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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2086 — Press / Mis.

1 — 2

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st November 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 gives all information as to the extent of this kind of cultivation and its average assessment for the last four years: —

Táluqs.	Fasli 1266.		Fasli 1267.		Fasli 1268.		Fasli 1269.		Average 1 in 4.		Average demand for the whole District per acre.
	Acre.	Demand.	Acre.	Demand.	Acre.	Demand.	Acre.	Demand.	Acre.	Demand.	
		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Kavai	12,196	7,942 15 9	12,882	8,400 15 7	11,974	7,810 8 1	10,293	6,961 15 8	11,836	7,779 1 9	0 10 0
2. Cherakal	395	235 11 7	304	156 12 6	199	81 13 10	164	84 0 10	266	139 9 8	
3. Kottiyam	8,473	5,341 14 5	8,827	5,373 14 5	7,747	4,454 7 2	6,398	3,693 10 6	7,861	4,715 15 7	
4. Kertenad	1,954	1,469 10 5	1,960	1,547 3 4	1,615	1,204 3 2	1,476	1,096 13 1	1,751	1,329 7 6	
5. Kurumbranad	965	481 8 0	790	416 9 0	795	408 9 3	856	523 3 7	851	457 7 5	
6. Calicut	315	187 4 7	154	96 0 10	429	230 0 6	370	204 8 11	317	179 7 8	
7. Ernad	860	519 9 10	1,032	585 13 6	1,038	561 13 3	646	364 8 3	894	507 15 2	
	25,158	16,178 10 7	25,949	16,577 5 2	23,797	14,751 7 3	20,203	12,928 12 10	23,776	15,109 0 9	0 10 0

6. There is no fixed assessment on Kumerí in this province. As soon as the crop is ready to be cut, it is inspected by the Táluq officials, who then determine the amount of seed sown, and the quantity of produce yielded. This latter is then divided into certain shares, and the Government assessment collected at a certain commutation rate.

7. A glance at the statement given below, will at once place you in possession of such information as will enable you to judge of the present state of Kumeri cultivation, viz., the average quantity of seed required per acre, the total yield, the rates of its apportionment between the tenant, the landlord, and the Government, the net return, and the value of this latter, and the assessment at the commutation price.

Táluqs.	For 1 acre of land.		Expenses out of Col. 3.				Cultivators' net profit.	Commutation price of Col. 5.	Commutation price of Col. 8.	Average for the whole District.
	Seeds.	Produce or crops.	Cultivation expense.	Revenue.	Jenmabogum (Proprietors' share.)	Total.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	P. E.	P. E.	P. E.	P. E.	P. E.	P. E.	P. E.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1. Kavai	2 5	32 5½	13 0	3 9	3 9	20 8	11 7½	0 10 6	1 15 4	
2. Cherakal	3 6¼	20 8¼	8 3¼	2 5	1 2½	12 ¾	8 7½	0 8 5	1 13 2	
3. Kottiyam	2 9¼	24 2¾	9 7	2 9½	2 5	15 1½	9 1¼	0 9 7	1 13 8	
4. Kartenad	3 1¼	27 6	11 ½	3 3¼	1 6⅝	16 ⅝	11 5⅝	0 12 2	2 10 4	
5. Kurumbranad	4 4¼	18 6	7 4¼	2 2¼	1 1⅛	10 7⅝	7 8⅜	0 8 7	1 14 7	
6. Calicut	3 9⅜	24 2½	9 7	2 9	2 4¾	15 ¾	9 1¾	0 9 1	1 13 5	
7. Ernad	3 9	28 7½	11 5	3 4½	1 7¼	16 6¾	12 ¾	0 9 1	2 0 3	0 10 [illegible]

8. The average assessment per acre, for the whole province comes to Annas 10-2, but there is considerable variation in the assessment in each Táluq; for instance 8 Annas five, and 8 Annas seven, are the rates prevailing in the Cherakal and Kurumbranad Táluqs respectively. In order to obtain a uniform rate of assessment, it will be necessary to fix it at 8 Annas per acre, which in point of fact will place the tenants in Canara and Malabar on very much the same footing. In the former District Government has fixed the assessment on Hill cultivation at Rupee 1 per acre, in the latter province when land is private property the tenant will have to pay 8 Annas to Government and sums varying from 4 to 8 Annas to the landlord, thus making his total payment Rupee one per acre in Cavay; and in other Táluqs sums ranging from 12 Annas to Rupee 1. At this rate (8 Annas per acre), there will be a loss, according to the present returns of the state of cultivation, of Rupees 3,221 to Government; but it may be pretty confidently asserted, that there is a larger breadth of land under cultivation than is actually brought to account, and that so long as the present system of valuing the crop on personal inspection by the Táluq subordinates obtains, this will be the case. It is hardly to be expected that the inhabitants of the low country will go to the more distant jungles, where few houses are to be met with and where the ordinary comforts of life do not exist, for the sake of inspecting crops and returning home with fever in their systems. The truth is, that the accounts are rendered by the Parish Adighari, who, from his personal knowledge of the cultivation and the circumstances of most of the people, is enabled to form a fairly correct estimate of the annual amount. He learns from each party what his Hill cultivation is; this statement he tests by inquiry with the man's neighbours, &c., and if he still doubts the

accuracy of the account, he probably adds what he thinks is the correct amount and transmits the same to the Táluq. The personal examination of the crops by the Táluq servants is made only in a minority of cases. The Officer sent probably forms his estimate of the crop from the account he hears of the state of the season, &c. All interested in the inspection of their crops pay the said official a visit; and as much may depend on the humour he is in, few it may be presumed come empty handed. Once the settlement as to the out-turn of the crop has been come to, those who have come best off, immediately reap them, and thereby render any further examination or check impossible.

9. The above description of the course pursued with reference to the Hill cultivation, is not, it is believed, far from the truth. Of course, it is apparent that under such a system, the facilities for fraud are very great. To put a stop to this to any great extent, it is simply necessary to impose a uniform rate of assessment on each acre and a double or treble rate on all land found on examination not to have been brought to account with the obvious intention of defrauding Government.

10. The means of checking accounts under the proposed system are considerable, for it will only be necessary in doubtful cases, to send to the spot and have the actual areas of the cultivated lands compared with the entries in the accounts; the fact that the crop has been reaped will not signify.

11. From the representation made to Government, by the Conservator of Forests, of the great destruction of fine timber in many of the Forests, especially in Canara, caused by the fellings necessary to enable the Hill cultivation to be carried out, great stress is laid on the expediency of curtailing this description of cultivation as much as possible. Of course the only way in which this can be done in Malabar where all land is private property, is by fixing a prohibitory rate of assessment on Hill cultivation. The policy of such a course is doubtful, and, if had recourse to in the case of land on which cereals are grown, would, for the sake of consistency, required to be adopted were Coffee is produced. Both of these products stand exactly in the same category so far as the destruction of fine timber is concerned. In a very few years, the destruction of fine timber caused by the formation of Coffee plantations, will far exceed that consequent on Hill cultivation. The late manager of the Beypoor Iron works remarked on the destruction of timber by Hill cultivation; but it is notorious that the quantity of hard timber which has been consumed by the furnace of the said works in the shape of charcoal is very very great. As a rule, Hill cultivation is followed on the higher elevations, and always attracts the attention of those who go through the jungles, and who are thereby led to believe that the destruction of timber is greater than it really is. Undoubtedly much fine timber is destroyed in opening out and preparing the land, but it is to be remembered that from its size and the nature of the ground in which it stands, it is worthless, as it cannot be carried away. So valuable has timber now become in Malabar, that there is little chance of a tree, which will stand carriage in a money point of view being burnt.

12. For a number of years a practice (illegal it is allowed) obtained of exacting a high rate of duty on all Teak under 8 inches in diameter; the result was that much fine young timber of this description was allowed to grow, but since the abolition of the practice under orders of Government this timber is being swept off the face of the country, and in a few years will disappear altogether. An enactment placing an enhanced export duty on small timber of the more valuable kinds would, I believe, be hailed as a boon by all the Malabar landlords.

13. I shall now proceed to the consideration of the upland cultivation called Modan and Ellu or paddy and oil seed grown on the uplands. To understand what the uplands are it has only to be recollected that the portion of the country which lies between the foot of the ghâts, and the sea consists of a series of low lying hills or hillocks separated from each other by flats in which the rice cultivation, properly so called, is carried on. These hillocks, or uplands as we shall call them, consist of a laterite formation. This laterite rock crops out in all directions, and may be, looked on as one of the marked physical characteristics of Malabar.

14. The area of cultivation on these uplands is still small, and is in a great measure owing to the fact that they are unfit for the plough. Those portions which are cultivated (and that once in three years only), are during the hot season nearly as hard as stone, and would if in the Carnatic be left to the undisputed possession of white ants and antelope; but the great and continuous fall of rain in this province enables the Ryots to plough and raise a crop of paddy or oil seed on them. The return of course depends on various circumstances chiefly in the fall of rain, if this fails especially when the ear is filling, or the oil seed pod forming, it is very small, so much so, that, at times it is not worth cutting, and the cattle are allowed to graze it. This kind of cultivation is so precarious that it is not entered in the people's Pattas. Previous Collectors have felt I believe that to get the people to take up the land permanently, it would be necessary to fix so low a rate of assessment that they hesitated to take 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.			Average 1 in 4.			Fasli 1268			Fasli 1267.			Fasli 1266.			Average demand for the whole District per acre.		
	Acre.	Demand.		Acre.	Demand.		Acre.	Demand.		Acre.	Demand.		Acre.	Demand.				
		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	1,630	1,725	15 11	1,748	1,774	13 11	1,549	1,541	5 3			
2. Cherikal	1,874	1,509	14 7	2,292	1,881	1 7	2,465	1,605	11 2	2,620	2,386	6 7	2,208	2,022	6 2			
3. Kottiyam	444	511	2 6	556	625	7 0	505	522	15 0	622	686	13 11	654	780	12 5			
4. Kartenad	584	736	5 7	655	732	6 8	541	578	9 1	665	721	14 7	829	892	13 6			
5. Kurumbranad ...	1,928	1,761	15 2	2,293	2,012	13 3	1,971	1,560	4 9	2,258	1,956	12 8	3,016	2,772	4 6			
6. Calicut	2,290	1,595	7 0	2,827	2,105	13 3	2,713	1,907	7 9	2,961	2,248	7 3	3,344	2,671	14 6			
7. Ernad	4,781	3,696	8 8	5,366	4,342	0 3	5,618	4,562	15 0	5,804	4,930	1 11	5,261	4,178	7 6			
8. Shernad	3,022	1,894	10 7	3,519	2,402	14 0	3,654	2,426	12 3	3,613	2,464	1 9	3,788	2,825	15 5			
9. Betutnad	2,159	1,320	7 1	2,489	1,424	6 8	2,576	1,475	15 0	2,672	1,489	9 1	2,548	1,411	11 7			
10. Kutnad	2,063	1,275	12 6	2,530	1,612	14 6	2,458	1,490	0 9	2,743	1,815	5 8	2,854	1,870	8 2			
11. Chevakad	92	75	8 3	90	72	4 0	85	74	8 0	90	70	7 5	93	68	8 4			
12. Nedinganad ...	7,044	3,309	9 7	8,730	4,331	4 6	8,815	3,900	15 5	9,710	5,250	8 8	9,350	4,864	0 4			
13. Walluwanad ...	7,319	5,866	0 0	8,665	6,757	12 0	7,897	6,250	5 0	9,398	7,110	14 8	10,047	7,803	12 4			
14. Palghat	3,040	1,859	14 2	3,760	1,881	12 4	3,275	2,014	5 9	3,175	1,817	12 10	3,152	1,835	0 6			
15. Temelpuram ...	2,361	1,499	6 9	2,298	1,497	13 6	2,620	1,601	15 7	2,299	1,569	9 6	1,914	1,320	6 2			
Total...	40,546	28,718	15 8	47,088	33,392	13 5	46,823	31,698	12 5	50,378	36,293	12 5	50,607	36,859	14 8	4	11	8
Ellu.																		
1. Kavai	684	369	0 0	947	515	3 7	983	618	1 2	906	503	13 3	1,215	570	0 1			
2. Cherikal	241	114	5 4	389	176	9 0	285	161	2 6	412	186	4 2	616	244	8 2			
3. Kottiyam	119	108	1 9	180	135	5 2	167	137	6 0	189	163	2 9	244	132	10 3			
4. Kartenad	318	231	2 0	366	257	0 6	360	325	2 2	408	272	6 3	376	199	7 6			
5. Kurumbranad ...	1,624	1,005	6 4	1,592	1,064	15 4	1,539	1,014	7 4	2,023	1,173	8 11	1,180	1,066	6 8			
6. Calicut	1,813	874	2 9	2,194	1,084	1 5	2,268	1,094	15 3	2,651	1,407	3 10	2,041	960	0 0			
7. Ernad	2,581	1,594	1 0	3,095	1,809	2 2	3,280	2,073	12 10	3,793	2,226	1 3	2,724	1,342	9 3			
8. Shernad	1,903	748	12 2	2,235	882	6 2	2,173	907	13 3	2,416	976	14 5	2,447	896	0 10			
9. Betutnad	1,542	803	13 10	1,490	702	9 5	1,417	752	10 9	1,583	713	14 10	1,419	539	13 10			
10. Kutnad	1,147	488	4 3	1,153	504	14 10	1,143	522	0 7	1,059	485	5 10	1,262	524	0 10			
11. Chevakad	141	50	4 11	211	70	10 10	367	135	7 4	185	54	11 8	149	42	3 4			
12. Nedinganad ...	6,317	2,333	2 10	6,773	2,746	6 6	5,990	2,462	6 11	7,642	3,350	8 6	7,141	2,839	7 11			
13. Walluwanad ...	6,348	4,369	15 5	5,989	3,819	14 6	6,300	5,320	11 9	6,032	3,189	9 7	5,295	2,399	5 4			
14. Palghat	2,705	887	14 11	2,512	933	0 10	2,320	988	2 10	2,184	845	1 0	2,839	1,011	0 7			
15. Temelpuram ...	3,783	1,875	13 4	3,859	2,095	7 2	3,943	2,222	5 3	3,268	1,979	1 0	4,442	2,304	9 1			
Total...	31,266	15,854	4 10	32,985	16,797	11 4	32,535	18,736	9 11	34,751	17,527	11 3	33,390	15,072	3 8	4	8	2

16. The average assessment on Modan and Ellu respectively is Annas 11-4 and Annas 8-2, and the rates that are now proposed for adoption are on Modan 12 Annas and on Ellu 9 Annas per acre, which will yield an increase of Rupees 1,922 on the former, and on the latter an increase of Rupees 1,756.

17. The following Statements similar to those given for the Hill cultivation show the average quantity of seed required per acre, the total yield, the rates of its apportionment between the tenant, the landlord, and Government, the net return, and the value of the latter, and the assessment at the commutation price:—

Táluqs.	For 1 acre of land. Seeds.	Produce or crops.	Expenses out of column 3. Cultivation expense.	Revenue.	Jenmabhogam (Proprietor's share).	Total. Cultivator's net profit.	Commutation price of col. 5.	Commutation price of col. 8.	Average for the whole District.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Modan.	E. P.	E. P.	E. P.	E. P.	E. P.	E. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Kavai	0 6	33¾ 24	... ...	... ...	... ...	61¾ 21	1 1 0	0 9 0	0 11 4
2. Cherikal	0 5	33¾ 18	7 4	6¾ 3	8¾ 4	24¾ 17	1 0 0	0 13 0	
3. Kottiyam	0 5	33¾ 23	11¾ 4	6¾ 3	9 4	17 17	1 0 0	1 1 0	
4. Kartenad	0 5	33¾ 21	9¾ 4	6¾ 3	3½ 2	20 19	1 0 0	0 14 0	
5. Kurumbranad... ...	0 6	33¾ 17	11¾ 4	7¾ 3	3¾ 2	18 18	1 0 0	0 12 0	
6. Calicut	0 6	33¾ 18	13 4	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	21 19	1 0 0	0 11 0	
7. Ernad	0 6	33¾ 25	13 4	7¾ 3	8 2	19 19	1 0 0	0 11 0	
8. Shernad	0 6	33¾ 20	13 4	7¾ 3	8 2	20 20	1 0 0	0 11 0	
9. Betutnad	0 7	33¾ 18	14 4	7¾ 3	8 2	21 21	1 0 0	0 11 0	
10. Kotnad	0 6	33¾ 21	13 4	8¾ 3	8 2	21 21	1 0 0	0 11 0	
11. Chevakad	0 7	33¾ 19	14 4	8¾ 3	8 2	21 21	1 0 0	0 11 0	
12. Nedinganad ...	0 6	33¾ 20	13 4	8¾ 3	8 2	21 21	1 0 0	0 11 0	
13. Wallawanad ...	0 6	33¾ 28	13 4	8¾ 3	8 2	21 21	1 0 0	0 11 0	
14. Palghat	0 6	33¾ 20	13 4	8¾ 3	8 2	21 21	1 0 0	0 11 0	
15. Temelpuram ...	0 6	33¾ 22	13 4	8¾ 3	8 2	21 21	1 0 0	0 11 0	
Ellu.									
1. Kavai	...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	
2. Cherikal... ...	0 4	33¾ 31	7 2	6¾ 3	9¾ 4	61¾ 24	1 0 0	0 9 0	
3. Kottiyam	0 4	33¾ 6	9¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
4. Kartenad	0 4	33¾ 7	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
5. Kurumbranad ...	0 5	33¾ 7	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
6. Calicut	0 4	33¾ 7	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
7. Ernad	0 5	33¾ 7	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
8. Shernad	0 5	33¾ 6	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
9. Betutnad	0 6	33¾ 6	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
10. Kotnad	0 5	33¾ 8	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
11. Chevakad	0 3	33¾ 24	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
12. Nedinganad ...	0 3	33¾ 24	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
13. Wallawanad ...	0 3	33¾ 24	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
14. Palghat	0 3	33¾ 24	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	
15. Temelpuram ...	0 4	33¾ 24	11¾ 2	6¾ 3	5¾ 2	24¾ 1	1 0 0	0 9 0	

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 s 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 s 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.		
Ponom.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
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 whole Province resulting from the adoption of the proposed rates is Rupees 457-11-6. To this must be added the cost of Extra Establishment Rupees 503-13-8, yielding a total of Rupees 961-9-2, and if to this be added the saving in time and trouble to the public establishments, and the cessation of a demoralizing system, the argument in favor of the uniform rates is much strengthened. It is, however, believed that the introduction of the system would soon be followed by a considerable increase of revenue.

First, because it is probable that all the lands cultivated would be brought to account; and second, because the people knowing that a fixed and moderate assessment only would be demanded from them would soon endeavor to improve the less profitable lands near their house which, under the present system, would be taxed in propotion to the amount of improvement effected.

Modan and Ellu.

26. The subject of these uplands has engaged my attention a good deal since my first arrival in the Province. The most desirable thing would of course be to get the people to take them up permanently, but this they will not do except at a very low rate of assessment, for the lands can as a rule be cultivated only once in three years. Now suppose the assessment is fixed at 12 Annas for Modan, it will only stand a fixed annual assessment of 4 Annas per acre. Most of the people with whom I have conversed on the subject, landlords and ryots, as well as public servants, have all fixed on rates ranging from 4 to 6 Annas inclusive. At this latter rate Government would profit, as it would be equivalent to a rate of Rupee 1-2 on the present fluctuating cultivation. It may be doubted whether if made to them, the Ryots would take advantage of the offer of the land on permanent tenure at the rate of 6 Annas per acre. They have been unaccustomed to the system as regards the uplands, and are afraid of the season failing them, besides this the question of tenant right is attended with difficulties. For the Ryot has not only to pay the tax but the rent, and this latter is in an unsettled state, as regards upland cultivation taken on the terms of a permanent holding. In time no doubt difficulties would be overcome, and the land would be taken up on pemanent tenure. The system might be tried, and I shall be glad if Government sanction the attempt, for so long as people cultivate land for one season, and then throw it up for two or three little will be attempted in the way of improvement.

27. I do hope that what has been proposed may be approved of by the Board and Government, for I feel convinced that its adoption must issue in the prosperity of the people and an increase of the revenue.

28. The receipt of early orders will enable me to bring the system into operation this season as the inspection of the uplands is shortly to begin.

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1. Ordered that the above letter be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings, dated 24th August 1860, No. 1,431, Revenue Department, and 10th April 1861, No. 803.

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

2. Mr. Grant notices three subjects—

First. The Ponom cultivation corresponding with the Kumerí of Canara.

Second. The question of the timber supply to the market.

Third. The upland cultivation designated Modan or Ellu, according as Paddy or oil seed are grown, and corresponding with the inferior Huckle cultivation 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.

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

11. The cultivation is so precarious that it is not even entered in the Pattas, and the sharing system between Government, the Jenmi or Landlord, 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.		Assessment at proposed rates.
	Acres.	Rs.	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.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st November 1861, No. 2,086.

1. With these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit a report from the Collector of Malabar, and state their own views on the "Ponom" cultivation 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, 8½ 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 forests strictly, leaving the preservation of private forests like other private property to the owners' appreciation of their personal interests.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

Revenue No. 2349.

Memorandum.

With these proceed
the Board submit a repor
from the Collector of Mala
and state their own views
on the "Ponom" cultivation
of Malabar as required
in the order of Governme
dated 24th August 1860. They
also notice two other sub-
jects brought forward by
the Collector viz. the "uplan
cultivation of the District
and the felling of Teak
Saplings.

The "Ponom" culti
vation of Malabar is dis
tinct with the "Kumary" of
Canara. The forests of the
former District are however
for the most part private

roperty; the State is only en-
titled to its assessment, or
ommuted value of its share
f the produce, and cannot
prevent the cultivation as
has been done in the greater
portion of Canara.

The extent of Pon
ultivation during the four
ears 1856/7 to 1859/60 has
veraged 237 /6 acres, paying
n assessment of Rs. 15,109
r about 10 annas per acre -
Half of the cultivation -
ccurs in the Taluq of
Kárwár - which adjoins
the Bekul Taluq of South
anara, - while 7861 acres
re so cultivated in Kolla-
pore. Thus it is only in
two Talugs that this
kind of cultivation is
t all extensive.

There is no fixed
ssessment on Pyrow - the
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crops when ripe, are
inspected by the Govern
ment Officers, who
determine the quantity
of seed sown and
the produce yielded.
The latter is then
divided into shares
between the Landlord,
Tenant, and Govern-
ment - and the value
of the share of Govt.
at the commutation
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ment. The evils of
such a mode of settle
ment are self evident.
The remedy proposed
by the Collector is
an uniform assess-
ment with a penalty
for concealed cultivation
The rate proposed by
the

the Collector and the Board is 8 annas per acre, or 2 annas 2 pice less than the District average. As already remarked however, the bulk of the cultivation is in the Kavai Taluq, and the average there is 10-6 a. p. In the Kottyam Taluq, where the cultivation is also very large the average is 9-7 a. p. In Kartenad the average is 12-2 an. p; and the lowest average is 8-5 a. p. The Collector's rate therefore is less than that now paid in every Taluq. The maximum and minimum rates are not given by the Collector.

The substitution of one uniform assessment will undoubtedly be a great improvement; & the only question for consideration

consideration is its rate. The cultivators net profit as stated by the collector varies from 1-13-2 to 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 9½ Rupees. The object now in view is not to encourage this destructive mode of cultivation which is eminently to the Forests but to introduce a better mode of letting the land out and no particular reason is alleged for reducing the assessment to any material extent for the sake of having one uniform rate throughout the

Districts

District - The Malabar assessments are all known to be light and the commutation rates are now low. The present rates might therefore be followed more closely and we might put 12 annas on kurinâd, 10 in kavai and cottiyam and 8 in the other Valys - These approximate nearly to the present rates and follow the rates of profit in each Valy to a certain extent. Neither the Board nor the collector specially notice Ponam cultivation in fact Forests. This I presume should be forbidden, except as regards spots already cleared -

The "upland" cultivation is termed "Konam" or "Kollu" according as the crop raised is paddy or oil seed - The uplands are the low lying hills intervening between the flats and the sea - They are of laterite formation the soil exhausted soon and the cultivation necessarily expensive and precarious - The assessment is fixed in the same way as on the Konam cultivation and an extra establishment is yearly sanctioned at an expense of Rs 503-13 per annum for the examination of the crops. —

The average extent of cultivation in

This seems to me quite right - I see no reason for reducing all round to 4 annas

Ellis

Wdl

I am not aware what forest Govt has - Ponam cultiv should not be allowed in them without the previous permission of the Collr.

Ellis

W dl

circ about 80,000 acres —
and the Remune 50,000 Rs.
The average assessment
is for "Rodan" or Paddy
11/4 annas + and for Ellu
or oil seed 8/8 annas.
The same enquiry is
proposed for the Tanam for
the Conom - viz. a fixed
assessment of 12 annas
per acre for Rodan &
annas for Ellu - The
Board support this re-
commendation with the
proviso that the land
shall be classed permanent-
ly either as Rodan or
Ellu - This course seems
in every way desirable -
The Collector states that
the uplands can be
cultivated only one
in 3 years and he
suggests that on

+ The Coll. & Bd. propose 9 annas + for Ellu -

- I would fix the general rates
proposed viz 12 annas for paddy
& 9 for oilseed - but without
the proviso stipulated by
the Board - We all settled
culture it is quite right that
the Govt should be fixed
permanently & on the ground
instead of on the crop - But
this is extra & excessive
culture on land which cannot
bear continuous culture &
must be rested 2 years
out of 3 - The best way to

circumstances seems to be to levy
12 per acre when paddy is grown
& 9 for oilseed in conformity
with the practice heretofore -
The B.R. proviso would lead
to most unfavorable results -
If land where oilseed
happened to be grown in that
occasion, the higher assessment
for paddy would be afterwards
levied. If on that land where
paddy happens now to be grown
an oilseed crop could only
be raised hereafter under a
heavy penalty. - I agree with

Where the proprietor of land
of this description is willing
to have it cultivated on his
& pay yearly for it the Collr. might
might be authorized to compound
with him by fixing an Eft favorable terms might be offered to encourage
of 6 annas per acre - But in
the cultivators seem
to pay a rent to the landlord
as well as the tax to Govt. - To
give facilities & encouragement to
& to guard against difficulties - land -
would the Compound
when the
was not cultivated / As regards the

the permanent occupa-
tion of the land should
be encouraged by chan-
-ging 1/3 of the proposed
assessment yearly, on
condition of its being
paid in every year pro-
-vided the land be cul-
-tivated or not -
The
Board do not notice
this subject but the
Collector might be au-
-thorized to try the ex-
-periment. I should
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-tivated or not -
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-thorized to try the ex-
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would do away with
an arrangement which
felling of Teak & other

it need scarcely be said 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 consequences. It must also be borne in mind that, if the Law interferes to prevent a person from cutting down his own trees whenever he interests in his own judgment

and the Puttahdar refuse or fail to pay it? If you sell the land the original proprietor would exclaim, & is it not a rule in Malabar generally as in Wynaad that the Govt tax is due on cultivated land only?

Elle

The home demand is I fancy small, but it is doubtful whether the Supreme Govt would consent to a differential duty. At present the subject only affects foreign consumption. If you may rest perhaps the Collr will bring it to the President notice on his visit to the District

Elle

judgement prompt him to do so, the necessary result is the discouragement of plantation. People generally will not invest capital in ways which place it beyond their own control, and few would 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 affect foreign consumption. If you leave the home demand unaffected. All that the Government can do is to conserve their forests strictly as

to leave the preservation
of private forests left
other private property
to the owners appreciation
of their personal
interest.

Wilson

Will

105

Memo

Ponam cultivation
in Malabar.

Revenue Depart

No 2086.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 1st Novemr 1861.

Read the following Pr
-ceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Submitting Report
from Collector of Malabar
on Ponam Cultivation, (Here under 14th September
felling of teak saplings, D:5005)
and upland cultivation

1. With these Proce
-ings the Board of Reve
submit a report from
the Collector of Malab
and state their own vie
on the "Ponam" cultivati
of Malabar, as re
-quired in the order o
Govt of 26 August 18
No 1431. They also not
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two other subjects brought forward by the Collector, viz the "upland" cultivation of the District, and the prejudicial felling of Teak saplings.

2. The "Ponam" 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 which has been done in the greater portion of Canara. The extent of Ponam cultivation during the four years 1856/7 to 1859/60 has averaged 23,776 acres, paying an assessment of Rs. 15,109 or about 10 annas per acre. Fully one half of this extent of cultivation occurs in the Taluq of Kavai, which adjoins the Betkul Taluq of South Canara, where 7,864 acres are so cultivated in Kottayam. Thus, it is only in two Talugs that this kind of cultivation is at all extensive, the only other one where it is carried on to any extent is in which 1,767 acres are cultivated assessed at 1,329 Rupees. The cultivation is insignificant in the remaining four Talugs. There

† Textiles 1266 to 1269

There is no fixed
assessment on Paroun:
the crops, when ripe, are
inspected by the Govt. of-
ficers, who determine
the quantity of seed
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of double or treble the
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cultivation

cultivation. The rate
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acre or 2 annas and
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-ever, the bulk of the
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The

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* View para 13 of Mr. Cobbe's letter 17 Aug 1859. No 756.

but to introduce a better mode of settling the Govt. 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 Govt. ~~would~~ propose 12 annas in Kartenied, 10 annas in Kavaai and Cottiyam, and 8 annas in the other Taluqs, ~~as they propose previously~~ for

~~for reducing the assess-~~
~~ment all round to 8~~
~~annas~~ that rates ~~of~~
~~prevail by Govt.~~ approx-
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~~any such,~~ Ponam culti-
-vation will not be allowed
~~within~~ without the pre-
-vious permission of the
Collector, who will bear in mind the desire of the Home Govt. as communi-
cated in para 4 of Despatch dated
28 Feb/61, viz "that this practice does
"yield to a better kind of cultivation
& that the Officers of Govt. should discou-
-rage by all legitimate means, even
in private forests, a practice which is
opposed to the best interests of the peo-

5. The "upland" cul-
-tivation is termed "Brodan"
or "Ellu" according as

the

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 cultiva
-tion is necessarily ex-
-pensive and precari-
-ous. The assessment
is fixed on the same
way as on the Ponam
cultivation, and an extra
establishment is yearly
sanctioned at an ex-
-pense of Rupees 504 ~~15~~
per annum for the
examination of the crops

6. The average ex-
-tent of cultivation is
about 80,000 acres, and

the

the Revenue 50,000 Rs.

The average assessment is for "Mudan" or Paddy, 11¼ annas, and for "Ellu" or oil seed, 8/8 annas.

The same course is proposed by the Collr for Ellu as for the Parums - viz ½ a fixed assessment of 12 annas per acre for "Mudan" and 9 annas for "Ellu" - The Board support this recommendation, with the proviso that the land shall be classed permanently either as "Mudan" or "Ellu" - The Government approve of the proposed rates of 12 annas for "Mudan", and 9 annas for "Ellu", but without the proviso stipulated by the Board. On all settled cultivation it is quite right that the assessment

assessment should be fixed permanently on the land instead of on the crop - But this as upland cultivation is extra and occasional the land, which 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 as per acre when paddy is grown, and 9 as for oil seed as 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 would be ~~afterwards~~ but, 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 pottahs, 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~~ Tenants who pay a rent to the landlord as well as the tax to Government and in progressive circumstances so free pottahs 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 ~~Pottahdar~~ refused

refuses or fails to pay
it; for if the land cannot be
sold without trenching on the rights of
the original proprietor,
~~would explain, and~~
~~it is believed to be the~~
~~rule in Malabar ge-~~
~~-nerally, as in England,~~
~~that the Landlord is~~
~~due on cultivated land~~
~~only~~

8. As regards the
felling of Teak saplings,
it need scarcely be
remarked that legisla-
tion for the preservation
of private Forests re-
-quires much consideration.
The Forests of Malabar
are private property,
and if the owners pre
-fer present to future
profit, and cut down
young trees instead
of leaving them to
reach maturity the
Govt

fault is their own,
and they must bear the
loss re-
-sulting from their
shortsightedness. It
must also be borne
in mind that if the
Law interferes to pre-
-vent a person from
cutting down his own
trees whenever his
interests in his own
judgment prompt
him to do so, the ne-
-cessary result is the
discouragement of
planting. People gene-
-rally 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

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 demand is perhaps small, but it is doubtful whether the Supreme Government would consent to such a measure as the Bd propose. To the present therefore the subject must be given all that the Government can do is to conserve their own forests strictly to leaving the preservation of private forests like other private property to the owners' appreciation

of their pecuniary interest. The Government will not object however to have the subject separately considered.

14 Copies
To
The Board of Revenue Dist.s
" " Conservator of Forests for information as regards para 8. &c

Revenue

Madras

Revenue 1861 Dep.t.
Pro: of Govt for November.

No 2086.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dep.t November 1861.

Pro: of the Bd. of Revr. 16 January
No 189 in
Dr. — 16 Decr. 62 C. No. 3472

Boards Proceedings on
Ponom cultivation &c. in
Malabar with orders thereon.

No 182.