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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>105</u>	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<u>16.7.1873</u>	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

105

Minute of the Second Member
of the Board of Revenue
dissenting from the
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 8th June 1875. &c.
Regarding the Litchinopoly Settlement.

I have been very anxious
to join in the Proceedings but I cannot.
I may be wrong - but it seems to
me to pass over a light very serious
blot and to indicate inferences
which I don't think facts bear out.

It is high time I think
that we should simply let down
Mr. Pickles' Litchinopoly Settlement
as the disaster it really is - financially
speaking - and not always advert
to it as if there were some latent
virtue which it is to develop some
time or other. Least of all am I
willing to go on attributing in a
kind of loose way, the Extension
of cultivation, which is naturally
occurring

occurring all over the country and
is not lagging in Trichinopoly, to
this settlement or in fact to any
other settlement. Settlements have
little or nothing to do with the
Extension of Cultivation anywhere.
Prices and prices alone affect the
occupation i.e. unless the operation
of prices is thrown back by some
unreasonable demand now nowhere
tolerated - or some meddling
forest rules or still more arbitrary
and unreasonable rule about Revenue
fields - which are great unmanageable
blocks of ill-assorted waste which
impractical demarcators have
chosen to mark out with stones or
in blue, to save themselves trouble
and designate by unintelligible
and deceptive names. That prices
and not Settlement are the real
operating causes in the Extension,
and Contraction of occupation is
best shown by the condition of

Trichinopoly

Trichinopoly, where the reaction
in prices of the last two years has
been followed by contraction and
relinquishment.

Before the Settlement, in
Trichinopoly's normal revenue conditions
was much the same as in all other
Districts and was prosperous - that is -
the revenue ^{was} on the whole steadily
growing by an annual increment of
2 per cent per annum taken over a
series of years. This has been the general
average increment of the land revenue
of the Presidency of Madras for many
years back and there is no doubt
that had Trichinopoly been let alone,
it would not have betted itself as
compared with other Districts, but
would have gone on with a steady
increment of 2 per cent to the last.

Instead of this the District
has only just now reached the average
of the last 5 years before the Settlement,
and we have lost in the interim 25 lakhs
calculated at a stationary Revenue
condition

Condition - Add the normal average increase and the probable cost of this blunder falls little short of 50 lakhs in the time that has intervened. The fact is the Settlements let the District back - fiscally speaking - some 10 years and instead of the rapid recovery which was promised, we have the revenue quietly advancing at the normal rate of 2 to 3 per cent, the average of the Presidency. Settlements do less for the revenue than is ordinarily assumed; if they did anything we might have expected to find the results most marked in Saichinof. But here we have it.

But worse still. It is a serious reflection that the fluctuations that have characterised the District from early times seem to be recurring - temporarily it may be hoped - still markedly. The fluctuations of the revenue are great and the relinquishments of lands are numerous. Where

Godung & the
Tall & the
Story, I found

When we examine the revenue history of the last 3 years, we find that

N.D.

Year 1279 was an exceptional year. Much concealed cultivation was brought to account in this year by Mr. Hambury.

(D) R.L.

Head Sheristadar.

Yes - but so much the worse for our averages; and the relinquishments of the next year show that there must have been great want of consideration here. The fact is when he found but an acre or a few decimals of so called Survey fields of perhaps many acres cultivated, he added the poor fellows with the whole field and ruin. Of course we got the land all back next year and the whole was thrown on our hands and lost to the State and the Public. But more harm than good was done by this angry haste I fear.

(D) W.R.

2 Members

The Settlement inaugurated. The Collector has his cart before his horse.

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the Revenue of Year 1279 was Rs. 17,55,000, that of 1280 Rs. 15,71,000 (-1,84,000) and that of 1281 Rs. 15,49,000 showed a still further fall of Rs. 22,000 or upwards of 2 lakhs below 1279 and both years are far below the average of 3 years before the introduction of the Settlement viz 16,11,000. Such this is a miserable result both of Settlement and Mr. Hambury's stringency in 1279.

The Collector attributes this disastrous condition of the revenue to: - 1st Excessive extension and abandonment of lands occupied on account of the "extreme lightness" of assessment which

horse. Had he looked at his price-
-lists, he would have found the
true cause in this decline, a
result which even the extreme
lightness of assessment was powerless
to resist. There is no levity here.

2. Diminished demands for land
for occupation. Probably the "Survey field"
rule proved here, as it everywhere
must prove, too heavy a burden for
agriculture to bear along that line,
where intricate difficulties are great
and profit precarious, and Mr. Daubury
deals to the poor pioneers who ventured
within the lines of his imaginary
Revenue-fields that the Americans
would call an eye opener, that must
repress agricultural enterprise for
a while in that District.

3. Felling off in 2nd Crop Cultivation
consequent on wide fluctuations rain - fall
and excessive stringency of Mr. Daubury's
proceedings.

Each of these causes falsifies
the

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the Expectations held out in respect
to settlement and shows that prices,
agricultural conditions, and climatic
influences still affect the Revenue,
the late settlement notwithstanding.
The excessive stringency of Mr. Daubury's
acts in 1279 has added its quota to the
disaster of 1280.

X?
In 1275 the
cultivated area
was 8,37,424
acres in 1276
8,87,866

I think that the tremendously
accelerated relinquishments - average
of 2 years 1275 and 1276 acres 18,000 - of 1280
and 1281 acres 57,000 - of the past years
require closer scrutiny, if it be really
desirable to arrive at the true causes.

One thing, I am sure, is operating
very largely - and I believe properly
and beneficially for the Country -
though at naughty variance with those
August things, the Board's Standing Orders,
- in these things. I believe that
relinquishments represent very largely
fallow, and if so I am not prepared
to discourage a wholesome and in
the long run a practically advantageous
process. The agricultural condition
of

If this Country cannot get ^{do} away with
the fallows and we ought practically
to encourage them. But our system
drives the people—in order merely
to raise enough to pay demands, those
uninterrupted liquidation is the
condition of retaining their dea-
red property—to suck at habit's
dry bones long after she needs rest,
and they get little for their toil. Fallows
are no doubt difficult to deal with
in our Revenue System and one of
our ideas has been to drive them out
by so lowering the assessment that
the holder should be able to let the
land lie fallow and yet discharge
an average demand. But is the
assessment as low as we fancy?
And are our ideas in accordance
with the agricultural sense of the
Country? I fear not. The people
know that fallows are needful and
natural, and assuredly the feeling
of the Country is that where such fields
beard

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bears its own demand, it must be
made to pay that demand. Working
with averages of course implies the
possession of sufficient capital to be
able working from hand to mouth.
This they have not got and devices are
necessarily adopted by popular assent
to enable Agriculture to take its course
and to defeat the theories of tax-gatherers
relinquishment rules notwithstanding.

Our relinquishment rules
are I believe most repellent to the
feelings of the people and I think
wrong in principle—that is—violates
the principle of property in the East.
They are conducive to the harshest
spirit of that erroneous doctrine
which would treat the landholder
of the East as the mere predial serf
of the State. Pay your rent the day
or go and unless you divest yourself
of your property by your own deed of
relinquishment, there can be no
relief

relief whether you cultivate or not.
Can anything be more abhorrent.
The sense of an oriental, whose
feelings about land have much
of the inalienable temper, which
characterised the Jewish Law.
Why by the Ancient Customs of the
Country - a custom once cherished
and honored by ourselves - the
proprietor may return and claim
his land almost without limit of
time. This oriental and national
sense of the rights of property may
be theoretically wrong in our eyes -
but the violation offered to the people's
feelings by such a force relinquishment -
Even in advance of the need of it
and treat each person who relinquishes
as probably actuated by sinister
motives and cheating the state.
can well be imagined - No doubt
the sense of the people has rebelled
against such things and as it moves
by

13/6
by mutual and almost tacit consent
land is relinquished to give it whole
some fallow-time and recovered
by dark past when that period has
elapsed.

Para 4 of the Collector's letter
is unintelligible. Does he mean
that these Ryots are not allowed
to relinquish the assessed "Conceded"
If so, he should be told to withdraw
the prohibition

I do not share at all the
Collector's self-satisfied sentiment
as enunciated in para 7. The fact
that 6,000 acres of land were relinquished
last year, while 8,000 acres of cultivable
and assessed waste - average assess-
ment under one Rupee per acre -
lay waiting occupation shows that
things are not as we have a right
to anticipate.

I would ask the Collector
by Memorandum to give us the
relinquishments

Relinquishment of flat August
and require Salazar return
of the Relinquishment & O.

H. W. Robinson
2^d Member.
(True copy)

W. H. Rose
Secretary

Office
Cope & Davis
San Francisco

$$\begin{array}{r} 105 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

No. 862

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With reference to his Memo-
-randum, dated 10 June 1873 No. 119
the undersigned has the honor
to forward to the Secretary to
Government Revenue Department
Ootacamund, the Minute of the
Second Member of the Board
of Revenue dissenting from the
views expressed in Board's Reso-
-lution 5th June 1873 No. 925.

(By order)

J. G. Mole
Secretary

The Acting Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with minute

Copied from Linay's journal.

Copy of Minute of
the Second meeting
of the Board of Trustees
deciding from
Board of Trustees
3^d June 1873 No 9280
Regarding the
rebuilding of Settlement

12/11/99/1/3

154437 & 21730

Ally

Recd 1893 3rd 11/199

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

From

The Sub-Secretary to the

To

Board of Revenue,

Chief Secretary
The Collector of
Madras District
D-28

Dated
Received

1893 June 18/93
1893 June 18/93

LODGED

No. 862

Transacting Minute
of the 23rd March of the
Board of Revenue, Madras
from 1893 1893 8/3/93
1893 regarding the
Tribunal of Settlements

22 June 1932 9/10/93