Selectors of Papers-

Records at the East-India House Relating to the.

> Revenue, Police & Civil. & Créminal Justice, Under the Company's Governments in India

> > Vol 111

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SELECTION OF PAPERS

FROM THE

ECCRDS AT THE EAST-INDIA HOUSE

RELATING TO THE

REVENUE, POLICE,

AND

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE,

UNDER THE

COMPANY'S GOVERNMENTS IN INDIA

VCL.III.

LONDON:

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Survey
and Assessment
of the
Deccan.

36. Mistakes in the calculation of accounts, when arising from negligence or haste, will be punished by a deduction of the whole of the pay of the day or days in which the errors have been committed. The assessor, who will come after the surveyor, will be held responsible for checking these accounts, and in cases where the pay has been actually received, it will be recovered by a stoppage from the succeeding months' wages.

37. Surveyors are strictly forbidden to beat or confine the inhabitants on any account whatever.

### APPENDIX.

Appendix.

No. 1.—Form of Mochulka to be taken by Surveyors from the Koolhurnees of Villages.

I, Gunnesh Punt Withel Punt, Koolkurnee of the mouzah of Katorez, in the kavellee turuf of the talook of Poona, do by this present writing affirm, that I have faithfully rendered to Pandoorang Punt Krishen, Survey Mootusuddee, on his requisition, distinct accounts of the aforesaid village, as follows, viz. the zumeen jharah, or detailed list of all the lands whether cultivated or uncultivated.

The register of enam lands as it stood prior to the year A.D. 1803, and the register as it has stood since that period, exhibiting all recent grants by Zemindars or Mamlutdars, all escheats from failure of heirs, all exchanges of enam from Government land, and all Government land that has been surreptitiously or otherwise confounded with enam fields, and statements of all concealed cultivated land that has been kept back from the public accounts.

I do further affirm, that I have wilfully concealed nothing: and in the event of the contrary being proved, I do consent not only to refund the amount of such concealed resources, but to forfeit my wuttun, and submit to such fine or other penalty as Government may be pleased to adjudge to me.

(Signed) GUNNESH PUNT.

Witnesses: Ram Row — Narrain Row.

(Signed) W. CHAPLIN, Commissioner.

No. 2.—Instructions of Azmayesh Gomastahs or Examiners of the Survey.

- 1. As you are appointed to the superintendence of a party of ten surveyors, you will regulate their survey as follows.
- 2. When a village has eight or ten large hamlets (warrees), you will send two surveyors to each, but if the warrees are small only one.
- 3. When there is a large mouzah without any warree, you will mark out by flags the portions to be surveyed by each surveyor, and let them compare their account of boundaries with each other, so as to prevent any land from being omitted in their respective limits.
- 4. When a mouzah is small, and you think that the survey will be accelerated by employing only a part of the surveyors in it, and sending the rest to another mouzah, you will do so.
- 5. If the warrees of a mouzah have old boundaries you will adopt them. If they have no visible boundaries, you will set up stones in order to distinguish them.
- 6. You will take care that no land is omitted between the respective limits of your own surveyors, or between their limits and those of other parties of surveyors.
- 7. You will take the rough accounts (the khan chittah) from the surveyors, and make by them all your comparisons of measurement.
- 8. In your examinations of measurement, you will attend particularly to the fields of Patells, Koolkurnees, and Khooshash inhabitants.
  - 9. You will examine by measurement as follows.

Dry

Survey
d Assessm
of the
Deccan.

Dry or		500 goontal	hs or chains,	,
Wet		.150	'do.	•
and transmit the account o	f the examination	in the follow	wing form:	*
No. 1. Margoozah tree f north of Govind Gaun Row	n's yetmannee field	d, measured	by Bheem	
Viz. East to west  North to south			15½ do.	
	Total		78¼ or 4	181
Azmaish or trial  Viz. East to west  North to south			12 chains	5 1 chain
	Total		201 or 5	5 1

- 10. You will transmit your trials with the rough accounts to the Cutcherry, and give the fair ones to the accountants (awurdah nowis).
- 11. In examining the measurement, if the excess of the land on trial is above twelve and a half per cent. in dry, or ten per cent. in wet, you will add the difference to the field. If the deficiency is more than ten per cent. in dry, or five per cent. in wet, you will deduct it.
- 12. If in any village you find the measurement of the whole or the greater part of the fields incorrect, and that a new survey is required, you will state the circumstance, and obtain leave before you recommence it.
- 13. If any Ryot complains that the measurement of his field is not fair, you will measure it again.
- 14. You will inquire into new unauthorized enams, extra collections, land and articles of the village taxes suppressed in the accounts; of all such discoveries one-half will be given as a reward, but one quarter of that half will be paid to the person from whom you may have received your information.
- 15. As the chains are frequently broken, you will compare them occasionally with the standard measure.
- 16. You will get two chain-bearers from the totees or tullatees of the village: you will pay them one quarter of a Cantary fanam each daily in the presence of the Patell and Koolkurnee, and take their receipt, and you will send a statement of the expense with your monthly account.
- 17. You will divide all the villages that fall to your share according to the number of surveyors, write the different shares on an equal number of papers, and let the surveyors draw lots and measure the villages which their respective lots contain.
- 18. Your party is to measure only such villages as may be allotted to it. If in the hope of getting more pay from the black land, your surveyors measure the lands allotted to another party, they will receive no pay for them, and will be fined.
- 19. After finishing the measurement of the villages allotted to your party in any district, if there is any party that has not begun its measurement in that district you will measure its villages, but if there is no party which has not commenced you will proceed to the next district.
- 20. You are not to measure in four or five days the number of acres prescribed to you for the month, but to measure daily, only except on those days when you are on your way to another district. The measurement may be more in some days and less in others, but the prescribed quantity for the month must be completed.

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- 21. You are not to try the measurement of a part of the surveyors in one month, and that of the rest in another, but you are in each month to try the measurement of all the surveyors.
- 22. You are not to remain behind the surveyors; because, unless you are with them, you cannot compare with them the false measurement which you may discover. If you are not always in the same district with them you will be dismissed.
- 23. With your monthly abstracts you will send a list of the surveyors and Peons present and absent. You will give your rough accounts of measurement examined to the Amildar, who will forward them to the Collector's cutcherry, and you will take the Amildar's receipts for the accounts.
- 24. You will receive a monthly allowance of one rupee and three-quarters for sadirwarid.
  - 25. You will pay for all articles at the bazaar price.\*

(Signed) W. CHAPLIN, Commissioner.

No. 3 —Rules for the Classification of the Lands by Assessors or Turrim Mootsuddees.

The measurement of the lands being completed, the still more important operation remains to be performed, that of determining their assessment in such a manner that the just dues of Government may be realized, and the fair fruits of their labour secured to the cultivators. With a view to the attainment of this end, the primary object is a correct classification of the lands, for which purpose the following rules have been drawn up.

- 1. The Patells, Koolkurnees, and principal Ryots of the village, together with the same officers and a few of the chief Ryots of the surrounding villages, being assembled, the assessors shall proceed in their company to inspect every field, and to arrange the whole into first, second, third, or more classes, according to their respective qualities. The names of the persons accompanying the assessors in this duty are to be inserted in their diary, and the assessor will particularly attend to the opinion and advice which they may give on all occasions.
- 2. The assessor will attend to the following particulars. Each mouzah or village has one or more muzras or dependent hamlets attached to it. In each muzra will, of course, be found various classes of land, as well as in the mouzah. In distributing the land into classes the arrangement is not to be made for the muzras separately from the mouzah, but the whole are to be taken together, and if the land of the muzras is of the first sort, whilst the best of that of the mouzah be only of the second, it will be classed accordingly; and all the rest of the lands, whether the mouzah or muzra, must be arranged on the same principle, with reference to the classes to which they may be found to belong. On the other hand, if any of the land of the mouzah be of superior quality to that of the muzras, it will be so classed.
- 3. In classing the lands, the Ryots who cultivate them must be in attendance; but the classification must be made without reference to their present circumstances, keeping in view the consideration that the land assessment is permanent, but that the condition of its occupant is liable to change. Great care must also be taken to obviate all future cavils, that land of the first class be not rated in the second class, and vice versa.
- 4. The assessor will take the kucha chittee, or rough accounts of the measurement along with him, and inspecting each field in succession, as it is numbered in those accounts, he will insert as he goes each in its appropriate class. He will afterwards draw up such separate statements as may be required, to shew distinctly what fields are cultivated and what fallow, and what are held upon enam or other particular tenure.

5. The

5. The surveyors will have hardly entered in their accounts a description of each field, the colour and nature of its soil, &c. The assessors having examined all these particulars by a careful inspection and inquiry, and having allowed for any manute and other improvement of the same nature which does not permanently increase the productive powers of the land, and also for permanent improvements, where of so recent a date as not to allow the proprietor to have been fully reimbursed and remunerated, will ascertain the quality of the field, and determine the class in which it ought to be inserted. His register is to contain the following specifications. And first, with regard to zeerael khooskee, or dry land, of which there are three kinds:

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- 1st. Regûr kalee, or black soil, generally considered the first sort, but of which there are several varieties, such as purely black, mixed with stones, mixed with sand, &c. &c. These will be distributed into first, second, third, or more sorts, according to their qualities, under the general head of black soil.
  - 2d. The red or coloured soil is generally considered the second sort. This has also its varieties; such as purely red, red with some admixture of black or white, or mixed with stones or sand. These will also be divided into their different sorts, under the general head of coloured or red soil.
  - 3d. What is called the burrud or mussut, usually considered the third sort, is a mixed soil, gravelly and stony, of considerable hardness, in which the common plough does not penetrate to much depth. This soil has also its varieties, which must be distinguished.

The above are the three specifications required relative to the jeeraet, or dry land.—Secondly, guddee zumeen, or lands sown with rice, sugar-cane, and other crops dependent upon the monsoon rains for their perfection. These lands are usually, according to the custom of the country, entered as zerut or dry land, but are subject to a higher assessment, and it is therefore necessary to place them under a separate head, with a view to the rent being accurately determined. The various sorts must be distinguished in the accounts, and whether it be one or two-crop land.—Thirdly.\* Baghaet, or garden land This must be distinguished into:

- 1st. Patusthul, or land permanently watered by nullahs or streams of which the supply of water is perpetual (olethao), and yielding either one or two crops, and rorduwao, of which the supply of water is not constant. In either case, whether it yields one or two crops it must be recorded.
- 2d. Motusthul, or land irrigated by machinery from wells or streams, the same details as for patusthul being ascertained and recorded.
- 3d. Lands irrigated by tanks with similar particulars, each being divided into its separate classes.
- 4th. Turee zumeen, or wet land; whether watered from streams or from tanks, and whether one or two-crop land, must be divided into as many classes as there may be varieties.

The above specification is considered indispensably necessary, because the assessment varies with reference to the quality and circumstances, as above shewn, and it will be impossible to fix the rates accurately without possessing a knowledge of these details.

- 6. After the classification, the next process is to determine the rate of assessment of each class. This is an operation that requires the greatest care and nicety, because after due revision, when once definitively fixed, objections that may be subsequently started will be considered inadmissible. Much depends upon the accuracy of the classification, which if complained of as defective must be corrected by the Assessor in concert with the Patells, Koolkurnees, and inhabitants, after the most careful examination, so that land of one class may not be inserted under that of another. This is, of all others, the most important duty for the assessor to attend to.
- 7. In order to effect classification with accuracy, not only the description and quality of the soil, but the labour and expense of cultivating it, must be taken into consideration, together with other circumstances, viz.

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### Black Soil.

First. With regard to dry land. The black soil is usually reckoned of the first sort; but its being so classed will depend upon its situation as well as its quality. If lying near the village, it may be properly entered in the first class; but land of equally good quality lying at a distance from the village cannot bear the same assessment, because the time and labour required to till it, to watch it, to manure it, &c. must necessarily be greater.

For instance: A Ryot may plough ten beegahs a day in the immediate vicinity of the village, but he can only get through eight if the field be far off: the waste both of labour and time being in proportion to the distance. Hence the necessity sometimes of entering land of equally good quality in an inferior class. Again, land close to the village may be inferior in quality to the best sort at a distance, and at first sight it might accordingly be classed as second sort, but owing to the facility of cultivating, manuring, and fertilizing it, it may be more productive than the first sort that hes remote, and on account of these advantages it may be rated in the first class.

What to outward appearance is black land of the first class, has often, at the depth of a span or two, a substratum of gravel or limestone, into which the roots of the grain sown on, it do not penetrate, and the crop is in consequence unproductive. This circumstance must be considered in classing land of this description.

There is another sort of black land, which, being free from gravel or stones to whatever depth excavated, might at first sight be inserted in the first class. It is called bodur, which when the rains fall becomes boggy or swampy, and the crops do not thrive in it: it must, therefore, be classed with reference to this peculiarity.

Fields apparently of equal quality as to soil are sometimes very different as to their productive powers. This difference arises from peculiar circumstances of situation. Those lying in low ground or hollows retain the moisture which they have received for a long while, whilst those on the higher grounds become more rapidly parched up: the crops on the one are certain and abundant, whilst those on the other are precarious and often scanty. The one will therefore be rated in the first class, and the other in the second, according to their relative situation and capability.

Some fields are thickly covered with large pebbles, which after a fall of rain contribute to keep the surface cool and prevent a rapid evaporation of the moisture: the crops are in consequence luxuriant. The existence of these pebbles is therefore no proof, as might at first sight be supposed, of the inferiority of such fields: a fact to be kept in mind.

One-half of a field is sometimes cultivated by a substantial Ryot and the other half by a poorer one. The one, by improved culture and manure, produces an excellent crop; the other, for want of these advantages, yields only a middling one. Both, however, are in respect to soil on an equality; and if the one be put in the first class, and the other in the second, the substantial Ryot will be induced, by the greater gain to be derived from the lower rent, to take the first opportunity of relinquishing his own land and occupying that of the poor Ryot the moment he throws it up. As this occasions loss of revenue, it is expedient that the assessment of both parts should be equal. In levying it, however, a discretionary abatement must often be allowed to the poor Ryot. There are often diversities of soil in the same field, some part of it perhaps being of the first, some of the second, third, and even fourth sort. Care must be taken to ascertain whether the superior or inferior predominates, and the general average being taken, the classification must be made accordingly. In the black land of the superior sort the Ryots on the first fall of rain sow moony ooreed, oil-seed, which soon comes to maturity; and in the after rains they cultivate a second crop of chunne, or white joowaree. The advantages derived from two crops will, of course, be considered in the classification

of the land. There are many other causes why land should be rated in a high or low class, which must be duly weighed by the Assessors. The above few are enumerated for their information, by way of example.

Dry Red Soil.

Though the red or coloured soil is commonly called the second sort, it is far from being entirely so. It has its varieties, and many of the reasons above shown must operate in determining the relative classifications.

Dry Mixed Soil. .

The same remarks apply to the burd or mixed soil. In this sort of land it is often necessary, after taking one or two crops from it in successive years, to leave it fallow for the following two or three years. This must be taken into account in classing it.

Griddee.

Griddee, or lands sown with paddy, sugar-cane, &c., watered only by the monsoon rains, are often more or less productive according to their high or low situation, which, with many other points, must be considered in fixing their classes. It is nevertheless desirable, if possible, that the quality of the soil should in this, as in all other cases, form the main basis of the assessment.

Baghaet.

Baghaet, or garden, whether patusthul or motusthul, will have many varieties, according to the facilities of irrigation. Its classes will be determined with reference also to various other circumstances: such as whether it yields one or two crops, whether the nullahs or wells from which it is irrigated require to be cleared out by the labour of the Ryot, &c.

#### Turree.

To turree, or wet land, the same rules apply, with reference to the supply of water and the labour and expense of keeping up the channel of irrigation. The above few hints are sufficient to shew how nice and delicate an operation is that of classifying the lands, and how much care and intelligence are required to form a good Assessor.

8. Baghaet lands planted with cocoa nut or betel-nut, or other fruit-bearing trees, must be classed also according to the facilities of irrigation and the expense of cultivation. In some villages the rate of assessment is regulated by the number and quality of the trees: whatever may be the existing practice it must be duly recorded.

Meeras Land.

- 9. In some talooks the Ryots hold their lands on permanent meeras tenure, which must be confirmed to them. Wherever these lands have been regularly classed into first, second, third, &c., and the rates of assessment defined, the same classification is to be held good and entered in the present survey accounts. In case, however, of an alteration of the classification being requested, in consequence of the alleged deterioration of the land or of other causes, the Assessor will examine the land in question, and if necessary transfer it to its proper class, noting at length his reasons for doing so. If no classification of meeras lands has taken place in the village, a new classification must be made on the principles laid down in these rules.
- 10. In some villages the circar lands have for a long course of years been regularly classed, and the rates of rent for each class fixed, according to which the Ryots have to the present day paid the Government dues. In all such cases any new classification may be dispensed with; except where corrections may be solicited by the inhabitants themselves, in which event the precautions prescribed in the foregoing clause are to be observed.
- 11. Waste or fallow land must be classed on the same principles as those laid down for the lands under cultivation. Their being waste must not be deemed a reason for inserting them in inferior classes. If this error be committed, the Ryots will soon transfer their stock from the cultivated lands to the waste; a consequence which it is on every account desirable to prevent. The classification of fields is to be made with reference to their boundary marks, as exhibited in the accounts of the measurement. Where, however, the waste Vol. III.

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- is of long standing, and the measurement has been made in large parcels, of which the boundary marks of each field from not being discernible could not be separately laid down, the classification must be rather general than particular, on a view of the whole parcel. Such classification will accordingly be entered in the accounts, but will not be considered permanent. At a future period, when these parcels of waste shall be cultivated on cowle, they must be measured, and each field entered in its appropriate class.
- 12. The beds of tanks are sometimes cultivated in seasons when the tank has not been filled, or by degrees after it has filled as the water subsides. Such tank land should be classed according to its quality.
- 13. In consequence of the impoverished condition of some talooks, a large proportion of their lands will be found waste. In arranging the classification in all such cases, care must be taken not to underrate them on account of the present exhausted state of those districts; because, if this error be committed, considerable loss is likely to ensue, from the Ryots of the neighbouring districts transferring their stocks to the waste that has been thus undervalued. A proper medium must be fixed, so that this evil, on the one hand, may be avoided; and on the other, that sufficient encouragement may still be held out for the reclaiming of such waste by degrees, as wealth and population shall increase.
- 14. The lands of Enamdars should be classed in the same manner as the circar lands.
- 15. As the assessment of each sort of land is to be determined after the classification is completed, it will be necessary to ascertain what is the proper rate of decrease between each class. This information may be procured at the time of making the classification, when the village officers and inhabitants, as well as the neighbourhood, are all assembled. Their advice, and the Koolkurnee's accounts of the village durs or rates, and of the actual collections of the preceding year, will enable the Assessors to form an opinion as to what shall be the rate per acre of land of the first class, and what the proportion of decrease for the second, &c. &c. This point determined on a fair consideration of the interests of the Ryot and of Government, the Assessors will cast up the total of the proposed rates, and exhibit the aggregate in the abstract of the classification, noting at the foot of it the actual collections of the preceding year. This account will be forwarded to the district Mamlutdar, and taken into consideration when the classification comes to be finally fixed and confirmed by the head Assessor at the Collector's Huzzoor Cutcherry.

The classes may be fewer, but ought not to exceed the number specified, except under very particular circumstances, when one or two classes may be added.

- 17. The Assessors are furnished with a form of classification of the lands of each village: all accounts are to be kept accordingly. The Assessors are not to retain these accounts, but when completed are to render them to the Mamlutdar. When delivered over, they are to proceed to prosecute their inquiries in other villages or talooks that may be assigned to them.
- 18. The Assessors in making the classification are to cause every particular of it to be recorded by the Koolkurnees, and are not to leave the village till this shall have been done. Any omission in this respect will subject the Assessor to forfeiture of the wages of the mouth in which it was committed.
- 19. The Assessors are forbidden to carry the Koolkurnees away to other villages, under pretence of the necessity of comparing accounts with them;

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each day's accounts must be examined at the time, and in the village to which they belong. This prohibition, however, is not to prevent the Assessors from taking with them the Koolkurnee of one village to assist in the classification of the adjoining villages.

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- 20. In the abstract account of the classification must be entered an account of the cultivation of the year in which the survey is made, and of the preceding year, shewing under the head of waste all uncultivated land. Should the cultivation of the year in which the survey takes place exceed that of the preceding years, what is newly cultivated must be shewn distinctly; and, on the other hand, if more land in that year is uncultivated, the extent must be detailed.
- 21. Each Assessor will have three Gomastahs, for the purpose of keeping the accounts, in which the circar lands must be registered by fields. The enam lands must be shewn under their several heads, specifying the individual holders and the classes to which they belong. The waste, whether waste only of late years or old waste, must be distinguished. Abstracts of the whole, when finished, must be forwarded to the district Mamlutdar, and his receipt taken for the same.
- 22. In order to preserve uniformity in the manner of classification to each set of Assessors, one head Assessor will be appointed. The Mamlutdar having divided the district into sections, and handed over to them the accounts of the measurement, they will proceed with the classification, commencing from such quarter as he may point out to them.
- 23. The head Assessors will examine what has been classed by the Sub-Assessors; and if their work be found incorrect they will be dismissed.
- 24. The Assessors will not, however, wait at a village of which they have completed the classification till the head Assessor shall come to examine it. The classification of one village being finished, they will proceed on to the next.
- 25. The Assessors should, as far as possible, keep-up with the Surveyors: should they fall far in the rear their pay will be reduced.
- 26. Should the Surveyors, in arranging the classification, either from partiality or corrupt motives, insert fields in a low class that ought to be in a higher one, they will not only be dismissed, but will be subject to imprisonment, or such other punishment as may be deemed adequate. They will pay for all supplies taken in the villages at the market rate of the day, and are forbidden to interfere in regulating prices.
  - 27. They are especially forbidden to beat or confine the inhabitants.
- 28. The Assessors will examine and correct any errors in the accounts of the Surveyors that may have arisen from haste or negligence; they will be particular in specifying the dates on which these mistakes have occurred, and the extent of the inaccuracy, forwarding lists of the differences to the head Assessor.
- 29. The Assessors will report to the Collector any claims which may be preferred to favourable terms in the settlement, or to any other privilege, whether those claims affect individuals only or a considerable number or class
- 30. In order to prevent indolence on the part of the Assessors, it is to be understood that each will be paid in proportion to his work as follows:

For land of	which the assessment last year	-	Mon	thly Pay.
* was	Rupees	12,000	Rupees	40
Ditto		11,000	*************	<b>3</b> 6
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Should the Assessor classify less than 8,000 rupees of land he will be considered incapable and will be dismissed. He is not expected to classify more

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than 12,000 rupees' worth, and his pay will not exceed forty rupees if he does. The Collectors, however, are at liberty to modify the above scale, should it be deemed necessary in consideration of local circumstances; such as that of the country being extremely hilly, or the fields very small in size and intermixed with jungle, or on account of any other sufficient causes.

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The Assessor's establishments will be as follows:

The Assessor, as above, in proportion to his work.	- ,
The Assessor, as above, in proportion to his work.	ch.
Three Gomastahs, each 20 rupeesRupees	Ϋ́
Two Peons, 4 each	8,
Stationery, &c	4

The pay as above will be remitted monthly from the Huzzoor treasury:—that of the Assessors according to the amount of the classification, and that of the Gomastahs, &c. at therates fixed, of which monthly abstracts are to be forwarded to the head Assessors.

(Signed) W. CHAPLIN, Commissioner. .

### No. 4.—Head Assessors.

The measurement and classification being completed, and estimated rates of assessment being drawn up, the assessment of each class is finally to be determined upon the principles detailed in the sequel.

- 1. The district will have been divided into as many sections as there may be Assessors, and the survey accounts delivered over to each Assessor by the Mamlutdar.
- 2. The Assessor will have made the classification, and will have estimated what is an equitable rate of assessment of each class according to its quality.
- 3. In forming his judgment, the quality of the land, the rent it has formerly paid, and other circumstances, are to be considered by the head Assessor. The head Assessor will, with this view, examine the accounts of every village for five years of Nana Furnavees' administration, rejecting years of famine or calamity, and record the extent of land cultivated in each year, and the actual collections as well as the average. He will also register the average rates of assessment of each class of land during that period. He will, in like manner, ascertain the same averages for ten years of Bajerow's government, and those of four years during the Company's administration. will not, however, answer to fix the assessment of each class of land exclusively with reference to the average rates formerly realized, because many of the lands being held upon different and variable tenures, such as soothe, ookte, and cowle, the averages would be fallacious data on which to-found the assessment. For instance, the rates of soothe are always high, whilst those of ookte and cowle are generally much lower. These lands, too, are frequently changing hands; ookte and cowle lands becoming soothe, and vice versa. The actual collections alone are, therefore, not a sure guide by which to determine the rates of assessment. The assessment must therefore be fixed in an equal degree with reference to the quality of the land, and its produce, after deducting the expenses of cultivation. No Ryot, however, will tell truly what is the gross produce of his field, but every one, from ocular and auricular evidence, knows with sufficient accuracy what each field of his neighbour's yields on an average. The information, therefore, though not to be had from the actual occupant, is procurable from other sources in the village and from people in the vicinage. Having ascertained, as far as may be practicable, what number of maunds of grain a beegah or acre of each class produces, and having converted the same into money at a fair average price, the Assessor will, according to the best of his judgment, fix the Government rent, after making the usual deductions on account of the labour and expenses of cultivation, as well as the maintenance of the Ryot's family, adverting to the former custom of the country; one-half of the gross produce of dry land is usually considered the Government share; but to enable the Ryots to thrive, the proportion must always have been smaller. To exact the half would certainly fall heavily: of one hundred, therefore, sixty may be considered -

considered the share of the cultivator and forty of the circar. In baghaet land watered from wells, of which the expense of cultivating is greater than the dry land, seventy rupees may be left to the Ryot to reimburse him, and thirty taken as the Government proportion. In wet land or baghaet watered by tanks, out of one hundred gross produce sixty-five may be fixed as the share of the cultivator, and thirty-five as the share of the circar; the average of the whole will leave sixty-five parts to the Ryots and thirty-five to the It is not necessary to make these calculations of gross produce Government. for all the lands of each village, but for a few fields of such classes as may be necessary, to furnish information; this being obtained, the rent of inferior classes may be pretty correctly estimated on the same principle. Where the rates of each class of land are fixed according to the usage of the village, but the actual collections differ from those rates, the fact is to be ascertained and recorded. Before, however, finally determining the new rates of each class, they must be compared with the details of the kumal and tunkha settlements, the settlements of former years during the late Government, and the averages of the actual collections according to the riway, or usage of the village; this is to be done in conjunction with the Patels, Koolkurnees, and principal Ryots of the village in question, as well as of the adjacent villages, aided by any intelligent persons who may be able to supply information, to whose suggestion particular attention shall be paid. When the rates are determined, they must be clearly explained to the Ryots, so as to prevent cavil afterwards. In some villages rates of assessment for each class of land will be found to have been in use for a long period. Where these have been long adopted and are free from objection, it will not be requisite to introduce any new rates. Both the classification and assessment in such cases may be confirmed. Should, however, some Ryots have been favoured with reduced ates from any undue influence, or should the rates, from any alteration in the condition of the lands have become at all unequal; such lands may, at the desire of the inhabitants, be transferred to other classes in the event of its being on inquiry deemed requisite. Whatever alterations are made must be particularly recorded. With regard to lands held on meeras tenure, or the tenure of hereditary right of occupancy, some specific observations are necessary. In such lands the Meerassadars possess a proprietory right subject to the full payment of the public dues, and with this condition they can purchase, sell, or alienate as they think proper. As the tenure, from its various advantages, which need not be detailed here, adds to the respectability of the Ryot, and contributes to the security of the revenue, it is desirable not only to uphold it but to extend it as much as possible. The assessment, however, of meeras land in many villages being as vague and indefinite as that of land held by tenants at will, it is equally requisite in such cases that it should be regularly classed and its rent defined; but where the classification and assessment are already sufficiently perfect no innovation need be introduced. In many places, however, parcels of meeras land are held at a fixed rent for the whole lot: in others, one average rate of rent per beegah prevails, but the size of such beegah is greater or smaller in proportion as the land is of good or inferior quality. In others again, an average rate per beegah prevails on the whole lands, which are distributed according to their respective qualities amongst the whole body of the Ryots, in proportion to the number of ploughs possessed by each individual. In all these cases, where no classification or definite assessment exists it must be introduced. Meeras lands entered as dry are sometimes actually cultivated as baghaet, and it is desirable that they should be classed and rated accordingly; but as it is not the intention of Government to tax the Meerassadar's improvements, or to increase the amount which he has usually paid, the excess of assessment should be deducted in the accounts in consideration of long possession, excepting, however, in those cases where the surplus has been enjoyed through improper influence or fraudulent concealment, and where the possession is not of fong standing.

4. The fixing the assessment of waste land is no less an important operation than that of defining the rent of those that are cultivated, for it has been found from experience that where they have been rated too low in consequence of their being waste, the stock of the Ryots has afterwards been transferred to them from the cultivated lands, to the great detriment of the revenue; great Vol. III.

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- stress has, therefore, in the instructions to Assessors, been already laid on the subject of relatively equalizing the rent of waste and cultivated land. It will be the particular duty of the head Assessors to examine how far the equalization has been effected, and to make such corrections as may be necessary to attain the object without impeding future cultivation. Waste lands that have been measured in the gross, or that have been entered merely on estimate of their extent, must be assessed in pretty much the same vague manner; but such assessment will not be considered permanent. When cultivated they must be measured and their rates determined, but at present their assessment must be only conjectural.
- 5. When the head Assessors discover that the classification, whether occasioned by ignorance or corrupt motives, is imperfect, they must correct the defects by transferring each sort of land to its proper class, reporting the circumstances, in order that the Assessors may be duly punished. The head Assessors will be held particularly responsible for inaccuracies not brought to light.
- 6. As the Assessors ought not to remain behind the Surveyors, the head Assessors will not detain them till they come themselves to examine the classification.
- 7. The depopulated state of some districts, and the great extent of waste, has sometimes led to the rates of assessment being fixed on a lower scale than they ought to have been. This has occasioned the relinquishment of the cultivated lands in the adjacent districts, and a consequent defalcation of revenue. The head Assessors will carefully examine the rates with reference to this consideration, and to the no less important object, at the same time, of so regulating the assessment as not to discourage the inhabitants from reclaiming such waste.
  - 8. The enam lands should be classed and assessed like the circar lands.
- 9. The assessment of each class of land being fixed, the head Assessor will see what is the aggregate assessment of the circar land cultivated as well as uncultivated, and of the enam land. This he will compare with the collections of former years, of the late and present governments. The average rates per acre of each class of land as formerly established will also be compared with the rates now fixed, as well as with the customary rates actually paid. The assessment being finished, the accounts are to be delivered to the Mamlutdar and his receipt taken.
- 10. It has been already stated, that the assessment is to be fixed in concert with the principal inhabitants. Should any of them, with a view to conceal the real resources of their lands, obstinately refuse to attend, or attending, shall give grossly false testimony, the circumstance is to be represented to the Mamlutdar, who will, on proof of the fact, direct such punishment as may be appropriate or report it to the Huzzoor.
- 11. In recording the particulars of enam lands, such as have escheated from failure of hears are to be specified in the accounts.
- 12. If the Assessor requires the aid of any intelligent persons in fixing the assessment, the Mamlutdar will send them to him.
- 13. The head Assessor will forward the abstracts of his own and the Sub-Assessor's establishments to the Mamlutdar, through whom the amount will be remitted to him for distribution.
- 14. The head Assessor will class and assess monthly 52,000 rupees of cultivated land, for which he will receive sixty supees, which will be reduced in proportion to any deficiency below that extent of land: but this scale can be increased or modified according to local circumstances, as the Collectors may think proper

(Signed) W. CHAPLIN, Commissioner.

From Mr. Secretary Farish to W. Chaplin, Esq., Commissioner in the Deccan, (22d April 1825.)

Sir:

I am directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 25th February last, with a copy of the rules for the revenue survey and assessment, modified according to the instructions conveyed in Mr. Acting Secretary More's letter of the 28th of October last.

Letter from Mr. Secretary Farish, 22 April 1825.

Survey
and Assessment
of the
Deccan.

I have, &c.

Bombay Castle, 22d April 1825.

(Signed) J. FARISH,
Secretary to Government,

LONDON:

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