Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

26th May 1857

Book No 14 - 15

Book No 485 dated 22nd May 1857

பாதுகாப்புப் பிரிவு-1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் —சி. இராமசாமி

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக
எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்ப
பட்ட நாள்

செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள் 08/2006

சரிபார்க்கும்
முதல் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

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

ஆராய்ச்சி
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 26th May 1857.

No. 14. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue; dated 29th April 1857, No. 1339.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar dated 1st November 1856.*

* *In Consultation 29th April 1857.*

(Here enter No. 146.)

Resolved that the above letter be laid before Government.

Board's Pro. dated 28th July 1855. Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1361, dated 15th December 1855.

2. With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, relative to the proposed survey of the Puttamby Hobly in the Nedinganaad talook of the Malabar District, with the view to readjusting its assessment which has been represented to be excessive, the Board observe that in the Extract from Government above referred to, the Collector was requested to give his careful consideration to the subject, and to state whether he agreed with the late Mr. Conolly that the lands of the Hobly were unduly taxed, and if so, whether relief could not be given in a temporary form without a survey.

3. In reply to this reference, Mr. Robinson states that he is acquainted with these lands as they belonged to his Division as Head Assistant. The heavy assessment prevailing in them is attributed to the same cause as was assigned by the late Collector, viz. the irregular taxation under the Mahomedan administration about 80 years ago, since which time no alteration in the way either of relief or enhancement has been made.

4. The actual cultivator however, the Acting Collector states, is not affected by the land tax which is paid from the rental and so falls on the proprietor. All the culturable land in the Hobly is being improved, and none is given up or left waste. The lands have a market value and generally have not changed owners in the last half century, and though their proprietors are less wealthy than others of the same class elsewhere, "positive wretchedness" does not prevail.

5. In his opinion the case is not so urgent as to require an immediate and hurried survey of the Umahoms, and he confesses himself unwilling to enter upon such a task with the imperfect agency proposed.

6. In respect to the temporary relief to be allowed, Mr. Robinson thinks that although a reduction of 15 per cent. in the tax of the Hobly may be required when a general re-adjustment of the assessment of the District takes place, the amount for the present may be left to the discretion of the Collector at the Jummabundy Settlements. TheBoard concur with Mr. Robinson that the case is not so urgent as to require a hurried and imperfect survey, while a general survey of the Presidency of a highly accurate character is about to be carried out. It will be long however before operations are commenced in Malabar which is generally lightly assessed, and in the meanwhile relief may be extended in the manner proposed. The Board however would greatly prefer a remission of a less fluctuating character than those usually granted at the settlement. The lightness of assessment in other parts of Malabar will not benefit the proprietors of this Hobly, and though very probably the land tax is not so exorbitant as was at first supposed, still it seems to press on the proprietary body, and the Board would be reluctant to withhold remedial measures until the impoverishment of the landholders affords indisputable proofs of over assessment.

7. They would therefore wish the Acting Collector to endeavour to estimate more accurately what average per centage of reduction should be granted pending the General survey. The accounts of collections and remissions in past years will probably enable the Acting Collector to state with sufficient accuracy, for temporary purposes, how much relief should thus be granted, or if this is impracticable, enquiries might be instituted at the Jummabundy.

8. The Acting Collector will report, whether he is now in a position to fix such a rate, and will also furnish the information called for in para. 7, of the Extract Minutes Consultation 15th December 1855, No. 1361, R. D. already referred to.

(A true Extract.)

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

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, No. 485; dated 22d May 1857.

1. In their Proceedings of the 28th July 1855, the Board of Revenue laid before Government a correspondence between themselves and the late Collector of Malabar, on the subject of the over-assessment of the Puttamby Hobly in that District; and they recommended that the Collector should be authorized to make a survey of the lands, in view to a readjustment of the assessment. The cost of the measure was estimated at 3,000 Rs., chiefly for temporary hands to supply the places of permanent servants who were to be employed on the survey. The Government, however, after a review of all the circumstances brought to their notice, did not see that the over-assessment of the lands was clearly made out; nor were they satisfied that the means proposed for remedying the evil, were sufficient; and with reference therefore to the little progress that had been made in the survey, and other similar measures previously ordered by Government on other parts of the same District, and in advertence to the prospect of a general survey of all the Districts of this Presidency, they resolved to direct the attention of the present Collector to the correspondence, and to require him to consider, in the event of his agreeing with his predecessor as to the over-assessment of the lands of the Hobly in question, whether relief might not be given in a temporary form without a survey.

2. The Acting Collector replies to this requisition in a letter dated 1st November 1856 received with the Board's Proceedings of the 29th April 1857, recorded above. Mr. Robinson states that the land tax of this Hobly has always been regarded as heavy; but he does not think that the case is so urgent, as to require an immediate or hurried survey; and he is unwilling to enter upon such a task with the imperfect agency proposed by his predecessor. A reduction of fifteen per cent. in the tax must, he apprehends, eventually be made, when the adjustment takes place; but for the present, he suggests that the matter should be left to the discretion of the Collector at the Jummabundy.

3. The Board think with Mr. Robinson, that the case is not of such urgency as to require a hurried and imperfect survey, when there is a prospect of a general survey of the whole Presidency of a scientific and accurate character; but they justly remark that, from the state of the assessment throughout Malabar, it will be long before the operations of the general survey are commenced upon in that District; and they think that, until then, remission of a less fluctuating character than that indicated in Mr. Robinson's proposal should be introduced. The Board suggest that the Acting Collector should estimate, as accurately as circumstances permit, the per centage of reduction which should be granted, pending the general survey; and they refer to the accounts of Collections and Remissions in past years as affording data for the purpose.

4. There are two points in the Acting Collector's letter which call for remark. In para. 4 Mr. Robinson observes that "positive wretchedness does not prevail in the Puttamby Hobly;" and he adduces the fact, apparently as an argument, to shew that immediate relief is not required by the proprietary body. The Government are very unwilling that the Acting Collector should suppose that nothing short of absolute wretchedness on the part of any of the landed proprietors of Malabar, would be considered to entitle them to measures of relief; and they entirely approve of the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue, for an immediate enquiry into the state of the Hobly, with a view to the adoption of some measure, which shall put its landed proprietors, more nearly on a footing of equality than they now are, with their neighbours in other parts of Malabar. Besides the points to which the Acting Collector's attention has been directed, it appears to the Government that if the extent of the Hobly, the assessment paid to the proprietors, the amount of the tax paid by them to Government, and the centage which that tax bears to the assessment received by the proprietors, be compared with other estates similarly situated, and usually regarded as not over-assessed, it is probable that an approximation may be obtained to the proper amount of relief now required.

5. Again, in the 5th paragraph, the Acting Collector, remarking that, though Malabar is not on the whole heavily taxed, it is so in some parts, says that "the population must be prepared to "accept the good with the evil, until a general revision and adjustment can be organized." It is obvious that this position is unsound; and that the fact that over taxation is not universal does not make it less ruinous to those whom it actually affects.

6. The Government will be glad to receive at an early period, the reply of the Acting Collector to the instructions now furnished to him, for regulating the demand for assessment on the lands of the Puttamby Hobly. Considering that the subject was agitated in November 1853 by the late Collector Mr. Conolly, and that more than three years and a half have since elapsed, without any decisive measures being undertaken, it is desirable that the matter should be fully and finally disposed of, as far as circumstances will permit.

7. The information required in Extract Minutes of Consultation 15th December 1855, respecting the survey of the Mumtapurum sub-division, not having been furnished in Mr. Robinson's letter, the Board of Revenue have properly called his attention to the omission.

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

Revenue Department

Malabar

A. 1339

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 20th April 1852 A. 1339

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar dated 1st November 1850.

Ben. inter A. 1340

Resolved that the above letter be laid before Government.

Ben. Reg. dated 8th April 1851. No. 2
Entered Mem. to Govt
Sent Record D. 1858

To reference to the correspondence noted in the margin relative to the proposed Sedrapuram Talook of the Malabar District with the view to readjusting its assessment which has been represented to be excessive the Board observe that in the Extract from Government above referred to, the Collector was requested to give his consideration to the subject and to state whether he agreed with the late Mr Conolly that the lands of the Tobby were unduly taxed and if so whether relief could not be given

given on a temporary farm without a Survey.

3 In reply to this reference Mr Robinson states that he is acquainted with these lands as they belonged to his Division as Head Assistant. The heavy assessment pressing on them is attributed to the same cause as was assigned by the late Collector viz. the irregular taxation under the Mahomedan Administration about 80 years ago, since which time no alteration on the way either of relief or enhancement has been made.

4. The actual or Estate Collector States, is not affected by the land tax which is paid from Government and so falls on the Proprietor. All the cultivable land in the Ashty is highly enclosed, and none is given up as waste. The lands have a market value and generally have not changed owners in the last half century and though these proprietors are less wealthy than others of the same class elsewhere, "poverty wretchedness" does not prevail.

In

5. In his opinion the case is not so urgent as to require an immediate and hurried Survey of the Amshoms and he confesses himself unwilling to enter upon such a task with the imperfect agency proposed.

6. In respect to the temporary relief to be allowed, Mr Robinson thinks that altho a reduction of 15 per cent in the tax of the Ashty may be required when a general re adjustment of the assessments of the District takes place, the amount of the Collector at the Summahundy settlements. The Board concur with Mr Robinson that the case is not so urgent as to require a hurried and imperfect Survey, while a general Survey of the Presidency of a highly accurate character is about to be carried out. It will be long however before operations are commenced on Malabar which is generally lightly assessed and in the meanwhile relief may be extended in the manner proposed. The Board however would

greatly

greatly prefer a remission of a less fluctuating character than those usually granted at the settlement. The lightness of assessment in other parts of Malabar will not benefit the proprietors of this Taluk, and though very probably the land tax is not so much land as was at first supposed, still it seems to press on the proprietary body and the Board would be reluctant to withhold remedial measures until the impoverishment of the landholders affords indisputable proofs of over assessment.

7. They would therefore wish the Acting Collector to endeavour to estimate more accurately what average percentage of reduction should be granted pending the general Survey. The accounts of collections and remissions in past years will probably enable the Acting Collector to state with sufficient accuracy for temporary purposes how much relief should thus be granted. or if this is impracticable enquiries might be instituted at the Sunmahundy.

8. The Acting Collector will report whether

whether he is now in a position to fix such a rate, and will also furnish the information called for in Para 7 of the Extract Minutes Consultation 15th December 1855 N. 1387 R. D. already referred to.

(A true Extract)

(Signed) J. Adam
Sy Secretary.

To
A. Forbes Esq.
Sy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Ext
W. Robbins

Dr. Cons. 18 Dec. 55. 1213-14

Copy in G L C
of 30 Oct 1857 1339
Pages 30 to 43

Rec. 1857 Department
Dr. Cons 26 Nov
No 464

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 29th April 1857
Received 15 May 1857

No 1339

1 Encls Returned
G No 485 22nd May

Submitting with the Board's observations, a letter from the Ag Collector of Malabar stating his opinion as to the expediency or otherwise of the proposed survey of the Pattamby Hobly in order to a re-adjustment of its assessment and detailing the instructions issued to the Collector for determining the amount of reduction to be granted pending the general Survey

C 14 5 May 816 2 C 16 819

Malabar
M. D.

No 485

(Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 22nd May 1855)

Read the following
Extract from the Pro-
ceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

(Here under 29th July 1855 No 1339)

From the Proceed-
ings of the 28th July 1855, rec'd
the Board of Revenue in-
closed before Government the
correspondence between
themselves and the late Ac-
Collector of Malabar, rel-
ative to the subject of the es-
tablishment of three out
Puttambey Hobly in each
that District, and they state

recommended that
the Collector should
be authorized to make
a survey of the lands,
& new do a re adjust
-ment of the assessment
The cost of the measure
was estimated at 3,000 Rs,
chiefly for temporary
Lands to supply the
places of permanent
Servants who were to
be employed in the
Survey. The Court how
-ever, after a review
of all the circumstan-
-ces brought to their
notice, did not deem
that the new Assmt.
of the Lands was clear
-ly made out, nor were

they

they satisfied that the
means proposed for
remedying the evil,
were sufficient; and
with reference therefore
to their bitter progress
that had been made in
this Survey, and to other
similar measures pre-
viously ordered by Govt
in other parts of the
Zillah East and on
a sentence to the pro-
spect of general sur-
vey of all the Lists
of this Province they
resolved to direct the
attention of the Presdt
& Collector to the corres-
pondence, and to request
him to consider, in the
event of his agreeing with

his former powers to the
exercise of the duties
of the Police Magistrate
whether relief might
not be given in a tem-
porary form without
a Survey.

Secretary
called attention to
this requisition in a
letter dated 1st Novem-
ber 1856, received with
the Board's Proceed-
ings of the 29th. of 1857
recorded above. Mr
Robinson states that
the land tax of this
Woolby has always been
regarded as heavy; but
he does not think that
the case is so urgent
as to require an
immediate

Tuesday 10th Feb 1857

Survey, and here ex-
pressing a willingness to undertake
such a task without
imperfect agency pro-
posed by the pre-
sent. A question of
sufficient importance
to any must be approved
exceedingly desirable,
when the requirement
to be placed, but for
the present he suggests
that the matter should
be left to the discretion
of the Collector at the
Seven Islands.

The Board think
with Mr Robinson,
that the case is not of
such urgency as to require
a hurried and imperfect

survey when there is
prospect for general
discovery of the whole
Quantity of a secon
before and accurate
character, but they
justly remark that
from the standing
of Capt Pringle to
Natal as it will be
long before the Gen
ment of the Colonial
Survey are combined
upon in that Dept,
and they think that,
until then, no prejudice
of a less fluctuating
character than that
indicated in Mr Ro
-binson's proposal, ca
should be introduced.
The Board suggest
that the Acting Collr.
should

Mr Robinson
should be appointed
accurately as circumstances
can permit the Percent
age of remuneration
which should be grant
ed, persons the general
duties of the Depart
to the accounts of Co
lections and Remittan
as shall afford
for the purpose
Remuneration
grants to the acting
Collectors to be regulated
Cash for premises be
low 4 M. Robinson
observes that a positive
and definite one proceeds
principal on the Public
by Public Auction
sees the part apparently

as an argument, to shew
that immediate relief
is not required by the
proprietary body. The
fact are very unwilling
that the Ag. Collr. on
should suppose that
nothing short of abso-
lute interference upon
the part of any of the
Land Proprietors of
Malabar would be
considered to entitle
them to measures of
relief, and they entire-
ly approve of the inter-
ference required by the
Board of Revenue for
an immediate enqui-
ry into the state of
the Pollachy pattahs
&c &c

to the adoption of such
measure, which shall
put it to their proper
option, more nearly on
a footing of equality
than they now are, with
their neighbours in
other parts of Malabar.
Can. Because the pro-
posed Ag. Collr.
attendance would
create a disproportionate
cost, that of the extent
of the Pollachy the expen-
sive to the proprietors
the amount of the tax
paid by them to Govt.
and the Centage which
that has been to the
expense incurred by the
Proprietors in compar-
with other Districts

peculiarly situated,
and usually regarded
as not over a peg,
it is probable that
an approximate on
may be obtained to the
proper amount of re-
lief now required.

Again, in the
5th paragraph the Aff.
Collr remarking that,
though the Collectors
not in the wholesale ha
by law) it is to in
some Cases days
that the population
must be prepared to
accept the good with
the evil, and Cagem
to economize and d
retrenchments as
may be necessary
that

That this position is un
-sound, and that the fact
that over-taxation is not
universal, does not mak
it less grievous to those
on whom it actually oppr

The Govt will
be glad to receive, at
early period, the reply
of the Aff. Collr to the
instructions now pen
requiring the demand
for a report on the lan
of the Buttamby Hol
by Conveying that th
subject was reported
on November 1853 by the
Collector of Revenue (Mr Ca
by whom the
three years and a half
have since elapsed with

every necessary measure
being undertaken to
prevent it shall be made
liable should be fully ex-
finally suspended so far
far as circumstances
will permit.

The information
required in the Mem.ms of
Cons.s 15th December 1855
respecting the Survey
of the Memorandum
submission, not having
been furnished in
Mr Robinson's letter,
the Board of Revenue
have properly called
his attention to the
omission.

A Copy to the Bd of Rev.
with Cons.s 29th Feb.y 28

Copy in Gl to C
of 30th Oct.r 1857 N.o 39
Cons.s 3 to 43

14/58

Revenue 1857 Depart.t
N.o 6 Cons.s 26th May

Fol 185.

Extract Mins.s of Cons.s
of 22nd May 57.

Ex B.d's L.r dated 14th Dec.r 57 to N.o 1578
— 6 12th Feb.y 58

Rec.d from Bd 13th June 57 Encl.s
1164 Cons.s

Approving of the instruc-
tions issued by the Bd to an
enquiry into the state of the Pollu-
ghy with a view to adopt
some measure which shall
put its landed proprietors on
a footing of equality with their
neighbours in other parts of
Malabar.

N.o 114 & 15

C 14 — 4 Geo.y 3 1816 — C 16 — 1 & 2 Geo.y 4 1819