

Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 426 J.

DATED 13-5-96

[Despatch Abstract.]

Resettlement: Proceedings Revenue Department
passing orders on certain questions connected
with the — of the upland taluks of the Kodavari
District, published in the Gazette Communicated
to Superintending Engineers I & II Circles.

Without the Land Registers it is not possible to prepare the Settlement Accounts, and I am afraid the Survey Department cannot supply, before the end of January, the records of the remaining villages of the delta taluks. The jamabandi, moreover, for fasli 1305 of the above taluks will be commenced next month, and as the Settlement Accounts should be based on the Revenue Accounts of fasli 1305, nothing can be done till the jamabandi is completed. I therefore beg to suggest that, if orders regarding the reclassification of the upland taluks cannot be passed by the end of January next, my field establishment may be sent early in February to the Kistna district in charge of an Assistant Commissioner who knows classification work.

4. From the statement showing talukwar holdings in the Kistna district received with the Board's Proceedings, No. 2150, Routine, dated 14th November 1894, I find that in the three delta taluks to be resettled, the occupied Government area (dry and wet) is 272,000 acres as shown on the margin. I believe there is as little waste in those taluks as in this district, and, taking the minor inams and waste to represent a fourth of the occupied area,

	As per total 1892.	ACR.
Gudivada	130,515	
Bandur	75,305	
Bezavada	65,717	
Total	271,537	

the total area to be reclassified will be about 3½ lakhs of acres, which is just a little over three months' work for a full field party at the rate of progress effected in this district.

This work will keep my establishment engaged till the end of May next. If the Board can, meanwhile, expect the orders of Government on my scheme report, some of the classifiers of No. V Party who will be relieved in March or April next may be sent to assist my men. In the event of the upland taluks also being reclassified they can be fully engaged.

5. The following statement shows the number of villages in which the classification work has yet to be revised by me or by my Assistant:—

Tanuku	22
Bhimavaram	70
Narsapur khandam	59
Nagaram do.	25
Amalapuram	87
Ramachandrapuram	78
Ellore	12
Ernagudem	20
Cocanada	2

The Board will observe that there are still 151 villages to be inspected before the orders of Government are received in the two and odd taluks to be resettled this fasli. The Assistant Commissioner and I can inspect about 50 villages a month, and at this rate there is about three months' work.

When the orders of Government are received, one Assistant should help me in introducing the new rates into the 234 villages of these two and odd taluks, while the other Assistant must revise the classification in the remaining villages of the delta taluks. Thus the Board will observe that there is full work for two Assistant Commissioners in this district and Kistna for some time to come.

6. If the Board approves of my proposals I can also inspect some of the villages in the Kistna district while the work is in progress there. The three taluks to be resettled adjoin the Gódavari district, and all of them are on the canals. I therefore solicit a reconsideration of the Board's orders regarding the transfer of Party No. V to Kistna, and request the favour of early orders regarding the employment of my Party from February next.

Resolution—No. 3, dated 8th January 1896.

Mr. G. P. Clerk, Deputy Commissioner, has submitted to the Board a scheme for the re-settlement of the Gódavari district, which is under reference to the Collector and which the Board hopes shortly to submit for the orders of Government. One of Mr. Clerk's recommendations is that the whole of the non-deltaic portion of the district should be re-classified, and in the letter read above he brings to notice that unless this proposal is approved, his classifiers will have no work after the end of this month and should proceed with the re-classification of the Kistna delta.

The proposal is therefore one on which the immediate orders of Government are urgently required.

2. The grounds urged by Mr. Clerk for reclassifying the upland taluks are contained in paragraphs 66 to 71 of his report, a proof copy of which is herewith submitted.

These grounds are, in brief, as follow:—

(1) That the original dry grouping was made not with reference to markets and communications as it ought to have been, but with reference to the fertility of the soils, with the result that some of the best villages, like Rajahmundry, have been placed in the lower group, while several out-of-the-way villages, like Gokavaram, have been put in the first group;

(2) that the adoption of only three sorts for each class of soil, instead of five, as at present, has led to many inequalities in the incidence of assessment;

(3) that irrigation sources have not been classified with reference to their individual capacity, but that in many cases an average grouping was assigned for all the works in a village;

(4) that a number of tanks have been since abandoned, and it is difficult to say to what class of dry lands the ayakats should be transferred, the original classification having been made not merely on the quality of soils, but on the supply of irrigation, the distance of fields from the tank, and their capacity for wet cultivation;

(5) that several improvements have been effected and are being effected to tanks by the Tank Restoration Party, and the classification of these tanks should be revised, which it is not possible to do, on the existing system of grouping;

(6) (a) that a large extent of unoccupied land left unassessed at the last settlement (76,788 acres) has since been taken up for cultivation on which the assessment had to be fixed by the Revenue officers, without a professional classification, and the correctness of such assessment was considered open to question (G.O., No. 572, Revenue, dated 1st May 1884); and

(b) that there is a further area of cultivable waste, amounting to 56,638.73 acres to be surveyed and assessed, and also 47 villages which have been hitherto rented but which have been ordered to be classified and settled (G.O., No. 684, Revenue, dated 14th October 1895).

3. In discussing the proposal the Acting Commissioner is under the disadvantage of not knowing the locality, and he cannot claim for his remarks the weight which should be given to local knowledge.

Taking a broad view of the question, there cannot be a greater mistake than to assume that the process of classifying the soils of a district, thirty years ago, was a highly scientific operation leaving no room for error, nor field for improvement. Soils in each class—black, red, or sandy—were divided into only three sorts,—best, ordinary and inferior. Classification had to be done then, as now, by a large body of men each of whom had his own idea, or standard, of best, ordinary or inferior soil.

Subsequent experience has shown the necessity of a more elastic classification and the number of sorts was increased from three to five. But thirty years ago the only expedient for securing a uniform incidence of assessment, corresponding to marked differences of fertility, was to place the villages in four different groups with different rates of assessment. How this was done is shown in the table in paragraph 14 of Mr. Clerk's report, and it is obvious that this grouping is at best a rough-and-ready method, anything but satisfactory as a permanent arrangement.

Thus (referring to this table) suppose that in a certain village a tract of inferior black clay, class III, sort 3, was found unfit to bear a higher assessment than As. 4. This rate could be secured by placing the village in the fourth group, but this grouping would likewise affect the rates of assessment on all the other soils. If it so happened that a large part of the village consisted of best red sand (class VIII, sort 1), the placing of the village in the fourth group would unnecessarily lower the assessment from As. 12 to As. 6 an acre.

An attempt was apparently made to meet this difficulty by fixing for certain soils the same rates of assessment in different groups. Thus best and ordinary red loam (VII-1 and VII-2) were assessed alike in villages of the first and second groups, though inferior black clay (III-3) paid double in the first group what it does in the second group. Similarly, equal rates were imposed on ordinary and inferior red sand (VIII-2 and VIII-3) in villages of the third and fourth groups, while best red sand in the third group was assessed at 33 per cent. more than in the fourth group.

It appears useless to seek a scientific explanation of these, and many similar, peculiarities in the table. They appear to represent a rough attempt to cure the inequalities to which the plan of grouping villages gave rise. The present method, whereby a sufficiently elastic table of rates can be applied to each block, or field, in a village, is certainly preferable, and the first and second of Mr. Clerk's arguments are therefore of much weight.

4. *Primâ facie* the re-classification of the upland taluks in accordance with present improved methods appears highly desirable.

The objections which occur to the Acting Commissioner are as follow :—

The first argument used by Mr. Clerk applies with equal force to Kistna, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Trichinopoly and Chingleput, which were all settled on the same lines as Gôdâvari.

But in view of the assurances which have, rightly or wrongly, been published for many years, it appears inexpedient to undertake a general re-classification of soils except on the clearest evidence of necessity.

Trichinopoly has just been resettled without a general re-classification of the soils. It is not shown that in the upland taluks of Gôdâvari there are many great and glaring inequalities in the incidence of the assessment. It is not shown that there have been any complaints of inequality, or that a desire for re-classification has been expressed by any considerable fraction of the tax-payers. Mr. Clerk shows that the financial results of merely raising the grouping of the villages, and the assessment with reference to the rise in prices, may be made to yield an all-round increase of 53 per cent. on the dry lands and of 22 per cent. on the wet—*vide* paragraph 78 of Mr. Clerk's report. In Trichinopoly, Government was content with an approximate increase of 12½ per cent. on the dry lands; and probably the proposed increase of 53 and 22 per cent. is quite as high as Government would choose to impose even if the proposed re-classification was found to warrant a still greater enhancement. It is to be observed that the re-classification of the delta lands has resulted in an increase of only 33 per cent. in the dry assessment of the lands paying water-rate, and of only 31 per cent. in the assessment of the unirrigated lands.

5. With regard to Mr. Clerk's arguments 3 and 5, it certainly appears unjustifiable (supposing that all tanks are to be placed in three classes) that all the tanks in a village should be placed in one and the same class without reference to their individual capacity; but it is not shown that the rates of assessment under different tanks exhibit any glaring inequalities, or that any complaints of inequalities have been made by the ryots concerned. The increase of 22 per cent. proposed by Mr. Clerk, with reference to the rise in prices, will give an average wet-rate of Rs. 4-7-2, as against Rs. 3-6-11 in the non-deltaic parts of Tanjore. The average is sufficiently high, and in the absence of complaint no strong ground for re-classification is apparent.

6. As regards tanks improved or restored by the Tank Restoration Party, the Acting Commissioner doubts whether many cases will be found in which the improvement or restoration is a sufficient ground for enhancing the assessment, which was generally fixed on the assumption that the tank would supply sufficient water for one crop. Where the supply is improved, Government gets its return by saving remissions, by extension of cultivation and by the second-crop charge.

7. As regards the 76,888 acres taken up for cultivation since the Settlement, and assessed by the Revenue Department, the Acting Commissioner doubts whether any great error is likely to be discovered by re-classification. From Appendix N referred to in paragraph 75 of the report it appears that, out of a total of 297,000 acres of dry (upland) land now under occupation, no less than 201,000 acres falls under class VIII, red-sand, and 36,600 acres under class VII, red-loam. From the remark in the dry table in paragraph 76 of the report, it appears that the bulk of the lands assessed by the Revenue Department have been assessed at rates varying from As. 12 to As. 4, and the presumption is that the lands belong to the poorer red-sand and red-loam classes. In the ordinary course the lands would be assessed with reference to the rates on adjacent lands of similar quality and there is not much room for fraud or mistake.

8. As regards the 57,000 acres of cultivable waste, it is not known whether this lies in large blocks or is much scattered. The probability is that it is very poor land and that it is scattered. The classification might be confined to blocks of 100 acres and upwards.

9. Lastly, with regard to the remark at the close of paragraph 70 that, if there is no general re-classification of soils, the 63 villages which await classification, must be classified on the old method of three sorts, the Acting Commissioner can see no reason why these villages, which have never been hitherto brought under settlement, should not be classified in accordance with the modern method.

10. On the whole, therefore, it appears to him that the arguments in favour of re-classification are outweighed by the undesirability of undertaking the re-classification of soils if the operation can possibly be avoided.

The early orders of Government on the question are requested. If the decision is against re-classification, proposals for the employment of the Party shall be promptly submitted.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a proof copy of the Gôdâvari Settlement Report.

„ Collector of Gôdâvari.
„ Deputy Commissioner, No. III Party.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 397, dated 27th January 1896 :—

Resolution—Mis. No. 397, dated 27th January 1896.

In G.O., Mis. No. 5122, Revenue, dated 18th December 1895, Government accepted the Board's proposal that No. V Party should be transferred from Trichinopoly to Kistna.

Mr. Clerk, Deputy Commissioner of No. III Party, has since brought to notice—*vide* Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th January 1896, No. 3—that, unless it is decided to undertake the re-classification of the upland taluks of Gôdâvari, his party has no immediate work, and is unable to undertake the re-classification of the portion of the Kistna delta, in which the settlement period expires on the 30th June 1896.

The said portion consists of the taluks of Bandur, Gudivâda and the delta portion of Bezvada.

2. The Commissioner visited the Trichinopoly district last week and discussed with the Collector, the Superintendent of Revenue Survey and the Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, the work remaining to be done in Trichinopoly and Tanjore.

3. In Trichinopoly it is essential that the Collector should be allowed the uninterrupted services of the karnams for collection and jamabandi work up to the end of May next.

The new survey fields include in numerous cases portions of two old fields bearing different rates of assessment, portions of minor inams and porambokes.

These must be localized and sub-divided, and it is estimated that the number of sub-divisions may approach one hundred thousand.

This sub-division work will be begun in June and will probably occupy two months.

Supervision will be necessary and all available classifiers can be employed upon it.

The writing of the diglott registers must next be taken up, and supervision of this work will occupy as many permanent hands as can be spared till probably the end of the calendar year.

4. In Tanjore two important operations are in active progress: (a) the writing of the diglott registers of the Negapatam and Tirutturaipundi taluks and the checking of the registers of the other seven taluks; (b) the survey and classification of whole inam villages for the purpose of imposing the village service cess under section 9 of Madras Act IV of 1893—vide G.O., No. 152, Revenue, dated 23rd February 1894. Deducting the area of the chattram villages, which are to be surveyed by the Tanjore District Board, and will be classified after survey, the area remaining to be classified amounts to about 326,000 acres, and if a task of 200 acres per working day for each classifier can be exacted, the classification will occupy the whole party for nearly three months. The writing and checking of the district diglott registers will proceed simultaneously, with the aid of the temporary staff now engaged upon it, and when any of the permanent hands become available, they will take the place of the temporary hands.

5. There is thus ample work for the whole of Party No. V in Tanjore and Trichinopoly for at least six months to come, and its transfer elsewhere is inexpedient, unless the necessity be urgent.

6. In modification of the orders already passed the Commissioner begs to recommend—

- (a) that the transfer of Party No. V to Kistna be postponed till further orders;
- (b) that Mr. Clerk be directed to proceed with the re-classification of Kistna Eastern Delta (Bandur, Gudivada and part of the Bezwada taluks).

7. Deputy Commissioner Adinarayana Iyah, Rao Bahadur, is disposing of petitions before proceeding on three months' privilege leave. He will be able to take his leave about the first week in February; and during his absence, the Commissioner proposes that Assistant Commissioner Narasimhulu Naidu should have charge of Party No. V.

During the Deputy Commissioner's absence, the work of the Party will be confined to Tanjore, and the Assistant Commissioner will be able to supervise it efficiently.

8. The services of S. Venkatarama Das Naidu, Dewan Bahadur, who was gazetted to act as Deputy Commissioner of No. V Party on the assumption that it must be immediately transferred to Kistna, will, therefore, not be required.

9. Mr. Clerk in his inspection of re-classification has not been able to keep pace with his classifiers, and a large area remains to be inspected in Gódávári. He has now the services of an Assistant Commissioner, who can continue this work in Gódávári, if Mr. Clerk proceeds to Kistna, and Deputy Commissioner Adinaraya Iyah can also, if necessary, proceed to Gódávári on his return from privilege leave in May, leaving Assistant Commissioner Narasimhulu Naidu in charge of No. V Party.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Deputy Commissioners of Revenue Settlement,
Parties Nos. III and V.

ORDER—No. 152, Revenue, dated 2nd April 1896.

Land Revenue No. 17.

The Government agrees with the views expressed by the Board and resolves to direct that no re-classification of the Gódávári uplands shall be effected.

2. The Board's proposals in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its Proceedings, first read above, meet with the approval of Government. It is observed that the Board has

made no proposal with reference to Mr. Clerk's fourth argument (in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings). On this point special orders should issue.

3. The Government having decided against re-classification, the Board's recommendation for the disposal of parties Nos. III and V (paragraphs 6 to 9 of the Board's Proceedings last read above) are approved, and should be carried into effect at as early a date as practicable.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
Copy to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ „ Public Works Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

50 Copies.

106

Gobt. of {1896} Madras.
REVENUE.

W. SUBBANTH 3787

10.5c

Ans: 28.4.96

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., No. 152, 2nd April 1896.

No 4262 dt 13th May 1896

Communicates to the
Supty Engineers I & II Circles
for information.

APRIL.

Ans
2/5

1/4

replies to
1/4

Re-settlement.

Passing orders on certain questions connected
with the — of the upland taluks of the Godavari
district.

DISPATCHED
100/33

To The Chief Engineer
Supty Engineers I & II Circles.

1-5-96

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 3, dated 8th January 1896 :—

Read—the following letter from G. P. CLERK, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Party No. III, Gódvári and Kistna, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, No. 641, dated Cocanada, 31st December 1895 :—

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 7046, dated 21st instant, regarding the transfer of No. V Party to the Kistna district, and to report as follows.

2. From my progress report for November, the Board will observe that the preparation of accounts preliminary to introduction was completed in many of the villages in Tanuku taluk and in some in Bhímavaram. The Supervisor has since reported that the work in Tanuku was almost completed, and has asked for orders regarding the further employment of classifiers. The additional Supervisor has also reported that work in Bhímavaram would be over by the end of January or in the first fortnight of February next. I am sending several of the classifiers from Tanuku to Narsapur to complete the work of the sixty-eight villages of the Narsapur khandam. At the rate of progress made in Tanuku, this work will be completed by the middle of February. The whole field establishment will then have no work unless the Board sanctions, meanwhile, the reclassification of the upland taluks.

3. In submitting my proposals in September last regarding the employment of classifiers, I expected to receive the Survey Records of the other delta taluks by the time the preliminary work in the two and odd taluks referred to above would be over. But, as yet, I have received the records of only fifty-eight villages in all as shown below :—

Taluks or portion.	Total number of villages.	Number for which Land Registers were received.
Nagaram khandam of Narsapur ...	52	14
Amalápuram ...	111	7
Rámachandrapuram ...	131	37
Ellore delta ...	22	...
Ernagudem ...	20	...
Cocanada ...	2	...
Total ...	338	58

Without the Land Registers it is not possible to prepare the Settlement Accounts, and I am afraid the Survey Department cannot supply, before the end of January, the records of the remaining villages of the delta taluks. The jamabandi, moreover, for fasli 1305 of the above taluks will be commenced next month, and as the Settlement Accounts should be based on the Revenue Accounts of fasli 1305, nothing can be done till the jamabandi is completed. I therefore beg to suggest that, if orders regarding the reclassification of the upland taluks cannot be passed by the end of January next, my field establishment may be sent early in February to the Kistna district in charge of an Assistant Commissioner who knows classification work.

These grounds are, in brief, as follow :—

(1) That the original dry grouping was made not with reference to markets and communications as it ought to have been, but with reference to the fertility of the soils, with the result that some of the best villages, like Rajahmundry, have been placed in the lower group, while several out-of-the-way villages, like Gokavaram, have been put in the first group ;

(2) that the adoption of only three sorts for each class of soil, instead of five, as at present, has led to many inequalities in the incidence of assessment ;

(3) that irrigation sources have not been classified with reference to their individual capacity, but that in many cases an average grouping was assigned for all the works in a village ;

(4) that a number of tanks have been since abandoned, and it is difficult to say to what class of dry lands the ayakats should be transferred, the original classification having been made not merely on the quality of soils, but on the supply of irrigation, the distance of fields from the tank, and their capacity for wet cultivation ;

(5) that several improvements have been effected and are being effected to tanks by the Tank Restoration Party, and the classification of these tanks should be revised, which it is not possible to do, on the existing system of grouping;

(6) (a) that a large extent of unoccupied land left unassessed at the last settlement (76,788 acres) has since been taken up for cultivation on which the assessment had to be fixed by the Revenue officers, without a professional classification, and the correctness of such assessment was considered open to question (G.O., No. 572, Revenue, dated 1st May 1884); and

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3. In discussing the proposal the Acting Commissioner is under the disadvantage of not knowing the locality, and he cannot claim for his remarks the weight which should be given to local knowledge.

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Thus (referring to this table) suppose that in a certain village a tract of inferior black clay, class III, sort 3, was found unfit to bear a higher assessment than As. 4. This rate could be secured by placing the village in the fourth group, but this grouping would likewise affect the rates of assessment on all the other soils. If it so happened that a large part of the village consisted of best red sand (class VIII, sort 1), the placing of the village in the fourth group would unnecessarily lower the assessment from As. 12 to As. 6 an acre.

An attempt was apparently made to meet this difficulty by fixing for certain soils the same rates of assessment in different groups. Thus best and ordinary red loam (VII-1 and VII-2) were assessed alike in villages of the first and second groups, though inferior black clay (III-3) paid double in the first group what it does in the second group. Similarly, equal rates were imposed on ordinary and inferior red sand (VIII-2 and VIII-3) in villages of the third and fourth groups, while best red sand in the third group was assessed at 33 per cent. more than in the fourth group.

It appears useless to seek a scientific explanation of these, and many similar, peculiarities in the table. They appear to represent a rough attempt to cure the inequalities to which the plan of grouping villages gave rise. The present method, whereby a sufficiently elastic table of rates can be applied to each block, or field, in a village, is certainly preferable, and the first and second of Mr. Clerk's arguments are therefore of much weight.

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5. With regard to Mr. Clerk's arguments 3 and 5, it certainly appears unjustifiable (supposing that all tanks are to be placed in three classes) that all the tanks in a village should be placed in one and the same class without reference to their individual capacity; but it is not shown that the rates of assessment under different tanks exhibit any glaring inequalities, or that any complaints of inequalities have been made by the ryots concerned. The increase of 22 per cent. proposed by Mr. Clerk, with reference to the rise in prices, will give an average wet-rate of Rs. 4-7-2, as against Rs. 3-6-11 in the non-deltaic parts of Tanjore. The average is sufficiently high, and in the absence of complaint no strong ground for re-classification is apparent.

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7. As regards the 76,883 acres taken up for cultivation since the Settlement, and assessed by the Revenue Department, the Acting Commissioner doubts whether any great error is likely to be discovered by re-classification. From Appendix N referred to in paragraph 75 of the report it appears that, out of a total of 297,000 acres of dry (upland) land now under occupation, no less than 201,000 acres falls under class VIII, red-sand, and 36,600 acres under class VII, red-loam. From the remark in the dry table in paragraph 76 of the report, it appears that the bulk of the lands assessed by the Revenue Department have been assessed at rates varying from As. 12 to As. 4, and the presumption is that the lands belong to the poorer red-sand and red-loam classes. In the ordinary course the lands would be assessed with reference to the rates on adjacent lands of similar quality and there is not much room for fraud or mistake.

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(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a proof copy of the Gódvári Settlement Report.
" Collector of Gódvári.
" Deputy Commissioner, No. III Party.

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Mr. Clerk, Deputy Commissioner of No. III Party, has since brought to notice—*vide* Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th January 1896, No. 3—that, unless it is decided to undertake the re-classification of the upland taluks of Gódvári, his party has no immediate work, and is unable to undertake the re-classification of the portion of the Kistna delta, in which the settlement period expires on the 30th June 1896.

The said portion consists of the taluks of Bandur, Gudiváda and the delta portion of Bezwada.

2. The Commissioner visited the Trichinopoly district last week and discussed with the Collector, the Superintendent of Revenue Survey and the Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, the work remaining to be done in Trichinopoly and Tanjore.

3. In Trichinopoly it is essential that the Collector should be allowed the uninterrupted services of the karnams for collection and jamabandi work up to the end of May next.

The new survey fields include in numerous cases portions of two old fields bearing different rates of assessment, portions of minor inams and porambokes.

These must be localized and sub-divided, and it is estimated that the number of sub-divisions may approach one hundred thousand.

This sub-division work will be begun in June and will probably occupy two months.

Supervision will be necessary and all available classifiers can be employed upon it.

The writing of the diglott registers must next be taken up, and supervision of this work will occupy as many permanent hands as can be spared till probably the end of the calendar year.

4. In Tanjore two important operations are in active progress: (a) the writing of the diglott registers of the Negapatam and Tiruttaraippundi taluks and the checking of the registers of the other seven taluks; (b) the survey and classification of whole inam villages for the purpose of imposing the village service cess under section 9 of Madras Act IV of 1893—*vide* G.O., No. 152, Revenue, dated 23rd February 1894. Deducting the area of the chattram villages, which are to be surveyed by the Tanjore District Board, and will be classified after survey, the area remaining to be classified amounts to about 326,000 acres, and if a task of 200 acres per working day for each classifier can be exacted, the classification will occupy the whole party for nearly three months. The writing and checking of the district diglott registers will proceed simultaneously, with the aid of the temporary staff now engaged upon it, and when any of the permanent hands become available, they will take the place of the temporary hands.

5. There is thus ample work for the whole of Party No. V in Tanjore and Trichinopoly for at least six months to come, and its transfer elsewhere is inexpedient, unless the necessity be urgent.

6. In modification of the orders already passed the Commissioner begs to recommend—

- (a) that the transfer of Party No. V to Kistna be postponed till further orders;
- (b) that Mr. Clerk be directed to proceed with the re-classification of Kistna Eastern Delta (Bandur, Gudivada and part of the Bezvada taluks).

7. Deputy Commissioner Adinarayana Iyah, Rao Bahadur, is disposing of petitions before proceeding on three months' privilege leave. He will be able to take his leave about the first week in February; and during his absence, the Commissioner proposes that Assistant Commissioner Narasimhulu Naidu should have charge of Party No. V.

During the Deputy Commissioner's absence, the work of the Party will be confined to Tanjore, and the Assistant Commissioner will be able to supervise it efficiently.

8. The services of S. Venkatarama Das Naidu, Dewan Bahadur, who was gazetted to act as Deputy Commissioner of No. V Party on the assumption that it must be immediately transferred to Kistna, will, therefore, not be required.

9. Mr. Clerk in his inspection of re-classification has not been able to keep pace with his classifiers, and a large area remains to be inspected in Góddavari. He has now the services of an Assistant Commissioner, who can continue this work in Góddavari, if Mr. Clerk proceeds to Kistna, and Deputy Commissioner Adinarayana Iyah can also, if necessary, proceed to Góddavari on his return from privilege leave in May, leaving Assistant Commissioner Narasimhulu Naidu in charge of No. V Party.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Deputy Commissioners of Revenue Settlement,
Parties Nos. III and V.

ORDER—No. 152, Revenue, dated 2nd April 1896.

Land Revenue No. 17.

The Government agrees with the views expressed by the Board and resolves to direct that no re-classification of the Góddavari uplands shall be effected.

2. The Board's proposals in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its Proceedings, first read above, meet with the approval of Government. It is observed that the Board has

made no proposal with reference to Mr. Clerk's fourth argument (in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings). On this point special orders should issue.

3. The Government having decided against re-classification, the Board's recommendation for the disposal of parties Nos. III and V (paragraphs 6 to 9 of the Board's Proceedings last read above) are approved, and should be carried into effect at as early a date as practicable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ „ Public Works Department.

(a) that the transfer of Party No. V to Kistna be postponed till further orders.
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During the Deputy Commissioner's absence, the work of the Party will be confined to Tanjore, and the Assistant Commissioner will be able to supervise it efficiently.

8. The services of S. Venkatarama Das Naidu, Dewan Bahadur, who was gazetted to act as Deputy Commissioner of No. V Party on the assumption that it must be immediately transferred to Kistna, will, therefore, not be required.

9. Mr. Clerk in his inspection of re-classification has not been able to keep pace with his classifiers, and a large area remains to be inspected in Góddavari. He has now the services of an Assistant Commissioner, who can continue this work in Góddavari, if Mr. Clerk proceeds to Kistna, and Deputy Commissioner Adinarayana Iyah can also, if necessary, proceed to Góddavari on his return from privilege leave in May, leaving Assistant Commissioner Narasimhulu Naidu in charge of No. V Party.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Deputy Commissioners of Revenue Settlement,
Parties Nos. III and V.

ORDER—No. 152, Revenue, dated 2nd April 1896.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

Gobt. of {1896} Madras.
REVENUE.

No 4263 dly 13th May 1896
Communicated to
the Superintending Engineer
I & II circles.
R.R.E. D.B.
sd/ [Signature]

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., No. 152, 2nd April 1896.

APRIL.

Re-settlement.

Passing orders on certain questions connected with the — of the upland taluks of the Gódvári district.

To
The Chief Engineer for Irrigation
" Suptg Engineer I & II circles

No. 152, REVENUE, 2ND APRIL 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 3, dated 8th January 1896 :—

Read—the following letter from G. P. CLERK, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Party No. III, Gódvári and Kistna, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, No. 641, dated Cocanada, 31st December 1895 :—

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 7046, dated 21st instant, regarding the transfer of No. V Party to the Kistna district, and to report as follows.

2. From my progress report for November, the Board will observe that the preparation of accounts preliminary to introduction was completed in many of the villages in Tanuku taluk and in some in Bhímavaram. The Supervisor has since reported that the work in Tanuku was almost completed, and has asked for orders regarding the further employment of classifiers. The additional Supervisor has also reported that work in Bhímavaram would be over by the end of January or in the first fortnight of February next. I am sending several of the classifiers from Tanuku to Narsapur to complete the work of the sixty-eight villages of the Narsapur khandam. At the rate of progress made in Tanuku, this work will be completed by the middle of February. The whole field establishment will then have no work unless the Board sanctions, meanwhile, the reclassification of the upland taluks.

3. In submitting my proposals in September last regarding the employment of classifiers, I expected to receive the Survey Records of the other delta taluks by the time the preliminary work in the two and odd taluks referred to above would be over. But, as yet, I have received the records of only fifty-eight villages in all as shown below :—

Taluks or portion.	Total number of villages.	Number for which Land Registers were received.
Nagaram khandam of Narsapur ...	52	14
Amalápuram ...	111	7
Rámachandrapuram ...	131	37
Ellore delta ...	23	...
Ernagudem ...	20	...
Cocanada ...	2	...
Total ...	338	58

Without the Land Registers it is not possible to prepare the Settlement Accounts, and I am afraid the Survey Department cannot supply, before the end of January, the records of the remaining villages of the delta taluks. The jamabandi, moreover, for fasli 1305 of the above taluks will be commenced next month, and as the Settlement Accounts should be based on the Revenue Accounts of fasli 1305, nothing can be done till the jamabandi is completed. I therefore beg to suggest that, if orders regarding the reclassification of the upland taluks cannot be passed by the end of January next, my field establishment may be sent early in February to the Kistna district in charge of an Assistant Commissioner who knows classification work.

4. From the statement showing talukwar holdings in the Kistna district received

	As per fasli 1892, ACR.
Gudivada	130,515
Bandur	75,305
Bezavada	65,717
Total	271,537

with the Board's Proceedings, No. 2150, Routine, dated 14th November 1891, I find that in the three delta taluks to be resettled, the occupied Government area (dry and wet) is 272,000 acres as shown on the margin. I believe there is as little waste in those taluks as in this district, and, taking the minor inams and waste to represent a fourth of the occupied area,

the total area to be reclassified will be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of acres, which is just a little over three months' work for a full field party at the rate of progress effected in this district.

This work will keep my establishment engaged till the end of May next. If the Board can, meanwhile, expect the orders of Government on my scheme report, some of the classifiers of No. V Party who will be relieved in March or April next may be sent to assist my men. In the event of the upland taluks also being reclassified they can be fully engaged.

5. The following statement shows the number of villages in which the classification work has yet to be revised by me or by my Assistant:—

Tanuku	22
Bhimavaram	70
Narsapur khandam	59
Nagaram do.	25
Amalapuram	87
Ramachandrapuram	78
Ellore	12
Ernagudem	20
Cocanada	2

The Board will observe that there are still 151 villages to be inspected before the orders of Government are received in the two and odd taluks to be resettled this fasli. The Assistant Commissioner and I can inspect about 50 villages a month, and at this rate there is about three months' work.

When the orders of Government are received, one Assistant should help me in introducing the new rates into the 234 villages of these two and odd taluks, while the other Assistant must revise the classification in the remaining villages of the delta taluks. Thus the Board will observe that there is full work for two Assistant Commissioners in this district and Kistna for some time to come.

6. If the Board approves of my proposals I can also inspect some of the villages in the Kistna district while the work is in progress there. The three taluks to be resettled adjoin the Gódavari district, and all of them are on the canals. I therefore solicit a reconsideration of the Board's orders regarding the transfer of Party No. V to Kistna, and request the favour of early orders regarding the employment of my Party from February next.

Resolution—No. 3, dated 8th January 1896.

Mr. G. P. Clerk, Deputy Commissioner, has submitted to the Board a scheme for the re-settlement of the Gódavari district, which is under reference to the Collector and which the Board hopes shortly to submit for the orders of Government. One of Mr. Clerk's recommendations is that the whole of the non-deltaic portion of the district should be re-classified, and in the letter read above he brings to notice that unless this proposal is approved, his classifiers will have no work after the end of this month and should proceed with the re-classification of the Kistna delta.

The proposal is therefore one on which the immediate orders of Government are urgently required.

2. The grounds urged by Mr. Clerk for reclassifying the upland taluks are contained in paragraphs 66 to 71 of his report, a proof copy of which is herewith submitted.

These grounds are, in brief, as follow:—

(1) That the original dry grouping was made not with reference to markets and communications as it ought to have been, but with reference to the fertility of the soils, with the result that some of the best villages, like Rajahmundry, have been placed in the lower group, while several out-of-the-way villages, like Gokavaram, have been put in the first group;

(2) that the adoption of only three sorts for each class of soil, instead of five, as at present, has led to many inequalities in the incidence of assessment;

(3) that irrigation sources have not been classified with reference to their individual capacity, but that in many cases an average grouping was assigned for all the works in a village;

(4) that a number of tanks have been since abandoned, and it is difficult to say to what class of dry lands the ayakats should be transferred, the original classification having been made not merely on the quality of soils, but on the supply of irrigation, the distance of fields from the tank, and their capacity for wet cultivation;

(5) that several improvements have been effected and are being effected to tanks by the Tank Restoration Party, and the classification of these tanks should be revised, which it is not possible to do, on the existing system of grouping;

(6) (a) that a large extent of unoccupied land left unassessed at the last settlement (76,788 acres) has since been taken up for cultivation on which the assessment had to be fixed by the Revenue officers, without a professional classification, and the correctness of such assessment was considered open to question (G.O., No. 572, Revenue, dated 1st May 1884); and

(b) that there is a further area of cultivable waste, amounting to 56,638-73 acres to be surveyed and assessed, and also 47 villages which have been hitherto rented but which have been ordered to be classified and settled (G.O., No. 684, Revenue, dated 14th October 1895).

3. In discussing the proposal the Acting Commissioner is under the disadvantage of not knowing the locality, and he cannot claim for his remarks the weight which should be given to local knowledge.

Taking a broad view of the question, there cannot be a greater mistake than to assume that the process of classifying the soils of a district, thirty years ago, was a highly scientific operation leaving no room for error, nor field for improvement. Soils in each class—black, red, or sandy—were divided into only three sorts,—best, ordinary and inferior. Classification had to be done then, as now, by a large body of men each of whom had his own idea, or standard, of best, ordinary or inferior soil.

Subsequent experience has shown the necessity of a more elastic classification and the number of sorts was increased from three to five. But thirty years ago the only expedient for securing a uniform incidence of assessment, corresponding to marked differences of fertility, was to place the villages in four different groups with different rates of assessment. How this was done is shown in the table in paragraph 14 of Mr. Clerk's report, and it is obvious that this grouping is at best a rough-and-ready method, anything but satisfactory as a permanent arrangement.

Thus (referring to this table) suppose that in a certain village a tract of inferior black clay, class III, sort 3, was found unfit to bear a higher assessment than As. 4. This rate could be secured by placing the village in the fourth group, but this grouping would likewise affect the rates of assessment on all the other soils. If it so happened that a large part of the village consisted of best red sand (class VIII, sort 1), the placing of the village in the fourth group would unnecessarily lower the assessment from As. 12 to As. 6 an acre.

An attempt was apparently made to meet this difficulty by fixing for certain soils the same rates of assessment in different groups. Thus best and ordinary red loam (VII-1 and VII-2) were assessed alike in villages of the first and second groups, though inferior black clay (III-3) paid double in the first group what it does in the second group. Similarly, equal rates were imposed on ordinary and inferior red sand (VIII-2 and VIII-3) in villages of the third and fourth groups, while best red sand in the third group was assessed at 33 per cent. more than in the fourth group,

It appears useless to seek a scientific explanation of these, and many similar, peculiarities in the table. They appear to represent a rough attempt to cure the inequalities to which the plan of grouping villages gave rise. The present method, whereby a sufficiently elastic table of rates can be applied to each block, or field, in a village, is certainly preferable, and the first and second of Mr. Clerk's arguments are therefore of much weight.

4. *Prima facie* the re-classification of the upland taluks in accordance with present improved methods appears highly desirable.

The objections which occur to the Acting Commissioner are as follow :—

The first argument used by Mr. Clerk applies with equal force to Kistna, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Trichinopoly and Chingleput, which were all settled on the same lines as Gódvári.

But in view of the assurances which have, rightly or wrongly, been published for many years, it appears inexpedient to undertake a general re-classification of soils except on the clearest evidence of necessity.

Trichinopoly has just been resettled without a general re-classification of the soils. It is not shown that in the upland taluks of Gódvári there are many great and glaring inequalities in the incidence of the assessment. It is not shown that there have been any complaints of inequality, or that a desire for re-classification has been expressed by any considerable fraction of the tax-payers. Mr. Clerk shows that the financial results of merely raising the grouping of the villages, and the assessment with reference to the rise in prices, may be made to yield an all-round increase of 53 per cent. on the dry lands and of 22 per cent. on the wet—*vide* paragraph 78 of Mr. Clerk's report. In Trichinopoly, Government was content with an approximate increase of 12½ per cent. on the dry lands; and probably the proposed increase of 53 and 22 per cent. is quite as high as Government would choose to impose even if the proposed re-classification was found to warrant a still greater enhancement. It is to be observed that the re-classification of the delta lands has resulted in an increase of only 33 per cent. in the dry assessment of the lands paying water-rate, and of only 31 per cent. in the assessment of the unirrigated lands.

5. With regard to Mr. Clerk's arguments 3 and 5, it certainly appears unjustifiable (supposing that all tanks are to be placed in three classes) that all the tanks in a village should be placed in one and the same class without reference to their individual capacity; but it is not shown that the rates of assessment under different tanks exhibit any glaring inequalities, or that any complaints of inequalities have been made by the ryots concerned. The increase of 22 per cent. proposed by Mr. Clerk, with reference to the rise in prices, will give an average wet-rate of Rs. 4-7-2, as against Rs. 3-6-11 in the non-deltaic parts of Tanjore. The average is sufficiently high, and in the absence of complaint no strong ground for re-classification is apparent.

6. As regards tanks improved or restored by the Tank Restoration Party, the Acting Commissioner doubts whether many cases will be found in which the improvement or restoration is a sufficient ground for enhancing the assessment, which was generally fixed on the assumption that the tank would supply sufficient water for one crop. Where the supply is improved, Government gets its return by saving remissions, by extension of cultivation and by the second-crop charge.

7. As regards the 76,888 acres taken up for cultivation since the Settlement, and assessed by the Revenue Department, the Acting Commissioner doubts whether any great error is likely to be discovered by re-classification. From Appendix N referred to in paragraph 75 of the report it appears that, out of a total of 297,000 acres of dry (upland) land now under occupation, no less than 201,000 acres falls under class VIII, red-sand, and 36,600 acres under class VII, red-loam. From the remark in the dry table in paragraph 76 of the report, it appears that the bulk of the lands assessed by the Revenue Department have been assessed at rates varying from As. 12 to As. 4, and the presumption is that the lands belong to the poorer red-sand and red-loam classes. In the ordinary course the lands would be assessed with reference to the rates on adjacent lands of similar quality and there is not much room for fraud or mistake.

8. As regards the 57,000 acres of cultivable waste, it is not known whether this lies in large blocks or is much scattered. The probability is that it is very poor land and that it is scattered. The classification might be confined to blocks of 100 acres and upwards.

9. Lastly, with regard to the remark at the close of paragraph 70 that, if there is no general re-classification of soils, the 63 villages which await classification, must be classified on the old method of three sorts, the Acting Commissioner can see no reason why these villages, which have never been hitherto brought under settlement, should not be classified in accordance with the modern method.

10. On the whole, therefore, it appears to him that the arguments in favour of re-classification are outweighed by the undesirability of undertaking the re-classification of soils if the operation can possibly be avoided.

The early orders of Government on the question are requested. If the decision is against re-classification, proposals for the employment of the Party shall be promptly submitted.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a proof copy of the Gódvári Settlement Report.
" Collector of Gódvári.
" Deputy Commissioner, No. III Party.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 397, dated 27th January 1896 :—

Resolution—Mis. No. 397, dated 27th January 1896.

In G.O., Mis. No. 5122, Revenue, dated 18th December 1895, Government accepted the Board's proposal that No. V Party should be transferred from Trichinopoly to Kistna.

Mr. Clerk, Deputy Commissioner of No. III Party, has since brought to notice—*vide* Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th January 1896, No. 3—that, unless it is decided to undertake the re-classification of the upland taluks of Gódvári, his party has no immediate work, and is unable to undertake the re-classification of the portion of the Kistna delta, in which the settlement period expires on the 30th June 1896.

The said portion consists of the taluks of Bandur, Gudiváda and the delta portion of Bezwada.

2. The Commissioner visited the Trichinopoly district last week and discussed with the Collector, the Superintendent of Revenue Survey and the Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, the work remaining to be done in Trichinopoly and Tanjore.

3. In Trichinopoly it is essential that the Collector should be allowed the uninterrupted services of the karnams for collection and jamabandi work up to the end of May next.

The new survey fields include in numerous cases portions of two old fields bearing different rates of assessment, portions of minor inams and porambokes.

These must be localized and sub-divided, and it is estimated that the number of sub-divisions may approach one hundred thousand.

This sub-division work will be begun in June and will probably occupy two months.

Supervision will be necessary and all available classifiers can be employed upon it.

The writing of the diglott registers must next be taken up, and supervision of this work will occupy as many permanent hands as can be spared till probably the end of the calendar year.

4. In Tanjore two important operations are in active progress: (a) the writing of the diglott registers of the Negapatam and Tirutturaippundi taluks and the checking of the registers of the other seven taluks; (b) the survey and classification of whole inam villages for the purpose of imposing the village service cess under section 9 of Madras Act IV of 1893—vide G.O., No. 152, Revenue, dated 23rd February 1894. Deducting the area of the chattram villages, which are to be surveyed by the Tanjore District Board, and will be classified after survey, the area remaining to be classified amounts to about 326,000 acres, and if a task of 200 acres per working day for each classifier can be exacted, the classification will occupy the whole party for nearly three months. The writing and checking of the district diglott registers will proceed simultaneously, with the aid of the temporary staff now engaged upon it, and when any of the permanent hands become available, they will take the place of the temporary hands.

5. There is thus ample work for the whole of Party No. V in Tanjore and Trichinopoly for at least six months to come, and its transfer elsewhere is inexpedient, unless the necessity be urgent.

6. In modification of the orders already passed the Commissioner begs to recommend—

- (a) that the transfer of Party No. V to Kistna be postponed till further orders;
- (b) that Mr. Clerk be directed to proceed with the re-classification of Kistna Eastern Delta (Bandur, Gudivada and part of the Bezwada taluks).

7. Deputy Commissioner Adinarayana Iyah, Rao Bahadur, is disposing of petitions before proceeding on three months' privilege leave. He will be able to take his leave about the first week in February; and during his absence, the Commissioner proposes that Assistant Commissioner Narasimhulu Naidu should have charge of Party No. V.

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9. Mr. Clerk in his inspection of re-classification has not been able to keep pace with his classifiers, and a large area remains to be inspected in Gódávri. He has now the services of an Assistant Commissioner, who can continue this work in Gódávri, if Mr. Clerk proceeds to Kistna, and Deputy Commissioner Adinaraya Iyah can also, if necessary, proceed to Gódávri on his return from privilege leave in May, leaving Assistant Commissioner Narasimhulu Naidu in charge of No. V Party.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Deputy Commissioners of Revenue Settlement,
Parties Nos. III and V.

ORDER—No. 152, Revenue, dated 2nd April 1896.

Land Revenue No. 17.

The Government agrees with the views expressed by the Board and resolves to direct that no re-classification of the Gódávri uplands shall be effected.

2. The Board's proposals in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its Proceedings, first read above, meet with the approval of Government. It is observed that the Board has

made no proposal with reference to Mr. Clerk's fourth argument (in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings). On this point special orders should issue.

3. The Government having decided against re-classification, the Board's recommendation for the disposal of parties Nos. III and V (paragraphs 6 to 9 of the Board's Proceedings last read above) are approved, and should be carried into effect at as early a date as practicable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ „ Public Works Department.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Deputy Commissioners of Revenue Settlement,
Parties Nos. III and V.

ORDER—No. 152, Revenue, dated 2nd April 1896.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

The Government agrees with the views expressed by the Board and resolves to direct that no re-classification of the Gódávri uplands shall be effected.

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Gobt. of {1896} Madras.
REVENUE.

No 426 Idy 13th May 1896

Communicated to the
Suptg. Engineers I & II circles
for information.

RRS. S/B
By ~~Barre~~ H.C.
W I

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., No. 152, 2nd April 1896.

APRIL

Re-settlement.

Passing orders on certain questions connected
with the — of the upland taluks of the Gódvári
district.

To
The Chief Engineer for Mysore
Suptg. Engs I & II circles