M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1361.	**Press Mis.**
Dated	October 6,	18 59.

15-16

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 15. Read the following letter from H. NEWILL, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 15th September 1859, No. 840.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 26th ultimo, calling for explanation of the apparent deficiency of work in the Survey and Settlement Departments for the first six months of the present year.

2. In reply I may venture to observe that the Departments labor under the disadvantage of the Government not yet having had under review the report on last year's operations describing the many and great difficulties in the organization of new establishments of this kind, where every hand had to be first trained for the field operations, and where only the most indifferent classes of persons could be induced to join a Department in which, although the pay may be fair, the hardships of the duty required are far greater than in other branches of the service. I need not however dwell upon these in this place as regards the settlement branch, as the figures of the statement taken in their proper bearing will show an area of work performed by each party proportioned to the estimated standard and the expenditure incurred.

3. The Government has assumed that all the parties have been working in full and efficient strength for the period in question, which is not the case. The brief reports submitted by the two Departments for the general Administration Report for the official year 1858-59 noticed the gradual organization up to 30th April last and this was not repeated in the returns of progress, though I confess it might have been with advantage. Moreover, in the deductions drawn by Government of the settlement branch, having only got through two-thirds of its estimated work and the Survey Department only half, credit has neither been given for the work done in villages in progress nor for the large deficiency in the nominal areas in the northern Districts.

4. The following statement gives the necessary corrections for the two latter items, one half of the area of villages in progress, appears to be a fair proportion to be taken into account as work done, except in Masulipatam where one-fourth is more suitable, while 40 per cent. increase of area in Rajahmundry and 20 per cent. in Masulipatam are what is borne out by the Survey operations, as far as they have proceeded.

DEMARCATION.

Parties.	Completed.	Portion completed in Villages in progress.	Additions on account of deficiency in the Kurnums' areas.	Total area.	Equivalent in square miles.
1. Trichinopoly	3,66,864	44,667	„	4,11,531	643
2. Rajahmundry	2,44,340	45,397	1,15,894	4,05,631	634
3. Masulipatam	2,58,098	1,29,690	38,779	4,65,346	626
	8,69,302	2,19,754	1,54,673	12,82,508	1,903

CLASSIFICATION.

Trichinopoly	3,81,262	34,894	„	4,16,156	650
Rajahmundry... ..	2,02,553	27,149	91,881	3,21,583	503
Masulipatam	1,57,213	78,572	47,157	2,82,942	442
	7,41,028	1,40,615	1,39,038	10,20,681	1,595

5. On this I beg further to remark that the classification branch of the Trichinopoly settlement party did not take the field till the month of February it being engaged in the settlement accounts of the South Arcot Talooks up to that time. The work of this party whether Classification or Demarcation is about 650 square miles which fully answers the estimate for the year. The Rajahmundry party also comes up to the mark in Demarcation, but has only

and

500 square miles of Classification, which is accounted for by the Classification establishment being in part appropriated to Demarcation, while also the full expenditure was not reached. The organization of the Masulipatam party on the large sanctioned scale was only undertaken in the latter part of January, and the strength was only gradually increased as hands were trained in the first 3 months, so that 440 square miles of Classification appear a fair amount of work, while the Demarcation for which a small nucleus was formed from the first, and for which a portion of the Classification salaries were at first appropriated amounts to upwards of 626 square miles, which, however, is a result obtained partially under more favorable circumstances than in Rajahmundry, as some waste tracts were demarcated without much detail of fields.

6. The aggregate work of the 3 parties may thus be taken at 1,903 square miles of Demarcation and 1,600 square miles of Classification, or a mean of the two at 1750* square miles, which only falls short of the *full* work for 3 parties for half a year by about 120 square miles, although the expenditure on the parties has not nearly come up to the full standard.

* 2)1250 one year.
625 six months.
3 parties.
1875

7. Although some of the above calculations are obviously from their nature only approximate and it is not possible to state exactly what the work of the next 6 months will be, I hope the explanation will satisfy the Government regarding the progress of the work, and remove the unfavorable impression conveyed in their orders under reply. I can only add that whether in my own office or those of my Deputies the rigorous exactment of work, has been forced to the utmost extent short of defeating the object in view, and I am convinced that not one of thy least evils to be guarded against in the Department is the temptation and pressure for rapidite and large amounts of area of work without affording all the requisite means of securing its being done efficiently. This evil so lamentably felt in the operations in the N. W. Provinces has been strongly pointed out as "a beacon" to the Madras establishments by the Deputy Surveyor General of India in paragraphs 27 and 28 of his letter of 6th May 1857 responding to the call upon him to render his aid and advice on the general scheme of the survey of the Presidency, and this warning applies equally to the operations of the Survey and Settlement Departments.

8. While laxity is not of course to be tolerated in these establishments, I trust that all reasonable considerations besides the bare amount of area, which alone is noticed by Government on this occasion, will be allowed their weight in judging of Departments in the early stages of infancy, and the assurance that this will be the case will inspire a heartiness in the work that will secure its being done more perfectly, and certainly upon the whole not less rapidly, for the imprudent and rash speed "where" large areas and low rates are the "chief things sought after" may have ill effects which will not be felt here less than in the N. W. Provinces as described by Major Thuillier in his letter above quoted.

9. I may venture to add that a comparison of our scheme with such scanty data as I can gather of the rate of work and cost of the Bombay Survey Settlements leads me to conclude that we are undertaking our work at a cost infinitely less than that which has been incurred in that Presidency.

10. As regards the progress of the survey, I beg to submit a letter from the Superintendent entering into explanation of the deficiency of work done. Captain Priestley claims consideration like myself from the new organization of the Establishments and the training of hands and their inexperience even after they are employed. He shews that in the Trichinopoly party the work for each man per diem has come up above the estimated rate taking the days actually employed, but delays and impediments controllable and uncontrollable, which are always liable to occur in a more or less degree vitiate this in the general run of work, Captain Priestley however, in paragraph 15 expects that this loss of time which at present is large will eventually be considerably reduced. It has engaged constant attention, but the necessary calls upon the Curnums, Monegars, &c., for their

Dated 7th September 1859, No. $\frac{752}{1}$.

Estimated rate 60 acres.
Average rate attained on actual working days. Per diem 66·64.

	Acres
Rajahmundry average per diem.	38
Masulipatam.....	38

ordinary duties will always I fear in some measure be a source of delay, though reduced to the smallest limit particable. In the Rajahmundry and Masulipatam parties the rates of work per diem are considered by him very fair under the circumstances of the new organization, and this may be admitted as the rate of work in the experimental survey never came up to the standard attained by these parties.

11. In Trichinopoly he explains the field work was commenced in February, so that less than five months were thus employed and 426 square miles are the result, which is at the rate of 860 square miles for the year beyond which it would not appear that any prospect of increase is held out for the present season, though Captain Priestley seems sanguine as to the full estimated amount being eventually attained. In Masulipatam the survey party has only been in existence from March last. In Rajahmundry also the difficulties of the initiation have not yet been got over, and I freely admit that in these the progress of work in the Survey Department is in some measure affected by the defects of the Demarcation Gomashtas, who are yet new to the work, and not thoroughly experienced, though on the whole the Demarcation with its imperfections has doubtless a great advantage, over the course pursued in the experimental survey of letting the Survey Department mark the boundaries itself.

12. A most serious impediment to the work in the northern parties has been the great want of village servants for assistance in the measurements. The Government has sanctioned a measure in Proceedings 20th July 1859, which will greatly alleviate this evil, which is still engaging the serious attention of Captain Priestley and myself, and I shall again, if necessary, address the Government further on the subject.

13. The area of survey in the two northern Districts increased in the same proportions as the settlement area amounts to about 280 square miles for Rajahmundry, and to about 145 square miles for Masulipatam where work was commenced only in March. The former is over one half of the full tale of work for six months, and the latter is one quarter of the same, while the expenditure on the former party is only two-thirds of the whole sanctioned scale, and that for the latter is under half of the same. So that considering all the time necessarily lost in training hands in the earlier stages, the work does not seem disproportionate to the expenditure. I may add also that the Military habits of discipline of the Superintending Officers have fitted them specially for a most vigorous exaction of work.

1100 Full year's work.
2—
550 Six months "
275 Half of do.
138 Quarter of do.

14. Captain Priestley in conclusion quotes the very slow rate of progress made in the earlier surveys in Bengal, but without going so far back, the standard he has attained may fairly compete with that arrived at, under more favorable circumstances as regards facility of the system of operations in the northern part of India during many years of further progress.

15. Without any intention whatever of drawing any invidious comparison between the work accomplished by the two Departments, which rests upon considerations belonging to each separately, I confess that the small outturn of the survey in the northern Districts compared with that got over by the Demarcators and Classifiers promises to be embarrassing, in necessarily deferring the final settlement, which cannot be made, not only till after the land is surveyed, but until the areas are worked up and examined in the Survey office during the recess at the close of the season's work. This might doubtless have been avoided by confining the operations of the Settlement Department to Demarcation of boundaries for the first year allowing the survey to proceed in the second, and the classification in the third, and the final settlement afterwards, but this dilatory style of proceeding, though most perfect perhaps in itself, would not have been adapted to the urgent requirements of the locality to meet which I have thought it necessary to put forth every practicable effort.

16. I need not perhaps apologize for the length of this explanation, as it may not form an unsuitable appendage to the report on last year's operations, as giving some further account of prospects of progress in the Survey and Settlement Departments.

17. In paragraph 3 of the order of which this forms a reply information is called for as to the great discrepancy between the Curnums' accounts of area and the correct area, and as

and

to whether this is to be attributed to fraud or to other causes. Upon this point I may explain that the local land measure of the Rajahmundry District is a pootty, which is made up of a certain number of coontas, each coonta being the square of a measuring rod of a certain number of cubits, the number and exact length of the cubits and the number of the coontas vary considerably, so that the pootty may be in some places half as much more or double what it is in others. The arbitrary commutation that was made a few years ago of this fluctuating pootty into acres has given to the accounts nominally a more definite character, but the former inaccuracy from the varying nature of the pootty still remains and in a form less palpable on a superficial view. The pootty may thus be 8,10 or 12 acres or even more, and the assumption of 8 acres as a general standard has led chiefly to the discrepancy noticed, other causes may also have contributed to it, as under the joint rents, correct area is to the ryots an immaterial item of the distribution of the assessment, which may without it be apportioned generally on fields, the relative productive powers of which in the gross amount of each can be taken by the ryots for the purpose.

That confusion has arisen in the constant change of lands under the joint rents is not to be denied, but at the same time the explication of the discrepancy is not to be accounted for mainly or in any very considerable degree by fraud, but rather by the commutation of the pootty to acres as above explained, and the looseness of the original accounts in pooties, which there is reason to suppose, in many cases were never actual measurements, but mere estimates by the eye or by the grain produce, as area was a matter of no consequence at all under the old system of the Government tax being a share of the produce.

From Captain F. J. B. PRIESTLEY, Superintendent Revenue Survey; to H. NEWILL, Esq., Director Revenue Settlement, dated Madras, 7th September 1859, No. $\frac{752}{152}$

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the Proceedings of Government, dated 26th August 1859, No. 1146, and in obedience to the call contained in paragraph 2 of the order, beg to state that I had hoped it was fully understood that the area which I estimated would be accomplished yearly by a Survey party was the maximum to be attained after the lapse of some considerable time when it would be composed entirely of experienced men and when also the full amount sanctioned would be expended.

2. As yet this stage has not been reached.

3. I submit however that to judge fairly of the survey operations it is necessary that those carried on in each district should be separately considered.

4. To commence with Trichinopoly field work, for this party was first provided during the month of February, less than 5 months therefore have been devoted to field work.

5. During the above months moreover delays from various causes have reduced the number of working days to 4,072.

6. The extent measured in fields being 2,71,316 acres, gives a daily rate for each Ameen of 66·64 acres; thus shewing an excess of 6·64 acres over the amount estimated as the work of an Ameen per diem.

7. Under these circumstances, I trust that no remissness can be charged to the Trichinopoly Survey party.

By village accounts	1,28,593
Add 40 per cent	51,437
Total Rs.	1,80,030

8. Since the commencement of the year in Rajahmundry a mean number of 35 Survey Ameens have measured 1,80,430 acres in 4,706 days, or 38 acres per diem.

9. Considering that the field was for the first time taken by this party in October 1858, I venture to hope that the progress made may be considered satisfactory, more especially as the country is itself a most difficult one, being almost all under irrigation or inundation.

10. A serious drawback to work both in the Rajahmundry and Masulipatam districts has been found in the paucity or more properly (as far as the latter district is concerned) the entire absence of village servants on whose assistance in field measurement reliance had been placed.

11. In Masulipatam indeed labourers were not even attracted by a rate of pay far higher than that which ordinarily obtains in the district.

12. The success of the survey operations so much dependent on the correctness of the demarcation that it must not be lost sight of that both in Rajahmundry and Masulipatam the Demarcation Department is still in its infancy and that the Survey Ameens lose time not only from want of experience in their own line, but also from incorrectness in the work of untrained demarcation goomashtahs.

13. I beg to point out that the Survey establishment in Masulipatam only commenced work during the month of March, and has not even been in existence during the entire six months of which an account is required.

14. There are therefore only returns of work for the month of March, April, May and June by which it appears that a mean number of 33 Ameens measured 74,422·36 acres in 1,960 days, or for each man an average outturn of 38 acres.

15. The subject of delays has on several occasions been brought to your notice, and I trust that the measures taken or about to be put in force will have the effect of diminishing their amount.

16. In order that the Government may be able to compare our rate of progress with that at first made in Bengal I have ventured to append an extract from a work published by Captain Herbert, Deputy Surveyor General of India.

A. D. 1830 Calcutta

Extract from a work published at Calcutta by Captain Herbert, Deputy Surveyor General of India.

The extent yet surveyed amounts only to 3,020 square miles, a little more than half a square degree in seven years with ten Officers employed in the Department. It is true these ten Officers have not been all of them employed exclusively in Revenue Surveys during that period; the Burmese war having occasioned their being detached for two years. The following table shews their annual rate of progress.

A. D 1830

	Square miles per annum.
1 Captain Oliver	338
2 Captain W. Brown	240
3 Captain Bedford	120
6 Mr. Halhed	27
5 Lieutenant B. Brown	35
4 Lieutenant Wroughton	50

Comparing the above with the work of the three Madras Revenve Survey parties it will be seen that their progress has been very much more rapid, and it must also be remembered that the Survey of this Presidency is very much more minute.

	1859. Actually surveyed Square Miles.	Rate per annum.
1 Captain Hessey	426	860
2 Captain Crewe	280	460 (only 35 Ameens)
3 Captain Pratt	012	300 (only 33 Ameens)

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 5th to 21st October 1859.

No. 16. ORDER THEREON, 6th October 1859, No. 1361.

In this letter the Director of Revenue Settlement submits his explanation in reply to the order* noted in the margin respecting the apparent deficiency of work in the Survey and Settlement Departments for the first six months of the present year.

* *26th Aug.* 1859, *No.* 1146.

2. Mr. Newill treats first of the operations of demarcation and classification under the "Settlement" Department. He bases his explanations on the following points.

I. The many and great difficulties in the training and organiza-
Para. 2. tion of the Establishment.

II. The full sanctioned strength not having been employed during the whole six months as assumed by Government.

III. The fact of credit not having been given for work done in villages in progress of which one half of the area may be considered a fair proportion to be taken into account as work done.

IV. The large deficiency in the nominal areas in the Northern Districts amounting to 40 per cent. in Rajahmundry and 20 per cent. in Masulipatam.

V. The classification branch in the Trichinopoly Settlement not
Para. 4. having taken the field till the month of February in consequence of its having been engaged in the settlement accounts of the S. Arcot Táluqs.

3. On the whole Mr. Newill considers that the aggregate work of
Para. 6. the three "Settlement" parties may be taken at 1903 square miles of demarcation, and 1603 square miles of Classification, or a mean of the two at 1750 square miles which falls short of the full work by about 120 square miles for the half year, whilst the expenditure has not nearly come up to the full standard.

4. With regard to the survey Mr. Newill encloses a letter from
Para. 10. Captain Priestly which shews that in this Department also the same circumstances operated which are noticed in articles I and II of para 2. In Trichinopoly 426 square miles were completed in five months whilst in Rajahmundry and Masulipatam the progress of the work has not been good, partly in consequence of the defects of the demarcation goomastahs who are new to the work and partly also to the want of local help, which has been partly remedied by a late order† of Government. The area of survey amounts however to about 280 square miles in the former District and to about 145 square miles in the latter, when work was only commenced in March.

† *7th June* 1859, *No.* 758. *20th July* 1859, *No.* 971.

5. The Government have carefully considered Mr. Newill's explanations; and have pleasure in stating that the circumstances stated go far to remove all cause of dissatisfaction at the progress of the work. The organization of a new establishment is always a difficult and tedious business and the Government are aware that peculiar difficulties have been encountered in the present case, from the unpopularity of this branch of the public service. The Governor in Council cordially recognizes the active spirit which characterizes the heads of both Departments as well as their local Deputies.

6. The attention of the Superintendent of survey will be particularly called to Mr. Newill's remarks in para. 15 of his letter on the small outturn of the survey in the Northern Districts.

7. The Government are glad to find that the great discrepancy between the Karnum's accounts of area and the correct one as ascertained by survey is not to be altogether attributed to fraud but in great part to the varying nature of the putty which may be 8-10-12 acres or even more, while the Karnums areas given in the return are based on a conversion at the rate of eight acres to the putty. This source of misapprehension however may be easily rectified hereafter by converting into acres the Karnum's area as given in putties, at the actual rate of the village, instead of at the general rate above stated.

(Signed) W. C. SIM,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

Rev. Dept.

No. 1361

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 6th Oct. 1859
Read the following letter from W. Newill
Director of Revenue
Settlement.

Affording explanation with reference to the Govt. dated 26th Ultimo regarding the apparent deficiency of work in the survey & settlement Departments for the first six months of the present year.

(Rec'd enter 15 Sept. 59 No. 840)

In this letter the Director of Revenue Settlement submits his explanation in reply to the order noted in the margin respecting the apparent deficiency of work in the survey and

× 26 Aug. 59 No. 1146

and settlement De-
partments for the
first six months of
the present year ~~in~~
~~accordance with the~~
~~orders of Govt. under~~
~~date 26th August 1857~~
~~No 1146.~~

2 Mr Newill
treats first of the ope-
rations of demarcation
and classification un-
der the "settlement"
Department. He
bases his explanations
on the following points.

I The many and
great difficulties in
the training and or-
ganization of the
Establishment para 2

II The full sanc-
tioned strength not
having
having been em-
ployed during the
whole six months
as assumed by Govt

III The fact of are-
dit not having
been given for work
done in villages in
progress of which
one half of the
area may be con-
sidered a fair pro-
portion to be taken
into account as work
done.

IV The large defi-
ciency in the no-
minal assets in
the Northern Dis-
tricts amounting
to 40 per cent in Rajah-
mundry and 20 per cent
in Masulipatam

V The classification
branch

branch in the Trichinopoly settlement not having taken the field till the month of February in consequence of its having been engaged in the settlement of the accounts of South Arcot Talugs. para 4

3 On the whole Mr Nevill considers that the aggregate work of the three "settlement" parties may be taken at 1903 square miles of Demarcation and 1603 square miles of Classification, or a mean of the two at 1750 square miles which falls short of the full work by about 120 square para 6

square miles for the half year, whilst the expenditure has not nearly come up to the full standard.

4. With regard to the survey Mr Nevill encloses a letter from Captain Priestley, in which shews that this Department also the same circumstances operated which are noticed in articles I and II of Para 2. ~~which shew that~~ In Trichinopoly 426 square miles were completed in five months whilst in Rajahmundry and Masulipatam the progress para 10

progress of the work has not been good hart. ly in consequence of the defects of the de= marcation gomiastaks who are new to the work and partly also to the want of local help, which has been partly remedied by a late order of Govt.

The area of survey amounts however to about 280 square miles in the former District and to about 145 square miles in the latter, when work was only commenced in March.

5. The Govt have carefully considered McCraville's explanations, and have pleasure in

7 June by Ch. 758
3rd July 1857. No 971

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characterizes the heads of both Departments as well as their local Deputies.

6 The attention of the Superintendents of survey will be particularly called to Mr. Newill's remarks in para 18 of his letter on the small outturn of the survey in the Northern Districts

7. The Govt are glad to find that the great discrepancy between the Karnum's accounts of area and the correct one as ascertained by survey is not to be altogether attributed to fraud but in great part to the varying nature of the putty which may be 8-10-12 acres or even more, while the karnums areas given in the return are based on a conversion at the rate of eight acres to the putty. This source of misapprehension however may be easily rectified hereafter by converting into acres the karnums area as given in putties, at the actual rate of the village, instead of at the general rate above stated.

Copies.
To Mr Director of Rev: Settlement & Agriculture
to Board of Revenue.

Disp: 7

Copy in a letter to C
dy 10th February 1860 No. 6.

Revenue 1859 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt 21st Oct.

No. 1361.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 6th October 59.

On the deficiency of
work in the Survey and
Settlement Departments
for the first half year of
1859.

No 5 & 6.

c 26th Sep. R 29th

Rev. Survey
Supdts Office
Madras
7th September 1859.

No. 752/152.

From Captain T. J. B. Priestley
Superintendent Rev. Survey
To H. Morrill Esqr.
Director Rev. Settlement

Sir

9 Oct 59

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the Pro. Govt. dated 26th ult.o

No. 1146 August 1859 and in obedience to the call contained in Para 2 of the order beg to state that I had hoped it was fully understood that the area which I instructed would be accomplished yearly by a survey Party was the maximum to be attained after the lapse of some considerable time when it would be composed entirely of experience & when also the full amount sanctioned would be expended.

2. As yet this stage has not been reached.

3. I submit however that to judge fairly of the survey operations it is necessary that those carried on in each district should be separately considered.

1. To commence with Trichinopoly

Field work for this party was first provided during the Month of February Less than 5 Months therefore have been devoted to field work.

5 During the above Months moreover delays from various causes have reduced the number of working days to 1072.

6. The extent measured in fields being 27316 Acres gives a daily rate for each Ameen of 66.64 acres thus shewing an excess of 6.64 acres over the amount estimated as the work of an Ameen per diem.

7 Under these circumstances I trust that no remissness can be charged to the Trichinopoly Survey party.

8. Since the commencement of the year in Rajahmundry a mean number of 35 Survey Ameens have measured 180430 acres in 2706 days or 38 acres per diem.

by Village accounts
128593
51437 add 40 per cent
180030

9 Considering that the field was for the first time taken by this party in October 1838 I venture to hope that the progress made may be considered satisfactory, more especially as the country is itself a most difficult one, being almost all under irrigation or inundation.

10. A serious draw-back to work both in the Rajahmundry and Masulipatam districts has been found in the paucity or more properly (as far as the latter district is concerned) the entire absence of Village servants on whose assistance in field measurement reliance had been placed.

11. In Masulipatam indeed labourers were not even attracted by a rate of pay far higher than that which ordinarily obtains in the district.

12. The success of the Survey operations is so much dependent on the correctness of the Demarcation that it must not be lost sight of that both in Rajahmundry & Masulipatam the Demarcation Department is still in its infancy & that the Survey Ameens lose time not only from want of experience in their own line but also from incorrectness in the work of untrained Demarcation Soomashtahs

13 I beg to point out that the Survey Establishment in Masulipatam only commenced work during the Month of March and has not even been in existence during the entire Six Months of which an account is required.

14. Here are therefore only returns of work for the Months of March, April, May, and June by which it appears that a mean number of 33 Ameens measured 64222 acres in 1960 days or for each man an average out-turn of 38 acres.

15. The subject of delays has on several occasions been brought to your notice and I trust that the measures taken or about to be put in force will have the effect of diminishing them

their amount.

16. In order that the Government may be able to compare our rate of progress with that at first made in Bengal I have ventured to append an Extract from a work published by Captain Herbert Deputy Surveyor General of India. A.D. 1830 Calcutta

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant

Reduced to Kiestley Captain
Superintendent Rev Survey

Extract from a work published at Calcutta by Captain Herbert Deputy Surveyor General of India

The System yet surveyed amounts only

A.D 1830 to 3020 Square miles a little more than half a Square degree in Seven years with ten Officers employed in the Department, true these ten Officers have not been all of them employed exclusively in Revenue Surveys during that period; the Burmese war having occasioned their being detached for two years. The following table shews their annual rate of progress

		Square Miles per annum
1	Captain Oliver	338
2	Captain W. Brown	240
3	Captain Bedford	120
6	Mr. Walker	27
5	Lieutenant B. Brown	35
4	Lieutenant Broughton	50

Comparing the above with the work of the three Madras Revenue Survey parties it will be seen that their progress has been very much more rapid and it must also be remembered that the Survey of this Presidency is very much more minute

		1859 Actually Surveyed Square Miles	Rate per annum
1	Captain Hervey	426	860
2	Captain Crewe	280	460 (only 33 Months)
3	Captain Pratt	120	304 (only 33 Months)

206.

Revenue Settlement Office,
Madras, 15. September 1859

No. 840

From

H. Newill Esqre
Director of Revenue Settlement.

To

I. D. Bomillon Esqre
Secretary to Government
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 26. Ultimo, calling for explanation of the apparent deficiency of work in the Survey and Settlement Department for the first six Months of the present year.—

2. In reply I may venture to observe that the Department labor under the disadvantage of the Government not yet having had under review the report on last years operations describing the many and great difficulties in the organization of new Establishments of the Kind, where every hand had to be first trained for the field operations, and where only the most indifferent classes of persons could be induced to join a Department in which

attho

Copy ein w. letter to B
of Ho. & Revy. dated 15th Sept. 1859 No. 840.

Rec'd 21st Sept.
Bom. Sec. Sect. Dept.

Dated 14th Sept. 1859
Rec'd 15th }

In 2984 of 1859

Memorandum

Copy of the
Report called for
Accounts called for
Accounts Establishments
Survey Establishments
and Contract Work
Collection
Collection
by Captain Ross
by Collector
By Collector
By Collector

altho' the proy may be fair, the hardships of the duty required are far greater there in other branches of the Service. I need not however dwell upon these in this place as regards the Settlement branch, as the figures of the Statement taken in their proper bearing will show an area of work performed by each party proportioned to the Estimated Standard and the expenditure incurred.

3. The Government has assumed that all the parties have been working in full efficient strength for the period in question which is not the case. The brief reports submitted by the two departments for the general Administration Report for the Official Year 1858/59 noticed the gradual organization up to 30th April last and this was not repeated in the returns of progress, tho' I confess it might have been with advantage. Moreover in the deductions drawn by Government of the Settlement branch having only got thro' two thirds of its estimated work and the Survey Department only half, credit has neither been given for the work done in Villages in progress nor for the large deficiency in the nominal areas in the Northern Districts.

4. The following Statement gives the necessary corrections for the two latter items,

one

one half of the area of Villages in progress, appears to be a fair proportion to be taken into account as work done, except in Masulipatam where the Jumla is more suitable, while 40 per cent increase of area in Rajahmundry and 20 per cent in Masulipatam are what is borne out by the Survey operations, as far as they have proceeded.

Demarcation.

Parties	Completed	Portion completed in Villages in Progress	Additions on account of deficiency in the Nominal Areas	Total Area	Equivalent in Square miles
1. Tachimpoly	366564	44667	"	411531	643
2. Rajahmundry	244340	45397	115894	405631	634
3 Masulipatam	258098	129690	38779	465346	626
	869302	219754	154673	1282508	1903

Classification

Tachimpoly	381262	34094	"	416356	650
Rajahmundry	202553	27749	91881	322183	503
Masulipatam	157213	78572	47157	282942	442
	741028	140615	139038	1020681	1595

5. On this I beg further to remark that the Classification branch of the Tachimpoly Settlement party did not take the field till the month of February it being engaged in the Settlement Accounts of the South Arcot

Talooks

Salukia up to that time. The work of this party, whether Classification or demarcation is about 650 Square Miles which fully answers the Estimate for the year. The Rajahmundry party also comes up to the mark in Demarcation, but has only 500 Square Miles of Classification, which is accounted for by the Classification Establishment being in part appropriated to demarcation while also the full expenditure was not reached. The organization of the Masulipatam party on the large sanctioned scale was only undertaken in the latter part of January, and the strength was only gradually increased as hands were trained in the first 3 Months, so that 1440 Square miles of Classification appear a fair amount of work, while the Demarcation for which a small nucleus was formed from the first, and for which a portion of the Classification salaries were at first appropriated amounts upwards of 626 Square Miles, which however is a result obtained partially under more favorable circumstances than in Rajahmundry, as some waste tracts were demarcated without much detail of fields.

6. The aggregate work of the 3 parties may thus be taken at 1903 Square miles of Demarcation and 1600 Square miles

of Classification, or a mean of the two at 1750 Square Miles, which only falls short of the full work for 3 parties for half a Year by about 120 Square Miles, altho' the expenditure in the parties has not nearly come up to the full standard.

7. Altho' some of the above Calculations are obviously from their Nature only approximate and it is not possible to state exactly what the work of the next 6 Months will be, I hope the explanation will satisfy the Government regarding the progress of the work, and remove the unfavorable impression conveyed in their orders under reply. I can only add that whether in my own Office or those of my Deputies the rigorous Exactment of work has been forced to the utmost extent short of defeating the object in view, and I am convinced that not one of the least evils to be guarded against in the Department is the temptation and presume for rapidity and large amounts of area of work without affording all the requisite means of securing its being done efficiently. This evil is lamentably felt in the operations in the N.W. Provinces, been strongly pointed out as "a beacon" to the Madras Establishments by the Deputy Surveyor General of India in paras 27 228 of his letter of 8th May 1857 respecting to the call upon him to tender

1250 / 625 / 3 / 1875 — One Year Six Months 3 parties

render his aid and advice on the general scheme of the Survey of the Presidency. This warning applies equally to the operations of the Survey & Settlement Department.

8. While laxity is not, of course to be tolerated in these Establishments, I trust that all reasonable considerations besides the bare amount of area, which alone is noticed by Government on this occasion, will be allowed their weight in judging of Departments in the early stages of infancy, and the assurance that this will be the case will inspire a heartiness in the work that will secure its being done more perfectly, and certainly upon the whole not less rapidly, for "the imprudent and rash speed" where "large areas and low rates are the chief thing sought after" many have ill effects which will not be felt here less than in the N.W. Provinces as described by Major Thuillier in his letter above quoted.

9. I may venture to add that a comparison of our scheme with such scanty data as I can gather of the rate of work and cost of the Bombay Survey Settlements leads me to conclude that we are undertaking our work at a cost infinitely less than that which has been incurred in that Presidency.—

10 As regards the progress of the Survey, I beg to submit a letter from the Superintendent dt. 7th Sept. 59. No. 752 / 152.

Superintendent entering into explanation of the deficiency of work done. Captain Priestley claims consideration like myself from the new organization of the Establishments and the training of hands and their inexperience even after they are employed. He shews that in the Trichinopoly party the work for each man per diem has come up above the estimated rate taking the days actually employed, but delays and impediments, controllable and uncontrollable, which are always liable to occur in a more or less degree vitiate this in the general run of work. Captain Priestley however, in pence 15 expects that this loss of time which at present is large will eventually be considerably reduced.

It has engaged constant attention, but the necessary calls upon the Canarese Moegans for their ordinary duties will always I fear in some measure be a source of delay, tho' reduced to the smallest limit practicable. In the Rajahmundry and Masulipatam parties the rates of work per diem are considered by him very fair under the circumstances of the new organization, and this may be admitted as the rate of work in the Experimental Survey, never came up to the standard attained by these parties.

Estimated rate based on average rate obtained on actual working days } 7 per diem 66·64

Rajahmundry — Acres 38
Average per diem
Masulipatam — 38.

11. In Trichinopoly he explains the field work was commenced in February so that less than five

five months were thus employed and 426 Square miles are the result, which is at the rate of 960 Square miles for the year, beyond which it would not appear that any prospect of increase is held out for the present season, tho' Captain Priestley seems sanguine as to the full estimated amount being eventually attained. In Masulipatam the Survey Party has only been in existence from March last. In Rajahmundry also the difficulties of the initiation have not yet been got over, and I freely admit that in these the progress of work in the Survey Department is in some measure affected by the defects of the Demarcation Commission, who are yet new to the work, and not thoroughly experienced, this on the whole the Demarcation with its imperfections has doubtless a great advantage over the course pursued in the experimental Survey of letting the Survey Department mark the boundaries itself.

12 Almost serious impediment to the work in the Northern Districts has been the great want of Village Servants for assistance in the measurements. The Government has sometimes a measure in Proceedings, 20 July 1859. which will greatly alleviate this evil, which is still engaging the serious attention of Captain Priestley and myself, and I shall again if necessary address the Government further on the subject.

13. The area of Survey in the two Northern Districts increased in the same proportions as the Settlement area amounts to about 280 Square miles for Rajahmundry and to about 145 Square miles for Masulipatam where work was commenced only in March. The former is over one half of the full rate of work for six months and the latter is one quarter of the same, while the expenditure on the former Party is only two thirds of the whole sanctioned scale and that for the latter is under half of the same. So that considering all the time necessarily lost in training hands in the earlier stages, the work does not seem disproportionate to the expenditure. I may add also that the Military habits of discipline of the Superintending Officers have fitted them specially for a most rigorous exaction of work.

2 1100 full years work. — 550 six months — do — 275 half of do — 138 quarter of do —

14. Captain Priestley in enclosure quotes the very slow rate of progress made in the earlier Surveys in Bengal, but without going so far back, the Standard he has attained may fairly compete with that arrived at, under more favorable circumstances as regards facility of the system of operations in the Northern part of India during many years of further progress.

15. Without any intention whatever of drawing any invidious comparison between the work accomplished

accomplished by the two Departments which rests upon considerations belonging to each separately. I suppose that the small outturn of the Survey in the Northern Districts compared with that got over by the Demarcators and Classifiers promises to be embarrassing in necessarily deferring the final Settlement, which cannot be made not only till after the land is surveyed but until the areas are worked up and examined in the Survey Office during the leisure at the close of the season's work. This might doubtless have been avoided by confining the operations of the Settlement Department to Demarcations of boundaries for the first year allowing the Survey to proceed in the second and the Classification in the third, and the final Settlement after wards, but this dilatory style of proceeding, tho' most perfect perhaps in theory would not have been adapted to the urgent requirements of the locality to meet which I have thought it necessary to put forth every practicable effort.

16. I need not perhaps apologize for the length of this explanation, as it may not form an unsuitable appendage to the report on last years operations, as giving some further account of the prospects of progress in the Survey and Settlement Departments.

17. In para 3 of the order to which this forms a reply information is called for as to the great discrepancy between the Cummums Accounts of area and the correct area, and as to whether this is to be attributed to fraud or other causes. Upon this point I may explain that the local land measure of the Rajahmundry District is a Pootty, which is made up of a certain number of Countas, each Counta being the square of a measuring rod of a certain number of Cubits, the number and exact length of the Cubits and the number of the Countas vary considerably, so that the pootty may be in some places half as much more or double what it is in others.

The arbitrary commutation that was made a few years ago of this fluctuating pootty into acres has given to the Accounts nominally a more definite character, but the former inaccuracy from the varying nature of the pootty still remains and in a form less palpable on a superficial view. The pootty may thus be 8, 10 or 12 acres or even more, and the assumption of 9 acres as a general standard has led chiefly to the discrepancy noticed. Other causes may also have contributed to it as under the joint results correct area as to the ryots an immaterial item of the distribution of the assessment, which may be apportioned generally on fields, the relative productive powers of which in the gross amount of each can be taken by the ryots for the purpose.

That

That Confusion has arisen in the Constant change of Lands under the Joint Tenants is not to be denied, but at the same time the explication of the discrepancy is not to be accounted for mainly or in any very considerable degree by fraud, but rather by the Commutation of the Potty to Acres as above explained, and the looseness of the original Accounts in Potties, which there is reason to suppose, in many Cases were never actual measurements but mere Estimates by the Eye or by the grain produce, as area was a matter of no consequence at all under the old System of the Government tax being a share of the produce.—

I have the honor to be

Sir.

Your most Obedient Servant

[illegible]

Director of Revenue Settl.

19

[illegible]

R. Cons.. 26: augt /59. No 54-56-
—— 22d. July /59 No. 54-55.
—— 22 July /54 No 25-26

Copy inc: a letter to C
L/10th Feby 1860. N:6

No 840

Revenue 1859 Departt
Pro: of Govt 21st Octr.
£1700.

To
Wm H. Newill Esqre
Director of Rev: Settlemt

To
J.D. Donnillon Esqre
Secy to Government
Fort Saint Geor.

Dispatch 15th
Receipt 16th } September
Encl 1

Affording explanation with reference to the Proceedings of Govt dated 26th Ultimo, regarding the apparent deficiency of work in the Survey and Settlemt Departments for the first six Months of the present Year.

No 1361-6: Oct 1859.

No 15-

c26 Sep: Rcd