M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1913 — Press Mis.

5-6

Dated 1-8-~~19~~1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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No. 5. Read the following letter from the Officiating Inám Commissioner, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 21st July 1866, No. 54 :—

1. In conducting the Inám Settlement of the District of Malabar, Mr. Ballard fixed quit-rents on Ináms, with reference to the existing rates of assessment, adding a remark in each case that the quit-rent would be subject to revision, when a general revision of assessment should take place in the District.

2. On noticing this, I informed Mr. Ballard that the quit-rents imposed on Ináms in this Settlement are intended to be permanent; but he states that the assessments on dry and garden lands in his District are of a very imperfect character, more especially those on garden lands, which latter were fixed with reference to the number of trees which existed on the lands at the date when they were assessed. He, therefore, proposes to add a remark in the Title Deeds to the effect that the quit-rent will be liable to revision at the general revision of assessment in the District, and that the quit-rent will be redeemable whenever a permanent assessment has been fixed.

3. The additions proposed are shewn in pencil in the accompanying Title Deed, which I request may be returned to this office.

4. I at first consented to Mr. Ballard's proposal, but on further consideration I was of opinion that it would be better to make the quit-rent at once permanent. I, therefore, suggested to Mr. Ballard the advisability of correcting the garden assessment, where necessary, on some equitable data, in preference to making any alteration in the form of Title Deed, and in the general system adopted throughout the Presidency. Mr. Ballard, however, considers that, under the special circumstances of the District, the settlement already made should be left undisturbed.

5. Copies of the correspondence are herewith submitted.

6. I continue to think that by far the preferable course would be to make the quit-rents permanent at the present time, the chief object of the Commission being to make a final* settlement with the Inámdars once for all, and to render the quit-rents redeemable at their option.

* See Section 8 of the Inám Rules.

7. Owing to a similar difficulty regarding assessment on the Ináms in the District of Kurnool, the Government at first directed the Inám Settlement of the District to be postponed, pending the Survey and Settlement of the lands; but on subsequent representations authorized† the Deputy Collectors of this Department to assess lands at certain equitable rates for the purposes of a permanent quit-rent, and in fact this Department assessed Ináms throughout the Northern Circars, and in other Districts in which there were no regular field assessments. I can see no reason why a similar course should not be adopted in the District of Malabar.

† Order of Government, dated 16th March 1861, No. 619.

them on some equitable data in hard cases, or where the assessments are palpably low with reference to the capabilities of the land.

13. I make no remarks regarding the assessment on wet lands, because Mr. Ballard states that the revision of the wet assessments is not so much called for as of those on garden lands, and that it is not likely to take place for some time to come.

14. The rate of 6 Annas an acre, at which all the dry Ináms have been assessed, does not appear to be immoderately low, considering the generally unproductive character of dry lands in close proximity to the coast.

15. From paragraph 5 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th September 1865, and the Order of Government thereon, dated 17th October 1865, No. 2,514, I observe that, while there is no probability of any revision of assessment taking place in the District of Malabar within a short time, the Board and Government do not agree with Mr. Ballard that the existing rates of assessment are low, or that their revision would be remunerative to Government.

16. Under these circumstances, I beg strongly to recommend that the quit-rents already fixed on wet, garden, and dry lands, with reference to the existing rates of assessment, may be declared to be permanent, Mr. Ballard being permitted to revise them at once in such cases in which the parties may complain of the heaviness of the assessment, or in which he may consider the assessment to be unduly low.

17. Should, however, the Government be disposed to adopt Mr. Ballard's suggestion of declaring the quit-rents on garden and dry lands liable to future revision, I beg to solicit their authority for introducing the necessary alterations in the form of the Title Deed.

18. None of the Title Deeds involving the charge of quit-rent have yet been distributed to the parties.

19. Where wet and garden lands have been hitherto held by the same individual, or institution, I have granted but one Title Deed as usual; but in the event of the Government sanctioning an alteration in the form of Title Deed, I propose to cancel the Title Deeds already prepared, and to issue fresh Title Deeds for wet lands, so that the quit-rent imposed on *them* may remain unaltered.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1866, No. 1,913.

Land Revenue.

1. The Government concur in opinion with the Inám Commissioner that it is not desirable to have the Settlement of the quit-rent on the garden Ináms in Malabar an open question for an indefinite time, and thus really to nullify in great measure the objects of the Commission.

2. There is no immediate prospect of a revision of the garden assessment in Malabar generally, and if such a revision be made, it is very uncertain what direction it would take; but it is by no means improbable that the system of a Tree toll would be abandoned, and that no such increase of assessment would take place as Mr. Ballard appears to anticipate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st August 1866.

3. The Government desire that the Ináms in question be settled permanently with reference to the existing rates of assessment.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Inám Commissioner.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

No. 1,807. Malabar, Collector's Office, Calicut 8th June 1866.

From G. A. Ballard Esqre.,
Collector of Malabar

To W. T. Blair Esqre.,
Offg. Inám Commissioner
Coimbatore.

Sir,

Adverting to your letter of the 6th instant No. 641, I must deprecate most strongly re-opening the whole of the settlement which I have now all but completed.

I do not think any quitrents are likely to be redeemed, but a slight addition which I have made in pencil to the last para of the title Deed would obviate any objection on that score.

The revision of the wet assessments is not so much required as that of the garden assessments, nor is any likely to be made for some time to come.

I will only add that I trust you will not object to the slight deviation from uniformity which the peculiar circumstances of this District require.

I have &c.
(Signed) G. A. Ballard
Collector.

True copy
Offg. Inám Commissioner.

No. 641 Inam Commissioner's Office
Coimbatore 6th June 1866

From The Offg. Inam Commissioner

To The Collector of Malabar

Sir,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 21st May 1866, No. 1602.

× Title Deed herewith returned.

2. I agree with you that to avoid any misunderstanding in future, it is desirable to enter a clause in the Title Deed as pointed out by you to show that the quitrent now imposed will be liable to revision when the general revision of assessments may take place; but it now occurs to me that in the event of adopting such a course, it will also be necessary to strike out clause 3 of the Title Deed altogether, as the Inamdars cannot be fairly allowed to redeem the quitrent, while it is liable to revision.

3 It may not be likely that many of the Inamdars of your District will come forward to redeem the quitrents now imposed, but it will be inconsistent to declare that the quitrent can be redeemed while it is liable to revision in future.

4. I am therefore now of opinion that it will be advisable to make the quitrent at once permanent, by correcting the assessment, where necessary, with reference to the general capabilities of the soil and other circumstances affecting the valuation of the lands.

5. The chief object of the Commission being to convert Inams into perfect free holds by making their quitrents permanent & redeemable at any time at the option of

Rec'd 21 6 66

1866 Registered

the holders, it has been the practice of this department to assess lands bearing no fixed assessments, on some equitable data and to base the quit rent on such assessments as a permanent demand. Such a course is also duly provided for in Sec: VIII of the Ordinances.

6. As the Farms on which quit rents have to be imposed in your District are not numerous, I trust that you will now agree with me in thinking that it is by far preferable to fix some moderate & equitable assessment in those few cases & to calculate the quit rent once for all.

7. In your letter of the 16th of March last, N° 990, I observe that you only speak of a revision of the Garden assessment being in contemplation, so that your objection to declaring the present quit rents permanent do not appear to have any reference to wet & Dry lands.

I have &c.
(Signed) H. D. Blair
Off^g Encum Comm^r

(True Copy)
J. W. Bain
Off^g Encum Commissioner

Comp^d E.B.

(6)

No 1,602

Malabar Collector's Office
Calicut 21st May 1866.

From G. A. Ballard Esqre,
Collector of Malabar

To W. P. Blair Esqre,
Offg Inám Commissioner
Coimbatore

Sir,

I have the honor to draw your attention to the wording of the Inám title deeds forwarded

Vide: Collector to Offg Inám Commissioner dated 16th March 1866, No 990, & Offg Inám Commr to Collector dated 27th March 1866, No 354.

by you, which require a slight addition in many cases. The addition is made in pencil in the deed herewith enclosed and with your concurrence, I propose inserting the clause in all those sent to this Office.

The point is one of some importance and should not be entirely passed over in the formal deeds. Its simple verbal mention when a formal deed is passed seems to me to leave open a door for misunderstanding or trouble hereafter.

I have &c.

/Signed/ G. A. Ballard
Collector.

/True Copy/

W. P. Blair

Offg Inám Commissioner

Comp'd E. R.

Inám Commissioner's Office
No. 354. Coimbatore 27th March 1866.

From The Offg. Inám Commissioner

To The Collector of Malabár.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th Instant No. 990, and to state in reply that under the circumstances explained I agree with you that the quitrent of garden & Dry Inám lands in your District, must be liable to revision at the ensuing general revision of assessments in your District. I request that this may be clearly explained to the Inámdars before issuing the Title deeds.

I have &c.

/signed/ W. D. Blair
Offg. Inám Commissioner

/True Copy/

Offg. Inám Commissioner

Comp. 29 Mch.

Rec. 31st Mch. 1866

From The Collector of Malabár

To The Offg. Inám Commissioner

Dated Calicut 24th March 1866

No. 954

Inclosure 4

No. 990. Malabar Collectors Office,
In Circuit.
Kundotte 16th March 1866.
Despatched 22d — d— 1866.

From,
G. A. Ballard Esqre
Collector of Malabar.

To
W. F. Blair Esqre
Offg Inam Commissioner
Coimbatore

Sir,

Adverting to your letter of the 13th Instant, para 3. I have the honor to observe that I think you must be under some misapprehension as to the nature of the assessment prevailing in Malabar, especially as regards the garden and dry lands; for, I do not see how a fixed quit rent can, on these lands at least, be settled for the assessments presently prevailing.

2. The assessments on the gardens have at different times been fixed on the number of assessable trees at the time of the examination of the garden for assessment purposes, Nominally such assessments were for 12 years only, and were, at the expiry of that period, liable to revision. But practically such revision has seldom been made.

3 An extensive garden may have had

Rec'd 21 Mch 1866.

1866 No. 990

Chief Secretary Madras Govt
Inam Commissioner, Coimbatore
Collector of Malabar to Inam Commissioner
Forwarding Report on Inam Assessment
Dated 16 March 1866
Rec'd 21 March 1866
Ans. 24 March
Ans. Comm 3

last a dozen or so bearing trees in it who
examined some 20 years ago, and may still
bear that assessment only, though if now ex-
-amined 5 or 10 times the number of bearing
trees might be found and the assessment
might be raised accordingly.

Again a small garden may have been
examined at (for it) an unfortunate period -
and it may still be bearing the assessment
then fixed, though most of the trees may have
gone out. If now examined the assessment
would be greatly lowered.

And in either of these cases the examination
might really be made, and the assessment
altered accordingly.

4. It is manifestly therefore unreasonable
to take such assessments as the basis on which
to fix a permanent quit rent. If it is to
be done, the gardens should have something like
an equitable assessment fixed on them for
account and each portion thereof as the case
demands settled as the quit rent in perpetuity.

5 But as a general revision of the garden
assessments, and their settlement on sounder
principles

(4)

principles than now prevail, is in contemplation,
I did not wish to interfere with these Irish
assessments at present.

6 And I think on reconsideration you will
see that the plan I have adopted is really
the most convenient and best, to take half
(or whatever the portion may be) of the prevail-
-ing inaccurate assessments as the quit rent
for the present, and reserve the final settlement
of the permanent amount of quit rent till
such time as a general settlement for the
District or the locality is introduced.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obed. Servant.
Signed G. A. Ballard.
Collector.

(True Copy)
W Mann
Offg Inam Commissioner.

Comp 2 time

Inam Commissioner's Office
Coimbatore 13th March 1866.

No 314

From

The Offg Inam Commissioner

To

The Collector of
Malabar

Sir

x x x x x

3 It is remarked in your Registers that the amounts of quit rent at present fixed would be liable to revision, if a revision of the assessment should take place in the District or in the neighbourhood of the Inam. On this point, I beg to observe that the quit rent will not be subject to any future revision, this being a permanent settlement made once for all.

x x x x x

I have &c
Signed/ W. T. Blair
Offg Inam Commissioner

(True Copy)

W Brain

Offg Inam Commissioner

Compared

Rec'd 21 Mar

1866 Registration

On a Letter from the Collector stating Objection to revision of the assessment of Inam Commissioner's Office to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 13th March 1866.

Received 21st July 1866.

Entered

Enclosure 2

Rev: 2162/66

1866 Department

In a Letter from the Offg Chief
Commissioner, to the Acting
Secretary to Government, Revenue
Department, Fort St. George.

Dated 21st July 1866

No 54
Enclosure 1

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

A Hamilton

Office Treasury Commissioners

12.9.05. ✓

Pro. 16th March/61 Nos. 304-5
" 17th October/65 Nos. 291-2

Rev. 1866 Department
Pro: of Govt for August
No. 2162.

Cy from
The Govt Indian Commissioner
Cy The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George

From Collr of
Malabar &c
15 Septr/66 Cash
3293

Dated 21st July 1866.
Received 7th Sept.

No 54
Encloses for the consideration
& submits for the orders of Govt
Letter from the Collector of
Malabar on the subject of
leasing the rent grants on Cheliam
along with the revision of
assessment of Dry & Garden
Lands in his District.
No 1913 3rd Augt
[illegible]

A.586

c 26 July/66 826