

*Proceedings of the Madras Government. Revenue Department,
11th August 1873.*

No. 66. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th July 1873, No. 1,231 :—

Read the following letters :—

From J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 8th March 1873, No. 24.

I HAVE the honour to submit the information, with reference to this district, called for in G. O., No. 161, dated 10th February 1873, for the Travancore Government, upon land taken up for Tea and Coffee cultivation—

1. The price of land taken up for the cultivation of Tea or Coffee has averaged, during the last three years, Rupees 1-6-6 per acre. All land on the Nilgiris is sold by public auction under the Rules, No. 478-A, of 6th March 1863, passed by the Government of Madras. The upset price is the cost of demarcation and survey.

2. Survey charges vary with the area. It costs about Rupees 1-8-0 to survey a 50-acre block, and Rupee 1 an acre to survey a 100-acre block and upwards.

3. The assessment on forest-land is Rupees 2 and on grass Annas 8 per acre. It is fixed.

4. There is a remission of assessment for the five years succeeding the date of the grant in the case of forest-land.

5. Communications are made by the Local Fund Board. The Board assists the planters as much as possible. At this moment, it is opening the Kotergherry ghaut for bullock-traffic at an estimated cost of Rupees 44,930. Of this sum, the planters have promised to contribute about Rupees 2,943. The ghaut debouches on a good road to Mettapolliem about 6 miles long, and the rail to Mettapolliem from Coimbatore will shortly be opened. The Board are further opening up roads to communicate between various estates.

6. No tolls are levied on the communications between estates. Tolls are levied on the existing ghauts.

The tariff is as under :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Bandies, laden	0	4	0
Unladen	0	2	0
Bullocks, laden	0	1	0

The Local Fund Board have not taken under their consideration the propriety of opening a toll on the Kotergherry ghaut.

7. Planters pay road-cess in common with other cultivators. The cess is 1 Anna in the rupee. No other cesses are paid by planters.

8. Average daily wages of a coolyman 4 Annas, woman 3 Annas.

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From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madura, 17th March 1873, No. 77.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th February last, No. 214, I have the honour to report that no waste land has been sold in this district for the cultivation of Coffee. Some ordinary putta land on the Lower Pulneys is cultivated with Coffee, and pays a fixed annual assessment of Annas 11 Pies 5 an acre. No special facilities have been afforded to planters, and they pay the ordinary road-cess at 9 Pies on the rupee. The daily wages of a cooly working on the Coffee estates vary from 4 to 6 Annas.

From F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Royacottah, 8th April 1873, No. 107.

WITH reference to the Board's Miscellaneous No. —, dated the 15th February last, I have the honour to submit the information called for, relative to the incidence of assessment on Coffee-cultivation on the Shervaroy Hills.

Query 1.—Land for Coffee-cultivation on the Shervaroy Hills is sold by public auction under the rules for the sale of unassessed waste, dated 9th March 1863, No. 488-A. The upset price is simply the cost of demarcation and survey, which generally is Rupees 2 an acre. The highest and lowest prices realized within the last three years are as follow:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Highest per acre	2	8	10
Lowest per acre	0	1	0

Query 2.—The demarcation and survey expenses amount to Rupees 2 an acre as shown above. These charges being included in the upset price are borne by the purchaser.

Query 3.—An annual assessment of Rupee 1 an acre is levied, and it is a fixed one.

Query 4.—No remission of assessment is, under any circumstances, allowed. The cowle-system, which was previously in existence, was abolished on the introduction of the rules under which the land is now sold.

Query 5.—(a.) There are two ghauts to the line of rail to Madras, one of which is *via* Salem.

(b.) The roads on the hills themselves render communication with most estates easy. They are all maintained from Local Funds, and are none of them professedly constructed for the benefit of the planters, though there is but little doubt that when they were first laid out the interests of that body were taken into consideration.

Query 6.—This is answered by the reply to query 5.

Query 7.—The special taxes paid by the planters are the road-cess and the village service-cess: the former under the Madras Local Funds Act IV. of 1871; and the latter under Madras Act IV. of 1864. Both these taxes are at the rate of 1

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Anna in each rupee of assessment. Supplies of rice and other provisions, going up the Hills for the use of the coolies, etc., are not taxed.

Query 8.—The wages of labour are as follow:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Man for diem	0	2	8
Woman for do.	0	1	8
Children for do.—from 1 to 1½ Annas.			

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 1st May 1873, No. 111.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 15th February last, No. 214, on the subject of assessment on Coffee plantation in British India, and to submit the following information in reply to certain questions raised by the Dewan of Travancore, as far as they relate to this district, and more especially to the Coffee-producing taluq of Wynad:—

Query 1. What is the price per acre of waste land for the cultivation of Coffee? If sold by public auction, what is the upset price determined by Government? What the highest and lowest price realized within the last three years? There is no fixed price at which waste land is sold for the cultivation of Coffee. The system obtaining at present in the disposal of such is as follows:—

I. Where land is sold under the Waste Land Rules.

In this case the land will have to be demarcated and surveyed, if not already so, at the expense of intending purchaser who must deposit the estimated cost thereof with the Collector at the time of application.

If no valid objection be raised to the sale of the same, it is put up to auction on a fixed date, and knocked down to the highest bidder.

The upset price determined by Government is the cost of demarcation and survey.

II. Where the lands are leased under the Durkhast Rules.

In such cases the lessee is liable to the payment of jenmabhogam (proprietor's share), at 8 Annas an acre on his entire holding, from date of possession, in addition to the ordinary assessment of Rupees 2 per acre. The levy of assessment commences with the third year of planting.

Within the last three years only three cases were disposed of under Waste Land Rules, fetching a minimum 2 Annas and maximum 10 Annas per acre.

Of late applications for waste lands in Wynad are very rare, as good lands were all disposed of when the rule came into force; the maximum rate then obtained being Rupees 25 per acre.

Query 2. What are the survey expenses on an acre of land? And are these charges paid by the Government or the purchaser?

The expenses of surveying an acre of waste land varies according to the locality in which such land is situated and to the facility in obtaining labour and materials. They vary from about 4 Annas to Rupees 2 per acre; such charges are, as a rule, to be borne by the intending purchaser, and not the Government.

Query 3. If there is an annual assessment, how much is it per acre? Is the assessment fixed or variable from year to year?

The annual assessment is Rupees 2 per acre of forest and Rupee 1 per acre of grass-land. When sold under the Waste Land Rules, the levy of tax begins

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from date of possession, independent of cultivation; while in respect of lands leased under the Durkhast system, the tax is levied only from the third year of planting, at the rate of Rupees 2 an acre, both for forest and grass-lands.

Query 4. Is there any remission of assessment? And if so, for how many years after grant? No remission is allowed, except as stated in the answer to question 3.

Query 5. What facilities do the Government afford to planters in the direction of road-making, (a) to communicate with the coast, (b) to communicate with the estate themselves? (a) The Government have, at great expense, opened up these lines of road, communicating, on the one hand, with the coast ports, whence produce is shipped and on the other hand with Mysore, whence planters obtain their chief supplies of labour and food for the coolies. These three lines are connected by cross-roads, also constructed by Government, to afford facility of communication between the different Coffee-districts.

(b.) Roads to connect Coffee-estates with these main lines are constructed solely by planters themselves, except where several estates are benefited by a road, in which case some assistance is afforded from the Local Fund both for the construction as well for the up-keep.

Query 6. Are tolls levied on any of these roads especially constructed for the benefit of planters? And if so, a table of rates will oblige? Certain tolls are levied at the head of the three ghauts in Wynad, viz., Tambercherry, Peria, and Karkur, and also at Kalpetta and Gudaloor, and at the places called Chundale and Dewalla have also been proposed to be established, *vide* paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, dated 1st April 1873, No. 500. A table of rates of the existing tolls is submitted herewith.

Query 7. Excepting Imperial taxes, do the planters pay any special taxes, etc.? The planters have to pay a land-tax under the Local Fund Act at the rate of one Anna for every rupee of assessment paid by them.

Query 8. What are the average daily wages of a cooly working in the Coffee estate? The average wages of a cooly working in Coffee estates ranges from 6 to 8 Annas per diem. In conclusion, I beg to state that the above answers, so far as they relate to assessment and remission, are based on rules and practice which obtained previous to the promulgation of G. O., dated 22nd September 1871, No. 1,656, the reason being that, though the said order aimed at granting greater indulgence to Coffee planters, it was, nevertheless, doubtful as to how it was to be put in practice. This question is still under reference, see the correspondence marginally noted.

The reports will be submitted to Government for communication to the Dewan of Travancore, with reference to G. O., dated 10th February 1873, No. 161.
2. A copy of G. O., dated 22nd September 1871, No. 1,656, might be sent to the Dewan at the same time as showing the policy of Government with regard to Coffee-cultivation.

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No. 67. ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1873, No. 831.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED accordingly that the foregoing Proceedings, together with copy of the G. O., under date 22nd September 1871, No. 1,656, be communicated to the Resident in Travancore, with reference to his letter to the Chief Secretary, dated 1st February 1873, No. 6.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, with G. O. No. 1,656.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

31-8-15

Mr



No 831 Revenue Dept

Pros of the Madras Govt
Under date 11th August 1873

Read the following
Pros of the Board of Revenue

Submg. to Govt reports from
Coll^{rs} of Malabar, Madura and
Salem, + Comm^{rs} of Nilgiris in
reply to call made on them for
certain information required by
Travancore Circular, regarding
a payment on Coffee cultivation.

H.E. 9 July 1873, No 1231

Ordered accordingly
that the foregoing Proceedings
together with copy of the G.O.
under date 22nd Sept^r 1871,
No 1656 be communicated
to the Resident in Travancore
with reference to his letter to
the Chief Secretary dated
1 February 1873, No 6.

Lot

To B. J. Neill
Resident of Travancore
with G.O. No 1656.

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Information required
by Hawaiian Commission
in preparation on coffee
cultivation

Mr. R. L. Smith

Do

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