

mon to supply by adoption the want of children, every great estate must in a short time be divided into a number of small ones. A widely extended division of property is the point to which things are of themselves hastening, and to which they must finally arrive, unless obstructed by violent regulations. Superior industry, several successions concentrating in one person, or other causes, may keep up a few large estates, but such instances will be rare, and will bear no comparison to those of the small ones which will be continually formed by the operation of unrestrained transfer, and of division among all the sons of every succeeding generation. Small estates may, therefore, be considered as the arrangement of nature. To think of dividing Canara into great estates would only be attempting to carry it backwards a century or two, and forcing it from that state to which it must again inevitably return. The effect of the Bengal system on the provinces of the Coromandel Coast and probably in Bengal itself will be no more than, after a long course of time, to make the condition of the great body of the inhabitants that which those of Canara now is.

19. With respect to the expediency of having great substantial landholders who may be responsible to Government for the revenue, there seems to be no reason to conjecture that it might not be collected with equal ease and regularity from small proprietors. A tyrannical government has drained the resources of this country and left the inhabitants less able than they formerly were to cultivate their lands ; but the same evil would have taken place, and in a much greater degree, had the lands been divided among great owners of estates of from five to ten thousand pagodas each, because it would have been much easier to have impoverished the country by extorting an exorbitant assessment from a few who possessed all its wealth than it would have been had it been divided among a number of small proprietors. Though there can be no very rich owners where estates are small, yet the aggregate produce of the land may be, and probably always is, greater than when the whole belongs to a few principal landholders, and Government have, therefore, a greater fund for the security of the revenue. It may be said that there must be a certain limit beyond which estates cannot be subdivided without leaving so little surplus as rent as to be

insufficient for the subsistence of the landlord, and that he would then be forced to withhold a part of the public revenue in order to make up the difference. Should such a case ever happen, the remedy might always be found in selling the estates. The very existence of the case, however, supposes a fulness of population not likely to be soon experienced, and which, if it were, it would compensate in a thousand ways for such accidents. The division of lands in Canara, however it may have affected individuals, does not seem ever to have injured the public revenue. Though it has, no doubt, sometimes reduced the descendants of independent landlords to the rank of tenants and even of labourers, it has most likely, by employing more labour, increased the gross produce of the soil. It has not disabled the owners from providing for every expense which the best cultivation requires. It has diminished their property, but it has also in the same proportion diminished the land they are to cultivate with that property, and by confining their personal management to a narrower space it has rendered it more efficacious. The wealth accumulated in the hands of great proprietors may be supposed to enable them to undertake extensive improvements, and to carry on agriculture with a spirit beyond the power of petty landholders; but even allowing, what may well be doubted, that the wealth of a great landholder is greater than the aggregate wealth of a number of small proprietors whose estates together are equal in extent to his, it is not likely to be so productive, for it never can be managed either with so much skill or economy. Whatever superiority he may have over them in fortune is more than counterbalanced by the deep interest which every one of them feels in looking after his little spot, and by the unremitting attention which both his attachment to it and his necessity impel him to exert in order to extract from it its greatest possible produce.

20. The expenses of Indian must not be measured by those of European husbandry. Exclusive of tanks there is hardly any expense which may not be defrayed by the smallest as well as the greatest proprietor, and even tanks themselves are unnecessary in Canara. The small estates are in general better cultivated than the great ones, and their owners are as regular as the great owners in discharging their kists. Among the numerous instances which

have come before me of their having been violently dispossessed of their lands, or of their having fled and left them waste, on account of the balances under the late government, there is not one in which those balances can fairly be attributed to the land rent, nor in which they have not arisen from fines, anticipations, and other acts of oppression. In whatever way I view the question of great and small proprietors I am perfectly satisfied that the preference ought to be given to small ones, and that Government ought to make its settlement immediately with them. Under such a system the gross produce of the country will be greater, and the collection of the revenue will be as regular as under that of great landholders. Men who have been accustomed to see the frequent failures among the lower classes of farmers in other parts of India will not admit that a mass of small proprietors can be punctual; experience, however, in this province has demonstrated that the regularity of payment is not affected by the smallness of the estate.

21. Though my own opinion is decidedly in favour of small proprietors, yet as Government have determined to introduce everywhere the system of the Bengal Permanent Settlement it becomes my duty to point out in what manner it may be accomplished in Canara. It is evident that, as the lands of Canara have for ages been private property, we are not at liberty to make the same disposition of the same as might be done where they belonged to Government. If it is argued that no such difficulty has occurred in Bengal, it may be answered that the landed property of Bengal is most likely of a very different nature from that of Canara, which is both more ancient and more perfect than that of England, because it is more widely diffused and less clogged with conditions. If in Bengal the Sirkar grants of Enaums are for land and not in money, and if the lands are held by a few great instead of a multitude of small proprietors, it may with certainty be pronounced that its landed property is of modern date, and that it is an usurpation of revenue servants and head inhabitants together. The very circumstance of the existence of such a property having been doubted, is a strong argument against its being of long standing. No man who has ever been in Canara can

entertain any doubt with regard to its land being private property. As the property must, therefore, remain as it now is, all that can be done is to divide the country into a certain number of great estates formed by the union of several small ones under one head. The most convenient arrangement would be that of moganies or grains, and the size of estates ought to be from 100 to 500 pagodas Jumma. To break in upon ancient boundaries and landmarks for the sake of ideal advantages to be derived from the squaring estates would occasion much trouble to the Collector and no small discontent among the inhabitants, because these boundaries serve not only to divide lands, but also particular tribes or families, who form distinct communities in their respective villages. Where moganies are above five thousand pagodas Jumma they ought to be divided into two or more estates, and where they are small two or three ought to be formed into one estate. The average ought to be about one thousand pagodas Jumma. It could answer no good purpose, and might produce mischief, to make any estates above a thousand pagodas, because the proprietors might in time become a kind of petty Polligars. All past events in this country show that great landed property has always had a tendency to excite a turbulent spirit in the possessor, which has been favoured by the inaccessible nature of the hills and woods among which he resides. An estate of ten thousand pagodas in most parts of Canara and in every part of Soonda would place under the landlord a large district furnished with retreats so strong that, were he to become refractory, it would be difficult to reduce him to obedience. Such precautions may be said to be unnecessary, because gratitude for the benefits he has received from the British Government and the impossibility of bettering his condition will preserve him in his allegiance; but the love of distinction and independence is a much stronger and more universal passion than gratitude, and though it might be supposed that the hopelessness of success and, of course, his own interest would deter him from any opposition to authority, yet it is well known that men on such occasions do not always maturely weigh distant consequences, and it would, therefore, be the more prudent plan not to hazard an arrangement whose stability is to rest on gratitude.

22. After dividing the country into great estates, each of these estates ought to be made over to the Potal or principal proprietor of the small estates, of which they are principally composed, in perpetuity. As he has no property in any of the lands composing the great estate except those which were before his own, he can only be constituted a kind of lord of the manor. But as he must be responsible for all failures, he ought to be allowed the following advantages, in order to enable him to perform his engagements :—

1st.—He ought to have an allowance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the Jumma, to be included in the reduction which I have already proposed, leaving the remaining per cent. to go as an abatement to the mass of inferior proprietors and farmers.

2nd.—He ought to be vested with a proprietary right of all waste lands to which there are no owners, on condition of his paying the Beddenore assessment the second year after they are brought into cultivation.

3rd.—All inferior estates which on failure of heirs have heretofore been accustomed to revert to the Sirkar must now revert to him, and become in every respect as much his exclusive property as his own original estate.

Though the establishment of these regulations will, I am convinced, answer the end of ensuring the easy realization of a permanent revenue, yet it is obvious that the influence of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in facilitating this operation must ever diminish, because if it follows the loss of other property, though it now belongs to one man, it must at his death be divided with his estate among his children. We shall then have several persons instead of one to be responsible for the revenue, and, as every succeeding generation will increase the number, we shall at last have almost as much detail with the superior landlords as if we had made a direct settlement with the inferior proprietors. If, with the view of averting this evil, as it is supposed to be, we confine the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the eldest son, or some single heir, and make him solely responsible, we lessen the security of revenue, because, as we cannot prevent the division of the lands among all the heirs, we have now only the security of a part instead of that of the whole of them, together with the $2\frac{1}{2}$

per cent. for its realization. If we restrict the division of lands to the original estate, and determine that all subsequent acquisitions, whether from the revision of inferior estates or the cultivation of Sirkar waste lands, shall go with the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., we introduce the law of entail, and even this can only be effected at some remote period in the many estates in which there is no waste. All systems of Indian revenue must, I imagine, end in making a direct settlement with every independent landholder, without the intervention of any superior lord, and in making every one of them answerable for his own rent, and the whole of the estates composing a village or district answerable for the failure of any particular estate therein by a second assessment.

23. Supposing, however, that it may be expedient for the present to adopt the system of great estates, the regulations I have recommended will apply to every part of Canara and to the greater part of Ankola, Soonda, and Bilghi; but in many villages in Bilghi and Ankola, and throughout the whole of the villages in Soonda running along the Mahratta frontier, the land belongs to the Sirkar and may, therefore, be divided into estates, and given away at the pleasure of Government. These villages are in general in such a desolate state that a permanent settlement of them would now be made under very great disadvantages. It would, for many reasons, be best to defer the settlement of them and also of Canara for at least five years. The Collector can hardly in a shorter period gain the requisite knowledge of the country for carrying into execution a measure of so much importance. Time should also be allowed to let the inhabitants become familiarized to their new masters, and shake off all distrust and apprehension of change, and to enable them to comprehend the scope of the system intended to be introduced, and it should also be allowed in order to let the country recover the long series of oppressions under which it has suffered. The remissions already granted have removed every impediment in the way of this desirable end, and in a few years they will work a wonderful improvement in the condition of the inhabitants. Judging from the confidence they have already assumed in our moderation and good faith I have little doubt that, within that period, the value of land will rise so much that there will scarcely

be a single estate which will not find a purchaser, should it be necessary to sell it to pay a balance.

24. In disposing of the great estates of the final settlement no price ought to be demanded of them, because as they were all before private property, upon which the superior landlord had no claim, there is no new advantage attached to his tenure except the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., nor any in immediate expectation which can make it worth any valuable consideration. We have no ground to imagine that there will be any such competition for them as to raise their price. Soucars and other men of property are too cautious to lay out their money on land on the strength of the duration of a new system, and on the faith of a government to which they have but lately become subject. In provinces which have been near half a century under the Company's government they may consider the property which they vest in land as secure from danger; but here they will not readily believe that it can be safe, for nothing but the experience of many years will persuade them that another war may not transfer them to the dominion of another power. As we must, therefore, expect no candidates for estates except among the landholders themselves, and as from the minute division of land very few of them can be supposed to be rich, no considerable sum can be expected from them for great estates. But though they have not the means of making great advances as purchase money, the realization of the revenue will not be less secure. It is the wide diffusion of landed property, by which almost every field has a different owner, who is anxious to increase its produce and who pays his rents with a regularity unknown among tenants-at-will, that constitutes this security, which will be every day strengthened by the effect of the abatements which have already been made. These will operate both in augmenting the gross produce of the land now in cultivation and in enabling the owner to obtain a better price for it. They will encourage him to enlarge his cocoanut plantations, which, in a climate so favourable, would have been ten times more numerous than they are, had not the dread of additional assessments restrained their cultivation; and they will furnish him with the means of cultivating completely the higher and more unproductive lands of his estate, which in many greater estates have been waste

almost ever since the Mysore conquest. Canara will probably never be a manufacturing country, because it produces none of the raw materials necessary to render it such, and because the heavy rains which last so great a part of the year are an insurmountable obstacle to all operations which require to be carried on under a clear sky and the open air; but the same rains which deny it manufactures give it a succession of never-failing crops of rice, which place its revenue and its future prosperity on the firmest foundation, for there can be no danger that the existing demand for its surplus produce will ever diminish. The province of Malabar, Goa, Bombay, and Arabia can be nowhere else so well supplied, and there is every reason to conclude that their consumption by the abolition of all regulations in favour of particular countries and the reduction of the duties will be increased.

25. Besides the land and customs, sandal-wood is another source from which an occasional revenue may be drawn. It was my intention to have given a particular account of what might be expected from it, but, as I have not had time either to procure sufficient materials or information, I must relinquish the design. Some districts have no sandal, others have not yet sent in their statements;

* Such as are growing in the Northern Division, including Soonda.

the accompanying No. 4 contains such as I have hitherto received. The tree ought not to be cut under thirty,* in some places not under forty, years of age. The average price is now about 20 bahaudry pagodas the candy of 560 lbs.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) THOMAS MUNRO,
Collector.

December 1800.

Anagoondy, 9th December 1800.

TO THE COLLECTORS OF CANARA.

GENTLEMEN,—Having been directed by the Board to communicate to you whatever regulations I had in view for the preservation and improvement of the resources of Canara, I must refer you to my two reports, which contain almost everything I have to say on the subject.

2. Whether you wish to carry into execution my ideas, or to form better plans founded on the result of longer experience and close investigation, it is essential that your cutcherry should be so constituted as that it should facilitate, and not impede, the accomplishment of your object. For this purpose a cutcherry ought never to be placed under the direction of any one man, as is too often the case, both in the possessions of the Company and of the native governments. When it is under the power of one man, whether he be denominated Peishcar or Sheristedar or Moonshee, is of little consequence; the habits of the people, with very little exertion on his part, enable him to acquire such an ascendancy that he may do whatever he please, and keep the Collector in the most profound ignorance of what is going forward. To obviate this evil the Collector must be his own Peishcar; he must be himself the only head-man. That he may be so, his cutcherry should be composed of two equal branches, the one Hindivi and the other Canari, or whatever is the general language of the country. As they are responsible for the treasure, the cash-keepers should be appointed by them; but the Moonshees should be of your own selection, and entirely unconnected with the Sheristedars, because they are intended as a check upon them. To answer this end they should be men of some ability, and should be made to understand that their own advancement would depend upon the degree of zeal they should evince in giving you useful information. When there are two distinct cutcherries and Moonshees unconnected with them, so many different interests are created that a combination becomes impossible, and instead of it a rivalry excited among them, which is productive of the best consequences, by stimulating them to a faithful discharge of their duty. Had I

remained in Canara I would have dismissed a number of the district servants for peculation. The Amildar of Ankola is accused of being concerned in the customs, and I suspect that he has, either from indolence or collusion, overrated the loss of the tobacco farmer of Sedashigur. The Amildar of Soonda appears to have made away with two sums, the one of 35 and the other of 90 pagodas, and to have replaced one of them; but should he have replaced both, the proof of his having once used either of them ought to disqualify him from holding his situation.

3. In settling the land rent for the current year much caution should be observed in imposing any new assessment on any land that pays the Beddenore rent and half of Hyder's addition, and more should be laid on any land that pays the Beddenore and three-fourths of Hyder's assessment. No land that may be raised the current year to the Beddenore and half of Hyder's addition should ever be raised higher, because though many causes have contributed to sink the rent of land below the Mysore Government assessment, none have had so great a share as the quality of the land itself having been such as to have rendered it incapable of continuing to pay the high rates which had been forced from it during a few years, and because that the raising of rents from year to year discourages improvement and weakens the confidence of the owners in the security of private property in land.

4. Where land, either through fraud or favour, has of late years been reduced below the Beddenore assessment, it ought to be raised to that assessment, together with half of Hyder's addition in the course of the present and following year, after which no further increase should be demanded. There may be instances, but I imagine they are very rare, where the land is so barren as to be incapable of bearing half of Hyder's addition, in which case we must be satisfied with one-third or perhaps one-fourth of it.

5. The rent of land, however productive it may be, ought never on any account to be raised higher than it has been at some former period. Lands, therefore, which may have escaped partly or even wholly the Mysore additions ought not now to be burdened with them. The inequality thus occasioned is of no importance, for the rent of land never can be so nicely adjusted so as to corre-

spond always with a certain proportion of the produce. It cannot perceptibly affect the revenue, for not one estate (wurg) in a hundred has been exempted, and it should be considered, too, that many of the present holders in purchasing them from the former proprietors have given a high price in proportion as the rent was low.

6. I have hitherto been speaking of such land as is private property, but in every district a portion of the land in cultivation has become the property of the Sirkar by having reverted to it from expulsion of ancient owners, failure of issue, and other causes. In the form for the Jumlabundy of the current year there is a column for this land. In those districts which I had settled before leaving Canara it was to private land in the proportion of from one-tenth to one-fifth, and it is always held at a lower rent. It is sometimes cultivated by different people in different years, but most commonly always by the same person, and it is often, I believe, called public when in fact it is private property, for the purpose of obtaining it at a reduced rent. All cultivated lands coming under the denomination of Sirkar ought to be given away to individuals in proprietary right, according to the form which has this year been observed with respect to the lands thus transferred in Cundapoor. Whenever the tax is equal to the Beddenore and half of the Mysore assessment, the land should be made over to the pre-occupier without any additional taxation. When it is below it should be raised to that standard, and if the holder does not agree to this increase it should be given to the highest bidder. The conversion of Sirkar into private land should not be hurried. It must be left to be regulated by the circumstances of the inhabitants. Every occupier of Sirkar land who has the means of cultivating it, and who finds it profitable, will soon apply for a sunnud or order to secure the proprietary right to himself. Another reason for not pressing forward the transfer of Sirkar land is, that the great reduction of the customs and the security which the Company's government affords, will speedily raise the value of land and bring forward more candidates and higher offers every succeeding year.

7. In the cutcherry you will find a cowl containing regulations for renting out every description of waste land, and every dis-

tract has one with such variations from the general form as seemed best adapted to its particular state. In disposing of Sirkar lands, whether waste or cultivated, no part of the wurg or estate should be given away unless the whole is taken, because if the cultivator is permitted to take only a part, he will select the best land, and nobody will take the rest, and it is probable that he will also on some occasions select it in such a manner as that the rejected portion shall be surrounded by his estate, so that he may cultivate it rent free without much danger of discovery.

8. I left instructions with the cutcherry to make a general reduction in the land rent of 4 fanams per bahaudry pagoda, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., after finishing the settlement of the current year; but this indulgence, unless in some very particular cases, should not be extended to lands which are not assessed equal to the Beddenore rent and half of Hyder's addition.

9. As so great a part of land in Canara is private property held at a fixed rent, your settlements in future will require little time or labour, because nothing is to be done except to add to the Jumma of the preceding year the extra rent of a few estates which may have been held at an under rate, and the rent of such waste lands as may have been brought into cultivation. In Ankola and Soonda, however, more time will be required, because in those districts private property in land not being so general as in Canara, the cultivators sometimes quit one village for another, and as they are exposed to an arbitrary increase they frequently claim a reduction of rent when they have suffered losses. The assessment of last year was so moderate that there can hardly any where exist the smallest pretence for demanding an abatement. Buddengoor and some other villages which have suffered from the ravages of Dhoondigee's adherents ought to be kept at a low rent for two years.

10. Every encouragement should be given to betel and pepper gardens. This has already been done by relinquishing the Sirkar monopoly and interference of every kind and by leaving the sale perfectly free, so that it is probable the owners are now in the enjoyment of greater advantages than they ever were at any former period. Nothing more is wanted but to persevere in the same line, and to allow them, without the apprehension of new

demands, to carry their culture to the utmost. The land rent of their gardens, where it is below the Beddenore or Rajah of Soonda's assessment, ought not to be raised beyond the standard, for as the haulet duties of a well-cultivated garden are six or eight times greater than its land rent, the augmentation of its produce ought to be considered as the only object deserving serious attention.

11. The most material points of information to be drawn from the survey of Barcoor, are the extent of estates, their rent and produce per acre, the quantities of Sirkar and private waste land, the extent and produce, distinguishing the cultivated and waste, of Enaam lands, classed under their various heads of Deostaun, Gram Duvaita, Bhutnurtu, Mutt, Service, &c. The produce of land is to be ascertained in the usual way by the Hoolisnowis, by inspection and inquiry, and to correct his estimate he ought sometimes to have a field of ripe grain cut down, beaten out, and measured in his presence, and by comparing the result with his own previous reckoning, enable himself to form a true judgment of the produce by the eye or what is called Nuzzur Andazi. To prevent fraud or negligence in the survey a second measurement of particular estates should sometimes be made by a different set of surveyors, and if any error exceeding ten (10) per cent. is detected, the original surveyors should be punished and discharged. A wurg or estate is often composed of unconnected parts situated in different villages, and sometimes even in different districts, without having any specific rent affixed to the different parts, but only one general rent for the whole. The survey must show the number, extent, &c., of estates thus divided, and must value the different portions separately, because if ever the country is divided into estates of whole villages it will be necessary to know for what sum the villages ought to be assessed on account of the broken portions of estates which they may contain. The valuation of those portions ought to be made by the Hoolisnowis in conjunction with the owner and the landholders of the villages in which they are respectively situated. The landholders must be cautioned that, in the event of any failure of payment by the broken estate and of there being no purchaser, their own lands will be assessed for the deficiency. Their own security will deter them from conniving at a false valuation.

On all estates where there are tenants (Guenis), whether tenants-at-will (Challi Guenis) or tenants by purchase for ever (Mool Guenis), the estimate of the produce of the whole estate will be considerably assisted by comparing it with the tenant's portion. We are certain that in no case the tenant pays the landholders more than half the produce. We know that the landlord keeps the best lands in his own hands, and that, therefore, acre for acre their lowest produce cannot be less than that of the tenant's share. With these facts to help his judgment a skilful inspector will find no great difficulty in calculating, from the different degrees of improvement in the portions of the tenant and proprietor, the respective produce of each.

12. I gave to the cutcherry before leaving Canara a statement of what I thought ought to be the utmost limit of the amount of Enaums. It may be found necessary hereafter to diminish in some instances one description and add to another, but the total ought not to be increased. In Honawer and a few other districts I have reason to believe that there is more of what is called Melwassi than has yet been brought to account. Wherever this occurs a proportional reduction should not be made till you are sure that the total of concealed Enaums have been brought forward, because if you begin early it will impede the discovery. Though the amount of Enaums in the Moyan Zabithah is greater this year than last, the disbursements on account of all descriptions have, except service, been directed to be made by the standard of last year, until the actual total of the Melwassi is ascertained.

(Signed) THOMAS MUNRO,
Collector.

MEMORANDUM.

Some parts of the foregoing letter are omitted, relating chiefly to the Southern Division; the original is with Mr. Ravenshaw.

(Signed) A. READ,
Collector.

Barcoor, 1st November 1801.

TO THE PRESIDENT and

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,—I have now the honour to reply to the various
 From Mr. A. Read,—Additional Report on the and important points of
 Settlement of his District for Fusly 1222. information required in
 your proceedings upon my settlement from Fusly 1222, under date
 the 20th June last.

2. The latest propositions of Major Munro for regulating
 the assessments both on rice and garden
 lands are contained in his letter, dated 9th
 December 1800, to Mr. Ravenshaw and
 myself. I know not whether the Board
 possess a copy of this letter, but, agree-
 able to its directions, I shall recapitulate
 the rates of assessment and propositions contained therein.

Assessment on land produc-
 ing grain. 1st, the Collector
 will recapitulate the substance
 of Major Munro's propositions
 for regulating the assessment
 on these descriptions of lands.

[Here quote paragraphs 3 to 9 of preceding letter.]

3. Though I cannot discover upon the records of this office
 any letter from the Board in reply or alluding to the foregoing
 letter from Major Munro, yet "the scale which was finally adopted
 and the expectations then entertained from the supposed moder-
 ation of the rates of assessment" are evidently contained in the
 Board's address to Government dated 25th July, and approved of by
 its reply to the Board dated 15th August 1804, the result of which is
 as follows:—"That from the inquiries made by Mr. Ravenshaw and
 myself and the explanations afforded by Major Munro's letter of the
 9th November 1800, the existing settlement (Fusly 1210) of Canara
 was determined to be the highest on the people of any to be found
 under the Company's government, and that, so far from any further
 deduction being requisite in the land rent, the repossession of
 unoccupied estates promised annually to increase in the proportion
 that the confidence of the inhabitants in the stability of our
 government shall be established."

4. Statement A. exhibits the proportions of my settlement for

2nd, the Collector will then state to what extent of lands these rates have been applied, and to what extent they remain to be applied—in other words, what amount of revenue is now rated below the standard.

Fusly 1222 rated at and above the standards of Major Munro, which ascended from the simple Shist or ancient Nuggur assessment to three-fourths of Hyder's additional assessments ; but it will be observed by the Board that by far the largest proportion of cultivators are rated above the last assessment, and that no lands are rated at the simple Shist only.

5. That "the established rates" have been increased, is, I regret to say, too true. It has not, however,

And whether the established rates have in any case been increased.

been occasioned, I may venture to declare, both for Mr. Ravenshaw and myself, by any desire to increase our settlements from unwarrantable grounds, but it has gradually taken place from a decline of agriculture and various causes of poverty among the ryots obliging us to make up by a small increase to low rated lands the rent of others which had failed altogether. But at the same time we have not in any single instance raised the rent of an estate "higher than it has been rated at some former period," agreeable to the rules of Major Munro ; for even at the present time the proportion of those landholders who pay the full assessment of their lands are few compared with those who pay somewhat less, still the majority are unquestionably rated in their assessment higher than they would have been had the standards of Major Munro been inviolably observed. Should any apology be wanting for a deviation from his excellent and moderate rules, I trust it will be found in the annual approbation of our settlements and to the desire we naturally had in common with other Collectors of maintaining the land rent to the same annual standard. But as this mode has certainly advanced many in the scale of assessment faster than would otherwise have been the case, it may be judged advisable by the Board to put a stop to the practice as impolitic and unjust.

6. The remissions which it has been found necessary to solicit,

As also the extent of remissions that have been annually granted on those rates.

or which I have (with your subsequent approval) taken on myself to grant, though not very large, have been sufficiently fre-

quent to show the necessity entertained of relief being required. These remissions were granted indiscriminately to those appearing in need, whether highly or lowly assessed. The following is an abstract of them with reference to the document explanatory thereof:—

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|----|----|------------------------------------|
| In Fusly 1209 S.Ps. | 398 | 26 | 56 | Board's letter dated 1st Jan. 1801 |
| „ 1210 „ | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| „ 1211 „ | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| „ 1212 „ | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| „ 1213 „ | 2,228 | 28 | 32 | My report dated 28th March 1804. |
| „ 1214 „ | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| „ 1215 „ | 1,316 | 9 | 24 | ditto 30th April 1806. |
| „ 1216 „ | 7,488 | 4 | 10 | „ 15th May 1807. |
| „ 1217 „ | 2,194 | 24 | 60 | „ 5th May 1808. |
| „ 1218 „ | 1,034 | 25 | 6 | „ 30th April 1809. |
| „ 1219 „ | 4,628 | 4 | 72 | „ 21st April 1810. |
| „ 1220 „ | 907 | 14 | 31 | „ 30th April 1811. |
| „ 1221 „ | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| „ 1222 „ | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total in 14 years. | 20,195 | 2 | 51 | |

7. Statement B. exhibits the increase of the revenue derived in each year from the extended occupation of waste Sirkar lands, and Statement C. the quantity of land which has been during 14 years converted into private property.

It will also be desirable to know the increase of revenue derived in each year from the extended occupation of waste Sirkar land and what quantity of Sirkar land has been during 14 years converted into private estates.

8. To these points it may be observed that an increased occupation of waste lands upon estates has unquestionably taken place in a small degree throughout every district of Canara and Soonda. But this increase has principally arisen during our early possession of the country, for very little extra cultivation appears now in our annual settlements. New enclosures have also been made in some parts of the province, while in others they have decayed. In the northern part of Ankola an increased number is visible, occasioned by the con-

stant demand which the contiguity of Goa produced for some years past and to the freedom of export which the inhabitants in that quarter have enjoyed by the great reduction of troop stationed there since the beginning of 1808. In the vicinity of Coomta a considerable number of new shops and godowns with enclosures have been made, owing to the traders with Bombay and Mahratta countries having of late years formed a depôt there. In the neighbourhood of Onore several new enclosures took place during the presence of the Court, but many of them are again falling to decay. In the neighbourhood of Mangalore an increase is very observable and, now that it has become the permanent seat of the Court, it is likely to increase; but I can name no other parts of Canara upon which any particular difference is visible. Many enclosures and improvements in Soonda which were very apparent in 1801-2 are since gone to decay owing to the want of that security then enjoyed by the presence of a complete battalion at Hullihall, one company at Bunnawassi, the residence of the Collector's cutcherry, and a much larger number of police peons for the defence of the country than now obtains.

9. The conversion of public into private estates proceeds now very slowly, occasioned either by the quantity of lands required by the neighbouring ryots being already occupied, or to want of encouragement to extend their agricultural pursuits. The waste lands are, as may be supposed, chiefly to be found in the interior of Canara, and throughout most parts of Soonda and Bilghi the largeness of the trees compared with any to be found near the sea proves the superiority of this waste soil; but it is to be regretted that the unhealthiness of those tracts, and more especially want of labourers, are serious obstacles to their cultivation. Emigrating ryots from Mysore and the Mahratta countries are now no longer to be met with; on the contrary a few desertions in every talook appear at the period of settlement for some years past.

10. The land tax is well known to be full of the greatest inequalities and at present appears the highest on garden estates and lowest upon salt lands, proceeding from the reduced price which the produce of the former now bears and from the introduction of a monopoly of the latter article.

3rd, the Collector will report in what degree the standard rent fixed on the rice land is equal or in what degree unequal.

11. As the only proper survey ever made in Canara was that of the Barcoor district before it was extended to its present size, this query cannot be answered with accuracy; nevertheless, being one that has frequently occupied my attention, I subjoin the result of my inquiries upon this subject. I am of opinion that the grain lands of Lower Canara, for I shall speak of Soonda and Bilghi separately, are assessed nearly upon the following scale:—

| | Gross produce valuation. |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Mangalore | 35 per cent. |
| Bekul | 33 „ |
| Buntwal | 32 „ |
| Barcoor | 42 „ |
| Cundapoor | 40 „ |
| Onore | 40 „ |
| Ankola .. | 35 „ |
| <hr/> | |
| Average.... | 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ |

Their productive powers have been pretty accurately ascertained from partial surveys and various enquiries to be nearly as follows:—From one mora of seeds the average returns in paddy and from the three sorts of lands are, from

| | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| These figures represent the returns of <i>one</i> crop only; most estates yield two crops and a few yield three. | Mangalore | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Moras. |
| | Bekul | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ |
| | Buntwal | 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ „ |
| | Barcoor | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ |
| | Cundapoor | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ |
| | Onore | 11 „ |
| | Ankola | 10 „ |
| <hr/> | | Average.... 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ „ |

In what district it is highest, in what lowest, *i. e.* in what district does the Sirkar rent near the heaviest, and in which the lightest? And in what degree does the inequality exist in different parts of Canara?

From which it appears that the assessment is heaviest in Buntwal, Barcoor, Cundapoor, Onore, and Ankola, and lightest in Mangalore and Bekul. But as I am perfectly aware that all statements of this nature not drawn from an accurate survey are not to be depended upon, and as the

Board's object will, I imagine, be equally answered if it can be shown from reasoning founded on experience that the existing assessment is *too high in the aggregate*, I shall, before closing this report, endeavour to prove that it is so and that it ought to be lowered.

12. The estimated share of the tenants differs partly from the usages of the country and partly

The Collector will also explain whether the tenant's estimated share is supposed to differ much in different parts of Canara, or whether, as in Malabar, it may be reckoned on an average at one-third of the gross produce.

from their being either tenants-for-ever or tenants-at-will. The payment between tenants and their landlords in Canara is never for a proportion of the crop, termed Warum in the Carnatic, but is either for a specific amount in money or quantity of rice.

The average payment *in rice* upon a mora of land ($1\frac{1}{4}$ English acres) is found to be 5 moras, or in money 1 bahaudry pagoda 6 fanams and 10 annas, agreeable to the following table: —

| Talookas. | Sorts of Land. | In Rice. | In Money. |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | Moras. | B. P. F. As. |
| Manglore | 1st | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 2 5 0 |
| | 2nd | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 7 8 |
| | 3rd | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 7 8 |
| Bekul | 1st | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 7 8 |
| | 2nd | 3 | 1 0 0 |
| | 3rd | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 7 8 |
| Buntwal | 1st | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 5 0 |
| | 2nd | 3 | 1 0 0 |
| | 3rd | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 5 0 |
| Barcoor | 1st | 12 | 4 0 0 |
| | 2nd | 6 | 2 0 0 |
| | 3rd | 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 1 2 8 |
| Cundapoor | 1st | 12 | 4 0 0 |
| | 2nd | 6 | 2 0 0 |
| | 3rd | 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 1 2 8 |
| Onore | 1st | 9 | 3 0 0 |
| | 2nd | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 5 0 |
| | 3rd | 3 | 1 0 0 |
| Ankola | 1st | 6 | 2 0 0 |
| | 2nd | 3 | 1 0 0 |
| | 3rd | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 5 0 |
| Average | | 5 | 1 6 10 |

Now if the returns in paragraph 11 are tolerably correct, the tenant's account will stand thus: —

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Average produce from 1 mora of land, $11\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| of paddy, or half that quantity in rice.. Moras of Rice | $5\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Deduct landlord's rent | $2\frac{1}{4}$ |
| | <hr/> |
| Balance remaining with the tenants | $2\frac{1}{4}$ |
| | <hr/> |

leaving him *half* the gross produce to subsist his family upon and to replace his stock of cattle, implements of husbandary, &c. It would require a very minute investigation into the affairs of every individual landholder to distinguish the number of tenants who pay their rents in rice from those who pay their rents in money; but it is extremely natural to conclude that most of the old tenants for ever made their agreements in kind, which exempted them from all further care or trouble in the conversion of their produce into money. It is also natural to conclude that, since the Company's government, the landlords have been more anxious than ever to receive grain instead of money. Other advantages are, doubtless, derived by most tenants-for-ever from the produce of dry grain, fruit trees, &c., which are always considered in Canara as the entire reward of their own industry. But I shall presently endeavour to support with greater proofs my supposition that the tenantry of Canara are still in possession of half the gross produce of the soil they cultivate and in many situations more than the half.

13. With respect to the practice of mortgagees paying the Sirkar rent of lands, this is found to pre-

It would appear that in Malabar a large proportion of the Sirkar rent is collected either from the mortgagees or tenants cultivating the land and not from the landlords. Mr. Read will explain how far this is the case in Canara. If the tenant has to pay the Sirkar rent in addition to the landlord's or proprietor's rent and to find the means of cultivation and subsistence out of what remains, it may be possible that the actual cultivator, that is the tenant, may not be better off in Canara than the actual cultivator is on this side of India.

vail very generally throughout the richest or best cultivated parts of Canara. It forms part of the conditions of mortgagees to do so, but then it does not happen, as the Board seem to apprehend, that the cultivating tenant becomes in consequence burdened with his own rent and that of his landlord's also; the subject will best be understood by a short detail of the mortgage rules of Canara.

“Land and its produce are separately mortgaged in Canara.

" If the land itself is mortgaged for a sum of money, no interest is demanded, and as soon as the bargain is concluded the mortgagee is put in possession of the land. The mortgager is sometimes permitted (or not as the agreement may be) to reside upon the estate and (sometimes) is allowed one or two moras of lands to cultivate, (as) in the capacity of a tenant, but the mortgager pays the Sirkar rent and transacts the whole business of the estate as if he was the proper owner. The mortgage bonds always contain a clause that, as soon as the sum borrowed is repaid, the land is immediately to be returned, the mortgager agreeing to pay the expenses of all improvements, to be adjusted by the friends of both parties.

" A certain portion of the produce of estates is frequently mortgaged in Canara for the discharge of interest or debts. In this case it is stipulated that for the interest of the sum borrowed a certain number of moras of rice are to be paid annually, but that the person receiving the rice shall have no interference with the estate, and that should the mortgager fail in his payment then the land itself is to be made over to the other mortgager, but not sold.

"The first of these mortgages is termed in Canarese 'Bogiadhi' or living mortgage, the other 'Torradhoo' or dead mortgage. There are a greater proportion of lands under the first class than the second, or about 3 to 1. As the inhabitants are far from being strict in their dealings with each other, it seldom happens that the owners of lands, styled Torradhoo, can fulfil their engagements; consequently their whole estate is obliged to be given up, which accounts for the difference in the number of these two mortgages. Torradhoo is in the one always begun with, but seldom fails to end in the other Bogiadhi. Previous to the Company's government a number of soucars had possessed large mortgaged property in land and produce in almost all the southern moganis of Canara, but since then free trade, security of property, and an excellent price for their produce have enabled many of the people to recover their lands and free themselves from incumbrances. The rate of interest then obtaining between the parties being from 15 to 24 per cent. it is not to be wondered at if the *lenders* did not press for the payment of the principal. Mortgages are sometimes adjusted (in Canara) when the

mortgager has paid nearly all the sums borrowed and gives security for the remainder, although the period stipulated may not have expired, and in other instances when it is proved by the friends of both parties that the mortgagee must have reaped considerable profit from the estate and more than the amount of the remaining debt. When mortgages are *foreclosed* in either of the above ways the mortgagee resigns all further title to interference with the land and the owner resumes his avocations as formerly. A mortgagee may mortgage his lands to another, but when the original proprietor comes to redeem his lands the accounts are adjusted between him and the person then in possession of them.

“The practice of mortgaging lands is sufficiently prevalent to answer in some degree the desire of Government to see the lands in Canara generally saleable.”

The object the Board have in view in bringing those documents to your notice is to obtain from you an explanation in what respect and in what degree the present rates of assessment on rice and garden lands in Canara differ from those now existing in Malabar, and in what respect or in what degree the present rates differ from those in the new Pymashee or valuation proposed by Mr. Richards for Malabar.

14. This is the proper place to introduce my replies to the Board's letter and enclosures under date the 28th September last.—The mode of fixing the Sirkar rent on seed lands and the expenses of cultivation in Malabar.

Mr. Richards states that, whatever may be the produce after deducting the seed and the same quantity for the expenses of cultivation, the Kudian (cultivating tenant) is allowed one-third of the remainder. In Canara the practice differs entirely from this, inasmuch as no share of the crop is ever stipulated between the owner and the tenant; a specific sum in money or quantity of rice is always agreed upon, and the cultivating tenant stands to the profit or loss attendant upon such bargains. Whatever the latter can acquire from a few fruit trees, vegetables, betel leaf, &c., is the entire reward of his own industry. I here allude to the Challi Guenies; but the Mool Guenies are unquestionably better off, for having a *title* deed to the lands they cultivate, they improve them greatly by planting, which the Challi Guenies seldom venture to do,

not knowing but they may be ousted in favour of some other tenant. But although the foregoing shows the difference of *custom* in Malabar and Canara, yet the *condition* of the tenants is, upon comparison, found to be nearly alike, for as the Canarese landlord never allows his tenants-at-will larger share than one-half the gross produce, if from the share be deducted the expenses of seed, cultivation, &c., the remaining quantity will be about one-third for the subsistence of the tenant and his family.

15. This will, perhaps, become more explicit by a comparison in figures between the condition of Malabar and Canarese cultivators or tenants. As $11\frac{1}{4}$ folds seem to be the average return from the three different sorts of seed lands in Canara—termed Bile, Muzzel, and Bete—a comparison must be drawn with lands in Malabar yielding the same, and, rejecting fractions, I shall take 11 as the foundation to go upon—

| Tenant's account. | In Malabar by Congee Cooroo's table. Moras. | | In Canara. Moras. |
|--|---|----------------|----------------------|
| Quantity of seed required to sow lands yielding 11 fold | 9 | $\frac{1}{10}$ | 10 |
| Expenses of cultivation | 9 | $\frac{1}{10}$ | 10 |
| Landlord's share | 21 | $\frac{8}{10}$ | } 50 |
| Sirkar rent | 32 | $\frac{7}{10}$ | |
| Cul-lubum or tenant's net share .. | 27 | $\frac{3}{10}$ | 30 |
| | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | 100 | | 100 |
| | <hr/> | | <hr/> |

The difference in the quantity of seed and expenses of cultivation in the two provinces, as neither of them in all probability are drawn from actual survey, needs no remark; for even in the Barcoor survey as it was carried on at a period of the year when the crops were *reaped*, not sown, the quantity of seed required to sow a certain space of land is set down entirely from the reports of ryots and survey together. It may therefore be presumed that both these items in provinces participating in the same climate and mode of cultivation are very equal. The figures in the third line demand particular attention, because, if I am correct in supposing the average Sirkar assessment on grain lands in Canara to be so high as $36\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

of their gross produce, the share of the landlords in Canara will be considerably less than in Malabar, while that of the tenant in the former is rather greater than in the latter. That this is actually the case I have only the opinion of the people for supposing so.

16. Pursuing the report of Mr. Richards I proceed to a consideration of his table entitled "The precise shares of the Kudian (tenant), the Jenmkar (landlord), and the Government," purposing afterwards to notice his remarks on garden assessments.

17. The returns from both provinces so far agree that thirty-fold is the utmost I ever heard of in Canara; but I have always understood the rice soil of Malabar, especially in the southern part, is much richer than in Canara.

18. Mr. Richards' observation "that the share of the kudian or cultivator is always greatest in the worst ground," &c., does not seem to me very clear, because no difference whatever is made between the expense of seed and cultivation in any of the descriptions of land in his table. It must arise, I imagine, from a supposition that the allowance made for cultivation is higher than is actually incurred by the tenant upon the worst ground, for in rice grounds the labour in preparing them is not always in exact proportion to their fertility. In Canara it is the quantity of *manure* bestowed upon land which forms the chief expense; but it may surely be suspected that grounds yielding only three-folds can have had very little of that article bestowed upon them.

19. Mr. Richards goes on to observe that the adoption of his rules will promote husbandry, &c., and probably obviate *a practice in Malabar liable to great objection, that of leasing out lands in small farms*; but this, so far from being any objection in Canara, is the surest foundation of its prosperity. The multiplication of tenants must take place exactly according to the wishes of the people themselves; a sub-division of estates, in consequence, is attended with many excellent effects, such as the increase of husbandmen, of produce, of cattle and manure, and of security for the public revenue, instead of seeing large tracts of land under the sole management of one person and his servants.

20. Passing over his observations on the mutual benefit which Government and the landlords will derive by an extended cultivation I entirely agree with him in thinking it wrong to demand more than one-third of the actual gross produce of the soil as the Government share. The proportion I am desirous of taking upon all grain lands is 30 per cent., or a little less, as will be seen in an appendix preparing to this address. He concludes his remarks on seed lands with a recommendation that, after fixing the Sirkar share, the landlord and kudian might settle their bargain for the remainder. If this bargain was made for a specific quantity of rice or sum of money, the usages of the two provinces would then be alike.

21. The general practice observed in Canara, below the ghauts, for assessing cocoanut, betel-nut, and pepper produce is as follows :—

Cocoanuts.

For new gardens a cowl is generally demanded, securing possession to the cultivator until his young trees begin to bear, which is generally the case in their sixth year near the sea coast and in their tenth near the ghauts; the average assessment is then demanded upon the *tree*, not the produce, of Star Pagodas 0-1-23 per tree. The trees thenceforward continue to be accounted annually by village shanbogues, and no allowance made for unfruitful ones if it is supposed the proprietor has the means of keeping up his garden; because in old gardens, while a few trees are annually becoming unfruitful, their places are supplied by those just beginning to bear. Another mode prevails, which has been continued during the Company's government, of assessing the ground, not the trees, from the period of commencing the garden at the average rent of the neighbouring paddy-fields, and demanding nothing more when the trees begin to bear.

The foregoing is the prevailing usage between the Sirkar and proprietor of whatever description; but that observed by the landlords is to grant their Challi Guenies from one-fourth to one-third the gross produce and to their Mool Guenies one-half the gross produce, because the latter are bound to plant young trees in lieu of decayed ones, and not to sell or transfer their right in the garden land to any but their landlords.

It is not customary to demand any additional assessment for a few betel or pepper vines intermixed with the cocoanut trees, because it is sufficiently known that they injure the productive powers of those trees they are suffered to embrace.

Pepper and Betel-nuts.

22. These gardens are not assessed in any particular manner, but pay exactly according to the quality of the paddy-field soil they are formed upon. They are to be found near the foot of the ghauts in every talook from Sedashigur to Cavai, and are almost all cultivated by the landlords themselves, who are principally of the Bramin caste termed Hyger. When any of these gardens devolve to the Sirkar they are rented out at one-third the estimated gross produce, or, if that cannot be had, they are given away to the highest bidder.

Hence it appears that the minute division of the gross produce of gardens in Malabar between the *Sirkar* and the *cultivator* does not obtain in Canara, where a specific tax per tree or a fixed ground rent is demanded without reference to the produce of either. It is conjectured that about two-thirds of the proprietors of gardens below the ghauts pay the land assessment and that the other one-third pay upon the trees.

23. With regard to the difference in the present rates of assessment in Canara below the ghauts, compared with the new Pymashee proposed by Mr. Richards for Malabar, I have only to observe that I conceive Government are drawing from Canara a little more than one-third of the gross produce, as stated in the 11th paragraph of this report.

24. I now return to the proofs I had to advance that the tenantry of Canara, but more especially the Mool Guenies, are still in possession of half the gross produce.

On this point the Collector will be explicit, stating, on an examination of Mr. Ravenshaw's and his own survey in Fuslies 1211 and 1212, what is estimated to be the tenant's share.

1st.—From Mr. Ravenshaw's survey and enquiries in 1801.

“The Nisp, or half of the gross produce, is reckoned as the ryot's or under-tenant's share; the expense he has been at in preparing or planting gardens is then calculated, and an allowance as Nutaul

is made thereon and entered in the next column. The two sums together are the supposed total dues of the ryots, and the balance is considered as the landlord's rent payable to him; but the next column is intended to show the amount absolutely paid to him now by each of the under-tenants. This amount, however, is probably in many cases incorrect, and considerably less than he receives. The tenants are, no doubt, instructed by the landlords to represent the amount they pay to him as less than is the case. He hopes thereby, if not to get his rent to Government lowered, at any rate to insure its being raised no higher, and the tenants knowing that the landlord only can raise their rent, readily concur in his wishes. They care not how great their gains are represented to the Sirkar, and they know the only way to avoid an increase of their own is to insure, if possible, a remission of their landlords.

“There will always, however, be a very great disproportion in the amount paid by the under-tenants to their landlords from the following causes. Many of those entered Challi Guenies or tenants-at-will are, no doubt, Mool Guenies or tenants-for-ever, at old fixed and low rents which they have continued paying to this time, for neither any improvements they may make to their farms, however much they may increase its produce or however high the landlord's own estate may be raised by Government, are sufficient causes for an increase of the tenant's rent, and thence the under-tenants in Canara may truly be said to enjoy a more quiet possession of their lands, a greater share of the produce thereof, and a more certain reward for any extraordinary labour and expense they may be at, than in most other parts of India. Every increase of the landlord's rent must fall upon him alone: many of the farms rented by his under-tenants were probably in part waste or prepared at the time of ing them, consequently the rent fixed upon them was low. The same land may now be as good as any in the talook, but even the tents of the Challi Guenies, or tenants-at-will, so long as they continue to pay them with regularity, remain the same. It may, therefore, be presumed *that the landlords in very few cases receive one-half of the net produce of the land they lease to under-tenants.* He generally retains the most productive lands in his own hands, and what he rents out, though of an inferior sort, has most frequently

a great capability of improvement, which the tenants will naturally take advantage of, under a confidence that they alone will reap the fruit of their labours. The rent they pay is calculated on the ability of the soil at the time of their taking it, not on probable improvements they may make ; if such had been the case, Canara would long ere this have been a desert.

“By the accompanying abstract survey register of 5 villages it would appear that their total gross valuation is Star Pagodas 2,341-0-67, of which only 793-19-49 is paid to the Moolgars, leaving a balance of Pagodas 1,547-35-9, including Nisp or half the gross produce, to the Guenies or under-tenants, and the settlement of the estates composing those villages for the current year being 724-23-9 leaves only 68-41-40 clear gain to the landlords. This statement, I conceive, may be incorrect, particularly in the amount paid by the tenants to their landlords, who have no doubt combined in making their tenants mis-state circumstances to the surveyors.”

2nd.—Major Munro's remarks on Mr. Ravenshaw's survey, July 1801—

“By the statements it appears that the landlords have very little rent for themselves after discharging the public revenue. Tomboottoo is the most desolate and hilly district of Barcoor, and it is not unlikely that at the period when it lost the greater part of its population the landlords were forced by the difficulty of procuring labourers to rent the greatest part of their estates to under-tenants ; but even admitting this to be true it will hardly account for the very great number of those tenants, and there seems, therefore, to be reason to suspect that the landlords may in several instances have instructed their servants to call themselves tenants. Some parts of Kurkul, Buntwal, and Kurup are as thinly inhabited as Tomboottoo. Their tenants are also pretty numerous, but they do not bear so high a proportion to the landlords as in that mogani. In Mangalore, Vittel, and all the best cultivated districts by much the greatest share of the land is in the hands of the landlords, and this, I imagine, is the case even in Barcoor, near the sea. I think it also probable that the Challi Guenies or tenants-at-will in some cases have been called Mool Guenies or *tenants by purchase*,—that is, for ever, because the landlords may get some additional rent

from the former whenever there is a higher offer ; but they can get none from the latter, because their rent can be raised only by Government, which was seldom done except at long intervals in former times when the additional assessment was imposed after a new valuation.

“ All the land now in cultivation in Canara and a great deal more was cultivated many centuries ago ; the stability of the tenants encouraged them to improve every field as much as they could. *The rent fixed by the landlord was calculated upon the produce of several years while under his own management.* These experiments have in succeeding times been often repeated, so that every field is now known to the proprietor generally by written accounts and always by tradition to be a field of so many moras' produce. The landlord scarcely ever rents it below this rate, unless in particular situations where the scarcity of labourers leaves him no alternative ; he has, therefore, no ground to look for any additional rent from an increase of produce ; he can only obtain it either by advancing money to the tenant or giving him a cowl to enable him to make a plantation of cocoanut or some other kind of trees. He may likewise sometimes gain a trifling additional rent by the tenants leveling a few spots on the side of a hill. From these circumstances it is evident that, if prices and the state of improvements were to remain stationary, Government could scarcely ever derive any additional revenue from the tenants-at-will.

“ But as the landlord has already gained both by a rise of price and an abatement of customs he is not now entitled to the same indulgence, as in 1209, of a remission of rent for the waste parts of his estates ; he ought to be obliged to pay for the whole, whether he cultivates it or not, at a rate not less than the Nuggur assessment. There is no necessity for excusing him when another man can be found willing to pay the amount, for if he is indulged he will always leave his worst lands waste and claim a greater remission for them than they are worth. If the rise of the price should become permanent, which there is little room to doubt, the landlords will soon perceive, and after being convinced by the experience of several years that there is no danger of its falling to its old average, *they will every where raise the rents of their tenants-at-will, and*

by this means become the more able to pay the full assessment of their estates, whether they are in part waste or not. This is one among the reasons for distinguishing the Challi from the Mool Guenies, which is not done in the statements, though it has probably been done by the surveyors."

3rd.—From my own enquiries and long residence in Canara I am persuaded that the obligations between landlords and their tenants-for-ever are preserved with great fidelity, and that, owing to the increased demand for rice, and the high prices prevailing since the Company's government, those tenants are in possession of half the gross produce every where, and that the tenants-at-will pay their landlords from 50 to 60 per cent. of the gross produce; in support of which opinions I have to observe that few instances have ever come to my knowledge of the creation of any new Mool Guenie, but on the contrary the landlords have always endeavoured to get more lands into their immediate possession or for the purpose of renting them out to Challi Guenies.

25. If, therefore, it should be admitted that the tenantry of Canara below the ghauts are supposed generally to be in possession of half the gross produce of the lands they cultivate, I come now to the important question—How much is the landlord's and how much is the Sirkar's share of the gross produce?

1st.—By Mr. Ravenshaw's survey and inquiries, already quoted, he seems to think the landlords in very few cases receive one-half of the net produce of lands they let to under-tenants, but he admits that they retain the best lands in their own hands, and that the rents of the Challi Guenies are sometimes raised.

2nd.—Major Munro's reasoning on the surveys of Mr. Ravenshaw tend to prove that the landlords' condition must soon improve under the Company's government.

3rd.—From all I have been able to collect from experiments and enquiries I am led to suppose that the landlords are, generally speaking, in possession of six-tenths of the gross produce of their *entire estates*; the improvement of the Mool Guenies' share being counterbalanced by the rise of the price of grain produced upon the

landlords' *own lands* as well as what they receive from their tenants in kind, and the liberty they possess of raising the rent of their tenants-at-will, and the Sirkar's share throughout Lower Canara fluctuates between 30 and 50 per cent. of the gross produce. This wide difference is easily reconcileable when it is considered that the land tax of Canara was never formed from actual survey, and that its estates have undergone numerous revolutions.

26. The following remarks in a letter from Major Munro to Mr. Cockburn, member of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st October 1800, are not only applicable to the present subject but shows how correct his judgment has proved to be *on the present state of Canara*. After advising a trial to be made of a settlement, as near as possible to the highest rental, of a country for four or five years he observes—

“If it appears that though you realize them there is no great demand for waste lands, and that the collection still requires the same attention that it did the first year, you may then reckon that Government receives something *between 40 and 50 per cent.* of the gross produce. 50 per cent. is usually admitted to be the expense of cultivation, including labourers' hire, &c., and as I find that the same idea prevails in this country, and that *lands are universally let to under-farmers at a fixed rent of what is either supposed to be, or has been found on experience, equal to half the gross produce*, I have little doubt of its being pretty correct.”

Now the demand for waste lands, as has been already noticed, is extremely small, and my records since the close of Fusly 1217 evince the difficulty I have had in realizing the revenue. Major Munro goes on to observe that, had we any means of ascertaining with any degree of certainty what the Sirkar share actually is, the rest would be easy, for by reducing it to *25 per cent. of the gross produce* whenever it was more, and by letting it remain untouched whenever it was less, we should be as sure of realizing our land rent as we could be in England, &c.

27. The number of Sirkar estates, deduced from the village

The Collector will also state what is the estimated or actual number of Sirkar estates, what the tenants' share is who culti-

accounts in Fusly 1222, are 8,352, but of these it is probable that several in every talook are private, though called

vate those estates, and Government receives as Sirkar and landlords' rent united.

public, that they may be held at a reduced rent. It would be extremely difficult, without the knowledge derived from actual survey, to state the exact share of the tenants and that of the Sirkar upon such estates: so much depends on the ryot's family and way of life, which is not always adapted to his means. It is not, however, supposed that the cultivators of those estates derive any greater advantage than the Challi Guenies under a landlord, consequently that the Sirkar and cultivator nearly divide in most cases the produce between them. As a proof that their rent is considered high, they are never converted into private property without a reduction being allowed of a fourth or fifth part of the rent. It is from them entirely that an addition to the number of private estates is occasionally made, for no one in Canara will be at the labour of levelling fresh lands so long as any of these escheated estates are to be found. They are generally tilled by tenants, who, apprehensive of being removed after two or three years' occupancy by a higher rent being offered, search out in such cases other waste lands which they occupy a similar length of time.

28. The number of persons, whether landlords or proprietors, paying direct to Government in Fusly 1222,

The Collector will further state if he possesses the information how many landlords or proprietors there are in Canara, from how many persons his Tessildars collect the land revenue, and what may be in each Tessildary the average of each man's payment.

together with average payments in each Tessildary, is as follows:—

| | No. of Persons. | | Average Rent. | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|----|----|
| | | | S.Ps. | f. | c. |
| Mangalore | 5,103 | ..... | 11 | 41 | 69 |
| Bekul | 6,937 | ..... | 8 | 15 | 41 |
| Buntwal | 5,514 | ..... | 10 | 32 | 36 |
| Barcoor | 5,431 | ..... | 17 | 20 | 65 |
| Cundapoor | 3,483 | ..... | 18 | 19 | 42 |
| Onore | 4,530 | ..... | 11 | 23 | 18 |
| Ankola | 4,713 | ..... | 6 | 16 | 31 |
| Soonda | 6,530 | ..... | 8 | 4 | 46 |
| Bilghi .. | 1,125 | ..... | 13 | 29 | 13 |
| Total.... | 43,366 | | | | |

General Average.... 11 37 55

29. Statement D. exhibits examples of 5 estates in every talook and expressive of the information

It is desirable that the Collector should furnish a statement of a few estates in each district of which the Sirkar rent is collected direct from the tenants, showing the gross money value of the produce, the Sirkar rent, the landlord's or proprietor's rent, and the surplus remaining as the tenant's share.

here required, only that the cultivator being considered while occupying the land as proprietor, no attempt is made to distinguish their respective profits.

It is deserving of notice that the Sirkar and cultivator appear to divide the produce pretty equally between them, as mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, but that the difference is in favour of the cultivator as it should be. The examples in this statement were by no means purposely selected ; it may, therefore, be necessary to observe that the percentage of the Sirkar rent to their total produce valuation, appearing so equal throughout them all, is occasioned by the custom of the country in renting such estates, which is invariably done at half their supposed gross produce. There can be little doubt, therefore, if the rent of these and all the Sirkar estates in Canara were reduced to 30 per cent., that their cultivators would immediately become their proprietors.

30. Recourse was first had to this measure in Fusly 1220, and had I not pursued it with great leniency the examples of sale would unquestionably have been more numerous. The number of private estates which have been sold for arrears of rent have been 81, as detailed in paragraph 49.

The Collector will explain how far it may have been necessary to resort to distrain for the purpose of securing the Sirkar rent, whether any private estates have been sold for arrears of rent, and what number during the period the province has been under the Company.

31. Returning to Major Munro's letter of the 9th December 1800 (quoted in the 2nd paragraph) he proceeds to lay down instructions for the encouragement and improvement of this sort of land as follows :—

Garden land producing betel-nut, betel-leaf, pepper, cardamoms, cocoanuts, &c. The same information is required under this head as under the head of assessment

“ Every encouragement should be given to betel and pepper gardens. This has already been done by relinquishing the Sirkar's monopoly and interference of every kind, and by leaving the sale perfectly free, so that it is

on land producing grain with respect to the rates originally adopted, and subsequently followed or altered in assessing garden lands.

probable the owners are now in the enjoyment of greater advantages than they ever were at any former period. Nothing more is wanted but to persevere in the same line, and to allow them, without the apprehension of new demands, to carry their culture to the utmost. The land rent of their gardens, where it is below the Beddenore or Rajah of Soonda's assessment, ought not to be raised beyond the standard, for as the Hawlet duties of a well-cultivated garden are six or eight times greater than its land rent, the augmentation of its produce ought to be considered as the only object deserving serious attention."

32. The same remarks, as stated in the 5th paragraph of this address, are equally applicable to the garden rents of Soonda and Bilghi. It is, however, incumbent on me to remark that those talooks having, since the departure of Major Munro, been constantly subject to my own superintendence, their annual settlements have always been made with great moderation and with a view to their *peculiar produce and condition*. As a proof of this, the net increase between their settlements of 1209 and 1222 (Melwassi being deducted) is only Star Pagodas 6,413-14-62, of which the chief part is from the extended cultivation of grain lands and addition to those which were lowly rented.

33. It is much to be regretted that the expectations entertained by Major Munro of the prosperity at which these talooks would soon arrive have not been verified; on the contrary the demand for their produce has never been alike for two years together, while the Sirkar assessment and Hawlet duty have in consequence borne heavy upon the cultivators. The fluctuating state of their produce and demand for it is to be found in all my reports, and, I am sorry to say, continues to the present hour.

34. With regard to the present supposed assessment of these two talooks, I must premise that a very great difference prevails now in the prices of garden productions to that stated in my report of 3rd April 1802. The average price of pepper per candy of 560 lbs. was then S. Pagodas 26-27-13, now it is only S. Pagodas 9-34-0;

betel-nut (average of three sorts) S. Pagodas 9-17-25 per candy, and now only S. Pagodas 8-11-77; of cardamoms per maund of 28 lbs. S. Pagodas 8-8-3, now only S. Pagodas 4-39-75; consequently the sentiments so confidently expressed at that time of the lightness of the assessment no longer applies. I am of opinion that their present garden assessment may be about 33 per cent. and grain assessment 40 per cent. of their gross produce upon a comparison of former and present prices and the percentage derived from my actual surveys in 1802, which upon garden produce averaged at that time about 15 per cent.

35. With respect to the tenant's share above the ghauts, that usage is not observed in the cultivation of gardens; the cultivators are most commonly the proprietors, consequently they unite in themselves the profits of both. Tenancy is observed upon grain lands, agreeable to the usage of Canara, and in many parts Warrum or a division of the crops is also common. The tenants above the ghauts are almost all Challi Guenies.

36. That the sale of the products of gardens has been at times impeded by the weight of the Hawlet (notwithstanding its reduction in 1807) joined to the want of demand, cannot be denied. It was evinced more particularly in Fusly 1219, when the quantity of old pepper on hand was so great, and the demand for it so low, that, had not your Board acceded to my request of remitting two rupees per nidge, nearly the whole would have been either lost or sold at the most paltry rates. Indeed, the ideas entertained by Major Munro of the dependant state of the adjacent countries upon Soonda and Bilghi for their produce have ever appeared to me to be much too sanguine.

37. This has certainly been the case ever since our accession of Canara. The duties were frequently represented by me as too high, but any alteration was deferred until the sea customs regulations were modified, which

And whether the export duty by sea has been injurious to the sale of the products of gardens below the ghauts.

sundry circumstances led me to expect would have been the case several years ago. Early in 1812 Mr. Blake became charged with the sea customs of Canara, and several alterations and modifications have been made in the duties levied by him. The following were the exact rates levied in October last :—

| ARTICLES. | Given quantity. | Tariff Value. | Land Duty per cent. including all that is levied before it reaches the sea. | Sea Duty. | Centage of Total Duty. |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---|-----------|------------------------|
| | | S. P. f. c. | | | |
| Betel-nut, 1st sort | Per candy of 560 lbs. | 14 12 69 | 5 | 20 | 25 |
| Ditto 2nd ditto | Ditto | 11 19 25 | 5 | 20 | 25 |
| Ditto 3rd ditto | Ditto | 10 0 0 | 5 | 20 | 25 |
| Ditto 4th ditto | Ditto | 8 25 57 | 5 | 20 | 25 |
| Ditto (white Golee) .. | Ditto | 10 0 0 | 5 | 20 | 25 |
| Pepper | Ditto | 26 0 0 | 7½ | 7½ | 15 |
| Cardamoms, 1st sort | Per maund of 28 lbs. | 12 38 45 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Ditto 2nd ditto | Ditto | 11 19 23 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Sandalwood, 1st ditto | Per candy of 560 lbs. | 42 12 68 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Ditto 2nd ditto | Ditto | 36 25 57 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Ditto 3rd ditto | Ditto | 30 38 46 | 5 | 5 | 10 |

These rates are unquestionably too high, both in the tariff valuation and duty levied; but it would be superfluous entering into any detail here in consequence of the receipt of the Board's separate communication on this subject, dated 22nd October last, to which a particular reply will hereafter be forwarded.

38. Although it is imagined that few gardens have been abandoned entirely, it is certain that their cultivators have in many instances contracted the space of their labour by abandoning a portion of their trees; that in the various remissions granted in the settlements the largest share has always been given to the proprietors of gardens, espe-

Whether the number of gardens has been increased, or the quantity of garden land has been diminished. Mr. Gowan in his reports states that the cultivation of grain had been found more profitable, and garden land had in consequence been in many cases abandoned.

Whether the number of gardens has been increased, or the quantity of garden land has been diminished. Mr. Gowan in his reports states that the cultivation of grain had been found more profitable, and garden land had in consequence been in many cases abandoned.

cially in Bilghi, and that a proportion of the labour of the country has been annually diverted from garden to grain lands, the demand for grain having been much more constant than previous to the Company's government. The proprietors of gardens are all Bramins of the Hyger caste, who perform a very small part of the labour themselves but depend principally upon labourers from below the ghauts. As the demand for their produce has been so very low and fluctuating for many years past it is generally believed that the pepper vines, betel trees, and cardamoms are not in so flourishing a state now as they were ten years ago.

It has occurred to the Board that, as the price of garden products is represented to fluctuate considerably from year to year, it might be desirable to fix a rate of duty, but to allow the Collector under the authority of the Board to alter the tariff value at the time of sale in each year, in order to meet the selling price of the year. On this plan the Board desire the opinion of the Collector, as also his sentiments on any other modification of the Hawlet duty, in order to afford further encouragement, if such should be found necessary, to the cultivators of garden products.

39. In examining the collections of the Hawlet duty during the last 14 years a constant fluctuation appears in a much greater degree than would have taken place had the demand for the produce been commonly steady, such, for example, as the salt monopoly exhibits. I am, therefore, much pleased to find a mode suggested by the Board which will afford the most effectual relief to the proprietors of gardens.

40. The Board propose to alter the tariff value; but as the products of gardens have hitherto been subject to a specific duty per measure, without any regard to their price, it will answer the same purpose if the present duties are occasionally lowered, or a drawback allowed upon a proper representation of the necessity. With this view I shall first exhibit the duties they formerly paid, those they now pay, and the manner by which I would recommend the drawback to be allowed.

Former Rates of Hawlet Duties.

| | Pepper. | Betel-nut. | | | Cardamoms. |
|--------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| | Per Nidge of 20,736 Rs. weight in Soonda and 17,280 Rs. weight in Bilghi. | 1st sort per Nidge. | 2nd sort per Nidge. | 3rd sort per Nidge. | Per Maund of 960 Rs. weight. |
| | S.P. f. c. | S.P. f. c. | S.P. f. c. | S.P. f. c. | S.P. f. c. |
| Soonda | 6 26 54 | 3 29 46 | 3 3 17 | 1 43 3 | 1 16 57 |
| Bilghi | 6 33 60 | 5 29 7 | 4 29 71 | 2 6 60 | 1 16 57 |

Present Rates of Hawlet Duties.

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| Soonda | 5 6 34 | 3 19 23 | 2 25 57 | 1 6 34 | 1 16 57 |
| Bilghi | 5 6 34 | 3 19 23 | 2 25 57 | 1 6 34 | 1 16 57 |

The additional relief which I propose being occasionally granted in the shape of a drawback is to lower the established rates in a simple and uniform manner by foregoing either one-fourth, one-third, or one-half as the case seems to require, and upon that article for which there happens to be a great want of demand; and consistent with such principles I would recommend an immediate drawback on pepper of one-half the present duty, or Star Pagodas 2-25-57, without which it is to be apprehended that the cultivators will abandon the care of their vines, and their gardens become in consequence less valuable.

41. I also beg leave to recommend that the nidges of the two talooks be abolished and made equal to the candy of 560 lbs., for a practice has obtained which I did not foresee when I thought it advisable that the measures of the two talooks should remain as they were. It seems it is common for a merchant to purchase a nidge of pepper or betel-nut in Bilghi, proceed with it to a Soonda Hawlet chowkey, where, as it does not amount to a nidge by 3,456 Rupees'

weight, he gains that difference in customs, and occasions a deficient exportation to appear in the Bilghi Talook. The inland duties being now regulated every where by the candy, requires also the abolition of this ancient measure to facilitate the preparation of the monthly and quarterly accounts.

Rates of Hawlet Duties, the Nidges being reduced to the measurement per Candy, and exhibiting the duties also proposed for the Mogani of Hunnur.

| TALOOKS. | Pepper. | Betel-nut. | | | Cardamoms per Maund of 960 Rupees' weight. |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | Per Candy of 560 lbs. weight. | 1st sort. | 2nd sort. | 3rd sort. | |
| | | Per Candy. | Per Candy. | Per Candy. | |
| | S.P. f. c. | S.P. f. c. | S.P. f. c. | S.P. f. c. | S.P. f. c. |
| Soonda | 5 24 79 | 3 3 53 | 2 34 76 | 1 10 42 | 1 16 57 |
| Bilghi..... | 5 24 79 | 3 3 53 | 2 34 76 | 1 10 42 | 1 16 57 |
| Hunnur | 5 6 47 | 3 3 53 | 2 34 76 | 1 10 42 | 1 16 57 |

42. In the year 1805 a communication took place with the Resident in Mysore, Major Wilks, concerning a hardship in the payment of duties levied by that government on the produce of a small mogani called Hunnur, situated above the ghauts, but attached to the Cundapoor Talook, and which has not yet been remedied. As these duties are levied upon the produce of the Company's territories, within which the customs servants of that government are obliged to maintain two chowkies for the purpose of ascertaining the produce, collecting the duty partly in Hunnur and partly at Ikaree Saugor in Mysore, and as such a system not only infringes upon the Company's dominions but empowers a foreign state to interfere with the internal management of this province, I recommend that the same be no longer permitted, and that the inhabitants of Hunnur participate in the advantages just proposed for

the Bilghi Talook to which Hunnur has a near affinity. The revenues thus derived by the Mysore Government amount to about 1,600 Star Pagodas annually, and the duties are calculated upon nidges of the same weight as obtain in Bilghi, according to the following rates :—

That upon pepper is Star Pagodas 4 per nidge, upon betel-nut of the first quality Star Pagodas 4-2-7, upon the second Star Pagodas 3-22-14, and on the third Star Pagodas 1-16-57. Should the right to these customs be vested in the Company, I would recommend no alterations to be made in the pepper ; but those upon betel-nut I would advise being placed upon the same footing as now prevails in Bilghi, and as exhibited *for that purpose* in the third table of Hawlet rates preceding.

43. The foregoing are the principal alterations in the mode of levying the Hawlet duty which I could wish to see established. Should any further encouragement to the proprietors of gardens be found necessary, it must take place in a reduction of their land assessment, the propriety of which is alluded to in the appendix to this address.

44. Statement E. contains the information here required, in

Prices.—The Collector will furnish a statement of the average export prices of rice in each year, and, if in his power, a statement of the wholesale selling price of each article of garden product in each year.

which it has been my principal endeavour to procure the real prices received by the landlords of estates, not that of merchants unpossessed of landed property, whose profits fluctuate greatly every year ; but the landed proprietors, being obliged to provide at stated periods for the discharge of the Sirkar rent, cannot avail themselves of those opportunities for speculation which the merchant may, who is not liable to any such demands. Besides, it is, I conceive, the profits of the cultivators that the Board will be most anxious to ascertain in a report of this nature.

45. The following are the rates of rice and garden produce said to have been fixed when the Shist was introduced into Canara, and which I have contrasted with the average prices received during the Company's government :—

| Talooks. | Rice per Corge of 42 Moras upon the Coast. | | | Ditto near the Ghauts. | | | Pepper per Candy of 560 lbs. | | | Supari per do. do., aver- age of 4 sorts. | | | Cardamoms per Maund of 28 lbs. | | | Cocoanuts per 1,000. | | |
|----------------------------|--|----|----|---------------------------|----|----|------------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|--------------------------------------|----|----|-------------------------|----|-----|
| | S. Ps. | f. | c. | S. Ps. | f. | c. | S. Ps. | f. | c. | S. Ps. | f. | c. | S. Ps. | f. | c. | S. P. | f. | c. |
| Mangalore | 16 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 22 | 38 | 46 | 7 | 27 | 77 | .... |  |  | 2 | 38 | 46 |
| Bekul | 16 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 22 | 38 | 46 | 7 | 27 | 77 | .... |  |  | 2 | 38 | 46 |
| Buntwal | 16 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 22 | 38 | 46 | 7 | 27 | 77 | .... |  |  | 2 | 38 | 46 |
| Barcoor | 17 | 6 | 34 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 22 | 38 | 46 | 7 | 27 | 77 | .... |  |  | 2 | 38 | 46 |
| Cundapoor | 17 | 6 | 34 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 34 | 10 | 12 | 69 | .... |  |  | 2 | 38 | 46 |
| Onore | 17 | 6 | 34 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 34 | 10 | 12 | 69 | .... |  |  | 2 | 38 | 46 |
| Ankola | 17 | 6 | 34 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 27 | 77 | .... |  |  | 2 | 38 | 46 |
| Soonda ..... | .... |  |  | 13 | 32 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 68 | 9 | 23 | 45 | 6 | 38 | 46 | .... |  |  |
| Bilghi ..... | .... |  |  | 13 | 32 | 11 | 22 | 38 | 46 | 9 | 23 | 45 | 9 | 6 | 34 | .... |  |  |
| Average..... | 16 | 29 | 31 | 13 | 32 | 11 | 17 | 29 | 23 | 8 | 28 | 50 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 38 | 46 |
| Ditto of Statement E. | * | | | | | | 19 | 15 | 22 | 8 | 10 | 79 | 7 | 36 | 18 | 4 | 12 | 23 |
| Difference | * | | | | | | 1 | 30 | 79 | 0 | 7 | 51 | 0 | 8 | 62 | 1 | 18 | 157 |

* Unintelligible in the original.

The rates in Soonda and Bilghi are those introduced by their respective Rajahs, then tributaries to the ancient Nuggur Government.

Duties.—The Collector will furnish a statement showing separately the rates of Hawlet duty in each of the 14 years on each garden product above the ghauts, and the amount of the inland duty and export duty by sea for the same period on the produce of gardens below the ghauts. The statement must likewise exhibit the actual or estimated duty of every denomination paid on each kind of garden produce. The Collector will explain in what respect the import duty by sea presses hard on the means of the people, as alluded to by him.

46. Statement F contains the information here required. The variations in each talook even were found so many as obliged me to prepare this statement in a more detailed manner than might at first sight appear to have been necessary. The following remarks on each article of produce will, it is hoped, convey to the Board every information it could desire.

Pepper

has undergone only one alteration in Soonda when exported by land and two when exported by sea, the first occasioned by the reduction of Hawlet in 1807 and the other by the difference between the duties levied by me formerly when in charge of the sea customs and those at present levied by Mr. Blake. In Bilghi pepper underwent two alterations, the first by the annexation of the duties levied at Badedboil, in Nuggur, to those of the Company and the other to the reduction of the Hawlet. The alterations in its sea duties arose from the same causes as in Soonda. In Ankola the single alteration of the duties by sea and land have been made by Mr. Blake. In Onore and Cundapoor the same remarks are applicable. In Barcoor the duty by land has undergone only one change, and by sea two; the first is the effect of the late arrangements in 1222, which necessarily occasioned a change in the sea duties from those established by Mr. Ravenshaw in 1803-4. In Buntwal one change only has lately taken place both in the land and the sea, the result of the arrangements between Mr. Blake and myself, as submitted in my letter of 12th July 1812. In Bekul, pepper has undergone one change by land and two by sea; the first as in Buntwal, and the other from the arrangements of Messrs. Ravenshaw and Blake. In Mangalore very little pepper or betel-nut is produced. Its duties on exportation by sea are the effects of the abovementioned arrangements. The same remarks as

to the causes and periods of change in the duties by sea and land upon betel-nut and cardamoms are equally applicable to them as to pepper. The variations in the duties levied upon cocoanuts have been occasioned partly by a change from the Mamool to tariff rates, which upon several occasions have been revised.

47. The pressure of the sea customs upon the people, as alluded to lately by me, is partly owing to their rise from 6 to 8 per cent. *import duties*, to the high valuation of articles by the tariff, also to a positive increase demanded upon the produce of the upper country *on exportation by sea* for the space of the last twelve months, which, though authorized by the Board of Trade, bears very heavy on the traders. It consists in levying the full amount of sea customs in addition to the Hawlet, deducting from the total only 5 per cent. or the general inland rate in the following manner:—

| | Pepper per Candy of 560 lbs. | Betel-nut, 1st sort, per Candy of 560 lbs. | Cardamoms per Maund of 28 lbs. |
|---|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | S.Ps. f. c. | S.Ps. f. c. | S.Ps. f. c. |
| The Hawlet of Soonda | 5 24 79 | 3 31 53 | 1 27 0 |
| Sea customs levied by Mr. Blake after deducting 5 per cent. upon tariff value | 3 12 68 | 2 38 46 | 1 9 0 |
| Total.... | 8 37 67 | 6 25 19 | 2 36 0 |
| Previous to Mr. Blake's appoint- ment the total by the Mamool levied was | 6 5 56 | 4 7 19 | 1 28 23 |
| Increase now complained of | 2 32 11 | 2 18 0 | 1 9 57 |

But as the sea customs are about being modified it would be superfluous entering into further detail concerning them here.

48. By accounts received from every talook it appears that

Sales of Land.—The Collector will state whether of late years the transfer of land from one person to another has become more frequent, whether the price has in general increased or

the following have been the transfers or sales of land among the inhabitants, ex-

decreased, whether sales in satisfaction of arrears of rent have often been necessary, and whether sales in satisfaction of decrees of Court are numerous. A statement of the average price at which lands sell in each pargunnah compared with the Sirkar rent in a few estates in each district would be desirable. Colonel Munro, from the opinion expressed in the following extract of this report, dated 9th November 1800, appeared to think that land was not every where saleable at that time; he observes that "Canara has, however, now completely fallen from this state of prosperity. The evils which have been continually accumulating upon it since it became a province of Mysore have destroyed a great part of its former population, and rendered its remaining inhabitants as poor as those of the neighbouring countries. Its lands, which are now saleable, are reduced to a very small portion, and lie chiefly between the Cundapoor and Chendergherry rivers, and within five or six miles of the sea. It is not to be supposed that the whole of this tract can be sold, but only that saleable lands are scattered over part of it, thinner in some places and thicker in others, particularly in the Mangalore district. There is scarcely any saleable land even upon the sea coast, any where to the northward of Cundapoor, or any where inland from one end of Canara to the other, excepting upon the banks of the Mangalore and some of other great rivers. In the vicinity of the ghauts the lands are not only unsaleable but the greatest part of them is waste and overgrown with wood." The Collector will report whether in this respect any improvement has been experienced of late years in this state of the landed property of Canara, and whether private estates are saleable in every part of the province.

per cent. only to be received as interest, whereas from 18 to 24 per cent. was extremely common previous to their introduction. The owners of land, therefore, aware of this, exact a higher price for it.

49. The following have been the sales in satisfaction of arrears of rent:—

| Fuslies. | No. of Estates. | Amount of Sales. | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|-----------|
| | | S.Ps. | f. | c. |
| 1219 | 16 | 165 | 41 | 62 |
| 1220 | 9 | 108 | 24 | 47 |
| 1221 | 56 | 579 | 29 | 72 |
| Total.... <u>81</u> | | <u>854</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>21</u> |

clusive of such as were ordered to be made in satisfaction of arrears of revenue or decrees of the Court:—

| Fuslies. | No. of Estates. | Amount of Sales. | | |
|----------|-----------------|------------------|----|----|
| | | S.Ps. | f. | c. |
| 1209 | 15 | 974 | 21 | 17 |
| 1210 | 59 | 2,832 | 28 | 49 |
| 1211 | 110 | 5,386 | 22 | 14 |
| 1212 | 126 | 7,637 | 27 | 51 |
| 1213 | 103 | 5,233 | 30 | 17 |
| 1214 | 94 | 11,349 | 7 | 57 |
| 1215 | 128 | 6,015 | 7 | 31 |
| 1216 | 127 | 7,956 | 15 | 60 |
| 1217 | 141 | 7,378 | 9 | 51 |
| 1218 | 187 | 11,408 | 17 | 29 |
| 1219 | 328 | 18,535 | 31 | 14 |
| 1220 | 382 | 22,308 | 18 | 26 |
| 1221 | 378 | 22,343 | 38 | 46 |
| 1222 | 395 | 27,355 | 14 | 37 |
| Total. | 2,573 | 1,55,815 | 20 | 9 |

The price of land has increased considerably, because the regulations of Government allow of 12

50. The following have been the sales in satisfaction of decrees of the Court :—

| Fuslies. | No. of Estates. | Amount of Sales. |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1216..... | 3 | 186 25 57 |
| 1217..... | 19 | 3,321 24 60 |
| 1218..... | 15 | 1,037 14 24 |
| 1219..... | 9 | 986 38 45 |
| 1220..... | 8 | 978 12 69 |
| 1221..... | 24 | 1,372 4 79 |
| 1222..... | 26 | 3,131 12 68 |
| Total.... | <u>104</u> | <u>11,013 44 2</u> |

51. Statement G. exhibits the information required by the Board, though differing a little in form from those of Malabar. These examples are drawn from sales which have *actually taken place*, the average of which give 11 years' purchase.

52. In reply to the quotation from Major Munro's letter regarding the state of landed property in Canara, it may safely be advanced that the value of land has risen since he quitted the province, both from the security enjoyed under the Company's government and from the reduction of legal interest. The following abstract of the sales of lands by *talooks* will, I hope, exhibit the information required by the Board in a satisfactory manner :—

| Talooks. | No. of Estates. | Amount of Sales in 14 years. |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Mangalore..... | 550 | 56,236 34 57 |
| Bekul | 525 | 42,749 20 45 |
| Buntwal | 272 | 23,105 15 60 |
| Barcoor | 396 | 16,479 40 66 |
| Cundapoor..... | 176 | 5,528 9 51 |
| Onore | 258 | 5,606 3 43 |
| Ankola | 246 | 4,862 22 14 |
| Soonda | 11 | 361 6 34 |
| Bilghi | 39 | 886 1 48 |
| Total.... | <u>2,573</u> | <u>155,815 20 19</u> |

53. Statement H. exhibits the information here required. In

Village Taxes and Licenses.

S. Ps.

Actual for 1221. . 5,582-44-27

Estd. for 1222 . 5,407-3-56

175-40-51

The expected decrease under this head of revenue is represented to arise from the absence of some persons who are liable to the taxes.

The Collector must be desired to furnish a particular account of each item included under this head of revenue.

my letter, under date the 5th February 1813, I recommended the abolition of several items, on the plea that the contributors, in consequence of the introduction of the land custom regulation, would be subjected to a double demand. In reply to my letter your Board disapproved of the grounds for exemption pointed out by me, but observed that I should hereafter receive particular orders respecting personal and professional taxes, and that if any should be considered to be particularly oppressive they might be abolished on a proper representation. In consequence of this I have not attempted to collect the taxes enumerated in the aforesaid letter, in the hope that they will be abolished; for though several others may be termed vexatious and rather oppressive, yet they have not become *more so* by the introduction of the custom regulation in the manner these would be, were they now to be insisted upon. As their amount is small, and as they arise from a trade in articles already included in the tariff, I again beg leave to urge their abolition.

54. But that my replies may be rendered as complete as possible I shall here recapitulate the whole of the taxes which, I conceive, ought to be abolished, with my reasons thereon, and in lieu of the revenue thus relinquished to recommend a light house and shop tax leviable at certain towns and populous places only, according to a method which, if the proposition is approved of, shall be detailed hereafter.

(1.) S. Pagodas 102-3-68, "Kassin Churta." This is an ancient tax levied in the Rani of Beddenore's reign upon shroffs and bazaar men to cover a loss upon the exchange of pice sent from Nuggur to the lower country to be returned in silver and gold coins. It should be commuted for a shop tax, and impartially levied.

(2.) S. Pagodas 11-19-74, "Buttoo Kaniki." Levied upon the merchants of the town of Mulki, being a gift formerly agreed by

them to be paid the pagoda, but which was usurped by the former government.

(3.) S. Pagodas 92-20-46, "Moguer Munday Annah." This may be changed for an impartial house tax.

(4.) S. Pagodas 6-40-14, "Jansally Kutta." A tax formerly paid to exempt certain contributors in the Mangalore and Bekul Talooks from the expense of forwarding coir to repair the public buildings at Nuggur.

(5.) S. Pagodas 0 6-34, "Pauni Terrighie." A trifling compensation paid by one ryot for the use of water from a particular rivulet.

(6.) S. Pagodas 3-11-47, "Katti Kaniki." A present from certain Moplas in the village of Oolal, Mangalore, to the former reigning governments.

(7.) S. Pagodas 79-15-8, "Kutti Carack." *See* my letter of 5th February 1813.

(8.) S. Pagodas 1-31-40, "Moopen Kaniki." Similar to No. 6.

(13.) S. Pagodas 92-30-69, "Jooly Carack." *See* letter of 5th February 1813.

(15.) S. Pagodas 69-16-6, "Pun Bile Carack." Ditto.

(16.) S. Pagodas 27-1-74, "Choodavey Carack." This may be changed for a house tax.

(17.) S. Pagodas 13-36-77, "Sugar-cane tax." *See* letter of 5th February 1813.

(18.) S. Pagodas 528-13-66, "Wurgah Carack." This was levied as a compensation for customs upon the produce of the ryots' estates brought to market for sale, but as they now pay the regular customs in common with all others, this tax should, in my opinion, be abolished, although the amount be considerable.

(19.) S. Pagodas 6-20-20, "Chumar Carack." *See* letter of 5th February 1813.

(20.) S. Pagodas 81-39-17, "Teili Carack." *See* ditto.

(21.) S. Pagodas 4-37-23, "Momeen Carack." Ditto.

(22.) S. Pagodas 22-16-31, "Coomba Carack." May be changed into a house-tax.

(24.) S. Pagodas 22-4-66, "Nummuck Agger." This extra tax on salt-pans ought to be abolished, as it is a payment exclusive of the land tax, originating in a gift of Government for permission to allow certain salt-pans to be worked.

(25.) S. Pagodas 3-3-17, "Goode Carack." *See* letter of 5th February 1813.

(26.) S. Pagodas 235-9-51, "Garden tax." As it is payable on fruit and vegetables, already exempted from customs, it should, in my opinion, though rather considerable, be abolished.

(27.) S. Pagodas 29-35-3, "Betel-leaf tax." *See* letter of 5th February 1813.

(28.) S. Pagodas 251-0-26, "Dookan Carack." This was formerly a commutation tax levied in lieu of customs upon the articles dealt in by these shopkeepers; but as their goods are now subjected every where to the general inland duty, the levy of this tax operates as a double demand, and should be abolished.

(32.) S. Pagodas 23-35-29, "Kaniar Carack." This may be resolved into a regular house tax, and levied in every talook instead of a few only.

(33.) S. Pagodas 4-16-31, "Paddy and rice tax." A small duty levied in two talooks only, the origin of which is not very well known, but being trifling in amount as well as partial should be abolished.

(34.) S. Pagodas 0-25-57, "Fire-wood farm." Of a similar nature with the foregoing, and should be abolished.

(35.) S. Pagodas 112-16-6, "Bile Carack." This is a vexatious and unjust tax, originating formerly in voluntary alms given to a fakeer, and from long continuance has been considered as a fixed revenue, though the object in which it took its rise no longer exists.

(36.) S. Pagodas 0-9-51, "Mendicant's tax." Similar to 33 and 34.

(37.) S. Pagodas 0-9-51, "Tax on stone carvers." Ditto ditto.

(38.) S. Pagodas 116-1-49, "Kakishaw Russoom." During the reign of Hyder Ali an order passed to levy contribution for the

use of a fakeer so named, and payable by cultivators of the land. It being an oppressive and partial impost I urged its abolition.

(39.) S. Pagodas 0-5-63, "Tax on silk dealers." See letter of 5th February 1813.

(40.) S. Pagodas 3-10-74, "Chunam Carack." This was formerly levied in lieu of customs, and may be changed into a house tax.

(43.) S. Pagodas 97-32-11, "Weighers' fee." This originated in a custom of giving the weighers in a few talooks a handful of the produce weighed by them, which in time was usurped by the Sirkar, and should be abolished.

(45.) S. Pagodas 163-36-77, "Wholoo Benna," the renting the privilege of cutting public hay. I urge its abolition, as by leaving it free the poorer classes of ryots may thatch their huts or feed their cattle at a less expense than when obliged to purchase it of a renter.

(46.) S. Pagodas 87-9-52, "Wanah Gavallah," or jungle-wood farm, proceeds from renting the privilege of felling timber in the Soopa district, whence it is conveyed into the Mahratta country. Were this tax abolished the advantages resulting from an increased demand for timber, clearing the Soopa district and extending its cultivation, would soon compensate the loss. It is surely a very impolitic tax to be permitted to obtain when the nature of the Soonda country is considered.

(47.) S. Pagodas 26-2-46, "Merasy Carack." This tax was originally levied from the ryots to pay police and other officers, but has latterly been considered as the right of Government. As it is partial and invidious it should be abolished.

(48.) S. Pagodas 2-14-63, "Kurgole Gootah," the privilege of ferrying passengers across the rivers or nullahs in Soonda, and as it empowers an individual situated in a remote part of the country to oppress travellers, its abolition would open a channel of competition favourable to the inhabitants.

55. The Board will please to observe that I am far from desiring a relinquishment of so many taxes, amounting in the

aggregate to Star Pagodas 2,323-12-17, without an equivalent being drawn from the inhabitants in another and more impartial manner. I have not noticed such taxes as may easily be commuted either into a shop, a house, or professional tax; neither have I touched upon certain farms which, as they do not injure the community, may be permitted to obtain, such as the "terra japonica," honey farm, "shark-fin farm," &c., though these and similar other petty farms had better be transferred, with your permission, to the lately established head of "Petty farms and licenses," when the village taxes will consist of what I think they should always do, *viz.* a compensation to Government by those who do not contribute particularly by their wealth or labour for the protection they enjoy, collected under one or other of the foregoing heads.

Arrack and Toddy Farms.

| | S.Ps. |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Actual for 1221.. | 9,105 15 58 |
| Estd. for 1222.. | 8,980 14 57 |
| | <u>125 1 1</u> |

The small decrease under this head of Revenue is attributed to a want of competition among the bidders in the Mangalore Talook. The hesitation of these persons to engage in the rent is represented to arise from the losses and troubles to which they are exposed from the presence of the Zillah Court. Mr. Read instances the case of Rustomjee Cowjee which has formed the subject of correspondence with the Board. The Board are not prepared to admit that the case of this person, however hard it may be to him individually, affords any reasonable ground for the apprehensions represented to be entertained. The appeal of Rustomjee Cowjee from the decision of the Zillah Court was rejected by the Provincial Court only because it was not preferred within the limited period. If the Provincial Court had admitted the appeal, the Board are disposed to believe that the original decree would have been reversed. If a similar case should occur it will be Mr. Read's duty to advise the party to appeal without delay.

56. This branch of revenue does not promise to improve much, unless a greater number of troops were stationed within the province. Any increase does

not seem to me very desirable unless it arose from an enhanced sale price which might be attempted if a reduction takes place in the more important articles of the land rent and salt.

57. This is a branch of revenue the raising of which beyond

Ferry Farms.

| | S.Ps. |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Actual for 1221.. | 620 34 55 |
| Estd. for 1222.. | 597 7 31 |
| | <u>23 27 24</u> |

A trifling decrease appears under this head which requires no remark.

the most moderate rate of individual payment I have carefully avoided, for in a country so intersected with rivers and unfordable nullas the obstacles which they occasion should not be increased by frequent and heavy tolls.

The policy of renting out the ferries has been frequently discussed among the local authorities in Canara, and were none other but the inhabitants of the country concerned in crossing the rivers I should certainly recommend the ancient Merassi system, whereby many families procured a livelihood who are now at the mercy of the renters; but the necessity which exists of providing at all times of the night as well as day for the crossing of troops, tappal peons, and revenue servants has rendered the present mode more efficient for the purposes of Government, while the ancient Merassidars, who are willing, are always preferred as renters. The renters engage to pass public servants going on duty free, also sepoys when they go singly, but when a detachment or guard marches through the province a bill for the number of rivers at the established rates is drawn out and recovered from the military paymaster.

58. The Board's proceedings being dated previous to the expiration of Fusly 1222, it first becomes

| <i>Tobacco Revenue.</i> | | S. Ps. |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Actual for 1221 .. | 38,542 21 5 | |
| Estd. for 1222 .. | 35,500 0 0 | |
| | <u>3,042 21 5</u> | |

necessary to correct the comparison exhibited in the margin, the real decrease having been only Pagodas 184-5-12.

The Board regret to observe the expected decrease under this head of Revenue. It is ascribed partly to the increased purchase price of the article and partly to the expense of extra Sibbendy, which, however, Mr. Read has reduced by dismissing the Amins. The Board approve of this arrangement and of the distribution of the peons among the frontier chowkies. Mr. Read has represented the tobacco monopoly as one of the causes that keep the people poor. Before the Board can subscribe to this opinion and recommend any alteration in the rate of the monopoly it will be expedient that Mr. Read should inform the Board how much more the necessary supply of tobacco costs an individual under the monopoly, and whe-

This branch of revenue was so fully considered in my report dated 21st August 1813, and my proposal for lowering the monopoly price subsequently acquiesced in, that it only remains to reply to that part of the Board's proceedings wherein they require to know how much more the necessary supply of tobacco costs an individual under the monopoly than it did prior to the monopoly.

59. The average information which I have collected gives 3 Madras fanams per month as the very least that will suffice a poor individual, and that previous to the Company's government, when tobacco was rented out in a few populous

ther in his opinion a reduction of price would produce an augmentation of consumption.

places, only they could supply themselves for half that sum. In Fusly 1209 this branch of revenue yielded only S. Paggodas 11,820-44-35, and, supposing as much more to have been enjoyed by the renters, it would amount to little more than half the present net revenue; consequently I am inclined to believe the people pretty correct in stating that this article still costs them double what it did 14 years ago. The late reduction, however, has yielded the inhabitants universal satisfaction, and I do not think any further decrease will be necessary. Though the reduction of the monopoly price took place only on the 1st November last, I have reason to think that there will be an increased quantity of tobacco consumed in the course of the current Fusly.

60. The observations of the Board do not require any particular remark. I shall, therefore, only

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Ameendivi Revenue.</i> | |
| | S. Ps. |
| for 1221.. | 5,901 11 23 |
| Estd. for 1222 .. | 4,357 25 12 |
| | <u>1,543 31 11</u> |

The decrease under this head is attributed to the dearness of the rice, to the levy of duty on the quantity of rice exported to the islands, and to a deficiency in the produce owing to the want of rain. Rice is delivered to the inhabitants at the rate of Rs. 2 per mora, in part payment of the coir, whereas the average purchase price of the rice amounted to Rs. 2½, occasioning a loss of ¼ rupee on every mora of rice supplied. Under date the 8th April last, a reference was made to Government relative to the levy of customs on the quantity of rice supplied to the inhabitants, and His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to direct that the amount shall be refunded, and that the rice exported on account of Government to those islands shall not be subject to the payment of duty.

observe with respect to these islands, that as their inhabitants are by the monopoly of their produce precluded from obtaining more than the regulated sum for their coir, viz. 25 Rupees per candy, that it should be made optional to them to have the whole paid in rice or money at the fixed rate. Rice such as they use very seldom exceeds 2 Rupees per mora, and I believe Fusly 1222 is the only year in which Government sustained any loss. The foregoing indulgence of having their produce paid for entirely in rice or money is all that seems wanting in the *Revenue Department* to make the islanders contented, but they appear very anxious to have some person of competent authority appointed to settle trivial disputes among them without the necessity of embarking for Mangalore to obtain justice. The revenue establishment consists of a Monigar, a Shanbogue, and 2 peons at a

monthly expense of S. Pagodas 9-0-0. The former comes annually to Mangalore in November with the first boats of the season, and states any information he may have collected regarding the islands. Their duty is to expedite the dispatch of the produce, and to see that none is disposed of to any vessels attempting to touch at the islands for that purpose.

61. The figures in the margin are now corrected as follows :—

| <i>Road Customs.</i> | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| S. Ps. | |
| Actual for 1221.. | 71,585 16 8 |
| Estd. for 1222.. | 59,557 23 37 |
| | <u>12,027 37 51</u> |

Actual for 1221, S. Ps. 71,585 16 8

Ditto for 1222, „ 59,557 23 37

Difference.... 4,854 40 74

In the 8th paragraph of his letter Mr. Read states that the estimated amount of road customs for Fusly 1222 is Pagodas 59,557-23-37, or a decrease below the actual collections of Fusly 1221 of S. Pagodas 9,882-24-49, which would make the actual collections of Fusly 1221 amount to Pagodas 69,440-3-6 only, whereas from the comparative statement enclosed in Mr. Read's letter it appears that the collections from customs in the last year amounted to Pagodas 71,585-16-8.

The Collector is desired to explain this difference. By the operation of the custom regulation enacted in the last year a great proportion of the duty which was formerly paid at the inland custom chowkies is now paid at the sea custom house. This, of course, led to diminution in the amount of land customs and to a proportionate increase in the amount of sea customs. In his letter dated the 16th January last, Mr. Read explained that the interruption to trade occasioned by the army assembled in the Deccan also tended to diminish the amount of the revenue from customs.

exhibiting a much smaller difference than I expected at the time of completing my Jumabundy for 1222. This decrease may confidently be attributed to the causes stated in my letter under date the 16th January 1813. The road customs, however, being now regulated upon an uniform and liberal footing, promise to increase hereafter, especially when the sea customs shall have been lowered.

62. The only articles subject to the road duty which require to be particularly noticed here are pepper and betelnut produced in Canara and exported above the ghauts. The final regulation of their duties must, however, be deferred till a reply is given to the Board's communication on the customs, dated 22nd October last.

63. The figures in the margin are now corrected as follows :—

| <i>Salt Revenue. S.Ps.</i> | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Actual for 1221.. | 69,440 3 6 |
| Estd. for 1222 . . . | 58,500 0 0 |
| | <u>10,940 3 6</u> |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Actual for 1221 S. Ps. | 69,440 3 6 |
| Ditto for 1222 „ | 67,336 41 51 |

Difference . . 2,103 6 35

The decrease under this head of Revenue is attributed chiefly to the employment, by the Mysore Government, of the salt dealers and their cattle in conveying grain to the army in the Deccan. The Board trust that the Collector's expectation of an increased sale in the ensuing Fusly will be realized, and that he will give every attention to the improvement of this important branch of Revenue. The Collector will report the operation of the monopoly, and will state what it now costs an individual to supply himself with salt, and what it formerly cost an individual, whether a reduction in the monopoly price would be likely to be followed by an increased consumption of salt, and in what degree the pressure of monopolies he alludes to is applicable to the salt monopoly.

With regard to the expectations entertained by me of an increased sale in Fusly 1223, the season is not yet sufficiently advanced to enable me to judge, but the greatest care is now taken to proportion the manufacture to the demand and to increase the net revenue.

64. Having lately succeeded in procuring a reduction in the monopoly price of tobacco, to the universal satisfaction of the people, I am happy that an opportunity is here given me for urging a reduction in that of salt also. That which I am about to propose is, however, only a *partial*, not a general, reduction.

65. It is well known to the Board that the country south of Cundapoor produces but a small quantity of salt compared with the country to the northward, and that as the trade from Mysore is carried on chiefly with Mangalore a large quantity is imported from the talooks of Ankola, Onore, and Cundapoor annually. To meet this expense it became necessary to advance the price of such salt 5 Pagodas; when the general rate was fixed at 25 Pagodas it was raised to 30 Pagodas per garce at Mangalore. Previous to the monopoly a salt depôt had long been established at Buntwal; but after a few years' experience, it being found expensive and abounding in many opportunities of frauds and peculations, your Board consented to its abolition, and the traders, leaving their cattle there for the sake of better forage, now convey the salt they purchase at Mangalore in boats to Buntwal. They could formerly purchase at Buntwal Canara salt for 22 Pagodas, Goa salt for 25, and Arabian salt for 27 Pagodas per garce. They can now purchase Canara salt only at 30 Pagodas per garce,