M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1894 Press ~~Mis.~~

217.218

Dated 17-10-~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 217. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th September 1863, No. 5,532 :—

Read the following letter from E. B. FOORD, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 31st July 1863, No. 170.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board dated 2nd instant, communicating the Official Memorandum dated 29th June last, No. 138, from the Secretary to Government, calling for a report upon the effect of the reductions of assessment in certain sandy tracts on the coast of Guntoor, I have the honor to submit herewith a Statement showing the extent of land under occupation, and the assessment, both prior and subsequent to the introduction of the revised rates in question in Fusly 1270.

2. Up to Fusly 1269 (as the Board are aware), the Ryots were not permitted to relinquish either *the whole* or *any portion* of their Puttah lands. In Fusly 1270, they were allowed to give up at pleasure *the whole* of their Puttah land, and this concession having been largely availed of, the area under occupation became smaller in that Fusly ; but in the subsequent years more land has been taken up, and in Repalli Talook the extent of land occupied in Fusly 1272 was 2,178 Acres in excess of that under occupation in Fusly 1279.

3. The reduction of assessment has no doubt been a great boon to the Ryots, but the extension of irrigation in these two Delta Talooks has, in my opinion, prevented them from taking up more dry land ; wet cultivation being so much more profitable than dry, the expenses for manuring dry land, especially when of a poor quality, being so great, in proportion to the profits derivable.

4. The usual crops grown in these sandy tracts are Chayroot, Natchiny, and Indigo ; and these crops are grown only in small plots, as the land requires to be well prepared and manured. The extent of dry lands under occupation appears notwithstanding to be steadily increasing.

5. The Ryots inhabiting the villages on the coast are no doubt in a much better condition now than they were some years ago ; but this is due not only to the reduction of the assessment, but to high prices also.

6 Column 5 in the accompanying Statement will show the extent of wet cultivation in the Fuslies in question.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

MEMORANDUM *showing the area under the occupation of Ryots and the assessment prior and subsequent to the reduction of assessment, in the sandy tracts on the coast of Guntoor.*

Talooks.	Fuslies.	Extent of land under occupation.		Assessment.			Wet land under occupation.	
1	2	3		4			5	
		Acres.	Goontas.	Rs.	A.	P.	Acres.	Gs.
Repalli Talook.	1268	9,239	38	18,340	11	11	3,674	0
	1269	9,535	18	18,989	6	0	3,992	0
	1270	7,688	37	7,689	2	1	4,208	0
	1271	10,783	11	10,783	13	7	5,269	0
	1272	11,713	5	11,713	13	8	6,585	0
Bapatla Talook.	1268	18,328	21	41,868	1	9	7,157	0
	1269	18,624	4	42,521	8	1	7,014	0
	1270	15,671	25	15,675	0	3	6,948	0
	1271	16,026	14	16,026	5	7	7,065	0
	1272	17,374	19	17,374	7	7	7,419	0
Total.	1268	27,568	19	60,208	13	8	10,831	0
	1269	28,159	22	61,510	14	1	11,006	0
	1270	23,363	22	23,364	2	4	11,156	0
	1271	26,809	25	26,810	3	2	12,334	0
	1272	29,087	24	29,088	5	3	14,004	0

MASULIPATAM, *July* 31*st* 1863. (Signed) E. B. FOORD, *Acting Collector.*

1. Ordered that the above paper be submitted to Government, with reference to the Memorandum dated 29th June 1863, No. 138, calling for a report on the effect of the reduction of assessment, on the garuvu or sandy tracts on the coast of the old Guntoor District.

2. The revision was made in Fusly 1269, and the Board gather from the Statement submitted by the Collector that the following abstract represents the present state of times in comparison with the past :—

Year.	Extent of dry cultivation in Acres.	Assessment on dry cultivation in Rupees.
Fusly 1269	Acres 28,159	Rupees 61,510
„ 1272	„ 29,087	„ 20,088
Difference.	+ 928	— 32,422

3. The above shows an increase in area of Acres 928, with a decrease in assessment of Rupees 32,422. The Acting Collector points out that in the same interval and locality the area of wet cultivation has increased by 3,000 Acres, and that the extension of irrigation in these Delta Talooks, and the prevailing high prices, have directed attention to wet cultivation to the comparative neglect of these dry tracts which require very expensive treatment.

4. The position of the villagers has decidedly improved.

No. 218. ORDER THEREON, 17th October 1863, No. 1,894.

1. The Board of Revenue are requested to furnish Government with a table showing the area under cultivation and its assessment in each year, from Fusly 1264 to Fusly 1268.

2. The Statement No. 1, appended to Mr. Newill's letter to the Commissioner Northern Circars, dated 29th April 1856, No. 62, gives the following results :—

	Acres.	Assessment.
Dry land under cultivation for Fusly 1264 ...	6,025	12,405
Garden do. ...	1,713	25,082
	7,738	37,487
Waste	19,033	42,504
	26,771	79,991

3. The measures which Mr. Newill and the Commissioner advocated, and which Government sanctioned in their Order 10th February 1857, reduced the assessment on the total area, cultivated and waste, to Rupees 58,569. The relief consisted in reducing the garden to dry rates, but it was coupled with certain arrangements for ensuring permanency of tenure which apparently were not quite understood. Mr. Newill's first letter to the Commissioners was very indefinite on the point; he wrote of getting "rid of the evil of constant changes by allotting the lands "fixedly at such reduced rates as would enable the cultivators thus to hold them with profit and "advantage;" of the "substitution of a permanent for a mutable occupation of the lands;" of "assigning the lands permanently," and of giving "permanent Puttahs to hold good till a general "revision of the assessment for the lands allotted under the new system." In a subsequent letter he stated that he had abandoned his intention of allotting the lands "according to a systematic plan," and that "the only "restriction retained is that of making one acre as a minimum "holding, or even half an acre under certain circumstances." Engagements appear to have been taken from the Ryots to occupy additional lands to make up the assessment lost; but there was certainly nothing to lead Government to suppose that any such restrictions were contemplated as those mentioned in paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings dated 15th August 1860, No. 3,745, viz., parcelling the land out in blocks, declaring the demand of Fusly 1265 to be the minimum of future settlements, and disallowing the relinquishment of either a portion or the whole of a Puttah holding. The arrangement, as carried out, was in reality compelling the Ryots to take up the whole of the land in perpetuity in return for a partial reduction of the assessment; and thus in Fusly 1268 they were saddled with 27,000 Acres assessed at 60,000 Rupees, in lieu of 7,700 assessed at Rupees 37,500 as in Fusly 1264. Considering the poverty of the soil; the expense and precariousness of cultivation; the want of capital and probably the scarcity of labor, it is not surprising that the whole system failed, and that Government in 1860 were obliged to reduce the rates of assessment still further, and allow a deduction for fallow, &c., and the exclusion of all permanently unimproveable portions.

Dated 29th April 1856, No. 62, paragraph 15.

Dated 24th June 1856, No. 83, paragraph 2.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th October 1863.

4. In Fusly 1270 the Ryots were allowed to give up the whole of their Puttah land if so inclined, and the Acting Collector states that this concession was largely taken advantage of; a very significant proof that the compulsory occupation of a large extent of land beyond their means and wants more than counterbalanced the reduction of assessment on the small extent of garden land.

5. In Fusly 1272, owing mainly no doubt to high prices, the area under occupation had risen to 29,000 Acres, so that the total loss of revenue is now about 8,000 Rupees.

6. The Board will instruct the Collector to enquire more particularly into the condition of the Ryots in comparison with that of other Ryots in the neighbourhood, and into the practical working of the restriction on the giving up of land. As the assessment has been very largely reduced, the Government may fairly object to the splitting up of holdings into minute fractions; but this is very different from obliging the Ryot if he wishes to give up any to give up all his land.

7. The Board will observe that the areas given in the Acting Collector's statement differ from those mentioned by Mr. Newill. The cause of this should be explained.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

1894.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 17th October 1863

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting with remarks letter from the Collector of the Nellore District forwarding a report upon the effect of the reductions of assessment in certain sandy tracts on the coast of Gundoor.

(Here enter 4th Sept.r 65. No. 5532)

This is an occasion on which the Board cannot but regret that the Revenue Survey has been conducted - and does not that no detailed information has been followed up as it actually could that the Govt should have the information asked for but it sounds odd that

The Board of Rev.
and are requested to furnish Government with a table showing the area under cultivation and the assessment in each year from Fasly 1264 to Fasly 1268.

The Govt should be obliged to the Board of Revenue to instruct the Collector to enquire into the condition of the Ryots in question & to report what improvements could be made in their Fasly

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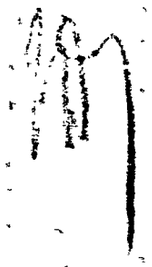
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14 Office Corps of Engrs Pan Dept Sept 19 1913



Pro. No. 443-444
27-10-63

Revenue 1863 Departt.
Pro: of Govt for October.

No 1894.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dt 17th October 1863.

Board of Revenue
requested to furnish
certain information re:
garding assessment in
certain sandy tracts
on the coast of Guntoor.

No 217 & 218

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