31.3.81.Rl.

26.7.5402.

M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 895 — Press Mis.

350 352

Dated 25-4-1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th April 1862.

No. 350. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th February 1862, No. 953:—

Read the following letter from H. NEWILL, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Madras, 30th January 1862, No. 111-11.

SIR,

1. The withdrawal of the Settlement party from Wainâd at the close of the present working season, in accordance with the instructions contained in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 21st October 1861, No. 2,015, raises the question as to whether the Coimbatore District should not be systematically taken up by it.

2. As reported at the time, the Wainâd party was employed in Coimbatore during the monsoon and sickly season in Wainâd, and a considerable extent of work is now in hand there, but before arranging for the extension of the Survey throughout that District, I beg that the orders of Government may be obtained upon the subject.

Letter to Board, dated 8th April 1861, No. 566.

3. The Survey of Malabar was at one time contemplated, but the Board are aware that the Collector deprecated its being taken up and that in consequence the Wainâd party was located in Coimbatore, instead of lower Malabar during the recess.

Letter to Board, dated 8th April 1861, No. 566.
Board's Proceedings, 12th April 1861, No. 1,927.

4. I have recently been to Calicut to consult with the Collector on the subject, and the result is comprized in his letter to me, dated 16th December 1861, No. 3,427 (which is enclosed in original), from which it will be seen that he considers it inexpedient, for several reasons, to take up the District at least at the present time.

5. Malabar being essentially a proprietary country, and the Government tax being levied on different principles from those applicable to Ryotwary Districts, the question of the introduction into it of a new Survey and Settlement, requires special consideration.

6. A very large proportion of the revenue amounting to 12 lacs of Rupees, is a tax derived from the paddy cultivation on which there is a fixed assessment, which has been in force since A. D. 1784 in the time of Atshed Beg, Tippoo's Minister, or now for a period of 78 years, and has thus assumed a permanent character by prescription. Landed transactions have been based upon the existing assessment throughout Malabar, where land is generally saleable at as much as twenty to twenty-five years' purchase, and it seems more than questionable whether the rights of property should be interfered with or revolutionized throughout this Province by attempting to supersede the present Government demand by a new Revenue Settlement.

7. The next item of importance is the revenue from cocoanut plantations. This has always been levied by a toll on the trees, and the Collector proposes shortly to have a re-examination for adjusting the revenue to the present state of the plantations, and it is a question whether this old established usage should not be continued, as the substitution of a tax on the soil, according to its intrinsic value, would result in an enormous sacrifice of revenue.

Rupees 4,58,000.

8. A settlement of the tax on dry lands, by adopting fixed rates instead of the former fluctuating amount has recently been sanctioned in the Order of Government, dated 1st November 1861, so that a systematic plan is being introduced with regard to the dry cultivation.

9. If a new Settlement of the District is not thought expedient, the Survey would be of benefit mostly to the proprietors and cultivators by defining and delineating property, and would result in no great *direct* benefit to Government, the concealed cultivation being probably a small item beyond what can be brought to account by the measures now in hand by the Collector.

10. It is true that much confusion, as described in paragraph 7 of Mr. Grant's letter, has arisen in the apportionment and sub-division of the fixed assessment above alluded to, but he has in progress measures, as will be seen from his letter, for the rectification of this irregularity, and bringing to account all increased cultivation without unnecessarily unsettling people's minds, or the excitement that would be caused by the introduction of separate measures by Department foreign to the District, and unconnected with its local Officers.

Wynaad being part
of the Malabar

11. From the above observations it will be seen that although there may be advantages from a Survey of the province, the immediate introduction of this measure is not of urgent importance. Mr. Grant shares in this opinion, and further urges the inexpediency of taking up the Survey at the present time on Political grounds.

12. I would propose therefore, if it meets the concurrence of the Board and Government, to continue the work in the Coimbatore District, the Collector of which, however, in the accompanying extract from his letter, dated 5th ultimo, No. 500, in reply to a call for information required in the Memorandum of the Secretary to Government, dated 21st September 1861, No. 352, does not consider any new Settlement necessary. As Coimbatore has been commenced, and it is inconvenient to take Districts piece meal, if this District is to be done at all, it is desirable to complete it at once, as arrangements have already been decided upon for the more urgent requirements of Tinnevelly ; and as it is resolved that the remainder of South Arcot can lie over for a time, I am not aware of any other Tamil District with stronger claims for the services of this Tamil party.

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1. Ordered that the above letter be submitted for the orders of Government, with the expression of the Board's opinion that under the circumstances of the case it is not advisable in the interests of Government to take up the general Survey of Malabar at present.

2. The Board do not at all share the Collector's apprehensions of mischievous results were the measure carried out with firmness, judgment, and courtesy, nor do they consider that the fear of opposition should deter from doing what might be deemed right and proper, but they are of opinion that the public good to be attained in Malabar by Survey can in no way be compared with the benefits which may be so secured in other Districts of which the needs are far more pressing.

3. It must be borne in mind that the distribution of the Land tax in Malabar and Canara is Kulwar, not Khetwar, in other words, is on individual holdings, not on individual fields ; and as the vast majority of these holdings had their origin in times long anterior to the British assumption of the Government of these Districts, where the rights of property have been acknowledged and respected through a long series of years during which numberless transactions in landed estates have occurred, based on the long established and still existing state of taxation, it is needless to observe that no enhancement of the Land tax on the original holdings could be made without most seriously disturbing vested rights, and agitating the minds of the whole body of landed proprietors. And again, the Board see no reason whatever to believe that the revision of the assessment on the land would lead to any enhancement of the demand on the holdings, except where encroachments are discovered. The argument adduced by Mr. Grant that no irrigation works have ever been formed or maintained by Government in the District is of undeniable weight and has always been admitted from our earliest occupation of the Province down to the present time. The original tenure of the land was totally different from that in other parts of the Presidency, and the existing taxation on the land is already observed of old date, if indeed it be not the original assessment of a money demand on the holdings. All these considerations, in the Board's opinion, preclude the supposition that the assessment on the land could be enhanced, except by the discovery of encroachments.

4. Nor, on the other hand, is there any reason to suppose that it needs to be lowered. The prosperity of the District, the flourishing condition of the landlord class, and the advance of the class of tenantry all prove that the land is not unduly burdened. These remarks apply mainly to the rice lands. The dry grain lands are poor, and Government have lately sanctioned an arrangement for their assessment, which appears to the Board to meet the requirements of their case. The gardens are taxed by a Tree toll, and change of system rather than alteration of assessment, is what is needed in their case, which the Collector proposes shortly to bring under the consideration of the Board. Thus as regards probable improvement of revenue by a Survey and revision of assessment in Malabar, the Government, in the Board's opinion, could only look to the discovery of encroachments and to concealed cultivation on holdings which are supposed to be lying waste and ownerless, and do not at present ostensibly pay any revenue to Government.

5. That such probably exist to a limited extent is very likely, but the Board do not think they will be found numerous. Moreover a scrutiny into the lands as compared with the old accounts has been for some time in course of being carried out, and is likely to result in bringing to account land paying half a lac of Rupees annually.

6. As regards Coimbatore, the Board consider the Collector under a misapprehension as to the objects had in view by the establishment of the survey and revision of assessment. Undoubtedly the motive was to relieve the land from that burden of over-assessment which had for years weighed upon it, and repressed the advance of our great agricultural class. Improvement of the public revenues was also hoped for, as a concomitant advantage anticipated from the extension of cultivation over arrears that hitherto could not be occupied but at the imminent risk of serious loss ; and also though less directly from the generally improved condition of the great body of the population, which it was hoped would result, and which would at once affect the indirect taxes, as well as from the stability which would be conferred on our land Revenue when the demand should be placed on a footing that would enable the Ryot to pay the land tax with comparative ease in bad seasons as well as in good, and to adopt the best system of rotation of crops, or to let his land lie fallow without the absolute necessity of relinquishing it, from the impossibility of meeting the Government demand except under almost exceptional circumstances of prosperity.

7. Certainly as a rule a lowering and not an enhancement of the rates of assessment on the several classes of land was anticipated as the result of the revision of the assessment, and such it will be the object of the Board to attain wherever they have reason to believe that the common interests of the State and of the Ryot require it.

8. The Board have no reason to suppose that Coimbatore cannot be benefited by a revision of its land assessment with this object, nor do they believe that such relief is not needed. The soil is very poor, the natural irrigation not good, the old well lands very highly taxed, and the Board are inclined to think that though Mr. Thomas may deprecate any enhancement of the assessment on the land, he would not dispute that it could often be reduced with advantage.

9. The Board, therefore, advocate the complete Survey and revision of the land assessment in Coimbatore when it can be conveniently undertaken, but at present they consider it of great importance that the operations of the Survey and Assessment Departments should be more concentrated than they would be with parties working in Coimbatore and Tinnevelly, and therefore recommend, since the Government have already ordered that Tinnevelly should be taken up immediately after Salem, that the Wainád parties, unless they can be also employed in that District, should be transferred to the adjoining one of Madura.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 351. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th March 1862, No. 1,461 :—

Read the following letter from H. NEWILL, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Salem, 21st February 1862, No. 191.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings of 11th instant, No. 953, in which they state in reply to my proposal to continue Survey and Settlement operations in Coimbatore, that they think it desirable that Coimbatore should be completed when it can be done *conveniently*, and propose that in order to concentrate the operations, the work in Coimbatore should be relinquished, and the Madura District taken up instead.

2. In reply, I beg to state that the course proposed by the Board will disconcert the arrangements of the Department, and instead of being a departmental *convenience*, as supposed by the Board, it will prove the contrary.

3. Each party has its separate Officers and Superintendents, and Coimbatore is, or will be immediately perfectly accessible by the rail, while also the two adjacent Districts of Trichinopoly and Salem are now in hand, and it will be sometime before the settlement is finally be carried on them. It may also be considered that instead of leaving Coimbatore isolated at the western extremity, and returning to complete it at future period, the *convenience* to the Department will be better consulted by completing the District at once.

Reynard Reiny Land
of the Malabar Settlement

4. As the Board have submitted their recommendation to Government as a Departmental convenience, I beg that this explanation may be submitted before orders are passed on it, and would suggest that matters connected with *Departmental convenience* should be left to the Heads of the Survey and Settlement Departments.

5. I beg that early orders may be obtained on the subject, as I have several immediate arrangements depending upon the decision in the matter.

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1. Ordered to be submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings quoted by the Director. Mr. Newill seems to have forgotten that the question of the selection of the District for the further prosecution of the Survey was before the Board for their opinion, and that concentration of operations was a primary object. The consideration of *Departmental convenience* did not determine the Board's decision though it certainly influenced it.

2. The Board have however since learnt from Major Priestley that the transfer of the Survey party from Salem to Tinnevelly cannot be made in the complete and absolute manner supposed in passing orders for the survey of Tinnevelly, but that frequent correction of field work on the ground is necessary after the survey is nominally completed, for which it is most desirable that Survey Amins should be within reasonable distance. It will thus be more convenient were the Coimbatore survey completed at once, the Salem party being gradually transferred to it, and the Wainád party, so soon as relieved in Coimbatore, by portions of the Salem party, being made available for the Tinnevelly District. This arrangement will also avoid the sacrifice of demarcation and survey work already partially done in Coimbatore, which if not completed now, will have to be commenced over again at an unnecessary additional cost.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 352. ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1862, No. 395.

1. In these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit for orders the question where the Wainád survey party shall next be employed; and also the future destination of the Salem party.

2. The main point for consideration is, as the Board rightly remark, which District has the most pressing need of a survey. The answer is without doubt Tinnevelly. Madura and Coimbatore, the two other Districts mentioned in the present papers, have had their "Pymash" and field assessment, and in them the areas and boundaries of fields are fairly known, and the land tax does not generally need immediate revision. In Tinnevelly, on the other hand, nothing has been done since the District came under British Rule, and the land Registers are still made out in uncertain and hardly intelligible native seed measures. Under such circumstances and seeing that the processes of survey and settlement are both expensive and tedious there cannot be a doubt of the policy of contracting all the force available in Tinnevelly and of prosecuting the settlement of that District with vigor and expedition.

3. The Governor in Council therefore directs that both the Salem and Wainád parties be employed as soon as possible in Tinnevelly.

4. A few hands of the Salem party can be left behind in the Salem District for the correction of errors in the field work, &c., and the Wainád party while being fully organized can complete so much as is desirable of the area already demarcated in Coimbatore.

5. In an order dated 5th November 1861, No. 2,118 (five months since) the Government decided that on the completion of the survey and settlement in Salem, the Tinnevelly District should next be taken in hand; and in another order dated 30th idem, No. 2,243, Mr. Newwill was directed to proceed himself to Tinnevelly and arrange the plan of operations with the Collector, but as far as the Government are aware, no action has yet been taken in the matter. This neglect of orders is very censurable.

6. The Government desire that measures be at once adopted for giving effect to the orders now issued, and that the actual commencement of operations in Tinnevelly be reported to them in due course.

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

Note.

In the order of 5th Nov. 1861 No. 2118, it is directed that the Survey party now employed in Salem should on the completion of their work in that District be transferred to Tinnevelly.

The second order in regard to the Wynad Survey will shortly render the party there employed available for service elsewhere & the function now entrusted to orders is - where they should next be employed.

Wynad being part of the Malabar [illegible]

The entire term of the
Leases to Robt Ri-
chard Reynolds Esq.
-quire Golf, as the
most convenient &
Credit Land arrange-
-ment. The Pt. The
Color & Qu. Remote Com-
-ers all agree Robt
the immediate Pur-
-chaser of the Leases
& settlements in Pt
Parish Roads cannot
are neighly. Income
Rent the Prop and
Rents are entitled
to work in Malster
Ltes Rent his Rents
Rece computed in
Com Letter - Robt Richard-
-son the Owners Lds
Credit by the Pt &

the Under the Pts Crip-
-tion Stamp Co, the
Pt & pic Com de Cru
the Jas Jerem ce over
the Valor - Com de Derry
Robt to assessment
Rec debt Revision,
Chief Pty in the Prop
of Re Rectors - Pte
Color Income is ch-
-rged to the Rectors
Lds in Parish are Prot.
the Rectors Rec in
Pery Jurer a Cls Inv.
ders ate - Robt Carling
et Rembd Ld a Pension
Policy - Rent the
Com dairies of the
Fields & in Close, are
Rule de fine d - Rent
Prand & Com cerled
Celtic other Com Re
dutes clent by the ordin-
ent assignments & Rent

the reduction of
his village & the
Lines & Ramparts
then are inoperative
time for the entire
of the Survey.

The Bd. overrule
these Objections both as
frivolous & they con-
sider it of much
importance that
the operations of the
Rd. should be
commenced & pro
seemingly in the
Eastern part of the
the Salem Party
they recommend
that the Regular
Party should com
take up the ad.
joining district
of Marblehead,
which will be done
before the Gen.
Court meets again

To the Selectmen
Town of Marblehead
Gentlemen. Inviting
out that each party
has its own separate
Officers - that Committee
should be immediately
appointed by Ballot
that it should be
ascertained & known
Committee elected,
& be taken the Necessa-
Major Pain they
have also informed
the Bd. that the Salem
party cannot be
transferred in a
body to Gentlemen
as they must be al
lowed to connect with
the
Under the Pres
circumstances
the Bd. Gentlemen
Recommend that

The Salem Road to Stockbridge passes over Connecticut River, crossing the Mohawk Road at Hanover in Salem — and that the Boundary Road, as altered, should pass from Brown & Jaunceley's.

The arrangement just stated above, certainly seems the most convenient, but convenience is not the only one the chief consideration in the case.

Main Poultney & Otter Creeks cannot

be excepted as Eminently Just when the Salem Road is finished Connecticut River, & could it be kept at Hand for the correction of errors &c? If it pass into Main Street, there Jaunceley's Road is finished. Again Lucky & Otter Creek Roads are to be finished & the Road in Town reached, for the four first Stated. Should Surveyors and Surveyors be Surveyors.

The Survey & Settlement are expensive & slow operations — and our Finances are not yet in a flourishing con-

- Ritson - a distant
like Cousin to Ives who
occupy about 3 Years
& cost about 5 Lives.
It is in Consequence
therefore that such
an expenditure should
be incurred where
it is much needed -
and the present
question does with
Town & Canal Town
Considered by
- fairness to all parties
ground - If Madras
Really needs a
Survey more than
Coimbatore, the arrange
ment & Town proposed
will lead to it
being delayed for
3 years -
Again the Byculla

Mr Woodcock
Mr Ellis
Mr Clarke

Chairman's Letter
Minutes - 30 Oct
Finance Committee
Thursday 2 Nov
Mr Ellis

The Board regretfully say that the main question
is what District has the most deserving
Survey - The answer is without doubt
Coimbatore Town Canal
Trade are con - Trichinopoly & Pondicherry
Cocoa &c - Madura & Coimbatore have
& Salem Cotton Chintz
Trichinopoly Cheroots are in the
Survey - the Shevaroys on the Salem
are little under 5000 feet
Coast & Pondicherry to Cuddalore
Pondicherry

Party have favoured
for a special pur-
pose the
Road Survey in the
Valley of Attur Lake
which will, & very
shortly, come
delay - I see no reason
to alter the
Coimbatore
Madras &
Letter - Trichinopoly
Road Survey
Collector & Salem
Mr Ellis Collector
& Trichinopoly
Mr Woodcock
Chintz
Taken at Chintz
many years
Mr Woodcock
Mr Clarke

Thomas Meadows
Esqr. Mary Ld. Lovaine
Lewen in ye Isle
of Wight Jane wife
of Edw. Lewen Esqr
Mr. Thomas Crew
Isaac Meadows Esq
Lord in a dayes Ld
Ld the Lord Mayor
Ld Mayor & Aldermen
of the Cinque Ports.

Lord.

Mr. Speaker &c.
Mediately & into the
Presence of the Ld
Lords Comm.rs Robert
& Jno. Norris &c.
Lords &c.

Rev Dept

Dec 895

Proceedings of the Marlborough Commissioners
held on the 25th April 1862

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board

Submitting that he received a Copy of Resolution
from the Board in Letter from and
requesting the
Commissioners to have Survey of Land Plan made by Mr Adamson pursuant to Act
Commissioners will be glad
to have Plan and Survey completed
and the Papers laid before them

Further stating that he is
from the Deputy Surveyor
that it is not advisable to the
interests of Government the
General Survey of Marlborough
be proceeded

In these Proceedings
the Board of Revenue
decided for orders the
question whether the
Original Survey bounty
should next be employed
and also the future
destination of the
Salem party -

2 The Board
for consideration as
as the Board might
remark, which Dr.
Cuff has the most
pressing need of a
Survey -

Survey - The answer
is without doubt Sir
Merely - Madras and
Coimbatore, the two
other Districts men
tioned in the previous
papers, have had the
"Pymash" and field
Operations and in
them the boundaries
of fields are fairly
known and the Land
Tax does not give
rise to any serious
dispute in either
of these two Districts
but in the Districts
under British Rule
outside the Land Re
gisters are still
made out in an
antiquated and hardly
intelligible manner

Road measures - Under
such circumstances
and seeing that the
principles of Survey
can be thoroughly
both expensive and
tedious there cannot
be a doubt of the
policy of confining
the old fine
ancient Sir
in Sir
and of superseding
the settlement of the
District with regular
and expeditious
3 The Governor in
Council thereupon
directed that in
the Salem and Nyd
districts the employ
ment of Sir
in Sir
4 The Board
the

the Salem party can be left behind in the Salem District for the completion of surveys in the field work the few can be injured party while being fully organized can complete as much as is desirable of the area of which any claims are to be in Connection

5th In our order dated 3rd December 1851 at 2 P.M. five months since the Govt decided that on the comp[letion] of the Survey and settlement in Salem the Farmerally District should next be taken in hand, and under order dated 30th Decem[ber] to 22nd [illegible]

since Govt to direct and arrange with the Collector the plan of operations best, as soon as the Season permit and commence one action has yet been taken in the matter - this neglect of orders is very censurable.

The Govt must not be sure that any steps for giving effect to the orders now given and that the earliest commencement of the Survey in Farmerally be reported to them in due course.

14 Copies to the Superintendent Survey
15 — Superintendent Salem
16 — Superintendent Survey
17 — Collector Bijapur — Bijapur 28th Jan

J.D.S

Arrangement of Survey Boundaries
in Tinnevelly

Revenue 1862 Departt.
Pro: of Govt for April
1st 1863.

Copy in a Letter to England
Dt 26th July 1862 No. 47.

Re 21 October 61 - 246-249

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dt 25th April 1862.

From Dt of Mem 9th June 62 No 1644
Estimate of expenditure for the survey &
settlement of Tinnevelly

Copying orders on the
Pro: of the Board of Revenue
on the general Survey of
Malabar and on the
necessity -

No 350 to 352.