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F. A. Grant, Collector Mayavaram to Board of Revenue: 12.7.1799
(Extract)

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A6 PG7

It must be evident to every person who turns attention to, and maturely considers the ways and means by which the people of the Tanjore country contrive thus successfully to resist and trample under foot the authority of Government, that the cavalcarrabs are the chief engines by which they are enabled to effect these purposes. And I am of opinion, if they were to be completely disarmed, - made to respect the circar and brought effectually under its lash, that the grand source from whence springs all the evils with which this beautiful and fertile country is so unhappily affected, would in a great degree be removed. But this measure must be a general, not a partial one. To extirpate them altogether, if it were practicable, I should by no means consider a politic measure. For that would be withdrawing from the inhabitants all kinds of protection, and exposing them and their property to the mercy of banditti equally lawless that infest the neighbouring district belonging to the his highness the Nabob. But it is very necessary indeed that this important branch of the police should undergo a complete and thorough reform, and its officers be reduced to an unconditional and suitable dependance upon the will and pleasure of the circar. I am well aware that such a reform could not be effected without instituting the most determined and vigorous measures, and pursuing them with the utmost severity and decision, if circumstances should render it necessary. The parties might previously be informed of what is expected from them, and a suitable time be allowed to give it operation; but if that should fail of the desired effect capital punishment, inflicted in the most public and summary manner, ought to be resorted to as the only expedient that appears to suggest itself whereby the circar can possibly retrieve that respectable efficiency, which the people, owing to the negligence or corruption of the native government or perhaps partly to both, have long and so effectually wrested from the hands of administration, the effects whereof are now so much felt, and so justly to be deplored.

I have now endeavoured to point out and explain to the Board the actual state of affairs in this soubah, from which it appears that the form and constitution of the Government is founded entirely upon Bundacum or ancient usage or in other words upon the will of the people, in as much, as it is utterly impracticable to effect any change therein, otherwise than by the exercise of severity and compulsion. That is to say the placing of every head-man under close and rigid confinement I consider as an indispensable preliminary measure, and actually keeping them in that state, until they shall be disposed to accede to a reasonable reform of the present system, and have given the most unexceptionable security for their peaceable conduct under it. I am really unable to suggest any other method for accomplishing this desirable object, because experience assures me that no other method could possibly succeed. How far such harsh procedure might be justifiable or politic, it is for the wisdom of your Board to decide. But whatever may be your determination thereon, I beg leave to repeat, that the measure must be a general not a partial one.

Having said this much with respect to the general system of government, and suggested such measures as in my humble opinion are alone capable of leading to any salutary reform therein, I shall now beg leave to proceed by giving a sketch of the existing police in force throughout this soubah.

IOR: Board's Collections: Vol 81: No 1774B: The above is entered in on the proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 18.7.1799 and was in reply to an enquiry on the subject required by Government in its letter dated 11.5.1799 and the Board's letter to collector dated 23.5.1799. The above extract is preceded by an account of the 'cavalcarrabs', and is followed by a description of the British created judicial system in areas of Tanjore. The last two paras above are marked in pencil in the margin

30.2

Board of Revenue to Collectors at Mayavaram and Mannarcoddy: 28.12.1799

19/11/19

Sir,

Government having transmitted to us their resolution on a treaty recently concluded between the Hon'ble Company and His Excellency the Rajah of Tanjour, by which it is stipulated that the whole territorial revenues of the entire country of Tanjour, with the right of establishing courts for the administration of civil and criminal justice, has been for ever transferred to the sole administration and undivided authority of the Hon'ble Company and that His Excellency the Rajah has formally relinquished all right of interference in the collection of the revenue, or in the administration of justice. We transmit for your guidance and information a copy of their letter as also a proclamation published by the Resident at Tanjour, apprising the Polygars, Cavigars, Puttuckdars and inhabitants of the entire and permanent change of authority in that province. (p 580)

You will observe Government have decided, that the whole province of Tanjour, with the district of Nagore shall be divided, and formed into two collectorships, without reference to the former divisions ...

(p 581) ... You will observe Government have intimated their intention to introduce and establish with all practicable expedition the rights of property, with a view to a permanent settlement of the revenue of Tanjour under the protection of courts of justice, and you are already in possession of our instructions as to the intended change of system and the formation of estates; they will however hereafter be made more applicable, if necessary to your districts, (p 582) when we receive from you a full report as to the state of and resources of the country which being now solely under the authority of Government, we expect will be obtained by you in the completest manner. The division of authority that before opposed your exertions for the attainment of the information now required no longer existing, you will therefore impress upon the minds of the inhabitants, that the Government of the country is now vested in the Company for ever, and that it is their wish to ascertain and to secure to all ranks their just and proper rights. For the purpose of aiding this enquiry and of perpetuating them when ascertained we particularly direct your attention to the introduction of village curums, and you will submit to us your sentiments as to the best mode to be pursued for effecting these important reforms, so immediately necessary for establishing the respective rights of Government and its subjects, who have hitherto been compelled to oppose evasion to oppression, and resisted every attempt which has been made to discover their (p 583) improper concealments in the apprehension that no reliance could be placed on the Rajah's fluctuating Government for a just division of the actual produce, if its whole extent was discovered. You will also fully report on the measure to be pursued for resuming the irregular alienations of the revenue of the cirvar both in lands and Warum which it appears, by the report of the Commission, have taken place in particular during Ameer Sing's Government.

The report of the late Tanjore Commissioners, appointed to investigate the resources and actual state of the Tanjour province, referred to by Government, we conclude, is in the possession of the Resident from whom you will no doubt on application obtain a copy; and we particularly call your attention to what Government has directed that the proposed change should be introduced with as little violence to established usage as may be practicable, but, at the same time, with sufficient energy and effect to secure its success, and that (p 584) no active measures may be taken for altering the condition of the Cavigars, Polygars or Puttuckdars without their previous sanction.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants
Fort St George, 28 Dec 1799 W. Petrie, and Members.

IOR: P/275/39: pp 579-84, and 584-89. The portion omitted is somewhat different in both letters and deals with their respective areas.

80.3

Letter from Government to Lt Col A. Dyce on Tanjore: 3.6.1800
(Extract)

4. The immediate object of the detachment is to support the civil authority of the Company throughout the Tanjore country, in the establishment of a new system of Government founded on the late treaty with His Excellency the Rajah Sheregar, by which the administration of the civil and military Government of Tanjour (with the exception of the fort of Tanjour) is for ever transferred to the hands of the Company.

5. The collectors Mr Charles Harris, and Mr Francis Alexander Grant, have been furnished with the instructions of the Governor in council for the reformation of the abuses which prevailed under the late administration, and for the introduction of the system of Government, which is about to be established on a permanent foundation.

6. The Governor in council does not expect serious opposition to these necessary measures, but, as they will materially interfere with the independence of the Polygars, and Cawilgars, and with the influence of the Puttuckdars (which have exercised to an inconvenient extent (p 4756) under the relaxation and corruption of the late Government) it will be expedient that the detachment should be kept in a state of constant preparation to move in any direction which the service may require.

7. It will not be less necessary to the efficient discharge of the duties now entrusted to you, that you should be armed with power assist the authority of the Company's Government, and to punish with promptitude any opposition to its establishment. The Right Hon'ble the Governor in council therefore authorizes and directs you to try in a summary manner by military process any person, or persons, who may be found acting in arms against the Company's authority, and upon due establishment of the fact to punish all such offenders with death.

8. The collectors will be furnished with a proclamation for the purpose of communicating to the people of Tanjour, the powers now vested in you by the Governor in council and I enclose a copy of it for your information. (p 4757)

9. The employment of your detachment will probably be first required in the districts under the charge of Mr Harris; you will therefore give that Gentleman timely notice of your approach, and probable arrival, within his Division. After your arrival in the Tanjour country, you are to comply with such applications for the service of the troops under your command as you may receive from either, or both, of the collectors, for the purpose herein described.

10. In the execution of the duties, now entrusted to you, the success of the public service will in a great measure depend on the degree of cordiality and union which may be preserved between the civil, and military authorities, and I am directed to express to you his lordship's expectation that you will be no less disposed to promote this harmony, by every degree of conciliation, than prepared to enforce the most exemplary discipline of the detachment by the firmness and integrity of your command. (p 4758)

Fort St George
 3rd June 1800.

I am Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. Webbe,
 Secretary to Government.

IOR: P/286/37:

30.4

PROCLAMATION

Whereas it was proclaimed to the people of Tanjour by a proclamation, bearing date the 17th December 1799, that the whole civil and military Government of that country had been for ever transferred to the English Company Bahadur, by virtue of a treaty concluded for that purpose between the said Company and His Excellency Maharaj Rajah Sherfegoo Bahadar, and whereas in consequence of the said treaty and proclamation obedience is due from the people of Tanjour to the Company Bahadur, now farther proclamation is hereby made that the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council has transmitted His Lordship's orders to Mr Charles Harris Collector of Mannargoody and Mr Frances Alexander Grant Collector of Mayaveram for establishing the administration of the revenue, and the internal government of the country, upon a lasting and permanent (p 4758) foundation. Wherefore all Puttudars, Poligars, Cavilgars, Talookdars and ryots of every description are hereby required and ordered to obey the directions and to complete the arrangements, which the said Collectors have been instructed to carry into execution.

But lest any Puttuckdars, Poligars, Cavilgars, or other person should be disposed (which God forbid) to oppose the introduction and establishment of the internal government of Tanjour on the principles described in the proclamation of 17th December 1799, it is hereby proclaimed, and all persons concerned are required to take notice accordingly, that the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council has assembled a sufficient body of troops, under the command of Lt Colonel Alexander Dyce, to support the authority vested in the Collectors, and to enforce obedience and respect to their orders, and it is hereby farther proclaimed and published, that, for the more effectual execution of these orders, the said Lt Colonel Alexander Dyce has been furnished by the Right Hon'ble the Governor (p 4760) in Council with full and sufficient power and authority to bring to summary trial by military process, and to punish with death, all persons who shall be found acting in arms, or otherwise opposing the Company's authority and dignity of the British Government.

In testimony whereof the Right Hon'ble Lord Clive, President in Council of Fort St George, hath on the part of the Hon'ble Company signed this proclamation, and hath caused the seal of the said Company to be affixed thereunto in Fort St George this thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred.

(signed) Clive

A True Copy

(signed) George Carrow

Deputy secretary.

IOR:P/286/37: Proceedings .6.1800

30.5

5

C. Harris, Collector Tanjore to Board of Revenue: 23.6.1800

Read the following letter from the collector at Nanargoody:

To

William Petrie Esq, President and to the Members of the Board
of Revenue, Fort St George

Gentlemen

In my letter dated the 4th of April I stated the mode customary in settling a grain produce on the cultivated lands and of fixing the price of the Government's share. I detailed the many expedients used by the Puttudars to enrich (p 6876) themselves by lowering both the produce and the price of Government and by drawing upon the share of the inhabitants. You were pleased to sanction my proposed measure of abolishing the small Puttucums and dividing the country into large districts, of dismissing the Puttudars and appointing Facildars; the execution of it I reported in my letter of the 7th instant. 2. The whole country being now open to the English power, the remaining work is to regulate the demand of Government on the revenue, and for ever hereafter alike to secure it against the invasion of the people and to restrain it from its own encroachment. This object, being the main substance of my present report, I trust will be attained by the following arrangements which, I earnestly recommend may be the standard of future management in the districts under my authority.

3. I will first describe the Mahratta (p 6877) system hitherto practised in collecting the revenue and the internal sources from which it has been drawn. You will then be struck with the evident necessity of reformation, and be able, immediately, either to approve or condemn the measures I propose for effecting it. I will distinguish the Mahratta system by the appellation of the "Old Form", and the system I recommend, by the appellation of the "New Form". The particular sources of revenue I will class under three general heads, Nunjah, Punjab and Sernaudiyam.

4. The sources of revenue and the modes of recollection and disbursement, differing in rates, are in nature the same throughout Tanjore. I therefore shall instance the revenue of Fusles 1209 in the Puttacums of the seubah of Nanargoody. The demand of Government being determined upon it, can be fixed in the same degree on the other seubahs and districts. (p 6878)

5. (p 6880) Notwithstanding the foregoing (4) large amount of Government revenue from the settled Nunjah produce, in comparison with the revenue from the same enjoyed by the inhabitants, further deductions are made from the revenue of the inhabitants as additions to the revenue of Government. It has been shown that the inhabitants, out of their share of settled produce, pay to Government fees in grain. It will now be shown that out of the revenue arising from their remaining share of settled produce they pay to Government fees in money, heavily oppressive, under the denomination of Chillary Gootul and Cajanna Tagareer. (5) (p 6883)

6. Such is the old form, Gentlemen, which has subsisted, through every change, until this day and by which the demand of Government is made on the country. Before the dismissal of the Puttudars in my seubahs their extortions were also to be borne by the people, among which, as already reported, was the necessity of paying Bentollavee at 10 or 15 gold Panams per 100 Cullums of the settled gross produce. This last suffering and every other inflicted by the Puttudars having ceased with their authority, the principles of the Government itself,

IOR: P/286/41: Pro 7.8.1800: pp 6875-6916

© (from pp 6876-80) and © (from 6880-3) typed separately

which suppress the growth and envenom every root of the revenue remain to be corrected. It will be interesting to you to perceive that the following new form which I propose, contains every alteration and abolition I have recommended in the old one, and that the demand of Government, thus justly regulated, will have an inconsiderable decrease. (e)

7. (p 6885) The difference between the increase of the inhabitants and the decrease of Government arises from the larger amount allowed out of the gross produce to pagodas, Brahmins, and Cowigars and the larger amount allowed to artificers, each of which amounts I fixed at 1 per cent.

8. It here appears that Government can make a surrender to the people of the taxes, under the old form, of Chillary Coedutul and Cajanna Tagareer amounting to (p 6886) 42,263, and have a decrease in their revenue according to the new form only of Chuckrums 12,834. It appears too that the inhabitants, retaining that part of their right, have an increase in their revenue only of Chuckrums 11,216. What Government relinquish by the above sacrifice they almost regain by their Waarum of 60 per cent and what the inhabitants acquire by that sacrifice, they in their collective body nearly lose by their Waarum of 40 per cent. But the people are divided into two classes - perfectly distinct, the poor and the rich. The acquisition goes as a blessing to the poor. The loss falls as a justice on the rich. The repeal of the Chillary Coedutul and the equalisation of the Waarum at 40 per cent will be a restoration of the means of life to those who pay these taxes out of an inferior Waarum, and will be no hardship to those who pay the same taxes out of a superior Waarum.

9. The custom peculiar to native Government of conferring private favour by the alienation of (p 6887) of the public revenue seems to have largely prevailed in Tanjore during the reign of Ameer Sing to have been at its height. His extensive grants of land in Neuniums are I believe unprecedented. Yet his superstitious temper was not to be satisfied without lavishing his produce in indulgent gifts of Waarum or increase of share to the higher part of the Brahm landholders. An opinion has prevailed that this prince altho he diminished his own revenue, increased the prosperity of his people. This great error the internal state of the province betrays. He did it generally no good but partially a lasting harm. He seems on a survey of his tenantry carefully to have separated the powerful and the rich, from the oppressed and the poor and with preposterous and senseless policy, to have taken a portion of the slender means of the latter to add it to the evergrown substance of the former.

10. This character is I believe conspicuous more or less in every native administration but appears particularly to have distinguished that of Tanjore where (6888) in every village are consequently to be seen the extremes of opulence and want. One inhabitant has all the enjoyments to be procured from a fertile country, while another, cultivating the same rich soil, obtains little more than he would were he the cultivator of a desert. That wealth which by circulation ought to give life to the whole, lies dormant in one part and leaves the other to languish and to perish.

11. Security of property is the great object of the permanent system about to be established. That security consists in the equalisation of the fruit of labour, and may I think be provided for by two measures both calculated to raise the poor and deprive (?) the rich to a natural and happy level. The first I have already described in my new form which spares the produce and the revenue of the people from heavy exactions and fixes the Waarum at the equal, just, and general rate of 40

(p 6883-5) typed separately.

per cent. The next measure is to abolish the principle on which the produce itself is fixed, namely the Poora Moorse (p 6889) or Dubboors settlement.

12. I mentioned in the 17th and 18th paragraphs of my address dated the 13th ultmo, that Nusrro Funt the R Dubbeer obtained accounts of the extent and produce of each village from the inhabitants, and that his settlement thereby, by himself acknowledged defective and presented to the Nabob as temporary. I also mentioned his intention of correcting it by measurement and investigation, and that his plan was frustrated by the accession of Tulsajee to the Musnud and has ever since been neglected and forgotten.

13. The Puttuodars, as mentioned in the 8th paragraph of my letter dated the 9th instant, have had the ruinous privilege of making at their discretion the disbursements for Murasumut, Warricum and Currisut. They took care of their own lands and retained the best part of the remainder of those allowances as a perquisite. The lower tenants, neglected and stinted, (p 6890) have often sold their lands to their oppressors to pay the Poora Moorse, Yaick Saal or Daumausha settlements or retaining them have seen them every year diminish in value. The consequences are that the villages of the higher classes without exception yield more than the Poora Moorse and some of them double that settlement, while the villages (under the same demand) of the lower classes with few exceptions yield less, many of them by one half. This truth has been confirmed to me by the acknowledgements of the several of the former and by the perpetual complaints of the latter. Daily practice has likewise discovered to me that the Yaick Saal and Daumausha tenures, being settlements below the Poora Mooses the first for one year and the other generally for three years; are indulgences which, like others, have been converted by abuse into evils. Lands of the first fertility have been held under Yaick Saal by the higher classes, and uninterrupted security having added intrepidityte fraud (p 6891) these lands have been enjoyed even by the Puttuodars, while the inferior people whom attachment to a family estate has detained from flight or deterred from the sale of it have been compelled to pay from an impoverished soil and surrounding ruin, the Poora Moorse. Many have prayed for the indulgence of an aumanie division of their actual crops, and this their half grown and scanty produce, has been liable to the cruelty of the Munjah taxes just described and to the hard and inexorable exertion of every petty circoar servant sent among them.

14. Thus the Poora Mooses has become in itself effects similar with the Waurum. It is favourable to the people collectively, but separately adds to the riches of the rich and the poverty of the poor. Altho aware how accessible the mind is to error on such a subject, as I strongly feel conviction I hope I shall be excused in confidently expressing it. On a consideration of the numerous abuses, which have torn this naturally favoured country, I combine the consequences (p 6892) into what I am firmly of opinion is the brief and true case of Tanjore.

15. I decidedly think that the supposed advantages of this province over others, are real, yet that since the reign of Pretaub Sing they have been felt neither by the Government nor by the lower or most useful and numerous class of people, but have been absorbed or anticipated by the head landholders including the Puttuodars whose art has concealed the capacity of the soil from Government and whose ignorance has concealed it from themselves. I say absorbed or anticipated because the advantages which they have actually enjoyed rise in no proportion to an equality with those which they have prevented from existence. Not satiated by plundering the branches of the revenue, they had fed upon the root. On the other side the Rajahs

of Tanjore perceiving the drain on their income caused by their superstitious favor to the superior Bramins as well as by the weakness, indolence and corruption which disabled them from a (p 6893) spirited conduct against fraud and turbulence, have sought indemnification in a quiet and unresisted depredation likewise on the vitals of their country, the lower classes. The revenue which they gave up in Warum or which was forced from them by the defects of the Poora Noorse, they tried to regain by the taxes of Chillary Gootul and Cajannah Tagareer. The aggravation of all these accumulated calamities is, that a general ignorance has been a seal to them. With the power to feel but without the knowledge to estimate, the injured have suffered, and the plunderers have enjoyed, what they knew not the value of. Not only have the Rajah's remained uninformed of the actual produce of their whole country but the Puttudars have remained in the same manner uninformed of their respective portions of it. That the revenue has been greater in one year than in another has been sufficient for the Rajahs and that the fields have yielded more than the Poora Noorse has been sufficient for the Puttudars, in (p 6894) so much that a Vayly of land and a Cullum paddy are imaginary measures that convey to the judgement no distinct idea either of extent or quantity.

16. The obstacles which have hitherto protracted the division of the country into estates are now, Gentlemen, explained. Part are done away, as the others may be, immediately, so that the new year may commence without one of the old abuses. The inadequate settlements of produce and price, the undue remissions, the exactions on the people, the misapplication of the Muraumut, the lavish and useless expenses of Warricum and Curicut, evils attending the superintendance of the Puttudars, are removed with them; the insecurity of an undefined land measure is provided against by the one authorised by you and the equally undefined mode of measuring grain may be corrected by establishing agreeably to your suggestion the (p 6895) Madras Mercals: If I am permitted as I requested in my letter dated the 16th instant to prohibit the excess which the inhabitants call Neringee or full measure. By this heaping of the mercal which seems intended to counteract every endeavour at true measure and to destroy the use of any measure at all, a skilful measurer may if he pleases defraud the people of 15 per cent, a profit which goes to himself or to the circular servants who employ him.

17. I have been particular in detaining the injustice of the Poora Noorse as ground for recommending, as I do for Fuzlee 1210, an Aumanie management throughout the country, and according to my proposed new form, a division of the actual produce of it. Without reference to extent the only agreement necessary to be entered into with the inhabitants is (p 6896) that

they shall cultivate, and that the entire produce of the lands, whatever it may amount to, shall be justly shared. The sudden circulation of property and the revival of labour which such a change will occasion will bring forth the natural prosperity of these districts. The large increase of revenue it will yield to Government by laying open the concealment and restoring the validity of every resource, and the early introduction it will afford to the permanent system I will state in a general remark after the short information required under the heads of Punjab and Sornaudsuyam.

PUNJAH REVENUE

18. There are three sorts of Punjab land the 1st watered only by rain and bearing the Aumanie division alone comes under this head and has a produce partly settled by the Dubbeer and partly reduced from that rate to Yaick saal and Daunaushau. The 2nd called Punjab Putcut is watered by (p 6897) Pucotahs and well, produces vegetables, fruit and grain, and yields a tax. The 3rd called Marasha Putcut is watered only by rain but being of

a high situation and inferior quality has to bear also only a favourable tax. The two latter will appear under the head of Sornaudauyan.

Puttacums of the Nanargoody Scoubah : Purlee 1209

	<u>Values</u>	<u>Mow</u>
A. Extent cultivated in the Car Season	33- 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Settled Gross Produce	Gulls Her	
Maunium	961- 3 1- 0	
NETT PRODUCE	960- 3	
Geodeewaurum varying from 50 to 60 per cent	554- 9	
REMAINDER Mailwaugum	405- 6	
Maunium	3- 2	
NETT MAILWAURUM as per account particulars		
No 1 annexed	402- 4	
Value according to prices settled by me	177- 4- 6	
Add Cajanna Tagaurer at 5 GFs per 100 Chks	0- 8- 26	
REVENUE from the CAR	178- 3- 0	(p 6898)
B. Extent cultivated in the Peshanum Season	<u>Values</u>	<u>Mow</u>
Settled Gross Produce	Gulls Her	
Maunium	942- 10 3- 0	
NETT PRODUCE	939- 10	
Geodeswaurum varying from 50 to 66 per cent	593- 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	
REMAINDER Mailwaurum	345- 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Maunium	9- 0	
NETT MAILWAURUM as per account particulars		
No 2 annexed	114- 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Value according to prices settled by me	114- 3- 4	
Add Gajannah Tagareer at 5 GFs per 100 Chks	0- 5- 22	
REVENUE from the Peshanum	114- 8- 26	
REVENUE from the CAR (before stated)	178- 3- 0	
TOTAL PUNJAH REVENUE TO GOVERNMENT	293- 1- 26	

19. The remarks necessary to this head having affinity to those required by the Sornaudayam will be made with them.

SORNAUDAUYAN REVENUE

20. This head comprises the following taxes: (p 6899)

	<u>Chucks</u>	<u>Fs</u>	<u>Cash</u>
1st Nuckty Bob: A fixed tax paid by the landholders of each village on the following articles Viz, the fishery of tanks, house rent to Succawausees or strangers, who are so considered until they obtain landed property on the spot, taxes on Rangoes, Coconut and Tamarind tops	3,304-	7-	4
2nd Punjah Putcut: A fixed tax paid by the landholders of each village for Punjah land watered by Puccotans and wells and producing fruit, vegetables and dry grain. Much of this land is inclosed as back-yards to houses.	17,628-	3-	4
3rd Koda Punjah Bentzy: An addition in some villages to the Punjah Putcut on account of a second crop at from 5 to 8 per cent on the Punjah Putcut	744-	0-	14
4th Warsha Putcut: A fixed tax on Punjah land watered only by rain and of an inferior quality	49-	4-	8
	21,726-	4-	30

Chucks In Cash
21,726- 4-30

5th Punjab Wurtenseoy: In the time of an ancient Rajah a Monigar whose employ was to estimate the produce of a Nagannum was detected in receiving a bribe above the Punjab revenue. In every village where the bribe was taken, it was established as a Punjab tax and has continued ever since 65- 4-10

6th Post Murry: An ancient tax first imposed to defray the expence of the Caumnpunday Feast and afterwards taken as the profit of Government 263- 3-16

7th Adody Putty: In the time of Pretaubling his manager the Dubbear established this tax in lieu of materials required from the country for making rockets for the Deserau Feast. In subsequent reigns and to this day, those articles are required and the tax is levied. 51- 7-

8th Cauvil Putout: A fixed tax paid by every Cauvilgar for the backyard of his house where he cultivates various dry grains 109- 3-

9th Cauvil Perapoo: This is a yearly tax paid by every Cauvilgar who has succeeded on the dismission of another for an offence against the Government paid not only by him but his heirs for ever so that the descendants of the original Cauvilgars only are exempt 91- 4- 2

10th Tambettagsur Burty: This is paid by Brass-smiths who carry their goods through the country for sale at different feasts or faires. Juncan is never levied on brass furniture. This tax is instead of it. 10- 0- (p 6901)

11th Shetriym Murry: This is a tax on Shetrium lands both Munjah and Punjab whether cultivated or not. It varies from 4 to 12 Chks per Vayly 8,270- 2-22

12th Recca Guttagy: This is a rent unalterable and fixed from time immemorial on certain lands of which some were granted to churches, some on account of their having been long uncultivated and some from favour. Some of the holders (who are of all casts) have sunneds and some have not; reform is here necessary 1,681- 8- 0

13th Geodycosul Putout: A tax on beetle gardens paid by villages on which it was formerly levied, whether there be in them now beetle or not and also by villages in which that article now grows 433- 8-28

14th Sunderantee Murry: This tax has been established in lieu of certain articles required for the Purgunnah Feast. These articles are still required and the tax is levied 166- 8-14 (p 6902)

15th Tomaula Murry: This tax has been established in lieu of the Tomsul a white flower furnished by the villages for feasts and ceremonies. These supplies are still required and the tax is levied 46- 5-16

16th Puddee Vittalay: A present of beetle was formerly given to the Monigars of certain villages. This present has been converted into a tax 11- -

17th Dessarmu Wurree: This tax was established in lieu of articles required for the Desserau Feast. These articles and the tax have been demanded 5- 4

18th Chargeotagy: A tax on the Fishery of rivers 30- -

19th Shatypugady: A tax on the shops of merchants 25- -

<u>20th</u> Mercal Sodenay: A tax on Mercals in two villages	1- -
<u>21st</u> Palapatadas: A general tax on all merchants and artificers	1,280-8 -2
<u>22nd</u> Verel Geelagys: A tax paid by an inhabitant of the Shelicoodum village for grass 11- 6- 6	
<u>23rd</u> Fulliar Tope: An ancient tax on a Tamarind tree in Manargeedy. No such tree now stands	0- 6-20
TOTAL SORNAUDAYAM REVENUE TO GOVERNMENT	34,282- - (p 6903)

REMARKS ON THE PUNJAB AND SORNAUDAYAM LANDS

Advantage of the higher classes in the Punjab and Sornaudayam land

21. There cannot be a doubt but that a considerable profit arises to the inhabitants from the Punjab and Sornaudayam lands but that profit is unequal, and not felt by many of the lower class. The total ignorance of their extent and produce has occasioned the careless irregularity with which the revenue from them has been plundered rather than collected. From the foregoing statements it appears that the circar has been so lenient as to lay aside inquiry and afterwards so severe as to resort to extortion.

Reform Easy

22. Such disorders, old as they are, can be corrected, like those of the Nunjah revenue, into a system of justice and judgement. If it be an indulgence due to the people to fix a low demand on the Punjab and Sornaudayam lands, it can be done by rule with knowledge and with impartiality. I with deference recommend that both these descriptions of land be made subject to the following (p 6904) regulations.

The Means

23. That all circar land of whatever quality, producing Punjab grain be placed under the head of Punjab and be liable to an Aumanie division of produce of which the inhabitants shall have 55 per cent.

24. That all land producing vegetables and fruit to be termed Punjab Putcum be placed under the head of Sornaudayam, and taxed at the rates stated in the annexed account.

25. That Shotriums, being inferior land, be invariably taxed per Vayly if Nunjah at the rate of 10 Chuckrums and if Punjab at the rate of 5 Chuckrums, and that both kinds come under the head of Sornaudayam.

26. That the Recca Guttagy being for the most part rich land be taxed per Vayly if Nunjah at the rate of 20 Chuckrums and if Punjab at the rate of 5 Chuckrums, (p 6905) that both kinds come under the head of Sornaudayam, and that all for which a sunned is not produced, be resumed.

27. That the Cudicaul Putcut or tax on Nunjah Betke garden (that on the Punjab being included in the Punjab Putcut) be fixed at 20 Chuckrums per Vayly.

28. That enclosures of ground as back-yards to houses be exonerated from all demand.

29. That all the remaining taxes under the head of Sornaudayam be abolished.

30. The measurement of the Punjab and Sornaudayam lands will be an easy duty to the Tassildars in their respective Talooks, and the foregoing moderate assessments will give to the inhabitants an interest in obedience and regularity.

(p 6906)

GENERAL REMARKS

The proposed form for the Demand of Government if approved, to be generally established in this Division

31. If after modifying it with your judgement you should be pleased to approve of this mode of fixing the demand of Government, it can be established generally in my Division. I have instanced only the late Puttacum of the Nanargoody Scubah, but recommend that my new form extend also not only to the lands that were under Puttacum in the Trivady Scubah but to the rented and Aumanie lands in both Scubahs, to the whole Scubah, now rented, of Puttacottah, and to the districts of Nagore and Negapatam.

Comparative remarks on the System of rent and Aumanie as they operate towards the discovery of resources

32. I take the liberty here of intruding my opinion, which I submit to your experience, on the systems of rent and Aumanie as they operate on districts unexplored. I conceive that Aumanie management can alone expose the worth of lands unknown, and that the moment the resources of a country are rented they are concealed, that a man in charge of an Aumanie district is on the (p 6907) side of Government and a man in possession of a rented district is on the side of the inhabitants or of himself. That an Amildar may be either bad or good as he is treated with either neglect or notice; that impunity of fraud and careless of service will harden even the best against the importance of his duty, and that well timed punishment and judicious praise will in a great measure frighten and flatter even the worst into seal and integrity; but that a renter paying his hists is independent and holds close possession of his district and of knowledge of it, as exclusively his own.

Steps taken for an Aumanie Management

33. Knowledge being now the great and urgently desired object, I have taken steps for an Aumanie management in Fuzlee 1210 which will not prevent the formation and disposal of estates at any period of it, and which, if you disapprove of them, can be restricted. I have entered into engagements with all the landholders, merely binding (p 6908) them to cultivate and promising them, whatever be your determination on this report, a just return for their labour. A ~~man~~ very considerable rise of the revenue must in any event take place from my having brought forward the numerous class of impoverished tenantry, mostly Malabars, whom I have particularly attended to by a repair to the banks and beds of rivers which for many years have suffered destruction instead of benefit to their lands, and by the advance to them in my presence at the cutcheree of the proportion of Tucosurree mentioned in my letter dated the 13th instant. The Car cultivation has commenced with the western monsoon and every thing is ready for the progress of it with the gradual descent of the waters.

The probable considerable rise of revenue in Fuzlee 1210

34. The Tassildars are directed to see the cultivation carried on agreeably to the Buchalkas and I will take care to furnish them with instructions to ascertain by your authorised standard measure the (p 6909) extent of the different lands. A rigid attention to their conduct and the presence of my cutcheree which shall move into the neighbouring-hood of every Taleek will I trust secure a faithful accomplishment of this valuable duty. Being divided between fourteen Tassildars, it will no longer occasion difficulty or delay but be performed with ease, and expedition. By means of it and of the reform, the whole country will be thrown open. All the abuses that have sprung up during days of revolution and contest will fall before the virtue of the Company's undivided power, and leave a way, through the channel of established subordination, for the spirit of the orders of Government to penetrate into every village.

Exposure of the entire country

35. The country being thus opened and cleared for the reception of the permanent system, a lot of land, as its value is estimated, can be put up to sale and be disposed of, in any month of the year, as an estate. The purchaser will (p 6910) become the proprietor of the circar rights in its produce, and its inhabitants will continue to enjoy their Meerassee or right in its produce as the proprietors of its soil.

Introduction of the permanent system

A Mode of internal³⁶. I will now give my opinion on the mode of managing the management under lower tenants which ought to be observed by the Zemindar or under the proprie^t proprietor as best adapted to the character and most conducive to the peace of the country under my authority.

Instability and bad effects of rent imposed by a native on under-tenants

37. Perpetual altercations between the renters and inhabitants of my districts have taken place from an unsteadiness natural to the native. For instance, they make at the beginning of the year an agreement for an Aumanie division of crops, which a mutual hope of convenience afterwards induces them to alter to a rent. The party likely to be injured by the change always attempts to retract. If it be the renter, he contrives to get a third Kochulka from the inhabitants who rather than (p 6911) lose their supposed advantage engage to give him a small increase. Which of these agreements, or whether either is to be precisely fulfilled, depends upon the weather. A reference to the cutcheree is inevitable. Both complainant and defendant produce respectively the Kochulka most favourable. The one insisted upon by the renter is perhaps neither dated nor signed or if signed by the head inhabitants is objected to by them as forcibly obtained and by the rest as not acceded to. If it happen by evidence or any accidental disclosure that they gain their cause, inhabitants of other villages under the same renter without the smallest ground of reason, will make a similar complaint and equal time is lost in detecting against these falsehoods as in discovering in favour of the others the truth. Punishment can seldom be inflicted as the longest investigation can hardly ever produce a thorough knowledge whether the complaint was (p 6912) made with the consciousness of right or wrong. If the renter happen to prevail, immediately conceiving himself licenced to tyranny, he will renew obsolete and illegal claims, and the inhabitants, conceiving themselves condemned to suffer will submit to them. Thus, by a people yet untaught in the principles of freedom, justice is enjoyed as a favour and suffered as an oppression.

38. Two parties, after departing from an agreement and making it up into a confused mass of irregular concessions and inconsistent retractions will bring it to the cutcheree to be put into order by the collector and without the smallest consideration for his occupation, or consciousness of their imprudence and folly; they will think it a greater cause than any other, and deserving of the first attention.

Necessity of prescribing a mode of management to the proprietor

The fairness and advantages of the Aumanie system to the inhabitants and the proprietor as better adapted to their prejudices secured by the Company's measurement. Their payments of a and irregularities rented jumma can be limited only by their own agreements, than a rent which if made regular for them at the cutcheree, (p 6914) their enmity to form and order will certainly afterwards confuse.

39. Considering the inveterate determination of the natives by every method they (p 6913) can devise to undermine and destroy every thing in the shape of a standard I take the liberty of mentioning the expediency in my opinion, before a Zemeendar enters upon his estate, not only to limit the amount but to prescribe the mode of his demand upon it, whether that mode be a rent or Aumanie. Supposing both to be made as perfect as possible, I am inclined to prefer the latter. The Aumanie is a system by which the inhabitants are sure to obtain an exact return to their labour. A rent may yield them more or less. What they get by Aumanie, is the reward of nature. What they acquire or do not acquire by a rent, is the gain or loss of speculation. Their right in the Aumanie produce can be secured by the Company's measurement. Their payments of a and irregularities rented jumma can be limited only by their own agreements, which if made regular for them at the cutcheree, (p 6914) their enmity to form and order will certainly afterwards confuse.

40. If these observations be congenial with the general system, and if the new form recommended in this report, for the division of the Munjah and Punjab produce and for the tax off the Bernaudsuyan, meet your approval, it can be established as the demand of the Zemeendars on the estates under my authority.

Alienations of produce as well as land to be guarded against

41. That the revenue may ascend entire and defined to Government, it will be necessary, with constant care to guard its origin. For such preservation, as every future alienation of land, carrying away attached to it a portion of the Government right, will be prohibited, so should be every future alienation, similar in effect, of produce. Beyond what are stated in the /its Aumanie account the inhabitants should be restrained from separating any charitable (p 6915) and religious gifts from the public store, and be allowed to make them only from their private shares after fulfilling their duty to the Zencendar.

The form delivered for the division of the crops should be declared the unalterable foundation of the public rights. So fixed for the obs-long as it is preserved, upon it will stand constructed theervance of the prosperity that is to rise from the base to the head of the proprietor towards state. The revenue paid by the under-tenants to the Zencendar, his tenantry, will tho in grain, will then be limited, and as infallible as the depend the revenue season, from which they and he will alike enjoy or suffer, of the three classes. After the barrenness of a bad year, as no injustice will take sses of the community away the fruit of a good one, nature will provide for them. Hence the revenue paid by the Zencendar to Government will be in money and at a rate fixed for ever.

42. My further progress in the execution of your orders for the establishment of the permanent system, will be regulated by the instructions which on a review of this report, may appear to you (p 6916) necessary.

43. I shall in a few days have the satisfaction of laying before you an account of the Talooks and Naguns and villages alphabetically arranged with a statement of the increase of produce promised by my engagements with the landholders. I will also submit to you regulations for the conduct of the Tasildars and point out some alterations necessary in the head and sub establishments.

I have the honour of being, Gentlemen
Your obedient and humble servant

Manangoody, 23 June 1800.

C. Harris, Collector.

TANJORE: 23.6.1800

Statement I

30.6

BUNJAH REVENUE : OLD FORM

Puttacum of the Nanargoody Sumbah & Puzlee 1209

	Cullus	Mer
Wodawaurum or Gross settled Produce of the Car and Guddapah Sumbah and Peshanum crops	25,97,985- 9/-	
ALLOWANCES out of the Gross Produce	Cullus	Mer
<u>Deduction</u> 1st Kevil or church Nauniums	3,866- 2/-	
2nd Bramin Nauniums	5,617- 8/-	
3rd Yaralee, fees to Gowlgars	9,241- 9/-	
TOTAL	18,727-7/-	0/-
4th Setuntrums to Artificers	23,409- 2/-	0/-
5th Setuntrums to Government	15,653- 2/-	0/-
TOTAL allowances out of the Gross Produce		57,790- 1/-
NET PRODUCE		25,40,195- 8/-

The Coodeewaurum or Inhabitants share is taken at rates varying in every Puttacum between 40 and 60 per cent. It amounts to 11,21,649- 4/- (I recommend a general and invariable rate of 40 per cent for the Coodeewaurum)

Setuntarums to Government out of the Coodeewaurum undefined and varying (of this I propose the abolition) 14,304- 11/-
NET COODEEWRAURUM 11,07,344- 5/-

The Gross COODEEWRAURUM above is	11,21,649- 4/-
(p 6879) MAILWAURUM or Government Share	14,18,546- 4/-

ALLOWANCES out of the MAILWAURUM	
<u>Deduction</u> 1st Kevil or church Nauniums	361- 3/-
2nd Bramin Nauniums	4,080-10/-
3rd Yaralee or Gowlgars fees	543-10/-
TOTAL out of the Mailwaurm (These allowances should be deducted at once from the Gross Produce)	<u>4,986- 4/-</u>
REMAINDER	14,13,560- 3/-

JERMA BOB or Additions to Government	
1st Setuntrums the 5th Deduction from the Gross Produce	15,653- 2/-
2nd Setuntrums out of the Coodeewaurum	<u>14,304-11/-</u>
NET MAILWAURUM or Government Share	<u>29,958- 2/-</u>

NET MAILWAURUM or Government Share	14,43,518- 6/-
Of which the Car and Guddapah is:	2,94,439- 4/-
The Remaining Sumbah and Peshanum is:	11,49,079- 2/-

The Car and Guddapah Revenue at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ G.Fs per Cullum is:	99,373- 2-24
The Sumbah and Peshanum Revenue at 3-17/32 " "	4,09,768- 6-00
REVENUE from both crops to Government	<u>5,05,141- 8-24</u>

NET COODEEWRAURUM or Inhabitants Share is	11,07,344- 5/-
of which Car and Guddapah crop is	2,85,485- 5/-
The Remaining Sumbah and Peshanum is	8,21,858-11/-

The Car and Guddapah Revenue at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ G.Fs	96,351- 3-14
The Sumbah And Peshanum at 3-17/32 G.Fs	2,90,218- 9-14
Revenue from both crops to the Inhabitants	<u>3,86,570- 2-28</u>

(p 6879): Net without standing:

IOR: P/256/41: pp 6878-9: re 7.6.1800

© This total being undefined I propose fixing it at 1% of the gross produce.
© This likewise I propose fixing at 1%.
© Of this I propose the abolition.

(A) CHILLARY COODUTUL

TANJORE: 23.6.1800
Statement II1st Putty Bob

A tax varying in every Puttacum and collected from 4 to 10 Gold Fanams per 100 Gallums of the settled gross produce amounting to

GHS Rs. 9
12,003- 9-24
2nd Nagama

A tax formerly collected for the church, now taken by Government from 1½ to 5 GFs per 100 Gallums of the Gross settled produce amounting to

2,994- 1- 2

3rd Gaunputty

A tax collected in lieu of the value of the Government Share, in some villages at the rate of 1 GF and in others at the rate of 1½ GF per 1000 Gallums of the Gross settled Produce

1,845- 1-30
16,843- 2-24 (p 6881)
4th Alayda

A tax added during the Government of the Nabob at the rate of 1 GF per 100 Gallums of the Produce

4,574- 0- 0

5th Sadiwied

A tax collected in a few villages formerly as a Cutcheres expence, undefined

6- 0- 0

6th Nusser Routhy

A tax collected in a few villages formerly as a Nusser, undefined

24- 0- 0

7th Sumpredy & Musnadar Burree

An exaction of the Sumpredy and Musnadar detected by an ancient Rajah who converted it into a Government tax at 5 GFs per 100 Gallums of the Gross settled Produce

12,902- 7- 6

8th Nauteekurch

While the Nabob had possession of the country, a part of the amount of Nauteellavee (or Nauteekurch) collected by the Amils for the village expences was taken by him for the palace expences. This amount, besides the full Nauteellavee has since been collected at 2 GFs per 100 Gallums of the Gross settled produce.

5,182- 4-12
39,533- 2- 2 (p 6882)
9th Roosoo Vettah

A tax collected only in three villages which were formerly a Moosuma or Jaghire to a relation of the then reigning Rajah; since the reversion of them to the circar, the tax has continued.

6- 8- 4

TOTAL CHILLARY COODUTUL

39,540- 0- 6

Of the above taxes I recommend the entire abolition. Besides being in their nature oppressive as they are undefined they open a way to the more destructive exactions of the circar servants.

(B) CAJANNA TAGAREER
A tax paid by the inhabitants of 5 GFs on every 100 Chukrums they pay into the treasury.

1st The Government Punjeh revenue at 5 GFs per

2,325-7- 1½

100 Ghs yields Cajannah Tagareer amounting to
2nd The Chillary Coodutul above yields, at 5GFs per 100 Ghs Cajenna Tagareer amounting to

197- 7- 0 2,723-4-1½

TOTAL Chillary Coodutul and Cajenna Tagareer to be deducted from the revenue of the Inhabitants and added to that of the Government REVENUE from both crops to the inhabitants (St. 1) 42,263- 4- 7½

Deduct Chillary Coodutul & Cajenna Tagareer 42,263- 4- 7½
NETT Punjeh Revenue to the Inhabitants by the 3,44,306- 8-24

REVENUE from both crops to GOVERNMENT (St. 1) 5,05,141- 8-24

NETT PUNJAH REVENUE TO GOVERNMENT BY OLD FORM 5,47,405- 2-31½

TANJOOR: 23.6.1800
Statements 3 & 4.
NUNJAH REVENUE : NEW FORM
PUTTAGUMS OF THE MAHARGOODY ROUBAH : FIZLER 1209

Vodawaurum or Gross Settled Produce	Cullums Her	25,97,985- 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deduct Govil Mauniums, Bramin Mauniums Cawigars Varalee fixed at 1 per cent	Cul Her 25,979-10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Setuntrum to Artificers fixed at 1 per cent	<u>25,979-10$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	<u>51,959- 8$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
NFT PRODUCE		25,46,026- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
(p 6884)		
COODNEWAURUM or Inhabitants Share fixed at 40 per cent	<u>10,18,410- 5$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	
REMAINDER NAILWAURUM or Government Share	15,27,615- 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
of which the proportioned Car and Cuddapah is	3,11,593- 0	
The Remaining Sumbah and Peshanum is	12,16,022- 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
The Car and CUDDAPAH at the price of GPs 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cullum	1,05,162- 6-12	
The Sumbah and Peshanum at GPs 3- 17/32 " "	4,29,408- 0- 1	
NET NUNJAH REVENUE TO GOVERNMENT BY THE NEW FORM	5,34,570- 6-13	
The Goodeewarum or Inhabitants Share above is	Cul Her 10,18,410- 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
of which the proportioned Car and Cuddapah is	2,62,557- 0	
The Remaining Sumbah and Peshanum is	7,55,853- 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
The Car and Cuddapah at the price of GPs 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cullum	Chs Fe C 85,612- 9-28	
The Sumbah and Peshanum at 3-17/32 per Cullum	2,66,910- 7-13	
NET NUNJAH REVENUE TO INHABITANTS BY THE NEW FORM	3,55,523- 7- 9	

(p 6885)

OLD AND NEW FORMS COMPARED

NET Nunjah Revenue to Inhabitants by the OLD Form	3,44,306- 8-20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
NFT " " " " NEW "	3,55,523- 7- 9	
INCREASE to the Inhabitants by the NEW Form	11,216- 8-20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
NET Nunjah Revenue to Government by the OLD Form	5,47,405- 2-31 $\frac{1}{2}$	
NFT " " " " NEW "	5,34,570- 6-13	
DECREASE to Government by the NEW Form	12,834- 6-18 $\frac{1}{2}$	

30.7

Charles Harris, collector Tanjore to Board of Revenue: 13.7.1800

To
William Petrie Esq, President and Members of the Board of Revenue
Gentlemen,

In the 8th and 9th paragraphs of my report dated the 23rd ultime I stated the (p 6917) inequality of the Coodevaarum enjoyed by the people of Tanjore, and that the causes of it have been the partiality and corruption of the Mahratta Government. I recommended 40 per cent as a just general share.

2. I omitted to state how far 40 per cent of produce will yield a due profit to the tenants of the poorest soil in the late puttacums. This explanation I will first give, and afterwards proceed to supply another deficiency of my report which has not noticed whether the same rate of warum be suitable to the rented districts. The late puttacums are watered by the rivers, the rented districts only by rain.

3. Of the late puttacums the Lutchanur (?) talook has the most impoverished land because the most distant from the rivers and the last supplied, but its inhabitants who were at my cutcherrie when I publicly mentioned my intention to recommend the fixing of the warum at 40 per cent made (p 6918) not the least objection to it. They received their tucavie in a greater proportion than the inhabitants of other talooks, and with this just attention to their mere passing poverty, and with the certainty of being relieved from the nunjah taxes, they departed in seeming cheerfulness to their cultivation.

4. I am inclined to believe in Tanjore a ~~country~~ country so generally fertile, that to the inhabitants of the least productive puttacums districts an effectual and constant care of the rivers is sufficient and pregnant with no abuse, whereas local remission of warum can not be made with precision and if made without it, will be an irreversible sacrifice of part of the rights of Government. If precaution be taken that the owners of the worst soil are enabled to draw from it a return of their labour, I conceive that they should regard better land as well as any other article of greater value in the possession of their neighbours as an instance of superior fortune of which it would be unreasonable in them to utter a complaint, and (p 6919) to which it would be dangerous, superfluous, and vain in Government to bestow an equivalent.

5. Altho I did not take upon myself formally to publish the proposed rate of warum, I can not believe there is a landholder ignorant of it, as I have often mentioned it in the presence of the people and as I have heard from no one a complaint against it, but from many quarters acknowledgements of its justice.

6. An open enquiry and an appearance of doubt on such a subject would immediately draw forth the most unreasonable claims, I avoided discussion with the inhabitants and spoke of the regulation as decided upon.

7. The districts out of the reach of the rivers, and therefore under a money rent, are Anyancaurumbalum and Chatypalam in the Kanargoedy scubah, the nine nauds and Vasinganaudd in the Trivady scubah, and the whole circar land in the Puttacottah scubah. When the agreements have been amicable between the renter and inhabitants of Anyancaurumbalum and Chatypalam, the warum has been partly 40 and partly 45 per cent; between (p 6920) the renter and inhabitants of the nine nauds it has been invariably 50 per cent; and between the renter and inhabitants of Puttacottah it has varied between 50 and 60 per cent. Vasinganaudd between the renters and inhabitants never has been under amicable. IOR: P/206/41: Pre 7.8.1800. The report dated 23.6.1870 is also in this vol on pp 6875-6916. Board Minutes are 6925-6, 7055-61.

The inhabitants are the boldest cast of colleries, They are an armed banditti and have never been required by the weak Tanjore Government to unfold a resource or to pay other revenue than a village rent or tribute. Since the assignment, they have committed no irregularity, and have discharged their kists punctually. I have taken every opportunity of enforcing the prohibition, passed by Government, of arms and have declared the use of a sword or musket to be a disqualification for agricultural privileges and the inevitable consequence of it to be the forfeiture of landed property. I shall further inform you of the Vessinganad after seeing the inhabitants whom I have summoned.

8. Of Anyancurumbalum, Chatypolam, the nine nauds and Puttacottah I recommend an aumanie (p 6921) management as affording absolutely the only means of investigation. To rent any part of Tanjore would be to close up the resources which now for the first time there is power radically to search, and which are unknown to every man in the country. New knowledge to Government, I am convinced, will be new knowledge to the people and must I conceive for the sake of mutual justice precede the sale of estates.

9. Anyancurumbalum and Chatypolam among the rented districts contain the best land. Puttacottah and the nine nauds are nearly equal. Puttacottah being to the south and on the confines of an unproductive country, its cultivation should be encouraged by the utmost power of Government not only that it may supply the eventual distresses of inhabitants from Rannad and Shivagunga but that it may supply them cheaply.

10. Considering the relative advantages of the divisions herein named I submit to your judgement the following regulation, which may at (p 6922) least be allowed to exist until it is seen really to bear hard upon the people, viz:

11. That the invariable waurum, of the late puttacum districts or those watered by the rivers be, as proposed in my report, 40 per cent; of Anyancurumbalum and Chatypolam; 45 per cent; of the nine nauds; 50 per cent; and of Puttacottah 55 per cent.

12. Foreseeing the infallible confusion of claims that would follow any apparent disposition in Government to investigate the exact value of land, and dreading a far more evil consequence in the suppression of the growth of the crops which the inhabitants to depreciate their property in our estimate so fatally resort to, I earnestly beg that you will for the present give to the above regulation the appearance of permanency. For should any representation hereafter be made against it, the propriety of further indulgence can be ascertained by examining the situation of those villages which claim it.

13. How far the present waurum of the (p 6923) people has resulted from favour and how far from justice, the Mahratta records do not point out. If then this internal particular knowledge be required, it must be obtained by direct labour, by a judgement on the situation of every village. Should this duty, after all, be inevitable I will endeavour to perform it but I think it generally unnecessary. In the districts which have been washed by rivers the waurum of 40 per cent even if it /watered happens to bear hard at first on any particular village will soon become lenient and before that time arrives, can inflict no suffering so severe as the oppressions which have been renewed. In a constant repair of the rivers, an impartial care of the entire country lately under puttacum will improve and equalise the advantages of soil in the different divisions of it. The destructive system of the Mahratta princes it is which has broke down (p 6924) the state of the country into inequalities of ruin. The Company's power having a contrary operation

will raise the validity of the several variously injured districts to a common and natural height and I think you will concur with me in opinion that to Government it would be a premature and injurious sacrifice of revenue to seek out the present exact degree of decay in each of the villages to adapt to it a demand which is to last for ever; when a careful management in a single year may revive and bring them all on a level which will make the undiminished assessment moderate, and the partition of the public revenue permanently just.

Manargoedy
13th July 1800.

I have the honour of being, Gentlemen
Your most obedient and humble servant
Charles Harris, collector.

Harris to Board of Revenue on "Naramut" in Tanjore: 29.6.1800

Extract

- First 10. Anicut protecting the Cauvery from the draught of the Coleroon. This great work is the preservation of all Tanjore.
- Second 14. The other two principal works are - the bank at Cappettallum, 30 English miles below the anicut and protecting here (p 7739) again the Cauvery against the draught of the Arcular; and the bank at Tembarabeer, 18 English miles below the head of the M Vennar and protecting it from the draught of the Vettar (?). These two structures may be called smaller anicuts because performing the same office as the large one in a less degree according to the necessity of the respective districts.
15. (p 7740) It is necessary here to remark that these three important works are situated in the higher or eastern seobahs of Trivady and Combaconum, which were never under the late collectors Mr Grant and Mr Balmain, but were managed by the Rajah. These gentlemen were entirely dependent on the cooperation of natives not subject to their orders, and consequently could carry no man point. Had they even had the assistance of the palace, it could have (p 7741) availed them nothing against the opposition of its servants who like all Indians showed an inveterate opposition to a power not over them and that could not hurt them. It may be concluded therefore when the palace during the reign of Ameer Sing threw every obstacle in the way of the collectors that the insolence and activity of its people in counteraction had no bounds, and that not only the works of Tembarabeer and Cappettallum within their limits, but all the resources conveying fertility to the assumed seobahs were, by a most detectable policy, injured or destroyed.
16. The foregoing detail will account for the gradual defalcation that had taken place up to the period of the last Fusles in the eastern districts particularly in Mayaveram. Annual losses created exaggerated and unjust claims to remission, and inflamed a spirit of depredation, which perhaps (p 7742) originally prevailed among the landholders of Mayaveram and Manargoedy because furthest removed from superintendance and which continued in this year's sumanic management to attack the revenue of Government almost exclusively in these seobahs. Comparatively in Trivady and Combaconum there occurred during the late management but little mischief and during the Company's sumanic but few thefts. The former fall of the revenue in these districts having been less, so is its present rise. (p)
22. (p 7748) ... The regulations under which the work has been carried on are shown in my diaries of March and April. I fully instructed the tasildars on the nature of the work I meant, separating every article. I fixed the pay of coolies, and the hours during the day out of their labour and repose. I limited the expense for the sluices by allowing the proportion necessary for the repair of the old and the construction of the new. I ordered daily accounts of the number of men employed and materials used, to be made out equally by the mungars and nautoonicepries. ... (The estimated expence is 36,827; already actually expended 22,839; remainder not yet expended 13,188)

IOR: P/286/63: Pre 9.7.1801; pp 7725-54, 7755; B.M. 7757-8.

30.8

Charles Harris, Collector Tanjore to Board of Revenue: 3.8.1800

10/11

Read the following letter from the collector at Manargoody.

To

William Petrie Esq, President and Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen

1. In my letter of the 23rd of June I noticed the inequality not only in the actual wealth of Tanjore, but in the means under any part of the old system of obtaining the return of labour. Such in my opinion is the mischief equally of more or less than moderate (p 7030) property in the hands of native cultivators that altho it may be evident on theoretic consideration, in my practical employ over this particular tract where it has risen to a great height I regard myself as exercising a solemn duty in exposing it, by every occurring light of truth and justice, to your attention.
2. Not to mention the superstitious indulgence of the Rajahs in their grants of Wauchs, the actual government of the head people appears to have been the cause of the inequality of property, and the Duboor's settlement to have been, both a contributory cause of it, and the instrument by which it has been effected. How far this assessment which, exercised by tyranny, has been the means of the most cruel abuses, can in the hands of the English, be employed to do them away, I will state my sentiments, but first that you may decide on the safety of the trial, I will use my efforts to force into open day the effects of the monopoly of property felt by every family in the country and in a serious manner imminent (?) to the prosperity of Government. I will then humbly add to those opinions now before you, the steps I recommend as likely to strike a last and effectual blow to so much real evil.
3. The Puttuodars and head landholders in their extensive possessions of land and money have means of reserving securing to their own disposal the largest proportions of the produce except what falls into the hands of paddy merchants as avaricious and as anxious as themselves. They have been entire masters of the bazars which in the early months of the year to lower the Kundenny price they will supply, and which finally to enhance the value of their stores they will afterwards starve. The quantity necessary to raise a kist, if no art or subterfuge can delay the payment of it, they will sell. The space between the close of the Pushee and the period for reaping the Car crop is the time when paddy is dearest. To hoard up and conceal it to this season is the object of the great landholders. They then sell it at their own price in whatever quantity, and to (p 7032) whom they please, according to the forwardness or backwardness of the Car cultivation which they carefully watch, and no emptiness of the bazars or cries of the people will induce them, contrary to an expected advantage, to bring forth and relinquish a grain.
4. In the districts under me immediately after the end of April the period of setting the Kundenny price which determines the revenue of Government, the bazars ceased to be supplied with any other than the circar Aumanie paddy and the small, precarious, and mercenary combinations of the merchants who furnished then not when the circar paddy was selling; but when by accident or delay the dilatory conduct of my servants I could not obtain it from the villages I at first thought the scarcity real and owing to exportation encouraged by some great demand in the neighbouring provinces. Lately only I discovered the monopoly and saw the necessity of calling upon the stead (?) inhabitants to contribute to the supply of the market. (p 7033)
5. At the town of Manargoody after setting the Kundenny price at the end of last April, paddy in the bazar diminished daily until about a month ago when the import ceased and none remained. In

IOR: P/266/41: Proceedings 14.8.1800

this alarm I was relieved by discovering that while not a measure of paddy, was to be bought in the bazar, there were, even in the town, large stores kept up by the Puttuodars. I instantly assembled them and insisted upon their disposing of the required quantity. They used every expedient to evade compliance and such is their determined avarice, that I have had as much difficulty in obtaining from them food for the common people as money for the revenue of Government and I was a fortnight ago obliged to seize on their granaries and bring forth by force a necessary portion into the bazar.

6. Immediately to oppose these practices and others of a most mischievous nature prevailing in the different bazaars of my Division, I find a Cutwals department under strict regulations to be indispensable and will in my new Moyon Zabitah, now in forwardness propose to you an establishment. But (p 7034) this step even if successful can be a remedy only to evil perpetually rising from it since the inequality of property The most powerful efforts to execute your intentions in these districts must be never ceasing while there is no competition among the people, and while latitude is left to the intrigues, the vices, and crimes of men who (as I may comparatively say) have all the land, all the grain, and all the money in the country.

7. If extensive Landed property estates be hurtful to the public in Europe where trade, manufactures, and various modes of subsistence may be resorted to, they must be much more so in India where agriculture is the chief occupation, and cannot be abandoned for any other by men under the restraint of their castes and attached to the professions of their ancestors. The great landholder who draws land from the small one draws it also from Government. By this monopoly, the condition of Tanjore appears to be the same as that of any other country where the controlling power has been lodged in the head people. Since the appointment of (p 7035) Puttuodars their estates and those of the head landholders have been gradually extending and absorbing those of the lower class. Invested with the control of of the heavy disbursements annually poured from the treasury, they have by retaining the whole benefit of Murumut and Mauricum fertilised their own lands and impoverished all the remainder. Entrusted also with the receipts they have indulged themselves with remissions from the Dubeer's settlement and inflicted all its severity on every other proprietor by exercising the utmost rigor of the circular demand on a wantiness of crops created by themselves. They have taken the whole produce of an estate and left to the holder no other means of complying with the settlement than to part with to them with the estate itself. These truths have been confirmed to me by the practice of every day, and I have had the mortification of being obliged to dismiss complaining of the effect of the settlement and of the Government, because their rates have had the regular sanction of their signatures and have (p 7036) proceeded from abuses antecedent to the operation of the Company's power.

8. A few of the fields lying neglected or injured in the village of a rich owner, and a small portion of that wealth lying buried in his house, would in the hands of a poor man create an adequate addition to the gross produce of the country. The cultivation of the poor has been reared as far as constant labour could rear it, while that of the rich has either languished for want of care, or been stinted and suppressed to diminish the revenues.

9. In all districts temporarily assumed by the Company, I will venture to affirm that the produce has been destroyed in its growth in proportion as they have been rich cultivators able to make the sacrifice particularly in Pekana, or other provinces paying Peschush and under investigation. I regard this as a predominant practice with the head landholders who rather than

expose the capacity of the soil which would regulate the future just demand upon them, will weaken it at the expense of their own immediate profit and by a self defeating cunning cause it to yield perhaps less than the fixed tribute to the Company.

10. As a knowledge of this process, a counteraction to the bounty of providence, may not have been conveyed to you I will describe it as far as I have been able to obtain information on it. The principle is to treat Bijnah the same as Punjeh land. At the season for commencing the Bijnah cultivation, a quantity of water ought to be admitted on the fields. After it has stood three weeks so as to soften the earth, and while it is yet not quite absorbed, the ploughs should be set to work. The water then penetrates and nourishes, and the soil being kept constantly moist becomes productive. But the mode of suppression is to over-flow the land; and after its first saturation to let the water flow from it, and when it is parched and cracked by the sun, to plough and sow it. Its (p 7038) prolific strength thus impaired and unasserted will yield no longer a produce than Punjeh lands. Because Punjeh temporarily watered by the falling rain must be as fruitful as Bijnah temporarily watered by the tank or river.

11. The next step is in the transplantation. The proper distance between two paddy plants in the best ground is eight inches, in less good ground six inches. If placed nearer, as may be observed in two trees unduly close, their shoots will not spread out because the power of the earth is over-burdened. As this power is exhausted by a too crowded plantation it is left useless by a two wide one. To diminish the produce the inhabitants use both extremes. By the latter they can place their plants at such a distance as inevitably to reduce their crops to any given quantity, and the beauty and excellent quality usual to a wide plantation cannot be looked for in the weak sapling brought from its original injured soil. A certain width ought to be adopted to each degree of quality (p 7039) from the lowest to the highest Bijnah. Sometimes there may be an advantage in not transplanting from the very high Bijnah but in thinly sowing it and allowing its crops to come to maturity upon it as in Punjeh land. The many opportunities the inhabitants have of suppressing the revenue are here evident. And they will take advantage of them to destroy the right of the circar which investigation will not allow them to retain. In Tanjore I conceive a part of the Government share will be inevitably relinquished by a continuation of the Dubeer's settlement and that a smaller part will eventually be destroyed /be or not in Aumanie as the Amildars cannot or can be made vigilant and faithful, or as the landholders cannot or can be persuaded that the Dubeer's settlement is for ever abolished.

12. Another method of suppression is when the crops are half grown to withhold from them the necessary supply of water. Here as well as at the commencement of the cultivation the most particular attention is required. If possible, peons should be chosen (p 7040) that will not league with the landholders, and cutcherees Hircarrahs should be kept constantly on the look out.

13. At the opening of the present season aware of the necessity of extreme caution, I hastened the appointment of Tasildars, and without mentioning particulars bade them watch the commencement of the cultivation and to send into me regular reports on the conduct of the landholders and on the quantity of land ploughed and sown. It was not long before I heard that intrigues and deceptions such as I have described were taking birth in different parts of my Division; that landholders in order to defy investigation and measurement had in view the reduction of the actual produce to the Peons Boors, and that the Puttudars of Nanargoody in particular had formed the design of diminishing the produce in expectation of depreciating and removing the management of the Tasildars and of vindicating and re-establishing their own. From the principal conspirers a conversation was

conveyed (p 7041) to me in which they complained of the disclosures that threatened their profits, and agreed to the necessity of endeavouring to retain (?) them of these designs. Altho I was convinced I could obtain no positive proof, some plausible excuse was always found, but I could not submit to listen to a people against whom a full and satisfactory evidence can rarely be obtained and who if permitted to speak have art to account, favourably to themselves, even for detected crimes. Moved by a consideration of the many evils they had brought on the country, I instantly seized all the Puttuodars who were at my cutcherry and put into irons the two head men. In the span of a few hours proclamations were dispatched to all the Talooks with the information of what had happened. I stated to the inhabitants in necessary length the practices I had discovered. I warned them that the guilty, to the prejudice of themselves and heirs for ever, would forfeit their lands, and that their lives would be at your mercy. That the Dubeer's settlement, and the controul of the Puttuodars never would be restored, that the power (p 7042) of the Company would never change or pass away, that those who most improved the produce of the country would enjoy most and live happily, and that those who destroyed the produce of the country destroyed their own share of it, besides subjecting themselves to persecution and ruin.

14. I lost no time in securing the persons of all the Puttuodars. I dispatched people to superintend their cultivation; I engaged some additional Hircarrahs and distributed between the Talooks a small increase to my establishment of Mauvillars. I have enjoined particular observation of the lands of the rich, and by repeated orders, I have encouraged the exertions of the Tasildars. I have not only prescribed their attention to the conduct of the servants under them but insisted on their personally moving into every village under their authority. I have sent different Hircarrahs at different times into the same parts of the country. By these steps I am disposed to believe that the mischief had not time to spread, and from the daily intelligence brought in of the abundance of the water in the rivers, of the state of (p 7043) the growing crops on the Gar lands and of the continued extension of the cultivation of the Peshanum, I am led to hope for a prosperous year.

15. Should my mention in the proclamation of the abolition of the Peora Mooree not meet your approbation I can revoke it by your authority. I judged it my duty discretionarily to act in an hour of danger.

16. In my opinion, which I offer with deference, the best that can be said towards proving the Dubeer's settlement favourable to the people is that the accounts of it were furnished by them, and here is in the first place firm ground for assurance that it is in its origin injurious to the individual right of Government. In its consequence, namely, its liability to mutilation by the remissions of Laick Saul and Daunusha, it is far more so. In the next place it cannot be supposed that the assessment, acceded to in haste by the Nabob, and made up as the prey of a transient conquest, was at first, or is now, impartial towards (p 7044) all the landholders. I have a thorough persuasion that it is not. I found that persuasion on the report of several aged and apparently uninterested men of Tanjore, that one village produces double the Peora Mooree while the adjoining one under every advantage cannot yield three-fourths. I further found my persuasion on the express authority of several of the Puttuodars themselves who when closely questioned could not evade the confession that the lands of which they seem to have chosen the possession produced more than the Peora Mooree and those of other tenants considerably less. In fine I found my sentiments on the contest of two parties of whom one desires the settlement and the other the Amanie. The former is composed of the idle who have lived in riches by plundering the country, and the latter of the latter of the industrious who have starved in poverty by cultivating it.

17. Towards the people should the supposed inequality of the settlement be real (p 7045) or should it not, towards Government it must altogether be unfavourable. Of its injury to Government and of its benefit to the head landholders there cannot be a doubt. Its only remaining absolute recommendation then is the chance, against the testimonies I have stated, of its being favourable to the poor, and it has a comparative merit in the possibility that its deficiency of Government revenue may be less than the depredation of an Aumanie management.

18. If I am right in the belief that the settlement is an injury to the poor, all the paddy will continue to be bought up from them and monopolised by the rich to the cost of the whole country. And another consideration occurs that the poor by art and falsehood will make the suffering appear more than it is. Perpetual investigation of claims to remission will take place and end in the compliance of the circar, so that the favour of the settlement will quietly be enjoyed by the head (p 7046) landholders, and its severity will be rejected by the lower. The excess of actual produce above it and the deficiency below it, both, will be a loss to the Government, and a greater one in my opinion, far than any thing to be feared from a well regulated Aumanie management, so eligible besides for the success of investigation.

19. I cannot but apprehend that while the Dubeer's settlement has a name in the country that it will bear down what is now so much desired: a knowledge of the actual capacity of the soil which the depravity of the landholders compels me to distinguish from the actual produce. So long as this settlement lasts they will contrive to mould to it the result of every year's enquiry. They will destroy part to make the remainder equal to the reputed revenue. But when an Aumanie division is established for ever between them and Government or a permanent holder of an estate, they will see interest in (p 7047) a full and fair cultivation. No time can conquer their persevering and patient expectation of a revolution in their favour. They will believe that the native government of the Rajahs, and the control of the Puttuadars are to be restored, and continue to conduct themselves accordingly until the force of reality weighs heavily upon them, and until the efficacy of resolute reform clears away the last remains of this deceitful system.

20. It appears to me that this is the time for forming between Government and the proprietors of the soil the mode of management which is permanently to subsist between those proprietors and the holder of an estate and I think that among a people whom no engagement can bind and in whom education has fixed no moral quality to fit them for any agreement whatever, the evils of a rent are many and certain, and the evil of Aumanie is single and accidental. I will not repeat remarks on the preliminary sacrifice of revenue necessary to induce the people to engage in (p 7048) a rent and on the unconquerable irregularities, frauds and artifices by which they depart from the best arrangements, evade the most just stipulations, and claim and obtain the most unreasonable remissions, on the plea of losses exaggerated ten-fold to deceive the Bounty desirous of relieving them. But I will proceed to (the) remaining remark on the Aumanie system. This is liable to one abuse, the dishonesty of the circar servants, in which I think may be checked by good regulations and a well chosen establishment. It is liable to another, not inherent in itself but proceeding from the expectation of a rent or the renewal of an old settlement, viz., the suppression of the produce by the landholders or proprietors of the soil, and this can be effectually guarded against by a declaration that no rent or settlement will ever take place but that the crops will be for ever divided and that he who rears most will enjoy most.

21. I have on this subject so strong (p 7049) an opinion, that ~~dangerous~~ as it may be I cannot forbear uttering it. I believe it

had there, between Government and the proprietors of Nunjah land, never been a rent that there would have been no material oppression of the poor and no destruction of the produce on the part of the rich. And had the management always been Aumanie that all classes of cultivators would have found an interest in persevering labour. The actual capacity of the soil would have been discovered because no expected rent would have induced injury to it and because embezzlements of actual produce being variable and temporary would have been easily detected. But supposing that some loss might have happened from the plunder of the crops then growth would not have been suppressed, the face of the country would have been embellished, and scarcities and monopolies would have been rare.

22. If these sentiments do not accord to your Judgement and experience, and shared circumstances and the opinions of the several (p 7050) Gentlemen who have had authority in Tanjore induce to prefer the rented revenue, I beg leave to recommend the following measure which in any event I deem of use against the several evils stated in this address.

23. As the inequality of property including in its effects the monopoly of grain and the dreadful suppression of the produce, is to be attributed to the present extensive possessions of land, & these, in order that the natural state of the country be restored and preserved, should be reduced and limited.

24. A vayley of Land is 6- 27/36 acres. Some cultivators live on half a vayley, many on from five to ten vaylies, and those are thought to have a large possession who have fifteen or twenty. The rich landholders including the Puttuedars have from twenty to eighty, and the principal of the latter have encroached to the vast extent of one hundred and fifty, and two hundred vaylies. (p7051)

25. That no inhabitant by the monopoly of a market be able to starve a district or by the overgrowth of his lands be in a capacity to afford the suppression of any part of his cultivation, that all the people may in due proportion enjoy under the new system a share in the blessings of a fruitful soil, and that from this equal labour Government may derive a full revenue, I think that the utmost extent to be held by a single proprietor of land under Government or the purchaser of the Government right, might be fixed at thirty vaylies, equal to two hundred and two acres and a half.

26. There will be difficulties in the way of such a reform, but the difficulties will be surmountable and the reform will be radical. The poor may not have means to purchase immediately but the more substantial may, and the bulk of property when it once begins to move will soon descend further and at last be brought to circulate through the whole body of the people. The limitation of the estates to be held by a purchaser of the (p 7052) circular right in the soil may be a subject of after consideration.

27. That the natives of India, should not be allowed to acquire any superiority that can be avoided over one another but that property should be kept as nearly as possible balanced between them, there cannot I think be a more striking proof any where than in Tanjore. The Puttuedars in their astonishing influence have, not only plundered the Government and all the under-tenantry, but have drawn to themselves the fortunes of many private families. Having borrowed large sums without intending repayment, they are at once rich and loaded with debt. A high interest I believe was the inducement of those who have put out their money and could not perhaps be censured when under the Mahratta Government recovery was precarious. But as your orders to me restricting the interest of all bonds and notes to 12 per cent (to) secure the borrower from usury, it will I conceive be your desire (p 7053) equally to protect the lender from heavy losses such as have hitherto

hitherto prevailed. Several natives are now at my cutcherree waiting anxiously the success of their applications. On account of the amount, reasonable as the demands are, I do not consider myself at liberty to attend to them without your sanction, which that you be pleased to pass I beg leave to recommend thinking it will exhibit, as I shall proceed to show, equally the bounty, severity, and policy of justice.

28. I have reason to believe, from the past duration of the controul of the Puttuccars and from their practice, observable in all other natives however rich of borrowing, that the sums due by them exceed the value of their lands and I think, from their extreme avarice which will not allow them to take from their hoard what they have once deposited in it, that they will rather part with their lands than their money. In this case their cultivation might be taken possession of, (p 7054) their creditors might revive from expected ruin, their crimes would be punished, and their evil burden on the country might at once be raised and borne away, with perfect safety & because the influence by which they used to draw off into emigration the inhabitants of whole districts, is at an end. Their connexion is completely broken and what they suffer will be suffered by them only. I have them now in confinement, and this example which will make a lasting impression on the public mind, may be immediate. If they afterwards depart from the country, they will go alone carrying away every vestige of a vicious and unprecedented power, and leaving un molested and uncounteracted the operation of the Company's Government.

Nanargoody
3rd August 1800

I have the honour of being Gentlemen
Your most obedient and humble servant
Charles Harris, collector.

36.9

Madras Board of Revenue on Tanjore Affairs: Minute: 14.8.1800

Agreed to inform Mr Harris that the Board approve the measure to which he has been under the necessity of resorting to break thre the monopoly of grain established by the late Puttudars, as it appears to have been a measure of immediate necessity for the relief of the suffering inhabitants.

The prevention of direct monopoly is the duty of a collector but the Board think it very desirable to avoid as much as possible interference with the markets and price of grain which ought /the in general to be left to find its own value especially in times of actual scarcity when attempts to limit the price have been productive of the most distressing consequences, not only by enabling the people to purchase more than positive necessity requires thereby sooner consuming the stocks in hand but also by discouraging importation; individuals will make extraordinary efforts to procure supplies in proportion only as they see a prospect of extraordinary profit and that can only be realized from a certainty (p 7056) of a free market. The evil happily comes with its own remedy, for exertion thus stimulated almost invariably produces the required relief.

The Board highly approve the vigilance and ability exerted by the collector at the opening of the cultivation and the energy of his measures on discovering the combinations to frustrate the success of the arrangements adopted by him for executing the orders of Government with a view to a permanent settlement of the country. The power so long exercised by the Puttudars with uncontrollable sway it was to be expected they would reluctantly part with; open resistance they knew to be fruitless and therefore trusted to the more secure and secret means of wilful deterioration and counteraction. In this the Board are happy to observe they have been completely failed and the the remedy was severe they are convinced of the policy and necessity of the object intended by it and that the ultimate happiness of the people and future prosperity of (p 7057) the country depends on the entire annihilation of the Puttudars' influence and the firm establishment of the authority of Government.

The arguments urged by the collector to prove the injustice of the Peora Mooree, to the greater portion of the inhabitants and to the state, are perfectly satisfactory, and the crisis at which affairs had arrived called for prompt decision. The Board therefore approve Mr Harris's proclamation annulling the Dubeer's settlement and declaring it and the control of the Puttudars abolished for ever.

In all measures of great importance to the people and the Government the collector is no doubt aware of the superior efficacy of orders promulgated with the previous sanction of that power which alone can give them permanency. And the in the present instance delay would have been injurious to both, the Board recommend that in all practicable cases the collector wait their orders before finally adopting and publishing any measure affecting the (p 7058) general interests.

The evils which the collector states to have resulted to the poorer classes of inhabitants, and to the interests of the circar, by the inequality of property and the extensive tracts of land engrossed by the rich landholders including the Puttudars, the Board must ascribe to the defects of the former Government. To establish a limit to the extent of landed property which a man shall enjoy, would be to strike at the root of industry which is uniformly impelled by the hope of accumulation and to offer to land such a value as to make it the most desirable property to the holder is the fundamental principle of the system the

Board have in view thereby to give a spur to agriculture and the general prosperity of the country. But this would be delusive without regulations for the protection of property when acquired and courts of justice to administer and enforce the law will in due time be established and prevent those irregularities and individual oppressions that have been heretofore grown out of the system of the Government of Tanjore. (p 7059)

In regard to the ryots and subordinate tenantry they hold the right of cultivation of certain spots of land, under the express obligation of cultivating to the extent of their power and rendering to the state its share of the produce. A failure in these either from perverseness, intrigue or fraud subjects the holder to forfeiture of his privilege and the sircar or proprietor is authorised to call in Payakarries to cultivate such neglected lands or to make them over to another. Without such inherent right in the Government the country might in time become in great measure waste, by the very mode pointed out by the collector.

This right, more properly privilege of cultivation is transferred and sold; but invariably under the acknowledged obligations to Government; the sirkar alone having the power to make a positive sale of the soil and its whole produce; but it is equally understood as an obligation binding on the sirkar that so long as an husbandman cultivates fairly and gives to the sirkar (p 7060) its just share of the produce, he is to be protected in the enjoyment of his land.

The lands possessed by the great landholders and the Puttuodars of Tanjore, and which they have progressively purchased from the ryots, are expressly subject to this obligation. If from misfortune, mismanagement or other causes a landholder cannot or will not cultivate the whole extent himself, he has it in his power to sell the privilege he paid for to another, or he may call in Payacaries to cultivate for him still retaining the lands. If he obstinately persist in doing neither the sirkar must exercise its unquestionable right and give the lands to others but of course not however before the holder has been formally and explicitly warned of the consequence of perseverance in his perverse conduct. This power sufficiently guards the interests of the sirkar, and those of individuals so long as they act honestly and when exercised with discretion it will correct the evils which would (p 7061) otherwise result from extended possession of land in the hands of profligate or dishonest cultivators.

As to the debts due by the Puttuodars to the inhabitants whose property they withhold the courts of justice when established, and the collector till they are established, must take cognisance of them agreeably to the rules laid down in the general regulations for the conduct of collectors and when these debts are proved against the parties they must be called upon to pay them which of course they will be allowed to do in the manner most advantageous to themselves. But if after due warning they decline to render satisfaction on the decree their property whether in land or otherwise, must be attached and advertised for sale and if not redeemed by the payment of the debt within one month from the date of the advertisement, the property must be sold.

30.10

Government to Board of Revenue on Tanjore: 27.12.1800

To

William Petrie Esq, President And Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

1. We have your letter of the 15th ultime with the extracts from your proceedings on the several reports from the collector at Tanjour.
2. The collector has fully exposed the weakness of the late Government of Tanjour, and demonstrated the incapacity of it either to support its authority trampled on by the Puttudars or to secure the revenue from their powerful combinations. The abolition of the Puttucum system so injurious to the welfare of the body of the people having been succeeded by the complete establishment of the Company's Government Mr Harris has very judiciously turned his attention to the produce of the country, and the division of that produce between the Government and the cultivator. Having ascertained that the scale of division fluctuated and varied from (p 3319) 40 per cent, the lowest to 60 percent, the highest, that Gentleman has recommended and your Board have seconded his recommendation that a general and uniform reduction to 40 per cent should take place in the low Puttucum lands to 45 per cent in the higher districts of Ayancaunumbolam, and Chatypollam; to 50 in the nine Nauds, and to 55 in the Putticotah district.
3. General rules may sometimes from partial operation produce inconvenience and even injustice and although a general average Warum in the districts above enumerated may be very desirable in point of order and regularity yet it would have been more satisfactory to us, to have seen at greater length the reasons of the collector in favour of this general average, and to have had it explained more fully, whether the excess of Warum enjoyed by the inhabitants of Tanjour had been wholly derived from surreptitious assumptions and the bigotted prejudices of the native Governments to perpetuate this memory by concessions to particular sects; or from a consideration as (p 3320) in other countries to the abundance or sterility of the soil, and facility or difficulty of irrigation. Our knowledge of the uniform fertility of the lands in Tanjour may lead us to \pm an assurance that either of the two first causes or both may be the origin of the high Warum which has prevailed. Yet we are also informed that the soil of villages contiguous to each other, and even the lands of the same village very frequently in their productive powers to such an extent as to render necessary a higher Warum to induce the cultivation of the less prolific.
4. We have great confidence that the collector has not been inattentive to this variation in soil and situation, and we observe with satisfaction the able explanation which the collector has given of the rate of division of the produce between Government and the inhabitants, of the deduction from the share of the latter in kind, and of the vexatious exactions in money from the same share under the denomination of Chillary Godeotah and Cajenna Tagree; his recommendation that these items should be abolished is (p 3321) a proof of his consideration for the comfort of the ryots as his proposed arrangements demonstrate his attention to the interest of the Government. We therefore authorise the rates of Warum recommended by you for the current year in the course of which the collector advertising to our suggestion will be able to ascertain the adequacy or the inadequacy of the general rates of division he has proposed in all situations.

IOR-P/275/44: Madras Revenue Consultations

5. This principle and as the deductions out of the gross produce on account of pagodas and Bramins Muniums and Cavilgars Yaralu appear to have been under than exceeded 1 per cent of the gross produce, we authorise the collector to establish that rate of deduction on the above accounts; the inferior sub-divisions will ofcourse be made in the proportion that the former rates bear to the present.

6. The Betuntarums to artificers for the same reasons we desire may be deducted at the same uniform rate of one per cent, and fully concurring in the reasoning of the collector and your recommendation (p 3322) we authorise the entire abolition of the Betuntarums to Government.

7. The deductions from the gross produce being thus simplified and finally settled at 2 per cent leaves 98 per cent divisible between the Government and the ryot in the proportion in the Puttucum lands of 60 per cent and of 40 per cent to the latter undiminished by any exaction whatever under the denomination of Chillary Goodutul and Cajenna Tagreer, the abolition of which we direct may be formally proclaimed.

8. The rules proposed by the collector for regulating the demand of Government on the Punjah lands appear to have been framed with judgement and moderation, and though Mr Harris has not stated what the scale of division on the Punjah land has hitherto been we are of opinion that the proportions assigned to the inhabitants of 55 per cent is ample, provided that variation in soil and situation which is to be found in other (p 3323) provinces does not exist in Tanjour. The rates recommended for the assessment of Shotrium land, on the Reccaguttayy, on the beetle gardens, and on garden productions appear equitable. We accordingly authorise their being established and we confirm the abolition of the numerous oppressive and undefined taxes enumerated by the collector to have been collected and classed under the head of Seinaudeuyan.

9. We approve under the explanation you have afforded, your having sanctioned the measure adopted by the collector in a moment of danger firmly to establish the authority of Government and to discourage the hopes of the Puttudars, that their authority might yet be re-established by a combination and uniform counteraction of the collector's measures. We accordingly confirm the abolition of the Peoree Hooree settlement which having operated partially was in many instances unjust, and declare the abrogation of the Yauksaul and Daumasha tenures, indulgences which the collector has satisfactorily demonstrated (p 3324) have been perverted from their original intention to gross abuse.

10. We highly approve of the proposed arrangement for the security of a defined extent of backyard to all classes of inhabitants, the issue of regular sunnuds appears a measure likely to ensure the poor equally from the oppression of the rich, and from the imposition of the circar servants. We desire therefore that it may be carried into immediate execution.

11. We are led to entertain the most sanguine hopes from the defined rates of assessment now regulated. The uniformity introduced in the weights and measures, and in the measurement of the land and this from the many able arrangements which have from time to time been submitted by the collector for the better government of the Tanjour country, that a system of order and good government will take place of undefined exaction on the one part and evasion, concealment, and fraud on the other which will pave the way to an easy and early introduction of the permanent system of revenue and judicature.

12. (p 3325) We have perused with attention Mr Harris's arguments in favor of an Aumanie management compared with a system of large rents, and although it has been an established principle, to resist the introduction of this mode of management from an acknowledged preference due at all times to a village settlement (formed either upon an examination of documents where they exist, or in default of them upon an estimate of the produce) yet as this recommendation of the collector does not proceed from an ignorance of the abuses to which this mode of management is liable but from an avowed desire to obtain a thorough knowledge of the real value of the country, and the conviction that it cannot otherwise be procured as well as confidence in himself to resist collusion, we authorise him to undertake it relying on his vigilance and energy to secure from fraud and peculation the revenue of Government.

13. We trust that the introduction of the permanent system of revenue and judicature will eradicate most of the malpractices and frauds (p 3326) which owing to the demand of Government being unlimited have hitherto proved the means of enabling the inhabitants to meet that demand. It is to be hoped that as the share they are to render to Government is now fixed and will be secured to them on the utmost extent of their cultivation, they will have no inducement to suppress the amount of it or to diminish the produce by the artifices which the collector has described. As no hope of rent is held out & either to the Puttudar or inhabitant no prospect of advantage is apparent to the latter from the concealment of the real cultivation and produce, except by practices of gross collusion between these people and the circur servants which we must look to the vigilance of the collector to prevent. The chain of connexion is entirely broken between the Puttudar and ryot, and their interests are separated. The latter may now be expected to decline listening to advice which if followed would be to his own injury. We are therefore sanguine in our expectations that the continued exertion of the collector's vigilance (p 3327) and energy with the immediate application of such local remedies as particular circumstances may render necessary, will enable us in the course of a short period of time, to lay the foundations of the permanent government of Tanjour.

14. We are well pleased to observe the favorable prospect of increased resources this year which the province of Tanjour holds out in an extended cultivation already secured by an impartial distribution of Waricoum in the repairs of the banks of the rivers and the assurances which the collector has given to the cultivator of a full enjoyment of the produce of his labor,

15. We observe that the collector has formed some erroneous conceptions on, and has not fully understood the principles of the new system about to be introduced. The explanations offered to him by your minutes will correct his ideas on these points. We shall not therefore notice them here, but desire that our approbation of the zeal and ability which the collector has shewn by the able arrangements now before us, may be communicated (p 3328) to that Gentleman.

Fort St George
27th December 1800

We are as
Oliver & council.

B.O.11

Collector Tanjore to Board of Revenue: 27.12.1800

Read the following letter from the collector of Tanjore.

To
William Petrie Esq President and Members of the Board of Revenue
Gentlemen,

1. I enclose draft No 1 and 2 of orders I propose issuing in Tanjore but which appear to me to require your previous sanction.

2. The first has for an object the production of timber and an increase of articles of consumption useful to the inhabitants; although Tanjore abounds with gardens, they are alienations and the owners, even for a high price will not of their own accord relieve the exigence of the circar, however pressingly felt in the season of Marumut and of other useful works. In almost every village there are spots of high waste land which, whether the service of Government or the comfort of the lower classes be considered, cannot be brought to produce any thing so truly valuable as wood. In the paper containing the proposed order, I have stated the fees which (p 172) I think most wanted and have noted down under a head of remarks the uses to which they are applied. The largest part of the expected benefit will not be felt for six, eight or ten years but much may be derived immediately from the strength that will be given by plantations to the banks not only of the rivers but of the paddy fields. You will observe that the new plantations will be considered as belonging to the circar, altho' almost the entire benefit will fall to the people equally of the higher and lower classes. Among the trees mentioned the ceceo will cause a small expence to Government, the others will be of none. The immediate freedom from tax of dry grain and vegetables produced among the topes will be to the inhabitants an inducement to the small labour of planting, if the prospect of future good however essential should not. I am of opinion that a moderate degree of attention in the Tasildars to the laying out of tracts of high land unfit for regular cultivation and hitherto unused in these taluks would bring forth materials and a revenue together sufficient to cover the large annual expence (p 173) of Marumut, and timber, fruits, and medicines conducive to the welfare and convenience of the people. I take the liberty of recommending to you this object attainable as it is without an injury or sacrifice of any kind. It has been neglected by the inhabitants because they have never had their attention directed and encouraged towards it.

3. The order No 2 is intended to suppress the licentious demands of the Sirkar servants on the property and labour of the inhabitants. The servants of the head cutcherri and those of the district and village establishments will exercise, and the people will submit to any power sanctioned by ancient practice, and though this inveterate attachment to custom the circar servants instead of purchasing the articles and hiring coolies /the they require on just prices in the principal towns where they reside, send into distant villages for provisions and for men, and are furnished with both by the proprietors of the villages who the they receive no equivalent and sometimes have their houses plundered of every article and their fields at the most busy times deprived of every hand, never think of asking indemnification or of uttering a complaint. The mischief is felt not only by the Government and the proprietor in a diminution of the revenues but by the labourers, who are (p 174) paid for their journey neither by their masters nor by those to whom they are sent, and these men are not common coolies but Perageodics (called at Madras Poycarrahs) who being owners of the ploughs and bearing the whole of expence and labour of cultivation, actually uphold the agriculture of the country. For the security

of the country against the circar's servants, I think the office of Haut Conicoply who is always on the side of the inhabitants, may be made highly important by placing it in an avowed opposition to that of the Tasildar and by distinguishing the holder with a Government ewicle and an annual gift if he be faithful to his trust. There are Haut Conicopies in all the villages, and if according to the order which I submit to you, they send in monthly an account of every article (paid for or not) which is issued from the villages to the circar servants, and I have permission to provide for payment the evil I think will be remedied. The most desirable result of this reform will be a fair return to the extra labour of the Parageodies whose condition I trust will soon be healed from the wounds inflicted during the Mahratta (p 175) management by the united cruelties of the neerassdars and circar servants. The two orders require no other mention except a request of your authority to circulate the.. Another circumstance however affecting the Parageodies appears to me worthy of your attention.

4. There are in Tanjore very few men of the description of common coolies so that the toil belonging to the lot of these people is thrown on the Parageodies. They are of the Malabar and Chiliar casts, born on the spot, and experiencing the least indulgence would remain to die there too; but they suffer many severities which require your correction. The means I have proposed will I trust secure them against being drawn from their important labour at the plough to perform the most menial services as exacted by every petty circar servant. But there is a duty heavier than all charged upon them by the Government itself. It is they who at periods of festivals are summoned to drag the religious coaches round the principal towns of Tanjore and in a number double to that which is necessary. There is a palace record which for this service assesses the different districts with a certain number but which with the characteristic partiality and impolicy of every other old (p 176) Mahratta regulation exempted entirely by ewicle some villages and leaves others in these times of ceremony wholly deserted.

5. The Parageodies thus drawn away to the injury of the public and the private interest are never paid at all by the church managers who require them, and seldom and scantly by the neerassdars who with reason evade as much as possible an expence which ought to be defrayed by the extensive grants in land and money bestowed on the church, but enjoyed by the superintending Bramins who receive the revenue and by apportioning the largest part of it, suppress many of the festivals of the country/in /and order to supply the rest, burden the church with debt.

6. I cannot but propose that I be permitted to make immediately a new regulation limiting the demand of Parageodies to the number really necessary for the coach ceremonies, that they be summoned equally from all the villages so as to injure none, that they be allowed out of the mohins of the pageda that requires them half a gold (p 177) fanam each for every day of their absence from home, and that the amount be accordingly deducted and paid by me in the name of Government, as the measure will not oppose but favour the religion and original usages of the country and be popular even among the Bramins, I recommend it with confidence to your adoption.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen
 Combaconan Your obedient and humble servant
 27th December 1800 Charles Harris, collector.

Note The first draft on plantations is on pp 177-80, and the second on Parageodies etc on pp 181-3. The Board's reply dated 9.1.1801 is on pp 192-4. The Board approve of all the measures except that relating to ewicle, gift etc to Haut Conicopies. Board Minute precedes the reply on pp 183-5. The letter is entered on proceedings of 2.1.1801.

30.12

Collector Tanjore on Distribution of Crops in Tanjore: 8.1.1801

Read the following letter from the collector of Tanjore.

To
William Petrie Esq, President and to the Members of the Board
Revenue, Fort St George

Gentlemen

1. I transmit the diary of Tanjore (p 485) for November during which month the principal part of the harvest and division of the cudadah and car crops took place.
2. The order issued by me on the 5th of November requires some remarks. It relates to the grain allowances out of the actual produce made to the men who reap and thresh, to the women who transplant and go through other labour of the year, to the district cowgar, and to the village conicoply, washermen and barber.
3. In Tanjore these allowances have the general denomination of Coelysetuntarums. Being enjoyed as daily wages by the lowest of the inhabitants who cannot wait for the grand division they are issued on the threshing floor during the measurement of every day's work. A set of labourers bring in the heap of gross produce which they have reaped and threshed during the day. After 100 cullums are measured off from it the Coelysetuntarums at a certain rate on that 100 cullums are (p 486) taken from the remainder. This process continues until the heap is exhausted. The coelysetuntarums are immediately carried away by the parties entitled to them, and the public grain is stacked as so much gross produce realised that day. When the harvest of a village is complete the quantity thus stacked, the clear of the coelysetuntarums is regarded as the gross produce, and sent as such to the cutcheree in an account which is immediately recorded as exhibiting the actual produce of the land.
4. The produce of which in my letter of the 23rd of June I described the old and proposed a new division was clear of the coelysetuntarums. Adhering consequently to this usage of Tanjore which I believe prevails in the Jaghire and other districts, I sent to the tasildars a form for the division of the crops as it is marked down in my proceedings of the 5th of November. It directs the Coelysetuntarums to be separated from the gross produce to be divided into the grain mānūms, /and the gross produce (p 487) the Coodywaurum and Mailwaurum according to the new due form I recommended to you on the 23rd of June.
5. During the late Government when the proprietors of the land paid a fixed produce the coelysetuntarums were very inequally made. Some villages enjoyed exorbitant rates, others low ones and so unsettled was the principle which prescribed them that no account of it to be depended upon and to be of use, can be obtained: The coelysetuntarums on the punjab crops appearing to me to require less time for inquiring I began an examination of those which were allowed last year, but a statement of them in a very inconsiderable portion of the country filled a section, and I abandoned the attempt on considering that the province having been under two hundred and forty six independent Puttuadars almost every part of it had had its peculiar customs and that a just equality in the profit of that labour which is the source of the revenue was essential to the (p 488) public good besides being indispensable to the single and general management of the Company now established for the first time in Tanjore.
6. On judging of the duties of the several men composing the village establishment, I fixed the coelysetuntarums of each. You will perceive that the amount is 7 cullums 2 marcalls on

100 cullums of gross munjah and 9 cullums 3 marcalls on 100 cullums of gross punjah. It was my desire previously to propose these rates to you but I had not formed them in my own opinion before the cuddapah and car harvest came on and then it was necessary to issue them as the pay of daily labour, which could not be delayed. Yet I think on comparing them with those of other districts, they will appear to you reasonable and have your sanction, which I request for the approaching sunbau and peshawnum crops. Variable and unequal as they were I consider the defining of them to one general standard acceptable to the body of the people a great point gained, (p 489) and being the result of some discussion with the inhabitants, I recommend them to you as just.

I have the honour of being, Gentlemen,
 Your most obedient humble servant
 Combaconum Charles Harris
 8th January 1801 Collector Tanjore.

Extract from Tanjore Diary for the month of November

5th Sent the following order No 2.

To All the Tassildars of Tanjore on summanie account showing how you are to (divide) the munjah and punjah crops is hereunder stated.

NUNJAH

The actual Munjah produce measured is supposed to be	cullum m m
	2,000-00-00
Your account is not to contain this total according to custom; before you send your account to the cutcheree you are authorised to make during the following allowances which having been before undefined (p 490) are now fixed. G. N.	
Cooly hire at	4- 2 per 100cullums
Calavuddy to women sweepers	
and planters	2- 0 "
Maray to the Cawlgar	0- 8 "
Pechay to the Taliar	0- 2 "
Pechay to the Coniceply	0- 1 "
Pechay to the Washerman and barber	0- 1 "
TOTAL	7- 2 per 100 cullums 143- 4-00

REMAINDER to be brought in the account of the cutcheree as the gross produce 1,856- 8-00

The following allowances out of it are likewise to be stated in the account of the cutcheree:

Deduct Kevil Mauniums, Bramin Mauniums and Cawlgars yaralee at 1 cullum per cent	18- 6
Deduct Setuntarums to the carpenter, smiths, measurers at 1 per cent	18- 6 <u>37- 14-00</u>

(p 491) Neat Produce	1,819- 6 <u>1</u> -00
Deduct Coodeewaurum 40%	727- 9 <u>1</u> -00
MAILwaurum	1,091- 8 <u>2</u> -00

PUNJAH

The actual produce measured is supposed to be 200-00-00

From this as from the munjah produce before sending your account to the cutcheree, you are authorised to make the following fixed allowances:

Cooly hire at	6- 3 per 100cullums
Calavuddy to women sweepers	
and planters	2- 0 "
Maray to the Cawlgars	0- 8 "
Pichay to the Taliar	0- 2 "
Pichay to the Coniceply	0- 1 "

37

	9- 32	200-00-00
	(from previous page)	
Pichay to the washerman and barber	0- 1 per 100 cullums	
to be divided equally		
TOTAL	9- 3 per 100 c	18- 6-00

REMAINDER to be brought into the account of the cucherees as gross produce	181- 6-00
<u>Deduct</u> (p 492) Coodehowarum at 55 per cent	99- 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ -0
MAILwaarum	81- 8$\frac{1}{2}$-0

Not a grain more, nor a grain less than the before stated allowance is to be made and no other person than the before mentioned are to enjoy them. Each is to have, fully, his fixed proportion, according to this rule from which you are to beware of any deviation.

You are immediately to make the division of the crops that the inhabitants may be enabled to enjoy their just share and that the whole cuddapah harvest may be cleared away from the villages and brought to market before the reaping of the ear.

(Minute of Board of Revenue) thereon:

The Board approve the standard proposed by Mr Harris for Cooleysetuntarums on the punjab crops 9 cullums 3 marcalls on 100 cullums of gross produce, and 7 cullums and 2 marcalls on (100) cullums of gross punjab produce as also of the division which they confirm. AGREED to direct the collector to publish his regulations for general (p 493) information throughout the Tanjore province the Board coinciding with him that one general standard for the purpose will be beneficial and acceptable to the inhabitants.

30.13

Collector Tanjore to Board of Revenue: 1.5.1801

Read the following letter from the collector at Tanjore.

To
William Petrie Esq, President and Members of the Board of Revenue
Gentlemen,

1. I have the honour of transmitting to you my diary of last month; my proceedings on the 1st require remark, because a change is produced in my moyenzabitah. The difference being in the servants, and not in the pay, did not appear to me to require your previous sanction.

2. (p 384) The demand on the inhabitants of Brettia urged by the Hircarrahs according to long and established custom, whenever sent from the cutcherry on duty; I have used, since the beginning of my management, every endeavour to repress; though I was unable to abolish it, because the fixed pay to these servants, owing to (the) their numbers, could not be increased; and because, according to the usual appreciation of the services of this class of men, it was not sufficient. I found however, that the admission of the smallest demand, opened a way to the greatest; that the Hircarrahs accustomed to practice every kind of injustice, could not be (p 385) restrained; and that the inhabitants both accustomed to it, and interested in bearing it neither could nor would be taught. I experienced that to this authorized(?) claim of the Hircarrahs, not only the property of the people, but the revenue of Government fell a frequent sacrifice.

3. The regulation I made, and which is recorded on the 10th day of my diary, of March 1800, was that any one of Hircarrahs dispatched by the circar to an inhabitant, should receive a gold fanam daily, as long as he remained; but the person to whom they were sent, has not alone suffered. Every village, through which they have passed, has felt the burden of their visit. Their avarice excitedly the practice of making such collection at length (p 386) stimulated them to treachery. Hardly a trust, which I was compelled for Government to place in them, went unbetrayed. The inhabitants in their idea, perhaps, gained merely the convenience of the Hircarrahs in frauds against the circar, than they lost by extortion; and therefore did not complain. The detections made by the active part of my establishment confirm this supreme opinion, and convince me that a district though under evils, affecting both Government and the people, may wear a destructive veil of contentment, and be pervaded (?) by a pernicious tranquility I have found that the inhabitants suffering a trifling injury to their persons will (p 387) make the loudest representations, but that, when through a breach of the regulations established for the security of the public revenue, they are deprived of a large part of their annual income, they will remain silent. They are ready enough to expose the frauds of the circar servants, when they can conceal their own; but they carefully extinguish every light by which we can see at once their sufferings and their vices; both, however difficult to conquer, it is to be believed, will give way to a continued operation of a just Government.

4. The Mahaldars, whom I have substituted, are in number the same as the Hircarrahs: they are of the Malabar, Rajahpeet and Centee castes, and therefore preferable to the Brahmin Hircarrahs, for duty with (p 388) Brahmin inhabitants. They have engaged for monthly allowance each of one SPageda wages, and half a SPageda batta, the whole being equal to the fixed pay entered in the moyenzabitah, of the Hircarrahs. I have laid the strongest injunctions on them against demanding or receiving, and enforced a general prohibition of offering or paying to them batta (tax) muzer or any article whatever beyond the Company's revenue.

IOR: Board's Collections 115 (No 2136) PP 383-93. No Minute etc.

5. Sibbendy sepoys, during the late Government, were often sent into the villages, and on those occasions also levied on the people. The sibbendy batta likewise in the (p 389) regulation, dated the 10th March 1800, I limited to half a gold fanam per diem; but this custom of in regard both to the receipts of batta and to the employment of sepoys at all in the affairs of the cultivation, I have since abolished. A naig and twelve sibbendies/established at each taluk cutcherry for the /are security of the office, and to guard, not collect the revenue. There is no batta tax now, but you may be satisfied in informing you.

6. The claim of batta is now, I have the satisfaction of informing you, extinct with all the servants of Government, except the Mauviliars or Nahtadies; most of these are employed in the villages to superintend and hasten the labours of the year. They receive beyond their fixed pay, not being ever excepted during the harvest, when they enjoy their Hunjanman (?). These (p 390) Mauviliars who attend at the district cutcherries alone, receive batta, when sent into the villages. Each man, as according to my regulation of the 10th March 1800, has either half a gold fanam or the value of it in paddy per diem. This allowance of half a fanam, if his business relate to one inhabitant, is paid by that individual; if to whole villages, it is contributed to by all the inhabitants, who desire the bazar-man to pay it.

7. I do not think the continuance of this demand hurtful, if it can be kept as it is. The only danger I am disposed to apprehend from its existence is, the abuse of it. Therefore you may perhaps judge (p 391) proper to strike it off, and thus at once to establish in the public mind, that no circular servant is to presume to urge on the people on his own account, any demand whatever.

8. If the above opinion accords to your experience, and to your regulations for other districts, the Tassildars may themselves pay the Mauviliars they depute, and make the charge public. They now furnish my office with a monthly account of their village expences set off against the Nautesellavee of 4 gold fanams on 100 cullums collected from the inhabitants. In these expences I recommend that you permit them to include the batta of the Mauviliars. Should it raise the disbursement beyond the receipts of the Nautesellaves, the balance (p 392) can be paid by the inhabitants on my demand alone. They will then at all events be effectually secured against every private claim whatever. If there be any excess of expences in the villages, they will pay it with exactness, and if there be not, they will pay nothing.

9. My Assistants have been so fully occupied as to be unable to keep up the detailed diaries. In this idea that my general proceedings as far as yesterday may give you sufficient information of the past, I have ventured in the hope of your approbation to request them to desist from bestowing their time on the arrears to that period. (p 393) From this day the state of the country will admit, I trust of uninterrupted regularity.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen
 Combacorum Your obedient humble servant
 1 May 1801 Charles Harris, collector.

NOTE: pages 395-407 of this volume contain a letter on Marumut (dated 11.5.1801) with Board's ~~recommendation~~ decision to refer to Govt for sanction on p 408; pp 417-36 is concerned with a settlement of 400 persons at Puttacottah, B.M p. 436-7; pp 451-56 with Tuccavi (7.6.1801), with BM on p 458 and letter to Govt on 459-60.

Bo.14

40

Collector Tanjore, G.Harris, to Board of Revenue: 4.8.1801
(Extract)

5. In my report on the Cuddapah (p 9506) and Carr, I described the deficiency in the allowance of the Cowlgars, the poor condition of the Talairs and the steps I recommended for their relief. By the introduction of the Company's authority, they are deprived of the means of plunder, their usual resource and I found that an immediate extension of their former slender subsistence is essential to good order as well as conformable with the anxiety of Government for the welfare of all the classes of the people. Effectual precautions are taken to secure to the Talairs independently of the Cowlgars the full enjoyment of the allowance temporarily made them until (?) your resolution be formed on the plan I have submitted. In the pressing necessity there was for relief to the Cowlgar (?) Establishment I trust I shall be excused in issuing it in confidence of your sanction.

6. The Sumbaw and Peshauum Nunjah lands cultivated in Fuslee 1210 in the five seobahs of Tanjore you will perceive yielded the following produce.

	Gross Mer M
Gross Produce of Paddy	64,420-93-7
Circar Share	36,892-164-2 (p 9507)

Paras 17-24 of letter dated 12.3

7. For my sentiments and recommendations concerning the Punjab lands, I beg leave to refer you to my Cuddapah and Carr report. The dry grain entered in the Cuddapah and Carr statement is the produce between the 12th of July and the 31st of December 1800. The dry grain entered in the enclosed Sumbaw and Peshauum statement is the produce between the 31st of December 1800 and the 12th of July 1801.

Gross Produce of Dry Grain	3,4600 40- 6
Circar Share	1,390-134- 2

Paras 25-32 of letter dated 12.3

8. My letter of the 12th of March described the bad effects of a similarity of cast between the circar servants and inhabitants. The Tasildars I know have been able well to select, but in my attempts to procure foreign Nenigars of the Malabar cast I have been entirely unsuccessful, owing I believe to the aversion of the natives to leave their places of birth. I shall still continue my endeavours for the attainment of this object, which I think of great importance. For without servants of the Malabar cast and of characters as respectable as can be found, it will be impossible to introduce into (p 9508) Tanjour the useful appointment of Grama Gurnums according to the orders of the Board of Revenue dated the 28th December 1799. These officers so indispensable to the defining and security of public and private property, will be particularly useful in Tanjour where before the establishment of the Company's authority disorder was so prevalent.

IGR:P/286/66: Proceedings 13.8.1801: pp 9504-33; No enclosures; Board Minute: 9533-4. Another letter from Tanjour dated 18.8.1801 is on 9588-9, large statement of produce 9890 in proceedings 24.8.1801.

G. Harris, Collector Tanjore to Board of Revenue: 4.8.1801
(Extract)

16. During the first year of the Aumanie management and the Company's (p 9513) undivided authority loss must have also arisen from the yet uncorrected practices of the head tenants universally allowed to be more depraved than those of other provinces and whose inveterate principle it is in the idea of a future rent to counteract every effort after a knowledge of the true value of the lands . I do not believe that all the proclamations hitherto issued have yet convinced them that the Company's authority is permanent and altho they enjoy the advantages of justice they adhere as closely as before to their system of fraud with a view not only to prevent undue profit but to a future reservation in case of a rent. This is the ground of the opinion I have given in former letters, that however desirable a rent may be others who have activity and goodwill to bring forth the full produce of the soil, the crops ought to be always divided with the inhabitants owning the land and who in the expectation of a rent will do their utmost to suppress, destroy and plunder the produce in every previous year of Aumanie trial. The troubles, anxieties and delays that have been caused by the Tanjore landholders, practice only can make known and their stubborn opposition (p 9514) through a perverse and malicious policy even to plans evidently for their own good, makes every act of justice towards them spring not from benevolence but a sense of duty.

IOR: P/286/66: Pro 13.8.1801: Pp 9504-33: BM 9533-4: Postpone decision. Paras 17-20 are on another sheet and deal with the punishments awarded by G.Harris to Tasildars, Monigars, village people etc.

30.15

G.Harris, collector Tanjore to Board of Revenue: 4.8.1801
(Extract)

(p 9514) through a perverse and malicious policy even to plans evidently for their own good, makes every act of justice towards them spring not from benevolence but a sense of duty.

17. The enclosures No 4,5, and 6 received from Messieurs Wallace, Irvin and Pewny are statements of the thefts on the circar produce committed by the landholders and are so completely drawn out as to need no description. The quantities stolen have been recovered and inserted in the circar accounts. It will be seen that the Tasildars with only two exceptions were every where unconcerned and that the Monigars with only one exception were every where accessory to these disorders. The papers alluded to powerfully prove the bad effects of their similarity of cast with the landholders and the expediency of placing if possible foreigners in their stead.

18. All the Monigars and the two Tasildars have suffered a publickly corporal punishment. The Monigars I have released but the two Tasildars who I thought might have committed other mischief are in confinement. The landholders I allowed to return (p 9515) unpunished to their villages as their flight is not to be apprehended and as your sanction is required to the proceedings I am about to recommend against them.

19. I cannot but believe that mere corporal punishment however severe would fail to deter the guilty Heerassdars from committing the same trespass on the next crops, and that incapable as they are of disinterested repentance nothing can conquer the malignancy of their tempers on this and on evry other similar occasion but the forfeiture of their produce. In this connection and in the hope of your concurrence I have, after relinquishing the Peragoody share, kept their Teondawaurum of which I recommend that 10 per cent be bestowed as a reward on these informers and the remainder be brought to account under the head of Sewy jumma.

20. I cannot conclude this subject without stating my supposition of its having occurred to you and Government as an urgent necessity that all rents whether temporary or permanent, of lands, be denied to the owners and conferred on others on condition (p 9516) of dividing crops with the owners according to established rates. Hence I am humbly of opinion will arise both to Government and the people all the benefit of an Aumanic management; and to Government alone all the security of a rent. On this plan in a short time more, it is hoped the strict and just management so indispensable with the natives will open their minds to the advantages of order and industry.

IGR:P/286/66: Pro 13.8.1801: pp 9504-33; JM 9533-4: No enclosures in volume.

(30.16)

H3

C. Harris, Collector Tanjore to Board of Revenue on Complaints: 26.2.
(Extract) 1803.

89. In consequence of this confession Ayah Coote being called in and, having heard it repeated, was asked whether he chose to be equally explicit, but altho he declared himself uninformed of the truth of the petition presented to your Board, he persevered in resisting the unobjectionable proofs of the guilt of his disposition to me.

90. Such criminal combinations may be less dangerous than troublesome from those which have come to the knowledge of your Board, and from others which have never reached a state fitting them for record. My ordinary revenue business has been heavily impeded and the work which respects the permanent rent of Tanjore has lately been entirely at a stand. As all the marks distinguishing truth from falsehood must be obliterated among a people by whom shame and repentance are never felt an attempt to lay open a conspiracy of this (p 2438) nature often fails, and when successful, absorbs more time than affairs ~~in~~ of the utmost importance to the public. It is now a twelve month since Trivungada Iayengar commenced his proceedings here and from that period to the present day, my cutcherree has not been free from occupation occasioned by him. Like him and the six petitioners whom he has chosen as partners in iniquity, there are many evil characters, a kind of outlaws rejected even by the Mahratta Government, who without home or employ wander wildly about the country and acquire by the ease of depredation what they have not resolution to gain by the difficulty of labour. To effect their amendment or absence the desirable advantage of a lasting example and the few opportunities like the present one, of making any, induce me to recommend to your Board that Trivangada Iayengar, Toppes Moodely, Oppoo Iyengar, Iyevyah and Singiah who are now at Madras be apprehended and sent to Combaconum, and that they with Ayscoody and Ramalingum now in (p 2439) confinement there, suffer publickly corporal punishment and be banished from the Tanjore country.

91. The above report on the petitions, presented to your Board against the management of Fuslee 1211, I trust will not incur a wrong construction. Tho I think I have exposed the falsehood of the accusations made to you it is far from my desire to infer, contrary to general and unchanging experience, that a single one of my servants, in his own mind is incapable of the extremes of tyranny, cruelty, robbery, corruption and indolence. But as they exercise their vice in proportion to their power and boldness, they must abandon it according to the success of my endeavours to keep them in weakness and fear. This object has been constantly prescribed by Government and your Board, and perfectly concurs with my daily experience which deters me from enduring the interference of a native for moment.

92. In every department, from (p 2440) my own cutcherree down to the villages I have made the forms for conduct, accounts, and correspondence. The length, confusion, and means of deceit of the native mode of business, have been exchanged for the brevity, clearness, and restraint of the European. No accusation against a servant of any rank, has been left unnoticed: soon after my appointment I detected my late Peshcar and interpreter and other servants of my cutcherree in embezzlement and extortion, and with the permission of Government publickly flogged and expelled them from Tanjore. Several Tasildars and numerous Nonogars, Hircarrabs and Peons for similar offences have been punished on the spot where they have offended, and rejected from the service. Thus by regulations enabling myself and my assistants, with our own judgements thoroughly to see into and

IOR-P/287/27: Pro 8.3.1803: pp 2382-2446, Enclo 2446-68, EM 2468-71.

control the affairs of the province, it has been my endeavour to bereave my native servants of power, and (as repentance among them is unknown) by inflexible, (p 2441) severe, exemplary, and undistinguishing punishment for every fault, I have striven to subdue their boldness.

93. How far I have been successful in this object, it is now indispensably expedient that I endeavour correctly to state my sentiments.

94. Under me there are three classes of native servants with their respective attendants. First, the Peshears and interpreters of myself and of my assistants; secondly the Tasildars of the Taliiks each of thirty, forty, or fifty Vuttums; and thirdly the Monigars of the Vuttums each of three, four or five villages. Power and boldness being the more difficult to conquer in one of these classes as it is more distant from me and more numerous than either of the others tyranny, cruelty, robbery, corruption and indegence are likewise to be practised by the nine hundred Monigars in the villages, than by the seventeen Tasildars in the Taleeks and by these Tasildars than by the three Peshears and three interpreters with myself and (p 2442) my assistants.

95. The abovementioned large establishments of Monigars has been hitherto required by the actual and possible fertility of Tanjour. Their number has impeded the good choice, the instruction and correction of them. In default of foreigners they have been necessarily Tanjour natives bred in all the vices of the Mahratta Government. The laborious selection of them by has been hitherto unavoidably left to their immediate superiors. The duty of teaching their ignorance and punishing their frauds has been urged incessantly on the Tasildars, and attended to with every practicable minuteness by myself and assistants. The 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32nd paragraphs of my letter dated the 12th of March 1801, described the hardened depravity I experienced from them in Fuzlee 1210. The stronger regulations and heavier punishments of Fuzlee 1211 abated, and I trust the improvements now made will entirely stop, the operation of their inherent vice. It appears then certain that this class of servants (p 2443) have hitherto committed disorders because power and boldness have in some degree found an asylum in their numerous and sequestered stations. It is to be considered however that the depredation of a Monigar is exposed not only to the treachery of those who within his Vuttum are privy to it, but to the sight of those, attached to the offices of the Tasildars, my assistants and myself, and constantly on the watch for it. So long as embezzlement is confined within the narrow sphere of a Vuttum it cannot without detection be considerable, or more than is admitted by the petty collusion of a landholder or Taliar. Discoveries of this small village have been made during every harvest and reported to your Beard. But in future even that I hope will be effectually remedied.

96. The stations of the seventeen Taleeks are sufficiently few and near to admit of my deliberate choice of Tasildars, and of my ready (p 2444) instruction, detection and correction of them. No one among them against/his appointment before acquiring at my Cutcherree a knowledge of the Regulations. All orders are written to them by me and my assistants. Error and delay in their accounts and correspondence are quickly noticed. An accusation against them has never been neglected, and they will know that any failure in their duty can scarcely escape detection, and if discovered, is followed by an ignominious punishment and irrevocable dismission. It is therefore my opinion that since the examples made at the beginning of my management, the Tasildars have conformed with necessity, and earnestly devoted their portions of ability to the benefit of the country.

(gets ?)

97. My Feshear, the Garbars of my assistants and our interpreters, are six natives chosen for their capacity and knowledge; capacity to comprehend the views of and rules of the English Government and knowledge to communicate to us any (p 2445) local information in which, as Europeans we may be deficient. Constantly in our attendance they are instructed in their duty not only by the Regulations but by our proceedings, and as they do in our Cutcherree nothing not seen and ordered by us and not belonging to them there appears no room for their deviations. After the corporal punishments I inflicted on their predecessors, while every allusion against them is scrupulously enquired into, and when no more respect is shewn to their faults than to those of the lowest servants, it would be in them the height of temerity to venture on delinquency. The submission of the people to oppression would be a voluntary rejection of justice, and their general connivance at embezzlement appears impossible. I well know that there are natives whose degraded minds are ready to sacrifice every privilege that supports their families, and every duty which sustains their Government, to their hopes and fears of their superiors, but the Tanjore (p 2446) inhabitants, unprincipled as they may be, are safe from such debasement, & because altho they look up to native rank, they see in it no native power. If then (the Menigars excepted) I believe my native servants honest, it is in a manner which can convey to me no censure and to them no honor. It is because all the barriers afforded by the Indian institution, have been erected against their dishonesty do not appear to me, in any spot whatever to have given way.

I have the honor of being, Gentlemen,
 Your most obedient and humble servant
 Trivalore Charles Harris
 26th February 1803 Collector.

30.17

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Board of Revenue Minute on Tanjore Complaints: 8.3.1803

After an attentive perusal of the foregoing report, the Board are of opinion that the full confutation therein afforded of every specific charge which admitted of testimony and the clear exposition of the interested and criminal view of the parties, render a detail reply unnecessary. It is highly satisfactory to the Board to observe the attention shown by the collector to the representations originally made by Trivangada Iayengar and the patience and impartiality manifested in every stage of the enquiry. These they view as continued proofs of watchfulness, regard for the public interests committed to his superintendance (p 2469) and of unbiased zeal in the cause of truth to rescue the innocent from any stain of reproach and to bring punishment on the guilty.

That punishment will now be expedient to inflict on the persons whose groundless charges have created so much trouble and wasted so large a portion of the collector's time.

Trivangada Iayengar who since his departure from Tanjore, has repeatedly presented papers to the Board, is now called before them and the falsity of his accusations and his nefarious designs fully exposed to him by the acting president. He is then told to await a merited retribution.

This person disowns all knowledge of the place where the four delinquents who still remain at large (p 2470) are concealed. But it appears from a paper addressed to the Board that Oppoo Iayengar and Iyavyen returned to Tanjore with Iyacooty Iyer and Ramalinga Nuddelear.

The two last having already received corporal punishment, the Board do not think it necessary that it should be repeated as suggested by the collector. They rely on his endeavours to apprehend the others, and with the exception just mentioned, approve the examples he has proposed to make of the offenders.

Ordered that Trivangada Iayengar be sent to Mr Harris's cutcherree under charge of delayets and that a letter be in consequence written to the collectors in the zillah of Chingleput and Southern Division of Arcot (p 2471) to provide the necessary reliefs.

Ordered that the foregoing instructions of the Board be communicated to Mr Harris.

IOR: P/287/27: Proceedings Madras Board of Revenue (3-17.3.1803, pp 2231-2722) dated 8.3.1803. Mr Charles Harris's report referred to above is ~~unxppx2446-68xxmxxix~~ dated Tanjore 26.2.1803, and is on pp 2383-2446. The complaint dated 4.1.1803 is forwarded by the Board of Revenue to the collector and is on pp 2383-6. The collector's reply is from pp 2386-2436, and his summing up on 2437-46. pages 2446-68 contain enclosures to the collector's report. (pp 2383-6 and 2437-46 photost).