M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1606	Press Mis.
252 253	
Dated 15 9 18 68	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 252. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd August 1860, No. 3,864:—

Read letter from the Director Revenue Settlement, dated 4th August 1860, No. 752:—

(In Cons., 13th August 1860, No. 3,955.)

In Cons., 25th June 1860, *No.* 3,248.

1. In the above letter Mr. Newill submits some explanatory remarks on his letter, dated 22nd June last, and the Board's Proceedings thereon dated 14th ultimo, No. 3,248.

2. Mr. Newill, however, appears to the Board to raise an entirely fresh question, which was not before them when their Proceedings above quoted were passed.

3. On that occasion, the Board understood him to be simply suggesting certain arrangements, for expediting the Survey generally. These were rendered necessary in the Godavery and Krishna Districts, by the Demarcation having been allowed to outstrip the Survey Department, and amounted, briefly, to an enlargement of the Survey blocks, and the employment of a new Agency, for measuring, &c., the interstitial fields contained in these blocks.

4. The Board stated that, provided certain conditions specified by them, were fulfilled, the enlargement of the Survey blocks would suffice for *Revenue* purposes, but they doubted the competency of the Agency proposed to carry out the measurements.

5. The Board do not see that Mr. Newill's present letter much affects this question. He argues indeed that the "Volunteers or rather Pupils," whom he proposes to employ, are much superior to the Village Karanams, but they may be so, and yet be unequal to this duty, which it, must be borne in mind, is of the utmost importance to the agricultural community. The very name assigned to the class of men to be employed implies want of thorough qualification, and carries with it an undesirable degree of uncertainty in regard to efficient work, for though some Pupils may be well qualified, any beginner may be employed under this designation, and the subject is too important to be left liable to such a contingency. If, however, the "Pupils" are to be trained Surveyors but of a lower class, and therefore content with a smaller salary than the Surveyors in Captain Priestley's Department, it should have been plainly stated, and the question would then naturally have risen why Captain Priestley's Department should not be strengthened so as to undertake this duty, an arrangement which would ensure undivided responsibility for the measurements, and provide effective professional supervision, while the Pupils would have the advantage of belonging to an organized Department with the prospect of promotion, &c.

6. The Board repeat that while Mr. Newill shows the incompetency of the Karanam class to be greater than was previously alleged, he has not satisfied them that the Agency proposed by him is competent to measure, &c., the larger Survey blocks suggested, and they therefore adhere to the opinion expressed in their Proceedings above quoted.

7. But Mr. Newill in this letter raised, as the Board have already remarked, another and very important question.

8. In his previous letter he stated, and in their Proceedings the Board admitted, the inefficiency of the Karanams to perform the *new work proposed*, viz., to Survey blocks varying from 10 to 20 acres in area. Their incompetency to do this does not, the Board think, necessitate inability to Survey the interstitial fields of small plots of two and four acres, and when the Board admitted the former, they by no means intended to imply the latter, nor does the first admission necessarily or naturally involve the last. In fact the question of the ability of the Karanams to do properly work, which they are supposed to have been doing for some years past, was not before the Board at all, and the only reference to it was, the incidental inquiry whether the minimum size of Survey blocks had been raised from one and two to two and four acres.

9. The question is one of very great importance and seriously affects the operations of the Survey from its commencement. If the Board had been aware that this was really involved in the letter they were considering, they certainly would not have passed it over without remark, and they think that Mr. Newill should have stated the case more plainly, and in fact have

pointed out that, whatever might be thought of his plans of enlarging the Survey blocks and whatever objections might be raised to the Agency he proposed, some new Agency must be provided for the inner measurements under the existing system, as the Karanams could not effect them.

10. The first thing to be done is to ascertain exactly how matters stand at present, and the Board request Mr. Newill to state more explicitly to what extent the measurement, &c., of the interstitial fields by the Karanams has progressed in South Arcot and Trichinopoly, forwarding some of the Field Books and Sketches, and giving a decided opinion upon the quality of the work performed by them. In paragraph 2 of his present letter Mr. Newill states that various circumstances have prevented the Karanams from "undertaking this duty to any considerable extent," but it is necessary that the Board should know more definitely what has been done; what remains to be done; and how and when the latter is to be completed.

11. The next point is to ascertain from Captain Priestley whether he can undertake these inner measurements and if so, how this will affect the cost and duration of the Survey, and what Agency he would propose, on the two-fold supposition, *first*, that the present minimum of two and four acres is maintained; and *second*, that it be raised to an average of ten or twelve acres, the conditions noted in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings 14th July last, No. 3,248, being carefully observed in the latter case.

12. With this information before them, the Board will be in a position to form a better opinion than they can at present, and the subject is of too great importance to be imperfectly dealt with.

13. With regard to paragraph 8 of Mr. Newill's letter, the Board do not see how under his scheme, "every field" would be measured by the Professional Survey Department. The *blocks* will be so surveyed, but they are made up of varying numbers of inner fields: these, which constitute the great mass and give rise to the difficulties now experienced, will not be measured by the Professional Agency. Even the present Survey blocks of two and four acres contain inner fields, and blocks of 10 and 12 acres will certainly contain more, so that instead of "every field being measured by the Professional Survey" much fewer will be so surveyed under the proposed than under the existing arrangement.

14. As regards paragraph 13, the Board have only to observe that the Revenue systems of Bombay and Madras are not idential. The Madras Survey was instituted to meet the peculiar requirements of the Presidency, and the attainment of this object must be steadily kept in view, and care must be taken that in gaining one point, as for instance expediting the Professional Survey, other equally important objects, as for instance, the measurement of individual holdings, are not sacrificed.

Resolved that a copy of these Proceedings be submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings dated 14th ultimo, No. 3,248.

(A true Extract.)

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

No. 253. ORDER THEREON, 15th September 1860, No. 1,608.

1. In this paper the Board of Revenue remark on a letter from Mr. Newill defending his proposal for enlarging the minimum area to be measured by the Survey Department, to ten or twelve acres.

2. In an Order of this date No. 1,607, the Government have already negatived that proposal. They agree with the Board that it is also necessary to ascertain the correct working of the present arrangements, and they therefore approve of the call for information made in paragraphs 10 and 11 of these Proceedings. The Board should obtain the views of the Superintendent of Survey on the important question involved.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

(8) Revenue 1860 Departt
No. 1 Govt for Sept. 1766.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

Dated 23: Augt 1860
Desp
Rec 24.

No. 3864.

Submitting Copy
of the Board's Proceedings
passed on a letter from the
Director of Revenue Settlement
forwarding some explana-
-tory remarks on his letter
dated 22d June last and the
Board's Proceedings of the
14th Ultimo No 3248.

No 252 & 253.

No. 1608. 16th Sept.
Veteran order.

No. 1608

1. In this paper the Board of Rev: remark on a letter from Mr. Neville de-
-fending his proposal for enlarging the minimum area to be measured by the Survey Dept, to ten or twelve acres.

2. In an order of this date, No. 1607 the Govt have already negatived that proposal. They agree with the Board that it is also necessary to ascer-
-tain the correct working of the pre-
-sent arrangements, and they there-
-fore approve of the call for in-
-formation made in Paras 8 and 11 of these Proceedings. The Board should obtain the views of the Superintend-
-ent of Survey on the important question involved.

Fort St. Geo
15th Sept. 1860.
17 Copies
Board of Revenue Dispt. 18

To Dr. of Rev. Settlement
Do Supt. of Rev. Survey

Wells

Copy Augt. 1863 Dpt.