption of which would preclude the early compliance with such orders as may eventually and they wish therefore that you should endeavour to make a settlement on the described for one year only. This arrangement appears also to be desirable in a fluctuating state in the price of grain as such alterations may be made in the settlement for the succeeding year, as a further depression of price or a rise may render expedient.

7th.—With respect to the amount of the reduction to be made in the present Lease it is estimated by Mr. Hepburn at 11 per cent. but I am desired to state, that Government would be inclined to incur even a greater sacrifice of Revenue, rather than recur to the very objectionable system of aumany management.

8th.—The Governor in Council will be glad to receive from you, from time to time, a communication of the progress of the settlement, which, you are, under these orders authorized to conclude.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) D. HILL,

Secretary to Government.

H. CHAMBER, Deputy Secretary.

Fort Saint George, 3rd March 1820.

(A true copy.)

To the President and Members of the Board of Revenue,

Fort Saint George.

GENTLEMEN,

Para 1. Adverting to the advanced state of the season and the fast approach of the period for the termination of the present Lease in this District, and not having yet been favored with any communication from your Board's Proceedings of the 15th November, on the subject, I think it proper to suggest, whether under all circumstances it would be expedient to commence without further delay a Rent for one year only on the basis of the present settlement, giving to the Inhabitants, in consequence of the great depression in the Price of Grain, and the unfavourable rate at which they have been obliged to dispose of it in the last four years, the option of continuing their present Rent in money or of a grain rent, making in the latter case a deduction of 10 per cent. from their Warum, instead of reducing it as has hitherto been customary generally to 45 per cent. and commencing the Mailwarum with this addition from the Coodewarum, at the current selling Price of the year.

2. To enable your Board to judge of the result of this plan of settlement, I have the honor to submit for your consideration the accompanying statements, viz.

Statement A showing the probable result of a grain Rent in certain villages in each Talook assuming as its basis the amount of Gross Produce included in the present settlement.

Statement B shewing the same results in each Talook, and for the whole District, and

Statement C the difference between the former and present proposed plan of a grain settlement as respects the Warum, allowed to the Inhabitants, with the result of each respectively, and in comparison with the amount of the present settlement in money.

3. For the commutation of the Mailwarum I have estimated the current price at 2 per cent below the present Jammabundy Price, but by the addition made to the Mailwarum from the Coodewarum there is calculated a decrease of only 10 1/2 per cent below the amount of the present settlement.

4. From the information I have been able to collect since my arrival here, the Inhabitants, from the losses they have sustained during the present Lease, appear generally averse to enter into any new engagements for a money rent, but I have little doubt of gaining their consent to a grain Rent on the terms I have proposed; at the same time however it will be necessary both for your Board and Government to express decidedly your objections to an aumany management, and a division of the Produce, otherwise there is hardly a village in the District wherein the Inhabitants will not prefer that system, to any Rent, however moderate it may be.

I have the honor to be,

Respectfully,

(Signed) J. COTTON, Collector.

Tanjour, Negapatam, 3rd March 1820.

A

DETAILED Statement shewing the probable result of a Grain rent in certain villages in the District of Tanjore formed on the amount of Gross Produce included in the present Settlement.

Name of the Taluk.	Names of the villages.	Present amount of settlement in money.	Gross Produce included in the present settlement.	Deduct 9 per cent Setunto-rums.	Remainder.
		Rupces. s. d.	Cullms. m. n.	Cullms. m. n.	Cullms. m. n.
Trivady	Callanapooram	5,709 9 8	23,623 8 1	2,126 3 1	21,497 5 0
	Vencatasamboodrum.	3,658 8 9	35,282 0 0	3,175 3 0	32,106 9 0
	Swaminahai	1,078 15 4	4,508 0 1	405 5 0	4,102 10 1
	Naimuru	2,240 2 8	9,171 4 0	825 4 0	8,346 0 0
Panpanasam	Nalloru	4,183 5 5	14,566 1 1	1,310 11 1	13,255 2 0
	Agara Maungoody	3,498 12 4	20,283 2 0	1,825 5 0	18,457 9 0
	Tilliambeer	1,731 7 11	6,092 11 1	540 3 1	5,552 8 1
	Agara Haridwaranungalum	759 6 10	2,719 5 2	244 8 1	2,474 9 0
Trivalera	Trivalre Cusbah	2,754 10 10	10,184 1 1	916 9 0	9,269 4 1
	Shangalipooram	5,314 5 10	22,243 4 1	2,001 11 0	20,241 5 1
	Paulacoody	1,536 0 9	7,447 0 1	670 3 1	6,777 6 1
	Annacooappam	4,112 7 5	16,486 4 1	1,483 9 1	15,002 7 1
Kosvalara	Vaval Odacharry	566 15 7	2,025 4 0	182 3 1	1,843 0 1
	Bandaravanday	1,017 0 5	3,591 0 0	323 1 0	3,267 9 0
	Paulacoorchy	2,098 8 4	7,439 8 1	680 7 1	6,759 1 1
	Sattisgoody	1,035 10 0	3,725 5 1	335 3 1	3,390 1 1
Compasaram	Covilput Cooroovanday	4,838 5 0	18,732 2 1	1,686 3 1	17,046 10 0
	Toddy	4,188 9 6	18,183 0 0	1,537 3 0	16,646 7 0
	Shattancor	5,323 10 5	24,031 3 1	2,162 10 0	21,869 11 1
	Odialore	5,236 7 2	20,3 3 1	1,828 7 1	18,459 7 1
Mayavaram	Shattanaudapooram.	4,717 4 3	17,041 0 0	1,538 3 0	15,503 7 0
	Randanelloru	1,454 7 1	5,391 10 1	476 3 0	4,915 7 1
	Putta Mungalum	1,809 1 10	7,095 8 1	719 9 1	6,376 11 1
	Vallavacoody	1,455 1 4	7,027 2 0	632 5 0	6,394 9 0
Mannargoody	Agara Cusbah	35,931 1 8	1,39,945 2 0	11,785 0 1	1,19,160 1 1
	Coonamonte Tadal	687 8 9	2,658 0 0	239 5 0	2,418 4 0
	Agara Peovenore	1,907 5 5	7,503 5 1	675 9 0	6,828 5 1
	Coontoor	2,409 6 9	9,701 1 1	873 1 1	8,828 0 1
Nunnallara	Moodicondam	9,833 9 4	39,954 11 1	3,595 11 0	36,359 2 1
	Cocttenore	2,601 0 0	8,309 11 1	747 10 1	7,562 0 1
	Carpore	1,121 5 2	4,476 1 0	402 10 0	4,073 8 0
	Trinargal	1,29 15 6	5,742 6 1	516 10 0	5,225 8 1
Vattacottah	Perizelloru	4,478 0 5	21,334 0 1	1,974 0 1	19,360 0 0
	Naimally	906 8 1	3,291 5 0	296 2 1	2,995 11 1
	Aulungoody	891 7 10	3,914 10 0	352 4 1	3,562 5 1
	Valloru	1,150 2 5	5,172 0 0	464 10 0	4,707 2 0

A New Mode of Settlement of the Land Revenue

B

STATEMENT showing the probable result of a Grain rent in the

Tanjore

NAMES OF THE TALOOKS.	Present amount of settlement in money.	Gross Produce included in present settlement.	Deduct 9 per cent. Subordinate.	Remainder.	Deduct 5 per cent. Madwarum.	Net	Grain rent.
Tiruvady	Rs. 3,13,281 12 4	Catta. 13,00,715 0 1	Catta. 1,17,004 4 0	Catta. 11,89,110 8 1	Catta. 35,073 2 1		50 52 54 56 58 60
Panpanam	Rs. 5,11,043 7 9	Catta. 12,54,103 1 1	Catta. 1,12,809 3 4	Catta. 11,41,293 10 1	Catta. 34,226 11 4	11,36,996 11 4	50 52 54 56 58 60
Trivakore	Rs. 3,71,424 15 12	Catta. 14,14,118 1 1	Catta. 1,27,318 0 1	Catta. 12,87,300 0 1	Catta. 38,619 2 4	12,48,681 10 1	50 52 54 56 58 60
Combacorum	Rs. 4,51,203 10 8	Catta. 13,52,803 4 1	Catta. 1,04,783 6 1	Catta. 12,48,120 8 1	Catta. 50,525 0 0	12,35,595 8 1	50 52 54 56 58 60
Maryamam	Rs. 4,23,303 4 11	Catta. 13,51,443 9 4	Catta. 1,78,223 11 0	Catta. 11,73,220 10 1	Catta. 34,053 5 0	11,60,167 5 1	50 52 54 56 58 60
Munimangudi	Rs. 3,61,749 10 10	Catta. 14,28,800 1 1	Catta. 1,24,522 9 1	Catta. 13,04,278 3 1	Catta. 39,063 5 1	12,65,215 10 0	50 52 54 56 58 60
Sansalade	Rs. 3,11,443 5 4	Catta. 11,15,200 4 1	Catta. 1,19,322 0 1	Catta. 9,95,878 0 1	Catta. 35,859 10 1	9,60,019 10 1	50 52 54 56 58 60
Pattinapattinam	Rs. 3,45,900 7 14	Catta. 12,47,200 0 0	Catta. 2,16,113 7 14	Catta. 10,31,087 2 1	Catta. 31,548 5 1	10,00,539 7 1	50 52 54 56 58 60
Kovvalur	Rs. 4,13,574 12 8	Catta. 16,19,103 8 1	Catta. 1,46,724 7 1	Catta. 14,72,379 1 0	Catta. 44,203 2 0	14,28,176 11 0	50 52 54 56 58 60
Total	Rs. 30,27,818 0 9	Catta. 112,41,914 4 1	Catta. 11,18,932 0 0	Catta. 101,22,982 4 1	Catta. 33,817 9 1	97,84,165 5 1	50 52 54 56 58 60
MEMORANDUM							
Amount of settlement in money entered in this statement				Rs.	A. P.		
Amount of settlement in money entered in this statement				30,27,818	0 9		
Amount of settlement in money entered in this statement				27,80,384	0 0		
Excess in the amount of the present settlement				2,47,434	0 9		
Particulars				Rs.	A. P.		
Difference between the amount of settlement in money entered in this statement and the actual amount of money received in the year 1823				33,719	8 2		
Difference between the amount of money received in the year 1823 and the actual amount of money received in the year 1823				32,715	11 2		
Amount of money received in the year 1823 above the actual amount of money received in the year 1823				1,715	12 11		
Difference between the amount of money received in the year 1823 and the actual amount of money received in the year 1823				233,273	6 7		
Total				2,07,454	0 9		

Clerk of the Collector of Tanjore,
3rd March 1828.

New Mode of Settlement of the Land Revenue.

35

formed on the basis of Gross Produce included in the present settlement.

Amount of Goods	Average rate of Madwarum per cent.	Amount of Madwarum including Subsidies of the village poor.	Add deduction of 10 per cent from the Madwarum on account of Grain Rent.	Total amount of Madwarum.	Estimated current price per ch.	Sum.	DECREASE BELOW THE PRESENT SETTLEMENT.	Remarks.
							Amount. Contage.	
Catta. 6,12,800 11 4		Catta. 5,15,711 10 1	Catta. 61,220 2 4	Catta. 5,76,931 10 1	Rs. 2,31 1/2	Rs. 2,83,027 5 9	Rs. 31,250 6 7 1/2	
Catta. 5,63,178 9 0	50 1/2	Catta. 5,52,178 9 14	Catta. 58,217 10 1	Catta. 6,08,456 5 1	Rs. 2 1/2	Rs. 2,55,813 13 0	Rs. 28,236 10 9 11-13/16	
Catta. 6,34,438 8 0	50 18/16	Catta. 6,23,629 0 1	Catta. 63,350 10 4	Catta. 6,86,979 10 1	Rs. 3 2	Rs. 3,27,213 13 10	Rs. 44,181 2 1 11-23/32	
Catta. 9,32,536 11 1	54 1/32	Catta. 7,84,095 8 0	Catta. 88,238 4 1	Catta. 8,72,333 0 1	Rs. 11 1/2	Rs. 4,02,930 3 3	Rs. 48,244 12 3 10-11/16	
Catta. 10,04,103 4 1	57 7/16	Catta. 7,58,126 5 1	Catta. 1,00,410 4 0	Catta. 8,58,536 9 1	Rs. 2 3/4	Rs. 3,88,439 5 0	Rs. 40,163 12 11 9 1	
Catta. 6,64,818 6 1	52 11/16	Catta. 6,05,818 5 1	Catta. 65,448 8 1	Catta. 6,71,266 4 1	Rs. 3 3/4	Rs. 3,21,458 2 2	Rs. 40,282 7 8 11-1/16	
Catta. 6,22,473 4 0	48 1/2	Catta. 5,44,765 1 0	Catta. 62,387 4 0	Catta. 6,07,152 5 0	Rs. 2 3/4	Rs. 2,80,727 8 5 3/4		
Catta. 1,28,945 1 0	60	Catta. 83,227 1 0	Catta. 12,604 6 0	Catta. 95,831 7 0	Rs. 2 1/4	Rs. 52,718 12 5	Rs. 4,770 6 1	
Catta. 7,78,018 2 4	54 1/2	Catta. 6,01,111 1 1	Catta. 77,851 9 1	Catta. 7,78,962 1 1	Rs. 6 1/2	Rs. 3,87,324 6 4	Rs. 43,254 8 2 10-1/16	
Catta. 59,32,762 10 4		Catta. 51,45,094 11 1	Catta. 5,88,963 10 1	Catta. 57,34,057 10 1	Rs. 2 3/4	Rs. 27,03,430 10 4	Rs. 32,357 9 1 10-13/16	
Amount of Madwarum							Rs. 24,31,171 5 2	
Deduction of the 10 per cent. Madwarum							Rs. 2,78,230 2 1	
Total							Rs. 27,03,430 10 4	

(Signed) J. COTTON,
Collector.

ABSTRACT statement showing the difference between the former and present proposed settlement in Tanjore with the result of each respectively in comparison with present settlement in money.

	Amount of present settlement in money		Gross Produce included in the present settlement		Amount of Mailwarum including the deduction made from the Coodewarum		Probable Jamma amount		DECREASE PERCENT		Remarks
	Rupces	A. P.	Cullums	M. M.	Cullums	M. M.	Rupces	A. P.	A. M.	ago	
Probable result of a Grain settlement giving to the Inhabitants the hitherto established Wauram of 45 per cent. of the net produce in all grain rented villages, and commencing the Mailwarum at a rate 20 per cent. below the present Jammabundy price.	30,37,615	0 9	124,10,911	4 11	61,03,051	4	23,85,683	3 0	1,52,184	13 9	5
Probable result of a Grain settlement deducting from the Coodewarum allowed in money rented villages, 10 per cent. and commencing the Mailwarum at a rate 20 per cent. below the present Jammabundy price.	30,27,818	0 9	124,10,911	4 11	57,34,083	10	27,09,430	10 4	3,28,287	6 5	10-13/16
Difference in favor of the Inhabitants					3,73,967	5 14	1,76,252	8 8			5-13/16

Collector of the Collector of Tanjore,
23rd March 1820.

(Signed) J. COTTON,
Collector.

President and Members of the Board of Revenue,

Fort Saint George.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 9th instant, with its enclosure from Government, on the subject of a new settlement to be introduced into this District on the expiration of the present lease.

2. In reply I beg to acquaint your Board that the necessary accounts to commence a settlement upon the principles laid down by you, and approved by Government, are in a forward state of preparation, and to assure your Board, that my best endeavours shall be exerted to carry it into effect, but I think it proper again to state, that the Inhabitants by the losses they have sustained in the past four years, and are likely still to experience in the present, and last year of the lease, from the great fall in the Price of Grain, so far below the average price in former years, seem utterly averse to enter into any new engagements for money, and my opinion, that they will not be induced to do so, in the greater number of villages in the District, at a reduction of 15 or even 20 per cent. below the present Jamma amount.

3. From the accompanying statement in detail of a few villages in each Talook, your Board will be able more clearly to judge of the effect of the past four years of the lease, and of the great losses, the Renters have sustained;

the villages have been taken indiscriminately, not selected, and your Board will see that in many, the current Price has been more than 30 per cent. below the Jammabundy Price. It has, I know, been assumed, that by improvement in the cultivation, an increase in the produce has taken place, but I am sorry to say that this is mere assumption, to establish it, there are no accounts whatever, and there is not I believe, an Inhabitant in the country, who will admit it to be the case, so as to consent to any less remission in his village on that account.

4. If we look too at the villages now under a Grain Rent in this District, seventy eight in number, we shall find, that notwithstanding the Coodewarum is reduced to 45 per cent. and the difference added to the Mailwarum there was a decrease in the Jamma amount of those Villages in last fasly, below the fixed money settlement of Rupees 32,715 or 22 per cent. which is to be attributed entirely to the great

See Enclosure No. 1.

fall in the price of grain; twenty per cent. therefore I do not consider at all an unreasonable calculation to make of the reduction required in the present Jamma amount, to induce the people to enter into a new settlement in money.

5. In regard to a grain rent, which I have proposed, your Board are aware that in this District, it is the usual mode of settlement in the Rajah's Government, and from the experience, the Inhabitants have now had in money Rents, I fear no other will hereafter prove acceptable to them. In all the communications, I have had with the principal Inhabitants on the subject of a renewal of their lease, to my first proposition was always a reversion to the old system of a grain rent, but on my telling them, that this would never be allowed, they then stipulated for a grain rent, and when I proposed to them a renewal of their engagements in money, they express themselves so much in opposition to it, that I really think it in vain to attempt a money settlement, unless it is made optional with them to accept it, with a reduction of 10 per cent. only in the present amount, in preference to a grain Rent, with the reduction of 10 per cent. from their Wauram.

6. It would certainly be most desirable to form a settlement not liable to vary in amount, and which would be the effect of a money Rent, but I confess I do not see those objections to a Grain settlement, which your Board seem to entertain; the Grain amount for each village is fixed, and the price can without any difficulty be determined, by merely pursuing the practice now in force in this District, of making a demand of 1, 2 and 3 fannams a cullum, during the usual period of selling the Grain, and then as stated periods for the Car and Peshawum crops, assuming the average of the current Prices, as the Jammabundy price for the year, and completing the collections accordingly, as it is too for one year only, that a settlement is now directed to be formed, any reduction now made, to induce the Inhabitants to accede to a money rent, would of course not be deemed sufficient to cover the risk of a rent for a series of years, and again on the renewal of the Rent a further reduction would naturally be expected, I am therefore of opinion, on a full consideration of the subject that under the present circumstances of the people and state of this District, a Grain Rent on the terms proposed in my letter of the 27th instant for one year, is to be preferred, giving to the people however the option of a money Rent on the reduction of 10 per cent. of the present Jamma amount, but in that case requiring of them to subscribe a Mithika agreeing to the continuation of that rent, after the expiration of the year, for such a period, as a lease may then be determined on for other villages of the District.

7. With respect to the general wish of the people again to revert to the old system of a money Rent, I have already stated my opinion, that if it is allowed, there is hardly a village in the District, in which the Inhabitants will not prefer it to any Rent, however high it may be, and the effects of it on the Revenue of Government may be pretty correctly estimated by the result hitherto of the management of those villages, which are now under a money Rent, in these the average Gross Produce, which in other Villages forms the basis of the present settlement, amounts to Cullums 13,11,342 and in last year the actual Produce brought to account was only Cullums 5,35,407 or 59½ per cent. below the average.

8. That some of these villages are unfavourably situated and more than others liable to drought and inundation may be true, but their situations are not changed from what they were, and I see no cause why in ordinary seasons they should not produce as in former years. This however does not appear ever to have been the case, and there is no doubt, that there has been and must ever be under a money Rent, great embazzlements; to prevent them it is quite impossible, and when detected, the proof required in the court to convict, is of that nature that the only punishment that can be inflicted on these occasions is the dismissal of such of the parties concerned, as may happen to be in the service of Government. Your Board will therefore I hope take this subject into your serious consideration, and as the only measure, that is in my opinion likely to do away that desire for a money Rent, which so generally prevails, and to secure a just and reasonable revenue from the District, I think it my duty strongly to recommend that the Resolutions of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council made known by a proclamation, dated 3rd October 1819, and lately annulled may again be declared in full force and effect from the beginning of the ensuing Fasy.

9. I beg to be favoured with your Board's Orders in answer to this letter, at your earliest convenience, and as soon as they are received I shall lose no time in commencing the business of the settlement, and in using my best endeavours to complete it on the principle that may on this reference, be finally determined on.

I have the honor to be,

&c., &c., &c.

(Signed) J. COTTON,

Collector.

Tanjore—Negapatam, 23rd March 1820.

Para 3rd

Para 4. Board's letter to Mr. Cotton 9th March

observed to him that the settlement proposed by him, and that approved by Government, and ordered to be carried into effect, would, in amount, be nearly the same—as, deducting 10 per cent from the Inhabitants' share, and adding it to the Government share, and calculating the latter at the value estimated to be 20 per cent below the Jummabundy price must produce a similar result to making a deduction of 10 per cent from the present lease settlement—they further remarked that under the latter plan, all discussion respecting price and value would be obviated, and the difficult operation of fixing the price at which the Mailwarum was to be commuted into money, would be unnecessary.

4. In his present letter, the Collector informs the Board, that his best endeavours shall be used to carry into effect a settlement, upon the principles laid down by them, and approved by Government, but he, at the same time reiterates, in very pressing terms, his former proposition for a Grain settlement, and states his opinion that the Inhabitants in consequence of the losses they have sustained, and are likely still to experience in the present, and last year of the lease, will not in the greater number of villages in the District, enter into any new engagements in money at a reduction of 15 or even 20 per cent below the present lease settlement.

Para 4

Para 3

5. A reduction to the extent of this last sum is considered by the Collector to be by no means unreasonable, and calculating the market price of Grain at 30 per cent below the Jummabundy price, which it appears to have been in many villages, it is in fact, the remission which it would be necessary to make from the lease settlement, in order to produce the same result as the proposed Grain settlement, supposing the price of Grain to continue at the above low rate.

6. With respect to the principle of taking 10 per cent from the Coodiwarum, and adding it to the Mailwarum, it is to be observed that the former general rates of Division were 55 per cent to the Sirkar, and 45 per cent to the cultivators, and they still prevail in the villages now under a Grain settlement. These rates of Division were it appears, relinquished during the time of Mr. Harris, and the produce was divided

in the proportion of 53 per cent to the Inhabitants and 47 per cent to the Sirkar. Upon this concession, the Board of Revenue in their letter to Government under date the 27th September 1810, remarked that there was reason to be satisfied it was both "ill judged and impolitic," and it is stated, in the same letter, that the advantage which the Inhabitants derived from it "was in a great measure counterbalanced by the high commutation prices at which the Government share was subsequently received." Strictly speaking therefore if a Grain settlement is now to be formed, and the value of the Mailwarum is to be taken at the market price, the Government share should be calculated at the warum of 55 per cent.

7. By statement B in the Collector's letter of the 3rd March, the total net produce to be divided between the Sirkar and the Merasdars, upon which the lease settlement was formed was 109,55,114 cullums and under the arrangement proposed by the Collector of deducting 10 per cent from the Inhabitants' share of this produce and adding it to the Sirkar share, the latter is given in statement C at 37,34,083 cullums, under this plan therefore the rates of division will be about 52 per cent to the Sirkar, and 47 per cent to the Merasdars, so that the rate of calculation for the Government share will still be about 2 per cent less than it was before the concession granted by Mr. Harris. As however, the exaction of the high Warum of 55 per cent to the Sirkar, might under the losses which the Merasdars have sustained during the lease, bear hard upon them, and the rates of Division according to the Collector's proposition are rather more than half the difference between the high Warum of 55 per cent and the

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rate of Warum to the Sirkar, upon which the lease Settlement was formed, the Board are of opinion that if the plan of a Grain Settlement is adopted, the demand of Government should be regulated upon the principle proposed by the Collector.

8. Whether the relief which it is intended to give to the Merasdars, is by a remission of money from the present lease Settlement, or by the adoption of a Grain Settlement, upon the principle proposed by the Collector, both Settlements will stipulate for the payment of the Government demand in money, but in the former case, the amount of this demand will be known at the time of the Paddy, while in the latter, it will not be ascertained till the end of it.

9. The orders of Government the settlement is to be only for one year, the chief objection to the Grain settlement, is the operation of determining the Price at which the Mailwarum Grain is to be valued, but as the Collector has stated that this can be done "without any difficulty", the Board, under a consideration of all circumstances, are inclined to accede to the arrangement proposed by Mr. Cotton.

Para 5

They at the same time think it proper that the principle of fixing a Money Rent, as first recommended by them should not be lost sight of, and would therefore suggest that an option be, in the first instance, given to the Merasdars to rent their Villages, granting them a Remission from the present lease to the extent of the difference between the value of the Mailwarum according to the lease settlement, at the Jummabundy Price, and the value of the Government share by the proposed Grain settlement, at the estimated Market Price. The remission thus granted will vary in different Villages, for instance if the Market Price is estimated at 35 per cent below the Jummabundy Price, the remission will be 25 per cent, if at 30 per cent it will be 20 per cent, if at 25 per cent it will be 15 per cent and so on. It is obvious that unless the Remission is regulated upon this principle, all offers for a Money Rent will be rejected, and as a further inducement to Merasdars to consent to engagements in Money they might be informed, that if the Price of Grain should fall still lower and average less than the estimate upon which the remission was calculated a proportionate further remission should be made to them, but that if Grain should rise in Price, no extra demand would be made on that account. The Merasdars would thus be freed from the possibility of loss, and derive a profit, which is an encouragement, it may be expedient, under their lease to make out to them.

10. With respect to publishing the Proclamation alluded to in the 8th para. of Mr. Cotton's letter, the Board are of opinion that the communications of the Collector with the Merasdars should be confined to informing them, that the instructions he has received, preclude him from agreeing to an Aumany division of the produce. The Proclamation in question, contemplates the eventual adoption of measures of rather an extreme nature, which are at variance with the principle laid down in the late correspondence between the Board and Government on the subject of Revenue Settlements—which is, that the Inhabitants may claim a division of the produce, and that all agreements for changing payments in kind, into payments in money, shall be "assented to by the Cultivators".

11. The Board beg leave to solicit the early orders of Government on the subject of the latter.

(Signed) R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

(True Copy)

R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

Fort St. George, 30th March 1820.

To the President and Members of the,
Board of Revenue.

GENTLEMEN,

Para 1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of the further reference respecting the settlement of Tanjore submitted by your Secretary's letter of the 30th ultimo.

2. After making such provision as the present exigency of the case may require, the great object of the Governor in Council is to avoid throwing any impediment in the way of such permanent measures for the revenue administration of the country, as may ultimately be sanctioned by the authorities in England. With this view it has been resolved that the settlement of Tanjore shall be concluded for only a single year; and it was wished that, to whatever terms the great fall in the price of grain and the former losses of the Merasdars might render it necessary to accede, the settlement should be concluded in the approved principle of a money rent, and not either actually or virtually, on that of a division of the produce. The representations of the Collector which you have laid before Government lead to the apprehension that in this last respect the wishes of the Governor in Council and of your Board may be disappointed. The suggestions offered in the 24th paragraph of your Secretary's letter are judiciously adopted to obviate such a result and are accordingly approved and sanctioned by the Governor in Council.

3. You will therefore signify to the Collector on behalf of the Governor in Council that he should see cause to anticipate such difficulty in making a settlement for a money rent. You will authorize him, agreeably to his proposal, to conclude a grant settlement, deducting ten per cent. from the cultivators share and adding it to the Government share, and making the value payable in money at the current price of grain for the year; that at the same time you will instruct him to offer to the Merasdars individually, on condition of their agreeing to a money rent, instead of this grain settlement, a remission of rent equal to the difference between the value of the Government share of the produce according to the lease settlement at the Jummah-day price and the value of the Government share according to the proposed grain settlement at the current price. In the event of the acceptance of this condition, the Governor in Council do not think that it would be desirable to leave the estimated market price by which the condition is governed, to be afterwards affected, in the way either of rise or of fall, by what the market price might actually prove to be.

4. In conclusion, I am directed to desire that you will expressly signify to the Collector that the revival of those measures of coercion pointed at in the 8th paragraph of his letter will on no account obtain the sanction of Government.

(Signed) D. HILL,
Secretary to Government.

Fort Saint George, 24th April 1829.

(A True Copy)

R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To the Principal Collector in Tanjore,

SIR,

Para 1. I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit for your information and guidance the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department conveying the orders of the Governor in Council on the settlement of your District for the ensuing year.

2. You will perceive that it is the intention of Government to allow that a further reduction of the assessment shall take place whenever the price of Grain shall fall five per cent. below its present rate and that no increase shall take place unless it rises ten per cent.

3. The principle is simple and easy to be understood, and the Board trust that its adoption will inspire confidence in the people. You will be particular in giving it due publicity, and in recording the present sale price of grain, as the standard by which future reductions and augmentations are to be determined.

4. The principle laid down in the orders of Government of the 3rd of March 1820 contemplated a reduction of the assessment of each Village "to the extent in which the decrease in the average price of grain should be calculated to exceed the increase in its average produce." The fixing of the assessment of a Village was thus made to depend on a double computation of produce and of price.

5. The produce of a village in Tanjore is affected only by the variability of the seasons and the timely influx of the waters. The universal cultivation of the Province excludes one material cause of fluctuation which operates in other districts, that of the more or less quantity of land brought under the plough. Referring to this circumstance, the Board are of opinion that it would be a most advisable measure to fix a certain quantity to be taken as the standard produce of each village, and to determine the assessment by the commutation of that quantity into its value at the price of grain at the time of settlement.

6. They are not aware of any objection to this system which would render the application of the principle of reduction and augmentation laid down by the Government, both easy and certain.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

H. CLARKE,
Secretary.

Fort Saint George, 12th July 1821.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To the President and Members of the Board of Revenue,

No. 483.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 14th ultimo (335) submitting an extract from your Proceedings relative to the settlement of Tanjore. The principle on which that settlement has been formed, under the instructions conveyed to you in my letter of the 3rd of March 1820, is "that the assessment on each village should continue as formerly to be a fixed sum of money, but that its amount should be lowered to the extent in which the decrease in the average price of Grain is calculated to exceed the increase in its average produce" since the date of those instructions the Collector has been busily employed in carrying them into execution. From your present proceedings and from the Collector's letters

accompanying them, it would appear that the assessment on each village has not yet been lowered to the extent which was authorized as being necessary. It will be proper for the Collector to make such further reductions as the state of the villages may require and as are warranted by the general instructions above referred to.

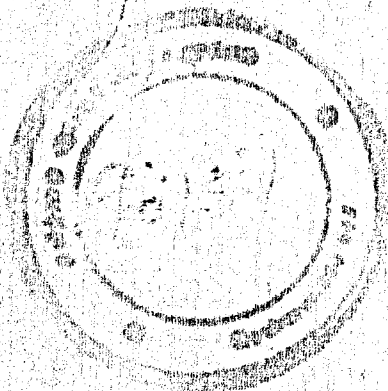
With respect to the term for which the settlement is to remain in force, it is of importance that the minds of the people should be set at ease. On the one hand, the Governor-in-Council does not wish them to be bound for a longer term than is agreeable to themselves and in that view of it, the settlement is only formed for the year. On the other hand, the Governor-in-Council has no intention of altering the settlement as long as it continues adequate and equitable. To meet however the contingency of future fluctuations in the price of Opium to the same extent as the fall which has made the reduction of the assessment necessary it is ~~it is~~ ^{it is} useful to specify before hand the way in which the Governor-in-Council has thought fit to resolve that future settlements shall be affected by them. You will accordingly instruct the Principal Collector to make known that a further reduction will be allowed if the price of Opium shall fall five per cent below its present price, and that no increase shall take place unless it exceeds ten per cent. This resolution, it is hoped, will give confidence to the people, and will enable the Principal Collector to prosecute the settlement without material difficulty.

(Signed) D. HILL,
Secretary to Government.

{A true copy.}

F. CLARKE,
Secretary.

Fort Saint George, 10th July 1821.

[illegible]