

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1375

Press
~~Mis.~~

141-142

Dated

9-7-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th July 1861.*

No. 141. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th May 1861, No. 2,406:—

Read again letter from the Collector of South Arcot, dated 19th January 1861, No. 10.
(In Cons. 24th January 1861, No. 469.)

Read also the following letter from the Director of Revenue Settlement, dated 4th March 1861, No. 355.

(In Cons. 5th March 1861, No. 1,399.)

1. In the first of the letters recorded above, Mr. Wood points out the disadvantage as regards assessment in which the Manavary lands of South Arcot are placed when brought under irrigation, in comparison with the regular Nanja lands of the District.

2. Originally Mr. Ravenshaw rated these lands when unirrigated at 25 per cent. less than the current Nanja assessment, with a proviso that when irrigation was given by Government, one-third of this assessment was to be added. By this arrangement the lands in question when irrigated paid precisely the same as the corresponding Nanja tarams did.

3. In 1854 when the revision of assessments took place in South Arcot, a reduction of 10 per cent. was granted in the rates on the Manavary lands, in addition to the 25 per cent. given by Mr. Ravenshaw, leaving the course of action when the land came under irrigation as it was.

Board's Proceedings, 17th August 1854,
No. 1,767.

4. This further relief did not, however, bring these lands when irrigated into the same favorable position, as the regular Nanja lands were placed by the modification of the assessment on them, as shown in Statement No. 2 which accompanied the Collector's letter under consideration.

5. To put the Manavary lands when irrigated on an equal footing with the Nanja lands in regard to assessment, Mr. Wood now proposes that the modified Nanja rates of the Hulua Taluqs should be applied to these lands, to be paid in full when irrigation is given, but with a deduction of 25 per cent. when there is no irrigation.

6. The Board are of decided opinion that unirrigated Manavary lands should be treated as Punja, and declared subject to the ordinary water rate of the District when irrigation is afforded by Government, which is in fact the principle upon which such lands are treated under the new Survey and assessment, as stated by Mr. Newill in his letter above recorded. Mr. Wood's proposal is not in accordance with this principle, but under the circumstances of the case, the Board recommend the adoption of his plan pending the new assessment, in order that the lands alluded to may be at once put when irrigated on an equality with the regular Nanja of the District.

7. The financial effects of the measure would be a loss of Rupees 3,338 on the extent of land cultivated in 1269, and a reduction of Rupees 4,353 in the Beriz of the whole area of the lands. On the other hand, it would probably lead to a great portion of the waste Manavary lands (amounting to 1,300 cawnies) being cultivated, by which the loss would be more than counterbalanced.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1861, No. 1,375.

1. The Government are not prepared to adopt the course recommended by the Board of Revenue in these Proceedings. It is a departure from the broad principle laid down in the case of North Arcot, Chingleput, and on other occasions, that lands are to be divided for the purpose of taxation into the two classes of "irrigated" and "unirrigated" according as they do, or do not, receive water from a Government Tank or Channel.

2. The Collector's Statement, No. 1, shows that 1,382 cawnies of the land called in South Arcot "Manavary" (i. e., land which grows rice though dependent on the falling rain) is now under irrigation, and it is quite right that this should at once be permanently entered in the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th July 1861.*

accounts as Nanja or "irrigated," and be assessed with the revised rates paid by irrigated land of similar quality in the village. The Collector will accordingly carry out this arrangement.

3. As to the remaining Manavary land, if it has really no regular command of water from Government works, the correct plan is to enter it as Punja or "unirrigated" land of the first quality, and to levy an additional water cess in any years when water reaches it from a Government source. It will not in all cases be necessary to class unirrigated Manavary land as Punja of the first quality, though as a general rule it ought, the Government believe, to be so reckoned.

4. It is more than probable, the Government think, that in many cases, Ryots, whose lands under these orders will be classed as Punja, would be content to pay a suitable Nunja assessment at once, and so avoid all inquiry as to irrigation and the extra demand in the shape of a water cess. Encouragement should be given to such proposals if made.

5. The Governor in Council is aware that the Board of Revenue made this recommendation against their own convictions and merely with a view to a speedy temporary settlement of a question which would be finally disposed of by the Survey and Settlement. It does not appear likely, however, that the Survey will reach South Arcot in any very short time, and the Government are therefore of opinion that no good would result from any further delay in carrying out the Settlement of these lands on the broad principle laid down.

6. The Board will be good enough to obtain and submit a Statement showing the financial result of the proposed changes.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

No. 1,014.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 25th February 1861.

Read the following letter from H. WOOD, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Cuddalore, 19th January 1861, No. 10:—

1. Munwary lands in this District with the exception of those in the resumed Paliemcottah Jaghire are not, as the Board in their Endorsement on Board's Petitions, Nos. 1,590 and 2,513 of 1860, state they suppose treated as Poonjay. They are dealt with altogether exceptionally.

2. As lands capable from their level and position of bearing wet crops in favorable seasons without irrigation, Mr. Ravenshaw at the Pymash imposed upon them a Nunjay assessment according to Tarum, less 25 per cent., adding one-third of the rate when irrigation was supplied from Government sources.

3. The Board in their Proceedings, dated 17th August 1854, paragraph 4, lowered Mr. Ravenshaw's rates by 10 per cent., and the lands, therefore, bear now when unirrigated about two-thirds of the Pymash Nunjay assessment.

4. In the Hullus Taluks there are 5,217 Cawnies of Munwary lands, including about 300 Cawnies of Yerrapoo Pattadai, or lands drawing their water supply from wells.

5. Of the whole quantity 3,883 Cawnies were cultivated in Fasli 1269, and out of them 1,383 Cawnies received water from Government sources and paid an aggregate Kysser of Rupees 2,957-14-3.

6. Mr. Ravenshaw at the Pymash looked upon the Munwary as regards soil as equal in every respect to the surrounding Nunjay, and merely allowed for it a deduction of 25 per cent. on the prevailing wet assessment in lieu of the inferior water supply. Did the old Nunjay rates still exist, the additional deduction of 10 per cent. permitted by the Board would have placed Munwary land in a favorable position; but those rates have been modified, and notwithstanding, therefore, a combined deduction of 35 per cent. on the Pymash Munwary land when irrigated (as the enclosed Statement No. 2 will show) stands in unfavorable contrast to the surrounding Nunjay. Though possessing but the same advantages, it is taxed higher. Against this inequality the Petitioners seem to complain.

7. I see no just reason for maintaining the difference. In view of its inconsistency, I would suggest that Munwary lands generally be assessed at the current Nunjay rates, paying those rates when irrigated with Government water, but being favored with a deduction of 25 per cent. when not irrigated. Such an assessment will do away with all causes of complaint. Irrigated lands will not bear a greater burden than the neighbouring wet. Unirrigated lands will be charged at no higher rate than they can well pay, and their assessment will produce the advantage of simplicity in the accounts now difficult to obtain with the additional deduction of 10 per cent. made by the Board.

8. I have roughly estimated the financial result of the change.

9. It will entail a nominal loss of 4,353 Rupees on the whole Ayakut, and an actual falling off of 3,388 Rupees on the cultivation of Fasli 1269. Of the latter Rupees 1,761 will be on the irrigated cultivation (of which only 1,000 Cawnies are permanently watered): a small diminution, however, when the fairness and simplicity of the arrangement I proposed is considered.

10. My calculation refers of course only to the cultivation as it stands. It may be presumed that the change will facilitate the cultivation of the 1,300 Cawnies shewn in the Statement No. 1 as waste; the more especially because the greater part of them lie in Bougherry within the influence of the annicut, and are probably not taken up because of the high assessment they now bear.

11. The Munwary lands in the resumed Paliemcottah Jaghire are treated differently from other lands of the denomination in the District. They bear Poonjay rates, and are liable, as it would seem from paragraph 25 of Mr. Hall's letter to the Board, No. 21, dated 26th January 1857, and paragraph 10 of the Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 1,093, dated 26th October,

which accompanied Board's Proceedings, No. 3,951, dated 12th November of the same year, when watered from Government reservoirs to the Nunjay rate of their respective Tarums.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Abstract Statement shewing the Munwary and Yerappoo Pattadai Nunjay lands in the Hulus Taluqs of South Arcot, together with the cultivation and waste thereof, with the amount of assessment.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Statement showing the difference between the present rate charged on the Munwary, and on the regular Nunjay in the several Tarums.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 3 and 4.—Petitions.

1. Munwary lands are those which although only dependent on the rain fall are from position and quality capable of yielding Nunjay crops of inferior quality. When irrigated such lands would of course lose the appellation of Munwary and become Nunjay. Under the practice of the District such lands have been, in the first instance, assessed with Nunjay Teervah, from which 25 per cent. and a further 10 per cent. is deducted, so long as no irrigation from Government sources is furnished. In case of irrigation being supplied one-third of the reduced Teervah is added, which brings the assessment up above the present modified rates on the classified Nunjay lands of the District. This is obviously wrong and unfair to the holders.

2. When the Paliemcottah Jaghire was assessed in 1857, the Collector treated the Munwary lands in it as Poonjay. The Board approved, and the Government accorded sanction to the rule. When so treated they are liable, in the event of irrigation being furnished by Government, to the water* rate (Teervah jastee), and eventually to be transferred into Nunjay Tarums in common with all other Poonjay land when converted into Nunjay at the Government expense. Mr. Wood now proposes that the Munwary lands in other parts of the District should for the future be assessed at the current Nunjay rates subject to a deduction of 25 per cent. so long as they remain unirrigated.

3. As there seems a probability of the new assessment being generally introduced before long into South Arcot, it would be out of place for the Board to pass any definite order on the point, until they have ascertained from Mr. Newill the rule under which he proposes to classify such lands.

4. They resolve, therefore, to request that he will be good enough to inform them of the principle upon which such lands will be dealt with in the new classification and assessment.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To H. Newill, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement.

Copy to H. Wood, Esq., Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

IN CONS. 5TH MARCH 1861, No. 1,399.

From H. NEWILL, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement,

dated Madras, 4th March 1861, No. 355.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th ultimo, No. 1,014, and in reply to state that Manawary lands as defined in paragraph 1, are classified as Punjai in the new settlement, and the principle of their treatment generally is in accordance with the views of the Board as described in these Proceedings.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

I do not altogether approve of the course recommended by the Board, because it departs from the broad principle laid down by Govt. for N. West & the principle is on other occasions that lands are to be divided for the purpose of ~~afforestation~~ into the two classes of "irrigated" & "unirrigated" according as they do or do not receive water from a Govt. Tank or channel.

- Much of the land in T. West called Khenawary ~~that is~~ land which grows rice altho' dependent on the falling rain is now really under irrigation from newly constructed Govt. works.

The Collector's Statement No 1 shows 1302 Cawms of such land now under cultivation and it is quite right that this land should at once be ^{in the accounts} permanently entered as Khenawary or "irrigated" & be made to pay the revised rates of assessment paid by irrigated land of similar quality in the Village. The Collector can be ordered to carry out this arrangement.

- But if the remaining Khenawary land has ^{regular} no command of water from Govt. works, it would in my opinion be a wrong course to assess it as "irrigated" & then deduct 25% because it was not supplied with water. - The correct

1307 - 1308

Enclosure 2 to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue to the Government of Madras dated 11th May 1880 - 1881.

C.P.D.

Ann 1306 of 1881

Letter to the Secretary of the Board of Revenue of the Government of Madras dated 11th March 1880 - 1881.

1307 - 1308

R. D.

No 1375-

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 9th July 1861

Read the following
Progs. of the Bd of Rev.

Submitting two letters from
the Collr. of S. Arcot, and D. of
Revenue, reporting on the
assess of certain lands in the
District. (Here enter 11th May 1861. 2406)

The Govt. are not
prepared to adopt the course
recommended by the Bd
of Rev. in these Progs. - It
is a departure from the
broad principle laid down
in the case of S. Arcot,
Chingleput and on other
occasions, that lands are
to be divided for the pur-
pose of taxation into the
two classes of "irrigated,"
and "unirrigated," according

as

plan seems to me to enter it as Poonyah or
"unirrigated" of the 1st quality, & levy an addi-
-tional water cess (Kapur) in any years when water
reached it from a good source. - This course
would be more correct in principle & at least
equally easy of execution. - I propose therefore
that it be suggested to the Board & the Collector with
an intimation that if Manawary land need
not be classed as Poonyah of the 1st quality, though
the Govt. believe that in general it ought to be so.

The present discussion has arisen from some
Petitions presented by the holders of Manawary
land. These Petitions are not in the bundle
& I do not therefore know their precise prayer
but I believe that in many instances the
Petitioners would be content to pay a suitable
Manawary assessment at once & be quit of all
trouble as to irrigation & an extra demand
in the shape of a water cess - This arrangement
should be encouraged.

The present papers speak of the Revenue Survey
being likely soon to reach S. Arcot. - but I
do not see how this can be when its progress
is so slow, and many other districts call
for more immediate attention. - It is known
that the Survey is not likely to reach S. Arcot soon,
that I recommend immediate steps to be
taken about its Manawary lands. The
20 June.

as they do, or do not, receive water from a Govt. tank or channel.—

2.— The collectors statement No. 1 shows that 1382 *Kanis* of the land called in S. Arest "Manamary" (i.e. land which grows rice tho' dependent on the falling rain) is now under irrigation, and it is quite right that this should at once be permanently entered in the accounts as Punjab or "irrigated", and be assessed with the revised rates paid by irrigated land of similar quality in the village. The Coll^r will accordingly carry out this arrangement.—

As

3.— As to the remaining Manamary land, if there really no regular command of water from Govt. works, the correct plan is to enter it as Punjab or "unirrigated" land of the first quality, and to levy an additional water cess in any year when water reaches it from a Govt. source. It will not in all cases be necessary to class unirrigated Manamary land as Punjab of the first quality, tho' as a general rule it ought, the Govt.

Govt. believe, take
so reckoned. —

4. — It is more than
probable, the Govt. think,
that in many cases, ryots,
whose lands under these
orders, will be classed
as Punjab, would be
content to pay a suitable
Punjab assessment at
once, and so avoid all
enquiry as to irrigation,
and the extra demand
in the shape of ^{or} water
rent. Encouragement
should be given to
such proposals, if made

5. — The Govt. in C
is aware that the Bd.
of Rs. made this re-
commen- dation.

recommen dation against
their own convictions
and merely with a
view to a speedy tem-
porary settlement of
a question which would
be finally disposed
of by the Survey and
settlement. It does
not appear likely, how-
ever, that the Survey
will reach S. West
in any very short
time, and the Govt.
are therefore of opi-
nion that no good
would result from
any further delay
in carrying out the
settlement of these
lands on the broad
principle

principle laid down -
to. — The Bd will
be good enough to ob-
tain and submit a
statement showing the
financial result of
the proposed changes -

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11 Copies
To the Board of Revenue.

Assessment of certain
lands in S. Arcot -

Revenue 1861 Departe
Proc of Govt for July

N^o 1375.

Proc of the Madras
Government.

D/ 9th July 1861 -

No/ Board of Revenue &
23 Sept/ 64 C no 2566.

Declining to comply with
Board's recommendation that
certain Manavary lands in South
Arcot should bear the same
Assessment as Kungu lands
subject to the deduction of 25
per Cent when there is no
irrigation from the works of
Government.

N^o 141 & 142