M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1451 Press ~~Mis.~~

535-556

Dated 22 to May 19 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 555. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 14th May 1869, No. 216:—

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Revenue Register, approved of by Government in G. O., No. 3,071, dated 30th September 1868, is under preparation by the Collector; but when it is completed, the information it will afford will be of little practical value, unless we have a Map showing all the rivers, channels, etc., etc., correctly laid down, and the sluices and surplus weirs, with their dimensions, correctly marked.

2. The Revenue Board have lately proposed that all the local roads in the district should be correctly surveyed. Intimately connected as the rivers and roads are in the delta, even were correct surveys made of the roads, they could not be laid down on any Map we have, and hence a survey of the roads alone would be but of little use; and to carry out a complete survey of all the rivers, channels, and roads is more than this department could undertake, even if aided by a large number of Surveyors. Such a work could only be efficiently, successfully, and economically undertaken by a specially trained department, such as the Revenue Survey Department; and I would propose that the Revenue Survey should be extended to the Tanjore District at once, for it would add but little to the cost of the survey, while putting in the roads, rivers, and channels, to put in the fields also; and it is high time that this, the most highly cultivated district in the Madras Presidency, should be correctly surveyed.

3. When the Revenue Survey was carried out in the Trichinopoly District, about twenty per cent. of concealed cultivation was, I believe, discovered, and there is every reason to believe that there is a very considerable area of concealed cultivation in the Tanjore District; for though the area of the delta proper, if I may so term it, as included within the boundaries noted in the margin, is about 1,700 square-miles, the irrigated area is under 1,050 square-miles, or is less than two-thirds of the area of the delta; and to any one acquainted with the delta, it is difficult to conceive that more than one-third of it can be occupied by towns, villages, waste, dry cultivation, rivers, channels, roads, banks, etc. Moreover, the original measurements of the land from which the area cultivated was estimated, were made some forty years ago by means of an 11-yard cole or rod, unchecked by any scientific instruments, and hence it would be surprising were the measurements correct. Supposing even that only half the extent of concealed cultivation, found in Trichinopoly, were discovered in Tanjore, as the revenue from land is nearly forty lacs, there would be an annual addition of four lacs to the revenue; and this in one year would, I believe, more than cover the cost of the Revenue Survey, even if the Survey Department were called upon to fix the position and note the dimensions of every masonry work in the delta, as it would be well that they should do.

North by the Coleroon; east by the sea; west and part of south by road No. 4, the Vennaur and the Pamaniyaur rivers and the Salt swamp.

4. I need hardly remark that in a highly irrigated district like Tanjore a correct Map is very much required, and a village Map, such as those made by the Survey Department, would be invaluable in settling disputes and getting to the

Supt Engineers Office 6 D
Tanjore 14 May 1869

No. 216

From

Captain P. F. Oakes R.E.
Superintending Engineer
6th Division

To,

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Revenue Register approved of by Government in G. O. No. 3071 dated 30th Sept 1868 is under preparation by the Collector but when it is completed the information it will afford will be of little practical value unless we have a map showing all the Rivers Channels &c. &c. correctly laid down and the Sluices and surplus Weirs with their dimensions correctly marked.

The Revenue Board have lately [illegible] District should be correctly surveyed & intimately connected as the Rivers and Roads are in the Delta even were correct Surveys made of the Roads they could not be laid down on any map we have and hence a Survey of the Roads alone would be but of little use

and

Revenue 1869 Dept
P.W. 1869 Dept
From Supt Engineer
No. 1620. 6 Div.
To Secy to Govt P.W.D.

Dated 14 May 1869.
Recd 17 May 1869.

Revenue Registers
No. 216.

On the subject of preparing Revenue Registers and Maps for the Tanjore District.
Ltr. Engrs 22 May 69

Transferred
555

Transfered to the Revenue Department for consideration

Mark A. Orr Col Rt.
Secy to Govt P.W.D
18th May 1869.

To the Rev Dept
with 1 Endorsement
20th May 69 R-21 May.

and to carry out a complete Survey of all the Rivers, Channels and Roads is more than this Department could undertake even if aided by a large number of Surveyors. Such a work could only be efficiently successfully and economically undertaken by a specially trained Department such as the Revenue Survey Department and I would propose that the Revenue Survey should be extended to the Tanjore District at once for it would add but little to the cost of the Survey while putting in the Roads Rivers & Channels to put in the fields also and it is high time that this the most highly cultivated District in the Madras Presidency should be correctly surveyed.

When the Revenue Survey was carried out in the Trichinopoly District about 20 per cent of concealed cultivation was, I believe, discovered and there is every reason to believe that there is a very considerable area of concealed cultivation in the Tanjore District for though the area of the Delta proper, if I may so term it, as included within the boundaries noted in the margin is about 1,700 square miles the irrigated area is under 1050 square miles or is less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the area of the Delta and to any one acquainted with the Delta it is difficult to conceive that more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of it can be occupied by Towns, Villages, waste, dry cultivation Rivers, Channels, Roads, banks &c.

Moreover the original measurements of the land from which the area cultivated was estimated, were made some 40 years ago by means of an 11 yard cole or rod unchecked by any scientific instrument and

it would be surprising were the measurements correct. Supposing even that only $\frac{1}{2}$ the extent of concealed cultivation, found in Trichinopoly, were discovered in Tanjore as the Revenue from land is nearly 40 lacs there would be an Annual addition of 4 lacs to the Revenue and this in one year would, I believe, more than cover the cost of the Revenue Survey, Even if the Survey Department were called upon to fix the position and note the dimensions of every Masonry Work in the Delta as it would be well that they should do

I need hardly remark that in a highly irrigated District like Tanjore a correct Map is very much required and a Village map such as those made by the Survey Department would be invaluable in settling disputes and getting to the bottom of claims put forward relative to lands on which River banks &c stand and it would be well for Government to determine once for all what land is actually the property of Government

bottom of claims put forward relative to lands on which river-banks, etc., stand; and it would be well for Government to determine, once for all, what land is actually the property of Government along the rivers and channels, and to take up what may be required to render the conservation of river-banks and beds possible.

5. What is required in these respects is clearly laid down in the enclosures which accompanied my replies to Circular No. 1 from the Public Works Committee now sitting in Madras, and I therefore enclose printed copies of memoranda Nos. 1 and 2, and from them and from what I have stated above I trust the Government will see the absolute necessity of extending the Revenue Survey to the Tanjore District with the least practicable delay.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department for consideration.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

19*th May* 1869.

No. 556. ORDER THEREON, 22nd May 1869, No. 1,451.

Irrigation, No. 14.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for their observations.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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Government along the Rivers and Channels and to take up what may be required to render the conservation of River banks and beds possible

What is required in these respects is clearly laid down in the enclosures which accompanied my Replies to Circular No. 1 from the P. W. Committee now sitting in Madras and I therefore enclose printed Copies of Memos Nos 1 and 2 and from them and from what I have stated above I trust the Government will see the absolute necessity of extending the Revenue Survey to the Tanjore District with the least practicable delay.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obed. Servant

A. F. Baker Captain R.E.
Superintending Engineer 6th Divn

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1453

Ft 16/51. R.O.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Published date the 22d May 1869

Read the following
Letter from the Superg.
of the Ry.

On the subject of Forwarding
Revenue Registers & Maps
for the Tanjore District

Forwarded to the
Board of Revenue for
their observations

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May, 22nd.

Recd.

G. O., 22nd May 1869. No. 1,451.

From 15/8/70 Ft Wm Regt.
1870 Cols 2669.
Further Cls. 2994/70

MAY.

Nos. 555-556.

Revenue Registers and Maps for the Tanjore District.—Letter from Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, regarding their preparation, forwarded to the Board of Revenue for their observation.