

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|                 |      |                          |
|-----------------|------|--------------------------|
| G.O. No.        | 39   | Press<br><del>Mis.</del> |
| 75-76.<br>Dated | 7-1- | 1868.                    |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
7th January 1868.*

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No. 75. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd October 1867, No. 6,887.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd February 1867, No. 35.

1. There is a rule in the Hukumnamah of this district, paragraph 23, which states that "Potels who possess large Service Inams are not yet permitted to reduce the amount of their usual Appanam; they may, however, exchange their land for other land, provided the Puttah is not reduced in amount. Potels holding large Inams are those, the value of whose Service Inams and fees together is more than ten per cent. in excess of the scale laid down by Colonel Munro as a Potel's proper emolument."

2. The nature of this Appanam was, that heavily assessed Puttah land was forced to be cultivated by the Potel, in order to extend cultivation. It was then a source of loss, now it is a source of gain. It was then a reduction from the established remuneration of the Potelship, now it forms an excess over the established remuneration.

3. The question arises, should the prohibition against parting with this land, not originally forming part of the official emolument, but, on the contrary, being saddled on it as a drawback, be continued?

4. The value of such Appanam land will be enhanced by permission to dispose of it.

5. When a Potel has an ample remuneration provided for his services, irrespective of his Appanam, ought he to be obliged to keep up a larger farmstock to cultivate this land, as a condition of office?

6. This method of forced cultivation appears now out of date.

7. In consideration of what was the nature of this Appanam land, that it was not intended to be an addition to, but a subtraction from, the emoluments of office, I think on principle the prohibition against parting with it might be withdrawn. It must cripple the resources of the office-holder to have more land to pay for, than he can profitably cultivate, and no forced measures are now required to extend the profitable cultivation of land.

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From the same Officer, dated 17th September 1867, No. 182.

1. I have the honor to request the consideration of the Board of Revenue of my letter of 23rd February 1867, No. 35, suggesting the removal of the restriction in Rule 23 of the Hukumnamah, against the disposal of Appanam Puttah lands by Potel Mirassidars.

2. Cultivation, at the present time, requires no such stimulus, as is implied in forcing the Potel Mirassidar to cultivate the heaviest assessed land in the village. It is not really an emolument of office, as the holder must pay its assessment, like any other ryot, to Government. Although, from the extension of capital and stock, such heavy assessed lands are not, in general, now burdensome to their owners, yet, from their extent, they are in some cases, and I have had applications to be relieved of them.

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3. A man may be an efficient Potel without having sufficient stock to cultivate the Appanam Puttah.

4. For instance, the Potel of Roddam, in Penkonda Talook, represents that he has to pay Rupees 770 on his Appanam Puttah, and that he is unable to cultivate it, and, consequently, to pay the assessment thereon; and rather than keep it, he is willing to pay a quit-rent on his Inam.

5. I think that it is a mistake to saddle the Potel Mirassidars with heavily assessed lands, because they have rent-free lands for specific service, and that such Puttah lands would be better cultivated, if their transfer or resignation were permitted.

1. Resolved that the foregoing letters be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. In their Order, dated 6th November 1860, No. 2,058, the Government, while concurring with the Board that the Appanam system now referred to by the Collector ought to be abolished, expressed their opinion that its abolition should take place when the Village Service Inams were dealt with, to counterbalance in some measure any losses which the revision of the Village Establishments might entail.

3. It is now about seven years since this Order was passed, and the Collector states that owing to the increased value of land, the Appanam lands are a source of gain to the holders. The object which Government had in view is thus lost, and the result of retaining the Appanam obligation is, he states, to compel the village officers to keep up stock beyond their actual requirements. These arguments are somewhat contradictory, for if the land be a source of gain its retention can be no great hardship. Still it is inexpedient to retain any impediment to the free transfer of land, and as the object which Government had in view is no longer attained, the Board recommend the abolition of the Appanam system.

4. The Board presume that the Village Establishments of Bellary are not beyond improvement, and they consider that if the Collector deems Mr. Pelly's scheme defective, he should lose no time in suggesting such improvements in it as are necessary and desirable. A really efficient Village Establishment is essential to good administration.

No. 76. ORDER THEREON, 7th January 1868, No. 39.

Miscellaneous.

1. The "Appanam" system grew out of the ancient usage of the country by which the Reddies and Patels of Bellary were held responsible for keeping the cultivation of their villages up to the standard, and were thus saddled with a larger extent of highly assessed land than they would voluntarily have retained; their office being endowed with a larger extent of Service Inam land in consideration of this liability than would probably have been attached to it, had they had merely ordinary duties to perform.

2. Under this system when ryots relinquished land the Patels were bound to provide for its cultivation, but were not allowed to reduce their own holdings by relinquishment.

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3. The Collector now points out, that although the changed circumstances of the present day, the greater demand for land, the correction of the assessment where excessive, and the high prices obtained for produce have tended to remove much of an objectionable nature that was involved in the system, still hardship is experienced in some instances, and he advocates the abolition of all such restrictions on relinquishment, which now only tend to hamper the landholder.

4. The Board support his proposal, pointing out how much delay has already occurred in the abandonment of this condemned system, consequent on the decision of Government that it should be simultaneous with the revision of the Village Establishments which has still to be made.

5. The Government have already on more than one occasion admitted the objectionable character of the Appanam system, and they observe that the reason for deferring its abolition was only that there might be some kind of counterbalancing advantage to grant to the Patels when their Inams should come to be enfranchised from the obligation of service, and be charged with a quit-rent, on the substitution of fixed allowances for emoluments in land on the re-organization of the Village Establishments.

6. On further consideration, however, it appears to the Government that there is no sufficient ground to defer the removal of an admitted defect in the present rules in order to secure a possible advantage which will not exist in other districts where the Village Establishments are to be revised, and from the absence of which in those cases no difficulty is anticipated.

7. They resolve, therefore, to adopt the Board's recommendation, and to authorize the Collector to notify that the Appanam system is no longer in force, and that Patels are at liberty to relinquish from their Puttah holdings all land which they do not wish to retain, under the same rules as apply to the case of other landholders.

8. This Order will apply equally to the Districts of Cuddapah and Kurnool, if in villages the Appanam system prevails in those districts.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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6th Nov 1867

Rev: 1867. Department:  
No of Govt. for survey: 1867

No 2903.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 22nd October 1867.

Sept 25 1867  
Oct 28 1867

No. 6,887.

Recommending to Government the abolition of the Appanam system in Bellary District, and requesting Collector to suggest such improvements as are necessary in the village establishments of the District if he deems Mr. Pelly's scheme defective.

No 75

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21 Oct 1867. 31 Dec 1867

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N<sup>o</sup> 39-

Pro. of the Madras Govt.  
Under date the 7. Aug. /68.

Read the following  
Pro. of the Bd. of Rev.

Recommending the  
abolition of the Appanams  
system in Bellary Dist. & re-  
questing Col<sup>l</sup> to suggest such  
improvements as are necessary  
in the village Estates of the Dist.  
if he deems Mr. Kelly's scheme  
defective.

B. E. 22 Oct. /64  
N<sup>o</sup> 6887

The "appanams"  
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Country by which the  
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ard, and were thus  
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Under this system when Ryots relinquished land the Patels were bound to provide for its cultivation but were not allowed to reduce their <sup>own</sup> holdings by relinquishment.

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the correction of the assess<sup>t</sup> where excessive - and the high prices obtained for produce have tended to remove much of an objectionable nature that was involved in the system - still hardship is experienced in some instances, and he advocates the abolition of all such restrictions or relinquishment, which <sup>may</sup> ~~only~~ tend to hamper the landholder.

The Bd. support his proposal - pointing out how much delay has already occurred in the abandonment of this condemned system - consequent on the decision of Govt. - that it should be

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from the obligation of  
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substitution of fixed  
allowances for emoluments  
in land on the re-or-  
ganization of the vil-  
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a possible advantage which  
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They resolve  
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B.D.'s recommendation  
and to authorise the Govt.  
to notify that the ap-  
panum system is no  
longer in force and  
that Patels are at  
liberty to relinquish  
from

1875-76.

20  
Bills of Exchange  
and other documents

Revenue 1868 18/10  
No of Govt for January

1839

No of the Standard Govt  
17<sup>th</sup> January 188.

From Board of Revenue  
21st January 1880. 318.

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