

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1587

Press
Mis.

319.320

Dated

25-7-1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd July 1862.*

No. 319. Read the following letter from the Honorable C. PELLY, Member of the Board of Revenue, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 11th July 1862, No. 1,333:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit for the orders of Government my views, respecting the future Village Establishments for the District of North Arcot, accompanied by the correspondence between myself, the Collector Mr. James Robinson, and the Acting Collector Mr. Fraser, as noted marginally.

2. The village servants are remunerated at present by grants of Inám land and by grain fees; in every village (excepting eighty-four villages) the fees, payable to the Maniakaren, the Curnum and the Shroff, are commuted into cash, at rates which vary greatly in different villages, and the amount so fixed is included in the village demand, and is deducted in the patia of any Ryot selected by the recipient and approved by the Collector. In some villages the Merah is commuted into money in both the Nunja and Punja cultivation, but in many others on the Nunja only, the Punja fees being left to be collected in kind by the servants themselves from the Ryots. In the eighty-four villages transferred from other Districts these servants collect their Merah fees direct from each individual Ryot from whom it may be due.

3. The Totti and Nirkutte in all the villages also collect their fees in kind as they best can.

Paragraph 9.

4. Mr. Robinson advocates a general and uniform commutation of the grain fees.

Paragraph 5.

5. Mr. Robinson describes the Maniakaren generally "as a body entirely subordinate to, and in the hands of the Curnums, who are the referees and principal authorities on all matters connected with the revenue of their respective ranges. In some of the more populous parts of the District, the Maniakarens do take their share of the duty, but as a body they have lost their position and are not likely to recover it until efficiency replace birthright as a title to office."

Paragraph 11.

Letter, dated 14th April 1862, paragraph 5.

6. Mr. Robinson points out that when the land assessment of the District was revised in 1857, the general reduction then made was not extended to Inám lands, and that it will be fair that this revision be extended to Inám lands for village service; and Mr. Fraser in treating of the subject has assumed the revised rates as the basis of his calculations exclusive of the quit-rent.

7. The value of the Ináms and fees enjoyed by the five classes of village revenue servants, and by the Police Taliari, is as follows. The old assessment and the revised valuation (which latter should be taken as the fair value) are both shown:—

Servants.	Assessment.		Merah and ready money allowance.	Total of column and 4.	Remarks.
	Old.	Revised.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Moniagar	79,364	54,686	25,833	80,519	The revised assessment in column 3 is only approximately given.
Curnum	57,849	39,080	68,566	1,07,646	
Shroff	7,757	5,576	10,015	15,591	
Totti	26,636	18,691	30,676	49,369	
Nirkutties	5,058	3,346	5,726	9,072	
Total...	1,76,664	1,21,379	1,40,818	2,62,197	
Police Taliaris	40,459	30,344	28,169	58,513	
Total...	2,17,123	1,51,723	1,68,987	3,20,710	

2 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
23rd July 1862.

From Collector, 6th April 1861.

To Collector 23rd May 1861, No. 883.

From Acting Collector, dated 14th April 1862.

Paragraph 3.

8. Mr. Robinson at first submitted a tentative scheme for the revision of the village establishments of a single Tálúq only, the Tálúq of Chittoor, which was reviewed by me, and I subsequently discussed the whole subject in person with him at Chittoor, and a scheme has now been submitted complete for the whole District by the Acting Collector, Mr. Fraser, who has given his best consideration to the subject, availing himself of all the information already collected in his office.

9. Mr. Fraser in commenting on a remark of mine that the Government claim the right of appropriating service Ináms for the service, and that shareholders might have to part with their lands to the office holders, observes, that "no doubt this is legally correct, but it certainly is not so equitably. Government have so long tacitly permitted the division of service Ináms among the members of a family that to insist on the exercise of a legal right like the above, that has been for long in abeyance, will be extremely harsh, and will create much discontent; it would also be contrary to the entire spirit of the Inám Commission Rules, for under them long possession has by itself been held to confer a valid title."

10. Vested interests and long continued abuses must, however, be seriously infringed in carrying out any reforms. But there is no occasion to deal with them more harshly than is absolutely necessary; and to make an unwelcome measure as palatable as possible, the intention of depriving co-sharers of their portion of the Inám was given up, and the less distasteful plan of a general enfranchisement, on a portion of the assessment of all the service Ináms, was proposed, and has been adopted by Government in some District; and Mr. Fraser is of opinion that practically this course alone is open to Government in the District of North Arcot. The quit-rent to Government in the District of North Arcot.

Paragraph 4.

11. The question, what portion of the assessment is to be taken as quit-rent, whether five-eighths, as in Bellary, Kurnool and Cuddapah, or any other portion, is next discussed by the Acting Collector. He observes that the Inám of the Moniagars and Curnums is generally of good quality, and he thinks that they might be enfranchised at three-fourths the revised assessment, but not subject in addition to a levy of a cess in lieu of fees. But the other service Ináms are certainly not, he observes, of such a quality as would bear more than a five-eighth rate, and the cess for fees.

12. It will be remembered that $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the assessment was suggested as a fee cess on all lands including Inám lands also, and in consequence of this cess falling on service Inám lands, the Government reduced the proportion of the assessment, originally proposed to be taken for the enfranchised lands, from two-thirds to five-eighths; supposing therefore that a fee cess on the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., or one Anna in the Rupee, is introduced into North Arcot, Mr. Fraser's proposition for the enfranchisement of the Ináms would result in the following assessment..... Annas 12 + As. 0 cess = 12 Annas.

From the other classes..... " 10 + " 1 cess = 11 "

Difference... 1

But if no fee cess is introduced, the difference would be 2 Annas in the Rupee in the rate of the enfranchised land.

13. I do not agree with the Acting Collector in his proposition. If a cess is to be introduced it should fall indiscriminately at one and the same rate on the Government lands occupied, and on the assessed value of all Inám lands. The lands were probably assessed at the first relatively in proportion to their value, and the revision of 1857 now applied to the Inám service lands will generally have reduced the assessment to a very moderate rate. The proprietors of

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the Moniagar and Curnum lands should not therefore, I think, be made to pay a higher rate, because they have kept their lands in better condition than the others. If the lands are not worth holding at the reduced rates, they certainly afford no proper criterion of the remuneration supposed to be paid by Government for village services, and if in any case they are not retained by the holders at the enfranchised rates they must be given up to Government. But I would not treat them differently but would enfranchise them all at five-eighths the revised assessment. The available assets thus derived are found to be as follow:—

	Revised Assessment exclusive of present Jodi.	Enfranchisement at $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of Assessment in column 2.
1	2	3
	RS.	RS.
Moniagar	51,620	32,262
Curnums... ..	37,338	23,336
Totties... ..	18,254	11,409
Nirgunties	2,894	1,809
Shroffs	5,408	3,380
Total...	1,15,514	72,196
Police Taliares	29,789	18,618
Total...	1,45,303	90,814

14. Mr. Fraser subsequently adopts this uniform rate of enfranchisement at five-eighths of the revised assessment of service Ináms subject to the fee cess of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. But he proposes to give up the present Jodi paid on certain Ináms. This is however contrary to the rule laid down by Government. The Jodi is 5,865 Rupees. The difference between the amount that the Inám holders would have to pay in future, if assessed according to the Government plan, and that which Mr. Fraser proposes including Police Inám is 2,424 Rupees as shown below:—

	RS.	Mr. Fraser's Plan.	RS.
Government Plan.		Value of Inám Revenue and Police...	1,51,723
Value of Inám Revenue and Police...	1,51,723	Value of Inám Revenue and Police...	1,51,723
Deduct Jodi...	6,420	Five-eighths of this...	94,825
Remainder...	1,45,303	Deduct Jodi	6,420
Five-eighths of this...	90,814	Remainder...	88,405

15. I shall therefore assume 90,814 Rupees as the amount of enfranchised Ináms available for the village service fund, leaving the present Jodi to be collected as hitherto and credited to the land revenue as this course is in conformity with the instructions of Government.

16. As respects the fee cess and the treatment of fees, I have already noticed that they fall at present very unequally on the payers; the fees of the Totties are also "hardly ever realized in full." Mr. Robinson was an advocate for a general commutation of all fees; and Mr. Fraser is of the same opinion. The fees now nominally payable amount to 1,59,033 Rupees paid partly by assignments on Ryots' pattas, and partly in grain fees, as shown in the table below.

A general cess at the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. would realize about 1,33,885 Rupees only, but it would be a fairer cess, and is as much as ought to be taken, and in the opinion of the local authorities is as much as is now really realized by the recipients. The fee cess is calculated both on Government and Inám land assessment. The Collector (paragraph 6) says that no fees are

Mr. Fraser's letter dated 14th April 1862, paragraph 7.

See paragraph 7, Collector's letter dated 2nd July 1862.

levied on Inám lands, but if a general cess is introduced I do not see why the Ináms should be exempt. The cess is as follows:—

On Government lands	Rs.
Inám lands	1,06,946
	26,939
Total...	1,33,885

Servants.	Customary Merah.			Ready money allowance.	Total.
	Paid by assignment on Patta.	Grain fees.	Total.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Moniagar	21,180	1,372	22,552	2,281	25,833
Curnums	56,671	8,061	64,735	3,811	68,566
Totti		30,654	30,654	21	30,675
Shroff	4,423	4,148	8,571	1,441	10,015
Nirkatti		5,726	5,726		5,726
	Total.	82,274	49,964	1,32,238	7,580
		11,267	15,528	26,795	1,374
Taliary	Total...	93,541	65,492	1,59,033	8,954
					1,67,987

17. In addition to the fees there is a sum of 8,954* Rupees of cash payments to the village servants in the villages lately transferred from South Arcot, which can be taken as an asset. The customary Merah, and these ready money allowances, together amount to 1,67,987 Rupees as shown above.

18. The assets then, that I propose to take, for forming the future village service revenue and Police fund are first five-eighths the revised assessment less present Jodi of the Service Ináms calculated at ... Rupees 90,814 6½ per cent. on the land assessment of Government and Inám land calculated to yield ,, 1,33,835 The present cash deductions paid in same villages... ,, 8,954

Setting aside as possibly claimable for the Police, the sum of 46,787 Rupees, there will remain for the payment of the revenue servants the sum of 1,86,816 Rupees. The sum set aside for the Police is composed of five-eighths the assessment of the Present Police Ináms... Rupees 18,618 The full value of existing fees irregularly collected... ,, 26,795 Cash payments made to the Police... ,, 1,374 Total Police ,, 46,787

19. The establishment to be allowed in future will now be considered. In the first place after fully re-considering his original propositions which would have so greatly reduced the number of villages that the efficient management of them would have been very difficult, Mr. Robinson, the Collector, has modified his scheme, and has now grouped the villages under one set of Officers, so as to reduce the number from 2,930 villages to 1,114 villages. With this arrangement Mr. Fraser does not propose to meddle, as it was most carefully made by Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Fraser does not think he could improve upon it. There will therefore be

Letter above paragraph 11.

Present number as given by Mr. Fraser.	
Maniakarens.	Curnums.
Present.... 4,219	1,291
Proposed..... 1,114	1,114
Decrease..... 3,096	177

1,114 Maniakarens, and as many Curnums; the number of the former is reduced by 3,096; but of the Curnums by only 177 men. The large number of the Maniakarens to be dispensed with will, if the description given of them generally by Mr. Robinson is correct, prove of no loss; their places will be taken by those who are most competent to conduct the village duties.

20. The number of Totties at present is 2,765, and Mr. Robinson proposed to increase that number to 2,930, so as to allow one for each of the existing villages, notwithstanding the villages were to be

clubbed together. Mr. Fraser would entertain 2,500.

21. The Shroff is not needed, and the Nirguntty Establishment will form the subject of a separate report.

22. As to the mode of remunerating the village servants the Acting Collector's views are quite in accordance with my own, and with the expressed opinion of Government, viz., that with the exception of the Moniagar all the village servants should be paid in money rather than in land; and, as regards the Moniagar, that he will be best remunerated in land and money (as under the scheme now proposed he will be so in effect), for his enfranchised Inám will be looked upon as part of his office emoluments, and indeed all his holding will be to the amount of his honorary remuneration, subject to an annual deduction, and the balance only will be paid by him into the Government Treasury.

23. Mr. Fraser then proposes to have four classes of villages, and to remunerate the Moniagar and Curnum at rates as follows:—

Villages above	5,000 Rupees	Maniakaren per annum.	Curnum per annum.
From 2,500 to 5,000	...	96	120
From 1,000 to 2,500	...	72	96
From 250 to 1,000	...	60	72
Under 250	...	48	60
		42	48

and he proposes 36 Rupees a year as the salary per each Totty lower than which he thinks it cannot be properly fixed.

24. The allowances he has fixed, are in Mr. Fraser's opinion the lowest that should be given, having regard to the financial position of Government, felt himself closely tied to the existing emoluments. He notices that he has put the lowest grade of Moniagars half a Rupee per month above the Totty, his menial servant; looking to the importance that Natives attach to mere salary and to the fact that each Moniagar will also be a village Inspector of his village, and therefore have Executive as well as Magisterial duties he does not think he could with propriety begin lower. I would observe that separate Police village Inspectors were provided and paid for by the Police; but this plan has been abandoned and the plan of making the head man of the village perform the duties of the former Inspectors, has been adopted; though I presume that he is not looked upon as a Police servant, but occupies in the village much the same position with respect to Police, as the Tahsildár in his Magisterial capacity does in the Taluq, and I have no doubt but the change made is a beneficial change.

Paragraphs 10 and 14.

25. The result of Mr. Fraser's scheme will financially stand thus:—

Paragraph 13.

Estimated Assets.		Rs.
1,114 Maniakarens	...	64,512
1,114 Curnums	...	79,692
2,500 Totties	...	90,000
Total.....		2,34,204

6 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
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In this estimate Nirgunties are excluded, as a separate report on them is promised. The emoluments of this class of men do not exceed 8,002 Rupees, and the question of the Police Taliary is not touched on.

26. The Estimate prepared by the Collector is large when compared with the revenue of the District. But the village emoluments in North Arcot are already very large on paper at least; and the size of the District and its necessities, render it expedient not to fix the new and 1,000 Rupees (the three first classes in the Statement D of Comparative Table of scales in Mr. Fraser's letter of 2nd July 1862), it will not be necessary to allow more than 36 Rupees for Bellary, with which district North Arcot in its requirements may be aptly compared. For the 1,114 new Maniakarens then, I would allow the Bellary scale throughout; the amount would be Rupees 56,208.

27. As Government have ordered that no Curnum is to have less than 5 Rupees per month, Mr. Fraser's scale for 44 Curnums will have to be raised to that sum; and for the rest I would propose the Bellary scale, which is in some cases more liberal than what Mr. Fraser proposed, but which he expressly said was the very lowest scale he could recommend, the cost will be 86,484 Rupees.

28. The Vettians must have 3 Rupees each, and here the increase is necessarily large, as

	No.	Rs.
Present...	2,765	49,369
Proposed	2,312	83,232
Increase	..	33,863
Decrease	453	..

they are now so meagerly remunerated.* But I would not allow more in the estimate than the Bellary scale, which is liberal, and would give 2,312 men for the 1,114 villages. Mr. Fraser wishes to retain 1,500 in expectation of that number being possibly required. But I think it is better to adopt a fixed scale; and, when the plan comes to be practically carried out, if it is found necessary to supplement the number in any particular village, the Collector can send in a special report, showing the necessity for them, and obtaining sanction. In carrying out the proposed scheme of the new village establishments it must be expected that deviations from the general plan will occasionally be necessary, when the changes are so great, and it will be better to supply any deficiencies then, than to make a vague and unsatisfactory estimate of what they may be now. I have, therefore, allowed 2,312 Vettians at a cost of 83,232 Rupees.

	Rs.
1,114 Maniagars.....	56,208
1,114 Curnums.....	86,484
2,312 Vettians.....	83,232

Total.... 2,25,924

The particulars are shown in the accompanying Statement.

	Rs.
Revenue charge.....	2,25,924
Do. Assets.....	1,86,816
Difference.. ..	39,108

31. The deficiency to be made good for the revenue service is, it will be observed, 39,108 Rupees, to which will have to be added the cost of the Nirgunty Establishment, amounting probably to 8,000 Rupees; and this deficiency will, I presume, have to be met out of the general revenues, as the fee cess is fixed at the highest rate, viz., $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. If the Government are not disposed to meet this deficiency, it will be necessary (if the general plan is to be carried out) to reduce the amount of remuneration proposed to be given; but this, I fear, would mar the efficiency of the Establishment.

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23rd July 1862.

Statement showing the scale of allowances proposed for the Village Servants of the North Arcot District.

Statement showing the scale of allowances proposed, North Arcot District.											
Revenue of the Village and below	Number of Villages.	Village Servants.									Remarks.
		Maniakaren.			Curnum.			Vettyan.			
		Number.	Rate.	Amount.	Number.	Rate.	Amount.	Number.	Rate.	Amount.	
250	44	44	36	1,584	44	60	2,640	44	36	1,584	
500	143	143	36	5,148	143	60	8,580	143	36	5,148	
1,000	196	196	36	7,056	196	60	11,760	392	36	14,112	
1,500	265	265	48	12,720	265	72	19,080	530	36	19,080	
2,000	195	195	60	11,700	195	84	16,380	390	36	14,040	
2,500	98	98	60	5,880	98	96	9,408	294	36	10,584	
3,000	66	66	60	3,960	66	96	6,336	198	36	7,128	
4,000	69	69	72	4,968	69	108	7,452	207	36	7,452	
5,000	19	19	72	1,368	19	120	2,280	57	36	2,052	
6,000	14	14	96	1,344	14	132	1,848	42	36	1,512	
7,000	5	5	96	480	5	144	720	15	36	540	
Total..	1,114	1,114	...	56,208	1,114	...	86,484	2,312	...	83,232	
(Signed) C. PELLY, Member.											

(Signed) C. PELLY, Member.

No. 320.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1862, No. 1,584.

Ordered to lie over.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

Establishment

105

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

Decey

Member.

Pro: 22 March / 61 No 410-413.
26 April " 434-435

130/70

From Hon. C. Pelley
of 10 May 60 C no 1145

351-11-

Rev-1862 O'clat.
Proj of Govt for July
From

The Honble C Pelley.
Member of the B^d of Regl

Lo. The Acting Chief
Secretary to
Government

Dated 11/4
Despatched } July 1862.
Received 14/4

E-27- No 1333.

Submitting for
the consideration and
orders of Government
his views respecting the
future Village Establish-
ments for the District
of North Arcat.

W-1584.

To be reviewed

From St. George
23 July / 62

1584

No 319 + 320.

11/12/62