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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	10 36	Press ~~Mis.~~	<i>Orig</i>
Dated	29-11-	18 93	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 1036 of 29 Nov 1897

To

The Secretary to the Govt of India
Revenue & Agriculture Deptt

Sir,

I am directed to forward copies of the marginally ^{Pro.} of this Govt enunciating the principles on which the settlements in the Malabar District should be carried out in regard to certain parts & as they involve a departure from usual settlement procedure I am to state that the sanction of the Govt of India is obtained for the introduction of the settlement on the principles therein laid out. It will be seen that in carrying out the assessment of wet & dry lands, the settlement of the district presents special difficulties & the Govt has accordingly directed that the ordinary rules of settlement of ryotwari tracts should be applied to them. But as regards what are called garden lands His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that some departure from the generally accepted rules is necessary. In the first of the Pro. herewith forwarded, the Govt decides that in regard to these lands a classification of soils would be useless & that the productiveness must be estimated &

Defd 7/12/93

for 5 Sept 87 No 756
23 Oct 93 No 931

L.H.F.

20/11/93

kniving out tracts into classes with
the number of trees per acre ascertained
actual counting of trees on single
ly selected, adopting an average
of the standard crop & calculating
value according to the common rate.
But the Special Settlement
Mr. Lattle-Stuart Stuart who was
prepare the scheme for the settlement
the balance that did not come
the instructions. His successor has
to assess such as
reference to the produce, which
expense of the ryots, it has
of labour, is in effect
the improvements & that
in improvement by a private
has been repeatedly affirmed
seen that the same argument
only to wet lands also which have
numerous cases been rendered fit for
rice crop by the ryots themselves
considerable expenditure of labour
it has now been taken into
assessing wet land at the final
settlement & the local folk is
inim that such allowance cannot
not to be made in respect of
lands in Malabar. The only practical

3. The only practical
course appears to be to assess the land
with reference to its existing condition
its suitability for growing a certain
crop may be selected as the staple
if the crop ordinarily produced happens
to consist of Cocoanuts, areca nuts or
Jack fruit ~~then~~ appears to be, in the
opinion of His Excellency the Governor.
^{consider that there is}
Comed No valid reason for restricting
the share of food to a certain proportion
of a hypothetical rice crop.

4. The Govt has, in its order of the
above views, indicated in some detail
in paras 8-11 of its order No 931 of
23 October 1893 the principles upon
which these lands should be assessed
& the methods to be adopted to arrive
at a fair & reasonable settlement.
It considers that the best solution
to the question is to adopt Mutated the
system followed in the neighbouring
province of Travancore. The most
valuable feature of that system is
scale of trees per acre which greatly
has enabled the folk of that province
to elaborate & adopt, viz that 1 Coconut
tree occupies or represents $\frac{1}{100}$ of an acre
that 1 Jack tree occupies $\frac{2}{100}$ of an acre
& that 8 areca nut palms occupy $\frac{1}{10}$

ore, that is to say that one cen-
tland represents or equals 100
or $\frac{1}{2}$ a Jack tree or 8 areca pal-
ms. Govt of Madras admits the same
of this principle but I am to say
in conditions of Malabar are not so
similar to those which obtain in
Savancore. The custom in the former
District appears to be to plant tree
whether Coconut, Jack or areca not
farther apart than in Savancore
The Settlement Officer has been instructed
to make enquiries in each taluk of
District with a view to ascertain
a suitable standard per acre
each of the three kinds of trees men-
tioned above known as garden trees. When
this standard is determined, the Govt.
the minimum number of taxable
per acre. All lands bearing the mi-
nimum number of such trees will be treated
as garden lands while all
lands which may nevertheless be
planted with taxable trees in less
number than the minimum prescribed
will be classed as "dry". After the
determining what lands should be
classed as "garden" the existing popu-
lation of the planted portion of a

"Gardens" with reference to the number of
the three kinds of taxable trees in bearing
at the time of the settlement will be for
the assessment being based upon the commu-
tated value of the estimated produce at market
rates calculated in accordance with the
settlement method. When two or three
kinds of taxable trees are grown on the
garden land, a compound standard crop
will be taken as the basis of calculation.
Portions of holdings which, though classed
as "Gardens" but which are not
implanted with taxable trees will be
assessed at a light average rate based
upon the commuted value of an appropriate
dry staple crop suitable to the locality,
whether it be shama or rice, finger
pepper, arrowroot, tapioca, yams &c.
In order to determine what portion of
Garden should be deemed "implanted"
for this purpose the taxable trees will be
counted. Each tree will represent some
fraction of an acre as may be considered
appropriate with reference to the number
of trees which may be found equivalent
to be the standard number in garden
fully planted up and the area thus
estimated will then be deducted from
the survey area of the garden & the balance

It represents the unplanted
5. With reference to the question
on these lands - parambras not
is gardens & unplanted portions of,
which are - shall be treated at
revision on the termination of the
settlement period, I am to say
the Govt. proposes to recompute
them & to re-adjust the classification
accordingly. This may have some
the appearance of taxation of im-
provement during the settlement, but
His Excellency in Council is
of opinion that it will be so in ap-
plying for the basis of the settle-
ment in Malabar has always
and will be under the proposed
tree tax & every tree which con-
tributes to the revenue, in theory at least
able to sustain taxation. The
recompute will bring under
newly planted, it will al-
ways exempt from payment on ac-
count which in the intervals
of bearing. These trees in
carecas & cocoanuts, if no
will be a considerable proportion
recompute at the expiry of the
settlement, while leaving the ryots

usually followed in the
Presidency

accorded

they like during the its current
the whole the fairest plan
ities. When settling the rates
& the revision changes in price
the period of settlement - 30 years
course be taken into account.
name, though the data for the
entire of details for Malabar
different, is identical in principle
& adopted in Travancore & the
by Mr. Stuart.

as one proposal, principle follows
the Govt. proposes to adopt in
with garden lands in Malabar
a departure from the usual
settlement procedure, but the circum-
stances of Malabar are peculiar & it is
of opinion of His Excellency that for
it is necessary to apply the
to its special conditions.
Accordingly to request that the
in of the Govt. of India may be
for their adoption.

L. J. 27/11

60/2

Draft letter to the
Govt. of India
re: Malabar Settlement

The Hon. Mr. G. A. S. S. S.

G. A. S. S. S. 29 Nov. 1893, No. 1036

Printed 800
29/11/93

29TH NOVEMBER 1893, No. 1036, REVENUE.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

E. GIBSON, Esq., C.S.,
Ag. Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated Fort St. George, 29th November 1893.

SIR,

I am directed to forward copies of the marginally-noted Proceedings of this Government enunciating the principles on which the settlement of the Malabar district should be carried out, and, as they involve a departure in regard to certain particulars from the usual settlement procedure, I am to request that the sanction of the Government of India may be

Miscellaneous.

G.O., dated 5th September 1889, No. 756.
" " 23rd October 1893, No. 931.

obtained for the introduction of the settlement on the principles therein indicated.

2. It will be seen that in regard to the assessment of *wet* and *dry* lands, the settlement of the district presents no special difficulties and the Government has accordingly directed that the ordinary rules of settlement of ryotwari tracts should be applied to them. But as regards what are called garden lands, His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that some departure from the generally-accepted rules is necessary. In the first of the Proceedings herewith forwarded, the Government decided that in regard to these lands a classification of soils would be useless, and that their productiveness must be estimated by blocking out tracts into classes with reference to the number of trees per acre ascertained by actual counting of trees on single acres fairly selected, adopting an average of produce of the standard crop and calculating its value according to the commutation rate.

3. The only practical course appears to be to assess the land with reference to its existing condition, and its suitability for growing whatever crop may be selected as the staple, and, if the crop ordinarily produced happens to consist of cocoanuts, arecanuts or jack fruit, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that there is no valid reason for restricting the share of Government to a certain proportion of a hypothetical rice crop.

4. The Government has indicated in some detail in paragraphs 8—11 of its Order No. 931, dated 23rd October 1893, the principles upon which these lands should be assessed and the methods to be adopted to arrive at a fair and reasonable settlement. It considers that the best solution of the question is to adopt *mutatis mutandis* the system followed in the neighbouring province of Travancore. The most valuable feature of that system is the scale of trees per acre which great experience has enabled the Government of that province to elaborate and adopt, viz., that one cocoanut tree occupies or represents $\frac{1}{100}$ of an acre, that one jack tree occupies $\frac{2}{100}$ of an acre, and that eight areca-nut palms occupy $\frac{1}{100}$ of an acre, that is to say, that one cent of land represents or equals one cocoanut tree or half a jack tree or eight areca palms. The Government of Madras admits the soundness of this principle, but I am to say that the conditions of Malabar are not precisely similar to those which obtain in Travancore. The custom in the former district appears to be to plant trees, whether

cocoanut, jack or areca-nut further apart than in Travancore, and the Settlement-officer has been instructed to make inquiries in each taluk of the district with a view to ascertain what is a suitable standard per acre for each of the three kinds of trees named above, known as garden trees. When this standard is determined, the Government will fix the minimum number of taxable trees per acre, and all lands bearing the minimum number of such trees will be treated and assessed as garden lands, while all other lands which may nevertheless be planted with taxable trees in less number than the minimum prescribed will be classed as "dry." After thus determining what lands should be classed as "garden," the existing plan of assessing the planted portion of all "gardens" with reference to the number of the three kinds of taxable trees in bearing at the time of the settlement will be followed, the assessment being based upon the commuted value of the estimated produce at market rates calculated in accordance with ordinary settlement methods. When two or three kinds of taxable trees are grown on the same garden land, a compound standard crop will be taken as the basis of calculation. Portions of holdings which, though classed as "gardens" at the settlement, may be unplanted with taxable trees will be assessed at a light acreage rate based upon the commuted value of an appropriate dry staple crop suitable to the locality whether it be shama or ragi, ginger, pepper, arrowroot, tapioca, yams, &c. In order to determine what portion of a garden should be deemed "unplanted," for this purpose the taxable trees will be counted. Each tree will represent such a fraction of an acre as may be considered appropriate with reference to the number of trees which may be found eventually to be the standard number in gardens fully planted up and the area thus estimated will then be deducted from the survey area of the garden and the balance will represent the unplanted portion.

5. With reference to the question as to how these lands—parambas not classed as gardens and unplanted portions of parambas which are—shall be treated at the revision on the termination of the settlement period, I am to say that this Government proposes to recount the trees then and to re-adjust the classification accordingly. This may have somewhat the appearance of taxation of improvements effected during the settlement period, but His Excellency in Council is of opinion that it will be so in appearance only, for the basis of the garden assessment in Malabar has always been, and will be under the proposed scheme, a tree-tax and every tree which comes into bearing is now, in theory at any rate, liable to instant taxation. Moreover, if the recount will bring under taxation trees newly planted, it will also relieve the ryots from payment on account of trees which in the interval have gone out of bearing. These trees in the case of arecas and cocoanuts, if not of jacks, will be a considerable proportion and a recount at the expiry of the period, while leaving the ryots free to do what they like during its currency, will be on the whole the fairest plan for all parties. When settling the money rates at the revision, changes in prices during the period of settlement—30 years—will, of course, be taken into account.

6. The above principles which the Government proposes to adopt in dealing with garden lands in Malabar involve a departure from the settlement procedure usually followed in this Presidency, but the circumstances of the District of Malabar are peculiar, and, in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, it is necessary to apply methods suited to its special conditions. I am accordingly to request that the sanction of the Government of India may be accorded to their adoption.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

7. C. No. 236/94-80. 51822.1.94

Original

1893.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL
DEPARTMENT.

From the Government of
Fort St. George.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

Letter, dated 29th November 1893,
No. 1036.

NOVEMBER.

FORWARDING copies of this
Government enunciating the principles on which
the settlement of the Malabar district should be
carried out, and requesting the sanction of the
Government of India for the introduction of the
settlement on the principles therein indicated.

10 8-10 ✓
11 11/12 ✓
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1-05
26/8/26 II ✓
9.11.26 II ✓
25/2/28 II ✓
11-11-31 II ✓
28/12/23 ✓