(1)

Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

23rd Dec 1857

Back Numbers 40 - 41

Order No 1330 dated 19th Dec 1857

Bundle 28

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு–1

செயலிடுபவர் பெயர் ஓ. ராஜா

செயலிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக் 17-1-07
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்

சரிபார்க்கும்
முதல் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

சரிபார்க்கும்
2–ம் மு.நி.பா.எ..
கையொப்பம்

ஆராய்ச்சி
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

1330
2

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 23d December 1857.

No. 40. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue; dated 23d November 1857, No. 4087.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar, dated 5th August 1857.*

*In Cons. 23d November 1857.

(Here enter No. 128.)

In this communication the Acting Collector gives an elaborate account of the various plans that have been adopted from time to time to obtain correct returns of the number of lands, gardens, &c., in the Malabar District and of the causes of the failure of the different attempts to supply the want of such accounts. The want of reliable and systematically prepared Revenue accounts has been felt from the commencement of our rule, particularly on the failure of the quinquennial settlement in 1795-96, and the introduction of a Ryotwary administration.

2. In 1798-99 Mr. Smee, the Principal Collector, made the first attempt, after the assumption of the Province, to carry out a Revenue Survey of the Southern and Central divisions. It does not appear what plan was adopted, but the scheme was soon abandoned in consequence of the corruption of the Canangoes who were appointed to inspect the lands. The returns then prepared were never acted on.

3. Between the years 1805 and 1810 Mr. Warden undertook the survey of the lands and gardens of the whole district. The plan adopted by Mr. Warden was to call on each Revenue payer to send in a detailed return of his landed properties and holdings of every description assessable to the Revenue, showing the particulars of seed sown, extent, rental, &c., No. of trees, &c. The returns then prepared are called the "Jeina Pymaish," of 1805-6. Subsequently a survey of the rice lands by measures summoned from Coimbatore was completed and is now known as the "Aloova Pymaish" of 1806-10. Though this survey was a failure and never acted upon, the accounts under both denominations, the Acting Collector states, are notwithstanding great inaccuracies the most valuable record extant in the district. The cost of these surveys cannot be ascertained, but as they extended over 6 or 7 years it is supposed the charges were considerable.

4. The next attempt to survey the lands and gardens of the district was made by Mr. Commissioner Græme in 1820-23. He condemned Mr. Warden's surveys, and showed that a large loss of revenue would result from acting on them. Mr. Græme commenced operations by dismissing or remoddelling the entire village establishments and by appointing a new class of Deshadigharies or Potails of his own selection. On these he proposed to confer hereditary sunnuds as an inducement to be honest, but the Honorable Court disapproved of the measure. Mr. Græme left the district in 1823, and Mr. Vaughan continued the survey. But after two years' trial this scheme like the others failed through the corruption of the parties appointed to carry it out, and from the proprietors and ryots giving false returns of their holdings, &c.

5. The last effort to obtain reliable Revenue accounts was commenced in 1833 under Mr. Clementson, and is the one regarding which the Government have called for further information. The plan adopted was to require the Deshadigharies to make returns of all rice and garden lands, &c., within their umshous, and to inspect the documents and collate the "Deshadighary's Pymash account" of 1820-25. The Tahsildars were directed to check and supervise the preparation of these lists, and to transmit the returns to the Huzzoor there to be drawn up as Koolwar Chittahs.

From Government 7th November 1855, No. 1227, R. D.

6. In consequence of the backwardness and incompetency of the village officers a sufficient number of the returns known as "Poogilvivarum" (or description of crops) was not received in the Huzzoor till 1843 to make it worth while to commence operations. In that year an extra establishment was sanctioned for the purpose, and about one half of the returns prepared by the Deshadigharies were copied into the form of Koolwar Chittahs; but the worthlessness of the returns from which they were framed was discovered on the first attempt to verify the accounts, and work was therefore suspended, and further expenditure on that account avoided.

7. To test the Poogilvivarum and Koolwar accounts an experiment was made in 3 umshous of the Calicut talook with a view to framing an estimate of the cost and result of a

thorough scrutiny of the Poogilvivarum accounts, and verification of the condition of the lands, &c.

8. From the marginal statement given in para. 26 of the Acting Collector's letter under notice, it will be seen that the total expense of the experiment exclusive of the time of the permanent establishment (which would double if not treble it Mr. Robinson states) was Rupees 46-12-3, and that the increase of revenue in the 3 Umshoms was Rupees 34½ which is nearly the cost of the scrutiny. The land revenue of these Umshoms is well defined, and they are so situated that the Huzzoor Establishment was enabled to afford assistance in a degree that could not be looked for elsewhere. The cost of making a similar scrutiny over the entire district is estimated at Rupees 13,000 to 15,000, and would occupy about 6 years, but the Acting Collector questions the sufficiency of such a sum.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Fusly 1253	15	10	8
1254	252	0	0
1255	252	0	0
1256	252	0	0
1257	252	0	0
	1,023	10	8
1264	46	12	3
Total Rupees	1,070	6	11

9. The total expenditure for drawing up the Koolwar accounts from the commencement of the work in Fusly 1253 to 1264 amounts to Rupees 1,070-6-11. Of this sum Rupees 1,023-10-8 have already received the sanction of Government, and the remainder Rupees 46-12-3 was expended (as stated above) for the purpose of trying the correctness of the accounts of the 3 Umshoms in Calicut. The Board request that sanction be granted for this charge. The amount was excluded from the Statement of actual charges for Fusly 1264 which was sanctioned on the 13th December 1856.

10. With regard to the expediency of continuing the preparation of the Koolwar chittahs, the Acting Collector explains that in some Umshoms the Poogilvivaram accounts record imperfectly the circumstances of the land, &c., 20 years ago; that in some they still remain to be furnished; that they are very inaccurate as regards both the public revenue and private rights and titles, and that such an examination of these accounts as would warrant the issue of Koolwar would be tantamount to a re-survey of the District. The Board concur in the opinion of the Acting Collector that these accounts are unworthy the scrutiny they require, and that the further preparation of the Koolwar chittahs should be discontinued.

11. The Board are fully sensible of the difficulties which are now experienced in the administration of the District from the want of reliable accounts; but they agree with the Acting Collector that the state of affairs described by him can only be remedied by a scientific survey of the whole district, and they consider that he has adduced very strong arguments in favor of the early institution of a survey, as a measure necessary to secure the rights of the State as well as of the people.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Proceedings be laid before Government, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 7th November 1855, No. 1227, and 13th December 1856 No. 1310.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Acting Secretary.*

No. 41. ORDER THEREON, No. 1330; dated 19th December 1857.

P. 1. With these proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit a letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar reporting on the measures taken from time to time with the view of obtaining correct returns of the landed properties in that District.

2. On the application of the late Collec-
Ex. Mins. Cons. 21*st February* 1846, *No.* 231. tor Mr. Conolly, supported by the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, the Government, in an order dated the 21st February 1846, No. 231, granted authority for incurring an annual expenditure of Rupees 252 for six years, for the preparation of the Koolwar, or accounts of lands held by the ryots of the province, and directed that the disbursement of each year should be separately submitted for sanction, with a report of the progress of the work.

3. Nothing however was heard of the matter
Ex. Mins. Cons. 11*th June* 1855, *No.* 700. until 1855, or nine years later, when, on reviewing the charges incurred in the District for Fusly 1262,

1330/3

the Government observed an item of Rupees 756 for the preparation of Koolwar statements during Fuslies 1255, 1256 and 1257, but as no report of progress had been submitted, they suspended their sanction until such information was furnished.

4. The explanation came forth in the corres-
Ex. Mins. Cons. 7*th Novr.* 1855, *No.* 1227. pondence received with the Board's Proceedings of the 23d October 1855, and the Government, in their review of the 7th November following, agreed with the Board that the proceedings taken in the matter had not been satisfactory, and that the benefit to be derived from these accounts, even after they shall have been completed, was very doubtful. They at the same time noticed the insufficiency of the information supplied, and called for a statement of the entire expenditure from Fusly 1254 to 1264, as well as for the opinion of the Collector as to the expediency and advantage of prosecuting the work, and desired that these should be accompanied by a careful estimate of the probable cost of the operation, if the Collector advised its being carried out: meanwhile they sanctioned the charges of the three Fuslies 1255 to 1257 amounting to Rupees 756.

Ex. Mns. Cons. 13*th Decr.* 1856, *No.* 1301.

* Extra Establishments.	Rs.	A.	P.
1 For ascertaining the damages sustained by the crops in Kootnaud and for assisting the Establishment of the Special Asst. Collector.	42	2	8
2 For translating into Malayalum the Hindoovee Koolwar Chittahs	46	12	3
Rupees...	88	14	11

Extract Minutes Consultation 8th June 1857, No. 563.

5. In the review of the charges of Fusly 1264, the Government objected to two items relating to Extra* establishments, one of which, amounting to Rupees 46-12-3 purported to be the expenditure incurred in translating into Malayalum the Hindoove Koolwar chittahs; on the explanation of the Collector however, the charges to which objection was made were afterwards sanctioned by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation on the 8th June last No. 563.

6. In the paper recorded at the head of these proceedings, the Acting Collector of Malabar and the Board of Revenue reply to the requisition of Government in Extract Minutes Consultation 7th November 1855. The Board represent that various plans have been adopted to obtain correct returns of the number of gardens, lands, &c., in Malabar, but that all attempts to supply the want of such accounts have failed. They refer to the first attempt made in 1798-99 by Mr. Smee, the Principal Collector, to carry out a Revenue survey of the Southern and Central divisions; to the measures taken by Mr. Warden between the years 1805 and 1810, to survey the lands and gardens of the whole District; to the survey attempted in the years 1820-23 by Mr. Græme, and afterwards continued by Mr. Vaughan; all of which, it is stated, failed through the corruption of the parties appointed to carry them out, and from the proprietors giving false returns of their holdings; and lastly, they refer to the effort made in 1833 by Mr. Clementson to obtain reliable revenue accounts, which likewise ended in failure.

7. The circumstances which led to this result on the last mentioned instance are detailed by Mr. Robinson. They are briefly these: It was Mr. Clementson's intention to secure Koolwar chittahs for the properties possessed by each revenue payer in the District; a necessary preliminary was the preparation of returns by the village officers shewing all the particulars relating to the land, its produce, and the revenue assessable. These returns are designated "Poogilvivaram" (or description of crops); the village officers, it is represented, were backward in submitting them, and it was only on repeated orders during a course of ten years, that the returns came in in driblets, and passed to the Collector's Cutcherry without, as since ascertained, any scrutiny from the Tahsildars. It was to complete the Koolwar from these returns that the Extra Establishment sanctioned in 1846 was applied for.

8. One half of the Koolwar was gone through when the worthlessness of the Poogilvivaram returns was discovered; the further prosecution of work was therefore suspended, and all expenditure prohibited. The cost of testing the Poogilvivaram accounts, and the verification of the land of the whole District, is estimated at 15,000 Rupees, but the sufficiency of this sum is doubted by the Acting Collector. The Board think with Mr. Robinson that these accounts are unworthy of the scrutiny they require, and suggest that the further preparation of the Koolwar chittahs be discontinued, and that the remedy be looked for in a scientific survey of the whole District, the only measure, they say, which can satisfactorily adjust the rights of the State as well as of the people.

9. It is quite clear, from the Collector's shewing, that, at present, no accounts of revenue exist in the District of Malabar, on which any reliance can be placed; that no accurate informa-

tion is possessed regarding enam lands; that the mode of collecting the revenue, the Kootgemmah, this the best available under existing circumstances, is open, from its peculiar nature, to grave objections; and that concealed cultivation prevails to an uncontrollable extent. On the other hand, it is equally certain that nothing short of a regular survey can remedy these evils, it is useless to expect any advantage from prosecuting the preparation of the Koolwar chittahs from present materials by means of extra establishments, and the Government think, with the Board, that the work should at once cease, and all expenditure on account of it discontinued until a regular survey can be introduced into the province; they direct therefore that intimation of the views of Government be conveyed to the Acting Collector for his information and guidance.

10. The Government believe that the sum of Rupees 46-12-3 expended in testing the accounts of 3 Umshoms in Calicut, is the same as that referred to in para. 5 of this resolution as having been sanctioned on the 8th June last; if so, no further orders are required.

Para. 9 Bd's. Proceedings.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

1330/4

Revenue Department.

№ 4087

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23d November 1857.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar, dated 5th August 1857.

In C. 23d November 1857.

(Here Enter № 128)

In this communication the Acting Collector gives an elaborate account of the various plans that have been adopted from time to time to obtain correct Returns of the number of lands, Gardens, &c in the Malabar district and of the causes of the failure of the different attempts to supply the want of such accounts. The want of reliable and systematically prepared Revenue accounts has been felt from the commencement of our rule, particularly on the failure of the quinquennial Settlement in 1796/96, and the introduction of a Ryotwary administration.

In 1798/99 Mr. Lunan the Principal Collector, made the first attempt, after the assumption of the Province, to carry out a Revenue Survey of the Southern and Central divisions. It does not appear what pla-

vra

was adopted, but the Scheme was soon aban-
-doned in consequence of the Corruption of
the Canungoes who were appointed to inspect
the lands. The Returns then prepared were never acted on.

3. Between the years 1805 and 10
Mr. Warden undertook the Survey of the lands
and Gardens of the whole district. The plan
adopted by Mr. Warden was to call on each
revenue payer to lend in a detailed return
of his landed properties and holdings of
every description assessable to the revenue,
showing the particulars of Seed sown, extent,
rental &c. No of Trees &c. The Returns then
prepared are called the "Iama Pymaish" of
1805/6. Subsequently a Survey of the rice lands
by measurers summoned from Coimbatore
was completed and is now known as the
"Alagya Pymaish" of 1806/10. Though this sur-
-vey was a failure and never acted upon,
the accounts under both denominations, the
Acting Collector states, are notwithstanding
great inaccuracies the most valuable Record
extant in the District. The cost of these Sur-
-veys cannot be ascertained, but as they ex-
-tended over 6 or 7 years it is supposed
the

1330/5

the charges were considerable.

4 The next attempt to Sur-
-vey the lands and Gardens of the District
was made by Mr. Commissioner Grame in
1820/23. He condemned Mr. Wardens Surveys
and showed that a large loss of revenue
would result from acting on them. Mr.
Grame commenced operations by dismis-
-ing or remodelling the entire Village Estab-
-lishments and by appointing a new class of
Deshadigharies or Potails of his own selections.
On these he proposed to confer hereditary em-
-uments as an inducement to be honest, but the
Honorable Court disapproved of the measure
Mr. Grame left the District in 1823, and Mr.
Vaughan continued the Survey. But after two
years trial this scheme like the others failed
through the corruption of the parties appointed
to carry it out, and from the Proprietors and
Ryots giving false Returns of their holdings &c.

5. The last effort to obtain
reliable Revenue accounts was commenced
in 1833 under Mr. Clarke's orders, and is the
one regarding which the Government have
called for further information. The plan adopt-
-ed

From Government Sec. Letter, 1805 No 1227 R.D.

adopted was to require the Dashadigharies to make returns of all rice and garden lands &c within their Amshoms, and to inspect the documents and collate the "Dashadigharis Pymaish account" of 1820/25. The Tahsildars were directed to check and supervise the preparation of these lists, and to transmit the Returns to the Huzzoor there to be drawn up as Koolwar Chittahs.

6. In consequence of the backwardness and incompetency of the Village officers a sufficient number of the Returns known as "Poogilvivarum" (or description of crops) was not received in the Huzzoor till 1843 to make it worth while to commence operations. In that year an Extra Establishment was sanctioned for the purpose, and about one half of the Returns prepared by the Dashadigharies were copied into the form of Koolwar Chittahs; but the worthlessness of the returns from which they were framed was discovered on the first attempt to verify the accounts, and the work was therefore suspended, and further expenditure on that account avoided.

7. To test the Poogilvivarum and Koolwar Accounts an experiment was made in 3 Amshoms of the Oatoor Talook with a view to framing

framing an Estimate of the cost and result of a thorough scrutiny of the Poogilvivarum Accounts, and verification of the condition of the lands &c

8. From the marginal State-ment given in para 26 of the Acting Collector's letter under notice, it will be seen that the total expense of the experiment exclusive of the time of the permanent Establishment (which would double if not treble it Mr. Robinson states) was Rupees 46-12-3, and that the increase of Revenue in the 3 Amshoms was Rupees 34½ which is nearly the cost of the scrutiny. The land Revenue of these Amshoms is well defined, and they are so situated that the Huzzoor Establishment was enabled to afford assistance in a degree that could not be looked for elsewhere. The cost of making a similar scrutiny over the entire district is estimated at Rupees 13,000 to 15,000, and would occupy about 6 years but the Acting Collector questions the sufficiency of Dashadarus

Fusly 1253	Re	16	8 - 8
1254		252	" "
1255		252	" "
1256		252	" "
1257		252	" "
		1,023	10 - 8
1264		46	12 - 3
Total Rupees		1070	6 - 11

9. The total expenditure for drawing up the Koolwar Accounts from the commencement of the work in Fusly 1253 to 1264, amounts to Rupees 1070-6-11. Of this sum Re-

-ceive

Fees 1023-10-8 have already received the Sanction of Government, and the remainder Rupees 46-12-3 was expended (as stated above) for the purpose of trying the correctness of the Accounts of the 3 Unshoums in Calicut. The Board request that Sanction be granted for this Charge. The amount was excluded from the Statement of actual Charges for Fusly 1264 which was Sanctioned on the 13th December 1856.

10. With regard to the expediency of continuing the preparation of the Koolwar Chittahs, the Acting Collector complains that in some Unshoums the Poogil vivaram Accounts record imperfectly the circumstances of the Land &c 20 years ago; that in some they still remain to be furnished; that they are very inaccurate as regards both the Public revenue and private rights and titles, and that so close an examination of these accounts as would warrant the issue of Koolwar would be tantamount to a re-Survey of the District. The Board concur in the opinion of the Acting Collector that these Accounts are unworthy

unworthy the Scrutiny they require, and that the further preparation of the Koolwar Chittahs should be discontinued.

11. The Board are fully sensible of the difficulties which are now experienced in the administration of the District from the want of reliable accounts, but they agree with the Acting Collector that the state of affairs described by him cannot be remedied by a Scientific Survey of the whole District, and they consider that he has adduced very strong arguments in favor of the Early institution of a Survey as a measure necessary to secure the rights of the State as well as of the people.

Ordered that a Copy of the foregoing Proceedings be laid before Government with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 7th November 1855 No. 1227 and 13th December 1856 No. 1310.

(A true Extract)

H. Forbes Lagge
Ag. Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Ag. Secretary

1330/8 Calicut 5 August 1857

From

W. Robinson Esquire

Acting Collector of Malabar

To

I. D. Sim Esquire

Acting Secretary to the

Board of Revenue

Fort St George.

Sir

With reference to the Co-
-nect from the Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue under date the 17
November 1855 No 3057 I have the
honor to submit the following information
on the subject of the recent attempt
to frame Korkar Accounts for this
District, and of the expenditure on this
account.

Expenditure 12 The Amount of expenditure
for drawing up the Korkar Accounts,
from the date of its Commencement in
1253 to 1256 as per detailed accounts
forwarded

Received Oct 8th 1857
Revenue Board Sec.

Consn 15th Dec 1857 No 27-28
Rec'd Nov 23rd 1857 No 1830

Perusal 18th Dec
Rec'd Dec 23rd No 11830

Extract from the Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue

Dated 23rd November 1857
Rec'd 25th
Read Letter Collector
Malabar
dated 5th August
S.C. No. 1330. 17 A Dec

Submitting copy of
the Board's observations on a letter
from the Ag Collector of Mala-
bar, reporting the results of
the various trials that have
been adopted from time to time
to obtain correct Returns of the
number of Looms for the
Mat Districts.

No 240

8 Dec 1857

forwarded to the Board, amounts to + Rupees 1023. 10. 8. In 1264, a small sum of Rupees 46. 12. 3 was expended for the purpose of trying the correctness of the accounts of three Mushnes. An abstract of the whole amounting to Rupees 1070. 6. 11 is given in the margin.

+ Vide Statement of actual charges for July 1853 and 1854 and the three enclosures to the letter to the Board dated 11 Sept. 54.

	Amount expended July Rupees
1253	15 10 8
1254	252.
1255	252.
1256	252.
1257	252.
	1023 10 8
1264	46 12 3
Total Rupees	1070 6 11

3. History of these operations was briefly sketched by Mr. Cope Cly in a Memo. dated 9. August 1854. The above originated with Mr. Clementson and is first noticed in his Summary & Report Dated 15. January 1834. The accounts of Mr. Warden's survey and that of the Dischadigharies which were conducted under the immediate orders of Mr. Greame, are so imperfect and many of them so very incorrect, that it is quite impossible to prepare Khoiwar Accounts, which are much required and without which no satisfactory enquiry can be made as to the extent of each estate and the general

P. 36 / 37
& / 1806 / 10
1823 / 25

+ in Malabar by Mr. Vaughan.

general condition of each Kyot.

4 Orders were accordingly issued to the Village Officers to prepare the material for these Khoiwar Chittas under date the 20. June 1833.

Absence of Revenue account.

5 The inconvenience arising from the absence of Revenue Account and of any reliable information about the number of Loads, Gardens and measurement, of the nature of the Soil and crops &c &c in the District of Palakad has been felt from the commencement of our Rule; it may not therefore be out of place to sketch the different abortive attempts that have been made to supply the deficiency.

Land Revenue under Native Rule.

6 Under the Native Rule there was probably no land tax properly so called in Malabar. The great Chiefs and Proprietors lived from the (Pattom) rental of their estates, this rental being collected in the usual form not as any measure-

ment

ment of the Land. The first Mahome- Under Mahomed.
dan Settlement of Arshed Beg of Arshed Beg's
1784/85 proceeded on the principle of settlement of 1784.
requiring a portion of the Neattas
(Ryotwary) Public Revenue: a sur-
vey or measurement was made. Major
McLeod describes it as a sort of in-
spection by computation of the country
with a view to assessing it, conducted by
Tippoo's Revenue Officers; adding, "that the
accounts which were made at that time
are lost or concealed." The number of
Lands and their rents together with
their rental was all the information
such a settlement called for. The returns
of these were doubtless very defective.
However this settlement such as it was,
continues still to be acted upon as re-
gards Rice Lands.

7 The Revenue Settlement Revenue Settlement
of Malabar made by the Joint Com- of 1794/95.
missioners in 1794/95, commonly termed
the quinquennial settlement was

on

on Zemindary principle, based on the
Revenue Schedule appended to the Treaty
of 1792 aided by such information as
could be obtained from the accounts
of Tippoo's Revenue Gomastahs and the
people. It was in short a continuation
of the Mahomedan Settlement and no
regular assessment took place. No sur-
vey was undertaken, nor could reliable
information of the condition of the
country be expected, in a country that
had not recovered from a very disturbed
and unsettled state.

Introduction of Ryotwary. 8 The failure of the quin-
quennial settlement in 1795/96 & the
introduction of a Ryotwary adminis-
tration, caused the absence of reliable
and systematically prepared Revenue
accounts to be most severely felt, and
a variety of attempts were made to
supply the deficiency.

Mr Smee's Settlement of 1798/99. 9 In 1798/99 Mr Smee car-
ried

pied out a Survey of the Southern and
centre division of Malabar. It is probably
in regards to this that Major McLeod
in his report dated 18th June 1802 Para
36, remarks "Four Canangoes were
"appointed to make inspection of cetain
"Districts, but as there was no proper
"check applied to control them they were
"easily bribed to neglect enquiries. Their
"fortunes were speedily made and the
attempt was abandoned. These Returns
had never been acted on.

10 In 1802 Major McLeod remarking on the unsatisfactory condition of the country, states that its resources "cannot be ascertained with tolerable accuracy; but by an actual measurement "of the Rice fields and mustering of all "the trees that are productive of Revenue; and, while pointing to the greater accuracy of a Survey measurement conducted by persons wholly distinct from the Curnums Village Officers, he recommended for the sake

Report of 18th June 1802 Para 62 & 63.

Major McLeod proposal

1330
11

sake of expedition a survey and measurement by the Curnums", under the direction of a certain number of Head Surveyors "whose duty it should be to train, to superintend and to check the Curnums "by examining the survey of each". He estimated the cost of such a survey at one lac of Rupees.

11 Major McLeod soon left the District and the Revenue Summary of the Commissioners of 1794/95 was reverted to at once.

Mr Warden's surveys.

Vide Report to Board of 27th April and 17th June 1803.
Do. Do. to Govt. of 20th July 1804.

Vide Minute of Lord W. Bentinck dated 26th April 1804 and Ex. Pro. Bd of Revenue of 5th May 1804.

Vide Report to Bd of Revenue dated 16th June 1812 Paras 40 to 55.

Jemma Jamash

12 Mr Rice Pards, however soon after planned a new settlement and revised assessment, and the survey and examination of the land and gardens of the whole district were ordered. These operations were prosecuted under Mr Warden between the years 1805 and 1810. Mr Warden first called on each Revenue payer to send in a detailed Return of his landed properties and holdings of every description, assessable

assessable to Revenue, showing the particulars of seed sown, extent, Rental, &c. &c. &c. of Trees &c. The Returns were duly made and are known in the district by the name of the Jema Paimash Account of 1805/6.

The fidelity of these Returns they (the assessors) were called on to guarantee under signature & threatened penalty

Mr Warden then entered
13
on the survey of the Rice Lands with measurers foreigners to the country, obtained from Coimbatore, and the accounts of the measurement fee of all the Lands in the District, now known as the "Ahwa Pymash" were prepared. The Surveyors entered on their duty in 1806 and in after 6 years' labour the work was completed and there it rests. This survey fee was never acted upon, but the account under both denominations are, despite great imperfection, incompleteness and inaccuracy, by far the most valuable Revenue Record extant in the District.

Ahwa Paimash

Para 46.

* Originally all were written on cadjan and single leaves which became lost and the Lands subject to Rice &c &c &c were all collected in Khuzzur and the remainder were in 1819 written out on Cadjan.

The records do not shew
14.
at what cost these expensive, but abortive operations

1330/10

operations were executed, but extending over six or seven years as well as in the field as in Office, the charges were no doubt large. These accounts were doubted & the Revenue Policy of the country underwent a change about that time. The revision of assessment intended did not take place and the old Mahomedan Jemabundy continued to be acted upon.

Not acted on

Mr Grame's scheme 1820.

15 Mr Commissioner Grame organized the next abortive attempt to secure reliable Revenue accounts in 1820/23. He condemned and pointed out gross inaccuracies in Mr Warden's Jema Paymash of 1805/6, and Ahwa Pymash account of 1806/10, and in his estimates, shewing likewise, that a large loss of existing Revenue, would result from acting on them and he proposed a new Pymash settlement. His first step was to dismiss or remodel the entire village establishments hitherto existing. He appointed a new class of "Deshadigharies" (Patels)

of

Vide Para 1089 to 1202 and Para 1246 et seq.

Mr Grame

Deshadigharies

* Mr Grame describes them himself as persons has only introduced and of little experience of Office. Vide Para 29 of Commissioner Grame's Letter to Principal Collector dated 9th May 1823.

of his own selection, on whom hereditary Summons were to be conferred* through these, and under this hope, he sought to get reliable returns from the proprietors, based on their deeds and leases of which he hoped to obtain a sight, and these Returns were to be checked by the new Desh adigharies.

*disapproved by Court of Directors.

16. Mr Grant's operations were very limited indeed. He left the District in 1823, directing the Principal Collector Mr Vaughan "to continue the survey of the Province, hitherto carried on under his own control." He had himself however experienced that the account of the survey returns of gardens were so understated and suspicions as to require greatest caution in accepting them, and that "the accounts of rice land which had hitherto been rendered by the Proprietors, seemed by no means entitled to credit." Mr Grant did not indicate how this plague spot

Delegated to Mr Vaughan

Vide Mr Commissioner Grant's letter to Principal Coll. dated 20. May 1827.

To Board 22d Sept. /23
do 4 Feb. /24
do 20 Apl.
do 3 June
do 3 July
do 16
From do 26
do 3 Augt.
do 12 Octr.
do 29 Nov.
To do 9 Decr.
do 24 Jan. /25
do 5 March
From do 14 April
To do 9 June
From do 24 Octr.

To the Board dated 4 February 1824 P. 13.

It's failure in his proposed scheme of survey he was to be remedied.

17. The correspondence noted in the margin kept the Board of Revenue acquainted with the failure of the utterly ridiculous attempt. "The Desh adigharies are excessively backwards in the survey "of the Rice lands and pay not the least "attention to orders, demeaning themselves in "such a way as evidently to prove their "backwardness in the cause. That he "(the Principal Collector) had been "able to make the least impression on "them (the Desh adigharies). That the "accounts they give are grossly false "beyond description, and that they sedu-"lously conceal the deeds making it next "to impossible to ascertain the resources "of the country." In his letter 3d June Para 10, Mr Vaughn speaks of his "utter despair" of being able to prepare "any returns within reasonable time" and of the "hopelessness of the chance

of

"of getting any true deeds" through the
Deshadigharies.

18 The Ryots too naturally had recourse to every expedient to secure the easy defeat of the proposed settlement. Deshadigharies made large fortunes, the country "teemed with ficticious deeds: temporary deeds and agreements were executed to suit present purposes, and were prepared with a view of corresponding with a survey notoriously fallacious." A number of returns and deeds was compulsorily obtained, but the great majority was of the most grossly fraudulent description". Special and singular legislative provisions were proposed, penalties and rewards to informants were suggested, forfeiture of concealed land was threatened, and a assessment to the full amount of the rental in cases of fraud was actually authorized by the Board, but all in vain. In para 5 of his letter dated 12th October 1824 to the Board

Dated 12th October 1824 Para 2 24th January 1825 Para 1.

Ex. Gen. Board of Rev. dated 14th April 1825

Dated 12th October 1824 Para 2 and 24th January 1825 Para 1.

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Board Mr Vaughn boldly calls on the Board "to reflect on the effects arising from "collusions on the rents of the people, on "giving rise to innumerable disputes and "feuds as well as suits beyond calculation "in the Civil Courts" adding that it is "full time to adopt measures to check the "pending evil". A variety of futile endeavours to induce the Deshadigharies and Ryots to return faithful statements were made, but on the 9th June 1825 after 2 years struggle to carry out Mr Grants Regulation Mr Vaughn reported the "total failure in "the promises made by the inhabitants "to revise and give in true and correct re- "count."

Failure

19 Such is the history of another period of 5 or 6 years passed in futile exertion to get reliable Revenue account from parties most interested in concealing the information which was sought for, through the corruptest, most suspicious and equally interested channels, viz. the Desh-

adigharies

= adigharies of Mr. Lyall's appointment. The Utopian scheme of Deshadighary's Paymash and Atzmash died of its own corruption, and infinitesimal authority is attached to the bundles of imperfect returns which load our records under the name of Deshadighary Paymash.

20. The last desultory effort to secure reliable and proper account from Malabar is the one now under reference. It commenced in 1833 under Mr. Clement. son and was devised by Devasa Ayyen Nair Shirastadar Pillah, the intention being to secure = dar Koolwar Chittahs of the properties of each revenue payer in the District.

Mr. Clementson 1833.

21 As a preliminary step the Deshadigharies were required to make returns of all lands rice and garden within their limits, to inspect the documents and collate the Deshadigha- ry's Paymash account of 1820/25 &c.

Forgiveness Rs. &c.

The information sought to be shewn in the margin. It will be observed that the measurements, description, classification of soil (except as regards gardens) valuation of property &c. were even called for. In fact it was a renewal of the Deshadighary's Paymash with fewer guarantees, for from fidelity or accuracy & more complicated conducted & expensive.

Rice Lands	Gardens
Name of Rev. Payer.	Name of Rev. Payer.
Nature of crop.	Number and name of Garden
No. and name of Land	Description of Soil.
of Fields	No. and of Trees
Seeds Sown	Cocoanut, Jack
Rental paid	Rate of assessment in them. and do. Areka nuts
Rate of assessment in them.	five or six dif-
Rate of commutation	ferent classes or
Revenue payable.	heads with Re.
	revenue payable.

Tahsildars to check &c.

22 The Tahsildars were directed to check and supervise the preparation of these lists and to transmit the returns to the Huzzoor where they were drawn as Koolwar Chittas.

Difficulties met from first.

23 Mr. Clementson reported in 1834 "that the greatest difficulty has been experienced from the backwardness and incompetence of the village Officers." Little mention is again made in any English

English Records of the operation, but vernacular orders were sent, repeated, reiterated and prepared again in a variety of ways and forms during the next 10 years. Returns came in by driblets and were passed on to the Huzzoor by the Tahsildars without the smallest scrutiny and verification.

24 Such is the usage of Revenue account known by the name of the Pogul Nivarom (Description of Crops) which has for quarter of a century been coming in, but 25 years have not sufficed to complete these returns, of many Amshoms and Districts they have still to be prepared. Few, if any, throughout the whole District have been accurately verified.

25 After 10 years of pressing and urging, a sufficient number of these returns had been received in the Huzzoor to make it worth while applying for a single establishment of Copyists to

1330/16

to complete the last step in the process and a commencement was made in 1843. About one half these returns (unexamined and unverified) were hastily copied into the Form of Kolvar Chittas, but the worthlessness of this ground work transpired on the first attempt to verify these returns, and this indiscriminate preparation of Kolvar Chittas was happily arrested, & the work was suspended, and larger expenditure very carefully avoided.

those came from Combatore it is believed.

Vide Mr. Conolly's letter dated 4th August 55.

26 There has been a reluctance Vide Memo dated 9th Aug. 54. on Mr. Conolly remarked to believe that all the papers that had been taken about the Pogul nivarom and Kolvar accounts were in vain, and an experiment was tried in 3 Cutcherry Amshoms of Calicut with a view to framing an Estimate of the cost and result of thorough scrutiny of the Pogul nivarom account and verification of the condition &c of the Land. These

Experiment made in 3 Amshoms.

Amshoms

Unshoms are small. Land revenue well ascertained and settled, and so situate that the Huzzoor Establishment was enabled to afford assistance in a degree which could not be looked for elsewhere. The operation cannot be termed a fair average experiment. Its result is shewn in the following Abstract.

Unshom	As per present demands. No. of Lands	Jumma	As per Forgiven accounts. No. of Lands	Jumma	Excess in the Kistbundy accounts. No. of Lands	Jumma
Casbah	194	1051 4 9	203	1,081 3 8	9.	29 4 11
Najaroom	16	9 8 11	16	9 9 11	.	. 12.
Panyengairah	604	2997 3 10	618	3,001 11 9	14	4 7 11
Total	814	4147 11 6	837	4182 4 4	23.	34. 8. 10.

Expense of experiment

27 The total expense of this limited experiment (exclusive of time of permanent establishment (which would double if not treble it) was Rupees 46. 12. 3. The increase of Revenue in three Unshoms where concealed land was

1330
17

An increase of 1330 on

was least likely to be met with was Rupees 3 1/2 per annum which nearly paid for the scrutiny.

Estimate

On the results of this 28 experiment it is estimated that a similar scrutiny might be instituted over the entire district at a cost of 13,000 to 15,000 Rupees and would occupy about 6 years.

Dissent

29 I should be sorry to endorse any such estimate. The Abstract given in Mr Conolly's Memo dated 6 August 1854, shews 578,955 items of Land Revenue, Garden and rice land, requiring individual and separate measurement, valuation, and classification of soil &c &c (no revenue account in existence gives these important facts) Adding for concealed lands and incomplete returns, I estimate that three fourths of a million of items, involving many complex enquiries as to fraudulent alienation of legitimate

Revenue

Revenue &c. &c., proves required to be re-
examined de novo. The number of in-
dividual Revenue payers or Kists amounts
to 216,234. Such a scrutiny to be done
well cannot be done cheaply and with
a petty establishment under a variety
of Officers. Europeans and Natives or
be allowed to drag a weary existence
through 6 or 10 years.

30 I do not consider the
Bogilwaroon accounts worthy of the
scrutiny they would call for. In
some instances they are imperfectly
the circumstances of the case 20
years ago in some they still remain
to be finished. They are full of in-
accuracy, concealment, omission and fraud,
as well as regards the Public Revenue
as private rights and titles. An exa-
mination such as would warrant the
issue of the Official deeds, which
it is intended the Kists or Pottahs
should be issued against is a new

Character of Bogilwaroon accounts

Paymash

Paymash (as survey) these native Pay-
mash can scarcely be called, and
were only an attempt to anticipate: but
can be done the Co. comprehensive
measure with proper means and in a
short space of time. The project
must for the present be laid aside.

31 I would here to add a few
words on the subject of survey in
the Ceded Districts that it is one of
the principal objects which claim the earliest
attention

1. The state of the
office to show the utter destitution
of Materials as regards a single re-
liable Revenue account of any sort, and
the consequent difficulties which meet
the Officers administering the revenue
of the country from ignorance and
inability to obtain information which
only a proper survey will clear up
and rectify.

Survey required

Want of revenue accounts

The Public Revenues are

32

exceedingly

exceedingly unsafe under this state of things, and its long continuance will be found, when the scrutiny is undertaken to have already had a most detrimental effect on their credit and prospects.

2. The Land Revenue of Kottyemattah Tinnevelly although nominally Ryotwary and Pollam-wary (and assessed on certain small plots of land or farms) consists in fact of large Kottyems or Chubbed and general payments by extensive landholders i.e. a few great Farmers and Revenue payers have many such Kottyems pollams and gardens standing in their names (besides concealed lands on which they pay no Tax) but neither they nor we have any reliable or authentic information about the details of the true proportion of revenue assignable to each of the different items of which the Koot-jema is made up. The Ryots make such alienations of Revenue

on

the occurrence of transfer as they please or such as have obtained some prescription or local acceptation for which it would be impossible to show any authority. These alienations we cannot effectually check nor when made rectify. The rapidly increasing value of land for the province the daily alienation of land under decrees of Court and for valuable consideration, and the consequent tendency of these irregularities to become erected prescriptive into an available right all render imperative the application of the only remedy that can be devised — a thorough scientific survey and settlement. Many many thousands of lands in Tinnevelly already at this day, for the name of individuals who have long ceased to have any interest in them, — from the simple fact that they form items of large (Kottyems) Chubbs of Revenue, the public demand on each item of which is unknown or is believed

to have been fraudulently dealt by.
These frauds & the present condition
of our Revenue account and with the
present means of obtaining information
we cannot unravel. We therefore pro-
pose to let them stand as they were,
and refuse to give them authority to
sanction, by admitting the transfer
of Savanes to be made from the
name of the alienator to that of the
alienee.

3 Malabar is an extended & well
peopled prosperous district. Population,
Import and Exports have steadily
& the increase, the few provinces of cul-
tivation advancing or waste & Coconut
plantation increasing more steadily,
but the actual land revenue has
been almost stationary. The reason
of this is that, although the fiscal
administration is by every one pro-
ple, and all increased cultivation is
assessable, the land itself is private pro-
perty

1330/20

perty; there is no exact paste or
public land in Malabar which might
be considered the especial charge of the
public Officers; and of therefore, the
actual cultivation is annually mapped
the Sanad [illegible] of the discovery of
extended unassessed cultivation on pri-
vate properties, are greatly lessened,
and its verification becomes exceedingly
difficult without survey or accounts.
It might be safely moved in regard
to Malabar, that irrespective of the
detection and gradual assessment of
concealed cultivation which would pro-
ceed simultaneously with a survey,
the prospective revenues which must
be secured by accurately mapping
the present cultivation, though a very
light assessment only were imposed, &
would pay for the operation in a few
years even if it ext[illegible] several lacs.

garden assessment

b. The substitution of an
acreable rate of assessment on garden
cultivation

cultivation, for the present the levies on the Cale of bearing trees, cannot be fairly discussed. A scientific and reliable estimation of the acreage is procured.

5 An accurate information Could exist as to the Crown or Fee of Land of the District. The amount as it appears in the account rendered at Page 1304 was Eleven but believed to approximate to quarter of a Lac of Rupees or to be [illegible] more times.

The determination of Hill and flat land

[illegible] matter perfectly [illegible] could not be ascertained justly without accurate survey settlement.

Lastly, [illegible] District could a scientific and accurate survey, accompanied as it should be with registration of deeds [illegible] confer on the society no greater benefit than could be the case in Calcutta. The definition of the boundaries of Estates and the institution

1330/021

institution of a proper cadastral system, based on accurate scientific Public Maps, would not do away to a large portion of the litigation of the province and introduce certainty and confidence into dealings in land not now existing.

I have the honor &c

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

[illegible]

Collector

[illegible]

1330/22

R.D

№ 1330

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 19th December 1857:

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Here enter 23d November 1857 № 4089

P. With these proceedings the Board of Revenue submit a letter from the Acting Collector of Madura reporting on the measures taken from time to time with the view of obtaining correct returns of the landed properties in that District.

2 On the application of the late Collector Mr Conolly, supported by the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, the Government, in an order dated

P.C. 21 Sep 1846 № 231.

dated the 21st February 1846 No 231 granted authority for incurring an annual expenditure of Rupees 252 for six years for the preparation of the Khoolsar, or accounts of lands held by the ryots of the province, and directed that the disbursement of each year should be separately submitted for sanction, with a report of the progress of the work.

Nothing however was heard of the matter until 1855, or nine years later, when, on reviewing the charges entered in the District for fusly 1262, the Government observed an item of Rupees 756 for the preparation of Khoolsar Statements during fusles 1255, 1256, and 1257, but as no report of progress had been submitted, they

Ltr — 1 June 1855 No 700.

1330/23

Ltr — 7 Nov. 1855 No 1127.

they suspended their sanction until such information was furnished.

The explanation came forth in the correspondence received with the Board's proceedings of the 23rd October 1855, and the Government, in their review of the 7th November following, agreed with the Board that the proceedings on the matter had not been satisfactory, and that the benefit to be derived from the accounts, even after they should have been completed, was very doubtful. They at the same time noticed the insufficiency of the information supplied, and called for a Statement of the entire expenditure from fusly 1254 to 1264, as well as for the opinion of the Collector as to the expediency

and

and advantage of proceeding the work, and desired that these should be accompanied by a careful Estimate of the probable cost of the operations, if the Collector advised its being carried out, meanwhile they sanctioned the charges of the line from 1253 to 1259 amounting to Rs 756-

5th " " For the restoration of the charges of July 1264 the Govt objected to two items relating to extra Establishments, one of which, amounting to Rs 46-12-3 was sanctioned to be the Expenditure incurred in translating into Malayalum the Hindoostanee Kulwar Chittahs on the explanation of the Collector however, the charges to which objections was made were afterwards sanctioned by Government in Extract

Ltr to B Dec 1856 No 13

* Extra Establishments

		Rs	a	p
1	For ascertaining the damages sustained by the crops in the Kootmund & for assessing the Tolls of the Adawl Collector	42	2	8
2	For translating into Malayalum the Hindoostanee Kulwar Chittahs	46	12	3
		Rs. 88	14	11

Ltr to B 8 June 1857 No 3768.

1338/24

Minutes Consultations on the
8th June last Nº 3563.

Ex the Proper recorded
at the head of these proceedings
the Acting Collector of Malabar
and the Board of Revenue
reply to the requisition of
Government in Extract Minutes
Consultation 7th November 1855.
The Board represent that
various plans have been
adopted to obtain correct
returns of the number of
gardens, lands, &c in
Malabar, but that all attempts
to supply the want of such
accounts have failed. They
refer to the first attempt made
in 1798/99 by Mr Farmer the
Principal Collector, to carry
out a Revenue Survey of the
Southern and Central Divisions
to the measures taken by Mr
Warden between the years 1805
and

and 1810, to survey the lands and gardens of the whole District; to the survey attempted in the years 1820/23 by Mr. Graeme, and afterwards continued by Mr. Dingham, all of which it is stated, failed through the corruption of the peoples appointed to carry them out, and from the proprietors giving false returns of their holdings; and lastly, they refer to the effort made in 1832 by Mr. Clementson to obtain reliable revenue accounts, which likewise ended in failure.

7. The circumstances which led to this result, are detailed by Mr. Robinson. They are briefly these. It was Mr. Clementson's intention to frame Rooleas chittahs for

1330/25

the properties possessed by each revenue payer in the District, a necessary preliminary, were the preparation of returns by the Village officers shewing all the particulars relating to the land, its produce, and the revenue assessable. These returns are designated "Poogilvivarum" (or description of crops) the Village officers, it is represented, were backward in submitting them, and it was only on repeated orders during a course of ten years, that the returns came in in tablets, and passed to the Collectors' Cutchery without, as was ascertained, any scrutiny from the Tahsildars. It was to complete the Rooleas from these returns that the extra Establishment sanctioned in

in 1846 were applied for.

8 One half of the Koolwar were gone through when the worthlessness of the Coogiloiwaram returns was discovered, the further prosecution of work was therefore suspended and all expenditure prohibited. The cost of testing the Coogiloiwaram accounts and verification of the land of the whole District, is estimated at 15,000 Rupees, but the sufficiency of this sum is doubted by the acting Collector. The Board think with Mr Robinson that these accounts are unworthy of the testing, they require, and suggest that the further preparation of the Koolwar Chittahs be discontinued, and that the

1330
8/6

remedy be looked for in a scientific survey of the whole District, the only measure they say, which can satisfactorily adjust the rights of the Sirkar with those of the people.

It is quite clear, from the Collectors shewing that, at present no accounts of revenue exist in the District of Malabar on which any reliance can be placed, that no accurate information is possessed regarding waste lands; that the mode of collecting the revenue, the Board remark, is the best available under existing circumstances, is open, from its premises, to grave objections, and that concealed cultivation prevails to an uncontrollable extent. On the other hand, it is equally certain that nothing short of a regular survey

Survey could ~~not fully~~ remedy thereon
~~defects~~ Evils, it is useless to expect
any advantages from precautions
ring the preparation of the
Hessian Cantabs from inferior
materials by means of extra
establishments, and the Govt.
think with the Board, that
the work should at once
cease and all expenditure on
account of it discontinued
until a regular Survey can
be introduced into the Co
Provinces; they direct therefore
that intimation of the views
of Government be conveyed
to the delinquent Collector for his
information and guidance.

10 The Government do
believe that the sum of Rupees
~~46-12-3~~ 23 expended in Cattle
the accounts of 3 Timbhans
in Coliont is the same as

by Bs pro:

1330/07

that referred to in para 5 of
this resolution as having
been sanctioned on the 8th June
last; if so, no further orders
are required.

3 Copies to the Superintendent with an Abstract Disposal
Accts Genl
Civil Audr

Revenue 1857 Dept.
Dr to Aug 23 Dec.

No 1330

Extract Letters of Revs.
Dec. 19 Dec. 57

Extract from the Proc. of the Bd. of
Revt. of 18 March 58 No 390 in

Taking order on a Ltr. from
the Dy. Collr. of Malabar, report-
-ing on the measures taken for ob-
-taining Correct Returns of the
Cultivated proportion in that District.

No 4044.

28 Dec. 1114