Gr-o. 2086 Rev

1- 11- 1861.

No. 1. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th September 1861, No. 5,005:—

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Calicut, 3rd August 1861, No. 173:—

SIR,

1. I have received the Government Order, No. 1,431, dated 24th August 1860, calling for information regarding the system now pursued in the assessment of Kumeri or Ponom cultivation in Malabar.

2. So much has already, I am aware, been written about Kumeri cultivation in Canara, that it is unnecessary to enter into any detailed explanation of the labor to be undergone ere the jungle is felled and the land prepared for the seed. The circumstances attending a jungle life in Canara and Malabar must be pretty much alike. Its leading features are, hardship and disease; for few men, I have long observed, who are in the habit of passing much time in the jungles—even those who are born in and pass their lives in them—escape fever to a greater or less degree. To be tempted, therefore, to engage in Kumeri cultivation, a man must naturally look for a good return for his labor, or his necessities must be great to lead him to engage in it. It is not to be forgotten that after the crop has been grown, reaped and thrashed, it has to be conveyed from the Hill side on which it has been raised to the owner's house, and marked, on the backs of men and women, a fact which greatly reduces the profits.

3. The measure used in the following computation is the parah containing 20 Madras measures, or ten mercal.

4. Kumeri cultivation is carried on in seven Táluqs, but in three only to any extent.

5. The following statement g
and its average assessment for the la

Táluqs.	Fasli 1266.		Fasli 1267.		Fasli 1268.		Fasli 1269.		Average 1 in 4.	
	Acre.	Demand.	Acre.	Demand.	Acre.	Demand.	Acre.	Demand.	Acre.	Demand.
3. Kottiyam.....	8,473	5,341 14 5	7,861	4,715 15 7	7 2	6,398 2 2	7	4,454	7,747	5,373 14 5
4. Kartenad.....	1,954	1,469 10 5	1,751	1,329 7 6	3 2	1,476 2 2	3	1,204	1,615	1,547 3 4
5. Kurumbranad.....	965	481 8 0	851	457 7 5	3 2	856	3	408	795	416 9 0
6. Calicut.....	315	187 4 7	317	179 7 8	3	370	6	230	429	96 0 10
7. Ernad.....	860	519 9 10	894	507 15 2	3	646	3	561	1,038	585 13 6
	25,158	16,178 10 7	23,776	15,109 0 9	20,203	12,928 12 10	14,751	7 3	23,797	16,577 5 2

as to the extent of this kind of cultivation

| | | |

accuracy of the account, he probab
same to the Táluq. The personal e
a minority of cases. The Officer
he hears of the state of the season
said official a visit; and as much n
come empty handed. Once the se
who have come best off, immediate
or check impossible.

9. The above description of
not, it is believed, far from the tr
facilities for fraud are very great.
sary to impose a uniform rate of as
found on examination not to have
ing Government.

10. The means of checking a
only be necessary in doubtful cases
lands compared with the entries i
signify.

11. From the representation
great destruction of fine timber in
necessary to enable the Hill culti
of curtailing this description of cul
this can be done in Malabar wher
assessment on Hill cultivation.
in the case of land on which cerea
be adopted were Coffee is produc
so far as the destruction of fine ti
timber caused by formation of
cultivation. The late manager of
by Hill cultivation; but it is noto
by the furnace of the said works
cultivation is followed on the hig
through the jungles, and who are
than it really is. Undoubtedly
land, but it is to be remembered
stands, it is worthless, as it cann
Malabar, that there is little chanc
being burnt.

12. For a number of years
of duty on all Teak under 8 inch
this description was allowed to
Government this timber is being
disappear altogether. An enactm
valuable kinds would, I believe,

13. I shall now proceed to
Ellu or paddy and oil seed grown
to be recollected that the portion
sea consists of a series of low lyi
the rice cultivation, properly so
them, consist of a laterite format
looked on as one of the marked

14. The area of cultivation
to the fact that they are unfit for
in three years only), are during t
be left to the undisputed possess
of rain in this province enables t
The return of course depends o
especially when the ear is filling
at times it is not worth cutting,
is so precarious that it is not e
believe that to get the people to
low a rate of assessment that the

inks is the correct amount and transmits the
crops by the Táluq servants is made only in
s his estimate of the crop from the account
ed in the inspection of their crops pay the
humour he is in, few it may be presumed
out-turn of the crop has been come to, those
thereby render any further examination

d with reference to the Hill cultivation, is
is apparent that under such a system, the
this to any great extent, it is simply neces-
acre and a double or treble rate on all land
count with the obvious intention of defraud-

proposed system are considerable, for it will
t and have the actual areas of the cultivated
fact that the crop has been reaped will not

nent, by the Conservator of Forests, of the
, especially in Canara, caused by the fellings
l out, great stress is laid on the expediency
s possible. Of course the only way in which
e property, is by fixing a prohibitory rate of
a course is doubtful, and, if had recourse to
ld, for the sake of consistency, required to
products stand exactly in the same category
In a very few years, the destruction of fine
s, will far exceed that consequent on Hill
works remarked on the destruction of timber
tity of hard timber which has been consumed
harcoal is very very great. As a rule, Hill
always attracts the attention of those who go
lieve that the destruction of timber is greater
destroyed in opening out and preparing the
e and the nature of the ground in which it
y. So valuable has timber now become in
will stand carriage in a money point of view

t is allowed) obtained of exacting a high rate
e result was that much fine young timber of
the abolition of the practice under orders of
ce of the country, and in a few years will
anced export duty on small timber of the mor
n by all the Malabar landlords.

n of the upland cultivation called Modan an
To understand what the uplands are it has only
ich lies between the foot of the ghâts, and th
s separated from each other by flats in whic
n. These hillocks, or uplands as we shall call
e rock crops out in all directions, and may be,
istics of Malabar.

is still small, and is in a great measure owing
ose portions which are cultivated (and that once
ly as hard as stone, and would if in the Carnatic
nd antelope; but the great and continuous fall
h and raise a crop of paddy or oil seed on them.
stances chiefly in the fall of rain, if this fails
od forming, it is very small, so much so, that,
allowed to graze it. This kind of cultivation
ople's Pattas. Previous Collectors have felt I
permanently, it would be necessary to fix so
e action in the matter.

15. In the following table the aggregate cultivation and assessment and the average rate of the latter per acre are given:—

Táluqs.	Fasli 1269. Acre.	Fasli 1269. Demand.	Fasli 1267. Acre.	Fasli 1267. Demand.	Fasli 1266. Acre.	Fasli 1266. Demand.	Average 1 in 4. Acre.	Average 1 in 4. Demand.	Fasli 1268 Acre.	Fasli 1268 Demand.	Average demand for the whole District per acre.
		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	A. P.
Modan.											
1. Kavai	1,545	1,806 5 3	1,618	1,712 2 1	1,748	1,774 13 11	947	515 3 7	1,630	1,725 15 11	
2. Cherikal	1,874	1,509 14 7	2,292	1,881 1 7	2,620	2,386 6 7	389	176 9 0	2,465	1,605 11 2	
3. Kotiyam	444	511 2 6	556	625 7 0	622	686 13 11	180	135 5 2	505	522 15 0	
4. Kartenad	584	736 5 7	655	732 6 8	665	721 14 7	366	257 0 6	541	578 9 1	
5. Kurumbranad ...	1,928	1,761 15 2	2,293	2,012 13 3	2,258	1,956 12 8	1,592	1,064 15 4	1,971	1,560 4 9	
6. Calicut	2,490	1,595 7 0	2,827	2,105 13 3	2,961	2,248 7 3	1,194	1,084 1 5	2,713	1,907 7 9	
7. Ernad	4,781	3,696 8 8	5,366	4,342 0 3	5,804	4,930 1 11	3,095	1,809 2 1	5,618	4,562 15 0	
8. Shernad	3,022	1,894 10 7	3,519	2,402 14 0	3,613	2,464 1 9	2,235	882 6 2	3,654	2,426 12 3	
9. Betutnad	2,159	1,320 7 1	2,489	1,424 6 8	2,672	1,489 9 1	1,490	702 9 5	2,576	1,475 15 0	
10. Kutnad	2,063	1,275 12 6	2,530	1,612 14 6	2,743	1,815 5 8	1,153	504 14 10	2,458	1,490 0 9	
11. Chevakad	92	75 8 3	90	72 4 0	90	70 7 5	211	70 10 10	85	74 8 0	
12. Nedinganad ...	7,044	3,309 9 7	8,730	4,331 4 6	9,710	5,250 8 8	6,773	2,746 6 6	8,815	3,900 15 5	
13. Walluwanad ...	7,319	5,866 0 0	8,665	6,757 12 0	9,398	7,110 14 8	6,348	4,369 15 5	7,897	6,250 5 0	
14. Palghat	3,040	1,859 14 2	3,760	1,881 12 4	3,175	1,817 12 10	2,705	887 14 11	3,275	2,014 5 9	
15. Temelpuram ...	2,361	1,499 6 9	2,298	1,497 13 6	2,299	1,569 9 6	2,783	1,875 13 4	2,620	1,601 15 7	
Total...	40,546	28,718 15 8	47,088	33,392 13 5	50,378	36,293 12 5	31,266	15,854 4 10	46,823	31,698 12 5	8 4 2
Ellu.											
1. Kavai	684	369 0 0	947	515 3 7	906	503 13 3	1 2	618 1 2	983	618 1 2	
2. Cherikal	241	114 5 4	389	176 9 0	412	186 4 2	2 6	161 2 6	285	161 2 6	
3. Kotiyam	119	108 1 9	180	135 5 2	189	163 2 9	6 0	137 6 0	167	137 6 0	
4. Kartenad	318	231 2 0	366	257 0 6	408	272 6 3	2 2	325 2 2	360	325 2 2	
5. Kurumbranad ...	1,624	1,005 6 4	1,592	1,064 15 4	2,023	1,173 8 11	7 4	1,014 7 4	1,539	1,014 7 4	
6. Calicut	1,813	874 2 9	2,194	1,084 1 5	2,651	1,407 3 10	15 3	1,094 15 3	2,268	1,094 15 3	
7. Ernad	2,581	1,594 1 0	3,095	1,809 2 1	3,793	2,226 1 3	12 10	2,073 12 10	3,280	2,073 12 10	
8. Shernad	1,903	748 12 2	2,235	882 6 2	2,416	976 14 5	13 3	907 13 3	2,173	907 13 3	
9. Betutnad	1,542	803 13 10	1,490	702 9 5	1,583	713 14 10	10 9	752 10 9	1,417	752 10 9	
10. Kutnad	1,147	488 4 3	1,153	504 14 10	1,059	485 5 10	0 7	522 0 7	1,143	522 0 7	
11. Chevakad	141	50 4 11	211	70 10 10	185	54 11 8	7 4	135 7 4	367	135 7 4	
12. Nedinganad ...	6,317	2,333 2 10	6,773	2,746 6 6	7,642	3,350 8 6	6 11	2,462 6 11	5,990	2,462 6 11	
13. Walluwanad ...	6,348	4,369 15 5	5,989	3,819 14 6	6,032	3,189 9 7	11 9	3,320 11 9	6,300	5,320 11 9	
14. Palghat	2,705	887 14 11	2,512	933 0 10	2,184	845 1 0	2 10	988 2 10	2,320	988 2 10	
15. Temelpuram ...	3,783	1,875 13 4	3,859	2,095 7 2	3,268	1,979 1 0	5 3	2,222 5 3	3,943	2,222 5 3	
Total...	31,266	15,854 4 10	32,985	16,797 11 4	34,751	17,527 11 3	9 11	18,736 9 11	32,535	18,736 9 11	8 2
Total...	33,390	15,072 3 8	34,751	17,527 11 3	34,751	17,527 11 3	9 11	18,736 9 11	32,535	18,736 9 11	8 2

16. The average assessment on
and the rates that are now proposed
per acre, which will yield an increas
of Rupees 1,756.

17. The following Statements
quantity of seed required per acre,
tenant, the landlord, and Governme
ment at the commutation price :—

espectively is Annas 11-4 and Annas 8-2,
n Modan 12 Annas and on Ellu 9 Annas
on the former, and on the latter an increase

n for the Hill cultivation show the average
e rates of its apportionment between the
nd the value of the latter, and the assess-

Táluqs.	For 1 acre of land.		Expenses out of column 3.						Total.		Average for the whole District.	
	Seeds.		Produce or crops.		Cultivation expense.		Revenue.		Jenmabhogum (Proprietor's share).			
1	2		3		4		5		6		7	
	P.	E.	P.	E.	P.	E.	P.	E.	P.	E.	P.	E.
Modan.												
1. Kavai	6	0	24	3¾	12	...	4	8¾	4	8¾	21	7 1/16
2. Cherikal	5	8 1/16	18	4 1/16	11	7	3	6 7/8	1	8 1/16	17	2 1/16
3. Kottiyam ...	5	3/4 3/16	23	3/8	10	1 1/2	4	6	2	9	17	6 1/16
4. Kartenad	5	9 5/16	21	6 3/4	11	9 1/4	4	3 1/4	4	3 1/4	20	5 1/4
5. Kurumbranad...	7	5/8	17	7 1/2	14	1 1/4	3	5 1/2	1	3 1/4	19	4 1/2
6. Calicut	6	9	18	11	13	8	3	6 1/2	1	3 1/4	18	7 3/4
14. Palghat	6	5 1/4	20	5	13	4	4	1/2	3	3/4	21	1 1/4
15. Temelpuram ...	6	7	22	3/4	13	4	4	4 1/2	3	3/4	21	2 1/4
Ellu.												
1. Kavai	...	3/4 3/4	4	3 1/4	...	4 1/4	8 5/8		2	8 5/8	2	1 1/16
2. Cherikal	...	1 1/16 1/4	3	3/4	...	6 1/4	6 7/16		1	3	1	5 7/16
3. Kottiyam	1	1/16 1/4	4	8	1	9	9 5/16		3	6	3	4 5/8
4. Kartenad	1	1/16 1/4	4	7	1	9	9 3/4		3	9 1/16	3	7 1/16
5. Kurumbranad ..	1	1/16 1/4	5	5 3/8	1	6 1/2	1		3	5 1/2	3	1 3/16
6. Calicut	1	1/16 1/4	4	5 1/2	1	3 1/2	1	9 1/16	2	4 1/2	2	1 3/16
7. Ernad	1	1/16 1/4	5	5 1/2	...	8 1/4	1	7 3/4	2	5 1/4	2	1 3/16
8. Shernad	1	1/16 1/4	4	6 7/16	1	4	...	9 1/4	2	3 3/4	2	1 3/16
9. Betutnad	1	1/16 1/4	5	6 1/4	1	6 3/4	...	7 9/16	2	5 1/2	2	1 3/16
10. Kutnad	1	1/16 1/4	3	8	...	3	...	4 1/2	1	3 1/2	1	0
11. Chevakad	1	1/16 1/4	2	2 1/2	...	6 1/4	...	7 3/16	1	7 3/4	1	1 3/16
12. Nedinganad ...	1	1/16 1/4	3	9 5/16	1	1 1/2	...	2 3/4	2	7 1/4	2	1 3/16
13. Wallawanad ...	1	1/16 1/4	6	3 3/4	1	9	1	...	3	6 1/4	3	1 3/16
14. Palghat	1	1/16 1/4	3	8 1/4	1	1 1/2	...	7 9/16	2	7 1/4	2	1 3/16
15. Temelpuram ...	1	1/16 1/4	4	9	1	4 1/2	...	9 3/4	3	7 1/16	3	1 3/16

18. It will be observed the in each Táluq there is a difference in the rates at which the Government assessment and landlord's shares are paid, in fact this difference exists in each Parish and Deshom (a sub-division of a Parish) and depends on circumstances, chiefly the productive nature of the soil of the respective localities. The settlement of these points took place years ago, and no one now can tell exactly on what data it was arrived at.

19. In the column exhibiting the Ryots' net profits, there are no entires for some of the Táluqs in the Modan statement. This results from the very low estimates made of the return of produce on inspection of the lands, and is of course fallacious, for no one would cultivate land which would yield no return. The statement is drawn up from the imperfect accounts available to exhibit the system prevailing.

20. The examination of the Modan and Ellu is similar to that followed in the case of the hill cultivation, namely, inspection of the crops, and on that, the determination of the number of fold yielded, which is then assessed. Of course the objections which hold good in the case of hill cultivation, are equally applicable to Modan and Ellu cultivation, with the expection that the latter crops are more easily inspected and the supervision of the officials who examine them is attended with less difficulty.

21. One great advantage of the proposed uniform rate of assessment on the acre for each kind of cultivation will be the saving in time and trouble in the preparation of useless and really fallacious accounts. An acreage account will be all that will in future be required, that is an account of the number of acres cultivated by each man. Another advantage will be that we shall be able to dispense with the extra establishment entertained annully for the examination of these crops, and for which an annual sanction amounting on an average to Rupees 503-13-8 is granted.

22. At present the crops are divided into 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes, which at the commutation rates, show different rates of assessment per acre.

	Present rates per acre.			Proposed rates.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
PONOM.												
1st sort.....	0	12	5	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
2nd sort.....	0	9	3				0	0	0	0	1	3
3rd sort.....	0	6	7½				0	1	4½	0	0	0
MODAN.												
1st sort.....	1	1	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
2nd sort.....	0	12	6				0	0	0	0	0	6
3rd sort.....	0	8	3				0	3	9	0	0	0
OIL SEED.												
1st sort.....	0	14	7	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	5	7
2nd sort.....	0	10	2¾				0	0	0	0	1	2¾
3rd sort.....	0	5	10				0	3	2	0	0	0

23. The marginal Statement exhibits the existing and proposed rates, with their increase and decrease.

24. The following Statement refers to the three kinds of cultivation, and shows the total average cultivation of each in the province for the last four years, the assessment on each at the average proposed rates of assessment, and the increase and decrease.

	Average extent of acres cultivated in a year.				Revenue as per the proposed rates of assessment on the extent in column 1.			Comparison between columns 2 and 3.					
	Acres.	Revenue realized.						Increase.			Decrease.		
	1	2			3			4			5		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Ponom	23,776	15,109	0	9	11,888	0	0	0	0	0	3,221	0	9
Modam	47,087	33,392	13	5	35,315	4	0	1,922	6	7	0	0	0
Ellu	32,985	16,797	11	4	18,554	1	0	1,756	5	8	0	0	0
Total...	...	65,299	9	6	65,757	5	0	3,678	12	3	3,221	0	9
Deduct decrease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,221	0	9	...	...	...
Net Increase...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	457	11	6	...	...	...

25. The gross increase in the whol
rates is Rupees 457-11-6. To this
Rupees 503-13-8, yielding a total of Rupe
trouble to the public establishments, and
in favor of the uniform rates is much stre
tion of the system would soon be followe

First, because it is probable that all
second, because the people knowing t
demanded from them would soon endeav
which, under the present system, wo
ment effected.

Modan and Ellu.

tion a
most desirable thing would of course be
they will not do except at a very low rat
only once in three years. Now suppose
only stand a fixed annual assessment of 4
conversed on the subject, landlords and r
ranging from 4 to 6 Annas inclusive. A
be equivalent to a rate of Rupee 1-2 on t
whether if made to them, the Ryots wou
tenure at the rate of 6 Annas per acre.
the uplands, and are afraid of the season
attended with difficulties. For the Ryo
latter is in an unsettled state, as regards
holding. In time no doubt difficulties w
pemanent tenure. The system might be
attempt, for so long as people cultivate
three little will be attempted in the way

27. I do hope that what has been
ment, for I feel convinced that its adop
increase of the revenue.

28. The receipt of early orders w
season as the inspection of the uplands is

1. Ordered that the above letter

In Cons., 27th August 1860, and 11th April 1861, Nos. 4,230 and 2,229.

Proc
Depa

2. Mr. Grant notices three subjec

First. The Ponom cultivation corr

Second. The question of the timbe

Third. The upland cultivation des
are grown, and corresponding with the i

ng from the adoption of the proposed
the cost of Extra Establishment
o this be added the saving in time and
demoralizing system, the argument
however, believed that the introduc-
increase of revenue.

ed would be brought to account; and
moderate assessment only would be
ess profitable lands near their house
opotion to the amount of improve-

f these uplands has engaged my atten-
ny first arrival in the Province. The
o take them up permanently, but this
r the lands can as a rule be cultivated
fixed at 12 Annas for Modan, it will
Most of the people with whom I have
ublic servants, have all fixed on rates
Government would profit, as it would
ting cultivation. It may be doubted
of the offer of the land on permanent
naccustomed to the system as regards
les this the question of tenant right is
pay the tax but the rent, and this
n taken on the terms of a permanent
, and the land would be taken up on
l be glad if Government sanction the
on, and then throw it up for two or

pproved of by the Board and Govern-
the prosperity of the people and an

bring the system into operation this

Government, with reference to their
th August 1860, No. 1,431, Revenue
April 1861, No. 803.

e Kumerí of Canara.

arket.

Ellu, according as Paddy or oil seed
ltivation of Canara.

3. The extent of Ponom cultivation during the four years Fasli 1266 to Fasli 1269, ranged from acres 20,000 to 26,000, of which about one-half occurred in the Kavai Táluq adjoining South Canara.

4. The average Government demand on the whole was Rupee 0-10-2 per acre at the commutation rate of the Government share of the produce. It ranged from Rupee 0-8-5 to Rupee 0-12-2 in the different Táluqs, but when comparing these rates with that of Rupee 1-0-0 per acre recently introduced into Canara, it must be borne in mind that in Malabar the "Jenmabogum" is claimed by the Proprietor of the Forest from the cultivator in addition to the Government revenue demand, and thus the tax on the Ponom cultivators' profits, under the existing system in Malabar, is really higher than that on Sirkar Kumerí in Canara, and probably to the full as high as it is on the Wurgdar Kumerí.

5. Mr. Grant brings prominently to notice the many evils inherent in the system of sharing the crop, involving the employment of temporary establishment for the nominal examination of the cultivation which, however, is useless for the intended purpose, though powerful as a means of extortion, and destitute of any means of check, as with the removal of the crop vanish also the data on which to calculate the Government share.

6. He proposes to substitute for this sharing system, an uniform tax on the area of cultivation at Annas 8 per acre, with double or treble rates on all land fraudulently not brought to account, which rate in addition to the Jenmabogum will place the Ponom cultivation of Malabar and the Kumerí of Canara on about the same footing.

7. At the average recorded cultivation and revenue, the adoption of this rate would apparently result in a loss of some Rupees 3,000 per annum, but this is not likely to be really the result, as the moderation of the rate and the facilities afforded by the system for ascertaining with more correctness the area of cultivation than was possible under the old system in respect to the amount of the crop, will doubtless have the effect of bringing to account a larger proportion of the dues of Government. There will also be gained the indirect but important advantage derived from the abolition of the extra establishment annually entertained for the examination of the crops, and all the demoralizing effects that followed in its train.

Acres.	RS.
23,776...	15,109

on the average of four years.

8. The Board strongly recommend the adoption of the Collector's proposal.

9. The upland cultivation referred to by Mr. Grant is carried on under most disadvantageous circumstances on the laterite ridges running down from the ghâts to the sea, in the valleys between which lie the beds of the streams and the rich low alluvial deposits forming the great rice fields of the western coast. The uplands have in the course of time been almost entirely denuded of vegetable soil, and the stony refuse would not yield the scantiest return to the cultivator were it not for the heavy and continuous fall of rain in the south west monsoon. The area of cultivation is at best but limited, and the poverty of the soil requires a two years' rest between each crop.

10. On a four years' average, the total Modan and Ellu cultivation was about acres 80,000, assessed on the commutation of the Government share at Rupees 50,000, or an average of Rupee 0-11-4 per acre for the Modan, or Paddy cultivation, and Rupee 0-8-2 for the Ellu or oil seed crop.

	Acres.	Average. RS.	A.	P.
Modan.....	47,088	33,392	11	4
Ellu.....	32,985	16,797	8	2

11. The cultivation is so precari… …ven entered in the Pattas, and the sharing system between Government, th… …d, and the Cultivator prevails, as in the case of the Ponom, with all its concomitant disadvantages and evils.

12. Mr. Grant proposes to do away with this system in regard to the Government demand, and to substitute a fixed rate of Annas 12 per acre for Modan, and Annas 9 per acre on Ellu, which will result in an increase that will more than counterbalance the decrease on the Ponom, and yet will from the fixed character of the demand hold out sufficient inducement to the cultivators to improve those lands lying in the more immediate neighbourhood of their residences, and perhaps in time to occupy permanently such portions as may be of a comparatively superior quality. Time, expense, and worrying interference will be saved by the adoption of the scheme, in addition to the more direct advantages, and Mr. Grant is sanguine that the results will be eminently beneficial to the people and the State.

13. On the understanding that the land is classed once for all as Modan or Ellu according as it is suited for Paddy or oil seeds, the Board recommend the Collector's proposal for adoption.

	Four years' average cultivation and assessment. Acres.	Rs.	Assessment at proposed rates. Rs.
Ponom	23,776	15,109	11,888
Modan	47,087	33,393	35,315
Ellu	32,985	16,797	18,554
Total ..		65,299	65,757

Difference, Rupees 458 including fractions.

14. The result of Mr. Grant's proposals will be a net increase of Rupees 458, on a four years' average of cultivation and commuted grain assessment, on the Ponom, Modan and Ellu cultivation of the District as shown in the margin. The Board have no doubt that the actual results will be much more favorable, and they request early sanction for the adoption of the scheme.

15. On the timber question raised by the Collector in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the above letter there is not need to say much. The proprietary right of the people in the Forests having been very generally admitted in Malabar, the remedy for excessive felling, or for the destruction of undersized timber can only be applied by the Legislature.

16. The prohibition on the export of undersized logs which was in force for some years was altogether illegal under the circumstances, and could not be maintained after it became subject of complaint. The Board are in hopes that a sense of their own interests will, before it is too late, induce the landholders concerned to take steps for the preservation of so important a source of profit to themselves, and if they are in favor of a differential duty on undersized timber of the more valuable kinds, in view to checking its destruction, there seems to be no objection to its imposition as the tax will fall on the consumer, and may it is to be hoped tend to limit the consumption.

17. The Board beg to recommend the subject to the consideration of Government. There can be no question of its importance not only in connection with the future supply to the timber market, but also with respect to the rain-fall of the country, and the guarding of the springs from excessive evaporation.

(A true Extract.)

…ed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 2. ORDER THERE… …1861, No. 2,086.

1. With these Proceedings th… …e submit a report from the Collector of Malabar, and state their own views … …ltivation of Malabar, as required in the

order of Government, dated 24th August 1860, No. 1,431. They also notice two other subjects brought forward by the Collector, viz., the "upland" cultivation of the District, and the prejudicial felling of teak saplings.

2. The "Ponom" cultivation of Malabar is identical with the "Kumery" of Canara. The Forests of Malabar are, however, for the most part, private property; the State is only entitled to its assessment, or commuted value of its share of the produce, and cannot prevent the cultivation as has been done in the greater portion of Canara. The extent of Ponom cultivation during the four years 1856-57 to 1859-60* has averaged 23,776 acres, paying an assessment of Rupees 15,109, or about 10 annas per acre. Fully one half of this extent of cultivation occurs in the Táluq of Kavai, which adjoins the Bekul Táluq of South Canara, while 7,861 acres are so cultivated in Kottiyam. Thus, it is only in two Táluqs that this kind of cultivation is at all extensive.

* Faslis 1266 to 1269.

3. There is no fixed assessment on Ponom: the crops, when ripe, are inspected by the Government Officers, who, determine the quantity of seed sown and the produce yielded. The latter is then divided into shares between the Landlord, Tenant, and Government; and the value of the share of Government at the commutation rate constitutes the Government assessment. The evils of such a mode of settlement are self-evident. The remedy proposed by the Collector is an uniform assessment, with a penalty of double or treble the rate for concealed cultivation. The rate proposed by the Collector and the Board is 8 annas per acre, or 2 annas and 2 pice less than the District average on Ponom cultivation. As already remarked, however, the bulk of the cultivation is in the Kavai Táluq, and the average there is 10 annas 6 pice. In the Kottiyam Táluq, where the cultivation is also very large, the average is 9 annas 7 pice. In Kartenád the average is 12 annas 2 pice; and the lowest average is 8 annas 5 pice. The Collector's rate, therefore, is less than that now paid in every Táluq. The maximum and minimum rates are not given by the Collector.

4. The substitution of an uniform assessment will undoubtedly be a great improvement; and the only question for consideration is its rate. The cultivator's net profit, as stated by the Collector, varies from Rupees 1-13-2 to Rupees 2-10-4; but little reliance can be placed on such calculations. In Canara, the Collector estimated the profits at 3 Rupees per acre, while the assistant Conservator of Forests calculated it to be 9¼ Rupees.† The object now in view is not to encourage this desultory mode of cultivation, which is ruinous to the Forests, but to introduce a better mode, of settling the Government assessment, and no particular reason is alleged for reducing the assessment to any material extent for the sake of having one uniform rate throughout the District. The Malabar assessments are all known to be light, and the commutation rates are now low. The present rates ought, therefore, to be followed more closely; and the Government propose 12 annas in Kartenád, 10 annas in Kavai and Kottiyam, and 8 annas in the other Táluqs. These rates approximate nearly to the existing ones, and follow the ratio of profit in each Táluq to a certain extent. Neither the Board nor the Collector specially notice Ponom cultivation in Government Forests. These are not numerous, but in them Ponom cultivation will not be allowed without the previous permission of the Collector, who will bear in mind the desire of the Home Government, as communicated in paragraph 4 of Despatch, dated 28th February 1861, No. 11, that this practice should yield to a better kind of cultivation, and that the Officers of Government should discourage by all legitimate means, even in private Forests, a practice which is opposed to the best interests of the people.

† *Vide* paragraph 13 of Dr. Cleghorn's letter, 17th August 1859, No. 755.

5. The "upland" cultivation is termed "Modan" or "Ellu," according as the crop raised is paddy or oil seed. The uplands are the low lying hills intervening between the ghâts and

the sea. They are of laterite formation; the soil is extremely poor, and the cultivation is necessarily expensive and precarious. The assessment is fixed in the same way as on the Ponom cultivation, and an extra Establishment is yearly sanctioned at an expense of Rupees 504 per annum for the examination of the crops.

6. The average extent of cultivation is about 80,000 acres, and the Revenue 50,000 Rupees. The average assessment is for "Modan" or Paddy, 11¼ annas, and for "Ellu" or oil seed, 8⅛ annas. The same course is proposed by the Collector for this as for the Ponom, viz., a fixed assessment of 12 annas per acre for "Modan" and 9 annas for "Ellu." The Board support this recommendation, with the proviso that the land shall be classed permanently either as "Modan" or "Ellu." The Government approve of the proposed rates but without the proviso stipulated by the Board. On all settled cultivation it is quite right that the assessment should be fixed permanently, and on the land, instead of on the *crop*. But this upland cultivation is extra and occasional; the land, cannot bear continuous culture and must be waste two years out of three. The best way to deal with such exceptional circumstances is to levy 12 annas per acre when paddy is grown, and 9 annas for oil seed, in conformity with the practice heretofore. The Board's proviso would lead to two unfavourable results; First, on that land where oil seed happens to be grown at present, the higher assessment for Paddy would if hereafter raised be lost; Second, on that land where Paddy happens now to be sown, an oil seed crop could only be raised hereafter under a heavy penalty.

7. The upland cultivation is said to be so very precarious that it is not even entered in the people's puttahs; but the Collector suggests that the permanent occupation of the land should be encouraged by charging one-third of the proposed assessment yearly, on condition of its being paid in every year whether the land be cultivated or not. The Board do not notice this subject, but it is worthy of consideration. Where the proprietor of land of this description is willing to have it entered in his puttah and pay yearly for it, the Collector should be authorized to compound with him by fixing an assessment of 6 annas per acre. But caution is necessary: the cultivators seem from Mr. Grant's letter to be not proprietors, but subtenants paying *rent to a landlord* as well as the tax to Government, and in poor circumstances. To give puttahs to such people may lead to embarrassment, and it will be difficult to realise the compounded assessment when the land is not cultivated, and the tenant refuses or fails to pay it, for the land cannot be sold, without trenching on the rights of the proprietor.

8. As regards the felling of Teak saplings, it needs scarcely be remarked that legislation for the preservation of private forests requires much consideration. The forests of Malabar are private property: and if the owners prefer present to future profit, and cut down young trees instead of leaving them to reach maturity, the fault is their own, and they must bear the loss resulting from their shortsightedness. It must also be borne in mind that, if the Law interferes to prevent a person from cutting down his own trees whenever his interests in his own judgment prompt him to do so, the necessary result is the discouragement of planting. People generally will not invest capital in ways which place it beyond their own control; and few, under such a law, would plant trees from which they could not hope to derive any pecuniary benefit during their lives. A differential export duty, as proposed by the Board, would only affect the foreign consumption and would leave the home demand unaffected. The latter is perhaps small; but it is doubtful whether the Supreme Government would consent to such a measure as the Board propose. For the present therefore the subject must lie over. All that the Government can now do is to conserve their own ... leaving the preservation of private forests like other private property to the ... n of their personal interests.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

5-12-90 ✓

6-4-93

8-7-93 ✓

Inlet ✓

Revenue 1861 Dep.t

Proc.s of Cour.t for Nov.r 17.th

No. 2086.

Proc.s of the Madras

Government

Dated 1.st November 61.

Proc.s of the Board of Rev.e 16 January

1862 C. No. 189 in

Board's Proceedings

on Ponoor cultivation,

Dis.t in Malabar, with

orders thereon.

No. 102.