M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2293 Press ~~Mis.~~

258-259

Dated 15-12-~~19~~1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th December 1863.

No. 258. Read the following letter from R. E. MASTER, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, to J. D. SIM, Esq, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 13th November 1863, No. 1,365/77 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, dated 1st September, No. 1,601, reviewing the Survey and Settlement Reports for the year 1862, and to submit the information called for in paragraphs 3, 6, 9, 26 and 27.

2. Adverting to paragraph 3, I beg to explain that the reason why the omission to mark the Theodolite stations in Nellore was not sooner discovered and rectified, was that the demarcation having been commenced many months before the Survey Department came on the ground, a large tract had been completed in advance, and further that the Officers of the Survey Department did not bring the omission to notice till a considerable additional period had lapsed. The jungle through which lines had to be cleared was so dense and the process of cutting them in a recently populated country, so difficult and tedious, that the larger sizes in which waste blocks were marked out did not compensate for the delay.

3. The records of my office not containing sufficiently detailed information to enable me to furnish the report called for in paragraph 6, I applied to the Deputy Director in Trichinopoly for the particulars, and I beg to forward a copy of his letter for the information of Government. The work in the villages demarcated under the orders of Mr. Puckle himself, was performed at a time when he was still engaged in Trichinopoly. He had no European Assistants to aid him and had no opportunity of personally inspecting the demarcation before his departure to England. As regards the Subordinate Officers, I concur with Mr. Puckle in the opinion that they can hardly be held responsible for the errors and defects inseparable from a system such as that which he describes, and which, though powerless to alter, it will be seen that they remonstrated against.

24th October.

4. With respect to the work on the Shevaroy Hills the Demarcation Officers are certainly not free from blame as regards some of the errors committed, but it is also certain that they had unusual hindrances to contend against, as will be seen from paragraph 11 of Mr. Puckle's letter. This is corroborated by the Collector of Salem, who in writing to the Board said "many land holders at Yercaud do not reside "there, and their Overseers appear to have been ignorant of the boundaries of their masters' "lands. Hence mistakes have arisen and various pieces of land have been laid down as Govern-"ment waste which are private property." Mr. Arbuthnott personally assured me that he was not surprised at many of the mistakes made in the Shevaroy demarcation. Only a few days ago I received a complaint from Mr. Fischer, stating that neither the boundaries of his Estates nor the marks upon them were correctly laid down or put up. This complaint I referred to the Deputy Director with the remark that if the boundaries of the Estates had been pointed out by Mr. Fischer or his Agents, and if the marks on them had been put up, as the rules require, by the same parties, I was at a loss to understand how the alleged mistakes could have occurred. Mr. Puckle now reports that the erroneous demarcation is attributed by Mr. Fischer to the trickery of his own Manager. It is obvious that the Demarcation Department cannot prevent errors of this nature.

14th March 1863, No. 35.

5. Referring to paragraph 9, the Officers who superintended the work in Coimbatore during the year 1862 were Mr. W. C. Stuart, Acting Deputy Director, Mr. H. B. Addis, Probationary Assistant Director, and for the first three months Mr. J. H. Schnarré, Assistant Director, who has since quitted the Department. As already stated these Officers labored under great disadvantages.

6. With reference to the remark of Government in paragraph 26, on the alleged bad demarcation in the Wynad, it will be observed from Major Priestley's Report that the survey operations in that locality only extended over three months and a half of 1862, viz., from January to the middle of April. On reference to the records of my office, I find that a correspondence took place at the end of 1861 and early in 1862 between my predecessor and the Superintendent of Revenue Survey on the subject of defects discovered in the Wynad demarcation and that orders for their correction were at the time issued.

7. In reply to paragraph 27, I beg to state that it has hitherto been usual to construct the field marks of stone in those localities only where it is procurable within a reasonable distance, which does not seem to have been the case all over the Nellore Talook. The granite and laterite blocks alluded to in paragraph 28 of my Report for 1862, as having been used in the Nellore District generally, were for village boundary pillars, and in some instances had to be conveyed a considerable distance. The cost to the Ryots both in labor and money involved in demarcating with stone fields in irrigated lands, when that material is not near at hand, is so heavy that it has not been thought right to compel the use of stone in all cases. At the same time its superiority over every other species of mark is pointed out to the people, and they are encouraged to re-place with it the earthen marks set up in the first instance. I am now in communication with the Assistant Director in charge of the Nellore party with a view to having the earthen field marks in the two Talooks first demarcated, re-placed with stone.

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, to R. E. MASTER, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, dated Trichinopoly, 24th October 1863.

SIR,

1. In reply to your Proceedings No. 1,130/210, dated 21st ultimo, calling on me to name the Officers responsible for the bad demarcation in Salem and on the Shevaroy Hills, and the degree to which it is attributable to the misconduct of each, I have the honor to inform you that the several Talooks of the Salem District and the Shevaroy Hills were demarked by the undermentioned Officers.

Talook.	Date of commencement.	Date of completion.	Names of Officers by whom demarked.
Ahtur.	March 1859	1859	Mr. Puckle.
Razipuram.	1859	1860	
Paramati.	1859	1859	
Namcul.	1859	1859	
Trichengode.	1859	1859	
Shenkerry.	1860	1861	52 villages, Mr. Puckle. 2 do. Mr. Thomas.
Salem.	1860	1861	77 do. Mr. Puckle.
Womaloor.	1860	1861	92 do. Mr. Thomas. 18 do. Mr. Puckle.
Darampuri.	1861	1862	66 do. Mr. Thomas.
Kistnaghiri.	1861	1862	Mr. Thomas.
Tripatur.	1861	1861	Do.
Ootanghery.	1861	1861	Do.
Oossur.	1861	1861	Do.
Denkincottah.	1861	1862	Do.
Shevaroy Hills.... ...	1861	1862	Do. Mr. Thomas. Captain Leggatt. Mr. Stuart.

2. The survey of Ahtoor, Namcul, Paramati, Trichengode and Razipuram is now complete, but owing to the non-observance of the demarcation rules in the sub-division of villages into Khundums, the clearance of chain lines and the marking out bends of fields, to say nothing of the entire disappearance of all field marks in many instances, the Survey Department after experiencing great difficulty in completing the field measurements of the Salem, Shenkerry, Tripatore, Ootanghery Talooks, now find themselves unable to test their work without a re-demarcation of the fields.

3. The Shenkerry Talook was demarcated under my orders at a time when I was busily engaged in preparing the Trichinopoly report, and is, I regret to say, one of the Talooks most complained of by the Survey Officers, for I never had an opportunity of visiting this Talook, or even the Salem District at all, while work was going on in Shenkerry, and I can only account for this Talook being so much worse than any of the others previously demarked, by the fact that the Supervisor and other superior hands were re-called to Trichinopoly towards the end of 1860, before the completion of the Talook; and on their return to Salem (with the exception of the two villages) the Shenkerry Talook was not re-visited.

4. That the Officers under whose superintendance these Talooks were demarked, are answerable for them, there can be no doubt, but at the same time it must be borne in mind that the Salem District presents unusual difficulties both to the Demarcator and Surveyor.

5. Mr. Thomas and his Assistants were new to their work, and the classification and preparation of data for the Settlement Report, engrossed their chief attention. A large out-turn of work was then considered necessary, and the accuracy of the demarcation was doubtless sacrificed to expedition. The Establishment was scattered over a large tract of country without due supervision, and naturally enough the Karkoons slurred over their work, when they could show on paper a larger out-turn than would have been possible, had they performed their work efficiently.

6. To swell the monthly out-turn of work performed, volunteers were allowed to demarcate, and as they seldom did more than mark out the fields with pegs and as many of their sketches bear but little resemblance to the fields as they actually exist, it is not surprising that the Survey should now find it almost impossible to complete the work with any satisfaction to themselves.

7. As long ago as December 1861 the Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey begged that the villages might be sub-divided into Khandoms, as ordered in the Demarcation Rules. But these sub-divisions, so important to the Survey, were never actually made, and thus a re-survey of an entire village has frequently to be made, to trace out an error that might have been discovered by a re-measurement of a sub-division only.

8. The Assistants when first appointed should have been associated with the Survey Officers to learn what was required of them, but they never received any instruction, though supposed to be able at once to supervise a large body of subordinates, all striving to show large out-turns, both to secure promotion and to get away from an unhealthy country.

9. The Supervisors and Deputy Inspectors seem to have done their best, and some of the Talook maps that they prepared do them the greatest credit; but in 1861-62 the Establishment became so thoroughly disorganized, and the work was spread over such a wide tract of country, that any systematic inspection of the boundaries was quite impossible.

10. The Assistants were aware of this unsatisfactory state of things, and Captain Leggatt officially remonstrated, but no attempt was made to introduce a better system, and when Mr. Thomas left for England, he believed the District to be finished, although a great number of the villages were more or less incomplete; consequently a portion of the field Establishment have been ever since engaged in attending on the Survey to put up missing boundary marks, clear chain lines, and in fact to endeavour to complete the work that should have been done long before, but even with this assistance, the Survey have now come to a stand still, and unless untested areas are received in certain cases, several of the Talooks must be entirely re-demarked and re-surveyed.

Vide the accompanying Extract.

Vide my letter of October 13th, 1863.

11. Mr. Thomas and Captain Leggatt are responsible for the original demarcation of the Shevaroy Hills, and Lieutenant Stuart for the correction of some of the Estates. The errors complained of are the inaccuracy of the boundary sketches, and the want of marks upon the ground, but there are extenuating circumstances connected with the demarcation of these hills, the country is rugged in the extreme, and in some places densely wooded, many of the proprietors of Estates are non-resident, and their servants are ignorant of their boundaries; the work was very unpopular, and no one was inclined to aid, while from sickness and the want of accommodation on the hills, there were seldom more than two or three Karkoons employed, and no attention was paid to their requirements by the European owners of Estates. A portion of these hills were formerly surveyed by Mr. O'Hara, and had this survey been accepted as far as it went, and a few Europeans or East Indians been employed to demark the new Estates, the Demarcation might have been finished long ago and the Survey operations have been greatly facilitated.

12. In conclusion I beg to state that I consider myself responsible for the demarcation of the Ahtur, Razipuram, Paramati, Namcul, Trichengode and Shenkerry Talooks, for 77 villages of the Salem Talook, and for 18 of Womalur. Mr. Thomas for the remainder of Salem and Womalur, as well as for the Darampuri, Kistnagherry, Tripatur, Ootangherry, Oossur and Denkencottah Talooks, and Mr. Thomas, Captain Leggatt and Mr. Stuart conjointly for the demarcation of the Shevaroy Hills.

Extract from Captain Leggatt's Diary, dated Camp Kullavie, 8th November 1861, forwarded to Mr. Thomas and the Director of Revenue Settlement.

"The demarcation of the villages is very bad, and it is useless to shut our eyes to the fact that our system of conducting the Demarcation must necessarily result in failure, either there should be an Act to enforce villagers to attend on Demarcators in large bodies, and to work with pick-axes and mamooties, and supply stones and white-wash, and put up their own boundaries and of waste in their villages, really permanently and conspicuously, or there must be a regular Establishment kept up for the purpose. If demarcation is worth doing at all, it should be done well, or it will degenerate into a mere show. In spite of all that may be alleged to the contrary, practically there is great difficulty in getting really suitable materials for good Demarcation. The operation requires also the employment of many hands, and if done well must necessarily occupy much time. Hurry scurry in work must inevitably result in time and labor being thrown away. Karkoons are fined if they do not show in their accounts an area of 100 Acres demarcated in the day, and also for what are considered insufficient excuses for, delay, but which in reality are good reasons. The fines in many cases amount to nearly the man's entire pay, and sometimes over it, proving that more work is expected than the man can possibly accomplish, and with such stoppages from his pay it would be a miracle if the Karkoon were to remain honest. Even with the Establishment, I have recommended, 100 Acres a day per Karkoon could no more be well demarcated than 200 could be (formerly however expected, I believe,) and yet the men who show the largest out-turn of work are the men who are considered the fittest for promotion, which is in fact offering a premium for slovenly work."

* * *

"The Karkoon, meanwhile, hurries over the ground in the best way he can to escape fines and secure promotion, and the natural consequence of our system is bad demarcation. Without some properly organized plan, it will be so always, but the Survey Officers will make such an "ado" about it that I feel sure the remedy must eventually be provided. To rectify bad demar-

cation after the Karkoons have gone over the ground is far more troublesome than would be the doing it well at once."

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. E. MASTER,
Offg. Director of Revenue Settlement.

No. 259.

ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1863, No. 2,293.

1. In this letter Mr. Master furnishes the information called for in paragraphs 3, 6, 9, 26 and 27 of G. O. 1st September 1863, reviewing the operations of the Survey and Settlement in 1862.

2. The first point on which explanation was required was the non-discovery until some time after Survey had commenced of the omission in Nellore to mark Theodolite stations. Mr. Master states that the Demarcation was commenced many months before the Survey and that the Survey Officers themselves did not bring the omission to notice until a further period had elapsed. The Government observe, however, that the returns of the local Officers to the Director of Settlement, if properly prepared and examined, ought to have enabled him to see whether so important a duty had been performed or not. If these returns do not show these particulars, and also the extent to which the Officers in charge have *personally* supervised and checked the work of their subordinates and the result of that supervision, they must at once be altered so as to enable the Director to exercise a prompt and efficient control over his Officers.

3. The second point on which Government called for explanation was the extremely defective Demarcation in Salem. Part of the work in this District was performed under Mr. R. K. Puckle's superintendence, but as he never had an opportunity of visiting the District, his supervision was nominal. Mr. Puckle was succeeded by Mr. C. G. Thomas, who apparently resided in the District. Mr. Thomas and his Assistants were all new to the work, the operations were scattered over a great area, volunteers were allowed to demarcate, and in a word, business was so conducted that it is only surprising that the Demarcation was not even worse than it has proved. Mr. Thomas is absent, but the papers on this subject will be sent to the Board for communication to him on his return, with the intimation that unless he can satisfactorily clear himself he will neither be re-employed in the Department nor entrusted with a Sub-Collectorate until he has given proof of his fitness for such important offices. Mr. Puckle's responsibility was merely nominal, and Captain Leggatt reported the shameful manner in which work was going on. Lieutenant Stuart is said to be answerable only for errors in a few Estates in the Shervaroys; it will be sufficient therefore to warn him against future neglect of duty. The Government cannot close these remarks without declaring that nothing can be more discreditable than the account given by Mr. Puckle of the working of the Department in the Salem District.

4. The third point on which explanation was sought had reference to the Coimbatore District, in which bad demarcation was attributed by Mr. Master to "want of energetic supervision, as well as to the inferiority of the subordinate agency available." The Government required to be informed of the names of the Officers guilty of this neglect of duty and of the punishment inflicted on them. On the latter point Mr. Master is silent, but he reports that the Officers are Messrs. Stuart, Addis and Schnarré. Mr. Stuart, prior to his transfer to the Settlement Department, held the office of Deputy Collector and Magistrate of Malabar and in that as well as other situations previously held, had given satisfaction. His removal from public employment therefore would be a measure of undue severity, but if he has not since shown greater aptitude and zeal Mr. Master will communicate with the Board in view to his being employed as a Tahsildar or some other similar capacity until he can be re-placed in his former position. Mr. Addis has no claim on the score of previous service and should not be retained in the Department. Mr. Schnarré has already resigned.

5. With regard to the last paragraph of his letter, Mr. Master should consult the Board as to the justice and expediency of Government bearing at least a portion of the expense of marking the boundaries with stone, masonry or other durable materials. It would not be necessary thus to mark every petty field, but the Khundums might thus be sub-divided into moderate size blocks so as to ensure the perpetuation of the Survey in plots of reasonable size.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" Director of Revenue Setrlement.
" Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department.
No. 2293.
Madras Government
Under date the 15th Dec. 1863.

Read the following letter from the Offg. Director of Revenue Settlement.

Submitting the information called for in paras 3, 6, 9 26 & 27 of the Proceedings of Govt. dated 1st Sept. last No. 1601, in regard to faulty demarcation in the Districts under operation and the use of Stone for field Marks

(Here enter 13th Nov. 1863. No. 1365 ///)

For Orders.

I don't know Etc the Ist. article Think the too severe - I saw some of Mr. Thomas' demarcation at Ootacamund & nothing could be more absurd -

J. D. S.

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11 Copies Settle B.C. Road Despatch
13 " D.C. Road Settle
10 " Supt Road Surveys

5-2-12

Revenue 1863 Despt
Pro: of Govt for December.

Pro No. 3-4
1-9-63

No 2293

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dy 15 December 1863

From the Supt of Rev. Survey
10 Feby 1866 C No 450.

Pro: of the Bd of Rev dy 7 March 64
Copy C No 607 in Pro:
From the Dir of Rev Settt dy 18 2-64.
C No 462

From the Supt of Rev Survey dated
8 March 1864 C No 622.
Relative to the boundaries of Taluks on the Nundydroog Hills.

Director of Revenue
Settlements explanation on
certain points noticed by
Government in reviewing
the Survey and Settlement
Reports for 1862 with
orders thereon.

No 258 & 259.

Proceedings of the Bd of Revenue dated
15 June 1866 C No 163.
From the Supt Rev Survey dy 10-2-66
C No 450