

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 357

181-182

Press

~~Mrs.~~

Dated 9-2-

1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 181. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd February 1866, No. 768.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ramachendrapur, 25th January 1866, No. 81-3:—

1. I have the honor to submit copies of two letters addressed to me by the Deputy Director in Salem, on the 16th ultimo and 13th instant. In the first, Mr. Puckle brings to notice the excellence of the existing Revenue system of Salem, as compared with that of other Districts, and suggests that after the report on the remaining Talooks has been prepared, his party might, with advantage, be transferred to some other District, the assessment of which is in more immediate need of revision, leaving the new settlement to be afterwards gradually introduced in Salem by a cheaper agency.

2. In his second letter Mr. Puckle states that, pending the receipt of orders on his report on the Southern Talooks, a considerable portion of his establishment is without work, and that this portion will next month be increased by the breaking up of the party hitherto employed at Trichinopoly in connection with the completion of the Settlement Registers there, he requests instructions for his guidance, at the same time suggesting the adoption of one or other of the three following courses—viz., first, that the settlement of Salem should be carried out immediately; second, that his establishment should be transferred to Madras or other neighbouring District where its services might be utilized; or third, that his party should be broken up altogether.

3. As regards the first of the above letters, I would observe that though it may be true that the Revenue system in Salem is not so bad as it is in some other Districts, revision to some extent is admitted to be necessary, and the Government having, doubtless for good and sufficient reasons, ordered the District to be taken in hand by this department, will naturally expect to see the work, which has already so far progressed, completed, indeed they have already expressed themselves to this effect in paragraph 5 of

12th December 1864, No. 2,243.

their Order marginally noted. The original selection of Salem, rather than some other District, as one of the earliest to be taken in hand, may have been a mistake, but its survey having been now completed, and its settlement being so far advanced towards completion, I cannot endorse Mr. Puckle's proposal that the special department should abandon its work in the District at its present stage.

4. Referring to Mr. Puckle's second letter, I hope before long to forward his preliminary report on the Southern Talooks of Salem. The consideration of the papers by the Board and Government, will necessarily occupy some little time, and in the interval, it appears that a large portion of the establishment will be unemployed. Of Mr. Puckle's three suggestions, the adoption of the first, I consider to be inadmissible, as it would virtually amount to the introduction of a settlement before it has been approved either by the Board or Government; the adoption of the third, I consider unadvisable and premature, and especially so with reference to my remarks in paragraph 3. The second suggestion alone remains, and is, in

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my opinion, the best. I think, however, that Mr. Puckle has himself given a sufficient reason for not transferring the party to the Madras District, the survey of which he shows has not yet commenced, and will probably not be completed for five or six years. But there is another District, the assessment of which is admittedly in urgent need of revision, and in which survey operations are already far advanced, though the work of this department in it has hitherto been limited to demarcation. Should the Board see fit to suggest to Government a re-consideration of their order directing the new settlement of the Tinnevely District to be carried out by the Collector without the aid of the special department, the difficulty now brought to notice would be removed. Employment would be at once provided for the party which is now idle. There would be no occasion to consider about dispensing with the services of Mr. Puckle and his trained and experienced establishment. The State would have the benefit of that training and experience where they are most needed, and the Deputy Director would still be able to put the finishing touches to his work in Salem on the proposals for that District receiving the sanction of Government.

Letter from the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, Trichinopoly, Salem, and Tinnevely Districts, to the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, dated 16th December 1865, No. 115.

1. I have the honor to bring to your notice the excellence of the existing Revenue system of Salem, as compared with that of other Districts, and to suggest that when a scheme for the settlement of all the Salem Talooks has been submitted, that the special Department might be advantageously transferred to some other District more immediately requiring settlement.

2. The Government have ordered this District to be settled, and the Settlement party to be then broken up; this order was not issued because Salem required immediate revision, but because the classification was completed, and survey areas were then available. The District is very well settled already, and I have not discovered any anomalies in the existing Revenue system; the irrigated, garden, and dry lands of the Carnums' accounts are actually so on the ground; lands irrigated by private wells are properly assessed as dry; the Pymash classification is accurate; the assessment is fixed on the soil, and is not affected by the description of crop produced; the rates are few and fairly imposed; the second crop charge is already consolidated, and the Carnums' areas are almost identical with those of the Revenue Survey.

3. In the villages I have visited the present assessment ranges from 8½ to 2½ Rupees an acre for tank irrigated land, from 7 Rupees to 2½ Rupees for garden, and from 4 Rupees (exceptionally to 13 Annas for dry land; and while current prices continue, these rates can be paid with ease.

4. I do not say that Salem does not require any revision, but the requirement is not immediate, and the settlement might be gradually introduced by a less costly agency than that of the special department. The wants of other Districts are far more pressing, and it may not be too late to consider whether the last three years of the special department shall be employed on the registry and settlement Jummahbundy of a District already better settled than any other in Southern India, or whether, when the information requisite for placing a definite scheme before Government has been collected, (as it may be in the course of the next few months, or by the end of the current Fussy,) the department shall not be transferred to another District more immediately requiring settlement, leaving the mechanical portion of the work in Salem to be carried out hereafter by such agency as the Government may think fit.

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Letter from the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, Trichinopoly, Salem, and Tinnevely Districts, to the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, dated 13th January 1866, No. 4.

1. I have the honor to request instructions as to the course to be pursued under the following circumstances:—

2. There is no probability of orders being passed for some time yet to come on the scheme of settlement for the Southern Talooks of Salem, submitted in October last. In the meantime my establishment is entirely without employ. The demarcation of Tinnevely is completed, and though many of the field hands have been transferred to Coimbatore and the Survey Department, and the remainder have been dismissed, there is still a small establishment of office Gumastahs and others who will join me shortly, and for whom I have now no work whatever.

3. The Trichinopoly party will be broken up by about the end of February, and many experienced hands now engaged in revising the printed registers will then be thrown out of employ. All hands now remaining in the department whether at Salem, Trichinopoly, or Tinnevely, are selected as the best we have, and will be indispensable as the nucleus of a party when settlement is actually commenced. We cannot afford to part with them; but how can they be employed?

4. A supervisor and twelve classifiers have been already transferred to the Revenue Department; fifteen classifiers acquainted with demarcation may be temporarily employed in the Madras District under the Superintendent of Revenue Survey; and five office Gumastahs are in readiness to join the Collector of Trichinopoly as soon as sanction is received for additional Talook Gumastahs, but there will still be an establishment costing 1,000 Rupees a month, for which we must find employ.

5. In my letter, No. 115, dated 16th December 1865, I pointed out the excellence of the Revenue system of Salem, and the little need of any present revision of that District. Since then it has been suggested that my party might be usefully employed in revising the Madras District, but there is a practical difficulty in the way of this, for the survey has not yet commenced, and it will be long before the areas on which we must base the settlement are likely to be available. In Proceedings, dated December 1864, the Government ordered that the Settlement Department should be broken up on completion of work now in hand. Salem is the only Southern District remaining incomplete, and it is questionable whether it is worthwhile to revise a District so very well settled already. Madras is clearly not ready for settlement, though we might perhaps now classify the District, and collect the necessary data for a scheme of settlement to be introduced at some future time when the survey have done their work. But even preliminary operations in Madras are now rather premature, as the survey are not likely to complete the District for five or six years to come, while three years would be sufficient for classification, registry, and settlement.

6. The only work I have now in hand is that on which I am personally engaged, and which merely finds employ for my office establishment, viz., the grouping of villages in the Northern Talooks, and the collection of data requisite for the submission of a preliminary report. Some determination should be come to as soon as possible to save a large monthly outlay, and I beg to suggest that one of these three courses be adopted—first, to carry out the settlement of Salem immediately; or second, to transfer my establishment to Madras or some neighbouring District where they may be usefully employed; or third, to break up the Southern Deputy Director's party altogether, by transferring the chief native subordinates to the Revenue Department for employment in Districts about to be settled by the Collectors.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government with the earnest recommendation of the Board that Mr. Puckle be directed to undertake the revision of the Tinnevely District conjointly with the completion of the Salem Settlement.

2. The Board have from the first been of opinion that to entrust the Tinnevely revision to the Settlement Department was a very advisable measure, the

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existing system being probably the *most* complicated and anomalous in the Southern Districts, and the work of revision correspondingly difficult and laborious, while the current duties are heavy, the District being one capable of development, and requiring close attention in every Department.

3. Without in any way disparaging the present Collector in the slightest degree, it does not admit of question that all these difficulties must be intensified where, as in his own case, the whole previous experience and acquaintance of the Collector with people and language, has been acquired in a totally different part of the country having no feature in common.

4. The Survey in Tinnevely is so far advanced that Mr. Puckle could press forward the revision without interruption, and the Board attach the greatest importance to securing the advantage of his valuable experience and intimate acquaintance with the people, circumstances and language of the Southern Districts in effecting the greatly needed revision of the complicated system now existing in Tinnevely.

5. The Board request early orders on the subject.

No. 182. ORDER THEREON, 9th February 1866, No. 357.

Land Revenue

Before passing orders on this case, the Government wish to know when the report on the Salem District is likely to be laid before them, and how

long the introduction of the revised settlement will occupy after the Government pass orders on it.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

.. the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

3. The Trichinopoly party will be broken up by about the end of February, and many experienced hands now engaged in revising the printed registers will then be thrown out of employ. All hands now remaining in the department whether at Salem, Trichinopoly, or Tinnevely, are selected as the best we have, and will be indispensable as the nucleus of a party when settlement is actually commenced. We cannot afford to part with them; but how can they be employed?

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5. In my letter, No. 115, dated 10th December 1865, I pointed out the excellence of the Revenue system of Salem, and the little need of any present revision of that District. Since then it has been suggested that my party might be usefully employed in revising the Madras District, but there is a practical difficulty in the way of this, for the survey has not yet commenced, and it will be long before the areas on which we must base the settlement are likely to be available. In Proceedings, dated December 1864, the Government ordered that the Settlement Department should be broken up on completion of work now in hand. Salem is the only Southern District remaining incomplete, and it is questionable whether it is worthwhile to revise a District so very well settled already. Madras is clearly not ready for settlement, though we might perhaps now classify the District, and collect the necessary data for a scheme of settlement to be introduced at some future time when the survey have done their work. But even preliminary operations in Madras are now rather premature, as the survey are not likely to complete the District for five or six years to come, while three years would be sufficient for classification, registry, and settlement.

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(True Copies.)

(Signed) R. E. MASTER,

Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government with the earnest recommendation of the Board that Mr. Puckle be directed to undertake the revision of the Tinnevely District conjointly with the completion of the Salem Settlement.

2. The Board have from the first been of opinion that to entrust the Tinnevely revision to the Settlement Department was a very advisable measure, the existing system being probably the *most* complicated and anomalous in the Southern Districts, and the work of revision correspondingly difficult and laborious, while the present duties are heavy, the District being one capable of development, and requiring close attention in every department.

3. Without in any way disparaging the present Collector in the slightest degree, it does not admit of question that all these difficulties must be intensified where, as in his own case, the whole previous experience and acquaintance of the Collector with people and language, has been acquired in a totally different part of the country having no feature in common.

4. The Survey in Tinnevely is so far advanced that Mr. Puckle could press forward the revision without interruption, and the Board attach the greatest importance to securing the advantage of his valuable experience and intimate acquaintance with the people, circumstances and language of the Southern Districts in effecting the greatly needed revision of the complicated system now existing in Tinnevely.

5. The Board request early orders on the subject.

(True Copies and Extract.)

[Signature]

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to R. E. Master, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

14 THE Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement

Exd. J. Wright.

*Before them and have
the revised settlement
will pass orders on it*

For 12 Dec 1866

20-307

120-1211

*1866. Department
of Revenue Settlement*

No. 391.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

*Dated 2nd February 1866.
R. E. Master*

*From the office
of the Deputy Director
No. 163, 170-171*

Submitting letter from the Officiating Director
of Revenue Settlement, and recommending
Mr. Puckle, the Deputy Director, be directed
to undertake the revision of assessment in Tinnevely
conjointly with the completion of the
Revenue Settlement.

14-307 9-1866

*J. D. Sim
9-307/106*

*14-307 9-1866
M. D. M. and*