

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	857	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	1-6	19-1865

Not to be folded or roughly handled

(ms)

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
1st June 1866.

No. 9. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 23rd May 1866, No. 1237.

Directing the careful revision by the
Board of the Village Establishments, } (Vide Proceedings, Revenue Dept.,
prior to the introduction of the Village } dated 23rd May 1866, Nos. 437 & 438.)
Service Cess Act into the Godavery }
District from 1st July next.

No. 10. ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1866, No. 857.

To be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exa. J. Talloch.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd May 1866.*

1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that the Village Service Cess Act be introduced into the Godavery District from Fusly 1276, commencing 1st July 1866, and that all fees to the village servants contemplated by that Act be discontinued from that date.

2. The old Joint-rent settlement included in these fees, which were embodied in the demand against the village, and then deducted under the head of ordinary remissions, and disbursed to the parties entitled to receive them.

3. On the introduction of the revised assessment this levy ceased, as the new settlement did not include the village service fees, the Government, however, expressly reserving to themselves the power to levy a cess should they deem fit to do so; and the village establishments have consequently been since paid by grants from the Treasury, the Ryots being to a corresponding extent relieved from a payment which was due from them.

4. There seems no reason why this charge on the State revenues should be continued, now that the assessment of the whole District has been revised.

5. The Collector should at once report what per-centage on the revenues of the District will be needed to raise the sum due to the Village Establishments as at present constituted.

No. 438.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1866, No. 1,237.

Land Revenue.

1. The Governor in Council concurs with the Board of Revenue as to the expediency of introducing the Village Service Cess Act into the Godavery District from the commence-

No. IV. of 1864, Madras.

ment of the ensuing Fusly, viz., 1st July next, but considers it desirable that the Village Establishments should first be carefully revised so as to avoid further changes in the rate of the cess.

2. The collective Board will, therefore, undertake this revision at once, as pointed out in paragraph 13 of G. O. 28th November 1865, No. 2,946.

3. As regards the grouping of villages, the Government will here remark that they would wish every place, really deserving of the name of a village, to have its Head man and Taliary. As regards the Curnums and Vetties the grouping system is less open to objection when kept within reasonable limits.

4. The Board will submit their scheme with the least practicable delay.

(True Extract.)

L. P. M.
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23th November 1865.*

Read again the following letters from the Honorable Mr. Pelly, on the proposed revision of Village Establishments:—

On Ganjam District, dated 18th February 1862.			
Vizagapatam	do.	3rd April	"
Godavery	do.	14th August	"
Kistna	do.	22nd May	1861.
Nellore	do.	11th "	1863.
Bellary	do.	14th February	1862.
Cuddapah	do.	26th "	"
Kurnool	do.	19th June	1861.
Madras	do.	20th April	"
North Arcot	do.	11th July	1862.
South Arcot	do.	19th December	"
Tanjore	do.	7th "	1861.
Trichinopoly	do.	9th January	1862.
Madura	do.	18th August	"
Tinnevelly	do.	27th November	1861.
Salem	do.	20th August	1862.
Coimbatore	do.	18th "	"
South Canara	do.	2nd June	"
On the general subject		30th May	1863.

No. 563.

ORDER THEREON, 28th November 1865, No. 2,946.

Miscellaneous.

1. The above letters constitute Mr. Pelly's elaborate reply to the G. O. dated 3rd September 1859, No. 1,187, directing him to undertake the revision of the Village Establishments in conjunction with that of the District Talook Establishments, on which he was already engaged.

2. The object in view was to improve the efficiency of the Village Establishments by restoring, consolidating, or increasing their emoluments, so as to make the offices worth holding; and in order to part provision of the necessary funds, it was ruled that "where there are a number of very small villages near together, two or more may be clubbed together under one set of village officers."

3. On the other hand, it was provided that villages too large to be managed by a single establishment might be sub-divided.

4. The general result of Mr. Pelly's proposals for the above-named eighteen Districts (Malabar not being included), is that the number of villages in them is cut down from 32,691 to 15,039, in other words, and after making allowance for additions derived from the Sub-Division of large villages, considerably more than one-half of the villages throughout the greater part of the Presidency will lose their separate existence, and all those privileges which the Ryots now guard so jealously from encroachment by their neighbours will in these cases cease to be distinctive.

5. It is scarcely necessary to say that so sweeping a change was never contemplated by Government, and that its expediency, in a political point of view, cannot but be deemed most questionable.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th November 1865.*

6. Mr. Pelly observes that by the proposed grouping, the cost of the revised establishments has been kept within more moderate bounds than would otherwise have been practicable, but he expresses his doubts whether the arrangements, though in accordance with the recommendations of the local officers, will be found to answer. The Government fully share these doubts.

7. The financial results of Mr. Pelly's proposals are shewn briefly below:—

	Average per annum.			Total cost.
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.
Potails or Moonsiffs	45	8	0	6,59,822
Curnums	79	8	0	11,37,900
Vetties (uniform)	36	0	0	10,20,672
Nir-gunties	29	0	0	1,27,132
				29,45,526
				Estimated value of available assets.
				RS.
Land				11,65,203
Fees and cash				8,41,672
				Total... 20,06,875

8. The result is an estimated annual deficit of Rupees 9,38,651 notwithstanding the sweeping reduction of villages, and notwithstanding also that in five districts the Service Ináms have been valued at their *full* assessment instead of at five-eighths of that assessment, as ordered by Government with reference to the fact of the Ináms having been extensively sub-divided in times past, and being now in great measure alienated from the office and freed by long prescription from the condition of service.

NOTE.—Mr. Pelly's proposals do not include the Village Police, which however is included in the service to be provided from the maximum cess legalized by the Act.

9. The Village Service Cess, which is the only source indicated from whence to supply this deficiency, is evidently not available, inasmuch as by the law as enacted this cess is leviable *in lieu of fees*, while the value of the fees is included in the above estimate of available assets.

10. The objections indicated in the above remarks would probably have compelled the Government to reject Mr. Pelly's proposed scheme, even did it promise to produce valuable administrative results; but the limited experience that has been obtained of the working of the scheme in the Kurnool District, where alone it has been brought into operation, has been so unfavorable that it has been deliberately proposed to cancel all that has been done there, and to revert as far as possible to the state of things that was in existence previously to the introduction of the new system; and the proposal has so far commended itself to the consideration of Government, that it has been referred to the Collector for report through the Board of Revenue.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th November 1865.*

11. In paragraph 17 of his letter dated 30th May 1863, taking a general review of his proposals, Mr. Pelly observes that economy and the admitted necessity of improving the remuneration for village service, demand that the grouping of villages to a material extent be maintained, if the measure of reform is to be carried out in the manner proposed, and the Government agree with him that the necessity is inevitable if the measure be carried out.

12. But as they cannot possibly sanction so sweeping a destruction of separate village communities, which have existed probably from the earliest establishment of social customary law in the localities concerned, they are forced to the conclusion that Mr. Pelly's proposals must be rejected as being radically impracticable.

13. How far improvements may be effected in the existing establishments without amalgamating villages, except where they are mere insignificant congeries of huts undeserving of recognition as separate village communities, or outlying hamlets that may more conveniently be grouped with some other than the mother village, is a question that may usefully be considered by the collective Board of Revenue, and brought forward as circumstances may require.

14. The Village Cess Act provides means for realizing one source of income which has hitherto in very many instances been merely nominal, and the Service Ináms whether re-attached to the office or enfranchised from the condition of service, and charged with additional quit-rent for the benefit of the office, can doubtless be improved as a means of remuneration for service.

15. With improved remuneration greater efficiency may confidently be anticipated, although possibly not to the extent contemplated by Mr. Pelly.

16. The Government cannot dismiss the subject from consideration without recording their appreciation of Mr. Pelly's laborious efforts to reduce this difficult matter to form, in which he certainly has succeeded, and has placed on record a mass of information which cannot but be most valuable whenever hereafter the subject may come under discussion.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Honorable C. Pelly,
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

hid 9. 12 June.

Journal with notes

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Proceedings of the
Bureau of
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1723 & 1840

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