

No. 314/1816

Revised & final
of Mr. Goodrich
Stamps on Mal
Lion Dist

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd March 1871.

No. 316. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th February 1871, No. 796 :—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 28th March 1870, No. 2,040.

Do. do. „ 12th July „ „ 4,826.

Do. do. „ 31st August „ „ 5,530.

Read also the following letter from the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 15th September 1870, No. 1,503-44.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st August 1870; No. 5,530, upon the question of re-demarcation in Salem.

2. I may briefly narrate how the question has arrived at its present stage. On the 16th of January last Mr. Goodrich pointed out the necessity of re-demarcation, and Mr. Master handed over the papers to me for disposal, at the same time concurring with me that the outlay proposed to be undergone by Government would preclude our advocating the measure just then. This view of the case was accordingly communicated to Mr. Goodrich, who, on the 24th February, stated, in reply, that the Ahtoor ryots expressed their willingness to pay for the demarcation. I then asked Mr. Goodrich to let me know before placing the question before the Board whether the ryots of the other taluqs were, similarly with the cultivators of Ahtoor, willing to pay for the restoration of marks; besides this some other necessary information was asked for. Mr. Goodrich's reply, dated 24th March, No. 33, places the whole matter in so clear a light that I beg to forward the letter *in extenso*. It then became necessary to ascertain the Collector's views upon the matter, as the Board and Government would naturally wish to have that officer's opinion. I accordingly addressed Mr. Pochin, who replied that he would let me know after the Jamabandi, when I presume he intended to take the opportunity of ascertaining the wishes of the people. Meanwhile, the subject was fully discussed on the 28th June at a Board's meeting, at which Colonel Priestley and I were present. This resulted in the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th July last, to which the late Mr. Pochin's letter, expressing his approval of the measure, and the willingness of the ryots to bear the cost, is the reply now forwarded for the expression of my opinion.

3. My views have all along been in favour of the re-demarcation, and I was naturally anxious that so grand an opportunity as Mr. Goodrich being on the spot with all his party should not be lost. The only drawback was the expense which just at this crisis appeared to me an almost insurmountable objection. Now, however, that the ryots have expressed their willingness to bear the cost, provided their individual holdings are delineated, the only impediment has been removed, and the point to be now considered is how the task can be most expeditiously and satisfactorily performed.

4. Mr. Goodrich is quite willing to undertake the task, and his trained hands are certainly, I should say, quite equal to carrying it out satisfactorily. The Supervisor Seshyengar has not only been in the district for some years, but has been in the meantime detached to the Survey Demarcation Party working in the

Chingleput District, so that he knows exactly the more recent style of demarcation. Then the classifiers have been finding the survey fields, measuring and dividing the holdings contained therein, and spending some time in each village for the purpose of classification; so that if the same men are sent back to the villages they have just left, they would be returning to known localities, and have but little difficulty in assigning the marks to fields with which they are, to a certain extent, familiar. As regards new ground to be taken up by the classifiers, it will not add much to their task of measuring and classifying, to point out where the stones ready on the spot are to be put, as these employes visit each field.

5. The first step will be to procure the stones of the proper size and shape. The rough dressed stones might be used for the survey field-marks, and the natural stones or rough dressed of a smaller size for the puttah-holdings. I must mention that for marking out the puttah-holdings, or as they are generally termed "interstitial fields," it is very frequently necessary to measure out each occupant's share as often there are no banks, ridges, nor anything else to show the line of division: in fact, the occupants themselves frequently divide the crop according to their puttah shares, not troubling themselves about any accurate delineation of the localities of their respective properties. However, as the demarcation of the individual holdings is a most important clause in the compact, we must certainly do it to the best of our ability. The Board are doubtless aware that this course of minor demarcation is unusual and, in fact, altogether new, as I believe that, with the exception of one village in Chingleput, the demarcation has never gone beyond showing the boundaries of the survey numbers.

6. It will be necessary to advance sums wherewith to procure the stones in the first instance, and this outlay can be recovered from time to time from the villagers whose lands have been completed. I can provide Rs. 2,500 as a permanent advance for this purpose according to Government Order, dated April 5th, 1864, No. 572.

7. Colonel Priestley's Head Surveyors will restore any theodolite stations that may be missing, and I trust the cases where these important marks have become obliterated are but few.

8. I was surprised to find how well the old fashioned temporary marks had stood in the Salem Taluq, although ten years have passed since they were put up; the existence of these old field-limits will greatly aid the task of introducing the more permanent system. I was likewise rather surprised to learn that the Curnums, as a rule, wanted the re-demarcation permanently carried out, as one would think the more inscrutable the delineations and the more sealed the whole book, the happier these officials would be, as they would then be masters of the situation as in the days of the old paymaish.

9. The Board truly remark that the ryots could have had to pay but little towards the cost of the demarcation. Economy was then the order of the day, and as Mr. Pochin observes, "stones that chanced to be at hand" were put up. Now I am given to understand the ryots of Ponnery in the Chingleput District have had to pay Rs. 75,000 for demarcation stones alone; so that considering the light in which demarcation is now viewed, the Salem ryots might be fairly asked to provide the material in a district where stone is, as a rule, abundant.

10. Only one point remains to be touched upon. The work of restoration will be most materially facilitated and expedited by the Collector's aid and co-operation; and I doubt not that Mr. Longley will afford us that same furtherance by his aid and influence which Mr. Pochin's letters show us he would have readily afforded had he lived to see this task undertaken.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Letter from the Deputy-Director of Revenue Settlement, Salem, to the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, Madras, dated 27th March 1870, No. 33.

WITH reference to your Proceedings, No. 405-55, of 18th instant, I have the honour to state that it is the general desire of the principal ryots in this taluq to have their property well defined and permanently demarcated at any cost.

2. It is, I am of opinion, their duty as well their interest to have the demarcation made substantial. The marks that were put up at first were duly handed over to the villagers after the survey, with instructions to preserve them. This they have not done, and are, therefore, liable to penalties, and the penalty might well be the cost of permanent restoration of these marks.

3. Property is becoming daily more valuable, and its proper definition and preservation from encroachment is of paramount importance to the ryot quite as much as to Government.

4. All that the people did in the original demarcation and at occasional revisions was to raise small earthen mounds, or plant rough stones of small size procurable on the spot; or to sow palmyra seed supplied to them in the Talaghaut Taluq; they never supplied cut stone of good size for marking the field boundaries.

5. Our department has done all the work of tracing the Curnums' fields, forming survey fields under the rules issued for guidance, numbering and registering them for demarcation, classification, and survey purposes, getting them marked for survey convenience, and preparing eye-sketches to help the survey. It is with reference to the demarcation sketches and marks that the survey was effected.

6. If cut stones had been then insisted on, and the people had supplied and planted them in the corners of the fields formed at the time, all the trouble now experienced would have been saved; unfortunately the prevailing idea then was that the ryots ought to be spared the expense of permanent stones, and that the object of the demarcation was virtually limited to the convenience of the survey.

7. It is not too late now to revive the marks in a substantial manner. The best opportunity for the work now offers in the registration of the fields on the spot by classifiers of experience, most of whom have a knowledge of survey, or are helped by volunteers who have such knowledge. They trace the survey fields and their corners accurately with the aid of the survey maps and field books, and they have the assistance of the Monigars and ryots who know all about their fields and attended at the demarcation, classification, and survey. The classification registers, having been prepared some eight or ten years ago, have to be regularly tested on the field; and for the correct registration essential to an accurate settlement, the classifiers sent to each village trace the survey fields and their occupants and measure interstitial fields as at present existing. In effecting this arduous* but indispensable work, the classifiers spend time enough in measuring the fields to mark them too. At all events if I filled up my party to its full sanctioned strength (without Assistants or their parties), I could engage to continue my present average† of classification, and simultaneously complete the demarcation with cut-stone marks. All now needed is to have the stones ready in villages at different points and men to plant them. This work honestly done and carefully inspected, will prove a security of our correct registration and

* My classifiers are now measuring out 4,000 fields per month into 1,200 on an average.

† December, January, and February, 45,000 acres per mensur.

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22nd March 1871.*

will make it useful to Revenue-officers. If we leave the registers unexplained by proper and permanent marks on the field we shall be leaving behind as records only of a temporary value, and all the work our classifiers do on the field now the Revenue-officers will have to do over again in tracing the survey fields when settling darkhasts, making cultivation and waste ajmaish, checking encroachments on poramboke, and finding out concealed cultivation or disposing of disputes among ryots as to boundaries of fields. These difficulties will, of course, be experienced most in the case of fields constantly passing from cultivation to waste or fallow and vice versa, but everywhere the want of permanent marks on these fields gives much room for fraud on the part of Curnums, entails a heavy fine on poor ryots who ignorantly take up for cultivation portions of several fields, and have to pay for several whole survey numbers, and hampers the Curnums in their aldungal ajmaish and monthly registration of cultivation.

8. The present settlement will deserve its name if the marks are revived. Curnums and other Village-officers are all importunate for the perpetuation of demarcation.

9. The Settlement Department in the early stages of demarcation conducted the demarcation of the Talaghaut. They pursued the system followed in South Arcot (Cuddalore, Kullakurichi, Trinomalay, Manargudi, and Chellambam Taluqs) and Trichinopoly (Arcalore and Woodiarpolliem Taluqs), introducing some improvements. In addition to the masonry tri-junction pillars and secondaries, they used stone (cut) of good size on the boundaries, and for field boundary marks, earthen mounds, rough stones or palmyra seed. Of the palmyra seed, some germinated others did not, and as other palmyra were planted by ryots, or sprouted spontaneously near those intended for marks much confusion has ensued. The small stones and the earthen mounds have not been preserved; in the case of the latter it was impossible that they should be so preserved. When Revenue authorities have ordered the marks to be revived, the ryots from ignorance, some probably from interested motives, have put them in the wrong places.

10. I can hold myself and my held establishment responsible for the accurate revival of the demarcation now, while I am able to inspect it personally in the taluqs. The chance is gone already for Ahtoor, as I have visited almost every village and the classification will be completed in a very few weeks, and then some 18,000 interstitial fields will have been measured out in that taluq, and left without record of the work done except on paper. If my classifiers can be trusted to prepare the Settlement registers, a work entailing so much measuring, I think with the assistance of some extra hands specially selected for their knowledge of Survey, they may be allowed to mark their work.

11. I repeat then my request made personally to Mr. Master in December, to yourself by letter on January 16th, that the demarcation be completed simultaneously with the settlement, and by the agency of the Settlement party under my orders.

12. I should increase my establishment within its sanctioned strength by about (800) eight hundred Rs. a month, entertaining 1 Head Classifier, 15 Classifiers, 25 Volunteers, and 20 Peons more than I have now. As Government could thus reap the advantage of securing a trained staff for the Coimbatore Settlement, they would perhaps be willing to debit to the ryots of the Talaghaut, the cost only of the stones (2 Annas in the Rupee of the beriz, see my letter of January 16th.) In that case the ryots would be paying 95 per cent. of the cost of demarcation.

THE Board resolve to submit these papers for the orders of Government.

2. The unsatisfactory state of the demarcation in the Salem District was brought to notice in the papers disposed of in Board's Proceedings, 2nd November 1869, No. 8,131.

3. Last March the Board called on the Collectors of surveyed districts for suggestions as to preserving or restoring demarcation marks. The Collector of Salem replied that the demarcation in his district had been effected with earthen

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mounds and small stones, and that ordinary rain had been enough to destroy many of the marks. He advised re-demarcation with better materials.

4. The Board thereupon requested Colonel Priestley to see the theodolite stations (which had been substantially replaced and repaired when necessary, and demarcation might be restored if the people were willing to contribute the labour and the cost of stones.

5. The Collector replied that the ryots were ready to bear the cost provided that each holding was separately and distinctly demarcated.

6. This being the case, and Mr. Goodrich being now on the spot and desirous of conducting the operation, the Board are strongly of opinion that this opportunity of perpetuating the results of the survey should not be lost.

7. Although the cost of the stones will be borne by the people, it will be necessary for the Settlement party to be increased, though not beyond its sanctioned strength.

8. The Board earnestly recommend Government to sanction the proposed re-demarcation by holdings:

No. 317. ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1871, No. 515.

Land Revenue.

THE Government sanction the Board's proposals on the understanding that no expense is to be thereby

entailed on Government beyond the Budget provision for the Settlement Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement.
„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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(True Extract.)

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W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement.
„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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Revenue Department.

No. 515.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 22nd March, 1871.

Read the following letter *Procs*

the Board of Revenue

*Recommending to sanction
proposed re-demarcation of
fields in Salem District by
holdings*

M.O. 20th Feb: 1871, #496

*The Govt sanction
the Board's proposals
on the understanding
that no expense is to be
thereby entailed on
Govt beyond the Budget
provision for the
Settlement Department.*

*N.
J.B.S.
M.A.*

L.D.

*14 Letter to Revenue Dept 23rd
13 - to Dy Commr Salem
13 - to Dy Commr Salem*

Secy to Govt

No 316 & 317

Re demand
of Rs 1000
from
the
Accountant-General

29 March 1871

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd March 1871.*

No. 318. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th February 1871, No. 2,647 :—

In forwarding the enclosed letter* from Mr. Ferguson, the Assistant in charge of the Nellumbur plantations, I have the honour to inform you, that as no competent passed man is available, Mr. Ferguson has appointed a Mr. Rodrigues as his Writer. Considering the great difficulty in procuring a man at all for a post of this nature in a climate and out-of-the-way place like Nellumbur, I request that the Accountant-General may be allowed to pass his salary for the present.

ENCLOSURE NO. 1.

From J. FERGUSON, Esq., Assistant Conservator of Forests, Nellumbur, to the Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated Nellumbur, 4th February 1871, No. 32.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that C. Desika Charry, sent from the Central Office, Madras, for the Head Writer's post in this office, has resigned his post from the 22nd November last; he is nervous and physically unfit for the post.

2. Another competent passed man is not available, and I have entertained a Mr. M. A. Rodrigues, who is willing to go up for examination if allowed time. Mr. Rodrigues is competent; from ten years' service in Wynaad is more likely to resist fever than a stranger to the district; therefore, I have the honour to request you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government for his pay being passed by the Accountant-General from the 22nd November last.

3. I enclose copy of his testimonials, and the one from Mr. Austin, Assistant Collector, regarding him.

No. 319. ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1871, No. 516.

Forests, No. 12.

SANCTIONED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests,
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

place like Nellumbur, I request that