

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

48

~~Press~~  
Mis.

Dated

24 Dec

191863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from H. B. MONTGOMERY, Esq., M. D., Editor Madras Quarterly Journal of Medical Science; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 14th December 1863.

I would feel obliged if you would kindly submit to Government my respectful application to be placed upon the list of Editors to whom copies of certain Proceedings of Government, and records of the same, are presented on publication.

I solicit this favor as several of these bear upon the subjects treated of in the Journal under my charge, and I have on several occasions been obliged to borrow from others and to have transcribed for my own use, or to purchase at some cost, such Government Proceedings.

The Journal under reference has never derived from the Government of Fort Saint George, any substantial money benefit; nor have I desired that it should do so. I am hopeful however that the fact of its pecuniary independence of Government may induce the concession of the favor now solicited.

Mr. Cornish's recent Report on Food, Mr. Brown's Memorandum on Salt, and several other papers recently published are required by me, and must either be purchased or I must trust to chance to obtain them.

I have lately devoted a considerable space to questions of sanitation, Army mortality, spread of epidemic disease, &c., and I am aware that on these matters Government not unfrequently receives printed copies from the Government of India, of Bengal, North Western Provinces, &c. I would be exceedingly glad if I might be favored with any such publications which would prove of great value in the conduct of the Medical Journal. I trust I may be excused for the liberty I take in preferring these requests, but I am not without a hope that His Excellency the Governor in Council will, in complying with my wishes, place me in a position to establish the Madras Medical Journal in the position to which it has for the past three years aspired, viz., to be considered a complete record of the progress of Medical Science in Southern India.

Owing to the present underhanded condition of the Medical Department, the number of subscribers does not justify any increase in expenditure; and without this I must remain without the class of publications now solicited, unless they should be presented to me by Government.

ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1863, No. 1399.

The Editor of the "Madras Quarterly Journal of Medical Science" will be furnished with copies of all papers laid on the Editor's table, and of any official publications bearing upon the subjects treated of in the Journal of which copies may be available.

(True Extract.)

*H. J. Cornish*  
Chief Secretary.

To the Editor, Madras Quarterly Journal of Medical Science.

„ Revenue Department. ✓  
„ Public Works do.  
„ Military do.

Exd. T. McMootry,

*25 Jan 1864*



*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
9th January 1863.*

No. 89. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th December 1862:—

Read again letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 6th September 1862, No. 189.

(In Cons. 10th September 1862, No. 5,784.)

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, dated 19th November 1862, No. 237A.

(In Cons. 27th November 1862, No. 7,538.)

1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted to Government, with reference to paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, dated 2nd August 1862, No. 1,649, R. D., referring to the Board of Revenue for report the suggestion contained in paragraph 6 of the Secretary of State's Despatch, dated 23rd May 1862, for some composition of the Government demand on the Wynad Coffee Estates which should preclude the necessity of annual measurements to ascertain the actual area of cultivation in all cases in which the whole extent of land held by the individual has not been planted out.

2. The land tenure of Malabar is peculiar, and only from a comparatively recent period have the claims of the State on the landholders (for service which originally constituted almost if not altogether the sole public liability attaching to such property), been commuted to a money payment assessed on the *cultivated* portion of each Jenmika's holding. The State has no claim against such landholder in this province on account of land not cultivated though included in his hereditary estate (Jenmom).

3. Under these circumstances it is not likely that the planters now in question will consent to pay to Government on account of the Jenmikars any composition *in excess* of the amount strictly demandable on the cultivation unless they can thereby relieve themselves from any inconvenience resulting from the present system, but as Mr. Ballard points out, they complain of no such inconvenience, and the Board are of opinion that the abuses generally connected with such a system of annual inspection are likely to be comparatively rare in a locality like Wynad where the settlers are not of a class who would submit to extortion.

4. On the other hand the Board do not see any reason why Government should relinquish any part of their very light demands on the Wynad planters in order to introduce a less clumsy system of settlement when the parties more immediately concerned make no complaint on the subject.

5. There can be no question that annual measurements of cultivation are the most exact method for determining the Government demand, in the absence of a composition of the Tax ultimately leviable on the entire holding, which last is not likely to be accepted.

6. It has not been shown that the present system costs more than the results are worth, or that it is oppressive, and while such is the case the Board consider that it may be retained without objection so long as it is needed.

7. They see no reason to suppose that Mr. Ballard's proposal of a uniform rate of Rupee 1 per Acre on forest land, and Annas 8 per Acre on open land to be charged on the whole extent of the holding, would afford any relief whatever if substituted for the existing rate of Rupees 2 per Acre of *cultivated land*, leviable in the third year from planting in the case of Coffee.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed.) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

No. 90.

ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1863, No. 48.

1. At present Coffee lands in Wynad pay an annual assessment of 2 Rupees per Acre in the third year; and one consequence of the assessment thus being on the cultivation only is periodical inspection and measurement of the cultivated area, a process which involves expense to the Government and trouble to the planter, while it opens a door to frauds.

2. In his Despatch of 23rd May 1862, No. 11 (paragraph 6), the Secretary of State suggested a composition with the planters whereby this process may be rendered unnecessary, and the matter was referred to the Board of Revenue in the Proceedings of Government 2nd August last, No. 1,649. The Board now reply to this Order, and for reasons stated, they are not in favor of the compounding system.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
9th January 1863.*

3. It is obvious that in the varying condition of the Estates, some large and others small; some with a large and others with a small proportion of unculturable land; some just begun, and all in various stages of progress short of completion; some belonging to poor, and others to wealthy men, the composition must be a matter of settlement with each individual, according to circumstances. All that Government can do is to lay down a general principle, and that can only be that instead of the assessment varying or being likely to vary from year to year, the planter should be allowed to pay on the "progressive Cowle" system, *ex. gr.* for the first two years nil; then a certain proportion of the full assessment on his whole Estate, to be increased in each successive year or term of years by a further proportion until ultimately the full assessment is reached; allowance being made for unculturable land of course. But it must be understood that the planter will agree to this kind of settlement only when it is more advantageous to him, and consequently less advantageous to Government, and that in respect of all other cultivation, the old system, with the necessity of a survey establishment, *must* continue, as Cowles could scarcely be arranged with every cultivator.

4. Under these circumstances, there seems little prospect at present of effecting any composition, which, while fair to the Government, would be so generally acceptable to the people as to be adopted by even a majority. The present system, which, as remarked by the Board, has called forth no complaints, must therefore continue in force.

5. The Government however consider it desirable that the planters should be individually invited to offer terms of composition if so inclined; and they direct that this be done and the result reported for their information.

6. This correspondence will be communicated to the Home Government, with reference to the Despatch marginally noted.

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

Letter from Home Govt. 23rd May 1862, No. 11.  
Do. to do. 4th August " " 50.

No. 6,114.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th September 1862.

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Ootacamund, 6th September 1862, No. 189 :—

1. I have received Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, and their Order thereon dated 2nd August 1862, No. 1,649, forwarded with the Board's Order dated 15th August 1862, calling on me for my opinion on the suggestions made in paragraph 6 of the Despatch of the Secretary of State for India, as to the best mode to be adopted in assessing Coffee estates, not involving the constant and irritating interference of native officials; according to existing rules in Wynaad Coffee estates are assessed to revenue in the third year of their growth.

2. The best plan and one to which I believe all the planters would readily assent, would be to request them to send in at the end of each season a Statement of the quantity of land planted out, a correct register of the planted area would thus be obtained, and it might be brought to account as assessed land in the third year of its growth. Every 5th or 6th year the whole cultivated area might be measured, and a correct register of the same drawn up.

3. In the majority of cases it is probable that by the end of the 6th year, the whole estate would be planted out so that no further survey would be required. In the 9th year the whole of the land would come under assessment.

4. The above plan seems so reasonable and just to all parties that I think it would be acceded to by them, it precludes all unnecessary interference and secures to Government the realization of its just rights.

5. It is at present optional with planters to compound with Government and pay a lump sum on their Estates, but the assessment is so light, that it is more to their advantage to pay it annually, than to pay down a large sum which can with greater benefit be laid out in increasing the area of cultivation.

Ordered to be communicated to the Collector of Malabar, whose report the Board await.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,  
*Secretary.*

To G. A. Ballard, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

Copy to P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 8,034.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 9th December 1862.

Read again letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 6th September 1862, No. 189.

(In Cons. 10th September 1862, No. 5,784.)

Read also the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated 19th November 1862, No. 237 A.

Proceedings Madras Government, dated 2nd August 1862, No. 1,649, received with Board's Endorsement dated 15th idem, No. 5,369.  
• Proceedings of Board of Revenue dated 13th September 1862, No. 6,114.

\* Dated 23rd May 1862, No. 11.

1. Adverting to the papers noted marginally, I have the honor to observe that I wrote to the Secretary of the Wynad Planters' Association, with a view to elicit the Planters' views as to the best method of assessing Coffee estates especially with reference to Sir Charles Wood's despatch,\* but that I have received no definite expression of opinion from that body. The Secretary observes that the consideration of the question of assessment has been postponed for four months to allow time for consultation with absent proprietors.

2. No allusion to the inconvenience of the present method of assessment appears in the planters' late Memorial to Sir Charles Wood, or in the address lately presented to his Excellency the Governor on his visit to Calicut. It is fair to conclude therefore that there was nothing to complain of on this score or that no better method than the one now in force suggested itself. I believe that many planters are desirous of an export duty being substituted, and the land assessment being entirely abandoned; but I am not aware that Government is prepared to entertain such a proposition.

3. At present, and probably for many a day to come, our land assessment in Wynad, if a land assessment is retained, must be on the cultivated area, not on the extent of an estate throughout. Past correspondence clearly shows that all who have studied the subject have come to this conclusion. I only except Government land hereafter to be sold, which should be sold subject to a light assessment per acre throughout, and consequently would require no subsequent inspection. I propose assessment throughout, independent of cultivation or any other consideration, at Rupee 1 per acre on Forest, and Annas 8 per Acre on open, land per annum.

4. In Fasli 1270 the Coffee assessment in Wynad was simply guess work.

In Fasli 1271, the native grown Coffee was measured by the Revenue Inspectors and Village Revenue servants, whilst the European cultivation was assessed on the planters' returns.

5. Mr. Grant proposes that for the future the planters should be requested to send in each year a Statement of the land planted out to be brought to account as assessed land, the third year of growth, and that every fifth or sixth year the whole cultivated area should be measured. I do not quite understand why Mr. Grant concludes that in the majority of cases the whole estate will be fully planted out the sixth year. There is no limit to the size of estates, and the time in which a whole estate will be planted out must depend on its extent, and the enterprize and capital of its owner. No given number of years can be laid down as the probable period.

6. Moreover, with deference to Mr. Grant's opinion, I am not an advocate for assessment on voluntary private returns. It may be plausible in theory, but practically we have little or no check against irregularity. Several of the planters have told me they considered it very unsatisfactory, and I quite agree with them.

7. My own opinion is, that in Wynad as in other parts of India we should trust to our usual Revenue agency, checked by occasional survey.

8. The cultivated areas have to a great extent been measured by the Revenue survey, though the measurements have not been received from the Survey Office. When they are received, of course they will be decisive as far as they go. When any extension or relinquishment of

*Copy in a letter to England  
of 22 January 1863*

*Enclosed in the one of the  
to Revue of the land by  
R. D. Gentry and to the*

1862. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 13th September 1862.

No. 6,114.

*Rev-8895/62.*

Communicating a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, regarding the mode of assessing Coffee Estates, and calling for Mr Ballard's report on the subject.

cultivation takes place, it should be measured by the Revenue Inspectors, or by the Kurnums; and occasionally, or periodically if thought fit, all such new measurements should be checked by the Survey party, whose employment was suggested in my letter to the Board of the 4th September last, No. 185.

1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted to Government, with reference to paragraph 3 of their Proceedings dated 2nd August 1862, No. 1,649, Revenue Department, referring to the Board of Revenue for report the suggestion contained in paragraph 6 of the Secretary of State's Despatch, dated 23rd May 1862, for some composition of the Government demand on the Wynad Coffee Estates, which should preclude the necessity of annual measurement to ascertain the actual area of cultivation in all cases in which the whole extent of land held by the individual has not been planted out.
2. The land tenure of Malabar is peculiar, and only from a comparatively recent period have the claims of the State on the landholders for service, which originally constituted almost if not altogether the sole public liability attaching to such property, been commuted to a money payment assessed on the *cultivated* portion of each Zemindar's holding. The State has no claim against such landholder in this province on account of land not cultivated though included in his hereditary Estate (Jennom).
3. Under these circumstances it is not likely that the planters now in question will consent to pay to Government on account of the Zemindars, any composition *in excess* of the amount strictly demandable on the cultivation, unless they can thereby relieve themselves from any inconvenience resulting from the present system; but as Mr. Ballard points out, they complain of no such inconvenience, and the Board are of opinion that the abuses generally connected with such a system of annual inspection, are likely to be comparatively rare in a locality like Wynad where the settlers are not of a class who would submit to extortion.
4. On the other hand the Board do not see any reason why Government should relinquish any part of their very light demands on the Wynad planters in order to introduce a less clumsy system of settlement when the parties more immediately concerned make no complaint on the subject.
5. There can be no question that annual measurements of cultivation are the most exact method for determining the Government demand, in the absence of a composition of the tax ultimately leviable on the entire holding, which last is not likely to be accepted.
6. It has not been shown that the present system costs more than the results are worth, or that it is oppressive, and while such is the case, the Board consider that it may be retained without objection so long as it is needed.
7. They see no reason to suppose that Mr. Ballard's proposal of a uniform rate of Rupee 1 per acre on forest land, and Annas 8 per acre on open land to be charged on the whole extent of the holding, would afford any relief whatever if substituted for the existing rate of Rupees 2 per acre of *cultivated* land, leviable in the third year from planting in the case of Coffee.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,  
Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.,

with copy of Collector's letter.

Copy to G. A. Ballard, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

„ to P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

21:

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue  
dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 1862.

Read again letter from O. Grant Esq. Col.  
- Collector of Coimbatore dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 1862 N. 189.  
(In Cons. 10<sup>th</sup> September 1862 N. 5784)

Read also the following letter from the Collector  
of Malabar dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 1862 N. 237 A.  
(In Cons. 27<sup>th</sup> November 1862 N. 57538)

(Ordered that the above papers be submitted  
to Government with reference to para 3 of their Proceed-  
ings dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1862 N. 1649 N. D. referring to the  
Board of Revenue for report the suggestion contained in  
para 6 of the Secretary of State's Despatch dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
1862 for some composition of the Government demand on  
the Wynad Coffee estates which should preclude the ne-  
cessity of annual measurements to ascertain the actual  
area of cultivation in all cases in which the whole  
extent of land held by the individual has not been  
planted out.)

2. The Land tenure of Malabar is peculiar and  
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able on the cultivation unless they can thereby re-  
lieve themselves from any inconvenience resulting  
from

*Sanctioned to be submitted to Government  
in cancelled or cancelled by the Government*

*Mr. Grant*

1862. Department.

No. 8,034.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 9th December 1862.

Despatched

Received

No. 8,034.

Submitting with the Board's opinion letters  
from the Collectors of Coimbatore and Malabar,  
regarding the suggestion contained in a Des-  
patch from the Secretary of State for some  
composition of the Government demand on the  
Wynad Coffee Estates, which should preclude  
the necessity of annual measurement.

from the present system. but as Mr Ballard points out, the complaint of no such inconvenience and the Board are of opinion that the abuses generally connected with such a system of annual inspection are likely to be comparatively rare in a locality like Wynd when the settlers are not of a class who would submit to extortion.

4. On the other hand the Board do not see any reason why Government should relinquish any part of their very light demands on the Wynd planters in order to introduce a less clumsy system of settlement when the parties more immediately concerned make no complaint on the subject.

5. There can be no question that annual measurements of cultivation are the most exact method for determining the Government demand, in the absence of a composition of the tax ultimately leviable on the entire holding, which last is not likely to be accepted.

6. It has not been shown that the present system costs more than the results are worth, or that it is oppressive, and while such is the case the Board consider that it may be retained without objection so long as it is needed.

7. They see no reason to suppose that Mr Ballard's proposal of a uniform rate of Rs 1 per acre on forest land and Annas 8 per acre on open land to be charged on the whole extent of the holding would afford any relief whatever if substituted for the existing rate of Rs 2 per acre of cultivated land leviable in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year from planting in the case of Coffee.

Attest

*[Signature]*

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim Esq  
Secretary to Government N.G.O.  
with copy of Collector's letter.

Note.

At present Coffee lands pay 2 Rs per acre in the third year and the consequence of the assessment thus being on the cultivation only is periodic inspection & measurement of the cultivated area - a process which involves expense to the Govt & trouble to the planter - while it opens a door to corruption.

Mr C. Wood suggests a composition with the planters whereby this process may be rendered unnecessary.

It is obvious that in the varying condition of the Estates - some large & others small - some with a large & others with a small proportion of uncultivable land - some just begun & all in various stages of progress short of complete some delaying to poor & others to rich men, the composition must be a matter of settlement with each individual, according to circumstances. - All that Govt can do is to lay down a general principle, & that can only be that instead of the assessment varying or being likely to vary from year to year the planter should be allowed to begin on a certain proportion of his

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
under date the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1862

Read the following  
Proceedings of the Board  
of Revenue

Submitting with  
the Board's opinion letters  
from the collectors of Coimbatore  
and Malabar regarding  
the suggestion contained  
in a despatch from the  
Secretary of State for some  
composition of the lost de-  
mand on the Wynad coffee  
estates, which should pre-  
clude the necessity of an-  
nual measurement.

(Here enter 9<sup>th</sup> Dec  
1862 No. /

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ment of the cultivated  
area - a process which  
involves expense to the lost  
and

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Received 1862

Proceedings of the Board  
of Revenue

22

of Wynad

Submitting with the Board's  
opinion letters from the collectors  
of Coimbatore and Malabar  
regarding the suggestion con-  
tained in a despatch from  
the Secretary of State for some  
composition of the lost de-  
mand on the Wynad coffee  
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the necessity of annual mea-  
surement.

02/ to pay on the "prospective Corde" System.  
Ex: for the first two yrs. viz - then  
a tenth or some other proportion of the full  
assessment on his whole Estate and in  
each successive year or term of years a rising  
proportion until ultimately the full ass.  
is reached - a allowance being made for un-  
culturable land of course. But it must be un-  
derstood that the Planter will agree to this  
kind of settlement when it is more advanta-  
geous to him, & consequently less advantageous  
to the Govt. and that in respect of all other cul-  
tivations the old system - with the necessity of a  
survey & settlement must continue, as Corder  
could scarcely be arranged with every cultivator.  
I must confess I do not see my way at pre-  
sent to any compromise which while fair

The Govt. would be so favorably acceptable to  
the public as to be adopted by even a majority -  
I think the Govt. at present will be  
wiser to wait a few months & see what the Plan-  
ters say to the proposition - J.R.

1862

and trouble to the planter - while it opens a door to ~~evasions~~ - frauds.

2. In his despatch of <sup>(para 6)</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1862 No 11, the Secretary of State suggests a composition with the Planters whereby this process may be rendered unnecessary - and the matter was referred to the Board of Revenue in the Pro: of Govt 2<sup>nd</sup> Augt last No 1649. The Board now reply to this order, and for reasons stated, they are not in favor of the <sup>existing</sup> composition system.

3. It is obvious that in the varying condition of the estates, some large and others small; some with a large and others with a small proportion of unculturable land; some just begun, and all in various stages of progress short of completion; some belonging to poor, and others to wealthy men, the composition must be a matter of settlement

with each individual, according to circumstances. All that Govt can do is to lay down a general principle, and that can only be that instead of the assessment varying or being likely to vary from year to year - the planter should be allowed to pay on the "progressive scale" system: ex: gr: for the first two years nil; then a <sup>certain</sup> ~~portion~~ <sup>proportion</sup> of the full assessment on his whole estate; to be increased ~~and~~ in each successive <sup>by</sup> year or term of years, a <sup>further</sup> ~~proportion~~ <sup>proportion</sup> until ultimately the full assessment is reached; allowance being made for unculturable land of course. But it must be understood that the Planter will agree to this kind of settlement only when it is more advantageous to him, and consequently less advantageous to Govt; and

and that in respect of all other cultivation, the old system, with the necessity of a survey establishment, must continue, as Cowles could scarcely be arranged with every cultivator.

4. Under these circumstances, there seems little prospect at present of effecting any composition, which, while fair to the Govt would be so generally acceptable to the people as to be adopted by even a majority. The present system, which, as remarked by the Board, has called forth no complaints, must therefore continue in force.

5. The Govt however considers it desirable that the claustris should be <sup>individually</sup> invited to offer terms of composition if so inclined, and they are directed that this be done

done & the result reported for their information.

~~done~~

These cases.

Indence with his comm.unications to the Govt for with reference to the Despatch accordingly noted.

Edw

Copy in a Letter to England 27/22  
January 1863 N<sup>o</sup> 5

2-12-13

Revenue 1863 Dept<sup>o</sup>  
Pro: of Gov<sup>t</sup> for January

N<sup>o</sup> 48.

Pro: of the Madras Gov<sup>t</sup>.  
27<sup>th</sup> January 1862

In the Pro: 6<sup>th</sup> February 1863  
12 100-107.

Passing orders on  
Boards Proceedings re-  
porting on the composition  
of the Gov<sup>t</sup> demand on the  
Mynad Coffee Estates.

N<sup>o</sup> 89 & 90.