(2)

Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

26th May 1857

Book No: 16-17

Order no: 456 dated 22nd May 1857

(242+12) 14 pp

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் கி. லோகநாதன்
செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் 7/06
செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள் 7/06

31.1.06 சரிபார்க்கும் முதல் மு.நி.பா.எ. கையொப்பம்

7/1/06

9.11.06 கையொப்பம்

No. 16. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue; dated 15th April 1857, No. 1138.

Read letters received from the Collector of Tinnevelly dated 29th September 1855* and 21st January 1857,† respectively.

* *In Con. 10th Dec. 1856.*
† *In Con. 15th April 1857.*

(Here enter Nos. 293 of 1855 and 25 of 1857.)

Ordered that the foregoing letters be laid before Government with reference to the endorsement upon Petition No. 1046 under date 10th July 1854.

2. In answer to a reference made upon the subject of this Petition the Collector reported that the Poonjah lands in Watray Iroopoo in the Streevellipootoor talook were originally classified and charged with proportionate rate of assessment, but that there is no account giving the fieldwar details. The Ayacût account of Fusly 1213 has an abstract or index appended to it showing the total extent of land belonging to each class but without defining its situation or giving the rates of teervah.

3. The rate of assessment now in force was fixed in Fusly 1217 upon the whole Ayacut and has remained unaltered ever since.

4. The Collector was averse to a re-distribution of the Poonjah lands into classes, and proposed one of two courses; 1st, a discretional reduction of the whole, pending a future survey of the District; or 2dly, an assimilation of assessment with that charged on lands of the neighbouring villages. In applying this latter mode it was proposed that lands cultivated in Fusly 1261 should rank with 2nd class, those waste under and over 20 years to be charged as 3d and 4th classes respectively, and all others as 5th class.

5. The Board gave the preference to the 2nd of these suggestions, but were of opinion that pending a classification of the lands it might be sufficient to extend the rate of assessment at which the Petitioners assert the Mahajuns are charged, to all the lands in these villages. Upon this point they requested the Collector's opinion.

6. Mr. Silver recommends the course suggested by the Board as far preferable to that of his predecessor, remarking that this reduction amounting to 25 per cent. would be simple and easily comprehended by the ryots and would at the same time afford sufficient relief.

7. Adverting to the very high rate of teervah charged in this, as compared with the neighbouring villages, the Board submit the Collector's recommendation with the foregoing remarks for the favorable consideration of Government.

8. The Petition No. 1046 of 1854 is herewith returned.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) L. FORBES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 17. ORDER THEREON, No. 486; dated 22nd May 1857.

In a petition dated June 1854, the inhabitants of certain villages of the Tinnevelly District, complained to Government and the Board of Revenue, of the high rate of assessment prevailing on their Poonjah lands. The Petitioners are the inhabitants of eighteen villages, of which the principal is Watray Iroopoo; they pay an average assessment of 8¾ Rs. per chain of land, without reference to classification of soil, or other peculiarity, while the Mahajuns or Bramins, are charged only 6½ Rupees per chain for the same lands. The Petitioners have been deprived of the privilege, previously enjoyed by them, of getting wood from the Jungles for domestic purposes free from taxation; and they pray that their lands may be surveyed and classified, and assessed according to their classification.

2. The petition to the address of Government was referred to the Board of Revenue on the 10th July 1854, and by them to the Collector of Tinnevelly on the 24th of the same month; but the reply of this officer, apparently the first communication on the subject, is dated 29th September 1855, or fifteen months after the reference.

3. According to Mr. Bird's shewing, the assessment of the Poonjah lands of Watray Iroopoo is higher than that on similar lands in the neighbouring villages. The Poonjah lands of this village were originally classified, and charged with a proportionate rate of assessment, but no account is forthcoming to give the fieldwar details; an abstract or index appended to the Ayacut account of Fusly 1213, shews the total extent of land belonging to each class, but without defining its situation, or giving the rates of teervah. In Fusly 1217, a general revision of the Poonjah teervah, it is stated, took place, when one uniform assessment was fixed on the whole Ayacut; a distinction however was made in respect of the Mahajuns or Braminns, and lands cultivated by this class paid 30 fanams per chain, while those taken up by ordinary ryots were charged at 40 fanams per chain; and these rates are in force to the present day.

4. Mr. Bird being averse to a re-distribution of the Poonjah lands into classes, proposed two modes of dealing with the question; first, by a discretional reduction of the whole, pending a survey; secondly, by an assimilation of the assessment with that charged on lands in the neighbouring villages. The Board were of opinion that, until a classification takes place, it might be sufficient to reduce the assessment on all the Poonjah lands to the rate at which the Mahajuns were allowed to cultivate. This measure, Mr. Silver, the present Collector, regards as simple, one that would be easily comprehended, and afford sufficient relief; and the Board in reference to the high assessment as compared with that in the neighbouring villages, recommend the measure being carried out.

5. It seems clear that the Poonjah assessment of Watray Iroopoo is higher than that of the villages in its neighbourhood; but there is nothing to shew that it is heavy, or in disproportion to the productive powers of the land. The rate has subsisted nearly half a century, and complaint against it has been only recently made. In his letter of the 5th September 1855, paras. 8 to 13, the late Collector, in reporting on the assessment of Tinnevelly, admitting that the general Poonjah assessment was light, stated that it needed reduction in some villages, but he was not then in a position to lay the details of his proposals before the Board. In reviewing his report, the Board, in the 32d para. of their proceedings of the 6th of December 1856, declared their intention of waiting for the information referred to by the Collector before offering any opinion on the question, and the Government, in noticing the Board's proceedings, remarked in para. 8 of Extract Minutes Consultation 24th April 1857, No. 374, that "the Poonjah rates in "the Tinnevelly District are extremely light, and they hardly call for reduction while the rates "prevailing elsewhere are comparatively so high."

6. The Government are unwilling to sanction the reduction sought by petitioners before they have before them the general measure of reduction contemplated by the late Collector, and referred to above. There is nothing now before Government to shew to how many villages in Tinnevelly the arguments put forward by petitioners for a reduction of assessment will apply, and his Lordship in Council will prefer to deal with the matter as a whole, and as applicable to the whole Province, rather than to pass orders on an isolated case like the present, in ignorance of the extent of land in the Province similarly situated as regards assessment with the villages now in question, and the financial results that might follow an extension of the reductions now sought for, to all such lands.

7. One other part of the Petitioners' complaint is not noticed by either the Collector or the Board of Revenue. The Petitioners state that they are now called upon to pay a tax for wood cut for domestic purposes, which they were previously allowed to procure free of charge. The Board will report on the circumstances which brought about this change, and when it was introduced, with any other information on the subject that may be forthcoming.

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

Complain of an
increase assessment
of 8¾ Rupees per Cain
being levied on the
lands of 18 villages re-
ferred to, without dis-
tinction of soil &c &c of
the same lands being
charged only 6¼ Rs.
if held by Brahmins.
& of their being desired
to pay for work to be done
by them prior
of all payment. - Re-
that the villages in
question may be
surveyed & the lands
fairly classified.

B.B. No 28 of 1854
Rec'd No 46 of 1854
Coll'r's No 139 "

From Chellumpoor
Chitty & Sungum Chetty
of Sungum requesting
for themselves & the
Inhabitants of the other
villages attached to the
Talook of the Collectorate
to be Summarily
Dated 24th Feby 1854
Rec'd 13th March 1854

L. No. 430 of 1857

H.D. R 39/57

Copy taken.

by M 2877 of 53
by M 10 Dec 56

(3-9)

U.S. HOUSE
R.B.S.

Forwarded
to the Collector for re-
port with reference to
the Board's Endorsement
on petition No. 1215, and
the orders of Government
noted within -

Rev. P. Office
Fort St. George
31st July 1854.

By Order

Tab Secy

Vide Endorsement
on Petition No. 1215 of
1854. Rec'd 29th July 1854
Rec'd 28th April 1855

Tinnevelly
Trichinopoly
28th April 1855.

Collr.

(a-47)

Read letter received from the Collr of Jessore dated 29th Sept. 1856 and 21st Jany 1857 respectively 293 25 (here cites 1855 & 1857)

1. Ordered that the following letters be laid before Govt with reference to the Endt upon para 2 of 1046 under date 10th July 1854 –

2. In answer to a reference made upon the subject of this para the Collr reported that the Jessore Canals in Water Division in the Sunderbuns Talook were originally classified and charged in proportionate rates of assessment, but that there is no account giving the yearly details. The Agent's accot of 1213 has an abstract or index appended to it shewing the total extent of land belonging to each class but without defining its situation or giving the rates of Jeerat.

(a-47)

2d 10 Dec 56
3d 15 April 57
430

3. The rate of Assessment now in force was fixed in F. 1217 upon the whole Aganut and has remained unaltered ever since.

4. The Coll.r was averse to a re-distribution of the punjah lands into classes and proposed one of two courses, 1st.- a discretionary reduction of the whole, pending a future survey of the District, or 2ndly.- an assimilation of assessment with that charged on lands of the neighbouring Talukas, ~~consequently to which lands~~ In applying this latter rule it was proposed that lands cultivated in F. 1261. should rank with 2nd class, Those waste under and over 20 years to be charged as 3rd & 4th Class respectively, and all others as 5th Class.

5. The Bd gave the preference to the 2nd of these suggestions, but were of opinion that pending a classification of the lands it might be sufficient to extend the rate of Assessment at which the Pet.h Assessments in Shahajees are charged to all the lands in those villages. Upon this point they requested the Coll.rs opinion. (A.5)

6. All Pleaders recommend the course suggested by the Bd as far preferable to that of his Predecessor, remarking that this reduction amounting to 25 per cent would be simple and easily comprehended by the Ryots and would at the same time afford sufficient relief.

7. Adverting to the very high rate of Assessment charged in this, as compared

with the neighbouring
Villages. The Bd Lieb.
has the Collr's re-
commendation with
the foregoing remarks
for the favorable con-
sideration of Govt.

8. The petr Rs 1046 of 1854
is herewith returned.

15 apl 57 (Signed) A Forbes

Secretary Revenue Board
Fort St George

Collector of Chingleput
Dated 15th April 1857
No 1138

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th April, 1857.

Read letters received from the Collector of Chingleput dated 29th September 1855 and 21st January 1857 respectively.

Rec'd 10th Dec 1856
Ans'd 15th April 1857.

Recorded Nos 293/1855 and 25/1857

Ordered that the foregoing letters be laid before Government with reference to the Endorsement (upon Petition No 1046 under date 10th July 1854.

2. In answer to a reference made upon the subject of this Petition the Collector reported that the Ponjah Lands in Pulney Looks on the Kavelleporton Estate were originally classed and charged with proportionate rate of assessment but that there is no record showing the following details. The Ayan Account Book has not been obtained or index of Boundaries to ascertain the total extent of land belonging to each class but without defining

defining its situation or giving the rate of Teerah.

3. The rate of assessment & remission was fixed in Sept 1917 upon the whole Pyrah and has remained unaltered ever since.

4. The Collector was averse to a re-distribution of the Poorjah lands into classes and proposed one of two courses. 1st a discretional reduction of the whole pending a future Survey of the Deccan or 2nd, an assimilation of assessment with that charged on lands of the neighbouring Villages. In applying this latter rule it was proposed that Lands cultivated in Sept 1854 should rank with 2nd Class Waste under and over 20 years to be charged as 3rd and 4th Classes respectively, and all others as 5th Class.

5. The Board gave the preference to the 2nd of these suggestions, but were of opinion that pending a classification of the lands it might be sufficient to extend the rate of Assessment at which the Petitioners

Petitioners assert the Mahajuns are charged, to all the lands in these Villages. Upon this point they requested the Collector's opinion.

6. Mr Silver recommends the course suggested by the Board as far preferable to that of his Predecessor remarking that this reduction amounting to 25 per cent would be simple and easily comprehended by the Ryots and would at the same time afford sufficient relief.

7. Adverting to the very high rate of Teerah charged on this as compared with the neighbouring Villages the Board submit the Collector's recommendation with the foregoing remarks for the favorable consideration of Government.

8. The Petition No 1045 of 1854 is herewith returned.

(A true Extract)

L. Forbes.
Ag Secretary.

To
H. Sykes Esq.
Ag Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

1855

Revenue Department
(A-8)

No. 486

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 22nd May 1867

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

(Dated the 15th April 1867 No 1158)

In a petition dated
June 1854 the inhabitants of 6
certain Villages of the Tinnevelly
District complained to
Government and the Board of
Revenue of the high rate of assess-
ment prevailing on their Ryotwar
lands. The Petitioners are the
inhabitants of eighteen Villages,
of which the principal is Wakroy
Kroopoo; they pay an average assess-
ment of 8 3/4 Rs per chaum of land,
without reference to classification
of soil, or other peculiarity, while

Rs

the Mahajeens or Braminns, are charged only 6½ Rupees per Chain for the same lands. The Petitioners have been deprived of the privilege previously enjoyed by them of getting wood from the Jungles for domestic purposes free from taxation; and they pray that their lands may be surveyed and Classified, and assessed according to their Classification.

2 The petition to the address of Government was referred to the Board of Revenue on the 10th July 1854, and by them to the Collector of Tinnevelly on the 21st of the same month; but the reply of the Officer, apparently the first Communication on the subject, is dated 29th September 1855, or fifteen months after the reference.

3 According to Mr Bird's showing, the assessment of the Poonjah lands of Vaky Soupa is

(a-9) Exx

is higher than that on similar lands in the neighbouring Village. The Poonjah lands of this Village were originally classified, and charged with a proportionate rate of assessment, but no account is forthcoming to give the fieldwise details; an Abstract or Index appended to the Ayacut account of fasly 1213, shows the total extent of lands belonging to each class, but without defining its situation, or giving the rates of Tirvah. In fasly 1217 a general remission of the Poonjah Tirvah took place, when one uniform assessment was fixed on the whole Ayacut; a distinction however was made in respect of the Mahajanam Braminy and lands cultivated by this Class paid 30 Fanams per Chae whilst those taken up by ordinary Ryots were charged at

at 40 Fanams per Chain; and these rates are in force to the present day.

4. Mr. Bird being averse to a redistribution of the Poonjah lands into Classes, proposed two modes of dealing with the question; first by a discretional reduction of the whole, pending a survey; Secondly, by an assimilation of the assessment with that charged on lands in the neighbouring Villages. The Board were of opinion that, until a Classification takes place, it might be sufficient to reduce the Assessment on all the Poonjah lands to the rate at which the Mahajuns were allowed to Cultivate. This measure, Mr. Silver, the present Collector, regards as simple, one that would be easily comprehended, and afford sufficient relief; and the Board in reference to the high

(a-10) 341

high assessment as compared with that on the neighbouring Villages, recommend the measure being carried out.

5. It seems clear that the Poonjah assessment of Walroy Droogoo is higher than that of the Villages in its neighbourhood; but there is nothing to shew that it is heavy, or in disproportion to the productive powers of the land. The rate has subsisted nearly half a century, and Complaint against it has been only recently made. In his letter of the 5th September Nos 8 to 18, the late Collector in reporting on the assessment of Pennavelly, admitting that the general Poonjah assessment was light, states that it needed reduction in some villages, but he was not then in a position to lay the details of his proposals before the Board. In reviewing this report the Board, in the

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3d para of their proceedings of
the 1st of December 1856 declared
their intention of waiting for
the information referred to by
the Collector before offering
any opinion on the question,
and the Government on reviewing
the Board's proceedings remarked in
para 8 of Extract Minutes
Consultation 24th April 57 that
the Poonjah rates in the Tinne-
velly District are extremely
light, and they hardly call for
reduction while the rates prevailing
elsewhere are comparatively
so high."

6. The Government are
unwilling to sanction the
reductions sought by Petitioners
before they have before them
the general measure of reduction
contemplated by the late
Collector and referred to above.
There is nothing now before
Government to shew to how
many villages in Tinnevelly
the

(a-11)

the arguments put forward by
Petitioners for a reduction of
assessment will apply. If His
Lordship in Council will
prefer to deal with the matter
as a whole, and as applicable
to the whole Province, rather
than to pass orders on an isolated
case like the present, in igno-
rance of the extent of land in
the Province similarly situ-
ated as regards assessment
with the villages now in question
and the financial results that
might follow an extension of
the reductions now sought for
to all such lands.

7 One other part of
the Petitioners' complaint is
not noticed by either the
Collector or the Board of
Revenue. The Petitioners
state that they are now called
upon to pay a tax for wood
cut for domestic purposes,
which they were previously
allowed

allowed to process free of charge.

The Board will report on the circumstances which brought about this change, and when it was introduced, with any other information on the subject that may be forthcoming.

JR

Copies to the Asst Sec'rs with Rule Cap 23.

[illegible] with [illegible]