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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works. DEPARTMENT.

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380-381

Dated 15—4— 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works' Department, 15th April 1864.

No. 380. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department:—

Drawing attention to the general want of minor roads in the Trichinopoly District, with a view to some aid being granted from Imperial Funds. (Here enter 5th April 1864, No. 577.)

No. 381. ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1864, No. 1,077.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

2. The Government will be prepared to consider any proposals which the Superintending Engineer, in conjunction with the Civil authorities, may have to make for the improvement of the minor roads of the Trichinopoly District from Imperial Funds.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5th April 1864.

Read again the following papers:—

No. 89. Report of the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, R. K. Puckle, Esq.
(Here enter 23rd October 1860.)

No. 90. Report of Director of Revenue Settlement, H. Newill, Esq.
(Here enter 20th April 1861.)

No. 91. Letter of Board of Revenue to Æ. R. McDonell, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly.
(Here enter 4th June 1861.)

No. 92. Reply of Collector of Trichinopoly.
(Here enter 7th August 1861.)

No. 93. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 1st November 1861.)

No. 94. Letter from the Director of Revenue Settlement to Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 29th January 1862.)

No. 95. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 5th April 1862.)

No. 96. Letter from Officiating Director Revenue Settlement to Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 20th June 1862.)

No. 97. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 18th July 1862.)

No. 98. Letter from Deputy Director Revenue Settlement to Officiating Director Revenue Settlement.
(Here enter 28th November 1862.)

No. 99. Letter from Officiating Director Revenue Settlement to Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 31st December 1862.)

No. 100. Minute of H. A. Brett, Esq., 2nd Member, Board of Revenue.
(Here enter ———)

No. 101. Minute of the Honorable C. Pelly, 1st Member, Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 26th March 1863.)

No. 102. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 3rd March 1863.)

No. 103. Letter from Board of Revenue to Secretary to Government.
(Here enter 12th August 1863.)

No. 104. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Maltby.
(Here enter 2nd May 1863.)

No. 105. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Pycroft.
(Here enter ——— ———)

No. 106. Minute by His Excellency the Governor.
(Here enter ——— ———)

No. 107. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Maltby.
(Here enter 12th July 1863.)

No. 108. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Pycroft.
(Here enter 16th July 1863.)

No. 109. Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department.
(Here enter — August 1863.)

No. 110. Letter to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.
(Here enter—October 1863.)

No. 111. Minute by the Honorable the President.
(Here enter ———)

No. 112. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Maltby.
(Here enter 31st July 1863.)

No. 113. Minute by His Excellency the Governor.
(Here enter 6th August 1863.)

No. 114. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Maltby.
(Here enter 12th August 1863.)

No. 115. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Pycroft.
(Here enter 13th August 1863.)

No. 116. Minute by the Honorable the President.
(Here enter 1st October 1863.)

No. 117. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Maltby.
(Here enter 5th October 1863.)

No. 118. Minute by the Honorable Mr. Pycroft.
(Here enter 9th October 1863.)

No. 119. Minute by the Honorable the President.
(Here enter 24th October 1863.)

No. 120. Letter to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.
(Here enter 26th October 1863, No. 113.)

No. 121. Letter to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.
(Here enter 13th November 1863, No. 121.)

No. 122. Read also the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Secretary of State for India.

Recording observation on the letters from this Government, dated 26th October and 13th November 1863, Nos. 113 and 121, relative to the revision of the assessments of the District of Trichinopoly. } (Here enter 24th February 1864, No. 7.)

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1864, No. 577.

1. The papers above recorded relate to the re-assessment of the Trichinopoly District.

OLD TALOOKS.	NEW TALOOKS.
DRY OR UPLAND DIVISION.	
Woodiarpollum.	Woodiarpollum.
Arealore.	
* Volcondapooram.	Volcondapooram.
* Torriore.	
IRRIGATED DIVISION.	
* Conad.	Conad.
* Vetticutty	
* Laulgudy.	Vetticutty.
* Musiry.	
* Manapara.	

2. The District comprises a culturable area of 2,798 square miles, divided originally into nine and now into four Talooks, as shown in the margin. The proposals now before Government relate to the Talooks marked with an asterisk, the correct survey areas of the others not having been in the possession of the Settlement Department when their reports were submitted.

3. The survey of the District was commenced in Fusly 1264, and has brought to light an excess of 86,195 Acres, by which extent the reputed areas entered in the Revenue accounts are erroneous. In one case the reputed areas are 3 per cent. *greater* than the true areas, but in every other instance they are less, the variations ranging from 1 to 57 per cent.

4. The Settlement operations were commenced in Fusly 1268 by Mr. R. K. Puckle.

5. The general principles followed were similar to those adopted in the Manargoody and Chellumbrum. Talooks of South Arcot and the Western Delta of the Godavery District, and call for no special remark from Government on this occasion.

6. The general result of Mr. Puckle's first Settlement was an assessment of Rupees 11,10,370, or rather more than 2½ lacs below the net Jummabundy Settlement of Fusly 1271. Mr. Puckle's proposals underwent various changes at the instance of the Directors of Revenue Settlement, and ultimately the Board with the concurrence of the Acting Director (Mr. Master), the Collector (Mr. Æ. R. McDonell) and Mr. Puckle, recommended an assessment aggregating Rupees 9,58,145, being Rupees 4,06,929 less than the Settlement of Fusly 1271.

7. The Government do not deem it necessary at present to enter into the details of the original operations or of the various assessments laid before them. They accept Mr. Puckle's calculations of the gross and net produce, his scheme of grouping, and the proposed commutation rates.

8. In accordance with the decision of the Home Government, conveyed in the Despatch recorded at the head of these orders, the Government assessment will be a moiety of the net produce, subject to a deduction of 10 per cent., the rate proposed by the Board, for unprofitable portions of fields, of which the survey did not take account, &c.

9. The following tables shows the "wet" and "dry" assessments thus fixed for each class of land and group of villages, a reasonable discretion being, however, left to the settling Officer in their applications in particular instances.

NUNJAH.

Primary Taram.	Class.	Sort.	First group.	Second group.	Third group.	Fourth group.	Fifth group.
			RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1	...	...	9 4 0	8 12 0	7 4 0	6 12 0	6 4 0
2	2	2	8 0 0	7 8 0	6 0 0	5 8 0	5 0 0
	4	1	7 8 0	7 0 0	5 8 0	5 0 0	4 8 0
3	...	...	6 8 0	6 0 0	4 8 0	4 0 0	3 8 0
4	...	...	5 8 0	5 0 0	3 8 0	3 4 0	3 0 0
5	...	...	4 8 0	4 0 0	3 0 0	2 12 0	2 8 0
6	...	...	3 8 0	3 4 0	2 8 0	2 4 0	2 0 0
7	...	...	3 0 0	2 12 0	2 0 0	1 12 0	1 8 0
8	...	...	2 8 0	2 4 0	1 8 0	1 4 0	1 0 0

POONJAH.

Primary Taram.	Class.	Sort.	First group.	Second group.	Third group.
			RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1	...	...	3 8 0	3 2 0	2 12 0
2	...	...	2 12 0	2 8 0	2 4 0
3	...	...	2 4 0	2 0 0	1 12 0
4	3	1	2 0 0	1 12 0	1 10 0
	4	2	1 12 0	1 10 0	1 8 0
	7	1			
5	...	...	1 8 0	1 4 0	1 0 0
6	...	...	1 0 0	0 13 0	0 10 0
7	...	...	0 10 0	0 9 0	0 8 0
8	...	...	0 8 0	0 7 0	0 6 0
9	...	...	0 6 0	0 5 0	0 4 0

10. The same principles will be followed in regard to the two Talooks not included in Mr. Puckle's scheme, and the result will be reported when the Settlement has been fully carried out.

11. The Government particularly desire that the new Settlement may be carried out at once, so as to come into operation in the ensuing Fusly. Mr. Master will instruct Mr. Puckle accordingly, and ascertain what special aid he may require in order to ensure this result.

12. The Board will lose no time in revising the Hukumnamah of the District, as well as the forms of accounts which may probably be considerably simplified. A copy of the Land Register of any village should be submitted to Government as soon as completed by Mr. Puckle.

13. There are still some points on which special orders are requisite.

I. *The mode of dealing with second crop cultivation.*—All the Nunjah land is rated as single crop, and in accordance with the rule followed in other Districts, half the assessment is chargeable when a second crop is raised. It is proposed by the Board and the Settlement Officers to charge a lower consolidated rate, payable whether a supply of water is available or not, on lands which are almost perfectly certain of such irrigation in at least two out of three years. The rate proposed is one-third of the single crop assessment in the wet Talooks and one-fourth in the upland Talooks. Mr. Puckle states that he prepared lists of all fields cultivated with a second crop during three consecutive years, and after striking out, first, those irrigated solely by pecottah labor; secondly, those which form but fractional parts of a survey block; and thirdly, those that are so exceptional that the second crop assessment of the village in which they are situated would be less than 10 Rupees per annum, he has entered as "permanent double crop" only such a portion of the remainder as had borne a double crop at least twice during three successive seasons. Besides the area thus entered, Mr. Puckle states that there are many fields now irrigated by pecottah labor, which sometimes yield a second crop of paddy, but more frequently one of dry grains or garden produce. These he has excluded from the consolidated cess in consideration of the expenses incurred in raising water, and the consequent disadvantage that their owners labor under in comparison with the more fortunate Ryots who draw their water supply direct from a tank or river channel. He suggests that, if the charge for a second crop water is to be retained in such cases, the best course would be to enlarge the area of permanent double crop land by including in it all land which was thus cultivated in the previous year.

14. The total charge for a second crop cultivation in Fusly 1270 was 1,46,692 Rupees, of which, however, Rupees 45,005 was levied on 12,529 Acres of garden land now transferred to Poonjah, leaving a balance of Rupees 1,01,687 as the *bonâ fide* second crop Nunjah assessment on a nominal area of 26,245 Acres, or nearly 4 Rupees per Acre. The future permanent double crop assessment, including that leviable on Nunjah garden land now included in Nunjah, is given by Mr. Puckle at 33,000, and the occasional second crop assessment is estimated by him at Rupees 17,000 or altogether half a lac, the reduction being Rupees 51,687.

15. This reduction is mainly owing to the future charge not varying with each description of crop, and to the abolition of the present excessive tax on Vanpir or the cultivation of Plantains, Sugar-cane and Betel vines.

16. Mr. Master remarks that unless Fasl Jasty is levied on lands irrigated by pecottahs and those forming parts of survey blocks, the owners of these will be in a better position than their neighbours, as they will get irrigation without payment, while on the other hand he objects to Mr. Puckle's proposal to rate such land as permanent double crop, as manifestly unjust.

17. The Board point out that the area of land liable to temporary Fasl Jasty is only 9,500 Acres, and at the future average rate of 1½ Rupees per Acre could only produce a maximum Revenue of Rupees 14,000, and this only on the supposition of the whole being cultivated yearly, which practically would never be the case, for not only would the cultivation vary but some of the land could not pay so high a rate. They add that, "in consideration of the trifling amount at

stake and the great evils inherent in the system of *temporary* Fasl Jasty" they "would have recommended the entire relinquishment of the charge rather than that recourse should be had to an expedient which they cannot too strongly denounce; but they are unwilling to risk the chance of introducing a cause for contention as to the right to use surplus water when such be present, and they therefore propose, as a reasonable compromise, that an addition of 8 Annas per Acre be made to the single crop assessment to form a consolidated rate for all land classed by the Deputy Director as 'doubtful of two crops,' and that all further charge for *occasional* second crops shall be absolutely excluded from the revenue system of the District." This measure, which is approved by Messrs. Master, Puckle and McDonell, will bring in Rupees 4,614. Thus the whole reduction on the existing Fasl Jasty (of Fusly 1271) will be Rupees 1,09,162, as shown in the margin.

	Rs.
Land transferred to Poonjah ..	45,005
Reduction of Fasl Jasty	64,157
Total...	1,09,162

18. The principle of a consolidated double crop assessment has certainly much to recommend it, and it is worth the while of Government to give up one-sixth of the full charge to attain it. But it is not apparent why if one-third is a fair rate in the irrigated Talooks, one-fourth should be proposed in the upland Talooks. The lands are grouped and classified in both on the same principle, and thus difference in soils and character of irrigation is provided for, and the same care is taken to rate as double crop only such lands "as are likely to produce a second crop in ordinary seasons with almost perfect certainty." It is therefore unnecessary liberality to commute at a lower rate in the upland than in the other Talooks.

19. The same arguments that support the consolidation of the second crop charge on permanent double crop land, support the Board's further proposal to compound for the irrigation of those lands which are supplied with less certainty. But the rate proposed, viz., 8 Annas per Acre, is out of the question, and is fixed in disregard of all principles. Doubtful or rather occasional second crop irrigation is not peculiar to Trichinopoly, but the Board do not state whether they are prepared to advocate the universal adoption of the system now proposed for this District, nor what the consequences of such a measure would be. The Board write of Fasl Jasty as affording "vast opportunities" for "bribery, corruption, oppression and fraud," and as entailing "excessive labor" for "most meagre results," but this is an overdrawn picture. The Trichinopoly District has been carefully surveyed, every field has been mapped, and the Register shows its area, class and assessment. The "excessive labor" entailed is simply ascertaining what field has received a second supply of water during the season, and the "vast opening" for fraud, &c., seems to be some 14,000 Rupees. Even in his ordinary work the Curnum has a much larger opening for fraud, for he can enter fields as given up if he likes to run the risk of detection and punishment. Of "oppression" the Government have no apprehension, it is a simple question of fact whether water was or was not supplied, and if any thing is susceptible of easy proof in a village, this must be. The Government do not see why this doubtful irrigation should not be fixed on the same principle as the permanent two crop, *i. e.*, in the ratio of the uncertainty at one-fourth or one-fifth or some other reasonable portion of the first crop rate, and in all cases there should be a minimum charge of not less than (say) 1 Rupee as the very least sum for which Government can be at the cost of supplying water. A reduction should of course be allowed when water has to be raised by pecottahs. No charge is suggested for dry land irrigated occasionally, and the Government presume the temporary Fasl Jasty commutation proposed by the Board is not intended to be permanent, *i. e.*, to preclude Government from raising it, if they improve the irrigation and render it sufficiently certain to rate the land as permanent two crop.

Vide paragraph 38, Board's Proceedings 5th April 1862.

11. *The mode of dealing with the fees of the Village Servants.*—These amount in the entire District to Rupees 1,05,900. In this sum is included the "Catala Shelavu," amounting to Rupees 60,500, which is an allowance paid by the Ryots to the Curnums as a remuneration for expenses

for oil, cadjan, &c., in the preparation of the Settlement accounts, and as batta during their absence from the villages on public business. The levy is made in various ways, and the amount payable is apportioned among the Ryots according to their means. In the upland Talooks and the "dry" villages of Conad, Musery and Laulgudy the amount is entered in each Puttah and collected with the Government assessment. In all the "wet" villages of the irrigated Talooks and in the dry villages of Volcondapooram it is not entered in the Puttahs, but paid in kind to the Curnums by the Ryots themselves. In the Manapara Talook, which was transferred from Madura, the impost does not exist, and the village officers are paid in Inám land. The Catala Shelavu is an extra cess over and above the assessment of the land.

20. Mr. Puckle's original Settlement seems to have been formed wholly independent of these fees. Mr. Newill expressly states that he considerably modified Mr. Puckle's calculations and raised the assessment "to an extent much exceeding the amount of the Catala Shelavu, so that it provides for the disbursement of the charge of remuneration to village officers in this and other forms" and is "inclusive of all such items as these fees." This is remarked by the Board, who add that they "are convinced that the present assessment of Trichinopoly is not so low as to justify the addition of one per cent. to it, in the way of village and municipal cesses." The settlement finally proposed by the Board is 13 and 11 per cent. lower than the assessment here referred to, but the Board still contemplate the abolition of the Catala Shelavu at least.

Paragraph 50, Board's Proceedings 5th April 1862.

21. From Mr. Pelly's Report on the Village Establishment of Trichinopoly it would appear that the fees, Revenue and Police, aggregate Rupees 1,18,966, viz., Rupees 44,240 in kind and Rupees 74,725 in money. This amount is Rupees 13,000 in excess of that mentioned by Mr. Puckle.

22. The Government so far back as 1857 declared the Catala Shelavu cess to be "most objectionable" and opening "a way for every illegal demand." It is evidently very different in character from the ordinary grain fees paid under various designations in other Districts, and approaches very closely to the abolished "Grama Khurch" of the Northern Circars. As the Trichinopoly assessment has now been properly revised this Catala cess will of course cease, but the Government do not see cause for relieving the people of all the other fees also. These fees, it must be remembered, are paid in addition to the *present* assessment, and the reduction of the latter, as now proposed, will, improve the Ryot's ability to pay them hereafter; they are customary all over the country; and without them the Village Establishments cannot be rendered efficient. The Government therefore, in giving up the Catala Shelavu (Rupees 60,500), must reserve the other fees which amount to about 5 per cent. on the assessment. The Board will take care that this is duly notified to the Ryots, and as soon as a law is enacted for the purpose, the fees reserved will be formally commuted. Meanwhile, an addition of 5 per cent. might be made in the Puttahs in lieu of them. This should be simultaneous with the abandonment of the Catala Shelavu, in order that the people may see that they are not *newly* taxed, but merely required in a different form to pay Rupees 58,000 where they used to pay Rupees 1,18,000.

G. O. 18th May 1857, No. 462.

III. *The Pilluvary or grazing tax peculiar to the "Dry" Talooks.*—This will of course cease under the new assessment, as each Ryot will have to pay the full assessment on lands occupied by him. The relief, if such it can be termed, will be Rupees 7,000. Where there is a large extent of waste, the area beyond the reasonable requirements of the Ryots for grazing purposes should be annually rented out as pasturage.

Paragraph 42, Board's Proceedings 5th April 1862.

IV. "*Putcut Poonjah.*"—This will also cease, as full assessment will be levied on all lands.

Paragraphs 43, 44 of Board's Proceedings 5th April 1862.

V. *The mode of dealing with the Patchamallay and Callamallay Hills.*—Messrs. Puckle and Newill proposed to rent out the hamlets, but the Board object to this, and suggest that the

Collector should have the lands measured and assess them, "adopting a few simple, well-defined and light rates." This is clearly the preferable course, and the Board will call upon the Collector to follow it and propose what, after enquiry, he considers suitable rates, or the duty may, at the Board's option, devolve on Mr. Puckle. A seigniorage on wood cut in the forest for sale should certainly be levied by the Collector, but the rent of petty products, as honey, &c., should be abandoned. The Conservator of Forests will report whether any portion of the forest should be reserved and worked by his Department.

23. The proposed Settlement includes a Road Fund of 2 per cent., which will be expended under the established rules. The attention of the Department Public Works will be called to the general want of minor roads, with a view to some aid from Imperial Funds being granted at the outset, as the Road cess only Rupees 19,700 will not suffice to make good the neglect of past years.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Director of Revenue Settlement.
„ Department Public Works. ✓

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 1077 – 15th April 1/64.

Mr Chesshyre

Herewith I send you a Minute of Council which has been adopted upon the Report of the Superintending Engineer 6th Division, relative to the Improvement of the Public Roads in the Trichinopoly District, and I am directed to request that you will be pleased to submit a Plan and Estimate for the Improvement of the Roads in question, as proposed in the Minute of Council, to be defrayed from the Imperial Funds.

I am Sir
Your most obedient Servant
(Signed) Thos. Pycroft
Secy to Govt

Fort St George
15th April 1764

To
The Superintending Engineer
6th Division

Dated 15th April 1764
Received 11th May 1764

No 1077 / Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 6th Division.

The Government will be prepared to consider any proposals which the Superintending Engineer, in conjunction with the Civil authorities, may have to make for the improvement of the minor roads of the Trichinopoly District from Imperial Funds.

To The Supt Engr 6th Divn

Dated 15th April

Chesshyre
15th April 1764

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