M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1132 Press ~~Mis.~~

23-24

Dated 1-7- ~~18~~ 1924

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No. 23. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st May 1864, No. 3,312.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ootacamund, 12th May 1864, No. 102 :—

1. With reference to the Orders noted in the margin, I have the honor to report the result of the revision and reduction in the number of the rates of assessment on the Burghers' lands on the Neilgherries.

Government Order, 22nd September 1862, No. 2,060.
Board's Order, 24th do. „ 6,415.
Government Order, 12th June 1863, „ 1,027.
Board's Order, 17th do. „ 3,559.

2. Mr. Thomas' proposition in his letter of the 19th April 1862, No. 90, and the Order of Government of the 22nd September 1862, No. 2,060, were based on the accounts of Fusly 1269 (1859-60). The extent of land exhibited in his Statement, viz., 29,912 Acres, comprised the lands of ten villages, in seven of which the Burghers had no holdings, but during the two subsequent years (Fuslies 1270 and 1271) considerable changes took place, and consequently in carrying out the revision it became necessary to regulate it with reference to the extent of the holdings as they stood at the commencement of Fusly 1272, and to limit its operation to the three Burgher villages, viz., Todanad, Parunganad, and Naicknad. These villages may with more propriety be designated parishes, as they constitute the greater portion of the plateau of the Neilgherries. The changes were introduced in Fusly 1272 (1862-63), and at the time of their adoption the Burghers were most distinctly informed that on the introduction of the new rates of assessment the "Bhurty (shifting) system" would cease for ever. It has ceased, and the people now regard it as a by-gone system, it is never alluded to. They were also given to understand that for the future all unassessed waste lands could be procured only under the new rules for the sale of unassessed waste lands on the Neilgherries. This change they now acquiesce in, although for the first year they were somewhat incredulous as to its being followed up. The aggregate extent of land held by the Burghers in Fusly 1272 was 23,583 Acres, under eleven (11) rates of assessment, which have been reduced to five, and the revenue on which amounted to Rupees 11,099-7-8. The introduction of the new rates reduced this amount to Rupees 8,845-4-4, showing a loss of revenue of Rupees 2,254-3-4, but the Burghers took up 11,522 Acres of waste land, yielding a revenue of Rupees 4,295-8-1 at the reduced rates. Their total holdings then in Fusly 1272 amounted to Acres 35,106, yielding a revenue of Rupees 13,140-12-5. The following Abstract Statement shows the financial result of the revision of assessment carried out in Fusly 1272, as compared with the assessment in Fusly 1271 previous to the introduction of the new regime :—

Fuslies.	Extent of land.	Assessment.	Settlement.
	Acres.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1271	17,333 5½	8,114 8 3	7,163 5 8
1272	35,105 11½	13,140 12 5	11,179 5 9
Increase in favour of Fusly 1272..	17,772 6	5,026 4 2	4,016 0 1

It will be observed that the Burghers have increased their holdings by 17,772 Acres, yielding a revenue of Rupees 5,026-4-2. Their holdings are now permanent, the "Bhurty" (shifting) system is at an end, and the majority of the lands have been roughly demarcated, so that I think I may say, that the old practice of putting forward doubtful claims to lands applied for by Europeans and others has been put a stop to.

3. The difference of Rupees 1,961-6-8 between the assessment and settlement consists of the following items :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Remission for waste, the lands being retained in the Puttahs ...	1,131	13	11
Do. for Cowle lands	16	2	7
Do. granted for "Ain" grass one-quarter of the fixed assessment being charged three-quarters remitted	813	6	2
	1,961	6	8

4. With regard to the first item, I beg to explain, that when the Burghers took up the extra waste land the cultivation season had passed, the assessment on it was therefore remitted, on the clear understanding that the waste was to be retained in their Puttahs and paid for this year whether cultivated or not; it has been cultivated and comes to account this season.

5. The second item is the remission for land taken up by the Burghers in former years on Cowle (improving lease). On the expiration of the term allowed for the improvement of these lands, the full assessment will be paid.

6. The third item is the usual remission granted on lands held on "Ain" grass tenure on which one-quarter of the assessment is actually levied according to the Hookumnamah of the District, and as per orders noted in the margin; for the future no more lands will be granted on these terms.

Board's Proceedings 21st June 1861, No. 3,217, Paragraph 12.
Government Order, 7th November 1861, No. 2,133, paragraph 3

7. On the whole it is satisfactory to observe that by the arrangement now carried out, the "Bhurty" (shifting) system has been put a stop to, the Burghers have taken up much waste lands and pay to Government an increased revenue of Rupees 4,016-0-1.

8. The revenue accounts although they exhibit certain extents of land in each village as assessed and unassessed waste, do not define the boundaries of these lands. The result was, in carrying out the changes under report, it became impossible to say in cases in which unassessed waste lands had been cultivated, which portions belonged to the assessed, and which to the unassessed lands, and as it was evident that many of the Burghers had both lands in their enjoyment, it was resolved, as the best way to meet the difficulty, to allow them to retain all the lands which had been cultivated under the "Bhurty" system, and which in reality formed portions of their existing holdings. The practical result has been that the lands taken up exceed the actual quantity of assessed waste exhibited in the accounts submitted to Government by 5,194 acres, and show a corresponding reduction in the available unassessed waste lands, of which many thousand Acres still remain untouched. Although somewhat opposed to the letter of the Government Order, the course followed seems to be in accordance with its spirit; in fact, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to have carried it out differently, as the lands

	Acres.
Extent of land shown in paragraph 9 of Government Order of 22nd September 1862, No. 2,060. Acres	29,912
As per present Statement. Acres	35,106
Difference...	5,194

not having been demarcated and surveyed, there was no data on which to determine which were the assessed and which the unassessed lands, almost all either were or had been under the plough at the time the settlement was made.

9. I take this opportunity of reporting to the Board the measures adopted in regard to the settlement of the revenue of the Koondah villages, which were transferred to this District from Malabar in 1860. The Board are aware that the lands held by the Burghers in these villages were never surveyed, but that the revenue was collected on the number of fields locally termed "Kottoocudoo" and "Yorcaudoo" at so much on each description of field. In Fusly 1272 these lands were roughly surveyed by the Talook officials, and the assessment fixed on the acreage. The total extent in occupation was found to be 1,220 Acres, and with reference to the soil each field was charged with its appropriate assessment according to the new rates sanctioned in the Government Order of 22nd September 1862, No. 2,060. The result is given in the following table :—

Classes.	Rates.	Extent of land. Acres.	Assessment. Rs.	A.	P.
1	At 10 Annas per Acre	117 13	73	7	8
2	At 8 do.	43 7½	21	4	11
3	At 6 do.	606 5½	226	0	1
4	At 4 do.	298 8¾	74	9	5
5	At 2 do.	153 13	19	4	2
		1,220 0	414	10	3
	Deduct remission for Ain grass ...	.....	10	11	6
	Net Settlement ...	.....	403	14	9
	Amount of Settlement of Fus[y] 1271 on the old principle	.....	434	2	0
	Decrease... ...	.....	30	3	3

10. The small decrease of Rupees 30 is nothing when the advantages of the new system are considered with reference, not only to the Koudah, but to the other villages on the hills. The door to much fraud has been closed, and the sources of endless disputes and false claims to lands have been swept away, whilst the Burghers and Government have both immediately benefited, the former by the reduction of assessment, and the latter by an increased revenue.

STATEMENT showing the result of the revision of assessment of the Burghers' lands in the villages

ENCLOSURE

Rate of assessment per Acre as per Survey standard.		Extent of land under occupation of the Ryots at the commencement of Fusly 1272.								Add Perumboke lands brought under cultivation in Fusly 1272.	
Classes.	Rate.	Acres.	Assessment.			Present classes.	Rate per Acre.	Reduction made in the assessment in column 4 by charging the lands in column 3 as per present rates.	Net assessment as per present rates.	Acres.	Assessment as per present rates.
	A. P.	Acres.	Rs.	A.	P.		A.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Acres.	Rs. A. P.
1	14 10	1,449	1,335	3	5	1	10	421 14 2	952 3 9	484 15¼	297 8 9
2	13 7	62 4¼	52	14	5			13 15 11			
3	12 4	613 14	474	6	11			163 15 11			
4	11 1	147 5¾	100	3	2			25 6 11			
5	9 11	2,081 10½	1,275	0	4	2	8	242 8 6	1,417 11 1	627 0	310 2 5
6	8 8	999 9¾	582	2	4			158 7 1			
7	7 5	10,160 3	4,687	7	6			875 4 3			
8	6 2	2,812 13½	1,067	2	1	3	6	32 9 5	5,220 7 2	8,494 6¾	3,202 9 11
9	4 11	4,631 11	1,448	8	8	4	4	268 1 4	1,175 7 4	1,900 0	483 3 3
10	3 8	448 8¾	103	6	9	5	2	46 8 0	79 7 0	15 15	1 15 9
11	2 5	176 4¼	28	0	1			5 7 10			
Total...	.....	23,583 6¼	11,099	7	8	...	...	2,254 3 4	8,845 4 4	11,522 5¼	4,295 8 1

	Extent.	Assessment.			Settlement.		
Fusly 1271	17,333 5½	8,114	8	3	7,163	5	8
Fusly 1272	35,105 11½	13,140	12	5	11,179	5	9
Increase in favour of Fusly 1272	17,772 6	5,026	4	2	4,016	0	1

Out of the present assessment of Rupees 13,140-12-5 Rupees 1,961-6-8 were remitted as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Remission for waste ...	1,131	13	11
Do. for Cowle lands ...	16	2	7
Do. for Grass lands ...	813	6	2
	1,961	6	8
The net revenue is ...	11,179	5	9

Ootacamund, 12th May 1864.

No. 1.

of Todanad, Parunganad, and Naicknad in the Neilgherry Talook in the District of Coimbatore.

Total extent of land and assessment as per present rates for Fusly 1272.			Remarks.			
Acres.		Assessment.				
Acres.		Rs. A. P.			Rs.	A. P.
1,996	5¼	1,249 12 6	Correct amount of assessment on 1,996$\frac{5\frac{1}{4}}{16}$ Acres at 10 Annas per Acre		1,247	11 1
			Amount actually charged		1,249	12 6
			This difference arises from the addition of fractions of a Pie chargeable on each *field*.		2	1 5
3,469	14¼	1,727 13 6	Correct amount of assessment on 3,469$\frac{14\frac{1}{4}}{16}$ Acres at 8 Annas per Acre		1,731	15 1
			Amount actually charged		1,727	13 6
			Difference...		7	1 7
			Acres from the omission of fractions of a Pie.			
22,467	1	8,423 1 1	Correct amount of assessment on 22,467$\frac{1}{16}$ Acres at 6 Annas per Acre		8,425	2 4
			Amount actually charged		8,423	1 1
			Difference...		2	1 3
6,531	11	1,658 10 7	Arises from the same case as above. Correct amount of assessment on 6,531$\frac{11}{16}$ Acres at 4 Annas per Acre		1,632	14 9
			Amount actually charged		1,658	10 7
			Difference...		25	11 10
640	12	81 6 9	Arises from fractions of a Pie having been taken as a Pie in all cases in which the same exceeded half a Pie. Correct amount of assessment on 640$\frac{12}{16}$ Acres at 2 Annas per Acre.		80	1 6
			Amount actually charged		81	6 9
			Difference...		1	5 3
			Arises from the same case as in the preceding item.			
				Rs.	A.	P.
			Total correct amount to be charged	13,120	12	9
			Amount actually charged	13,140	12	5
35,105	11½	13,140 12 5	Net increase...	19	15	8

(Signed) P. GRANT, *Collector.*

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Orders quoted by the Collector.

2. The Board are glad to learn that the reform has been carried out with such satisfactory results, and they anticipate permanent improvement in the condition of the Burghers from the change of system.

3. The Board, however, doubt whether Mr. Grant has rightly interpreted the intention of Government to be that henceforward when Burghers desire to extend their holdings, they must abide by the rules for the *sale* of waste land on the Neilgherries. The concluding rule expressly reserves the power to grant land on Puttah as heretofore.

No. 24. ORDER THEREON, 1st July 1864, No. 1,132.

Land Revenue.

1. Resolved that these Proceedings be transmitted to the Secretary of State as required in paragraph 4 of his Despatch, dated 24th April 1863, No. 12.

2. With reference to the Board's remarks in paragraph 3, the Government observe that though they have reserved the power of dealing with waste lands as they deem proper, it is very desirable to adhere to the Rules. The Burghers have been liberally dealt with, and as they acquiesce in the future adoption of the Rules, there can be no objection to these being brought into operation.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

[illegible] reverend Gentlemen
[illegible] dealing with wastelands
[illegible] they deem proper &c.
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no objection to
[illegible] they can perceive
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Copy ma Letter to Chas Ridgely
No 4 of 1864 - Land Rec

Revenue 1864 Dept of
Rec: of Govt for July
to 1st 1865.

Rec of Attorney Gen
Dept July 1864
to

Rec of the Board of Rec of
Wicomico Co 1865

Transmitting to Treas
of State Proceedings had
in Circuit and Orphans
of different Counties
Canada Locks Sluices &c

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