

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th July 1873.*

Read the following :—

No. 110. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th February 1873,
No. 242 :—

Read the following letter from T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to
the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1873, No. 31.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 26th November 1872, No. 2,275,
I have the honour to inform you that the decrease in the revenue of Fasli 1281
in the four settled taluqs compared with Fasli 1280 is due to no other cause than
the failure of the later rains and the fall in prices noticed in the Jamabandy
report, which led to large relinquishments in three taluqs and prevented new lands
being taken up to any great extent.

2. The enclosed statement gives the detail of lands so relinquished, or taken
up in each taluq, as also the rain-fall and the prices of the principal grains as com-
pared with the previous year, and the Board will observe that in Nandial and
Sirwell Acres 5,976 and 8,034, assessed respectively at Rs. 5,232 and 7,086, were
thrown up, while less than half the area was taken up for new cultivation. The
decrease on this account alone is Rs. 3,357 in Nandial and Rs. 4,425 in Sirwell.
In the Nandikotkur Taluq the relinquishment is very large owing to the peculiar
nature of its soil, which requires it to be left fallow every three or four years.
But nearly the same extent of land appears to have been newly taken up in the
year under reference, and the decrease in the revenue appears chiefly in the
difference between the assessment on lands given up and on those newly applied
for, amounting to Rs. 3,127 (the difference in the area being only Acres 1,022).
In Ramalkota the falling off is principally in the Tirwajasti and Fasaljasti (2nd
crop) cultivation caused by the failure of the north-west monsoon.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to G. O., dated
19th December 1872, No. 1,694.

No. 111. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd June 1873, No. 925.

Read the following letter from J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Acting Collector of
Trichinopoly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
dated Jeyenkondasholapuram, 24th March 1873, No. 51 :—

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 26th November 1872, para-
graph 4, I have the honour to submit the following explanation.

2. It is true that the fall of land revenue in Fasli 1281 (1871-72) amounts
to Rupees 1,59,533 when compared with that of the year immediately preceding
the settlement and Rupees 38,348 when compared with that of the year 1870-71.
The great reduction in the revenue by the settlement as compared with the revenue
of the year immediately preceding (about four lakhs) is, of course, well known
and will be referred to further on. As regards the revenue of the year 1871-72
the fall is owing to the unprecedentedly heavy relinquishments, the comparatively
small extent taken up for fresh cultivation, and also to a falling off in the second-crop
cultivation. These are the three chief items in which the decrease has occurred.

3. The large relinquishments were owing to want of rain in those upland parts of the district where changes in the occupation of land (partly owing to the extreme lightness of the assessment tempting people to undertake more than they can cultivate) are very common. It has long been remarked as the common practice of the upland parts of the district that ryots give up land every year with the object of letting it lie fallow and taking up fresh land in exchange, and in a season likely to be at all deficient in rain the land relinquished is always likely to exceed that taken up. According to the returns there was nine-tenths of an inch of rain in July against an inch in the preceding year. But this is the average of all the four sections of the district. The Kulitalei and Museri sections, in both of which there are large tracts of dry lands, had less than half an inch of rain; and, as there was no hope of rain in the beginning of August (within the 15th of which all relinquishments have to be made), the ryots naturally gave up large tracts of unfavourably situated land probably with the idea of taking them up again should the season prove more favourable than there seemed likely. That the season was against any extensive cultivation is proved by the fact that the ryots after all took up an extent a great deal smaller than usual. Then in August the fall of rain was less than half the quantity we had in the preceding year; there were only 3½ inches against 7.05 inches in the same month of the preceding year. The relinquishments in 1871-72 and in the preceding year include a large extent of land for which the ryots were charged because the careful scrutiny in 1868-69 and 1869-70 showed that they had in several instances encroached upon the neighbouring waste fields although to the extent of a few decimals only. As soon as the ryots found that they were charged for these encroachments they relinquished them at once in many cases, and this also contributed, to a certain extent, to swell the relinquishments both in 1871-72 and in the preceding year. The

Assessment of waste lands brought to account and charged in Fasli 1278 and 1279, Rupees 56,812-14-6.

Relinquishments.

	Assessment. RS.
1865 66—1275	17,619
1276	18,278
1277	18,780
1278	23,788
1279	22,808
1280	54,062
1281	60,014

4. I also learn that special care was taken in both these years by the officers who conducted the settlement to see that the bits of cultivated land which the ryots by false representations got deducted as "channel," "jungle stream," etc., "Poremboke" ("reserves"), and which were all brought to account and charged for for all the years since the settlement were not relinquished again by the ryots.

5. The decrease under second-crop cultivation is but 7,000 Rupees, and this is ascribable to a large extent of single-crop lands having been compounded for this year and to the failure of seasonable rains and, as a consequence, the scanty supply in the tanks.

total extent of waste thus encroached upon and brought to light during the examination instituted by Mr. Banbury, and the relinquishments in 1870-71 and 1871-72 as also during all the years since Mr. Puckle's settlement, are shown in the margin. It will be observed by a reference to this statement that the extent of land relinquished in these two years far exceeds that relinquished in any other year since the settlement.

6. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that the revenue of Fasli 1280 was largely (and that of 1279 in a less degree) affected by the collections due for previous years on the concealed cultivation referred to in paragraph 3.

7. The Board will thus see that the decrease of Rupees 38,348 in 1871-72 is easily accounted for and does not appear to be so very alarming.

8. There are still 2,94,800 acres of assessed waste in the district avail-

Waste lands available for cultivation.

	Wet, extent.	Assess- ment.	Dry, extent.	Assess- ment.	Total extent.	Assess- ment.
		RS.		RS.		RS.
Trichinopoly ...	1,729	4,590	36,243	23,703	37,972	28,293
Museri	746	2,568	61,727	52,914	62,473	55,479
Kulitalei	301	801	26,596	16,289	26,897	17,090
Perambalur ...	276	1,032	1,16,504	1,30,512	1,16,780	1,31,544
Udayarpalayam.	530	2,272	50,149	53,313	50,679	55,585
Total ...	3,582	11,263	2,91,219	2,76,728	2,94,801	2,87,991

able for cultivation assessed at Rupees 2,88,000 besides vast tracts of unsurveyed waste which might come under the plough if agricultural capital is allowed to increase and find investments for itself, and if the last two

exceptional years (viz., Revenue years 1869-70 and 1870-71) are left out of account it will be seen that there has been a steady yearly increase since the settlement

* Some part of this increase also is no doubt due to arrear collections on account of the scrutiny, and it will not be surprising (nor I think at all alarming) if the revenue shows a decline again this year also.

and that the increase* in 1281 is by far the largest yet attained, whilst if the demand (which happily corresponds now with the actual collections) was to be compared with the actual collections of the years previous to the settlement (leaving out the three immediately preceding it, which were exceptional), it will be observed that the demand for the year in question is no less than Rupees 1,18,137 in excess of the average of twelve years, and even when compared with the average of the fifteen years preceding the settlement the result is a most encouraging surplus of 64,243; so that, as far as I can understand the question, it appears to me that too much has been made of Mr. Puckle's reductions. With regard to this reduction even it should be calculated, as the Board observed in paragraph 37 of their review of Mr. Puckle's settlement (dated 3rd March 1863, No. 1,270), as being "the difference between the gross reduction made as compared with the previous year's assessment (which has always been roughly assumed to be four lakhs) and the average measure of the remissions" (the "unrealizable portion of the demand" or *rack-rent* of the old system), "granted prior to the settlement" which were over two lakhs, so that the real reduction was less than two lakhs; and that, as the Board observed in paragraph 37, is the "price" (temporarily) "paid for a settlement which has enabled the agriculturalists of the district to lay by capital and bear all fluctuations of seasons and markets without needing to apply for remission" at all. My reason for saying that the revenue of the three years immediately preceding the settlement was exceptional is because it appears to have been partly the result of the reaction consequent on the liberal reduction of assessment in 1855, and I have no doubt from a perusal of the settlement reports of those seasons that more land was taken up on

speculation during those years than could be held permanently. The same effect followed Mr. Puckle's settlement, and I have lately met with instances of land being just given up which was taken up in too sanguine a spirit on account of its cheapness and is being given up now because found to be nevertheless a losing speculation even with a 6 and 4-Anna rate.

9. In Fasli 1270 the Collector writes, "Notwithstanding the unfavourable character of the season the land revenue was higher than that of the preceding fasli. This is owing to the steady increase in cultivation consequent on the late reduction in the assessment and the stimulus given to cultivation by the prevailing high prices of grain" in 1271; "extended cultivation and enforcing the rate of charging in full for waste accounts for the increase." In 1272 "this increase arose from increased cultivation and from remissions having been disallowed" (which could only have been disallowed in consideration of the reduction in 1855); in fact, I suppose it may be assumed that a reduction of assessment is always followed (as observed by Mr. Bird in 1855) by a steady increase in cultivation and by far greater security in the revenue; so that, although Mr. Puckle appears to have been somewhat too sanguine, it is by no means improbable that even the revenue of Fasli 1273 will be attained again, and that once attained it will be permanently realized, and if prices (which have fallen lately) continue at even their present rate it may be possible to raise the assessment very considerably at the next revision.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Statement showing the actual collections under the Ryotwar and Land Miscellaneous in the Revenue years previous to and since the settlement.

Fasli.	Land Revenue.			Miscellaneous.			Total.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1259	13,27,572	5	7	51,114	5	4	13,78,686	10	11
1260	13,47,714	0	2	53,665	14	7	14,01,379	14	9
1261	13,26,704	10	10	51,769	11	2	13,78,474	6	0
1262	13,40,489	2	0	40,875	9	11	13,81,364	11	11
1263	12,78,826	12	6	36,575	14	7	13,15,402	11	1
1264	11,87,044	13	2	35,983	11	2	12,23,028	8	4
1265	12,27,141	12	4	45,037	4	2	12,72,179	0	6
1266	12,65,901	0	4	43,808	10	3	13,09,709	10	7
1267	12,50,836	8	5	37,628	15	4	12,88,465	7	9
1268	12,53,052	13	6	37,008	4	1	12,90,061	1	7
1269	13,81,943	8	1	35,992	9	5	14,17,936	1	6
1270	14,07,088	3	5	37,044	14	0	14,44,133	1	5
1271	15,06,700	6	6	47,630	6	10	15,54,330	13	4
1272	15,64,939	9	3	45,101	8	8	16,10,041	1	11
1273	16,19,404	14	9	49,844	3	10	16,69,249	2	7
1274	12,20,006	13	0	38,202	1	0	12,58,208	14	0
1275	12,52,237	14	0	46,127	3	0	12,98,365	1	0
1276	13,03,997	12	9	49,125	15	6	13,53,123	12	3
1277	13,02,031	8	3	46,711	9	3	13,48,743	1	6
1278	13,77,186	7	4	61,051	7	11	14,38,237	15	3
1279	15,16,410	3	1	2,38,555	5	4	17,54,965	8	5
1280	14,98,219	8	1	72,760	10	7	15,70,980	2	8
1281	14,59,871	14	9	88,950	3	8	15,48,822	2	5

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Acting Collector.

In this letter the Collector of Trichinopoly supports the brief explanation previously offered of the fall in revenue in Fasli 1281, viz., large relinquishments of land caused by a failure of rain in August 1871.

2. The year showed much greater relinquishments of land than usual, smaller acquisitions, and less second-crop cultivation.

3. It is explained that the land is now so lightly assessed that the cultivators are continually tempted to take up more than they can manage. This was specially the case immediately after the new settlement was introduced, and the occupied area is being gradually reduced in consequence. It rose from 7,27,000 acres in Fasli 1273 to 8,00,000 acres in Fasli 1274, the settlement year. Since then it has risen to 10,32,000 acres and now it is 9,93,000. Another reason for large relinquishments is that the cultivators throw up land during the years it must lie fallow. These two causes are permanent, but the chief cause, viz., the failure of rain in August, was temporary. The ryots, it is said, saw reason to expect a bad season and gave up their land knowing that they would be able to get it again if the season turned out to be favourable.

4. The season continued comparatively rainless, and the ryots hesitated to take up new land.

5. The same circumstances caused less second-crop cultivation to be undertaken than was usual.

6. The Board are disposed to think that the difference of the revenue in Faslis 1280 and 1281, viz., Rupees 38,348, or, more correctly, Rupees 22,850 as will be shown hereafter, is sufficiently accounted for and need cause no alarm, especially as the effect of the discovery of concealed cultivation by Mr. Banbury was still felt in Fasli 1281; but the question whether the large temporary relinquishments of land can be checked needs consideration. The Collector will report the extent of land relinquished in August during each of the last five years and will state whether the alteration of the latest date for resigning land from the 15th August to, say, the 15th September might be expected to have a good effect.

7. It remains to consider the large decrease since the settlement. The difference between the revenue of Fasli 1281 and that of the year before the settlement was Rupees 1,59,533, or, more correctly, Rupees 1,84,844.

8. The statement of revenue from Fasli 1259 to Fasli 1281 given by Mr. Pennington makes no allowance for the deductions on account of the "Cutlay Shelavoo" or village servants, cash payment now absorbed in the revenue. Prior to the settlement it was paid in addition to the assessment, and the revenue shown in the statement for the years previous to Fasli 1274 is exclusive of the amount. Hence, to make the comparison fair, the annual amount, viz., Rupees

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63,790, must be deducted from each year's revenue. The occupied land and net revenue from Fasli 1269 to Fasli 1281 will then be as follows:—

Fasli.	Occupied land.	Net revenue.	Remarks
	ACRES.	RS.	
1269	6,30,207	14,17,936	
1270	6,55,007	14,44,133	
1271	6,71,850	15,54,330	
1272	6,93,458	16,10,040	
1273	7,26,974	16,69,249	
1274	7,99,712	11,94,418	Settlement year.
1275	8,37,428	12,34,575	
1276	8,87,804	12,89,334	
1277	9,31,897	12,84,951	
1278	9,50,767	13,74,447	
1279	10,45,985	16,91,676	Year in which concealed cultivation was brought to account by Mr. Banbury.
1280	10,31,573	15,07,255	
1281	9,93,136	14,84,405	In this year the Cutlay Shelavoo deduction was Rupees 64,417. Explanation has been called for.

9. From Fasli 1259 to Fasli 1268 the revenue was stationary and even declined a little. Faslis 1269—73 were years of rising prices and exceptional property, so that the rapid increase from 14 lakhs to 16½ lakhs is not to be wondered at; but it may well be doubted that the revenue would have been maintained at the level of Fasli 1273 even if there had been no settlement. The settlement caused a great—and, the Board fear, an unnecessarily great—diminution, but the area of occupied land and the revenue have been steadily increasing since. The figures of Faslis 1279 and 1280 are abnormally high because of the large quantity of concealed cultivated land brought to account by Mr. Banbury, much of which, as might have been expected, was given up directly afterwards.

10. The occupied area and revenue probably reached their normal condition in Fasli 1281, and the increase of twenty-four per cent. in occupation and in revenue since the settlement is reassuring.

11. The Second Member, who is not a party to these Proceedings, has recorded a separate Minute on the subject.

No. 112. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1873, No. 724.

Land Revenue.

WITH the Proceedings above recorded the Board of Revenue submit letters from the Collectors of Kurnool

and Trichinopoly, explaining the decrease in the land-revenue collections of the year 1871-72 in those districts as compared with the collections of the previous year.

2. There seems to be no reason to doubt that this falling off in the receipts from land is chiefly to be ascribed in both districts to the unfavourable character of the season, though there were other exceptional causes for this result in the Trichinopoly District.

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3. The Governor in Council continues to hold the opinion expressed in the Proceedings of Government, under date 19th September 1866, No. 2,523, to the effect that, in consequence of the simple and moderate character of the new land-tax, the district will steadily advance in wealth, and that the condition of the people has been materially improved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Director of Revenue Settlement

Exd. F. B. Bantleman.

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 14 Feb/73 to 24 27 3 June/73 to 9 25.

Decrease in the land revenue
collections of Kurnool & Nizamabad }
1

Wth the Proceedings
above recorded, the Board
of Revenue submit letters
from the Collectors of
Kurnool & Nizamabad
explaining the decrease
in the latest revenue
collections of ~~in these~~
of the year 1871-72, in

W
In Robinson's
representations refers with the collections of the
the rules applicable previous year
to 'relaxation' There seems no reason
are very serious: I doubt that the falling
& that like to be off in the receipts from
more in this respect.

land is chiefly blue
ascribed in both Districts
to the unfavourable character
of the season, though there
were other exceptional
causes. In this remark
in the Trichinopoly
District.

The Gov. in Council
concur in the view of
the Board as to the
reassuring effect of the
large increase which
has taken place in the
area of occupation
in the Trichinopoly
District and continues
to hold the ^{opinion} ~~view~~ ^{expressed}

It would seem from
what he states that
the rules are quite
referred to the
Customs of the country
a most injurious
to the land holders.

I had intended to send
Mr. [unclear]
I suppose Mr. Robinson
is not far wrong in
saying that, if the old settlement
had continued, an ^{average} increase of 2 per cent in revenue
might have been expected. If so, we
shall have no ground for our
settling since it has in the
many side, as comparing the revenue of 1851
with that of the year preceding the new
settlement

in the Proceedings of the
under date 14 Sept 1866
No 2523 to the effect that
in consequence of the
simple and moderate
character of the new land
tax the District ^{will} ~~has~~ steadily
advanced in wealth, and
that the condition of the
people has been materially
improved

MA

14 To the Secy of Rev Secy 17 July 73
13 " Director of Rev Settlement " — " —