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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. ~~R.P. No.~~	865	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	29. 6. 1876 ~~196~~ .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th June 1876.

Read the following papers :—

No. 290. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th March 1876, No. 638 :—

Read the following letters :—

From Lieut.-Colonel W. H. HESSEY, Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chepauk, 12th January 1876, No. 118-6.

IN Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,640, of the 21st September 1875, a report as to the advantages of clubbing villages in facilitating and cheapening the work of survey and settlement is called for.

2. I have the honor to state that Colonel Priestley is of opinion that clubbing villages is of but little advantage to the survey. He called for the opinions of several officers who had been in charge of demarcation. With one exception, those officers agree in considering clubbing, except for the convenience of the Revenue authorities, unnecessary. It is, of course, to be understood that it is considered advisable to club detached portions of villages with the villages within whose boundaries such portions may be situated.

3. Registers and accounts are prepared according to survey villages.

4. When a small village or part of a village, large enough to form a separate sub-division, is clubbed with another village such village, or portion of a village is formed into one or more separate khandams, so that the old boundary can be easily identified.

5. In the case of land transferred from one village to another, a remark is made in the Land Register.

6. I have the honor to request that I may be informed what is the size or revenue of a village that may be considered by the Board not too small to stand alone.

7. As a rule, this department works to the greatest advantage when employed in demarcating and surveying villages, ranging from 500 to 1,000 acres each. The advantage, however, is not so great as to justify a survey officer in recommending villages to be clubbed or sub-divided merely because they fall short of or exceed the above-named limits.

From C. RUNDALL, Esq., Ag. Director of Rev. Settlement, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 21st January 1876, No. 192-11.

I HAVE the honor to reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 2,640, of 21st September last. The points needing to be reported upon are as under :—

(1.) Whether the villages already clubbed will, under the recent orders of Government, have to be again separated and established as separate communities under their own village-officers, when revised village establishments are introduced.

(2.) The principles on which clubbing should be conducted in future.

(3.) Whether the ryots of these amalgamated villages are held to have equal rights in respect of darkhast, pasturage, &c.

(4.) Whether the small villages absorbed are formed into a separate khandam, and have their boundaries distinctly defined.

(5.) The advantages of clubbing in facilitating and cheapening the work of the survey and settlement.

2. As regards the first point (1), it must be remarked that the amalgamation of villages has hitherto been generally carried out with the full concurrence of the body of the ryots and the approval of the Collector, the village-officers being duly consulted at the same time and their opinions recorded. These proposals have ultimately been reviewed by the Board of Revenue and sanctioned under authority of G.O., No. 244, of 9th February 1864, which provided for the rectification of village boundaries.

3. The recent orders* of Government require, however, that "a scheme in keeping with the actual village conditions of the country" should be prepared and submitted for sanction.

* G.O., dated 5th May 1875, No. 696.

4. In accordance with this ruling of Government separate schemes for taluqs of three districts were drawn up by Mr. Puckle, to whom the duty of framing the first proposals was delegated, and they have been submitted and approved by Government.

5. The scheme first forwarded referred to sixty-nine villages of the Sydapet Taluq of Chingleput. No clubbing had been undertaken at the survey, and consequently, as there were several small or insignificant villages, Mr. Puckle was obliged to arrange the sixty-nine villages under twenty-four Curnams' vattams or charges to secure sufficient remuneration for such officers. The same course had to be adopted also, to some extent, in the case of Munsifs, and two or more villages assigned to them.

6. Subsequently, separate schemes were forwarded for the Trichengode Taluq of Salem and the Tenkasi Taluq of Tinnevelly. In both of these taluqs the villages had been more or less clubbed at settlement.

7. In the former, seemingly 371 villages had been arranged under 104 survey villages, and as the grouping had been conducted to accord with the existing village establishments, the amalgamation held good. Several villages were, however, still very inconsiderable, and the 104 villages were, therefore, arranged by Mr. Puckle under eighty-two groups for Curnams, and for Munsifs, Taliaries, &c., under 102; two villages being merged and treated as a part of other villages with which they were connected.

Paragraph 7 of letter to Board, No. 1,470-41, of 17th July 1875.

8. In Tenkasi, much the same system was adopted. Seventy-three old villages were formed into thirty-five for settlement; and Mr. Puckle explained that "of the thirty-eight villages that ceased to exist at settlement, twenty-five were uninhabited and five were officered by the Munsifs of the villages in which they were merged; there thus remained but eight inhabited villages with separate Munsifs that were actually merged at settlement, and four of these have been again brought on the list, and have here separate establishments proposed for them. The other four consisted of isolated patches of land interspersed in many villages, the inclusion of such patches in the villages in which they are situated precludes the possibility of allotting establishments to villages that have ceased to exist territorially."

9. Two of the thirty-five settlement villages adverted to were re-separated for the reasons above given, and the inclusion in the taluq of three villages transferred from Ambasamudram raised the total number to forty villages. These were arranged under thirty-nine groups for Curnams and forty-four groups for Munsifs, &c.

10. It therefore follows that in Sydapet, where villages were not clubbed, extensive grouping of villages had to be resorted to, to form Curnams' vattams; and that in the other two instances the amalgamation previously undertaken materially facilitated the operation of revising the village establishments. Only two villages in Tenkasi were re-separated in respect to village establishments.

11. The amalgamation of villages hitherto effected is likely, therefore, to aid considerably the revision of village establishments. If, in the case of villages amalgamated for survey, separate Village Munsifs have to be provided consequent on more than one Munsif having previously existed, provision can easily be made, as in Sydapet, without re-separating the merged villages by assigning a Munsif, Taliari, and Vetti to each village as formerly constituted, and making the Curnam general for the united village. The several Munsifs should exercise jurisdiction as formerly over the limits of their villages as previously recognised, just in the same way as Monigars of the respective hamlets of a large village do at present in respect to their hamlets.

12. As regards the second point, *viz.*, the principles on which amalgamation should be conducted in future, I consider that the operation should be limited to cases as noted below, in which advantages in an administrative point of view are clearly apparent—

(1.) To insignificant villages having assets insufficient to afford a separate Curnam, Munsif, and a Taliari or Vetti.

(2.) To villages where the officers may be the same, and they may not be sufficiently large and important, looking at the available assets, to warrant their continuance as independent villages.

(3.) To villages nominally distinct, but so intermingled one with another, that their boundaries cannot be separated and demarcated.

(4.) To depopulated villages. In these instances, they should be amalgamated, if practicable, with the village to which the occupants or cultivators of the land may principally belong, or the village-officers may appertain to.

13. With regard to the first suggestion, a village that is not too small to stand alone may be held to be a village that can provide a minimum establishment,—Rs. 75 per annum,—according to the scale worked out and applied by Mr. Puckle, as under, to Kattivakam, No. 1 of Sydapet, with a beriz of Rs. 464:—

	RS.	A.	P.
1 Curnam	3	0	0
1 Munsif	2	0	0
1 Vetti...	1	4	0
Total per Mensem...	6	4	0

14. The probable assets should, for this purpose, be calculated at 1 Anna per rupee of the existing beriz, to which should be added five-eighths of the probable

assessment of the Service Inam land of the village, arrived at by applying the average dry and wet rates prevailing for the village to the area respectively concerned.

15. Under the third head (3) the difficulty cannot be overcome or the anomalies rectified save by amalgamation of the villages.

16. With reference to the third question raised (3), I must remark that villages have been united on the understanding that existing rights and interests would not be interfered with by the amalgamation, and it has been this that has induced the villagers to so readily consent to the adjustment already submitted and sanctioned. I hold, therefore, that the ryots of amalgamated villages cannot be deemed to have equal rights in respect of darkhasts. Preference, as formerly, should first be allowed to the ryots of the village as originally constituted; and, secondly, to ryots of the other villages surveyed therewith; and afterwards to out-siders. Rights of pasturage are usually common to the villages amalgamated in respect to hills and jungles at present, and, where not so, the written statements of the parties define their respective rights.

17. As regards the fourth point (4), the actual boundaries of the arable portion as formerly existing can invariably be recognised, being demarcated under separate khandams, save in the case of detached patches. For the waste jungle or pasturage the whole will usually be demarcated under one block, and be common to all the villages as merged.

18. The advantages of clubbing or fifth point (5) noted above mainly apply to the future work of the Revenue authorities. The work of settlement is more or less facilitated by having thus to deal with, as regards accounts and records, a reduced number of villages; but where the villages may at present be very numerous, as in some taluqs of North Arcot, the saving that will be effected generally to the work of the taluq authorities, and by a greatly reduced number of villages having to be dealt with yearly at the Jamabandi, will be considerable.

19. The Chendragiri and Chittoor Taluqs of North Arcot may be referred to as exemplifying the advantages that will result. With the sanction of the Board as marginally noted the villages of these taluqs have been re-arranged as under:—

No. 168, dated 7th February 1873.

	Government Villages.	
	By Revenue Accounts.	By Survey.
Chendragiri	188	53
Chittoor...	459	132

20. These taluqs are no doubt exceptional, as practically the formerly recorded villages were not separate; the Curnams and Monigars holding office very often for the whole payakat or cluster of villages, whilst the communal rights were common to the payakat generally. The proposals thus framed accorded with established usage, and hence the occupants of land, as well as most of the village-officers, favored the amalgamation; whilst they would have demurred to the villages, as previously recorded, being surveyed as distinct villages.

21. In place of 188 and 459 villages, respectively, in these taluqs, hereafter when the settlement may have been effected, the taluq authorities will only have to deal with 53 and 132 villages. The saving in labor in many respects must necessarily be great.

22. The Superintendent, Revenue Survey, has furnished me with a copy of his letter to the Board, No. 118-6, of 12th instant, on this question, and I observe that he has recorded his views so far as the questions raised affect survey operations.

From C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Denkinicotta, 3rd February 1876, No. 22.

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 21st September last, No. 2,640, I have the honor to state that it is only in the southern taluqs that any clubbing has been carried on by the Settlement Department in this district.

2. I do not think that division of survey villages will take place to any considerable extent at the revision of the village establishments. Where a division is called for, I do not see that there will be any difficulty as to the ryots grazing or cutting fire-wood. A clubbed village always carries its communal rights with it to the group to which it is attached and *vice versa*.

As the principles on which the recommendations of the Survey and Settlement Departments for clubbing villages were based did not appear to be very clearly recognised, the Superintendent of Revenue Survey and Director of Revenue Settlement were requested to report on the advantages and effect of the operation.

2. From the Superintendent's letter it seems that, though villages of 500 to 1,000 acres are most convenient to deal with from a survey point of view, the advantages of clubbing or sub-division are hardly sufficient to call for change of arrangement, except in the case of detached portions of villages.

3. The Acting Director's report is full, and seems to deal very fairly with the whole question. Where villages are very small, depopulated, or broken up into patches and intermingled with others, re-arrangement at survey or settlement is clearly desirable. As a general principle, ability to maintain the requisite village staff on the minimum scale, given in paragraph 13, may be taken as the limit below which it is undesirable to retain separate villages. Where the proceeds of enfranchisement of Service Inams and village-cess will suffice to maintain a suitable village establishment, unless a village is in detached portions, or has an inconveniently irregular boundary, or is depopulated, or there is some other special cause rendering amalgamation advisable, the village should be allowed to stand. Paragraph 12 of the Acting Director's letter provides general rules which seem appropriate for amalgamation; and administrative convenience must rule sub-division which, however, it would seem seldom necessary to recommend.

4. These Proceedings will be communicated to the Survey and Settlement Departments and all Collectors, and will be submitted for the approval of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 291. From C. RUNDALL, Esq., Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 10th June 1876, No. 2,351/28.

REFERRING to official memorandum, No. 90, dated the 20th ultimo, I have the honor to submit a statement showing the distance between the clubbed village and the village in which the Village Munsif resides, as regards the 69 villages of the Sydapet Taluq. The greatest distance is 2½ miles seemingly. In cases Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 14, the Munsifs are non-residents, and this, I must explain, is not under the new system, which has not yet been inaugurated as far as I know, but under the old system. Hitherto, a ryot of No. 7 has had to go 2½ miles to lay a complaint before the Munsif of his village. Probably, under the new system resident Munsifs may be nominated in some cases and the distance will then be reduced. Where the Munsif may be a resident the greatest distance is one mile; Nos. 1 and 11, in which the old arrangement of one Munsif for both villages has been confirmed. The change does, therefore, not affect matters at all.

2. Similar information for the villages of Salem and Tinnevelly referred to is not available; but, if necessary, I will request the Collectors to furnish particulars.

N 292 Minute by [illegible]
W Robinson 5/6/5

85/x

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Details of Munsif's Charges, with place of Residence, &c., for clubbed Villages of the 69 Villages of Sy pet.

Munsif's Vattam.	Villages.	Residence of Munsif.	Distance of Munsif's Residence from clubbed Villages.	Remarks.
			MILES.	
1	Kosapur ... ... Manjambakkam	Kosapur	1	The new arrangement as to the Munsif conforms to the old.
2	Sirugavur ... ... Vilangaduppakkam ... ... Payasambakkam	Vilangaduppakkam ...	¾ ¾	*Vide* remark No. 1.
3	Palavayal ... ... Tirttagiriyampattu	(Inam)* ... ... Pallikuppam	½ ¾	Do.
4	Layan ... ... Attivakkam ... ... Alingivakkam	Polal*	1½ 2 2	* Munsifs are not residents.
5	Naravarikuppum ... ... Tandalkalani ... ... Vadagarai	Do. *	2½ 2 1½	
6	Settimedu ... ... Vadaperumbakkam	Settimedu	¾	
7	Surappattu ... ... Errankuppam	Polal*	1½ 2½	
8	Madavaram ... ... Velakkuppatti	Madavaram	½	*Vide* remark No. 1.
9	Kodingiyur ... ... Jembuli	Kodingiyur ... ... Madavaram*	1	
10	Sembiyam ... ... Siruvellore...	Sembiyam...	½	Do.
11	Villivakkam ... ... Mullam	Villivakkam	1	Do.
12	Aduvakarai ... ... Arumbakkam ... ... Vada Agaram	Arumbakkam	½ 1	Do.
13	Periyakudal ... ... Aminjikarai	Aminjikarai	¾	Do.
14	Sengeri ... ... Virugambakkam	Muduravayal*	1½ 2	Do.

MADRAS,
10th *June* 1876.

(Signed) C. RUNDALL,
Acting Director of Revenue Settlement.

No. 293. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1876, No. 865.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are of opinion that there are several points connected with the important question of clubbing of villages that require elucidation and settlement.

2. They observe that, for purposes of survey, there is no particular advantage in clubbing villages; and that good survey is compatible with the existing constitution of the country and of rural society. But Mr. Rundall attaches much importance to the amalgamation of villages as productive of certain administrative advantages, and sets out in paragraph 12 of his letter the principles which, in his opinion, should govern such amalgamations. The Government do not see the soundness of or the expediency of adopting the first two of these, which, in effect, declares that the object of clubbing is to give a decent salary for a sufficient charge as respects village-servants. According to this proposal, each village must, in order to be permitted to survive as the recognised seat of a separate community and preserve its ancient integrity, provide a certain prescribed minimum rate of emolument for a fixed and complete scale of establishment. These emoluments, however, form no essential condition of the village system of India. Here, each ancient village stands by itself, and has a more or less complete establishment—as a rule, fairly sufficient for all its wants; and it is of primary importance that this condition should continue unassailed by any system of consolidation and reformation which other considerations may appear to suggest. It is an admitted fact that hitherto the village-officers have been remunerated more or less inadequately and irregularly. The law and the administrative measures now on foot have the rectification of this anomaly in view. The Village Cess Act provides adequately for this, without the necessity for "clubbing" and destroying the ancient village constitution. Wherever the service cess of a small village amounts to a small sum only, it is almost certain that the work to be done is very limited and occasional; and that it is fully paid for by the ratable cess on the village, supplemented, where necessary, by a contribution from the Inam Enfranchisement Fund, or the General Surplus Fund. Under this arrangement, the future emoluments of existing village establishments will far exceed any hitherto enjoyed by them: and a uniformity of establishment or emolument need not, and should not, form a ground for clubbing villages together. His Grace the Governor in Council considers that the present village organisation is a valuable one; and that clubbing on the two first grounds stated by Mr. Rundall will impair its efficiency.

3. The other two grounds urged for clubbing are sound, and not open to the objections above referred to. It must, however, be borne in mind that the distance between the villages is an important element for consideration in carrying out the process of clubbing. It is observed from the statement of clubbed villages of the Sydapet Taluq submitted by the Acting Director that nine villages out of the thirty-two treated will be more than one mile from those to which they are to be annexed. This, the Government consider, is far too great a distance for a villager to travel to lay a complaint before the Munsif. Further, it is said that there is no resident Munsif in five villages. This is an evil which should be at once remedied; and care should be taken to provide in all cases a *resident* Munsif, who alone can efficiently carry out any sanitary or other measures that may become necessary.

4. It is observed that the observations in paragraphs 16 and 17 of Mr. Rundall's letter show what contention the attempts at incomplete and impossible amalgamations must cause; and that the saving of trouble to the Revenue-officers urged in paragraph 18 is not great enough to justify the sweeping changes which an amalgamation on the principles advanced will necessarily lead to.

5. In conclusion, the Government desire to know whether, when more than one village has been placed under the same Curnam under the re-organisation already ordered, the revenue accounts and other interests of each village are kept distinct. If not, it is obvious that a most important feature of the ancient system is being set aside, which cannot be permitted.

6. The Board will, also, report how far the clubbing of villages approved by them in their Proceedings, dated 21st September 1875, No. 2,640, is in conformity with the foregoing remarks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Director of Revenue Settlement.
" the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 638.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th March 1876.

Read the following letters :—

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Chendragiri	188	53
Chittoor	459	132

20. These taluqs are no doubt exceptional, as practically the formerly recorded villages were not separate; the Curnams and Monigars holding office very often for the whole payakat or cluster of villages, whilst the communal rights were common to the payakat generally. The proposals thus framed accorded with established usage, and hence the occupants of land, as well as most of the village officers, favored the amalgamation; whilst they would have demurred to the villages, as previously recorded, being surveyed as distinct villages.

21. In place of 188 and 459 villages, respectively, in these taluqs, hereafter when the settlement may have been effected, the taluq authorities will only have to deal with 53 and 132 villages. The saving in labor in many respects must necessarily be great.

158
347

185

22. The Superintendent, Revenue Survey, has furnished me with a copy of his letter to the Board, No. 118-6, of 12th instant, on this question, and I observe that he has recorded his views so far as the questions raised affect survey operations.

From C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Denkinicotta, 3rd February 1876, No. 22.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 21st September last, No. 2,640, I have the honor to state that it is only in the southern taluqs that any clubbing has been carried on, by the Settlement Department, in this district.

2. I do not think that division of survey villages will take place to any considerable extent at the revision of the village establishments. Where a division is called for, I do not see that there will be any difficulty as to the ryots grazing or cutting firewood. A clubbed village always carries its communal rights with it to the group to which it is attached, and *vice versâ*.

As the principles on which the recommendations of the Survey and Settlement Departments for clubbing villages were based did not appear to be very clearly recognized, the Superintendent of Revenue Survey and Director of Revenue Settlement were requested to report on the advantages and effect of the operation.

2. From the Superintendent's letter it seems that though villages of 500 to 1,000 acres are most convenient to deal with from a survey point of view, the advantages of clubbing or subdivision are hardly sufficient to call for change of arrangement, except in the case of detached portions of villages.

3. The Acting Director's report is full and seems to deal very fairly with the whole question. Where villages are very small, depopulated, or broken up into patches and intermingled with others, rearrangement at survey or settlement is clearly desirable. As a general principle ability to maintain the requisite village staff on the minimum scale, given in paragraph 13, may be taken as the limit below which it is undesirable to retain separate villages. Where the proceeds of enfranchisement of Service Inams and village-cess will suffice to maintain a suitable village establishment,—unless a village is in detached portions, or has an inconveniently irregular boundary, or is depopulated, or there is some other special cause rendering amalgamation advisable,—the village should be allowed to stand. Paragraph 12 of the Acting Director's letter provides general rules which seem appropriate for amalgamation; and administrative convenience must rule subdivision which, however, it would seem seldom necessary to recommend.

4. These Proceedings will be communicated to the Survey and Settlement Departments and all Collectors, and will be submitted for the approval of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

C. A. Galton
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, all Collectors.
,, the Director of Revenue Settlement.
,, the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Exd. W. H. French.

No 1295

Revenue 1876. Septo

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Proceedings, 7th March 1876, No. 638.

Dated 29 March 1876
Encl.

SOch 865 29 June 1876

Received 30. 3. 76

MARCH.
No. 638.

Clubbing of Villages.—Passing orders on reports from Director of Revenue Settlement, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, and Collector of Salem as to the advantages of —.

The Govt approve the Board's Proceedings -

No 290

A Grounds

Proof — premising that the Law is intended to fortify & comfort the ancient constitution and institutions of the country and not to be made a means of sapping their very existence as these new fangled notions are doing

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

MINUTE BY THE HON. SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.,

THERE are several points which require elucidation and remarks on this important paper on the amalgamation of villages.

2. It appears that as respects survey there is little advantage or otherwise to be derived from doubling up or clubbing up the ancient villages of the country together. Good survey is quite compatible with the existing constitution of the country and of rural society.

3. Mr. Rundall's letter, however, suggests more serious consideration; first, I would like the Board asked, whether, when more than one village has been placed under the same Curnam, under the re-organisation already ordered, the Revenue Accounts and other interests of each village are kept distinct,—or whether separate settlement is mere nominal,—and the individual villages are treated as only hamlets of one and the same village as suggested by Rundall's letter (paragraph 2.) If so, it is obvious that a most important feature of the ancient system is being set aside and that practically the Law is traversed. Several villages have frequently formed one Karnikam under the ancient system, but the accounts and other interests of each village have always been kept separate, and the Law, though enabling some consolidation, is manifestly intended to perpetuate and strengthen,— not to destroy—, the ancient village system of India. Orders should, I think, at once be given to rectify this mismanagement, if it has inadvertently been permitted under the Village Service Settlement already authorised.

4. Further, as it appears to me, Mr. Rundall and the Board ~~has~~ have fallen into grave errors as to the principles on which amalgamation should be conducted in future.

5. He evidently starts with the idea that each village must, in order to be permitted to survive as a village community, and preserve its ancient integrity, provide a pre-conceived minimum rate of emolument for a fixed and complete establishment. Neither the one condition nor the other is in any way whatever the key-note of the Village System of India, or is in any degree whatever necessary either under the provisions of the old customary Law or of the new Statute Law, or under the conditions of village constitution or of rural society.

6. Each old Indian village stands by itself, and has a more or less complete establishment,—as a rule, fairly sufficient for all its wants. What we require is that this condition continue unassailed by consolidating and reforming officers; for it is an abuse of the Law to use it to alter this condition, and ~~which~~ should be strictly forbidden.

7. Hitherto, however, the village-officers have been remunerated more or less inadequately and irregularly, and the Law and administrative measures now on foot have the rectification of this evil *only* in view,—and the new Law provides adequately for this, without clubbing up villages, destroying the ancient constitution and disbanding old hereditary village establishments. Wherever the service cess of a small village amounts to a small sum only, we may be sure that the work to be done is very limited and occasional, and that it is fully paid for by the ratable cess on the village,—supplemented, if necessary, by a contribution from the Inam Enfranchisement Fund. Under the Cess Law, the future emolument of existing Village Establishments will far exceed any hitherto enjoyed by the same men. So that the matter of uniformity of establishment or emolument need not, and should not, form a ground for clubbing up villages.

8. I submit that the Board should be told that the Government do not recognise the two first grounds put forward by Mr. Rundall as reasons for clubbing villages and extinguishing ancient communities, and that the question of emoluments must be eleminated from consideration in such matters.

9. The observations in paragraph 15 of Mr. Rundall's letter are groundless. Reasonable transfers and exchanges are quite compatible with custom without extinction of either village; (6) A/ and paragraphs 16 and 17 show what contention these attempts at incomplete and impossible,—for the people will not become one,—amalgamations must cause. The savings of trouble to the Revenue authorities urged in paragraph 18 is never great enough to justify the unnatural conditions under which it is effected then proposed to

X

10. I can conceive nothing more alien to the well-being of the country, to the interests of the people, and to sound administration than the extinction of 650 Hindu villages in two taluqs of North Arcot and the substitution of 185 creations of the Survey or Settlement Department. I wish to see the papers quoted.

11. Under these circumstances, I submit that the Board be directed to withdraw their approval of Mr. Rundall's proposals, and to carry out the spirit of the Law and instructions of Government in this behalf.

12. I would add, with reference to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, that it will require very cogent reasons to induce the Government to ratify such clubbing of villages as the Board seem to have approved of in Proceedings, dated 21st September 1875, No. 2,640.

6th July 1876.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

In Trichinopoly the clubbing was carried to such an extent that, if I recollect aright, some 2000 odd village servants were disbanded

Details of Munsiffs' charges, with place of residence &c for Clubbed Villages of the 69 Villages of Sydapet.

865

	Villages	Residence of Munsiff	Distance of Munsiff's residence from clubbed Villages	Remarks
			Mile	
1	Kosapur Manjambakkam	Kosapur	1	The new arrangement as to the Munsiff conforms to the old
2	Sirugaum Vilangadupppakkam Payasambakkam	Vilangaduppakkam	3/4 3/4	Vide remark No 1
3	Palavayal Settiyeriyampattu	(Inam) * Pallikuppam	1/2 3/4	Do
4	Layam Attivakkam Allingivakkam	Polal *	11/2 2 2	* Munsiffs are not residents
5	Naravarikuppam Sandalkalam Vadagaram	Do *	21/2 2 11/2	
6	Settimedu Vadaperumbakkam	Settimedu		
7	[illegible] Erraukuppam	Polal *	11/2 21/2	
8	Madavaram Vilakkuppattu	Madavaram	1/2	Vide remark No 1
9	Kodingyur Jambuli	Kodingyur Madavaram *	1	
10	Sembiyam Siruvellore	Sembiyam	1/2	Vide remark No 1
11	Villivakkam Mullam	Villivakkam	1	Do
12	Aduvakarai Arumbakkam Vada Agaram	Arumbakkam	1/2 1	Do
13	Periyakudal Aminjikarai	Aminjikarai	3/4	Do
14	Sengeri Virugambakkam	Maduravayal *	11/2 2	Do

Revenue Settlement Office
Madras 10 June 1872

Ag Director of Rev: Settt

No. 2351/28

Revenue Settlement Office,
Madras, 10th June 1876

From
The Acting Director of
Revenue Settlement.

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Sir,

Referring to Official memo: No. 90 dated the 20th ultimo, I have the honor to submit a Statement showing the distance between the clubbed village, and the village in which the Village Munsiff resides, as regards the 69 villages of the Sydapet Taluq. The greatest distance is 2 1/2 miles seemingly. In

cases Nos 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 14,
the Munsiffs are non-residents, +
+ and irregularities can be remedied. b
and this I must explain is
not under the new system - which
has not yet been inaugurated
as far as I know - but under
the old system. Hitherto, a
ryot of No 7 has had to go
2½ miles to lay a complaint
before the Munsiff of his Village.
Probably under the new system
resident Munsiffs may be
nominated in some cases, and
the distance will thereby be reduced.
Where the Munsiff may be a
resident, the greatest distance
is one mile, Nos 1 & 11, in which
the old arrangement of one
Munsiff

Munsiff for both villages has
been confirmed. The change does
therefore not affect matters at
all.

2 Similar information
for the villages of Salem and
Tinnevelly referred to, is not
available; but if necessary
I will request the Collectors
to furnish particulars.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obdt Servt.
Ramaal
Ag. Director of Rev: Sett.

No 291

[illegible] June R 27 June

No 2334
Revenue 1876 Depart.
From
The Ag Secretary
Rev: Sett
To
The Secretary to Govt
Rev: Departt.
Dated 10 June 1876
Received 12 June 1876
No 2351
S.O. No 865 29 June & 28 [illegible]
Submitting a state-
ment showing the
distance of the Clubbed
villages in the [illegible]
Taluq, as called for in
Office Memo No
90 dated 2d Ultimo

865/14

Minute

There are several points which require elucidation and remarks on this important paper on the amalgamation of Villages.

It appears that as respects Survey there is little advantage or otherwise to be derived from doubling up or clubbing up the ancient Villages of the Country together. Good Survey is quite Compatible with the Existing Constitution of the Country and of rural Society.

Mr. Rundall's letter however suggests more serious Consideration

1st. I would like the Board asked, whether when more than one Village has been placed under the same Curnam, under the reorganization already ordered, the Revenue Accounts and other interests of each Village are kept

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district - or whether separate settlement is mere nominal - and the individual Villages are treated as only hamlets of one and the same Village as suggested by Rundall's letter (Para II). If so, it is obvious that a most important feature of the Ancient System is being set aside and that practically the Law is traversed Several Villages have frequently formed one Karnikam under the ancient System, but the accounts and other interests of Each village have always been kept separate – and the Law, though Enabling some consolidation, is manifestly intended to perpetuate and strengthen – not to destroy – the ancient village System of India. Orders should, I think, at once be given to rectify this mismanagement, if it has inadvertently been permitted under the Village Service Settlement already authorized.

Further

Further, as it appears to me, Mr. Randall has fallen into grave Errors as to the principle on which amalgamation should be conducted in future.

He Evidently starts with the idea that Each village must, in order to be permitted to survive as a Village Community and preserve its ancient integrity, provide a pre-conceived minimum rate of Emolument for a fixed and Complete Establishment. Neither the one condition nor the other is in any way whatever the Key-note of the Village System of India or is in any degree whatever necessary either under the provisions of the old Customary Law or of the new Statute Law, or under the conditions of Village Constitution or of rural Society.

Each old Indian Village stands by itself and has a more or less complete Establishment - as a rule fairly sufficient for

[illegible] further

for all its wants. What we require is that this condition continue unassailed by consolidating and reforming offices, for it is an abuse of the Law to use it to alter this condition, which should be strictly forbidden.

Hitherto however the Village officers have been remunerated more or less inadequately & irregularly and the Law and administrative measures now on foot have the rectification of this Evil only in View – And the new Law provides adequately for this, without clubbing up villages, destroying the ancient Constitution and disbanding old hereditary village Establishments. —

Wherever the Service Cess of a small village amounts to a small sum only we may be sure that the work to be done is very limited and occasional, and that it

it is fully paid for for by the rateable Cess on the Village – supplemented, if necessary, by a Contribution from the Inam Enfranchisement fund. Under the Cess law, the future Emolument of Existing Village Establishments will far Exceed any ~~th~~ hitherto Enjoyed by the Same men. So that the matter of uniformity of Establishment or Emolument need not and should not form a ground for clubbing up villages

I submit that the Board should be told that the Govt: do not recognize the 2 first grounds put forward by Mr Rundall as reasons for clubbing villages and extinguishing ancient communities and that the question of Emoluments must be eliminated from consideration in such matters.

The observations in Para 15 of Mr Rundall's letters are groundless. Reasonable transfers and exchanges are quite compatible – with custom without extinction of either village. And Paras 16 & 17 show what contention these attempts at incom=plete & impossible – for the people will not become one – amalgamations must cause. The saving of trouble to the Revenue authorities urged in Para 18 is never great enough to justify the unnatural conditions under which it is

Effected

I can conceive nothing more alien to the well-being of the Country - to the interests of the people and to sound administration than the extinction of 650 Hindu Villages in two taluqs of N. Arcot and the substitution of 185 creations of the Survey or Settlement Depart^t. I wish to see the papers quoted.

Under these Circumstances I submit that the Board be directed to withdraw their approval of Mr. Arundell's proposals and to Carry out the Spirit of the Law and instructions of Govt. in this behalf

I would add with reference to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue that it will require very cogent reasons to induce the Govt: to ratify such clubbing of Villages as the Board seem to have approved of in Proceedings dated 21st Sept: 1875 No 2620

6/8 J. Robertson

papers put up - vide 1881 Progs 7th Feby '73. No 166 - the case was quite exceptional, & is admitted by all the District officers, Mr. Bourdillon initiating it.

No one more unsafe than Mr. B.

Shall the 'Statements' & 'Sketches' (unprinted Enclosures) be called for? Their consideration may be found to justify the Bd's order.

Clubbing of Hamlets

G O 29th June /76 No 865.

G O 29 June /76 No 865

No 292

Sent to Hon: [illegible] Govr: 10: May & 17: May

865
21

I fail to see advantage of clubbing except where they are intermixed —

There is evidently no appreciable advantage in respect to survey

It becomes then a question as put by Mr Ellis of "clubbing to give "a decent salary for a "sufficient charge" as respects village servants Curnums – Moonsiffs – Talaiaris &c —

It appears to me that the remuneration or

Salary. shd be in proportion to work - that if a village is very small - it will pay but a small sum but the Kurnum's work will be but small - & so with other officials -

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I asked for a statement of the distances between clubbed villages — from the reply it appears that in Sydapet — 9 villages out of the 32 treated will [illegible] be more than 2 mile from those to which they are

to be annexed -

I think that this is much too far -

It is said that already in 5 of the 32 there is no resident Moonsiff — this may be & probably is an evil - but under the proposed clubbing. the evil will be extended from 5 to a much larger number

I think the evil of non resident Moonsiffs should be met not by clubbing but by [illegible] carefully keeping selection & appointment of resident

officers —
I think the village organisation a valuable one — & that clubbing villages will impair its efficiency —
that if sanitary arrangements &c — are to be looked to every village must have its officers — that if villages 2 miles apart are clubbed — the village in which officers do not reside will not be often visited or looked after by them —
I think that a villager ought not to be called upon

to go 1½ or 2 miles to lay a complaint before the Moonsiff — (in two cases the distance appears to be 2½ miles —)

The saving of trouble to the Revenue officers — I do not consider any ground — if such as to make a large sum it should be provided for by some other means

I therefore agree with Mr W. Robinson — and object to the clubbing proposed — 7/6

R. D.

Pros. Bd Rev. 7th March/76

No 638.

Minute by Sir W. R.

d/6th May/76.

I do not share the alarm expressed by my North. colleague. This question was fully discussed and the steps now ~~taken~~ proposed to be taken by the Board appear to me reasonable and in accordance with the instructions of Govt. I notice that the amalgamation or clubbing is done with the consent of the villagers –

The object of clubbing is to give a decent salary for a sufficient charge – as respects village servants. Curnums. Mgrs & Taliaris and I can see no injustice or violation of law when the service is rendered equally to the whole group. –

The ~~amalgamated~~ village ~~keeps~~ ~~which~~ that is joined to another preserves all its own rights and has its affairs managed by competent men. If a village can't pay 72 Rs a year it practically gets no ~~service~~ at all. unless amalgamated.

I would approve of the orders issued by the Board

R.E.

It is submitted that the Board now very well understand that the "Clubbing of Villages" is not to be carried too far; & that all rights within the village, as it originally stood, are to be reserved to the inhabitants, even after its amalgamation for certain administrative purposes.

It will be seen that they keeps every village separate as it stands now, when it can pay as little as Rs 6 .. 4 .. (twelve shillings & six pence) a month to its officials. That is the smallest scale we have.

10/5/76.

Clubbing of Hamlets
into neighbouring villages

Circ
[illegible]
His Grace

Sent to His Grace 12 June R 20 June

8/26 VI. D

Memo - on His Grace's Note on the papers regarding the "Clubbing of Hamlets into neighbouring Villages"

"Curnam" is the Village accountant.

"Munsif" is the Village Magistrate & Petty Judge; also the "Collector".

"Talari" is the Constable.

"Vetti" is the man who discharges the lowest offices - sweeping the village choultry - keeping the threshing floor clean - measuring the grain - burning the dead, or at all events having the custody of the burning grounds & cemeteries. He is also the messenger of the Munsif - & acts as Constable, on a pinch.

VI. The letter from the Head of the Settlement Depot. gives the reply about the distances - required by His Grace.

12/6/6.

+
d/10/6 - 6
No $\frac{2351}{28}$

"Clubbing of Hamlets into adjacent villages"

Note for His Grace

Seen

Sent to His Grace 12 June R 20 June

No 865 8/7 d/ 29 June 1876

Board's Proceedings 7 March 1876 No 636.

Letter from the Dir.r of Revd. Settlement 10 June 1876 No 351

The Government are of opinion that there are several points connected with the important question of clubbing of villages, that require elucidation & settlement.

2. They observe that, for purposes of Survey, there is no particular advantage in clubbing villages; & that good survey is compatible with the existing constitution of the country or of rural society. But Mr Kendall attaches much importance to the amalgamation of villages as productive of certain administrative advantages, & sets out in para 12 of his letter, the principles which in his opinion should govern such amalgamation. The Government do not see the soundness of or [illegible]

expediency of adopting the first two of these, which in effect declares that the object of clubbing is to give a decent salary for a sufficient charge as respects village servants – According to this proposal, each village must, in order to be permitted to survive as the recognized habitation seat of a separate community & preserve its ancient integrity, provide a [illegible] certain prescribed minimum rate of emoluments for a fixed & complete scale of establishment. These emoluments, however, form no essential condition of the village system of India – there each old ancient Indian village stands by itself & has a more or less complete establishment – as a rule fairly sufficient for all its wants; & it is of primary importance that this condition sd. continue unassailed by any system of consolidation & reformation

which other considerations may render partially appear to suggest necessary. It is an admitted fact that hitherto, the village officers have been remunerated more or less inadequately & irregularly, & the law & the administrative measures now in force have the rectification of this anomaly in view. The Village Cess Act provides adequately for this without the necessity for clubbing & destroying the ancient village constitution. Wherever the service cess of a small village amounts to a small remuneration, it is almost certain that the work to be done is very limited too. [illegible]; & that it is fully paid for by the rateable cess on the village, supplemented, where necessary, by a contribution from the Main Enfranchisement Fund or the General surplus fund – Under this arrangement, the future emoluments of existing village establishments will far exceed any hitherto enjoyed by them: & a uniformity of Establishment or Emoluments need not & should not form a ground for clubbing villages. ~~The Governor~~ His Excellency the Governor in C^l^ considers that the present village organization is a valuable one; & that clubbing on the two first grounds stated by Mr. Rundall will impair its efficiency. The other two grounds urged for clubbing are sound, & not open to the objections above referred to. It must however be borne in mind that the distance ~~between the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ between the villages is an important element for consideration in carrying out the process of clubbing. It is observed from the statement of clubbed villages of the Vizagapat-

^ in distance to travel (for all the villages) ~~besides~~ to lay a complaint before the Munsiff.

Taluq submitted by the Acting Director, that 9 villages out of the 32 treated, will be more than 1 mile from those to which they are to be annexed. This the Govt. consider, is far too great ^ Further, it is said that there is no resident Munsiff in 5 villages. This is an evil which sh^d^ be avoided as far as possible; & care sh^d^ be taken to provide in almost all cases a resident Munsiff, who alone can efficiently carry out any sanitary or other measures that may become necessary. It is observed

4 that the observations in para 16 & 17 of Mr Rundall's letter show what contentio the attempts at incomplete & impossible amalgamation must cause; & that the

saving of trouble to the Revenue officers urged in para 4 is not great enough to justify the sweeping changes which an amalgamation on the principles advanced will necessarily lead to.

5 In conclusion; the Govt. desire to know whether, when more than one village has been placed under the same Curnum under the reorganisation already ordered, the Revenue accounts & other interests of each village are kept distinct — If not, it is obvious that that a most important feature of the ancient system is being set aside; which cannot be permitted.

6 The Board will also

89/7

report how far the clubbing of villages approved by them in their Proceedings of 21st September 1875 No 2660, is in conformity with the foregoing remarks—

14 To the Board of Revenue No. 10 July
21 To the Director of Rev. Sett. &
13 To the Supt. of Rev. Survey &

100/6

21-6-76