

SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY
GOVERNMENT.

No. CCXX.—NEW SERIES.

PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

ORIGINAL SURVEY SETTLEMENT OF 26 VILLAGES

OF THE

SIRSI TALUKA

OF THE

KANARA COLLECTORATE.

Printed at the GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS,

1888.

[Price—Three and a Half Annas.]

40
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SURVEY SETTLEMENT OF 26 VILLAGES OF THE SIRSI TALUKA
OF THE KANARA COLLECTORATE.**

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FROM

THE ASSISTANT SETTLEMENT OFFICER,
IN CHARGE KA'NARA SURVEY;

To

THE COLLECTOR OF KA'NARA.

*Assistant Settlement Officer's Office,
Camp Siddápur, 11th January 1888.*

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the following proposals for the survey settlement of (26) villages of the Sirsi Táluka, North Kánara.

2. With the settlement of this group the whole of the Sirsi sub-division will have been brought under survey rates, and this report should form the last of the series noted in the margin. In these reports the maximum rates made applicable to this district, its characteristics and general condition have already been fully discussed by abler pens than mine. I will, therefore, confine myself as much as possible to a short statement of facts, founded on the material compiled to accompany this report, and which lead me to propose the rates hereafter subscribed.

3. The (26) villages in question are very much scattered over the entire táluka, owing I presume to the circumstance that the very existence of those most isolated was probably not known, until the complete fitting in of that puzzle—a Kánara Táluka map. Notwithstanding eighteen villages out of the total twenty-six lie within a radius of (8) or (9) miles of the market town of Sirsi. Of these, two—Byagadi and Holibyl—occupy a position to its east, while the others all lie to the west, and are for the most part contiguous one with the other. Of the remaining eight villages, one—Sankadgundi—is situated on the made-road to Yellápur, and is about equidistant from that market and Sirsi, while the other seven form a compact group occupying the crest of the ghát, in the north-west corner of the táluka. Some of the hamlets belonging to these have their site on the western slope of the Ghát, and in some instances the cultivated lands run down below, and have much in common with what might be termed the Konkan of Kánara, such as hot weather rice crops, not often found above gháts.

4. With the exception of the cultivated valleys, all the rest of the country may be termed forest, varying from the flat and undulating in the east, to that of a very rugged and precipitous description the nearer the western gháts are approached. The entire area comprises about 50 square miles, out of which 3,435 acres only are arable, or a little more than 10 per cent.

The survey census returns show a population of 3,059 souls, giving a density of about 61 to the square mile. The proportion of cultivable land to the population is 1 acre 5 gunthás per head, while there is a pair of oxen available for every 4.6 acres of cultivation excluding the garden area. In these respects the villages under consideration closely resemble those reported upon last season by the Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern Marátha Country Revenue Surveys, who says: "the population is very sparse, on the whole but not so compared with the area at its command, nor is it badly equipped with the means of cultivation."

5. The percentage of the different kinds of cultivation is shown in the subjoined table :—

Dry-crop and grass.	Rice.	Garden.
22	49	29

The dry-crops raised in this moist tract are of little account, only small hill grains (ragi, &c.), being grown in patches here and there. The lands termed dry-crop are nearly all kept under *grass*, which is largely used for manuring purposes.

The rice lands generally return a good yield, artificial manure being largely supplemented by the wash from the surrounding hills. Sugarcane, in rotation, takes the place of rice in favourable situations, but in many places the moisture is excessive, which does not favour a good growth, the plants being liable to rot in the rains. Vegetables of different kinds thrive profusely in the hot weather, and are more generally cultivated than the usual 2nd green crop after the rice harvest.

The gardens produce cocoanuts, supáris, plantains, cardamoms, pánvel, black pepper, pine apples, limes and various other fruits, and rank second to none in Kánara.

6. The appended statistical statement gives a return of only 35 carts as pertaining to these villages, but traffic by wheeled conveyance is much more general than is supposed; merchants living in the large towns, who have direct dealings with the people, supplying the necessary carriage; even the villages situated in the region of the gháts have cart tracks running within a distance of 3 or 4 miles, and the Havik Bráhmans of late years have shown much enterprize, and considerable engineering skill, in forming roads of their own, giving access to the high way from their villages. These private roads in most instances can be traversed by carts in the fine weather, and even in the most inaccessible hamlets of the above-ghát tálukas, the people are becoming less dependent for the disposal of surplus produce on the casual visits of itinerant dealers with pack bullocks. The road from the market town of Hulekal to Múski bifurcates at Guranvali; this branch running along the ridge of the ghát as far as Songemani (*vide* map) taps the more remote villages in the north-west corner of the táluca, while all the others come within fairly easy range of the various roads leading from Sirsi to the coast. Carts can only traverse the Múski Ghát road, as far as the top of the ghát, and the Vádi Ghát road to a distance of 15 miles from Sirsi. It is a pity that the latter should have been allowed to fall out of repair; it opened up a considerable tract of country, and till within the last few years was capable of carrying cart traffic through to the coast.

7. The revenue history of these (26) villages for the past 20 years as supplied by the Mámlatdár is subjoined. The area shown cannot be relied on, but the collections are very constant in amount, any variation being explained by the fact that hamlets belonging to villages now coming under settlement were settled as far back as 1881-82, and others similarly in the following years up to the present time, the collections in these formerly settled being deducted from the total revenue of the village. Roughly speaking there is a sum of about Rs. 1,500 which does not appertain to the present area (*i. e.*), if this Rs. 1,500 were added to the collection of 1886-87, it would run it up to about the average. This all goes to show that the full collections have been easily and regularly made. The collections shown in the statement for the year 1886-87 do not tally with appendix column 17 from impossibility of separating the accounts of villages which have not been settled in the lump in the same year as explained above :—

Years.	Area in Acres.	Old standard Assessment.	Permanent Remissions.	Casual Remissions.	Net Collection.
	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.
1867-68	1,715	11,825	1,520	...	10,305
1868-69	1,715	11,825	1,520	...	10,305
1869-70	1,715	11,825	1,520	...	10,305
1870-71	1,715	11,825	1,520	...	10,305
1871-72	1,715	11,825	1,513	...	10,312
1872-73	1,715	11,825	1,513	...	10,312
1873-74	1,715	11,825	1,513	...	10,312
1874-75	1,715	11,825	1,512	...	10,313
1875-76	1,715	11,825	1,512	...	10,313
1876-77	1,715	11,825	1,526	...	10,299
1877-78	1,715	11,825	1,526	...	10,299
1878-79	1,715	11,825	1,526	...	10,299
1879-80	1,715	11,603	1,526	...	10,077
1880-81	1,686	11,603	1,526	...	10,077
1881-82	1,686	11,353	1,425	...	9,928
1882-83	1,637	11,353	1,425	...	9,928
1883-84	1,637	11,353	1,425	...	9,928
1884-85	1,637	11,355	1,421	...	9,934
1885-86	1,472	10,052	1,188	...	8,864
1886-87	1,416	10,006	1,226	...	8,780
Total	33,466	2,30,578	29,383	...	2,01,195
Average	1,673	11,529	1,469	...	10,060

8. The villages now being reported upon are intermixed with, and contiguous to, villages already settled, either in this taluka or those adjoining. In the accompanying map the rates of surrounding villages have been carefully noted. (The map forms a means of ready reference.) Rates already sanctioned in the surrounding villages form the basis of the present proposals, as follows:—

1st.—One village, "Holibyl," colored blue on the map, adjacent to those already assessed at Rs. 5 maximum rice rate, and Re. 1 dry-crop, to bear a similar rate. This village is situated to the east of Sirsi in the more open and accessible part of the taluka.

2nd.—Eight villages, colored red, rice rate Rs. 4-12-0, dry-crop Re. 1, in assimilation with adjacent rating. These all lie within (6) miles of the Sirsi market, and are besides within easy reach of the high ways to the coast.

3rd.—Nine villages, colored yellow, rice rate Rs. 4-8-0, dry-crop Re. 0-14-0, rather scattered, but rates strictly in accordance with surrounding villages all within easy reach of lines of communication, but are further from markets than those in the 2nd group.

4th.—One village, Sankadgundi, colored green, rice rate Rs. 4, dry-crop Re. 0-12-0, in assimilation with adjacent rating, situated on the line of road between Sirsi and Yellapur.

5th.—Seven villages, colored purple, rice rate Rs. 3-8-0, dry-crop Re. 0-10-0, situated on the crest of the ghat in very inaccessible positions. Population sparse, and labour difficult to obtain. Rates nearly identical with adjoining villages in Ankola, with which they have much in common.

9. The usual maximum rate for garden land, viz., Rs. 14, has been imposed throughout, with the exception of the (7) villages entered in the 5th group, where a maximum of Rs. 13 was generally adopted to somewhat allow for inaccessibility and a diminished labour-supply. The garden rating was done by me personally, a certain percentage of the statements having been submitted to the

Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern Marátha Country Surveys, for approval.

10. The areas and average rates of assessment for each description of land in each group are entered in the following statements :—

Class.	No. of villages.	MAXIMUM RATE.		GOVERNMENT OCCUPIED LAND.								
		Dry-crop.	Rice.	Dry-crop.			Rice.			Garden.		
				Acres.	Assessment.	Average rate per acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average rate per acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average rate per acre.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
I ...	1	1 0 0	5 0 0	3	2	0 10 8	49	141	2 14 0	...	...	...
II ...	8	1 0 0	4 12 0	250	157	0 10 1	504	1,720	3 6 7	249	3,177	12 12 2
III ...	9	0 14 0	4 8 0	257	127	0 7 11	506	1,555	3 1 2	395	5,129	12 15 9
IV ...	1	0 12 0	4 0 0	10	4	0 6 5	19	58	3 0 10	5	66	13 3 2
V ...	7	0 10 0	3 8 0	207	69	0 5 4	513	1,317	2 9 1	280	3,377	12 1 0
Total ...	26	...	...	727	359	0 7 11	1,591	4,791	3 0 2	929	11,749	12 10 4

Class.	No. of vil-lages.	MAXIMUM RATE.		GOVERNMENT UNOCCUPIED LAND.								
		Dry-crop.	Rice.	Dry-crop.			Rice.			Garden.		
				Acres.	Assessment.	Average rate per acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average rate per acre.	Acres.	Assessment.	Average rate per acre.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
I ...	1	1 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
II ...	8	1 0 0	4 12 0	14	9	0 10 3	6	17	2 13 4	...	...	...
III ...	9	0 14 0	4 8 0	92	38	0 6 7	21	49	2 5 4	1	3	3 0 0
IV ...	1	0 12 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
V ...	7	0 10 0	3 8 0	47	13	0 4 5	7	10	1 6 10	...	...	...
Total ...	26	...	...	153	60	0 6 3	34	76	2 3 9	1	3	3 0 0

11. The estimated results of the proposed rates contrasted with the results of last year's collections are given below, but only for (15) villages out of the (26). As explained in paragraph 7 of this report, and if a glance be given to statistical appendix column (17), it will readily be acknowledged that it would be only misleading to attempt comparison in villages where we have no complete or separate accounts :—

Class.	Total number of villages in each group.	Number of villages where results can be compared.	Old cultivated area.	New cultivated area.	Per cent increase.	Past collections.	Proposed assessment.	Per cent increase or decrease.
I ...	1	...	...	...	...	Rs. ...	Rs. ...	...
II ...	8	4	322	576	+78.9	1,491	2,743	+84.0
III ...	9	6	473	749	+58.4	4,544	5,492	+20.9
IV ...	1	1	17	34	+100.0	27	128	+374.1
V ...	7	4	495	753	+52.1	2,176	3,065	+40.9
Total ...	26	15	1,307	2,112	+61.6	8,238	11,428	+38.7

12. The result for the (15) complete villages gives an increase of Rs. 3,190, equal to an enhancement in favour of Government of 38.7 per cent. The incidence of the proposed assessment on each village is shown in column 29 of the appendix. The increase of 142.6 per cent. in the case of Bilgalmani and of 374.1 per cent. in the case of Sankadgundi may appear startling, but in the former (if any reliance can be placed on the area of the measurement of estates carried out in these parts under the orders of the principal Collector in 1832), there is an increase in the garden area of 75 per cent. and also a slight increase in rice. Likewise in Sankadgundi there is an increase in the garden area of 67 per cent.

and in the rice area of 36 per cent. According to the Mámlatdár's account, the lands of this village were for long held by a Shanbhog of the district, who probably submitted his own accounts in a way very favourable to himself; but be this as it may, the fact of the village remaining so long unnoticed by the survey in its isolated position, points to collusion and concealment, with the object of retaining the land at the present favourable rates as long as possible. In both cases the arable area is insignificant.

Other large differences between the original and proposed assessment noticeable in column 29, must also be considered the result of concealment, encroachment and falsification of accounts—practices which have been so often alluded to as being common, in many preceding Kánara Settlement Reports.

13. An example is given below of the average rates of proposed assessment falling on each description of soil in three villages under report—(1) where there is a large increase, (2) where there is not much variance, and (3) where there is a decrease. This will serve to illustrate the general unevenness of the old assessment:—

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. 6 ...	61	148	+142.6	0 12 0	3 6 9	11 6 10
2	Do. No. 13 ...	1,303	1,472	+13.0	0 6 11	3 3 6	12 8 3
	Do. No. 14 ...						
3	Do. No. 15 ...	643	518	-19.4	0 10 8	8 1 11	13 3 8

14. The following table shows in detail the survey area and assessment in all (26) villages under each separate head:—

Division of Land.	Acres.	Assessment.
		Rs.
Government occupied land ...	3,247	16,899
Do. unoccupied land ...	188	139
Unarable unassessed hills, &c. ...	28,286	.....
Inám ...	.....	.....
Total ...	31,721	17,038

15. I trust the proposed rating of these villages may meet with approval, and if so, that sanction may be accorded somewhat earlier than usual. I must point out with due respect, that sanction for last year's settlement came so late that the rates could not be announced until the 2nd week in June after the monsoon was upon us, and the people, who were summoned to attend, had to experience the inconvenience, and discomfort, of a long and wet journey, to and from their respective homes.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. T. WINGATE,

Assistant Settlement Officer, in charge Kánara Survey.

No. 14 of 1888.

Siddápur, 11th January 1888.

Forwarded through the Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern Marátha Country Revenue Surveys.

R. T. WINGATE,

Assistant Settlement Officer, in charge Kánara Survey.

No. 242 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, Daflápur, 13th February 1888.*

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of Government, a report by Mr. R. T. Wingate, Assistant Settlement Officer, Revenue Survey, Kánara, proposing rates of assessment for the 26 villages of the Sirsi Táluka which remain to be brought under survey settlement.

2. I have nothing to add to the report submitted which contains all the information usually furnished, and which examination proves to have been most carefully compiled, while Mr. Wingate's long and intimate acquaintance with the country and people of Kánara is a guarantee for the value of the comments he offers.

3. The rates-proposed for the various villages may be considered to have been already practically fixed by those which have received the sanction of Government in adjoining villages, and the present settlement may be regarded as the last stone in the edifice of the survey settlement of the Sirsi Táluka.

4. It may be as well, perhaps, to add a few words in amplification of Mr. R. T. Wingate's 7th paragraph, which is somewhat too condensed to be at once clearly understood.

There are 11 villages among the 26 now under report the past realisations for which cannot be separately ascertained, owing to the Revenue History—Mr. R. old accounts being mixed up with those of other vil- T. Wingate's paragraph 7. lages which have already been settled. This difficulty, which recurs in almost every Kánara settlement, and has frequently been explained in former reports, has been provided for as far as was possible in the figures now furnished to illustrate the revenue history of the tract under report, but Mr. Wingate explains that these figures cannot be taken as accurate, and that the apparent falling off in revenue after the year 1880-81 is due to the fact that certain villages or parts of villages until then included in the total have been settled at different times since that year, their old collections therefore disappearing from the accounts of recent years. As a whole the revenue history table sufficiently indicates the regularity with which the revenue has been collected, but cannot tally with the figures given in column 17 of the appendix to the report.

5. I trust you may find it possible to forward these proposals with your comments without much delay, in order that there may be no difficulty in obtaining the orders of Government before the end of April.

I have, &c.,

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

No. 615 of 1888.

To

THE SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER.

Hondavar, 29th February 1888.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith Mr. Fletcher's letter No. 242, dated 13th instant, together with a report by Mr. R. T. Wingate, Assistant Settlement Officer, Revenue Survey, Kánara, proposing rates of assessment for the 26 villages of the Sirsi Táluka. With the introduction of settlement into this group the whole of the Sirsi Táluka will have been brought under survey rates.

These 26 villages are very much scattered over the entire táluka as is apparent from the accompanying map. This has been explained in paragraph 3 of Mr. Wingate's report.

The grouping of the villages appears to have been done carefully. The rates proposed are just and fair and are based upon the principles of previous settlements already sanctioned in the surrounding villages as detailed in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Mr. Wingate's report.

The general results show an increase under both area and assessment. The result for the 15 complete villages as shown in the table subjoined to paragraph 11 of Mr. Wingate's report gives an increase of Rs. 3,190, which is equal to an enhancement of 38.7 per cent. The results for the rest of the villages cannot be contrasted as no accurate data of past collections are available.

It may be remarked that large differences between the old and proposed assessments noticeable in column 29 of the appendix are due mainly to encroachments discovered by the survey and falsifications of accounts which have been so often commented upon in the preceding Kánara settlement reports.

I would suggest that the concessions allowed by Government Resolution No. 5573 of 21st October 1874 may be granted in the case of these 26 villages as heretofore in order to distribute the increased survey assessment over a space of three years. The date for relinquishing lands under Section 74 of the Land Revenue Code be extended to 5th July.

I have, &c.,

C. G. BLATHWAYT,

Collector, Kánara.

No. 512 of 1888.

Mahábaleshvar, 14th March 1888.

I lose no time in forwarding these papers in the hope that the proposed scheme of settlement may reach Government without undue delay and that there may be no recurrence of the great inconvenience to which the cultivators were exposed at last year's settlement in having to attend the announcement of the rates after the rainy season had set in.

2. The settlement of the Sirsi Táluka, which for reasons often explained has been made piecemeal, has been attended with one advantage at least, that, in proposing rates for the more recently settled groups of villages, we have had the experience of already settled groups of villages to depend upon, and as ten different reports have been written on ten different sets of villages experience and knowledge have been so accumulated that scarcely any important fact can have escaped attention and explanation.

3. The 26 villages for which proposals are now submitted by Mr. Wingate not only embrace the two or three groups of villages which have been purposely dealt with last of all, but include a few scattered villages which from their iso-

lated position have hitherto escaped the operations of the survey, having only gained recognition when the operations closed in upon them and the hiatus on the maps attracted attention. In any other district than Kánara such a complete concealment of whole villages could scarcely have been possible, but Mr. Wingate has shown, in the case of Sankadgundi, a village on the high road from Sirsi to Yellápur, how effectively its settlement has been retarded by interested endeavours to retain the old and almost nominal rates for a little while longer. Happily with the advent of the survey settlement the death-knell of the corrupt influence of the Shánbhog and the intrigues of the powerful "Vargdár" has been sounded, and the scandalous concealment of cultivation and wholesale encroachment on Government waste which have been prevalent in these villages will become a thing of the past.

4. Of the several groups dealt with in this report I have only passed through the lands of one; but the experience of Mr. Wingate, who as a classer has visited and examined each separate village, may be trusted to supply any deficiency in this matter. Mr. Wingate has given a full account of the condition of these villages. The total area they contain is about 50 square miles and the population averages about 61 to the square mile. Only about 10 per cent. of the area is classed as arable, the rest being included in large forest blocks. Of cultivated area there is 1 acre 5 gunthás to each head of population. In considering this average it must be remembered that, while half the land is valuable rice land, 29 per cent. is still more valuable spice garden, each guntha of which is capable of being cultivated with as great profit as a whole acre of the poor dry-crop lands of these parts. There is, moreover, no deficiency of cattle for the proper cultivation of the arable area.

5. Mr. Wingate's remarks (paragraph 6) on the means of conveyance at the disposal of the villages under report will be read with interest, as the lack of carts, which the statistics of Kánara villages usually show, is very naturally looked upon as a backward sign and one that indicates a difficulty in the disposal of produce which should influence the pitch of the rates. His remarks on the inconvenience to trade caused by the neglect of the Vádi Ghát road have no doubt been noted by the Collector and will be duly communicated to the Local Board.

6. For reasons which have been given in nearly every Sirsi Táluka settlement report hitherto, the revenue history of the villages is imperfect and the figures can only be accepted as indicating considerable consistency and regularity in the Government demand and its collection. Seeing that the old assessments were fixed on areas very considerably less than are found to exist at the present time after years of collusion with the local officials and interested concealment of encroachments, it is scarcely to be wondered at that the collections were extremely regular up to the time when the survey began to re-arrange the lands of villages in the neighbourhood and portions of the demand were transferred to villages included in other settlement proposals.

7. There can be no objection to the proposed rating of the dry-crop and rice lands of these villages which has been strictly confined to maximum rates already sanctioned by Government for immediately adjacent villages, which, moreover, have been introduced without objection and are known to be working well.

8. The garden lands of this tract are exceptionally good, yielding valuable spices and fruit. The finest are to be found in the 2nd and 5th groups. For all gardens except those in the last group the maximum rate which has hitherto been applied to this class of land in the Sirsi Táluka, viz., Rs. 14, is proposed, while for the seven villages forming the 5th group Rs. 13 is the maximum which has been kept in view. The rate for each garden has been worked out by Mr. Wingate in the careful manner in which the assessment of these valuable lands has from the first been regulated in Kánara and the rating has been supervised and tested by the Superintendent. The comparative inaccessibility of the 5th group of villages and the deficiency of labour will be fully met by the small reduction in the pitch of the rates proposed. In rating spice gardens, such as those of Sirsi, the isolation of the village is not of so much account as in rating

these lands which produce the more bulky exportable commodities. Where cardamoms and areca-nut are the chief products, a head-load or even a handful is of value, and the larger forms of conveyance are less needed. Moreover, inaccessibility is a disadvantage which may be any day removed by the opening of a road in the vicinity, or, as in the case of the Supa Taluka gardens, by the construction of a railway. Mr. Wingate has himself shown (*vide* paragraph 6) that it is a disadvantage which the people themselves are minimizing from year to year. Deficiency of labour is a more serious consideration, and that is felt to a certain extent even in villages less isolated than these villages, where the general exuberance of the gardens would naturally secure a certain market and good wages to the labourers; but there are indications that the deficiencies of the labour market may soon be supplied from outside the district. I have at this moment on my table a prospectus of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company under the direction of the enterprising firm of Shepherd & Co., which shows that from the 13th ultimo a connection by steamer was established between Bombay and the Kánara Coast ports, which will bring the tract of Ratnágiri with its overflowing population within easy reach of these gardens. For about Rs. 1-8 a labourer will be able to reach Ankola from Málvan or Rájápur and labour in these gardens may become as remunerative as in the mills and dockyards of Bombay. A great impetus would be given to garden cultivation in Kánara if emigration from these over-peopled tracts were to ensue. I have reason to hope that the opening out of the North Kánara Coast by these convenient steamers will supply many of the crying wants of this rich but somewhat isolated district.

9. On the whole I consider the rates proposed by Mr. Wingate and recommended by Mr. Fletcher to be very equitable and such as Government may approve without hesitation. Where it is possible to form a comparison between the realizations from the existing rates and those which the settlement will introduce, no startling increase to the general burden of taxation results, and whatever individual cases of heavy increments occur the concessions granted by Government Resolution No. 5573 of 21st October 1874 will prevent their being imposed with any undue suddenness. On the 15 villages for which reliable data are forthcoming the total increase is only equivalent to 38.7 per cent. In some villages, like Bilgalmani and Sankadgundi, the percentages appear excessive, but the reason is fully given and is easily understood by those who have had experience of Kánara settlements. The table given in Mr. Wingate's paragraph 13 is a useful one to illustrate how, unevenly revenue survey rates of equal incidence may affect the percentage increase in different villages.

10. I concur with the Collector in recommending that the date for relinquishing lands under Section 74 of the Land Revenue Code should be extended to 5th July in respect of this settlement.

T. H. STEWART,
Survey and Settlement Commissioner.

Through the Commissioner, S. D.

No. 851 of 1888.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Poona, 26th March 1888.

Submitted to Government.

2. Mr. Wingate's report and the further observations recorded by Messrs. Fletcher and Stewart leave nothing to the undersigned to add.

3. Mr. Wingate's present proposals are strictly in accordance with the principles which have hitherto been followed in the settlement of the adjoining villages with such good results. The Commissioner, S. D., therefore, confidently recommends them for the sanction of Government.

W. H. PROPERT,
Commissioner, S. D.

Revenue Survey and Assessment: Introduction of survey settlement into twenty-six villages of the Sirsi Taluka of the Kánara Collectorate.

No. 2601.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 28th April 1888.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, S. D., No. 851, dated 26th March 1888—

Letter from the Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of Kánara Surveys, No. 13, dated 11th January 1888.

Letter from the Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern Marátha Country Revenue Surveys, No. 242, dated 13th February 1888.

Letter from the Collector of Kánara, No. 515, dated 29th February 1888.

Memorandum from the Survey and Settlement Commissioner, No. 512, dated 14th March 1888.

Submitting the papers noted in the margin, containing proposals for the introduction of the survey settlement into twenty-six villages of the Sirsi Taluka of the Kánara District.

RESOLUTION.—The survey settlement of the Sirsi Taluka of the Kánara Collectorate has, owing to climatic and other physical considerations, been carried out in a fragmentary manner, reports upon its progress with proposals concerning groups of villages having been submitted to Government on nine previous occasions during the last sixteen years, and orders passed from time to time thereon, the last being contained in Government Resolution No. 3154 of the 20th of May in last year. The papers now submitted deal with the proposed grouping and assessment of the twenty-six remaining villages.

2. Of the twenty-six villages four are completely isolated, the remainder lying in two more or less contiguous groups at different extremities of the taluka. The causes which have led to this disconnected system of survey in this as in other parts of Kánara have been sufficiently noticed on previous occasions, as also the natural features of the country in which survey operations have been carried on. The statistics given in the present report show the insignificance of the existing proportion of cultivated to waste land, which embraces nearly 90 per cent. of the total area of 50 square miles, the sparseness of the population, and the scarcity of carts of which there are only thirty-five in the twenty-six villages. But with regard to the inference to be drawn from the latter figures it is justly observed that these thirty-five carts do not form the only means of conveyance of their produce at the disposal of the inhabitants, allowance having to be made for the practice of wealthier traders visiting the villages and employing their own vehicles for the purposes of the removal of grain and other produce. The district, though backward, owing to its comparative inaccessibility, is by no means poor, and only awaits development of its resources, which appear to be not inconsiderable.

3. As far as exact figures can be obtained for these villages separately, it appears that the yearly revenue collections during the past twenty years have been regular in amount, averaging Rs. 10,060 per annum. Cultivation has no doubt been on the increase, but owing to the isolation of the cultivable parts of the taluka much has hitherto escaped notice, a fact which must be borne in mind in a consideration of the large increase of assessment shown in the case of one or two villages. The present measurements give a cultivated area of 2,112 acres against 1,307 only shown in the present accounts. The proposals for the grouping and assessment of the villages are as follows:—

	No. of Villages in Group.	MAXIMUM RATES.			Estimated revenue under proposed rates.	Estimated increase per cent. where figures available.
		Rice.	Dry-crop.	Garden.		
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
Group 1 ...	1	5 0 0	1 0 0	14 0 0	143 0 0	.....
" 2 ...	8	4 12 0	1 0 0	14 0 0	5,054 0 0	84.0
" 3 ...	9	4 8 0	0 14 0	14 0 0	6,811 0 0	20.9
" 4 ...	1	4 0 0	0 12 0	14 0 0	128 0 0	374.1
" 5 ...	7	3 8 0	0 10 0	13 0 0	4,763 0 0	40.9
	26	.....	.....	.....	16,899 0 0	38.7

The percentages given in the last column are calculated upon the figures for fifteen villages, which alone could be separated in the accounts in such a manner as to give any reliable data to work upon.

4. The rates above proposed are similar to those already sanctioned for contiguous villages of the taluka, and are approved by all the officers whose opinions are now before Government. The cases of two villages alone call for special notice. In Sankadgundi the enhancement of revenue amounts to 374.1 and in Bilgalmani to 142.6 per cent. These apparently high figures are fully and satisfactorily explained by Mr. Wingate (an explanation endorsed by the Survey and Settlement Commissioner), and are due to the discovery and measurement for the first time of cultivated land, hitherto apparently held without payment of assessment under circumstances detailed in paragraph 12 of the report of that officer.

5. The proposed rates are accordingly sanctioned, the settlement being introduced during the current year, and the 5th of July fixed as the date up to which applications for the relinquishment of land may be received. The new rates will be levied from the ensuing year and will be guaranteed until 1898-99 so that the period of settlement will expire concurrently with that of the other villages of the taluka. No concessions in the matter of the collection of enhanced revenue appear necessary other than those contained in Government Resolution No. 5573 of the 21st October 1874, which, as remarked by Mr. Stewart, are sufficient to prevent its undue pressure in individual cases.

E. LAWRENCE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, S. D.,
 The Collector of Kanara,
 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.