

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 146	Press ~~Mis.~~
302.303	
Dated	30-1-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th January 1865.*

No. 302. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1864, No. 6,514.

Read the following letters :—

From G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 13th August 1864, No. 198.

SIR,

1. On the 18th September last, I reported to the Board that the preparation of Register A of lands, boundaries, &c., for Malabar, had long been postponed; that I was desirous of commencing it in earnest; and that with a view to secure the satisfactory performance of the work, and render it altogether more complete, I had directed the preparation by the Amshom Menons of Sketch Maps to accompany the Register. I proposed employing certain Gumashtas to superintend the measurements and preparation of the Sketch Maps, and I applied for sanction for an expenditure of about Rupees 500 per mensem to remunerate the servants employed, expressing my hope that the work might be completed in about two years.

Further explanation was called for and submitted, and sanction* was finally granted for the expenditure of Rupees 12,000 for the preparation of the Maps and Registers as proposed.

2. I regret to have to report that I completely under-estimated the difficulty of the work whilst I over-estimated the ability of the agents I proposed employing to perform it at any thing, like the rate of progress I anticipated.

Notwithstanding great endeavour on the part of some of my subordinates and myself, the work done hitherto has been quite insignificant.

In fact my scheme has been a failure, and I am reluctantly obliged to say that, without a thorough re-cast of plan, and greatly increased expenditure, the Register and Sketch Maps as I proposed to get them cannot be had.

3. My estimate of the possible progress of the work was partially based on what I had known done by Demarcators on the Eastern Coast. But I quite failed to make adequate allowance for the difference between surveying and land measurement in an undulating broken country, densely wooded in parts, like Malabar, and the same operations in the flat open plains of Masulipatam. Nor did I sufficiently allow for the difference in the rate of progress that must be looked for when in one case work is performed by special agency, under close departmental control; and in the other carried on by ordinary Revenue servants with only partial special assistance, and no separate provision for special supervision.

4. I beg to submit a brief account of the system I endeavored to work, of what has been accomplished, and of the expenditure that has been incurred.

5. I employed eleven Gumashtas who had a fair idea of surveying with the Prismatic Compass and rough plotting. One or two of these after some preliminary instructions were sent to each Talook. My intention was that five of the most active Menons should be sent with one Surveyor to one Amshom at a time; that the Surveyor should mark out a "Khandom" or tract of from 50 to 250 Acres according to local circumstances, running the exterior boundary with the Prismatic Compass, and give a sketch of the boundary to a Menon; that the Menon should then measure the fields, gardens, &c., comprized in the Khandom with the ordinary measuring rod, registering their measurements and numbers and sketching in their boundaries as he proceeded; that the Surveyor meanwhile should mark other Khandoms, and so have a supply of boundary sketches ready for the measuring Menons to take up as they filled in those previously given; and that the village Menon should assist all with his local knowledge and write up the complete Register.

The Surveyor's work was intended to check the interior measurements of the Menons, and especially to give them a guide to the formation of their sketch maps.

The Khandom sketches fitted together would form the Amshom map.

6. Finding that little progress was made on this plan from the extreme repugnance of the Menons to leave their own Amshoms to work in another, and also because the Menon of the

2 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
30th January 1865.

Amshom in which work was being carried on found it difficult to give sufficient attention to each of the measuring Menons when several were working at one time in the same Amshom, I determined to alter the system somewhat, and to endeavour to get each Menon to measure his own Amshom. A Surveyor was to take up three or four Amshoms, to set the Menon in one Amshom several Khandoms, with boundary sketches to measure and fill in; to go to another and set the Menon there to work, and so on, arranging his circuits so as to keep each Menon supplied with boundary sketches.

7. The advantages of this plan are that each Menon works on his own ground; has the village accounts at hand; and can easily get the assistance required for his measuring operations. The disadvantages are that instead of having a few active experienced men to do the work we have to take each Menon, good, bad, or indifferent, as we find him, for his Amshom, and that consequently the advantage of the constantly increasing experience and training of a selected hand, is lost.

I was at first inclined to think that by having the measurements in each Amshom made by Menons from other Amshoms we should have some check against fraudulent measurements. But I do not think this consideration has real weight. Tendency to fraud must be checked by supervision, and the facility given by the knowledge of each Menon as regards boundaries, ownership, &c., will, I think, tend to counterbalance the loss of speed which want of the greater experience in mapping might cause.

If the work is continued I propose carrying it on on very much the system I have last described. The setting in of the monsoon, and some uncertainty as to continuance of the work, has hardly allowed this latter system a fair practical trial.

• Talooks.

	Numbers measured.
Palghat ...	2,075
Walluwanad ...	829
Ponani ...	806
Ernad ...	604
Calicut ...	1,358
Kurumbranad ...	490
Koteyom ...	319
Cherakel ...	1,098
Total ...	7,639

8. Only 7,639* numbers have been measured. But even of this the Registers and maps are not really completed; and comparison and correction will have to be made before they can be accepted as perfect records.

Besides the above a considerable number of Khandoms were measured by Surveyors, but the field measurements have not been commenced.

9. I beg to forward specimens of the work done according to the enclosed list.

10. An expenditure of Rupees 1,403-8-6 was incurred up to the end of June last. A good deal of this was paid to men whilst learning themselves and instructing others, and of course no idea can be formed of the probable cost of the work in future from the present figures. The expenditure will bear fruit if the Menons have had instruction in land

	Rs.	A.	P.
Pay to Surveyors ...	671	15	7
Menons ...	567	2	8
Stationery, &c. ...	164	6	3
Total ...	1,403	8	6

work is continued, and even if it is not, many of the Menons have had instruction in land measurement, which will not be altogether useless hereafter.

11. I believe the Menons generally would say that if the sketch maps had not been required, the Registers would have made considerable progress, and that if the maps are not required now, ordinary Amshom registers may be completed in the course of about two years.

12. But this is really equivalent to saying that if the Registers are allowed to be prepared in a much looser manner than they should be, the areas of the fields entered on two rough measurements N. and S. and E. and W., with no real check against the omission of a field here and there, and sundry minor inaccuracies, then the work can be cheaply and speedily accomplished; but that if the fairly approximate accuracy which the sketch maps and measurements I propose will certainly secure is required, then a longer period and increased expenditure becomes absolutely necessary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3
30th January 1865.

13. The question then that must now be answered is whether the fairly accurate registers with sketch maps are to be prepared, or whether the preparation of a rough register by the Menons, with no scientific measurements, or maps, or other than the ordinary supervision of the Talook servants will suffice?

14. To answer this question, we must look at the present state of the Land Registers and assessments in Malabar.

And first as to the wet lands.

We have the Register of these lands founded on the old Mahratta Accounts and their measurements, with the subsequent entries and measurements made from time to time, as occasional fresh lands were brought under cultivation, and the rough measurements made on the inspection of wet lands some three years ago.

The differences found between the former measurements and those made in Mr. Grant's inspection, varied considerably in different localities. It is not improbable that the old measurements are often the most correct. For it must be always remembered that the primary object of Mr. Grant's revision was not so much to get correct areas, as to identify individual lands with the entries in the Mahratta and subsequent accounts.

15. The Mahratta measurements are generally believed to have been originally fairly accurate. But after the lapse of half a century, it would be surprising indeed if they represented very correctly the present areas.

The late revision did little to correct general inaccuracies between existing areas and those entered in the accounts.

And there is no doubt that we have but a very imperfect Register of the wet lands and their areas as at present existing.

16. No general revision of assessment was attempted by Mr. Grant, though it was well known that very considerable irregularities of assessment prevailed.

I may mention here, for the sake of clearness, that the work (and a great one it is) effected by his revision was this. The assessments, according to the Mahratta Pymash, &c., accounts, were fixed on the lands on which they were originally intended to fall, instead of being paid on others, with which they had no connection as through favor, fraud, and the lapse of time had frequently come to be the case. The increase in the demand that resulted from the revision arose from assessments that had clearly been fraudulently lowered, being raised to the original standard and from fresh assessments being fixed on new lands that had till then escaped assessment altogether.

This is undoubtedly the conviction of those best acquainted with the subject.

In the present state of things, it is indeed very difficult to form an opinion; but I would say that though I do not consider a general revision of the wet assessment of Malabar urgently called for, I do think that at some

future period a revision may be made that would be found just and agreeable to the people, and result in some increase of revenue.

At some time or other before this is attempted a thorough re-measurement and registration of the lands will assuredly be necessary.

17. I think the measurement and registration should be made now, because until we have this foundation to go upon we are hardly in a position to form very correct ideas as to how our assessments really fall. Certainly it is extremely difficult to form an opinion now, and it ever will be so till we have surer data to go upon.

18. I would not propose any general revision of the wet assessments now, because to make such revision effectually, a careful inspection and classification of the lands would be necessary, and this operation is very different from, and infinitely more delicate, in its nature than, simple measurement and registration. It should, in my opinion, be effected at a subsequent period, and by a different agency.

19. As measurement and registration advances, I would have the correct areas entered in the Puttahs. But except in special cases, as where evasion of former assessment, or new cultivation that had escaped assessment is discovered, the demands would remain as hitherto.

4 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
30th January 1865.

20. There is reason to believe that notwithstanding the late revision, cases of the nature just mentioned are still numerous, and it may be roughly estimated that from the imposition of fair demands on them, an increase of annual revenue, amounting to 25,000 Rupees, may, with confidence be expected.

21. I think, therefore, that with regard to the wet lands, as fresh measurement and registration is certainly called for, it is very desirable to make the more careful registration at once instead of contenting ourselves with what will at best be a much less satisfactory account. But I consider the maturer measure is almost indispensable when the case of the garden and dry lands is taken into consideration.

22. The garden assessments are now in a most unsatisfactory condition. The demand falls altogether irregularly, and Government does not receive that revenue to which it is fairly entitled. The Board are aware that in theory the garden assessments are levied on the trees with

periodical revisions. But revisions are too invidious and unpopular undertakings to be regularly made, and in fact only two or three of limited extent have been made since the beginning of the century. The consequence is that if the incidence of the present actual demands be calculated per acre, many a rich garden will be found paying fewer Annas per acre than its poorer neighbour pays Rupees.

I know of an extent of good garden which pays at the rate of about Annas 10 an acre, and of a fraction of an acre which pays at the rate of Rupees 65 per acre. I know of another garden that pays Annas 8 fixed on the trees at a former Pymash some thirty years ago that if it were now Pymashed, and the trees assessed at the local rates, should pay Rupees 11-2-6.

These are marked instances of course, but they hardly give an exaggerated idea of the great inequalities prevailing.

I have a considerable amount of detailed information, and am collecting more, so that, when the time comes, I hope to be able to introduce revised assessments with little difficulty. My present purpose is merely to shew that the prevailing state of things is most unsatisfactory, and I think I have said enough to do so.

23. We have no regular registers of the gardens in Malabar.

The Pymash accounts of 1799 and 1806 shew only the number of trees then existing and their assessments, but give no areas.

The accounts of 1825 profess to give the measurements of the gardens then existing, but they are allowed to be incorrect, and there has been an immense extension of garden cultivation since.

As fresh gardens have been formed, Pymash accounts have been prepared from time to time; but undoubtedly the measurements are loose, and not a few gardens have been omitted.

24. Here then accurate measurement and registration is an indispensable preliminary step to the introduction of an equitable demand.

Here, as with the wet lands, I consider the classification and assessment should be a perfectly distinct operation, but as the irregularity of the present assessments is much greater than in the other case, and the interests both of the people and of Government more urgently require that reform should be speedily introduced, I shall endeavour to have some Amshoms soon completed whatever system of measurement and registration is adopted, and with the Board's permission submit a scheme of garden classification and assessment which, with little local modification, may be gradually extended to the gardens of the whole District, after the Registers of each Amshom or circle of Amshoms are completed.

25. No Registers have ever been prepared of the dry lands, i. e., of the Modan, Ellu, or Ponom cultivation.

34
Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5
30th January 1865.

These assessments are still, for the most part, fixed by annual inspection, the option of taking up lands on a fixed annual rate of Annas 6 per acre, independently of the cultivation, having only been acted on to the limited extent noted:—

Talooks.	No. of Ryots.	Extent.		Assessment.		
		Acres.	A. 16ths.	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Cherakel ...	235	6,414	14 8	2,405	7	6
2. Koteyom ...	21	34	6 15½	12	14	5
3. Kurumbranad.	117	391	1 10¾	146	10	4
4. Calicut ...	162	721	10 15½	270	8	5
5. Palghat ...	75	5,741	0 6½	2,152	14	2
Total ...	610	13,303	2 8	4,988	6	10

But some further instructions regarding the occupation of these lands will be issued, which, I believe, will greatly encourage their being taken up, and the more they extend the more necessary does their correct measurement and registration become.

26. I have thought it necessary to give the foregoing review at the risk of being tedious, and stating facts that may have been known before, because I wished to shew, in its true light, the need there is that adequate steps should be taken to get an accurate register and measurement of the revenue paying arrears of Malabar.

27. Before detailing further the manner in which I propose this should be done, I would observe that of course if Government are prepared to have a survey effected by the professional department, the undertaking will be far more complete, but I imagine the cost would be quite proportionately greater.

28. If the work is not undertaken by the Professional Survey, I consider the Menons are the best agents we can employ for the field measurements. They know the country; they know thoroughly the field boundaries and occupation; they are accustomed to measure lands and keep revenue accounts. They already receive Government pay.

With a little instruction (which many have now received) as to more accurate measurement and mapping, they are better qualified than any men we can obtain, whilst they can command, or at least secure the assistance and services of the landowners and occupants in a way which strangers never could do. There is far less probability of unintentional mistake in the measurements and accounts if the work is done by the Menons, whilst I do not think the probabilities of intentional fraud are much if at all greater.

29. But if the Menons are employed as I propose, batta must be allowed. A Menon now gets Rupees 6. The survey is really very arduous work. Where a Menon can undertake and do it well, his batta (Rupees 6 per mensem) will be well earned. In some cases where a Menon from advanced age or other cause cannot be expected to undertake the work, he will be called on to provide a substitute, approved by the Tahsildar, but on his own (the Menon's) responsibility. The substitute will generally be one of the Menon's nephews, probably the prospective heir to the Menonship, always one well acquainted with the Amshom, and possessing the qualifications above described of an ordinary Menon. In the few cases where a Menon cannot work or procure a fitting substitute, he will be dismissed, and a proper man put in.

Progress Reports will be kept, and the due tale of work rigorously exacted. I feel very confident that if batta is allowed, the work can be efficiently done. But I am sure that without batta it cannot.

30. I beg now to state briefly the manner in which I would propose that the Survey and Register be completed. The plan has been already alluded to in paragraph 6 of this letter. A Manual of Rules will be submitted for the Board's inspection if desired.

6 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
30th January 1865.

I propose employing a staff of thirty-two Surveyors on an average of four for each Talook.
* Average four.

Each Surveyor will have several Amshoms on hand at a time. He will mark off with the Prismatic Compass several Khandoms, or divisions of from fifty to two-hundred and fifty acres each in one Amshom, making a boundary sketch of each such division. These sketches, consecutively numbered, he will give to the Menon of the Amshom to fill in. The Surveyor then goes to Amshom No. 2, supplies the Menon there with boundary sketches, and so on. The Surveyor will arrange his work so as to keep each Menon supplied with boundary sketches to fill in.

31. The Menons will use the common measuring rod; they will measure each field, garden, or other sub-division, keeping a regular field book, and sketching in the boundaries on the Khandom map as they go along. They will also carefully write up Register A.

32. The Surveyors and the Talook servants will frequently inspect the Menon's work, the Surveyors to see that the field measurements and sketches are correct, and the Talook servants both to check the measurements and to see that the Registers are being accurately written up.

33. The division (Khandom) sketches will be kept in a book, and fitted together so as to form a rough Sketch Map of the Amshom when it is completed.

34. By this system I feel sure that we will have a land Register giving an amount of accuracy quite unknown in this District hitherto, and far surpassing the general accuracy of the village accounts of such Eastern Coast Districts as I have served in.

35. As to the time required.

Exclusive of Wynad there are four-hundred and seventeen Amshoms in Malabar.

Wet lands	...	...	...	...	...	3,55,203
Gardens	...	...	...	...	...	3,05,784
						6,60,457

Taking the number† of assessed wet and garden lands by our present accounts at about 6,60,500, and roughly estimating the number of other dry lands now, or probably soon to be assessed at about half that number more, we have a total of 10,00,000 numbers, or an average of about 2,400 numbers in each Amshom.

I am afraid I cannot safely reckon on more than 200 numbers a month being accomplished by each Menon.

In this case one Surveyor and four Menons will finish 800 numbers a month, or, as field work can only be carried on for nine months, 7,200 numbers a year.

36. Such parties would accomplish 2,31,400 numbers annually.
The work would extend over four to five years.

37. As to the cost.

I do not think less than Rupees twenty a month should be allowed for each Surveyor, or less than Rupees six a month for each Menon doing not less than 200 field numbers.

Then we have one Surveyor at Rupees twenty, and four Menons at Rupees six each = Rupees twenty-four, or a total of Rupees forty-four for every 800 numbers, or of Rupees 55,000 over the 10,00,000 numbers in the District.

38. For Miscellaneous work connected with the progress of the undertaking, arrangement would be made from the ordinary establishments, but I should wish two servants well acquainted with surveying allowed whose special work would be to watch the preparation of the maps and visit any of the Talooks to which they might be sent to give personal instruction on points connected with the Survey. They should be allowed Rupees sixty and forty-five, respectively, with the travelling allowance of their grades. One would be attached to each division.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th January 1865. 7

39. I beg to enclose a Statement of Instruments, Saderwarid, &c., which will also be required.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Pay of Surveyors and Menons ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55,000	0	0
Two Head Surveyors for five years	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,300	0	0
							61,300	0	0
Stationery already sanctioned ...	...	...	...	1,388	9	0			
Instruments do. do. ...	...	...	...	1,185	4	4			
				2,573	13	4			
Additional Stationery required ...	...	...	...	1,426	4	0			
Do. Instruments	...	...	...	3,236	4	0			
				4,662	8	0	7,236	5	4
							68,536	5	4

40. Thus the whole cost of the work may be estimated at about Rupees 68,600, and the expenditure of about Rupees 13,800 would be incurred annually.

41. Before the Survey is completed, more than this annual expenditure will be realized annually from the wet lands alone, and the way will be paved for the speedy introduction of a well regulated assessment on the gardens, which will add considerably more annually to the revenues than the total expenditure proposed to be incurred.

I cannot but hope therefore that these proposals will be favorably viewed.

42. There are some twenty Surveyors now available. Eleven of these men have for the last two months been instructing Menons at the different Talooks with a view to future progress. If the scheme I now propose is entertained, I shall have no difficulty in getting a sufficient number of Surveyors in a very short time.

Until I receive further instructions, I shall diligently employ the present Surveyors on the instruction of Menons, and in preparing other pupils for the work.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—List of Khandom Sketches, Registers, &c.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Memorandum of additional Stationery and Instruments required.

From the same Officer, dated Calicut, 6th September 1864, No. 224.

1. Manual, for Surveyors, Menons, and Talook servants in preparation of the A Register, &c.,
2. Rules for keeping Menon's and Surveyor's Field Books.
3. Form of Menon's Field Book
4. Diagram to illustrate do
5. Form of Surveyor's Field Book.
6. Ditto of a Boundary Survey of a Khandom by the Prismatic Compass.

Adverting to my letter of the 13th ultimo, No. 198, I have the honor to submit the enclosures noted, as the Board may desire to look into them when taking the important matter of the preparation of the land Registers of Malabar into consideration.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Manual for the preparation of the A Register and Sketch Maps in Malabar.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Rules for keeping the Menon's Field Book with explanatory Diagram and specimen of Field Book.

8 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
30th January 1865.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

ABSTRACT.—Koppom Amabom Field Book.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

ABSTRACT.—Diagram to illustrate Menon's Field Book.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

ABSTRACT.—Form of Surveyor's Field Book.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

ABSTRACT.—Form of a Boundary Survey of a Khandom by the Prismatic Compass.

1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted for the consideration of Government with reference to Government Order, dated 3rd December 1863, No. 2,196, Revenue Department, sanctioning the adoption of the system which the Collector now reports to have failed.

2. The Board confess that they had misgivings as to the probability of the original scheme succeeding, notwithstanding the energetic supervision which it was certain to receive from Mr. Ballard, and they regret that they cannot form more sanguine anticipations as regards the more expensive plan which he now proposes.

3. The Government originally sanctioned an estimated expenditure of Rupees 12,000 for the preparation of Register A, with Sketch Maps to shew each field on the Register, and a sum of some Rupees 1,400 had been expended up to the end of June last, when the monsoon stopped work; but notwithstanding that at first starting or till the hands became trained to the work, it was to be expected that satisfactory results would be difficult of attainment, still Mr. Ballard after making all allowances is convinced that he under-estimated the difficulties and over-estimated the facilities of the existing state of things, and confesses that the scheme cannot succeed in its present form.

4. The Board are much indebted to him for this candid avowal, and only regret that notwithstanding their confidence in his energy and intelligent supervision, they are unable to advocate the adoption of his enlarged scheme.

5. He now proposes to employ thirty-two trained Surveyors, at an average of four for each Talook, to mark off Khandoms of from 50 to 250 acres each with the Prismatic Compass, and to place Menons under each Surveyor to fill in the details by measurement and write up the Registers, and he would place two Head Surveyors over the whole to supervise the work generally.

6. He estimates the time necessary for the work at from four to five years, and its cost at Rupees 68,600, and he considers that the result would be to provide the District with a Land Register possessing an amount of accuracy hitherto altogether unknown there, and far surpassing that of the village accounts of any Eastern Coast District with which he is acquainted.

7. He does not propose to combine any general revision of assessment with this species of Survey, but he considers that the garden assessment calls for revision; that the wet land assessment might hereafter be beneficially revised with a probable gain to the annual revenue of some Rupees 25,000; and that the anticipated extension of dry cultivation combines to render it highly desirable in every class of land that an accurate register of holdings and areas should be provided. He proposes his scheme on the supposition that the regular survey of the District will not be undertaken at least for a long time to come, and believes that it would prove ultimately remunerative to Government in a revenue point of view.

8. The Board readily admit the truth of much that Mr. Ballard has advanced; but as pointed out in their Proceedings, dated 11th February 1862, No. 953, they see much reason to doubt whether the expenditure would produce any equivalent revenue return to Government, or whether the results would otherwise be worth the estimated cost.

56
Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9
30th January 1865.

9. The Board think it very likely that the Collector's anticipations of increase in the revenue from wet cultivation, by bringing to account land now not paying its fair or any quota, would be realized; but they are of opinion that against this would have to be set off a loss on the garden lands, for they consider that in any revision of the assessment on these holdings, the first step must be to abandon the present most objectionable system of taxing them according to the number of trees they contain, and the condition of those trees as immature, mature, or exhausted, and they have little doubt that were the tax placed on the land with reference to its quality and productive power, the result would be a reduction on the present demand.

10. The question then arises whether the proposed system promises to afford such accurate plans and registers, and such consequent additional value to land, as would be worth the estimated cost in the interests of the community, and the Board's opinion is that the results will not be so reliable as the proposed object requires.

11. They consider that the scheme is altogether deficient in the necessary provision for supervising, testing, and checking the work of the Khandom Surveyors, and of the Menons, and for the identification of the fields with the entries in the Mahratta accounts, and for the classification of the land, and they are disposed to think that to provide what is necessary in these respects would add very greatly to the cost. The Government will remember that in the regular Survey and Settlement Departments it was at one time proposed to entrust to the Curnums the work of filling in the interstitial fields in the comparatively small survey blocks, and the result was most unsatisfactory. The Board cannot anticipate more favorable results in the case of Malabar Curnums (Menons) employed on the details of far larger areas.

12. The Board are aware that it has been under consideration whether the scientific survey should generally be carried out in such minute detail as has hitherto been required, and without committing themselves to any opinion on the subject as regards field-assessed Districts, the Board are disposed to think that a scientific survey of Malabar in blocks of considerable size, would in the end prove more economical than that now proposed, as it would be equally serviceable and infinitely more trustworthy.

13. The Board trust that such a survey may be eventually carried out in Malabar and Canara.

No. 303.

Land Revenue.

ORDER THEREON, 30th January 1865, No. 146.

The Superintendent of Revenue Survey will be requested to state when it is likely that he will be in a position to undertake the survey of the Malabar District.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent of Revenue Survey,
the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustia.

6

9. The Board think it very likely that the Collector's anticipations of increase in the revenue from wet cultivation, by bringing to account land now not paying its fair or any *quota*, would be realized; but they are of opinion that against this would have to be set off a loss on the garden lands, for they consider that in any revision of the assessment on these holdings, the first step must be to abandon the present most objectionable system of taxing them according to the number of trees they contain, and the condition of those trees as immature, mature, or exhausted, and they have little doubt that were the tax placed on the land with reference to its quality and productive power, the result would be a reduction on the present demand.

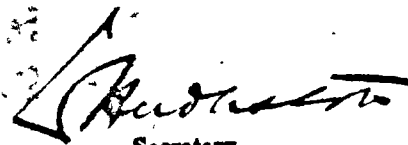
10. The question then arises whether the proposed system promises to afford such accurate plans and registers, and such consequent additional value to land, as would be worth the estimated cost in the interests of the community, and the Board's opinion is that the results will not be so reliable as the proposed object requires.

11. They consider that the scheme is altogether deficient in the necessary provision for supervising, testing, and checking the work of the Khandom Surveyors, and of the Menons, and for the identification of the fields with the entries in the Mahratta accounts, and for the classification of the land, and they are disposed to think that to provide what is necessary in these respects would add very greatly to the cost. The Government will remember that in the regular Survey and Settlement Departments it was at one time proposed to entrust to the Kurnums the work of filling in the interstitial fields in the comparatively small survey blocks, and the result was *most unsatisfactory*. The Board cannot anticipate more favorable results in the case of Malabar Kurnums (Menons) employed on the details of far larger areas.

12. The Board are aware that it has been under consideration whether the scientific survey should generally be carried out in such minute detail as has hitherto been required, and without committing themselves to any opinion on the subject as regards field-assessed Districts, the Board are disposed to think that a scientific survey of Malabar in blocks of considerable size, would in the end prove more economical than that now proposed, as it would be equal, *se-* able and infinitely more trustworthy.

13. The Board trust that such a survey may be eventually carried out in Malabar and Canara.

(True Copies and Extract.)


Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with eight enclosures and 13 Sketches and Registers.

Copy to G. A. Ballard, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

to R. E. Master, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

to Lieut.-Colonel F. J. B. Priestley, Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Ed. J. Wright.

MEMORANDUM.

immediate
Requested for reference the undermentioned papers on the subject of
the preparation of Survey Maps & Registers of
Malabar.
8 Enclosures & 13 Sketches & Registers sub-
mitted with the Board's Proff of 4 Octr/64. No. 6514.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,

21 August 1865.

To
The Registrar of the Govt Office
Rev. Dept.

Registrar.

No. 25 of 1862. No. 332/52
3 Aug 1863. 65-66.

11-9-74

Rev. 1861. Department
Pro of Govt for Survey

No. 2437-
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Date 4th October 1864.

Surf 6-2-

22-7-64
23-21-64 return 1/11/64

No. 6514

By Rev. 23 Aug 1865. As 1865
1/11/64. 1/11/65. 2/11/65.

Submitting with remarks, letter from the Col-
lector of Malabar bringing to notice the failure
of his scheme for the preparation of Survey Maps
and Registers, and submitting proposals for their
completion.

11-9-74

11-9-74

Pr-14-65.

The Superintendent of Revenue
since Survey will be required
it state when it is likely that
he will be in a position to
undertake the survey of the
Malabar District.

30th Aug. 1865
10. To the Board of Revenue
14. To the Board of Revenue