

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1824	Press Nis.
301-02 Dated	21-11-1870	12

Not to be folded or roughly handled

DP
1824
20

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st November 1870.*

No. 301. Read the following letter from Reverend R. HARTMANN, of the Basel Mission in South Canara, to the Right Honourable FRANCIS LORD NAPIER, Governor, Madras Presidency, dated Udapy, 2nd September 1870:—

In accordance with the permission you granted when you favoured me with an interview, I take the liberty of making the following representation, in a private way, on behalf of the poorer classes of the natives, among whom I have my work.

2. In the South Canara District, where I have been living for eleven years, there is still a great deal of waste land, which is at present unprofitable to the inhabitants, and for which no tax is paid. Experience shows that such waste land, which has been obtained from Government by the agency of the Basel Mission, and which has been given to Native Christians, can be turned into fields for dry cultivation and orchards. Such land is much desired by the poorer classes, but they find it nearly impossible, under the present system, to procure it.

3. The reasons for this are—

(1.) The rich land-owners want these people as their servants, and therefore object to their becoming owners of land, and thereby becoming independent. They, therefore, try every means to prevent them from making an application.

(2.) The native authorities usually take the part of the rich land-owners, and they, therefore, throw obstacles in the way of any one applying for waste land.

(3.) The puttah-holders are the only people who have a right to get waste land within the boundaries of their villages.

(4.) The Law of Proximity, as it is at present, puts no limit to this right, of which the puttah-holders make use as soon as another party applies for waste land.

4. In order to remove some of the difficulties, may I venture to make a few suggestions:—

(1.) To give a right of citizenship, not at present existing, and with it the right to unclaimed land within the village boundary, to every resident for a given period within that village.

(2.) To fix the boundaries, where needed, for the waste land of each village.

(3.) To limit the right of proximity to a fixed amount of land, giving a claim to waste land in proportion to the amount of Government tax paid for puttah land.

5. It is a fact not to be gainsaid that the owning of a field or garden and a house, however small it may be, raises the proprietor both morally and socially. He becomes in consequence more independent and manly, and a more diligent worker and producer.

6. In addition to the land above referred to, there is much waste land, which would give scarcely any return for actual cultivation, yet would be taken up at a low rate, having its natural productions increased when cared for by an owner. Already I am given to understand, a proposition has been made to the Board of Revenue by the Collector of Mangalore to tax such land at 4 Annas per acre. Should this be granted a large proportion, if not all such land, will be applied for.

7. Trusting, my Lord, you will be able to glean the meaning of my statement, I have, etc.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st November 1870.*

No. 302.

ORDER THEREON, 21st November 1870, No. 1,824.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the above communication be referred to the Collector of South Canara for consideration and report through the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Conrad

This paper has been
communicated to me
by an, I believe, by
respectable and
intelligent person
suspecting - I presume
who has a very strong
sense of the injustice
suffered by the land-
holders in that Province
by the regulations or
customs affecting the
appropriation of waste
land - the right
of preemption or
preferential acquisition
being always with the
neighboring landholder
and that right
extending to an
indefinite distance

for the margin
of his holding. -
The question is one which
the Govt should, I think,
take into serious
consideration with
view to a course of future
state interest.
I would like to hear
of its inclusion in the
Board of the
Collector.

N.

B.P.

Conf. of 1870

REVENUE

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated November, 21st.

Per.

Per.

G. O. 21st November 1870, No. 1,124

GOVERNMENT
Nos. 301-303.

Recd 28th 1903 of 1871-

Place land in South Canada - report
from Governor Mr. McArthur of the
Commission on the difficulty experienced by the
claimants in its acquisition and the present
proposed to the Collector for report.

Revenue 1070 Sept

No. 3550.

From

W. P. Hartman

Treasurer of the
Rail Division
in S. America

Sept 20/70

Recd 16 Jan 71

Representing
that certain waste
land in the District
can be turned into
fields for dry culture
- from and orchards &c
of 1824-25 from

with order
ditto

¹⁸²⁴⁻
Ordered that the above communication
be referred to the Supt. of S. America for
consideration & report to the Bd. of
Revenue - N. Y.

21st Decr 1870.

14 Feb 1871 Recd Dec 20