

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 7	Press ~~Mis~~
11-12	
Dated	4 — 1 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th January 1867.*

No. 11. Read the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Nellore, 3rd Decembor 1866, No. 61 :—

1. In my telegram of the 3rd ultimo, the Government were informed that I had taken advantage of the privilege leave, granted under date the 7th August, to obtain a knowledge of the Survey and Settlement system pursued in Bombay and the Central Provinces. Since then it has been in my power to make similar inquiries in Oude and the North-West; and the information thus obtained I do myself the honor to submit, for the consideration of Government, with reference to the Survey and Settlement in progress in Madras.

BOMBAY SURVEY.

2. In Bombay, the survey has been made field by field, and chiefly with the cross-staff. The aggregate of fields is the area of the village, the aggregate of villages the area to be surveyed and assessed; but where cross-staff measurements were difficult in woodlands, &c., recourse has been had to the theodolite, which instrument has been also used of late to run the village traverse.

Boundary marks.

3. The boundary marks in dry uplands are earthen mounds 8 by 3 by 1½ feet high. In wet lands they are of stone; and near Bombay hollow iron pillars have been used, which are furnished with a flat plate at the bottom and tamped in. However constructed, they are put up, as the survey goes on, in the places pointed out by the Surveyor, and, as a rule, by a temporary establishment employed for the purpose, the cost being recovered in due course.

Classification of soils.

4. Probably from the Settlement having been commenced in the Deccan, great attention is paid in Bombay to the depth of the soil. They have a graduated quarter cubit scale of seven classes, varying from a minimum of 4½ to a maximum depth of 31½ inches; and this minute scale of depths has been maintained when the settlement was introduced into the Concan and other parts of the Presidency, where it became necessary to recognize more soils than the three descriptions originally contemplated.

Assessment.

5. The assessment is fixed with reference to the revenue previously paid, the assessment already imposed in other districts, and the circumstances of the people, as ascertained by the officer making the settlement. The rates are modified for the different villages, with reference to their climate, roads, markets, &c.; and, in the application of the modified rates, to the different fields according to the depth and nature of the soil; further modifications are made with reference to the distance of the fields from the village, &c.

Preservation of the Survey and Settlement.

6. With the Bombay Survey Bill and biennial inspections the work done by the Survey is preserved, I was informed, without much difficulty. Full powers are given by the bill for the due repair of the survey marks, and for securing that all occupation shall be in accordance to the survey. The maps are lithographed, and arrangements are being made for introducing the new system of

photography in their transfer; but the village registers are kept in manuscript. It is not considered legal to sell copies, save on stamped paper.

Fractional fields and occupation subsequent to the Survey and Settlement.

7. When land is much subdivided, and several revenue fields are comprised in the same survey field, these fractions are not shewn in the Map; they are shewn in the Village Registers, which are only written upon one side, the subdivided survey field being transcribed on a sufficiently large scale on the other. When land is taken up that has not been marked off and assessed at the settlement, the requisite entries are made in the Maps and Registers by the local authorities.

CENTRAL PROVINCES, SURVEY.

8. In the Central Provinces, the measurements made by the Settlement Department are made with the plane table. First a map is made of the village boundaries, then the fields are laid down in a separate map in the same manner; and when the maps have been compared and approved, and the requisite tests applied on the ground, the areas are measured off by using sheets of talc on which small squares have been inscribed.

Boundary marks.

9. The boundary marks are put up by the local authorities before the measurements begin. They are of stone, and put up only for the village. For the fields temporary wooden pegs are used, to shew when the village is revised where the plane table was put down.

Classification of soils.

10. The soil is divided, at most, into six classes, of which two are arenaceous and red soils, and the remainder varieties of cotton soil, viz., "black," "poor black," "mixed with lime stone," "mixed with pebbles." Minute inquiries, as regards soils, are considered more likely to mislead than be of real use; and attention is rather paid to the crops, and the probable outturn over large tracts, as ascertained by careful experiments.

Assessment.

11. In fixing the amount of assessment to be paid by a village in future, the Settlement Officer is principally guided, as in Bombay, by the revenue paid hitherto; but with reference to the tenure of the land, it is a question of rent; and the assessment to be fixed for the village is half the probable rental.

Preservation of the Survey and Settlement.

12. There is comparatively little to preserve of Survey and Settlement work in the Central Provinces. When the assessment has been fixed on the village, the rent is adjusted for each field, and the fields it is true have been measured, but the rent and the fields may be altered the next year. The ryots may be called on to pay a higher rent. There is nothing to secure the fields being maintained as surveyed; and in reality it is only the boundaries of the village, and the assessment to be paid to Government, that are matters of permanent record.

Waste.

13. When the waste lands are extensive, 100 to 200 percent. is usually made over with the assessed area, and the remainder is formed into a separate village, the boundary maps and records being adjusted accordingly.

Oude.

14. In Oude the land question is still under discussion; and as I was only a few hours in Lucknow, I had not time to obtain much information on the subject.

Tenure.

15. A part of the Province is held by Talookdars, a part by Village Zemindars, a part in shares of villages.

Talookdars.

16. As regards the Talookdars, I learnt that they were to be considered, as a rule, absolute owners of the soil, and prevented falling into the state that usually distinguishes the Zemindar class by having authority as Magistrates and in disputes as regards rents, &c. Their estates vary in size from a few villages upwards; and they have been provided with town houses in the Kaiser Bagh, and a Council Chamber in which to consider the measures proposed by Government in their behalf.

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES, SURVEY.

17. In the North-West the boundaries of the villages have been laid down with the plane table, and the details have been chained in.

Classification of soils.

18. The soil in the immediate neighbourhood of towns or village being considered a separate class, the rest of the land is usually divided into three classes, viz., "heavy clay," "mixed," "sandy;" and the four classes thus recognized, including the town soils, are considered to vary in value with reference to roads, markets, and the other considerations usually taken into account in making such calculations.

Assessment.

19. In fixing the assessment, the chief guide, as in Bombay and the Central Provinces, is the revenue previously realized, checked by the general results of the classification. Attention is also paid to the tenure. If there should be many shareholders, the assessment will be fixed lighter than on a similar village if held by one man.

Preservation of the Survey and Settlement.

20. And, as regards the preservation of the Survey and Settlement, here again the question is narrowed into a small compass. There are no field marks. There is nothing to prevent the ryots from altering their fields.

Agency.

21. In Bombay, the Survey and Settlement are under the same department. There are about ten European Assistants to every party; and working at the rate of two talooks a year, European supervision is fully provided for. In the Central Provinces the Settlement and Survey are in different hands. The two operations go on independent of each other. Should the measurements made by the Settlement Department be found materially wrong, when compared with results obtained on more scientific principles, the work is done over again, which is the course pursued when, with reference to waste lands, the boundaries have to be re-adjusted, all agreements being made, pending the survey, subject to revision;

whilst in the North-West, the settlement is sometimes under the Collector, some times under a separate officer, the gross measurements being checked by a scientific survey done some time ago, of which most of the maps have been lost, but the accounts are still forthcoming.

Irrigation.

22. The question of irrigation is exciting considerable attention at present in the North-West, with reference to realizing on the Ganges Canal. The absence of field-marks, and the ryots altering the size of their fields as they think fit, are difficulties in the way of sound revenue management, and the levy of an acreage water rate, to which, however, objections are raised on the score that it would not include any profit to Government on the additional land thus brought under cultivation. As an alternative, and by way of preventing any interference with the Permanent Settlement, it is proposed, under certain circumstances, to make the water a part of the permanent assets, although it is quite possible that a rise in the price of labor or other fluctuations might so affect the cost of maintenance, as regards Government, as to render a loss, what should be a source of profit. And, meanwhile, the area irrigated is *annually* measured, and the demand, as fixed by the Canal Officers, has to be collected by the Revenue authorities, who have no authority to inquire into the sufficiency of the supply if disputed, and, from the late date at which the demand becomes known, would have much difficulty in making the inquiry were the authority given. In Bombay and the Central Provinces, I did not obtain any information as regards irrigation.

Revision.

23. Travelling by rail through the countries under consideration a fair idea can be gathered of the general results of the different systems I have described in the preceding paragraphs. The revision now in hand in Bombay and the North-West will be equally instructive in regard to details. In Bombay it is considered that the better soils are under-assessed. With every field carefully recorded, there will be little difficulty in re-adjusting the assessment in strict accordance to the principles that usually guide taxation in Europe. It would have been better had the carefully recorded grain values made the matter capable of clearer demonstration, but in other respects the records are complete. In the North-West, on the other hand, the revision has to be made in the same way as the original settlement; the fields have to be re-chained; the soils have to be re-examined and re-rated; and, finally, the titles to hold under this detailed revision are made the subject of re-inquiry.

Grain values and net produce.

24. In the North-West a careful series of experiments was made in one district to obtain grain values for the different soils, and I wish that it had been in my power to compare these results with the information submitted from this district in accordance to the Order of Government of the 12th December 1864, Revenue Department, No. 2,243. But, so far as I heard even in the district referred to, no attempt was made to obtain the *net produce* by deducting the cost of cultivation from the grain values. On this point reliance had everywhere been placed on experience, on what the several classes of land had been found capable of paying in money.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, 4th January 1867, No. 7.

Land Revenue.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue, Officiating Director Revenue Settlement, and Superintendent Revenue Survey.

2. The Government are pleased to find that Mr. Dykes took advantage of his visit to the other Presidencies to acquire information on such important subjects.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.
„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
„ J. W. B. Dykes, Esq.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

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ordered The commis.
sioned 5th. 18th of Feb.
and Mr. De. Res. Settlement
of Sept. Res. Survey.

The fact are pleasant to
find that Mr. Dykes
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~~President~~
the President on
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L. O. S.
22 January 1897.

18. The letter and systems of the other Provinces have all

46 Express to the High Court 28 Jan. 17
13 Express to the High Court
10 Express to the High Court
14 Express to the High Court

been carefully considered
with the view of improving
air draughts, and a
system of ventilation of the
buildings is being
carried out.

I do not find in this report any
information respecting the periods
for which the new settlements and
improvements are to be made in the
several provinces which he has
mentioned. He uses the word "permanent"
but significance is to be attached
to it. I wish to have information
on this subject from Mr. Sykes, or from
any other quarter which may possess it.

Pro-12 December 1866

Revenue
To the Govt of Madras
No. 1123

The Collector of Madras
To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George

Dated 3 December
1866
No. 1123

In case

C. 61.

Submitting for the consideration
of Government, with reference
to the Survey & Settlement in
progress in Madras, a Report
on the system pursued as regards
Survey & Settlement in Bombay
and other parts of the Empire.

Sd/- J. J. J. J. J.
With order

A-11412

as per order