

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1832

Press
Mis.

390391

Dated 28-8-1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th August 1862.*

No. 390. Read the following letter from the Honorable C. PELLY, Member of the Board of Revenue, to the Honorable T. PYCROFT, Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 18th August 1862, No. 1,361:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Government the measures I would propose for remodelling and paying the Village Establishments in the District of Madura.

2. The village servants, as a general rule are ill paid, and consequently inefficient. Their emoluments consist almost entirely of Inám lands, which being often waste, yield them but a small and varying profit. The resumption of these Ináms, and the substitution of cash payments is recommended by the present Collector, a measure which was also recommended by former Collectors. The office holders, it is said, will heartily welcome the change.

3. In order to carry out this reform, it will be necessary here, as in other Districts, to group villages together; and an amalgamation of villages has been proposed by the Collector, who has taken care that the work of each newly constituted village shall be equal to the management of a single Maniakaren and Curnum.

4. The village servants have no fees regularly assigned them, so that these emoluments consist solely of land, with a single exception of one village in the plains, where 5 per cent. of the revenue is assigned for their payment; and in the few villages on the Pulney Hills, where a ready money allowance is allowed, at a per centage of 3 and 4 per cent. to the Maniakaren and Toty, and 7 Rupees monthly to the Curnum.

5. The offices are regarded as hereditary, and are sought after as conferring position as well as emolument. When vacancies occur preference is given to heirs and relatives of the former occupant, except in cases of dismissal for fraud or other misconduct, or when the heir is incompetent, and then the selection is made from the Ryots of the village rather than from strangers. This is right; for, as observed by a former Collector (Mr. Parker), with reference to the office of Maniakaren, (or, as they are called in this District, Natamegars), a substantial Ryot, from the influence conferred by his property, is in general much more efficient than a stranger on the small salary which the state can afford for his services; they are preferable to needy men having no stake in the village.

6. The several servants are designated in Madura by the following titles:—

The Maniakaren	is called Natamegar
The Curnum,	Kanaken.
The Shroff,	Nottakaren.
The Vettyan,	Toty or Tandalkaram or Mádárl.
The Nirgunti,	Kudumban, or Niranikan, or Madayan.

7. I have been in personal communication with Mr. Levinge, the Collector, and the following scheme was agreed on by us, and only awaited the receipt of some further information from the Collector, which has now been received, to enable me to submit my report to Government.

8. There are now 778 villages, these are to be grouped and reduced to 489 villages. Each village will have one Natamegar, and one Curnum, one or more Vettys, according to its size.

9. The emoluments of the Natamegar, I at first fixed according to the scale of 30th April 1861, but I have since modified it a little as I think that scale too low. The rate of salary to the Curnums is the same as that scale, except that no sum less than 5 Rupees per month is given to any Curnum as directed by Government.

10. The Vettys, as respects the number necessary for each village, have been allotted, according to that scale also, and their pay fixed at 3 Rupees a month.

11. Nirguntis have been given to villages having tanks where they are actually required and where the Vettys allowed may not be sufficient for this duty also. But in all cases the Nirgunti is to be considered as available for general village service as well as for the Tank duties, though his principal duty will, during the season, be at the tank; his salary has accordingly been made the same as that of the Vettyan.

12. The Shroff or Nottakaren is not required.

13. The Natamegar is to be remunerated for his services by a deduction from his puttah at the time of the annual settlement, and if necessary by a further payment out of the village collections to make up the full sum of his remuneration.

14. The Curnum, the Vettyan, and the Nirgunti are to be paid in cash monthly or at other more convenient periods from the village collections.

15. The deductions from the village collections for payment to the village servants, are to be made in the village, and entered in the remittance paper, and the balance of cash only is to be sent to the Taluq Treasury.

Establishment was included?

2 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
28th August 1862.

16. The Ináms (or Rent free grants of land), which constitute the present emoluments of the offices are to be resumed at their full assessment. The local Officers are quite clear that there is no necessity whatever in Madura to enfranchise these Ináms at five-eighths, or any other reduced amount, below their net proper assessment. The lands are strictly hereditary office lands, and are attached to the office whoever holds it. It is generally in the actual possession of the office holder, and where this is not the case, the co-sharer, or other Ryot holding the Inám, pays to the office bearer the Government share or the proper rent of the land.

Paragraphs 4, 5.

17. The only modification which the Collector would allow, and which it is quite fair to grant, is that the assessment on the Inám, which was originally valued at the same rate as similar Government land, should be reduced in the same proportion as the assessment on similar Government lands has since been reduced. To this deduction they are entitled, and Mr. Levinge would thus reduce the aggregate value Rupees 1,11,559, of the Inám assessment by 7,979 Rupees, and he would strike out 3,351 Rupees on account of uncultivable waste, leaving the net value of the Ináms to be resumed and assessed at Rupees 99,752.

18. The Collector would not take the fees now paid to the village servants into consideration. Mr. Levinge has made enquiries respecting these fees, he ascertains that fees are paid by the villages, but there is no correct account of the amount, nor has the English Government ever interfered to regulate them. They amount, as far as he seems to have obtained an account, to 3,210 Rupees, of which 1,570 Rupees are nearly a half are Police fees. It must however be observed that a former Collector, Mr. Hardis, in 1802, seems to have left to the cultivator 12½ per cent., "which included every proper charge, that custom with the knowledge of the Circar could authorize; the remainder of the crop was equally divided between the Circar and Ryot." But whether in the charges alluded to by Mr. Hardis the payment of the village service was included, seems doubtful; it never seems to have been so considered, and it may be assumed that there are no tangible assets in the shape of fees for payment of the village servants in Madura, except in a very few villages: as the whole District should be placed on the same footing, these small fees may be given up by the Government. If a general fee cess is to be introduced it will fall equally on all. A few village servants are paid in money by Government; the sum amounts only to 357 Rupees.

19. The value of the present emoluments Revenue and Police, including the fees and cash payments, amounts in all to 1,03,319 Rupees, enjoyed as follows:—

	Inám excluding uncultivable waste, &c.	Fees.	Cash payment.	Total.
Natamegar...				
Curnum...				
Toty Madari Tandal...	35,619	9	82	35,710
Niranikam...	30,746	345	130	31,221
Nottam...	16,721	553	144	17,418
Kaval...	4,379	918	...	5,297
	3,934	47	...	3,981
	8,353	1,338	1	9,692
Total....	99,752	3,210	357	1,03,319

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3
28th August 1862.

20. The providing of the village Police is not part of my duty. The Inspector General however looks to the local authorities to provide out of the village funds for the village watch. I am strongly of opinion (and I believe Mr. Robinson, the Inspector General of Police, agrees with me) that the village watchman should be under the immediate orders and supervision of the head man of the village; and it will therefore be proper that each new village should have its watchman, one or more as may be required. I have therefore, subject of course to the approval of Mr. Robinson, shown in this report the probable cost of the village watch in the Madura District; each Talliary is to have 3 Rupees a month.

21. The Establishment that I have now the honor to recommend to the consideration of Government is as follows:—

	No.	Amount.
Natamegars	489	20,292
Curnums	489	39,984
Vettyans...	989	35,604
Nirguntis	333	11,988
Total Revenue...	2,300	1,07,868
Police Talliaries or Kavilgars...	526	18,936
Total Revenue and Police...	2,826	1,26,804

22. In the following abstract the number and emoluments of each class are shown in detail:—
MANIAKARENS.

For villages whose Revenue is	No. of villages.	Rate per annum.	Amount.
Up to ... 600	25	24	600
" ... 2,000	177	42	18,312
" ... 5,000	259	48	1,200
" ... 9,000	25	60	180
Above ... 9,000	3	...	...
Total...	489	...	20,292
CURNAMS.			
Up to ... 600	25	60	7,800
" ... 1,000	39	72	5,184
" ... 1,500	66	84	11,592
" ... 2,000	72	96	8,160
" ... 3,000	138	108	5,508
" ... 4,000	85	120	1,200
" ... 6,000	51	180	540
" ... 9,000	10	...	...
Above ... 9,000	3	...	...
Total...	489	...	39,984

VETTYANS.

	No. of villages.	No. of men.	Rate.	Amount.
Up to ... 1,000	64	64	36	2,304
" ... 4,000	361	722	36	25,992
" ... 7,000	53	159	36	5,724
Above ... 7,000	11	44	36	1,584
Total...	489	989	...	35,604

Establishment was included

4 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
28th August 1862.

Compared with the present available assets (excluding the fees) there is a net deficiency of revenue emoluments, Rupees 16,113, and of Police, Rupees 10,582; in all 26,695 Rupees as follows :—

	Present Establishment.		Proposed Estab-lishment.	Decrease of assets.	Increase of assets.
	Value of lands.	Cash pay-ments.	Pay.		
Natamegars	35,619	82	35,701		
Curnums	30,746	130	30,876		15,409
Vettyans	16,721	144	16,865	9,108	
Nirguntis	4,379	...	4,379	18,739	
Notams	3,934	...	3,934	7,609	
Total Revenue Establishment.....	91,399	356	91,755		
Police Cavalgars.....	8,353	1	8,354	1,07,868	19,343
Total Revenue and Police	99,752	357	1,00,109	35,456	
			1,26,804	10,582	19,343
				46,038	
					26,695

23. It will be observed that the new scale materially reduces the total income of the head men of the villages. But the remuneration proposed is in accordance with the principle laid down by Government, and it may be remarked that the emoluments are now divided among a much larger body of Natamegars than are at all necessary. There are at present 1,605 of these men for the existing number of 778 villages, while there are only 699 Curnums.

24. In all the other classes of servants a better remuneration where it was much required has been provided.

25. By the plan proposed of resuming the land Ináms there is no reason to doubt but that the sum, viz., 99,752 calculated on as an asset will be realized. There will then remain a deficit of 27,052 or Rupees 26,695

26. If a fee cess is to be introduced in lieu of the few fees now collected, and as an extra demand on the Ryot, it need not be heavy; a little less than two per cent. on the assessment of the occupied area Government and Inám would suffice to cover the sum required both for the Revenue and Police Village Establishments, as shown by the Collector :—

Land Revenue Ryotwary...	Fasli 1,270
Inám Assessment	12,41,828
	99,752
	13,41,580

A cess at the rate of 2 per cent. on the above sum would produce 26,831 Rupees.

27. Mr. Levinge (paragraph 23) concludes by a proposition, not only to resume the Inám Lands but to sell them. He says the service lands are the property of Government, and if sold in auction, subject to the net assessment, instead of being simply made over in Puttah to the present holders, they would probably yield more than a lac of Rupees, which might be invested to form a Local Fund for improvement to Roads and Village Choultries, Tanks, Wells, &c.

I do not at all support this proposition; some of the lands, it is clear, are not Government property, as the holder only pays the Government assessment on them to the office holder; and those lands, which are and have been attached to the office, have probably been in the family of most of the holders for many years, for the office has been always regarded as hereditary; and they surely have a preferential right to them, now that it is proposed to assess them at their full rate; and it would be unfair and harsh to sell them to others. If the lands are valuable, it is so much the better, for there is the greater certainty of their continuing to yield the Revenue from

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5
28th August 1862.

which, primarily, the fund for the payment of the Village Establishments must be derived. Let it suffice that they are to be resumed, and not enfranchised at a rate below the proper Government Land Assessment.

28. This report, it will be observed, treats of the whole Village Establishment including Nirguntis, and the Village Police Watch.

No. 391.

ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1862, No. 1,832.

Ordered to lie over.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Madura District

1. The Madura District comprises 778 villages, which have been grouped into 489.

2. The village officers' emoluments are derived almost entirely from ^{Swam} land; a few fees are paid by the Ryots in kind at harvest, ^{but} on no defined principle. In 1802 when the district was assessed a deduction of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent was made from the gross produce "for every proper charge that custom with the knowledge of the Pircar could authorize" the remainder of the produce being equally divided between Govt and the ryot. But Mr. Kelly says it is doubtful whether the cost of Village Establishment was included.

included among these
 "proper" charges and it
 seems in Madras to have
 never been considered
 that it was so included.
 The Sudans however are
 regarded as strictly offi-
 -cial and attached to the
 office - there is no necessi-
 -ty therefore for their
 being commuted at less
 than their full assess-
 -ment - which in fact
 is paid to the office or
 holder by the occupant -
 when the former is not
 himself in possession -
 The Sudam lands still bear
 their original assessment
 and it is only fair that
 this should be reduced in
 the same degree as the
 assessment on Govt lands
 has since been reduced -
 The value of the Sudams
 thus treated amounts after
 the deduction of uncultura-
 -ble waste to Rs 90,399 - the
 trifling

trifling fees already re-
 -ferred to and some ex-
 -petty cash payments
 bring the total availa-
 -ble assets up to Rs 93,627
 which the total charges
 according to Mr. Kelly's
 scale amount to Ru-
 -pees 1,07,868 for Re-
 -venue servants. -

* Reengumies included -

	Present Sudam $\frac{1}{2}$ a. Popul.	Proposed
Monigars -	35,710.	20,292.
Curnums -	31,221.	39,984.
Lotly or Pelly -	17,418.	35,604.
Kisanikam -	5,297.	11,988.
Kotham -	3,981.	"

93,627.	1,07,868.
93,627.	1,07,868.

Deficiency - 14,231.
 equivalent to a little or
 about 10% on the Sudam
 and Land Assessment
 of 13 1/2 lacs. -

3. The present number
 of Monigars and Curnums
 is 1605 of the former and
 699 of the latter. The aver-
 -age emoluments of

of the former are
 therefore $22\frac{1}{4}$ Rs per
 annum and with $41\frac{1}{2}$
 4. Mr. Levinge has
 proposed that the ser-
 vice lands after be-
 ing resumed or ^{more} strictly
 speaking, assessed, should
 be sold (subject to that
 assessment, it is to be
 presumed) and the pro-
 ceeds which he estimates
 at more than a lac of
 Rupees, invested as a Lo-
 cal Fund - Mr. Kelly is
 opposed to this arrange-
 ment and there seems
 no reason why these lands
 more than any other as-
 sessed lands should
 be thus dealt with - while
 such a course would
 of course depreciate their
 value and would often
 be tantamount to selling
 the improvements at

the occupants -

The village
 officials will, it is
 said "heartily welcome
 the change" from Indian
 yielding small and
 varying profits to
 fixed money payments,
 and as the addition-
 al charge is small
 Mr. Kelly's arrangements
 may, I think be ap-
 proved subject to a
 careful revision of
 the grouping and
 the better pay being
 fixed at 30 instead
 of 36 Rs per annum.
 The deficit will
 not exceed 8000 Rs.

Pro: A. L. Lumber / 60 N^o 36. 33
 " 22 March / 61 " 140-141
 " 26 October " " 325-326
 " 19 November " " 185-186

Revenue 1862 Report
 Proof for August-
 No 2337

From,

The Hon^{ble} C. P. Lill
 member of the
 Bd. of Rev.

To

The Hon^{ble} J. Pycroft
 Chief Secretary
 to Government
 Rev. Dep.

Date 18th August 1862

Rec^d 18th

Rec^d 19

N^o 1367.

En: 6

1832

Submitting
 his views for the re-
 modelling of the Village
 Establishments in the
 District of Madura.

IV-1832.

To be over.

re-printed with

and delay 21/10

Printed by George 21/10

N. 390 + 391

22-8/62