M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No 358 Press ~~Mis.~~

199-200

Dated 15-2-1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th February 1861.

No. 199. Read the following letter from H. NEWILL, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 22nd November 1860, No. 1,265 :—

SIR,

1. The question of the mode in which the small plots or Interstitial fields clubbed within the minimum size of Survey fields of two or four acres are to be dealt with in the new Settlement being now before the Government in the Board's Proceedings of 24th ultimo, No. 4,882, it seems proper for me to draw attention to its consideration under every aspect, not only as regards the preparation of the Registers, but as affecting the whole operations of the Department and likewise the interests of the Ryots.

2. The Board strongly advocate in their Proceedings above quoted the placing these small plots on the same footing as larger fields, notwithstanding that they are not professionally surveyed or separately demarcated. This view seems diametrically opposed to that of the Board in paragraph 27 of their Proceedings of 4th August 1859, No. 3,020, where they assert that "it will be impossible, as is the case even now, to preserve the boundaries of the numerous "little plots into which much of the cultivated land is now divided, and that it is *undesirable* "*to attempt to do so*, when the increasing wealth of the proprietary class leads, as in the natural "course of affairs it will ultimately do, to the enlargement and permanency of Estates." Further objection is taken in the same paragraph to "the country being parcelled out into fields, "which must be maintained in all time to come without reference to the wishes of the people "and the requirements of an improved system of agriculture or any other consideration than "the integrity of the Survey." This objection is raised with regard to the fields generally, and although the Government was not prepared to adopt the alternative course and to make so radical a change on the whole operations, the objection applies with double force to the small plots included within the limit of two and four acres, which have always been considered as exceptions from the professional Survey.

3. The Despatch of the Court of Directors, dated 17th December 1856, No. 17, paragraphs 23 to 27, conveying their views on the whole scheme of Survey and Settlement, dwells particularly on "the means to "be adopted to diminish the evils arising from the existence "of very small holdings," and the stereotyping (or rather attempt to do so) every minute plot as a field to be perpetually recognized and unalterable, appears opposed to the whole tenor of those instructions.

Page 187 *of No.* 53 *Selections.*

4. The subject has had my careful consideration since the commencement of operations, and the nature of these small plots and the complication arising from them have come under my close observation. The subject was discussed with the Collector of the Godavery District among others, and it will be seen from the enclosed letter of that Officer, that he is of opinion that all these petty holdings within the minimum size of Survey fields, might without difficulty be held by the Ryots *jointly*, thus dispensing altogether with the necessity of registering these details. There would be no unfairness or innovation in this, considering that the whole villages are held under joint rent and responsibility and the transition to a joint rent of a small field is in this case extremely easy and preparatory to absorbing these petty holdings into more substantial properties. Steps were, however, taken to ascertain the details of these small plots by Curnum's measurements in order that there should be no difficulty in apportioning the assessment on them in any way that might eventually be considered best, whether by admitting the details into accounts or by merely supplying them to the Ryots to aid them in apportioning their shares of assessment on the plots in each field within two and four acres. The special circumstances of the Godavery and Kistna Districts, as being hitherto under joint rents, will not escape the notice of Government.

Dated 26th April 1858, *No.* 352.

5. It is not to be supposed that the small plots in question are now generally "revenue numbers." They are often in the Northern Districts and in some of the Southern Districts *parts* of revenue numbers in the accounts, a plot being entered for instance as $\frac{1}{70}$th pootty or $\frac{1}{8}$th cawny in No. 24 field. This is necessarily the case where portions of fields have in past years been allowed to be taken up.

6. In the fully cultivated Delta of the Coleroon in the South Arcot District, these plots have assumed the character of permanent fields, and the Survey in its earlier stage surveyed them professionally.

7. The Board raise the objection that these small plots when contested in the Courts will not be traced in the fair Register as proposed by me, but they may be ascertained from the Maps and other accounts, and it may be added also that all cases of sub-division and sale of fields in future will not, under the Board's proposal, appear either in the Register or Maps. This point was not lost sight of in paragraph 27 of the Board's Proceedings of 4th August 1859, above quoted.

8. In conclusion, I would add my conviction that the attempt to establish these minute patches as the unalterable basis of all future tenures and accounts of land, is likely to prove a failure, and as shown by the Board in paragraph 27 of their Proceedings of 4th August 1859, is not suited to the requirements of the country. They are not professionally measured, and the experience of their measurement by inferior agency shows anything but general accuracy. They are not demarcated, nor are they in many places permanent in their character. The classification and assessment does not proceed on this basis, but on that of the larger fields, though the latter will of course be distributed on the details. The original scheme as above shown did not contemplate this minuteness of detail being carried out in the unalterable basis of assessment any more than in the professional and unalterable basis of the Survey, and the change as now proposed by the Board, of placing the less accurate and variable petty details on the same footing as those of a permanent character, would require a reconsideration of the whole plan.

9. The Register with these details would not be what it professed to be an exact and unalterable Register of all tenures, and the introduction in it of the less accurate and non-permanent element would throw discredit on the whole.

From A. PURVIS, Esq., Collector of Rajahmundry, to H. NEWILL, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, Madras, dated Bendanúrbanka, 26th April 1858, No. 352.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 26th February last, I have the honor to state that it is in my opinion very desirable that the Sub-Division of Survey fields should not, as a general rule, be recognized in individual pattas, but that the holders should occupy under one joint patta for the same. I do not apprehend that any serious difficulty will be found in carrying such a rule into effect in this District, I think, however, that the Sub-Division for Survey of fields now held by more than one Ryot should, when wished for, be allowed subject to the condition mentioned in your letter, viz., that the Sub-Divisions do not fall below one acre of wet, and two acres of dry land.

(A true Copy.)
(Signed) H. NEWILL, *Director of Revenue Settlement.*

No. 200. ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1861, No. 358.

The Government await the remarks of the Board of Revenue on this letter, a copy having been furnished to them as stated at the foot of this copy.

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

less accurate and non-permanent element
into them discredit on the whole.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
H. Newill
Director of Revenue Settlement.

To
J. D. Sim Esq.
Acting Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George

Copy sent to Board of Revenue
+ 1860.

Counts Disputed Nos 17 of 1856
Of C 28 April 57 & 7 Con
" 30 " Nov 57 & 30-31
Brings the Board of Revenue Abstracts &c &c

From Dy of Rev & 16 Jany 62
C No. 206

No 799 & 800-

Revenue 1860 Depart
Proc of Govt for Feby 61.

No 2686

From
The Director of Revenue
Settlement.

To
The Offg Secy to Govt
Revenue Depart
Fort St Geo

Dated 28th Nov 1860
Rec 22nd Do

No 1265
Encl 1
W.

With ref to W.B Proc of 24th Octbr No 4882 bringing under consideration in all its bearings the question as to the mode in which the small plots of intermixed fields clubbed within the Minimum size of Survey fields of 2 & 4 Acres, are to be dealt with in the Ryot Settlement.

No 2358. 15th February
With an Order

No 358. 8

The Government await the remarks of the Board of Revenue on this letter a copy having been furnished to them as stated at Para the foot of this Ltr

Fort St. Geo.
15 February 1861

13 Copies - Board of Rev:
13 " Director of Rev: Settlement. Dispt 16

Lieut - Son