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M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1829 Press
424. 425 Mis.

Dated 30.8.1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 424. 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. 1,362 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report on the Village Revenue Establishments existing and required in the District of Coimbatore, and to forward the letters of the Collector noted in the margin relating to this subject.

From Collector, dated 4th December 1861.
" 21st Do. "
" 29th April 1862.
" 30th Do. "
" 30th May "
" 11th June "
" 11th August "
Letter dated 24th December, paragraph 3.
Do. dated 4th December, paragraph 18.
* See Letter to Board Revenue, dated 27th November 1861.

2. The classes of Village Servants employed in this District are, 1st, the Moniagar; 2nd, the Curnum; 3rd, the Toti or Tandalgar; and 4th, the Nírani. To these must be added the Taliaries or village watchers who till lately formed a part of the village establishment, but are now transferred to the Police Department, and neither these men nor their emoluments recently resumed* will be further noticed in this report.

Police Emoluments.	Rs.
Inám Lands...	... 13,26
Fees paid by Ryots about ...	... 12,4573
Total..	25,720

3. Shroffs have never been employed in Coimbatore, and it is not necessary to introduce them. The Nírani or Nirgunti establishment will form the subject of a separate report.

Nirgunti Emoluments.	Rs.
In Land	1,950-7-2
Fees paid by Ryots..	14,853-3-10
Total..	16,803-11-0

4. The Inám lands set apart from the emoluments of the village servants are never, sub-divided, and in part enjoyed by persons not actually performing the duties of the office. There are no co-sharers of the service Ináms not holding office, whose interests will be affected by any changes. The registered servants on the village establishment alone perform the duty and enjoy the emoluments of the office, though there are sometimes more than one officer of each class doing duty in a village and then they divide the emoluments among themselves. The lands (which form the only remuneration of village servants now under reference) are sometimes in possession of the office-bearers, and sometimes in the possession of Ryots who pay the assessment on them to the office-holders.

See letter dated 29th November 1861, paragraph 6.

5. Mr. Thomas is of opinion, and I quite agree with him, that there is no occasion to adopt the scheme of enfranchising these lands at the reduced rate of five-eighths, their proper assessment, as there are no parties who have any claim to this indulgence.

6. No fees are levied from or paid by the Ryots on account of the village servants (except for Taliaries and Niranies in some places). The payments made by the Royts under the Hindoo and Mahomedan dynasties under the denomination of Roossums, Mahamas, Taffreek, Gramakurch, &c., were, Mr. Thomas says, abolished in 1799 by the Collector during the survey. If such was the case, as it appears to have been, the equivalent of their payments would have been taken account of in making the survey assessment and be included in the Government demand on the land. There are therefore no fees to commute. And Mr. Thomas is of opinion that the introduction of a general cess would be unfair and improper in this District, and be looked upon as a harsh innovation by the Ryots who have never paid any fee for the village establishments (those above noted being of course excepted). No deduction on account of fees was made from the produce of the lands at the settlement in the early part of this century, and to charge a cess now would be viewed as a heavy new tax, which would not be realized without much difficulty. The cess, if introduced, would yield at the maximum rate of 6¼ per cent. on the Land Assessment Rupees 1,61,000,* any portion of which, with the exception of 27,310† Rupees now paid to the Taliaries and Niranies, would be an extra demand on the Coimbatore Ryots.

Letter dated 4th December, paragraph 3.
Do. 21st do. paragraphs 2 and 7.

See letter from Mr. Ganon, Collector of Coimbatore, 29th January 1809.

Land Assessment.	Rs.
* Government.....	23,51,439
Inám..	2,26,384
Total..	25,77,823
6¼ per cent. cess.....	1,61,114
† Taliary fees.....	12,457
Nirani do.	14,853
	27,310

7. The village servants now treated of derive their emoluments entirely from grants of land, the amount of which was fixed at 5 per cent. on the revenue of the village, and was apportioned as follows in the Northern Division of the District :—

Monigar two-fifths.
Curnum two-fifths.
Toty or Tandalgar one-fifth.

8. In the Southern Táluqs the proportion of the Toty was one-fourth more, which was taken from the shares of the Monigar and Curnum in equal portions. If there are two or more Office-holders in a village they divide this proportion among themselves. But these emoluments are not sufficient, and besides this much of the land is waste and unproductive, and the servants who hold it have been without pay for several years, and the revision now in hand has been long looked for :—

The aggregate amount of the emoluments now existing is first—

	Rs.
The Assessment of the Inám lands...	1,20,916
Cash payments to the village servants in the Koondah villages on the Neilgherries and to the Monigar of Ootacamund ...	162
Total...	1,21,078

9. To satisfy the complaints of the village servants, and to obviate the necessity of often changing the service Maniems, Mr. Thomas is of opinion that their Ináms should be resumed and assessed at the full assessment, and that the servants be paid in cash, either by deductions from the puttahs of the office-holders (if they hold puttah land) or by a deduction from the village Kists previous to the remittance of the balance to the Táluq Treasury. I concur with the Collector in this recommendation, except that I think it undesirable to make a *deduction in the puttahs* of the Curnums and Toties for their emoluments, but I would certainly, as I have always recommended, allow the Maniakaren to deduct the amount of his remuneration distinctly in his puttah, as it is desirable he should be a large land-holder. It is not so with the other two classes of servants.

10. By the orders of Government there is to be but one Maniakaren and one Curnum to each village, who are held responsible to Government, if any extra assistance is needed, the responsible officer is to provide it on his own responsibility. Mr. Thomas objects to this plan. He remarks that "the private Gumáshta of a village officer, however "trustworthy, might seek opportunity of ruining the permanent "incumbent with the view to get the place for himself and commit frauds whereby the interests "of Government will suffer," and he suggests that in the larger class of villages two Monigars and two to four Curnums should be appointed by the Government officers, and severally be responsible directly to Government, but he does not propose that any additional pay should be given on account of the additional hands, but that the pay fixed for the village should be equally divided among all. I do not think the reasons of the Collector are sufficient to induce the Government to alter their resolution on this point, and I do not support his proposition.

Letter 21st Dec. 1861, paragraph 4.

Villages.	
Circar	1,534
Shrotrium	9
Jaghir	1
	1,544

11. There are in Coimbatore at present 1,544 villages, many of them are very small, and the clubbing of them with others is a very proper arrangement, but in his scheme Mr. Thomas proposed a combination of villages (including many large villages) which I considered would affect the efficiency of the administration. His plan reduced the number to 581 villages only. From two and upwards to ten villages are grouped together in this arrangement. One hundred and twenty-three villages only being left as they are (see letter, 4th December 1861, paragraph 63), and adopting the scale of emolument proposed by me on 30th April 1861 for general application, with some modifications for the Maniakarens only, the cost of the establishment would have been for these 581 villages as follows :—

		Rs.
581	Maniakarens	27,708
581	Curnums	54,960
1,424	Vettyans @ 3 Rs.	51,264
2,586		
	Total cost	1,33,932

which is 12,854 Rupees in excess of the sum which represents the present emoluments.

12. There are ten Shrotrium and Jaghir villages ; these Mr. Thomas also proposed to group together and reduced the number to six ; and gave an establishment to each, proposing as in the other villages, to resume the land Ináms. But perhaps it will be better to leave these villages as at present under the management of the Shrotriumdars, I therefore propose to omit them from consideration.

Letter 21st December 1861, paragraph 11.

13. The Collector's proposition for grouping the villages was submitted without due consideration, the local officers of the Táluqs had not been sufficiently consulted, but this has now been done, and after careful enquiry a new scheme, which has my concurrence, has been forwarded to me by the late Collector for all but the two Táluqs of Coligal and Neilgherry. The present Collector has supplied what was required for these two Táluqs.

14. The existing number of 1,534 villages are by grouping reduced to 849 villages, and this number is now recommended for the sanction of Government. They are formed into the classes shown in the following table, and the establishment recommended is as follows :—

Village officers.	Class.	Number of villages.	Number of men.	Rate.	Cost.	Neilgherries. Number of villages.	Neilgherries. Number of men.	Neilgherries. Rate.	Neilgherries. Cost.
Monigar.	600	49	49	24	1,176	1	2	48	96
	2,000	324	324	30	9,720	2	5	48	240
	5,000	392	392	48	18,816	2	8	48	384
	9,000	66	66	60	3,960	...	...	...	...
	above 9,000	13	13	84	1,092	...	...	...	...
	Total...	844	844	...	34,764	5	15	...	720
Curnum.	600	48	48	60	2,880	1	1	60	60
	1,000	83	83	60	4,980	1	1	60	60
	1,500	120	120	60	7,200	...	...	...	...
	2,000	119	119	72	8,568	1	1	60	60
	3,000	213	213	84	17,892	1	2	60	120
	4,000	122	122	96	11,712	1	2	60	120
	6,000	87	87	108	9,396	...	...	...	...
	9,000	39	39	120	4,680	...	...	...	...
	above 9,000	13	13	192	2,496	...	...	...	...
	Total...	844	844	...	69,804	5	7	...	420
Vettyan.	1,000	131	131	36	4,716	2	4	24	96
	4,000	574	1,148	36	41,328	3	13	24	312
	7,000	111	333	36	11,988	...	...	...	...
	above 7,000	28	112	36	4,032	...	...	...	...
	Total...	844	1,724	...	62,064	5	17	...	408

Monigars...	35,484
Curnums	70,224
Vettyans...	62,472
Total cost...	1,68,180

15. The Collector has adopted generally the scale of 30th April 1861, submitted by me to Government for the Curnum and the Vettyan. But he is of opinion that the scale is not sufficient for the Maniakarens, and has proposed a higher rate as follows:—

Scale of remuneration for Maniakaren.

For villages whose Revenue		Proposed scale of 30th April 1861.	Proposed by Collector.
	RS.	RS.	
Is up to	600	18	24
,,	2,000	24	30
,,	5,000	36	48
,,	9,000	48	60
Above	9,000	60	84

which I have adopted, it will still give a much less amount on the gross to the Maniakarens than they now draw at a rate of two per cent. on the Revenue of the village, though as there will be a less number, they will receive an adequate remuneration for their work.

See Order of Government No. 2,180, dated 19th November, paragraph 9.

16. I have increased the lower rates of the Curnum's salary to 5 Rupees a month, in conformity to the views of Government.

Letter dated 11th August 1862.

17. For the Neilgherry Táluq the late Collector recommended a special establishment at the suggestion of the Tahsíldár; but it did not meet with my approval. Mr. Grant, the present Collector, has since given his careful attention to the requirements of this Táluq, which from its climate and peculiar circumstances must be treated exceptionably, and on a somewhat] different system from those in the plains. But the present system is capable of considerable improvement. There are now employed on Government pay a host of Monigars whose emoluments are but a few Annas. Mr. Grant enters fully into the necessity of having the same head Monigars as before, but proposes to do away with the Sub-Monigars. The Táluq is to be divided into five villages, or rather it may be called townlands, each with a number of small hamlets attached. There are to be 15 Monigars, 7 Curnums and 17 Toties, all to be remunerated at a fair rate, viz.:—

Monigars each 4 Rupees per month.
Curnums ,, 5 ,, ,,
Toty ,, 3 ,, ,,

The cost for the whole Táluq will be Rupees 1,548. This arrangement I beg to support as the best that can be made.

No. 425.

ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1862, No. 1,849.

Ordered to lie over.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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Pro 26th Octr 1861 No. 325-326
19 Novr " " 185-186.

Revenue 1862 Depart
Pro: of Govt. for Augt.

No. 2338

From,

The Honble. C. Pelly
Member of the Bd. of Rev.

To The Honble. T. Pycroft
Chief Secretary
to Govern.t
Revd. Depart.

Dated 18th August 1862
Despd. 18th August 1862.
Recd. 19

No. 1362.

No. 1849

Enc: 30

1849

Front St. George
30th Augt. 1862

Reporting upon the requirements of the Village Establishments in the District of Coimbatore

No. 424 & 425.

No. 1849 30 Augt.
To lie over.

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