APPENDIX-II

EXTRACT OF A SUNNAD QUOTED IN A LETTER OF E.R. GORDON, COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE TO THE SUDDER BOARD OF REVENUE, FORT WILLIAM.+

"A Sunnad is given for a tract of jungle land on the following condition, it is to be rent free for a thousand days or three years, a third to be cleared the first year, a third the second, and the remainder by the end of the third, the grantee then forfeits all claim to any portion uncleared and that cleared is measured and assessed at Rs.3-4 and Rs. 2-6 per coolba according to the situations of the land. The defectiveness of this plan is evident from the fact that a vast member of speculators who were at first attracted to the country, have since abandoned it finding the speculation a losing concern. The defects of this system I opine are two fold.

1st : The term for clearing the whole is too short.

2nd : The portions cleared is too highly assessed.

In a thinly populated country like Cachar it is impossible to collect people in sufficient numbers to clear the land in so short a time and generally the first and frequently part of the second year elapses before the clearings.

are commenced upon. The high rate at which the land cleared is at once assessed leaves no time for profit or even remuneration for the outlay of the speculation, the consequence in most cases is that being unable to pay the rent he abandons the land, there are many instances of people having obtained grants of lands but finding that the operation of clearing would be attended, with expense without prospect of profit they have not taken possession."