M.R.O. 14-5,450-22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 13/ Press Mis.

271.272

Dated 15 — 1 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

13/ 15.1.67

No. 271. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th December 1866, No. 8,732.

Read the following papers :—

From the Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chepauk, 19th September 1866, No. 1,277-48.

Government Order, 9th Aug. 1866, No. 2,003, paragraph 2.

1. The Government, when passing orders on the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, 19th July, No. 4,923, regarding the progress of the revision of Settlement in Tinnevelly, have been pleased to call on me to state why the maps of the district have been so backward, and when they may be expected to be completed. The Board of Revenue, in Proceedings dated 16th August 1866, No. 5,787, have stated that they consider the progress of the Survey very unsatisfactory.

2. I have the honor to state that the Survey of the district was commenced in June 1863 by a party of men under the orders of *Lieutenant* Shortt. Tenkasy Talook was the first taken in hand. *Lieutenant* Shortt reported, on the 25th June, the very defective nature of the demarcation. The Superintendent of Survey called for a detailed report on the defects complained of. This was furnished on the 18th July 1863, and was duly forwarded to the Director of Revenue Settlement.

3. Major Barber took charge on the 20th August. On the 28th September, he sent in a report on the difficulties he met with, in consequence of imperfect demarcation. This report was, also, forwarded to the Director of Revenue Settlement, who, on the 3rd November, stated that measures had been taken to remedy the defects complained of.

No. 144-33.

See list of letters marked.

4. From that time to this, Major Barber has repeatedly addressed the Central Survey Office, and also corresponded with the local demarcation officers on the subject of defective demarcation.

5. A small party of demarcators were, in November 1865, placed at Major Barber's disposal; with their assistance he has revised the demarcation of a great part of the Nangunery Talook, and the work there is now progressing favorably. In the other talooks, however, much delay has occurred.

See letter marked A. (to be returned.)

6. Major Barber has furnished a list of reports made by him, which I enclose for the information of the Board. It will be seen, that he has been unceasing in bringing to notice the state of affairs which seriously impeded his work, and which, so long as there were no demarcators under his orders, he was powerless to remedy.

7. In the month of July 1866, I received a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, bringing to my notice the small number of maps he had received, and stating that, even if the rate of their supply were doubled, he could not expect to receive them all during his period of service.

8. On my proceeding to Tinnevelly, in the hope of expediting the preparation of maps, Major Barber represented to me that, under existing circumstances, it was absolutely impossible to turn out much more complete work, and begged me to convince myself of that fact, by inspecting the demarcation.

9. I carefully inspected Major Barber's Office. His draughtsmen are very good, and his Office generally is in first rate order. I have no hesitation in saying, that in Kurnool or Cuddapah, with such a set of workmen, he would have turned out twenty times as many maps in an equal time. Major Barber is, I believe, well known to Government as an energetic Officer.

10. I visited several villages in the Tinnevelly, Oottapadaram, Tenkarai, Ambasamoodrum, and Tenkasy Talooks, and carefully inspected the demarcation, and compared it with the demarcation sketches. I communicated the result of my inspection to the Collector of the district. He is now taking steps to remedy the defects complained of.

See letter marked B.

11. Of the talooks named above, Tinnevelly is nearly completed. Tenkasy, though first taken up for survey, will have to be partially re-demarcated and re-surveyed. Ambasamoodrum requires a very great deal of correction. Tenkarai was commenced a few months ago. On my inspection I found the demarcation so imperfect, that I considered it necessary to request Major Barber to suspend his operations till demarcation has been put in proper order.

Statement of work completed.

	Total number of villages.	Total area.	Completed.		Balance.	
			Maps.	Square Miles.	Maps.	Square Miles.
Tenkasy	51	155·84	19	10·12	32	145·72
Tinnevelly	139	301·99	109	138·47	30	163·52
Ambasamoodrum ...	107	301·38	27	14·58	80	286·80
Nangunery	213	518·99	30	20·15	183	498·84
Total ...	510	1278·20	185	183·32	325	1094·88
Since received ...	...	...	41	.....	...	.....
Total ...	...	...	226	.....	...	.....

Up to this time the maps of 185 villages, containing 183·32 square-miles, as shewn above, have been sent to the Central Office. The maps of 193 have been lithographed and despatched, and the remainder will follow in a few days.

12. The dates on which the several talooks will be completed, I cannot state even approximately. All depends on the progress made in the revision of demarcation.

13. It was impossible that, with the settlement of one, and the demarcation of two districts widely separated to attend to, the late Deputy Director could spare much time for the supervision of work in Tinnevelly. At one time there were two Assistants in charge of demarcation. There has always been one Assistant, who might have devoted more of his time to field inspection.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1867.

14. The principal defects in demarcation may be stated to be, boundaries imperfectly demarcated, and in many instances incorrectly marked out, and incorrectly drawn on the sketches. Boundary stones shewn in the sketches which did not exist in the field. Bends in fields ignored, boundary sketches disagreeing with the detailed field sketches, and both sketches at variance with the actual state of things on the ground.

15. I enclose a diary, kept by me whilst in the Tinnevelly District, for the information of the Board. Reference to it will convince the Board, that the difficulties met with by the Survey, have not been exaggerated.

16. The Collector of the district has suggested, that No. 1 Party should be transferred from the Salem and Coimbatore Districts, to the Northern Talooks of the Tinnevelly District. I do not consider such a change advisable; it would disorganize the party, and leave a large quantity of work unfinished. If the Board desire it, I will direct Major Barber to take up one of the Northern Talooks, and will strengthen his hands by sending him additional Surveyors.

17. The Director of Revenue Settlement informs me, that he has ordered several demarcators into the Tinnevelly District. The Collector is personally interesting himself in the demarcation. I have no doubt that, in a short time, a very great improvement in the state of things will take place.

Forwarded to the Director of Revenue Settlement, for any remarks he may wish to offer.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary, Revenue Board.

26th September 1866.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract.—Report on inspection of demarcation in the Tinnevelly District.

Enclosure No. 2.

Abstract.—Letter from Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey, to Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 18th August 1866.

Enclosure No. 3.

Abstract.—Letter from Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, to the Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey, dated 5th September 1866.

Enclosure No. 4.

Abstract.—List of correspondence addressed by Lieutenant Shortt, to Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

From the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 13th October 1866, No. 1,345-46.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the original letter from the Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey, dated 19th ultimo, No. 1,277, with enclosures, forwarded for my remarks with the Board's endorsement dated 26th idem, and in reply to offer the following observations.

2. The gist of Major Hessey's letter, and enclosed communications is, that the slow progress of the Survey in Tinnevelly is entirely attributable to the defective demarcation, and it is pretty plainly intimated that, though constant representations have been made to this department on the subject, they have not been responded to. It is true, that in paragraph 3 of his letter, Major Hessey alludes to my having, on the 3rd November 1863, informed the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, that measures had been taken to remedy the defects in the demarcation complained of; but, except in this paragraph, and again in paragraph 17, where he states that I have non-informed him of the despatch of several demarcators to Tinnevelly, there is no mention of any action having been taken on the numerous complaints made by his department, and, indeed, the whole tenor of the papers is calculated to convey the impression, that the continued remonstrances of the Superintendent of Revenue Survey were allowed by me to pass unheeded. This view is quite borne out by Major Hessey's letter to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 18th August last, No. 1,153, copy of which he encloses, and in paragraph 4 of which he writes: "It may be asked why, when the demarcation was known to be "faulty, was the Survey proceeded with, and why was no representation made of "the state of things? I request your attention to the letters which were, from time "to time, addressed to Mr. Symonds, to the representations to the state of affairs "made by Major Barber, to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, and by him "forwarded to the Director of Revenue Settlement. Much against his will, Major "Barber *finding that no steps were taken* to remedy the very unsatisfactory state of "things, was compelled to carry on work as he best could."

3. I have no wish to deny that the demarcation of the Southern Talooks of Tinnevelly was imperfectly performed, and this has been frequently admitted both by myself and by the Deputy Director. I admit, also, that the imperfect demarcation has impeded the progress of the Survey; but I cannot allow that it is the sole cause of the delay. I think it will be found that the long interval which has in so many talooks elapsed between the demarcation and survey; the wilful removal and destruction of marks by the villagers in that interval, and the attempt to secure a degree of minute accuracy, quite unnecessary for the purposes for which the survey was undertaken, have had something to do with the small out-turn of work. But, when it is made to appear that I have passively received complaints which I have made no efforts to redress, it is incumbent on me to correct the erroneous impression, and to shew, by reference to the records of my Office, the action taken on every one of the communications regarding the Tinnevelly Demarcation, which I have received from the Survey Department, and the continued instructions issued to my subordinates, both on receipt of the Deputy Director's monthly reports, and on the specific complaints made by the Superintendent of Revenue Survey. I regret much to trouble the Board with so many papers; but I have arranged them as far as possible for easy reference, and their perusal will not, I hope, take up very much time. The packets of correspondence with the Survey Department are numbered 1 to 11, and the packet of correspondence with the Deputy Director is numbered 12, as per lists appended to this letter. The last-named packet consists chiefly of the Deputy and Assistant Director's monthly reports, and of my reviews of them, with a few other papers. Both reports and reviews refer to other districts as well as to Tinnevelly; but I have marked with a red pencil

the parts which relate to the last-named district, and to which I wish to draw attention. These papers will shew the Board what has been done, and will enable them to judge whether the statement, that *no steps* have been taken to remedy the defects complained of, is justified by the facts or not.

4. The several packets from 1 to 11 will speak for themselves. They contain all the communications which have ever been made to me by the Survey Department on the subject of defective demarcation in Tinnevelly, and certainly not one of them was neglected. As regards the general instructions for the management and conduct of the work, I request the Board's attention to the papers in Packet No. 12, and especially to the Deputy Director's Reports, dated 10th July and 12th August 1863, Nos. 76 and 91; to the appended copy of the rules for the party, which he drew up; to my Proceedings of the 7th August, 23rd September, and 12th November 1863, Nos. 992, 1,145, and 1,351; to the Deputy Director's further reports of the 16th May, 20th June, and 24th August 1864, Nos. 50, 65, and 98; and to my Proceedings of the 12th July and 3rd September 1864, Nos. 869 and 1,085. These documents will shew my own views and those of the Deputy Director, as well as the measures which we adopted, and I think they do not indicate that we were, either of us, insensible to the requirements of the Survey. It will be noticed that, during the latter part of 1864, the monthly reports were more satisfactory. In August, Mr. Puckle writes:

Report, 22nd August 1864, No. 93.

"Complaints of bad demarcation are "now seldom made, and those last received were so trifling, that the errors "complained of for a whole month could have been rectified by a single Karkoon."

In September Mr. Puckle reported that no complaints of faulty demarcation had been received in the previous month.

Report, 14th September 1864, No. 102.

In October the Deputy Director wrote: "No complaints of faulty demarca- "tion had been made in any of the fifty- "four villages of the Nangunery Talook "handed over for Survey in August, and from Mr. Symonds's diary, it is clear "that the demarcation now turned out is generally as good as can be wished."

15th October 1864, No. 112.

5. I was thus under the impression, that the difficulties before experienced had been got over, and that the work of both departments was progressing smoothly and harmoniously, when, in December, Mr. Puckle in reporting on the work for November, observed:

17th December 1864, No. 140.

"Forty-five square-miles were demarcated during the month, and Mr. Symonds "is still employing hands, to revise any faulty demarcation in the three Southern "Talooks that may be complained of by the Survey Officers.

"These talooks, which are some sixty miles from Mr. Symonds's present head- "quarters, were demarcated more than two years ago, and the Survey party has "been employed on them since its first entry into the district. During these two "years every important error complained of has been corrected by the demarca- "tion party; but as the Survey must, ere this, have completed their field measure- "ments, and it is impossible that we can continue for ever to detach Gumastahs to "the other end of the district, to correct such errors as may have hitherto escaped

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th January 1867.

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" discovery, I have directed Mr. Symonds to withdraw all hands from the Southern " Talooks at the end of the current year.

" On the receipt of a Weekly Statement of faulty demarcation, I have invari- " ably directed the more important omissions to be made good immediately; but, I " think, you will agree with me that, when this statement exhibits nothing more " serious than 'field stones missing in numbers 612 and 815,' or 'delayed here one " hour by the non-clearance of chain lines,' no special notice is called for. When, " therefore, I found the errors complained of became gradually less and less, until " they dwindled down to the absence of a field stone, or an obstruction in a hedge, " I naturally concluded that the Survey were quite capable of overcoming such " difficulties without my assistance, and that the quality of the demarcation was " above the average.

" As, however, I am now given to understand that the Survey refrain from " making complaints, because they meet with no redress, I think it would be well " worth while to fix a limit for the entertainment of complaints, (say one year from " the date of handing over the talook for survey,) and during that period, to " permanently detach a Deputy Inspector, and a small staff of Karkoons, for employ- " ment on any work that may be pointed out to them by the Survey Officers."

Proceedings 9th January 1865, No. 38.

In reply I informed Mr. Puckle that the maintenance of the demarcation marks, when once properly put up, was the duty of the Revenue Department.

6. In paragraph 5 of Major Hessey's present letter, he says that a small party of demarcators was placed at Major Barber's disposal *in November* 1865, and in paragraph 6, that that Officer, though unceasing in bringing to notice the state of affairs, so long as there were no demar-

15th February 1865, No. 14.

cators under his orders, was powerless to apply a remedy. I find that, in February 1865, the Deputy Director proposed to place permanently, at the disposal of the Survey Officers, for the sole purpose of revision, the following establishment:—

1 Deputy Inspector.
2 Head Karkoons.
6 Karkoons.
6 Volunteers.
6 Peons.

3rd March 1865, No. 217.
9th March " " 282.

This proposal was communicated by me to the Acting Superintendent of Survey, who considered " the plan sug- " gested by Mr. Puckle, for effecting such " further revision of demarcation as may still be required in Tinnevelly, a good " one." Instructions were at once for- warded to Mr. Puckle to carry out the proposed measure. I believe that it was immediately carried out, and I observe that Major Barber himself, in the letter enclosed by the Acting Superintendent of Survey, admits that the party of demarcators was under his orders *about March* 1865. It has continued at his disposal ever since, and consequently the Survey Depart-

11th May 1865, No. 253.
5th September 1866, " 638.

ment have had the benefit of its services during eighteen months. Such an establishment certainly should have been adequate to the correction of a good many defects in demarcation in the course of a year and a half. In addition, the monthly reports and the statements received with them shew, that from the first commencement of Survey in 1863, to August 1865, when the field work of the demarcation party ceased, a considerable portion of the time of the ordinary establishment was devoted to the correction and revision of demarcation.

7. Many of the errors complained of, such as the imperfectly demarcated boundaries, incorrectly drawn sketches, and the ignoring of important bends in fields, are undoubtedly faults of the original demarcation; but the mere absence of marks is not necessarily so. Allusion is frequently made, in the reports of the Deputy and Assistant Director, to the constant removal of marks by the ryots, and though I directed that offenders in this respect should, whenever practicable, be dealt with under the penal provisions of the Boundary Act, the department was not successful in prosecuting to conviction. It is obvious that the Settlement Officers cannot be made responsible for the wilful removal of marks subsequent to demarcation.

8. I have already alluded to the long time elapsing between demarcation and survey, and the difficulty of maintaining the demarcation in good order in the interval. This is especially the case in tracts where stones are not available, and where the marks have to be constructed of earth. I find that in paragraph 6 of his letter to Mr. Puckle, Major Hessey speaks of his visit to the Tenkarai Tulook, in which he is satisfied that it is not advisable to call on the Ameens to measure the fields till the demarcation has been examined and corrected. Now, on reference to the former correspondence, it will be

13th October 1864, No. 112, paragraph 6.

seen that, so far back as October 1864, the Deputy Director reported that the demarcation of ninety-five villages in that talook had been revised, and the arrangements had been made for the prompt survey of the sandy tracts in which the marks were likely quickly to disappear, while the demarcators were on the spot. In his monthly report for October 1864, Mr. Puckle wrote: " The revision of demarcation

15th November 1864, No. 119, paragraph 4.

in Tenkarai still continues, but will be " finished within the year. I have some time since instructed Mr. Symonds to " request the Deputy Superintendent Revenue Survey, to measure the sandy tracts " in Tenkarai while the revision is in progress; but as no steps have yet been taken " to comply with this request, I have written to the Deputy Superintendent to " inform him that I will furnish every assistance if the work is undertaken at once, " but if an interval is allowed to elapse between the demarcation and survey, and the " marks (now a second time erected) become obliterated by the action of the wind " and weather, I distinctly decline to go over the ground again."

9. In reviewing the above report, I expressed a hope that the Deputy Superintendent would be able to measure the

3rd December 1864, No. 1,423, paragraph 21.

sandy tracts of Tenkarai at once, observing that the Settlement Department could not be responsible for the permanence of demarcation in ground of that nature.

10. In December, the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, in forwarding a letter from the Deputy Superintendent, observed: "The Assistant Director "Revenue Settlement did not apply for the survey of the lands in question, till "long after work had been commenced in the other talooks. Had his application "been made in sufficient time, I should have considered it my duty, if possible, "to have had the wishes and plans of the Deputy Director carried out. It cannot, "however, be expected that work already commenced can be thrown aside, and "fresh work begun elsewhere."

11th December 1864, No. 1 020.

11. Having made inquiries I wrote to the Superintendent as follows: "I "called on the Deputy Director to report "when the first communication was "made to Captain Barber, requesting the early survey of the sandy tracts in "Tenkarai, and I now find that the date was the 20th September 1864. The "Settlement Officers were, no doubt, aware that at that time the Survey operations "were in progress in another talook; but they hoped that, notwithstanding, the "Deputy Superintendent would be able to detach a small party to measure, while "the demarcation was in progress, the sandy tracts then in course of being demar-"cated a second time, and that thus the labor and expense of erecting the marks a "third time might be avoided. Mr. Puckle does not allude to any reply having "been sent by the Deputy Superintendent, stating his inability to comply with "the request, and consequently I am led to infer that none was sent. Had the "Settlement Officers been at once informed that their request could not be complied "with, they would naturally have sought permission to stop the re-demarcation of "the tract in question until the Deputy Superintendent might be in a position to "undertake its survey, and thus the absolute throwing away of time and money "would have been avoided."

9th January 1865, No. 36.

12. In paragraph 4 of his letter of the 13th December quoted above, the Superintendent observed: "I believe it is intended that the demarcation should be "handed over in good order when the Survey is prepared to undertake it, unless, "therefore, I am under a misapprehension; it will be necessary that the tract in "question (the sandy tract of Tenkarai) should be revised before being surveyed."

13. My reply in paragraph 4 of my letter of the 9th January, also above quoted, was, "I believe that, strictly speaking, the Demarcation Department has "perfomed its duty when the marks have been once properly erected with the best "materials available, and when a receipt for them has been taken from the village "officers, and that thenceforth the due maintenance of the marks is a duty devolv-"ing on the Revenue Department. No doubt this department has, on more than "one occasion, undertaken the subsequent restoration of marks that have vanished, "in order that the Survey operations might be expedited; but I am by no means "clear that the work fell within the strict line of its duty."

14. In the same letter I also remarked, "I am fully alive to the evil arising "from the demarcation being far ahead of the survey; but at the same time I know "of no remedy for that evil, as long as the present system, henceforth to be "abandoned, continues (alluding to the transfer of the demarcation to the Survey "Department ordered by Government a short time previous). The demarcation of

"the Tinnevelly District was commenced, as you are aware, only a few months "before the survey, and that interval was absolutely necessary to allow of a small "field of work being ready for your department. To have afterwards reduced the "Demarcation Establishment by one-half, retaining at the same time its costly "superintendence, would have raised the expenditure per square-mile to a figure "which I feel sure the Government would not sanction."

15. From the correspondence in Packet No. 11, the Board will notice that I declined to re-demarcate certain villages which had long previously been surveyed, on the ground that it was no part of the duty of my department. The demarcation, I remarked, must have been sufficiently well done to allow of the survey being effected in the first instance, and the maintenance of that demarcation afterwards is the duty of the local officials; Major Hessey replied to this, that my statement was calculated to mislead; that the survey could certainly be made even though the demarcation consisted of handfuls of earth, small pegs or scratches on the ground. Unless the demarcation is of a permanent character, he could not see how the local Revenue authorities could be held responsible for its preservation. Now, I demur entirely to this. If the demarcation was of the nature described by Major Hessey, the survey of the ground should not have been commenced, but I think it neither fair nor reasonable for the survey to accept handfuls of earth, pegs, and scratches on the ground as demarcation; to make their measurements upon them, knowing, as they must, that when they come to plot and test their work, such demarcation will no longer exist, and a year or two afterwards, to complain that the demarcation has disappeared, and call upon us to restore it. It must be remembered, moreover, that in certain localities earthen marks form perfectly legitimate demarcation. Major Hessey at the same time interpreted my letter as a refusal to have anything further to do with the demarcation, whether in surveyed or unsurveyed villages, an interpretation which my letter was never intended to bear, as I explained to him.

To Superintendent Revenue Survey, 14th March 1866, No. 311, paragraph 3.

From Superintendent Revenue Survey, 26th March 1866, No. 564.

To Superintendent, 31st May 1866, No. 609.

16. The Board will observe that I requested the Acting Superintendent to cause the demarcation of the Northern Talooks, which is reported to be very good, to be inspected while still fresh, in order that it might be ascertained whether it had been performed to the satisfaction of his department. I made this request, because I learnt from Mr. Puckle that a long time would probably elapse between the demarcation and survey, and I remarked that it was not a pleasant prospect to be liable to be told, some years hence, that the marks which have been put up with such labor and care, and which may in the meantime disappear, through neglect or worse, were never put up at all. Major Hessey was good enough to request the Deputy Superintendent to examine and report on the demarcation of the Northern Talooks.

To Superintendent, Survey, 14th March 1866, No. 311, paragraph 7.

From Superintendent, 26th March 1866, No. 564, paragraph 4.

17. I trust that what I have written, together with the correspondence to which I have referred, will be sufficient to satisfy the Board that the representations of the Survey Department have not been entirely ignored; that efforts have been made to meet their wishes and requirements; and that, if those efforts have not been altogether successful, the failure has arisen from no want of will or interest in the work, either on the part of Mr. Puckle or myself. As regards the Assistant Director, Mr. Symonds, who was in immediate charge of the operations on the spot, Mr. Puckle states that he did not assume charge till the three Southern Talooks, which have, apparently, given the most trouble, were completed, though, no doubt, he has been since engaged in revising them. Mr. Puckle also states that Mr. Symonds invariably carried out his orders, which certainly were most clear and precise. I cannot but fear, however, with Major Hessey, that there was hardly sufficient field inspection, the importance of which, was, as may be seen from the correspondence, frequently dwelt upon in my proceedings.

From Deputy Director, 16th February 1866, No. 10.

18. In addition to the establishment at the disposal of the Deputy Superintendent, and alluded to in paragraph 6, a party of eleven classifiers acquainted with demarcation, and six peons, was despatched to Tinnevelly from Salem at the beginning of last month, to be placed under the Collector's orders. Mr. Puckle states that with this aid, he doubts not that he will be able to get the necessary corrections made as fast as the Ameens can survey, and with his influence as Collector brought fully to bear upon the work, I share the confidence expressed by Major Hessy, at the conclusion of his letter, that, in a short time, a very great improvement in the state of things will take place. Mr. Puckle has been informed that more men are at his service, if required.

19. The Acting Superintendent's letter and enclosures are herewith returned.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract.—Packets Nos. 1 to 11.—Correspondence with the Survey Department respecting the demarcation of the Tinnevelly District.

Enclosure No. 2.

Abstract.—Packet No. 12.—Monthly Reports of the progress of operations, and the Officiating Director's reviews of the same, with certain other papers.

From the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd October 1866, No. 409.

1. I have the honor to forward, herewith, my report on the progress made in settlement during August 1866.

2. 17,460 acres, or 27 square-miles, were classified; and considerable assistance was furnished to the survey in correcting bad demarcation.

3. The Officiating Superintendent Revenue Survey visited the district, and reported on what he saw. This report confirms what was well known before, viz., that the talooks in which the survey have been employed were originally badly demarcated, and that, after an interval of three monsoons, and three years' hurricanes, that many of the marks have disappeared; this is not, however, the real impediment, as even imperfect demarcation is a great assistance to survey (though

survey can progress without demarcation as was shewn in Trichinopoly, where three talooks were never demarcated at all); the real impediments are, the steady opposition of the people, the hitherto complete separation of the survey from the Revenue Department, and the minute exactness required by the professional Survey. The people have been kept in ignorance of what the survey means, and have only recognized it as a very troublesome process, and one which may work them harm. On the other hand, the Survey Officers have no feelings, in common, with the villagers, and merely regard them as coolies who will not work as they ought; these officers are mostly ignorant of the vernacular, and only visit the villages to check and test, and thus indirectly to find fault; they work for the sake of the survey, and perhaps overlook the object for which the survey was instituted. They have always held aloof from the Revenue authorities, and even from the Settlement Officers, and have endeavoured to carry out their work as a separte department, with a professional exactness utterly unsuited to the Settlement, and to the customs of the people, with whom they have to deal. As a case in point, I may mention that I only recently discovered that the Ameen's measurements are, as a rule, rejected, if they do not nearly correspond with the *shapes* of the fields in the demarcation sketches. Now, these sketches were never intended to be accurate, or to represent shapes correctly, but only to shew the relative position of the fields, and thus in this one particular, work has been carried on for years with an attempt at exactness that was never required or wished for. Again, it frequently occurs that a few fields will not close, so the whole khandam or village is re-measured and re-plotted over and over again to find out a few errors, which may represent a difference of assessment of 5 Rupees in the aggregate, while it would be worthwhile to Government to give ten times that amount to get the map finished off hand.

4. These things could not happen if the Survey worked under the Settlement, and they happen now, not from any fault of the officers, who are zealous and painstaking to a degree, but from the fault of a system which separates the Survey and Settlement, and exalts the former into a department, while it should be but a branch of the Settlement.

5. A few hands have recently arrived from Salem, and, as an experiment, I intend with these to inspect and renew, where necessary, all the marks in the Tenkarai Talook, to classify the lands at the same time, and to get the Ameens put in and the villages measured while I have my head-quarters in the talook; and I feel quite confident that the survey will be done in one-third of the time that it usually occupies, almost without a complaint.

6. The submission of this report has been unavoidably hindered, my time being fully occupied on important Magisterial work.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract.—Progress Report of Settlement operations in the Tinnevelly District for August 1866.

Enclosure No. 2.

Abstract.—Statement shewing the rate of work and delay in classification for the Talooks of Tinnevelly and Ambasamoodrum for August 1866.

1. Ordered that the foregoing papers be submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order dated 9th August 1866, No. 2,003, Revenue Department, paragraph 2, requesting to be informed why the Survey Maps in Tinnevelly are so backward.

2. The Board have gone through the whole of these voluminous papers, and are satisfied that the bad demarcation in the Southern Talooks has been the main hindrance to the progress of the Survey, but that Messrs. Master and Puckle did all in their power to apply an effectual remedy. On the other hand, it is evident that the nature of the soil, the length of time that intervened between demarcation and survey, and the opposition of the ryots, and their ignorance as to the principles and probable results of the survey, opposed great difficulties to the proper maintenance of the marks; and there appears reason to think that these difficulties have been somewhat enhanced by an endeavour on the part of the Deputy Superintendent of Survey to attain more minute accuracy than is necessary in the case of a Revenue Survey, and by non-compliance with the Settlement Officer's request, that the survey of the sandy tracts might be taken up, immediately on the reported completion of their demarcation.

3. But after making all allowances, the fact remains that, even after extensive and prolonged efforts at revision, the demarcation of the Southern Talooks now proves to be exceptionally bad, and the Board are forced to the conclusion that the origin of this Mr. Symonds is to blame, although he was not responsible for the original bad demarcation. He was in charge of the work of revision, and his reports were certainly such as to induce the belief that the result was generally satisfactory; but one of the talooks, which Major Hessey declares to be not in a fit state for the introduction of survey, is that one (Oottapadaram) for the demarcation of which, Mr. Symonds, in one of his diaries or reports, requests that he may be held personally responsible. The time that has intervened since the demarcation may, however, have had something to do with this.

4. He would appear to have been either ignorant of what duty was required of him, or to have neglected performing it, and evidently paid far too little attention to field inspection, and subordinated his proper work of supervision and superintendence to an attempt at executing the work which should properly have been left to a demarcator. His inspection must have been very superficial, and his reports were consequently calculated to mislead. There seems, however, reason to expect that the demarcation executed under his superintendence in the Northern Talooks will be found very superior to that complained of in the South.

5. The Board are willing to believe that, bad as matters appear to be from the reports now submitted, great improvement will speedily be visible. Mr. Puckle has already taken steps to obtain the co-operation of the ryots. He has himself taken in hand the work of remedying the more serious defects, and will insist on the talook and village officials doing their duty in the matter, and he is so intimately acquainted with all the detail requirements of the operations that work will be facilitated, while a successful result may be confidently anticipated, and at an early date.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th January 1867.

6. Mr. Puckle should call to account the Tahsildar of Strivigoontum, at whose Cusbah station Major Hessey noted exceptional difficulties in the way of survey, from the conduct of the villagers, and the neglect of the officials.

No. 272. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1867, No. 131.

Land Revenue

1. From the admissions of the Director of Revenue Settlement, as well as from the statements of Major Hessey, it is obvious that the slow progress made by the Survey Department in mapping the District of Tinnevelly has been due almost entirely to bad demarcation, and the Board consider that Mr. Symonds is to blame for sending in reports which must have been founded on a very superficial inspection, and which were such as to mislead his superiors. Mr. Symonds has not been required to furnish an explanation of his conduct, but the papers submitted by the Board certainly warrant the conclusion at which they have arrived.

2. The changes which have been made in the arrangements for demarcating the district render it unnecessary for the Government to pursue the subject further; but they must remark that Mr. Master would have done well to have proceeded to the district, formed his own conclusions by personal inquiry and inspection, punished the persons in fault, and introduced the necessary reforms.

3. The Government have every confidence in Mr. Puckle's will and ability to push forward the Settlement operations, and they expect Mr. Symonds, in his new position, to make up by increased care and attention to his duties for his remissness whilst serving under the Director of Revenue Settlement.

4. The Government must observe that their time has been unnecessarily encroached upon by the submission of a mass of useless correspondence.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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Vt. 131-

10th Day ~~of~~ 97

From the admissions of the Director of Revenue Settlement as well as from the ~~Report~~ Statements of Mayor Heiss, it is obvious that the slow progress made by the Survey Dist in mapping the District of Lincoln daily has been due almost entirely to bad demarcation, & the Board ~~unexplainably~~ ~~overlooked~~ ~~that~~ that Mr. Symonds is to blame for sending in reports which must have been founded on a very superficial inspection.

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^(this however does not appear to have been called to his explanation)

& which were such as to mislead his Superiors. Mr Symonds

2. The changes which have been made in the arrangements for demarcating the districts render it unnecessary for the Govt to pursue the subject further. But

3 They have every confidence in Mr Pickles will ability to push forward the Settlement operations, & they expect Mr Symonds in his new position to make up by increased care & attention to his duties for his remissness [illegible] while last serving under

has not been required to furnish any explanation of his conduct, but the facts submitted by the Report certainly warrant conclusion at which they have arrived

They must remark that Mr Macleod should have proceeded to the District - formed his own conclusions by personal enquiry & inspection, punished the persons at fault, and introduced the necessary reforms.

The Director of Revenue Settlement.

I may be doubted, I consider, whether Mr. Symonds has taken precautions necessary for the post he holds: and in order that no interests of public may suffer by that Mr. Subsequent by what may seem to be misplacing on the part of that officer, I would call for an opinion from Mr Pickles, Mr R. Master & the officer (Col Purvis) who has recently resumed charge of the Survey department from Mr Symonds as to Mr Symonds fitness for the post he occupies.

Mr. Master should be asked what course he has adopted of submitting for perusal twelve bundles of correspondence, & unusual and officially irregular document. The mere perusal of these contents would show the irregularity of any one department for many hours. Should Mr. Master duly to make out any case he had to prove, by letters

4. The fact that there has been unnecessary delay in the settlement operations in the Poona District, as alleged by the petitioners, is established by the letters from Government, a copy of which is herewith submitted, & by the statements in the petition itself.

and extracts from correspondence bearing on the points to be established and will be supplied a map of writing on Mr R. Board's Report & thereupon for the Govt.

5-1-67

W.D.

N.

14 Offices Taluks 1 Pt of Revenue Dept Sig.
13 " " 2 Pts of Revenue Dept Nos
10 " " Supt of Revenue Survey

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In Council 1867 Decr 20th
Read & Ord. 1st January

A. 131

Pro of the Madras Govt
Dy 15th January 1867

Re Board of Revenue
by 22 Stats 67 Ch 233

Passing orders on
the Backward
state of the Trichi
nopoly Survey
maps

Nos 271-272

Land in the U.S. of
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