



## ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES OF COLLECTOR LIONEL PLACE IN ERSTWHILE CHINGLEPPATTU DISTRICT, 1794-1798 A.D.

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### ABSTRACT :

Chingleppattu District stretches in a wide arch, 180 km long and at places upto 80km deep, around the city of Madras (presently known as Chennai) capital of Tamil Nadu. In 1763 Chingleppattu was given as a Jagir to the English East India Company by Mohamed Ali, the then Nawab of the Carnatic. Chingleppattu further leased to the Nawab till 1780. During that time Nawab did not take any new system to the improvement of economic condition of Jagir. In 1782 Jagir came to the direct management of the assigned revenue. Jagir was divided into 14 divisions and leased to nine years. In 1785 superintendent was appointed to manage it. In 1788 superintendent post was abolished and the territory was divided into two divisions and each was put the management two collectors - John Clerk as a collector for North Division and William Balfour for South Division. On the time of war Jagir, came to the three collectors. Roger Dorvall was appointed for the management of Kancheepuram, Karungoli and Uthiramerur in 1790 but he managed short time alone and after that Jagir came back to the two Collectors till that company followed old system of the revenue administration. In November 1794 Jagir was kept under the control of one Collectorate and Lionel Place was appointed as a first Collector of whole Jagir. He was a first person to implement new revenue administration throughout the Jagir. He settled mirasi right and reduced the power of Dubashes. He introduced new lease system in Jagir and established irrigation department and rehabilitated the people who had been left from the Jagir. Place tried to utilize the influence of Nattars in revenue collection. This paper is an attempt to discuss the administrative measures introduced by Lionel Place during the tenure as the Collector of Chingleppattu region from 1794-1798 A.D.



**KEYWORDS :** Chingleppattu, Lionel Place, Mirasidar, Collector, Jagir, Poonamallee, Nawab, Cowle, Dubhash, Madurantakam, Nattar, sharistadar

### ADMINISTRATION OF CHINGLEPPATTU PRIOR TO 1794

When Chingleppattu had been given to the English as a *Jagir* in 1763 by the Nawab on the same year it was given to annual lease to the latter for 20 years. During that time the Nawab's management took less interest in the welfare of the *Jagir*. Nawab followed old revenue system. The resources of the Nawab were at this period severely affected. Not only he had to pay seven lakhs of *pagodas* annually towards the maintenance of the Company's troops, and upwards of three and a half lakhs as rent for the *Jagir* and Poonamallee, but also he was overwhelmed with private debt.<sup>1</sup> About harvest time the Nawab's officers appeared, and in conjunction with the chief inhabitants *potails* (Head inhabitants)<sup>2</sup> of each village, made a

*cowle* or estimate of what the various lands had yielded, or might be expected to yield.

The *cowles* were always fixed absurdly high, leaving to the cultivator a pittance to keep soul and body together. The Nawab, all grace, yielded to the loudly made demands of the ryots for its reduction, but secretly required a heavy nazzar means presents or gift from the unfortunate ryots. His troubles did not end here. Then came the collection of the rent thus fixed.<sup>3</sup> The husbandman was entitled *mamool* to certain standard share of the crop, but a considerable proportion of it was extorted from him under the varied devices of usual assessment, fixed assessment and additional assessment, and by private contributions levied by the revenue officers for their own use. In 1775 Court of Directors instructed to Fort St George to appointed Committee of Circuit to investigate the affair of the *Jagir*. That committee recommended to keep the *Jagir* in the company's control immediately.

On the assumption of the *Jagir* by the company's government, it was placed under the charge of the Committee of Assigned Revenue, which was formed on the Assignment of the revenues of the Nawab of Arcot in the Carnatic through an agreement signed between himself and the Madras Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1781 for Five years period, to meet the crises towards conducting the Second Mysore War(1780-1784) and repayment of the debt to Company.<sup>4</sup>

This committee in 1783, let out the *Jagir* in fourteen large farms on lease of nine years, and increasing rent. In the following year, a Company's servant was appointed at the instance of the Committee of Assigned Revenue, as resident in the *Jagir* in order to see that the several stipulations contained in the *cowles* or leases, were put into execution. On the dissolution of the Committee in 1786, the general charge and control of affairs of the *Jagir* was given to a Superintendent with a clerk, being also a company's servant, the resident still continuing to discharge the duty formerly allotted to him. The districts were soon afterwards placed under the sole charge of the Superintendent. In 1788 the office of superintendent was abolished and *Jagir* was formed into two divisions, and each placed under two collectors and in the following year. It was divided into three collectorships. At this time, the renters, with a few exceptions, had repeatedly failed in their payments under the lease for nine years. In 1793, assistants were appointed to the Collectors and in November 1794 the entire *Jagir* was placed under the management of Mr. Lionel Place.<sup>5</sup>

### ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE THE MISMANAGEMENT

In the beginning Lionel Place was appointed as a Collector of the North division Chingleppattu in November 1794,<sup>6</sup> while Walter Balfoure was Collector given the charge of Southern division. When Balfoure was appointed as a Collector of Masulipattinam, the whole Chingleppattu came to the management of Lionel place at the end of the year December 1794.<sup>7</sup>

From the time *Jagir* taken out of the control of the Nawab, until the administration of its affairs by Mr. Place, very little improvement was done.<sup>8</sup> When Lionel Place took incharge of the *amani* system(villages were managed by the Government directly) that was prevailed in some parts of the *Jagir*, and rest were put in lease. *Jagir* had faced Third Anglo Mysore War. Most of the land came to desert; irrigation sources were effected; village was depopulated; and influence of Dubhash in *Jagir* was so high. Hence Lionel Place confronted this critical situation.

In late 1794, the Board of Revenue decided to make an all-out attempt to reduce the power of the *Jagir Mirasidars* and their connections with Madras *Dubashies*. They appointed a person of exceptional vigor and knowledge to undertake this job. Lionel Place had been what was called a "Writer" in the Company's service in 1783 but rose rapidly to a position of importance within the company's bureaucracy in Madras. Before his appointment as Collector of the *Jagir* in November 1794, he made a name for himself as accountant to the Board of Revenue. It was assumed at the time of his appointment as Collector that he would encounter some difficulty in the course of his attempts to impose a new tax system on the *mirasidars* of the *Jagir*.<sup>9</sup>

Lionel Place went into the details of the internal administration of the *Jagir*.<sup>10</sup> He detected the mismanagement in the collection of land revenue; the collusion between the village *Curnams* and the ryots in the evasion of taxes; and the improper maintenance of the village account. He sent his findings to the

Board of Revenue in his Report, dated on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1795, which has some historical significance of the region is concerned.

### POSITION OF MIRASIDARS

Place thought to utilize old system of the society. Inheritance or inherited right was called *kani* and the person with such right was called *kaniyatchikikaran* in Tamil. In the British revenue administration the right was generally designated as *mirasi*, an Arabic term, and the holder was called, *mirasidar*. He thought *mirasidars* were very important persons in revenue administration of the *Jagir*. He encouraged *mirasidars*, but he formulated new rights of *mirasi*. The prevalence of the share distribution system led Place and the British administration to focus on *mirasidars*, the core class in the system. Accordingly a list of *mirasidars* with the details of shares in every village was prepared by Place.<sup>11</sup> Place added eight percent *mirasi* and *maniyam* to the *mirasidar* and thus they got 64½ percent of the produce. From this, 15 to 20 percent must be deducted for the expense of cultivation and this brought out the *mirasidar's* net share as from 45 to 50 percent, being the proportion laid down by Place in his report. He had given some of the exception to submit government share during the critical condition of *Jagir* for example monsoon failure.

In 1785, *Mirasidars* of Poonamallee submitted petition to prevent introducing new *Payakkaris* into the area. *Mirasidars* sold their share for higher price and opposed the new tax rate of *varatundu* and *vilatundu* and collected their Paraiyar pannaiyals to make violence against the Company employee. In 1795 Collector Place imposed revised tax on *Mirasidar* in the name of *Varatundu* and *Vilaitundu*. The *Varatundu* or "piece of the produce" consisted in annexing to the Government share 10 per cent of the share taken by those who had been in the habit of receiving 60 per cent, and 5 per cent from that of those who got 55 per cent. The other resumption was called *Vilaitundu* or "piece of price".<sup>12</sup> Besides Reddy *Mirasidars* mortgaged their land to the Akamudaiyar who was dubash in Madras, at the time of war(1780-1784). When they returned to the village the Akamudaiyar was unwilling to rebuild Reddy house in the village. It created community problem in this area.<sup>13</sup> *Mirasidars* submitted petition against the Company employee to the Board of Revenue in 1795. Board investigated the petition and found the inconsiderable intrigue of *dubash*.<sup>14</sup> One important cause was the *Mirasidar* neglected his cultivation and was unwilling to accept the Company order.<sup>15</sup> Hence the Company prepared to reduce the *mirasi* status in *Jagir*.

Regarding the appointment of new *mirasidars* to such spare lands or to village where none was existed, Government had resolved that it should rest entirely with the Collector himself. Board of Revenue asked the Collector that he should submit name list of the *mirasidars* with the *sannad* and proposal given to the new *mirasidars* before they could be appointed.<sup>16</sup>

A *mirasidar*, therefore must be understand in general have a right to no more than 45 per cent of the produce divisible between him and the Circar, except in certain situations as follows with regards to the lands which are situated under small tanks, holding water for one to two months where the crops being dependent the first part of the season on timely rain, and the latter, on a sufficiency of water being retained in the tanks till they are matured. Disappointment sometimes occurs, the *mirasidars* receives 50 per cent of the produce. As far as the lands situated on the ground, under large tanks, where small picotahs were used to draw water to the crop, after the rains were over, where *mirasidar* would receive 55 per cent.

Regarding the lands where long picotahs were used throughout, he would receive 60 per cent. If he any where got a higher share than this, it was by virtue of *cowle* granted to him for particular reasons as to bring waste land into use.

Although it is natural to suppose that encroachments had been pretty general, yet considering the decrease of population, and the privation which the *Jagir* had suffered of other advantages, particularly in the article of manure, which affected the abundance of the crops, Place made no reduction below 45 per cent, but if Place found the customary share was less, he would allowed it to remain so, for it was fair to presume that the inhabitants thought it sufficient. It was accordingly, chiefly in those villages which were watered by channels from rivers, and from natural springs, which run more or less, and consequently the cultivation is carried on all year round, that it varied from found in ten villages throughout the *Jagir*, and

those mostly in the Ponnari region.<sup>14</sup>

### PARAIYAR INSURRECTION

The land controllers of Jagirs like Evalappa Mudali, Kondaikatti Vellala *Mirasidar*, Mangadu Oppa Mudali and their pannaiyals made attempts to resist British intervention in order to remain undisturbed in their activities.<sup>18</sup> The insurrection began in October 1795 as a mark of unwillingness by the land controllers to accept Place's new tax assessments. In November 1795, some of these land controllers, accompanied by their bonded and daily labourers from this Poonamallee area began to desert the *Jagir* for the territory of the Nawab of Arcot further to the west. In the same month, a destructive cyclonic storm brought large amounts of rain on the area and broke many tanks. In the month of April, the desertion intensified, spreading to Karangoli.<sup>19</sup>

During this time, Collector Place made desperate attempts to get the *mirasidars* and their bonded and daily labours to return, first by restraining their movable property (cattle, grain, and the like) and then by banishing those *mirasidars* who would not come back. In an effort to dominate and control the process of interaction, Place chose as his principal mechanism of coercion by the threat of taking away the hereditary right of these insurrectionary *mirasidars* to a share of the village product. Some of these Paraiyar *pannaiyals* and *padiyals* – labourers who worked for *padis* or payment in kind used by their *mirasidar* masters to employ violence against Company's employees, indeed, were imprisoned by the company because they were considered as ringleaders in fomenting the crisis.<sup>20</sup>

### CULTIVATION

In 1795 cultivation was increased. Cultivators engaged in plough and watering the fields. Early part of the year small advance given to labour for producing valuable crops. They properly executed their duties. Although the labouring husbandman had the several duties of agriculture, the change from one division of labour to another being at longer intervals, they performed mere work.<sup>21</sup> Hard labourer would not consume, all his several meals in the course of the day more than a *pucca seer* of raw rice.<sup>22</sup> The surplus produce of the labour of the husbandman over and what he required for subsistence was partly exchanged for clothing and other conveniences and the rest constituted his profit and found for purchasing cattle and implements of husbandry.<sup>23</sup>

Place observed in his report that on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1795 it might in general be considered that for half the year besides *kalavasam* they received 8 or 9 *kalams* of paddy or allowed a proportionate quantity of the other sorts of grain month or one or two rupees. They were also entitled to *purakalam* or the gleanings of the threshing spots which admitted of so many fraudulent practices that in *Poonamallee* region. It was thought expedient to put an end to the custom of estimating them and to limit this due to a measured quantity of 4 *marcals* out of 10 *kalams* which admitted double what they were entitled to.<sup>24</sup>

### STAND OF PLACE IN CULTIVATION OF JAGIR

The Collector gave great support given to the cultivation. The total land of *Jagir* for four years of 1794-1798, nunjah 760238 *kani* and punjah 230887 *kani* cultivated in his administration.<sup>25</sup> Most of the landholders were the Brahmins and they did not work on the land. Paraiyar, Palli and Padi were engaged with ploughing. They were labouring class. This community, both men and women, participated in cultivation of the field. Place stated in his report he would chose five *kanis* as the allotment. For their work they received every day 8 seer of paddy or four seer of rice which was divided among the ten persons. Place had given order to increase their seer above 8 and last year 1798 of his administration 1,56,164 labouring servants working in *Jagir*.<sup>26</sup>

During the *fasly* 1206, (A.D 1796) the gross produce of *nanjai* and *punjai* were almost 20,000 *kalams* more than either of the preceding. Yet the general average per *kani* of land did not amount to so much a *fasly* 1204 (A.D 1794) but only as near as people the medium of that and *fasly* 1205 (A.D 1795) with regard to *fasly* 1207 (A.D 1797). Such was the unfavorable of the season because the rain having fallen in three

shower.<sup>27</sup> Deduction was made to the labourer and cultivator servant. Large quantity of paddy and grain sent to the bazaar, market and small quantity of grain put in reserved for the consumption of the *Jagir* spices.<sup>28</sup>

During the period of 1797– 1798, Place experimented on the prospects of the introduction of this new grain like wheat, but the variable of the climate and the great heat proved further effort in the direction useless.<sup>29</sup> Place changed lease system of arrack and toddy. He put lease for 2 years and reconstructed the toddy shop.<sup>30</sup> Separate allowances were collected to the jungle article and growing plant of backyard items. The forgoing produce of the year 1776-1797 was 191, 628 and in between the year 1797-98 was 212, 012 *kanis* were cultivated.<sup>31</sup> It shows how was *Jagir* improved in its economic level. The average gross collections between 1795 and 1798 was 11,700.30 *pagodas* . During these years, the economic expectations from the *Jagir* left a sense of frustration by first the Company and later the British Indian administration over its inability to bring prosperity to and taxes from this area.<sup>32</sup>

### IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE COLLECTOR OF LIONEL PLACE

The outbreak of the Second Mysore War in 1780 affected the *Jagir* Region. The forces of Mysore destroyed the tanks and water courses. Due to the military attack, a large number of people left their lands and moved to other places, particularly to the territory of the Nawabs of Arcot. Collector Place understood that the rebuilding the tanks and water course was required to create confidence in the mind of the people for having permanent source of income through cultivation. Hence he undertook measures to improve the tanks and water courses. Place had a clause inserted in agreements signed by the land controllers to the effect that if tanks should undergo a complete repair then *muchilka* (agreement) had be void. They were ready to enter into a new settlement (tax assessment) for the mentioned village. There was also evidence to show that the British pursued this strategy for other reasons as well. In the report on three subdivision of *Jagir* (Madurantakam, Tirupasore, and Kanchipuram) written by Place in October 1795, he made a plea to build up the town of Madurantakam, and Uttiramerur. Madurantakam in the mid-1790s Place believed that provided an example of the difficulties in inducing a population to return to an area without the attraction of water. The tank of Madurantakam, he wrote that broke many years antecedent to the war of 1780, ( the Second Anglo-Mysore war). Though Madurantakam was located on the high southern road from Madras, it did not offer any great attraction to people. After all, Madurantakam had in 1795 only 250 house, whereas Place believed that the town had some thousands of houses before the War of 1780. Likewise, he believed that Uttiramerur toward the north and the west seems to have been extensive as was Madurantakam since it bore vestiges of much more opulence in the remains of numerous pagodas. Madurantakam work, which is one of the most important in the region, owes its existence in its present form to Place, who connected and strengthened the banks of two smaller tanks which he found there, and converted them into a larger one with a calingula or escape at the country. It is built in the form of a waved line, and the height from the crest to the bed of the river below is 30 feet. The southern portion, especially, is a very curious and beautiful specimen of masonry. Instead of being built in steps, the descent is formed to imitate the cure which the flood water takes in afresh, and huge blocks of granite have been hewn into this shape, and are bound with lead. An inscription on a pillar at the northern end records that the Madurantakam tank was completed by Place, the then Collector, in 1798, after being twice carried away, and gives details as to the cost, etc. As originally designed by Place, the tank was constructed to irrigate five villages, besides Madurantakam, through the four sluices in its bank, and to supply the tank of Karunguzhi by a channel, about 0.4 km in length, mostly cut through rock.<sup>33</sup> Place originally maintained Chempambakam Tank.<sup>34</sup>

Place left his mark in other and more permanent ways on the district. He still lives in the memories of the people. His exertions and success in the execution of public works have been referred so. Some of the finest tanks in the district, such as Uttiramerur and Madurantakam were practically created by him, and on one Standing on the magnificent calingula of latter, can help admiring the genius apparent in the conception of the beginning scheme, and in the combined beauty and strength of its execution. Place obtained an

advance of *star pagodas* 16,700 and that between 1<sup>st</sup> may 1795 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 1796 he had expended 61,959 on tanks, repairs and reconstruction, while in the subsequent year he spent about 33,390 under the same head. These sums are only those of which record remains. Much more was doubtless spent.

Place was reporting the result of his examination and settlement of the three important Purgunnahs of Tripassore, Karangoli and Kancheepuram in October 1795. A school of surveying had been established in 1793 and a "superintendent of Tanks and water courses" was recommended by the Board in the beginning of 1795, but the 'surveys and proposals & c., together with the actual execution of works remained with the collectors. Place with his usual energy set himself to making the most of the materials and the funds at his command.<sup>35</sup>

The *muchilka* (agreement) was reached with land controllers to the tank repair by the great tax collection. Place felt that when completed the Tanks will for many years be monument of British Dominion in India and it would be a pity that the same spirit of liberality should be extended to other objects such as temples, roads and the like for the public benefit.

This water facilities restored to the village people who were left in the time of 1780 war. Place retained their land to cultivate.<sup>36</sup> The population multiplied by creating a multitude of wants, attracted trade and occupation to supply them. Further most of the dry lands were converted to fertile land.<sup>37</sup> This activity was aimed at to increase wealth but also to extend and communicate the British presence in the environments.

#### RE-ESTABLISHMENT POSITION OF NATTTAR

The first and highest officer was the '*Natttar*' or Headman of a Nadu, or circle of villages. He supervised the cultivation on the part of Government. These officers were possessed of considerable privileges, and were men of great dignity and reputed wealth. They appeared to have been lost sight of after the territory was made over to the British. When Place, who took the Collectorship of *Jagir* territory in 1794, met the strong resistance from the inhabitants against his attempt to enforce village lease system and he tried so utilize the *Natttars* influence.<sup>38</sup> Place strongly recommending the appointment of the *Natttars* in numerous letters to the Board of Revenue, showing influence of the *Natttar* over the villagers with many evidences, stressing the difficulty in case the *Natttar* were absent. At the end of 1797, *Natttars* were appointed in six Purganahs, namely Chingleput, Karungoli, Tripasore, Manimangalam. Those who were appointed as *Natttar* were given *cowles*, in which his privileges as well as duties were specified.<sup>39</sup> The same form of *cowle* was used and distributed to all the *Natttars* in *Jagir*.<sup>40</sup>

The *Nattars* were expected to extend support to improve the cultivation, to increase the revenue, to gather information and to assist in making *jummabundy* (revenue assessment). For these duties, they were confirmed or granted the privileges of *shotrium* (lowly assessed land) *maniyam* (tax-free land), and higher *varam* (share in the produce).<sup>41</sup>

The *Nattars* were a very ancient body of officials of much more modern date were the *Monigars*, or Headmen of whose services Collector Place then availed himself in superintending the cultivation and aiding his immediate servants in the settlement and collection of the revenue within their respective villages. No doubt, this office was not one of the original institutions of the village system in the *Jagir*. The affairs of a village, in that district alone in India, were originally managed by a council consisting of the principal shareholders, whereas elsewhere each village was controlled by a Patel or Headman. More than three *Natttars* were got *mirasi* rights during his time. This creation of office of Place automatically powered when the *dubhash* came to fall down. These *Natttars* thus appointed by Place were, however, destined to be abolished in 1799. When the permanent zamindari settlement was ordered to be introduced, the region was to be divided into sixty zamindari units and was to be auctioned out in 1802. *Natttars'* role in the revenue administration became totally unnecessary as the assessments of the zamindaris were to be permanently fixed.<sup>42</sup>

### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST OF SHARISTADARS

Another important administrative measures of Collector Place was the establishment of *sharistadar* post under the control of the Collector in 1795. Clerks were also appointed to assist the *sharistadars*. They discharged the functions hitherto done by the *Canongoes*. The post of *sharistadar* is the harbinger of the post *Tasildar* which was created later. Concurring with the Board that these officers were a useless and heavy charge on the revenues, besides being “employed in collusive practices with *amuldars*, renter and others, either to deceive Government by withholding or falsifying the accounts or for the purpose of extortion from the inhabitants”. Mr. Place very properly abolished them, and appointed in their place a *sheristadar* with a proper staff of *goomastahs*, so as to form and create an effective record and account department. The duties were exactly the same as the *canongoes* whom they displaced and the emoluments and privileges of the latter were created a fund for their remuneration of the reformed establishment, service in it being contingent on good conduct and sedulous performances of the duties. Their emoluments were found to average about two per centum on the “gross *teerwa* produce” The patronage and control of the new establishments laid, appropriately, with the Collector.<sup>43</sup>

Place also received the old system of village headman. The village headman assisted the Collector in the village settlements. In his Report to the Board of Revenue, Place had expressed the indispensability of building a collectors office in the district.<sup>44</sup>

### REDUCED THE POWER OF DUBASH

In Eighteenth Century Madras it was rare to find more prominent *Dubashi* circles. A *Dubash* with the Naik indicate a mercantile or martial. More Chettis and Naiks quietly performed role of *Dubashes*. Certainly 1800, there were a number of Chettis and Naiks holding positions as writers, accountants and managers, who might have carried the jobs with the title of *Dubash*. Although they were definitely outnumbered in Brahmins and Vellalars, their very presence indicated the Company outside of trade which might have individuals from the traditional trading castes also mercantile concerns by the early 1800 s, bearing the performing duties comparable to those of Banians in Bengal. By far the greatest number of *Dubashes* in late Eighteenth Century Madras, however, came from castes not traditionally associated with trade or banking in South India. This is not to say that they were entirely foreign to the world of commerce or finance, or that they could be labelled 'new men' in the sense of rising from humble economic or social backgrounds.<sup>45</sup>

The invariably duty of Place was to reduce the power of *dubhash*, they made false account in the revenue collection. Place investigated this activities and submitted his first report to the Board of Revenue in 1795. Concerned with three areas of the *Jagir* – Karunguli to the south, Kanchipuram to the west, and Tirupacur to the northeast – the report covered some 898 out of a total of 2,241 villages in the *Jagir*. Place found that in each of the three areas *mirasidars* and their urban connections had been able to retain what he considered to be a disproportionate share of the product of their villages, well beyond the amount allotted to them by share division considered locally appropriate. Place said that the process of keeping this surplus out of the hands of the company was done by either concealing the sale price of the grain payment (selling the grain for a higher price than that reported) or by ‘defalcation’ (using various devices such as false accounts to prevent the company government or *Circar* from getting its full share). In Tirupacur, *mirasidar* had kept back 24 percent more than was “their share”, in Karunguli it was almost 60 percent and in Kanchipuram it was almost 49 percent. *Dubashes* had enjoyed an additional revenue for the year of *fusly* 1205 and got 19,080 pagodas. On the basis of his report, Place was permitted to conclude agreements with *mirasidars* in the *Jagir* over proposed land *teerwas*. However, on 26 November 1795, Place wrote to the Board of Revenue that, though he appeared to have made progress in making assessments with villages in Tirupacur and Poonamallee parganas or subdivisions, he found a sudden unwillingness among the *mirasidars* to agree to the proposed tax. In several villages Place cited as examples, he had taken care to offer tax agreements that were either the same as the previous year’s or even below them. In his investigations, however, Place found that in each of these villages, where lands were largely in the hands of several *mirasiders* who had connections with *Dubashes* in Madras Town, the *Mirasidars* would not agree to

new tax rates by Place .These *Mirasidars* opposed his attempts.

Once again, the *mirasidars* and other land controllers sought to reduce the authority of a company official by submitting a petition over his head to the Board of Revenue on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1795. One of Place's informants told him that such a petition had been submitted to the Board criticizing his policies. On the following day, Place decided to write to the Board about his own discoveries regarding the obstructions to his work.<sup>46</sup> Board investigated this petition and found abuses in petition against Place and inconsiderable intrigues of *Dubashes* was banished by Board finally.<sup>47</sup> In Poonamallee district all land customs came under the control of Collector, because this district witnessed labourer problems.<sup>48</sup>

### CONCLUSION:

Place administration remains a standard of excellence by which the acts of his successors continue to be tested. Place did not get on well with the board of Revenue. This body was in consequence deluged with petitions. On his appointment his energies were first directed to the resuscitation of the revenue machinery of the district. He was always on the outlook for opportunities of developing new products, as well as the existing resources of his district. Place repaired water courses as well as Temples. Because of the improvement of irrigation facilities the annual produce reached its high level comparing with the former times.

Lionel Place faced a numerous problems in his administration. His name was damaged by his new taxes and reduction of the power of *mirasidar* . He spent large number of amount to the irrigation sources . He also played in important role in improvement of *Jagir*. He tried to cultivate new seeds .He established Irrigation Department He played a remarkable role in improvement of the payment of servant labour and the Labour husbandman. He reconstructed bazaar and market and particular amount was allotted to it.

From the late eighteenth Century the *Jagir* experienced various land system for which information was collected by Lionel Place, the First Collector of whole *Jagir*, and his successor, Greenway. Place toured the area for months, gathered information and left many records called in Place Report. His information seemed to be utilized by Greenway for preparing the Permanent Settlement records at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. Though place gathered many types of information, the information on local magnates and of local resources seemed to be most important because he needed it for maximizing revenue collection. Thus Lionel place completed his administration and he resigned his job in 1798 and Hodson succeeded him.

### END NOTES

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