

No. 226. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd June 1873, No. 1,085 :—

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 17th May 1873, No. 1,015-40 :—

In accordance with the arrangements * made by Mr. Master for introducing the revised rates into the Salem District, I have the honour to furnish a brief report, for the information of the Board and Government, concerning the results of the application of these new rates into the Kristnaghiri Taluq of the above Province.

2. The Board† sanctioned the levy of the newly affixed assessment during the current fasli upon the following understanding—That owing to the somewhat late date of introducing the new rates, it would prove a harsh measure to make the ryots, without previous warning, pay *nolens volens* for lands they had already cropped under the old regime, but which they were unwilling to hold under the new. As a remedy for this, the ryots were accordingly to be allowed to relinquish any lands they liked, upon payment of the old assessment, a crop having been already obtained from these fields. In other words, it was deemed unfair suddenly to collect the new rates without giving the ryots a chance of electing whether they would abide by the change or not.

3. As will presently be shewn, the increase on the taluq by the new Settlement comes to Rupees 15,901, the total beriz under the present revision being Rupees-1,40,915. Against this must be taken the extent of lands for which relinquishments were given under the special permission and which aggregate 6,006 acres ‡ assessed at Rupees 5,028-9-0 by the new, and at Rupees 2,862 by the old procedure. This latter sum will, of course, be realized for the current fasli, agree-

	Aeres.	RS.	Average.
† Dry.	5,937	4,770	0 12 10
Wet.	69	258	3 11 0

ably to the terms of the arrangement. Considering that the cesses come on in addition ; that, as Mr. Clogstoun remarks, “ all the resignations that would have been made before June next have probably been anticipated ” and merged with those now given on account of the new rates ; and that during the two preceding faslies when there was no question of new rates, the Razinamahs came to Rupees 5,794 and Rupees 6,458 respectively, the result cannot be regarded otherwise than satisfactory. Moreover, it must not be overlooked that the Darkhasts for the ensuing year may be deemed to be more to the good than usual, owing, as above explained,

to at all events, a large portion of the counterbalancing Razinamahs having been accepted and taken into account.

4. The Kristnaghiri taluq to a great extent resembled Dharampoory * in

* Vide report embodied in Board's Proceedings, dated 25th November 1872.

point of leniency in the former assessment, and thus the application of Mr. Clogstoun's fair and well considered rates yields an increase of Rupees 15,901 or 13 per cent. as now particularized.

	Former Beriz.	Revised Beriz.	Increase.	Per cent.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Dry	84,804	93,568	8,764	10
Wet	40,210	47,347	7,137	18
Total ...	1,25,014	1,40,915	15,901	13

5. The accompanying Statement shews how the new assessment affects each group of villages under both "Wet" and "Dry," compares the assessment now fixed with what it would have been under Mr. Puckle's classification with the higher commutation rate, and gives the averages of the several items both under "Acres" and "Rupees."

Description of land.	Groups	AS PER JAMABUNDY OF FASLI 1282.				AS PER NEW SETTLEMENT.				COMPARISON.				UNOCCUPIED WASTE.	
		Extent.	Assessment.	As per Mr. Puckle's revision.	Average.	As per Mr. Clogstoun's final revision.	Average.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Extent.	Assessment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Dry.	2nd Group...	ACRES.	RS.	RS. A. P.	ACRES.	RS.	RS. A. P.	RS.	RS. A. P.	ACRES.	RS.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.	RS.
	3rd Do. ...	11,311	10,685	0 15 1	13,817	13,455	0 15 7	14,360	1 0 8	2,506	3,675	905	2,939	1,867	1,867
	4th Do. ...	72,512	60,863	0 13 5	86,628	65,969	0 12 1	68,095	0 12 7	14,116	7,232	2,126	16,946	7,881	7,881
	4th Do. ...	12,566	13,256	1 0 11	15,502	9,266	0 9 7	11,113	0 11 6	2,936	2,143	1,847	3,302	1,468	1,468
Wet.	Total ...	96,389	84,804	0 14 1	1,15,947	88,690	0 12 3	93,568	0 12 11	19,558	8,764	4,878	23,187	11,216	11,216
	Average ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3rd Group...	1,244	7,877	6 5 4	1,518	9,009	5 14 11	9,097	5 15 11	274	1,220	88	108	409	409
	4th Do. ...	1,629	8,273	5 1 3	2,038	11,906	5 13 5	10,184	4 15 11	409	1,911	1,722	85	301	301
Wet.	5th Do. ...	5,685	24,060	4 3 9	7,332	26,032	3 8 10	28,066	3 13 3	1,647	4,006	2,034	854	2,077	2,077
	Total ...	8,558	40,210	4 11 2	10,888	46,947	4 4 11	47,347	4 5 7	2,330	7,137	400	1,047	2,787	2,787
	Average ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Grand Total.	1,04,947	1,25,014	...	1,26,835	1,35,637	...	1,40,915	...	21,888	15,901	5,278	24,234	14,003	14,003

Dry Assessment ...	93,568
Wet Assessment - { 1st Crop. ...	39,954
{ 2nd do. ...	7,393
Total	1,40,915

6. The increase in dry falls upon the second and third groups, but the averages of Rupees 1-0-8 and Rupees 0-12-7 per acre respectively must be deemed lenient. The assessment of the fourth group falls by Rupees 2,143, or 16 per cent. The average of this last group is, however, very nearly equal to that found in the third group. Mr. Clogstoun accounts for this in the following manner:—

"The majority of the villages of this group lie at the foot of the hills which border the north of the taluq. The land from its situation is generally of exceptional fertility, and it is only the distance of these villages from markets and the want of roads which prevent their being valued considerably higher."

7. The increase in wet lands fall pretty evenly on all groups, and there is a difference of about one Rupee in the averages of the three gradations. The average wet assessment must be considered fair and lenient at Rupees 4-5-7 per acre when it is remembered that this is a consolidated cess including the second crop demand; the wet lands having in this taluq, as in the rest of the province, been compounded for universally.

8. The unoccupied waste is represented by—

	Acres.	Assessment.	Average.
		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Dry	23,187	11,216 0 0	0 7 9
Wet	1,047	2,787 0 0	2 10 7
Total	24,234	14,003 0 0	

The area still awaiting cultivation is therefore below one-fifth of the breadth under occupation, but as the average assessment of the dry waste is only Rupees 0-7-9 and of the wet Rupees 2-10-7, we may safely anticipate a diminution in this now available area, if prices, at all, keep up. Supposing, as is most probable, that the wet waste is owing to the want of repairs to small tanks, the present low average would, it may be thought, allow the ryots to execute these petty repairs themselves and reap a fair profit on their outlay.

9. There are two points connected with the settlement of this taluq, which I may briefly mention for the information of the Board and Government.

1st. The restoration of the demarcation as ordered by Government in their Proceedings, dated 22nd March 1871, No. 515. Mr. Clogstoun is entitled to considerable commendation for the manner in which he has carried out this task *pari passu* with his other duties. The work has been well done and the stones, some of which I had an opportunity of seeing a short time back, are, as a rule, of the pattern introduced and used by the Survey Department. Mr. Clogstoun thus reports upon this work of renewal in Kristnaghiri. "All missing stones have now been replaced for the most part by cut-stones of the size laid down in the rules for demarcation drawn up by the Survey Department. All these stones have been put down at the cost of the ryots. A certificate attesting the completeness of the demarcation in his village has been obtained by us from the headman and Curnam of every village in the taluq that has been brought under Settlement. These certificates will be handed to the Revenue Authorities on whom now must devolve the responsibility of preserving these marks."

2nd. The revision of the wet Ayacuts. During the progress of Settlement work, Mr. Clogstoun carried out the recent orders regarding this point, and transfers were made as follows:—

	Acres.
From "dry" to "wet"	1,250
From "wet" to "dry"	112

Of the extent transferred from dry to wet, almost the entire portion had hitherto paid water-rate for a greater or less number of years. The small remaining area of 146 acres similarly transferred consists of low lying lands upon which dry crops cannot as a rule, be grown, and which have very properly been classed as wet with a low rate of assessment averaging Rupees 2-13-7, as they derive their supply indirectly from Government sources, and would, under a strict interpretation of the rules, be liable to a charge of 4 Rupees for water-rate from which they are now exempted.

This report in which the Director of Revenue Settlement states the results of the introduction of the new settlement rates into the Kristnaghiri taluq of Salem District will be submitted for the information of Government.

	ACRES.	RS.	Settlement Assessment.
Dry	5,937	4,770	
Wet	69	258	
	6,006	5,028	
Old assessment		2,862	
Difference...		+ 2,166	

2. The way has been cleared for unusual accuracy in estimating these results, because probably all relinquishments* which might be brought about by the changes introduced, have been anticipated by arrangements under Board's Order dated 4th February 1873, No. 156. The settlement has enhanced the demand 75 per cent. on the average against land that has been relinquished. The abandonment is not surprising.

	AREA.		Difference.
	Reputed.	Actual.	
	Acres.	Acres.	
Dry ...	96,839	1,15,947	+20
Wet ...	8,568	10,888	+27
Total ..	1,04,947	1,26,835	+21

3. Under accurate measurement the area under cultivation has proved 21 per cent. more than was shown in the old accounts. This causes a large advance of demand on the whole area.

	Demand 1282.	New Settlement.	Difference per cent.
	RS.	RS.	
Dry	84,804	93,568	10
Wet	40,210	47,347	18
	1,25,014	1,40,915	13

4. The new settlement rates have raised the net demand 13 per cent. over the total demand of 1282. It would be more satisfactory if instead of a single year the comparison were made with the five years ending with Fasli 1282, and Mr. Banbury will be requested to give this information. Although the net additional demand on wet lands is large, the average rates per acre are moderate, and land which has laboured under

disadvantages as respects quality and sites alone has been relieved.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th July 1873.*

5. As respects wet land too the rates per acre are moderate and represent the composition for both crops on two-crop lands.

6. Twenty-four thousand (24,000) acres of culturable waste have been classified and assessed at such moderate rates as will not impede the operation of prices on the extension of Agriculture.

7. The demarcation has been effectively restored and the ayacuts of all water works rectified.

8. The Board's acknowledgments are due to the Deputy-Director Mr. Clogstoun for the energy and ability which he has shown in introducing the new settlement.

No. 227.

ORDER THEREON, 24th July 1873, No. 778.

Land Revenue.

THE Governor in Council is glad to receive this testimony to the energy and ability which have been displayed

by Mr. Clogstoun in the introduction of the new settlement of the Kristnaghiri Taluq.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

of the Madras Government Revenue Department

Pro: Board of Revenue

*Report of Dir: Rev. Settlement
on introduction of settlement of
new settlement rates into Kristna-
ghery Taluq. Salem D.*

23rd June 1873. No 1085.

No. 778. 24 July 73

*The G in C is glad
to receive this testimony
to the energy & ability
which have been displayed
by Mr. Clogstoun in the
introduction of the new
settlement of the Kristnaghiri
Taluq. (He concurs with
the Bd of Rev in deeming
the revised assess^t both
appropriate & moderate)*

MD

*11. To the Board of Revenue
12. The Dir of Revenue Settlement*

*Letter sent to
relying on the
same in the*

c. 18 July / 73 to 24 July