

REPORTS

ON THE

SETTLEMENT OF THE LAND REVENUE

OF THE

DISTRICTS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

FOR FASLI 1324 (1914-1915).

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land  
Records and Agriculture).

Settlement of Land Revenue (Jamabandi)—  
Submitting to Government report on the— } (Here enter No. 337, dated 23rd December  
for fasli 1324 (1914-1915). } 1915.

## Order—No. 486, Revenue, dated 2nd March 1916.

With its Proceedings read above, the Board of Revenue submits the report on  
the land revenue settlement of the  
Madras Presidency for fasli 1324 (end-  
ing on 30th June 1915).

Miscellaneous.

2. The south-west monsoon was above the average in all districts except Guntūr, Anantapur, Madura, Tinnevely, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. The north-east monsoon was less favourable than in the preceding year, especially in the Circars, Nellore, Chittoor and the Deccan districts, but the rainfall was nevertheless on the whole sufficient. The staple food grains were generally cheaper than in the preceding year, but the average retail prices continued to exceed the rates classed as normal.

3. Owing to the generally favourable character of the season the total extent of ryotwari holdings in the Presidency, viz., 25·55 million acres rose by about 216,000 acres. The area cropped also increased to 20,597,847 acres or 80·62 per cent of the holdings as compared with 20,246,091 acres and 79·90 per cent in the previous year.

4. The following statement compares the income derived from land revenue and cesses during the period under review with the corresponding figures for the preceding year :—

|                                                                                                   | Fasli 1323. | Fasli 1324. | Difference. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                                                                   | RS.         | RS.         | RS.         |
| 1. Peshkash or revenue from permanently-settled estates ..                                        | 49,90,138   | 49,87,350   | — 2,788     |
| 2. Land-cess on permanently-settled estates ..                                                    | 14,06,170   | 14,44,733   | + 21,487    |
| 3. Quit-rent on inam villages held on favourable tenure ..                                        | 7,51,114    | 7,58,323    | + 5,209     |
| 4. Land-cess on inam villages held on favourable tenure ..                                        | 3,87,701    | 3,90,204    | + 2,503     |
| 5. Revenue from lands held on the ryotwari system including water-rate and miscellaneous revenue. | 6,18,59,070 | 6,18,91,575 | + 2,32,505  |
| 6. Cess on ryotwari and miscellaneous revenue ..                                                  | 49,95,7     |             |             |

6. There was an increase in the irregular occupation of poramboke land (land reserved for State or communal purposes), the figure being 97,704 acres in fasli 1323 and 121,956 acres in fasli 1324. The increase was especially marked in four districts. In Anantapur and Kurnool, it is attributed to the favourable character of the season, in North Arcot to the cultivation of lands set apart for grazing-ground poramboke during the resettlement and in South Arcot to the cultivation of lands acquired for the Toludur project. The Government regret to note that their orders as regards the transfer to "assessed waste" of poramboke lands, the occupation of which is unobjectionable have not yet been fully carried out. Though there has been an increase of 24,000 acres in the cultivation of poramboke, the extent penalized has only increased by 6,600 acres, and the rate of penal assessment per acre has decreased. The Government desire to impress once more on the Board of Revenue that assessment on poramboke land is not to be regarded as a source of revenue but simply as a means of securing for the villagers the enjoyment of lands which they require for communal purposes. The best means for the attainment of this object are (1) careful enquiry with a view to ascertaining which lands are or are not required for communal purposes, (2) classification of the former only as poramboke and (3) the imposition of severe penalties in the case of encroachments on such lands. The statistics for the year under review show that these conditions are far from complete fulfilment, and the matter is one which deserves the Board's special attention. It is open to the Board to call for such information as it requires from Collectors as a preliminary to enquiry into the causes of the present state of things. The matter should be dealt with fully in next year's jamabandi report.

7. *Collections*.—The work of collection was as usual satisfactorily carried out. Rupees 7,42,17,587 or 98·7 per cent of the gross current demand was collected within the fasli against 98·8 per cent in the previous year. The arrear balance at the beginning of the fasli was Rs. 9,53,685; Rs. 8,48,673 or 89 per cent was collected within the fasli and Rs. 15,545 or 1·6 per cent was written off the accounts. The balance outstanding at the end of the fasli including arrears and current was Rs. 10,49,635 of which Rs. 8,73,263 or 82·9 per cent was collected by the end of October 1915.

8. *Coercion*.—The number of coercive processes which had been steadily decreasing for several years increased from 1,161,568 in fasli 1323 to 1,513,159. The increase was marked in eight districts. The increase in Chingleput, North Arcot and South Arcot is attributed to the stringency of the money market and to a fall in the price of groundnut. In Malabar it is reported to be due to a sudden and heavy fall in the price of cocoanuts, copra, etc., after the outbreak of the war. No special reason is given in regard to other districts, but it has to be observed that demand notices, which may be regarded as reminders rather than as definitely coercive processes, formed about 88 per cent of the total number of processes issued; the percentage of actual distraints and attachments as compared with the total number of demand notices was only 6·86 in the case of personal property and 1·38 in the case of real property against 7·08 and 1·45 in the previous year. 36·41 per cent of the defaulters whose property was attached paid the arrears without need for the issue of sale notices. There were only 2,042 sales covering 10,014 acres of land, figures representing ·05 per cent of the total number of pattas and ·039 per cent of the total area under holdings. Of the extent sold only 2,426 acres had to be bought in by Government for want of bidders, an average of 93 acres per district. Of the land thus bought in 2,136 acres were classed as dry. Out of a total land revenue collection (current and arrears) of over 750½ lakhs the amount in respect of which property had to be sold as a method of recovery was only Rs. 39,727, that is to say about one-nineteenth per cent of the whole amount. The average price realised by the land sold to private persons for arrears was about six times the assessment in the case of dry lands and about ten times the assessment in the case of wet lands.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE  
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, SURVEY, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

The Hon'ble Mr. R. B. CLEGG, I.C.S.,  
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. LL. E. BUCKLEY, I.C.S.,  
Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records and Agriculture.

**Resolution—No. 337, dated 23rd December 1915.**

The Board submits its report on the settlement of land revenue in the Presidency for fasli 1324 (1914–15) together with the prescribed statements. The usual extracts from the district reports are appended.

2. *Season, rainfall and prices.*—The total rainfall during the south-west monsoon was above the average in all the districts except Guntūr, Anantapur, Madura, Tinnevely, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. The north-east monsoon, however, was not so favourable as in the preceding year especially in the Circars, Nellore, Chittoor and the Deccan districts. The dry weather rains were good and beneficial to late crops in Guntūr, Nellore, Chittoor and North Arcot. Fairly good showers fell in April and continued with varying strength up to the end of May. The average annual retail prices of the staple food-grains were generally lower than those in the preceding year but everywhere dearer than the normal rates. The prices of rice in Trichinopoly, Madura and Rāmnād, of cholam in Coimbatore, of cumbu in Vizagapatam, Salem and Trichinopoly and of ragi in Ganjām and Vizagapatam were dearer than the warning rates fixed by Government in their order No. 1977, Revenue, dated 3rd July 1912.

3. *Cropped area.*—The total cropped area of the year under report (39,090,000 acres) exceeded the normal area (38,161,000 acres) by 929,000 acres. Paddy, groundnut, gingelly and tobacco showed an increase and the other crops a decrease. As compared with the previous year, the cultivation under paddy, cumbu, gingelly, groundnut, indigo and tobacco showed an increase while that under cholam, ragi, castor, sugarcane and cotton showed a decrease. In no case is the outturn reported to have exceeded the normal. The yield of paddy was normal in the Nilgiris and Coimbatore and ranged from 63 to 88 per cent thereof in the remaining districts. The yield of cholam in Ganjām, of cumbu in Malabar, of bengalgram, varagu and "other cereals specified" in Tinnevely, of horsegram in Anantapur and Tinnevely, of indigo in Anantapur, Chittoor, Madura and Tinnevely, of groundnut in Kistna, of "other oil-seeds" in Vizagapatam and Rāmnād and of "all others including topes" in Kistna and Guntūr was below 50 per cent of the normal. In all other cases, the outturn ranged from 50 to 98 per cent thereof.

4. *Condition of cattle.*—The total number of deaths from disease among horned cattle showed an increase of 17,297 as compared with the preceding year, the total for the year being 68,025. Unusually severe outbreaks of rinderpest occurred in several districts especially Kurnool, Guntūr, Kistna and Nellore, with the result that the number of deaths from this disease showed a very large increase in spite of vigorous measures taken to combat it. There was also an increase in the number of deaths reported from anthrax. The mobile corps of veterinary assistants was employed during the year in the districts

































































