Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th October 1871.

No. 201. Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, (Revenue,) to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 20th July 1871, No. 21 :—

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency in Council copy of a printed letter which I have received from Mr. J. W. B. Dykes, late Collector of Nellore in your Presidency, representing the objections to which he thinks that orders of your Government, sanctioning the yearly sale, by auction, of the pasture lands of that Collectorate, which were approved by my despatch of the 31st of March 1870, numbered 10, are liable.

Dated 13th June 1871.

2. You will perceive that Mr. Dykes states that the Board of Revenue have misapprehended the grounds on which he originally objected to the proposal.

3. The question seems of such consequence to the breeders of cattle in Nellore that I deem it well that you should have the opportunity of reading this representation.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., to the Secretary of State for India, dated Cork Street, 13th June 1871.

I HAVE the honour respectfully to submit the following objections to the order passed by the Home Government on the Nellore pasture lands, and earnestly to urge its reconsideration.

2. For many years the Government have been endeavouring to improve the breed of cattle in the Nellore District. In carrying out this intention an important fact has been brought to notice, which affects not only Nellore but India generally. Indian cattle do not, under ordinary conditions, breed till they are five years old ; but it has been found that, by careful feeding, they can be made to breed at half that age. The breeders of stock, however, under the order of which I request a reconsideration, have been denied that security of tenure, and those advantages freely conceded to the holders of arable lands at the ordinary rates of assessment.

3. The pastures in question are large tracts of thousands of acres of land on which no regular assessment has ever been imposed, and for which it would not be profitable to pay a grain-rate.

4. Under the Rulers who preceded us, the interests of Government, as regards revenue, were secured by various arrangements such as amongst others by a capitation tax, or by fixing a lump sum for each village in proportion to the area available for pasturage and the number of cattle owned by the village as verified from time to time. But these arrangements, which were continued by us with modifications, whilst they secured breeders of stock from being disturbed in the occupation of their pasture lands, were in other respects objectionable. They were abolished in 1867, and in their place it was proposed by the Collector of the district that those who used the pasturage should in future be allowed to hold it at a fixed rate per acre, which rate was to be subject to revision after such a number of years as might fairly be considered to give security for the capital sunk. There were abundant materials for fixing the rates to be paid in the different parts of the district, without going to the expense of detailed valuation of soils ; and if the terms offered were refused, then the land was to be put up to auction for the same number of years, and the justice of the terms decided in open market.

5. The Collector's proposal was rejected by the Madras Board of Revenue as not sufficiently simple. They ordered that a portion of the waste lands in every village—such portion being fixed in reference to the arable area in occupation—should be held as common pasturage free of charge ;

"settlement be fully introduced over the whole district when the subject can be "reconsidered," * * * "all land not demarcated and surveyed in detail for occu- "pation and available be let as pasture according to the divisions in which it has "been surveyed for a term of two years, and at an upset price of 2 Annas the acre "in the western and 4 Annas in the coast talooks." He proceeded to "recommend "that the land under consideration be offered to the villagers first at the upset "price specified, and what they are not willing to take at that price be offered "to the highest bidder without further reference to an upset price or the village "he belongs to."

7. The Board, in submitting Mr. Dykes's letter to Government, advocated the abolition of the "Pulleri" tax and the substitution of pasture rents.

Proceedings, 2nd September 1867, No. 5,688.

8. They remarked that, although the ryot's absolute right was restricted to the land for which he pays assessment, still prescriptive usage gave him the privilege, in ordinary cases, of grazing his cattle in the village waste; but that where the extent of waste is large in proportion to the cultivation, the right of the State to realize a revenue from the excess was readily admitted; and accepting Mr. Dykes's statement of the Nellore "*custom*;" that one-quarter acre waste should be allowed for every acre occupied on assessment, and that certain castes were allowed free pasturage within prescribed limits as to number of cattle, they recommended that no revenue should have been received from the unoccupied land of any village so long as it did not exceed thirty per cent. of the occupied area, and that if the overplus made it worthwhile

10. On further consideration

to rent it, it should be leased out annually or bi-ennially to the highest bidder, believing that its fair value was more likely to be so realized than by a fixed charge per acre. It will be observed that this free common reserve of an area, of "fair average grazing land," equal to thirty per cent. of the occupied area, was a concession in favour of the villagers in excess of Mr. Dykes's recommendation, and the Board's proposals were accepted by Government, the period of the leases being left to the discretion of the Collector.

G. O., 13th November 1867, No. 2,676.

9. In February 1869, when reporting on the Cattle Show, Mr. Dykes condemned this system of renting the surplus pasturage to the highest bidder as destroying the security for capital invested in cattle, and urged the necessity of making it over (*to the villagers*) at fixed rates for a term of five years at least; and on the 26th of the same month he addressed a separate letter to the Board on the subject. He gave details showing that the rents obtained under the system devised by the Board, and sanctioned by Government, ranged from 2 Pies to 9 Annas per acre; that notwithstanding this inequality the average for the whole district was Annas 1-4 per acre; and he recommended the adoption of a fixed rate of 2 Annas per acre for terms of five years, at which the surplus pasturage should be offered to the villagers, and that should they not agree among themselves as to taking it, the divisional officer should be empowered to apportion the pasturage at the fixed rent, with reference to the stock held by the several parties, bidding for it in blocks of 50 acres or upwards. The Board dissented from Mr. Dykes's views, observing that the system of letting to the highest bidder had only been in force for two

Proceedings, 7th June 1869, No. 4,060.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th Octover 1871.

years; that under it uniform rates of rent were not to be expected, but that they believed the system to be calculated to realize the average value of the pasture land throughout the district more accurately than any other. The Government and the Secretary of State adopted the Board's view.

G. O., 3rd July 1869, No. 1,902.
From Secretary of State, 31st March 1870, No. 10, Revenue.

10. Mr. Dykes, in his present letter to the Secretary of State, renews his objections to the system of renting by competition as placing the breeder of stock "at the mercy of any man who chooses to bid against him * * *. He must secure "pasturage on any terms, and, if unable to buy off, the opposition must get rid of "his stock as soon as he can." He assumes that had the case been put before Government and the Secretary of State in the light in which he as Collector represented it, the Board's view would not have been accepted; but on this it may be remarked that the whole of the Collector's letters were before Government and the Secretary of State when they approved the Board's view in preference to that of Mr. Dykes.

11. The Government, however, appreciate the interest which Mr. Dykes retains in the district with which he was so long and usefully connected, and they have no wish to deny the fullest consideration to his views.

12. They resolve, therefore, to refer the above papers to the Board of Revenue, with instructions to ascertain from the Collector of Nellore, and to report what has been the practical result of the system introduced in the district at their suggestion for leasing the waste pasture land in excess of thirty per cent. of the occupation in each village, both as regards the average rate of rent derived from the leased lands, as to the permanency or otherwise of the tenancy by the same parties, and as to effect of the system on the professed cattle breeders of the district.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 1819

19th Sept.

Secretary of State's Despatch

of 20th July

Rec'd 21st.

Dispensing Power

Whether it is desirable that Rule 10 of Regulations in regard to Pasturage should be rescinded

Opinion of the Office of Com'rs of Indian

Affairs

That the Rule of the Dep't of Int. of 26 Oct. 61. declaring "that no more than 1/5 part of the area of any tract available for pasturage or hay, & not less than 1/3 part of the area of any tract available for cultivation and 1/3 part of the area of the tract remaining after the cultivation of the district aforesaid, and the whole of the tract remaining after the cultivation of the district aforesaid, may be granted to any person for pasturage

Lots

"Parishes pasturi" is the gross annual assessment levied on the total common pasturage of a village, and is used for keeping in repair the village bull and ram.

"Annual pasturi" is the addition made to the gross assessment to arrive at the net annual value by deducting the original charges.

"Aliya pasturi" is the proportion of the "Parishes pasturi" which is charged on cattle or sheep in addition to the proportion of land assessment.

"Parishes pasturi" is levied on the cattle of a village, this is paid by the keepers of the "Parishes pasturi" by distributing over different parishes the number of the keepers of cattle in the whole town "Parishes pasturi"

S.O. 13. Oct 67. No 2676.

Ordinarily the "Parishes pasturi" after deducting the "Aliya pasturi" has to be divided by the village authorities among the pasturable according to the rules.

Bo. Bykulla & B. Mills. of 15 Sept. 64
" " 6 June 65.

from the Parishes pasturi
first pasturi to be deducted
the two following amounts
in 1864. and 65. Bo. Bykulla
should pay his own and
recommend the abolition
of the "Pasturi" tax on the
ground that two-fifths
of the area of occupation
of land assessment for the
Parishes pasturi would be
brought under the
pasturi of the Parishes
Bo. Bykulla should pay
the other 3/5 of the Parishes
pasturi assessment
Bo. Darein Bo. Bykulla
had no land should be
exempted but should
pay his pasturi
should show that an alien
should not have for pasture
the two same bona cattle
pasturi & two bullocks
Bo. Bykulla should pay

Cwrch W. Dykes

Ev. 2 Sept. 69. No 5685.

Ev. 4 Feb. 69.

In Feb. 69. he proposed
this proposal was passed
in the Court communicated
the abolition of the Fallen tax
absolutely and that in lieu
of the abolished tax. a tax
measure at the Low settlement
be fully enforced on the Stock
Viz. that the subjects under
Section 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. and 7.
not enumerated & charged
in Schedule proceeds shall
with the Stock specified and
according to the Division in Sect. 8.
two Cows Sworn from two
of 2 years and a Cow upset
price of 2 Cows there in
the Division - and 4 Cows
in the Court thinks the
proposal reasonable that
the Land under consideration
the Spirit of the villagers first
at the upset price specified
and that they are willing
to take at that price to spend
the right hire to rent
further upset an upset price
of the Village to belong to

Ev. 2 Sept. 69. No 5685.

Feb. 1 in obedience to Mr.
Dykes letter for abolishing
the abolition of the
Fallen tax & the
substitution of pasture
land. Hay enacted
that all the right abolished
right has promoted the
Land for Mr. Dykes settlers
viz. still pasture shall
always remain the privilege
in ordinary cases of grazing
his cattle in the village land
but that should the Govt
want it in order to sell
or rent it to any person
or persons such Govt shall
give to the villagers
a piece of land equal
to the quantity taken
from them in exchange
for the same and
Mr. Dykes statement of the
Fallen custom that each
quarter acre has the right
allowed for every acre
occupied & cultivated by
that certain cattle have
allowed for pasturage
in the proportion to the
number of cattle they

recommended that no person
should be debarred from the
open fields landscape
village tobacco plant &c
not exceed thirty percent
of the open field area - and
that if the surplus rental
by which Lentit. should
be increased not annually or
biennially to the highest bidder.
believing that it's fair value
be ascertained. She realised
them by a fixed charge per acre.
It will be observed that this fifth annum
leaves open an area equal to
"fair average fencing land" equal
to 30 % of the open fields area
which remains in force till
the villagers in succession
by their recommendations &
the Bd. proposals have accepted
by Govt. - the point of the leases
being left to the discretion of
the Jobs.

J.D. 13 Nov. 69.
Ec. 2676.

In Mr. Gy. Thus depositing
of the Cattle there Mr. Dykes

the system devised by the Bd.
and sanctioned by Govt.

condemned this system
of granting to the highest
bidder as destroying the
security for capital invested
in cattle: and urged the
necessity of making it obligatory
(to the villagers) at first each
for a term of 5 years
at least. and on the
2 of the same principle
be addressed accordingly
letter to the Bd. on the subject
She gave details showing
that the rents obtained under
ranged from 2 Rs. to
9 annas per acre. that
whilst retaining this
high rent to average for
the Rest did not two
annas 1-4. per acre.
and he recommended
the adoption of a fixed
rate of 2 annas per
acre for terms of 5 years
at first the surplus
fortunes should be offered
to the villagers & that
should they not agree

aiming Ministers at
taking it. the Principal
Officers should be summoned
to assist in the fixing
of the general Scale exist
ing at present & the stock
held by the several parties
bidding for it - in blocks
of 50 cows or upwards.
That Mr. Dickinson & some other Dykes
should attend & explain the system
of taking the highest bidder
Rule only has in force for 2 years
but should this principle
that steps should be adopted
that they believed the system
the calculated to produce the
average value of the produce
and then & that the highest
bona accurately by stamp duty
Chancellor & the Sec. of State
adopted the Bill. Ordered.

Mr. Dickinson suggested
that the Sec. of State
should his objections to the
system of putting by
competition as placing
the breeder of stock at the

Rev. J. Lucy Esq.
M. 4066.

Sir J. Lubbock Bart.
M. 1902.
Com. Sec. of State.
31. March. 70.
M. 10. Rec:

15

any
every person who
chooses to bid against
him the Commissioners
pleases or any time
& if unable to buy off
the Operation himself
rid of his stock as soon
as he can - the
assumes that had the
case been put before Mr.
Disraeli the Sec. of
State in the light in
Mr. Lucy & Mr. Dickinson
it - the Bill would not
have been accepted -
Lastly that it may be
remarked that the Duke
of the Lord Advocate
before first the Sec. of
State Chancellor approved
the Bill prior to presentation
to that of Mr. Dykes -

Chancellor Exchequer
appreciate the interest
Mr. Dykes devotes

in the district, with which
Ewing is closely connected, and by
whom we wish to bring
the fullest consideration
to his views. &c

We desire
further to refer the
above questions to the
B. of Rev. in Ireland
to ascertain from the
Coll. of Tuition &c before
they take him the
practical result of
the system in force
in the N. National
Schools in connection with
the Church Education Soc.

leaving the Teachers
Land in receipt
of 3 per cent of the
occupation in each
village - & the
Expenses the average
Rate of Rent
derived from the
leased Lands - as
to the permanency
or Stability of the
tenancy
Conditions by the
same parties - and
as to effects of the
system on the
Religious Creeds
& Feelings of the Pr.

14 Feb 1832 of Rev. Dr. 27 Oct 71

11. Oct. 71.

L. O.

Mr. Dykes's letter respecting the yearly auction sale of postmaster's [illegible]