

(1) Number of pages 48
(2) Date of repair 11.4.38
(3) Initials of the Referencer F. H. 38

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	449 Revenue	Press Mis.
Dated	20th April	1885.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

20TH APRIL 1885, No. 449, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th March 1885, No 805 :—

Read—the following letter from L. R. BURROWS, Esq., Collector of Nilgiris, to the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture, dated Ootacamund, 5th December 1884, No. 3147 :—

In forwarding the final report of the Special Assistant Collector on the results of the Revenue Settlement of the Nilgiri portion of this district, ordered in G.O., No. 1345, dated 16th October 1880, I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony to the thorough and judicious manner in which this difficult task has been accomplished by Mr. Benson.

2. The financial results of the settlement, though eminently satisfactory, are unimportant compared with the introduction of order into the chaotic state of things which prevailed prior to 1881, when the settlement was commenced. In correcting the abuses, which had then become scandalous, as regards the appropriation of State lands by private persons, and in asserting the rights of the State wherever and by whomsoever they had been invaded, Mr. Benson has had an arduous and disagreeable task. But although he has done it in a manner which, I think, is entitled to be viewed with satisfaction by Government, he has shown such great tact and patience that he still remains thoroughly popular with all classes of the community.

3. Mr. Benson's report is a valuable and interesting account of the land revenue system of the Nilgiris from the early part of the century down to the present time, and I presume it will be printed with the final orders passed on it by Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. S. BENSON, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, in charge, to the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated Ootacamund, 20th November 1884, No. 573-237.

The revenue settlement of this district, ordered in G.O., No. 1345, dated 16th October 1880, having now been completed, I have the honor to submit a brief report on its results.

2. The scope of my operations extended to the whole of the Nilgiri District, with the exception of the Oucherlony Valley and South-East Wynaad, which were transferred from Malabar to the Nilgiris in 1873 and 1877, respectively, and the land tenures of which differ *in toto* from those of the other parts of the district. The portions to be settled were, therefore, the four ancient divisions (or, as they were sometimes called, villages or náds) known as—

- (1) *Merkundá*, with the slopes below Manaar transferred from Coimbatore by G.O., No. 102, dated 12th January 1877.
- (2) *Paranginá*.
- (3) *Kundahná*, with the tract known as Kinnakorai transferred from Malabar by G.O., No. 19, dated 5th January 1881.
- (4) *Todaná*, with the Sigúr plains as far as the Moyar river, which forms the district boundary on the Mysore side.

Area.

The area of this tract is 433562·01 acres, or 677·44 square miles.

Statements attached to the Report.

4. The four statements attached to this report contain statistics of the more important

facts ascertained at settlement. These statements are :—

Statement I.—Showing, by villages and náds (divisions), the area of the settled portion of the Nilgiri District, together with the occupied area and the assessment of the same, according to the revenue accounts, (1) immediately prior to survey and settlement, and (2) immediately subsequent to survey and settlement, together with the area and assessment of lands granted at settlement.

Statement II.—Showing the area of land held under each rate of assessment in the settled portion of the Nilgiri District or on free-hold tenure.

Statement III.—Showing, by villages and náds (divisions), certain statistics of population, cultivation, &c., in the settled portion of the Nilgiri District according to the settlement accounts.

Statement IV.—Showing, by villages and náds (divisions), the area of lands registered at settlement as available for sale, reserved for various public purposes, &c.

5. In order to understand the objects of the settlement and the results achieved thereby, it is necessary, before examining the above statements, to give a brief *résumé* of the former revenue history of the district. The subject has been so ably and exhaustively dealt with by Mr. H. B. Grigg in his Manual of the District, that I need not do more than notice those prominent features which influenced, or which explain, the condition of the revenue system as it existed immediately prior to settlement.

Résumé of Revenue System of Nilgiris.

6. When the Nilgiri Hills were ceded by the Mysore to the British Government, they formed part of the Dévanaiken Kóta Taluk of North Coimbatore, and the revenue system which prevailed in the cultivated portions was similar to that which existed, and still exists, in Coimbatore. This district was, therefore, included in Major McLeod's settlement of 1799, the object of which was to remedy the evils which resulted from Tippu's excessive assessments to their productive capacity in 1800-01, the result being that the total land revenue rose from Rs. 13,425 to Rs. 18,276. Fifteen rates of assessment, varying from Rs. 1-2-5 to Rs. 0-1-3 per acre, and all containing fractions of an anna, were then in existence, and these rates remained unchanged until 1862 on the lands held by the cultivating native tribes of the district, viz., the Badagas, Kotas, Irulas and Kurumbas. A similar, though not identical, series of rates prevailed, and still prevails, in the tract which extends from the foot of the hills on the Sigúr side to the Moyar river.

7. Though the revenue system was that of Coimbatore, certain peculiarities, which existed in Coimbatore, and which were to a small extent in other parts of that district, prevailed so extensively on the hills as to almost cause the hill system to be regarded as distinct and unique.

Peculiar Incidents of the Hill System.

These peculiarities were—

- (a) The Bhurty (or shifting) system of cultivation.
- (b) The *Iyen* grass (or fallow) privilege.
- (c) The "*Paravapillu vari*" (or grazing) privilege.

8. The former existence and subsequent abolition of the "Bhurty" (or shifting) system of cultivation are, perhaps, the most important facts in the Revenue history of the district, and as such merit detailed notice. The system appears to have existed from the earliest times, and as though, in effect, forbidden by Tippu, and formally abolished in 1862, so that Mr. Grant, the Collector, reported in 1864, that the system "has ceased and the people now regard it as a by-gone system; it is never alluded to," yet it continued in almost undiminished operation until the recent survey of the hills, and even since that date, attempts have been made to continue the practices formerly admitted under its shadow.

The Bhurty Privilege.

9. Under the "Bhurty" system, each cultivator held from Government a putta for the area of land which he ordinarily cultivated in each year; but the available land being practically unlimited as compared with the demand for it and being of little value to Government, the cultivator was permitted to cultivate a different plot each year, shifting from one place to another at will within certain limits, but retaining, by common consent and without payment, a preferential claim, or lien, on the plots formerly cultivated by him, and returning to them in rotation after two, three or more years, according to the nature of the soil and the period of fallow which was considered necessary to restore its fertility. Thus, though the area in a man's putta, and for which alone he was charged assessment, might be only ten acres, he was in the habit of cultivating in rotation various plots of land aggregating thirty or forty acres, or even more in poor and sparsely populated tracts. Nor were these several plots defined or limited or even identified except by the rude names of the fields entered in the putta at the suggestion of the ryot or the caprice of the village headman. There was no demarcation or survey, and consequently, in practice, the disposal of all lands lay with the village and subordinate revenue officials. If they did not wish an applicant for land to be successful, it was easy to set up some claimant in the locality to petition that he had a preferential claim to the land under the "Bhurty" privilege, and they were thus enabled to defeat the object of the applicant or to compel him to buy off their opposition or to purchase the consent of the claimant.

The "Bhurty" System continued.

10. The "Iyen grass," or fallow, privilege, was that under which the ryot was allowed to retain in his possession a certain portion of his holding as fallow at one-fourth of the appropriate assessment. The extent so held was not to exceed one-fifth of his regular holding. The effect of this privilege was still further to extend the area of waste land over which, at but little cost, an individual or a community might make a claim in opposition to an applicant whose proximity was not desired.

The "Iyen" Grass Privilege.

11. The third incident peculiar to the revenue system of Coimbatore, and the effect of which was similar to the last, was known as the "Paravapillu Vari" or grazing privilege, in accordance with which, extensive areas were often granted as pasture lands at one-fourth of the ordinary assessment until required for cultivation.

The "Paravapillu Vari" Privilege.

12. The evils of these various privileges were scarcely felt during the first thirty or forty years after our advent to the district, but with the gradual increase of population and the strong demand for land by European coffee-planters which set in about 1860, it became impossible any longer to continue privileges so opposed to the development of the district and so economically unsound.

Evils of these Privileges.

13. In 1862, after much discussion, Government determined that the "Bhurty," or shifting system of cultivation, should be abolished on the principle prevailing in the plains that the ryot must pay assessment for all the land he is entitled to cultivate. The native cultivators were accordingly informed of this decision, and were required to select, once for all, such of the lands over which they claimed the "Bhurty" privilege as they wished permanently to retain. These lands were measured and, in many cases, roughly demarcated and fresh puttas embodying the results were issued. To compensate the ryots for the loss of the privilege, the fifteen fractional rates which had previously existed were reduced to five simple rates as follows:—

						AS.
(1)	For assessments above 13 annas	...	...	...	...	10
(2)	Do. below 13 " but above 9 annas	...	...	...	...	8
(3)	Do. " 9 " " 6 "	...	...	...	...	6
(4)	Do. " 6 " " 4 "	...	...	...	...	4
(5)	Do. " 4 " " "	...	...	...	...	2

The reduction thus granted amounted on the average to about 25 per cent. of the assessment, and, together with the new markets for the labor and products of the district then opened up by the impulse given to the planting enterprise, reconciled the ryots to the loss, or supposed loss, of their ancient and dearly-loved privilege; so that in 1864 Mr. Grant, the Collector, was able to report that the change had been successfully introduced and that the former system was regarded as dead and gone and was now not even alluded to by the people.

14. But such a statement was hardly in accordance with the facts. "The Hindu is not wont thus readily to abandon his privileges and the institutions of his ancestors. He said 'yes,' but went on ploughing and planting as hitherto, until an accurate survey revealed the true position. In fact, each year has the area of cultivation and permanent occupation been extending with the growth in numbers of the Hill tribes, the increase of wealth among them, and the great extension of plantations."—Grigg's *Manual of the Nilgiri District*, page 321.

The "Bhurty" system had, indeed, been abolished by order of Government and the Secretary of State. It had ceased to exist as an officially-recognized institution or privilege. Very likely the ryots never alluded to it. Why should they? But they quietly practised it as much as ever. Their putta lands were not defined. The village headmen were among those most interested in conniving at, and maintaining, the condemned practices. Three Revenue Inspectors and as many Curnams (Accountants) comprised the whole staff of subordinate Revenue officials in the district, and they could not have effectually enforced the orders of Government, even had they desired to do so. The higher officials seem, like Mr. Grant, to have been ignorant that the dead system was still alive and flourishing, so no pressure from above was put upon the subordinates to enforce its abrogation, while many inducements from beneath were offered to tacitly permit its continued existence. Naturally the ryots were satisfied. They had, in fact, lost nothing of their privileges. They had gained by a large reduction in the rates of assessment.

15. Concurrently with the so-called abolition of the "Bhurty" system in Merkanád, Todanád and Paranginád, Mr. Grant abolished the *Erkáu Kothukáu* System of Kundahs abolished 1862. and Paranginád, Mr. Grant abolished the peculiar system in vogue up to that time in Kundahnád which had been transferred from Malabar to the Nilgiris in 1860. This system was known as "*Erkáu Kothukáu*." Under it a tax of Re. 1 or Rs. 1-8-0 was levied for the right to use a plough or "*Er*," and a tax of from 4 to 8 annas was levied for the right to use a hoe or "*Kothu*." The so-called putta issued to the ryot under this system was really no more than

a license to use one or more ploughs or hoes, as the case might be. It merely specified the amount payable for each instrument, but in no cases were the extent or position of the lands to be cultivated stated. The ryot used his implements whenever and wherever he pleased. No restrictions, even on the felling of forests, were imposed, so that the hill-sides and valleys were cleared at will.

Solitary forest trees still stand in the cultivated fields to show where woodlands once existed. The system was abolished in 1862-63, and in its place was set up the system supposed to have been newly established in the rest of the district; but on the Kundahs, as elsewhere, the "Bhurty" system continued in full vigour long after its supposed abrogation; until, in fact, its control was rendered possible by the recent demarcation and survey of holdings. During the settlement I found this *Erkadu Kothukadu* system still in force in the flourishing Badaga village of Kinnakorai with some fifty houses, transferred from Malabar in 1881. So long, at times, does it take for our reforms to reach the more remote tracts!

16. Before referring to the operations of the Survey Department, it will be convenient to glance at the other tenures under which lands are held in the district. The Todas, as the

most ancient inhabitants, first claim our notice. The earliest settlers, and notably Mr. Sullivan, strongly advocated the claim of the Todas to the absolute proprietary right to the plateau; but another school, led by Mr. Lushington, as strongly combated these views, and, apparently, regarded the Todas as merely occupiers under the ryotwari system in force generally in the Presidency. From the earliest times the Todas have received from the cultivating Badagas an offering, or tribute, called "*Gudu*," or basket of grain, partly in compensation for the land taken up by the latter for cultivation and so rendered unfit for grazing purposes, but chiefly as an offering to secure the favor, or avert the displeasure, of the Todas, who, like the Kurumbas of the jungle, are believed by the Badagas to have necromantic powers over their healths and that of their herds. The European settlers also bought land in Ootacamund from them, and to this day Government pays them the sum of Rs. 150 per annum, as compensation for interference with the enjoyment of their pastoral rights in and about Ootacamund. Their position was, however, always a matter of dispute until it was finally laid down in the despatch of the Court of Directors, dated 21st January 1843. It was then decided that the Todas possessed nothing more than a prescriptive right to enjoy the privilege of pasturing their herds, on payment of a small tax, on the State lands. The Court desired that they should be secured from interference by settlers in the enjoyment of their munda (or village-sites) and of their spots appropriated to religious rights. Accordingly puttas were issued granting to each mund three bullahs (11.46 acres) of land. In 1863 Mr. Grant obtained permission to make a fresh allotment of nine bullahs (34.38 acres) to each mund on the express condition that the land should be used for pasturage only and that no right to sell the land or the wood on it should be thereby conveyed. It may be added that the so-called Toda lands are now regarded as the inalienable common property of the Toda community and unauthorised alienation is checked by the imposition of a penal rate of assessment—*G.O., No. 397, dated 18th April 1882*. Up to the date of this order, however, alienations by sale or lease were of frequent occurrence. It remains to be seen whether the present orders and subordinate staff will be more adequate than those that went before to check the practices referred to.

17. We shall now consider the tenures of lands held by European and other immigrants. Lands held by immigrants.

The first European settlers bought lands, as has been already noticed, from the Todas, but in 1828, Government required them to take out leases from Government and imposed an assessment of 1½ pagodas (Rs. 5-4-0) on each cawnie (1.32 acres) of land thus leased. Many properties are still held on these old leases. This high rate of assessment was held to apply to all lands, even those held for agricultural purposes, in the uplands of Todanád. This rate was considered to be excessive and likely to check the extension of cultivation, so in 1836, Government, at Mr. Sullivan's suggestion, reduced the rates on cultivated lands at a distance from Ootacamund to an equality with those paid by the Badagas, but imposed special double rates on cultivated lands taken up by immigrants in Ootacamund, on the ground that the land was exceptionally rich and that a good market for produce was close at hand. The limits within which these higher rates prevailed are those now known as the limits of the Ootacamund settlement. In the same year, it was determined that the assessment on house-sites should be reduced to Rs. 5-4-0 for the first cawnie only of the area occupied, the remainder being charged at Rs. 1-2-4 per cawnie. In 1842, an elaborate manual of rules for the disposal of lands was drawn up, but it did not come into force until 1849 on the completion of Mr. Ouchterlony's survey. It provided for the grant of thirty years' leases for agricultural purposes and ninety-nine years' leases for building sites, the latter being renewable every thirty-three years. Many conditions (now rarely observed) are inserted in these leases, and, in particular, one which provides that on the expiration of the lease, the land with its buildings reverts absolutely to Government. In the cantonment of Wellington, leases for fifty years are granted under similar but

not identical conditions. Some modifications were introduced in 1858, and in the following year the redemption of the land-tax was authorized at twenty years' purchase, subsequently raised to 25 years' purchase.

18. The abolition of the "Bhurty" system, which has been already noticed, was the necessary preliminary to any general system of auction sales of land such as the Government

had for some time been desirous of introducing. So long as large and indefinite claims under the "Bhurty" system could be brought forward and supported by the kinsfolk and friends of the claimants, who were usually the only witnesses that could be examined as to the validity of the claims, it was practically impossible for applicants to obtain land from Government. On its abolition, therefore, the Waste Land Rules of 1863, which had long been under discussion, were finally adopted, and an Act (No. 23 of 1863) was passed to facilitate the disposal of claims made to lands about to be sold under the rules. The main provisions of these rules were that land was to be demarcated and surveyed on being applied for and was then to be sold to the highest bidder subject to an upset price to cover the cost of survey and subject also to an annual assessment of Rs. 2 per acre of forest and Rupee 1 per acre of grass land. The assessment on grass lands was reduced to 8 annas per acre by order of Government in 1871, and, from time to time, considerable relaxations have been made by exempting land from assessment for some years after its purchase.

19. It is to be noticed that neither the Waste Land Rules, nor the simple rates introduced by Mr. Grant in 1862, have ever been applied to the Settlement village of Musinigudi, that is,

to the tract of country lying between the foot of the Hills on the Sigúr side and the Moyar river. Lands there are still obtained under the "*durkhast*" (simple application) system prevalent in the low country, and numerous rates of assessment, all containing fractions of an anna, still prevail, unchanged since the beginning of the century. The survey of all estates in this tract was completed with the general survey of the district and the survey of all putta lands and the revision of assessments therein has recently been ordered.—*G.O., No. 986, dated 4th September 1884*.

20. When the Waste Land Rules were passed, it was decided that henceforth no lands should be granted to any one, not even to the Hill tribes, except under those rules. Considerable

objection to Waste Land Rules. areas were sold to European planters during the first three years after the rules were in force, but they were never popular and the sales soon fell off. Between 1867 and 1874, the sales never exceeded 850 acres in any one year, and in 1868-69 they only amounted to 4 acres! The district was without an adequate staff of officials. Great delay occurred in the survey and sale of land applied for. When the sale took place, there was nothing to prevent an outsider from coming in and buying the land over the applicant's head or bidding him up to such a figure as effectually depleted his cash balance and left him unable to develop the estate. Sometimes this was done through mere enmity, more often to prevent new comers from obtaining land near existing estates and thus reducing the supply of labor and manure; or in the hope that the purchaser would be able to sell the land (as he often did) a few days after the auction to the disappointed applicant, who would often, on consideration, think it better to pay an enhanced price rather than incur the delay, uncertainty and expense of making a fresh application.

21. Prior to 1870, blocks of land applied for under the Waste Land Rules, and properties in and about the settlements of Ootacamund, Coonoor and Kótagiri, had been, from time to

time, surveyed, but it was not until 1870 that a general survey of all lands was ordered, including lands in the occupation of the Hill tribes. Owing to the want of village establishments, the unhealthiness of the district, the advent of famine (1876-78) and other causes, the survey proceeded slowly and was not completed until about 1880. In its course it was found that, owing to the increase in the numbers of the Hill tribes, mainly Badagas, the area actually under cultivation by them had greatly increased since the puttas of 1862 had been given to them. Scarcely an acre of land had been bought by them under the Waste Land Rules, but (as explained in paragraph 9), the position of their putta lands were undefined and there was no one to check their acts. Consequently, they had gone on increasing their cultivation at will as their numbers grew; and they, moreover, still practised the "Bhurty" (or roving) system of their ancestors, which was nominally abolished in 1862, but which really still flourished without let or hindrance. The Survey officers thus found the Hill men actually cultivating more land than was in their puttas and claiming still larger areas on the ground that they had recently cultivated them and had a prescriptive right to hold them. There would, undoubtedly, have been extreme hardship in an order to recognize the puttdar's title only to the areas shown in their puttas; and, consequently, orders were issued to treat the puttdars liberally. In fact, the operation which Mr. Grant thought he had effected in 1862 was now again (or, perhaps, more accurately for the first time) to be carried out. In practice, each man was allowed to take up whatever land he had at any time cultivated under the "Bhurty" system, and often, too, adjoining lands which had never been cultivated, but which

might soon be useful either for extension of cultivation or for sale to other persons; for, in order to avoid the risks and inconvenience inseparable from applications under the Waste Land Rules, planters had now begun to apply to native land-owners rather than to Government for such land as they required, and the more frequently when Government began to refuse applications for forest land, which is the only kind suitable for coffee-planting.

22. It is true Badagas rarely had land in localities suitable for coffee-planters, but then there was nothing to fix the position of the lands shown in their puttas. No one, in fact, knew the position except the owners and the men of their own village. It was easy to make an arrangement by which they should all agree to say that the land was in a certain spot which had been fixed upon as suitable for a coffee or other plantation. The subordinate officials of both the Revenue and Survey Departments were poor and easily open to persuasion. Indeed, in many cases, they either obtained, or intended to obtain, land in this way themselves. Little by little the practice, which had begun in fear and trembling, grew with impunity into a regular system and embraced large areas in its operation. Owing to the existence of the Irulas and Kurumbas of the jungle, it was often possible to find small patches of land which had once been cleared in the midst of the virgin forest, and this lent color to the misappropriations, and it was always easy to assert that small, poor forest was, in reality, secondary and virgin forest. Many thousands of acres of Government land (grass scrub to claim a couple of hundred acres of forest or scrub under a putta for half-a-dozen acres of ordinary land in some distant village. In one case I remember 1,000 acres on the Hulikal slopes were claimed under a putta for 1 bullah (3.82 acres).

Malpractices at Survey.

23. Owing to the position of the subordinate Revenue and Survey officials, as already noticed, and the paucity of superior officers, this state of affairs did not come prominently to notice until the complete survey registers began to come in and puttas were under preparation for the areas as ascertained by survey. Indeed, puttas for the three Settlements and for Merkanád were issued in, or prior to, 1878 without much notice having been taken of the excess lands included by survey with the private holdings. In that year, however, Colonel Cloete and Mr. Barlow got information of the state of affairs, and several reports were written, which are embodied in G.O., No. 793, dated 5th April 1879. This order laid down certain general rules for dealing with all cases of excess, and some few were settled in accordance with its principles.

Not noticed until 1878.

24. The state of the revenue accounts also and of the village establishment required revision. There were no revenue villages, for the old náds (sometimes called villages), more properly corresponded to taluks or divisions. Tódanád alone contains 217,000 acres. There were hardly any village establishments, and such as existed were miserably remunerated. Scarcely a headman in the district could read, and the land revenue accounts of all lands, except those in the quit-rent and plantation registers, were supposed to be kept by four Curnams paid about Rs. 3 per mensem each. As a fact, it may be said that no accounts were kept except the Chittah (Individual Ledger) and some imperfect collection accounts. Many of the original accounts had been destroyed by the persons interested after the revelations of 1878, with a view to hinder the prosecution then ordered. The quit-rent and plantation registers, which related mostly to the lands of European planters or to lands in Coonoor and Ootacamund, were kept in the Commissioner's Office, and, as the bills for assessment were also issued from his office, much of his time was spent in matters which would properly devolve on the Tahsildars. It often happened, too, that between these several registers kept by the Curnam and the Commissioner, land escaped registration (and assessment) altogether. Each office thought that the land was in the other's register. There were no general registers for fixed areas, nor did the registers usually state the tenure on which any land was held. Some lands were ordinary putta lands. Others were held on restricted puttas, of which there were three classes:—those issued to (1) Europeans, (2) Todas, and (3) Irulas. Other lands were held under Waste Land Rules, deeds, or under permanent quit-rent lands not held on lease, or (in Wellington) fifty years' leases. There were also special deeds or terms. In such a multiplicity of titles it is easy to see how important it is that the registers should be clear and well kept.

25. The superior staff of the district had, however, been recently reduced, though the work of the district had enormously increased with its general development, the addition of the mining and cinchona industries. It was, therefore, impossible for the Commissioner to scrutinize the survey registers or carry out the orders of Government, and he had no assistant or superior revenue subordinate to whom the work could be delegated. It thus became absolutely necessary to appoint a special officer to examine and revise the registers. It

Special Settlement Officer appointed 1881.

26. The foregoing sketch explains the necessity which existed for a settlement and indicates the points mainly to be dealt with. Mr. Puckle's letter to the Board of Revenue and his instructions to the settling officer, which were approved in G.O., No. 453, dated 16th March 1881, deal with those points in detail. The following is a brief sketch of the *modus operandi* adopted at the settlement:—

was considered that it would not be possible to strictly apply the rules alluded to above in dealing with excess without a completed re-survey of the district, as excess was almost universal and was very often quite unobjectionable. Those rules were, therefore, held in abeyance. Greater latitude was given to the settling officer, and advantage was taken of the opportunity to re-organize and improve the land revenue administration in many other particulars.

Modus operandi of Settlement.

26. The foregoing sketch explains the necessity which existed for a settlement and indicates the points mainly to be dealt with. Mr. Puckle's letter to the Board of Revenue and his instructions to the settling officer, which were approved in G.O., No. 453, dated 16th March 1881, deal with those points in detail. The following is a brief sketch of the *modus operandi* adopted at the settlement:—

- (1) Each nád, or division, was sub-divided into villages of convenient size for administrative purposes, natural or well known boundaries being adopted as far as possible, and due regard being paid to area, population, revenue and such like matters. The four náds were thus split up into thirty-six villages, the names and areas of which are given in Statement I attached to this report.
- (2) A map of the village was then obtained from the survey department and the fields were numbered consecutively.
- (3) With this map and the survey registers relating to the lands in the village, a subordinate was sent to the village, and, with the assistance of the revenue officials, he made a preliminary inquiry into all matters in dispute connected with the survey or settlement, and with the registration of transfers of puttas, applications for land, improper inclusion of forests in private holdings, statistics of cultivation, &c.
- (4) On his return to office he reported particulars of each matter to me and received orders on doubtful cases which required no inspection of the land or further inquiry. The matters requiring inspection or further inquiry were noted by me, and then the village was inspected by me in detail. Grants of land applied for under Settlement Rules 10 and 16 were disposed of, or, if necessary, reported to the Collector or Government. Village grazing lands were selected and set apart under Rule 11. Reserves for roads, streams, swamps and forests, not previously made, were selected and recorded. Lands "available for sale" under Rule 13 were also selected and recorded. Lists of new demarcations required, owing either to omissions or errors in the original surveys, were prepared, and the necessary detailed orders were sent to the Survey officer for execution. Government lands claimed without title were inspected and the necessity (or otherwise) of resisting the claim was considered. Where valuable forests were included in private holdings the rights of Government were asserted, and where large excess areas were included and there appeared no objection to the occupation of lands, a putta was issued on such terms as to future assessment and payment of arrears or penalty as was considered reasonable, the Collector being consulted in all important cases. Inam lands were dealt with in accordance with G.O., No. 212, dated 11th February 1884.
- (5) All the above points having been settled, and the new surveys having been made, a general register of all the lands in the village was framed, showing not only all private holdings with the area, rate of assessment and total assessment payable thereon and the tenure on which held but also showing all Government lands ranged under their appropriate heads as reserved forest, swamp, road, stream, grazing ground, "available for sale," &c. The distinction between lands registered in the Collector's office and in the Curnam's was abolished, and all the lands (including many which had previously escaped registration altogether) were entered in the one village register.
- (6) Brief descriptive memoirs of each important estate (Settlement Rule V) were then prepared in communication with the proprietors.
- (7) From the general register the chittah (or individual ledger) was prepared, showing for each land-owner in the village the several lands held by him, and he was furnished with a copy of this, under the name of the settlement rough putta, and asked to bring to notice any errors or omissions within a fixed time.
- (8) After all appeals had been heard, the maps and registers were finally revised, abstract statements prepared, a descriptive memoir and register in diglott written up and sent to be printed with an eye sketch (Settlement Rule IV) of the village bound up with the register.
- (9) The map of the village, numbered to correspond with the register, and prepared on the scale 16 inches = 1 mile, was then sent to the Survey office to be lithographed and sold to the public. The memoir and register, on being printed, was also made available for sale to the public and was supplied, with a copy of the map, to all the public offices of the district.

Contents of Settlement Register and Memoir.*

27. The memoir and register, as printed, contain for each village the following matters:—

- (1) A note as to the situation and boundaries.
- (2) A statement of the areas included.
- (3) Some statistics of demarcation marks.
- (4) Some statistics of the population, number of houses, of puttas and of cattle.
- (5) A statement of the area actually cultivated with various kinds of crops.
- (6) A note showing the total increase of assessment by the settlement accounts.
- (7) A descriptive memoir of each important estate, showing its position, the lands included in it, the history of their acquisition, the areas of the crops cultivated, the former and present owners and the assessment.
- (8) A list of all demarcated and reserved forests, with their position and areas, and names, if any.
- (9) A similar list of all demarcated and reserve swamps.
- (10) A rough eye sketch of the village indicating its boundaries and the chief hamlets, roads, streams, estates, and grazing grounds in it.
- (11) The general field register, showing the number and name of each field, its rate of assessment, area and total assessment, and the name of the owner, with remarks as to the tenure on which it is held, or, if Government reserve, the purpose for which it is reserved.
- (12) An abstract showing the areas occupied as free-hold or subject to each rate of assessment, the grants made at settlement, the various areas reserved as forest, grazing ground, &c., and the areas available for sale, &c.

28. These accurate and elaborate registers and accounts would lose much of their value unless arrangements were made to revise them each year and keep the current accounts up to date. It has been noted that the district had completely outgrown the subordinate establishments allowed for the management of its land revenue and cognate affairs. In fact no adequate scheme for a revision of the village establishments. I, therefore, at the Collector's request, drew up a complete scheme for a revision of the village establishments. This was sanctioned with but little alteration by the Government, and I, then, at the Collector's request, submitted lists of persons who might suitably be appointed to the various offices (over 100 in number). The scheme is now in full operation and for the first time in the history of the district it may be considered that the arrangements regarding the staff of village officials are on a satisfactory footing. Provision for their pay has been made by the introduction of the Village Service Cess under the authority of Act IV of 1864, extended by Act I of 1883, specially passed in that behalf, and also, to a small extent, from the proceeds of the immovable lands previously assigned for the purpose. The village officers are now entrusted with the collection of all the land revenue, the Collector's office being relieved of that portion of the work which had hitherto devolved on it.

29. Some of the operations enumerated in paragraph 26 above are of such importance as to require some further notice. The grant of land at settlement, in accordance with Settlement Rules 10 and 16, is one of the most important features of the settlement and has done more than anything else to render the settlement generally acceptable to the people of the district. A full examination of the working of these rules and the proof that their application is financially profitable to Government as well as agreeable to the people is contained in the papers recorded in G.O., No. 1205, dated 28th September 1883. The areas granted in each village, with the assessment payable thereon, are shown in Statement No. I, attached to this report. The grants made to estates, at Rs. 2 per acre, amounted to 4075.38 acres, assessed at Rs. 8,150-12-1. The grants made to native puttadars, at As. 10 per acre, amounted to 4376.13 acres, assessed at Rs. 2,735-4-2. The total grants were, therefore, 8451.51 acres assessed at Rs. 10,886-0-3. The grants thus made exceed the areas sold under the Waste Land Rules during the past sixteen years. The total number of the grants was 980, and the average area of each grant was 9.62 acres. Every individual grant was inspected by me in person to see that it included no forest and was otherwise free from objection. This precaution, though laborious, was shown by the past history of the district to be absolutely necessary.

30. Great attention was paid to the registration of blocks of forest as reserved, and, where required for reservation, they were registered or adjoining, forest blocks were likely to be registers as demarcated and reserved as forest. The number of fields which are shown in the Many of these fields, however, are contiguous to each other, though for various reasons they would appear from consideration of the average size of each field registered as reserved forest.

Forests.

Lists of all the lands so registered were sent to the Forest Officer on the completion of the settlement of the village. In villages with large tracts of unsurveyed forest and waste, the forests were not separately entered in the registers, as there was no means of defining them, nor was there any advantage in attempting to do so pending selection and demarcation by the Forest officers under Act V of 1882. Such tracts therefore, are not included in the above figures. Statement No. 4 shows the demarcated areas reserved in each village.

31. As required by Settlement Rules 11 and 12, village grazing grounds were also selected and set apart in each village according to its requirements and the area still available for the purpose. Each block selected was personally inspected by me. Altogether 319 blocks were so set apart, with an area of Acres 24061.24. If the Government reserves for Todas' cattle (1890.74 acres), the reserved swamps (1842.02 acres), and the recreation and grazing grounds of Ootacamund (4579.44 acres) be added, the total permanently demarcated as pasture land amounts to 32373.44 acres for the 36,746 cattle of the district, or nearly one acre per head. It must be noted that the areas registered as "available for sale" (18366.40 acres) are used as pasture pending their gradual occupation, and in the villages with large unsurveyed tracts grazing lands have not yet been fully selected pending the final selection of forest reserves. There is thus more than enough grazing land for all wants for years to come in the district as a whole, though in certain localities the want of pasturage is keenly felt owing to the extension of population and cultivation. The area demarcated as village grazing land in each village is shown in statement No. 4.

32. The statement shows the demarcated areas available for sale in each village. They are 858 blocks in all and aggregate 18366.40 acres. The reserved lands in Ootacamund and Coonoor are simply registered as "Government waste" not as "available for sale," since Government has recently imposed stringent restrictions on the disposal of such lands even under the Waste Land Rules. Such lands are 132 in number with an area of 868.02 acres. Lands available in the unsurveyed tracts are not included in the above, since there is no means of defining them. Each block entered as available for sale was inspected by me in person to ascertain that no objection existed to such classification.

33. As many as 248 estates have been separately described in the memoirs. The area of these estates is 41415.36 acres and the assessment Rs. 40,565-11-0.

34. The registration of transfers of ownership had from various causes been much neglected, and, in consequence, the registers of owners did not at all generally correspond with the actual facts. Much inconvenience to the Revenue officers and to the land-owners was the result, and collections were impeded. At settlement nearly 3,000 transfers were registered and the accounts of ownership were thus rendered much more accurate than they have hitherto been.

35. Statement No. I shows the increase in the occupied area and assessment of the district due to survey and settlement. Puttas for the survey areas in Merkunad and in the three settlements of Ootacamund, Coonoor and Kōtagiri were issued by the Collector prior to settlement, and it has not, in consequence of the state of the revenue accounts before settlement, been practicable to show the results for each village of Merkunad separately, but this has been done in all the other villages. Looking at the totals, it will be seen that the accounts prior to survey and settlement show only 64150.23 acres as occupied, with an assessment of Rs. 33,632-7-7; while according to the settlement accounts the occupied area (excluding free-holds) is 126941.93 acres, assessed at Rs. 85,045-9-6. Of this enormous increase, however, 8451.51 acres, assessed at Rs. 10,886-0-3, is due to new grants made at settlement, and 5901.55 acres, assessed at Rs. 5,599-11-11, is due to sales under the Waste Land Rules and gold mining grants made during the course of survey and settlement and which of course are not due to those operations. Deducting these items from the total increase, we find that the net increase revealed by the survey and settlement of the district is 48438.64 acres, assessed at Rs. 34,927-5-9.

The increase in occupation is 75.5 per cent., and is mainly due to the existence of the "Bharty" privilege (see paragraphs 8, 9, 14 and 21) and the practical recognition at survey of claims under it, and to the illicit extension of the privilege and the malpractices (see paragraph 22) which took place under its shadow. It is also due, in a smaller degree, to excess demarcations in Todamunds and to the registration of lands previously omitted altogether from the revenue accounts. The increase in assessment is 103.8 per cent., and is due to the same causes, and the operation of Settlement Rule 18 in regard to fraudulent misappropriations of land, and to the introduction of puttas into Kinnakorai village in place of the "Erkodu Kothu Kadu" system (paragraph 15) previously in force, and to some small revisions sanctioned in regard to old rates of assessment containing fractions of an anna. If the grants made at settlement be added, the total increase due to survey and settlement is 56890.15 acres, assessed at Rs. 45,813-6-0, and the percentages of increase are raised to 88.7 and 136.2, respectively.

36. Where the increase in the assessment is so great, it is natural to turn to the table of rates in force and to inquire whether the present rates are excessive. Statement No 2 contains the required information. Taking all the lands in the district together, we find that the average rate is As 10-8 pies only. This, however, includes the house-sites in the towns of Ootacamund and Coonoor, assessed at Rs. 10 and Rs. 4 per acre, and the gold mining grants, assessed at Rs. 5 per acre, and all the estates, lease lands in Ootacamund and Coonoor, and settlement grants, which include all the higher rates of assessment.

37. The lands held by the Badagas, Kotas, Irulas, Kurumbas and Todas, who alone constitute the hill tribes, are assessed without exception at the low rates sanctioned in 1862. The average rate of assessment on lands of Hill Tribes and which vary from 10 annas to 2 annas. The average assessment on these lands, excluding the new grants made at settlement, is only a fraction over six annas per acre; and the avidity with which these tribes sought for settlement grants at the *lowest* rate prevailing in their puttass (viz. per acre), together with the fact that they actually took up 1,376 acres at that rate, shows that the assessment on their remaining lands is not excessive. It is in fact much the same rate as prevailed in the beginning of the century under Major Macleod's settlement. In 1835, Mr. Sullivan estimated the average assessment at 6 annas per acre, and remarked that this, "which was in former times as much as the land could afford to pay, has become, under the improved circumstances of the people, little more than a quit-rent."

If further proof were required, it will be found in the fact that, though the settlement rates have been introduced in each village on the completion of its settlement, the area relinquished has been only 240 acres in the past three years, and no less than 188 acres of this consisted of lands newly granted at settlement.

38. If then these rates are so moderate and have not been changed since the beginning of the century, the question at once suggests itself: Ought they not to be revised and increased? In dealing with this question it must be distinctly borne in mind that there has never been a settlement of the Nilgiris in the modern and technical sense of the term, with a scientific classification of soils and an adjustment of rates in accordance with the productive capabilities of the soil. The settlement of Major Macleod in 1800-1, indeed, professed to be such, but it was obviously very rough and ready and referred, at best, to only a small part of the area now occupied. Mr. Grant's settlement of 1862 professed to be rather a settlement of areas than of rates. The object was to abolish the "Bhurly" system and to make a general reduction, in a rough and ready way, on all rates, so as to compensate the hillmen for the loss of their ancient privilege. The present settlement, too, proceeds on the basis of the former assessments, and has made no attempt at a general classification of soils. The question is whether such a classification is now required or would pay for the cost of making it. I trust I shall be excused if, with my experience of the district, I record my decided opinion that it is not at present required and probably will not be expedient for many years to come. The more valuable lands are for the most part held under special leases or deeds which cannot be interfered with. The rates fixed on the grants at settlement should not be altered for at least thirty years. The assessment on the estates purchased from Badagas, Kurumbas and Irulas, almost without exception contained large areas of Government land wrongfully included with the estate at survey. In these cases, and in lands held without any title prior to settlement, an appropriate rate has been fixed. As regards the lands held by the native tribes, though the rate is only a little over six annas per acre, it is, in my opinion, sufficient, all things considered. It must be remembered that though the rate per acre has not been increased, yet now, for the first time, will these tribes be in reality required to pay for all the land in their occupation. The "Bhurly" privilege was never really abolished until the survey and settlement, and the total payments hereafter to be made by the hillmen will be nearly double the total hitherto paid by them. The fact, too, that they do, and for many long years most certainly will, cultivate only a portion of their holding each year, leaving the rest fallow to recover its fertility, causes the assessment on the area actually cultivated each year to be much greater than the average rate on the holding. Probably it almost doubles it. The assessment on the fallow portion has to be paid out of the produce of the cultivated portion.

Inequalities of assessment no doubt exist, but my experience does not lead me to think them, on the whole, to be very important or such as would justify the expense and harassment inseparable from a regular settlement.

39. A few words of comment on the figures in Statement No. 3 will be of interest as showing the development of the district and its increased capability to bear the increased assessment that is now fixed on it. And, first, as to population—This was put down at 2,516 in the Survey Report of 1812. In 1821 Captain Ward fixed the population at 4,353. In 1847 Captain Ouchterlony found it to be 17,087. In 1866 it was believed to be 38,142. The first regular census was taken in 1871 and fixed the population at 49,501. The census of 1881 showed that it had

risen to 65,591, but a small part of these increases is due to the transfer of the Manaar Slopes from Coimbatore in 1877, and of Kinnakorai from Malabar in 1881. All the Hill tribes, but most especially the Badagas, the chief cultivators, participate in the increase. The Todas are not dying out, as is sometimes assumed, but have remained almost stationary for the past twenty years. The increase in the number of houses, which is now 16,114 against 13,922 in 1871, corresponds with the increase in population. The average for each house (between four and five souls) shows that there is none of that over-crowding which so often indicates poverty. Indeed it is unquestionable that the neat and substantial houses of the Badagas are superior, in size, cleanliness and comfort, to the average houses of the cultivators in the plains. With the population it is natural that the number of the puttass should have increased, and it now stands at 5,557. The number of cattle has almost doubled since 1871, and the area actually under cultivation has risen, since that date, from 49,613 acres to 60,395 acres.

40. The total expenditure on the Settlement Party has been Rs. 81,369-15-8. I have no figures of the cost of survey of the settled portion of the district, but, no doubt, they exist in your office. The total annual increase due to survey and settlement is shown in paragraph 35 to be Rs. 45,813-6-0. The penalties imposed by the Collector under settlement Rule 18 and the arrears of assessment on lands previously omitted from the accounts but reported to the Collector by this office, amounted to nearly Rs. 40,000, a sum sufficient, in itself, to pay for one-half of the total cost of the settlement. In considering the cost of settlement, I also think that a deduction of, say, one-third of my salary, from 1st July 1882 to end of January 1883 and from 1st May 1883 to end of September 1883, or one year in all, should be made on account of my employment during those periods as Secretary to the Local Self-Government Committee and to the Committee appointed to prepare drafts of new Municipal and Local Fund Boards' Bills, as this special work occupied about one-third of my time during its continuance.

41. The financial results of the survey and settlement have been detailed in paragraphs 35 and 40. The general results have also been indicated, from time to time, in this report. They may be summed up as follows: All private holdings have been defined, mapped and registered. Every man now knows his own, and can have a plan of it for a few annas. The long pending disputes between Government and landholders as to their boundaries have been settled. Large areas of forest, wrongfully claimed, have been reco red for Government, and titles (so far as puttass are titles) have been granted for the areas allotted at settlement to belong to claimants, thus rendering their properties more valuable and more marketable. Considerable areas have been granted to private persons under the Settlement rules, to their no small satisfaction and the increase of the public revenues. The land revenue accounts have been thoroughly revised, and efficient village establishments have, for the first time, been organized to keep the accounts and attend to the collection of the revenue and other cognate duties. The areas available for sale in the demarcated portions of the district have been registered, so that both the public and the district officers can know them merely by examining the maps and registers. In like manner all the lands reserved as forest, swamp, road, stream, &c., and the areas set apart as village grazing grounds in the demarcated portions of the district have been defined and recorded, both on the ground and in the maps and registers. These measures will, it is believed, both benefit the population of the district and greatly facilitate the transaction of work in the Collector's and in other public offices. I trust that the results of the survey and settlement, both financial and general, may meet with the approval of Government.

42. During the settlement a large number of new demarcations and surveys were necessary, and, in examining alleged titles to estates, it was often necessary to obtain old maps and survey records. I was, therefore, under the necessity of constantly applying to the survey officer for assistance. All my demands (often troublesome enough) met with the most prompt and courteous response from Colonel C. A. Liardet, the Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, and his subordinates.

43. My own subordinates worked most industriously and willingly, under circumstances sufficiently trying. The field hands suffered much from fever and other effects of climatic exposure. One died at his post. Another had to resign the public service owing to broken health, and all suffered more or less. The Supervisors, T. Seshiah and C. Kristnama Charry, performed their laborious duties most efficiently.

Ambil Narayana Iyengar, the English Head Clerk, by his quickness and intelligence in performing all works entrusted to him, has been of the greatest possible assistance to me, and I trust that you will be able to give him suitable promotion when his services are no longer required by the Forest Settlement Officer. I have much pleasure, too, in acknowledging the great aid given to me by the Collector's Head Clerk, S. Ramasami Iyer, in dealing with the old quit-rent lands of Ootacamund and Coonoor, a most intricate and difficult task.

Endorsement by W. WILSON, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture, dated 15th December 1884, No. 3544.

Submitted to Government through the Board of Revenue.

2. The Director fully endorses the Collector's remarks regarding the value of the settlement and the admirable manner in which it has been conducted by Mr. Benson.

3. The work was begun on the 1st April 1881 and was completed on the 31st October 1884. It was originally estimated that it would be completed in two years; it actually occupied three-years-and-a-half. The original estimate was, considering the difficulty of much of Mr. Benson's task, requiring as it did much patience and tact, probably too sanguine, but the settlement would have in all likelihood been completed much earlier, but for Mr. Benson's employment in addition to his settlement duties as Secretary to the Committee on Local Self-Government and in connection with the draft of the new Local Fund and Municipal Acts.

4. Mr. Benson's report will hardly bear condensation, but the financial results of the settlement are briefly these:—The recorded area of occupation has been raised from Acres 64,150 to Acres 126,942, or by 98 per cent., and the assessment from Rs. 33,632 to Rs. 85,045, or by 153 per cent.

5. The cost of the operations has been, for demarcation and survey, Rs. 7,96,801, and for settlement, Rs. 86,793, or Rs. 8,83,594 in all.

6. Mr. Benson suggests that a portion of his salary for the time that he was employed on the additional duties noted above should be credited to the settlement, but no adjustment of the kind seems called for.

Resolution—dated 10th March 1885, No. 805.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. In the report forwarded by the Director, Mr. Benson, after giving a brief sketch of the several attempts made from time to time to systematize the settlement of the various kinds of holdings on the Nilgiris, proceeds to afford full information in regard to the instructions under which his operations in the district were commenced in 1881, the manner in which they have been carried out and the general results of his work.

3. Financially the outcome, as stated by the Director, is an increase in the amount of the annual assessment * of

* Before settlement...	...	...	Rs.	33,632
At present ..	...	...	85,045	
			+ 51,413	
† Area before settlement	...	...	ACS.	64,150
Present area	...	...	126,942	
			+ 62,792	
‡ New settlement grants.	ACS.	8451-51	RS.	10,886
Waste land sales and mining grants	...	5901-55	5,660	
Total ...	14353-06		16,486	

the taxable extent of holdings, on the ground that they were uncultivable slabs of rock. Such unprofitable patches were provided for in Rules 85 and 86, of the Madras Revenue Survey Manual, 1874, and treated on those principles in the Coimbatore Revenue Settlement Report, No. 237-104, dated 1st September 1875, page 36, paragraph 8; but no allusion is made thereto in Mr. Puckle's rules in G.O., of 16th March

1881, No. 453 or in Mr. Benson's report under review, though the inclusion of all such unprofitable patches, without allowance for area or quality of soil, must have been an important factor in contributing to swell the areas and assessment to nearly double what they were before.

4. The settlement which has now been completed has been conducted, not upon the usual method of classification of soils with reference to their power of production, but under rules drawn up by Mr. R. K. Puckle and approved by Government * as

well adapted to the circumstances of the Nilgiris. Towards the close of his report, Mr. Benson, after explaining the effect of the present settlement upon the assessment payable by the land-holders, offers his opinion (page 38) regarding the introduction of a more scientific settlement at some future date. He gives reasons for considering that the present settlement should remain in force for thirty years at least, and in this opinion the Board entirely concur. As pointed out by Mr. Benson, the more valuable lands are for the most part held on special leases or grants, and while the holdings of the hill tribes have been re-assessed nominally at the same average rate (6 annas an acre) as before settlement, the effect of re-assessment in this case, by necessitating payment for every acre held, will be greatly to enhance the amount heretofore paid by these tribes.

5. The Board agree with the Collector and the Director in their opinion regarding the satisfactory character of Mr. Benson's work.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture.

" " Collector of Nilgiris.

ORDER—dated 20th April 1885, No. 449, Revenue.

Land Revenue, No. 54.

The Government consider the result of the settlement of the Nilgiri district as satisfactory in every respect, and they cordially recognize the tact and ability with which the operation has been conducted by Mr. Benson. The financial results are encouraging, but these are of minor importance as compared with the general effect of the settlement as summarized in paragraph 41 of Mr. Benson's report. The demarcation and accurate record of private holdings and of land at the disposal of Government, the revision of the land-revenue accounts, and the organization of an efficient village service are so indispensable to the general prosperity and to a satisfactory administration of the land revenue that the outlay on settlement could not have been regarded as otherwise than a profitable investment even if it had not brought in a direct financial return.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

" the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture,
with four enclosures returned.

Exd. W. H. French.

80 Copies.

4-12-11

4/3/18

3-3-20

Original
Govt. of (1885) Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 20th April 1885, No. 449.

APRIL.

Settlement

of the Nilgiri district.—Considering the result of the — satisfactory, and cordially recognizing the tact and ability with which the operation has been conducted by Mr. Benson.

REVENUE SETTLEMENT OFFICE,

Tanjore 23rd June 1891

RECEIVED

4817

25 JUN 91

No. 1074
C

Enclosure 3

From

L. P. C. Esquire

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE SETTLEMENT,

PARTY No. III, TANJORE,

To

THE

Collector of Tanjore.

SIR,

Submitted With reference to your letter No 486 of the 13th Instant to the Collr. I have the honor to state that I regret that it is as directed. not possible to file the statement required by

you under the following circumstances.

9 Saluks of the district, the Mammargudi marginally noted have not yet been classified.

3 Saluks—Nagapatam, Tirutturai-pundi. The classification of 3 Saluks—Nagapatam, Patukotai

Nannilam and Tirutturai-pundi have been

entrusted to Party No II. Consequently no

information as to the classification for the 5

Saluks above referred to is available in my office.

3. Though the classification of Mayanaram

has just been finished, the records of most of

the villages at present available being with the

field

field officers for examination and inspection of classification.

4. As the Taluk of Tanjore, Kumbakonam and Shiyali failed to give the survey numbers for some of the fields in which kyles were made, but showed the old Adangal numbers, it was not possible to ascertain the survey numbers of these Adangal numbers in consequence of the latter being included in several survey fields.

5. With a view to enabling you to judge how far the kyles made by Tahsildars and Inspectors can be deemed reliable I beg to submit 3 statements marked A, B & C showing for the 3 Taluks noted in the margin a comparison of the kyles made by the Revenue officers with the Saramma returns for the Alungu and Mottafysal Settlement for which accounts have been received from the Tahsildars, as well as with the kyles made by the Settlement officers.

Tanjore
Kumbakonam
Shiyali

6. It will be seen from the results of the kyles made by the Tahsildars and Inspectors are far below the outturns given in the Saramma accounts

as well as the experiments made by the Settlement Department. As you are aware these experiments are not generally carried out to completion in the presence of the revenue officers concerned, and are therefore absolutely worthless for all practical purposes. It may be taken for comparison that the outturns of the experiments conducted by the Revenue Department are 50 per cent below those conducted by the Settlement officers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

W. S. S.

Deputy Commissioner of Rev.
Settlement

From 487 of 1891.
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF
REVENUE SETTLEMENT, PARTY No. III,
Tanjore.

To
The Collector of
Tanjore

Dated 23
Despd. 23 } June 1891.
Recd.

No. 102
C

ENCLOSURES. 3

Subject:

stating that under certain
circumstances it is not
possible to compile the state-
ment showing the results
of the kyles of paddy land
by the Revenue Department.

statement showing the results of kyles made by the Revenue and
Settlement Department as compared with the out-turn as per original
olungu Settlement Tanjore Taluk Tanjore District.

General number	Map number and name of Village	Out-turn per acre as per				
		olunga Settlement		Kyles made by		
		Highest	Lowest	Revenue Sett Kyl	Settle- ment Kyl	
1	Melaturuppanthiruttu	936	360	5.1 5.0 5.2 5.4	1.92 976	* Local measure is greater than Madras measure by 15 per cent
2	Perumbulizur	984	360	6.15 4.0	1440 1320 1220	
3	Vyacheri	1157		3.0 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 3.9 4.0 4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 4.7 4.8 4.9 5.0 5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.5 5.6 5.7 5.8 5.9 6.0 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5 6.6 6.7 6.8 6.9 7.0 7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5 7.6 7.7 7.8 7.9 8.0 8.1 8.2 8.3 8.4 8.5 8.6 8.7 8.8 8.9 9.0 9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4 9.5 9.6 9.7 9.8 9.9 10.0 10.1 10.2 10.3 10.4 10.5 10.6 10.7 10.8 10.9 11.0 11.1 11.2 11.3 11.4 11.5 11.6 11.7 11.8 11.9 12.0 12.1 12.2 12.3 12.4 12.5 12.6 12.7 12.8 12.9 13.0 13.1 13.2 13.3 13.4 13.5 13.6 13.7 13.8 13.9 14.0 14.1 14.2 14.3 14.4 14.5 14.6 14.7 14.8 14.9 15.0 15.1 15.2 15.3 15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 16.0 16.1 16.2 16.3 16.4 16.5 16.6 16.7 16.8 16.9 17.0 17.1 17.2 17.3 17.4 17.5 17.6 17.7 17.8 17.9 18.0 18.1 18.2 18.3 18.4 18.5 18.6 18.7 18.8 18.9 19.0 19.1 19.2 19.3 19.4 19.5 19.6 19.7 19.8 19.9 20.0 20.1 20.2 20.3 20.4 20.5 20.6 20.7 20.8 20.9 21.0 21.1 21.2 21.3 21.4 21.5 21.6 21.7 21.8 21.9 22.0 22.1 22.2 22.3 22.4 22.5 22.6 22.7 22.8 22.9 23.0 23.1 23.2 23.3 23.4 23.5 23.6 23.7 23.8 23.9 24.0 24.1 24.2 24.3 24.4 24.5 24.6 24.7 24.8 24.9 25.0 25.1 25.2 25.3 25.4 25.5 25.6 25.7 25.8 25.9 26.0 26.1 26.2 26.3 26.4 26.5 26.6 26.7 26.8 26.9 27.0 27.1 27.2 27.3 27.4 27.5 27.6 27.7 27.8 27.9 28.0 28.1 28.2 28.3 28.4 28.5 28.6 28.7 28.8 28.9 29.0 29.1 29.2 29.3 29.4 29.5 29.6 29.7 29.8 29.9 30.0 30.1 30.2 30.3 30.4 30.5 30.6 30.7 30.8 30.9 31.0 31.1 31.2 31.3 31.4 31.5 31.6 31.7 31.8 31.9 32.0 32.1 32.2 32.3 32.4 32.5 32.6 32.7 32.8 32.9 33.0 33.1 33.2 33.3 33.4 33.5 33.6 33.7 33.8 33.9 34.0 34.1 34.2 34.3 34.4 34.5 34.6 34.7 34.8 34.9 35.0 35.1 35.2 35.3 35.4 35.5 35.6 35.7 35.8 35.9 36.0 36.1 36.2 36.3 36.4 36.5 36.6 36.7 36.8 36.9 37.0 37.1 37.2 37.3 37.4 37.5 37.6 37.7 37.8 37.9 38.0 38.1 38.2 38.3 38.4 38.5 38.6 38.7 38.8 38.9 39.0 39.1 39.2 39.3 39.4 39.5 39.6 39.7 39.8 39.9 40.0 40.1 40.2 40.3 40.4 40.5 40.6 40.7 40.8 40.9 41.0 41.1 41.2 41.3 41.4 41.5 41.6 41.7 41.8 41.9 42.0 42.1 42.2 42.3 42.4 42.5 42.6 42.7 42.8 42.9 43.0 43.1 43.2 43.3 43.4 43.5 43.6 43.7 43.8 43.9 44.0 44.1 44.2 44.3 44.4 44.5 44.6 44.7 44.8 44.9 45.0 45.1 45.2 45.3 45.4 45.5 45.6 45.7 45.8 45.9 46.0 46.1 46.2 46.3 46.4 46.5 46.6 46.7 46.8 46.9 47.0 47.1 47.2 47.3 47.4 47.5 47.6 47.7 47.8 47.9 48.0 48.1 48.2 48.3 48.4 48.5 48.6 48.7 48.8 48.9 49.0 49.1 49.2 49.3 49.4 49.5 49.6 49.7 49.8 49.9 50.0 50.1 50.2 50.3 50.4 50.5 50.6 50.7 50.8 50.9 51.0 51.1 51.2 51.3 51.4 51.5 51.6 51.7 51.8 51.9 52.0 52.1 52.2 52.3 52.4 52.5 52.6 52.7 52.8 52.9 53.0 53.1 53.2 53.3 53.4 53.5 53.6 53.7 53.8 53.9 54.0 54.1 54.2 54.3 54.4 54.5 54.6 54.7 54.8 54.9 55.0 55.1 55.2 55.3 55.4 55.5 55.6 55.7 55.8 55.9 56.0 56.1 56.2 56.3 56.4 56.5 56.6 56.7 56.8 56.9 57.0 57.1 57.2 57.3 57.4 57.5 57.6 57.7 57.8 57.9 58.0 58.1 58.2 58.3 58.4 58.5 58.6 58.7 58.8 58.9 59.0 59.1 59.2 59.3 59.4 59.5 59.6 59.7 59.8 59.9 60.0 60.1 60.2 60.3 60.4 60.5 60.6 60.7 60.8 60.9 61.0 61.1 61.2 61.3 61.4 61.5 61.6 61.7 61.8 61.9 62.0 62.1 62.2 62.3 62.4 62.5 62.6 62.7 62.8 62.9 63.0 63.1 63.2 63.3 63.4 63.5 63.6 63.7 63.8 63.9 64.0 64.1 64.2 64.3 64.4 64.5 64.6 64.7 64.8 64.9 65.0 65.1 65.2 65.3 65.4 65.5 65.6 65.7 65.8 65.9 66.0 66.1 66.2 66.3 66.4 66.5 66.6 66.7 66.8 66.9 67.0 67.1 67.2 67.3 67.4 67.5 67.6 67.7 67.8 67.9 68.0 68.1 68.2 68.3 68.4 68.5 68.6 68.7 68.8 68.9 69.0 69.1 69.2 69.3 69.4 69.5 69.6 69.7 69.8 69.9 70.0 70.1 70.2 70.3 70.4 70.5 70.6 70.7 70.8 70.9 71.0 71.1 71.2 71.3 71.4 71.5 71.6 71.7 71.8 71.9 72.0 72.1 72.2 72.3 72.4 72.5 72.6 72.7 72.8 72.9 73.0 73.1 73.2 73.3 73.4 73.5 73.6 73.7 73.8 73.9 74.0 74.1 74.2 74.3 74.4 74.5 74.6 74.7 74.8 74.9 75.0 75.1 75.2 75.3 75.4 75.5 75.6 75.7 75.8 75.9 76.0 76.1 76.2 76.3 76.4 76.5 76.6 76.7 76.8 76.9 77.0 77.1 77.2 77.3 77.4 77.5 77.6 77.7 77.8 77.9 78.0 78.1 78.2 78.3 78.4 78.5 78.6 78.7 78.8 78.9 79.0 79.1 79.2 79.3 79.4 79.5 79.6 79.7 79.8 79.9 80.0 80.1 80.2 80.3 80.4 80.5 80.6 80.7 80.8 80.9 81.0 81.1 81.2 81.3 81.4 81.5 81.6 81.7 81.8 81.9 82.0 82.1 82.2 82.3 82.4 82.5 82.6 82.7 82.8 82.9 83.0 83.1 83.2 83.3 83.4 83.5 83.6 83.7 83.8 83.9 84.0 84.1 84.2 84.3 84.4 84.5 84.6 84.7 84.8 84.9 85.0 85.1 85.2 85.3 85.4 85.5 85.6 85.7 85.8 85.9 86.0 86.1 86.2 86.3 86.4 86.5 86.6 86.7 86.8 86.9 87.0 87.1 87.2 87.3 87.4 87.5 87.6 87.7 87.8 87.9 88.0 88.1 88.2 88.3 88.4 88.5 88.6 88.7 88.8 88.9 89.0 89.1 89.2 89.3 89.4 89.5 89.6 89.7 89.8 89.9 90.0 90.1 90.2 90.3 90.4 90.5 90.6 90.7 90.8 90.9 91.0 91.1 91.2 91.3 91.4 91.5 91.6 91.7 91.8 91.9 92.0 92.1 92.2 92.3 92.4 92.5 92.6 92.7 92.8 92.9 93.0 93.1 93.2 93.3 93.4 93.5 93.6 93.7 93.8 93.9 94.0 94.1 94.2 94.3 94.4 94.5 94.6 94.7 94.8 94.9 95.0 95.1 95.2 95.3 95.4 95.5 95.6 95.7 95.8 95.9 96.0 96.1 96.2 96.3 96.4 96.5 96.6 96.7 96.8 96.9 97.0 97.1 97.2 97.3 97.4 97.5 97.6 97.7 97.8 97.9 98.0 98.1 98.2 98.3 98.4 98.5 98.6 98.7 98.8 98.9 99.0 99.1 99.2 99.3 99.4 99.5 99.6 99.7 99.8 99.9 100.0 100.1 100.2 100.3 100.4 100.5 100.6 100.7 100.8 100.9 101.0 101.1 101.2 101.3 101.4 101.5 101.6 101.7 101.8 101.9 102.0 102.1 102.2 102.3 102.4 102.5 102.6 102.7 102.8 102.9 103.0 103.1 103.2 103.3 103.4 103.5 103.6 103.7 103.8 103.9 104.0 104.1 104.2 104.3 104.4 104.5 104.6 104.7 104.8 104.9 105.0 105.1 105.2 105.3 105.4 105.5 105.6 105.7 105.8 105.9 106.0 106.1 106.2 106.3 106.4 106.5 106.6 106.7 106.8 106.9 107.0 107.1 107.2 107.3 107.4 107.5 107.6 107.7 107.8 107.9 108.0 108.1 108.2 108.3 108.4 108.5 108.6 108.7 108.8 108.9 109.0 109.1 109.2 109.3 109.4 109.5 109.6 109.7 109.8 109.9 110.0 110.1 110.2 110.3 110.4 110.5 110.6 110.7 110.8 110.9 111.0 111.1 111.2 111.3 111.4 111.5 111.6 111.7 111.8 111.9 112.0 112.1 112.2 112.3 112.4 112.5 112.6 112.7 112.8 112.9 113.0 113.1 113.2 113.3 113.4 113.5 113.6 113.7 113.8 113.9 114.0 114.1 114.2 114.3 114.4 114.5 114.6 114.7 114.8 114.9 115.0 115.1 115.2 115.3 115.4 115.5 115.6 115.7 115.8 115.9 116.0 116.1 116.2 116.3 116.4 116.5 116.6 116.7 116.8 116.9 117.0 117.1 117.2 117.3 117.4 117.5 117.6 117.7 117.8 117.9 118.0 118.1 118.2 118.3 118.4 118.5 118.6 118.7 118.8 118.9 119.0 119.1 119.2 119.3 119.4 119.5 119.6 119.7 119.8 119.9 120.0 120.1 120.2 120.3 120.4 120.5 120.6 120.7 120.8 120.9 121.0 121.1 121.2 121.3 121.4 121.5 121.6 121.7 121.8 121.9 122.0 122.1 122.2 122.3 122.4 122.5 122.6 122.7 122.8 122.9 123.0 123.1 123.2 123.3 123.4 123.5 123.6 123.7 123.8 123.9 124.0 124.1 124.2 124.3 124.4 124.5 124.6 124.7 124.8 124.9 125.0 125.1 125.2 125.3 125.4 125.5 125.6 125.7 125.8 125.9 126.0 126.1 126.2 126.3 126.4 126.5 126.6 126.7 126.8 126.9 127.0 127.1 127.2 127.3 127.4 127.5 127.6 127.7 127.8 127.9 128.0 128.1 128.2 128.3 128.4 128.5 128.6 128.7 128.8 128.9 129.0 129.1 129.2 129.3 129.4 129.5 129.6 129.7 129.8 129.9 130.0 130.1 130.2 130.3 130.4 130.5 130.6 130.7 130.8 130.9 131.0 131.1 131.2 131.3 131.4 131.5 131.6 131.7 131.8 131.9 132.0 132.1 132.2 132.3 132.4 132.5 132.6 132.7 132.8 132.9 133.0 133.1 133.2 133.3 133.4 133.5 133.6 133.7 133.8 133.9 134.0 134.1 134.2 134.3 134.4 134.5 134.6 134.7 134.8 134.9 135.0 135.1 135.2 135.3 135.4 135.5 135.6 135.7 135.8 135.9 136.0 136.1 136.2 136.3 136.4 136.5 136.6 136.7 136.8 136.9 137.0 137.1 137.2 137.3 137.4 137.5 137.6 137.7 137.8 137.9 138.0 138.1 138.2 138.3 138.4 138.5 138.6 138.7 138.8 138.9 139.0 139.1 139.2 139.3 139.4 139.5 139.6 139.7 139.8 139.9 140.0 140.1 140.2 140.3 140.4 140.5 140.6 140.7 140.8 140.9 141.0 141.1 141.2 141.3 141.4 141.5 141.6 141.7 141.8 141.9 142.0 142.1 142.2 142.3 142.4 142.5 142.6 142.7 142.8 142.9 143.0 143.1 143.2 143.3 143.4 143.5 143.6 143.7 143.8 143.9 144.0 144.1 144.2 144.3 144.4 144.5 144.6 144.7 144.8 144.9 145.0 145.1 145.2 145.3 145.4 145.5 145.6 145.7 145.8 145.9 146.0 146.1 146.2 146.3 146.4 146.5 146.6 146.7 146.8 146.9 147.0 147.1 147.2 147.3 147.4 147.5 147.6 147.7 147.8 147.9 148.0 148.1 148.2 148.3 148.4 148.5 148.6 148.7 148.8 148.9 149.0 149.1 149.2 149.3 149.4 149.5 149.6 149.7 149.8 149.9 150.0 150.1 150.2 150.3 150.4 150.5 150.6 150.7 150.8 150.9 151.0 151.1 151.2 151.3 151.4 151.5 151.6 151.7 151.8 151.9 152.0 152.1 152.2 152.3 152.4 152.5 152.6 152.7 152.8 152.9 153.0 153.1 153.2 153.3 153.4 153.5 153.6 153.7 153.8 153.9 154.0 154.1 154.2 154.3 154.4 154.5 154.6 154.7 154.8 154.9 155.0 155.1 155.2 155.3 155.4 155.5 155.6 155.7 155.8 155.9 156.0 156.1 156.2 156.3 156.4 156.5 156.6 156.7 156.8 156.9 157.0 157.1 157.2 157.3 157.4 157.5 157.6 157.7 157.8 157.9 158.0 158.1 158.2 158.3 158.4 158.5 158.6 158.7 158.8 158.9 159.0 159.1 159.2 159.3 159.4 159.5 159.6 159.7 159.8 159.9 160.0 160.1 160.2 160.3 160.4 160.		

8	Porasa Kudi	7	540	617	
9	Tirukattupalli	11	1152	328 272	
10	Pavanamangalam.	115	1128	352 216	
11	Mannar Sandraud	129 12 1248 1200 12 11 11		640 336	
12	Iswara Kailpatta.	1 12 12 115 1128 1118 1116 1104		360 320	
13	Kilatrappandiurthi	1500		450	
14	Togur	172 180			
15	Mahadana puram	140 1832 1276 125			

Kylos were not made by the Settlement Department in these villages.

Kylos were made either by the Revenue or Sett Dept. in these villages.

			1224 1200 1188 1152 1116		
16	Kachamangalam		1200 1152 1116		
17	Palmaiereri		1476 141 1344 1332 1296 1260 1224 1170 1152 1128 1116 1104		
18	Languadapuram		1392 1344 1320 1248 121 1200 1152 1128		
19	Kemam		1152 1104		

No Kylos were made either by the Revenue or Settlement Department in these Villages.

Sl. No.	Map No. and Name of Village	but from figures as per			
		Bl. m. p. Sett.	Kylos made by		
6	Veppathur Mottafypal	950	626	750	1050
				650	1050
7	Mahadapuram Do.	721	-	614	960
					1070
					980
					990
					960
					890
8	Ummalappadi Do.	797	-	528	810
9	Kapistalam Do.	817	-	600	-
10	Malikaitedab Do.	551	-	480	-
11	Thiruvilangudi Do.	764	-	400	-
12	Nallur	644	-	336	-
13	Sarabojirajapuram Do.	875	-	848	-
14	Patharavaram Do.	1087	578	384	-
15	Tillayambur Do.	810	267	738	-
16	Valangur Do.	1046	640	726	-
17	Kottangudi Do.	752	-	704	-

No Kylos were made by the Sett. Dept. in these villages.

Statement showing the result of Kylos made by the Revenue and Settlement Dept. as compared with the outturn as per original blunderbills. Shizali Taluk. Tanjore Dist.

Sl. No.	Map No. & Name of Village	but from figures as per			
		Bl. m. p. Sett.	Kylos made by		
		Highest	Lowest	Rev. Dept.	Sett. Dept.
1	Vadarangam	720	114	448	800
2	Kilamander	576	228	384	880
3	Gotizakkudi	576	216	432	632
				288	
4	Panangudi	864	288	216	600
					556
5	Valudolai Kkudi	792	216	568	928
					556
6	Sattamadu puram	1008	632	976	1416
					800
					622
					592
7	Kaivilangeri	684	60	672	1120
					928
8	Shizali	864	540	384	1502
9	Vilandi dasamudr	684	252	432	1238
				240	1200
					944
10	Kemmelu	684	52	448	700
					680

Deputy Commissioner, Tanjore Dist.

Received 12-6-1891
 Applied 12-6-1891
 Forwarded 12-6-1891
 Signed 12-6-1891
 Given for 12-6-1891
 Despatched 12-6-1891

Read Reg. No. 4186 of 1891

4186
13-6-91

To The Dy Comr of RS
No III Party.

A good rough of the statement as
revised by the Collector is sent up.

The Govt
 of RS
 from copy sent
 & signed by the
 Secretary on 12/6.

SIR,
In accordance with
the instructions issued from
my office on the B. P. 8 15.2.89
no 88 (R.L.A.), kyles were made
by the Yaho, Dy Yahoo & Rev.
Dypros & the results communi-

Without attaching much
 time or trouble to them I think
 it necessary to keep the Govt
 informed of what they
 are doing to but as the
 clamp is in the new Settlement
 was not known to the Dypros & Dypros
 I cannot complete the paper
 the full information will be
 at your hand & I shall
 feel obliged by your throwing
 kyles in a statement in the
 accompanying form & sending it to
 me as early as possible.

ENCLOSURES
SIX

Requesting him to send a statement of ^{showing} the results of the kyles of Hardy made by him
Res. Supt.

Statement showing the results of Kyle's grading made by the Rev Sept.

[illegible]

Note. The figures for the "average for this St." will have to be entered only from Col 8. The entry in Col 8 should be arrived at by dividing the total column for the St. by the total number of hydro made.

1-
A. C. C. C.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—the following letter from L. R. BURROWS, Esq., Collector of Nilgiris, to the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture, dated Ootacamund, 5th December 1884, No. 3147:—

In forwarding the final report of the Special Assistant Collector on the results of the Revenue Settlement of the Nilgiri portion of this district, ordered in G.O., No. 1345, dated 16th October 1880, I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony to the thorough and judicious manner in which this difficult task has been accomplished by Mr. Benson.

2. The financial results of the settlement, though eminently satisfactory, are unimportant compared with the introduction of order into the chaotic state of things which prevailed prior to 1881, when the settlement was commenced. In correcting the abuses, which had then become scandalous, as regards the appropriation of State lands by private persons, and in asserting the rights of the State wherever and by whomsoever they had been invaded, Mr. Benson has had an arduous and disagreeable task. But although he has done it in a manner which, I think, is entitled to be viewed with satisfaction by Government, he has shown such great tact and patience that he still remains thoroughly popular with all classes of the community.

3. Mr. Benson's report is a valuable and interesting account of the land revenue system of the Nilgiris from the early part of the century down to the present time, and I presume it will be printed with the final orders passed on it by Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. S. BENSON, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, in charge, to the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated Ootacamund, 20th November 1884, No. 573-237.

The revenue settlement of this district, ordered in G.O., No. 1345, dated 16th October 1880, having now been completed, I have the honor to submit a brief report on its results.

2. The scope of my operations extended to the whole of the Nilgiri District, with the exception of the Oucherlony Valley and South-East Wynad, which were transferred from Malabar to the Nilgiris in 1873 and 1877, respectively, and the land tenures of which differ *in toto* from those of the other parts of the district. The portions to be settled were, therefore, the four ancient divisions (or, as they were sometimes called, villages or náds) known as—

(1) *Merkundá*, with the slopes below Manaar transferred from Coimbatore by G.O., No. 102, dated 12th January 1877.

(2) *Paranginád*.

(3) *Kundahndá*, with the tract known as Kinnakorai transferred from Malabar by G.O., No. 19, dated 5th January 1881.

(4) *Todandá*, with the Sigúr plains as far as the Moyar river, which forms the district boundary on the Mysore side.

Area.

The area of this tract is 433562·01 acres, or 677·44 square miles.

Statements attached to the Report.

4. The four statements attached to this report contain statistics of the more important

facts ascertained at settlement. These statements are:—

Statement I.—Showing, by villages and náds (divisions), the area of the settled portion of the Nilgiri District, together with the occupied area and the assessment of the same, according to the revenue accounts, (1) immediately prior to survey and settlement, and (2) immediately subsequent to survey and settlement, together with the area and assessment of lands granted at settlement.

Statement II.—Showing the area of land held under each rate of assessment in the settled portion of the Nilgiri District or on free-hold tenure.

Statement III.—Showing, by villages and náds (divisions), certain statistics of population, cultivation, &c., in the settled portion of the Nilgiri District according to the settlement accounts.

Statement IV.—Showing, by villages and náds (divisions), the area of lands registered at settlement as available for sale, reserved for various public purposes, &c.

5. In order to understand the objects of the settlement and the results achieved thereby, it is necessary, before examining the above statements, to give a brief *résumé* of the former

Résumé of Revenue System of Nilgiris. The subject has been so ably and exhaustively dealt with by Mr. H. B. Grigg in his Manual of the District, that I need not do more than notice those prominent features which influenced, or which explain, the condition of the revenue system as it existed immediately prior to settlement.

6. When the Nilgiri Hills were ceded by the Mysore to the British Government, they formed part of the Dévanaiken Kóta Taluk of North Coimbatore, and the revenue system which prevailed in the cultivated portions was similar to that which existed, and still exists, in Coimbatore. This district was, therefore, included in Major McLeod's settlement of 1799, the object of which was to remedy the evils which resulted from Tippu's excessive assessments in the Coimbatore District. The lands were nominally measured and assessed with reference to their productive capacity in 1880-81, the result being that the total land revenue rose from Rs. 13,425 to Rs. 18,276. Fifteen rates of assessment, varying from Rs. 1-2-5 to Rs. 0-1-3 per acre, and all containing fractions of an anna, were then in existence, and these rates remained unchanged until 1862 on the lands held by the cultivating native tribes of the district, viz., the Badagas, Kotas, Irulas and Kurumbas. A similar, though not identical, series of rates prevailed, and still prevails, in the tract which extends from the foot of the hills on the Sígúr side to the Moyar river.

7. Though the revenue system was that of Coimbatore, certain peculiarities, which existed to a small extent in other parts of that district, prevailed so extensively on the hills as to almost cause the hill system to be regarded as distinct and unique.

Peculiar Incidents of the Hill System.

These peculiarities were—

- (a) The Bhurty (or shifting) system of cultivation.
- (b) The *Iyen* grass (or fallow) privilege.
- (c) The "*Paratapillu vari*" (or grazing) privilege.

8. The former existence and subsequent abolition of the "Bhurty" (or shifting) system of cultivation are, perhaps, the most important facts in the Revenue history of the district, and as such merit detailed notice. The system appears to have existed from the earliest times, and though, in effect, forbidden by Tippu, and formally abolished in 1862, so that Mr. Grant, the Collector, reported in 1864, that the system "has ceased and the people now regard it as a by-gone system; it is never alluded to," yet it continued in almost undiminished operation until the recent survey of the hills, and even since that date, attempts have been made to continue the practices formerly admitted under its shadow.

9. Under the "Bhurty" system, each cultivator held from Government a putta for the area of land which he ordinarily cultivated in each year; but the available land being practically unlimited as compared with the demand for it and being of little value to Government, the cultivator was permitted to cultivate a different plot each year, shifting from one place to another at will within certain limits, but retaining, by common consent and without payment, a preferential claim, or lien, on the plots formerly cultivated by him, and returning to them in rotation after two, three or more years, according to the nature of the soil and the period of fallow which was considered necessary to restore its fertility. Thus, though the area in a man's putta, and for which alone he was charged assessment, might be only ten acres, he was in the habit of cultivating in rotation various plots of land aggregating thirty or forty acres, or even more in poor and sparsely-populated tracts. Nor were these several pots defined or limited or even identified except by the rude names of the fields entered in the putta at the suggestion of the ryot or the caprice of the village headman. There was no demarcation or survey, and consequently, in practice, the disposal of all lands lay with the village and subordinate revenue officials. If they did not wish an applicant for land to be successful, it was easy to set up some claimant in the locality to petition that he had a preferential claim to the land under the "Bhurty" privilege, and they were thus enabled to defeat the object of the applicant or to compel him to buy off their opposition or to purchase the consent of the claimant.

10. The "*Iyen* grass," or fallow, privilege, was that under which the ryot was allowed to retain in his possession a certain portion of his holding as fallow at one-fourth of the appropriate assessment. The extent so held was not to exceed one-fifth of his regular holding. The effect of this privilege was still further to extend the area of waste land over which, at but little cost, an individual or a community might make a claim in opposition to an applicant whose proximity was not desired.

11. The third incident peculiar to the revenue system of Coimbatore, and the effect of which was similar to the last, was known as the "*Paratapillu Vari*" Privilege. The "*Paratapillu Vari*" Privilege. with which, extensive areas were often granted as pasture lands at one-fourth of the ordinary assessment until required for cultivation.

12. The evils of these various privileges were scarcely felt during the first thirty or forty years after our advent to the district, but with the gradual increase of population and the strong demand for land by European coffee-planters which set in about 1860, it became impossible any longer to continue privileges so opposed to the development of the district and so economically unsound.

13. In 1862, after much discussion, Government determined that the "Bhurty," or shifting system of cultivation, should be abolished on the principle prevailing in the plains that the ryot must pay assessment for all the land he is entitled to cultivate. The native cultivators were accordingly informed of this decision, and were required to select, once for all, such of the lands over which they claimed the "Bhurty" privilege as they wished permanently to retain. These lands were measured and, in many cases, roughly demarcated and fresh puttas embodying the results were issued. To compensate the ryots for the loss of the privilege, the fifteen fractional rates which had previously existed were reduced to five simple rates as follows:—

						As.
(1)	For assessments above 13 annas	...	...	...	...	10
(2)	Do. below 13 " but above 9 annas	...	...	...	...	8
(3)	Do. " 9 " " 6 "	...	...	...	...	6
(4)	Do. " 6 " " 4 "	...	...	...	...	4
(5)	Do. " 4 " " "	...	...	...	...	2

The reduction thus granted amounted on the average to about 25 per cent. of the assessment, and, together with the new markets for the labor and products of the district then opened up by the impulse given to the planting enterprise, reconciled the ryots to the loss, or supposed loss, of their ancient and dearly-loved privilege; so that in 1864, Mr. Grant, the Collector, was able to report that the change had been successfully introduced and that the former system was regarded as dead and gone and was now not even alluded to by the people.

14. But such a statement was hardly in accordance with the facts. "The Hindu is not wont thus readily to abandon his privileges and the institutions of his ancestors. He said 'yes,' but went on ploughing and planting as heretofore, until an accurate survey revealed the true position. In fact, each year has the area of cultivation and permanent occupation been extending with the growth in numbers of the Hill tribes, the increase of wealth among them, and the great extension of plantations."—*Grigg's Manual of the Nilgiri District*, page 321.

The "Bhurty" system had, indeed, been abolished by order of Government and the Secretary of State. It had ceased to exist as an officially-recognized institution or privilege. Very likely the ryots never alluded to it. Why should they? But they quietly practised it as much as ever. Their putta lands were not defined. The village headmen were among those most interested in conniving at, and maintaining, the condemned practices. Three Revenue Inspectors and as many Curnams (Accountants) comprised the whole staff of subordinate Revenue officials in the district, and they could not have effectually enforced the orders of Government, even had they desired to do so. The higher officials seem, like Mr. Grant, to have been ignorant that the dead system was still alive and flourishing, so no pressure from above was put upon the subordinates to enforce its abrogation, while many inducements from beneath were offered to tacitly permit its continued existence. Naturally the ryots were satisfied. They had, in fact, lost nothing of their privileges. They had gained by a large reduction in the rates of assessment.

15. Concurrently with the so-called abolition of the "Bhurty" system in Merkanád, Todanád and Paranginád, Mr. Grant abolished the *Erkádú Kothukádú* System of Kundahs abolished 1862. peculiar system in vogue up to that time in Kundahnád which had been transferred from Malabar to the Nilgiris in 1860. This system was known as "*Erkádú Kothukádú*." Under it a tax of Re. 1 or Rs. 1-8-0 was levied for the right to use a plough or "*Er*," and a tax of from 4 to 8 annas was levied for the right to use a hoe or "*Kothu*." The so-called putta issued to the ryot under this system was really no more than

a license to use one or more ploughs or hoes, as the case might be. It merely specified the amount payable for each instrument, but in no cases were the extent or position of the lands to be cultivated stated. The ryot used his implements whenever and wherever he pleased. No restrictions, even on the felling of forests, were imposed, so that the hill-sides and valleys were cleared at will.

Solitary forest trees still stand in the cultivated fields to show where extensive woodlands once existed. The system was abolished in 1862-63, and in its place was set up the system supposed to have been newly established in the rest of the district; but on the Kundahs, as elsewhere, the "Bhurty" system continued in full vigour long after its supposed abrogation; until, in fact, its control was rendered possible by the recent demarcation and survey of holdings. During the settlement I found this *Erkadu Kothukadu* system still in force in the flourishing Badaga village of Kinnakorai with some fifty houses, transferred from Malabar in 1881. So long, at times, does it take for our reforms to reach the more remote tracts!

16. Before referring to the operations of the Survey Department, it will be convenient to glance at the other tenures under which lands are held in the district. The Todas, as the

most ancient inhabitants, first claim our notice. The earliest settlers, and notably Mr. Sullivan, strongly advocated the claim of the Todas to the absolute proprietary right to the plateau; but another school, led by Mr. Lushington, as strongly combated these views, and, apparently, regarded the Todas as merely occupiers under the ryotwari system in force generally in the Presidency. From the earliest times the Todas have received from the cultivating Badagas an offering, or tribute, called "*Gudu*," or basket of grain, partly in compensation for the land taken up by the latter for cultivation and so rendered unfit for grazing purposes, but chiefly as an offering to secure the favor, or avert the displeasure, of the Todas, who, like the Kurumbas of the jungle, are believed by the Badagas to have necromantic powers over their healths and that of their herds. The European settlers also bought land in Ootacamund from them, and to this day Government pays them the sum of Rs. 150 per annum, as compensation for interference with the enjoyment of their pastoral rights in and about Ootacamund. Their position was, however, always a matter of dispute until it was finally laid down in the despatch of the Court of Directors, dated 21st January 1843. It was then decided that the Todas possessed nothing more than a prescriptive right to enjoy the privilege of pasturing their herds, on payment of a small tax, on the State lands. The Court desired that they should be secured from interference by settlers in the enjoyment of their mounds (or village-sites) and of their spots appropriated to religious rights. Accordingly puttass were issued granting to each mound three bullahs (11.46 acres) of land. In 1863 Mr. Grant obtained permission to make a fresh allotment of nine bullahs (34.38 acres) to each mound on the express condition that the land should be used for pasturage only and that no right to sell the land or the wood on it should be thereby conveyed. It may be added that the so-called Toda lands are now regarded as the inalienable common property of the Toda community and unauthorised alienation is checked by the imposition of a penal rate of assessment—G.O., No. 397, dated 18th April 1882. Up to the date of this order, however, alienations by sale or lease were of frequent occurrence. It remains to be seen whether the present orders and subordinate staff will be more adequate than those that went before to check the practices referred to.

17. We shall now consider the tenures of lands held by European and other immigrants.

Lands held by Immigrants. The first European settlers bought lands, as has been already noticed, from the Todas, but in 1828, Government required them to take out leases from Government and imposed an assessment of 1½ pagodas (Rs. 5-4-0) on each cawnie (132 acres) of land thus leased. Many properties are still held on these old leases. This high rate of assessment was held to apply to all lands, even those held for agricultural purposes, in the uplands of Todanád. This rate was considered to be excessive and likely to check the extension of cultivation, so in 1836, Government, at Mr. Sullivan's suggestion, reduced the rates on cultivated lands at a distance from Ootacamund to an equality with those paid by the Badagas, but imposed special double rates on cultivated lands taken up by immigrants in Ootacamund, on the ground that the land was exceptionally rich and that a good market for produce was close at hand. The limits within which these higher rates prevailed are those now known as the limits of the Ootacamund settlement. In the same year, it was determined that the assessment on house-sites should be reduced to Rs. 5-4-0 for the first cawnie only of the area occupied, the remainder being charged at Rs. 1-2-4 per cawnie. In 1842, an elaborate manual of rules for the disposal of lands was drawn up, but it did not come into force until 1849 on the completion of Mr. Ouchterlony's survey. It provided for the grant of thirty years' leases for agricultural purposes and ninety-nine years' leases for building sites, the latter being renewable every thirty-three years. Many conditions (now rarely observed) are inserted in these leases, and, in particular, one which provides that on the expiration of the lease, the land with its buildings reverts absolutely to Government. In the cantonment of Wellington, leases for fifty years are granted under similar but

not identical conditions. Some modifications were introduced in 1858, and in the following year the redemption of the land-tax was authorized at twenty years' purchase, subsequently raised to 25 years' purchase.

18. The abolition of the "Bhurty" system, which has been already noticed, was the necessary preliminary to any general system of auction sales of land such as the Government

Waste Land Rules of 1863. had for some time been desirous of introducing. So long as large and indefinite claims under the "Bhurty" system could be brought forward and supported by the kinsfolk and friends of the claimants, who were usually the only witnesses that could be examined as to the validity of the claims, it was practically impossible for applicants to obtain land from Government. On its abolition, therefore, the Waste Land Rules of 1863, which had long been under discussion, were finally adopted, and an Act (No. 23 of 1863) was passed to facilitate the disposal of claims made to lands about to be sold under the rules. The main provisions of these rules were that land was to be demarcated and surveyed on being applied for and was then to be sold to the highest bidder subject to an upset price to cover the cost of survey and subject also to an annual assessment of Rs. 2 per acre of forest and Rupee 1 per acre of grass land. The assessment on grass lands was reduced to 8 annas per acre by order of Government in 1871, and, from time to time, considerable relaxations have been made by exempting land from assessment for some years after its purchase.

19. It is to be noticed that neither the Waste Land Rules, nor the simple rates introduced by Mr. Grant in 1862, have ever been applied to the Settlement village of Musinigudi, that is, The Sigúr Tract exceptional.

to the tract of country lying between the foot of the Hills on the Sigúr side and the Moyar river. Lands there are still obtained under the "*durkhast*" (simple application) system prevalent in the low country, and numerous rates of assessment, all containing fractions of an anna, still prevail, unchanged since the beginning of the century. The survey of all estates in this tract was completed with the general survey of the district and the survey of all putta lands and the revision of assessments therein has recently been ordered.—G.O., No. 986, dated 4th September 1884.

20. When the Waste Land Rules were passed, it was decided that henceforth no lands should be granted to any one, not even to the Hill tribes, except under those rules. Considerable

Objection to Waste Land Rules. areas were sold to European planters during the first three years after the rules were in force, but they were never popular and the sales soon fell off. Between 1867 and 1874, the sales never exceeded 850 acres in any one year, and in 1868-69 they only amounted to 4 acres! The district was without an adequate staff of officials. Great delay occurred in the survey and sale of land applied for. When the sale took place, there was nothing to prevent an outsider from coming in and buying the land over the applicant's head or bidding him up to such a figure as effectually depleted his cash balance and left him unable to develop the estate. Sometimes this was done through mere enmity, more often to prevent new comers from obtaining land near existing estates and thus reducing the supply of labor and manure; or in the hope that the purchaser would be able to sell the land (as he often did) a few days after the auction to the disappointed applicant, who would often, on consideration, think it better to pay an enhanced price rather than incur the delay, uncertainty and expense of making a fresh application.

21. Prior to 1870, blocks of land applied for under the Waste Land Rules, and properties in and about the settlements of Ootacamund, Coonoor and Kótágiri, had been, from time to

General Survey began, 1873. time, surveyed, but it was not until 1870 that a general survey of all lands was ordered, including lands in the occupation of the Hill tribes. Owing to the want of village establishments, the unhealthiness of the district, the advent of famine (1876-78) and other causes, the survey proceeded slowly and was not completed until about 1880. In its course it was found that, owing to the increase in the numbers of the Hill tribes, mainly Badagas, the area actually under cultivation by them had greatly increased since the puttass of 1862 had been given to them. Scarcely an acre of land had been bought by them under the Waste Land Rules, but (as explained in paragraph 9), the position of their putta lands were undefined and there was no one to check their acts. Consequently, they had gone on increasing their cultivation at will as their numbers grew; and they, moreover, still practised the "Bhurty" (or roving) system of their ancestors, which was nominally abolished in 1862, but which really still flourished without let or hindrance. The Survey officers thus found the Hill men actually cultivating more land than was in their puttass and claiming still larger areas on the ground that they had recently cultivated them and had a prescriptive right to hold them. There would, undoubtedly, have been extreme hardship in an order to recognize the puttadar's title only to the areas shown in their puttass; and, consequently, orders were issued to treat the puttadars liberally. In fact, the operation which Mr. Grant thought he had effected in 1862 was now again (or, perhaps, more accurately for the first time) to be carried out. In practice, each man was allowed to take up whatever land he had at any time cultivated under the "Bhurty" system, and often, too, adjoining lands which had never been cultivated, but which

might soon be useful either for extension of cultivation or for sale to other persons; for, in order to avoid the risks and inconvenience inseparable from applications under the Waste Land Rules, planters had now begun to apply to native land-owners rather than to Government for such land as they required, and the more frequently when Government began to refuse applications for forest land, which is the only kind suitable for coffee-planting.

22. It is true Badagas rarely had land in localities suitable for coffee-planters, but then there was nothing to fix the position of the lands shown in their puttās. No one, in fact,

Malpractices at Survey.

knew the position except the owners and the men of their own village. It was easy to make an arrangement by which they should all agree to say that the land was in a certain spot which had been fixed upon as suitable for a coffee or other plantation. The subordinate officials of both the Revenue and Survey Departments were poor and easily open to persuasion. Indeed, in many cases, they either obtained, or intended to obtain, land in this way themselves. Little by little the practice, which had begun in fear and trembling, grew with impunity into a regular system and embraced large areas in its operation. Owing to the existence of the Irulas and Kurumbas of the jungle, it was often possible to find small patches of land which had once been cleared in the midst of the virgin forest, and this lent color to the misappropriations, and it was always easy to assert that small, poor forest was, in reality, secondary growth and had once been cleared. Many thousands of acres of Government land (grass scrub and virgin forest) were thus claimed and demarcated as private property. It was not uncommon to claim a couple of hundred acres of forest or scrub under a puttā for half-a-dozen acres of ordinary land in some distant village. In one case I remember 1,000 acres on the Hulikal slopes were claimed under a puttā for 1 bullah (3·82 acres).

23. Owing to the position of the subordinate Revenue and Survey officials, as already

Not noticed until 1878.

noticed, and the paucity of superior officers, this state of affairs did not come prominently to notice until the complete survey registers began to come in and puttās were under preparation for the areas as ascertained by survey. Indeed, puttās for the three Settlements and for Merkanād were issued in, or prior to, 1878 without much notice having been taken of the excess lands included by survey with the private holdings. In that year, however, Colonel Cloete and Mr. Barlow got information of the state of affairs, and several reports were written, which are embodied in G.O., No. 793, dated 5th April 1879. This order laid down certain general rules for dealing with all cases of excess, and some few were settled in accordance with its principles.

24. The state of the revenue accounts also and of the village establishment required revision. There were no revenue villages, for the

State of the Revenue Accounts.

old náds (sometimes called villages), more properly corresponded to taluks or divisions. Tólanád alone contains 217,000 acres. There were hardly any village establishments, and such as existed were miserably remunerated. Scarcely a headman in the district could read, and the land revenue accounts of all lands, except those in the quit-rent and plantation registers, were supposed to be kept by four Curnams paid about Rs. 3 per mensem each. As a fact, it may be said that no accounts were kept except the Chittah (Individual Ledger) and some imperfect collection accounts. Many of the original accounts had been destroyed by the persons interested after the revelations of 1878, with a view to hinder the prosecutions then ordered. The quit-rent and plantation registers, which related mostly to the lands of European planters or to lands in Coonoor and Ootacamund, were kept in the Commissioner's Office, and, as the bills for assessment were also issued from his office, much of his time was spent in matters which would properly devolve on the Tahsildars. It often happened, too, that, between these several registers kept by the Curnam and the Commissioner, land escaped registration (and assessment) altogether. Each office thought that the land was in the other's register. There were no general registers for fixed areas, nor did the registers usually state the tenure on which any land was held. Some lands were ordinary puttā lands. Others were held on restricted puttās, of which there were three classes:—those issued to (1) Europeans, (2) Todas, and (3) Irulas. Other lands were held under Waste Land Rules, deeds, or under permanent puttās or under ninety-nine years' leases, or (in Wellington) fifty years' leases. There were also quit-rent lands not held on lease, and free-holds and firewood allotments, and lands held on special deeds or terms. In such a multiplicity of titles it is easy to see how important it is that the registers should be clear and well kept.

25. The superior staff of the district had, however, been recently reduced, though the work

Special Settlement Officer appointed 1881.

of the district had enormously increased with its general development, the addition of the Ouchterlony Valley and South-East Wynad, and the rush caused by speculation in the gold mining and cinchona industries. It was, therefore, impossible for the Commissioner to scrutinize the survey registers or carry out the orders of Government, and he had no assistant or superior revenue subordinate to whom the work could be delegated. It thus became absolutely necessary to appoint a special officer to examine and revise the registers. It

was considered that it would not be possible to strictly apply the rules alluded to above in dealing with excess without a completed re-survey of the district, as excess was almost universal and was very often quite unobjectionable. Those rules were, therefore, held in abeyance. Greater latitude was given to the settling officer, and advantage was taken of the opportunity to re-organize and improve the land revenue administration in many other particulars.

26. The foregoing sketch explains the necessity which existed for a settlement and indicates the points mainly to be dealt with. Mr. Puckle's

Modus operandi of Settlement.

letter to the Board of Revenue and his instructions to the settling officer, which were approved in G.O., No. 453, dated 16th March 1881, deal with those points in detail. The following is a brief sketch of the *modus operandi* adopted at the settlement:—

- (1) Each nád, or division, was sub-divided into villages of convenient size for administrative purposes, natural or well known boundaries being adopted as far as possible, and due regard being paid to area, population, revenue and such like matters. The four náds were thus split up into thirty-six villages, the names and areas of which are given in Statement I attached to this report.
- (2) A map of the village was then obtained from the survey department and the fields were numbered consecutively.
- (3) With this map and the survey registers relating to the lands in the village, a subordinate was sent to the village, and, with the assistance of the revenue officials, he made a preliminary inquiry into all matters in dispute connected with the survey or settlement, and with the registration of transfers of puttās, applications for land, improper inclusion of forests in private holdings, statistics of cultivation, &c.
- (4) On his return to office he reported particulars of each matter to me and received orders on doubtful cases which required no inspection of the land or further inquiry. The matters requiring inspection or further inquiry were noted by me, and then the village was inspected by me in detail. Grants of land applied for under Settlement Rules 10 and 16 were disposed of, or, if necessary, reported to the Collector or Government. Village grazing lands were selected and set apart under Rule 11. Reserves for roads, streams, swamps and forests, not previously made, were selected and recorded. Lands "available for sale" under Rule 13 were also selected and recorded. Lists of new demarcations required, owing either to omissions or errors in the original surveys, were prepared, and the necessary detailed orders were sent to the Survey officer for execution. Government lands claimed without title were inspected and the necessity (or otherwise) of resisting the claim was considered. Where valuable forests were included in private holdings the rights of Government were asserted, and where large excess areas were included and there appeared no objection to the occupation of lands, a puttā was issued on such terms as to future assessment and payment of arrears or penalty as was considered reasonable, the Collector being consulted in all important cases. Inam lands were dealt with in accordance with G.O., No. 212, dated 11th February 1884.
- (5) All the above points having been settled, and the new surveys having been made, a general register of all the lands in the village was framed, showing not only all private holdings with the area, rate of assessment and total assessment payable thereon and the tenure on which held, but also showing all Government lands ranged under their appropriate heads as reserved forest, swamp, road, stream, grazing ground, "available for sale," &c. The distinction between lands registered in the Collector's office and in the Curnam's was abolished, and all the lands (including many which had previously escaped registration altogether) were entered in the one village register.
- (6) Brief descriptive memoirs of each important estate (Settlement Rule V) were then prepared in communication with the proprietors.
- (7) From the general register the chittah (or individual ledger) was prepared, showing for each land-owner in the village the several lands held by him, and he was furnished with a copy of this, under the name of the settlement rough puttā, and asked to bring to notice any errors or omissions within a fixed time.
- (8) After all appeals had been heard, the maps and registers were finally revised, abstract statements prepared, a descriptive memoir and register in diglott written up and sent to be printed with an eye sketch (Settlement Rule IV) of the village bound up with the register.
- (9) The map of the village, numbered to correspond with the register, and prepared on the scale 16 inches = 1 mile, was then sent to the Survey office to be lithographed and sold to the public. The memoir and register, on being printed, was also made available for sale to the public and was supplied, with a copy of the map, to all the public offices of the district.

Contents of Settlement Register and Memoir.

27. The memoir and register, as printed, contain for each village the following matters:—

- (1) A note as to the situation and boundaries.
- (2) A statement of the areas included.
- (3) Some statistics of demarcation marks.
- (4) Some statistics of the population, number of houses, of puttas and of cattle.
- (5) A statement of the area actually cultivated with various kinds of crops.
- (6) A note showing the total increase of assessment by the settlement accounts.
- (7) A descriptive memoir of each important estate, showing its position, the lands included in it, the history of their acquisition, the areas of the crops cultivated, the former and present owners and the assessment.
- (8) A list of all demarcated and reserved forests, with their position and areas, and names, if any.
- (9) A similar list of all demarcated and reserve swamps.
- (10) A rough eye sketch of the village indicating its boundaries and the chief hamlets, roads, streams, estates, and grazing grounds in it.
- (11) The general field register, showing the number and name of each field, its rate of assessment, area and total assessment, and the name of the owner, with remarks as to the tenure on which it is held, or, if Government reserve, the purpose for which it is reserved.
- (12) An abstract showing the areas occupied as free-hold or subject to each rate of assessment, the grants made at settlement, the various areas reserved as forest, grazing ground, &c., and the areas available for sale, &c.

28. These accurate and elaborate registers and accounts would lose much of their value unless arrangements were made to revise them each year and keep the current accounts up to date.

Revision of the Village Establishments.

It has been noted that the district had completely outgrown the subordinate establishments allowed for the management of its land revenue and cognate affairs. In fact no adequate village establishments existed. I, therefore, at the Collector's request, drew up a complete scheme for a revision of the village establishments. This was sanctioned with but little alteration by the Government, and I, then, at the Collector's request, submitted lists of persons who might suitably be appointed to the various offices (over 100 in number). The scheme is now in full operation and for the first time in the history of the district it may be considered that the arrangements regarding the staff of village officials are on a satisfactory footing. Provision for their pay has been made by the introduction of the Village Service Cess under the authority of Act IV of 1864, extended by Act I of 1883, specially passed in that behalf, and also, to a small extent, from the proceeds of the inam lands previously assigned for the purpose. The village officers are now entrusted with the collection of all the land revenue, the Collector's office being relieved of that portion of the work which had hitherto devolved on it.

29. Some of the operations enumerated in paragraph 26 above are of such importance as to require some further notice. The grant of land at settlement, in accordance with Settlement

Grants at Settlement.

Rules 10 and 16, is one of the most important features of the settlement and has done more than anything else to render the settlement generally acceptable to the people of the district. A full examination of the working of these rules and the proof that their application is financially profitable to Government as well as agreeable to the people is contained in the papers recorded in G.O., No. 1205, dated 28th September 1883. The areas granted in each village, with the assessment payable thereon, are shown in Statement No. I, attached to this report. The grants made to estates, at Rs. 2 per acre, amounted to 4075.38 acres, assessed at Rs. 8,150-12-1. The grants made to native puttadars, at As. 10 per acre, amounted to 4376.13 acres, assessed at Rs. 2,735-4-2. The total grants were, therefore, 8451.51 acres assessed at Rs. 10,886-0-3. The grants thus made exceed the areas sold under the Waste Land Rules during the past sixteen years. The total number of the grants was 980, and the average area of each grant was 9.62 acres. Every individual grant was inspected by me in person to see that it included no forest and was otherwise free from objection. This precaution, though laborious, was shown by the past history of the district to be absolutely necessary.

30. Great attention was paid to the registration of blocks of forest as reserved, and, where it appeared likely that grass lands between, or adjoining, forest blocks were likely to be

Forests.

required for reservation, they were registered accordingly pending final selection of reserves under Act V of 1882 by the Forest officers. The number of fields which are shown in the registers as demarcated and reserved as forest is 1,243, and the total area is 51,492.79 acres. Many of these fields, however, are contiguous to each other, though for various reasons they have been separately demarcated. Thus the area of each block of forest is much larger than would appear from consideration of the average size of each field registered as reserved forest.

Lists of all the lands so registered were sent to the Forest Officer on the completion of the settlement of the village. In villages with large tracts of unsurveyed forest and waste, the forests were not separately entered in the registers, as there was no means of defining them, nor was there any advantage in attempting to do so pending selection and demarcation by the Forest officers under Act V of 1882. Such tracts, therefore, are not included in the above figures. Statement No. 4 shows the demarcated areas reserved in each village.

31. As required by Settlement Rules 11 and 12, village grazing grounds were also selected and set apart in each village according to its requirements and the area still available for

Village and other Grazing Lands.

the purpose. Each block selected was personally inspected by me. Altogether 319 blocks were so set apart, with an area of Acres 24061.24. If the Government reserves for Todas' cattle (1890.74 acres), the reserved swamps (1842.02 acres), and the recreation and grazing grounds of Ootacamund (4579.44 acres) be added, the total permanently demarcated as pasture land amounts to 32373.44 acres for the 36,746 cattle of the district, or nearly one acre per head. It must be noted that the areas registered as "available for sale" (18366.40 acres) are used as pasture pending their gradual occupation, and in the villages with large unsurveyed tracts grazing lands have not yet been fully selected pending the final selection of forest reserves. There is thus more than enough grazing land for all wants for years to come in the district as a whole, though in certain localities the want of pasturage is keenly felt owing to the extension of population and cultivation. The area demarcated as village grazing land in each village is shown in statement No. 4.

32. The statement shows the demarcated areas available for sale in each village. They are 859 blocks in all and aggregate 18366.40 acres.

Lands "available for sale."

The reserved lands in Ootacamund and Coonoor are simply registered as "Government waste" not as "available for sale," since Government has recently imposed stringent restrictions on the disposal of such lands even under the Waste Land Rules. Such lands are 132 in number with an area of 868.02 acres. Lands available in the unsurveyed tracts are not included in the above, since there is no means of defining them. Each block entered as available for sale was inspected by me in person to ascertain that no objection existed to such classification.

33. As many as 248 estates have been separately described in the memoirs. The area of these estates is 41415.36 acres and the assessment Rs. 40,565-11-0.

Estates.

34. The registration of transfers of ownership had from various causes been much neglected, and, in consequence, the registers of owners did not at all generally correspond with the actual

Transfers of Puttas.

facts. Much inconvenience to the Revenue officers and to the land-owners was the result, and collections were impeded. At settlement nearly 3,600 transfers were registered and the accounts of ownership were thus rendered much more accurate than they have hitherto been.

35. Statement No. I shows the increase in the occupied area and assessment of the district due to survey and settlement. Puttas for the survey areas in Merkunad and in the three

settlements of Ootacamund, Coonoor and Kōtagiri were issued by the Collector prior to settlement, and it has not, in consequence of the state of the revenue accounts before settlement, been practicable to show the results for each village of Merkunad separately, but this has been done in all the other villages. Looking at the totals, it will be seen that the accounts prior to survey and settlement show only 64150.23 acres as occupied, with an assessment of Rs. 33,632-7-7; while according to the settlement accounts the occupied area (excluding free-holds) is 126941.93 acres, assessed at Rs. 85,045-9-6. Of this enormous increase, however, 8451.51 acres, assessed at Rs. 10,886-0-3, is due to new grants made at settlement, and 5901.55 acres, assessed at Rs. 5,599-11-11, is due to sales under the Waste Land Rules and gold mining grants made during the course of survey and settlement and which of course are not due to those operations. Deducting these items from the total increase, we find that the net increase revealed by the survey and settlement of the district is 48438.64 acres, assessed at Rs. 34,927-5-9.

The increase in occupation is 75.5 per cent., and is mainly due to the existence of the "Bhurty" privilege (see paragraphs 8, 9, 14 and 21) and the practical recognition at survey of claims under it, and to the illicit extension of the privilege and the malpractices (see paragraph 22) which took place under its shadow. It is also due, in a smaller degree, to excess demarcations in Todamunds and to the registration of lands previously omitted altogether from the revenue accounts. The increase in assessment is 103.8 per cent., and is due to the same causes, and the operation of Settlement Rule 18 in regard to fraudulent misappropriations of land, and to the introduction of puttas into Kinnakorai village in place of the "Erkōdu Kothu Kadu" system (paragraph 15) previously in force, and to some small revisions sanctioned in regard to old rates of assessment containing fractions of an anna. If the grants made at settlement be added, the total increase due to survey and settlement is 56890.15 acres, assessed at Rs. 45,813-6-0, and the percentages of increase are raised to 88.7 and 136.2, respectively.

36. Where the increase in the assessment is so great, it is natural to turn to the table of Average Rate of Assessment of all Lands. rates in force and to inquire whether the present rates are excessive. Statement No. 2 contains the required information. Taking all the lands in the district together, we find that the average rate is As. 10-8 pies only. This, however, includes the house-sites in the towns of Ootacamund and Coonoor, assessed at Rs. 10 and Rs. 4 per acre, and the gold mining grants, assessed at Rs. 5 per acre, and all the estates, lease lands in Ootacamund and Coonoor, and settlement grants, which include all the higher rates of assessment.

37. The lands held by the Badagas, Kotas, Irulas, Kurumbas and Todas, who alone constitute the hill tribes, are assessed without exception at the low rates sanctioned in 1862 and which vary from 10 annas to 2 annas. Average Rate of Assessment on Lands of Hill Tribes. The average assessment on these lands, excluding the new grants made at settlement, is only a fraction over six annas per acre; and the avidity with which these tribes sought for settlement grants at the highest rate prevailing in their puttas 10 annas (viz. per acre), together with the fact that they actually took up 4,376 acres at that rate, shows that the assessment on their remaining lands is not excessive. It is in fact much the same rate as prevailed in the beginning of the century under Major McLeod's settlement. In 1835, Mr. Sullivan estimated the average assessment at 6 annas per acre, and remarked that this, "which was in former times as much as the land could afford to pay, has become, under the improved circumstances of the people, little more than a quit-rent."

If further proof were required, it will be found in the fact that, though the settlement rates have been introduced in each village on the completion of its settlement, the area relinquished has been only 240 acres in the past three years, and no less than 188 acres of this consisted of lands newly granted at settlement.

38. If then these rates are so moderate and have not been changed since the beginning of the century, the question at once suggests itself: Ought they not to be revised and increased? In dealing with this question it must be distinctly borne in mind that there has never been a settlement of the Nilgiris in the modern and technical sense of the term, with a scientific classification of soils and an adjustment of rates in accordance with the productive capabilities of the soil. The settlement of Major McLeod in 1800-1, indeed, professed to be such, but it was obviously very rough and ready and referred, at best, to only a small part of the area now occupied. Mr. Grant's settlement of 1862 professed to be rather a settlement of areas than of rates. The object was to abolish the "Bhurty" system and to make a general reduction, in a rough and ready way, on all rates, so as to compensate the hillmen for the loss of their ancient privilege. The present settlement, too, proceeds on the bases of the former assessments, and has made no attempt at a general classification of soils. The question is whether such a classification is now required or would pay for the cost of making it. I trust I shall be excused if, with my experience of the district, I record my decided opinion that it is not at present required and probably will not be expedient for many years to come. The more valuable lands are for the most part held under special leases or deeds which cannot be interfered with. The rates fixed on the grants at settlement should not be altered for at least thirty years. The assessment on the estates purchased from Badagas, Kurumbas and Irulas, almost without exception contained large areas of Government land wrongfully included with the estate at survey. In these cases, and in lands held without any title prior to settlement, an appropriate rate has been fixed. As regards the lands held by the native tribes, though the rate is only a little over six annas per acre, it is, in my opinion, sufficient, all things considered. It must be remembered that though the rate per acre has not been increased, yet now, for the first time, will these tribes be in reality required to pay for all the land in their occupation. The "Bhurty" privilege was never really abolished until the survey and settlement, and the total payments hereafter to be made by the hillmen will be nearly double the total hitherto paid by them. The fact, too, that they do, and for many long years most certainly will, cultivate only a portion of their holding each year, leaving the rest fallow to recover its fertility, causes the assessment on the area actually cultivated each year to be much greater than the average rate on the holding. Probably it almost doubles it. The assessment on the fallow portion has to be paid out of the produce of the cultivated portion.

Inequalities of assessment no doubt exist, but my experience does not lead me to think them, on the whole, to be very important or such as would justify the expense and harassment inseparable from a regular settlement.

39. A few words of comment on the figures in Statement No. 3 will be of interest as showing the development of the district and its increased capability to bear the increased assessment. Statistics showing development of District. And, first, as to population—This was put down at 2,516 in the Report of 1812. In 1821 Captain Ward fixed the population at 4,353. In 1847 Captain Ouchterlony found it to be 17,087. In 1866 it was believed to be 38,142. The first regular census was taken in 1871 and fixed the population at 49,501. The census of 1881 shows that it had

risen to 65,591, but a small part of these increases is due to the transfer of the Manaar Slopes from Coimbatore in 1877, and of Kinnakorai from Malabar in 1881. All the Hill tribes, but most especially the Badagas, the chief cultivators, participate in the increase. The Todas are not dying out, as is sometimes assumed, but have remained almost stationary for the past twenty years. The increase in the number of houses, which is now 16,114 against 13,922 in 1871, corresponds with the increase in population. The average for each house (between four and five souls) shows that there is none of that over-crowding which so often indicates poverty. Indeed it is unquestionable that the neat and substantial houses of the Badagas are superior, in size, cleanliness and comfort, to the average houses of the cultivators in the plains. With the population it is natural that the number of the puttas should have increased, and it now stands at 5,557. The number of cattle has almost doubled since 1871, and the area actually under cultivation has risen, since that date, from 49,613 acres to 60,395 acres.

40. The total expenditure on the Settlement Party has been Rs. 81,369-15-8. I have no figures of the cost of survey of the settled portion of the district, but, no doubt, they exist in your office. The total annual increase due to survey and settlement is shown in paragraph 35 to be Rs. 45,813-6-0. The penalties imposed by the Collector under settlement Rule 18 and the arrears of assessment on lands previously omitted from the accounts but reported to the Collector by this office, amounted to nearly Rs. 40,000, a sum sufficient, in itself, to pay for one-half of the total cost of the settlement. In considering the cost of settlement, I also think that a deduction of, say, one-third of my salary, from 1st July 1882 to end of January 1883 and from 1st May 1883 to end of September 1883, or one year in all, should be made on account of my employment during those periods as Secretary to the Local Self-Government Committee and to the Committee appointed to prepare drafts of new Municipal and Local Fund Boards' Bills, as this special work occupied about one-third of my time during its continuance.

41. The financial results of the survey and settlement have been detailed in paragraphs 35 and 40. The general results have also been indicated, from time to time, in this report. Résumé of Results, financial and general. They may be summed up as follows: All private holdings have been defined, mapped and registered. Every man now knows his own, and can have a plan of it for a few annas. The long pending disputes between Government and landholders as to their boundaries have been settled. Large areas of forest, wrongfully claimed, have been recovered for Government, and titles (so far as puttas are titles) have been granted for the areas admitted at settlement to belong to claimants, thus rendering their properties more valuable and more marketable. Considerable areas have been granted to private persons under the Settlement Rules, to their no small satisfaction and the increase of the public revenues. The land revenue accounts have been thoroughly revised, and efficient village establishments have, for the first time, been organized to keep the accounts and attend to the collection of the revenue and other cognate duties. The areas available for sale in the demarcated portions of the district have been registered, so that both the public and the district officers can know them merely by examining the maps and registers. In like manner all the lands reserved as forest, swamp, road, stream, &c., and the areas set apart as village grazing grounds in the demarcated portions of the district have been defined and recorded, both on the ground and in the maps and registers. These measures will, it is believed, both benefit the population of the district and greatly facilitate the transaction of work in the Collector's and in other public offices. I trust that the results of the survey and settlement, both financial and general, may meet with the approval of Government.

42. During the settlement a large number of new demarcations and surveys were necessary, and, in examining alleged titles to estates, it was often necessary to obtain old maps and survey records. I was, therefore, under the necessity of constantly applying to the survey officer for assistance. All my demands (often troublesome enough) met with the most prompt and courteous response from Colonel C. A. Liardet, the Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, and his subordinates.

43. My own subordinates worked most industriously and willingly, under circumstances sufficiently trying. The field hands suffered much from fever and other effects of climatic exposure. One died at his post. Another had to resign the public service owing to broken health, and all suffered more or less. The Supervisors, T. Seshiah and C. Kristnama Chetty, performed their laborious duties most efficiently.

Ambil Narayana Iyengar, the English Head Clerk, by his quickness and intelligence in performing all works entrusted to him, has been of the greatest possible assistance to me, and I trust that you will be able to give him suitable promotion when his services are no longer required by the Forest Settlement Officer. I have much pleasure, too, in acknowledging the great aid given to me by the Collector's Head Clerk, S. Ramasami Iyer, in dealing with the old quit-rent lands of Ootacamund and Coonoor, a most intricate and difficult task.

Endorsement by W. WILSON, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture, dated 15th December 1884, No. 3544.

Submitted to Government through the Board of Revenue.

2. The Director fully endorses the Collector's remarks regarding the value of the settlement and the admirable manner in which it has been conducted by Mr. Benson.

3. The work was begun on the 1st April 1881 and was completed on the 31st October 1884. It was originally estimated that it would be completed in two years; it actually occupied three-years-and-a-half. The original estimate was, considering the difficulty of much of Mr. Benson's task, requiring as it did much patience and tact, probably too sanguine, but the settlement would have in all likelihood been completed much earlier, but for Mr. Benson's employment in addition to his settlement duties as Secretary to the Committee on Local Self-Government and in connection with the draft of the new Local Fund and Municipal Acts.

4. Mr. Benson's report will hardly bear condensation, but the financial results of the settlement are briefly these:—The recorded area of occupation has been raised from Acres 64,150 to Acres 126,942, or by 98 per cent., and the assessment from Rs. 33,632 to Rs. 85,045, or by 153 per cent.

5. The cost of the operations has been, for demarcation and survey, Rs. 7,96,801, and for settlement, Rs. 86,793, or Rs. 8,83,594 in all.

6. Mr. Benson suggests that a portion of his salary for the time that he was employed on the additional duties noted above should be credited to the settlement, but no adjustment of the kind seems called for.

RESOLUTION—dated 10th March 1885, No. 805.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. In the report forwarded by the Director, Mr. Benson, after giving a brief sketch of the several attempts made from time to time to systematize the settlement of the various kinds of holdings on the Nilgiris, proceeds to afford full information in regard to the instructions under which his operations in the district were commenced in 1881, the manner in which they have been carried out, and the general results of his work.

3. Financially the outcome, as stated by the Director, is an increase in the amount of the annual assessment* of Rs. 51,413, or 153 per cent.; while the recorded† area of occupation is increased by 62,792 acres, or 98 per cent. Mr. Benson, however, explains, at paragraph 35 of his report, that from these totals Acres 14,353‡, assessed at Rs. 16,486, should be deducted as not properly appertaining to the result of settlement operations proper. Omitting these areas, the net increase is Acres 48,439, assessed at Rs. 34,927. As the cost of the settlement (exclusive of any part of Mr. Benson's salary) is Rs. 8,83,594, the result is equivalent to a rate of interest of 3.9 per cent. on the outlay. At the same time, it should not be lost sight of that considerable areas were formerly excluded from

	ACS.	RS.
* Before settlement...		33,632
At present ..		85,045
	+	51,413
† Area before settlement ...	ACS.	64,150
Present area ..		126,942
	+	62,792
‡ New settlement grants.	ACS.	8451.51
Waste land sales and mining grants ...		5901.55
	RS.	10,886
		5,600
Total ...		16,486

the taxable extent of holdings, on the ground that they were uncultivable slabs of rock. Such unprofitable patches were provided for in Rules 85 and 86, of the Madras Revenue Survey Manual, 1874, and treated on those principles in the Coimbatore Revenue Settlement Report, No. 237-104, dated 1st September 1875, page 36, paragraph 8; but no allusion is made thereto in Mr. Puckle's rules in G.O., of 16th March

1881, No. 453, or in Mr. Benson's report under review, though the inclusion of all such unprofitable patches, without allowance either for area or quality of soil, must have been an important factor in contributing to swell the areas and assessment to nearly double what they were before.

4. The settlement which has now been completed has been conducted, not upon the usual method of classification of soils with reference to their power of production, but under rules drawn up by Mr. R. K. Puckle and approved by Government* as well adapted to the circumstances of the Nilgiris. Towards the close of his report, Mr. Benson, after explaining the effect of the present settlement upon the assessment payable by the land-holders, offers his opinion (page 38) regarding the introduction of a more scientific settlement at some future date. He gives reasons for considering that the present settlement should remain in force for thirty years at least, and in this opinion the Board entirely concur. As pointed out by Mr. Benson, the more valuable lands are for the most part held on special leases or grants, and while the holdings of the hill tribes have been re-assessed nominally at the same average rate (6 annas an acre) as before settlement, the effect of re-assessment in this case, by necessitating payment for every acre held, will be greatly to enhance the amount heretofore paid by these tribes.

5. The Board agree with the Collector and the Director in their opinion regarding the satisfactory character of Mr. Benson's work.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture.
" " Collector of Nilgiris.

Exd. A. Raitt.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1885.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Printed April 9th.

Proceedings, 10th March 1885, No. 805.

Submitting to Government, with remarks, report of Mr. Benson, Special Assistant Collector, on the results of the revenue settlement of the Nilgiri portion of district ordered in G.O., No. 1345, dated 16th October 1880.

BOARD OF REVENUE, 10th

CH 1885, No. 805.

13

1881, No. 453, or in Mr. Benson's report such unprofitable patches, without allowing have been an important factor in contributing nearly double what they were before.

4. The settlement which has now been * G.O., dated 16th March 1881, No. 453.

tion, but under rules drawn up by Mr. R. K. well adapted to the circumstances of the Mr. Benson, after explaining the effect of the payable by the land-holders, offers his opinion of a more scientific settlement and considering that the present settlement should and in this opinion the Board entirely con more valuable lands are for the most part the holdings of the hill tribes have been re-assessed (6 annas an acre) as before settlement, the necessitating payment for every acre held, heretofore paid by these tribes.

5. The Board agree with the Collector regarding the satisfactory character of Mr. Benson's

review, though the inclusion of all other for area or quality of soil, must swell the areas and assessment to

ted has been conducted, not upon al method of classification of soils ference to their power of production and approved by Government * as Towards the close of his report, present settlement upon the assessment on (page 38) regarding the introduction of a future date. He gives reasons for remain in force for thirty years at least, As pointed out by Mr. Benson, the on special leases or grants, and while ed nominally at the same average rate ect of re-assessment in this case, by be greatly to enhance the amount

the Director in their opinion regarding

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
Copy to the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture.
" " Collector of Nilgiris.

Ed. A. Raitt.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1885.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

No 2046.
449
20-4-85

For order:—

There seems nothing
added to the remarks
by the Director of the Board.

Just a few words.

"The Govt. considers the
result of the settlement of the
Nilgiri District as satisfactory
in every respect and they
cordially recognize the talent and
ability with which the operation
has been conducted by Mr.
Benson. The financial results
are encouraging but there
are of course, important
considerations with the general
effect of the settlement as
mentioned in para 41 of Mr.
B's report. The determination
and accurate record of private
holding and of land at the
disposal of Govt. the revision
of the land revenue accounts &
the organization of an efficient
survey service are so important
to the general prosperity of the
district that they must be
satisfactory additions to the
work of the Board."

Printed March 10th.

RJA 10/3

Proceedings, 10th March 1885, No. 805.

19/3/85

"The Govt. considers the
result of the settlement of the
Nilgiri District as satisfactory
in every respect and they
cordially recognize the talent and
ability with which the operation
has been conducted by Mr.
Benson. The financial results
are encouraging but there
are of course, important
considerations with the general
effect of the settlement as
mentioned in para 41 of Mr.
B's report. The determination
and accurate record of private
holding and of land at the
disposal of Govt. the revision
of the land revenue accounts &
the organization of an efficient
survey service are so important
to the general prosperity of the
district that they must be
satisfactory additions to the
work of the Board."

20-4-85

Submitting to Government, with remarks,
report of Mr. Benson, Special Assistant Collec-
tor, on the results of the revenue settlement
of the Nilgiri portion of district ordered in
G.O., No. 1345 dated 18th October 1880.

27/5/85
267 D. of Sec. Settlement
20-4-85