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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	277	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	2 - 3 - 1874 ~~196~~	.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 2nd March 1874.

No. 1. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd February 1874, No. 205 :—

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 December 1873, No. 2,773-96 :—

As promised in paragraph 2 of my annual report* for 1872-73, I have the honour to forward statements showing the land-revenue demand of last fasli in those districts or parts of districts which have been dealt with by this department. The usual comparisons between the former and present régime are also given, as well as the statement showing the difference between the commutation rate taken as the basis of the settlement in each case and the prices actually ruling and obtainable by the ryots for the past fasli. I will touch upon each province in the usual order.

* Dated 26th July 1873, No. 1,556-60A.

2. GODAVERY.—From the accompanying statement, it will be seen that the beriz of last fasli exceeds that of its predecessor by Rupees 37,590. This does not include the sum of Rupees 16,277 newly levied, under Board's orders, on second crops raised on wet fields in the uplands. The total increase comes, therefore, to Rupees 53,868 :—

Taluqs.	Beriz of Fasli 1281.	Beriz of Fasli 1282	Difference.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Ramachendrapur	5,73,428	5,75,034	+ 1,606
2. Amalapur...	3,02,573	3,06,368	+ 3,795
3. Narasapur	3,81,753	3,91,373	+ 9,620
4. Tanuku	2,79,994	2,83,602	+ 3,608
5. Bhimavaram	2,53,254	2,69,367	+16,113
6. Ellore	1,24,675	1,37,508	+12,833
7. Rajahmundry	1,12,351	1,12,810	+ 459
8. Yernagudem	94,370	96,244	+ 1,874
9. Peddapur	1,30,045	1,34,005	+ 3,960
Total...	22,52,443	23,06,311	+53,868

3. Looking at the demand of the year previous to the introduction of the new settlement side by side with that of last fasli, we find an increase of Rupees 2,35,312 in favour of the latter twelve months as shown herewith :—

	RS.
Beriz of fasli 1271, previous to the introduction of new settlement	20,54,721
Beriz of fasli 1282...	22,90,033
Increase...	2,35,312

4. The ryots can have had nothing to complain of as regards prices during the year, as cumboo realized more than double, and cholum nearly double the commutation rate. The quotations for paddy, after deducting the usual allowance for merchants' profits, exceed the commutation rate by more than one-third, as will be seen by the statement given in the final paragraph.

5. MASULIPATAM, portion of the Kistna.—Here again matters look encouraging, and the increase above the preceding revenue-year comes to Rupees 89,992, including the second crop assessment on both sides of the account :—

Taluqs.	Beriz of Fasli 1281.	Beriz of Fasli 1282.	Difference.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Bunder	1,29,213	1,46,627	+17,414
2. Gudivada	3,55,696	4,28,779	+73,083
3. Bezwada	1,17,327	1,15,828	— 1,499
4. Nandigom	1,83,722	1,84,716	+ 994
Total...	7,85,958	8,75,950	+89,992

Comparing the demand of the year preceding the introduction of the new rates with that for the fasli lately expired, the results are an increase of two lakhs in favour of the latter as shown below :—

	RS.
Fasli 1275 previous to the introduction of new settlement	5,79,350
Demand of fasli 1282	8,70,978
Increase...	2,91,628

Similarly with the Godavery ryots, those in the Kistna were well off in point of prices. paddy was more than 60 per cent. above the commutation rate. whilst cholum and cumboo were more than double this settlement standard.

6. SOUTH ARCOT.—In this tract of country, which comprises the old Chellumbrum and Manargoody Taluqs and the resumed Jaghires, we cannot expect much variation, as there was next to no waste available at the time of settlement, and the irrigation from the Coleroon may be deemed as certain as that of Tanjore from the Cauvery. Looking at the past year's beriz with that of the year preceding, the increase in favour of the former is Rupees 1,039 :—

	RS.
Demand of fasli 1281	5,23,228
,, ,, 1282	5,24,267
Increase...	1,039

The revenue of the year preceding the settlement was Rupees 3,662 below that of last fasli, which is good, considering, as I before mentioned, the small extent of waste. This result appears to be mainly owing to the ryots having converted their dry lands into wet by lowering their level, etc. I remember, when classifying these taluqs, wondering why such, then apparently useless, fields were retained in the puttahs, and being told that as time went on money would be laid out in rendering them fit for wet cultivation. The ryots are mostly Vellalars, a hard-working set, ever anxious to add any extent of land, however small, to their ancestral acres :—

	RS.
Demand of fasli 1270 previous to the introduction of new settlement	5,20,605
Demand of fasli 1282	5,24,267
Increase...	3,662

Here again the quotations of the year were well over our settlement standard prices.

7. TRICHINOPOLY.—Strange to say, in Trichinopoly where the assessment was so liberally lightened the revenues do not exhibit the increase year by year that might be reasonably expected, although prices keep up and the seasons are favourable. The following shows that the land-revenue of the past fasli stands at Rupees 38,505 below that of the previous twelve months; and that there yet remains the sum of Rupees 1,98,038 to be made good before the revenue-demand touches that of the year previous to the new régime :—

Taluqs.	Beriz of Fasli 1273 previous to the introduction of new Settlement.	Beriz of Fasli 1281.	Beriz of Fasli 1282.	Difference. Columns 2 and 4.	Difference. Columns 3 and 4.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Trichinopoly	5,25,493	4,52,901	4,53,598	— 71,895	+ 697
2. Moosery	3,30,389	3,19,362	3,16,662	— 13,727	— 2,700
3. Kulittalai	2,15,851	1,92,552	1,92,844	— 23,007	+ 292
4. Perambalore	3,12,803	2,62,834	2,37,080	— 75,723	— 25,754
5. Udaiyarpoliem	2,34,869	2,32,223	2,21,183	— 13,686	— 11,040
Total...	16,19,405	14,59,872	14,21,367	—1,98,038	— 38,505

8. Mr. Pennington assigns three causes for disheartening result :—

(1.) The springing up of a most deleterious grass in the dry lands owing to heavy rains.

(2.) The retention in their puttas of more land than the ryots can cultivate.

(3.) The fact that much land has been taken up on speculation. Mr. Pennington adds that "the real cause has yet to be ascertained." No doubt the matter is very perplexing, as lands are relinquished which now pay less than they did before the new settlement. It can, I think, only be accounted for by the last of the above reasons, and is owing to large tracts of dry land having been taken up under the expectation that the assessment would be decreased and the venture prove remunerative. The first anticipation was realized no doubt, but the second has ended in disappointment, and thus the lands have been abandoned. Under the old régime a ryot probably cultivated a little area well, and under the new a larger area badly; so that he has had to restrict his operations. It has, I believe, been urged that the examinations into concealed cultivation, which I made as Collector in faslis 1278 and 1279, tended to increase razinamahs and to decrease second crop wet culture. Mr. Pennington does not, however, allege this as a reason, and it can hardly be one; as lands surreptitiously occupied, which the ryots had to pay for owing to the "Asymaish," would have been thrown up long ere fasli 1282, and, although the ryots are glad enough to get a second crop if they can, without paying for it, still the knowledge that they were likely to have

to do so owing to the examinations would not have deterred them from raising this second crop, the average assessment on which is under Rupees 2-8-0 per acre. This is borne out by the fact that there is an increase of revenue in the best irrigated taluqs, Trichinopoly and Kulittalay. Prices may be said to have been propitious for producers; paddy ranging 100 per cent. and cholum and raghi over 30 per cent. above our commutation rates.

9. KURNOOL.—The four settled taluqs of this Province show better than they did during the previous year by Rupees 3,588 :—

Taluqs.	Beriz of Fasli 1281.	Beriz of Fasli 1282.	Difference.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Ramalkota	1,67,959	1,69,157	+ 1,198
Nandikotukur	2,02,663	2,05,032	+ 2,369
Nandial	1,85,449	1,85,935	+ 486
Sirwell	1,53,380	1,52,915	— 465
Total ...	7,09,451	7,13,039	+ 3,588

But when we compare the revenue before settlement with that of the past year, we find that, under the old system, there was an increase of Rupees 16,425 :—

Taluqs.	Beriz of Fasli 1273 previous to the new Settlement.	Beriz of Fasli 1282.	Difference.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Ramalkota...	1,65,096	1,69,157	+ 4,061
Nandikotukur	1,94,178	2,05,032	+10,854
Nandial	2,01,261	1,85,935	—15,326
Sirwell	1,68,929	1,52,915	—16,014
Total...	7,29,464	7,13,039	—16,425

This is owing, as I explained last year, to these taluqs having been assessed under the separate water-rate system, which brought down all the rich lands and unduly enhanced the bad. A decrease must, therefore, necessarily be looked for under "wet." But the plan of thus assessing "wet" land as "dry," and charging uniform water-rate, has now been abandoned. Prices were favourable to the ryots; thus, paddy was 50 per cent. and cholum 60 per cent. above the commutation rate, whilst that realized for varagoo was almost double.

10. SALEM.—Upon looking into the returns from Salem, there are found to be discrepancies between the data for fasli 1281 as given by the Collector and as given by Mr. Clogstoun. I have been, therefore, obliged to return them, and will submit to Board when the doubts are cleared up.

11. SELLING PRICES.—This final statement shows the difference between our commutation rates and the prices ruling during the year in each Province; as the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd March 1874.

allowance for cartage, etc., has been deducted from the selling prices, they represent the rates which the ryots appear to be able to actually command :—

Description of Grain.	GODAVERY.		KISTNA.		SOUTH ARCOT.		TRICHINOPOLY.		KURNOOL.		SALEM.	
	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	RS.	RS	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Paddy 1st and 2nd sort...	72	113	90	147	72	110	67	127	110	164	100	119
Cholum	84	151	95	228	117	138	100	133	105	168	100	114
Cumboo	60	131	70	187	93	129	83	131	...	...	100	104
Raghi	66	135	...	...	93	120	83	132	...	...	100	94
Varagoo	...	...	...	...	52	81	50	91	60	112	...	...

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. In the foregoing letter, the Director of Revenue Settlement furnishes his ... with statements, briefly showing the result of the introduction of the new settlement into those districts ... been brought to a close. As these results are necessarily the touch-stone, ... financial point of view, of the work hitherto performed by his department, the report is one of importance. The Board will notice each district in the order observed in the letter.

3. GODAVERY.—In this Province matters look encouraging, as last year's revenue exceeds that of its predecessor by Rupees 53,868, and that of the year previous to the introduction of the new settlement by Rupees 2,35,312. It may be remembered that when Mr. Master issued the puttas containing the revised rates, the razinamahs were both numerous and heavy, but the lands relinquished soon came again under occupation, together with a large area of available waste.

4. KISTNA, Masulipatam portion.—Here again the results of the new settlement show satisfactorily; the demand of the past fasli, 1282, standing at Rupees 89,992 more than that of the revenue-year preceding, whilst there is an increase of Rupees 2,91,628 over the demand of the last year under the old régime. Similarly in the case of this division, the relinquishments were at first enough to cause some apprehension, which, however, soon disappeared.

5. SOUTH ARCOT.—The only portion of this district settled is the tract of country comprising the old taluqs of Manargoody and Chellumbrum, and the results of last fasli show an advance of Rupees 1,039 over the revenues of the preceding twelve months, and of Rupees 3,662 over the figures of the year immediately antecedent to the levy of the new rates. Considering the very small area available for extended cultivation when the new rates were introduced, these results fulfil all expectations, and are due no doubt, as the Director says, to the agricultural popula-

tion being mainly Vellalars, whose energy and love of acquiring land are well-known characteristics.

6. TRICHINOPOLY.—The financial aspect of this district is still disappointing. There is a falling off of Rupees 38,505 when last fasli is compared with its predecessor, and of Rupees 1,98,038 when last fasli is compared with the year preceding the revision of assessment. So much has been written regarding the Trichinopoly settlement and its results that the Board need only point out that the main cause of the falling off in "dry" is to be attributed to the relinquishment of lands which were taken up very extensively when the rates were reduced, as a venture which has not turned out to be so favourable as was anticipated. Any reduction in "wet" can only be recouped by extended irrigation works, as, speaking generally, there is but little wet waste wherewith to make good the amount foregone an the cultivated area. Thus the settlement officers of the present day are apparently very careful that the rates on the wet lands, particularly those of high agricultural value, are not unduly reduced. The Collector should see, from time to time, that the charge on second crop cultivation is properly realized, as in this district, owing to parts of a village only having been compounded for, evasions may occur. The Board, also, are of opinion that Mr. Pennington should be permitted to divide large waste fields whenever he thinks that by thus forming them into more manageable holdings they may be readily taken up. Most of the Curnums could, it is supposed, do this with sufficient accuracy; so that these subdivisions would thus remain, until tested by the small survey establishment it has

7. KURNOOL.—Although there is in the four settled taluqs an enhancement of Rupees 3,588 when last fasli's beriz is compared with that of fasli 1281, still the results of the former year fall below those of the last year under the old system by Rupees 16,425. The Director attributes this to the "water-rate" system, by which all wet lands were classed as dry with 4 Rupees per acre added on as a charge for water. This necessarily brought the rich lands down too low, and raised the poor too high; but the policy has since been abandoned. (The report should be forwarded for Pattikondah, as the new rates were introduced and levied during fasl 1282.)

8. SALEM.—The Board learn that the delay in the submission of these returns is owing to the beriz of certain unsurveyed villages having necessarily been included in the Collector's demand statement, but not in that of the new settlement results. These unsurveyed villages should be eliminated, and the comparison submitted as soon as possible.

9. SELLING PRICES.—The abstract statement with which Mr. Banbury's report concludes shows that the prices generally realized by the ryots last year were well in excess of those taken for the commutation rates after making an allowance for merchants' profits, etc. In some instances, the prices obtained by the ryots were double and even treble those fixed as the basis of the settlement. In Salem, however, the price of raghi was lower than the commutation rate, and the prices of other grains ruled from 4 to 20 per cent. above them. These results show that, as far as present experience goes, the settlement procedure was fair and moderate so far at least as regards the commutation rate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd March 1874.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1874, No. 277.

Land Revenue No. 1.

RECORDED. The Board's remarks and proposals are approved. The Government await the report from Salem.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1874 March

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated March 2nd.

Recd.

Issd.

G. O., 2nd March 1874, No. 277.

MARCH.

Nos 1-2.

New Revenue Settlement.—Records Board's Proceedings reviewing Director's report for 1872-73 regarding result of the — introduced into certain districts; approves Board's remarks and proposals; and awaits the report from Nellore.

No. 205.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd February 1874.

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This is owing, as I explained last year, to these taluqs having been assessed under the separate water-rate system, which brought down all the rich lands and unduly enhanced the bad. A decrease must, therefore, necessarily be looked for under "wet." But the plan of thus assessing "wet" land as "dry," and charging uniform water-rate, has now been abandoned. Prices were favourable to the ryots; thus, paddy was 50 per cent. and cholum 60 per cent. above the commutation rate, whilst that realized for varagoo was almost double.

10. SALEM.—Upon looking into the returns from Salem, there are found to be discrepancies between the data for fasli 1281 as given by the Collector and as given by Mr. Clogstoun. I have been, therefore, obliged to return them, and will submit to Board when the doubts are cleared up.

11. SELLING PRICES.—This final statement shows the difference between our commutation rates and the prices ruling during the year in each Province; as the allowance for cartage, etc., has been deducted from the selling prices, they represent the rates which the ryots appear to be able to actually command:—

Description of Grain.	GODAVERY.		KISTNA.		SOUTH ARCOT.		TRICHINOPOLY.		KURNOOL.		SALEM.	
	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.	Commutation Price per Garce.	Average Price of past year framed in accordance with settlement procedure for this District.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Paddy, 1st and 2nd sort...	72	113	90	147	72	110	67	127	110	164	100	119
Cholum	84	151	95	228	117	138	100	133	105	168	100	114
Cumboo	60	131	70	187	93	129	83	131	...	...	100	104
Raghi	66	135	...	...	93	120	83	132	...	...	100	94
Varagoo	...	...	...	...	52	81	50	91	60	112	...	...

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. In the foregoing letter, the Director of Revenue Settlement furnishes his yearly report, with statements, briefly showing the result of the introduction of the new settlement into those districts and parts of districts where his operations have been brought to a close. As these results are necessarily the touch-stone, in a financial point of view, of the work hitherto performed by his department, the report is one of importance. The Board will notice each district in the order observed in the letter.

3. GODAVERY.—In this Province matters look encouraging, as last year's revenue exceeds that of its predecessor by Rupees 53,868, and that of the year previous to the introduction of the new settlement by Rupees 2,35,312. It may be remembered that when Mr. Master issued the puttas containing the revised rates, the razinamahs were both numerous and heavy, but the lands relinquished soon came again under occupation, together with a large area of available waste.

4. KISTNA, Masulipatam portion.—Here again the results of the new settlement show satisfactorily; the demand of the past fasli, 1282, standing at Rupees 89,992 more than that of the revenue-year preceding, whilst there is an increase of Rupees 2,91,628 over the demand of the last year under the old régime. Similarly in the case of this division, the relinquishments were at first enough to cause some apprehension, which, however, soon disappeared.

5. South Arcot.—The only portion of this district settled is the tract of country comprising the old taluqs of Manargoody and Chellumbrum, and the results of last fasli show an advance of Rupees 1,039 over the revenues of the preceding twelve months, and of Rupees 3,662 over the figures of the year immediately antecedent to the levy of the new rates. Considering the very small area available for extended cultivation when the new rates were introduced, these results fulfil all expectations, and are due no doubt, as the Director says, to the agricultural population being mainly Vellalars, whose energy and love of acquiring land are well-known characteristics.

6. Trichinopoly.—The financial aspect of this district is still disappointing. There is a falling off of Rupees 38,505 when last fasli is compared with its predecessor, and of Rupees 1,98,038 when last fasli is compared with the year preceding the revision of assessment. So much has been written regarding the Trichinopoly settlement and its results that the Board need only point out that the main cause of the falling off in "dry" is to be attributed to the relinquishment of lands which were taken up very extensively when the rates were reduced, as a venture which has not turned out to be so favourable as was anticipated. Any reduction in "wet" can only be recouped by extended irrigation works, as, speaking generally, there is but little wet waste wherewith to make good the amount foregone on the cultivated area. Thus the settlement officers of the present day are apparently very careful that the rates on the wet lands, particularly those of high agricultural value, are not unduly reduced. The Collector should see, from time to time, that the charge on second crop cultivation is properly realized, as in this district, owing to parts of a village only having been compounded for, evasions may occur. The Board, also, are of opinion that Mr. Pennington should be permitted to divide large waste fields whenever he thinks that by thus forming them into more manageable holdings they may be readily taken up. Most of the Curnums could, it is supposed, do this with sufficient accuracy; so that these subdivisions would thus remain, until tested by the small survey establishment it has been proposed to retain.

7. Kurnool.—Although there is in the four settled taluqs an enhancement of Rupees 3,588 when last fasli's beriz is compared with that of fasli 1281, still the results of the former year fall below those of the last year under the old system by Rupees 16,425. The Director attributes this to the "water-rate" system, by which all wet lands were classed as dry with 4 Rupees per acre added on as a charge for water. This necessarily brought the rich lands down too low, and raised the poor too high; but the policy has since been abandoned. The report should be forwarded for Pattikondah, as the new rates were introduced and levied during fasli 1282.

8. Salem.—The Board learn that the delay in the submission of these returns is owing to the beriz of certain unsurveyed villages having necessarily been included in the Collector's demand statement, but not in that of the new settlement results. These unsurveyed villages should be eliminated, and the comparison submitted as soon as possible.

9. Selling Prices.—The abstract statement with which Mr. Banbury's report concludes shows that the prices generally realized by the ryots last year were well in excess of those taken for the commutation rates after making an allowance for merchants' profits, etc. In some instances, the prices obtained by the ryots were double and even treble those fixed as the basis of the settlement. In Salem, however, the price of raghi was lower than the commutation rate, and the prices of other grains ruled from 4 to 20 per cent. above them. These results show that, as far as present experience goes, the settlement procedure was fair and moderate so far at least as regards the commutation rate

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J Grose

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Director of Revenue Settlement.
" to the Collector of the Godavery District.
" to the do. of the Kistna District.
" to the do. of South Arcot.
" to the do. of Trichinopoly.
" to the do. of Kurnool.
" to the do. of Salem.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue 1874. Depto

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

No. 473

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD FEBRUARY 1874, No. 205.

Dup. 12 Feb. /74.

Encl.

Ans

Received 13

FEBRUARY.

No. 205.

Revenue Settlement.—Director's report for 1872-73 on result of introduction of new settlement into those districts and parts of districts where his operations have been brought to a close, reviewed and submitted to Government.

No. 277

Recorded - The Bd's remarks & proposals are approved. The Govt await the report from Salem.

2d March 1874

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14 & 15 of Rev. des. 3. 3. 74