

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2003

Press
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199-200

Dated 9 - 8 - 19 1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th August 1866.*

No. 199. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1866, No. 4,923.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th June 1866, No. 223 :—

1. As requested in the Board's Proceedings, No. 3,305, dated 17th June 1865, I have the honor to report on the working of the Settlement Party in Tinnevelly during the past year, and to explain the mode in which I propose to carry on the work hereafter.

Working of the Establishment during the past year. 2. A few hands entertained on the 1st November 1865 were employed in searching records for data, on which to

base commutation rates. On 1st January 1866, the party was made up to its present strength, and was employed in preparing lists of favorably assessed villages, in completing returns of the selling price of grain, and in making experiments in the yield of crops.

48,434 acres in the Tinnevelly and Ambasamudram Talooks have since been classified in one hundred and five villages, and the classification of fifty-four villages has been tested.

3. A commencement has thus been made towards determining—

1. The produce of the land.

2. The future commutation rates.

3. The relative value of soils in one hundred and five scattered villages.

No steps have, however, yet been taken to value soils with reference to each other in any large tracts of country, or throughout the District generally, or to determine what soils of similar yield may be merged in the same tarams. This relative valuation of soils is one of the earliest processes connected with a Settlement, and demands immediate attention; but before determining the relative value of the soils, it is necessary to determine the area within which the comparison shall be made, the areas now selected for separate treatment and my reasons for selecting them, are given at length below.

Mode proposed for carrying out the Settlement. 4. With the view of seeing how the new system works, before sanctioning its introduction throughout the District generally, and to ensure its being carried out with the hearty co-operation of the Revenue authorities, the Government have ordered in their Proceedings, No. 2,243, dated 12th December 1864, that the Settlement shall be made Talook by Talook, and that each process in the work shall be supervised by the Tahsildar and his subordinates. The latter part of these instructions can be fully acted up to, but there are difficulties in the way of making the Settlement actually Talook by Talook, though none at all in making Settlement on natural sub-divisions of the District.

5. Talooks comprise certain clusters of villages selected entirely with reference to geographical position and distance from head-quarter stations, whereas the natural sub-divisions, or tracts of country that I propose to substitute for Talooks, are now chosen solely with reference to the nature of the soil, crops, and irrigation, and the general condition of the villages.

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6. In Trichinopoly I dealt with large tracts of country, without reference to the limits of Talooks, and had contemplated pursuing the same course in Salem, had the carrying out of the Settlement been entrusted to my care. The Collectorate of Tinnevely comprises several large tracts of country, differing from each other in many important particulars, though none of these may happen to comprise the entire Revenue or Magisterial charge of any single Tahsildar; they can nevertheless be dealt with separately in the mode laid down by Government, with the same facility of exhibiting the working of the Settlement in any one division before its introduction in another, as there would be, were the Settlement made actually Talook by Talook.

7. These natural divisions are—

1. The Nirarambam or river irrigated area containing three hundred and thirty-five villages running in a long narrow strip through five Talooks.

2. The Kadarabam or high dry country on either side comprising 409 villages, mostly with a red gravelly soil extending from the southern frontier of the District as far as the black cotton plains adjoining Madura.

3. The sandy tracts along the coast where in seventy villages palmirah trees, to a great extent, usurp the place of cultivation; and,

4. The black cotton plains comprising 188 villages.

I propose to treat the Nirarambam first, to complete the preliminary processes, and finally introduce the Settlement in this division before taking up fresh ground. For the Survey Maps are now in part available for this division only. For some time to come, my supervision must be confined to the neighbourhood of my headquarters, which are centrally situated in this division, and this division is a rich and fertile country, very similar to the valley of the Caverry, and the Board and Government will be able to judge more immediately of the results of a Settlement here than in any other locality.

8. The Deputy Superintendent Revenue Survey has concentrated his whole force in the Nirarambam, and, with such assistance as I can render him, he anticipates being able to furnish most of the Maps at no very distant period. In the meantime the work of Settlement will not be retarded to any very great extent by the present want of Maps, for I regard field classification as one of the last processes of the work.

In anticipation of the Board's sanction, I propose—

First.—To determine the relative values of soils in the Nirarambam, and then to prepare a scale of tarams.

Second.—To ascertain the staple products of the soil.

Third.—To arrive at reliable data for fixing the future commutation rates.

Fourth.—To make as many experiments as possible in the yield of Kar Paddy, and the staple dry grains cultivated during this season.

Fifth.—To ascertain exactly the nature of the soil, irrigation, and position of each village, and to prepare a scheme of grouping.

Sixth.—To record information regarding favorably assessed lands; second crop anomalies of assessment, &c., &c.

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Seventh.—To complete the detail field classification.

Eighth.—To compare the survey with the Curnums' area under each class and sort of soil.

Ninth.—To arrive at a scale of assessment based on many of the former processes.

9. From the above you will observe that the classification of fields and application of survey areas are far down on the list of processes, and were I in possession of a Topographical Map of the country on a large scale, I could dispense with village maps and area lists for another six months at least; unfortunately there is no such Map available, though the Deputy Superintendent Revenue Survey is preparing sketches shewing the irrigation, &c., in one or two Talooks; for the others, village maps are necessary if only to shew the general lie of the country, the course of the channels and extent of irrigation; and as these Maps will not be ready perhaps another year, the commencement of field work on a large scale is premature at present, and I do not propose strengthening the field party until the Nirarambam is completed.

10. Delay is gain in one respect, for, as observed in the Government Proceedings quoted above, it is of great importance that the Settlement Officer should see the tract of country to be settled under various aspects, and that he should base his conclusions on the data of more than one season. This is again an argument in favor of the substitution of natural divisions for Talooks, since one or more Talooks must have to be settled annually to ensure the completion of the District within any reasonable period; whereas the settlement of any one division in Tinnevely might occupy, on the average, a year and a half, and the District would yet be settled in about six years, which is the earliest probable date within which all the maps will be available.

11. I propose to extend the settlement of the Nirarambam, the most important division, and the first taken up over two full years; but in the meantime much information may be gained, and many processes of the work may be completed for the other divisions also.

Additional Establishment required.

12. The Board have recently sanctioned the employment of Vencata Charry to assist me in Tinnevely, until his services are wanted in Salem. He will require the same establishment as Mr. Symonds, viz.:—

1 Clerk on	Rupees 35
1 do. on	20
3 Peons on 7	21
	76

and this establishment, with the additional Clerk on 20 Rupees required for Mr. Symonds, is all that I will ask for now; when office work increases and registry is commenced, an extra party may be needed, but I will report on the subject hereafter.

1. Submitted for the orders of Government, with the Board's recommendation that Mr. Puckle's proposals, for carrying out the revision of the assessment in Tinnevely, be sanctioned.

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2. With reference to paragraph 12 of Mr. Puckle's letter, the Board observe that they approved of the temporary employment of Vencata Charry, as a Second Special Assistant, on the distinct understanding that no extra charge was to fall on Government thereby. The sanction of Government will now be requested to this arrangement on these terms, and it will be for Mr. Puckle to propose, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 18th July 1866, No. 4,914, how the maximum salary of Rupees 600 is to be divided, in order to provide remuneration for Mr. Symonds, for Vencata Charry, and for some establishment for the latter. Probably, however, as Vencata Charry will have nothing to do with the field work, no establishment will be needed for him. The Board would not object to a portion of the establishment "for the Collector's Office," sanctioned in paragraph 2 of the Government Order, 9th June 1865, No. 1,258, being now entertained, if really needed.

No. 200.

ORDER THEREON, 9th August 1866, No. 2,003.

Land Revenue.

1. The Government approve of the arrangement proposed by Mr. Puckle.
2. The Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey will be requested to report why the Maps are so backward, and how long their completion will occupy.
3. On paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings the Government will pass orders when Mr. Puckle's reply is laid before them.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
.. the Accountant General.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2003.

The pt. a phone of the
arrangement proposed
by Mr. Puckle -

- 2 The Asst. of Rev. Survey
will be requested to report
why the Maps are so
backward & how long their
completion will occupy
of the 18th June.
- 3 On para 2 the pt. will
pass orders when Mr. Puckle
reply is laid before them

14 Copies to the Rev. Dept.
to the Asst. of Rev. Survey
to the Asst. of Rev. Survey

J. D. S.
9th August 1866

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