M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2435 — Press Mis.

297-298

Dated 18—12— 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th December 1860.

No. 297. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, dated 7th December 1860, No. 2,518 :—

Decline to transfer the Survey Parties now employed in Nellore to Kurnool, and direct the organization of a party to commence operations at the latter place. (Vide Public Works Proceedings, 7th December 1860, Nos. 85, 86.)

No. 298. ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1860, No. 2,435.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 4,757.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th October 1860.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated 8th August 1860, No. 129, forwarding a further report on the state of the records of Mr. Bayley's Survey.

(In Cons., 15th August 1860, No. 4,002.)

1. Resolved that the letter above recorded, be submitted for the consideration and orders of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

2. In paragraph 4 of his letter dated 27th June 1860, which was laid before Government with the Board's Proceedings of the 13th July 1860, No. 3,212, Mr. Minchin intimated his intention of comparing the measurements as entered in Mr. Baley's Registers, with those of the actual fields of a village to which the Irrigation Company were about to extend their operations; and after completing the experiment, to report to the Board, the results of the process. The letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings is the report thus promised.

In Cons., 2nd July 1860, No. 3,188.

3. The Acting Collector at first intended to measure the village of Singavaram, but having learnt that in the neighboring village of Ramapuram, greater errors would be found to exist, he commenced the survey of that village with the assistance of his Sheristadar who was in immediate superintendence of the work, an old Gumastah of Mr. Bayley's, and the village authorities. The measurements are believed to be as correct as is attainable by the native system of mensuration, and the final result of the operation was an increase of 50 per cent. in the Government lands, 100 per cent. in the Porumboke, and about 25 per cent. in the Inams.

Enclosure No. 2.

4. After the measurement of the above village, Mr. Minchin inquired into the causes of the discrepancies in the instances mentioned in the third paragraph of his letter of the 27th June, and referred to in paragraph 4 of the Proceedings of Government, dated 25th July 1860, No. 1,591. The result of this investigation is given in Enclosure 3 of his letter, and from the remarks entered therein, it seems reasonable to suppose that the discrepancies are owing to alterations of the original limits of Survey fields, caused probably by neglect to preserve boundary marks on the part of the village authorities.

In Cons., 26th July 1860, No. 3,639.

5. Mr. Minchin also furnishes statements showing twenty-eight cases of error detected in the village of Kulloor, and eleven in the village of Zorapoor. In the latter an extraordinary decrease of 167 acres was found, out of an area of 266 acres, as shown by the accounts, but the discrepancy is attributed to deliberate carelessness on the part of the measurer, and is clearly an exceptional case.

Enclosures 4 and 5.

6. The chief cause of the existing inaccuracies in the accounts is supposed by Mr. Minchin to be the great amount of jungle and waste reclaimed since the date of the Survey (1843), the extent of these having been entered almost conjecturally in the original accounts. In support of this opinion he furnishes a statement of additional land cultivated within the last 17 years, from which it appears that an increase of 1,55,564 acres has taken place in dry land, and 2,997 acres in wet, making an aggregate of 1,58,561 acres. As the cases reported show, however, for the greater part, deficiencies in the contents of the fields, the Board do not perceive how an extension of cultivation could effect such a result, unless boundaries have generally been altered, as may easily have been the case where no care was taken to make them permanent, and where the configuration and areas of fields were liable to be changed at the pleasure of the Ryots, there being no maps of any kind to operate as a check. It may, therefore, be assumed as perfectly possible that the original records of measurements are no longer applicable, without impugning their former accuracy. Indeed considering the time that has elapsed since the Survey was made, and that it was undertaken immediately after the province came under British rule, it would have been a matter of surprise, if the holdings had remained unaltered under the many inducements that have been held out to Ryots, of late years, to extend their cultivation.

7. These remarks apply to the lands situated at the foot of the Nulla Mulla Hills, where the extension of cultivation has chiefly taken place. With regard to the villages in the open country, the Pymash accounts are believed to be correct, and the exceptional cases few.

8. In paragraphs 14 to 16, Mr. Minchin discusses the question of how to remedy the defects of the Survey, and after pointing out the delay and expense attendant on professional operations, suggests that measures should be taken to *correct* the existing records. He thinks that it would probably be found necessary to re-measure one-fourth of the old Taluqs; and estimates the probable cost of the operation at about 8,000 Rupees. He further thinks that if the work be undertaken at once, it might be completed within the Fasli.

9. In connection with the above subject, allusion is also made to a simultaneous revision of the assessment, which is stated now to press very unequally on the people. When the province was transferred to the British, the land was not assessed even nominally on its extent, but the whole village was required to pay a certain sum, which was apportioned by the Ryots among themselves according to their means. *Since* the transfer, these individual payments have been fixed permanently on the holdings, and only in special cases of hardship and evident over-assessment has relief been afforded.

10. It is, therefore, evident that a field assessment on correct principles is much needed. Mr. Minchin expresses his readiness to undertake this work, in conjunction with the correction of Mr. Bayley's Survey, if Government approve of the proposition, and sanction a moderate expenditure for the purpose. The Board appreciate the spirit which has dictated this offer, and under the strong opinion which Government has expressed against the commencement of a regular survey and assessment, which the Board still consider the best and most economical course, they recommend it for favorable consideration.

O. G. No. 1,591, 25th, in Cons., 26th July 1860, No. 3,639.

11. In conclusion, the Board deem it right to observe that their hesitation in forming an opinion as to the expediency of adopting the measurements of Mr. Bayley's Survey in the proceedings connected with the operations of the Irrigation Company, was not intended to cast the slightest reflection on his work, but as he had himself stated that "he could not be certain that the whole of the land in any one village had been surveyed," they felt that it would not be just to him to pronounce an opinion hastily, which subsequent trial might not prove to be correct.

12. The Board regret that the heavy press of urgent work connected with the *Income tax* and Stamp Acts, has caused greater delay in the disposal of this subject than would otherwise have occurred.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To J. D. Bourdillon, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to J. I. Minchin, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. J. Wright.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Public.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Submitting with observations a letter from the Acting Collector of Kurnool, forwarding a further report on the state of the Records of Mr. Bayley's Survey. } (Here enter 18th October 1860, No. 4,757.)

ORDER THEREON, 7th December 1860, No. 2,518.

1. The Governor in Council is still of opinion that it is unadvisable to transfer the Survey parties now employed in Nellore to Kurnool. Not only is a survey and re-assessment greatly needed in the former District, but operations have already commenced, and the transfer of the parties to another District would cause a serious loss of time and money.

2. The report of the Acting Collector of Kurnool shows, however, that reformatory measures are urgently required there. The Government fully appreciate the spirit which has led Mr. Minchin to offer to undertake the correction of the land measurements and the revision of the assessment in addition to his other duties, but they are satisfied that the proper remedy for the existing evils is the introduction of the regular Survey and Settlement into the District. They resolve, therefore, to instruct the Director of Revenue Settlement to arrange with Captain Priestley, for the immediate formation of a party to commence operations at once in that part of the District where the works of the Irrigation Company are being constructed. The great plains in the central part of the District where the measurements are said to be more correct and to which the Irrigation Company's channels will not extend, can be undertaken afterwards.

3. It occurs to the Government that the Director might with advantage avail himself on this occasion of the offer recently made by Captain Anderson of Surveyors, &c., from the Bombay Survey, and also obtain men from the Madras Sappers and Miners, of whose qualifications the Government have received favorable accounts. By these means and drafts from the existing establishments, there should be little difficulty in organizing a party to commence operations in Kurnool, and the Governor in Council requests that no time may be lost in doing so.

(True Extract.)

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Revenue Settlement.
" Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
" Board of Revenue.
" Collector of Kurnool.
" Inám Commissioner.
" Revenue Department.

Exb. S. T. Augustin.

S.W.D. 7th Decr 60 No 2518

Revenue 1860 Dept.
Proc: of Govt for December.

No 2875

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in the
Public Works Depart.

Dated 7th
Recd 8th } Decr 1860.

Decline to transfer the Survey Parties now employed in Nellore to Kurnool, and direct the organization of a party to commence operations at the latter place -

No 297 & 298

No 2635

Recorded
18th Decr S.W.D.