3573
R/106

No. 76. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd July 1873, No. 1,155 :—

Read the following letter from O. B. IRVINE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 2nd May 1873, No. 177 :—

I HAVE the honour to forward a report, dated 10th March last, No. 39, with its enclosures, from Deputy-Collector Venkatesaiya, furnishing particulars regarding compensation claims settled by him since his appointment to this district.

2. The Deputy-Collector's chief duty, as the Board are aware, was in connection with claims to compensation for lands taken up for the Madras Water Works and the Chembrambakam Project. With one exception, viz., Nullore, the claims connected with the Madras Water Works have been disposed of, and the Deputy-Collector has also settled several claims on account of lands taken up for local roads and other public purposes.

Vide Enclosures B. E. and F.

3. The aggregate sum awarded by the Deputy-Collector, amounts to Rupees 65,272-4-0, of which, all but Rupees 1,487-4-0 are for lands taken up for the Madras Water Works.

4. The different claims appear to have been disposed of with great care. The rates are very moderate, and compare favourably with those fixed for lands in the Madura District, taken up by the Great Southern India Railway, and in no single case has a complaint been made regarding the Deputy-Collector's award.

5. The work could not have been entrusted to a better man than Venkatesaiya, and I have no doubt that the Board will record their satisfaction at the manner in which it has been performed.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. VENKATESAIYA, Deputy-Collector, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq, Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Saidapet, 10th March 1873, No. 39.

IN conformity to your personal instructions, I have the honour to submit a short report on the extent of work done by me towards the completion of the compensation claims for lands taken up by Government for Water Works Projects in this district.

2. Before entering into the subject of this report, I beg to state that I joined the district on the 24th of October 1871, and was at once placed in charge of the Revenue and Magisterial duties of the Saidapet Taluq in addition to my special work ; my Magisterial powers at the time being those of a 1st Class Sub-Magistrate under the old Criminal Procedure Code. In the beginning of January 1872, I was vested with full and appellate powers, and another taluq (Ponnery) was added to my charge owing to the absence of the Assistant Collector, Mr. Farmer, on leave. By the middle of February I was relieved of the Saidapet Taluq, but was ordered to

conduct the Jamabundy Settlement of the Ponnery Taluq for Fasli 1281. This work was more arduous and occupied more time than usual, owing to the introduction of the new survey arrears in the place of the old Pymashy measurement, with reference to the instructions of the Director of Revenue Settlement published in the Supplement to to the District Gazette of the 11th November 1871. Great many difficulties presented themselves in the way of reconciling the new Survey areas with the old ones, and I had to obtain your instructions on several points connected with the settlement, as will be seen from the correspondence noted in the margin.

To	Collector	dated	24th February	1872,	No. 12.
From	,,	,,	29th ,,	,,	,, 204.
To	,,	,,	1st March	,,	,, 15.
,,	,,	,,	,, ,,	,,	,, 16.
From	,,	,,	8th ,,	,,	,, 237.
To	,,	,,	2nd ,,	,,	,, 17.
From	,,	,,	5th ,,	,,	,, 219.
To	,,	,,	5th ,,	,,	,, 20.
,,	,,	,,	,, ,,	,,	,, 21.
,,	,,	,,	13th ,,	,,	,, 24.
,,	,,	,,	14th ,,	,,	,, 27.
From	,,	,,	19th ,,	,,	,, 286.
To	,,	,,	22nd April	,,	,, 45.
From	,,	,,	11th May	,,	,, 451.
To	,,	,,	26th April	,,	,, 53.
From	,,	,,	13th June	,,	,, 553.
To	,,	,,	26th April	,,	,, 54.
From	,,	,,	10th May	,,	,, 447.
To	,,	,,	29th April	,,	,, 59.

3. In the middle of April 1872, while I was at Ponnery engaged in the settlement, you ordered me to give over charge of that taluq to Mr. Farmer—*vide* your letter of the 16th idem, No. 364, wherein you stated that "I do this having three Assistants, to enable you to devote your whole time to compensation claims, and from no other reason, your administration of the taluq having given me full satisfaction." Before I could do so, however, Mr. Farmer was removed from the district to North Arcot to act as Head-Assistant Collector, and one of the other two Assistants (Mr. Grigg) was transferred to the Neilgherry Hills, and I had to retain charge of the Ponnery Taluq in addition to the compensation cases and Jamabundy Settlement. In the beginning of May, when I had nearly completed the latter work, I was ordered, in consequence of Mr. LeFanu's removal from the district, to hold myself in readiness to proceed to Saidapet at a short notice to assume charge of that taluq, as well as Ponnery—*vide* your letter of the 10th May 1872, No. 450, wherein you expressed your regret for the additional work involved thereby, and the stoppage of compensation cases. I accordingly proceeded to Saidapet, and though another Deputy-Collector was appointed to take charge of Saidapet, yet his powers being those of a 1st Class Sub-Magistrate, the disposal of cases of that taluq cognizable by a full power Magistrate, devolved on me in addition to the charge of Ponnery and the trial of several criminal cases and summary suits, under Act VIII. of 1865, referred to me from the Trivellore Taluq.

4. In July 1872 I was ordered to take up the case of forgery in certain Income-tax Returns by two Goomastahs of the Ponnery Taluq, to favour a rich merchant, who had dealings both at Arnee in the above Taluq and at Madras, and who had evaded payment of Income-tax at the latter place. The transactions connected with this case extended over a period of three years, and consisted of several accounts, all of which I had to go through in order to find out the truth of the case. The papers and information originally furnished by the Tahsildar were not quite perfect, and I had to procure, on repeated calls on the Tahsildar, all the available documentary evidence required to form a correct idea of the nature of the offence. This was a matter of no small difficulty, and occupied a good deal of my time, nor was the enquiry of the case less trouble-some. It was divided into two cases, as the forgery committed by each of the two Goomastahs, referred to the returns of different years. There were five Vakeels who appeared to defend the prisoners. The prosecution was partly conducted by the Government Prosecutor of the Session Court of Chingleput, and partly by the Government Pleader, Mr. Handley. The enquiry which was commenced at the end of August 1872, was brought to a close at the end of September, when the prisoners were committed for trial before the Session Court of Chingleput, where they were convicted, and punished, as you are already aware, from the copy of the Calendars received from the Session Judge.

5. In consequence of these multifarious duties which devolved on me from the time of my arrival at the district till the end of September 1872, I regret I was not able to engage myself exclusively in the settlement of compensation claims. It was only in the month of October that I was entirely relieved of the Magisterial duties and enabled me to push on my special work.

6. Now to begin the subject of this report, I beg to state that the most important projects in connection with which I was specially appointed for the adjudication of the cases of compensation for lands are —

1stly.—The Red Hills Tank.

2ndly.—The Sholaveram Tank.

3rdly —The Chembrambakam Tank.

I have now completed the settlement of all the cases under the first mentioned two tanks, with the exception of a very few cases in one of the five villages under the Sholaveram tank.

7. I have already submitted to you a detailed report on each village immediately after its settlement, accompanied by Statements shewing the number, extent, and assessment of the several descriptions of fields taken up, and the names of the parties owning the same, as well as the amount of compensation settled by me and accepted by them. With a view, however, to enable you to form an idea at one view of the whole amount of work performed by me up to this time in connection with my special duty, I beg to submit six Abstract Statements as shown below :—

(1.) Statement marked A., shewing the aggregate area of lands taken up in all the villages I have settled, distinguishing the Government waste and Poremboke, Inams, and lands for which compensation was formerly settled, from those taken up from the Ryots' holdings.

(2.) Statement B., exhibiting the area and assessment of the several descriptions of lands in each village settled by me with the amount of compensation decided upon and accepted.

(3.) Statement C., showing the indemnification allowed for loss of crops in addition to the price of the lands in certain villages.

(4.) Statement D., (a short abstract) shewing the aggregate amount of compensation settled.

(5.) Statement E., showing the amount of compensation settled for lands taken up in each village for certain roads.

(6.) Statement F., exhibiting the amount of compensation decided upon in certain petty cases without the intervention of the Tahsildars.

8. The number of villages in which lands were taken up is ten under the Red Hills Tank and five under Sholaveram. One village named Oragadum under the former tank, was already settled by former Collector, Mr. Blair, and one named Nulloor under the latter, where the cases are but few, has to be settled hereafter. The actual number of villages which I settled under these two tanks is thirteen. I have also settled several other cases in connection with irrigation works and roads in different villages.

9. Before entering into the settlement of each village, I made it a point to visit it in view to ascertaining by personal inspection in cases in which it was practicable to do so, and by local enquiry, the nature and productive power of the soil, as well as the saleable value of the lands. I also obtained information through the Tahsildars as to the value of the lands as far as ascertainable from private bargains among villagers which were registered in the Department of Registration of Assurances. With these preliminary arrangements, I placed myself in communication with the parties concerned or their authorized vakeels, heard their arguments, and settled the prices on careful consideration of all the surrounding circumstances, taking care that the interests of Government did not suffer. Owing to the arbitrary way in which the lands were taken up before the prices were settled, and to the length of time (now more than three years) that has elapsed since the lands were taken possession of by Government, the adjudication of the compensation claims was a matter of no inconsiderable difficulty. The parties were naturally very avaricious, and demanded double and treble the amount which could be fairly awarded. By the liberal payments made by Government to certain European Gentlemen for their lands taken up for the waterspread of the Red Hills Tank, the native Puttadars in the neighbourhood were actuated with the desire of making up equally large sums of money out of the lands taken up from them. I convinced them that the case of the European Gentlemen was an exceptional one under peculiar circumstances, inasmuch as their lands had been appropriated for the plantation of topes and firewood, which was not the case in regard to the ryots' lands, and would not form a precedent for the adjudication of their claims, and I thus prevailed upon them to accept the terms which

I considered fair and reasonable both to themselves and to Government, as already reported by me on each village.

10. It will be seen from Statement A., that the aggregate extent of lands taken up for the waterspread of the Red Hills and Sholaveram Tanks with the exception of Oragadum village previously settled by Mr. Blair, and of Nulloor to be settled hereafter, but including certain lands taken up at the head of the Cortillar Anicut at Tamarapakum and at the head of Valloor Anicut is Cawnies 2,421-3-14, of which the following deductions must be made :—

	CS.	A.	CH.
Government waste and Poremboke	1,102	13	12
Lands belonging to European Gentlemen for which compensation was previously settled	157	5	4
Inams in lieu of which fresh assignments have to be made...	87	12	10
	1,347	15	10

The net area taken up from ryots' occupation is cawnies 1,073-4-4, or acres 1,419·19 assessed at Rupees 2,930-8-5. The number of cases concerned is 297. As shown in the accounts received from the Tahsildars the amount originally demanded for them by the owners was Rupees 1,69,681-5-2, and their final demand was Rupees 1,47,232-9-3. The appraisement made on inspection of the lands by the arbitrators appointed by the Tahsildars some time after they were marked out by the Public Works Department (more than three years ago) amounted to Rupees 103,479-11-0. This as well as the ryots' demand was certainly exorbitant, while the Tahsildars' own estimates, which in the aggregate amounted to Rupees 48,821-5-10, were in most cases unreasonably low to satisfy the owners. It occurs to me that the cause of this disproportionate valuation by the Tahsildars was a desire on their part to make themselves appear over-zealous and over-cautious in the interests of Government. The only case in which the Tahsildars' estimate was much more than the real worth of the land, was the one in which a piece of dry land, measuring cawnies 21-11-0, belonging to one Veerasamy Reddy of Vengul at the head of the Cortillar Anicut at Tamarapakum was taken up by the Department of Public Works, and in which my settlement was Rupees 1,888-12-0 for the land and buildings, etc., against Rupees 5,107-7-0 demanded by the owner, and against Rupees 3182-1-0 recommended by the late Tahsildar of Trivellore, as will be seen from the correspondence noted in the margin.

From the Acting Collector, dated 8th March 1872, No. 1,369.
To the Acting Collector, dated 30th January 1872, No. 7.
From do. 26th March ,, ,, 318.

11. My settlement for the whole extent of cawnies 1,073-4-4 above adverted to, came up to Rupees 60,888-0-6 including a sum of Rupees 4,598-7-0 awarded as an indemnification for the loss sustained by the ryots of certain villages during the past two years in consequence of the submersion of their lands and the destruction of their crops. The financial result of my settlement is a considerable saving to Government as indicated below :—

	SAVING. RS.	A.	P.
As compared with the ryots' original demand of Rupees 1,69,681-5-2 ...	108,793	4	8
As compared with their final demand of Rupees 1,47,232-9-3	86,344	8	9
As compared with the Arbitrators' appraisement of Rupees 103,479-11-0	42,591	10	6

It is however the excess of the Thasildars' estimates by Rupees 12,066-10-8 owing to their undervaluation of the lands as already stated. The rates of price awarded by me, except in the case of the dry lands in Pummadoocoolum and the wet lands in Teroomoollavoyal, range from 7 to 21½ years' purchase of the annual assessment for dry lands, and in the case of wet from 14½ to 20 years', while in the case of Nuthum or house-sites and backyards partly used for garden cultivation, the prices range from 7 to 12 years'. These are exclusive of the allowance granted as an indemnification for the loss sustained by the ryots of certain villages during the past two years by the submersion of their lands. The dry lands at Pummadoocoolum and the wet lands at Teroomoollavoyal above referred to, were very lightly assessed, but by provements made by the

owners, their productive power was equal to that of the highly assessed lands of similar description in the neighbourhood. I gave them only the lowest rates of price awarded by me in the other villages under the Red Hills Tank, viz., 30 and 65 Rupees per cawny respectively, yet owing to the light assessment charged on them, the price came up to 32½ and 29 years' purchase of the assessment. On the whole the aggregate amount of prices awarded by me does not exceed 21 years' purchase of the annual assessment, as will be seen below :—

	YEARS.
For dry lands	20¾
For Manavary dry lands formerly entered under the head of Wet but transferred to the head of Dry since Fasli 1278	10¼
For dry lands temporarily cultivated with wet crops	17½
For wet lands	21
For Nuthum or house-site and backyards partly used for garden cultivation.	9½

12. For trees, houses, wells, etc., affected by the waterspread of the tanks as well as for loss of crops on lands taken up at the head of the Tamarapakum and Vulloor anicuts, a sum of Rupees 6,727-13-0 was demanded by the owners. The arbitrators' appraisement for them was Rupees 5,282-9-0 and the Tahsildars' estimate amounted to Rupees 4,106-0 9. My settlement for them was Rupees 3,028-13-10 or Rupees 3,698-15-2 less than the owners' demand, Rupees 2,253-11-2 less than the arbitrators' appraisement, and Rupees 1,077-12-11 less than the Tahsildars' estimates.

13. The aggregate financial results of my settlement for lands, trees, houses, and wells, and for loss of crops are shewn in the following abstract :—

—	Amount of prices. RS. A. P.	Difference between the settled price and the ryots' demand, arbitrators' appraisement and Tahsildars' estimates. RS. A. P.	Percentage of difference. RS. A. P.	
Amount finally settled by the Deputy-Collector and accepted by the owners ...	63,916 14 4	... ...	... ...	
Ryots' original demand ...	1,76,409 2 2	1,12,492 3 10	63 12 0	Saving to Govt.
Do. final demand	1,53,960 6 3	90,043 7 11	58 6 0	do.
Arbitrators' appraisment ...	1,08,762 4 0	44,845 5 8	41 4 0	do.
Tahsildars' estimates	52,927 6 7	10,989 7 9	20 12 0	Excess.

14. There is thus a considerable amount of saving in my settlement as compared with the owners' demand and the arbitrators' appraisement. The excess, however, above the Tahsildar's estimates amounts to Rupees 10,989-7-9 or 20-12-0 per cent; but it is to be observed that this sum includes the indemnification (Rupees 4,598-7-0) for the loss sustained by the Ryots of certain villages during the past two years, an item which was not anticipated by the Tahsildars when they framed their estimates; and when this is deducted from the total increase, the real excess is only Rupees 6,391-0-9, or 12-1-0 per cent.

15. I compared the prices settled by me for the lands taken up for the Water Works Projects in this district with those given in the Madura District for lands lately taken up for Railway purposes, as shown in the Statement appended to the printed Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, dated 21st January 1873, No. 200, with a copy of which you were kind enough to furnish me, and I find that in the above district, the average prices paid for dry lands are 254 years' purchase of the annual assessment; for wet lands 68 years' purchase, and for

Vide Statement G.

Nuthum or Poremboke lands 198 years' purchase, whereas our rates do not exceed 20¾, 21 and 9½ years' purchase respectively.

16. Besides the cases above enumerated, and shown in Statement B, I have also disposed of several petty claims for lands taken up for roads and for sundry purposes connected with irrigation works, as will be seen from Statements E. and F., in both of which the saving effected to Government by my settlement is Rupees 1,709-8-0.

17. In conclusion, I respectfully request that, if you see it advisable, you will be good enough to forward this report to the Board of Revenue, in order that the extent of work performed by me in connection with my special appointment may be known to them.

18. A list of the works in connection with which compensation claims have yet to be settled is herewith submitted. The accounts of lands taken up in one of the villages under the Chembrambakam Tank have been lately received from the Deputy Tahsildar of Poonamallee and partly examined by me. This as well as the other villages will be settled on my return from leave.

ENCLOSURES A to H.—Statements.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Deputy-Collector has shown great care and ability in determining the compensation to be granted for lands taken up on the Madras Water Works and Chembrambakam Projects and he has been very successful. The valuations are favourable to Government and they are acquiesced in by the land owners. They seem low but the land is very inferior..

3. The Deputy-Collector was appointed in October 1871 but the necessities of the district required that he should be kept employed on other duties till October 1872. It is to be regretted that he could not be employed on this work alone.

4. The Board have ascertained that the Collector has still to pay Rupees 21,000 for compensation and that grants have still to be made in lieu of Inam lands take up in the projects. These matters should be settled soon.

No. 77. ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1873, No. 836.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council has much satisfaction in receiving this testimony to the very complete manner in which Deputy-Collector Vencatesiah has performed the duties entrusted to him.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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Pro. Board of Revenue
Report of Dy: Coll: Chingleput on claims to compensation for lands taken up for Madras Water Works & Chembrambakam Projects etc. by him.

2 July 1873, No. 1155.

No. 836. 11 Augt 73

The Govt has much satisfaction in receiving this testimony to the very complete manner in which Deputy Collr Vencatesiah has performed the duties entrusted to him

To F. R. Bantleman Esq
Pub Wks Dept

4-0

Report of Sup. Collet Chingleput
on claim to compensate for
lands taken up for Madras
Water Works & Embankment taken
Reject, ordered by him

Ag. 76-11

C. Report 23 R 11 Aug.