M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1824 Press Mis.

301-02 Dated 21-11-1870 Rt

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1824
70

No. 301. Read the following letter from Reverend R. HARTMANN, of the Basel Mission in South Canara, to the Right Honourable FRANCIS LORD NAPIER, Governor, Madras Presidency, dated Udapy, 2nd September 1870 :—

In accordance with the permission you granted when you favoured me with an interview, I take the liberty of making the following representation, in a private way, on behalf of the poorer classes of the natives, among whom I have my work.

2. In the South Canara District, where I have been living for eleven years, there is still a great deal of waste land, which is at present unprofitable to the inhabitants, and for which no tax is paid. Experience shows that such waste land, which has been obtained from Government by the agency of the Basel Mission, and which has been given to Native Christians, can be turned into fields for dry cultivation and orchards. Such land is much desired by the poorer classes, but they find it nearly impossible, under the present system, to procure it.

3. The reasons for this are—

(1.) The rich land-owners want these people as their servants, and therefore object to their becoming owners of land, and thereby becoming independent. They, therefore, try every means to prevent them from making an application.

(2.) The native authorities usually take the part of the rich land-owners, and they, therefore, throw obstacles in the way of any one applying for waste land.

(3.) The puttah-holders are the only people who have a right to get waste land within the boundaries of their villages.

(4.) The Law of Proximity, as it is at present, puts no limit to this right, of which the puttah-holders make use as soon as another party applies for waste land.

4. In order to remove some of the difficulties, may I venture to make a few suggestions:—

(1.) To give a right of citizenship, not at present existing, and with it the right to unclaimed land within the village boundary, to every resident for a given period within that village.

(2.) To fix the boundaries, where needed, for the waste land of each village.

(3.) To limit the right of proximity to a fixed amount of land, giving a claim to waste land in proportion to the amount of Government tax paid for puttah land.

5. It is a fact not to be gainsaid that the owning of a field or garden and a house, however small it may be, raises the proprietor both morally and socially. He becomes in consequence more independent and manly, and a more diligent worker and producer.

6. In addition to the land above referred to, there is much waste land, which would give scarcely any return for actual cultivation, yet would be taken up at a low rate, having its natural productions increased when cared for by an owner. Already I am given to understand, a proposition has been made to the Board of Revenue by the Collector of Mangalore to tax such land at 4 Annas per acre. Should this be granted a large proportion, if not all such land, will be applied for.

7. Trusting, my Lord, you will be able to glean the meaning of my statement, I have, etc.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st November 1870.

No. 302. ORDER THEREON, 21st November 1870, No. 1,824.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the above communication be referred to the Collector of South Canara for consideration and report through the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bartleman.

Govt. of 1870 Vict.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November, 21st.

Rect.

G. O., 21st November 1870, No. 1,128.

Vide C No 793 of 1871-

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 301-302.

Waste land in South Canara.—Application from Reverend Mr. Hartmann of the Basel Mission on the difficulty experienced by the Society in its acquisition under the present system, referred to the Collector for report.

Revenue 10/70 Septr

No. 3350.

From
Lieut. P. Eastmann
Assistant Asst.
Asst. Commissioner
in St. Thomas

Dated 8 Septr 70
Rec'd 16 Inst.

Represents
that certain waste
land in the District
can be turned into
fields for dry cultiva-
tion and requests
= tion and 9 workers
of 1824. 21 Rem

Ans

Dated 7 1824
Rec'd that the above communication
be referred to the Secr. of St. Thomas for
consideration & report &c. the Bd of
Revenue - V. K.

21st Nov 79.

14 Folio Bd of Revenue Decr 20