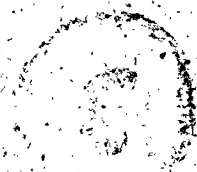


Selections from old records
of South African Drif

1904

At 0/15/51

DIGITIZED



V2114, 01/11/04

56

104882

T.N.A. LIBRARY: MENDING SLIP

Author : Selection from old records

Title : of South Arcot 1904

Acc. No : Year of Publication:

			Pages	Sheets
Preliminary				
Pages:	to	=		
Main Book	: 1	to 34	= 34	17
Supplementary:		to	=	
pages				
		Total	34	17

Missing pages

() =

Net pages = 34 - 17

Date sent for Mending:

Mended by:

Checked by:

Date of Return:

Lib. Asst/A.L.

NO. 43.

1A

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

TO THE COLLECTOR,

IN THE SOUTHERN DIVISION

OF ARCOT.

Sir,

(To be collected except Bellary, Kanara and Coimbatore.)

With reference to the letters addressed to you under date, the 25th of March 1816, on the 3rd of April, 22nd May and 31st of July 1817, preparatory to final orders for the general introduction of a modified ryotwar settlement into the provinces dependent on this Presidency, I am directed by the President and Members of the Board of Revenue to transmit for your information and guidance copies of the papers hereunder noted :—

To the Chief Secretary 29th May 1817.

Do. 8th September 1817.

Do. 11th do.

From Mr. Secretary Hill 16th December 1817.

A printed draft of the ryotwar regulation with the observations of Colonel Munro thereon.

Extract from a minute of the Board under date, the 5th of January 1818 with the printed paper of Mr. Ellis therein alluded to.

2. It is hoped that an attentive perusal and deliberate consideration of these papers as well as of those which have been previously addressed to you, will enable you clearly to understand the principles of the new ryotwar settlement for the introduction of which in all practicable cases, throughout your district, I am now directed to convey to you the final orders of the Board.

3. In those lands where settlements have already been concluded for a period of years or in permanency, it is not intended to disturb engagements, to the observance of which, the faith of Government is pledged, so long as the renters or zemindars may claim the performance of them. But so soon as by failure of renters, termination of leases, or other causes, periodical engagements may expire or lands settled in perpetuity may revert to the Government, the new plan of settlement is to be introduced therein, in the same manner as in the lands at present under aumnee management.

4. In those districts where the ryotwar survey has already been introduced, the attention of Collectors is specially called to the concluding part of the Board's Minute of the 5th of January last, under the head of the "New Ryotwar Settlement" in which they have endeavoured to point out some of the chief points of difference between the former ryotwar settlement and that now intended to be established.

5. The Collectors of such districts will particularly observe that they are vested with the power of reducing the teerwas, where they may be found excessive, and that in the district of Bellary, Colonel Munro has himself urged a reduction of the survey assessment made by him to the extent of no less than 25 per cent. The Board will expect each Collector to give this subject his best consideration and to submit fully to the his sentiments on the extent of the reduction required. Collectors are not allowed to raise the assessment except in particular cases and then only on a reference to the Board for sanction.

The Board trust that the orders of the 17th instant for the restoration of the mauniums and marahs of the meerassidars or other cultivators and of all the village establishments will tend materially to satisfy the cultivators that the ryotwar plan of settlement as now about to be introduced will not infringe any existing rights and that the moderations so forcibly inculcated and so strongly enjoined, if duly observed by Collectors, will gradually, if not immediately, convince the people generally that the new ryotwar plan of a field assessment, although it will change the payment in kind to a payment in money, will in doing so be attended with great benefit to all and even to those who may heretofore without incurring any responsibility have rendered the public dues in grain. The Collectors in the Arcot Soobah and in Madura and Dindigul will state with reference to the Board's minute whether any other measures than those already directed are necessary to restore the meerassidars to their ancient rights.

7. The Collector in the Southern division of Arcot with reference to the same minute will proceed to finish the survey which was only partially introduced by his predecessor and, in classing and assessing the remaining taluks of his district, he will be guided by the principles of moderation inculcated in that minute.

8. The Board call the particular attention of the Collectors in those districts where the ryotwar survey has not yet been introduced to those paragraphs of their minute which are noted in the margin and desire that each will submit his opinion on the point therein referred to *viz.*, whether it will not be preferable to establish a field assessment by reference to the village accounts of actual produce and selling prices for a series of years past than by an estimate of the productive quality of each field.

9. Such Collectors are further distinctly to understand that the conversion of (waram or palu) the payment in kind into a payment in money (teerwa) is not to take place except with the unequivocal concurrence of the ryots who are to be left free either to refuse or to accept of the terms offered to them and that it is not expected so great a change can be effected except by degrees.

10. Where it may be found impracticable, immediately to introduce the proposed ryotwar settlement, the Collectors, preparatory thereto, are authorized, in the 9th para of Mr. Secretary Hill's letter of the 16th December 1817 to adopt either of the temporary annual settlements specified in the 12th and 13th paras. of the Board's letter to the Chief Secretary under date the 8th September 1817. In such cases, they will consider it their duty to address the Board with the view of stating for their approval which of these temporary settlements they deem best suited to their respective districts. The Collectors however, will not fail to observe that it will be with regret that the Government will adopt any such temporary expedients and that no delay which can be avoided should be allowed to interfere with the early introduction of the new ryotwar settlement.

11. With reference to that part of the Board's minute of the 5th of January which is noted in the margin and to the intention therein expressed of addressing the Collectors separately thereon I am directed to call the attention of each to that part of the minute in question which treats of the landed tenures of the country. A reference thereto as well as to the 18th of Mr. Ellis' letter of the 25th of June 1818, has been circulated to the Collectors that each before he commences the

297 and 298.

Collectors in the Tamil country are more particularly referred to Mr. Ellis' able reply to the questions circulated by Government on this subject.

settlement will fully satisfy himself in the first instance as to the nature of the landed tenures of the country under his charge and the ancient established rights of its inhabitants. Without this preliminary, to which too little attention has hitherto been paid, Collectors with the best intentions may be guilty of the greatest injustice to the people and, as without this information it will in fact be impossible to conclude a satisfactory settlement, no pains on their part should be spared to make themselves masters of the subject.

12. The draft of the ryotwar regulation is transmitted to you for your information and guidance as instructions but not as law; as this regulation has not yet been passed into a law, it is not binding on the people under your charge nor upon the Courts, but you will understand it to contain the sentiments of the Board as to the best means of carrying into practical effect the general principles inculcated in their minute and subject to such further improvement and modification as experience may suggest to be the details of the system described in these papers.

13. To enter in this place into further detail on the subject of the proposed settlement would be to repeat the substance of the enclosed papers, an attentive perusal of them will place you very fully in possession of the principles to be acted upon under the new ryotwar system; their practical application to each district must depend upon the respective Collectors and, as practical difficulties or local impediments arise, the Board will be prepared to enter into those details respecting each which it would be useless to anticipate and impossible to discuss in a general communication of this nature.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Fort St. George,
21st September 1818.

A. D. CAMPBELL,
Secretary.

NO. 13.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS
OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
FORT SAINT GEORGE.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my report upon the nature of the landed tenures of this Collectorate and my opinion of the most just and prudent mode of introducing a ryotwar or individual settlement of the landed revenue, in pursuance of the instructions communicated in your Secretary's letter of the 21st September 1818 I will for the sake of perspicuity arrange my observations under the distinct heads of:—

- The ancient hereditary landed tenures in South Arcot;
- The mode of settlement of the landed revenue subsequent to the English assumption of the Carnatic and previous to the introduction of the village leases;
- Objections to the unqualified revival of the traditional ancient meerassie tenures;
- Observations upon the proposed new ryotwar settlement;
- The mode of settlement advisable to South Arcot.
- Remarks upon the reduction of the rates of assessment;
- Observations upon village and pagoda maunium lands;
- Observations regarding tanks;
- Observations upon the draft of the ryotwar regulations.

THE ANCIENT HEREDITARY LANDED TENURES IN SOUTH ARCOT.

2. The 11th paragraph of your Secretary's letter dated 21st September 1818, the 297 and 298 paras. of your Board's minute of the 5th of January 1818 inculcated the necessity of ascertaining the nature of the landed tenures of the country in order that future infringements of former usages may be avoided and subverted rights in all practicable cases may be repaired. It is scarcely necessary to apprise your Board that the records of my office do not contain any historical relation of the landed tenures of this Collectorate and as far as I can discover no particular investigation has ever been instituted for the purpose. Colonel Graham, the first Collector who conducted the revenue details of this district upon its cession by the Nabob of Arcot, has not recorded any official account of its landed tenures and he seems to have farmed out the landed revenue by villages to the most respectable offers. His successor, Mr. Garrow, although he investigated with great minuteness the various sources of revenue under his superintendence, never made the property in land a subject of research, but in that Gentleman's report, dated the 12th of July 1803, in the 39th and the 66th paras he casually glances at the enjoyment of a meerassie by persons distinct from the Oolcoody and Poracoody Pyacaries or Cultivators designated by him as the ryots. In the 205th para of your Board's minute, the next Collector Colonel McLeod's remarks upon meerassie are quoted, but this officer has not recorded any enquiries into the antiquity or the nature of those rights that appear to have been claimed but which he adds were not abolished by him. Mr. Ravenshaw my immediate predecessor also omitted to obtain the information now required though from your Board's remark in para 220 of your minute that "to the last he denied the existence of meerassie in any part of this district" it is inferrible that some enquiry had taken place: the records however do not confirm it. In consequence of this defect in the history of the landed tenures of the country, I circulated particular instructions to the Tahsildars to make very minute and attentive enquiries into the subject and I am hopeful that the information obtained will be found pretty accurate having superintended several personal enquiries from the meerassidars themselves. In communicating the result of these researches I trust your Board will overlook minuteness of detail and such repetitions that may inadvertently occur.

3. The tenures by which the land holders of this district were vested with the right or property of the soil are declared by the inhabitants to be of the three denominations described in the late Mr. Ellis' able replies* upon meerassie property viz. Pashingcarie, Aroodicarie and Yakabhagum. How the Cauniatchi-carers primarily obtained their hereditary rights it is impossible to trace, for no original deeds authorizing them are extant but they themselves deduce the right to have been conferred by some remote ruling power: and previous to the grant of those rights the entire inhabitants of every village seem to have been considered in the light of Oolcoody tenants of the soil possessed of the power of retaining such soil in their own families by hereditary descent but they are denied to have ever had any power of alienating such a description of property by sale or gift, mortgage or exchange. By whom this restriction over the perfect right of property was imposed does not appear but that such a restriction did exist under village meerassie is generally admitted.

Query.—Are not the Veasabuddy villages in the Ceded districts a soil of pashingcarie tenure? for Veasa are by regulation of 181 as well as a sixteenth.

4. Mr. Ellis has already defined the modes of enjoyment, and the rights annexed to the various meerassiedars of the Pashingcarie, aroodicarie and yakabhokam tenures, I will therefore proceed to explain the extent to which the rights of those meerassiedars are considered to have originally existed in this collectorate, and to detail the privileges and perquisites that appertain to them.

5. The perfect and alienable rights of the village meerassiedars, according to the information I have procured, are declared to extend over their own individual occupied soil, and all of the arable waste in their respective villages: they possess a similar right to levy produce fees for their own sole use from the various cultivators of nanjy lands in their villages: to enjoy the produce of porumpoke fruit trees situated within their villages; and fresh fish from tanks in their meerassies, on farming or paying revenue to the sircar for them. They are not looked upon as the owners of general porumpoke lands within their meerassie boundaries such as tanks, rivers and jungles though they are entitled to derive certain advantages from them, such as the uses of water, grass, firewood and timber for building, and one village is not entitled to partake of the pasturage or jungle of a neighbouring village, but with the permission of its meerassiedars. The lands of Oolcoody ryots are the usufructuary hereditary property of the incumbents, and they cannot be forcibly ejected therefrom by the meerassiedar. The lands of Poracoody ryots revert to the meerassie on the expiration of the leases for which they may have been granted, as they then become arable waste, the property in common of the meerassiedars the nuttam or village site is the property of the meerassiedars to the end that no stranger can erect a dwelling within it, but with the meerassiedar's consent and that an inhabitant (not a meerassiedar) cannot sell the ground upon which his house stands, though he can the house materials, except with the consent of the meerassiedars. Damaged or deserted houses appertain to the meerassie and the owners can cultivate the backyards of such houses with garden stuff free of rent, but valuable houses belonging to extinct families escheat to the sircar. If a Pashingcarie meerassiedar is desirous of selling his house and the ground annexed to it, he must obtain his parcener's consent to the purchaser or they may at their option jointly buy it, and tenant it with one of their own relations or friends. Stone quarries though considered the property of the sircar, cannot, it is said, be worked, but by the permission of the meerassiedars. Mines of ores and precious stones are considered as the property of the sircar.

6. Independent of the rights described in the preceding paragraph the meerassiedars possess other advantages, consisting of benefices conferred by the sircar such as Oor, and Naut mauniem lands, the former granted to village meerassiedars for their trouble in procuring the lands of their villages to be well and generally cultivated and for collecting the revenues, and the latter for some chief meerassiedar and his family superintending the affairs of 20 or more villages: and appending to their heritage, the meerassiedars were accustomed to superintend the village affairs for the Sircar, and generally controlled the disbursements of the pagodas situated within their meerassies, whereby they acquired a distinction and dignity that were doubtless gratifying to their feelings, and friendly to their consequence. As the extent of Oor mauniem in each village must originally have been adapted to the relative quantity of arable land in every village, it is rational to infer that in years when the aggregate cultivation of a particular village exhibited marked deficiency, a proportionate diminution of the mauniem would ensue, and it is record that during Royajee's alias Rajah Beerbhur's administration of the financial

the Arcot Subah, a scale was introduced for the cognition of village mauniems calculated upon the extent of cultivation.

7. The meerassiedars of this district did not suffer any assumption of their Oor mauniems on the scale introduced by Royajee during the administration of Colonel Graham or Mr. Garrow, but in fusley 1214, the Collector Colonel McLeod resumed their mauniems and substituted a money payment, which was rendered to the Gramuttans or Pattah Monigars (generally the leading meerassiedars) and at the introduction of the temporary village lease settlement in fusley 1219, this substituted charge was embodied in the land rent, and became the perquisite of the village renter in his capacity of farmer, but not in the light of a Meerassiedar. Since the last noticed period or fusley 1219 neither Oor Mauniems, or money payments have been enjoyed by meerassiedars.

8. I have observed that the meerassiedars were entitled to levy for their own benefit fees or perquisites from the nunjy crops of the coodies, or cultivators of their respective villages who are excluded from the meerassie. Their fees are almost universally in this district restricted to tiva denominations called Oor Coornee, and Oor Velluk, and in general may be estimated at about a half per cent. of the ryots' gross produce. The Grama swatuntrums or fees and perquisites including Calavasum, and in a few cases Coopatum, and other Grama Marahs, that are usually levied from all productions of the soil in every village for the use of the village servants, artificers, labourers, village temples, and for general charities, or amusements, do not come under the limits of the meerassie rights of a village meerassiedar, I will therefore only observe that the meerassiedars generally superintended the levy and the disbursement of those fees, but derived no pecuniary advantage from them. In some cases I believe the renters or the meerassiedars have continued to levy the aforesaid Oor-koornee and Oor Velluk fees up to the present date, but I apprehend it is far from universal. The other fees I am induced to think have never been entirely discontinued, but as the curnums have been placed on regular pay I am rather dubious about them.

9. Upon enquiring of some meerassiedars for what purpose and by what authority they appropriated for their own benefits the above fees, they declared it to originate in the shape of a compensation for assisting the Sirkar in the administration of their villages; and that the Sirkar was the authority that permitted the assessment. The subject, however, is of so remote a date that it is impossible to ascertain these two points satisfactorily, but as the ryots are equally taxed with the meerassiedars for their lands, and as mauniems were evidently granted to meerassiedars for aiding the Government in the administration of their villages, it may be inferred that these fees formed originally a voluntary contribution by the ryots to the meerassiedars for being their mediators with Government.

10. The proprietary power which a meerassiedar formerly possessed over the arable waste and the porumpoke lands of his meerassie may be considered as a sort of joint property appertaining to the Government or the public and himself, for immediately that the waste is brought into cultivation the Sirkar derives a revenue, and the Meerassiedar, if he was not the cultivator himself, enjoyed the produce fees unless the land would be poonjy, and he also enjoyed the privilege of admitting or rejecting the new tenant. In the jungles and pasturage he possessed a right in common with every resident in the meerassie to participate in their productions, and he had no power to exclude any of his village from such mutual enjoyments. It was, however, customary for

a meerassiedar in a few cases to impose a tax upon cowherds or shepherds whose pursuits were entirely pastoral, when they grazed their cattle in his meerassie pasturage, and I imagine this was the sole pecuniary right they enjoyed over lands that were not subjected to a public demand with the exception of their mauniems.

11. From the information afforded by the meerassiedars it would appear that the Oolcoodie cultivators, have been in possession of their hereditary lands as long as the meerassiedars themselves, and it is impossible to trace the origin of these people's property, which it is generally admitted was not derived from the primary meerassiedars. It is, however, affirmed that upon an Oolcoodies' abandonment of his lands or the extinction of his family, the soil becomes general meerassie property assumable by the meerassiedars themselves, or by them may be let to others either as Oolcoodies or Poracoodies, subject, of course, to the usual public demand.

12. The Oolcoodie cultivators are not possessed of any original deeds or leases conferring on them, the perpetual enjoyment of the lands they are the occupants of, and their titles to hold such lands in perpetuity depend almost entirely upon parole assertion, for the accounts of the curnums in no case extend beyond 40 years, they having been destroyed or made away with during Hyder Ally's irruptions into the Carnatic, by which means that channel of information is annihilated.

13. The meerassiedars urge that no Oolcoodie cultivator without their consent can alienate his landed tenure to another person; at the same time they admit that he and his heir in perpetuity possess a right to enjoy the soil for the purpose of cultivation. The former existence of this clog upon the Oolcoodie landed tenure is I fear indisputable and it must have contributed to discourage agriculture, for it cannot be expected that a cultivator would employ his labor and capital on a property over which he has not a perfect right, and be subject to the caprice of a meerassiedar, should his necessities reduce him to dispose of it were the entire lands of a village the exclusive property of the meerassiedars, and a revenue assessed upon the whole without regard to the extent of annual or periodical cultivation, leaving it to the meerassiedars to cultivate or not, according to their means, this restriction might be considered consistent with the right of property but when the meerassiedars' right is of so ambiguous a nature as represented, and clearly a conjoint one with the ruling power I submit the subject for the deliberation of the Board.

14. The village meerassiedars are represented to have been the agents with whom the Governments formerly concluded their engagements for the landed revenue of their villages; and I apprehend they were considered responsible for the due fulfilment of those engagements, and that the Government never intermeddled with the Oolcoodie or Poracoodie cultivators, who rendered the Sirkar share to the meerassiedars, and paid their fees of Oorkoornee and Oor Velluk, but no such warum, as Toondoowarum was ever enjoyed by the meerassiedars out of the coodies' share as far as I can discover excepting in the Talook of Mannargoody which partakes of the system prevailing in Tanjore, and the waratoondoo alluded to in para. 115 of Mr. Garrow's report, dated 12th July 1803, applies to an extra assessment to cover deficiencies of revenue, levied by Royajee upon the meerassiedars and the under-tenants' warums indiscriminately, and which was paid to the public treasury.

15. The only privileges that the meerassiedars seem to have enjoyed during the Mahomedan Government, and as remote as tradition satisfactorily deduces, were a fixed portion of mauniem lands, and customary marahs from the ryots' crops. They do not appear to have had the power of ejecting any tenant from his occupied lands or to exercise any of the rights of a landlord, by increasing or modifying the rents of the Oolcoodies or Poracoodies within their meerassies: and although the meerassiedars vaguely and indefinitely aver, that the whole of the cultivated and arable waste lands within their meerassies appertain to themselves, yet I am persuaded that their right over such lands, merely extends to the marahs, and that with the exception of the identical lands they themselves occupy, their rights to the remaining soil do not apply in a proprietary sense.

16. By the 96th para. of your Board's minute, the cultivating tenants were considered to have always concluded their engagements for rent, with the meerassiedars, that the rent consequently received by the meerassiedars was competent to discharge the public revenue, and an overplus remained denominated—Toondoowarum (fragment of a share) or landlord's portion which was retained by the meerassiedars as their right; and this was independent of their rights to mauniem lands and crop marahs. If the entire lands of a village constituted the exclusive proprietary right of the meerassiedars, subject simply to a public revenue, the rents of the Oolcoodies' lands formed, of course, a component part of that proprietary right, and a toondoowarum would be perfectly consistent with such a description of property, but the allotment of a compensation or mauniem lands to meerassiedars for the purpose of remunerating them for the trouble they take in procuring tenants for their own soil, and for collecting their own rents seems rather an incongruous indulgence. The levy of extra fees or crop marahs by the meerassiedars beyond the rent or share of produce rendered by the Oolcoodies and Poracoodies is also inconsistent with proprietary right, for the principle of it is evidently of an official nature, and those fees may be aptly designated fees of office. The fact of the mauniems and marahs having existed to a recent period, affords in my mind room for mistrusting the accuracy of the meerassiedars' title to any landed possessions beyond those which they actually occupy themselves, or which they are entitled to occupy by virtue of their ancestors having held them formerly.

17. In this Collectorate there are 3,036 villages of which 1,632 are reported to be of the Pashingcarie tenure; there are 473 villages of the Aroodicarie tenure; there are 891 villages of the Yakabhogum tenure, and there are 40 villages where no traces of meerassie exist, possessed in part by 20 proprietors or managers, and I suspect the original meerassie families of these villages having become extinct is the reason of their not being classed in either of the three denominations of landed tenure. The whole number of meerassiedars in the district I have not been able to ascertain but I should think upon the average that six persons to each village will not exceed the probable sum and this would render their number at about 18,000. Several of the meerassie owners in consequence of the deterioration of their property during the Mahomedan rule have, it is known, abandoned their lands, and although some have resumed those possessions, I am convinced a considerable number have not appeared, yet it is more than probable they will return should their inheritances be constituted a valuable and lucrative pursuit.

9

5

THE MODE OF SETTLEMENT OF THE LANDED REVENUE SUBSEQUENT TO THE ENGLISH ASSUMPTION
OF THE CARNATIC, AND PREVIOUS TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VILLAGE LEASES.

18. I shall not offer any observations upon the administration of this collectorate under Colonel Graham but immediately proceed to notice the settlement with the actual cultivators of the soil under Mr. Garrow's instructions. The preceding remarks evince that the meerassie landed tenures to the extent declared by the meerassiedars were not prevalent in this district upon our assumption of it, and that it was not revived by any of my predecessors. Mr. Garrow in his report already referred to, simply remarks on the untowardness of the persons designating themselves as meerassiedars, and observes that he experienced considerable opposition from them in his settlement of the revenues. That gentleman submitted to your Board the advantage of a Ryotwar settlement with the cultivators of the soil, and obtained sanction for its introduction on the 8th of September 1803, which Colonel McLeod on the 10th of March 1804 was directed to complete in consequence of which pottahs were distributed to every individual cultivator in the district to the number of about 60,000. Of this number the pottahs that were given to ancient meerassiedars to Oolcoodies and to Poracoodies I have not satisfactorily ascertained.

19. Paras. 208 and 213 of your Board's minute record the principles upon which Mr. Ravenshaw assessed the fields in South Arcot namely on the basis of an equal distribution of the gross produce between the ryot and the Government, fixing the commutation price of grain at 5 Cullums per pagoda and para. 215 of the minute remarks that in no instance was the average rate per Cauny in any village to exceed five pagodas on nunjy land and two pagodas on poonjy land. The highest rate of teerva upon a cauny of nunjy land in the seven talooks assessed by Mr. Ravenshaw is 7 p 11 f. 20 c and the lowest rate is 22 f. 40 c. The highest rate per cauny of poonjy land is 4 p. 22 f. 40 c. and the lowest rate is f. 18 and the highest and lowest rates of teerva in totacaul land is 8 p. 2 f. 60 c. and pagodas 3. The other talooks of this district have also experienced an alleviation in the rate of assessment below the Mahomedan standard, but until a classification of the lands is completed I shall not be enabled to state with accuracy if the rates of teerva are free from glaring inequalities.

OBJECTIONS TO THE UNQUALIFIED REVIVAL OF THE TRADITIONAL ANCIENT MERASSIE TENURES.

20. Your Board are above apprized that the present cultivators of the soil were vested with pottahs or leases under the authority of Government conveyed in your separate letters to Mr. Garrow of 8th September 1803, and to Colonel McLeod of 10th March 1804. The ryots impressed with the confidence that those pottahs conveyed a perpetual right to occupy the lands therein described have been very careful in the preservation of them and experience having confirmed their confidence from the respect paid to those deeds by the British Government the ryots have in some instances been at considerable expense to improve their possessions, and as already communicated to your Board in my letter of 22nd March 1819 examples have occurred of the transfer by sale, and mortgage of lands held under pottah tenure. If these pottahs are now to be cancelled, or placed in the power of a meerassiedar to annul them at will, it is a question, if the faith imbibed by the subjects in the Government will not be diminished by the transaction. I proceed to enumerate some of the injuries that may arise from the unqualified revival of ancient meerassie tenure.

21. If the ancient meerassie tenure according to its traditional extensive rights is revived, the meerassiedars as exclusive owners of each village may consider every ryot in their villages, as Poracoodie tenants, and eject them at the termination of the first year, for though some persons are designated as Oolcoodie tenants, yet we have (similarly with the meerassiedars' own mode of proof of their meerassie right) only their own assertions of the fact to prove that they are so and unless they have other evidence to establish the case, the meerassiedars may contest the point with success, and as before observed eject every tenant, select the lands that are most productive and the best situated for irrigation, and then invite and create other Oolcoodies or Poracoodies to occupy the rejected lands. I do not assert that such will be the result of the revival, but only that such may be, and it is incumbent on me to notice it.

22. In cases where the pottah ryots may be ejected from their properties under the pleas noticed in the preceding paragraph those ryots who have incurred much expense in improving their lands or who have quitted other villages and built expensive dwellings which by their ejection may be rendered useless or worthless, will have been very hardly used and unless protected by a saving clause in the revival of meerassie rights, will have no source of redress.

23. The purchasers and mortgagees of lands conveyed to them by pottah ryots, may equally be viewed as intruders or as Poracoodie assignees by the meerassiedars, and unless the lands held under pottahs are protected by Government the revival of the meerassie may prove an injurious act towards this class of people, who have evidently laid out property upon the faith of the pottahs being substantial deeds.

24. One principle of the new system being a land-tax upon the actual extent of cultivation, the revival of the ancient meerassie tenure must prove detrimental to its discovery for under the system of concluding engagements with the actual contributors of the land revenue, clandestine tillage is capable of detection from the circumstance of no common, and united interest being at variance with it, and when one ryot views a neighbour possessed of more land of the same quality with his own soil, and only subject to an equal assessment, hopes of remission or jealousy at the more fortunate state of his neighbour will promote a disclosure, but under the ancient meerassie tenure illicit cultivation will hardly ever be detected for the proprietors of Pashingcarie villages having an united interest cannot be expected to betray it. On this occasion I will briefly remark that it may be prudent to enact legislative provisions calculated to diminish the evil of clandestine tillage by granting rewards for convicted disclosures and denouncing penalties on proof of illicit cultivation.

OBSERVATIONS UPON THE PROPOSED NEW RYOTWAR SETTLEMENT.

25. The 4th para. of your Secretary's letters direct my attention to the concluding part of the minute for an explanation of the points wherein the new ryotwar settlement differs from the old one whereby I learn that compulsion or restraint upon the free labour of the ryot and the system of sumjaish is expressly and strictly forbidden, that on this side of the Peninsula viz. on the coast of Coromandel private property to a greater or less extent is acknowledged to exist, that "the rate of assessment may be such as is calculated to give encouragement to agricultural industry, and thereby promote the general prosperity of the country and that the great object in view is gradually to convert the backward Tamil country into good estates and the land-holders into land owners."

26. Upon the system of allowing a ryot to occupy and throw up his lands at will the advantage is entirely on one side, the ryot possesses a property which is hereafter to be considered exclusively his own and at his pleasure to cultivate one or 50 caunies of it, in the former case he pays the revenue of one cauny and the Government lose a revenue on 49 caunies, although that revenue might be procured by letting the land to another ryot; yet as the land is private property it cannot be touched. If the sircar lets the fallow property to another ryot private property is then destroyed. A ryot may consent to hold the property thus thrown waste, if it is completely transferred to him, and the owner may refuse to give it up on that condition, in this case unless the owner is obliged to pay some graduated annual revenue, this system of free labour, may prove highly pernicious. If the sircar possesses the power of nominating temporary tenants to lands in those years, wherein the owners will not or cannot cultivate them, property becomes then doubly owned, and can hardly be considered in the light of private property as I shall suggest a provision for this case, in my remarks upon the draft of the Ryotwar regulation forwarded for comment, I will abstain from further observations in this place.

27. The 297th para. of your Board's minute declares that it is the desire of the Honourable Court of Directors and of Government to uphold the existence of private property, which is expressly acknowledged to prevail more or less on this side of the Peninsula. If by this determination it is resolved to revise the ancient meerassie tenures under the extensive rights and privileges which tradition annexes to them, it is questionable if the revival of it on those conditions will promote the object of the Honourable Court of Directors, namely to render land a decidedly desired possession for the advantages which the Government may convey to the meerassiedars by a moderate assessment will hardly ever be diffused by them to their Pyacarries, who will be subjected to rack rents and other impositions which it is notorious were practised under the system of village leases by the meerassiedars themselves, wherefore the pursuit of agriculture will be so palpably inferior to other employments, as to be hardly an object of sufficient importance to encourage industrious ryots to dedicate their zealous attention to it.

28. If the existing cultivators whether meerassiedars, Oolcoodies or Porcoodies are to have their possessions in land confirmed to them as private hereditary property, they should be assessed at such a rate as will leave them ample means to raise the gross produce of their lands together with a certain reasonable profit when it may be natural to infer that the wish of Government expressed in para. 299 of your minute will succeed, and that property in land will be converted to a lucrative and desirable possession from being an object of aversion and abhorrence such as it was described to be in some of my predecessors' reports, and as may be inferred from your Board's own prohibition of sumjaish or other threatening resorts for the purpose of compelling the ryots to cultivate.

29. Your Board appear convinced that the rate of assessment has in general been excessive and beyond the resources of the people and declare it is the desire of Government that the rate should be such as is calculated to encourage agriculture. In para. 13 of this address, I have adverted to the rule whereby Mr. Ravenshaw apportioned the gross produce of the soil by an equal distribution of it between the Government and the cultivator. In order, however, to constitute land a valuable possession I am persuaded that the Government revenue should be estimated at a lower proportion or at the rate in w

Mr. Stepburn formed the settlement of Sattivaïd where the Government proportion was fixed at 40 cent. of the average gross produce but as a great sacrifice of revenue will be involved by such a step particularly in a country where, as your Board in para. 2 of your minute justly remark the land revenue is the chief branch of the public resources. I cannot expect that such a rate will be sanctioned as it would produce an immediate loss of landed revenue to the amount of about a lac of star pagodas in this district.

30. The benefits that are likely to accrue from this immediate sacrifice of 20 per cent. or one-fifth of the landed revenue should, however, be contrasted; in the first place by rendering agriculture a profitable pursuit, a great part of the extensive arable waste land spread through this country would probably in a few years be occupied and from multiplying the means of subsistence would contribute to the increase of population, the want of which is one cause of the great extent of waste lands in this district. The additional population would augment the demand for increased productions of consumption and wear whence revenue is derived, and thus if not fully would partially cancel the sacrifice in the course of a few years. The substitution of an industrious and comfortable for an indigent peasantry would be one effect arising from the measure, and even if the stimulus thus given to the encouragement of agriculture did only partially restore the sacrifice of revenue; the confidence and comfort conferred upon the people by the step would naturally revert the affections and allegiance of the population to the present Government.

31. The average annual teerva rendered to the sircar by a cultivator in South Arcot does not exceed nine pagodas which upon the obtaining principle of assessment leaves him an equal sum from the product of his soil for the expenses of cultivation and for the support of his family during the year added to some trifling sums he may obtain through the labour of himself, and his family. The average annual sum that is computed necessary for the subsistence of a cultivator and his family upon the lowest scale is estimated at 15 pagodas. A ryot depending solely upon his agricultural pursuits would therefore require $7\frac{1}{2}$ cawnies of land yielding 35 cullums of paddy per cawny to meet this expense on the prevailing mode of assessment, namely the total produce would amount to 254 cullums of paddy 127 of which would be the sircar share, and 51 expenses of cultivation at 20 per cent. of the produce will leave a balance of 76 cullums at the rate of 5 cullums a pagoda will yield a little more than the requisite sum of 15 pagodas.

32. The total extent of cultivation in this district is 87,000 caunies of nunjy, 2,10,000 caunies of poonjy and 2,100 caunies of garden land, in all 2,99,100 caunies and the number of persons who occupy the above land is 60,000 persons which on the average gives to each about 5 caunies.

33. Upon the principle of assessment that prevails in this Collectorate of an equal partition of the produce between the Sircar and the ryot, the nunjy gross produce of paddy will amount to 27,50,000 cullums, and the dry grain crops will produce 26,25,000 cullums, in all 53,75,000 cullums of grain, which exceeds the consumption of the district by the bitants as hereunder demonstrated. Some of this extra produce is reserved for seed, is consumed by the cattle, much more of it by the numerous strangers who daily brough the country, and the remainder may be charged to exportation and manu-

34. The population of this district is computed to be 4,50,000 persons, adults and children included, and at the rate of each person on an average requiring a measure of rice of 70 rupees weight per diem or about $4\frac{1}{2}$ cullums a year; the consumption of the whole district would require a produce of 40,50,000 cullums of paddy or where other grains are consumed nearly the same quantity.

35. By the foregoing calculations which I allow may be very vague and distant from reality the present produce seems adequate to the demands and it may be questioned if an increase of cultivation is at all likely to ensue yet the arable waste lands of the country are very extensive and as its population is evidently unequal to its extent, an increase of the means of subsistence will naturally render the population proportionate to the augmented facility of requiring a livelihood and as already observed the public revenue would necessarily increase in proportion to the newly created productive possessions.

36. As the new ryotwar settlement introduces a fixed rent upon lands and that rent is to be founded on a commutation from waram or kind into teerva or specie. I submit to your Board the prudence of fixing that rent on a certain quantity of grain for each field to be commuted into money once in a definite number of years, for otherwise the Government may be serious losers in a branch of revenue whence the chief resources of the public income is derived and as it is notorious that the landed revenue of the country was formerly calculated and rendered in kind this modification will not be repugnant to ancient usage.

37. Referring to para. 304 of the minute the waram rent of this Collectorate was commuted to a teerva rent during the administration of Mr. Garrow in 1803 and the rate of commutation was ultimately fixed by Mr. Ravenshaw at the price of 5 cullums of every kind of grain per pagoda making no distinctions in the relative positions of talooks whether contiguous to or distant from advantageous markets. This price being, I am convinced, inadequate in some cases, I have already brought the subject to the notice of your Board and it shall be my very particular study to fix such a price as the ryots on the average are certain of procuring, at the same time that the interests of the Government shall be vigilantly protected. No warams or accounts of product in this Collectorate have been kept or recorded during the last 18 years and in making the assessment I should experience great difficulty in fixing the field produce, but the average selling prices of grain are certainly attainable and ought to form the basis allowances being made in favour of the ryot of the commutation from kind into species. As the survey, classification and assessment of the whole of this district is ordered to be completed by para. 6th of your Secretary's letter of 17th September 1818 the latter part of the above para. 304 is not applicable to me. In the double duties of classing and assessing the lands I mean to direct that regard shall be had to the former assessments upon those lands that the sanction of the ryots to the classification shall be obtained and in cases where it is disputed that the difference shall be settled by arbitration of neighbouring villages.

38. To obviate the evil remarked on in para. 296 of your minute every precaution that I can ensure will be enforced to equalize the rates of assessment so that bad lands (being relatively assessed with other soils) may not be relinquished with a view to profit though desertions may occur with the design of avoiding labour and trouble which of course poor soil must ever be more liable to than rich. It shall be my aim to assess

the land according to its ascertained average productive power, the facility or difficulty of rearing the produce and its proximity or distance from a good or a bad market, by which means no particular description of land ought to be an object of greater ambition than another in a profitable point of view but I fear that the complete removal of inequalities cannot be expected in a work of such magnitude.

39. By the 298th para. of the minute your Board enjoin and the Government sanction Collectors to preserve the rights of the meerassiedars, Oolcoodies and Cadeams from the infraction in favour of their inferior ryots the Pyacarries. If the Oolcoodies are to be regarded on a par with meerassiedars and not (as described in para. 97 of the minute) in the light of permanent tenants subordinate to meerassiedars the infraction of the obsolete rights of the meerassiedars has not been so generally affected as in the other view of the case would have appeared for several of the persons who have received pottahs come under the designation of Oolcoodies although they also hold pottahs in the light of Poracoodie Pyacarries and they likewise may have been vested with landed property the inheritance of meerassiedars whose absence or contumacy may have occasioned the infringement.

THE MODE OF SETTLEMENT ADVISABLE FOR SOUTH ARCOT.

40. The foregoing remarks demonstrate that the meerassie landed tenures to the extent herein described have never been recognized in this district during our administration, that they were not respected by our predecessors the Mahomedans and that the actual husbandmen were the description of people the Collectors considered as the legal proprietors of the soil with whom individual engagements were concluded so early as 1803 and 1804 under the competent authority of your Board. The importance attached to the pottahs then distributed I have already explained to your Board in my letter of 22nd March 1819 the alienated lands therein alluded to, it is true, may have constituted the hereditary property of the alienor previous to the issue of pottahs but the pottahs are invariably made over as a species of and generally the sale original title deed. The tenor of your Board's sentiments on the stability of these pottahs conveyed by your Secretary on the 6th September 1819 wherein I am informed that those deeds cannot be construed into the conveyance of a permanent right of property in the soil induces me to submit three modes of personal settlement to be introduced into this district for your selection.

41. The first mode of settlement that I shall describe is intended simply to revive the ancient meerassie tenures of the district to the fullest extent that can be imagined and the following rules are supposed sufficient to explain the nature of the engagements between the meerassiedars and the Government :—

Rule First.—The entire lands within a village are to be considered the property of the several meerassiedars of that village according to the nature of its tenure.

Second.—The various manniem lands in every village are to be considered as the properties of the several incumbents occupying or entitled to them and the meerassiedars have no power to eject the occupants and usurp those lands.

Third.—The meerassiedars of a Pashingcarie village are to enter jointly into annual or periodical leases with the Government specifying the proportions of revenue to be paid by each meerassiedar.

Fourth.—In Arcodicarie villages the several meerassiedars are to conclude separate revenue engagements direct with the Government for the proportion of the village each meerassiedar holds.

Fifth.—In Yakabhogum villages the single meerassiedar is to enter into a sole engagement for payment of revenue with the Government for the entire revenue of his village.

Sixth.—The Oolcoodie Pyacarries' lands are to be regarded by meerassiedars as the hereditary alienable property of those persons who are to enter into engagements with the meerassiedars for the rents of such lands.

Seventh.—Meerassiedars are to have the power to nominate to and eject Poracoodie Pyacarries from the lands they occupy within their meerassie at the several terminations of their engagements.

Eighth.—The Government are to withdraw all resumptions of and interference with the meerassiedars' manniems and the marahs and leave them to realise their perquisites and to enjoy their private rights according to ancient usage.

Ninth.—The customary swatuntrams, marahs etc., of every denomination payable by every description of persons shall on being ascertained be recorded in a register according to an approved form specifying the persons entitled to partake of those fees to be deposited in the office of the Carnum in the Talook and Hoozoore Cutcheries and in the Zillah Court bearing the official seal and signature of the Collector.

Tenth.—The name, description and quantity of maniem lands conferred upon village proprietary meerassiedars shall be recorded in sunnuds to be given to them under the seal and signature of the Collector.

42. The second mode of settlement that I propose is designed to combine and modify the ancient meerassie with the ryotwar settlement that has been introduced into this district in order to protect the pottahs which have been distributed to the several cultivators. The rules in the preceding para. with the exception of the sixth and seventh I would not alter and by expunging those two rules and substituting the following I think the present class of cultivators would be protected,

Sixth.—The Oolcoodie Pyacarries' lands are to be regarded by Meerassiedars as the hereditary alienable property of those persons whose rents are to be regulated by the survey and valuation account.

Seventh.—The Poracoodie Pyacarries or cultivators invested with pottahs by the Government are to be regarded by the meerassiedars as the hereditary alienable property of those persons whose rents are to be regulated by the survey and valuation accounts.

Eighth.—The rents of the Oolcoodie Pyacarries are to be collected by the meerassiedars according to the pottahs granted by the Government upon the survey and valuation accounts.

Ninth.—In cases where the present pottah ryots gratuitously relinquish their lands the abandonment to be valid ought to be committed to writing and registered in the separate offices of the Carnum the Talook and the Hoozoore Cutcheries.

Tenth.—The present arable waste lands are to be subject to revenue when cultivated and considered the property of the meerassiedars either to occupy themselves or to grant on Oolcoodie or Poracoodie tenure but if on Oolcoodie tenure the lands should be rendered alienable as well as hereditary.

Eleventh.—The Oolcoodies and Poracoodies of every meerassie are to be entitled to dwell in the village of their cultivation and to sell their houses and the grounds with them without the concurrence of the meerassiedar.

43. The third mode of settlement that I propose is calculated to render every cultivator a landed proprietor of the soil each possesses in virtue of the pottahs distributed them by the authority of your Board and to make them totally independent of every

person so long as they faithfully discharge the public demand assessed upon their land. The following chief rules I have drawn out as calculated to effect the end proposed.

Rule First.—The present cultivators invested with pottahs shall possess the exclusive hereditary alienable right to the lands described in their leases.

Second.—The public revenue assessed on the lands held by pottahs shall be rendered by the cultivators to the sircar official revenue servants.

Third.—The present cultivators holding pottahs can only be ousted by the sircar and shall not be deprived of their lands so long as they punctually discharge the public revenue.

Fourth.—In cases where the present cultivators holding pottahs may temporarily quit some of the lands described in their pottahs they shall be empowered to resume those lands upon the same principles that a meerassiedar would be entitled in such a contingency.

Fifth.—The present cultivators holding pottahs shall be exempt from all fees or marahs to the meerassiedars and generally from every symbol which conveys the idea of the soil being the property of the meerassiedar.

Sixth.—The pottah cultivators shall be entitled in common with the ancient meerassiedar, Dooloodies and others to participate in the public water either from tanks, rivers or streams in the public pasturage-grounds and in the productions of the jungles and to dwell in the village nutter with a perfect liberty to alienate their several rights to whoever they please.

44. In the three preceding paragraphs the description of persons with whom the new settlement of the district are to be concluded is submitted for your Board's determination. I will now offer a few remarks on the conduct to be observed in concluding engagement with the description of persons that may be selected. Should the first mode of personal settlement be adopted our engagements must be either collectively in Pashingcarie villages as in Tanjore severally with the Aroodicarie meerassiedars or solely with the Yakabharum meerassiedars. In this mode the amount of assessment which will be laid upon the whole or a fractional part of a village and not upon farms or fields ought to be modified and made easy to the meerassiedars to whom the whole of the waste for the period of their leases might be conferred free of rent and at the expiration of those leases should any additional assessment be imposed on the meerassiedars it ought to be guided solely by the extended cultivation and not on the improved state of the soil produced by the industry of the husbandmen.

45. Should the second mode of personal settlement be adopted I suggest to your Board the conclusion of engagements in the form of the meerassie pottah which I submitted for determination on the 22nd of last March and the assessment might be settled upon the average of former cultivation and collections modifying the waram and teerva rates in all cases where they require it. The meerassiedars in this mode of settlement should not be considered responsible for the fulfilment of the engagements of the Pyacarris within their meerassies who will be subject to a forfeiture of their landed tenures if they fail in the discharge of their agreements during the period of the leases that may be mutually agreed upon between Government and the meerassiedars.

46. In the event of the election of the third mode of personal settlement the remarks of your Board in para. 4 of your letter to Government under date 29th April 1819 explain the system of annual ryotwar field assessment that may be reverted to in this district.

47. In your Secretary's letter dated 26th July 1819 my opinion of the mode of ryotwar settlements alluded to in the above letter of 29th April that are best suited to the peculiarities of this district is called for. Your Board apprehend that the adoption

of the "collective village" and the "lease putcutt" settlements are calculated to relieve the inhabitants from the prying and fraudulent interference of the Native Revenue officers—upon the same principle the village lease system now obtaining in this district ought to exclude such interference—but I am very confident the inhabitants have during the village leases been subject to this interference in continuance of former usage, for the public servants were always accustomed to attend at the reaping of the crops, and making arrangements for the security of the public demands, ere the produce and its proceeds were made away with, for in that case the people are generally so improvident as to be unable to pay the revenue from any other fund; such has been the case during the village leases for, if the sircar servants did not immediately realize the revenue from the farmer as he received it from the ryot the collections would in all probability have exhibited a marked deficiency and I see no reason for supposing that this system will be discontinued in the event of the above two modes of settlement being adopted. If this statement of the interference of native revenue servants is correct, the objections of your Board to annual ryotwar field assessments will be partially removed.

48. Under the impressions that the interference of the native revenue officers cannot be avoided and that it is the desire of the Government to recognize a right of property in the soil to belong to the meerassiedars existing in this district, I beg leave to recommend that the second mode of personal settlement combined in the rules specified in paras. 41 and 42 may be adopted and that in the pottahs given to the meerassiedars according to their respective tenures, the land and modified rents payable by the several koodies or Pyacarris shall be specified with a declaration of the number of years for which the leases are to prevail.

49. Should it be resolved to adopt the third mode of personal settlement remarked in para. 43 and enter into lease putcutt settlements I do not think the present ryots who hold pottahs would engage for the entire lands or farms that they now occupy for a certain definite number of years upon a trifling reduction of the present rate of assessment, though they might consent if they were permitted to select the lands they pleased and to hold those selected lands on reduced teerwas.

50. In the 5th para. of your Secretary's letter dated 6th September 1819 you enquire if the meerassiedars themselves are included in the number of ryots to whom pottahs have been issued; how they identify themselves to be the meerassiedars; if they exist generally in every village; how they can prove their rights to meerassie; and if the urnams' accounts contain lists of the meerassiedars. I believe that in all the villages of meerassie tenure in this Collectorate, every meerassiedar who was present (and some were present in all excepting about 40 villages) obtained a pottah for the lands they were bound to occupy and were willing to cultivate, that pottahs were similarly issued to such of the Dooloodie Pyacarris as were present and that pottahs were also given to all the occupant Poracoodie Pyacarris in every village. I have already observed that in no case do the village Curnum's records extend beyond 40 years, therefore the information founded upon them is limited to that period. In their extant accounts the original meerassie shares of each village do not seem to be recorded but the meerassiedars who occupy lands in the several villages are said to be designated with that title, which is their mode of identification in addition to the acquiescence for their neighbours; the absentees' names are excluded entirely from the accounts and their method of proof must rest upon the evidence of genealogical research, whenever disputed.

REMARKS UPON THE REDUCTION OF THE RATES OF ASSESSMENT.

51. The 5th para. of your Secretary's letter of 21st September 1818, conveying authority for the reduction of the teerva assessments in those districts wherein it may be found excessive requires the sentiments of every Collector upon the extent of reduction that may be necessary. In the 29th para. I have hazarded a rough estimate of the sacrifice of revenue that will ensue from commuting the public share of the crop at 40, instead of 50 per cent. of the gross produce which is the rate that in my opinion will ultimately be found necessary to secure the proposed object of converting land into a valuable and a private property and to promote the encouragement of agriculture whereby the peasantry and generally every class of husbandmen in this district will be removed from their present deplorable state of indigence to comparative affluence and be the means of promoting the prosperity of the country, which must ever remain stagnate or retrograd when the peasantry continue in an impoverished condition.

52. The motive of my considering so large a reduction in the division of the produce necessary, arises from the conviction that land is not a valuable property at present, for in most cases throughout the country it is hardly saleable and the prices that are given for it when vendible according to the information I have obtained seldom amount to the third of a single year's gross produce which is so insignificant a sum, that if local attachments did not subsist this property would not be considered of the least value. The sentiments of Colonel Munro upon this point consider that the Government proportion should be reduced to one third or 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of the gross produce to convert land into private and saleable property and in his letter, dated 15th August 1807 he states "if by fixing the Government rent at one third, he (the ryot) were allowed to enjoy the remainder and all such future increase as might arise from his industry, he would never relinquish his farm; and all cultivated land would soon become private property, if more than one third is demanded as rent, there can be no private landed property and whenever the rate exceeds one third, the land is scarcely over saleable, is no longer reckoned private property and is often abandoned."

53. The immediate reduction of the sircar share of the gross produce from 50 to 40 per cent. will occasion a heavier sacrifice of revenue than can prudently be submitted; but the lowering it to 45 per cent. might pave the way to the greater reduction which would not be so much felt, as the minor reduction may promote a greater extent of cultivation to retrieve its loss and when the remaining 5 per cent. of the gross produce is conceded, the sacrifice might not be so heavy as at the first reduction of the sircar share.

54. With respect to the existing rate of teerwa or commutation of the revenue from kind into money and the necessity of modifying it, I beg to call Your Board's attention to the unvarying rate at which Mr. Ravenshaw fixed the price of grain in all the surveyed Talooks which I admit is favourable in some instances where a ready market is at hand, but in Talooks remote from the sea coast and populous places where the ryots experience difficulty in the disposal of their produce, the rates are very clearly too high and might be modified so that the ryot's share of the crop should remain inviolate; and no profit should accrue to him upon that rate it is certainly incalculably preferable for the ryot to sustain the loss than that the tenants should, for in a case where the subject does

not pay enough his convenience and ease will ultimately be extended to the public advantage, whereas if he pays too much his ruin extends to the public detriment and by imposing such a rate of assessment upon the soil that the right of the husbandman will be encroached upon, must always obstruct public prosperity by reducing the tenantry to indigency.

55. The rate of teerwa introduced by Mr. Ravenshaw into the assessed Talook although in some cases too excessive, is very advantageous compared with the other Talooks of this district where the classification and assessment succeeding the survey have not been introduced; the rates in those districts are 4 or 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cullums of grain per pagoda and in the Talook of Munnargoody I am induced to believe that the grain never sold for a better price than 5 Cullums and often at 6 or 7 Cullums per pagoda. I therefore consider it necessary to obtain sanction for the modification of the teervas in these Talooks and to equalize the rates and rents of every Talook in the Collectorate upon the same principles.

56. Should the reduced proportion of the sircar share of the gross produce and the modified rates of teerwa be admitted, Bramins, Mohomedans and others who now possess lands upon a more favourable tenure than other husbandmen, might without the least injustice be placed upon a par with their neighbours for if their lands are now worthy of cultivation (which I believe to be the case on their favoured tenures) they will acquire additional value under the modified system; at present 100 Cullums of gross produce is equally divided between the sircar and the soodra cultivator, but where Brahmins or Mohomedans possess lands the sircar receives 45 Cullums and the tenant 55 Cullums or 10 per cent. more than the soodra; under the supposed system the 100 Cullums will be thus divided 60 to the tenant and 40 to the sircar; and if the Brahmins and Mohomedans are to enjoy 10 per cent. extra upon the tenant's share, they will receive 66 and the sircar 34 which approximate the rates, Colonel Munro conceives to be a just division.

57. From some loose statements I have received it would appear that the expenses of cultivation may be estimated at about 16 per cent. of the gross produce and the village marahs amount to about 4 per cent. more, so that the produce of 100 Cullums at present will be thus distributed 50 to the sircar 20 to expenses of cultivation and fees and 30 to the cultivator; but this calculation supposes that year by year the lands always produce the same quantity of grain which they are classed as capable of yielding for if land classed as productive of 100, yields only 50, that 50 is rendered to the sircar and the ryot is involved in an actual charge and so in proportion for every crop below the appraised power.

OBSERVATIONS UPON VILLAGE AND PAGODA MAUNIEM LANDS.

58. Pursuant to the orders of the 17th September 1818 referred to in the 6th Paragraph of Your Secretary's letter, I have directed a register of all Mauniems corresponding with the Turrappuddy accounts appertaining to the village municipalities and to religious establishments to be prepared and deposited in the Hoozoore Cutcherry and entertain no doubt of its being ready previous to the expiration of the prevailing village leases.

59. Under the rules conveyed in the orders circulated by Your Secretary on 22nd May 1817, I shall have occasion to bring to the notice of Your Board the subject of excessive allotments of mauniem lands which have on former occasions been remarked by

my predecessors Colonel McLeod on the 31st July 1804 and Mr. Ravenshaw on 20th August 1808. It will be necessary to adopt a principle whereby I am to be regulated in recognizing the turrappuddy alienations of land to the village community. What that principle should be I will not presume to determine, but shall await your Board's orders and in order to elucidate the subject I will briefly recount the rules observed by my predecessors and quote Collector Munro's references about it in the ceded districts.

60. Colonel McLeod as explained in the letter referred to limited the turrappuddy manniems of Gramatans alias Meerassiedars, Curnums and Shroffs to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the landed revenue of each village and Mr. Ravenshaw's allowances to those persons bore a proportion of about 8 per cent. on the revenue. Colonel Munro's letter dated 26th July 1807 contains the following observations: "These Enaums (of Potails and Curnums) are in many villages 30 or 40 per cent. of the revenue, but in others not more than 2 or 3 per cent; in general all above 5 per cent. may be regarded as unauthorized. The frequent changes of Government and the loss or rather concealment of accounts have during a long course of years facilitated the fraudulent extension of these Enaums at the expense of the sircar lands." In Colonel Munro's subsequent letter dated 15th August 1807 when discussing this subject he remarks "In many villages the Enaums of Potails and Curnums are equal to a fifth a fourth or even to a third of the sircar revenue. By far the greater part of these Enaums has unquestionably never been authorized, for where there are sunnads, the Enaums scarcely ever exceed 5 per cent, and where it is more, it was always under the Native Government made liable for deficiencies in the village. I would recommend that the same principle shall be adopted to a certain extent, that in villages not exceeding 250 Pagodas the Enaums of the Curnum and Potal respectively shall be free as far as 10 per cent. of the village rent and that the whole of their excess above this rate shall be liable for deficiencies; that in villages from 250 to 500 pagodas rent the Enaums shall be free as far as $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and their excess above this rate shall be liable for failures; and that in villages above 500 Pagodas the Enaums shall be free as far as 5 per cent. and the excess liable for losses."

61. The remarks of Colonel Munro respecting "the fraudulent extension of Enaums" may be equally applied to this district where the only extant vouchers of the authenticity of the existence of these Enaums are the Curnum's Cadjan accounts for period hardly ever exceeding 30 years and never 40 years and as the Curnums themselves are parties deeply interested in the cognition of these alienations, it would be extremely folly to yield implicit credence to their records which can be so easily falsified and altered by the substitution of new leaves.

OBSERVATIONS REGARDING TANKS.

62. The subject of this letter being dedicated to the improvement of the country and the encouragement of its resources I seize the occasion to remark upon the wisdom and advantage of gradually rendering the chief Tanks of the district more capacious and durable, whereby larger supplies of water might be preserved which would render a occasional dry season a source of much less distress, horror, and mortality than formerly. At present almost every Tank in the country on an average rainy season is supplied to the brim and a quantity of water equal to their contents is obliged to be let off to Nullah or Rivers which if the Tanks had been more capacious would have been retained and probably contributed to produce an increase of cultivation or at least to have withstood season.

63. The number of tanks in this Collectorate according to the records of my office are 3,000 of which about 180 tanks contribute to the irrigation of 1,000 Canies of Nunjy land and upwards, and it being just and reasonable that the ryot (when his assessment is fixed upon the moderate basis proposed in this address) should participate in the expenses of the repairs of works which contribute so materially to his own benefit, I would recommend that in cases of heavy repairs being necessary, the ryots should proportionately with their lands incur a certain quota of the charge, which may partially secure the important object of the sanctioned expenses being sacredly applied but an infallible method of ensuring that fidelity is a desideratum hardly perhaps to be expected.

64. As the benefits likely to accrue from a complete repair and enlargement of the various Tanks in this Collectorate will be participated in by the Government as well as by the cultivator: as the expense will be greater than the ryot can afford and as it may prove a source of extended cultivation, it becomes the province of the Government to contribute liberally towards that expense and it may be advisable to fix a principle whereby the proportions of the expense by the Government and the inhabitants should be regulated.

65. In some cases of small Tanks it has hitherto been necessary to sanction an annual expense of from 10 to 60 Pagodas for their repairs, but if a sum of 200 or 300 Pagodas was at once laid out upon them and durable works constructed no future repairs would be necessary further than what the inhabitants should be required to perform by furnishing labourers during their leisure to mend and fill up any damages that the rains may have caused. The annual sum on an average for the last 12 years that have been expended upon Tank repairs in this Collectorate amounts to 7,000 Pagodas, and I submit to your Board if a judicious expenditure of five years' allowances under the superintendence of a professional person would not be likely to curtail that annual expenditure to a moiety of what it now is and to render the works so durable that the blessings of Providence would be fully enjoyed, by a preservation of the water falling during the periodical rains, instead of being attended with destructive effects from the bursting of banks as at present.

75. Having in the preceding sheets submitted such information as I have obtained upon the important points referred for my consideration and opinions, I shall await your Board's further orders previous to introducing the new Ryotwar settlement into this district in all practicable cases, as directed by the 2nd and 3rd paras. of your Secretary's letter of the 21st September 1818 and as I am in suspense respecting the termination of the survey, classification, and assessment of those Talooks that my predecessor did not complete, and which I am directed by the sixth para. of the above letter to finish, but which by the eighth para. of your Secretary's letter dated 6th September 1819, I am informed may conditionally prove superfluous. I request further instructions upon this particular object with the least possible delay, for should the completion of the survey be resolved upon for the purpose of introducing the new Ryotwar settlement on the termination of the village leases, it ought to be proceeded upon immediately.

76. In concluding I request indulgence towards the crudeness of the information and the triteness of the observations contained in the preceding paragraphs, and hope your Board will call upon me for every information that it lays in my power to afford, calculated to facilitate the attainment of the important objects connected with this address.

Ellavanasore, Circuit Cutcherry,
10th February 1820.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) C. HYDE,
Collector.

EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
DATED 4TH DECEMBER 1820.

READ—again letter from the Collector in the Southern Division of Arcot, dated 10th February 1820 :—

1. The Collector of the Southern Division of Arcot has entered at great length into a discussion of the question of Meerassy claims. He wishes to know with whom he is to form the Rayetwari settlement on the approaching expiration of the leases, whether with the present occupant rayets, or with the Head Inhabitants who are here called Meerassydars or rather the question, as the Collector has put it in fact, is whether the great body of the present Landholders, shall be deprived of their present property in the Land and whether official fees which they used to pay to the persons calling themselves Meerassydars and which were deducted by the Government from their rent, but have since been consolidated with it, and are now paid with that rent to Government by the present Landholders, shall be considered an acknowledgement of those Head Inhabitants being the general Landlords of the Country, and entitling them, as such, to the occupancy of the Lands, or to these fees when the Lands are occupied by others such an acknowledgement would, the Board think, produce much inconvenience and injustice, as well as loss of Revenue, and they will now proceed to state the grounds upon which this opinion is founded.

2. Much has been said about Meerassy rights in the Southern provinces, much ingenuity, theory, and indeed enthusiasm, are to be found in the papers written on this subject but it is still doubtful when and how these rights originated, what they exactly were, and whether any Native Government ever admitted them, to the extent claimed.

3. From all the information that has been collected on this subject it appears that Private property, or Meerassy, that is, a private interest, more or less valuable according to circumstances, in the land, is to be found everywhere. Most of the Village, and many of the District Officers considered, and indeed the Native Governments admitted, their offices to be hereditary, that is Meerassy. These officers themselves were in general the principal landholders hereditary, that is, Meerassy offices, and private, that is, Meerassy landed property, became thus generally united in the same persons, and in the course of time have been frequently confounded together.

4. The Meerassydars in the Southern Division of Arcot, and most of the other Tamil provinces, seem to have been like the families of the Reddies, Gonds, Potels, Kapoos etc., in the Canarese, Telinga and Mahratta provinces they may be considered the descendants, or at least, in some way the successors and representatives, of the original settlers, who cleared the lands, and founded the Village, and therefore established their rights of occupancy. They possessed a private property or interest in their own lands, a general interest in the common waste of the Village, and they also enjoyed Mauniums from the Government, and Merahs from Rayets, in recompense for their services to both, as Head farmers, Magistrates and Collectors of the Village; there may be in some Villages a few families of these Meerassydars, Reddies, or Gonds, or Headmen of the Village, under whatever term they may be designated, sprung from the same stock, who now share the Meerassy or right of the Headmanship. The oldest and most respectable is generally the person recognized as Headman by the Collector, some times they take the duty on themselves by turns annually, some are disqualified, some have committed crimes, or embezzled the revenue, or exacted money from the Rayets, or done something to exclude them from their share or turn of the Headmanship, some have resigned, or even, tho' this ought not to be allowed, have sold it, some are disagreeable to the body of the Rayets so that tho' there may be half a dozen or more persons belonging to these families who may be called Meerassydars, it has become customary for one only or two perhaps to perform the duty and receive the allowances. The distribution of the service as well as of the allowances among them is regulated partly by their own private agreement with each other, and partly by the decision of the Government, where it becomes necessary for the welfare of the Village community, or for the security of the revenue for the Government to interfere the most violent disputes frequently arise, and there is almost always much jealousy among the Members of these families. The animosity of clans among Hindoos is proverbial.

5. But besides these families, all Inhabitants who have and interest in the Village are Meerassydars—the term is arabic, therefore new and foreign here, but significant and when applied to Land from which Government derives a revenue, is the right to the use and occupancy of that Land, which is generally a saleable property but in fact any permanent interest may be called Meerassy a Revenue peon may even be called a Meerassydar, because he ought not to be turned out, so long as he behaves well and when he dies, or is incapacitated, his son or nearest relation, if qualified, ought to succeed to his office.

6. The claims of Meerassydars, if ever they were at any time properly defined, must have been viewed differently by different Government, generally the Government would have paid respect to their claims as landholders and would have maintained them in their offices, because they looked to them for the cultivation and management of their Villages but the circumstances, principles and tempers of the various Governments, under which they lived, must have affected their interests as landholders, and their situation as public servants, strong, harsh and poor Governments would have encroached on the rights claimed by the Meerassydars as landholders, while the Meerassydars would have taken advantage of weak Governments, the Meerassydars would some times have bribed the Revenue Officers it is probable they often continued to collect their Merahs after ceasing to discharge their official duties, pretending these Merahs were an acknowledgement of their landlords' right, instead of official fees. They have probably often collected and continued to collect contributions originally agreed to by the Rayets to bribe the revenue servants and carry some point for the general good of the Village until it became doubtful why they were originally paid, when the Meerassydars would call them sawmy bhogum and pretend they were paid as an acknowledgement of their landlord's right. Rayjes limited their Mauniums, and other Ministers would from time to time have altered their condition as landholders—it is to be always remembered that there is a constant struggle between the officers of the Government and the people—the Government to maintain the prerogative and the revenue, the people to lower the revenue and set up their own privileges and that both parties have recourse, as circumstances may dictate to bribery, fraud, or force. It seems evident, that the Mahometan Government never acknowledged the rights of the Meerassydars; to the extent claimed in some places and Mr. Hyde has stated that the Meerassy landed Tenures to the extent declared by the Meerassydars were not prevalent in the District, upon our assumption of it, and that it was not revived by any of his predecessors.

7. Meerassy rights must not merely be recognized but strenuously supported by the state but when the Meerassidar fails to perform the service and pay the revenue for which those rights were originally granted and have been since continued, the compact between the Meerassidar and the Government is broken and the Government must look to some other person for the discharge of those obligations so necessary to its own existence. If the Government protect the Meerassidars the Meerassidars must fulfil the obligation for which such protection is given, unless the Government exacts the fulfilment of these obligations, it cannot collect its revenue, maintain its armies and continue to protect the Meerassidars.

8. If a Meerassidar quits his land, the Government must provide for its cultivation in order to get a rent from it, but if the grand-sons of the Meerassidar who had left it, could come ninety-nine years afterwards, and oust the Rayet, who had been put in possession by the Government, and who had cultivated and paid the rent of it so long, confidence would be shaken and the interest of agriculture would suffer and supposing the right of occupancy of the land should be still continued to the Rayet who had taken it under such circumstances, but made newly subject to the payment to the Meerassidar in consideration of his supposed right of the Merah or fees formerly paid, whether such Merah was sawmy bhogum or landlord's rent or only official fees, it will be necessary for Government to make a remission to the Rayets in South Arcot in order to enable them to pay these Merahs or fees because they have been long since consolidated with the land rent. Under our Regulations the Sirkar and Zemindar may oust the landholder when he neglects or refuses to cultivate, and although such a measure may seem harsh and is hardly ever resorted to except in some cases by new Mootahdars, it is still necessary as a last resource in case of contumacy in some cases no new Rayet might be found willing to take the deserted land for one year only and the public revenue would therefore suffer from the contumacy of the Meerassidars.

9. Mr. Hyde has stated that there are no original Deeds granting to the class of Meerassidars who are termed *Campiatheycarers* their hereditary rights and that the *Oolcoody* inhabitants of every Village have the power of retaining the Lands in their families by hereditary descent, but cannot alienate them by sale, gift, mortgage or exchange. This corresponds with what Mr. Ellis has said on the subject, but it does not appear by whom this restriction was imposed.

10. Mr. Hyde has also stated that according to the information procured by him, the *Oolcoodias* cannot be forcibly ejected from their Lands by the Meerassidars and that the Lands of the *Paracody* Ryots revert to the Meerassidars on the expiration of the Leases for which they may have been granted.

11. It appears also that the *Oolcoody* cultivators have been in possession of their hereditary Lands as long as the Meerassidars themselves and that they are not possessed of any original Deeds or Leases conferring upon them the perpetual enjoyment of their Lands and further that the origin of their Property cannot be traced.

12. In each province, indeed in each district, the customs, with respect to Meerassi Rayets, must have varied; they never could have been the same over any wide tract of country, nor for any long period, in the same place. Besides the differences which the influence of the Government would have produced, the nature of their interest in the land, that is their tenures, would have varied in value, mode and terms, according to the difference of their own circumstances and those of the Village. In some Villages the *sumohi* or joint interest, or tenure, where the occupancy of fields is frequently changed every year, would prevail in order that each Rayet might get the good, as well as the bad lands in his turn, or his fair share of the advantages of the Village in some other way. These Villages are like the *Veesabeddie* Villages in the *Ceded* Districts newly cleared *Nunja* lands under new water are to this day frequently divided on these terms, by the new settlers, when they undertake to level the new paddy fields. In the *palbhog* Villages, different families sprung from the first settlers, or in some other way their successors and representatives, have found it expedient to divide the land of the Village into separate shares *sumohi* or joint Villages sometimes become *palbhog* Villages when the co-partners in the *sumohi* Village quarrel and in the same way *palbhog* may again become *sumohi*, when they are again reconciled. This makes a *Ryotwari* system and even a survey necessary or at least proper in the *sumohi* as well as in the *palbhog* Villages. In the *yekhabhog* Villages, one family has succeeded to them by inheritance or purchase and has absorbed the whole of these interests, various circumstances must have frequently varied the value and nature of these interests, and the mode of these tenures; but all Village privileges may be traced to expediency, and the mutual accommodation of the Government and the Rayets. There can be no difficulty in making a *Rayetwari* settlement wherever any of those tenures prevail, except indeed that of getting the Brahmins who have got possession of much of the land in the Southern provinces to come to any reasonable terms. In the *Sumohi* Villages, although it may be expedient to make a joint settlement with the whole of the Rayets, for the rent of the whole Village, each Rayet may be entered in the accounts for what he may have to pay for the fields he may occupy for the year. In *palbhog* Villages the account will require less alteration because the Rayet will not change his fields so often and in the *yekhabhog* Villages the account will be still more simple, because the whole of the lands and rent will be entered in the name of one Person there need be no interference with the customs, no infraction of the privileges, no intrusion on the comforts of the Rayets.

13. In the Southern Division of Arcot, and indeed in most of the southern provinces it is now impossible to trace the principles on which the land revenue was formerly collected, and consequently what were the modes and figures of landed property so far back and so accurately, as we can in Canara, because no ancient public accounts have been preserved, but changes must have frequently taken place. It had been stated that traces remained of a money *teerwa*, even in the *Nunja* lands of Tanjore. The late Collector Mr. Hepburn of that province disputed this supposition, and discussed the subject in his very able report of the 20th August 1819 paras 41 to 47 but the whole of his argument is that as the Committee in 1798 and other respectable Officers who have written on Tanjore, never mentioned such traces of a money *teerwa* and he himself had not been able to discover any; it could not possibly ever have existed but in fact we are ignorant of the revenue history of these provinces; we know not how they were managed in former times, and therefore cannot tell how

far private property in land existed. Mr. Hyde states in the 50th para of his report that there are no public accounts in South Arcot older than 40 years and that the *Curnams* accounts which are forthcoming do not specify the original Meerassi shares of each Village.

14. But whatever may have been the former rules of assessment and the fair Meerassi rights it is now desirable to improve and confirm them and to create them as far as the wants of the Government may allow to increase the value of the Meerassidars interests as landholders, and their respectability as Village Officers, and where such interests and offices are not now to be found, to establish them.

15. But when the Honorable the Court of Directors and the Government express their desire to uphold private property in land, they could not have meant to revive doubtful, traditionary and obsolete claims, to the injury of the present occupants in any province, who hold their lands under *Cowles*, which they consider, though perhaps not formally declared so, permanent, so long as they continue to pay their rent; they have paid their rent for many years and are stated to have expended their money and labour in improving the lands still less can the Government have meant to injure the actual landholders, now in possession, by declaring that the office fees which they formerly paid for public services rendered, was an absolute rent, which they paid as tenants, and thus deprive the great body of the present landholders of that property in the land, which the Court of Directors and all advocates for private property in land are so anxious to maintain inviolate and that such would be the consequence of recognizing the fee of the Meerassidars in South Arcot as an acknowledgment of property in the soil, is evident. Nothing would be more dangerous, nothing would disgust the people more, nothing could be more unjust than such a course of proceeding; there is no saying where we can stop, if we once begin to turn out the present occupants, in order to restore traditionary rights; there is hardly a field, village, naat, pollem, district or zemindary, to which there is not some claimant on the plea of ancient right.

16. It is the duty of Meerassidars to cultivate and manage the lands of their Village and some individuals may have been driven away by the oppression of Revenue Officers some during Hyder's invasion, but generally it is to be inferred they ought to have returned before and revived their claims. It has been stated that the descendants of Meerassidars who have left their lands would not be shut out by the usage of the Country from the right of reclaiming their lands, until they had perserved in contumacy or neglect, for four generations or a century but it may be supposed such a right was only claimed by the Meerassidars but never could have been generally admitted by the Government, or the persons who had in the mean time got possession of the lands, unless the descendant of the Meerassidars could return without public or private inconvenience, some Meerassidars may have formerly succeeded, and their descendants may have returned and recovered their lands but it must have been under particular circumstances, they must have been unjustly ousted, they must have maintained their claim by immediately applying for and offering to cultivate and pay for their lands, or it must have been by permission of the Government, and on an agreement with the new occupants—any other conclusion would be contrary to the principle of mutual and general expediency which alone originally gave birth to the rights of Meerassidars. The rights of the Meerassidars are sacred, but so are those of the Government, the Meerassidars must carry on the usual cultivation and pay the usual revenue, as far as their means go, if the Meerassidar neglect this duty, he forfeits the great advantages he enjoys as a Meerassidar. No Government, would have granted, or would continue such great privileges, unless for adequate services. The Meerassidar has also an interest in the waste land, and a right to a *Merah*, or fee, when being unable to cultivate it himself he gets a tenant who shall cultivate it and pay the usual rent to the Government; this is fair, he has his fee for the service he performs but if the Meerassidar neglects or refuses to get a tenant for the waste, and the *sirkar* is obliged to find one itself, to keep up, or increase the revenue of the Village, the Meerassidar has no right to the fee, it may either be added to the rent payable by the tenant, or may be given up to him as an encouragement to him to extend the cultivation. The Meerassidars may have claimed more than is here allowed them, and more may have been occasionally granted them the Government has been and ought always to be indulgent towards its Rayets but when we come to discuss the principle, it will be found that any further legal extension of the privilege of Meerassidars particularly in the case of their neglecting to keep up the cultivation and revenue of the Village is contrary to common sense, and those common principles upon which every Government and society is founded.

17. It is most likely that the great body of the ancient Meerassidars in South Arcot have been included among the present pottah occupants, that they are now in actual possession of their own lands and that it is only in a few particular cases, which must be settled according to the particular circumstances of each particular case; that it will be necessary to decide between the claims of ancient Meerassidars, and those of the present pottahdars. It is probable that the difficulties if there are any, will be found to be theoretical, rather than practical, they arise from the long discussions regarding Meerassi tenures, and will probably be confined to these discussions, at all events general instructions would not meet all the various cases which may occur, each of which should be settled according to the particular circumstance of the case.

18. The Board are of opinion that the Government should now settle with those they find in possession of the land, and after having received their rents from these persons for so many years they cannot with any justice, or safety, prefer ancient and indeed obsolete and traditionary claims, and forcibly eject the present occupants, still less can they admit official fees formerly allowed, but now resumed, and collected by the Government itself, to be an acknowledgment of private property vested in the Meerassidars, and on such ground, deprive the great body of the Rayets of their lands, the Rayetwari settlement should therefore be made with the present occupants. Most of the complaints from South Arcot will probably be found to arise from the old Meerassidars who refused to become parties to the triennial or decennial leases—these complaints relate rather to the Headmanship of the Village of which they might on that occasion have been deprived, rather than to the possession of particular farms or fields—and the claims of such Meerassidars are of course entitled to consideration.

19. With respect to particular farms and fields where an ancient Meerassidar can clearly establish a legal right to the land on any ground and is at the same time to be depended on for the rent, his claims should of course be attended to by the Collector; the Colcoodier and Pooracoodier and other tenants were in some cases or might have become freeholders and therefore Meerassidars themselves and the pottahs should therefore in general be continued in their names but in cases where it is evident that they are rightfully only the sub-tenants of the old Meerassidars, and the old Meerassidars are to be depended upon for the rent, the Collector should settle with the old Meerassidars, and leave them and their sub-tenants to settle together. The Collector however states that there is strong room for mistrusting the accuracy of the Meerassidar's titles to any Land except what they occupy themselves.

20. It never was intended that the Rayetwari settlements should go lower than the landholders or Meerassidars, it never could have been meant that their cultivating sub-tenants should be immediately included in the engagements with the Sirkar, it would appear however that in some cases this mistake has been actually made, and it seems to have been supposed that under a Rayetwari settlement the Collector is to settle with the actual cultivators, although only sub-tenants, and to leave the Landholders to get what they could from their tenants, as a recognition of their landlords right. Toondoo warum and sawmy bhogum seem some times to have been paid in this manner in other cases the official fees formerly due to the Meerassidars, private exactions, and voluntary contributions for Village expenses, may have been collected under these denominations but this breaking down of estates violently and raising sub-tenants to the situation of tenants in capite, and in the course of time to that of freeholders, to the injury of the true landholder or Meerassidar, was evidently an infringement of Meerassi rights, as impolitic as unjust—whenever therefore a Meerassidar can be depended on for payment, and can shew a good title, the settlement should of course be made with him but even in such cases, it is doubtful, whether the Collector ought, and indeed at present he certainly cannot legally oust the present occupant by force for it is admitted by the Meerassidars that the Colcoodies and their heirs possess the right of the enjoyment of the soil for the purpose of Cultivation. No person should therefore be ousted from the possession of his Land, except under a judicial decision. The only satisfactory, or at least practical way of settling such disputes would be by a punchayet in the Catcherri of the Collector, and in cases where either of the parties should refuse to recur to the decision of a punchayet or to abide by its award, the Collector may in general with safety go as far as he legally can, in setting aside the claim of the recusant who will then be at liberty to prosecute his claim in the regular Courts.

21. On the expiration of the leases the Board are therefore of opinion that the Collector should proceed to make a Rayetwari settlement generally with the present pottah occupants, and when the right of occupancy may be disputed, he should endeavour to settle the dispute by a punchayet, doing all he legally can to support the rightful claimant.

22. In the Yekhabhog Villages he will of course settle with the individual landholder in the sumohi or pashencari Villages he should settle either jointly with the whole of the Rayets, for the whole rent of the whole Village, at the same time entering in the account the payment of each individual, or if in any particular cases the Rayets should wish it, he can settle with each individual, or phirka, or party, for the amount they are respectively to pay for the year. In the Arudacari Villages he will of course settle with each individual.

23. The settlement must be annual unless the Rayets may wish to come to some permanent terms, in which case a permanent settlement may be made on the basis of the orders of the Honorable Court of Directors, on which the proposed permanent settlement for Coimbatore and Bellary was to be made.

24. The Board are inclined to think that the Marahs which the Collector is apprehensive will be claimed by the Meerassidars, whether under the name of sawmy bhogum Toondoo warum, or any other designation are in fact the very Marahs which he mentions as having been resumed, and now consolidated with the Land Rent. The Board are however desirous of receiving further and more specific information on this point, which the Collector is requested to furnish.

25. On the subject of Meerassi generally, the Board, have, in conclusion, to observe, that whenever disputes may arise which are in any way connected with Meerassi tenures, the Collector should in the first instance endeavour to have them settled in his Catcherry, and if he cannot effect this, they will be fit subjects for enquiry by the proper Courts, who will decide upon them according to the local usages and customs of the several districts. It will in the mean time be sufficient that the revenue authorities provide for the cultivation of Land to prevent loss of Revenue, and the settlement should the Board think, be formed with the Persons actually in possession of the Land.

26. From the 54th to the 57th para of his report Mr. Hyde discusses the present rates of teerwa and proposes some reduction. He thinks a reduction of the warum from 50 to 40 cent only payable to the Sirkar, with, it is to be inferred, the more favorable commutation price proposed also, would make land a valuable private property; but it is evident the Government cannot at present afford to adopt this plan, which Mr. Hyde thinks would cost a lac of Pagodas. He therefore recommends a reduction of warum from 50 to 45 per cent only to the Sirkar, which would put the Rayet on the same footing as the Brahmins and other favored castes, whose lands are already, he states, objects of ambition. He also recommends a more favorable commutation rate and the completion of the survey which would not cost more than 30,000 Rupees. He also speaks of equalizing rates and rent in every district.

27. This part of the subject, though very important, has not been so fully discussed in this report as the Meerassi question, to which it is chiefly confined, and some further information seems necessary to enable the Board to judge of the propriety of proposed reductions. Mr. Hyde seems to consider the Brahmins and other favored castes who now pay only 45 per cent. of the produce are easily assessed, even under the present unfavorable commutation rates and it must also be recollected that these Castes are supposed to live and cultivate at a greater expense than the true cultivating Castes, which gave rise to the usual reduction in their favor of course it would not be necessary to allow of further reductions to the favored castes, even although some reductions should be allowed to the Rayets; but it seems doubtful whether the rates of warum, under existing circumstances, should be reduced at all. If the Brahmins and favored castes can pay 45 per cent. easily under the present unfavorable commutation rates, it may be supposed the Rayets in general are not even now so hardly pressed, at all events that some modification of the conversion rates or other indulgence may be sufficient to relieve them. The Government cannot afford at present to give up from fifty to an hundred thousand Pagodas in each province, in a benevolent, but uncertain attempt, to establish private property which never existed, to such an extent before. The Rayets must continue to pay

what they have usually, and fairly paid, and must be left to convert their lands into as valuable a property as they can, by improving them, and by being protected from additional taxes on their improvements, and from other exactions, and by such assistance in other respects particularly by giving them waste lands at a low rate to make the present rents as easy as the Government can afford them. In the situation in which the Southern Provinces are now represented and with reference to the present low price of Grain it would seem that where reduction may be necessary, a more favorable conversion rate would be more suitable, than a reduction of warum. The Collector should be directed to report fully on this subject, and particularly whether under the views now taken of it, it may not be easier and better to make particular reductions, where particular circumstances may make such reductions necessary, than to adopt a general principle of remission which may be necessary in one place, but not in another, and in cases where reduction is necessary whether it should be effected by reducing the rate of warum, or the commutation price or how? in the mean time, where the leases may fall in, the Collector should regulate the demand, under the Rayetwari settlement, by what has been usually paid for the land, with such fair *kummi jaste* (diminution or increase) as it is technically termed, as may be proper, according to circumstances where the rent may have been lowered below the usual demand, because the Rayet had suffered from fire or flood, or other misfortune, it should be raised to the usual amount when he can again afford to pay it where the usual rent should be too high for the Rayet to pay in consequence of such losses, or of any general disadvantages, not experienced before, the rent should be lowered accordingly.

28. In a large province, and even in a small village, it is impossible to equalize the rates of warum or price. In some places the earth is so fruitful and the water so abundant that the Rayet can afford to pay 60 or 70 per cent. of the produce and retain a profit besides; in others the earth is so barren and water so deficient, that he cannot afford to pay even 30 or 40 per cent.; again prices are affected by the nearness of market and other circumstances sometimes if the rate of warum is high the conversion rate is low, and thus the Ryot is enabled to pay. The rate of warum and conversion price must be taken together and generally the money rent which the land has paid for a course of years is the best standard for assessment allowing of course for any unusual circumstances against the tenant.

29. The Collector in South Arcot should be directed to report how he can best relieve the Rayets, where they may be most pressed, and as it is understood that the Rayets in the District in which Mr. Ravenshaw's survey was completely introduced, are much better off, than those in the districts in which it has not been completely introduced, the Collector should be authorized gradually to finish the survey, beginning in those villages where it may seem most requisite and with reference to the view now taken of the subject, to employ such additional gomastahs in the Huzzoore, and Talook Cutcherry, as, with strict attention to economy, may be necessary to enable him gradually to complete the survey. It may be necessary in many places to relieve the Rayets, but it may be expected that by giving up waste lands on favorable terms, and by assistance and protection in other respects, as the Rayet comes under the immediate management of the Collector, no considerable decrease of revenue need, on the whole take place.

30. The Honorable the Court of Directors have ordered, and it is in every respect desirable, that the Enaam lands of the village servants Monigars, Curnums, and sheroffa, should be restored. They now get a ready money payment, amounting altogether to Pagodas 40,306 the Nabob allowed them in land 22,076 in fees collected from the Rayets altogether Pagodas 51,577 the fees have been consolidated with the land rent a good deal may be said regarding the restoration of the fees as well as of the manniums. In the 156th para. of the company's general letter dated the 12th April 1815 the Honorable Court of Directors say "it is satisfactory to learn, that an opening has been left in the settlement for any new arrangement which it may be thought proper to adopt respecting the Cavelly and Devustanum lands" and in the 157th para. the Court proceed to say. "In the opinion expressed by the Revenue Board as to the expediency of restoring to the village officers, in the Southern District of Arcot and wherever else they may have been resumed the Manniums, or service lands, we entirely concur and we direct that measures may be taken for that purpose," their orders with regard to the Manniums, or service lands are imperative and clear, but in the proceedings of the Board dated the 14th October 1816 which were printed and circulated, those orders

are quoted, the words "and fees in kind" have through some mistake been interpolated after the words "Manniums or service lands" in the 157th para. We are therefore obliged by these orders to restore the Manniums and service lands, but the error in the printed proceedings of the Board does not require that the "fees in kind" should be restored, and the question as far as restoring them is concerned is still open for discussion. It would occasion much confusion and trouble and might it has been stated open a door to abuse and lead to extra collections to revive the private collection of these fees; these are the fees which it seems to have been supposed were the landlords' rent claimed by the Meerassidars, it was also troublesome to these village officers to collect the handfulls of grain in which they were paid from each Cultivator, it therefore may seem more advantageous both as regards the Government, the Rayet and the village officers themselves, to allow them more land, rather than revive the fees; it is true the village officers might prefer being paid partly in fees and partly in money and much may be said in favor of such an arrangement, particularly as it was the old custom but if the village officers should prefer it, it might be not so much because such an arrangement is in some respects calculated to encourage agriculture, as because it would give them a demand on the Rayets of which they might take unfair advantage in the course of time; they might pretend these fees were sawmy Bogums as they have done in other places or under other pretences hereafter increase their demand on the Rayets to an unlimited extent when opportunity offered under all the circumstances, therefore, in which they are now placed in South Arcot, it might be better to pay them entirely in land. In Coimbatore, where a ready money payment had been substituted for their Enaams, they have lately been allowed land to the amount of those ready money payments, such a course seems also applicable to South Arcot, but there may be some difference in circumstances. Royjee, who is admitted to have been an able Revenue officer probably allowed them no more than what was a fair recompense for their service, it might be proper therefore to give up to them, out of their ancient Enaam lands, which are entered in the Turpuddy accounts at 75,920 Pagodas, as much land as would give them what the Nabob allowed which supposing cultivation and revenue the same, would amount to Pagodas 51,577 this is the highest amount they were ever supposed to have enjoyed under the Nabob, both in land and fees. If Enaams to this extent should be allowed to the village servants in lieu of their present ready money payments, they will in fact enjoy much greater advantages than ever they enjoyed under the Nabob, because they must have had occasionally difficulty in collecting their fees, which were paid in grain, not in money, and frequently, it may be supposed, never paid at all, and because they must then have met with more difficulty in getting the Enaam land cultivated, than they are now likely to meet, under any regulations which may be made to prevent their drawing away the Rayets from the sirkar lands to the cultivation of their Enaams but it is evident that further information from the Southern Division of Arcot as well as from other provinces is required before the Board can submit a final opinion with respect to the restoration of these fees. It may perhaps be proper to consider, and Mr. Hyde should report, whether it might not be better, and more agreeable to the Curnums, to continue the present mode of paying them in ready money they would be more dependent on the Monigars for their assistance in the cultivation of their lands, and would perhaps be less at their ease than they now are but if the Curnums should prefer land to money, they ought to have land.

31. It appears from the 58th and subsequent paras. of Mr. Hyde's report that Enaams were fraudulently extended in South Arcot in the same manner as in the Ceded Districts and the same Regulations which have been suggested to prevent the transfer of stock and labor and rent from the Sirkar lands to the Enaam lands in Bellary seem also to be required in South Arcot, the attention of the Collector should be drawn to this circumstance and he should be directed to state his opinion as to the extent to which the Enaams should be restored to the village servants and to suggest such means as may seem best calculated to prevent their drawing an unfair advantage from the Enaam lands, if they should be given up to them, at the expense of the Sirkar; the Collector states that he is preparing a Register of Enaam an extract of which should be submitted with the information and opinion here suggested as requisite.

32. All that the Collector has said with respect to Tanks is perfectly true, but it is evident that each work should be considered separately with reference to the estimated expense, revenue and advantages of it.

33. It only seems further necessary to notice Mr. Hyde's remarks on the supposed necessity of the Revenue servants interfering with the Rayets, after the Rayetwari settlement shall have been made, particularly by keeping their crops under sequestration, until they may pay, or give security for paying their rents, this is the practice in the Northern Sirkars, and is common in the Carnatic. The bad consequences of this practice have been explained by Mr. Thackeray in his Report on Nellore, dated 21st January 1809 and the Board have in their various Proceedings on that District, noticed the impolicy of continuing it. It has been supposed hard upon the Rayets to make them become joint securities for each other's rents, and still more hard to make the whole of them answerable for as far as 10 per cent. of the whole rent of the village there is no hardship in making it worth people's while to become sureties, and bind themselves to any terms, to which they may be induced, for adequate considerations, to agree, and they must generally prefer becoming jointly sureties for each other, even with the liability to make good failures to the extent of 10 per cent. of the whole rent of the Village, to being subjected to the loss and destruction of their crops, to the impediment to the free sale of their grain, and to the petty exactions and vexations which this practice occasions—it is as vexatious as distraint for arrears, and in fact is the same thing. It is never practised under the Rayetwari management in the Ceded Districts, nor in Crimmetore nor in any of the provinces managed on similar principles even all though the second, or super assessment to make good failures to the extent of 10 per cent. of the whole rent of the village has not been continued. Mr. Hyde should adopt such a course to secure payment of the rent under the proposed Rayetwari management as may render this vexatious practice unnecessary.

(True Extract.)

S. R. CLARKE,

Secretary.

NO. 39.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS

OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

FORT SAINT GEORGE.

GENTLEMEN,

The current fasly 1230 drawing to a close when the existing mode of the Revenue Settlement of this District by farms expires, I hope to be favored with early instructions from your Board of the manner in which I am to conduct a settlement for the ensuing fasly or faslies.

2. The inference I have drawn from the extract of your Board's Proceedings held on the 4th of December 1820 leads me to imagine that I shall be authorized to conclude an Individual or Royetwar settlement in the Southern division of Arcot, and that I am expected to consider each Individual in peaceable possession of the land at the close of the decennial village leases as the person or tenant with whom I am to enter into engagements for the future revenue of the lands respectively occupied, but that should any competitors for lands so occupied present themselves that my endeavours are to be used to have such claims adjusted by immediate arbitration, and in the event of the parties objecting to such a mode of decision that I am to refer them to Court, and in the interim regard the occupant as the tenant with whom I am to conclude engagements. These Proceedings of your Board however do not positively command me to commence a settlement upon such terms, and it becomes necessary that I should without delay receive instructions upon this subject.

3. In paragraph 27 of your Board's Proceedings I am apprized that my observations respecting the reductions of the rates of Warrum from 50 to 40 per cent. of the gross produce, are not sufficiently full and satisfactory to enable your Board to judge of the propriety of the measure which will incur a certain and serious sacrifice of revenue to risk the attainment of doubtful benefits. In paragraph 307 of your Board's minute, dated 5th January 1818, it is remarked that the Collectors are

to recollect, that the great object in view in the new settlement was "to restore landed proper gradually to convert the bad farms of the Tamil country into good estates, and the land holders into land owners." From this remark and others in the same minute I was led to conclude that the Government were prepared to consent to sacrifice considerably for the attainment of that object and under this impression I submitted for your Board's deliberation a gradual reduction of the rate of Warrum and a modification of the conversion prices of grain in my address, dated the 10th of February 1820. It is, however, very manifest from your Board's Proceedings of 4th December last that the Government cannot afford to sustain the loss of revenue that such a step would produce, and in this view of the subject I submit for your Board's recommendation, that I may receive authority to modify the conversion rates of grain in those Talooks wherein the survey commenced by M. Ravenshaw was not completed and that I may be permitted to regulate such rates as upon particular enquiry during the settlement may be found necessary, at the same time, if I should discover requisite to alter the rate in any Talook to 6 cullums of grain for a Pagoda, I shall submit the necessity to your Board with the particular reasons that call for such a rate.

4. As the adoption of the supposed reductions in the rates of Warrum evidently cannot be acquiesced in, it would be redundant to enter into particulars for the purpose of illustrating the tendency of such a step towards the conversions of the Landholders of the Tamil country into land-owners, and to gradually raise the Royet "from the condition of a mere labourer to that of a farmer." It may be therefore sufficient to observe that although I proposed generally a reduction of the Warrum to be received from the Royet throughout the District, yet that I designed such step to be regulated by circumstances which cannot in every case be foreseen, but which can only be provided for when they come under immediate observation. Local circumstances of course would always operate, and the conversion prices of grain would likewise come under consideration as well as several other minutia that would have entered into discussion during a settlement of the reduced nature that was contemplated in order to accomplish the professed object of Government conveyed in the above minute.

5. In paragraph 24 of your Board's proceedings you require specific information if the Merahs liable to be claimed by Merrassidars apply to those that have been resumed, and consolidated with the land rent, when the manium lands and fees of Monigars, Curnams and Shroffa were substituted by an annual pecuniary compensation. In reply I have to apprise your Board, that the Merahs alluded to are of the above nature, and are included within the sotantrams enjoyed by the Merrassidars, or Puttah Monigars during the Nabob's Government, which as shewn in the comparative statement forwarded by me to your Board under date the 14th of July 1815 amounts to 4635 Ps. 20 f. 35 c. but which might under a more extended cultivation amount to 8139 Ps. 29 f. 38 c.

6. From paragraph 30, it appears that the Manium lands of Monigars, Curnams and Shroffs are to be restored without delay, and that through error the fees had been directed on the 16th of October 1816 to be restored at the same time but that as great confusion would ensue, and a chance would be created whereby exactions and frauds would arise, it appears desirable to delay the restitution of the fees, until the subject has been more maturely considered, and it is suggested that it may be preferable to confer upon these officers lands to the extent of the resumed Merahs limited to the greatest amount they are supposed to have enjoyed during the Nabob's Government being 4635-24-21 to the Merassidars or Monigars. Your Board at the same time enquire, if it will not be more advantageous, and at the same time agreeable to the Curnams to continue the present mode of money payment in preference to giving them lands. I have reason to believe that some Curnams will prefer the present system, and that others would select the ancient mode, but as I do not imagine your Board will approve of two systems being observed in the same District,—and as the orders of the Honorable Court of Directors dated the 12th April 1815 appear imperative I conclude that the Manium lands must be restored to the Monigars, Curnams and Shroffs immediately. I have no hesitation in saying that I should regard it as more advantageous for the Public Interest persevering in the present mode of money payment, by which circumstance the Curnams would regard themselves more in the light of public servants than they are likely to do when they are obliged to toil the ground for their reward. The subject of restoring the Merahs not being decided upon I take the liberty of suggesting that the restitution of the Landed maniums should occur at the same time, for

as it seems probable that in lieu of Merahs an equivalent in land will be given, it would be desirable that the delivery of the whole land should take place at once, whereby an accommodation in the distribution of lands might be attended to, and confusion perhaps avoided from making two separate distributions.

7. Should your Board however resolve to restore the resumed Manium lands during the settlement of the approaching fussy 1231, I shall adopt measures for their restitution. The Manium lands it may be observed are not specific, and defined in every village, for in some villages a certain quantity of land yielding a determinate amount of revenue was accustomed to be remitted from the collection for the benefit of the Monigars or Merassidars in proportion extent of land brought into cultivation, and in such cases I apprehend I must adhere to the ancient management of considering a proportion of the revenues as the Monigars, Curnums and Shroff's property calculated according to the scale adopted by Royajee until we discover it necessary to modify it. In these villages when the Manium lands are defined the holders were not exempted from their entire rent unless the required extent of assessable cultivation took place, so that, if a village had 12 cannies of Manium land rated at 30 Pagodas rent, on condition that 600 cannies were cultivated and only 400 cannies were cultivated, the rent on 4 cannies of Manium lands yielding 10 Pagodas, would be levied, and if the Manium lands themselves were entirely waste the Moniumdar lost the whole. I request your Board's instructions upon the question if I am to recur to the principles adopted by Royajee in the annual cognition of Maniums, or if I am to restore the exact quantity of lands that were resumed and whether the cultivation of the country increases or diminishes to make no alteration in the annual extent of Maniums conferred on the parties concerned.

Sancarapoom,
Circuit Cutcherry,
15th June 1821.

I have the honor to be,
&c. &c. &c.

C. HYDE,
Collector.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

NO. 66.

TO THE COLLECTOR, IN THE SOUTHERN DIVISION OF ARCOT.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th ultimo requesting their instructions as to the mode in which you are to conduct the settlement for the ensuing tussy or fushies in certain particulars.

2. The view which you have taken of the Board's intentions in regard to the persons with whom you are to form the settlement is quite correct and you are authorized to proceed in conformity with those intentions without waiting further orders.

3. With regard to the restoration of the service lands to the village officers a further reference will be made to Government whose instructions on the subject will be hereafter communicated to you.

4. The Board deem it a point of great importance to convert bad farms into good estates and to improve the condition of the landholders so that they may become land owners. They were induced however to think that it would not be necessary, in order to the attainment of this desirable object, that the warum should be generally reduced from 50 to 40 or even 45 per cent. because the Brahmins and other favored castes who paid 45 per cent., were considered to be lowly assessed, even under the present unfavorable rates of commutation but wherever a reduction of warum may be found essential to the fixing of a moderate assessment you are at liberty to make such reduction. The Board however are of opinion that except under particular circumstances a modification in the conversion rates may be made to afford the desired relief. This modification will be particularly proper where the survey has not been completed.

5. The Board trust that these instructions will be sufficient to enable you to enter on the business of the new settlement. The resolutions of Government on the points yet undetermined will be communicated to you hereafter.

Fort St. George,
2nd July 1821.

I am
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

The Honorable the Governor in Council has had under consideration your proceeding dated the 4th of December 1820 and the report of the Collector of the Southern Division of Arcot upon the future settlement of that district.

2. The Collector's report is full of information valuable in itself and of still greater importance as shewing the attention which he has paid to the subject and his qualification for the undertaking in which he is engaged. In every comprehensive and complicated arrangement like the settlement of the revenue of a district much must be left to depend on the experience and discretion of the person by whom it is to be executed and more harm than good would ensue from the attempt to lay down general rules applicable to all the variety of cases likely to occur. All that the Governor in Council proposes to do on the present occasion is to advert to those leading points on which the Collector seems to require instructions for his guidance.

3. The first point is whether the future settlement is to be formed with the occupant ryots or with the ancient meerassiedars. The Governor in Council hopes that practically this question will seldom arise. It may be presumed that the meerassiedars are generally the occupant ryots themselves or where they are not that they have voluntarily relinquished the right of being so and will not be desirous of resuming it. Where the question does arise, the Governor in Council apprehends that the justice of the case, according to the sense of the people of the country, will be ascertained without much real difficulty. If a meerassiedar lost his right of occupancy only for not agreeing to the triennial or decennial lease, the Governor in Council is of opinion that he should not be hindered from resuming it, if he is desirous of doing so and if he can be trusted for the rent. On the other hand where he claims only a traditionary right which he has long relinquished and which at best could not be very satisfactorily established the ryot actually in possession ought not to be forced to make way for him.

4. The Governor in Council desires that the orders of the Court of Directors for restoring maniums to village servants in lieu of money payments be carried into effect but agrees with you in opinion that the commutation for fees may continue unless where fees are preferred to money-payments. The Governor in Council approves of your suggestions with the view of guarding against fraudulent enams and taking care that enam-land be not cultivated to the injury of that belonging to the sirkar.

5. The Governor in Council desires that the survey of the District may be completed and hopes that an equitable commutation price for the grain will render any reduction of the sirkar share unnecessary.

6. It does not occur to the Governor in Council that there are any other points on which express instructions are required, but it will be satisfactory to him to be informed of the progress of the settlement.

Fort St. George,
27th July 1821.

(Signed) D. HILL,
Secretary to Government.

164882

சுதர் அப்துல்அமீத்
செப்பனிருபவர் பெயர்

02.04.1993

செப்பனிருபவர்களுக்கு
அனுப்பப்பட்ட நாள்.

02.04.1993

செப்பனிருபவர்களுக்கு
முடித்த நாள்

02.04.93

அனுப்பார்க்கும்

மு.பா.ஏ.

கையொப்பம்

சுதர் அப்துல்அமீத்

உதவியாளர்

கையொப்பம்

02.04.93