M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-21.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 596 Press ~~Mis.~~

304 305

Dated 31. 3. ~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 31st March 1863.

No. 304. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th March 1863, No. 1,642 :—

Read again letter from the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 30th December 1862, No. 213.
(In Cons. 5th January 1863, No. 30.)

Read also the following letter from the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 27th February 1863, No. 38.

1. With reference to Board's Proceedings dated 27th January last, No. 518, I have the honor to state that the Deputy and Assistant Collectors have not been restricted in this District as to the amount of waste they could assess or make over to a Durkhastdar. This practice has obtained in this District for years past, and the Deputy Collector has only followed it in this instance.

2. Now that the Board consider it highly objectionable to allow a Deputy Collector at his own discretion to assess and make over large tracts to private parties, I have instructed my Assistant and Deputy to refer for my orders in future all Durkhasts for lands exceeding 100 Acres in extent.

3. As for the Board's remark that the operations of the Survey and Settlement Departments were intended to include all lands that might come under cultivation within a few years, I beg to say that the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement does not seem to have expected that the land would so soon be brought under the influence of the plough.

Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.—Petitions.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Endorsement on Petition No. 3,131 of 1862.

2. Under the circumstances reported in Mr. McDonell's letter, the Board are of opinion that the Petition requires no further notice. The orders issued by Mr. Walhouse have the Board's approval.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL, *Sub-Secretary.*

No. 305. Order thereon, 31st March 1863, No. 596.

1. The Government agree with the Board that no further notice need be taken of the Petition referred to.

2. The following Endorsement will therefore be passed upon it :—

"The Government have received a report on this case and find that there is no reason for "interfering on Petitioner's behalf."

3. His Excellency in Council is further of opinion that in all Districts Durkhast should be provided for on fixed Rules, discretion where necessary being exercised by the Collector alone. The Board will be good enough to give effect to these views.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

No. 518.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 27th January 1863.

Read the following letter from Æ. R. McDONELL, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, to V. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th December 1862, No. 213:—

1. I do myself the honor to return the two Board Petitions noted in the margin, and at the same time I furnish the information called for in Mr. Sub-Secretary Dalyell's endorsement; the maximum rate for Punjah land in the village of Veppendutty is 6 13-0, the minimum 0-13-6; the rate charged for the land referred to in these Petitions is Rupees 1-11-3.

No. 2,816 of 1862.
No. 3,131 of 1862.

2. The total amount of land made over to the Petitioner's opponents is C. 809, G. 26, A. 9, assessed at Rupees 1,378-10-6; of this C. 579, G. 50, A. 0, assessed at Rupees 987-5-6 is already cultivated, and of the remaining C. 229, G. 76, A. 9, assessed at Rupees 391-5-0, C. 143, G. 45, A. 5 are cleared ready for the plough, leaving to be prepared for cultivation only C. 86, G. 31, A. 4, assessed at Rupees 147-0-3. Considering how recently this land was made over to the parties, (May 21st,) I think the present state of the land shows the desire and ability of these persons to cultivate. I am perfectly satisfied that the parties to whom the land was made over will not allow it to remain fallow.

3. The Petitioner Sreerungam Rungachariar is not a resident Ryot of Veppendutty, and has no Puttah in the village; he is a well known litigious character. In appeal I had all the parties up personally and satisfied myself of the correctness of the decision arrived at.

4. I append for the Board's information copy of a report I made on this subject, to Sir W. Denison by Order communicated to me through the Governor's Private Secretary.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Æ. R. McDONELL, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, to J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Private Secretary to the Honorable the Governor, dated 30th September 1862, No. 19.

1. With reference to your endorsement on the enclosed Petition from one Rungachary, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. Anna Reddy and Aluppa Servagaran first offered to cultivate the waste land (800 Cawnies) alluded to in the Petition, and requested that the lands may be made over to them on progressive Cowle for the rate fixed, *i. e.*, Rupees 1-11-3 per Cawny.

3. There were two other tenders for the same spot subsequently, one by Moottuvijayamachi Reddi, &c., for 200 Cawnies for full rate, *i. e.*, Rupees 1-11-3, another by Rungacharri, the Petitioner, for an increased rate of 2-4-0 the Cawny, but on progressive Cowle. The first Durkhastdars then offered to take up the land on full assessment. The Deputy Collector, on a full consideration of all circumstances connected with these Durkhasts, passed an order that the 828½ Cawnies be made over to the first Durkhastdars at full rate, *i. e.*, Rupees 1-11-3.

4. Against this decision the unsuccessful Durkhastdars appealed, on which the entire proceedings held in the case by the Deputy Collector were sent for and carefully perused by me. I further referred to the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, asking him to inform me what would be the proper assessment on the land in dispute under the new Revenue Settlement. The Deputy Director in reply states that the Deputy Collector's rate per Cawny was quite correct, and that the land is so covered with jungles that it is hardly fit to be taxed at even three-fourths of the rate the Deputy Collector fixed.

5. The Appellants and then the first Durkhastdars subsequently offered a very high rate, *i. e.*, Rupees 4-8-0 the Cawny. This increased offer the parties made obviously from feelings of rivalry. From what transpired before me I was convinced that the land would be relinquished the very next year; it would not pay to cultivate it with such a high tax upon it. Besides this I very much doubted the motives of Rungachary, a notorious litigant here; during the inquiry before me he stated that he expected a present from the Government the rate of assessment having been increased by his having come into the market for the land; his object was to get the land and make others pay him to resign it in their favor.

6. Under these circumstances I after careful consideration confirmed the Deputy Collector's decision. The allegation that the Deputy Collector intended it for his own use as represented in the Petition is entirely false.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) Æ. R. McDONELL, Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 and 3—Petitions.

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1. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Collector's letter, the Board wish to be informed, first, under what authority the Deputy Collector took upon himself to assess so large a tract of land; secondly, why the Deputy Collector was allowed to give such a very extensive tract of land for cultivation, without, as it would seem, obtaining in the first instance the Collector's permission.

2. The Board observe as to the first point, that the operations of the Survey and Settlement Department were intended to include all land that might be required for cultivation within a few years. It would seem therefore that the extensive waste which has now been so rapidly brought under the plough should have been regularly assessed by the Settlement Officers. With regard to the second point, though a Deputy Collector may have a separate revenue charge, the Board would consider it very objectionable that an Officer of this subordinate class should be permitted entirely at his own discretion, to assess and make over to private parties large tracts of land exceeding, as in this case, a thousand acres in extent.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Sub-Secretary.

To Æ. R. McDonell, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly.

Enclosures sent in the Board's Letter to the Secretary to Government dated 19th March 1863—

Rev. 1 April 63.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 27th January 1863.

No. 518.

Requesting information on certain points relative to the authority under which the Deputy Collector assessed and made over to parties large tracts of land.

Read. J. Wright.

3

No. 1,642.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th March 1863.

Read again letter from the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 30th December 1862, No. 213.

(In Cons. 5th January 1863, No. 30.)

Read also the following letter from the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 27th February 1863, No. 38:—

1. With reference to Board's Proceedings dated 27th January last, No. 518, I have the honor to state that the Deputy and Assistant Collectors have not been restricted in this District as to the amount of waste they could assess or make over to a Durkhastdar. This practice has obtained in this District for years past, and the Deputy Collector has only followed it in this instance.

2. Now that the Board consider it highly objectionable to allow a Deputy Collector at his own discretion to assess and make over large tracts to private parties, I have instructed my Assistant and Deputy to refer for my orders in future all Durkhasts for lands exceeding 100 Acres in extent.

3. As for the Board's remark that the operations of the Survey and Settlement Departments were intended to include all lands that might come under cultivation within a few years, I beg to say that the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement does not seem to have expected that the land would so soon be brought under the influence of the plough.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2—Petitions.

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1. Ordered to be submitted to Government with reference to their endorsement on Petition No. 3,131 of 1862.

2. Under the circumstances reported in Mr. McDonell's letter, the Board are of opinion that the Petition requires no further notice. The orders issued by Mr. Walhouse have the Board's approval.

(A true Copy and Extract,)

(Signed) R. A. Dalyell

Sub-Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with copy of Board's Proceedings 27th January 1863, No. 518.

Copy to M. J. Walhouse, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly.

Read. J. Wright.

Copy of the Letter to Govt Land
dated 12th June 1863 No 1177

Year 1863. Department
Rev: of Govt for March.

No. 707.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

From Tiruvengoor
Ryotwar Circle 15th Dec 53
No 2998 in Fyle

Dated 19th March 1863.
Despatched 21st
Received 21st
21-4-63

No. 1,642.

Submitting with reference to petition Government No 3131 of 1862, a letter from the Collector of Trichinopoly, explaining why the Deputy and Assistant Collectors in the district, have not been restricted, as to the amount of waste land they could assess or make over, to a Durkhastdar.

No 304 & 305.

No 596-31 March

No 596

The Government agree with the Board that no further notice need be taken of the letter referred to.

The following endorsement with therefore be passed upon it. "The Govt have received a report from Tiruvengoor "find that there is no reason for interfering "on Petitioner's behalf" And Government concur in the further opinion that in the instructions that should be provided for in Rule 3 Section, where necessary to be observed by the Collector alone - The Board will be good enough to give effect to these orders -

C. Front St. George
31st March 1863