

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	760	Press His
Dated	25-3	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.
25th March 1868.

No. 412. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd March 1868, No. 1,535:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Circuit Catcherry at Pudukudi, 20th February 1868, No. 74.

1. I have the honor to forward the estimate of remissions required this year as promised in my letter, No. 28, dated 18th ultimo.

2. The dry lands suffered partially, but not to an extent to make any *general* remission requisite. To the north of the district the black cotton plains retain moisture longer than lighter soils, and there has consequently been no particular failure there; in the centre of the district the dry assessment is so low (from four to six Annas an acre) that no remission is needed; but to the extreme south, where the soil is sheer sand, and the assessment is higher, there is some need of remission. Near Cape Comorin it hardly ever rains, and the rain-fall this year was merely a shower occasionally; the people will persist in holding the waste as well as cultivated land; in a season like this it is impossible for them to pay for it. I propose, therefore, remitting fifty per cent. of the dry assessment throughout the Southern division of the Nanguneri Talook, or about 20,000 Rupees.

3. The crops under small rain-fed tanks failed entirely in the south, and the remission on this score will be another 20,000 Rupees.

4. Lands assessed at about half a lac of Rupees are held on Puttah and paid for annually in this district under the following circumstances:—

A professional Durkhasdar used to enter a village and announce his intention of taking up any land he could get; unless it was made worth his while to turn his attention elsewhere, he used to buy over the Carnam, and ascertain with precision the exact spots of common use to the village, but which were not held on Puttah; he would then give a Durkhast for the tank-bed, the threshing floor, the burial ground, the river-bank, or any similar spot. On reference from the talook the Carnam would say that there was no objection to the land being cultivated; the villagers were then informed that the land applied for would be made over to the Durkhasdar on dry assessment if they did not offer more; they would then offer to pay garden rates, the Durkhasdar would outbid them by the offer of single crop wet rates, and at last in despair the villagers would have to pay double crop wet rates merely to keep out the Durkhasdar; of course this iniquitous system has some time since been abandoned, but there are thousands of acres thus held, and I propose restoring them to their proper head of Ponnabake, in every case, as I find them; the villagers, however, are often slow to believe that they will not be tricked again, if once they resign the lands, and they would prefer to pay something for them rather than let them go out of their Puttahs.

5. There is also a considerable area of "Ayaat Nunjah," which may once have been irrigated but cannot be irrigated now; this still has to be paid for at Nunjah rates though it is left waste year after year. I propose treating this like the land under breached tanks, and entering it all as dry land at 3 Rupees an acre; this will facilitate the new Settlement next year, and get rid of the anomaly of Nunjah that cannot be irrigated; the reduction of assessment on this item will be about 10,000 Rupees.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th March 1868.*

6. The total proposed remission will thus be a lac of Rupees, but even with this it is satisfactory to know that there will be no falling off of the revenue.

7. The increase of wet cultivation in the river-irrigated talooks is considerable this year, and there is a steady increase in all the miscellaneous items of revenue.

8. The tanks are now mostly full, and there is much land lying waste; it will be a great gain to the district if the present opportunity be taken advantage of to secure an addition to the stock of grain in hand by raising a dry crop at once. I have, therefore, granted permission to any one to grow dry grains in Nunjah land, for which no remission is made, free of all charge, this season, and in those lands on which remission is made the same permission is granted on payment of Nunjah assessment. Without some such order the people would not cultivate for fear of being charged Nunjah assessment, and the water would be allowed to dry off without an attempt being made to grow a hot-weather crop of Cholum, Raggy, or Gingelly-oil seed. Of course under the new Settlement any special permission to cultivate wet land lying waste would be needless, as the ryots will be able to cultivate to the utmost on payment of a consolidated assessment. The new Settlement will, I hope, be partly introduced next year, so that this is the last year of the restrictive system that prevents the ryots from turning their lands to advantage in any way they think best.

1. The Board sanction the remission of fifty per cent. of the dry assessment in the Nanganeri talook, and they confirm the Collector's proceedings in granting permission to the ryots to raise a dry crop on irrigated land on payment of the dry rate of assessment. They observe that it is of course competent to the holders of irrigated land who have paid the full assessment to grow any crop they please.

2. The remission alluded in paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter comes under the rules prescribed in Standing Order No. 137, and the proposal made in paragraph 4 is in accordance with the instructions laid down in Standing Order No. 134.

3. The remedy against the state of things described in paragraph 4 is in the Collector's own hands. He should submit a statement showing the area and assessment of the lands which he desires to transfer from cultivated to poramboke in the register.

No. 118. Order number, 25th March 1868, No. 760.

Land Revenue.

The Board's proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Tinnevely.

S. T. Arundel.

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1. The Board sanction the remission of fifty per cent. of the dry assessment in the Nanganeri talook, and they confirm the Collector's proceedings in granting permission to the ryots to raise a dry crop on irrigated land on payment of the dry rate of assessment. They observe that it is of course competent to the holder of irrigated land who have paid the full assessment to grow any crop they please.

2. The remission alluded in paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter comes under the rules prescribed in Standing Order No. 137, and the proposal made in paragraph 4 is in accordance with the instructions laid down in Standing Order No. 134.

3. The remedy against the state of things described in paragraph 4 is in the Collector's own hands. He should submit a statement showing the area and assessment of the lands which he desires to transfer from cultivated to poramboke in the register.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Collector of Tinnevely.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 791.

1868.

No. 1536.

Date, 2nd March 1868.

Received by the Collector of Tinnevely.

Sanctioning remission of fifty per cent. of the dry assessment in the Nanganeri talook, and confirming the Collector's proceedings in granting permission to the ryots to raise a dry crop on irrigated land on payment of the dry rate of assessment.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd March 1868.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Circuit Catcherry at Padukudi, 20th February 1868, No. 74:—

1. I have the honour to forward the estimate of remissions required this year as promised in my letter, No. 28, dated 18th ultimo.

2. The dry lands suffered partially, but not to an extent to make any *general* remission requisite. To the north of the district the black cotton plains retain moisture longer than lighter soils, and there has, consequently, been no particular failure there; in the centre of the district the dry assessment is so low (from four to six annas an acre) that no remission is needed; but to the extreme south, where the soil is sheer sand, and the assessment is higher, there is some need of remission. Near Cape Comorin it hardly ever rains, and the rain-fall this year was merely a shower occasionally; the people will persist in holding the waste as well as cultivated land, in a season like this it is impossible for them to pay for it. I propose, therefore, remitting fifty per cent. of the dry assessment throughout the Southern division of the Nanguneri talook, or about 20,000 Rupees.

3. The crops under small rain-fed tanks failed entirely in the south, and the remission on this score will be another 20,000 Rupees.

4. Lands assessed at about half a lac of Rupees are held on Pattah and paid for annually in this district under the following circumstances:—

A professional Durkhashtdar used to enter a village and announce his intention of taking up any land he could get; unless it was made worth his while to turn his attentions elsewhere, he used to buy over the Carnam, and ascertain with precision the exact spots of common use to the village, but which were not held on Pattah; he would then give a Durkhasht for the tank bed, the threshing floor, the burial ground, the river bank or any similar spot. On reference from the talook the Carnam would say that there was no objection to the land being cultivated; the villagers were then informed that the land applied for would be made over to the Durkhashtdar on dry assessment if they did not offer more; they would then offer a price, and the Durkhashtdar would accept it, or they would be offered the land on single crop wet rates, and in last resort the villagers would have to pay double crop wet rates merely to keep out the Durkhashtdar; of course this ignominious system has some time since been abandoned, but there are thousands of acres thus held, and I propose restoring them to their proper head of Perumboko, in every case, as I find them; the villagers, however, are often slow to believe that they will not be tricked again, if once they resign the lands, and they would prefer to pay something for them rather than let them go out of their Pattahs.

5. There is also a considerable area of "Ayaent Nanjah," which may once have been irrigated but cannot be irrigated now; this still has to be paid for at Nanjah rates though it is left waste year after year. I propose treating this like the land under breached tanks, and entering it all as dry land at 3 Rupees an acre; this will facilitate the new settlement next year, and get rid of the anomaly of Nanjah that cannot be irrigated; the reduction of assessment on this item will be about 10,000 Rupees.

6. The total proposed remission will thus be a lac of Rupees, but even with this it is satisfactory to know that there will be no falling off of the revenue.

7. The increase of wet cultivation in the river-irrigated talooks considerable this year, and there is a steady increase in all the miscellaneous items of revenue.

8. The tanks are now mostly full, and there is much land lying waste; it will be a great gain to the district if the present opportunity be taken advantage of to secure an addition to the stock of grain in hand by raising a dry crop at once. I have therefore granted permission to any one to grow dry crops in Nanjah lands, for which an remission is made, free of all charge, that season, and in the next season the remission is made to the same person, or is granted on payment of Punjab cesses. Without an express order the people would not cultivate, for fear of being charged Nanjah assessment, and the water would be allowed to dry up, and an attempt being made to grow a hot weed.

