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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
• 8th May 1872.

Read the following :—

No. 72. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th January 1872,
No. 17.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to
the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st October 1871,
No. 454.

BEFORE replying to the Board's Proceedings No. 4,034, dated 20th September, regarding the transfer of land-revenue to the pagodas, I have the honour to request information on the following points.

2. Section 11 of Act XX. of 1863 prohibits Pagoda Committees from acting as Pagoda Trustees, though Section 12 gives them power to take over lands; is there thus any bar to my making over such blocks of villages to the Siva and Vishnu Committees, respectively, as may yield a net revenue equivalent to the aggregate of the present tasdeek allowance to their various scattered pagodas?

In making over whole villages, should we consider such villages as permanently settled in future, the waste lands and extension of irrigation, etc., being thrown in for the benefit of the grantees?

3. Will the Government then be considered absolved from the responsibility of the up-keep of irrigation works? If so, what per-centage reduction should be made as a set off against the responsibility that the Committees will have to accept, and what percentage reduction should be made on account of remissions that may have to be granted in unfavourable seasons, the cost of collection, etc.

4. The Committees represent that they give their services gratuitously, and they are naturally averse to undertaking the labour and responsibility of exacting their demand from thousands of ryots instead of by simply applying for payment at the several taluq treasuries, and they accordingly ask that if any change is to be made, that they may have an assignment of revenue from lands in the heart of the river valley or adjoining each pagoda; or if this cannot be accorded, that the piesheush of certain Zemins may be allotted to them, as easier of collection than the revenue of ryotwari lands.

5. It happens just now that the relations between landlord and tenant are very unsettled, the cumbrous provisions of Act VIII. of 1865, coupled with certain decrees lately passed by the Civil Court of this district, have revolutionised the whole body of tenants; they see that their time has arrived, and that they have only to reject their landlord's terms to be masters of the situation, at all events for a time, and time to them is gain, as the landlord must meet his obligations, and he cannot file summary suits against every tenant on his estate, one and all of whom can perhaps quote some decree more or less applicable to his particular case, and which may account for his refusal to pay, or may even afford grounds sufficient for a decision in his favour; and even if the revenue-officer's decision is adverse, these so-called summary suits are in reality far from being summary. One that I decided was three years under appeal, and the interpretation of the law is just now so obscured by what appear to be contradictory judgments, that there is quite a panic among the landlords, and several large landed proprietors have begged me to take their estates under management: it is not therefore to be wondered at that

the Pagoda Committees have no inclination to accept an assignment of revenue in lieu of ready-money payments, and the details of the scheme will require much care and attention. A good round sum should, I think, be thrown off to cover repairs, remissions, and losses, as well as cost of collection, and 10 per cent. would not be too much to forego in addition to the assessment of what little waste there is.

6. The question next arises, what is to be done for the ryots thus handed over, their condition will be seriously affected by the transfer; they will have to forego any benefits that a ryotwari settlement might be expected to give them, and they are hardly likely to meet with the same lenient treatment that they experience at the hands of the Government. I should say that they would be certainly 10 per cent. worse off than they are at present, and the saleable value of their holdings would probably be much depreciated. A 10 per cent. reduction for them, too, would only be fair, but any reduction of revenue is opposed to our present policy, and 20 per cent. thrown off Rs. 1,80,000 amounts to Rs. 36,000.

7. I forward herewith a skeleton map of the Satoor Taluq, showing a long narrow strip of ryotwari villages between Zemins on our most distant frontier, as a specimen of what I would make over.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Skeleton Map.

From the same officer, dated Huzur, 27th October 1871, No. 464.

IN continuation of my letter No. 454, dated 21st October 1871, I have the honour to forward herewith a skeleton map of the Strivilliputtur Taluq (adjoining Satoor), showing the villages that might be made over to the Siva Committee, who require a revenue of about Rs. 1,14,000; these villages are contiguous to those in Satoor, marked off for the Vishnu Committee, and the aggregate comprise nearly 200 square-miles on our extreme northern boundary. The transfer of such a tract will greatly relieve the district officers who are practically unable to visit these villages as often as is desirable.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Map.

THE Board resolve to submit these letters for the consideration of Government.

2. The ready-money allowances now paid to the pagodas in the Tinnevely District from the public treasury amount to Rs. 1,81,492-7-0, and this sum has to be commuted into an equivalent of land-revenue *plus* the 10 per cent. payable on account of expenses of management, vicissitudes of seasons, and the like.

3. In reply to Mr. Puckle's first query the Board have no doubt that the collection of this revenue from the lands to be assigned may properly be entrusted to the Vaishnava and Siva Committees, respectively, under Act XX. of 1863, it being left to them to make the payments claimable by the several *Dharmakartas* or wardens, throughout the district, of those pagodas at any rate the management of which was transferred from the Board of Revenue to the Committees by that Act; but it is more than doubtful if Government would be justified in entrusting

the Committees with the control of emoluments appropriated to other pagodas, etc., which were never under the Board's control.

4. The Collector has proposed making over to the two Committees the revenue of whole blocks of villages situated in outlying parts of the district, or otherwise disadvantageously placed in regard to inspection by the officers of the Revenue Department. If the Committees accede to this arrangement, it has much

* Proceedings No. 4,034, dated 20th September 1871.

to recommend it (as the Board have already observed)* on administrative grounds; but the Committees would have

great reason to complain if a course so far departing from the general usage was forced upon them, which usage consists in assigning the *present* revenue on certain specified land situated in the village which contains the pagoda endowed.

5. It is possible, of course, that if terms very much more liberal than were ever contemplated by Government were granted to the Committees, they might accept them, and undertake the *entire* duties of landlords over the villages assigned, including the obligation to maintain the efficiency of existing works of irrigation; and if Government approve of the proposal to hand over large tracts of country (including the *unassessed waste and jungles*) to be formed into *quasi-Zemindaris* under the Committees of the two sects, the Board will call upon the Collector to report on what terms exactly the Committees would consent to accept them. It is obvious, however, that the cession of all the waste lands of a village would be open to the gravest objection.

6. The wishes of the ryots whose lands are to be charged in future with the payment of these pagodas, though fairly entitled to be considered, may be disregarded without breach of law; for there is no doubt of the power of Government to assign its revenues to any one it pleases. Indeed, in carrying out this measure the ryots' feelings *must* be disregarded, as it is but too certain that the proposal will be as little to the taste of the ryots as of the Pagoda Committees;

Proceedings No. 3,267, dated 4th August 1871, approved in Government Order No. 1,467, dated 28th August 1871.

and as the Board observed in disposing of objections raised by Mr. Whiteside to the commutation that had been effected in North Arcot, if the consent of the ryots

had been waited for, the commutation would have come to a deadlock. As Mr. Puckle remarks in paragraph 4 of his letter embodied in the Proceedings quoted in paragraph 4 *supra*, "if the ryots are transferred in bulk * * *, there will be less grumbling perhaps than if an invidious selection is made in each village."

7. It is no more injury to one ryot than to another to pay his fixed assessment to a pagoda; and Mr. Puckle's suggestion that a 10 per cent. reduction for the ryots of the assigned villages "would only be fair" is, *under the present orders of Government*, altogether inadmissible. He seems to have forgotten that "the ownership of these lands is in no legal sense impaired by the fact that the Government have empowered the pagoda trustees to collect the usual land tax, for this is all that the transfer imports"—(Board's Proceedings No. 3,267, dated 4th August 1871, approved in Government Order No. 1,467, dated 28th August 1871.)

8. In paragraph 3 of his letter recorded in Board's Proceedings dated 20th September 1871, No. 4,034, the Collector proposes to revise the assessment before

the assignment is made; and the Board are of opinion that this should be done. But if (as Mr. Puckle suggests) the effect should be an enhancement of the rates now paid, it would be necessary either to make a percentage reduction from the demand upon the ryots, or else to insist on a guarantee that remissions shall be granted as usual. Otherwise it is evident that the ryots will be seriously injured by the transfer, as remissions are constantly granted, and especially in that part of the district which he proposes to hand over.

9. The difficulties to be contended with in the commutation of money-allowances into grants of land (or more properly speaking grants of *land-revenue*), would be avoided altogether if a suggestion made by the Committees to the effect that the peishcush of certain Zemindaris should be made over to them could be adopted; for in that case there would be no change of tenure involved, and no chance of further oppression or mismanagement. But as this scheme would, in fact, amount to nothing more than an order to the Zemindars to pay to the pagodas so much revenue in cash instead of paying it to Government, it is doubtful if it would meet the object the Government have in view. It is true that the commutation as it stands is merely an order to certain ryots to pay their fixed assessment to the pagodas; but the Committees will have more chance of getting an influence over a number of insignificant ryots than they would over the Zemindars of Ettiyapuram, Shivagiri, Utamalei, and Urkad (the peishcush of which estates is about equal to the amount required), so that their position as collectors of land-revenue will approximate in the former case more nearly to that of landlords. It is probably very doubtful, too, if the Zemindars concerned would be willing to pay their peishcush direct to the pagodas, instead of to the Government as usual.

10. In their Proceedings No. 1,268, dated 23rd March 1871, the Board brought to notice the difficulty that had already been experienced in Cuddapah in inducing the ryots to pay their assessment to the pagodas; but as the Government (though without referring particularly to those Proceedings) have passed final orders on the subject (Government Order No. 923, dated 25th May 1871), the Board are most unwilling to trouble them again with the general question. They deem it incumbent on them, however, to call attention to Mr. Puckle's account of the objections urged by the Committees to the proposed change, because in the order referred to, Government were pleased to dispose of this very important part of the question by saying that they had "no fear" of the "commutation being disliked by the assignees."

11. The Board do not clearly understand how the panic has arisen amongst the landlords; but it is notorious that the relations of landlord and tenant have been very much unsettled of late, and they could not recommend the creation of a new set of landlords until at any rate the amendments in the law recently suggested by them for the security of the ryots have been actually enacted.

12. They consider it desirable to take the same opportunity of calling attention to communications which have appeared in a newspaper entitled "Native Public Opinion," (and which may, therefore, be considered to be to some extent expressive of native opinion on the point,) one (in the issue of the 8th November) against, and one (in reply, in the following week) *in favour* of the change; of which last the most significant portion runs as follows:—"The only concession

we should" (*i.e.*, ought to) "obtain from the Government is that when such transferred lands became degenerate and unproductive, an exchange of better lands should be made from the *ayen* at any time on the application of the Dharmakartas, which the paternal Government would gladly accord *without questioning* the cause that has brought those lands to that state."

13. This passage is strongly corroborative of the view taken by Mr. Puckle, namely, that the Committees will require much more than the proposed 10 per cent. to induce them to accept the responsibility of collecting rent from land instead of receiving cash from the treasury.

14. The Acting Third Member dissents from these Proceedings, and has recorded a separate Minute on the subject.

No. 73. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th January 1872,
No. 118.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tuticorin, 5th January 1872,
No. 3.

IN continuation of my letters Nos. 454 and 464, dated 21st and 27th October last, I have the honour to forward a petition from certain inhabitants of Tinnevely, which, though rather contradictory and confused, yet sufficiently indicates the serious difficulties that are anticipated if the Pagoda Committees are left to collect revenue in lieu of the present tasdeek allowances. The pagoda endowments are now despoiled by the Dharmakartas, and the Committees do not interfere in the matter of collection and payment. Act XX. of 1863 will require amendment if the Committees are really to manage the affairs of their temples, and my proposal of allotting the revenue of a tract of country equivalent to a good-sized taluq in lieu of the tasdeek allowances pre-supposes that the Committees will be vested with sufficient authority to collect their revenue, and make payments from a central treasury. To make the arrangement complete, it might be found advantageous and feasible to resume petty Pagoda Inams now scattered throughout the district, and grant their equivalent in the tract to be assigned to the Committees, so that the latter may have their property all in one place comparatively easy of management, and well removed from the unchecked operations of the local Dharmakartas.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Petition.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Proceedings, No. 17, dated 4th January 1872.

2. The Board observe that the stamp on the petition has not been cancelled in the Collector's Office as required by law.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th May 1872.

No. 74.

ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1872, No. 742.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board submit letters from the Collector of Tinnevely relating to the commutation of Temple "tasdikis"

cash allowances for assignments of land-revenue, and proposing to allot in the entirety a contiguous block of villages, aggregating in area some 200 square-mile on the extreme northern boundary of the district to the Vishnu and Siva Temp Committees, constituted under Act XX. of 1863, as representing allowances now paid from the district treasury to the different pagodas to the amount of Rupees 1,18,48 plus 10 per cent. allowed to cover risk of season, cost of collection, etc.; the intention being that the Committees shall distribute to the Dharmakartas the particular sum due to the several institutions.

2. The reason assigned appears to be that the Committees think the arrangement will be convenient to them, but the Board's second Proceedings include a letter from the Collector, giving cover to a petition from a large number of the inhabitants of the district urging very reasonable objections to the scheme; and the Government consider it altogether inadmissible, as being opposed to the intention of the orders issued for the commutation, which is that the land-revenue shall be assigned to the parties entitled to the tasdik, that is, to the Dharmakartas for the time being of each pagoda, and that the lands shall be selected, as far as possible, in the village in which the particular temple is situated; the object being to restore temple-endowments to their original footing when the village temple had assigned for its maintenance the revenue from a certain portion of the village-lands. Special arrangements may be necessary in the case of very large endowments, but the Collector can bring these individual cases under separate notice.

3. The Government cannot entertain the Collector's present proposal, and direct that he will make all preliminary arrangements for carrying out the commutation in the manner above indicated, which has been adopted in the other districts in which the change has been effected.

4. But inasmuch as the revision of the land-assessment is in progress in the Tinnevely District, the actual commutation must be held in abeyance until the new rates have been settled and introduced. The Board will call on the Collector to explain fully his allusion to the unsettled relations between landlord and tenant at paragraph 5 of his letter dated 21st October 1871.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department.

No. 742.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 8th May 1872.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Subm: application of Collector for instructions on certain points connected with assignment of land revenue to Pagodas of Tinnevely Dist in lieu of ready money allowances.

H.E. 4th Jan'y 1872, No. 17.

Subm: letter from Collector forwarding a petition from certain inhabitants of Tinnevely Dist on the above subject.

H.E. 17th Jan'y 1872, No. 118.

A. A. S. S. L. /

Should take the Govt back line. Pickle to Ex. Plan in view in para 5 of his letter. S. S. L.

I don't think there is much use in asking for more.

The Board submit letters from the Collector of Tinnevely relating to the commutation of Temple "tasdikis" or cash allowances, for assignments of land revenue, and proposing to allot

allot in their entirety, a
contiguous block of villages,
aggregating in area some
200 square miles on the
extreme northern boundary
of the District, to the
Vishnu and Siva Temple
Committees constituted
under Act 20 of 1853,
as representing allowances
now paid from the
District Treasury to
the different pagodas,
to the amount of
Rs 118,492 plus 10%
allowed to cover risk
of

of season, cost of collection
9d
the intention being
that the Committees
shall distribute to the
Sharmakartas the
particular seems due to
the several institution.

2. The reason
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district urging very reason-
able objections to the scheme,
and the Govt. consider it
altogether inadmissible,
as being opposed to the
intention of the orders
issued for the commuta-
tion which is that the
land revenue shall be
assigned to the parties
entitled to the Tasdik-
that is to the Dharma-
Kartas for the time
being of each Pagoda,
and that the lands
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Temple endowments to
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3. The Govt. cannot
entertain the collector's
proposal and direct that
he will make all pre-
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for

for carrying out the com-
mutation in the manner
above indicated, which
has been adopted in
the other districts in
which the change has
been effected.

4. But in as much
as the revision of the
land assessment is
in progress in the
Tinnevely district,
the actual commuta-
tion must be held

Has any order gone
out yet in the Tinnevely
Settlement? I was
under an impression
that the decision of the
was arrived at, when
at Coimbatore last
year.

in abeyance until the
new rates have been
settled and introduced

The 18th bill call on the Govt. L.B.
2 Explain fully his allusion
to the unsettled relations between
Landlord & Tenant at para 5 of his
letter of 21 Oct. 71. L.B.

14 B^d of Rev Des 9 Aug 72

The proposals for only
a portion of the St. Lawrence
have been submitted. By the St. Lawrence valley
The draft G.O. on this is now
in circulation.
Orders were given last
year. But this issue was
purposely deferred. in order
to show for the his two St. Lawrence
issued at the same time.
There however are still
under consideration. L.B.

L.B.

