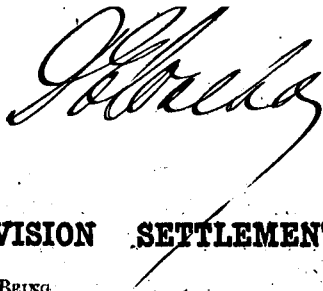


2/200



THE ALIBAG REVISION SETTLEMENT

BEING

A series of Letters indicating a departure in the Land Revenue Policy of the Bombay Government as applied to the Konkan Districts.

By

RAMJI LAKSHMAN GHARAT,
LANDHOLDER OF AVAS, ALIBAG TALUKA,
KOLABA DISTRICT.

—:O:—

PUBLISHED UNDER THE ^u AUTHORITY

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY ASSOCIATION.

—:O:—

BOMBAY :

PRINTED AT THE SUBODH PRAKASH PRESS.

1896

"When it is considered that every excess of assessment beyond the natural rent of the land is reduction of what would otherwise be the rates of profits and wages, and that these last constitute almost the sole funds from which any additions to the population and capital of this country are to be effected, some conception may be formed of the mighty power vested in the Government of India in virtue of its claim of property in the soil and the heavy responsibility attending its exercise. In every agricultural country such as the Deccan, the general rate of profits on the usual reward of industry, is regulated by that obtained from the cultivator of the soil; and to suppose that while this last is depressed, any considerable advances can be made by the society, would be to disregard the plainest lessons of experience. These general observations will, I hope, have served, in some degree, to show the vital importance of the land assessment, and the fearful consequences of any error on the side of over-taxation. No unnecessary reduction can injure the country, and the Government revenue can only suffer from it to the extent of such reduction. An error upon one side involves the inevitable ruin of the country, an error upon the other some inconsiderable sacrifice of the finance of the state and with such unequal stakes depending, can we hesitate as to which, should be given the preponderance? The line of true policy, under such circumstances, is not shown in an attempt to fix the assessment at what the land will exactly bear but in fixing it as far within this limit as the exigencies of the state will permit."

SIR GEORGE WINGATE.

X723. 2315 2
C6 45

Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library
GIPE-PUNE-000456

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

REVISED RATES.	PAGE.
New Rates and their pressure	5
Charge for a copy of a ryot's khata	11
A wrong impression corrected	12
New rates and their pressure (continued)	14
Grouping of rabi and warkas lands and the increase resulting therefrom	21
Introduction and levy of revised rates	24
Papers on the Revision Settlement	26
High rates no incentive to improvement of land	26
Kharapat lands and their assessment	28
Mr. C. R. Sail on garden rates in Alibag	31
Mr. C. R. Sail's correction	45
Reply to Mr. Sail's criticism	45
Mr. Sail on the Kharapat villages	52
Rejoinder to Mr. Sail	56
Limits to Enhancements in revenue	65
Limits to Enhancements insisted on at various times	71
A review of the policy in respect of "The General Position Class."	78
Rise in the price of rice no justification for excessive enhancements	89
Statistics not to be fully relied upon	91
The tree and position factors	94
Appendix A. <i>The Times of India</i> on the Alibag revision settlement	100
Do. Article II	105
Appendix B—Reply to Lord Harris on the Bombay Land Revenue System.	111
Do. Alibag in the Bombay Legislative Council	114
Do. Mr. Babaji Gopal on the Alibag R. Settlement	122
Do. Gopal's Reply to the <i>Times of India</i>	125

Do. C.—Petitions to Government from the Alibag Taluka Association...	126
Do. Remissions and Excess Assessments	130
Do. Petition for the Appointment of a Commission of Inquiry	131
Do. Petition of Kharapat Landholders	138
Do. Reply of Government to the Kharapat Petitioners	141
Do. D.—Account of Meetings of Alibag Landholders	142
Do. —Meeting at Avas	144
Do. The Alibag Association, its formation	146
Do. E. —Mr. Alfred Webb M. P. at Alibag	147
Do. Address from the Villagers of Alibag Taluka	148
Do. " " " Pen Taluka	152
Mr. Webb's Reply to the two Addresses	154
Appendix F.—Specimen of an individual Appeal to the Collector	157
Appendix G.—Speeches at the 7th and 8th Conferences on the Alibag Revision Settlement	164
Appendix H.—Questions on the Alibag Settlement by the Hon. Mr. Yajnik at the Legislative Council	194
Do. Answers	196
Extract from the Hon. Mr. Yajnik's Speech at the Council meeting.	204

—:0:—

ERRATA.

Incorrect.	Correct.	Line	PAGE.
1893.	1894.	4	1
Stet.	broom	4(from bottom)	13
17-6-4	17-64	22	36
31	32	13	40

INDEX.

A

- ABKARI ACT (1878)**—its effect on garden cultivation, 2, 20; trees tapped before and after, 20, 62, 63.
- Abkari Policy**—Mr. Sail on, 37, 57; Mr. Sinclair on evil effects of, 59; net annual loss to the taluka by, 62, 63; neglect of cocoanut plantation consequent upon, 64; *Times of India* on, 107, 108, 109.
- Agriculture**—causes of retrograde progress in, 3; Director of, 5.
- Alibag taluka**—villages and population of, 1; meetings of landholders at town, 3, 4, 142, 143, 146, 147; deserted villages, 30, 31, 32, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 55, 57, 101; formation of the Taluka Association, 147; Alibag in the Legislative Council, 114, 120; Mr. Alfred Webb, M. P. at, 148, 156.
- Amalner**—taluka—general position class' first carried out in, 81.
- Anderson-Colonel**, 73; his report, 74.
- Anna-scale**—change from 32 to 24 unwarranted, 84, 132, 133.
- Appeals**—specimen [of an individual appeal to the Collector, 157, 163.
- Arms Act**—its effects, 30, 32, 50, 56.
- Ayas-village**, instances of landholders getting little return for investment in, 1, 7; instances of excessive enhancement in, 6; agricultural condition, houses, population, cattle &c. of, 8; grazing ground increase from Rs. 13-0-6 to Rs. 88 on one piece in, 10; assessment of, 11; instance of increase over 500 p. c. in revised *rahi* lands, 22; Mr. Webb, M. P. shown over *warkas* land, 26; inference of prosperity from tiled roofs &c., shown to be misleading from instance of, 112, 117; meeting of landholders at and formation of Avas Association, 144—146; Mr. Webb, M. P. at, 148-156.
- ## B
- Bagayat (garden) lands**—original and revised maxima rates for, 2; why not remunerative? 7, 8, 98; instances of abnormal increases in, 19; Captain Francis on, 19, 20, 95; *bagayat* classed as *warkas*, 21; Mr. Sail on, 33, 37, 38, 39; incorrect classification (Mr. Sail), 39, 40; criticism on Mr. Sail's garden experience, 58; Messrs. Sinclair, Hearn, Ozanne, and Colonels Francis and Godfrey on, 59, 60; failure of garden cultivation in some villages, Government Resolution on, 94, 95; cost of making a garden, 96; *Times of India* on the assessment of, 105; Mr. Babaji Gopal's experience in gardening, 124, 125; water annas on lands having no water, 193.
- Batty**—The Hon. Mr. 114.
- Bhandaris**—palm-juice-drawers, 59; petition of, 61; migration of, 105; Bill No. 4 of 1885, 80.

Birdwood—The Hon. Mr., 114.
 Bombay—market for produce and labour, 29.
 Budget—Reference to Alibag by the Hon. Mr. Yajnik in discussion on provincial, 204.

C

Carpenter—Mr. W. C., on moderation in assessment, 72.
 Chesney—Sir George, 115.
 Classification of lands—Mr. Sail on, 34-36, 38, 39, 41; injustice of a 24-anna scale for 32, 40; effect of withholding rules on, 115, 116.
 Collector of Kolaba—petitions to, 4, 27; asks a deposit of Rs. 50,160, 119, 120, 142, 143; declines to give field-book extract, 163.
 Colvin—Sir Auckland, on moderation in land assessment, 72.
 Commission—The Deccan Riots, attempt for a policy of moderation, 71.
 —of Inquiry—necessity for a, 27, 99, 113; petition for a, suggestions for the conduct and constitution of a, 131-137.
 Communications—do not warrant excessive increase of assessment, 28.

Congress—the Indian National, Mr. Webb, M. P. on, 154, 155.
 Cranbrook—Lord, 73, 74.
 Crép Experiments—92, 102.
 Cultivators—condition of, 113;
 Heavy pressure on, 89-90.

D

Deccan—Agriculturists' Relief Act, 72.
 Deserted villages—see under Alibag.
 Dharamtar—Port, 28.

Dhonkavade—village, instance of increase over 500 p.c., 22.
 Dickson—the late Captain, large cocoonut garden of, 8.

E

Enhancements—principles regulating, 67; causes of excessive, 37, 68; moderation in, 69, 75; several cases of over 400 p.c., 117.
 Erandole—taluka, application of "position class" in the grouping of villages, 81.
 Errors in classification—corrected where found.

F

Fair rent—*Times of India* on, 100.
 Field-Book—Refusal of Government to grant extracts from, 163.
 Fletcher—Mr., on the one-group system, 83.
 Francis—Captain (afterwards Colonel) on rates, 4; on revision of kharapat or salt lands, 18; on bagayat or garden lands, 19, 20, 95; on rabi and warkas lands, 23, 24; on cocoonut produce, 60.
 Fergusson—Sir James—petition from the Bhandaris to, 60, 61.

G

Garden lands—see under *bagayat*; Rewadanda gardens, 33, 51.
 Gibson—Mr.—on Kharapat lands, 139, 189, 190.
 Godfrey—Colonel, on second revision of kharapat or salt lands, 18, 28, 29; on *bagayat*, 59, 109, 28, 29; reply to Mr. Kamat's petition, 140.
 Government-Resolution anent clause 107 of Land Revenue Code not given effect to, 13; questions by

- Government of India and reply by Bombay Government, 72; proposals by Bombay Govt., 73, 74; reply by Bombay Government to Secretary of State, 75; Govt. of India calling upon Bombay Govt. to consider their land revenue system, 76; Resolution of Bombay 86; Govt. of India's Resolution on Government Forest Administration, 130, Bombay Resolution, 86.
- Grazing—land for in Avas, 10.
- Grazing rights at Alibag—petition from Taluka Association, 126-130; hard nature of rules, 127-129; Avas Association on, 145.
- H
- Harris—Lord, 100, 102, 111, 112, 113, 115; Petition of landholders to, 138-141.
- Havelock—the late Mr., on necessity of limitation in enhancement, 69.
- Hearn—Mr., on revision of Kharapat or salt lands, 17; on *bagayat* 59, 139.
- High Court—Bombay, on grazing rights, 127.
- Hope—Sir Theodore, on the ryot's indebtedness, 72.
- I
- Improvements—Notification about, (not issued) 13; effect of non-issue of Notification, 14; answer to the Hon. Mr. Yajnik's question on, 15; Exemption of Improvements Act, 80.
- Increase—in sheep, goats, &c., no sign of prosperity, 92.
- Increase of Assessment—on individual holdings from 50 to over 1000, p. c.; instances of an individual holding, 6,21,22; 1000, p. c. how worked, 8, 9; arbitrary method of, 29.
- Investment of Capital—its return to Irish people—155.
- J
- Jalgaon—taluka, application of "position class" in grouping of villages, 81.
- Jones—Mr., 138, 139.
- K
- Kamat— Mr. Mahadev Shridhur, 140.
- Kavir—village, increase of 1300 p. c. in one case, 22.
- Khalapur Petha—plan of assessment of varkas, in, 24; Government Resolution on the taxing of improvements, 86, 88.
- Khandale—village, instance of increase over 500 p. c., 22.
- Kharapat villages—their number, condition, increased assessment, third classification, 18, 19; feverish and unhealthy, 29, 30; Mr. Sail on, 54; *Times of India* on, 104; petition of landholders of, 138, 141; Reply to petition, 141, 142; Colonel Godfrey's reply to Mr. Kamat's petition, 140; Mr. Sail on, 54.
- Kharif lands—rice-growing, sweet and salt, original and revised maximum rates for, why there should be no increase in maximum rates of salt rice lands, 17.
- Khàtà—extract from register, charge for a copy of, 11.
- Kjhim—village, instance of excessive enhancement in, 6; large coconut garden at, 8.

- L**
- Lamb—Mr., Collector, on water supply, 95, 126, 182, 183.
- Land Revenue Code—on introduction and levy of revised rates (section 104), 24; on notification and petitions, 119, 120, 132; on permission for inspection of records &c., 121; on free pasturage, 127; on second revision, 17, 138, 140; on remissions, 147.
- Legislative Council—Bombay, Bill No. 4 of 1885 or Exemption of Improvements Act, 80.
- Limitation upon enhancements—Mr. Sall on, 34; Government rule on, 65; Resolution of Sir Philip Wodehouse's Government on, 66, 67; insisted on at various times, 71, 73; questions by Govt. of India &c., 72; *Times of India* on, 106, 107. Departure from, 117.
- Loch—Mr., his condemnation of the single group scheme, 81.
- M**
- Mamlatdar or Mamlidar—taluka revenue officer, wrong impression produced by the wording of corrected, 12; officially informing that no copy of notification and improvements was recorded in his office, 13; levying revised assessment, 25; on petitions for rectification of errors, 119, 120; deposits of various sums of money for inquiry made with, 132.
- Mádwa—Port of Alibag, Mr. Alfred Webb, M. P. at, 148.
- Maximum rates—how exceeded, 6, 7; synopsis of notification on, 16; increase not justified, 17; defects in notification on.
- Memorials—to the Collector in Marathi, 4.
- Model farms—instituted by Government, their result &c., 5.
- Montesquieu—109.
- Mumbai Vaibhava—a Marathi daily newspaper of Bombay, on how village officers are overworked, 25.
- N**
- Navakird—converted rice land, bearing the largest enhancement, 6.
- New rates and their pressure, 5, 14.
- Notifications—most important about improvements not issued, 12.
- Nugent—the Hon. Mr., on "position class", 108, on notice of Press statements by Govt., 114; his; refusal as to the publication of rules about classification of lands, 115, 116; on remissions when the difference between old and new assessment was 8 annas, 117, 131.
- O**
- Ozanne—Mr., on garden lands, 28, 60, 107, 136.
- P**
- Pan—leaves chewed with betelnut, no *bagayat* but *rabi* crop, 8.
- Panwel—taluka, rates on varkaa, in 23; Payakasta villages—villages giving trouble, 57.
- Pedder—the late Mr., W. G., C. S., on enhancements, 73.
- Pen—taluka, address from—to Mr. Webb, M. P., 152, 153.
- Petitions—to Collector, 27, 120; to

- Govt., of Bombay, 119, 126-137, 147.
- Pitt—Mr., on one-group system, 83.
- Pollán—Dr., proposal by—to move Bombay Government for moderation in assessment, 75.
- Position class—tremendous power of, 41, 82, 84; Mr. Sail's proposal on 42, 43; review of policy in respect of, 78, 79, 94-95, 132; concrete examples of the tremendous power of, 36, 43, 133, 134.
- Press statements—inconsistent treatment by Government of, 114-115.
- Pressure—of other cases on cultivation, 89, 90.
- Prices—average of rice no justification for enhancements, 89, 90.
- Prosperity—tiled houses, &c. no signs of, 112.
- Provincial Conference—Speeches at 7th and 8th, 164.
- Q
- Questions—at the Legislative Council by the Hon. Mr. J. U. Yajnik.
- R
- Rab-manure prepared by burning cowdung, loppings of trees, grass, &c. on ground, *varkas* supplying materials for, 27.
- Rabi—dry-crop land, original and revised maximum rates on, so called *rabi* because of mere pastures ground, 3; reasons why *varkas* should not be classed as *rabi*, 9; grouping of and increase p.e. on, 21; how classed in Avas, 22; Captain Francis on, 28, assessed at its supposed prospective capability; Mr. Webb, M. P., on, 27. Mr. Sail on, 43, 44, 93, 94.
- Rates—giving out of revised rates on individual holdings, 5; increase p.e. of, 6; introduction and levy of, 25; high rates no incentive to improvements, 26; fairness of rates, 111, 112.
- Rayats or Ryots—condition of, 3, 10, 11; the subject people deserving to be pitied, 11.
- Revas—Port, 28.
- Re-measurement—partial system of, 78.
- Remissions—not granted by Government, 2, 92, 93; probable amount of refund if allowed rule to be eliminated, 117; Petition to Govt. on, 130, 131; rules on, 116, 117.
- Revenue—difficulty of collecting, 70; why a system of may be unsuitable, 72.
- Revision—Survey and Settlement, when completed in Alibag, 1; strange method of exceeding maximum rate in, 6, 7; questions on by the Hon. Mr. Yajnik, 15; effect of withholding papers on, 27.
- S
- Sail—Mr. C. R., on Kharapat lands and on the tremendous power of 'position class,' 83, 84; refutation of his argument about rabi lands, 85.
- Salt-rice lands—(see under Kharapat).
- Sandhurst—H. E. Lord, requested to discourage the practice of keeping matters secret from the public, 116.
- Sarvajaniik Sabha—the Poona—on Government orders about limits of enhancement, 71; on the settlement department, 87.
- Secretary of State for India, Lord Cranbrook, on revision of assessment, 73, 74, 75.
- Shri Vithoba—Temple at Alibag, meetings of landholders at, 4, 142, 143.
- Silcock—Mr., his condemnation single-group scheme, 81.

- Sinclair—Mr., on *bagayat*, 59, 104, 105, 107.
- Statistics—how misleading, 91, 94 ; *Times of India's* conclusions from, 103.
- Stewart—the late Mr., on re-valuation of lands, 76, 77 ; on position class, 81 ; on grouping of villages, 32, 83.
- Sugar-cane—not a *bagayat* but rabi crop.
- Survey-Commissioner as defendant, 132 ; on position class, 133.
- papers, effect of withholding from people, 121, *T. of I.* on, 100.
- Superintendent, first circular, of, 1, giving out new rates, 5 ; correction of error by (assistant) approving of *bagayat* being classed as warkas, 14, 21.
- Officers cleverly proposing maximum rates, 22 ; did not think of necessity of warkas for purposes of rabi, 23.
- Department, its charge of Rs. 3 per acre on warkas, 9 ; neglect to issue notification anent improvements, 13 ; ingeniously fixing maximum rate, 23 ; limitation orders, 66.
- T
- Tagai—Government advances of money to cultivators, little understood, 2.
- Taxes.—how paid when crops fail, 2.
- Telang—the late Mr. Justice as author of the Resolution on improvements, 13.
- Tree-factor—effects of doing away, with, 96 ; Mr. Ozanne on, 107.
- Trevor—the hon. Mr., replying to a question by the Hon. Mr. Yajnik, 15, 18 ; on replies to the hon. member's questions, 115.
- Turnbull—Mr., on one-group system, 83.

V

- Vadhav—village instances of increase over 500 p. c.

- Varkas or Warkas—grass-growing lands, maximum rates, on, 2, 3 ; increase on, 8, 10, 21, 135 (upto 1200 p. c.), why should they not be classed as rabi, 9, 23, cost of conversion, 3, 118 ; how classed as rabi, 22 ; Captain Francis on, 23 ; Mr. Sail on, 43, 44 ; the *Times of India* on, 109, 110.
- Village Officer—Patels and Talatis giving out new rates, 5 ; as custodians of survey papers, 12 ; their ignorance of survey work, 14 ; over-worked by Mamlatdar, 25, 92.

W

- Ward—Col. T. M., condemns single group scheme, 82.
- Warkas—See under Varkas.
- Water—lands without-subjected to garden rates, 2, 8, 41 classification annas for, 34.
- Webb—Mr. Alfred, M. P., at Alibag, 148-156 ; reply of to addresses, 154—156.
- Wingate—Sir George, on dangers of over-assessment, 95, 95.
- Wodehouse—Sir Philip, Resolution by Government of on limit of enhancement, 66-69.

Y

- Yajnik—the Hon. Mr. Javerila Umashankar, questions to Govt by 15 ; on defects of first notification, 16 ; on classification of the 56 kharapat villages for the third time contrary to the express provision of sec. 106 of the Land Revenue Code, 17 ; on the Alibag Settlement, 15, 115 ; on rules about remissions, 131 ; visit to Alibag in company with Mr. Alfred Webb, M. P., 148 ; questions on the Alibag settlement put in the Legislative Council by, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, and 204.