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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1314	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	4.4.1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

13/4
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No. 911.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 28th February 1877.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 17th October 1876, No. 2590.

Read also the following letters:—

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 20th
December 1876, No. 592.

I HAVE the honor to furnish the information called for by the Board in their
Proceedings, dated 17th October last, No. 2,590, regarding the claim of the
Shrotriendrar of Chellankuppam to a portion of the Flagstaff Island at Cuddalore.

2. The Board desire to know the particulars of the Cs. 137-4-2 entered in
the first schedule of the cowle as land from which the grantee has no right to
receive revenue, and observe that it is possible that the island on which the planta-
tion now stands is included in this land as reserved for Government. The
following are the particulars of the extent in question, from which the Board will
observe that no part of the island is included therein, and that it consists of Inams
which were already in existence at the time of the grant of the village as Shrotriem,
and were therefore directed to be continued without interference on the part of
the Shrotriendrar (*vide* Clause 8 of the draft cowle):—

Particulars of the land entered in Schedule I of the draft cowle,

	CS.	AS.	P.
Separate Inams in cases from Nos. 2 to 13 of the Inam Register...	15	0	0
Tarapadi Inams as per Service Register	6	12	0
Bill gardens	26	11	3
Daftir gardens	88	13	0
Total ...	137	4	3

3. With reference to the Board's inquiries as to whether the orders to mark
out the land ordered to be reserved in 1807 were carried out, and if so, whether the
tract now in question was included, a careful search was ordered among the records,
but there is nothing to show that the land was ever marked out, or that any orders
were issued by the then Collector on the subject. I enclose a copy of the English
Recordkeeper's report on the subject. I do not however consider this point to
be material to the determination of the issue now under notice. It is perfectly
clear that part of the tract ordered to be reserved was the island between the
mouths of the Paravanar and Gaddilam rivers, and that this land claimed by the
Shrotriendrar is part of that island which he alleges to have been included in the
grant subsequently made to him. It is also clear that there is a deficiency of
Cs. 158-9- $\frac{1}{4}$ of land on actual measurement in the village of Chellankuppam as
compared with its Pymash area and with the area entered in the grant to the
Shrotriendrar, and that the old Pymash of Fasli 1215 and Captain Priestley's survey
of 1855, which latter was most probably based on the former, both show part of the
island as lying within the limits of Chellankuppam. The question, therefore, is,
(1) are we to look to the island or not to find the deficient area, and if not, where
it is to be found? (2) If the portion of the island claimed by the Shrotriendrar is,
his, what is the value of his claim, seeing that Government never meant to part

III.—The 8,146 trees left standing grew mostly in the northern section, and were as a rule finer trees than those which had been felled for supply, because they had not been lopped to any thing like the extent those in the southern section had been prior to the clean felling above noted, and the average weight per tree would be fully 200 lbs. or 8 Annas worth.

5. As regards the valuation of 1,500 Rupees for 16,000 saplings two years or thereabout planted out in field—

I.—The weight of firewood to be obtained from this would have been inconsiderable. A badly grown acre (of same age and planted in same method as this field) which had been felled in the adjoining plantation gave four tons of dry wood, and as the area planted with this 16,000 was 27 acres, and the trees were healthy, this field, if reckoned at one Rupee per candy as firewood, would only have been worth Rupees 500 or thereabouts.

II.—Therefore, as the saplings were improving daily I priced them at 1½ Annas each as a plantation, and consider this valuation to have been a very moderate one, considering the position and the increasing demand for wood.

6. But that estimate of value included both the Government and the Jail sections of the Flagstaff Island plantation, and having lately received your instructions to be prepared to hand over the Jail section (the southern portion) again to the Superintendent of Cuddalore Jail, I conclude the Board would prefer a statement of the present value of the Government or northern section of the plantations only; therefore, premising that the sand-bank is fit to grow nothing but casuarina and nannal grass, I make the following valuation:—

I.—The area of the Government section by prismatic compass survey made in August 1873 is 121½ acres, and the number of trees received since date of taking charge charge of was 6,800; these trees had been planted irregularly in groups and 'belts' over 44 acres of the above area, the rest being bare sand-hills.

II.—Up to 1st November 1876, 3,434 trees have been cut out from those originally taken over, and in 1873, 18,000 nursery plants were put down, and 16,000 of these have been established.

III.—The value of the 3,368 original trees left on the land at 10½ Annas per tree amounts to Rupees 2,188. This value of 10½ Annas per tree is in proportion to the average price obtained per candy of wood from sales of all classes effected during the two past years, 1874-75, and 1875-76, less the fixed charge for felling and collecting.

IV.—The value of the 16,000 saplings put down by the Forest officer, now three years planted, and which are within the Government section, if reckoned per yield of wood may be placed at 1½ Anna per tree or nearly Rupees 1,250, because 10,000 are fit to be sold as poles at 1½ Annas each, and the remaining 6,000 with the branches of those fit for sales would quite yield 60 tons of small faggot wood at Rupees 1-2-0 per candy. But if it might be valued as a young plantation, I should estimate the field of 16,000 as being well worth Rupees 2,000.

7. From the above estimate the Government section of the Flagstaff Island plantation, valued according to weight of dry wood that could be yielded by trees now growing on the plantation land, is worth at this date Rupees 3,438. If the young plantation is to be valued as a plantation, the aggregate would be 5,438.

8. With reference to the limits of Davanamputnam and the claim of the Chellankuppam Shrotriendar to the northern section of the plantation, I beg to inform that it is reported to me by the Jungle Conservancy Manager that in former years a mouth to the Gaddilam river used to exist to the south of the Shonangkuppam fishing village between that hamlet and the Flagstaff. There are certainly traces of an outlet to the sea from the backwater at the spot specified. The Manager further states that the limits of Davanamputnam extended to this channel.

9. The present area of the sand-bank extending from the Gaddilam mouth down to the northern bank of the channel abovementioned, inclusive of site of Shonangkuppam fishing village, is about 147 cawnies; the difference 36 cawnies to complete the 183 cawnies in paragraph 9 of your letter embodied in the above quoted Board's Proceedings would be found at the present Gaddilam bar and the sand waste to its north.

10. The rough plan attached will show the position of the old mouth I allude to above.

From Colonel W. H. HESSEY, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chepauk, 27th November 1876, No. 3,688-119.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,590, of the 17th October 1876, communicating letter from the Collector of South Arcot regarding the claim advanced by the Shrotriendar of Chellankuppam village, Cuddalore Taluq, to a portion of Flagstaff Island, and desiring me to state on what the survey made in 1855 was based, and to explain the entries in the survey register quoted by the Collector, I have the honor to state that I have had the original map of the village of Chellankuppam examined, and have called on Mr. Starr, my Office Assistant, who originally surveyed the boundary of the village, for information.

2. I have ascertained that in 1855 he ran the traverse of the village on pegs, accompanied by the officials of the village, and of Cuddalore and Trippalore on the north side of the village where Chellankuppam is bounded by the river; the officials of the adjoining villages of Manjakuppam, Vannarpalliem, and Devanamputnam did not attend. The survey was carried down to the sea-beach on the north and on the south of the village.

3. The entries in the village register were:—

	ACRES.
Total Punjab	203.64
Do. Nunjah	290.27
Do. Poramboke	65.59
Total Nunjah, Punjab, and Poramboke	559.50
Varappa (ridges)	2.35
	561.85

The above gives the extent measured by Amin in fields and calculated from field books by the old khusreh method. The traverse area of the above tract was stated to be 535.96 acres, but an error having been discovered in the computation of offsets added to the traverse, the correct area is 509.07, showing an excess of area of 29.53 acres in favor of the Amin's measurement. This large discrepancy is due to the confessedly incorrect method of computing the area of fields, viz., by multiplying the mean of opposite sides of quadrilateral figures to find the area. I have had the fields recomputed by scale from the map; the area obtained is 528.32 or 4.00 acres less than 532.32 the traverse area. With regard to the Poramboke area, 65.59 acres are stated to be the area measured by Amins, and 334.19 the area

ascertained by traverse; total 399.78. If from that area be deducted as under 84.25 acres—

	ACRES.
Road	5.35
Channel	0.66
River	77.87
Pond	0.37—

the balance will be 315.53 waste.

4. The total area however given in the map is 535.96 acres. This is wholly incorrect, the traverse area of land measured by Amins having by a clerical error been substituted for the total area of the village. On referring to the traverse for the village, I find that the area of the whole village is 870.15 acres, including 84.64 acres area of offsets from traverse lines. I have had the traverse computations examined and the area of offsets scaled from the map. I regret to state that errors have been discovered; the true area according to the map should be 808.06 acres or 611-1-2 cawnies. The area given in the Inam Register is 653-10-3 or 42-9-1 cawnies more than the area shown by the map to belong to the village. I have no reason to suspect the map of being incorrect. Mr. Starr was a most careful Surveyor; the errors in the calculation arose in the office which then was in a most imperfect state. The mistakes which were then passed without notice could not under our present system possibly arise at all.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Plan.

THESE papers relate to a claim put forward by the Shrotriendmar of Chellankuppam to a portion of the Nagstani Island near Cuddalore now occupied by a Government casuarina plantation. The land was planted about ten years ago without objection by the Shrotriendmar, who had never exercised any rights of occupancy for fifty years previously.

2. The Collector is of opinion, from correspondence which took place in 1807 as to the reservation of certain land along the sea-beach, that the Shrotriendmar's grant, which dates from 1819, could not have been intended to include any portion of the island; but, on the other hand, it is clear that the land now in question was included in the Pymash of the village of Chellankuppam made in 1805, and in the survey of the village made under Captain Priestley in 1855. The Surveyor, Mr. Starr, was on that occasion accompanied by the village officers of Cuddalore; the next village, to which the remainder of the island (not included in Chellankuppam) now belongs.

3. Mr. Garstin appears to be right in his conclusion (paragraph 9 of his first letter) that the Pymash of Fasli 1215 for the first time included the island within the northern boundary of Cuddalore and the southern boundary of Devanamputnam was the old mouth of the Gaddilam south of Shonangkuppam (see the sketch forwarded with Mr. Wooldridge's letter) accords with this view. But, however, this may be, there appears to the Board no doubt that at the Pymash, with reference to which the Shrotriendmar's grant was made, the portion of the island now under discussion was included, and therefore that his claim to it must now be admitted.

4. Mr. Wooldridge, the Forest Officer, values the whole plantation on the island at Rupees 5,500, but values separately two sections, which he calls the Government and Jail sections, and the former he says is worth from Rupees 3,438 to 4,188 Rupees. It is not stated that this division will make either section coincide with the land claimed by the Chellankuppam Shrotriendmar; but on comparing Mr. Wooldridge's sketch with the survey map of the Shrotriendmar, it is apparent that the Government section must very nearly correspond with the claim, and that the value of the latter may be taken to be Rupees 3,500 or thereabouts. The expenditure on the whole plantation to the end of 1875-76 was Rupees 2,758 and receipts Rupees 2,884.

5. The area planted in the Government section is stated to be according to a survey by Mr. Wooldridge 121½ acres, while the area of the island portion of Chellankuppam, as scaled from the survey map, is 155 acres. Mr. Wooldridge's survey may be accepted as it appears that the whole area is not planted. The Shrotriendmar has demanded a rent of Rupees 4-6-0 per cawny, but is prepared to accept such assessment as the Collector may decide, and it is stated that the Government assessment on similar land in the neighbourhood is Rupees 2-10-0 per cawny. Even this rate, however, appears high, and the Board think that a Rupee an acre would be sufficient. But it seems advisable that Government should acquire the land outright rather than lease it, as the term for which it will be wanted for the plantation is uncertain; and the Board recommend that the Collector be authorized to offer the Shrotriendmar the sum of Rupees 1,000 for his right in the land, and in full discharge of claims for assessment in arrears. No claim prior to 1874, when the Shrotriendmar first moved in the matter, should in any case be admitted.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with five enclosures to be returned.

Copy to the Collector of South Arcot.
.. to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
.. to the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Revenue Department

No. 1677

13/4/5

From Board of Revenue.

Dated 28 February 1877.

For Orders

The land belonged to the old Estate - at least so it appears from the Paimash of 1805. There is no proof of the proposed reserve having been effected with the owner's consent in 1807. And the evidence in 1854 was to the effect that it still belonged to the Estate & was not surveyed.

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BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 28TH FEBRUARY 1877, No. 911.

Copy to Government

as per order

Received 10/4/77

No. 911.

FEBRUARY.

Flagstaff Island - near Cuddalore in South Arcot District now occupied by a Government Casuarina plantation. - Expressing opinion that the claim put forward by the Shrotriendar of Chellankuppam to a portion of the - should be admitted, and recommending that the Collector be authorized to offer the Shrotriendar Rs. 1,000 for his right in the land and in full discharge of claims for assessment in arrears.

for orders

20.3.77

21/3/77 & 27/3/77. R. 24/77

21/3/77 & 27/3/77. N. 44/77
I agree that the Govern-
ment has no right to
the land as shown by
our own records.

Occupation by the
Forest Department is
therefore Exceedingly
inconvenient and
apparently unjustified
by any previous inquiry
as to right to do so.
Meane profits are
therefore due with
acknowledgment of
tort.

The question is - is it
worth while to pay 1000 Rs
or upwards of Rs 6 an
acre for the waste of
land - A few years' rent
at even the lowest rate
proposed would more
than

13/4
6

His N: 1344 of 4-6-77
order

his price the Govt. in Council
is unable to concur in
the opinion of the Board
that the above part
forward of the Shashim
of Chellam Kappan had
be admitted -

The Govt. consider that
there is no proof whatever
that this "Kappan Island"
which was a sand
waste until the Govt. planted
it in 1866 forms part
of the village of Chellam Kappan
The evidence appears to
them to be to the direct-
contrary - But in this
it may be the excess is -

C. 11/3/77 & 27/5/77. N. 24/77

...tion of the land
for State purposes for all
time to come in 1887
absolutely excludes the
possibility of its forming
part of any land
of which the usufruct
was granted in ~~the~~
lien of pension in
1819 -

It is further stated
clear that the land
has been deprived of
anything from which
he formerly derived any
income - the fact
is therefore unhesitatingly
stated to upset the
claim

3/4/77

in the 18th of December 1877 with

10
12

1
B's Rm. 28th May 77

Order

for order