M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1644 Press ~~Mis.~~

24-25

Dated 5 - 12 - 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 24. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th November 1859, No. 4642.

Read the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam; to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 15th October 1859, No. 308.

The order of Government 30th August 1859, No. 1160, forwarded to me with Board's Proceedings 2d September 1859, reached me on the 14th September during my stay in Purlakimedy, and as I wished before replying to it, to refer again to the accounts sent in by the extra Carcoons alluded to in the Government order, and have been much occupied with current and other important business, I have not been able to answer their reference earlier.

1st. I am desired to explain what punishment has been awarded to village officers in cases where cultivation in excess of the extent shewn in the accounts has been brought to light.

2dly. What was done by the regular establishment of Carcoons and others from October 1858 to January 1859, in bringing to light such cases, and why with talooks so small in extent and revenue, the regular establishment either could not or did not undertake this duty ?

3dly. The Government wish to know the particulars of this alleged excess cultivation, by what process it was discovered, and how far it is to be considered fraudulent or is admitted so by the Curnums.

Lastly. A brief explanation is called for as to the character of the revenue records of the district.

2. On the first point, I have the honor to state that I have not inflicted any punishment on the village officers in whose limits the excess has been brought to light. In describing the land revenue records, I shall enter further on this subject, and for the present pass on to the second point noticed by Government.

3. Here I must premise that some error has evidently found its way into the calculations of talook area which were before the Government when this order was issued. I observe that in Mr. Bourdillon's memorandum regarding the revenue establishments, the area of Goomsur, Soorada, Mohery, Poobbacondah, Itchapore and Wadada is stated to be under 1,000 square miles, whereas, in fact, Goomsur and Soorada alone occupy an area of 1,031 square miles, and the total area of the other four talooks amounts to about another 1,000.

4. The revenue of the five talooks during the last year was upwards of six lacs, and is steadily on the increase. I hope in a few years to see it reach eight lacs.

5. There is a Peishcar, as the Government observe in each talook, or rather an officer is borne on the books as such, but they are also heads of Police with a wide jurisdiction in the neighbouring Zemindaries, (with the exception of the Soorada Peishcar,) viz. the Poobbacondah Peishcar is head of Police of Ganjam with jurisdiction in the Hoomah, Paloor, Beredy and Cullicote estates. The Mohery Peishcar was lately head of Police of the town of Berhampore, and has recently been stationed as an experiment at Vishamojiri near the border of the China and Pedda Kimedy Zemindaries in which he exercises his functions. The Itchapore Peishcar is head of Police of Soampetah in the Jalunthra Zemindary with authority over neighbouring estates, and the Wadada Peishcar is located, with similar duties, at Polaky. A second Wadada Peishcar is head of Police for the town of Chicacole.

6. Both Tahsildars and Peishcars have cognizance of revenue cases in the neighbouring Zemindaries, and I occasionally send them in person to the scene of more important disputes or to take a deposition from a person of rank. It is for this reason, and in consideration that the ryots of a very large extent of Zemindary country have no other Government officer within reach, that I have, in reporting to Mr. Pelly on the proposed amalgamation of talooks, strongly advised that the number of Tahsildars should not be diminished.

7. As regards the Carcoons and their failure to bring to account concealed cultivation, I have the honor to state that upwards of 5,000 Rupees were brought to account by them last Fusly, but these officers have hitherto confined themselves to measuring and reporting such

increases of cultivation as have occurred under their observation, without testing the total area of villages.

8. I subjoin a memorandum of the work usually performed by the Carcoons. I referred no further enquiries into the statements of informers to these officers, resolving not to offer any encouragement to the practice of informing one against another among the ryots, owing to the quarrels it occasions, and because I felt confident of obtaining the sanction of Government to the plan by which I proposed to bring these lands to account. It was proposed to me, when I first joined the district last year, by the late head Serishtadar who had seen it extensively practised in Cuddapah, and I recommended it without hesitation to Government on the ground that the extensive existence of unassessed cultivation was generally admitted, and that the regular establishment could only operate on it to a limited extent every year.

9. The method pursued by the extra Carcoons was simply measurement of all the cultivated holdings of a village, and comparison of the result with the cultivation accounts of the past year (what these are I shall presently explain.) In cases where a village was held under joint rent, the whole cultivated area would be measured; there are, however, accounts in the rented villages of the separate holdings of each individual according to the division made by themselves, but they are occasionally altered. In the surveyed talooks the excess was chiefly found in the cultivation of lands entered as waste in the pymaish accounts, but in the talooks of Mohery and Goomsur, where no survey ever took place, and where the area is computed by the seed Burnum (five of which go to the acre) the holdings of individuals or of the community as the case might be, were found to be greatly in excess of the entries of cultivated area in the old accounts. Entire villages were measured and not suspected parts of villages only. The total number of villages examined was twenty-five.

10. As regards the fraudulent complicity of the village officers in these cases, I must, in order to explain matters, first describe the nature of the land revenue records.

I have already referred to the pymaish accounts of some talooks; a survey was undertaken in this district by an experienced Pymaishdar from Darwar, whose operations lasted from 1836 to 1844, when the survey was discontinued by order of the Board. The talooks of Wadada, Itchapore, and Poobbacondah had up to that time been surveyed. The work was stopped because doubts were thrown on its accuracy by Captain Halpin of the Survey General's Department. Mr. Smollett writing to the Board on this point in August 1845 remarks, that he had caused two villages to be measured by European land surveyors, and that the result did not give a difference of more than one or two per cent., and that he did not consider the work as either more or less accurate than surveys similarly conducted in other districts. These accounts show the area of waste and cultivated lands, and are the basis of the returns of the village officers. Land entered as waste in the pymaish accounts and continuing to be shewn as such in the Curnums' accounts, can only have been cultivated by the fraudulent complicity or the carelessness of those officers, and as the labours of the extra Carcoons have been stopped, it is both just and expedient to make an example of such offenders by dismissal.

12. The Curnum of a village in Poobbacondah who furnished the most signal instance of fraud has, however, since died. The Curnums of other villages in the surveyed talooks, where similar neglect or fraud has come to light, will now be dismissed. I had not designed, however, to pursue this course, had the work of the extra Carcoons gone on, owing to the number who must have been dismissed. I circulated notices when the Government order disapproving the system reached me, threatening loss of office to all village officers who shall be found to have similarly offended.

13. The discovery of such offenders will, however, proceed but gradually, unless the regular Carcoons confine themselves to the measurement of land, in which case we lose the services of a useful class of officers for other purposes.

14. I have now, however, to explain what constitute the revenue records of the Mohery, Goomsur and Soorada talooks. The Zemindars who formerly held these estates furnished the Government officers with accounts on more than one occasion, which purported to shew the receipts and area of their villages and the extent of land held under grants of all kinds. The

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of December 1859.

NOTE.—*There is, however, little virtual correspondence between the land Burnum and the grain Burnum.*

area was computed from the seed measure named a Burnum, which has given its name to the breadth of ground on which it may be raised. Five land Burnums make an acre.

15. As the villages were all held under joint village rent or farmed by a single renter, and the extent and position of the tillage of individuals was a matter of internal adjustment and liable to occasional changes, the only record of individual holdings is in an account kept by the Curnum. The Circuit Committee (copy of whose report in print has already been furnished to the Government), first demanded and received these accounts after much trouble and delay, and looked upon them as universally untrustworthy. The settlement on which the estates of the district are now held was made by Mr. Brown in 1802, and he also obtained accounts such as I have described above, and on the data they contained the peishcush of the Zemindaries, and among them of Goomsur, Mohery and Soorada was fixed. These estates were resumed subsequent to that settlement. A subsequent account was called for and rendered in 1853, the accounts for Goomsur, Soorada and Mohery being given in by the village officers. No reliance is to be placed upon them, the entries of area were made on the *estimation* of the Curnum, &c., and the lands have never been measured. When, therefore, an excess, such as has now been brought to light, is detected on measurement, the excuse is, "the Circar have never measured these lands and we only set down what we think and what we find in the old accounts." Where no recent additions of any great importance have occurred, this may pass current as against the charge of fradulent complicity, and I scarcely think it would be just to inflict signal punishment in the cases which have occurred in the unsurveyed talooks. The Ooriah Curnums are ignorant and obstinate, and only able to write Ooriah on a cadjan. Their Jummabundy accounts in Teloogoo have to be written for them by a hired Gomashta, (at their own expense,) and the only material improvement will come from the rising generation.

16. I have now, I trust, furnished information on all the points mentioned in the Government order.

In Con. 31st August 1859, *No.* 4347.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to their Proceedings, dated 30th August 1859, No. 1160, R. D., on the Board's former reference.

(A true Copy and Extract,)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Acting Secretary.*

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, 5th December 1859, No. 1644.

The Board lay before Government a letter from the Collector of Ganjam furnishing information in reply to the order of Government of August 30th No. 1160, respecting the employment of certain extra Kárkuns.

2. The circumstances under which those Kárkuns were entertained by the Collector are explained in the Board's Proceedings of August 22d, No. 3307. The Government will not refuse to sanction the charge; and they hereby authorize the offices of account and audit to admit it, to the amount of Rupees 345-1-6. They proceed to record some remarks on Mr. Forbes' present letter. Information was asked for on four points, which are recapitulated in the opening paragraph of that letter, and are answered seriatim.

3. The Governor in Council does not agree with Mr. Forbes as to the omission to punish the Kárkuns found guilty of sending in false accounts. The Circular Order* lately issued by the Board in pursuance of an order† of Government, will have acquainted him with the sentiments of Government on this point. Even simple dismissal is not sufficient; the security of the Revenue imperatively demands that Regulation 9 of 1822 should be put in force in such cases. A Kárkun dismissed for such an offence should not be succeeded by a relative.

* 10*th October* 1859 *No.* 4081.

† 6*th October* 1859 *No.* 1359.

4. There may be some error in the areas of the Ganjam táluqs as quoted in the paper referred to, though those areas were carefully computed. But the Govern-
Paragraph 3 *&c.* ment retain the opinion that nineteen Kárkuns, even without help from the Peshkárs ought to be quite sufficient for the inspection of cultivation in those táluqs. And they fully believe that if those servants are properly worked and properly supervised, and if Kárnums guilty of fraud are dealt with as prescribed above in paragraph 3, they will be found sufficient. Adverting to paragraph 13, the Governor in Council observes that it should be Mr. Forbes' care to make such arrangements as to leave the Kárkuns free for the duty of inspecting cultivation which seems to be so much required in Ganjam.

5. The prevention or discovery of fraud must undoubtedly be a matter of difficulty in the unsurveyed táluqs—viz. Mohari, Gumsúr and Suradah. As it will be
Paragraph 10. some years before the general Revenue Survey can commence operations in Ganjam, it may be worth while for the Board of Revenue to consider in communication with the Collector, whether, as a temporary arrangement, some means could not be adopted to measure the lands, either by the Kárnums subject to test and verification by a Surveyor under the Collector, or by some other plan. But even in the absence of such a record, it is not necessary to submit helplessly to imposition. It may not be practicable to detect slight frauds; but where the excess of land found on measurement is large, it may fairly be treated as fraudulent. Such cases should be dealt with in the mode prescribed above in paragraph 3. The Governor in Council cannot but think that the wholesale fraud in the cultivation accounts which appears to prevail in Ganjam, may be due in great part to the little notice which it appears to have been there usual to take of such offences.

6. The Government have only in conclusion to express the hope that the records of the Survey already made of three táluqs, as mentioned by Mr. Forbes in paragraph 11 are carefully preserved.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Revenue Dept

No. 1644.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 5th ~~November~~ December 1859.

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting for information a letter from the Collector of Ganjam furnishing explanation on all the points required by Government regarding the entertainment of the extra Kurkuns employed in bringing to light certain cases of concealed cultivation.

Here enter 12th November 1859 No 4642/

The Board lay before Government a letter from the Collector of Ganjam furnishing information in reply to the order of Government of August 30th No 1160, respecting the employment of certain extra Kárkuns.

2 The circumstances under which those Kárkuns were entertained by the Collector are explained in

the Board's Proceedings of
August 22nd, No. 3307. The
Government will not refuse
to sanction the charges and
they hereby authorize the
Offices of account and
audit to admit it, to the
amount of Rupees 345-1-6.
They proceed to record some
remarks on Mr. Forbes' pres-
-ent letter. Information
was asked for on four
points, which are recapit-
-ulated in the opening
paragraph of that letter,
and are answered seriatim.

3. The Governor in
Council does not agree
with Mr. Forbes as to the
omission to punish the
Kárnums found guilty of
sending in false accounts.
The Circular Order lately
issued by the Board in
pursuance of an order of
Government,

Government, will have ac-
-quainted him with the
sentiments of Government
on this point. Even simple
dismissals is not sufficient.
The security of the Revenue
imperatively demands
that Regulation 9 of 1822
should be put in force
in such cases. A Kárnum
dismissed for such an
offence should not be
succeeded by a relative.

4 There may be
some error in the areas
of the Ganjam Talooqs
as quoted in the paper
referred to, though those
areas were carefully
computed. But the Govt
retain the opinion that
nineteen Kárkuns, even
without help from the
Peshkárs ought to be
quite sufficient for the
inspection

Para. 3 Ques.

? Peshkárs

* 10 Oct/59 No. 4081

† 6 Oct/59 No. 1359

inspection of cultivation in those Talluqs. And they fully believe that if those servants are properly worked and properly supervised, and if Karnums guilty of fraud are dealt with as prescribed above in Para 3, they will be found sufficient. Adverting to Para 13, the Governor in Council observes that it should be Mr. Forbes' care to make such arrangements as to leave the Karnums free for the duty of inspecting cultivation which seems to be so much required in Gunjam.

5. The prevention or discovery of fraud must undoubtedly be a matter of difficulty in the unsurveyed Talleys - viz. Mohari

Para 10.

Mohari, Gunsar and Suradah. As it will be some years before the General Revenue survey can commence operations in Ganjam, it may be worth while for the Board of Revenue to consider in communication with the Collector whether, as a temporary arrangement, some means could not be adopted to measure the lands, either by the Karnams subject to test and verification by a surveyor under the Collector, or by some other plan. But even in the absence of such a record, it is not necessary to submit helplessly to imposition. It may not be practicable to detect slight frauds, but

but where the excess of land found on measurement to is large, it may fairly be treated as fraudulent. Such cases should be dealt with in the mode prescribed above in Para 3. The Governor in Council cannot but think that the wholesale fraud in the cultivation accounts which appears to prevail in Ganjam, may be due in great part to the little notice which it appears to have been there usual to take of such offences.

6. The Govt. have only in conclusion to express the hope that the records made of the survey already of three Talugs, as mentioned by Mr. Forbes in Para 11 are carefully preserved.

24 12
6

H Sir & Pelly Esqrs Dist. 6
6 — Board of Revenue
1 — Acct Genl
3 — Civil Auditor

~~Cons 2nd Sept~~

Cons 2. 9. 1859 Nos 21-22
" 17. June 1859 Nos 64-67

Revenue 1859 Departt.
Pro: of Govt. 10th Decr.

No 1644.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 5th Decr 59.

Sanctioning a charge of
Rs 315-1-6 incurred in the investi-
gation of certain cases of Concealed
Cultivation in Ganjam - and noticing
Mr. Forbes omission to punish the
Karkins guilty of sending in
false accounts -

No 24 & 25.

C 28 November
R 1st December