M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 832 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

36-37

Dated 23-5- 180 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of May 1860.

No. 36. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootakamund, 3rd April 1860, No. 9:—

1. With reference to several conferences when His Excellency the Governor was lately in this District, on the subject, I would beg as definite and early orders as practicable, on the question as to whether *all Government waste* land applied for, should not be *sold* at auction, whether on the Hills, or in the Plains; as the fairest mode to all parties, the best practical test of its value, and the most likely method to throw it into the hands of substantial purchasers, most likely to improve it, and employ the capital they invest in its purchase.

2. I have submitted this question several times to the Board in my letters of 18th August 1857, No. 135, 21st June, 25th August and 29th September 1859, Nos. 105, 162 and 183, but have got no orders upon it; and applications in several quarters are now lying in abeyance, pending such decision.

3. There are here no "Mirási" rights to be invaded by such sale, and it appears to me, under the Ráiyatwárí, (which claims the waste as Government's legitimate and valuable resource for public purposes), that such sale is unobjectionable and would also best satisfy all parties.

4. Where valuable waste land is sought, a large sum would often be realized where ordinary village grass or other lands were applied for, there would be little competition, and the land would go to the first applicant, as now, the sale and purchase is chiefly valuable, as inducing and fixing private property and investment of capital; and the eagerness of many to purchase, shows *their* trust in its value and sacredness—if there were any existing doubt of the safety of such purchases, there would be few competitors, whereas there are now, here, many.

5. To show the abuse liable under the present system of *giving* waste on mere application, I will adduce only three of many instances. An old Tank was condemned by the Engineers, about 5 years ago, as not worth preserving or repairing: its bed, of about 18 cawnies area, was at once applied for, by several Bráhmans, *recommended* by the Tahsíldár. Seeing the competition, and fearing partiality, I had it put up to auction. The old Tank bed, (to which of course no one *could* have any *claim*), being a valuable deposit of silt, sold for 3,150 Rupees and has been in full cultivation, and paying full tax annually, ever since. In another instance, a Tahsíldár himself, whose position enabled him to know its value, asked leave to occupy certain waste land, for which there were no *claimants*, but many applicants; it was about to be given finally to the Tahsíldár (in the Sub-Collector's Division), when, on an appeal to me, I found, that others would *gladly* give a good sum for it, and offered to do so. It was, therefore, manifestly improper that the Tahsíldár should get it for nothing. It was accordingly, on general request, directed to be sold at auction, (to pay full Nanja tax at *once*, to Government), and will fetch, I have no doubt, a good sum. In a third instance some old waste land, not above $2\frac{1}{2}$ cawnies, sold for Rs. 4,568.

6. In every Raiyatwárí District, where no Mirási claims exist, (even shadowy ones as they often are), a sale at open auction, of all bonâ fide Government land applied for, should be, it seems to me, *the rule*; allowing exceptions where necessary and just.

7. I have had a good many applications, at different times, from various substantial Raiyats, wishing to avoid the partialities and intrigues of the public servants, to put up to open sale, various waste jungle lands applied for by them; such lands being too often given to relatives or *friends* of the Táluq officials, who best know their value, and too often a propriate such, through their dependants, without its coming to official knowledge.

8. The *purchaser* of land acquires rights that are indefeasible, and invests interests that will not readily cease; and when *general* redemption of the land tax is allowed, (as doubtless it will be eventually,) then all such creations of private right and property, will be doubly valuable. The objections apply, to Mirási right where really existing, and not to Raiyatwárí Districts and immemorial waste, the undoubted property and resource of Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of May 1860.

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1860, No. 832.

1. The Board of Revenue will be requested to report at an early date on the proposition contained in this letter, after consulting if they think fit the more experienced of the Collectors.

2. It appears to Government that where there are no Mirási or other preferential rights, the course proposed by Mr. Thomas is very expedient and proper, for the reasons stated in the letter.

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

Rev: 1860 No 6
No 832
Proc: of Govt
Dated 23rd May 1860.

№832

The Board of Revenue will be requested to report at an early date on the proposition contained in this letter, after consulting if they think fit the more experienced of the Collectors.

2 It appears to Govt that where there are no miràsi or other preferential rights, the course proposed by Mr Thomas is very expedient and proper, for the reasons stated in the letter.

W. M.

1 Copies to Bd of Rev
1 — Coll of Coimbatore

Fort St. Geo.
23d May 1860

Copy mal Letter Sent
19 October 1860 №116.

13-5-90

16-11-97
2/4/60

№36 & 37.

4th May R11

1860 Rev Department
Rec'd 30th May
№839

The Collector
of Coimbatore

To
The Secretary to Govt
Fort St. George

Dated 3d April 1860.
Rec'd 11th

№9.

Requesting early orders as to whether all Government waste land applied for shall not be sold at auction, whether on the Hills or in the plains.

Further Proc: 7th Sept 1860
№21-172

With an order

№837 23d May