

CHAPTER XI.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

REVENUE HISTORY: Inseparable from that of the other Ceded districts--Native revenue systems--Under Vijayanagar--Under Bijápur--Under Aurangzeb--Under the Maráthas--Under Haidar Ali--Under Tipu Sultan--Under the Nizam--In the Ádóni Jaghir--Misgovernment there--Munro's estimate of the possible revenue--The standard expected--Turbulence of the country--The village settlement of 1800-01--Ryotwari settlement of 1801-02--Munro's survey and settlement--His money rates--Method of fixing assessment--Ryotwari settlements from 1802-03 to 1808-09--Other revenue in those days--Other revenue practices--Triennial leases proposed--Munro's views upon them--He proposes reductions in his assessment--Triennial lease resolved upon--Munro goes Home, 1807--Ryots' affection for him--Result of triennial lease, 1809-11--A decennial lease ordered--The results, 1812-22--Reversion to a ryotwari settlement, 1818--Reductions in assessment ordered, 1820--But not fully carried out--Reductions and other changes, 1824--Slow progress of the district--Further reductions, 1859--The district recovers, 1859-76--Effect of famine of 1876-78--Bellary district constituted, 1882.

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OF 1896: Mr. Cox's scheme--Mr. Wilson's scheme--Mr. Cox's revised scheme--Principles followed--The rates prescribed.

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VILLAGE ESTABLISHMENTS: Former emoluments and customs--Their revision. EXISTING DIVISIONAL CHARGES.

As has already been seen in Chapter II above (p. 46), the "Ceded districts" were handed over to the Company in 1800 and Sir Thomas (then Major) Munro was appointed their first 'Principal Collector.' Under him were four 'Subordinate' or 'Division' Collectors and the direct charge of the new territory was divided among these five officers, Munro retaining the ultimate control over the whole of it. Munro's division included the present district of Anantapur and the Rayadrug taluk of Bellary; William Thackeray, one of the Sub-Collectors, took the then taluks of Ádóni, Nágaladinne (amalgamated with Ádóni in 1810), Gúliam (called Alúr from 1805) and Panchapálaiyam (transferred in 1858 to Kurnool); and James Cochrane, another Sub-Collector, held charge of the taluks of Bellary, Kampli (called Hospet from 1851), Hadagalli, Harpanahalli and Kúdligi.

In 1807 Munro went Home on leave and the next year the Ceded districts were split up into two separate Collectorates. One of these comprised the present districts of Bellary and Anantapur and together they continued to form one charge for the next 75 years until early in 1882,¹ when the taluks which now make up Anantapur were constituted a separate district.

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Inseparable
from that of
the other
Ceded
districts.

¹ G.O., No. 1776, Public, dated 28th December 1881.

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Owing to these changes the revenue history of Bellary is bound up with that of the other Ceded districts and of Anantapur and it has consequently not been always possible to give in the following pages separate facts and figures for the district as it stands to-day.

Native
revenue
systems.

Munro took over charge at the end of 1800. In his letter to the Board of Revenue of 12th August 1801 he summarised as follows¹ the revenue systems of the native governments which had preceded him, if systems they could be called, and gave his opinion regarding the amount which his charge might be expected to contribute to the exchequer :—

“The land seems at all times to have been regarded as the property of the State.² No traces can be discovered of its ever having been that of the cultivators or renters. The inam sanads of the Vijayanagar Rayels as well as those of more ancient princes universally grant the soil as well as the rent, a convincing proof that it was considered to belong to the sovereign.

Under
Vijayanagar.

“Nothing is now known of the revenue under the Vijayanagar government. Tradition says it was paid in kind in the proportion of half the produce, and that this half was commuted for money at a price unfavourable to the cultivator; a circumstance which must have been an insurmountable bar not only to the establishment of private property, but also to every kind of agricultural improvement.

Under
Bijápur.

“Though there is no direct evidence on the subject (of the revenue under the Bijápur government), both because authentic documents are altogether wanting, and because it was impossible that the rental could be fixed when it was regulated by the continually varying produce of the crop, yet there is every reason to believe that it exceeded Controy Pagodas³ 24,84,188, which was the ‘Kamil’ assessment fixed a few years after the subversion of the (Vijayanagar) empire by the Muhamadan conquerors. It is impossible that such an event effected by the invader at the head of an army of horse could have been accomplished without a great destruction of the inhabitants and their property; and if the country could pay such a sum to the conquerors it must have yielded a much larger revenue in the peaceful days which had preceded the invasion.

¹ Quoted from the first edition of this Gazetteer.

² William Thackeray in a report dated 8th September 1807, speaking of the people of the Ceded districts, remarked, “So far from having any property in the soil like the landholders of Canara and Malabar they were seldom even fixed farmers, but ran about from farm to farm, from village to village, just as they could get the best terms.”

³ Controy or Canteroy (properly Kanthiráya) pagodas were so called after the Mysore king Kanthirava Narasa Rája (1638-59), who was the first of his line to establish a mint. Six of them were held to be equal to five star pagodas and a star pagoda was equivalent to Rs. 3-8-0. So a Kanthiráya pagoda was worth Rs. 2-14-8.

“The ‘Kamil’ in Raidrug, Harpanahalli and some other of the western taluks which were reduced by the Bijapur Sultans appears to have been settled without any regular survey. But in Gurrunkonda, Kambham (Cumbum), Cuddapah and the more eastern districts (*i.e.*, taluks) comprising the principal portion of the ceded provinces, it was founded upon an actual survey which was begun early in the seventeenth century (soon after the country fell under the dominion of the sultans of Golconda) and finished in about four years. The avowed principle of the assessment was the equal division of the crop between government and the cultivator; but as all rents were to be paid in money, the equivalent of the half produce in kind was found by taking the estimated gross produce of the different sorts of dry and wet land and converting it into money at the average price of the preceding ten years

“The ample Inams to village servants, to Brahmins, and those set apart for the support of Pagodas were continued as under the former governments. Indeed the substitution of a money-rent for a rent in kind seems to have been the only change introduced by the conquerors, a change which would have been highly favourable to the inhabitants had the demand always been limited to the fixed rent. But in this, as in most other systems of Indian revenue, whatever might have been professed, the uniform practice was to take as much as could be got. What the cultivator gained by a fixed rent was exacted from him as a forced loan in aid of government

“The emperor (Aurangzeb) appears to have adopted the Kamil which he found established, for it is by it (after making allowance for loss) that lands are valued in his sanads. No documents now remain whence the amount of the revenue in his reign can be ascertained, but it is probably a good deal below the Kamil, because in most of his grants the Kamil is entered and a deduction made for waste. This decrease of cultivation was no doubt due to the depredations of the Poligars during the decline of the Bijapur and Hyderabad Kingdoms previous to their total subjugation by the emperor.

“Nor is there any possibility now of discovering what the revenue was under the Mahrattas, when in 1756 they defeated the Nawab of Cuddapah and compelled him to surrender half his country.

“The assessment fixed by Hyder Ali was Controy pagodas 19,77,776. Though he endeavoured to augment the revenue by the resumption of Inams and Russooms, and in some instances by the conversion of Peishkush (paid by poligars) into rent, it is not probable that he realized more than had been collected under the Mahratta government. This result may be ascribed to the ravages committed by the troops on both sides while he was engaged in subduing the different chiefs who possessed the ceded districts; to the falsification of accounts always practised by the Karnams on a change of government; and to the fact that his invasion of the Carnatic in the following year (1780) gave him no time to enquire thoroughly into the revenue system. The resumption of Inams and Russooms added from 5 to 10 per cent. to the

Under
Aurangzeb.

Under
the Maráthas.

Under Haidar
Ali.

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Under Tipu
Sultan.

revenue. The assessment was also raised in several districts where it had fallen far below the Kamil assessment.

“The revenue continued to increase from 1779 to 1788. Tipu Sultan raised it by the same means as his father,—the resumption of Inams, the augmentation of low rents, and the expulsion of the Poligars. In many taluks the rise was the result naturally following several years of tranquillity and vigorous administration. The actual assessment of 1788 was C. Pagodas 22,77,999, though about three lakhs were afterwards remitted.

Under the
Nizam.

“Between 1788 and 1799 the revenue fell off considerably, for the collections dwindled down from C. Pagodas 19,81,758 to C. Pagodas 15,02,608. The diminution was much less considerable in those districts which had remained under Tipu Sultan than in those which had been ceded to the Nizam by the treaty of 1792. In these the decay was rapid from the weakness of the government, from the constant changes of managers, and from the return of the Poligars to whom new districts were given in addition to their old ones in return for ‘Nuzzeranas.’ It was also hastened by increasing the rents to the utmost, and exacting, exclusive of fines for offences, sums from every head farmer according to his reputed wealth and by turning loose ill-paid horsemen to collect their arrears by Tunkhas (‘requisitions’) on the villages, where they lived at free cost and by their outrages drove many of the inhabitants away. The collections of the government usually exceeded their settlements, because they paid no regard to their engagements but levied additional sums where there was an extra produce. They were higher in some years in many of the Cuddapah taluks than they had been even under Tipu Sultan, but as they were made without any principle they could not possibly be permanent. It was not so much the sum raised as the unskilful mode of doing it that exhausted the country.

“In Gooty, Bellary, Raidrug and Penukonda the revenue was reduced partly from the causes alluded to above, but in a greater degree by a severe famine which extended over all the western districts in 1792 and 1793

In the Ádóni
Jaghir.

“The revenue in the jaghire of Ádóni¹ had been steadily falling for a series of years and continued still to descend till 1799 when it was C. Pagodas 1,32,451. It was not so much the famines of 1756 and 1792 as the weak administration of affairs that had ruined the country. The revenue of Ádóni had for a long period been entirely under the charge of three zamindars who were responsible for all failures. The officers of Government had scarcely any communication with the cultivators, and as they were frequently desirous of anticipating the kists they had no means of doing so but by seizing the persons of the Zamindars. These on the other hand, in order to secure themselves against such indignity, augmented the

¹ The Ádóni country had been granted as a jaghir to Basálat Jang in 1756, see p. 197 below.

number of their followers and paid them from the revenue, and in time they became so powerful that a military force was usually required to make them pay their arrears.

“Every person who advanced a few thousand rupees to the Circar was permitted to repay himself in any way he chose. A writing was given specifying that the bearer had advanced money to Government and that he was authorized to raise it in a certain village. Armed with this power the adventurer collected a party of peons, surrounded the village and confined or tortured the principal inhabitants till they discovered their wealth. Every head of a village who had a dispute with the head of a neighbouring one was at liberty, on paying a small sum, to march with all his adherents against him and put him to death if he fell into his hands. Many lives were lost and villages burned in these petty conflicts, and, amidst such scenes of outrage and anarchy, it is not surprising that the cultivated portion of the district should have been reduced to one-half of its former extent.

“During the Mysore wars the country was overrun by armies of plundering horse and by hordes of Brinjaris no less destructive. Both were alike active in carrying off whatever was valuable and in destroying what they could not remove, and, being masters not only of the open country but likewise of almost all the forts, they were enabled at their leisure to rob the rich inhabitants who with their effects had taken refuge in them from the first fury of invasion.”

Reviewing all these facts, Munro was of opinion that one year with another the revenue of the Ceded districts should amount to rather more than 20 lakhs of Kanthiraya pagodas (some 58 lakhs of rupees)—that is, to an amount some $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs less than the Kamil which the Musalmans had fixed after the downfall of the Vijayanagar empire. He considered it improbable that the full amount of the Kamil assessment was ever collected.

As has already been stated (p. 46) the Ceded districts had been handed over by the Nizam to the Company in payment for a subsidiary force to be stationed in his dominions. Their value had been calculated at the amount entered against them in the schedules of the treaty of 1792, by which the Nizam had obtained them from Tipu. This amount was similarly slightly over 20 lakhs of Kanthiraya pagodas. The Directors of the Company not unnaturally expected¹ that the revenue the districts would bring in would at least equal this amount, and this sum, considerable as it was, was therefore the standard which Munro set before himself. He estimated, as has been seen, that he would be able to reach it.

The amount had, however, to be collected from an area which had only just emerged from a state of the utmost lawlessness and disorder. Something has already been said (pp. 47–8 above) of

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Misgovern-
ment there.

Munro's esti-
mate of the
possible
revenue.

The standard
expected.

¹ See, for example, their despatch of 10th April 1804 to the Madras Government.

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Turbulence of
the country,

the contumacy and turbulence of the Poligars and Munro's letter just quoted shows what had been the internal state of the Ádóni jaghir. That the Poligars and the Ádóni country were typical of the rest of the population and the remainder of the new territory is shown by the following extract from a report of William Thackeray's¹ :—

“The Company's Officers entered the Ceded Districts in November 1800, and found everything in confusion. The inhabitants had been plundered not only by the Revenue Officers but by every person who could pay a bribe for the privilege of extorting money. The chief inhabitants of the different villages had not only been permitted but encouraged to carry on a predatory warfare against each other on the same terms. The indolence or corruption of the Nizam's Officers had made them abandon the management of the revenue to Poligars, Zamindars and Potails, who had by their exactions impoverished if not almost depopulated the country by their hostilities. Every village was a garrison. One village often turned out and fought a pitched battle with its neighbour. The Troops of the Sirkar were always besieging some Fort or another; the exactions of those armed with the authority of the Sirkar and the obstinacy of the village people made it difficult to say which were in the right. Murders were so common, that in some parts of the country there are few families of any consequence which have not had one of their heads assassinated within the last twenty or thirty years. In Ádóni there are few even of the most respectable leading people in the District, unpolluted with blood. The Potal or the Kurnum acted like a little prince in his own village and the anarchy which generally prevailed might in some measure justify his taking upon himself the Government of his little Republic; but the impunity which a few hundred rupees secured for the most atrocious crimes tempted every man who could afford it to indulge his rapacity, enmity, or ambition. In most parts of the Ceded Districts the Potal, or head Rayet, and the Kurnum, so peaceable in our other provinces, had become captains of banditti garrisoning independent castles. In the Districts to the eastward things were worse, because the Poligars had generally resumed their former situations and depredations. The impotence in short and corruption of the Sirkar Officers, the predatory habits and military turn of the peons who swarm and who have learnt their trade by attending or resisting the great armies which have so often invaded the Ceded Districts, the frequent transfer from one Government to another which weakened the Sirkar authority, and the frontier situation which enabled offenders to escape had introduced such a state of anarchy that it appeared a most arduous task to restore order.”

Munro had taken over charge so late in the season of 1800-01 that he had no time to do more that year than conclude in haste a settlement 'mozawar', or for each village as a whole. The

¹ Dated 8th September 1807; printed at Bellary Collectorate Press, 1895.

lump assessment to be paid by each village was roughly arrived at by assembling the "potails" (headmen) and karnams and questioning them as to the value of their own and the adjoining villages. This done, these officers were made "severally responsible for the rent (assessment) of their own villages and jointly for those of the district." Taluks were called districts in those days. This settlement brought in only a little over eleven lakhs of pagodas, or hardly more than half the standard which Munro had set up.

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HISTORY.The village
settlement of
1800-01.

In the second revenue year after the assumption of the Ceded districts (1801-02, fasli 1211) Munro introduced the detailed 'kulwar' or ryotwari settlement which had been the practice in his old charge in Salem. Every ryot held his land immediately from the Government under a patta from the Collector which specified the land he occupied and the assessment he had to pay. The assessment, which was paid in money, was in theory regulated by the quality of the land, the condition of the cultivator and the value (according to the prices of a series of years) of the supposed gross produce, of which last it purported to take 45 per cent. But in practice it was at first impossible, seeing that the fields had never been properly surveyed or assessed, strictly to carry out these principles and the settlement was made by first assessing the village in a lump and then apportioning this total, as equitably as might be, among the various ryots in accordance with the above rules. The result of the settlement was an increase of about 25 per cent. on the demand for the previous fasli, but even so the revenue was greatly below the valuation of 1792 and the Board grumbled and said that Munro's plan was one which "necessarily dejected all competition" and would not succeed in increasing the income from the country.

Ryotwari
settlement of
1801-02.

In August 1801 Munro was authorised to survey and settle his charge. He had at first only four gumastahs who understood land measuring, but these taught others and at length the staff numbered 100 men. The work was begun in 1802 and finished in 1805. All land of whatever kind, except hills and rocks, was measured and the fields were registered by their names and also given numbers. Cultivated land was distinguished from waste, wet and garden from dry and Government from inam, and at the same time a census of the people and of the cattle, sheep and goats was made. The chain used in measuring the land was one of 33 feet, so that an acre contained 40 square chains, or *guntas*, as they were called.¹ The surveyors were followed by assessors

Munro's
survey and
settlement.

¹ A full account of the survey will be found on pp. 415-434 of the Fifth Report of the Select Committee on the E.I. Co. (Higginbotham & Co., 1883).

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who went over the fields with the village officers and the ryots and classified their soils. Allowance was made "for distance from the village and every other incident by which the expense of cultivation was augmented." The work was carefully checked by head assessors and the Principal Collector's office.

His money
rates.

The table of money rates at first drawn up—taking the Kanthiraya pagoda and fanam as worth Rs. 2-14-8 and Re. 0-4-8 respectively—was as under¹ :—

	Dry land.	Wet land.	Garden land.
Number of rates ...	19	12	20
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Highest rate ...	2 14 8	17 8 0	29 2 8
Lowest rate ...	0 2 4	1 7 4	1 7 4
Difference between each rate and the next ...	0 2 4	1 7 4	1 7 4

It was ruled that in no one village should there be more than ten rates for dry land, six for garden and eight for wet land. The money rates in force at present may be added for comparison :—

	Dry land.	Wet land.
Number of rates ...	9	13
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Highest rate ...	2 8 0	11 0 0
Lowest rate ...	0 2 0	1 0 0

Munro's dry rates were thus higher than those now imposed and his wet rates very much higher; and in the actual introduction of his settlement, as will be seen immediately, they were often enhanced greatly above the level to which in theory he professed to restrict them. The settlement was begun in 1804 and completed in 1806. The survey and settlement together cost, for the whole of the Ceded districts, 83,000 star pagodas or nearly three lakhs of rupees.

Method of
fixing
assessment.

When a taluk had been surveyed and settled the assessment on each field was fixed by working backwards from the amount due from the taluk to the share of this amount which each field should bear. "The business was begun", wrote Munro in 1807, "by fixing the sum which was to be the total revenue of the district (*i.e.*, the taluk). This was usually effected by the Collector in a few days by comparing the collections under the native princes, under the Company's government from its commencement, the estimates of the ordinary and head assessors and the opinions of the most intelligent natives, and after a due consideration of the whole adopting such a sum as it was thought would be the fair assessment of the district in its present state or what the inhabitants in similar circumstances under a Native Government would have regarded as somewhat below the usual standard . . .

It next remained to determine what share of this sum was to be

¹ Enclosure 3 to Munro's report to the Board, dated 29th July 1807.

imposed on each village." If a village maintained that it had been over-assessed its claims "were investigated by the principal ryots of other villages, and each claim was admitted either fully or with such modifications as both parties agreed upon. The extra remission thus granted to one set of villages was to be deducted from another" and consequently was not likely to be unduly liberal. Finally the lump assessment so arrived at for the village was divided among its various ryots in accordance with the classification already made of the fields which each held. It was owing to this procedure that the departure from the table of money rates above referred to came about. The poorest lands could only bear a very light assessment, and to make up the total due from the village the rates on the best soils were frequently very high. When once the assessment of each ryot had thus been fixed the settlements of subsequent years gave much less trouble, the amounts due from the different occupiers usually remaining constant unless they had relinquished part of their holdings or taken up fresh land.¹

For the next seven years (faslis 1212 to 1218, 1802-03 to 1808-09) the settlements continued to be conducted on the ryotwari principles thus inaugurated. Though 1801 and 1802 had been unfavourable seasons and 1803 was worse, and in 1804 a scarcity was followed by a disastrous flood (see pp. 123 and 141 above), the area under cultivation and the revenue both continued to increase, and in 1805-06 the land revenue of the whole of the Ceded districts amounted to over 20 lakhs of Kanthiraya pagodas, or more than the high standard Munro had set himself to reach. The land revenue of Bellary and Anantapur together was in that year

Fasli.	Thousands of rupees.
1210	768
1211	883
1212	908
1213	984
1214	1,229
1215	1,348
1216	1,235
1217	1,177
1218	1,300

Rs. 25,29,000, or only Rs. 57,000 less than the similar revenue realised by Government from the two districts in 1874-75, the year before the great famine, when the area under cultivation was at its maximum and of course enormously larger than it had been in Munro's time.² The total land revenue demand in the taluks which now make up Bellary during these early years is given in the margin.³

¹ For a detailed account of such settlements see Munro's letter of 30th November 1806 in Appendix C to Arbuthnot's *Munro*.

² Paragraph 11 of B.P., No. 50, Revenue Settlement, dated 27th February 1890.

³ See B.P., No. 50, Revenue Settlement, etc., dated 27th February 1890. For faslis 1210 and 1218 separate figures for Rayadrug are not available, so those for faslis 1211 and 1217 respectively have been entered.

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Other
revenue in
those days.

Besides the land there were then few other sources of revenue. The right of selling arrack, toddy, betel and tobacco was annually farmed out to the highest bidder. There were also the land customs referred to in the next chapter (p. 181). Among curious taxes was one "levied on shops for the privilege of bringing in grain free of duty" and another, peculiar to Ádóni, consisting of "a percentage paid by sowcars on all interest on debts recovered by the assistance of the sirkar servants."¹

The *ayen moturfa* or *bagir visabadi* was a kind of income-tax levied upon every one, including even labourers. In the case of merchants, the total amount to be paid by the taluk was first of all fixed and then the assesses were left to settle among themselves the share of the total which each should bear.² Bráhmans, Rájputs and Musalmans were exempt. The *visabadi* was a somewhat similar tax levied on the profits of merchants, nominally at the rate of ten per cent. The collection of these two items of revenue was legalised by Regulations V of 1832 and IV of 1818, respectively. The receipts from them between 1800 and 1837 averaged Rs. 1,76,000 and Rs. 1,06,000, respectively.

Other
revenue
practices.

The native practice of granting tuccavi, or advances to meet the expenses of cultivation, was regularly followed. Munro defended the system on the ground that the villagers had been greatly reduced by previous oppression. The amount advanced in the Ceded districts as a whole averaged nearly two lakhs annually.

The difficulties in the way of keeping of the official accounts were greatly enhanced in these early years by the multiplicity of coins which were current. The number of them, said Munro,³ "amounts to 35 and of these about 20 are always received in every kist." In another letter he said that there were 25 sorts of pagodas and fifteen different rupees in circulation.

The Sub-Collectors in those days received a commission of a half per cent. on the net revenue and the Principal Collector was allowed one per cent. The latter was, on the other hand, worse off than Collectors now-a-days in that he had to send in a diary to the Board of Revenue.

Triennial
leases pro-
posed.

In 1804 the desirability of a reversion from the ryotwari to a permanent settlement began to be discussed. The Governor-General in that year sent down instructions that in settling new districts the "Oude regulations," of which he enclosed copy, should be followed with such modifications as local circumstances required. Under these each village was rented out as a whole for three years

¹ Munro's letter to Board, dated 2nd May 1803.

² Munro's letter of 15th August 1807 in Arbutnot's *Munro*, i, 102-4.

³ Letter to Board, dated 7th July 1803.

for a fixed sum per annum to zamindars and other proprietors of land (or, failing them, to heads of villages) and the renter was alone responsible for the payment of the fixed rent. The Madras Government did not like the new system but directed Collectors to report upon it.

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Munro's
views upon
them.

Munro's reply was an unqualified condemnation of the proposal. He showed¹ that in the Ceded districts, where there were no zamindars, the only people with whom such fixed settlements could be concluded were the ordinary heads of villages and that they were totally unfit for the position into which it was desired to thrust them. He considered that so far from promoting any improvement by assisting the poorer classes with advances or allowing them to participate in the remissions granted by Government, they might rather be expected to press heavily on the ryots and reduce them to a worse state than that in which they had found them. He also foresaw the even worse mismanagement and oppression which would ensue if a speculator or adventurer were allowed to come between the Government officer and the cultivator. A settlement direct with the cultivators appeared to him more suited to the manners and prejudices of the inhabitants, because it was the system which had always been followed; more adapted to the narrowness of their circumstances in that it did not insist on the same amount of revenue being paid every year but limited it by the actual extent of cultivation; more likely to reclaim them from their wandering habits and fix them to their fields by giving them an interest in the improvement of these; less liable to embarrass the Government by considerable failures; and more calculated to promote the general prosperity of the country and the people. Believing also that the system of great estates would raise less produce from the soil than that of small farms; that it would be far more liable to failures and afford less security to the revenue; that it would be less agreeable to the inhabitants; and that it could not be permanent because their laws and customs continually urged on the rapid division of landed property, he recommended that the ryotwari system, or settlement with the cultivators, should be continued as a permanency.

The Madras Government eventually temporised by postponing its decision until the various unsettled districts should have been surveyed.

Munro's report on the survey of his charge was sent in on the 29th July 1807,² three months before he went Home on leave,

¹ Letter of 25th August 1805, printed at Cuddapah Collectorate Press, 1870.

² Printed at Bellary Collectorate Press in 1876.

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and in a separate letter of the 15th August¹ in the same year he left on record his parting advice as to the manner in which the settlement of the Ceded districts should be conducted. He recapitulated the arguments for and against the permanent and the ryotwari systems; again urged that the latter should be adopted; and finally set out his views as to the modifications in his own settlement which were necessary.

He proposes
reductions in
his assess-
ment.

These last were of much importance. He held that to give the land any saleable value the assessment should not exceed one-third of the gross produce. His own rates took about 45 per cent. of it. He therefore recommended that all the rates should be reduced by 25 per cent. and that an additional 8 per cent. (or 33 per cent. in all) should be knocked off the rates on all land under *doravu* and other wells and under small tanks, on condition that the ryots agreed to keep these sources in workable repair. He calculated that the extension of cultivation which would result would rapidly make up for the initial loss of revenue and instanced the increase of 50 per cent. which had already taken place, even under the high existing rates, between Faslis 1210 and 1215. He also proposed that the ryots should be given the complete ownership of the land for which they paid assessment—a thing which up to then they had never claimed nor even supposed to be their right—that they should be at liberty at the end of every year either to throw up part of their holdings or to occupy more land (provided that in either case the land relinquished or taken up consisted of “proportional shares of the good and bad together”) and that unoccupied land should remain in the hands of Government, the assessment of any part of it which might be cultivated being added to the revenue. By these means he hoped “to fix the ryots to their several farms as proprietors, instead of keeping them, as hitherto, for ever unsettled, without attachment to their lands, without any wish to improve them, and wandering from one (village) to another in quest of more favourable terms.”

Triennial
lease re-
solved upon.

Early in 1808, after prolonged discussion² and in opposition to the strongly expressed convictions of Lord William Bentinck, who was Governor of Madras during the controversy but had gone back to England in the previous autumn, it was ordered that in all

¹ Printed at Bellary Collectorate Press in 1876. Part of it is also given on pp. 92-101 of Vol. I of Arbuthnot's *Munro*.

² The minutes of Messrs. Thackeray and Hodgson, both Members of the Board, which summarise the arguments for and against the ryotwari system, will be found in the appendix to the Fifth Report of the Committee already referred to.

the unsettled districts of the Presidency the villages should be leased out for a term of three years from Fasli 1218 to heads of villages and chief cultivators (or, failing them, to strangers) upon such terms as might be considered moderate and equitable and subject to the condition that no reduction in the rental would be made on account of adverse seasons.

Munro went Home in October 1807 before these instructions reached the Ceded districts. His services to the State during his seven years' tenure of this charge were handsomely acknowledged by the Madras Government. Writing to the Directors on the 21st October 1807 they said "from disunited hordes of lawless plunderers and freebooters they (the people of the Ceded districts) are now stated to be as far advanced in civilization, submission to the laws, and obedience to the Magistrates, as any of the subjects under this Government. The revenues are collected with facility; every one seems satisfied with his situation, and the regret of the people is universal on the departure of the Principal Collector."

The people indeed, as has often been recounted, regarded him with the utmost affection and called him their 'father.' Stories are still related of his justice and sympathy, ballads are still sung in his honour and it is hardly too much to say that he is regarded as having been semi-divine. The legend about his interview with the Mádхва saint of Mantsála on p. 205 below is one instance of this belief and another is the fact that he is universally declared to have possessed the divine characteristic—always attributed to Ráma and other such heroes—of having arms so long that they reached to his knees. How apocryphal is this belief, may be seen from Archer Shee's full-length picture of him in the Banqueting Hall in Madras, in which, whatever may be the case with his legs, his arms are no longer than other people's.

After Munro's departure the Ceded districts, as has been said, were split into the two Collectorates of Cuddapah and Bellary, and William Chaplin, afterwards well known as the Commissioner in the Deccan, was appointed to the charge of the latter of these.

The season of Fasli 1218 was so unfavourable in Bellary that the introduction of the triennial leases was postponed until the next year. They were then brought into force throughout the district

and lasted during the next three years. The rents realised in each of these seasons in the taluks which make up the present Bellary district are given in the margin and it will be seen that they were as high as the revenue in the three preceding ryotwari years. But the explanation apparently was that the headmen of the villages, as the Collector reported in the first year of the lease, "apprehensive of being

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REVENUE
HISTORY.

Munro goes
Home, 1807.

Ryots'
affection
for him.

Result of the
triennial
lease,
1809-11.

Fasli.	Thousands of rupees.
1219	1,171
1220	1,265
1221	1,326

CHAP. XI.
REVENUE
HISTORY.

turned out of what they term their estates, of which they have had possession for many generations, and fearful of being superseded in their stations of hereditary management by new-comers, have accepted higher conditions of rent than the extent of the cultivation and the scanty means of their undertenants" actually warranted. Neither the renters nor the ryots made a good thing of the leases. In some cases from the oppressions, and in others from the weakness, of the renters the resources of the district suffered material injury; the collections were realised with difficulty; the cultivation in many villages very greatly fell off; and the Collectors of both Cuddapah and Bellary were apprehensive that the losses which the renters had incurred would deter them from undertaking the responsibility of the further and longer leases which the Board of Revenue was now urging should follow the triennial arrangement. "I believe", said the Collector of Cuddapah, "that few or none have been benefited by their bargain; nearly all have been losers, some have been ruined." Mr. Chaplin spoke still more strongly: "So many of the renters", he declared, "have suffered losses by undertaking the triennial rent that probably not ten in a hundred, except in a particular district (*i.e.*, taluk) or two, will of themselves come forward to offer for the septennial or decennial leases. The fear of being dispossessed of their *miras*, enmities and jealousies, competitions and rivalships, persuasion and intimidation, a display of advantages which do not exist, and many other means and motives must all be called into action before they will consent without great reductions to become septennial or decennial renters." To the Board, however, the failure seemed to be due, not to any defect in the system but to the results of too high rents and too short a lease, and they continued to recommend that the leases should be granted for longer periods and on easier terms.

A decennial
lease
ordered.

The Government concurred generally and it was resolved to attempt a decennial lease (to be developed eventually into a permanent settlement) and to fix the rent for each village on the basis of the collections of past years. Remissions for bad seasons were also to be allowed. Where the hereditary village headmen were willing to undertake this lease preference was to be given to them, but if they refused their inams were to be resumed and the settlement concluded with some one else.

The decennial lease began in Fasli 1222 (1812-13).¹ The Collector followed orders and calculated the rents on the basis of

¹ The account of it which follows and that of Messrs. Thackeray's and Campbell's administration is taken in the main from Board's Min. Cons., dated 8th March 1824, and paras. 320-741 of the Board's General Report to Government, dated 3rd January 1825.

the collections of the seven preceding years (excluding famine seasons) and gave the leases to the headmen in preference to others. But the result was another and a worse failure. In the first year "the mismanagement or the incapacity of the renters, the opposition and intrigues of those who had been excluded from the lease, the general poverty and migration of the ryots, the combination of the inhabitants to enforce their own terms, and the frequent quarrels between joint partners by which the cultivation was often delayed until the season had passed by" resulted in several of the lessees being in arrear with their payments. Some of them were threatened with imprisonment, the goods of others were distrained and yet others decamped. In the next year some of the lessees declined to pay their rents even though they had not only collected all their dues from their tenants, but had wrung money from every one who possessed any, whether it was due or not. The distraint of their cattle and the confinement of their persons were the only steps open to the Collector and both of these measures did more harm than good as they prevented the renters from cultivating their land in the season following. In the third and fourth years of the lease the Collector found himself saddled with a number of the villages which had been leased to these defaulters and they were usually exhausted in resources and empty of their ryots in consequence of the oppressions of the lessees. These four years had been favourable seasons. In the fifth (Fasli 1226, 1816-17) the rains failed and numbers more of the renters defaulted. The Collector took their villages under his own charge and also those of such of their fellows who were willing to relinquish their leases, and by the end of the year barely half the district remained under the rent system.

The Board still maintained that it was the best of all possible systems and said that it had not had a fair trial and had been mismanaged by the Collector, but the Government grew sceptical and asked Munro, who had returned to the country in 1816 in military employ, what he thought about it. The Directors had already ordered a reversion to the ryotwari system at the expiration of the current leases. Munro advised (1817) that the renters should be encouraged to surrender their leases by promises of remission of all outstanding balances and that the ryotwari system should be re-established after carrying out the reductions of assessment he had recommended on the eve of his departure from the Ceded districts.

It was ordered accordingly, and so ended this disastrous experiment. Mr. Chaplin, however, pointed out (1818) that the evil it had done would live after it and that there would be a great

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HISTORY.

The results,
1812-22.

Reversion to
a ryotwari
settlement,
1818.

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HISTORY.

drop in the revenue. "The villages have been returned to the Collector with their resources most lamentably dilapidated; . . . the survey rates of assessment have everywhere been abandoned and lands already lightly taxed have been let out for a mere quit-rent; the rents have been paid in kind and the land has in consequence been badly tilled."

In 1819 Mr. Chaplin was promoted as Commissioner in the Deccan and William Thackeray, already more than once referred to, succeeded him. He reported in the same strain as his predecessor and said "the district is in a worse state than it was in 1807, and in some respects than it was in 1801." He strongly recommended that the 25 per cent. reduction in assessments proposed by Munro in the former of these years should be carried out. Before orders were passed, however, his health obliged him to leave Bellary and he was followed by A. D. Campbell.

Reductions
in assessment
ordered, 1820.

Thackeray's report went up for orders to Munro himself, who had become Governor of the Presidency in June 1820. His minute upon it is given in full in Arbuthnot's work.¹ He ordered that the reductions of 25 per cent. on dry, and 33 per cent. on wet land and the other concessions proposed in his original report of 15th August 1807 above referred to should be carried out immediately, from the beginning of the then current Fasli (1230).

"I once wished", he wrote, "the reduction to be gradual, . . . it must now be instant, or the country will be so impoverished that it will be almost impracticable to restore it. Out of 2,644 villages composing the collectorate, 1,788 have reverted to Government . . . all of them reduced in their means, unable to pay their rents. It is, in fact, an insolvency of nearly 1,800 villages . . . In Rayadrag half of the ryots have emigrated. The state of many of the other districts (taluks) is no better. Most of the great potails are reduced to poverty, many of them have been sent to jail; the substantial ryots, whose stock supported the agriculture of the villages, are gone. The country is no longer what it was ten or fifteen years ago, and an immediate reduction of the assessment is the only way of restoring it to its former state."

But not fully
carried out.

The decennial leases expired in Fasli 1231 (1821-22) and the 776 villages which still remained with the renters were resumed and taken under Government control. But unluckily the concessions which Munro had ordered were almost entirely nullified by the action of the new Collector of the district, Mr. A. D. Campbell.

¹ Vol. I, 109-116. It was dated 31st August 1820.

Anxious to keep up the revenue of his charge, he directed on his own authority that "such ryots who were willing to take it" should have included in their pattas, and be in consequence required to pay assessment for, an area of uncultivated waste equal in assessment to one-half of the reduction in their dues which had been sanctioned. Naturally enough as this order filtered down through "the usual channels" to the ryots themselves it was transformed into a definite direction that waste to this extent should be included in every one's patta, and the result was that waste assessed at no less than Rs. 1,18,000 was so added to the holdings. A year later (August 1821) Government learnt what was happening and expressed their strong disapprobation. Mr. Campbell seems however to have paid no attention and in Faslis 1231 and 1232 the assessment on the waste was again collected. In the cold season of 1823-24, however, Munro himself toured through the district and found out what was going on. The people flocked to appeal to their old friend and protector. "The crowds of ryots who assembled every evening at my tent to complain of the waste," wrote Munro in his minute on the subject,¹ "rather resembled a mob than an ordinary party of complainants. The pressure to be heard first was so great that it was not easy to hear any of them. . . . The effect of the Collector's measures has been to disappoint all the expectations which Government might have formed from the liberal remission granted Instead of our having seen the effect of a three years' trial of the reduced assessment upon the country, it is still to begin and to begin under much greater difficulties than would have attended it when first ordered above three years ago." Munro accordingly proposed the removal of the Collector—"with great reluctance, because he possesses great zeal and ability and indefatigable industry"—and Mr. Campbell was made a Judge.

He was followed in April 1824 by F. W. Robertson. This officer was Collector of the district for the next fifteen years. In December 1838 he died suddenly at Anantapur (which was still the Collector's head-quarters) and his remains lie in the cemetery at the foot of the Gooty rock. As his epitaph there says, "His zeal in promoting the welfare of the district over which he presided was indefatigable, and will be remembered so long as the numerous plantations which he planted, and which had gained for him a well deserved fame, continue to flourish." Like Munro's and Pelly's, his name is still held affectionately in mind by the old inhabitants.

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REVENUE
HISTORY.

Reductions
and other
changes,
1824.

¹ Dated 5th March 1824, Arbuthnot's *Munro*, i, 222-226.

His topes were planted from an annual grant of Rs. 4,000, increased in 1834 to Rs. 8,000, and were described by one of his successors in 1841, in which year there were 665 of them containing 173,800 trees, as "the admiration of strangers and the ornament of the province." In 1859 the whole of them were ordered to be sold on the grounds that they were not financially a success and that tree-planting might for the future with confidence be left to the enterprise of the ryots. Few results of this enterprise are yet visible.

In 1824, the first year of Robertson's Collectorship, the following rules, the foundation of the well-being of the Bellary ryot, were (with certain others) issued with the sanction of the Board :—

(1) Ryots were to be allowed to relinquish any part of their holding as long as they threw up both bad and good fields together. (It need hardly be added that the condition contained in the latter part of this rule is no longer in force.)

(2) Ryots were the absolute owners of all land for which they paid assessment and were entitled to sell it.

(3) No extra assessment was to be levied on improvements effected at the ryots' own expense.

(4) Remissions were to be granted on land under tanks if the ryots had done all in their power to obtain a crop but the supply of water had failed.

Other improvements were introduced in the years which followed. The accounts were brought into a better state; the régada land in Gooty, Rayadrug and Alúr which had been abandoned during the leases and become overgrown with *nath* grass and weeds was given out on liberal cowles, so that ryots came even from Mysore and the surrounding districts to take it up and bring it under cultivation; and repairs were made to tanks and channels so that in addition much wet waste came again under the plough.

Slow progress
of the
district.

But the district did not progress as it ought to have done. For one thing, the seasons—notwithstanding that the Collector "authorized the amildars (tahsildars) to perform the usual religious ceremonies on account of the want of rain"—were unfavourable. Fasli 1233 was unusually bad; 1234 and 1235 were better; 1236 and 1237 were again unfavourable; 1238 was good and so was 1240; but 1241 was only moderate and in 1242 (the year of the 1833 famine, see p. 124 above) the rains entirely failed. Faslis 1247, 1248, and 1252 to 1255 were also all bad years.

Another matter which pressed heavily upon the ryots was the great fall in prices. Even when the season was good they received

little for their crops, and as the money rates had been calculated on the high prices of former years they became unduly burdensome. To show how considerable the fall had been, Mr. Robertson forwarded the following figures to Government :—

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	Price in rupees of		
	Cholam (per garce).	Paddy (per garce).	Cotton (per candy).
Average of Faslis 1194-1214 (1784-1804), excluding two famine years.	120	130	66
Average of Faslis 1218-1227 (1808-1817)	130	108	64
Average of Faslis 1228-1237 (1818-1827)...	145	113	60
Fasli 1238 (1828)	93	99	39
„ 1240 (1830)	79	81	39

Mr. Robertson's successors, Abel Mellor (Collector from 1840 to 1850)¹ and Charles Pelly (who served continuously in the district from 1832 to 1859 and was Collector from 1850) both continued to urge that when these low prices were taken into consideration the assessment was excessive, but it was not until 1856 that any reduction was sanctioned. Government then at length approved,² not without modifications, a scale of alterations proposed by Mr. Pelly and this was brought into force throughout the district in the next year. It was as under—

Further
reductions,
1859,

Dry land.

	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Former rates of—	4 and over.	3 to 4	2½ to 3	2¼ to 2½
To be reduced to—	3	2½	2¼	2

Rates between Rs. 2¼ and Re. 1 were to be reduced at the Collector's discretion but the average reduction was not to exceed 2½ per cent.

Wet land.

	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Former rates of—	16 and over.	15 to 16	14 to 15	13 to 14	12 to 13
To be reduced to—	12	11½	11	10½	10

Rates between Rs. 12 and Rs. 6 were similarly to be reduced at the discretion of the Collector but the average reduction was not to exceed 12 per cent. Rates below Rs. 6 were to be left as they

¹ He was the name-father of Mellorpettah in Bellary. The district headquarters was transferred to Bellary in 1840 shortly after he became Collector. The treasury had already been located there for some years previously.

² E.M.C., dated 2nd June 1857, and the voluminous file read therein.

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were, but no wet land was to be assessed at less than Re. 1. The object of the alterations was more to reduce the very high rates which were being paid on the best land (assessments of Rs. 59 per acre for wet and Rs. 7-10-6 for dry are spoken of in the correspondence) than to lower the assessment all round. It was held that much of the district was paying quite reasonable rates.

In the order sanctioning these alterations Government also approved of certain other important recommendations of Mr. Pelly's. Among these were the reduction in the bewildering number of rates of assessment in force (there were no less than 81 different rates on wet land), the abolition of an extra tax called *rewáz-jásti* which was levied on certain old betel and cocoanut gardens; the re-writing of the survey accounts in rupees and annas in place of the existing pagodas and fanams; and the extinction of several ancient forms of customary remissions. The Collector was given an additional Sub-Collector and extra establishment to help him introduce the new rates and re-write the accounts. The work was completed throughout the district by Fasli 1268 (1858-59).

Mr. Pelly was not altogether satisfied with the amount of the reductions. Reporting in April 1859 on the steps he had taken to introduce them, he said that in his opinion the assessment was still not as low as it should be and that though a nominal reduction of Rs. 3,22,700 had been made in the district (as it then stood) the greater portion of this was on waste land not in occupation.

Taluks.	New assessment.	Reduction from old assessment.	Percentage of reduction.
	RS.	RS.	
Ádóni	2,82,225	35,571	11·2
Alúr	2,96,155	49,988	14·4
Bellary	3,21,839	42,322	11·6
Hadagalli	1,62,586	6,286	3·7
Harpanahalli	1,73,855	3,210	1·8
Hospet	1,04,971	15,626	13·0
Kúdligi	2,40,234	10,782	4·3
Rayadrug	2,39,316	29,321	10·9
District } Total }	18,21,181	1,93,106	9·6

"The direct and immediate relief to the ryots did not perhaps exceed Rs. 90,000 to Rs. 96,000." The reduction effected in the taluks which now make up Bellary is given in the margin.

In the same year several petty little taxes, such as those on bark used for distilling arrack, on gum collected from babul trees, and on certain leaves used in the preparation of indigo were removed.

In the years which immediately followed, the area under cultivation and the revenue received gradually but continuously advanced. Prices began to rise again, which probably helped the ryots more than the reductions in the assessment, and in the sixties the value of cotton rose enormously owing to the American War.

The famine of 1866 did not materially check the improvement, but in 1876-8 occurred the great famine already referred to in Chapter VIII above, and at one stroke the cultivation and the revenue went down to figures which were lower than any which had been known during the twenty preceding years. Even ten years later, 59 per cent. of the land which went out of cultivation in those three seasons of distress still remained unoccupied¹ and it was at least a dozen years before the revenue again approached its former level.²

In the 25 years which followed the introduction of Mr. Pelly's alterations in the rates of assessment no important changes were made in the main principles on which the land revenue was assessed or administered.

At the beginning of 1882 the taluks which now make up the Anantapur district were formed into a separate Collectorate. There had for years been entire unanimity as to the necessity of reducing the great size of the old Bellary district. The earliest proposals on the subject seem to have been made as far back as 1857 and one reason for their abandonment was the financial pressure occasioned by the Mutiny. Thenceforward the question re-appeared from time to time and it was at length brought to a head by the experiences of the great famine, which clearly showed that the district as it then stood was unworkably large.

In 1884 the re-survey, and in 1885 the re-settlement, of the two districts thus constituted was begun. In 1887 Mr. Cox, Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, submitted a draft settlement scheme for them both which was based on the results of the classification in the Adóni, Alúr and Hospet taluks of Bellary and the Gooty and Penukonda taluks of Anantapur. It proposed large increases in the existing assessment and was rejected by Government in October 1888 on the ground that "these districts are the poorest and most backward in the Presidency, the most sterile and the most subject to drought; the ryots pay the present revenue with difficulty; they have as yet far from fully recovered from the famine and to impose upon them largely increased

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HISTORY.

The district
recovers,
1859-76.

Effect of
famine of
1876-78.

Bellary
district
constituted,
1882.

SURVEY AND
SETTLEMENT
OF 1896.

Mr. Cox's
scheme.

¹ G.O., No. 690, Rev., dated 28th September 1888.

² Figures are given in paragraph 10 of B.P., No. 50 (Rev. Sett.), dated 27th February 1890.

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SURVEY AND
SETTLEMENT.

burdens will certainly check, if not entirely arrest, their progress." Government ordered that a revised scheme should be drawn up for the five taluks of Ádóni, Alúr, Bellary, Gooty and Tadpatri, which were considered to be the best in the two districts, and that two separate schemes should be prepared for the remaining taluks of each district.

Mr. Wilson's
scheme.

Mr. W. Wilson, I.C.S., then Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, drew up a scheme for each of the districts as a whole the financial effect of which, in the Ádóni, Alúr, Bellary and Hospet taluks of Bellary, was a decrease of some Rs. 42,000 or 6 per cent. Government considered that it was doubtful whether any sacrifice of revenue was either necessary or desirable and (for this and other reasons) declined to pass the scheme.

Mr. Cox's
revised
scheme.

A revised scheme for Ádóni, Alúr and Bellary prepared by Mr. Cox was sent up by the Board in February 1890. This was sanctioned by Government in the following September with certain modifications, one of which was the reduction of the total increase under dry land in the Bellary taluk to 6 per cent. Mr. Cox died not long afterwards and the remainder of the settlement was done by M.R.Ry. S. Rangachariar. He submitted a separate scheme for the other five taluks of the Bellary district, which was sanctioned by the Government in May 1893, and conducted the final settlement of Ádóni, Alúr and Bellary under the first scheme and of the remaining five taluks under the other.

Principles
followed.

The survey and settlement were conducted on the lines usual elsewhere. The classification of the soils of the district grouped them under the two main classes of régada or black and ferruginous or red. Wet land was arranged in five groups with reference to the quality of the sources from which it was irrigated. The only land placed in the first group was that under the Tungabhadra channels. In rating dry lands, villages are in some districts placed in different groups according to their facilities for getting their produce to favourable markets, but in Bellary they were all placed in one group. For the purposes of fixing the money assessment rates the standard crop on wet land was taken to be paddy and that on dry land to be cholam. The outturn of the former was estimated to vary from 1,200 to 320 Madras measures per acre, and of the latter from 340 to 90 measures. Taking the prices of the preceding twenty non-famine years and deducting 15 per cent. for merchants' profits the net value of the two grains worked out to Rs. 139 per garce for paddy and Rs. 135 for cholam¹ in Ádóni,

¹ Two varieties of cholam, white and yellow, are cultivated in the district, but as the official prices included both and the white was superior, a reduction of 10 per cent. was made from the registered prices in making the calculation.

Alúr and Bellary, and in the remaining taluks to Rs. 141 and Rs. 125 respectively. From these "commutation prices", one-fifth in the case of land under the Tungabhadra channels and one-fourth in the case of other land was deducted for vicissitudes of season while a further deduction, varying from 45 to 90 per cent., was made for cultivation expenses. The remainder was taken as the net value of the crop per acre and the half of this, rounded off to the nearest standard rate, was fixed as the assessment.

The rates prescribed.

Wet.		Dry.	
RS.	A.	RS.	A.
11	0	2	8
10	0	2	4
9	0	2	0
8	0	1	12
7	0	1	8
6	0	1	0
5	0	0	12
4	0	0	8
3	0	0	6
2	8	0	4
2	0	0	2
1	8		
1	0		

assessment due to the new settlement² : —

Taluks.	Dry land.		Wet land.	
	Percentage difference in—		Percentage difference in—	
	Extent.	Assess-ment.	Extent.	Assess-ment.
Ádóni	4	3	— 1	7
Alúr	4	3	8	— 1
Bellary	5	7	5	3
Hadagalli	4	8	7	8
Harpanahalli	5	10	10	24
Hospet	5	7	5	11
Kúdligi	4	3	9	3
Rayadrug	7	12	12	9
District	5	6	8	9

¹ Further figures will be found in the separate Appendix.

² B.P., No. 83 (Rev. Sett.), dated 1st May 1896.

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SETTLEMENT.

The increase in the wet assessment includes that derived from the transfer of dry land to wet, and 62 per cent. of the total was derived from land under the first and second groups. On dry and wet land together, throughout the district, the increase in extent due to survey was 5 per cent. and the enhancement of the assessment amounted to 7 per cent.

In the dry assessments the smallest absolute increases occurred in the Hospet and Kúdligi taluks, both of which contain much hill and jungle. The percentage increase seems small in Alúr and Ádóni, seeing how fertile are their black soils, but these were already very highly assessed. In Rayadrug, on the other hand, the cotton-soil had frequently been previously paying only from two annas to five annas an acre, and there the proportional increase was accordingly considerable. Similarly the considerable increase in the wet assessment in Harpanahalli was due to the unduly low assessments which had previously been charged. The average rates per acre in each taluk on occupied and unoccupied dry and wet land are shown below :—

Taluks.	Average rates per acre.			
	Dry.		Wet.	
	Occupied.	Unoccu- pied.	Occupied.	Unoccu- pied.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Ádóni	0 15 0	0 10 11	5 11 9	4 10 3
Alúr	1 3 5	1 3 1	4 10 11	4 10 9
Bellary	0 13 5	0 9 11	7 15 1	4 1 7
Hadagalli	0 9 7	0 4 6	5 7 3	4 10 8
Harpanahalli	0 9 2	0 4 3	4 13 3	3 12 10
Hospet	0 7 3	0 4 11	7 4 3	5 5 4
Kúdligi	0 7 4	0 3 8	4 9 4	4 2 3
Rayadrug	0 9 0	0 3 9	3 14 2	2 14 0
District average ...	0 11 10	0 6 5	5 10 2	3 12 8

INAMS.
Their large
extent.

The extremely high proportion which the various classes of inam land bore to the area of Government land was a matter which attracted Munro's attention almost as soon as he took charge of the Ceded districts. Including grants to village officers, the valuation of the assessment due from inams was no less than 54 per cent. of the assessment on the Government land.¹ Many of these inams had been granted fraudulently or at least without proper authorisation.

¹ Letter to Board, dated 23rd June, 1801.

Munro "followed the custom usual under all Governments in India of resuming all grants for a time in order to examine the titles by which they were held As the country had been transferred upon the valuation of the schedule of 1792 it appeared to me" he wrote,¹ "that there could not be a fairer principle assumed for regulating the inams than that of the standard of that period. I therefore directed that all of a subsequent date should be re-annexed to the Sirkar lands." His treatment of the inamdars was, however, far more generous than that of the average native government. Inams granted by the earliest native governments or by the Nizam, Haidar or Tipu (or their ministers); or granted in Adóni by Basálat Jang or Muhabat Jang; or granted by amildars and other inferior officers more than 40 years previously, were allowed to be retained. Others were resumed.² "Unauthorised inams resumed" is a common entry in the accounts in the earlier years of the Company's rule, but details do not appear.

The majority of the inams were the service grants made to the village officers. These were established under the Vijayanagar kings and many of the original sanads were still in existence. The holders had however very generally taken advantage of their position to increase them by the addition of Government land as well, and Munro found that in his own division the total of the grants to all village servants (of whom there were then no less than twenty different kinds) was over 12 per cent. of the total assessment.³ Dasabandham inams, granted for the construction or upkeep of tanks, were also a considerable item, but they were commoner in the Cuddapah country than in Bellary.

Particulars of the extent and assessment of the various inams were recorded in Munro's survey and it was intended that an enquiry should be made into the titles on which they were held. Munro did, indeed, begin this investigation in part of his charge, but nothing is now on record to show how he proceeded. One of his clerks, who was the Board's Head Sheristadar in 1830,⁴ said that he resumed grants for which the holders could produce neither documentary nor oral evidence in proof of their rights. The enquiry was interrupted by Munro's departure to England and the introduction, immediately afterwards, of the triennial and decennial leases rendered it no longer of any importance to Government to ascertain whether the inams were held on good title or not.

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INAMS.

Munro's
policy regard-
ing them.

Their nature.

Enquiry
regarding
them.

¹ To Government, dated 7th July 1801. The Directors approved, see their despatch of 10th April 1804 to the Madras Government.

² Circular to Sub-Collectors, dated 31st December 1800.

³ Letter to Board of 23rd June, 1801.

⁴ Consultations of 29th March, 1830.

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INAMS.

The only class of grants which was systematically examined in Munro's time were the village service inams. These were in no way uniform in amount, being in some places as low as one per cent. of the assessment of the village and in others as high as 50 per cent.

Munro therefore drew up a table¹ granting inams to the headmen and karnams on a scale proportional to the assessment of their villages, and ordered that where the existing emoluments were less than those allowed by the scale they should be increased by the grant of additional land and that where, on the other hand, they were in excess of the scale the village officers should be allowed to retain them, his idea being that in the course of the leases which were then being advocated it might be possible to equalise matters by reducing remissions granted to headmen-renters who held unusually large inams.

Several sets of accounts of the various inams were drawn up from time to time² but on no occasion until the regular Inam Settlement began in 1861 were any steps taken to investigate the actual rights of the inamdars and there is abundant proof that the inams were not materially diminished after the country came under the British Government.

Restrictions
on their cul-
tivation.

Their large extent and the sparseness of the population led to the necessity of inventing methods of preventing the cultivators from tilling inam land more largely than Government land to the detriment of the revenue.

Munro in his minute of 31st August 1820 already above referred to, considered³ that the preference for inam lands was due to their lenient assessment and that the reductions in the Government assessment then ordered would equalise matters. If the event proved that this expectation was not likely to be fulfilled he considered it would be perfectly just to increase the assessment on the inam lands. "It is not right," he wrote, "that, where the public revenue consists chiefly of a high land rent, one-third or one-fourth of a great province should enjoy the privileges of being cultivated, not only without contributing to the public revenue, but of diminishing it by drawing away the cultivators from the Sirkar lands."

The *appanam*
system.

In the case of the headmen who held large inams the difficulty was met by what was called the *appanam* system. Under this the headman was compelled to take up, and pay assessment for, a

¹ Circular to Sub-Collectors, dated 14th April 1807.

² G.O., No. 677, dated 22nd March 1861.

³ Arbuthnot's *Munro*, i, 115.

considerable area of Government land in addition to his inam, and was not allowed to relinquish it. Mr. Pelly disliked the system and an enquiry was held into it between 1860 and 1862. But it was not abolished until 1866.

To meet the cases of ordinary ryots who cultivated inam in preference to Government land it had been ordered that, as long as any of the latter remained untilled, ryots who were not inamdars were not to cultivate more than one acre of inam to every ten acres of Government land. This rule was not, however, capable of being enforced and in 1825 Mr. Robertson imposed¹ on service inams a cess called *inam taffrik* (or 'inam extra assessment') which was collected at the rate of one anna per rupee of the assessment of the inam cultivated by a Sirkar ryot in excess of ten per cent. of the Sirkar land occupied by him and two annas per rupee on the assessment of the inam which was cultivated by a Sirkar ryot who held no Sirkar land. Of the total area under cultivation at this time 47 per cent. was inam land, of which 21 per cent. was service inam, 14 per cent. dharmadáyam, 9 per cent. dasabandham and 3 per cent. dévadáyam. This cess was abolished with effect from 1862 under instructions issued by the Inam Commissioner with the approval of Government.

It has been seen that the village officers were usually remunerated by grants of land. They also received sundry fees called *méras* and *vartanas* regarding which no exact particulars now survive except that the former consisted of payments in grain from all cultivators and the latter of a kind of house-tax on merchants and bazaar-men. The members of the family of each hereditary office-holder shared the inam lands in common, whether they actually did the work or not, but the fees were the perquisite of the member who for the time being carried out the duties of the office. The most curious customs used to prevail regarding the execution of these duties. Sometimes the whole body of shareholders all did them simultaneously and promiscuously; sometimes they did them in rotation; and sometimes one man did them while the others shared the grant.

In 1860, Mr. Pelly, then a Member of the Board, was directed to revise the village establishment and systematise its emoluments. He reported on the matter in 1862, and showed that the various village officers and servants in the district as it then stood held 635,000 acres of inam land assessed at Rs. 5,70,000 (or, excluding the quit-rent payable, Rs. 4,70,000) and that the annual fees they received in addition amounted to Rs. 2,70,000. He made certain

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INAMS.

The *inam taffrik*.

VILLAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

Former emoluments and customs.

Their revision.

Inam Commissioner's letter in G.O., No. 677, Rev., dated 22nd March 1861.

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VILLAGE
ESTABLISH-
MENTS.

proposals for the revision of the existing state of things, but these were not approved and the matter dropped for the time. In 1884 Mr. Goodrich, then Collector, sent up another scheme, but about this time Government had issued certain general rules with reference to these revisions and the scheme was sent back to be recast in accordance with these and at the same time the enfranchisement of the village service inams was ordered. This latter operation was not over until 1888. In 1889 the Village Cess Act of 1864 was at length introduced into the district and in 1897, after the survey and settlement, the village establishments were systematically revised. In 1903 the Proprietary Estates Village Service Act of 1894 was extended to the district and it is in contemplation to revise and bring under the revenue officers' control the establishment belonging to the more important among the whole inam villages, which are the only class of proprietary estates in Bellary.

EXISTING
DIVISIONAL
CHARGES.

The revenue administration of the district is now controlled by the Collector, who is aided by a Head Assistant Collector at Hospet, a Deputy Collector at Adóni and a Head-quarter Deputy Collector. There is, as usual, a tahsildar in each taluk and there are in addition deputy tahsildars at Siruguppa in Bellary taluk and Yemmiganúru in Adóni. The changes in the divisional charges since the old Bellary district was formed in 1808 have been constant and would be tedious to recount in detail. When the district as it now stands was constituted in 1882, the Collector had charge of the Bellary and Rayadrug taluks, a Head Assistant Collector at Hospet administered the four western taluks and a Deputy Collector took Adóni and Alúr. In 1888 a Head-quarter Deputy Collector relieved the Collector of his direct charge, and since then the divisional arrangements have remained unaltered.
