

SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY
GOVERNMENT.

No. CCXIX.—NEW SERIES.

219

PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

ORIGINAL SURVEY SETTLEMENT OF 21 VILLAGES

OF THE

SIDDÁPUR TÁLUKA

OF THE

KÁNARA COLLECTORATE.

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Bombay:

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS.

1888.

[Price—Six Annas.]

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**INDEX TO THE CORRESPONDENCE ON THE ORIGINAL SURVEY
SETTLEMENT OF 21 VILLAGES OF THE SIDDAPUR TALUKA
OF THE KÁNARA COLLECTORATE.**

	Pages.
Letter No. 15, dated 14th January 1888, from the Assistant Settlement Officer in charge Kánara Survey, containing proposals for the Survey Settlement of 21 villages of the Siddápur Táluka of the Kánara Collectorate	1—7
Letter No. 249, dated 19th February 1888, from the Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern Marátha Country Survey, submitting with his remarks the above letter to the Collector of Kánara	8
Letter No. 614, dated 29th February 1888, from the Collector of Kánara, forwarding with his remarks the above correspondence to the Survey and Settlement Commissioner	8—9
Memomandum No. 513, dated 14th March 1888, from the Survey and Settlement Commissioner, submitting, through the Commissioner, S. D., the above correspondence to Government for sanction	9—11
Memorandum No. 863, dated 27th March 1888, from the Commissioner, S. D., forwarding the above correspondence to Government	11
Government Resolution No. 2606, dated 28th April 1888, passing orders on the above correspondence	12—13

FROM

THE ASSISTANT SETTLEMENT OFFICER,

IN CHARGE KÁNARA SURVEY;

To

THE COLLECTOR,

NORTH KÁNARA.

*Assistant Settlement Officer's Office,
14th January 1888.*

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of Government, the following proposals for the introduction of the survey settlement into 21 villages of the Siddápur Táluka of North Kánara. This is the first portion of this táluka for which proposals for the revision of assessment have as yet been submitted.

2. The Siddápur Táluka is situated immediately to the south, and adjacent to that of Sirsi, where survey settlement approaches completion. On the west, it is bounded by the Kumta and Honávar Tálukas already settled, and on the south and east by Mysore territory.

3. To describe the táluka it will facilitate matters to divide it into three sections running lengthwise from north to south. The western section comprises a thickly-wooded, hilly, and rugged country, running along the crest of the Gháuts. The population of this tract is sparse and scattered, and the rainfall excessive, but affording a water-supply capable of producing double rice crops. The central division consists of congeries of hills and spurs from the Gháuts, with deep intervening valleys, which, fertilised by the humus wash from the high and wooded surroundings, form most favored situations for the cultivation of the betel-nut palm and other garden productions. The population here is still scattered, the cultivators living in separate homesteads close to their gardens, instead of in communities, as in the more open country. The eastern section differs considerably from the above. On emerging from the hills, the change to what, for Kánara, may be termed open country, is more or less sudden. The forest becomes thinner and growth more stunted, while large stretches of grass land and bare hill tops meet the view. The garden cultivation gives place in a greater measure to rice, the population is denser, and the people live in communities in villages. The geological formation is laterite, and in this portion of the táluka the soil is light, sandy, and so shallow as to afford little root depth, a fact indicated by the stunted appearance of the forest and thin grasses, which afford but little nourishment to the cattle. The deciduous forest throughout the táluka is interspersed with evergreens (Kans) of the finest description, and here the soil is rich and deep, and retentive of moisture, supplying the springs under which sugarcane is largely grown. The average rainfall for the last 10 years, as registered at the Siddápur Mámlatdár's kacheri, amounts to 106½ inches, it must however be much heavier towards the Ghát.

4. As will be seen from the accompanying map the (21) villages under report form rather a straggling group, contiguous one with the other, but clustering in more compact form round "Kondli," otherwise called Siddápur, the headquarters of the district.

The few villages on the extreme west of the group—Bhandarkeri, Mutgi, Bidarkan and Bhankuli—may be said to belong to the central belt of the táluka as described above, but all the others distinctly come under the description afforded of the eastern section.

The villages in question cover an area of (38) square miles, the cultivable area being only one-fourth of the whole.

The population is returned at a total of (6,935) souls, which shows an average of (182) to the square mile. The proportion of arable land to each head of the population is (36) gunthás, while a pair of oxen is available for every (4) acres of the occupied area, exclusive of garden.

It must be borne in mind that the present group of villages include most of the large towns in the táluka, and that we are now dealing with the most thickly populated part. Notwithstanding, extensive rice fallows exist in almost every village, establishing the fact, so often brought forward by the cultivators, that the supply of labor is unequal to the demands of the district. It has always been a *sinè qua non* in Kánara, for obvious reasons, that the resignation of a portion of a "warg" cannot be accepted; it must either be the whole or nothing at all. When this restriction is removed I should not be astonished if considerable rice areas were thrown up. Fallow lands have however now been divided into conveniently sized blocks by the Survey, and if relinquished, there is every likelihood of their being taken up by outsiders,—a circumstance which would tend to the more equal distribution of the assessment throughout the district. The present population is almost entirely agricultural and may be termed prosperous. They own more land than they can conveniently bring under the plough, and naturally confine themselves to the most productive situations, where the best crops can be raised at the least expense of labor.

5. Out of the whole cultivable area 46 per cent. is devoted to rice, 38 per cent. to dry-crop and grass, and 16 per cent. to garden.
 Crops. The rice lands are extensive, but for the most part the soil is of poor quality, sandy, and shallow, especially towards the east. There are however exceptions to this rule, and generally speaking, the valleys surrounding Siddápur itself, have a richer and better coloured soil than the average. Double rice crops are unknown in this part, but sugarcane can be grown almost everywhere, although not of the best quality. The cane is generally cultivated on the high-lying rice lands on either side of a valley in preference to the more moist situations in the centre, on account of its liability to be rotted from excessive moisture, or to be injured by the rush of water in the rains. This choice of situation generally necessitates watering by hand from "water holes," when the plants are first put down about March.

Second green crops, after the rice harvest, are seldom raised, more from want of labor and poverty of soil than from lack of moisture. In valleys where the wash from the woodlands is inconsiderable artificial manure must be largely used, and a second crop after rice would require a re-coating of manure, which the people could ill afford. Vegetables of all kinds grow well in the rice fields in the hot months, and small enclosures, with flourishing crops, may be seen in the vicinity of most inhabited dwellings. Dry-crop cultivation is uncommon, most of such land being kept under grass as "Kumaki", or help lands, to the garden and rice. Ragi is grown in places to a limited extent, but there is nothing like a surplus for exportation. The gardens produce supári, pánvel, pepper, cardamoms, a few cocoanuts, pineapples and various other fruits. They resemble in every respect those of Sirsi, so often before described, and are in many cases quite as fine; but I am inclined to think that the Sirsi Gardens on the whole are in a higher state of cultivation than those in this táluka.

6. Siddápur is particularly well off in the way of roads capable of carrying cart traffic. The main road from Sirsi to Siddápur and the coast *vid* the Malimani Ghát to Honávar traverses the táluka from north to south. Branching off from this road to the west are the Nilkund and Dodmani Ghát roads, both of which carry through traffic to the port of Kumta in the fine weather. On the east there are three roads branching off from Siddápur, communicating, one with Banáwsi to the north, another with Sorab to the east, and the third with Sagar to the south; all three towns are large markets, the two last named being situated in Mysore territory. The villages under report are all tapped by one or other of the roads mentioned and have for the most part private tracks as well, leading to the main lines of

communication; while the statistical returns show that they possess 181 carts amongst them.

7. There are only two internal markets in the taluka, viz., Siddapur and Bilgi. The latter is of such small account, that Siddapur is the only one worthy of notice.

Markets.

With the exception of the most western villages on the Gháuts, the produce of the rest of the taluka finds its way to Siddapur, and from there is exported to Hubli, Bellari and the Coast.

The subjoined statement, prepared from information gathered by the Mám-latdár, shows the approximate yearly and weekly sales of this market. The whole of the garden produce disposed of must not, however, be accredited to the Siddapur Taluka only. It would be safer to deduct about one-fourth as being imported from the Mysore side :—

YEARLY SALES.			WEEKLY SALES.		Chief Articles traded in.
Heads of Produce.	Current Price.	Amount of Value	Heads of Produce.	Amount of Value.	
		Rs.		Rs.	
Supári ...	Per khandi Rs. 75	1,50,000	All kinds of grains	1,350	Rice, wheat, gram, mung, urid, dal, &c.
Pepper...	Per khandi Rs. 225	45,000	Groceries ...	650	Sugar, jaggeri, salt, oil, spices, &c.
Cardamoms ...	Per maund Rs. 50	25,000	Dried fish ...	500	Vegetables, betel-leaves, cocoanuts, fruits, &c.
			Miscellaneous ...	500	
	Total ...	2,20,000	Total ...	3,000	

8. The following tabulated statement gives the full assessment, remissions and net collections for the past 20 years in the villages under report. Old areas are not available :—

Years.	Area in Acres.	Old Standard Assessment.	Permanent Remissions.	Casual Remissions.	Net Collections.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1867-68	21,736	4,886	...	16,850
1868-69	21,735	5,046	...	16,689
1869-70	21,675	4,969	...	16,706
1870-71	21,810	4,893	17	16,900
1871-72	21,518	4,905	...	16,613
1872-73	21,577	4,882	149	16,546
1873-74	21,542	4,882	20	16,640
1874-75	21,667	4,882	...	16,785
1875-76	21,650	4,873	...	16,777
1876-77	21,587	4,859	...	16,728
1877-78	21,601	4,859	...	16,742
1878-79	21,607	4,859	...	16,748
1879-80	21,583	4,859	...	16,724
1880-81	21,513	4,899	...	16,614
1881-82	21,504	4,899	...	16,605
1882-83	21,559	4,876	...	16,683
1883-84	21,636	4,883	...	16,753
1884-85	22,239	4,883	...	17,356
1885-86	21,549	4,883	...	16,666
1886-87	21,478	4,892	...	16,586
Total	4,32,766	97,869	186	3,34,711
Average	21,638	4,893	9	16,736

The net collections for 1886-87 do not coincide with the total of column 17 in the appendix, for reasons explained in that column, the accounts of five villages having had to be eliminated, on account of being hopelessly intermixed with the accounts of other villages not yet classed. The statement serves to show, however, that during this period fluctuations have been quite unimportant, and that the land-cess has been collected with ease. The rise in the 1884-85 collection is explained by the sale in that year of right of occupancy of certain lands which somewhat added to the total.

9. I do not propose pitching the maximum dry-crop and rice rates, for Proposed rates. Siddápur, on quite such a high scale as appertains in the adjoining táluka of Sirsi, viz., dry-crop Re. 1 and rice Rs. 5. Siddápur itself (which is the centre of the best situated villages in the táluka) is considerably further than Sirsi, from the line of rail to Hubli or Bellari, both markets to which the produce of this district is largely exported. The roads leading to the coast are by no means so good as the Devimani Ghát road of Sirsi, and a change of carriage from cart to boat at Gersapa, is necessary for the conveyance of goods to Honávar; besides, both population and soil appear poorer than in the Sirsi Táluka. All these things considered a slight reduction seems certainly called for. I, therefore, propose dividing the villages in question into two groups.

1st.—Eight villages in the immediate vicinity of the Siddápur market, inter-
Colored blue on the map. sected by one or other of the lines of communication leading from there, and with certain advantages as regards labour supply; to bear a maximum of Rs. 4-8 for rice and Re. 9-14 for dry-crop.

2nd.—Thirteen villages with like advantages, only in a lesser degree, and
Colored red on the map. not so fully populated as those above maximum Rs. 4 for rice and Re. 0-12 for dry-crop.

It may be noticed that the villages of Bhandarkeri and Sampgòd, differ somewhat in maximum rates from the adjoining village of Matihali in Sirsi, but the cultivated lands belonging to them are less accessible, and their characteristics resemble rather those of Gavengudi, also in Sirsi close by, to which village their rates have been assimilated. For garden lands the maximum rate imposed has been Rs. 14 as in Sirsi. The gardens were all rated by me personally.

10. Considering that the maximum rice rate varies from Rs. 4-12 to Rs. 5-4, and that the maximum garden rate is Rs. 25 Rates in adjoining Mysore villages. in the adjoining villages in the tálukas of Sorab and Sagar in Mysore, which have much in common with this táluka, the rates proposed above must be considered moderate in the extreme.

11. The areas and average rate of assessment on each description of land for each group by the proposed rates are tabulated below, occupied and unoccupied land being shown separately:—

Class.	No. of Villages.	MAXIMUM RATE.		GOVERNMENT OCCUPIED LAND.								
				Dry-Crop.			Rice.			Garden.		
		Dry-Crop.	Rice.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs.	Rs. a. p.		Rs.	Rs. a. p.		Rs.	Rs. a. p.
I	8	0 14 0	4 8 0	724	356	0 7 10	1,769	5,177	2 14 10	237	2,898	12 3 8
II	13	0 12 0	4 0 0	378	159	0 6 9	1,018	2,700	2 10 5	761	9,733	12 12 8
Total	21	...	...	1,102	515	0 7 6	2,787	7,877	2 13 3	998	12,631	12 10 6

Class.	No. of villages.	MAXIMUM RATES.		GOVERNMENT UNOCCUPIED LAND.								
				Dry-Crop.			Rice.			Garden.		
		Dry-Crop.	Rice.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs.	Rs. a. p.		Rs.	Rs. a. p.		Rs.	Rs. a. p.
I ...	8	0 14 0	4 8 0	887	871	0 6 8	42	70	1 10 8	1	2	2 0 0
II ...	13	0 12 0	4 0 0	339	124	0 5 10	51	121	2 6 0	1	3	3 0 0
Total ...	21			1,226	495	0 6 6	93	191	2 0 10	2	5	2 8 0

12. The subjoined statement gives the estimated result of the proposed rates on 15 villages (for which the accounts are complete), contrasted with the realizations of last year :—

Class.	Total number of villages in each group.	Number of villages where results can be compared.	Past collections.	Proposed Assessment.	Per cent.
			Rs.	Rs.	Bs.
I ...	8	8	6,757	8,431	+24.8
II ...	13	7	4,408	6,371	+44.5
Total ...	21	15	11,165	14,802	+32.6

The result is an increase of 3,637 rupees or 32.6 per cent. in favour of Government. As far as I can judge from imperfect data the (6) villages not included in the statement will show a nearly similar percentage of increase.

The incidence of the proposed assessment on each village is shown in column 29 of the accompanying appendix. The inequalities are not so striking as usual, all villages exhibiting an increase; nor in any, does the enhancement exceed (70) per cent. As is usual, the villages surrounding the head-quarters, and which have been most subject to supervision, show the least difference. Putting aside the long-followed practices of concealment of cultivation, encroachments, and falsification of accounts in Kánara, and taking only into consideration the improved circumstances of the landholder, viz., settled times, improved communications, and great rise in prices, even the villages in which the largest increase takes place, could not be said to be worse off than they were 20 years ago. Rice for instance, which could be bought at 27 seers per rupee some 20 years ago, is now at 9 or 10 seers, and other commodities have doubtless risen in a like degree. The deduction is that the landholder even with an increase of 100 per cent. would be better off than formerly. It might be argued that the proposed rates err on the side of moderation, but it must be remembered as mentioned in paragraph 4 of this report, that extensive fallows exist in most villages; and that if land in this *malnad* district be neglected for a few years, it soon gets broken up and intersected by deep gullies formed by the torrents in the monsoon, and requires labour and money expended upon it to bring it again under cultivation. Many of the old cultivating families seem to be dying out, and it is difficult to induce new tenants to come into a district so notorious for fever and inclemency, so that the cultivation of these tracts in the future must greatly depend upon a lenient land tax.

13. The average rates falling on each description of soil in three villages which differ considerably in percentage of increase, are given below, and tend to show the inequalities of the old assessment. The average rates here given also approximate to the rates in other villages of the same group :—

No.	Villages.	Old collection.	Survey Assessment.	Per cent.	Average Dry-crop Assessment.	Average Rice Assessment.	Average Garden Assessment.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Village No. 7 ...	841	856	+1·8	0 7 4	3 6 6	13 7 6
2	Do. „ 4 ...	639	1,075	+68·2	0 7 7	2 6 4	12 14 0
3	Do. „ 14 ...	1,361	1,829	+34·4	0 5 2	2 13 1	12 14 11

14. The following statement shows under every head the area and assessment of the (21) villages now reported upon :—

Division of Land.			Acres.	Assessment.
				Rs.
Government occupied land	...	...	4,887	21,023
Do. unoccupied land	...	...	1,321	691
Unarable unassessed hills, &c.	...	...	18,411	.....
Inám	...	...	.....	.....
Total			24,619	21,714

15. In conclusion, and in the event of the rates proposed being accepted, I would beg for an early sanction to introduce them, in order to avoid inconveniences experienced last season, both by the people and my own establishment, as pointed out in the last paragraph of my report upon Sirsi, dated the 11th instant.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. T. WINGATE,

Assistant Settlement Officer
in charge Kánara Survey.

Statement showing the Area, Cultivation, Cattle, Carts, Ploughs, Houses, Population, and past and proposed Survey Assessment of 21 Villages in the Sidjapur Taluka of the Kinara Collectorate.

Class and Maximum Rate.	No.	Villages.	Total Area in Acres.	BY SURVEY ACCOUNTS.												Past Collection on Cultivated Lands.	SURVEY KAMA'L OR STANDARD ASSESSMENT.		CATTLE.			CARTS.			Population.	Number of Houses.	Ploughs.	Increase or Decrease of Assessment per cent.	REMARKS.
				Cultivated.						Waste.							On Cultivated Land.	On Waste Land.	Agricultural.	Others.	Total.	Small.	Large or Half Bands.	Total.					
				Dry-crop.		Rice.		Garden.		Dry-crop.		Rice.		Garden.															
				Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.														Rs.
First Class Maximum Rate— Dry-crop .. Rs. 0-14-0 Rice .. " 4-8-0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Awargupi .. Balikop .. Kondli .. Tyarsi .. Hosur .. Gudekop .. Hanjibail .. Mugdur ..	1,541 840 1,671 1,694 1,181 169 607 2,112	187 27 206 62 97 .. 41 154	68 14 94 33 46 .. 19 77	329 109 803 389 240 .. 52 287	1,046 355 1,091 934 745 .. 177 829	14 72 41 8 24 .. 49 29	152 938 864 103 226 .. 600 896	130 81 107 129 121 .. 7 149	56 81 35 2 45 .. 3 75	.. .. .. 2 1 4	.. .. 9 2 2 8	.. .. 1 2	865 1,123 1,306 639 791 .. 841 1,193	1,266 1,307 1,549 1,075 1,070 .. 856 1,302	56 35 118 62 47 49 2 82	210 72 395 158 231 .. 47 196	210 278 1,071 130 165 .. 160 330	420 278 1,466 288 308 .. 207 525	8 .. 72 14 18 .. 9 18	1 0 .. 1 11 .. 2 2	0 6 72 15 29 .. 11 15	415 328 2,046 430 568 .. 188 434	55 67 494 83 110 .. 40 80	70 28 169 56 117 .. 19 66	+46.4 +16.4 +18.6 +68.2 +36.0 .. +1.8 +9.2		
		Total of the First Class..	9,915	724	366	1,769	5,177	287	2,898	837	371	42	70	1	2	6,757	8,431	448	1,308	2,270	3,578	134	23	157	4,409	968	515	+24.8	
Second Class Maximum Rate— Dry-crop .. Rs. 0-12-0 Rice .. " 4-0-0	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Sampgod .. Bhandarkeri .. Tumrikod .. Mutgi .. Golgod .. Bidarkan .. Hamtemani .. Balguli .. Bhankuli .. Moghegar .. Bedkani .. Aigod .. Halgeri ..	2,231 1,255 473 1,299 1,078 1,718 101 761 1,243 819 1,583 1,097 1,047	31 27 7 35 21 44 9 37 28 16 102 12 9	13 18 4 15 9 16 3 15 13 7 43 4 4	120 87 31 120 54 121 1 108 121 26 167 16 40	323 237 74 319 143 389 2 18 340 81 351 54 97	66 85 1 35 86 114 2 53 48 81 69 31 76	304 1,073 1 463 1,068 1,474 207 714 613 1,082 848 412 975	11 2 1 1 1 70 48 9 127 3 15	4 1 21 3 40 1 11	14 7 12	30 22 22 .. 23	.. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..	Mixed up with villages not yet classed. Do. do. 48 79 796 1,220 1,329 212 1,247 966 } 2,005 1,170 1,272 470 854	1,140 1,328 79 796 1,220 1,329 212 1,247 966 } 2,005 1,170 1,272 470 854	24 4 16 1 1 43 16 10 3 71 1 48	55 50 8 37 28 56 24 28 53 45 18 159 12 66	267 216 8 98 142 384 24 28 130 187 158 367 52 189	322 266 8 130 170 389 232 176 517 65 255	.. 1 .. 2 1 1 10 .. 2 4	.. 1 .. 2 1 1 13 .. 6	280 182 11 139 156 271 14 192 180 149 606 93 308	52 40 4 28 37 66 6 21 39 32 130 17 57	27 22 4 16 16 25 3 2 25 7 59 6 26	Incom- plete. Do. +64.6 Incom- plete. Do. +34.4 +39.5 +60.8 +56.8 Incom- plete. Do. +28.0		
		Total of the Second Class ..	14,704	378	159	1,018	2,700	761	9,738	339	124	51	121	1	3	4,403	12,592	248	582	2,159	2,741	19	5	24	2,526	548	256	-	
		Grand Total ..	24,619	1,102	515	2,787	7,877	968	12,631	1,226	495	93	191	2	5	11,165	21,023	691	1,890	4,429	6,319	153	28	181	6,935	1,516	771	..	

R. T. WINGATE,
Assistant Settlement Officer, Revenue Survey, S. M. C.

No. 249 of 1888.

FROM

W. M. FLETCHER, ESQUIRE,
 Superintendent, Poona & Násik and Southern
 Marátha Country Revenue Surveys;

To

THE COLLECTOR OF KÁNARA.

*Survey Superintendent's Office,
 Camp Gota, 19th February 1888.*

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for submission to Government through the usual channel, a report by Mr. R. T. Wingate, Assistant Settlement Officer, Revenue Survey, Kánara, proposing rates of assessment for 21 villages of the Siddápur Táluka in which field operations have been completed.

2. This is the first batch of villages ready for settlement in this táluka, but we have in the adjoining settled tálukas a safe guide in fixing on rates for the villages now under report, and the question does not therefore present the usual difficulties of a first settlement.

3. Mr. Wingate's report is full and clear, and contains all the usual figured information, together with a succinct account of the characteristics and condition of the táluka for the accuracy of which his intimate acquaintance with the country seems sufficient guarantee. I need only say that my own less extensive knowledge of the district leads me to concur in all that he has written on the general subject, and that a detailed examination has satisfied me that the figures have been carefully compiled.

4. The subject of the maximum rates to be proposed was discussed in detail between myself and Mr. Wingate during last rains, and the present proposals embody the result we then arrived at. For the reasons explained in Mr. Wingate's 10th paragraph it will probably be admitted that the rates round the market of Siddápur should be pitched slightly lower than round Sirsi, while where the two tálukas touch the rates of the villages on their borders need not differ. I will not add to the volume of this correspondence, therefore, by repeating in detail arguments in which I concur, and as the report appears to me to be complete in all respects I will only ask the favour of its being forwarded with your comments as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

W. M. FLETCHER,
 Superintendent, Poona and Násik and S. M. C.
 Revenue Surveys.

 No. 614 of 1888.

To

THE SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER.

Honávar, 29th February 1888.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith Mr. Fletcher's letter No. 249 of 19th instant, together with a report by Mr. R. T. Wingate, Assistant Settlement

Officer, Revenue Survey, Kánara, containing proposals for the introduction of survey rates into the 21 villages of Siddápur Táluka.

This is the first portion of the táluka which is proposed to be brought under survey rates. Mr. Wingate has fully described the condition of the táluka.

The villages proposed for settlement are divided into two groups, and I think this has been correctly done. The rates proposed are just and reasonable, as explained by Mr. Wingate in paragraphs 9 and 10 of his report.

The estimated result of the proposed rates on 15 out of 21 villages contrasted with the realisations of last year is given in the table embodied in paragraph 12 of Mr. Wingate's report. The increase as shown in this table is Rs. 3,537 or 32.6 per cent. in favour of Government. The data for the rest of the villages required for the purposes of comparison is not available. Mr. Wingate's report is so full and complete that it is unnecessary to add more.

I would recommend that the concessions allowed in Government Resolution No. 5573 of the 21st October 1874, may be extended to these villages in order that increased assessment may be extended over the period of three years.

The date for relinquishing of lands under Section 74 of the Land Revenue Code should, I recommend, be extended to the 5th of July.

I have the honour, &c.,

C. G. BLATHWAYT,
Collector of Kánara.

No. 513 of 1888.

Camp Mahábaleshvar, 14th March 1888.

The papers are forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government through the Commissioner, S. D. I trust that they may reach Government in good time so that sanction may be received for the introduction of the rates before the rainy season sets in.

2. The proposals now submitted are for the survey settlement of the first batch of villages in the Siddápur Táluka of the Kánara Collectorate. The classification of the soils has been carried out under the immediate supervision of Mr. R. T. Wingate, who, as Assistant Settlement Officer, submits the usual settlement report. The exceptional advantages enjoyed by a classing officer of gaining an insight into the condition of even the most isolated villages render Mr. Wingate's remarks interesting and reliable. The proposals are also backed by the local experience of the Superintendent Mr. W. M. Fletcher. My recent prolonged absence on special duty has prevented my taking any active part in the preparation of these proposals, but they have been drawn up in full accordance with the principles which I have always upheld and which have been fully accepted by Government since the Kánara Survey first came under my control.

3. Although in dealing with Siddápur Táluka we enter on a subdivision of the Kánara District hitherto untouched by the Settlement Department, we do not enter upon a tract of a strange or unfamiliar character or one in which the former revenue systems present any novel feature. The revenue survey and settlement have been introduced into the tálukas immediately bordering Siddápur on the north and west, and no difficulties, which have not been already met and overcome, have presented themselves in the course of the operations. The settlement of the group of villages now under consideration may be looked upon as a continuation of the settlement of the Sirsi Táluka to the north to which the finishing touches are now being applied. A reference to the series of reports which have been issued on that táluka will show that the methods of

settlement now adopted have undergone no change and there is reason in Siddápúr to expect the same measure of success which has attended the settlements hitherto introduced into Sirsi.

4. Mr. Wingate has explained the physical features of the táluka by dividing it into three distinct portions for comment. With the characteristics of each portion as explained by him our Surveyors and Settlement Officers are already familiar by experience in the three northern tálukas where tracts of exactly similar descriptions have been met with and settlements introduced.

5. The villages now under consideration contain an area of 38 square miles, the population numbering 182 to the square mile. There is on an average one pair of working cattle to every four acres—a proportion which would be generally acknowledged to be sufficient even if the whole area were rice land. Although rice cultivation predominates, 38 per cent. of the arable area is classed as dry-crop and 16 per cent. as garden. The predominance of rice land and the large extent of garden must be borne in mind when the proportion of arable land to each head of population is shown to be 36 gunthás only. The average of population of this tract is rendered greater by the fact that it contains most of the large villages in the táluka.

6. - As in the case of the Sirsi Táluka the dry-crop lands are but little cultivated except occasionally with rági (Elensine corocana). These lands are kept under grass as "kumki" or auxiliary lands to the rice and garden areas. The rice land is described by Mr. Wingate as generally of poor quality, but good soils are occasionally met with. Inferior sugarcane is largely produced on such lands, but, as a rule, second crops are seldom raised owing to scarcity of labour and poverty of the soil. The gardens are of the kind which is met with in Sirsi, and although Mr. Wingate considers them as not quite in such a high state of cultivation, they produce the valuable spices of Kánara, such as cardamoms, supári, pepper, as well as fruit.

7. The táluka in general and these villages in particular are well off for communications with neighbouring markets and with the seaboard. The villages contain 181 carts—a fairly large number for a group of 21 villages in Kánara. The facilities for export of produce to remunerative markets by roads are very fair though the villages are further from the railway and the large markets to which the produce is ultimately exported than the villages of the Sirsi Táluka with which we have lately had to deal.

8. The revenue history of these villages, as ascertainable from the Mám-latdár's records, is incomplete, but enough is shown by the statement given in paragraph 8 to prove that the revenue demand has hitherto been subject to very few fluctuations and that the collections have been made with great evenness and regularity. This is scarcely to be wondered at considering that the system in force encouraged stealthy encroachment and that there were few estate-holders who had not brought under cultivation more lands than they were actually paying revenue for.

9. In fixing the pitch of the maximum rates for each description of land Mr. Wingate has exercised great caution and, as pointed out by him in the concluding part of paragraph 12, there are special reasons why the Settlement Officer in Kánara should exercise moderation. The breaking up of the system of assessment on the "warg" or estate which results from the introduction of a field survey into Kánara, is followed by a temptation to the cultivator to throw up those of his lands which from want of labour or other considerations he finds it difficult to cultivate at a profit and in such case it is difficult to tempt fresh tenants to take up the abandoned land. I have seen good lands in the Supa Táluka thrown up in this way and lying untenanted, because the difficulties of renewing cultivation in a feverish and incongenial climate are too great to be overcome at once, even with the low rates imposed by the survey. Steady and continuous cultivation in Kánara can only be guaranteed at this juncture by a judicious moderation such as the early settlement officers exercised in similarly undeveloped tracts and the success of which has been so rapidly demonstrated. The maximum rates for the villages round Siddápúr should

certainly be slightly lower than those of Sirsi which is altogether a more central and better situated tract, but had I had the usual opportunity of discussing these rates beforehand with the local officers, I should have recommended that the start should be made at Rs. 4-12-0 for rice, so as to admit of a wider range for downward graduation of the rate in the less favourably situated villages. However the actual difference in the realizable demand would not have been very appreciable, and looking to the strong reasons for leniency quoted by Mr. Wingate and the assent to the proposed rates recorded by the Superintendent and the Collector, I am not disposed to press the point. The proposed dry-crop and garden rating has my full concurrence.

10. The rates when worked out on the several maxima from the classification data result in an average of $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas for dry-crop and Rs. 2-13-3 for rice, the latter showing that the general poverty of the soil has been fully recognized and allowed for. The average rate for occupied gardens will be Rs. 12-10-6, from which it is clear that these gardens enjoy very high soil and water advantages. This average rate is about the same as that of the garden lands of the last group of villages of the Sirsi Taluka which are reported on in my No. 512 of to-day's date.

11. A comparison of the rates which will result from these proposals with the existing rates can only be fully made in the case of 15 villages. The result is a moderate increase of revenue of 32.6 per cent., In the remaining 6 villages for which complete data are not forthcoming, Mr. Wingate has reason to believe that comparison would give a similar result. The increase in single villages is not so great as has usually been found to be the case in recent Kánara settlements, nevertheless there must be large increments in individual holdings, so that the concessions granted by Government Resolution No. 5573 of the 21st October 1874, and recommended by the Collector to be granted in the case of these villages, will be welcome to the cultivators. The table given in Mr. Wingate's paragraph 13 will show Government that the varying increases are not caused by any inequalities in the proposed demand, but by the utter absence of all symmetry in the rates which have existed hitherto.

12. I recommend the scheme of settlement as a whole for adoption by Government and trust that if sanction be accorded and the rates introduced before the rains the date for relinquishment of lands under Section 74 of the Land Revenue Code be extended to the 5th July 1888.

T. H. STEWART,
Survey and Settlement Commissioner.

No. 863 of 1888.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Poona, 27th March 1888.

Submitted to Government.

2. The applicability of the proposed rates has been fully proved. The Commissioner, S. D., has, therefore, no hesitation in submitting them for the sanction of Government.

(Signed) W. H. PROPERT,
Commissioner, S. D.

Revenue Survey and Assessment: Introduction of survey settlement into twenty-one villages of the Siddápur Táluka of the Kánara District.

No. 2606.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 28th April 1888.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, S. D., No. 863, dated 27th March 1888—Submitting the papers noted in the margin containing proposals for the introduction of the survey settlement into twenty-one villages of the Siddápur Táluka of the Kánara District.

Letter from the Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of Kánara Surveys, No. 15, dated 14th January 1888.

Letter from the Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern Marátha Country Revenue Surveys, No. 249, dated 19th February 1888.

Letter from the Collector of Kánara, No. 614, dated 29th February 1888.

Memorandum from the Survey and Settlement Commissioner, No. 513, dated 14th March 1888.

RESOLUTION.—In submitting proposals for the introduction of the survey settlement into twenty-one villages of the Siddápur Táluka of the Kánara District, Mr. Wingate prefaces his remarks with a brief description of the physical characteristics of the country. The táluka lies immediately to the south of that of Sirsi, the settlement of which has just been brought to completion: to the west and south it is bounded by the foreign territory of Mysore. It varies considerably in its features, being in the west hilly and well-wooded, whilst its eastern portions, in which the villages now under review are almost entirely situated, are open and contain but stunted forest growth, the consequence of a generally light and sandy soil. The average annual rainfall as registered at the head-quarters of the táluka is 106½ inches, the western villages however receiving a far larger share of moisture than those in the centre, which again are more plentifully supplied with rain than those lying to the east. In all however it is ample and regular.

2. The cultivable area of these twenty-one villages amounts to about 25 per cent. of their total extent, which is 38 square miles. Statistics show that for every 4 acres of land (exclusive of garden land) there is a pair of bullocks, a provision ample for the needs of cultivation. They contain 181 carts, showing the advantage the cultivators here have in this respect over their neighbours in Sirsi. The main road to the coast *via* the Malimani Ghát traverses this group of villages from north to south, and all of them are within reach of it, or of one of its feeders. The people are said to be generally in a prosperous condition, and to hold more land than they can cultivate.

3. The revenue collections during the last twenty years have been uniform, and have averaged Rs. 16,736 per annum. It is impossible to give the area for which they were made owing to the uncertainty of the returns, which in some villages have got involved with those of others not yet surveyed. In only three years has it been found necessary to grant any remissions, and these of the most trifling amount; and assessments have always been paid regularly and without demur. It is now proposed to divide these villages into two groups, containing eight and thirteen villages, and to impose maximum rates for rice-land of Rs. 4-8-0 and Rs. 4, and for dry-crops of 14 and 12 annas respectively: the maximum rate for garden land to be uniformly Rs. 14. The assessment under the new rates will amount to Rs. 21,023. To make a complete comparison of the incidence of the present and proposed rates is impossible for the reasons given above in speaking of the areas, but for fifteen villages reliable figures have been worked out, which are as follows:—

Class.	No. of Villages.	No. for which returns are available.	Past average collections.	Estimate of collections under new rates.	Percentage of Increase.
			Rs.	Rs.	
I.	8	8	6,757	8,431	24·8
II.	13	7	4,408	6,371	44·5
	21	15	11,165	14,802	32·6

Mr. Wingate however assures Government that the percentage of increase in the remaining six villages will be about the same figure, and as far as can be judged from the data in the Appendix to his report this is so. The total annual increase of revenue to Government on the lands now under cultivation will be about Rs. 4,287, though it is more than probable that a certain area will be at once, or soon, relinquished, and a corresponding reduction of revenue take place.

4. The maximum rates thus proposed are pitched slightly lower than in the neighbouring groups of the Sirsi Táluka, the reason given being the greater distance at which these villages lie from the line of rail to Hubli and Belláry, both markets to which much of the produce of this district is sent. Mr. Stewart remarks that had he at the time when these rates were fixed been on duty he might have recommended a start in the case of rice-lands from a slightly higher maximum of Rs. 5. Under the circumstances however he accepts the proposals made, which are no doubt in all cases moderate, as compared with the rates quoted as ruling in the neighbouring territory of Mysore. As however moderation in the introduction of a settlement into undeveloped tracts like this can never be too carefully adhered to, and is certain to bring its own reward to the revenues through confidence and stimulus given to the cultivating classes, and as the enhancements in this case seem sufficiently large, the rates proposed meet with the sanction of His Excellency in Council. The incidence of the enhancements falls pretty equally upon the different villages, in no instance exceeding 70 per cent., so that cases of high individual enhancements are not likely to be of such common occurrence as in many of the Kánara settlements: any that may occur will no doubt be adequately met by the provisions contained in Government Resolution No. 5573 of the 21st of October 1874, which are applicable to all original surveys in this district.

5. The proposed rates should be introduced during the current year, and levied for the first time in that ensuing: a guarantee of their continuance for thirty years being as usual given, and the 5th of next July being fixed as the date up to which notices of relinquishment of land are to be received.

E. LAWRENCE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, S. D.,
 The Collector of Kánara,
 The Survey and Settlement Commissioner,
 The Accountant General,
 The Director of Land Records and Agriculture,
 The Public Works Department of the Secretariat.
 The Government of India,
 The Secretary of State for India. } By letter.

ERRATUM.

No. 3173 of 1888.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 19th May 1888.

In line 7, paragraph 4 of Government Resolution No. 2606, dated 28th April 1888, for the words "higher maximum of Rs. 5" read the words "higher maximum of Rs. 4-12-0."

E. LAWRENCE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, S. D.,
 The Collector of Kánara,
 The Survey and Settlement Commissioner,
 The Accountant General,
 The Director of Land Records and Agriculture,
 The Public Works Department of the Secretariat.