

Revenue Department
Minutes of Consultations.

20th April 1858.

Back no^s. 16 + 17.

Order no. 487 D/16th April 1858.

செப்பைபுவர் பெயர்
செப்பைபுவர்காக எடுத்தக்
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்
செப்பைபு முடித்த நாள்
சபார்க்கும் ஆராய்ச்சி உதவி
முறையிபா. ஏ. யாளர்
கையொப்பம் கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 20th April 1858.

No. 16. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue; dated 13th March 1858, No. 909.

In Consultation 6th May 1857. Read again Extract Minutes Consultation under date 24th April 1857, No. 374, Revenue Department, on reduction of Assessment in Tinnevely.

In Consultation 1st June 1857. Read again Extract Minutes Consultation under date 22d May 1857, No. 486, R. D. with reference to a petition from the inhabitants of Watray Iroopoo and other 17 villages in Tinnevely, praying for reduction of Assessment.

In Consultation 8th Dec. 1857. Read again letter from the Collector of Tinnevely dated 23d November 1857, No. 37 in reference to the tax paid by the ryots of Watray Iroopoo, for wood cutting.

In Cons. 13th March 1858. Read letter from the Collector of Tinnevely dated 26th December 1857 submitting information as to the Poonjah rates of the district, and especially that of the village of Watray Iroopoo, also as to the tax for wood cutting in the village.

(Here enter No. 410.)

1. The letter from the Collector dated 26th December 1857 has reference to three or four distinct subjects, on which the Board now proceed to offer their opinion.

In Con. 6th May 1857. 2. The Government, in Extract Minutes Consultation of 24th April 1857 (the first letter at the head of these Proceedings) whilst they observe generally on the little need there is for a reduction of Assessment on the Poonjah lands of Tinnevely, refer in para. 8 to the information yet awaited by the Board of Revenue.

3. This information is now furnished in the first 5 paras of the Collector's letter of 26th December 1857, and confirms the opinion of Government that no reduction seems necessary.

4. It appears by returns furnished by the Tahsildars that the extent of waste Poonjah land is 1,83,159 chains, out of which 11,300 chains only, are said to be waste from high assessment but no proof even of this is offered, the Collector does not advocate a reduction nor have any of the people complained of the Assessment except those of Watray Iroopoo.

In Con. 1st June 1857. 5. It was with reference to this village, that the Government in Extract Minutes Consultation of 22d May 1857 observed, that though it was clear that the Poonjah Assessment was higher than that of the villages in its neighbourhood, there was nothing to shew that it was heavy, or disproportionate.

6. In para. 6 of the above Extract Minutes Consultation the Government declined to sanction the reduction in this case, till the matter of the Tinnevely Poonjah Assessment came before them as a whole.

7. The Board have already stated (para. 4) that the Collector does not advocate a reduction generally, and even as to Watray Iroopoo, the object of paras. 6, 7, 8, 9, of his letter of 26th December 1857 is to shew that there is no expectation of increase of cultivation in Watray Iroopoo and its adjacent hamlets.

In Con. 10th December 1856. 8. In para. 5 of his former letter of 29th September 1855, the Collector stated that the per-centage of the Poonjah cultivation to the Ayacut in Watray Iroopoo was 40 per cent, which is more than the cultivation in Vallecolum the neighbouring village.

domestic

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9. In para. 4 of his letter of 21st January 1857 he explained that the waste was entirely in the very lowest classes of land; and in the same letter (para. 6) he states that the other villages in which reduction is prayed for by the petitioners, are hamlets dependent on Watray Iroopoo.

In Con. 15th April 1857.

10. Mr. Silver in his last letter now before the Board, gives no further information about Watray Iroopoo, but submits a statement received from the Tahsildar of the waste lands in the village of Vallecolum which is only a repetition of what was stated before, but he still advocates the measure of relief for the Watray Iroopoo villages that the Board recommended in their Proceedings of 15th April 1857, but to which the Government in Extract Minutes Consultation 22d May 1857 (para. 4) were not pleased to accede.

26th December 1857.

In Con. 1st June 1857.

11. The Board are of opinion that Mr. Silver has adduced no better grounds than before for the measure of relief, and they are not disposed to recommend it again, and consider it would be better, as Mr. Silver proposes in para. 10 of his letter of 26th December 1857, to postpone the revision of the Assessment till the Survey as there is nothing to call for immediate change.

12. The Watray Iroopoo petitioners also complained that they were required to pay a tax for wood cut in the jungle for domestic purposes. Mr. Silver explains in his letter of 23d November 1857 that the jungle referred to is on a Hill hitherto supposed to belong to the Saptoor Zemindary, (now under Sirkar management) but enquiries will be made to decide this. At all events as the petitioners now admit that they have for years past been accustomed to pay for the wood cutting, the Board have directed* that till the question is decided the petition must pay as before.

In Cons. 8th December 1857.

* *Proceedings 8th Dec. 1857.*

13. The next question is with regard to the 'Old' and 'New' wells. The Collector proposed to abolish the distinction, but the Board declined to make any recommendation without more specific information, and the Government refer to this in para. 13 of Extract Minutes Consultation of 24th April 1857, and the Collector reported on the 11th June† 1857, and 2d ‡ January 1858. It appears that 12 per cent of the Ayacut under wells is irrigated, and that restrictions have been imposed which were not intended, and the rectification of which will, the Board trust, make it unnecessary to discuss Mr. Silver's proposition that old and new wells shall be placed on the same footing. The Board's views are given in their Proceedings of 8th February 1858, copy of which is appended to these Proceedings.

† *In Consultation 6th May 1857.*

‡ *In Cons. 8th February 1858.*

14. The last subject noticed by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation 24th April 1857 that requires notice, is as regards the discontinuance of the extra cesses collected in some villages on Palmyrah trees under the designation of 'Waree' and 'Wuttum.' The Board in their Proceedings of 6th December 1856 para. 38, observed that the recommendation of the Collector was but brief, and no account of the origin or the meaning of these cesses is given, and therefore they could not recommend their abolition.

Para. 13.

§ *In Consultation 6th May 1857.*

15. The Collector with his letter of 26th December 1857 (para. 12) forwards a "Statement" and requests the subject may be considered in connection with that of the tax on Palmyrahs reported on in his letter of 7th March 1857. This last letter is one on a general subject now under consideration, and will be shortly laid before Government; but there is sufficient in the Statement accompanying the Collector's letter of 26th December 1857 to shew that these

In Con. 17th March 1857.

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cesses amounting to about 5,000 Rupees yearly are the remains of old extra exactions under the name of Tahreer Nuzzerana &c. which press in particular villages, and which, (as the late Collector Mr. Bird recommended in para. 16 of his letter of 5th September 1855,) should be remitted.

In Con. 13th March 1856.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES, Secretary.

No. 17.

ORDER THEREON, No. 487; dated 16th April 1858.

1. With these Proceedings the Board submit, with other correspondence, a letter from the Collector of Tinnevely dated 26th December 1857, furnishing information on the following points, with reference to the orders of Government of the 24th April and 22d May 1857, Nos. 374 and 486.

- (1.) General reduction of assessment on the Poonjah lands of the Tinnevely District.
- (2.) High rate of assessment alleged to prevail on the Poonjah lands of the Watray Iroopoo and other adjacent villages, and tax stated to be levied on wood cut for domestic purposes, as represented in a petition from certain inhabitants of those villages.
- (3.) Abolition of the distinction between old and new wells; and
- (4.) Discontinuance of the extra cesses collected in some villages on Palmyrah trees, under the designation of Waree and Wuttum.

2. Before proceeding to notice the points under discussion, as briefly stated above, the Government must remark that Mr. Silver's letter of the 26th December 1857 is very little satisfactory, and contains but little information on the points to which his attention was specially directed.

3. With regard to the first point, it is observed that the Poonjah tax in Tinnevely was admitted to be generally moderate by the late Collector Mr. Bird, who nevertheless advocated a reduction in some places. Mr. Bird however gave no details of his scheme; and the Board, in para. 32 of their Proceedings of the 6th December 1856, No. 4116, intimated that they would wait for further information. In referring to this subject, the Government, in para. 8 of their orders of the 24th April 1857, observed that "the Poonjah rates in Tinnevely were extremely light, and hardly called for reduction, while the rates elsewhere prevailing were comparatively so high." From the information now furnished by Mr. Silver in paras. 1 to 5 of his letter of the 26th December 1857, it appears that out of a total Poonjah waste of 183,159 chains, only 11,300 chains are said to be waste from a too high assessment; and even of this, the Board remark, "no proof is offered, the Collector does not advocate a reduction, nor have any of the people complained of the assessment, except those of Watray Iroopoo." It thus appears that the Government were correct in the opinion which they expressed, that no general reduction was needed in the Poonjah assessment of Tinnevely, and no orders are therefore called for on the subject.

4. The high rate of assessment alleged to prevail on the Poonjah lands of the Watray Iroopoo village, was noticed by Government in paras. 3 to 6 of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 22d May 1857. They admitted that the Poonjah assessment of Watray Iroopoo was higher than that of the villages in its neighbourhood; but they observed that there was nothing to show that it was too high or disproportionate to the productive powers of the land. The information now furnished by the Collector, and reviewed by the Board in paras. 5 to 11 of their Proceedings, in connection with the information previously supplied, affords no grounds for authorizing a change in the Poonjah assessment, the revision of which must therefore be postponed till the survey and reassessment of the whole Province.

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5. The Board will be pleased to cause an intimation to that effect to be made to the Petitioners.

6. Under the circumstances represented by the Collector in his letter of the 23rd November 1857, and adverted to by the Board in para. 12 of their Proceedings, the Government approve the instructions issued in respect to the taxation of wood taken by the Petitioners from the jungle referred to.

7. With regard to the Collector's proposal for the abolition of the distinction between old and new wells, respecting which further information was called for in para. 13 of Extract from Minutes of Consultation of the 24th April 1857, the Board express a hope (para. 13) that the removal of the restrictions erroneously imposed by the Collector, will render it unnecessary to discuss his proposal at present; and the Government, under the circumstances stated, approve the instructions issued by the Board in their Proceedings of the 8th February last.

8. As regards the extra tax collected in some villages on Palmyrah trees, under the designation of Waree and Wuttum, the Government regret to observe that, although specially* called upon to submit further information on the subject,

* E. M. C. 24th April 1857, para. 13.

Mr. Silver has merely submitted a figured Statement, without any explanation of the origin or the

meaning of the tax. Its origin may have been, and probably was, as the Board suppose in para. 15; but the Government consider that they are entitled to some definite information from the Collector, before their orders are given, and that Mr. Silver has not performed his duty in simply sending up a statement. The Board will request the present Acting Collector to report upon the matter without delay.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 16th April 1858.

Read the following
Extract from the Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

/ Here enter 13th March 1858 N 909/

With these Proceedings
the Board submit, with other
correspondence, a letter from the
Collector of Tinnevely dated 26th
December 1857, furnishing informa-
tion on the following points,
with reference to the orders of
Government of the 2nd April and
22nd May 1857, N 374 and 456.

- (1) General reduction of assessment on the*
Poonjah lands of the Tinnevely District.
- (2) High rate of assessment alleged to prevail*
on the Poonjah lands of the Watay Angas
and other adjacent villages, and tax
stated to be levied on wood cut for
domestic

domestic purposes, as represented
in a petition from certain inhabi-
tants of those villages.

(3) Abolition of the distinction between
old and new mills; and

(4) Discontinuance of the extra cess
collected in some villages on
Pahungah trees, under the designation
of Thare and Waltham.

Before proceeding to
consider the points under discussion,
I briefly stated above the Govern-
ment's remarks
that Mr. Silver's letter of the
26th December 1857 is very little
satisfactory and contains but
little information on the points
to which his attention was
formerly directed.

With regard to the
first point, it is observed that
the Poonjah tax in Timmerville was
admitted to be generally moderate
by the late Collector Mr. Bird.

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who nevertheless advocated a
reduction in some places. Mr.
Bird however gave no details
of his scheme; and the Board,
in para 32 of their Proceedings
of the 6th December 1856 N^o 4006
intimated that they would
wait for further information.
In referring to this subject, the
Government, in para 8 of their
orders of the 24th April 1857,
observed that the Poonjah
rates in Timmerville were ex-
tremely light, and ~~as such~~
hardly called for reduction -
while the rates elsewhere
prevailing were comparatively
so high. From the informa-
tion now furnished by Mr.
Silver in paras 1 to 5 of his letter
of the 26th December 1857, it ap-
pears that out of a total
Poonjah waste of 153,159 chains,
only 11,300 chains are said to be

be waste from ^{a too} high assessment,
and even of this the Board
remark, "no proof is offered,
"the Collector does not advocate
"a reduction, nor have any of
"the people complained of the
"assessment, except those of
"Wahay. Inapoo." It thus ap-
pears that the Government
were correct in the opinion
which they expressed, that no
general reduction was needed
in the Poonjah assessment of
Simnelli and no orders are therefore called
for on the subject.

The high rate of
assessment alleged to prevail
on the Poonjah lands of the
Wahay Inapoo village, was
noticed by Government in
para 366 of Extract from the
Minutes of Consultation of the
22nd May 1857. They admitted
that the Poonjah assessment
of Wahay Inapoo was higher
than

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than that of the villages in
its neighbourhood, but they
observed that there was
nothing to show that it was
too high or disproportionate to
the productive powers of the
land. The information now
furnished by the Collector, and
reviewed by the Board in paras
5 to 11 of their Proceedings, in
connection with the information
previously supplied, affords
no grounds for
authorizing a change in the
Poonjah assessment, the re-
vision of which must therefore
be postponed till the Survey and
assessment of the whole Province.
The Board will be pleased
to cause an intimation to
that effect to be made to the
Petitioners.

Under the circum-
stances represented by the
Collector in his letter of
the

the 23^d November 1857, and
adverted to by the Board in
para 12 of their Proceedings, the
Government approve the in-
structions issued in respect
to the taxation of wood taken
by the Petitioners from the
Jungle referred to.

With regard to the
Collector's proposal for the abolition
of the distinction between old
and new wells, respecting which
further information was called
for in para 13 of Extract from
the Minutes of Consultation of
the 1st April 1857, the Board
express a hope (para 13) that
the removal of the restrictions
erroneously imposed by the
Collector, will render it
unnecessary to discuss his
proposal at present; and
the Government, under the
circumstances stated, approve
the

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the instructions issued by the
Board in their Proceedings of
the 8th February last.

As regards the
extra tax collected in some
villages on Palmyrah trees,
under the designation of
Wane and Wuttum, the
Government regret to observe
that, although specially called
upon to submit further
information on the subject,
Mr Silver has merely
submitted a figured statement
without any explanation of the
origin or the meaning of the
tax. Its origin may have
been, and probably was, as
the Board suppose in para
15; but the Government
consider that they are entitled
to some definite information
from the Collector, before
their

* E. M. C. 21st April 1857, para 13.

then orders are given, and
that Mr. Silver has not
performed his duty in simply
sending up a statement. The
Board will request the
present Acting Collector to
report upon the matter
without delay.

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Copies to the Secy. Gen.
with 2 copies
April 21

Cms: 28 April/57. Dr 12-13
26 May - " 16117

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Revenue 1858 Dept.
Dy to Cms: 20th April

No. 487.

Extract Mins of Cms.
Dated 16th April/58

S. from the Secy. Gen. to the Secy. of Revenue
letter 2nd Sept/58 Dr 14/2
For Cms: 27th April/58
(Para 3, inside) — 47-48.

Revising & passing
orders on the Secy's remarks on
a letter from the Colly of
Simerville, furnishing informa-
tion as to the Pongal-poles
of the District, & of the Vil-
lage of Watray Groopoo
in particular and as
regards the tax for cutting
wood in that village.

No. 16417

20th March at April