No. 175. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th August 1873, No. 1,652:—

Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd February 1873, No. 57:—

ADVERTING to paragraph 12 of my predecessor's letter of the 20th February 1868, and the Board's order thereon, (paragraph 2), dated 25th idem, No. 1,401, I have the honour to submit the following proposals for the Settlement of the "Kattuguttagei" villages, in the Tritrapundy and Negapatam Taluqs—

2. A reference to their Proceedings marginally noted, and the previous correspondence quoted in Mr. Morris' letter of the 26th August 1865, No. 261, will bring the past history of these villages to the Board's recollection; it may, however, be briefly recited as follows:—

18th November 1865, No. 7,392.
16th January 1867, No. 303.
26th March 1868, No. 2,207.

3. These are dry villages (forty-nine in number)* situated at the south eastern extremity of the district, mostly on the coasts; they consist of large, sandy tracts, with detached patches of cultivation, carried on mostly by the aid of falling rains. Owing to the poverty of the soil, the lands require to be frequently left fallow, unless they can be richly manured, which, however, except in a few isolated cases, is not practicable. The outturn, depending as it does solely on the rain-fall, is so uncertain that the Merassidars generally sow both wet and dry grains together, in utter uncertainty as to which of the two will succeed; the only thing certain being, that either the one or the other must fail; for, if the monsoon is heavy enough for a wet crop, the dry crop must perish; if light, the wet crop must wither. What the effect of a total failure of the monsoon on these villages would be, can be gathered from the description of their condition in Fasli 1263, as contained in paragraph 12 of Mr. Forbes' letter of the 9th September 1854, in which it is shown, that out of a standard demand, amounting to Rupees 62,082, it was practicable to realize only Rupees 9,859.

*The number referred to in the previous correspondence is fifty; but one, a small hamlet, has not been brought under the Kattuguttagei lease.—*Vide* paragraph 9 below.

4. Under the previous Ooloongoo system, and which has been shown conclusively by Mr. Forbes to have been totally unadapted to the condition of these villages, they had suffered much from over-assessment; while, at the same time, the Government demand had never been fully realized. Indeed, the villages had been reduced to such poverty by over-taxation, that in the words of Mr. Forbes, there was not one woman who owned a gold ornament, nor a family who possessed a brass pot; for every thing had been sold to meet the Government demand; a demand too heavy, as well as unsuited to a system of agriculture, normally precarious.

5. To enable the Merassidars, therefore, to recover from this extreme depression, a Settlement termed "Kattuguttagei," on the principle of a light, consolidated assessment, not variable with the area or description of cultivation, and payable under all circumstances without any remission being claimable for vicissitudes of season, was introduced in Fasli 1268 for a term of seven years, with an abatement of 15 per cent. for the first five years. This form of Settlement was similar to that which had been adopted during the earlier periods by the then Collectors Messrs. Cotton and Kindersley. Its main principle, as will be seen, was to give unchecked development to agricultural industry, and to secure to the ryots a form of Settlement which, by ensuring to them a perfect freedom from all interference on the part of the officers of Government, would enable them to make good the losses of a bad year by the gains of a good one.

6. The last "Kattuguttagei" lease having expired with Fasli 1274, it was, with the sanction of the Board, renewed successively for three years, (Faslies 1275, 1276 and 1277) pending the submission of proposals for the future Settlement of these villages, promised by Mr. Morris, in his letter quoted at the head of this report. The gentleman was, however, not able to submit his proposals, and the Kattuguttagei lease has consequently been till now continued.

7. The Settlement which I have the honour to propose, is the one framed upon the plan contemplated by Mr. Morris himself, and which, in my opinion, is the only one suited to the peculiar circumstances of these villages. It is in principle the same as the present "Kattuguttagei" lease; but the lump assessment for each village has been arrived at by applying to the entire cultivable area, as now ascertained by careful examination of the lands of each village, a fair average rate fixed with reference to the nature of the soil and other considerations. This in the main is the method indicated in the Board's Proceedings, dated 5th October 1854, (paragraph 6), with this exception, that a detailed assessment with reference to the varying qualities of the lands composing the village aggregate has not been attempted; but in view of the generally uniform character of the soil, whose actual productiveness depends mainly on manual labour, one uniform rate has been fixed for each village, (the few isolated cases where wet lands are met with being separately dealt with); and also that, instead of the deduction in consideration of the entire "Patcut" being held on the consolidated principle being made from the aggregate, the rate of assessment itself has been calculated with reference to this consideration. Further, the proposed Settlement is based upon the later and more accurate Paimash, *i.e.*, Mr. Kindersley's survey, which forms the basis of the existing Ryotwar settlement throughout the district; a record of individual holdings with the share of the lump assessment chargeable on each, forms a part of this settlement. A more detailed description of the plan Mr. Morris had in view, can be obtained from the following extracts from his instructions to Deputy-Collector Srinevasa Row, whom he specially deputed for this work:—

"A fair average per valey, after making ample allowance for all possible contingencies of season, should be fixed in money for each village, and this applied to the whole culturable area to be now carefully determined once for all, is to form a consolidated assessment for the village, not to vary in future with reference to the actual extent of cultivation. The aggregate culturable area thus determined being then divided among the several individual land-holders according to their respective holdings, each will be held responsible for the payment of the lump assessment on his holding at the village average rate; he will be free to extend or curtail his cultivation within the area comprized in his holding, as well as to raise whatever crops he chooses, without his being liable, on the one hand, to any additional charge on account of extra cultivation, and the Government being obliged, on the other, to make any remissions for waste, shavi, or the like."

"The Settlement will thus combine the purer elements of both the Ryotwar system and a Kattuguttagei lease on the consolidated principle, and while all the evils of a detailed annual examination of cultivated fields and crops scattered as they are in these villages over extensive and desolate sundry tracts, with a view to determine the amount of the demand for the year will be avoided; the advantages of a direct intercourse with the officers of Government will be secured to each ryot; there will thus be no scope for the stronger parties oppressing the weaker or for individual injustice in the distribution of the lump assessment among the several land-holders."

"I have the honour, therefore, to request that you will at once set about examining in detail the condition of each village, and determining in accordance with the plan above indicated—1stly, the actual cultivable area of each village; 2ndly, the average rate of assessment per valey to be now fixed; and 3rdly, the actual extent of such area as comprized in each holding, as it exists at present, and the amount of assessment of each holding at the fixed average rate."

"In fixing the rate of assessment for each village, recourse must be had to Mr. Nelson's Olungu, the Kattuguttagei of Messrs. Cotton, Kindersley and Forbes respectively, as also the average actual collection of a number of years, say twenty-five."

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*20th October* 1873.

"In the Settlement now proposed, it is not necessary to retain the three different heads of Nunjai, Punjai, and Bagayat or garden. There being no river or tank irrigation in these villages, the lands should be divided only between the two heads of "Manavari" and "well irrigated;" cultivation under wells, of whatever description it may be, is to be comprised under the latter head and the rest under "Manavari." These two heads should, with reference to the recent orders* of the Board, be respectively designated dry and wet. It is, however, to be remembered that the rate of assessment is not to vary with reference to these different designations; all wells in the Kadarambham tracts under consideration being essentially private, irrigation under them does not constitute a ground for increased charge, and the assessment to be now fixed should be such, therefore, as would be proper for the land if it enjoyed no such irrigation. It is in view of this principle, that I have stated above, that there need be but one average rate of assessment for each village."

* Circular Memorandum, dated 14th August 1866, No 787, paragraph 4.

"The tope tax will of course be dealt with as a separate item under the head Miscellaneous The amount of tax calculated on the present number of fruit bearing trees comprized in each holding, must be added to the Beriz on that holding. It will remain unaltered in like manner with the land assessment. It is to be recollected, however, that it is only those trees which stand on unassessed land that are liable to a tax, and to be taken into account in forming the proposed settlement."

8. A Settlement for each village on this plan has been accordingly worked out by Strinevasa Row, a copy of whose report accompanies.

9. In reviewing the comparative results of the present and proposed Settlements, it is necessary to exclude a small hamlet* which, though included in the proposal of a "Kattuguttagei" lease sanctioned in 1858, has, owing to its being a river-irrigated tract with nothing in common with the other villages under consideration, been eventually left out and treated as an ordinary Ryotwary village. The villages then to be now dealt with are forty-nine, of which the entire area is 1,44,120 acres, and the extent of land on which the existing Settlement is based 43,666 acres. Of this last mentioned extent, 576 acres having been rendered unfit for cultivation by sand drifts and spread of sea water, have been excluded, while 6,104 acres brought under culture subsequent to the introduction of the present Kattuguttagei lease, plus a further extent of 9,005 acres out of waste found to be cultivable, have been taken in, thus making a total of 58,199 acres as the entire area of the proposed settlement.

* Madapparam, Negapatam Taluq.

10. In six villages, there are small portions of land irrigated by river channels and tanks; to these have been added such other lands as might possibly be in future brought under such irrigation, and for the aggregate irrigable ayacut thus formed in each case, the wet rate of the adjoining irrigated village, with such reduction as seemed proper in view of the assessment on the entire area being always payable without any remission for short cultivation or loss of produce, was applied. For four out of these six villages, the rate of charge adopted is three-fourths of the full wet rate of the adjoining village; for the remaining two, in which the extent of waste thrown in is large, and of the class of immemorial waste which it would require much time as well as capital to reclaim, much lower rates have been adopted. The total wet ayacut in the six villages thus fixed is 1,662 acres, and the assessment thereon Rupees 3,153-8-6, as shown in the Statement No. 1, herewith submitted. It is here to be observed, that the irrigation in these cases is very different from what it is in the delta of the Cavery; the lands are situated at the tails of channels, themselves dependant on a precarious supply, consisting chiefly of the drainage of the villages higher up, and destitute of alluvial matter, the chief element of fertility.

11. The remaining cultivable area in all the forty-nine villages is 56,537 acres, of which 56,178 are dependant on falling rains, and only 359 have the aid of private wells. For the whole of this

area, but one rate has been adopted for each village, the same having been determined with reference to the general character of the soil, condition of the ryots, as also the several successive previous settlements. The total amount of the assessment thus fixed for the entire dry and well-irrigated ayacut, is Rupees 41,528, as detailed in Statement 2, in which the river and tank-irrigated lands in six villages have also been added, in order to admit of the proposed settlement being compared with the present and previous settlements, for which the different descriptions of land are not distinguishable.

12. The tope tax (including of course isolated trees on unassessed lands) to be added to the proposed Settlement, is Rupees 2,546, against Rupees 3,605, as per the existing Settlement; the decrease being due to the exclusion from the proposed Settlement of trees standing on assessed land and now separately taxed.

13. The aggregate of the fixed "Putcut rent," therefore, not to vary with the operation of the plough, but to remain unchanged until Government may see fit to direct its revision, is Rupees 47,228, against Rupees 47,316, which is the amount of the present settlement.

14. It is here to be observed, that the amount last mentioned has not been fully realized during the fourteen years the present Kattuguttagei lease has been in operation; for the first five years of the present lease, viz., Faslies 1268 to 1272, an abatement of 15 per cent. was allowed; then for three years, Faslies 1275, 1276 and 1277, large special remissions, according to certain scales of percentages, were granted on account of the exceptional character of the seasons, and thus it is only in the last four years, as also the last two of the seven years term, for which the present lease was originally introduced, that the full amount of the lease has been collected. The average, therefore, of the actual realizations for the past fifteen years is Rupees 42,359, and for the past twenty-five years Rupees 43,599, the present settlement being an increase of Rupees 4,869 over the average first mentioned, and Rupees 3,629 over that next mentioned.

15. The terms now proposed are nevertheless doubtless liberal; but having regard to the past history of these villages, the Board will, I trust, recognize the necessity for dealing with them in a liberal spirit. A continuous succession of bad seasons has prevented the Merassidars of these villages from realizing the benefits which the favourable Settlement introduced for a term of seven years in Fasli 1268, was intended to ensure to them; it is only for the last two or three years, they have seen good seasons, and it is only now, therefore, that indications of improvement and progress have begun to shew themselves. If they have the good fortune of enjoying an unbroken series of such seasons, in a few years hence, their resources will have become more fully developed; the whole available area will have been brought under the plough, and the ryots themselves will have reached a condition in which they may probably be able to bear increased taxation. It will *then* be time, as I conceive, to consider the question of revision of the assessment, and whether the condition of the ryots will warrant an increase, but I submit that in the long run, the public revenue will be benefitted by the adoption of a liberal policy *now*.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*20th October* 1873.

16. The annexed table affords a condensed view of the composition of the proposed Settlement as compared with the present.

| | Present Settlement. | Proposed Settlement. |
|---|---|---|
| | ACRES. | ACRES. |
| Total area | 1,44,120 | 1,44,120 |
| *Deduct.* | | |
| Inam | 17,504 | 17,504 |
| Tope | 1,036 | 1,036 |
| Poramboke and uncultivable waste | 81,914 | 67,381 |
| Total... | 1,00,454 | 85,921 |
| *Remaining Settlement area.* | | |
| Manavari or dependent on falling rain | ... | 56,178 |
| Under well cultivation | ... | 359 |
| Under river and tank irrigation... | ... | 1,662 |
| Total... | 43,666 | 58,199 |
| *Assessment.* | RS. | |
| On Manavari and well irrigated lands | ... | 41,528 |
| On river and tank irrigated lands | ... | 3,154 |
| | 43,711 | 44,682 |
| Add Tope tax | 3,605 | 2,546 |
| Total Kattuguttagei Settlement | 47,316 | 47,228 |
| Average actual collections of the past fifteen years | ... | 42,359 |
| Do. do. of the past twenty-five years | ... | 43,599 |
| Proposed Settlement compared with present settlement—decrease. | ... | 88 |
| Do. do. with fifteen years average—increase | ... | 4,869 |
| Do. do. with twenty-five years average—increase. | ... | 3,629 |

17. In conclusion, I beg to apologize for the lengthened delay which has taken place in the submission of this report. The Deputy-Collector's report and Statements reached this Office at the beginning of 1870; but owing to the constant pressure of current work and the unceasing calls from all quarters for special reports and returns, neither Mr. Morris until he left the district, nor myself until now, could find time for that thorough examination of the subject in its details, which it required in order to its being placed in a complete shape before the Board.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. SRINEVASA ROW, Deputy-Collector, to W. M. CADELL, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tanjore, dated Mannargudi, 29th January 1870, No. 15.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th November 1867, No. 901, I have the honour to submit, in a Tabular form, a Statement, shewing all the necessary particulars for each of the Kattuguttagei villages, in the Tritrapundy and Negapatam Taluqs, as directed therein.

2. On the receipt of your letter of the 19th November 1867, I proceeded to the Tritrapundy Taluq, and conducted the examination of a few of the Kattuguttagei villages, in December 1867, and January 1868; but owing to the exceptional character of the season, the Settlement of these Kattuguttagei villages was postponed in Fasli 1277, with reference to your letter of the 29th January 1868, No. 88. In 1868, and in the early part of 1869, I completed the examination of

the Kattuguttagei villages, in the Tritrapundy Taluq ; but the returns called for from the Negapatam Tahsildar, to enable me to examine the Kattuguttagei villages of the Negapatam Taluq, not having been furnished till March 1869, I reported in my Yadast of the 3rd April 1869, that it was not practicable to complete the Settlement in that Fasli (1278) ; and the introduction of the Settlement was postponed in Fasli 1278, with reference to your vernacular Memorandum of 16th April 1869.

3. The number of the Kattuguttagei villages in the Tritrapundy Taluq is thirty-nine.

M. Suriamurti Pillai, the late Tahsildar of the Tritrapundy Taluq, thoroughly examined every one of the Kattuguttagei villages, in the latter part of 1867, and in the month of January, February and March 1868, I personally examined all the villages, after they had been once examined by the late Tahsildar, with the exception of four villages, viz., Pushpavanum, Periaguttagai, Vallappallam and Kovilpattu, and ascertained the actual cultivable area, as well as the capability of each village. In some villages, the Merassidars brought to my notice, the fact of certain lands, included in the Jammabandi, having become unfit for cultivation, owing to the inroads of sand, and sea-water. Such tracts, I inspected in person, and classed them as Nalayak or unfit for cultivation.

4. The number of Kattuguttagei villages, in the Negapatam Taluq, is ten. The Tahsildar of Negapatam examined all these villages carefully in 1868 and 1869, and ascertained the actual cultivable area of each village, and furnished me with the detailwar accounts for each village. In October last, I carefully examined seven of these ten villages, in the Negapatam Taluq, and ascertained the condition of each of those ten villages.

5. It will be observed from the accompanying Villagewar Statement, that in three of the thirty-nine Kattuguttagei villages, in the Tritrapundy Taluq, viz., Settipulam, Kariyapatam, and Tagattur, there are river-irrigated lands, the particulars and the mode of settlement of which I beg to detail hereunder :—

1*st. Settipulam.*—In this village, there are 47 Valies, 16 Maws of cultivable wet land dependant upon the Rajan Vaykal, which branches from the Adappar. In Fasli 1267, only 2 Valies 11 Maws were cultivated, and included in the Jammabandi of that fasli as river-irrigated land; 6 Valies, 15 Maws have since been brought under cultivation, making the present extent of land, under cultivation, 9 Valies 6 Maws. The remaining cultivable area, under this channel, is 38 Valies 10 Maws which is immemorial waste. Capital and labour, as well as time are required to bring this extent of land under cultivation. The wet rate of the adjoining village of Vadamalai is Rupees 17-12-0 per valey ; for which remissions, as a matter of course, have been annually granted for waste, shavi, etc. I have, therefore, fixed ¾ of the Vadamalai rate for the 9 Valies, 6 Maws of land, now under cultivation, that is Rupees 13-5-0 per valey, as a set off against remissions ; and as all land, fit for cultivation, has been brought under settlement and charged. For the remaining cultivable land (38 Valies 10 Maws) ; which, as stated above, requires capital and labour, as well as time to bring them under cultivation, I have proposed Rupees 4-7-0 per valey or ¼ of the Vadamalai rate.

2*nd. Kariyapatam.*—In this village the area of cultivable wet land, dependant on the Mulliyar is 48 Valies, 14 Maws, 8 Grounds, of which 29 Valies, 5 Maws were included in the Jamabandi of Fasli 1267; the rate per valey being Rupees 20-10-11, 17 Valies, 1 Maw, 62 Grounds of land, have since been brought under cultivation, making the total area, now under cultivation, 46 Valies, 6 Maws, 62 Grounds ; the remaining cultivable area being only 2 Valies, 7 Maws, 46 Grounds. Vadamalai is the adjoining village of Kariyapatam. I have fixed per Valey Rupees 13-5-0, being the ¾ of the Vadamalai rate for the whole 48 Valies, 14 Maws, 8 Grounds, as it is probable that the small extent of cultivable waste land, 2 Valies, 7 Maws, 46 Grounds, will be brought under cultivation in the course of a few years.

3*rd. Tagattur.*—There was no river-irrigated land in this village in Fasli 1267. But it has come to my notice during the Settlement, that about 10 Valies of Manavari land, have been irrigated by the Mulliyar for the last ten years. The Merassidars requested that they might be allowed to cultivate under river-irrigation 10 Valies more. This village is situated at the tail of the Mulliyar, and the irrigation of about 20 Valies of land in this village, does in no way interfere with the irrigation of other villages at the head of the river. The Merassidars appropriate to their lands, a portion of the water which empties itself into the sea, through the Manankondanar. I have therefore, included in the Settlement 20 Valies of Manavari land as river-irrigated ; charging a valey with Rupees 17-14-6, it being the ¾ths of the rate of the adjoining village of Manakad. The total assessment of 20 Valies of land at Rupees 17-14-6 is Rupees 358-2-0, which is shown into the assessment of the Manavari lands of the village Rupees 1,767-2-2, making the total Beriz of the village Rupees 2,125-4-2.

6. In three of the ten Kattuguttagei villages of the Negapatam Taluq, there are river and tank-irrigated lands, viz., Vadakkupoyyur, Prataparamapuram, and Tiruppundi.

1*st. Vadakkupoyyur.*—In Fasli 1267 there was no river-irrigation in this village. In Fasli 1268, 43 Valies of land were granted on Darkhast for wet cultivation at 18-6-6, per valey, the source of irrigation being the Mangalamalighiyanar and Kudara Sevughenar branches of Kaduvanar which branches off from the Vettar. In Faslies 1275 and 1276 about 11 Valies of land were relinquished by the Merassidars, the net area, now in the holdings of the Merassidars, being V. 32, M. 7, G. 18 ; for which the practice of granting annual remissions for waste, shavi or the like obtains. I have brought this irrigated area with the consent of the Merassidars concerned, under the present Settlement, charging Rupees 13-12-10, or ¾ths of the present rate per valey, as a set off against remissions.

2*nd. Prataparamapuram.*—There is a tank in this village, under which V 5, M 5, G 33, are cultivated. This area is included in the Jammabandi of Fasli 1267 ; the rate per valey being Rupees 20-10-10. I have now fixed Rupees 15-8-0 per valey, or ¾ths of the present rate.

3*rd. Tiruppundi.*—In this village there is river as well as tank-irrigation. According to the Jammabandi of Fasli 1267, the area of river-irrigated land is V 27, M 8, G 10 ; M 17, G 75, have since been brought under cultivation ; the remaining cultivable area being V 1, M 16, G 34, making the total river-irrigated area V 30, M 2, G 19. These lands are irrigated by Chandranadi, which is a branch of the Vellayar. The present rate for a valey is Rupees 24-14-4. I have now fixed for a valey Rupees 18-2-0 or a little more than ¾ths of the present rate.

According to the Jammabandi of Fasli 1267, the tank-irrigated area is V 46, M 15, G 76, V 5, M 19, G 98, have since been brought under cultivation, making the present Seykal land V 52. M. 15, G 74. Besides this, there is an area V 14, M 7, G 4, which is cultivable only when the tank is full. The Merassidars contend that every year about 10 or 15 Valies of the Seykal land have been laid waste for want of water ; and that it is impossible to bring the said 14 Valies of land under cultivation. There is truth in their statements. There is very little chance of bringing the said cultivable area under cultivation. I have, therefore, fixed the rate for the Seykal area at Rupees 14-6-1½ per valey, or ¾th of the present rate ; the assessment being Rupees 759-8-2, which sum has been apportioned on the whole cultivable area for two reasons:—One is, to bring the area under the present Settlement ; and the other to induce the Merassidars to exert their utmost, in favourable seasons, to bring the area under cultivation, if possible, without additional charge ; the Merassidars having contended that the rate of Rupees 14-6-1½, per valey was too high, and that the cultivable area of 14 V, M 7, G 4, should not be included in the settlement.

7. A single average rate has been fixed for the Manavari and well-irrigated lands of each of the abovementioned six villages, as well as for each of the other villages, of both the taluqs, bearing in mind, the principles laid down in your instructions contained in your letter of the 19th November 1867, in consideration of the nature of the soil, and capability of each village; the number of the cultivating ryots, in each village, as well as the general condition of the ryots of each village.

8. One point, in regard to the Village of Tulijapatam, in the Tritrapundy Taluq, requires notice. In Fasli 1261, V. 2, and G. 66, were granted to the late Mr. Kholhoff, for a term of ninty-six years, on a quit-rent of Rupees 12-7-8 per annum. This land has not been brought under the present settlement.

9. It appears, that the Sub-Collector in Fasli 1278 granted on Darkhast, V. 9, M. 3, and G. 18, in the Village of Terkkpoyyur, Negapatam Taluq, to an Apothecary for planting a tope under the Tope rules. The Apothecary has not as yet commenced to form a tope. The Merassidars object to make over the land to the Apothecary; and request that the land may be included in the present settlement. I have, accordingly, brought the land, under the present Settlement, and beg to suggest, that the Darkhast may be cancelled.

The Salt canal passes through the village, throwing 15 Valies of land, west of the Canal, which area, is now inaccessible to the ryots for cultivation purposes. They solicit the favour of making necessary arrangements for crossing the channel, as it is dangerous to wade through the channel, owing to the ravages of a venomous creature, called "Vale" which seem to abound in the Salt canal. I beg to recommend their proposals to your favourable notice.

10. The result of the present Settlement is as follows:—

The proposed beriz of the present Settlement of the Kattuguttagei villages of both the taluqs, (Tritrapundy and Negapatam) is Rupees 44,681-7-2 which is Rupees 970-7-2 more than the Kattuguttagei of Fasli 1268, and about 5 or 6,000 Rupees more than the Katuguttagei of Fasli 1268, minus the remissions granted since Fasli 1268. The proposed beriz is moreover, Rupees 4,452-6-1 more than the average collections of the last twenty-five years. The proposed beriz, with the tree-tax on unassessed lands, Rupees 2,546-2-8, comes to Rupees 47,227-9-10.

11. I have sent orders to the Tahsildars of Tritrapundy and Negapatam Taluqs to prepare Villagewar and Asamiwar Accounts, showing the actual extent of the present cultivable area, as comprised in each holding as it exists at present, and the amount of assessment in each holding at the fixed average rate. I have no doubt that this Account will be ready before the receipt of your sanction.

12. With reference to paragraph 7 of your letter of the 19th November 1867, I beg to state that the ryots of each village have agreed to the Settlement proposed by me, and the majority of the ryots that attended the Settlement have executed Tatkalamuchalikas, in proof of their having agreed to the settlement.

13. The only party that has disagreed to my Settlement of the Settipulam village, is the guardian of the Sembodai minor, who is the Yekabhogam Merassidar of that village. Tiruvengadattaiyangar begs, that the average rate fixed for the Manavari lands of Settipulam may be reduced, the average rate proposed by me being Rupees 3-12-0 per valey which, in my opinion, is very fair for that village.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Officiating Collector.

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Enclosure No. 2.—Statement of irrigable area and assessment.

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Enclosure No. 3.—Statement showing the particulars of the Settlement proposed for Kattuguttagei Villages.

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The tract which is the subject of this report is the low, sandy plain lying along the south and south-east parts of the Tritrapundy and Negapatam Taluqs of Tanjore, and north of the great Salt Swamp. It comprises 1,44,120 acres or 225 square miles, and is appropriated to forty-nine villages, thirty-nine of which are within the taluq of Tritrapundy and ten within the taluq of Negapatam.



2. The country is a flat, sandy plain, sterile and without means of irrigation; save where a few acres in some of the northern villages come within the influence of the Delta drainage at the tail end of the Delta Channels. But a retentive sub-soil enables a crop of *Manavari* rice to be raised over a considerable area during favourable monsoons.

3. Agriculture is in general in a very backward state throughout the tract. Long fallows are needed, for the open plains produce no leaf mould, and vegetable matter and manures are wanting. Catch crops have to be chanced to suit the vicissitudes of the season; and it has even been alleged that dry and wet grains are sown together to try their respective luck under an uncertain rain-fall.

4. When manure can be had and wells afford aid, valuable crops (tobacco, etc.,) can be raised.

5. The condition of the tract has proved unsuited to any exact and inelastic agricultural or fiscal system.

6. From the report of Mr. Forbes, dated 9th September 1854, it appears that, prior to the British Rule, these villages were rented out by the Rajah's Circar at rates intended rather to encourage settlement than to raise revenue. The British Officers introduced and maintained an amani or mixed amani and lease system of revenue management during the first nineteen years of our rule, viz., from 1213 to 1232—with fluctuating results, but on the whole with more or less disastrous consequences. At length, as described by the Board (Proceedings of Board, dated 5th October 1854, No. 2,189) a modified (Kattuguttagei) village joint-rent settlement for five years was introduced by Mr. Cotton, under "which the Merassidars apportioned the lump demand among themselves, fixing the quota to be paid by each. By this arrangement the entire land was included in the rent, and perfect liberty of action was enjoyed both as regards the description of crops to be grown, and the extent of land to be broken up." The Collector Mr. Forbes described the Settlement as "admirably calculated to develop the resources of the land and to encourage the Merassidars." This quinquennial village joint-rent lease (Kattuguttagei) lasted till 1237 and was for Rupees 40,515 a year all told.

7. On its expiration in 1237 the Ooloongoo Settlement of the district was extended to the tract under consideration by the Sub-Collector with some modifications; and was persisted in for many years against considerable difference of opinion. The demand rose in 1238 to Rs. 60,170, but it could not be fully collected even in that year; and the Ooloongoo system was very irregularly administered throughout the whole period. When it was abandoned the collections had fallen to about Rupees 10,000. In the meantime the people's condition rapidly declined till a state of the most abject indigence prevailed the whole tract.

8. The attention of the Board was attracted in 1852 to the large extent of land habitually left waste in these villages and they asked whether this condition "was to be traced in any degree to depression caused by the system of settlement pursued;" and, if so, desired that a remedy should be applied.

Proceedings, dated 7th June 1852, P. 9.

9. In reply to this call the Collector laid before the Board such a statement of long continued fiscal mismanagement and exaction and of consequent popular distress and ruin, that the Board readily acceded to the Collector's proposal to revert for a period of seven (7) years to Mr. Cotton's village joint-rent Settlement (Kattuguttagei) of this tract, "reserving however to the Merassidars the right to claim remission for waste land and short produce in unfavourable seasons" and adopting certain modifications to meet the "wants and capabilities of individual villages."

From Collector, 9th September 1854.

10. The Board observed :—"this is a very necessary preliminary. Having fixed the demand of the entire village, the amount may be apportioned among the ryots on the consolidated principle; but a better course, and one which the Board would wish to see adopted, would be to fix a fair assessment per *veli* on the principles laid down in the orders of the Board, 31st August 1854, according to which the lands in question will be treated as unirrigated, the assessment being

regulated with reference to soil and other advantages, and not with reference to products, such deduction being afterwards made from the aggregate as may be necessary, in consideration of the entire *Putcut* being held on the consolidated principle." They added :— "the Settlement will of course be made with each individual ryot for the land he may wish to occupy. Mr. Cotton's aggregate Kattuguttagei resolved itself into a Kattuguttagei on separate holdings. This arrangement is strictly Ryotwar and it is of great importance that it should be maintained, as the condition of the ryots in general cannot be expected to improve, if the rent is made with one or two leading individuals of the village, and it seems also desirable that the Collector should make the Settlement himself, by fixing a rate per *veli*, as stated in the preceding paragraph, rather than that the Ryots should be left to apportion an aggregate sum amongst themselves."

11. The Collector found it impossible to carry out the detailed instructions with which the Board had overlaid their assent. He presented a detailed figured statement but it was found by the Board that the rate per *veli* was arrived at by dividing the reputed number of *velies* into the pre-arranged demand (Rupees 45,834), and not according to any ascertained condition of soil and circumstances of the village. The Board observed "that they understand that the present imperfect accounts of these villages will not permit the Collector to classify and assess their lands with fairness according to their soils and other advantages until a survey has been made. No means therefore now exist for making the arrangements detailed in paragraph 6 of Board's Proceedings of 5th October last, and immediate measures are necessary to relieve these villages from the present faulty system and the depression to which it has led ; the Board therefore, resolve to authorize the Collector, to carry out for a term of seven years the return to the Kattuguttagei system of Mr. Cotton which he advocated in his letter of 9th September. Under this arrangement each village will be made over to its Merassidars on their engaging to pay a fixed annual sum, and they will be at liberty 'to extend their cultivation at their pleasure, to raise a second crop, to convert their dry land into wet or garden, and raise any kind of produce without any enhancement of the demand, and they authorized a remission of 15 per cent. of the demand against each village for the first five years."

Collector, 8th February 1855, No. 13.

Proceedings, dated 29th March 1855, No. 802.

12. And the Board added:—"They believe that the soundest system of taxing the land is to place upon its divisions a fixed and moderate assessment and give each proprietor individual independence and the full benefit of any improvements which he makes by any outlay of capital or labour. Hereafter such a system may, it is hoped, be introduced when the lands have been registered and classified with more fulness and accuracy, but under the difficulties which now exist and which are increased by the '*pasany-karai*' tenure prevailing in the villages, the Board are of opinion that the arrangements which they temporarily authorize form the best and speediest method of affording relief and encouraging industry."

13. The Settlement was fully carried out by Mr. Phillips, at a total joint rent demand of Rupees 47,391 a year, and was reviewed by the Board, under date, 22nd July 1858.

14. It took effect from Fasli 1268 and expired in 1274 when the Collector reported that although the settlement was made "with the view of enabling the Merassidars to recover from the extremely depressed state to which they had been reduced by over-assessment, under the previous mode of settlement, unfortunately, owing to a succession of bad seasons, the Merassidars of these villages have not realized, to any considerable extent, the benefits which the very favourable terms of the Kattuguttagei were intended to secure to them, and it is a fact that considerable difficulty has been experienced, during the last two years, in collecting the full amount of the rent, without the deduction of 15 per cent., which was allowed from the consolidated amount of Kattuguttagei, for the first five years of the lease." And he recommended that "as the Board are aware, no means at present exist for giving effect to the wishes of the Board, as expressed in paragraph 6 of their Proceedings of the 5th October 1854, viz., that a fair assessment per *veli* be fixed

From Collector, 26th August 1865.

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with reference to soil and other advantages, 'such deduction being afterwards made from the aggregate, as may be necessary in consideration of the entire Putcut being held on the consolidated principle,' I beg" he add "to propose that the Kattuguttagei be renewed for this year and be continued to be so renewed every year until it is superseded by a permanent settlement, when there will be a really good opportunity for the question being fully considered and finally settled." The Board observed that "a permanent settlement is not likely to be adopted at present" and desired the Collector to "consider whether it would not be advisable to survey the villages, in view to the Fieldwar assessment being introduced, and to propose such measures as may be necessary to carry it into effect."

Proceedings, dated 18th November 1865, No. 7,392.

15. In 1866 the Collector again reported unfavourably of the condition of the villages. "In fact" he added, "much difficulty has been experienced in inducing them to agree to the renewal of the lease this year, and, an exceptional agricultural season like this, succeeding a continued series of indifferent monsoons, renders it absolutely impracticable to realize the full demand under the renewed lease." And he recommended a remission of from 40 to 25 per cent. of the dry assessment in consequence of the unfavourable character of the season. This the Board sanctioned, adding that they would "be prepared to give their favourable consideration to further proposals involving still further remission in the case of such villages."

From Collector, dated 6th June 1866, No. 137.
Board's Proceedings, dated 21st June 1866, No. 4,278.

16. The Collector reported in the next year that he had failed to induce the ryots to consent to a renewal of the existing lease for a single year "unless concessions varying with the circumstances of the different sets of villages are made; but to what extent these concessions are really necessary it is very difficult now to determine." He considered that it would be best "whether the ryots will agree or not, to retain the amount of assessment according to the present Kattuguttagei lease, viz., Rupees 47,391-3-0 for this year, subject to such future abatements as, with reference to the actual result of the season, may be found eventually necessary." The Board acquiesced and very large remissions were the consequence.

From Collector, dated 25th October 1866, No. 278.
Board's Proceedings, dated 16th January 1867, No, 303.

17. Again in the year 1868 the Collector reported in respect to the Kattuguttagei villages.— "This year, a peculiarly bad season occurring after a series of adverse ones, precludes the possibility of a new settlement being introduced, as contemplated, and the same arrangement that was made during the past two years must be adopted, therefore, also this year with respect to these villages.

From Collector, 20th February 1868.
Board's Proceedings, dated 25th February 1868, No.1,401.

"It is hardly necessary to premise that these villages, which depend solely and entirely on falling rain, are peculiarly affected by the failure of such rains ; but I must add that the showers that actually fell during the past year were so unequally distributed, that the extent of loss sustained in the different villages has been extraordinarily varying. Deputy-Collector Srinevasa Row has examined in detail four of the thirty-eight villages in the Tritrapundy Taluq, and the result is separately exhibited in Statement No. 1 from which it will be seen that the ascertained loss in those four villages varies from 92 to 66 per cent."

"Of the total number of forty-five villages in question, it has not been found necessary to grant any relief for seven, and the remaining thirty-eight have been thrown into four groups for which a scale of remission is proposed as follows :—

| | Number of villages. | Percentage on the total assessment to be remitted. |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Group ... ... ... | 7 | 50 |
| 2nd Do. ... ... ... | 10 | 35 |
| 3rd Do. ... ... ... | 7 | 30 |
| 4th Do. ... ... ... | 14 | 25 |

The total amount of remission for the Kattuguttagei villages thus calculated, amounted to Rupees 12,826.

18. Mr. Morris stated at the same time that he was elaborating a plan of Settlement which he considered best adapted to the peculiar circumstances of these villages. None was, however, submitted and the Kattuguttagei lease has ever since continued undisturbed.

From Collector, dated 22nd February 1873, No. 57.

19. The Board now proceed to discuss Mr. Cadell's proposals for a re-settlement of these villages, which, as he states, are framed on a plan of Mr. Morris's acquiesced in by himself, and which correspond in the main with that indicated in Board's Proceedings in 1854, with the following modifications:—

(1). No attempt has been made to assess the land under cultivation in detail with reference to its varying quality, a uniform rate being adopted for each village; (2) The lump deduction intended to be made from the gross demand against each village in consideration of the entire *putcut* being held, has not been made, though the fact has been allowed to influence the rate of assessment.

The Settlement is based on Mr. Kindersley's Revenue measurement of areas (those applicable to the entire district) and a record of each holding with the contingent demand on it, has been made.

20. Mr. Morris's instructions to the Deputy-Collector were—(1) to assess all land capable of cultivation in each village at a uniform average rate per *veli* and thus calculate the gross consolidated and unalterable demand against the village for the future ; (2) to divide the aggregate area, so ascertained, amongst the landholders of each village respectively, who were each to be individually responsible for the share of the gross demand, which attaching to their holdings at the average village rate without claim for remission for waste, loss, etc. ; (3) to calculate the new rate of assessment per *veli* with reference to previous settlements (Rent, joint rent and Ooloongoo) and the average collections of twenty-five years ; (4) to class all land as dry or *Manavari* (rain-fall watered) and wet or well watered, without however making any difference in the *veli*—rate of assessment ; (5) to merge the tree-tax in the land assessment wherever the trees stood on assessed land and assess only those on unassessed waste.

21. The reputed area of the forty-nine villages now included in the proposed new Settlement, (one is excluded because it has no exceptional features) is Acres 1,44,120 and the proposed arrangement extends to Acres 58,200 or about 40 per cent. of the whole as per margin. Acres 49,194 are now under cultivation and Acres 9,000, or about 9 per cent. of the remaining area, are believed to be susceptible of early cultivation and are thrown into the gross demand, leaving Acres 86,000 or about $\frac{7}{12}$ths of the whole area as unassessed waste ; but of course included in the gross Village demand. In detail it appears that six villages have means of precarious and meagre irrigation for Acres 1,662, which have been assessed as wet at an aggregate of Rupees 3,153-8-6 or an average of Rupees 1-14-4 per acre.

| | Acres. | |
|---|---|---|
| | 43,666 | Cultivated as per existing Settlement. |
| Less | 576 | Submerged. |
| | 43,090 | |
| Add | 6,104 | Extension of cultivation. |
| | 49,194 | Total under present cultivation. |
| | 9,005 | Waste capable of cultivation. |
| | 58,199 | |

22. The dry* land (*manavari*) and well-irrigated† land comprise Acres 56,537 and are assessed, at a uniform rate in each village with reference to their respective circumstances, at an aggregate demand of Rupees 41,528 or Rupees 0-11-9 per acre, to which is added the tree-tax on unassessed waste, viz., Rupees 2,546.

| | Acres. |
|---|---|
| * | 56,178 |
| † | 359 |

23. The aggregate demand arising out of the proposed lump (*Putcut*) settlement on the individual holdings of the forty-nine villages stands at Rupees 47,228, against an existing village joint rent demand of Rupees 47,316 ; of which however on an average only Rupees 42,359 have been realized during the last fifteen years, under the existing and prior settlements.

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24. The Collector proposes that the Settlement should stand unvaried by circumstances of agriculture and unchanged until Government see fit to direct its revision.

25. In considering the effect of these proposals the Board observe that of late years the joint rent demand has been realized with increasing ease and it is obvious that if Rupees 47,228 can be collected with certainty under the new arrangement it cannot be difficult to realize Rupees 47,316 under a joint rent system. The Government gain nothing by Mr. Cadell's proposals in money, and lose much of that security from a precarious revenue which the joint rent system affords.

26. Then as regards the existing system itself, lengthened experience of it and successful reversion thereto from other systems whose trial resulted in repeated failure, have proved what has all along been patent to those who were acquainted with the tract and understand its agricultural condition, that the joint rent system is eminently adapted to the circumstances as well of the country as the people, as of the husbandry, it is self-adjusting and well understood by all ; and has answered. The cultivators though still poor, have been more prosperous than under any other settlement and permanent extension of cultivation has exceeded 6,000 acres or 14 per cent. during the currency of the settlement. No one alleges that the existing settlement is burdensome in its character, unpopular with the ryots, or really inconvenient to any one.

27. Further there is no new information before the Board. No fresh circumstances have arisen, and no attempt has been made to verify areas, classify soils, value lands, etc., and a dead loss is to be the result of the Settlement ; for with 6,000 more acres under cultivation the "*Putcut-rent*" is to be Rupees 88 less than the joint rent Settlement of 1856.

28. Lastly, the tract is not in circumstances for a *quasi* permanent settlement. Only in 1868 the people were in great straits and large remissions were needed, and their circumstances are not sufficiently settled for a hard and fast settlement. One-third of the whole area only is under cultivation including acres 9,000 assessed waste ; $\frac{2}{3}$rds of the tract is given up as unassessed waste. The accounts are probably fallacious, and if they were reliable they merely disclose a condition unfit for any form of permanent settlement, save joint-rent.

29. On a general review of the above consideration, the Board feel confident that the best policy is to let well alone for the present, and continue the moderate existing settlement with its mutual interest and joint responsibilities.

30. The Board desire the Collector to report what can be done in the way of improving communication within the neglected tract, and whether channels can be extended or other works of improvement profitably undertaken.

31. The Board resolve to submit these Proceedings together with the Collector's letter to Government.

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No. 176. ORDER THEREON, 20th October 1873, No. 1,136.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council concurs with the Board of Revenue in considering that under the existing circumstances of the tract of country referred to in their Proceedings, it is undesirable to make any change in the present system of Settlement.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
*Acting Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Pro. Board of Revenue

Settlement of "Kattuguttagai" villages in certain taluks of the Tanjore Dt.

} 25 Augt 1873, No 1652.

No 1136 - 20 Octr 73

The Govt Concurs with the Board of Revenue in considering that under the existing circumstances of the tract of country referred to in these Proceedings, it is undesirable to make any change in the present system of Settlement

14 To the Bd of Rev dno 29th Octr 73.

Q.

Settlement of "Kattigut
pa" village of Cartoon
Islands, in Sanjon B.

Cert

~ 10 Oct/73 to 20 Oct.