

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	886	Press
		~~Mis.~~
	265. 266	
Dated	22	5-19 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd May 1863.*

No. 265. Read the following letter from the Honorable C. PELLY, Member of the Board of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 11th May 1863, No. —

SIR,

1. After a very long delay of three years and upwards, I am at length able to lay before Government the scheme of Village Revenue Establishments (Nirgunties excepted) for the District of Nellore, having received at last from the Collector the requisite Statements accom-

Letter dated 16th February 1860, No. 17.
" " 27th April 1861, " 83.
" " 28th May 1861, " 105.
" " 28th February 1863, " 49.
" " 28th March 1863, " 88.
" " 17th April 1863, " 109.

panied by letters from Mr. Dykes, in which he explains the nature of his recommendations. Mr. Dykes first submitted a general but very incomplete plan, but the scale of emoluments then proposed was so large as to be altogether

inadmissible, the plan now submitted is, as far as it goes, complete in itself.

2. The Collector proposes, by combining villages as far as practicable, and without inconvenience to the people, to reduce the present number of 838 villages to 585 villages.

3. For these 585 villages he proposes an Establishment of Potails (or as they seem to be called in Nellore Peddacapús), Curnums and Vetties, which together will cost 1,36,260 Rupees. This Establishment, the Collector observes (paragraph 12), "also provides for the discharge of Police and Magisterial duties, so far as the communication of intelligence and the disposal of petty Magisterial cases, &c., are concerned, to which should be added the strength that such an Establishment must ever give to any body of men acting as a general Police: and viewing the question in this light, he trusts that the cost of the Establishment, viz., 10 per cent. on the revenue (14,00,000 Rupees), cannot be considered excessive."

4. The Collector throws these 585 villages into seven classes, classified according to the revenue, and for each class assigns an appropriate remuneration for the Village Servants, having but one Potal and one Curnum (as settled by Government) for each village, and two to five Vettians according to the size of the village. The great bulk, or about five-sixths of the villages, fall into the two classes, with revenues between one and two thousand Rupees, and between two and four thousand Rupees.

5. The following table shows at once Mr. Dykes' scheme:—

5. The following table shows at once Mr. Dyar's

Villages with Revenue.	Number of village.	POTALS.			CURNUMS.			VETTYANS.			Total.	
		No.	Rate.	Cost.	No.	Rate.	Cost.	No. for each village.	Total No.	Rate.	Cost.	
Below 1,000 Rupees	74	74	Rs. 40	Rs. 2,960	74	Rs. 60	Rs. 4,440	1	74	Rs. 24	Rs. 1,776	9,176
Between 1,000 and 2,000....	262	262	50	13,100	262	80	20,960	2	524	36	18,864	52,924
" 2,000 and 4,000	167	167	60	10,020	167	100	16,700	3	501	36	18,036	44,756
" 4,000 and 6,000	167	167	80	13,360	167	120	20,040	3	144	36	5,184	14,784
" 6,000 and 8,000	48	48	100	4,800	48	150	7,200	4	64	36	2,304	6,304
" 8,000 and 10,000	16	16	100	1,600	16	200	3,200	4	36	36	1,296	3,996
Above 10,000 ...	9	9	100	900	9	200	1,800	5	45	36	1,620	4,320
Total...	585	585	...	33,320	585	...	53,860	...	1,388	...	49,080	1,36,260

... elements with the scale circulated by

6. He contrasts this classification and scale of emoluments with the scale circulated by me on 30th April 1861, and with the scale adopted by me for Bellary and some other Districts. He shows that if these scales were adopted in Nellore the cost would be by 30th April scale

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Rupees 1,05,204, by Bellary scale Rupees 1,40,460; but he objects to either of these schemes on account of their intricacy; but this is a mistake, as either scale is simple enough: the scale for Potails, Curnums and Vetties being fixed on somewhat different principles; a separate classification of villages was adopted to suit each class of servants. The number of classes in the Bellary Potal scale does not exceed the number proposed by Mr. Dykes, but the number of classes in the Curnums scale is larger, as Mr. Dykes simply in several instances unites two of the Bellary into one class for Nellore. In classifying the villages for the purpose of fixing appropriate salaries, a larger number of classes than originally proposed had been fixed after personal communication with the late Secretary to Government, so as to allot the remuneration in better proportion to the work to be done.

7. Mr. Dykes' classification would answer, but I prefer the one I have adopted, and it is also in conformity with that taken for several other Districts; but as the Collector gives his own scheme the preference, and there seems no serious objections to it, the Government can if they please adopt it.

8. The tentative scale of 30th April 1861, above alluded to, will not suit for Nellore, so it may be set aside. The Bellary scale which I have taken on the whole costs more than Mr. Dykes' proposal. The cost of the two scales may be compared as follows:—

	MR. DYKES' SCALE.		BELLARY SCALE.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.		
Potails ...	585	33,320	585	35,160	...	1,810
Curnums ...	585	53,860	585	53,136	714	...
Vetties ...	1,388	49,080	1,449	52,164	...	3,084
Total...	...	1,36,260	...	1,40,460	...	4,200

9. I have enclosed a Statement showing the exact rates proposed by Mr. Dykes as compared with those according to the Bellary scale for each class of villages. It will be seen that as respects the Potails and Curnums there is not much difference, but my scale gives

61 Vettyans more than are allowed in the scale of Mr. Dykes' and allows 36 Rupees per man all round, whereas in villages of less than 1,000 Rupees Mr. Dykes allows only 24 Rupees for the 74 men required by his scale for those villages. On the whole, I prefer the scale adopted for Bellary and some other Districts, and as in carrying out the project it may be found necessary to make a distribution of Vettyans not in strict accordance to the scale, it is as well to allow of a small margin. I would therefore adopt this scale in preference to Mr. Dykes', and have made my calculations accordingly, though it will be seen that the difference is small only 4,200 Rupees per annum for the whole Establishment of Potails, Curnums and Vettyans, in excess of that recommended by Mr. Dykes.

10. The Establishment then that I have the honor to propose for Nellore, is as follows, costing 1,40,460 Rupees:—

Class.	Number of villages.	Rate per annum.	Amount of cost.
POTAL.			
Up to 1,000 ...	74	36	2,664
1,500 ...	164	48	7,872
3,000 ...	212	60	12,720
5,000 ...	82	72	5,904
7,000 ...	27	96	2,592
9,000 ...	14	120	1,680
Above 9,000 ...	12	144	1,728
Total...	585	...	35,160
CURNUM.			
Up to 1,000 ...	74	60	4,440
1,500 ...	164	72	11,808
2,000 ...	98	84	8,232
3,000 ...	114	96	10,944
4,000 ...	53	108	5,724
5,000 ...	29	120	3,480
6,000 ...	19	132	2,508
7,000 ...	8	144	1,152
8,000 ...	8	156	1,248
9,000 ...	6	168	1,008
Above 9,000 ...	12	216	2,592
Total...	585	...	53,136

VETTYANS.

Class.	Number of villages.	Total number of men.	Rate.	Amount.
Up to 500 ...	8	8	36	288
2,000 ...	328	656	36	23,616
7,000 ...	223	669	36	24,084
9,000 ...	14	56	36	2,016
Above 9,000 ...	12	60	36	2,160
Total...	585	1,449	...	52,164

11. In calculating the assets which are available for meeting the charge of Village Establishments, Mr. Dykes in paragraph 22 makes the following observations about fees:—"In regard to fees I have made no proposal as regards commutation, &c., I have been saved all doubts and "uncertainties on this point, as the Survey and Settlement in progress will, I trust, settle this question by merging the fees in the Land Revenue instead of leaving the landholders open to the annoyance of a varying demand on the crops." But as these fees are now paid by the Ryots, and amount to the sum of 65,000 Rupees, they have been taken as an available asset, and whether Government include them in the new Settlement (which is yet doubtful) or not, they still properly represent a present asset. If they are not included in the Revenue Settlement, and the Ryots are yet to be charged with such an item, it will be better to commute them into a fee cess. They now, it would seem, represent a charge equivalent to 4-10 per cent. on the revenue of fourteen lacs. In the original settlement of the District in Fasl 1212 (as reported by Mr. Fraser on 10th June 1803, paragraph 39,) a deduction of 6½ per cent. was made from the gross produce for the fees of Curnums, Artificers, &c., before a division of the Government and Ryots' share. So that the payment of these fees is a proper charge on the land, and should not be lost sight of as an asset from which in some shape or other an equivalent may be taken for

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the payment of the servants (See Collector of Nellore's letter to Board of Revenue, dated 28th November 1861, No. 252, in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd December 1861, No. 7,165).

12. It is proposed to dispense with the Shroffs, so that their present emoluments are more or less available for the general Village Service; their Ináms are Rupees...

Fees...	...	...	...	...	3,230
Cash...	...	...	...	...	60
Total...					9,613

13. The Service Ináms are valued at Rupees 69,982, and form a main source from which the village emoluments are derived. It has, as the Government are aware, been determined for good reasons to enfranchise at a favorable rate of assessment the Service Ináms in the Ceded Districts, and there is nothing peculiar to Nellore that should induce the Government to exclude the Inámdars of that District from a similar indulgence, in carrying out a measure which has for its object the creation of a fund for the payment of the Village Establishment with the least degree of hardship and severity to those who have possessed for long years vested interests in the lands, which it is now proposed to appropriate. By the amalgamation of villages, and confining the office to a single individual, many who have hitherto held the Ináms will be removed, and would have to part with their lands (held perhaps for generations) to others; or were they permitted to retain the land they would have to pay a full assessment for what they had held rent free for many years, and, however, untenable as a matter of strict right their claim may be, they do yet look upon the land as their private property. The Government must, I think, treat the Inám holders of Nellore in the same way as they will those of the neighbouring Districts of Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool. Mr. Dykes, however, advocates on several occasions the entire resumption at the full assessment of all Service Ináms, though eventually he (paragraph 15, letter 23th February 1863), admits it will be politic to enfranchise them at a reduced assessment, and he would adopt a rate of 12 Annas in the Rupee, instead of 10 Annas, the rate ordered by Government, subject however, in the latter case, to a fee cess of 1 Anna besides, so that the difference between the enfranchised rate proposed by Mr. Dykes, and the Government rate is

in fact only one-sixteenth of a Rupee. The arguments on this point adduced by Mr. Dykes will be found in the correspondence noted in the margin. It will be proper to take the Government rate of 10 Annas in computing the available assets.

From Collector to Mr. Pelly, dated 27th April 1861, paragraphs 5, 10 and 11.
From Collector to Board of Revenue, dated 28th November 1861, paragraphs 5 to end.
Dated 28th February 1863, paragraphs 13, 14 and 15.

14. There are a few cash payments in some villages transferred from Guntoor amounting in all to 2,256 Rupees, which must be added to the present assets.

15. The assets, then, stand at present thus:—

NOTE.—In calculating the assets Mr. Dykes assumed the value of Ináms without deducting the Jodi, but the figures now taken are from the Abstract prepared in the Office from the Villagewar Statement submitted by the Collector.

	Value of Ináms after deducting Jodi.	Fees.	Cash.	Total.
Potails.....	21,876	94	55	22,025
Curnums.....	37,811	48,343	1,245	87,399
Vetties.....	7,065	10,209	896	18,170
Total...	66,752	58,646	2,196	1,27,594
Shroff.....	3,230	6,323	60	9,613
Total...	69,982	64,969	2,256	1,37,207

NOTE.—Nirgunty Establishment is not included, see paragraph 21.

16. But as the Ináms are to be taken at five-eighths their value, and as the fees will probably be commuted either by including them in the new settlement or by a distinct cess, I shall take the former only as an apparent asset, and show what amount will eventually have to be provided by a deduction from the Government settlement, or by a direct cess on the Ryots

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to meet the cost of the Establishment I have recommended. The Inám assets would at five-eighths the assessed value, amount to 43,739 Rupees. The Establishment now recommended will cost 1,40,460 Rupees, so that the deficit is 96,721 Rupees. To meet this deficit a charge on the revenues of the District (if the fees are included in the new Survey Revenue

Land Revenue of Fasli 1271...	...	...	Rs. 13,79,687
Assessment on Ináms...	...	...	4,51,695
Total...			18,31,382
Cess at 6½ per cent...	...	...	1,14,461
Do. at 5½ per cent...	...	...	97,201

Vetties Rs. Rs.
429 x 36 = 15,444

Settlement) of 96,721 Rupees will have to be made, inclusive of the cash payment, 2,256, now paid by Government. Or if the fee cess is to be added, a similar sum equivalent to a cess of 05½ per cent. on the Land Revenue and Inám lands together.

17. Mr. Dykes thinks it possible to reduce one of the Vetties he has provided for in the classes of villages between 1,000 and 4,000 Rupees revenue, by which a saving of 15,444 Rupees would be effected, but I do not recommend this.

18. A few observations on Mr. Dykes' letters will conclude this report. In the letter noted in the margin, he expresses at length his dissent as regards smaller villages, or villages under 4,000 Rupees, "to the views expressed by Government, that with a stipend greatly less than that assigned to the Accountant, the office of the Head man would still be an object of envy to all the leading Ryots," and he argues that to secure competent men of this class, a higher salary must be given. I cannot agree with Mr. Dykes that it is necessary to pay these men a higher salary than has now been recommended by me. The difference between Mr. Dykes' present rates and mine are as per margin. Mr. Dykes at first recommended far higher rates, so high as eighty Rupees for a Potail of a village whose revenue was between

Rates of remuneration for Potails in villages.	Rs.	Mr. D.	Mr. P.
Under 1,000	40	36	
Do. 2,000	50	48 to 60	
Do. 4,000	60	60 to 72	

Mr. Dykes' letter, dated 27th April 1861, paragraph 13.

1,000 and 2,000 Rupees with an addition of 4 per cent. on every 500 Rupees increase of revenue.

19. Mr. Dykes, though a strong advocate for resuming all the present Inám lands, yet strongly advocates the payment of all the village servants in land rather than in money. He would make it compulsory upon all the holders of the office, whether the Potail, the Curnum, or the Vetty, to take land in payment of their wages, that is, that they should hold land assessed at a sum equivalent to their salaries and have that amount deducted from their puttahs. His reasons are stated at length in the letters noted in the margin, and shortly summed up as follows:—

- (1) "It goes far to secure to the public that the men paid, stay in the village."
- (2) "It is easier to pay in kind than in money."

20. I am an advocate, as the Government are aware, for the Potail holding land, and for remunerating him by an annual deduction of a round sum from his puttah. But I am not anxious, neither do the Government desire, that the Curnum and village servant should be paid in this manner, and that it should be made compulsory on these men to hold land (which in many cases it would be beyond their means to profitably occupy), I entirely object.

Land they would have to hold.	Rs.	Rs.
Each Curnum.....	100 to 200	
Each Vetty.....	36	

21. Mr. Dykes, however, admits (paragraph 24) that one great objection to a money payment would be removed if, as contemplated, the payment was made from the village treasury. All I would therefore urge is that the Potail should be encouraged to occupy land to the extent of his fixed remuneration. But that as regards the Curnum and Vetty, it should be left quite optional, and if they or their family do hold land, that they should have the deduction on account of their salaries made, if they please, in their puttah, and an adjustment made in the

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village accounts, but otherwise that they should receive their emoluments from the village treasury.

NOTE.—Since this was written Mr. Dykes, has sent a report on Nirgunties, but it has been returned for revision; the estimated cost is 14,112 Rupees.

without further delay. There are, it appears, 476 Nirgunties now employed; they have emoluments valued at 3,029 Rupees, viz.,

In Land net...	...	...	...	...	1,290
Fees...	...	...	...	...	1,716
Cash...	...	...	...	...	23
Total.....					3,029

But it is probable that when this Establishment is revised, and the men are placed on a similar footing as the other Village Servants, it will cost considerably more than this sum.

Paragraph 27.

22. Mr. Dykes, I regret, has not sent in any scheme for the revision of the Nircutty Establishment; he has been directed to do so without further delay. There are, it appears, 476 Nirgunties now employed; they have emoluments valued at 3,029 Rupees, viz.,

Paragraph 28.

23. Mr. Dykes requests the early orders of Government for enfranchising the Ináms, but I am afraid that the Government will not be able to pass any orders separately on that point, nor until they have determined generally on the introduction of the new Village Establishments, which I am aware are now occupying their attention. As this is the only District that remained to be reported on, the Government will now be in possession of my views on every District. I purpose to submit a general report on the whole in the course of a few days.

Letter, dated 27th April 1861, paragraph 3.

24. I must here prominently notice Mr. Dykes' proposition for introducing the new Establishments. He would make all the changes as to the emoluments, the resumption of the Ináms, the abolition of fees, the re-modelling the plan, but would as regards, the office holders, leave them as they are, that is, "he would not dismiss any village authorities or servants actually engaged in the performance of public duties in the villages to be amalgamated, but only get rid of the drones," and divide the fixed pay among those who work, thus perpetuating the system of many officials, which the Government have ordered should be discontinued. He would make changes gradually, and only when it met with the wishes of the people. This is not what the Government Order contemplated, neither can it attain the object of individual responsibility, and a fair remuneration for the work. It would, in fact, unsettle every thing, without introducing a better state of things in the villages of Nellore, which Mr. Dykes described as follows:—

25. I would add here the number of existing servants employed, and having claims to the village offices, as taken from the Statement furnished by the Collector.

	Nominated.	Merassidars.	Total.
Potails ...	1,685	193	1,878
Curnums ...	2,093	3,933	6,026
Shroffs ...	570	194	764
Vettyans ...	2,460	...	2,460
Nirgunties ...	476	...	476
Total.	7,284	4,320	11,604

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26. I would, however, myself recommend, should the Government determine to adopt the scheme now submitted, that nevertheless it should not be introduced until the Revenue Survey of the District is completed, as the change would create much inconvenience as represented by Colonel Priestley.

27. I regret that I have not been able to submit this report sooner. There is no reason why the Collector should not have enabled me, had he given due attention to the matter, to send it two years ago.

No. 266.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd May 1863, No. 886.

Ordered to lie over.

(Signed.) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

March / 62 no
98-99

Madras 1863 (V. 1)
Pro: of Govt for May 1863

From,

The Hon^{ble} L. Kelly
Member of the Hon.
of Revenue

To,

J. D. Sin Corp
Secretary to Govern^t
Res. Dept^o

Dated 11th May 1863
sup^d 12th

Enclosure one. 8^o
E-16-

Pro. of the Madras Govt in the P. 118.
2^d September 1863 Cont^d 105

Submitting his
Report on the village Revenue
Establishments of the District
of Nellore

1863 22nd May

With an Order

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Ordered to be over.

1863-44-1000
22nd May 1863

265+266.