1204

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th October 1873.

Read the following papers :—

No. 305. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1873, No. 1,819.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 18th August 1873, No. 495:—

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of my Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 407, dated 22nd ultimo, for the consideration and orders of the Board.

2. The letter in question refers to lands situated within the limits of the Raneepett Cantonment. Raneepett was abandoned as a military station some years ago, and I have no information that enables me to state whether it will ever again be made use of as a military station. Since the removal of the troops, it has been usual to charge the assessment under Sey by Jamah on all lands cultivated; but the lands referred to by Mr. Wilkinson are those occupied by private bungalows, and they pay no assessment or quit-rent, as in the case of lands similarly occupied in Chittoor. Yet the owners of these bungalows claim to cut every stick on the land for which Mr. Wilkinson considers they hold no Title-deed.

3. Whatever may have been the practice when Raneepett was actually occupied as a military station, I consider that the owners should now be called upon to pay the assessment upon lands in their occupation, whether cultivated or not.

4. As regards the felling of trees, I do not see any way to preventing it. The owners no doubt set up a claim of right to cut the trees, and the Government must be satisfied with the assessment of the land upon which they stand. It is not improbable that, when the assessment is claimed, the owners of the bungalows left unoccupied and in a dilapidated condition in several cases will pull down the buildings and cut down every tree on the land, and then resign them. It would be a pity to see the trees felled; but it seems to me that there is no means open to me by which I can prevent it.

5. I request, therefore, instructions, first, whether the old survey assessment can be charged and collected by Revenue-officers upon these lands, whether cultivated or not, with such additions for water advantages, if any, as was done in the case of lands occupied by bungalows in the Chittoor Town; and second, whether ryotwari puttas can be granted for these lands.

6. I may here observe that in Chittoor the assessment fixed is permanent, and was not revised when the general revision took place in 1857. The charge is known as "Bungalow Quit-rent," and is not subject to any claims for remission. The owner of all such premises holds a Title-deed or grant, and is not provided with a ryotwari putta.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From F. WILKINSON, Esq., Head Assistant Collector, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated 22nd July 1873, No. 407.

As the station of Raneepett is not likely to be again used as a Military Cantonment, I have the honour to call your attention to the following facts, and to request your orders thereon.

2. There are 151-14-0 cawnies in the Cantonment, of which 119-6-12 are in the village of Kari, 10-14-4 in the village of Tandalam, and 21-15-0 in the village of Purigi.

3. Out of these 151-14-0 cawnies only 51-9-8 pay revenue to Government, and 12-10-8 cawnies are occupied with Government buildings. There are, therefore, 87-10-0 cawnies in the occupation and enjoyment of private individuals who pay nothing for them. The lands which pay revenue are not held on puttah, but when cultivated are charged in Sevoy Jamah. All the lands are entered in the accounts as unassessed poramboke. With the exception of 4-2-0 cawnies of wet, the land is dry.

4. No quit-rent is paid by any of the owners of the house-sites, nor, as far as I have been able to ascertain, do any of them hold Title-deeds for their land.

5. In many cases, the owners are now pulling down the bungalows in order to dispose of the materials, and, in one case I know of, with the intention of cultivating the land.

6. That the land is held to be of considerable value may be gathered from the fact that a merchant of Raneepett recently paid Rupees 580 for 4-13-4 cawnies. The seller had previously cut down and sold all the trees on this site, and the bungalow on it was in ruins, so that the above, or, say, Rupees 100 per cawny. may be considered as the market-value of the land.

7. The owners of these sites claim the right to cut down any of the trees thereon, and one James Potter recently cut down six of the finest trees in the Cantonment to stave off his pecuniary difficulties, having on a previous occasion cut down every stick on another house-site. At this rate, the Cantonment will soon be denuded of shade.

8. I enclose three accounts which show the names of the alleged owners, the extent of the sites, etc., and request orders as to how we are to deal with such cases, as it seems an anomaly that the parties should continue to be allowed to hold these lands without paying any revenue to Government.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

THE Board fear that the trees cannot be protected, and the occupants of these building sites cannot be ousted now. The lands should be dealt with under the provisions of Standing Orders Nos. 118 and 119, and charged with quit-rent, which in the absence of grants specifying the rate, will be the full assessment. The imposition of the quit-rent will afford an opportunity of ascertaining on what title the lands are claimed to be held.

2. The Board resolve to ask Government whether there is any likelihood of the land being again required for military purposes.

REFERRED to the Military Department.

OOTACAMUND,
25th September 1873.

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

REFERRED to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

OOTACAMUND,
29th September 1873.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
Secretary to Government, M.D.

No. 306. From Colonel H. O'CONNELL, Officiating Quartermaster-General, to Colonel A. C. SILVER, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 8th October 1873, No. 555-7,047.

IN returning Proceedings of Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1873, No. 1,849, referred to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for report, I have the honour, by order, to state that, as far as can be known at present, there is no likelihood of the cantonment of Raneepett being again required for Military purposes.

2. Annexed is a list of the leases granted by this office for ground in the cantonment.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Memorandum showing the Names of the Individuals to whom Leases have been issued for Land in the Cantonment of Arcot.

Names.	Date of Leases.	Collector's Register Nos.	Extent of the Ground.			Remarks.
			Cawnies.	Grounds.	Square feet.	
Syed Allawal, Subadar-Major, 8th L. C. ...	14th Nov. 1839	65	...	7	1,092	Cancelled, 13th Oct. 1840.
Mr. John William Jordan	26th July 1842	75	4	19	2,250¼	
Captain William Shelley	8th June 1844	79	3	...	370	
Rev. P. Gannon, Roman Catholic Priest ...	24th March 1846	89	4	12	.....	

(Signed) H. O'CONNELL, Colonel,
Officiating Quartermaster-General.

TRANSFERRED, with diary No. 4,514 of 1873, to the Revenue Department.

OOTACAMUND,
10*th October* 1873.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
Secretary to Government, M.D.

No. 307. ORDER THEREON, 28th October 1873, No. 1,204.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue whose instructions in paragraph 1 of their Proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Military Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

3 C

Referred to His
Excellency the Commander in
Chief

Adjutant General
29th Sept: 1873

Military Secretary to Government

&

The Quarter Master General
/ to be returned /

29 Sept
Rets. 8 Oct/73

Milty: 1873 Deptt. 9

No 4514.

Docket Ag Secy: to Govt.
B.D.
No 1264-2 R- October 73.

D 25th
Rcpt 3 Sept.

R (Docty) 25 Sept 73
Referred to the Ast Rs Sub: 29.9.
Application to get 173.
4692

Referring Proc: of the Board of Revenue regard-ing Gant: to take whether there is any likelihood of land being again requir'd for Military purposes at Rancefet in North West District.

Referred

Quarter Masters General's Office
Fort Saint George 8th October 1873

No 550.
7047.

From
Colonel F. Cornell
Offg Quarter Master General

To
Colonel A. C. Silver
Secretary to Government
Military Department.

Sir,

In returning Proceedings of Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1873, No 1849, referred to His Excellency the Commander in Chief for report, I have the honor, by order, to state that as far as can be known at present, there is no likelihood of the Cantonment of Rancefett being again required for Military purposes.

2. Annexed is a list of the leases granted by this Office for ground in the Cantonment.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
F. Cornell Colonel
Offg Dpty General

F.C.

Memo: shewing the names of the Individuals to whom Leases have been given for Land in the Cantonment of Arcot.

Names.	Date of Lease.	Colle. Sir's Regd. No.	Extent of the ground. Cawnies	Grounds	Square feet.	Remarks
Syed Allawal Sub. Major 8th L.C.	14th Novr 1839.	65	"	7	1092	Cancelled 13th Octr/40.
Mrs John Wm Jordan	26th July 1842	75	4	19	2250¼	
Captain Wm Shelley	8th June 1844	79	3	"	370	
Revd P. Gannon Roman Catholic Priest	24th March 1846.	89.	4	12	"	

H. Worrell Colonel
Offg D.M.General

J.C.

Military Department.

Transferred,

with Diary & Abstract of
1873 to the Revenue
Department.

Entered

10 Oct 1873

Military Secretary to Govt.

To the Revenue Department

Transferred

No. 1204

C.g to the Bd of Rev when instructions
from the Govt of Bom: are approved

28 Octr 73

K. of Rev. Ass-
ably: kept in } 10 hors.

Rec'd 1873 Dept
No. 3198.

Docketed from
Secy: to Govt Milty Dept.

Dated 10 Oct 1873
Rec'd 10 — " — 1873.

Transferring letter
from the Quarter Master
General stating that the
Cantonment of Rawalpindi is
not likely to be again required
for military purposes.

No. 1204 - 28 Oct

c. 27 Oct 73 & 28 Oct