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Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

9th June 1857

Back Numbers 30-31

Order no. 554 dated 5th June 1857

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Read again Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 317, dated 2d April 1857, Revenue Department, instructing the Board to submit an application, in the prescribed form, for an establishment to enable Mr. Grant to carry on the assessment of the Talooks surveyed by Captain Priestley which have been placed under his charge, and directing the Board to express their opinion on those parts of the Collector Mr. Hall's letter where he proposed principles for fixing the new rates of assessment.

2. But the Board are of opinion that while measures for arranging the new assessment are under discussion, Mr. Grant's services may be of material aid in the necessary preliminary operations. They propose, for instance, that he should be directed to scrutinize the newly formed fields entered in Captain Priestley's village registers, so that difficulty and confusion may be removed by an easily traceable connection being every where established between them and the fields which now exist in the village accounts, but as this point will be adverted to in the Board's review of the survey operations during the past year, it need not be dwelt on here. While engaged in this duty Mr. Grant might classify the fields according to the description and quality of their soils, collect information of their productive powers, and note their advantages of position with respect to the village and markets, and the degree in which their situation ensures their due irrigation, either naturally or from Government channels or reservoirs. The Board would wish the classification to be as simple as practicable, according to the views expressed by the Honorable Court, all would then be in readiness for "the next and final process on the determination of the assessment" on the principles upon which it is to be fixed being established.

4. If these suggestions meet the approval of Government, Mr. Grant would require the aid of some extra servants (though not so many as Mr. Hall proposed in his letter dated 26th February last*) to assist his enquiries; but the Board presume that they could be entertained and charged to the general re-assessment of the Presidency in the mode contemplated by Government† for those servants whom it was proposed to attach to Mr. Grant to enable him to arrange the re-assessment of these talooks.

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

ORDER THEREON, No. 554; dated 5th June 1857.

Para. 1. In their Proceedings of the 7th March last, the Board of Revenue laid before Government a letter from the Collector of South Arcot, requesting certain instructions as to the principles on which the assessment was to be determined at the new survey in that District, and

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stated that, in the belief that a despatch had been received on the subject from the Honorable Court of Directors, they did not consider it expedient to give any specific directions, without, in the first instance, consulting the Government. The Board agreed with the Collector that, to enable Mr. Grant to perform the duty assigned to him, it was necessary he should have extra aid, and they thought that the cost of it should be defrayed from the sum sanctioned for the general survey. In noticing this communication, the Government desired that an application for the establishment proposed to be attached to Mr. Grant, might be forwarded to them in the prescribed form for transmission to the Government of India. The Board were at the same time required to give their own opinion on the matters treated of in the Collector's letter.

2. In their Proceedings of the 6th ultimo, the Board remark that the orders of Government of the 22d of April, No. 372, directing that the talooks in South Arcot surveyed by Captain Priestley shall be re-assessed by the settlement officer to be appointed under the Honorable Court's sanction for the survey and re-assessment of the Presidency, place the question of Mr. Grant's employment, the establishment to be provided for him, and the principles under which he shall carry on the duties that were assigned to him, in a new light, inasmuch as the new assessment in South Arcot will now be fixed in accordance with general principles applied to the whole Presidency, and not so as to meet local peculiarities and be in accordance with the principles prevailing in adjoining talooks.

3. The Board engage to address the Government separately in reply to this order, and to submit their views upon the several matters discussed in the Honorable Court's despatch of the 17th December 1856, No. 17, and in the meantime they suggest various ways in which they consider that the services of Mr. Grant may be very usefully employed.

4. The Government gather from what the Board have said in the second paragraph of their Proceedings, that Captain Priestley, in his survey, has been unaccompanied by any revenue servant to point out to him existing fields, but has surveyed the country without any reference to minor boundaries, and has made a record of survey fields wholly irrespective of present field boundaries, has not fixed bounds, and has left no means by which his survey fields can be hereafter recognized. It is on this view, the Government conclude, that the Board recommend that Mr. Grant be now directed to scrutinize the newly formed fields entered in Captain Priestley's village registers, so that difficulty and confusion may be removed, by an easily traceable connection between them, and the fields which now exist in the village accounts.

5. The Government are clearly of opinion that it is most desirable that the results of Captain Priestley's labours should be made practicably available, by the boundaries of the survey fields being fixed, before the lapse of time shall increase the difficulty of the operation, and that Mr. Grant could not be more usefully employed than in applying the survey record to each village in turn, in ascertaining the position of each survey field, and in placing bounds to mark it.

For field boundaries the Government would recommend the plan which has been found successful in the Dekhan survey of oblong mounds of earth covered with turf, placed so as to mark the angle of each field. This should doubtless have been done *pari passu* with the survey itself, and Captain Priestley should have been accompanied throughout his labors, by a revenue servant of the Collector's Establishment, of respectability and intelligence, who should have ascertained the position of each field in a village, and presented a list of them to Captain Priestley before he commenced his survey, the record of which would then have agreed with the existing sub-divisions of the village.

6. The Board further suggest that Mr. Grant should classify the fields according to the description and quality of their soils, collect information of their productive powers, and note

their advantages of position with respect to the village and markets, and the degree in which their situation secures them irrigation from any particular source. These preliminaries being over, the land would, the Board observe, in the words of the Honorable Court's Despatch, be in readiness for "the next and final process, or the determination of the assessment," on the principles on which it is to be fixed being established.

7. The Government concur in the view thus expressed by the Board, and request that they will instruct the Collector to employ Mr. Grant in the manner they have pointed out.

8. As regards the proposition made by the Board in paragraph 3, that Mr. Grant should be further instructed to call on the occupiers of enam, or rent free lands, to show the titles on which their enams are held, the Government are of opinion that it is desirable to wait for a Legislative enactment before any enquiry into rent free tenures is commenced. It is very undesirable that the Government officers should ever be placed in the false position of demanding what, in case of refusal, they have no power to enforce, and in the present state of the law, should any Enamdar decline to produce his title, the Sub-Collector would have no authority to compel him. And even under the supposition that it is the Board's intention that Mr. Grant's proceedings in the matter should be limited to registering such titles as were produced, without entering on any investigation as to their validity, it appears to Government that the holders of enam would consider that such registry was an admission of validity, and would consider themselves aggrieved if hereafter, on the enam Commissioner entering on his enquiries, he were to declare their title invalid.

9. In the great mass of investigation which must be made whenever the enquiry is commenced, it will signify but little whether the comparatively few enams which Mr. Grant would register have received this preliminary attention or not, and on the whole, the Government are of opinion that the matter had better lie over until the Honorable Court's orders are received on the reference made by this Government, and a legislative enactment is passed.

10. As regards the establishment which the Board remark will be required by Mr. Grant, they will be requested to submit an application in the usual tabular form, when it will be transmitted to the Government of India for sanction, to be charged against the expenses of the General survey and re-assessment of the Presidency, as resolved by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation of 2d April, No. 317.

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

Revenue Department.

N^o 1433

Extract from the Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue dated 6 May 1857.

Read again Extract Minutes
of Consultation, N^o 317, dated 2^d April 1857,
Revenue Department, instructing the Board
to submit an application, in the presented
form, for an establishment to enable
Mr. Grant to carry on the assessment
of the Taluqs surveyed by Captain Priestley
which have been placed under his charge
and directing the Board to express their
opinion on those parts of the Collector
Mr. Hall's letter where he proposed
principles for fixing the new rates of
assessment.

On receiving these instructions
the Board called on the Collector to
prepare a tabular statement of the servants
required by Mr. Grant; but Extract Minutes
of Consultation N^o 372, dated 22^d April,
have since reached them, and placed
the subject on a new footing, as Government
new

now wish that the taluqs surveyed by
Captain Priestley should be assessed
by the Settlement Officer to be appointed
for the Survey of the entire Presidency.
The new assessment will therefore be
fixed on those new general principles which
are about to be established, instead of
being arranged so as to meet local peculiarities
and be in accordance with the assess-
ment which at present prevails in the
adjoining taluqs. Instead, therefore, of
discussing in separate detail Mr. Hall's
proposals, the Board deem it proper to
submit to Government their views on the
points under discussion in the scheme
for the general revenue survey and re-
assessment of the lands of the several
Districts of this Presidency. The Board
intend to submit this report at an early
date as instructed by Government, and
when considering the different points
will give attention to the views expressed
by Mr. Hall and other Officers.

2. But the Board are of
opinion that while measures for arranging
the new assessment are under discussion

the

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Mr. Grant's services may be of material
aid in the necessary preliminary operations.
They propose, for instance, that he should
be directed to scrutinize the newly formed
fields entered in Captain Priestley's village
registers, so that difficulty and confusion
may be removed by an easily traceable
connection being everywhere established
between them and the fields which now
exist in the village accounts. But at this
point will be adverted to in the Board's
review of the survey operations during
the past year, it need not be dwelt on
here. While engaged in this duty Mr.
Grant might classify the fields according
to the description and quality of their
soils, collect information of their pro-
ductive powers, and note their advantages
of position with respect to the village
and markets, and the degree in which
their situation ensures their due irrigation,
either naturally or from Government chan-
nels or reservoirs. The Board would wish
the classification to be as simple as
practicable, according to the views ex-
pressed by the Honorable Court. all
would

would then be in readiness for the next
and final process or the determination
of the assessment on the principles
upon which it is to be fixed being estab-
lished.

Honble Court's letter,
Para 12 to 15, in H. Govt.
27 April 1887, No 372.

3. Mr. Grant might also, should
the Government see fit, be instructed to
call on the occupiers of Enam or rent
free lands, to show the titles on which
they are held and he might also send to
the Village Establishments to see in what
degree they require revision, with a view
more especially to carry out the instruc-
tions of Government respecting Talukans
or Village watchmen.

4. If these suggestions meet
the approval of Government, Mr. Grant
would require the aid of some extra servants
(though not so many as Mr. Hall proposed
in his letter dated 26 February last) to
assist his enquiries, but the Board
presume that they could be entertained
and charged to the general re-assessment
of the Presidency in the mode con-
templated by Government for those servants
whom it was proposed to attach
to

Es. Hon. Secy. 2 April
No 314.

3
To Mr. Grant to enable him to arrange
the re-assessment of these Talooks.

(Attn. Extract)
J. H. M.
ag Secretary

To
H. Forbes Esq.
ag Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Es.
M. H. M.

Recd: 7/20/16
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 a a 7
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 286 3/16
 286 4/16

Revenue 1857 Definite
 286 2/16 286 3/16 286 4/16

Extract from the
 Proceedings of the
 Board of Revenue

Dated 6
 Nov 8 1857

No 556. 5th June

Stating that the Board
 will shortly submit a Report
 on certain points connected
 with the scheme for the removal
 of the Madras Presidency, which
 will embody their views on the
 proposed Bill in respect
 to the administration of the
 proposed by Captain Smith
 and offering suggestions for
 the part employed pending the
 General Survey.

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8/54 Revenue Dept.

No. 554

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 5th June 1857.

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

At
By
W. G.
/ Here enter 6th May 1857 N^o 1433/

Para 1. In their
proceedings of the 7th
March last, the Board
of Revenue laid before
Government a letter from
the Collector of South
Arcot, requesting certain
instructions as to the
principles on which the
the

the appointment was to
be determined at the
next survey in that
District, and stated
that in the belief that
a despatch had been
received on the subject
from the Honorable Board
of Directors, they did
not consider it expedient
to give any specific
directions without in
the first instance con-
sulting the Government.
The Board agreed
with the Collector that
to enable Mr Grant
to perform the duty
assigned to him, it
was necessary he
should have extra aid,
and

9/59 and they thought that
the cost of it should
be defrayed from the
sum sanctioned for
the General Survey.
In noticing this com-
munication the Govt
desired that an ap-
plication for the Estab-
lishment proposed
to be attached to Mr
Grant might be for-
warded to them in
the prescribed form
for transmission to
the Government of
India. The Board
were at the same
time required to give
their own opinion
on the matters treated
of

11 of in the Collector's letter.
12 In their proceed-
ings of the 6th Instant
& the Board remark
that the orders of
Government of the 22nd
of April No 372 di-
recting that the Sa-
lute in South Arcot
surveyed by Captain
Priestley shall be re-
assessed by the settle-
ment Officer to be
appointed under the
Honorable Court's sanc-
tion for the survey
and re-assessment
of the Presidency, place
the question of Mr
Grant's employment,
the establishment to
be

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be provided for him,
and the principles
under which he shall
carry on the duties
that were assigned
to him, in a new
light, inasmuch as
the new assessment
in South Arcot will
now be fixed in
accordance with
general princi-
ples applied to
the whole Presi-
dency, and not
so as to meet
local peculiarities
and be in accord-
ance with the
principles pre-
vailing in
adjoining

adjoining Talooks.

3 The Board
engage to address
the Government
separately in reply
to this order
and to submit
their views
upon the several
matters discussed
in the Honorable
Court's despatch
of the 17 Decem-
ber 1856. No 17
and in the
meantime they
suggest various
ways

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ways in which
they consider
that the services
of Mr Grant
may be very
usefully em-
ployed.

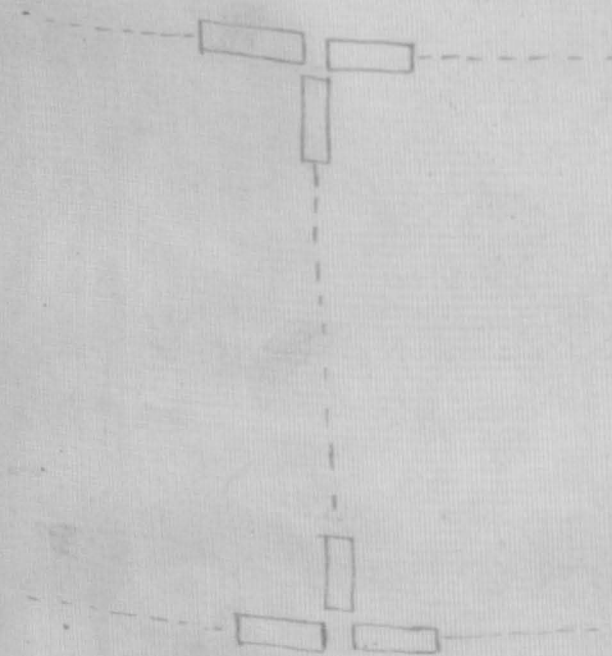
4 The Govern-
ment gather
from what the
Board have said
in the second
paragraph of
their Proceedings
that Captain
Christley on his
survey has
been

been unaccompanied
-nished by any
revenue servant
to point out to
him existing
fields, but has
surveyed the
Country without
any reference
to minor bound-
-aries and has
made a record
of survey fields
wholly irrespective
of present field bound-
-aries, has not
fixed bounds, and
has left no
means by which
his

his survey fields
can be hereafter re-
-cognized. It is on
this view, the Govt.
concludes, that the
Board recommend
that Mr. Grant
be now directed to
sanction the newly
formed fields entered
in Captain Priestley's
Village registers, so
that difficulty and
confusion may be
removed, by an
easily traceable con-
-nection between
them, and the fields
which now exist
in the Village Accounts
The Govt. are
clearly

over clearly of opinion
that it is most desira-
ble that the results
of Captain Priestley's
labours should be
made practically
available, by the
boundaries of the
survey fields being
fixed, before the
elapse of time shall
increase the diffi-
culty of the operation,
and that Mr
Grant could not
be more usefully
employed than in
applying the survey
records to each village
in turn, in ascer-
taining the position
of

in field boundaries the
Grant would recommend
the plan which has been found successful in the Dehlan survey of
old long mounds of earth
covered with turf, placed
so as to mark the angle
of each field.



$\frac{3}{5}$ of each survey field,

and in placing
markers to mark
the Dehlan survey of
it. This should
doubtless have been
done pari passu
with the survey itself
and Captain
Priestley should have
been accompanied
throughout his labors,
by a person of ser-
vant of the Collector's
Establishment, of
respectability and
intelligence, who
should have ascer-
tained the position
of each field in
a village, and pre-
sented a list of
them.

them to Captain Priestley
before he commenced
his survey, the records
of which would then
have agreed with
the existing subdivi-
sions of the Village.

6. The Board
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Mr. Grant should
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description and
quality of their soils,
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of their productive
powers, and note
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of position with re-
spect to the Village
and Markets, and
the

$\frac{1}{4}$
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the degree in which
their situation &
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lar from any
particular source.
These preliminaries
being over, the land
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observe, in the words
of the Honorable Court
despatch, be in pre-
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and final process,
or the determination
of the appointment,
on the principles
on which it is to be
fixed being establish-
ed.

7. The Government
concur in the view
thus

then expressed by the
Board, and request
that they will instruct
the Collector to employ
Mr. Grant in the
manner they have
pointed out.

8. As regards
the proposition made
by the Board in
paragraph 3 that Mr.
Grant should be fur-
ther instructed to call
on the occupiers of
Enam, or rent free
lands to shew the
titles on which their
Enams are held, the
Government are of
opinion that it is
desirable to wait for

15/54 a Legislative enactment
before any enquiry,
into rent free tenures
is commenced. It is
very undesirable
that the Post Officers
should ever be placed
in the false position
of demanding what,
in case of refusal,
they have no power
to enforce, and in
the present state
of the law, should
any Enamdar de-
cline to produce
his title, the Sub
Collector would
have no authority
to compel him. and
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suppositions that it is the
Board's intention that
Mr Grant's proceedings
in the matter should
be limited to register-
ing such titles as
were produced, without
entering on any
investigation as to
their validity, it ap-
pears to Government
that the holders of
Enam would con-
sider that such regis-
try was an admission
of validity, and
would consider
themselves aggrieved
if hereafter the Enam
Commissioner entering
on his inquiries,
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55⁺ he were to declare
their title invalid.
9. In the great
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tion which must
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the enquiry is com-
menced, it will
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tively few Enams
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nary attention or
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lie over until the
Honorable

Honorable Court's orders are
received on the re-
ference made by
this Government, and
a legislative enact-
ment is passed.

10. As regards the
establishment which
the Board remarks
will be required by
Mr Grant, they
will be requested to
submit an applica-
tion in the usual
tabular form, when
it will be transmitted
to the Govt of India
for sanction, to be
charged against the
expenses of the General
Survey and Mapping
of

of the Presidency, as
resolved by Government
in Extract Min. Con.
of 2^d April 1857.

RZ

is to the Adm.

Off.

Copy in a G.L.B.
of 8th Octr 1857 No 35
Pages 16 to 35.

17-7-99

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Revenue 1857-Departt.
D. to Cons: 9th June

No 554.

Extract from: of Cons.

D. 5th June 1857

Observing that they are of
opinion that the products of Capt.
Priestley's labours should be made
practically available by the
boundaries of the survey fields
being fixed and that Mr Grant
could be very usefully employed
in applying the survey records to
each ^{with a} ~~in~~ ^{view} ~~then~~ in ascertaining the
position of each survey field
in placing bounds to mark it &
requesting the Bd. to submit an
application regarding the Estab.
required by Mr Grant for
submission to the Govt. of
India.

No 30 + 31.

27 May 1857