

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2118

Press
Mis.

315-316

Dated 24 - 11 - 1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th November 1863.*

No. 315. Read the following letter from J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Nellore, 13th November 1863, No. 28:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request you will be so good as to submit for the consideration of Government, the propriety of measures being taken to obtain a modification of the orders as they at present stand for fixing the assessment in this Presidency.

2. When we took the country, we found the revenue collected by taking a share of the produce when the land was cultivated with grain, taxing direct such stock as there was, and fixing imposts under different names on all else out of which a tax could be realized. To simplify this process, we converted the share of the produce, due when the land was cropped, into a fixed money assessment whether the land was cropped or not. And as the orders from the Home Government now stand, this simplification is to be continued in the Settlement at present in hand, and the assessment is to be imposed with reference to the standard grain crop of the country, and so as to leave the cultivator a fair return on the capital expended.

3. It is therefore taken for granted in fixing the assessment, that each year the land shall be cropped with the standard grain.

4. And as it is a known and admitted fact that no land can stand being annually cropped with the standard grain, I submit for the consideration of Government whether it is not desirable that the re-assessment of the country should be placed on a sounder footing.

5. If the greater proportion of the land, or even half the land in a village could be annually cropped with the standard grain, there would perhaps be no need for me to trouble Government with this reference. Special provision could be made, and fitly made in the one case for what was exceptional. But it is the reverse. Instead of being exceptional, it is the bulk of the land in a village that must be annually treated otherwise than with a crop of the standard grain. And to assess all land as if cultivated annually with the standard grain is to fix an assessment that is based on a false principle, as regards the bulk of the land available for occupation.

6. I do not now refer to land for which irrigation has been provided at the public expense. On such lands standard crops can be annually grown and assessments imposed, with the provisions for regulating which it is not advisable to encumber the general question, I now do myself the honor to bring forward.

7. Neither do I think it necessary to refer in detail to the special rates now fixed in some places for pasturage, &c., for such distinctions are directly opposed to the broad rule laid down that the Ryot shall be free to do what he likes with the land in his patta, grow as many crops as he can, turn it to the best use the seasons allow of.

8. I simply submit for the consideration of Government, whether it is desirable that we should re-impose an assessment that is based on a principle in direct opposition to the admitted laws of agriculture. And, if the Government think it desirable that the question be re-considered, I beg to recommend that permission should be applied for to modify existing orders, and fix the assessment on each separately assessed field on the basis, that a portion only is annually cropped with the standard grain, a portion with the inferior crops rotated, and the remainder is held as fallow and pasture; the respective proportions being fixed with reference to the fertility of the soil, and so as to develop as fully as possible the natural capabilities of each District.

9. With the infinitesimal fields that now disfigure this Presidency, as separately assessed and distinct holdings, it might be argued that the proposed apportionment is absurd. But in reply I would submit for the consideration of Government whether such an argument is not an additional argument for the necessity for change. Whether the infinitesimal fields are not the result of the system of assessment directly opposed to a sound system of agriculture. Whether under a wiser and sounder system there is not reason to believe such infinitesimal holdings would disappear; that it is in consequence of the grain assessment the bulk of the land is shown at present uncultivated, and if the grain assessment were modified, the land now shown as uncultivated would be duly registered as occupied, and the agricultural operations of the country placed on a sound footing.

10. I would also beg to refer to Malabar and Canara, as instances of the progress made by Districts in which the assessment, I believe, was not imposed on the principle that the land could be annually cropped with the standard grain.

11. And I think it would not be difficult to show, that it is this standard grain assessment on all the land in occupation that has produced the bad features of the Ryotwar system, and has left the Ryots virtually at the mercy of the native officials. But such proof would merely be proving results, when it will I trust be apparent to the Government that the principle itself is unsound and must be abandoned.

* Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th August 1863, No. 4,881, and Collectors' letter of 6th July No. 212, recorded therein.
Collector's reply to above Proceedings, No. 248 of 10th August 1863.
Collector's further letter No. 361 of 2nd November 1863.

12. And in conclusion, I do myself the honor to submit copies of correspondence* on the subject with the Board, and state that I have adopted the course of addressing the Government direct, as I felt doubtful when the Board would be able to bring the subject forward, and it is of the highest importance to this District that the question should receive the consideration of Government and be finally disposed of at an early date with reference to the progress made in the Demarcation and Survey.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th August 1863, No. 4,881.

Read the following letter from J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th July 1863, No. 212.

SIR,

1. Having last week in accordance to instructions, submitted the rules I would propose should regulate the disposal of applications for land, I now do myself the honor to submit, for the Board's consideration, a change that it seems to me should be made in the system, at present pursued for its assessment.

2. When we took the country, we found the system in force to be sharing. The State had a share in the produce of each field cropped with grain; and we continued this system, only in changing grain for money we unfortunately put a grain assessment on every field, whether it was cropped or not, which is, I would urge, opposed to the principles of agriculture, and is the point in respect to which I now do myself the honor to recommend a change should be made.

3. When a gentleman lets land at home, he calls it a farm, and lets it on the understanding that a portion only shall be cropped each year with grain, and, of the remainder, some shall be kept as pasture, the rest used for green crops or left fallow, &c.; and, letting the land in this manner, it is scarce necessary to add, the rent is fixed accordingly. If a single field is let, the system pursued is the same. There would be an agreement to make sure that the land had fair play; and if this is the system pursued in fixing rents, where agriculture is understood, is it not the system that should be pursued in fixing in India an assessment under which it is hoped that land may accumulate and rents arise?

4. We have endeavoured to meet the difficulties arising from the error that was committed in the early days of our rule, by allowing the occupation of land as pasture at a reduced rate, but, in certain proportions to that held on a grain assessment; we have been remitting for fallow; refusing to let strangers have land till we have ascertained that the villagers cannot possibly pay for its occupation at the ordinary rates, &c. But, as might be expected, all these make-shifts have simply led to a system of espionage and interference that has been intolerable, and, in fact, a mitigated serfdom of some sixty years; and we shall never give the Ryotwar system a fair trial till we recognize the true principles of the occupation and cultivation of land, and fix the assessment accordingly.

5. It is only on coming into a breeding and grazing District like this, that the iniquity of the grain assessment fully crops out. When men have five and six hundred, or a thousand head of cattle, it is comparatively easy to see how our present system of assessment is opposed to all true principles of agriculture and the security of agricultural capital; that the waste land is really *pasture and occupied*; how applications for waste, whether made honestly, or for enmity, have alike to be met by combinations and bribery; and how, whilst capital sunk in stock is wholly insecure, a fundamental error in the assessment of the land retards progress, and tells injuriously on the pockets of agriculturists and official morality.

6. To place, therefore, the occupation of land on a sound footing, and to give to agricultural capital in every branch the security it fairly demands, and does not enjoy now under the Ryotwar tenure, I beg to recommend that the requisite sanction be obtained for modifying the system pursued at present in assessment, and, recognizing a difference between land on which public capital has been expended, and that to which private capital has to be attracted, assessing the latter as if a portion only of each field were to be annually cropped with grain, and the remainder occupied, part for pasture, part for the rotation of such crops as relieve the land, part for fallow, &c., which would be the same thing as providing for the whole field going year after year through these several processes, and having yearly in consequence a varying assessment.

7. It may be argued that this would be virtually a simple reduction of assessment, and would be taken advantage of, not for the occupation of land on true principles, but to grow grain at a cheaper rate and pursue the old system in respect to waste; and it is impossible to deny but that it might. But, on the other hand, it is scarce worth while to make provision for the future, or provide for capital, unless we suppose that fools are the minority. It is only seemly that we should set the example of acting on right principles. I myself have not a shadow of

doubt, but that the success which has attended reductions hitherto has been in a great measure owing, not to glutting markets with increased produce, but giving Ryots the means of securing land for their private occupation, but they only mean to cultivate in part with grain; and equally sure do I feel that, with three-fourths of the country still waste, we are perfectly safe in trusting to the good sense and self-interest of the majority to put the reduction of the assessment to a right use.

8. Again, whilst thus meeting the requirements of capital in respect to the dry lands, in respect to the "wet," where capital has been already expended, Government may, it seems to me, with equal fairness claim that the rights of the public purse should be duly respected, and, instead of simply following the principle of sharing, that the power should be claimed of refusing to supply water, where the supposed share of the crop won't pay even the water rate. According to the settlements now in progress, there are I see numerous assessments in Trichinopoly, the Godavery, &c., under the usual water rate of 3 or 3½ Rupees, or less than other lands pay, *plus* the dry assessment. For some "wet" lands, where public capital has been largely expended, no land assessment is to be paid though a crop is grown. On all dry lands, where no public capital has been expended, a *grain* assessment must be paid though no crop is grown; and whether to get rid of such inconsistencies, or for the higher and vastly more important object of giving due security to agricultural capital, and placing the agriculture of the country generally on a sound footing, I trust that the Board will be pleased to receive favorably the suggestions now brought forward, and to give the whole subject the benefit of an early consideration.

1. Mr. Dykes appears to think that there is an exact analogy between the land tax in this country and rents in England, so that the principles on which a landlord in England estimates the rent to be paid for a farm there, can be followed in India in charging the land with the public assessment. The Board do not agree with him on this point. The land tax and natural rent are two distinct things. The one is an impost, the amount of which is arbitrarily fixed, the other arises from a natural difference in the quality of different soils.

2. If existing rates of assessment should be generally reduced over the country, to allow, as Mr. Dykes would propose, for years of fallow, such a measure would no doubt be equivalent, as he himself fears, to a reduction in the land tax, and would, in the natural order of things, affect the price of agricultural produce, reducing the price by an amount equivalent, or nearly equivalent to the reduction in the tax. The cultivators of the land would then find it as difficult as they do now to pay the land tax for land which gives them no crop.

3. The best remedy for the evils which Mr. Dykes deplures as common in his District, is to allow land to be retained fallow free of assessment, as often as a proper system of agriculture may actually require; or, with regard to land taken up for pasture, to place the holding of such land under a *rent* that would secure the holder in undisturbed possession. Mr. Dykes has been requested to submit a revised *hukumnamah* for his District, and, therefore, has it in his power to propose any rule that he may think best suited for attaining these objects. The Board would direct Mr. Dykes's attention to the subject of remissions for fallows, to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, Circular Order, dated 12th March 1860, No. 1,245.

From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Nellore, 10th August 1863, No. 248.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings No. 4,881, making observations on the changes I have proposed* in the system at present pursued for the assessment of land.

* To Board 6th July No. 212.

2. The Board argue that "the land tax and natural rent are two distinct things," and would meet the difficulties I have brought to notice by exceptional tenures.

3. I do not exactly know what the Board mean by *natural* rent, but rent in the ordinary acceptance of the term, I would submit, is analogous to a land tax:—

Firstly.—In respect to both being a burden on the land.

Secondly.—Both varying with the fertility of the land, &c.

Thirdly.—Both being, according to present orders, what the cultivator can pay, leaving himself a fair return on the capital laid out.

4. And agreeing with the Board in their further definition that there the analogy ceases, and, whilst rent is the difference of fertility, &c., the land tax is an arbitrary impost, the inference to be drawn, I submit, is not that the latter tenure should be denied the latitude given the former, but should get more.

5. English rules cannot be claimed for India; simply because they have succeeded at home. Neither can the fact of prices having risen since our assessment was somewhat reduced be taken

as direct proof that the apprehension of the Board are unfounded. But there are certain great principles of political economy that must be attended to everywhere, however, much local circumstances may affect their application or operation.

6. If I had a property at home and my land were poor and far from market, I must ask a less rent than what can be got for land naturally more fertile and better situated. In other words, I must calculate on less of the land being annually under grain. Or if I were not able to lay out the usual amount of capital on my land, the same results would follow. If I could not build a good house for my farmer, out-houses for his stock, fences and gates to keep his stock in order, drains to keep the land dry, in a word if I wanted his capital laid out on the land in default of mine, I must pursue the same course, ask less rent, and expect and arrange for less land being annually under grain. And the same principle, I submit, holds equally good here; only as the Government demands a land tax on all lands without reference to whether it could pay a rent, and does not even make a road to the land, the terms should be lighter, there should be less grain still.

7. The question is so momentous that I trust no apology is needed for requesting from the Board a re-consideration. As regards "the revised Hukamnamah I have been requested to submit," I beg I may be informed in what shape the request* was conveyed and under what date, as I am not aware of it. And

* Since received.

as regards the exceptional tenures referred to by the Board, I would suggest for consideration whether such tenures are not opposed to what I understand is now the broad and admitted principle of the Ryotwar tenure, that a man pays for what he has got and does what he likes with it.

From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Nellore, 2nd November 1863, No. 361.

SIR,

1. In my letter of the 6th July I brought to the notice of the Board that the assessment was being made on the principle that land might every year be cropped with the standard grain, and recommended that the requisite sanction should be obtained for placing the assessment on a sounder footing. I pointed out how the mistake had arisen in the first instance, and referred to the system on which land is rented in England, as proving, if proof were needed, that we are proceeding on a wrong supposition, and that no land is capable of being annually cropped with the standard grain, a fact which is patent to every agriculturist at home, and is equally well known to the natives of this country.

2. The Board in their Proceedings of the 5th August observed that a land tax and rent were two distinct things, that the reduction of assessment involved in the proposed measure would in the natural order of things lower the price of produce, and leave the cultivator where he was before, and that the proper remedy was to adopt such rules as should allow of land being retained fallow free of assessment as often as a proper system of agriculture may require, and held for pasture.

3. In my reply, under date the 10th August, I referred to the course suggested by the Board as the proper course to be pursued; and, in respect to establishing rules for allowing Ryots to hold land so many years free of assessment as fallow, and at a reduced assessment as pasture, requested the Board to consider how far such a course is compatible with the broad principle that the Ryot is free to do what he likes with the land in his patta, and the orders of Government that he shall be freed for the future from the constant interference and inquisition that has been the curse of the Ryotwar system hitherto. I also referred to the fact that the fall of prices apprehended did not follow the reduction of the assessment already carried out. And I took up the question of assessment and rent, and showing in what respects they agreed, especially when the assessment is fixed so as to allow the cultivator a fair return on the capital laid out and secure the rest of the profit to the State, I argued, if in England it was found necessary in respect to land for which a rent could be got, to fix that rent on the understanding that all the land should not be annually cropped with the standard grain, it was still more necessary to maintain the same principle in fixing in India an assessment under which it is hoped rents may ultimately arise.

4. To this letter I have received no reply, and, meanwhile, during the three months that have elapsed, since it was written, the Survey has been making steady progress, and the time approaching when the assessment of the District must be revised. Before that time arrives it is necessary that the important question now mooted should have been fully discussed, and the system settled on which the revision should be made. And under these circumstances I have the honor to request that the correspondence may be submitted as soon as convenient for the consideration of Government.

5. In my opinion it is not a question of the affinity of rent and assessment, or fallow and pasture; for if there were no affinity between rent and assessment, &c., special rules were adopted with the concomitant and indispensable inspections of Talook and Village officials, and

provision could be and were made for the inferior crops with which land should be rotated, still there is a further question to be considered. It is a question of can land be annually cropped with the standard grain? If it can, then the grain assessment, the principle acted on hitherto is not the plague spot of the Ryotwar tenure, the cause why, when the people are industrious and careful, three-fourths of the country is returned as unoccupied. And if it cannot, if land requires a change, and the Board to a certain extent admit this to be the case, then follows a second and equally important point for consideration, viz., is it sound policy to base a general assessment on what is admittedly a false principle, and provide for what must always be the larger portion of the land in occupation by special rules and exceptional tenures. Is it not rather necessary to modify the assessment, so that those who hold under the Ryotwar tenure shall be able to do what they like with the land, shall hold it as contemplated. I may say promised by Government, and hold it on the wise and just principle on which the revision of Talooks and Revenue Establishments was based.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. W. B. DYKES, Collector.

No. 316. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1863, No. 2,118.

1. With this letter, Mr. Dykes the Collector of Nellore submits copies of correspondence between himself and the Board of Revenue on the manner in which the grain valuation of land is conducted by the Settlement Department, and argues that the principle is erroneous as regards unirrigated land, inasmuch as it proceeds on the assumption that the same land can year after year produce the standard crop, and makes no allowance for rotation of crops, fallows and pasture. Mr. Dykes urges that the assessment of each separately assessed field should be fixed "on the basis that a portion only is annually cropped with the standard grain, a portion with the inferior crops rotated, and the remainder is held as fallow and pasture, the respective proportions being fixed with reference to the fertility of the soil."

2. The principle advocated by Mr. Dykes is in fact recognized by the Settlement Department, though in a more general way than he proposes. In the settlement of the Manargudy and Chellumbrum Talooks of South Arcot four kinds of grain, viz., Cholum, Kumbu, Ragy and Varagu were taken, in rotation, for the different soils as the basis of the assessment, and a deduction of 25 per cent. made for vicissitudes of season, fallows, &c. In the Western Delta of the Godavery, the grains taken were black Paddy, Cholum, Cumbou and Ragy, with a deduction of 16 per cent. In Trichinopoly, the same grains were selected as in South Arcot, with a deduction of 20 per cent. These are the only revised settlements which have come before Government, and it appears that the principle which Mr. Dykes advocates has been acted upon in them though not in the minute way which he advocates. The Governor in Council is not prepared to sanction a departure from the present system. A fair allowance varying according to the peculiar circumstances of each District being made, as is now done, for fallows and rotation of crops, the Government are of opinion that it would be very unwise on their part to attempt such minute and detailed operations as Mr Dykes proposes.

* 5th August 1863, No. 4,881.

3. It is observed that the Board in their Proceedings* (of which Mr. Dykes submits a copy) contemplate allowing Ryots in Nellore to retain "dry" land fallow free of assessment. This is entirely opposed to the principle laid down by Government that a Ryot must pay for all land that he retains, except in seasons of general drought. The new settlements are being fixed with especial reference to this principle, and a departure from it will lead to frauds, interference of Government officers and other manifest evils. It obviously comes to the same thing, as far as the revenue is concerned, whether land is allowed to be retained fallow free of assessment "as often as a proper system of agriculture may actually require," or whether the assessment is fixed on a moderate scale with reference to that necessity; but the moderate assessment has these advantages, it frees the Ryot from all interference, and acts as an incentive to improved farming, the use of manure and judicious rotation of crops, rendering fallows of rare necessity.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

" Collector of Nellore.

" Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

allowance for

Memo:

With this letter
Mr. Sykes submits co-
pies of correspon-
dence between himself and
the Board of Revenue
on the manner in which
the grain valuation
of land is conducted
by the Settlement De-
partment, and argues
that the principle is
erroneous as regards un-
irrigated land in-
as much as it pro-
ceeds on the assumption
that the same land
can year after year
produce the standard
crop and makes no
allowance for rotation
of

of crops - fallows and
pasture - Mr. Dykes, urged
that the assessment
of each separately as-
sessed field should
be fixed "on the basis
that a portion only is
annually cropped with
the standard grain, a
portion with the in-
ferior crops rotated,
and the remainder is
held as fallow and
pasture, the respective
proportions being fixed
with reference to the fer-
tility of the soil."

The principle
advocated by Mr. Dykes
is in fact recognised
by the Settlement de-
partment though
in a more general
way

way than he pro-
poses. In the set-
tlement of the
Manasgungy
and Chellumbur
Talooks of South
Arcot four
kinds of grain,
viz. Cholum, Kani-
bu, Raggy and
Paragu were
taken, in rota-
tion, for the
different soils
as the basis of
the assessment, and
a deduction of
25 per cent made
for

for vicissitudes of
season, follows, as -
In the Western belt
of the Sodavery, the
grains taken were
Black Oat, Cho-
lum, Bumbo and
Ragy - with a de-
duction of $\frac{1}{6}$ or 16
percent. In Irish-
nopog, the same
grains were selected
as in South Arcot -
with a deduction of
20 percent. These
are the only revised
settlements which
have come before
Govt and it appears
that the principle, which

I think Gov. a fair allowance
being made for fallow &
change of crops it would
be very unwise on the
part of the Govt to meddle
further in detail.
M

been acted upon in them,
though not in the minute
way, which he advocates.
Whether his method should
be adopted or not, is for
the consideration of Govt.
I think we have quite en-
ough of elements of un-
certainty already without
leaving it to the classifier
to decide what extent of
each field shall be
cropped with standards
and other grains, left
fallow or devoted to
pasture.

It will be ob-
served that the Board
in their Proceedings of
which Mr. Rykes submitted

a copy) contemplate al-
lowing ryots in Nellore
to retain "dry" land fallow
free of assessment. This is
entirely opposed to the
principle laid down by
Govt. that a ryot must
pay for all land that
he retains - except in seasons
of general drought. The new
settlements are being fixed
with especial reference to
this principle and a de-
parture from it will en-
lead to fraud, interference
of Govt. officers and other
manifest evils. It obviously
comes to the same thing,
as far as the Revenue is
concerned - whether land
is allowed to be retained
fallow

fallow free of assessment
"as often as a proper system
of agriculture may actually
require" or whether the assess-
ment is fixed on a moderate
scale with reference to that
necessity - but the moderate
assessment has these ad-
vantages that it frees the
ryot from all interference
and acts as an incentive
to improved farming, the
use of manure and judi-
cious rotation of crops, ren-
dering fallows of rare
necessity.

J. H. P.

Mr. Dep.
No 2118
Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 24 November 1863

Read the following letter from
the Collector of Vellore.

Requesting to submit
for the consideration of Government the propriety of measures
being taken to obtain a modification of the orders as they
at present stand for fixing the
assessment in this Presidency.

1. - With this letter, Mr.
Dykes the Collector of N. Arcot
submits copies of correspondence
between himself and
the Board of Revenue on
the manner in which the
grain valuation of land is
conducted by the Settlement
Depart, and argues that the
principle is erroneous as re-
gards unirrigated land,
inasmuch as it proceeds
on

on the assumption that
the same land each year
after ^{year} produce the standard
crop, and makes no allow-
ance for rotation of crops,
fallows and pasture. Mr.
Dykes urges that the as-
sessment of each separately
assessed field should be
fixed "on the basis that
a portion only is annually
cropped with the standard
grain, a portion with the in-
ferior crops, rotated, and the
remainder is held as fall-
ow and pasture, the re-
spective proportions being
fixed with reference to the
fertility of the soil."

2. - The principle ar-
gued by Mr. Dykes is in
fact recognised by the
Settlement Dep^y, though
in a more general way than

he proposes. In the Settlement

of the Managudy and (het.
Lamburn Talooks of South
West four kinds of grain,
viz. Cholam, Kaimbu, Raggi,
and Varagu were taken, in
rotation, from the different
soils as the basis of the
assessment, and a deduc-
tion of 25 per cent made
for vicissitudes of season,
fallows &c. In the Western
Delta of the Godavary, the
grains taken were Black
Paddy, Cholam, Kaimbu,
Raggi - with a deduction
of $\frac{1}{6}$ or $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. In
Trichinopoly, the same grains
were selected as in South
West, with a deduction
of 25 per cent. These are
the only revised settlements
which have come before
Government, and it appears
that the principle which

Mr.

Mr Dykes advocates has
been acted upon in them
though not in the minute
way which he advocates.

The Governor in Council
is not ~~therefore~~ prepared
to sanction ~~any~~ departures

from the present system -
varying according to the peculiar circum-

stances of each District
as is now done for fallow and

rotation
change of crops, the Govt. are

of opinion that it would be

very unwise on their part
to attempt such minute and de-
tailed operations as Mr Dykes proposes.

3. ~~the~~ Government

that the Board in their
Proceedings (of which Mr
Dykes submits a copy)

contemplates allowing

ryots in Nellore to

retain "dry" land fallow

and free of assessment

This

5 Augt 1863 S. 4881

21

This is entirely opposed,
to the principle laid
down by Government
that a ryot must pay
for all land that he
retains - except in season
of general drought. The
new settlements are being
fixed with especial re-
ference to this principle,
and a departure from
it will lead to frauds,
interference of Govt. of-
ficers and other mis-
chief. It plainly
comes to the same thing,
as far as the Ryot
is concerned, whether
land is allowed to be
retained fallow free
of assessment "as often
as a proper system
of agriculture may
actually require," or
whether the assessment
is fixed on a moderate
scale

scale with reference
to that necessity; but
the moderate assessment
has these advantages -
it frees the ryot from
all interference, and acts
as an incentive to im-
proved farming, the use
of manure, and judicious
rotation of crops, preclud-
ing fallows of rare ne-
cessity. —

99

11 B^d of Revenue Dept. 31.
1 Coll^r of Mellores
13 D^r of Revenue

Copy and letter to C. S. S.
23 March 1863 No 23

Revenue Dept.
No. of Govt for 1863.

C. S. S. 21/18.

No. of the Madras Govt.
Dated 14th November 1863.

From Coll. of Madras
21 Decr/63 C. S. S. 6 of 64

Letter from the Coll. of
Madras suggesting certain
modification in the
mode of fitting a piece
in the Presidency,
with orders thereon.

No 315 & 316.