M.F. O. 1—20,000—16-11-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2028 Press Mis.

276-77
Dated 14-12-1970 Ex.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 276. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th September 1870, No. 5,748 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 10th August 1870, No. 1,221-34 :—

The Board doubtless remember that, when Mr. Goodrich took up the introduction of the Salem Settlement in November last, under Government Orders, dated 30th November 1869, No. 3,073, it was contemplated that some changes and modifications would have to be made in Mr. Puckle's original scheme, and, in fact, Mr. Puckle himself remarks on the necessity of the settling officer* revising the classification. One of these contemplated modifications has now been brought forward by Mr. Goodrich, as regards the red sandy† soils, and which I have now the honour to lay before the Board for their orders.

* *Vide* paragraph 1 of Mr. Puckle's letter to Mr. Master, dated 23rd April 1866.

† In punjah or dry.

2. It must be stated at the outset that the goodness and fertility of these red soils are admitted distinctly by those well acquainted with the Salem District. Thus Mr. Goodrich writes: "The excellence of this red sandy soil has been specially "noticed by Mr. Puckle and others, and the crops, especially of Cumboo, which it "produces, are heavy and of good quality." The Uncovenanted Assistant, Vencatacharry, who has had much experience with Mr. Puckle in Salem, states: "The "raising of Raggy by the assistance of falling rains, without necessity for regular "irrigation which the crop generally requires in the east (South Arcot) is a point "which establishes the fact of the red soil being of a superior kind here."

3. Should the present rates as approved of be maintained without the modification now about to be suggested, there will be a reduction in the present dry assessment of 7 per cent., and although there is an increase in area by survey, there would be a decrease in the actual punjah revenue of more than 1 lac. This is attributable to what Mr. Goodrich deems the undue and unnecessary alleviation of assessment upon these dry, sandy, ferruginous soils, which would, he states, result in the relinquishment of about half of what they now pay to the State.

4. The question then naturally arises, whether the present assessment is unduly heavy. It may certainly be answered in the negative. Not only does the present assessment appear to be paid with ease and readiness, but also there is no available waste, which is a pretty correct test that the lands are not over-burdened. Mr. Goodrich, when speaking on this point, states, "I find it impossible to believe

that cultivation can be much further extended; almost every inch of "cultivable land is now taken up." In another paragraph Mr. Goodrich thus succinctly narrates the reasons of this extension of cultivation: "The large reductions of "rates carried out in 1859, contempora- "neous with the great general rise of "prices and the opening of the railway, "have stimulated production to such a "degree‡ that of waste worth cultivat- "ing, but little remains in the southern "portions of the district, and the Gov- "ernment could not expect any very "large additions to the Land-revenue from this source.

‡ *Dry acreage and assessment.*

Faslies.	Dry.	
	Extent of acres in lacs.	Assessment of Rupees in lacs.
1262	6¼	9⅛
1268	8⅕	11½
1269	9	13⅛
1270	9½	13⅞
1278	10¼	14⅕

5. Whilst introducing the modifications now proposed, Mr. Goodrich purposes making use of five sorts instead of three, as heretofore. These sandy red soils fall into Class 8, and it is now proposed to divide the sorts thus:—

		Class.	Sort.
Class VIII.	Best	8	1
	Good	8	2
	Ordinary	8	3
	Bad	8	4
	Worst	8	5

By this means the classification is conducted far more easily and far more satisfactorily, and, at the same time, with less loss to Government; as under the former system, with only three sorts, it has always been found that so much land falls into the last sort, No. 3, there being nothing as it were intermediate, and thus the revenue suffers. Both Mr. Puckle and myself practically experienced this difficulty, and thus the arrangement of five instead of three sorts was introduced both into Tinnevelly and Madras.

6. The annexed table shows the rates proposed by Mr. Goodrich for the soil in question, and the steps by which he arrives at these results:—

Description of soil.	Estimated yield per acre.	Value at 12 Annas for Garris Cullum.	Deduction of 15 per cent. for adversity seasons	Remainder.	Deduction of cultivation expenses.	Remainder.	Half net.	Deduction of 10 per cent.	Remaining out-turn.	Proposed rate.	30 per cent. of the gross value.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Best red sand soil	17	12 12 0	1 14 7	10 13 5	5 4 0	5 9 5	2 12 8	0 4 6	2 8 2	2 8 0	3 4 0
Good do.	14	10 8 0	1 9 2	8 14 10	5 0 0	3 14 10	1 15 5	0 3 2	1 12 3	1 12 0	2 10 10
Ordinary do.	12	9 0 0	1 5 7	7 10 5	4 12 0	2 14 5	1 7 2	0 2 14	1 4 4	1 4 0	2
Bad do.	10	7 8 0	1 2 0	6 6 0	4 8 0	1 14 0	1 0 0	0 1 8	0 15 4	1 0 0	1 14 10
Worst do.	8	6 0 0	0 14 5	5 5 7	4 12 0	0 13 7	0 10 10	0 1 1	0 9 9	0 9 0	1 8 6

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14th December 1870.

The Board will note that 15 per cent. is deducted for season contingencies, and 10 per cent. for unprofitable areas; this latter concession is well nigh as pure an indulgence as the former, owing to nearly all, the actually unprofitable areas having been deducted and entered as separate letters in the survey fields. Mr. Goodrich also brings to notice that "the commutation rate, 12 Annas per Cullum, "is now but two-thirds of the actual ryots' selling-prices, though good seasons and "dull trade for two years have brought down prices slightly. The present price, "Rupees 1-2-0 per Cullum, is about the average of the last fifteen years, 150 "Rupees per garce."

7. I must explain to the Board that the grain-values assigned by Mr. Puckle for these red soils have been slightly raised by Mr. Goodrich, thus giving higher money-rates. I was unwilling at first to recommend this enhancement without further actual experiments on the field, but taking into consideration the circumstances already detailed, I think that in this instance it may be concluded that the opinions of the present local officers are correct, and that this is just one of the changes Mr. Puckle himself may have contemplated. I append a comparative Statement, showing the rates resulting from Mr. Puckle's settlement after the application of the amended commutation rate, and an approximate estimate of the results of Mr. Goodrich's proposal which will have to be thoroughly worked out and correctly applied at the time of re-classification. Too much land is doubtless tentatively entered under the 1st group, 1st sort at Rupees 2-8-0 per acre.

8. *Statement A.*—As regards the probable monetory result of these changes, Mr. Goodrich estimates that the excess over the rates sanctioned by Government, would be about Rupees 1,48,000. This would at first appear a large sum, but it must be remembered that these sandy red soils comprise no less than 6,61,362 acres, or as Mr. Goodrich remarks "very nearly two-thirds of the whole soil of "Salem is included in the red sandy variety." Again, when we look at the estimated incidence of the rates now proposed, we find that these soils bear an assessment fully equal to what is now recommended. In fact, as far as can be gathered, the average dry rate under the contemplated modification will certainly not be more than Rupees 1-4-5 per acre; whereas the present dry assessment average is for the whole district Rupees 1-4-4. But a strong argument in favour of Mr. Goodrich's proposal yet remains in the shape of the various assurances made by officers of great local experience of the inexpediency of making any further reductions in the assessment. Thus Mr. Brett in his letter to Mr. Newill, dated the 11th November 1861, No. 83, states as follows:—"The reduction recently made has "so lowered the Government tax on all the better descriptions of land, that in my "opinion no further general reduction is now necessary." Again I find that "Mr. Master and Mr. Puckle, both advocated that the new Settlement should be "postponed, as the existing assessment "was well within the means of the people, "and, with present prices, gladly paid, "and that it is inexpedient to incur so great a loss of revenue paid with ease."

Vide paragraph 15 of Board's Proceedings, dated 4th October 1867.

9. In thus supporting the adoption of Mr. Goodrich's rates with the proviso that he must be most careful in subjecting only the very best soils in red sandy to the payment of Rupees 2-8-0, the rate allotted to those that fall under Sort 1, I may mention that these modifications can be made without any new taram or any new money rate being introduced.

10. I may finally add, that this modification is intended to apply to all the dry sandy red soils throughout the Salem District, except as regards Ahtoor, where, for the following reasons, as detailed by Mr. Goodrich, it is proposed to let the new Settlement rates just introduced, remain intact:—

"1st.—The red soil of Ahtoor more nearly resembles the soils of South "Arcot and Trichinopoly, which districts it borders."

"2nd.—It is much the most heavily assessed taluq."

"3rd.—The Vellar and Vasinhanadhi which water it, deposit for the most "part silt impregnated with lime, magnesia, etc., and the soil is of a different "character from that characterizing the water sheds of the Cauvery and the other "streams of the rest of the district."

"4th.—The red sandy soils in Ahtoor are but 42 per cent. of the whole; "elsewhere they are half as much again."

A.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing the modifications proposed by the Deputy-Director, Salem, on Mr. Puckle's proposals as amended by Government in the red soils of Salem District, falling under Class VIII.

MR. PUCKLE'S PROPOSALS AMENDED BY GOVERNMENT.						MR. GOODRICH'S PROPOSALS.					
Class.	Group.	Sort.	Rate per acre.	Area.	Assessment.	Class.	Group.	Sort.	Rate per acre.	Area.	Assessment.
			RS. A. P.	ACRES.	RS.				RS. A. P.	ACRES.	RS.
	1	1	1 12 0	56,050	63,056		1	1	2 8 0	36,050	90,158
	1	2	1 4 0	10,831			1	2	1 12 0	6,421	
	2	1		78,644			2	1		78,644	
				89,475	1,11,844					84,978	1,47,181
	2	2	1 0 0	1,87,053			1	3	1 4 0	3,100	
	3	1		34,526			2	2		98,553	
							3	1		34,526	
				2,21,579	2,21,579					1,33,479	1,66,849
VIII.	3	2	0 12 0	1,11,694		VIII.	1	4	1 0 0	3,662	
	4	1		30,177			2	3		93,500	
							3	2		65,894	
							4	1		30,177	
				1,41,871	1,06,403					3,88,133	1,86,133
	3	3	0 8 0	17,063			2	4	0 12 0	38,021	
	4	2		55,162			3	3		55,800	
							4	2		27,381	
				72,224	36,112					1,12,282	84,211
	2	3	0 6 0	57,801	21,675		1	5	0 8 0	3,500	
							3	4		16,045	
							4	3		27,381	
	3	3	0 6 0	21,245						46,726	23,363
	4	3		21,117							
				43,362	10,590		3	5	0 6 0	38,900	
							4	4		13,117	
		Total		6,67,302	5,71,288					40,017	25,000
Average Assessment per acre				0 15 10			3	6	0 4 0	10,650	
							4	5		10,000	
										20,650	5,150
								Total		6,81,252	7,10,965
						Average Assessment per acre					1 1 5

(Signed) G. BANBURY,
Ag. Director of Revenue Settlement.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th December 1870.

IN this letter the Director of Revenue Settlement recommends that the rates which have been sanctioned for red sandy soils in the Salem District should be raised. He speaks of the alteration as one of those revisions which Mr. Puckle himself contemplated, but inasmuch as it affects 70 per cent. of the whole cultivable area of dry land, and makes a difference of a lac and-a-half in the demand, it seems to the Board to be of a much more serious character than any change which could have been contemplated by the framers and revisers of the sanctioned settlement. Again, Mr Banbury quotes opinions (including those of Mr. Puckle) as to the fruitfulness of the red soils, but Mr. Puckle was in full possession of this knowledge when he calculated the outturn given in his reports.

2. Three reasons are given for the proposed enhancement of rates—

(1). That the present demand is easily paid and readily collected. This the Board believe to be true, but it was well known when the settlement was sanctioned, and the same thing might be and has been said of the whole district.

(2). That the sanctioned rates will cause a loss of revenue. This also is true both of wet land, and dry land, and was contemplated when the Settlement was fixed. The Board wish, however, to have details before them as to the figures given in paragraph 3. It was estimated that only 20 per cent. of the punjah revenue would be given up by the Settlement, but Mr. Goodrich now says that 50 per cent. of the demand on the red soils will be relinquished. If so, the sanctioned Settlement must increase the demand on the other dry lands by one half.

(3). That all the waste in the district has been taken up. This, if true, shows that the existing rates are not too high, but it is hardly consistent with figures before the Board, which show that in Fasli 1270 the cultivable *dry* waste was calculated by the Settlement Offices at acres 4,43,804, and that only about 35 per cent. of it has since been brought under the plough. The assertion may be true, but it requires proof.

3. The Board have every confidence in Mr. Goodrich's zeal and ability, and they consider that he has done good service to the State by bringing into prominent notice what he considered an unnecessary sacrifice of revenue. Nevertheless, in a matter like this, where a whole settlement is questioned, the Board do not consider it *safe* to rely solely on his observations.

4. The opinions of the local officers, (which are only incidentally mentioned by Mr. Banbury as being in favour of his proposal,) including those of Tahsildars of experience, must be obtained in writing, and detailed calculations showing (either by the occupation of waste or in any other way) whether the present rates are burdensome or not, must be submitted for each taluq in the district.

5. The Board have not noticed Mr. Goodrich's calculation of outturn, etc., because his data do not claim to be the result of observation or even of inquiry.

6. There are four other points on which the Board desire to have information—

(1). The Director speaks of the deduction made in the calculation of rates on account of unprofitable areas as being almost a *pure* indulgence. The Board wish to know as precisely as possible what proportion of the areas entered in the new puttahs will really be unprofitable.

(2). In the two reports on the settlement of the Salem District a great difference was shown as existing between the northern and southern taluqs with regard to outturn, commutation rate, deduction on account of unfavourable seasons and cultivation expenses. The general result was that the northern rates were all one degree or "group" below the southern, but this relation would necessarily be altered if the relation between the commutation rates of the northern and southern taluqs was disturbed. This was done when Government by taking a 20 years' average raised the commutation rate in the south from 10 to 12 Annas a Cullum and in the north from 9 to 11 Annas. Government appear to have calculated the new rates corresponding to Mr. Puckle's rates for the southern taluqs, and to have assumed without any further calculation that the rates corresponding to Mr. Puckle's would be the same in the north as in the south. The Board doubt whether this assumption is well founded. Calculated as in paragraph 25 of Mr. Puckle's second report the rates modified in accordance with the new commutation rate are certainly not the same. Again, in the proposals now submitted to the Board, the Director assumes the same uniformity for the northern and southern taluqs, and gives a calculation of rates as applying to the whole district framed on data which have been recognized for the southern part of it only. Mr. Banbury will be good enough to explain how this matter stands, and what are his views with regard to the settlement of the northern taluqs as distinguished from the settlement of the southern taluqs.

(3). The arguments used in the Director's letter are given as affecting no less than 70 per cent. of the dry lands of the district, and some of the strongest of them are susceptible of even a wider application. The Board wish to know whether Mr. Banbury expects to have to submit any further revision of similar importance, and if so, in what direction.

(4). The Director makes an important exception in favour of the red soils of Attur. He is requested to consider whether there are not still stronger reasons for making the same exception in favour of Uttengherry.

7. These Proceedings will be submitted to Government.

No. 277. ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1870, No. 2,022.

Land Revenue.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council will defer taking into consideration the proposals made by the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, until his reply to the Board's Proceedings, with the Board's remarks thereon, is submitted to Government.

2. Mr. Banbury cannot fail to recognize that such material alterations of the assessment, projected by Mr. Puckle, and sanctioned by Government, could only be accepted on the most deliberate consideration. It does not appear that the increase of assessment now contemplated has been prompted by personal investigation on the part of the Acting Director, nor can the Government place implicit confidence in the opinion of Mr. Goodrich who, with much zeal and intelligence, has had but a limited experience in the business of the Settlement Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th December 1870.

3. The Government is of opinion that Mr. Banbury should proceed to the district as soon as he can do so with justice to other business in which he may be engaged, and frame his definitive report to the Board with the benefit of local information which, if necessary, should be supplemented by experiments and measurements conducted by himself.

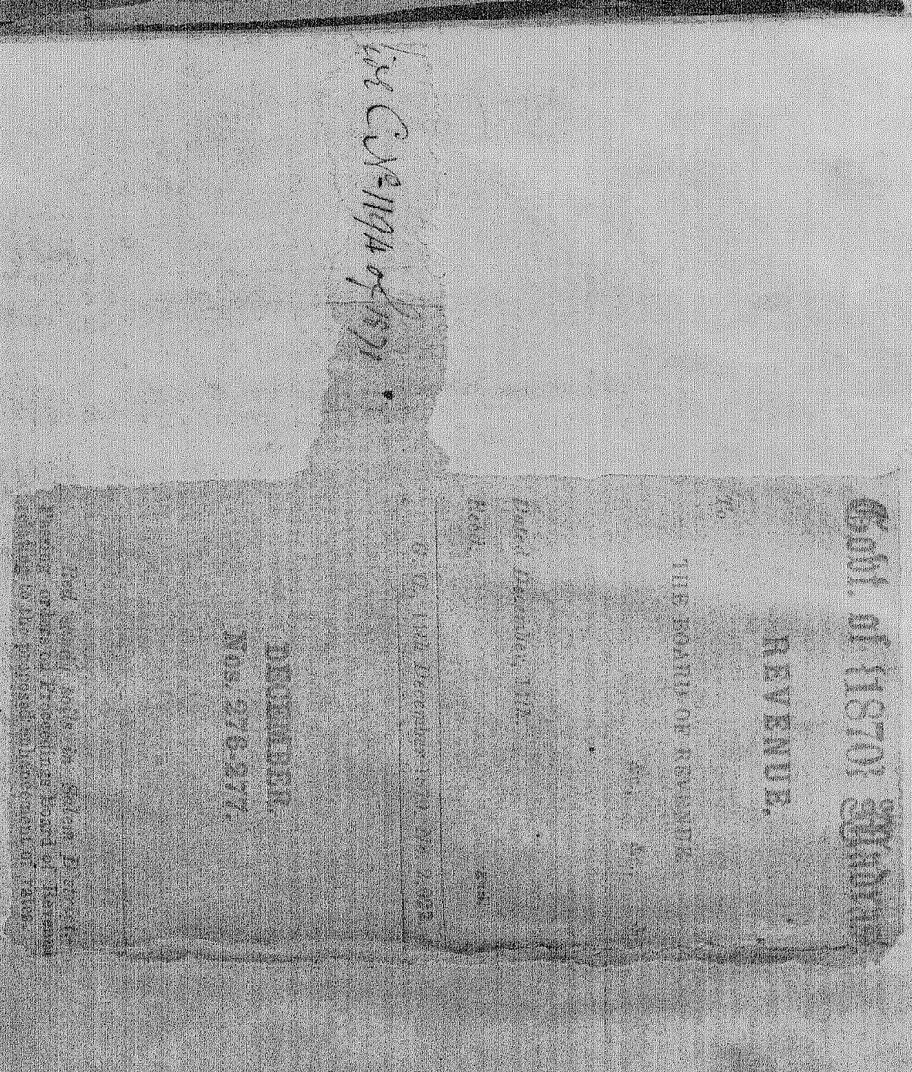
4. The attention of Mr. Banbury is particularly directed, in connection with this question, to the large allowance suggested by Mr. Puckle for unproductive areas commented upon by Mr. Goodrich.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.



Memo: for orders on A: 2828

With these Govt the Bd of Rev: forward a letter from the Off Mg Revenue Settlement proposing that the dry rates proposed under the new Salem Settlement be raised on red sandy soils. Mr Goodrich reports that the rates as now sanctioned will, if applied to land of this description, result in a considerable reduction of existing assessments, that, excluding the Attur taluk, which has been settled at the sanctioned rates which for special reasons he

over

would leave undisturbed, the power of introducing the revised settlement rates on these soils will be an increase of area, on survey, by 1½ lacs of acres, but a loss of revenue by 1¾ lacs of rupees. This sacrifice of revenue he considers altogether unnecessary as the existing assessments is easily paid.

2. The Board of Rev: observe that the proposed alteration affects no less than 70 per cent of the whole cultivable area of the District, and they call for further information before expressing a positive opinion on the proposal.

3. They desire to have before them a detailed opinion of the local officers statement shewing exactly what the effect of the proposal will be, and what the present

present position of the cultivation the dry waste is, as they seem to doubt the figures quoted by Mr Goodrich.

4. They also call for information as to the actual quantity of unassessable areas measured with the holdings, the effect of passing the commutation rate or of introducing the proposed new rates upon the relative rates as arrived at by Mr Puckle in the Northern and Southern portions of

the

the District, the probability
of the Director submitting
proposals for any further
modification of the settle-
ment, and the propriety
of excluding the Uttoxeter
as well as the Alton
Valley from the proposed
enhancement of rates. It
is submitted that the
Govt may await the
Directors reply to the
Boards proceedings before
passing an opinion on his
proposals — a draft order
to this effect is circulated.

I think it will be
desirable that the
Board should
be asked to
express an opinion
on the draft — as it
seems to me should
it have an effect
of [illegible] assembly to
adopt the conclu-
sion of an article
for by-laws standing as
a question of that
kind at [illegible]
[illegible]

1
880
397

78

Secondly that the Cheadle
rates were fixed under a strong
impression that a reduction of duty
after 1880 was the basis for
Govt. with reference to certain
contingent advantages to be expected
from [illegible] in agricultural values. Different
impression has since become
predominant and a justifiable
reluctance prevails to reduce present
local Revenue unless it can be
clearly shown that the rate
levied exceeds half the net
value of the produce calculated
on a average of the prices of the

last 20 years & 2 ½ d 6
the extension of cultivation is
arrested by the existing rates.
It is quite certain that the extension
of cultivation in the class of soils
referred to in these papers has
not been affected by the existing
rate of assessment for the
cultivation has extended to
marvellous degree in fact the
waste has almost been absorbed
recently & the produce [illegible] has
can be shewn that the value
of half the net produce has been
exceeded even at the reduced
rates of the present year.

Mr Bright is the Member for
Mr Gladstone

the Govt. ought to [illegible] safely adopt
the suggestion of Mr. Goschen &
Sir Barbury in regard to grants - supported
by the fact in point of fact by the
opinion of the Commissioners
of the Inland Revenue
that the Board is relieved of the
Govt. should be applied to
done before sanctioning a reduction
a deviation from the rates suggested by
and, I may say, sanctioned under
the new Settlement. It seems
desirable that the Barbury
should go part & consider the
matter with that in connection

with Mr Goodrich and the Collector in his later subordinate officers.

Select of the Bar suggested by Mr. Sim which appear to me to call back towards Mr Barbary and to distinctly advise the proposed change I would suggest the following.

"

2. Mr Barbary cannot fail to recognize that such radical alteration of the agreement suggested by Mr. Preble and sanctioned by Government could only be accepted as the most deliberate consideration. It does not appear that the circumstances of the settlement are contemplated by

prompted by personal investigation of the part of the Acting Director in case the Govt. place implicit confidence in the opinion of Mr. Goodrich who with much zeal & intelligence has had but a limited experience in the business of the Settlement department

The Govt is of opinion that Mr. Barbary should proceed to the District as soon as he can do so with propriety to the business in which he may be engaged and there his departure report to the Board with the latest local information which should be supplemented by experiments & measurements conducted

by himself [should such be deemed indispensable.]

The attention of Mr Bunbury is particularly directed, in connection with this question, to the large allowance suggested by the Treasurer for unproductive and Commented upon by Mr Godwich. —

N.

I am quite willing to accept the amended para 2 - proposed by His Excellency - omitting the words "should such be deemed indispensable" - because in my

[illegible] measurement of Mr Bunbury's land, absolutely in his own right. If we are merely to accept opinions we may as well dispense with the Settlement Debt.

J. D.S

The proposal is to alter the assessment of 70 per cent of the Rylands - and not to have that given as a fact or a figure.

I agree to the original para: proposed by His Excellency omitting the words "should such be deemed indispensable."

Ag D.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the November 1870

Read the following. Ord of the Board of Revenue.

Subm: remarks on recommendation of Dir: of Rev: Settt: that rates of assessment sanctioned for red sandy soils in Salem Dt: should be raised.

R. E. 15 September 1870.

The Right Honble the Governor will defer taking into consideration the proposals made by the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement until his reply to the Board's Proceedings with

with the Board's remarks thereon is submitted to Government.

I would add that Mr Bambury (must not fail to recognize understand) that such material alteration of the case. terms as have been suggested (that he should be at exp. (cannot be accepted without deliberate consideration (and evidence) of the facts. It is for him to satisfy further that any such agreement is fair to the Native family

of the "last trial" and the Experience of the cultivation do not afford positive assurance in such a case that changes that there made either by the Native family or by Mr Bambury shall be influenced by the present and the Government and the Board remark, & limit the settlement of 70 per cent of the Dry land of the District and Mr Bambury appears to have accepted his (as stated in that

any circumstances on his own part.)

Mr Sandwith's Experience extended limited and put upon him (desire) that should be Mr Bambury (will be) proceeded to the Native as soon as possible and particularly Mr Bambury (must) the (Experience.

which shall be influenced by experience of such deed

which shall be left to Mr Bambury's discretion, as he shall have known, the Board & feel cannot entertain but the terms made."

I do

I would add.

The fact that the adaptation was carefully ascertained by previous reduction that should not be reduced. N.

I think the language suggested by the Govt if adopted should be amended actually in order rather to secure what Mr Bambury I would suggest softer style. N.

I would stop here Mr Bambury has employed an Agent under Public Instructions. I have no doubt he will be prepared to give positive evidence to the 20 per cent reduction & I would not require any further evidence & should recommend R 90000.

Yes. We must abide by the Agreement & see that the

interests of Government
injured by unnecessary
reduction of assessment
easily paid. I am this
in addition to Land
Revenue in Punish

Revenue Department.

No. 2022.

Proc.s of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 14th December 1870

Read the following Proc.s
of the Board of Revenue.

Subm.g remarks on recom-
-mendation of Dir. of Rev. Settl.
that rates of assessment sanctioned
for red sandy soils in Salem
Dt. should be raised.

} M.E. 15 September 1870, No. 5748.

The Right Honble the
Governor in Council defer taking
into consideration the propo-
-sals made by the Acting
Director of Revenue Settle-
-ment until his reply
to the Board's Proceedings
with the Board's remarks

Revenue

thereon is submitted to
Government.

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not fail to recognize that
such material alterations
of the assessment proposed
by Mr Packle and sanctioned
by Government could only
be accepted on the most
deliberate consideration.
It does not appear that
the increase of assessment
now contemplated has
been prompted by personal
investigation on the part
of the Acting Director nor
the Govt place implicit

Confidence

confidence in the opinion
of Mr Goodrich who with
much zeal and intelligence
has had but a limited
experience in the business
of the Assessment Depart.

3. The Govt is of
opinion that Mr Banbury
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this question, to the large
allowance suggested by
Mr Buckle for unproductive
areas commented upon by
Mr Goodrich.

[illegible]

[illegible]
13 [illegible]

[illegible]