

Public (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1187

Dated 17.9.98.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording, props, Rev Dept on the
resolⁿ of the Board of Revenue regarding
the grant of dry remissions in the
Cuddapah dist.

T
20/9/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public Dept CURRENT No. 2916

Government (1898) of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd. 12/9/98

Regd. 12.9.98

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 499, 30th August 1898.

CS

Order No. 1181.217/9/98.
mis

Recorded

AUGUST.

Curb.
14.9.98.

S To G.O. in C.S. Register entered when
I do more with cf. 6 para 2 of Register 17-9-98

note
LK
24/9/98

Dry Remissions.

Accepting, with remarks, the resolution of the Board of Revenue regarding the grant of
in the Cuddapah district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 172, dated 7th May 1898 :—

Read—the following letter from E. L. VAUGHAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Camp Madanapalle, 5th April 1898, Ref. on Cur. No. 255-Rev. :—

With reference to paragraph 6 of B.P., Mis. No. 1441, dated 28th February 1898, I have the honour to submit the following report on the present state of the district.

2. *Northern Section.*—The state of the season in Cuddapah taluk is normal. I stated in my former report that of the three taluks forming the Jammalamadugu division no concessions were called for in Pulivendla, excepting the postponement of collection of assessment on wet waste and shavi pending jamabandi. The Tahsildar subsequently brought to my notice in his arzi, Ref. on C. No. 57, dated 26th February 1898, that it would be advisable to suspend kists in the two petty villages of Kanampalli and Motumitlapalli, hamlet of Yerraballi, as the outturn of crops was below 4 annas and the ryots were unable to pay kists. The Divisional officer, to whom I referred the matter for report, states in his letter, Ref. on C. No. 28-Coll., dated 27th March 1898, that the Tahsildar did not bring this matter to his notice while he was touring in the taluk in February last, and promises to inspect the villages and submit a report within the first week of this month. His report has not been received yet and it is likely to be delayed owing to the Divisional officer having been transferred to Nellore district. Of the two villages, Kanampalli has a beriz of only Rs. 100, while the other is only a hamlet of Yerraballi. As the amount involved is small, the concession to postpone the kists till next year may be granted.

3. As regards Jammalamadugu taluk I consider as the results of my personal inspection and enquiry in the taluk that no concession is necessary in 3 out of the 22 villages referred to in my No. 255-Rev., dated 11th February 1898, as the affected areas are small. The Deputy Collector, who has inspected all the 22 villages, agrees with me and considers that in the remaining 19 villages which appear to have suffered very badly in two successive years, full dry remission is necessary. I agree with him. From the villagewar statements submitted by the Deputy Collector which are herewith forwarded, it will be seen that these recommendations are justified. The amount involved is Rs. 6,827 as per statement B enclosed.

4. As regards Proddatur, I stated in paragraph 3 of my letter, Ref. No. 255-Rev., dated 11th February 1898, that so far as I had been able to judge up to the date of my report, dry remissions were unnecessary as a good or fair crop had been reaped in all villages. The Tahsildar and Revenue Inspector agreed that an 8-anna crop had generally been reaped, but the former considered wet and dry remissions necessary in 4 villages, wet alone in 4 and dry remissions in 13 villages. The matter of wet remissions was ordered to be dealt with at jamabandi in the usual manner. As regards dry remissions my subsequent enquiry in some of the villages mentioned by the Tahsildar confirmed my opinion that a fair crop at least had been reaped in every village. All cholum crop was off the ground (*vide* paragraph 5 of my report of which I invite perusal) and the only means of verification was by observation of fodder stocks and stalks on the ground. There were large stacks of well-grown cholum stalks in the villages seen by me, but these are necessarily rough data to go upon. The Deputy Collector, however, who states that he has since closely inspected the taluk, states that he considers that 10 villages are really affected, and that of these,

5 are no better than the 19 villages of Jammalamadugu taluk referred to in the previous paragraph, the yield being 2 annas and under. He recommends full remissions in these 5 villages, while the remaining 5 villages in which, he judges the yield to have been between 2 and 4 annas, he recommends 50 per cent. remission. I consider the estimated outturn too low, but as this district was by no means as liberally treated as other affected districts last year (*vide* Statement B—Statistics of remission); the season in Nandyalampet firka is undoubtedly less favourable than in other firkas and the people in these villages are very poor and were famine-stricken last year; I do not oppose his recommendation.

5. An examination of the villagewar statistics, submitted by the Tahsildar and Deputy Collector, shows that in the village of Ganjikunta, the average yield has been incorrectly calculated. It is put down as below 2 annas, but, if calculated correctly, the outturn should be between 2 and 4 annas and the remission required would be reduced to 50 per cent. Thus the number of villages in which full remission is recommended will be four and that in which 50 per cent. remission is recommended six, the amount involved being Rs. 4,076.* In villages in which full remission is not given, the balance may be postponed till next year as already ordered.

6. *Eastern Section.*—I have no anxiety for Sidhout and Pullampet taluks. The Deputy Collector reports that he has no anxiety for Badvel at present as ragi is still being harvested and work available. The area under cultivation is not much below the average and that yielding a poor crop does not exceed 10 per cent. of the cultivated area. Even without Minor Irrigation Works or the Chepad project work, the Deputy Collector tells me there would be no need for anxiety yet, for water in wells has held out longer than estimated. I have devoted over Rs. 7,000 to Minor Irrigation Works in this taluk, which I propose starting as soon as the Board's sanction is obtained, and the Executive Engineer is now on his way to start the Chepad project work referred to in B.P., Mis. No. 822 (this office C. No. 172-Rev. G. & B., dated 14th February 1898), dated 5th February 1898.

To the 42 villages already reported as affected in Badvel taluk, the Deputy Collector has now added one more, viz, Rowtupalli. As the season in this village which is purely a dry one appears unfavourable, I have, in anticipation of the Board's sanction, issued orders to postpone kists, the amount involved being only Rs. 36. From the detailed statistics of cultivation and outturn forwarded by the Deputy Collector, a statement has been prepared for each village similar to those submitted for Jammalamadugu and Proddatur. As the headings in the village accounts do not provide for the entry of crops yielding below 2 annas, details of such crops—which are of course included in the extent shown as having yielded 4 annas and less—are not furnished. I may mention that though no relief works were opened in this taluk last year, the south-west monsoon rains of 1896 were deficient and distress was apprehended in November of that year and arrangements made to start test works. Eventually rain fell before they were started, but the crops were no doubt affected.

The wet remissions granted in fasli 1306 amounted to Rs. 28,565, ‡ but no dry remissions were recommended. From an examination of statistics now furnished, I am of opinion that in 42 villages dry remissions may be given this year, full remission in 17 villages, 50 per cent. in 20 villages and 25 per cent. in 5 villages.

In fixing these rates, the extent of wet area in each village has been taken into consideration, as the outturn, so far as wet land is concerned, is normal. The balance in villages where part remission only is given may be postponed till next year as already ordered. The amount of remissions involved has not been reported by the Deputy

	RS.
Waste	2,328
Shavi	1,339
Tirwakammi	24,898
Total	28,565

Collector. It has been called for and will be furnished separately. Taking the average rate of As. 10 per acre for the taluk, the amount may be approximately put down at Rs. 17,504. Villagewar statements containing my remarks showing the necessity for the concessions are herewith forwarded :—

			Rs.
Full waste on	11,635	acres at As. 10 per acre	7,272
Full remission on	11,205	" at " 10 "	7,003
50 per cent. on	9,765	" at As. 5 "	3,051
25 do. on	1,140	" at As. 2-6 "	178
Total	38,745		17,504

7. *Southern Section.*—In paragraph 5 of my former report printed in B.P., No. 128, dated 17th March 1898, I reported that dry crops in Gundlur firka of Vayalpad taluk were stated not to be good. The Sub-Collector, who was asked to report after personal inspection, informs me that all food-grains but cumbu had a fair outturn; that even cumbu was not a total failure. As out of 19,879-90 acres cultivated with this crop, 6,130 acres yielded more than 8 annas and only 5,230 acres gave an outturn of between 1 and 4 annas; that in villages where sajja crop was bad, there was generally a fair outturn of paddy; that from what he saw round Gundlur and Kalkada, he thinks there can be no doubt that paddy has been successfully cultivated, and that from the appearance of the people at both places he is satisfied that no scarcity need be apprehended. I have no anxiety about the sub-division taluks, so need not describe their condition in detail.

8. I consider that in adopting these recommendations Government will be dealing liberally with the ryots of affected areas and that any necessity for opening State relief in the district will be obviated till the character of the south-west monsoon develops.

The Board's order asking me to report on 15th March was only received by me on 8th March in camp. The Divisional officers and Tahsildars had subsequently—for their reports to be of any value—to make further inspections. Hence the delay in submitting this report.

Resolution.—No. 172, dated 7th May 1898.

In the letter read above, the Collector of Cuddapah submits proposals for the grant of remissions and suspension of revenue on dry lands, in his district, necessitated by the unfavourable character of the season in certain taluks, during the current fasli. He considers that no dry remissions are required except in 42 out of 92 villages in Badvel taluk, in 19 out of 113 villages in Jammalamadugu, and in 10 out of 70 villages in Proddatur. In Badvel, remission of the full assessment, on all occupied dry fields not protected by wells, is recommended in respect of 17 villages, of 50 per cent. of the assessment of such lands in 20 villages, and 25 per cent. in the remaining 5 villages. In Proddatur, full remission is recommended in 4 villages, and 50 per cent. in 6 villages; while in Jammalamadugu, full remission is recommended in all the 19 villages, which are stated to have suffered very badly in the previous year also. It is not clear whether the areas on which remission is recommended, in these two taluks, exclude, as in the case of Badvel, areas protected by wells. The total amount of remission is estimated by the Collector at about Rs. 28,000, but the estimate for Badvel is merely based on the average dry assessment of the taluk. The Collector also recommends that in villages in which only a portion of the dry assessment is remitted, the collection of the unremitted portion may be postponed till next year.

2. The Collector's recommendations vary from the principles on which dry remissions are usually granted in several particulars. In the case of Badvel taluk, to which over 60 per cent. of the proposed remissions relates, cultivated areas are classified under only two rates of yield, "8 annas and above" and "below 4 annas." Moreover, in calculating the average yield, the Collector has taken into account, the

entire cultivated area including lands which have yielded a fair crop (8 annas and over), and he proposes to grant remissions in respect of such lands also. Usually, lands which have yielded 6 annas and over are excluded. It is also observed that the Collector recommends grant of remission even where the average yield is above 6 annas (*vide* village No. 42). Different rates of remission are recommended for villages with the same average yield, and the Collector explains that in fixing the rates for the different villages he has taken into consideration the extent of wet area which on the whole yielded a normal crop. In the case of Jammalamadugu, it is not clear how the average yield has been calculated. In several cases, the average is entered as "nil," which does not correspond to the details shown under various rates of yield.

3. As directed by Government in G.O., No. 185, Revenue, dated 29th March 1898, the subject has been considered by the Full Board and the orders hereunder issued to the Collector give effect to the Full Board's opinion.

The following statement shows the rainfall during the year as compared with the average for the twenty-five years, 1870—94 :—

Taluku.	Rainfall.						
	South-west monsoon.		North-east monsoon.		Total.		
	Average.	1897.	Average.	1897.	Average.	1897.	
Balvel	15-64	18-86	12-88	1-59	28-52	20-45	Taluku in which dry remissions are recommended.
Jammalamadugu	14-89	17-61	6-89	2-25	21-78	19-86	
Proddatur	19-00	16-52	7-72	1-58	26-72	18-10	
Pullampet	17-09	18-98	19-09	6-23	36-18	25-21	
Sidhout	21-55	25-26	13-00	8-51	34-55	33-77	
Cuddapah	20-84	20-33	10-04	4-77	30-88	25-10	
Puivendla	13-94	13-78	8-36	4-02	22-30	17-80	
Kudiri	17-07	18-61	9-31	2-15	26-38	20-76	
Madanapalle	15-09	20-71	12-39	2-64	27-48	23-35	
Rayachoti	15-24	21-15	10-45	5-12	25-69	26-27	
Vayalpad	15-77	21-87	12-10	3-78	27-87	25-65	
Total ..	17-10	19-62	11-50	4-03	28-60	23-65	

The rainfall during the south-west monsoon was generally above the average, and the early crops yielded well throughout. The north-east monsoon was, however, very deficient, and especially so in the three taluks to which the affected villages belong. As has been often observed in seasons of deficient rainfall, such rain as there was was not evenly distributed. No explanation is possible of the causes which determine the apparently capricious career of local storms, which may save the crop in one village, while those on either side remain parched with drought. The Board is prepared to accept the testimony of the inspecting officers that the loss of dry crop in the villages recommended for remission was exceptionally severe. In respect of the 42 affected villages in Badvel in particular it is reported that the large extent of waste is due to the fact that the areas usually sown with late crops (chiefly cholam and horse-gram) had to be left waste owing to want of rain from October, though they had been ploughed up and kept ready for sowing; and that where they were sown the crops completely failed.

4. The affected villages, in Badvel, form roughly the south-west half of the taluk and lie between two ranges of hills—*vide* map received with the Collector's letter No. 255, dated 26th January 1898, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, No. 661, dated 31st January 1898. In the other parts of the taluk, it appears from the Deputy Collector's report received with that letter that wet cultivation is extensive under sources which afforded good irrigation; that the area usually cultivated with dry crops is largely protected by wells, and that the yield of crops both wet and dry was fair. The ten villages, in Proddatur, in which remissions are recommended adjoin the affected tract in Badvel to the west. The 19 villages in Jammalamadugu are however scattered. Most of them lie in the valley through which the Madras Railway passes.

5. The total area of occupied waste in the 42 Badvel villages amounts to 11,635 acres representing 30 per cent. of the total occupied dry area. Some of this is probably "māmūl" waste, the extent of which cannot be distinguished; but it is certain from the Deputy Collector's report that much of it was ploughed, and that the drought from October onwards rendered the cultivation of cholam, horse-gram and other late crops impossible. On the other hand the soils fitted for early crops yielded well, and the Board believes from the general reports of the Deccan cotton crop, sown in August and September, that cotton cannot have failed to such an extent as to justify remission. In the village accounts the Collector has a trustworthy record of the fields left waste, and of the fields cultivated with cholam, horse-gram and other late crops which are reported to have entirely failed.

6. Under the above circumstances, the Board is of opinion that in the villages recommended by the Collector, full remission of dry assessment may be granted—

(a) On all occupied waste.

(b) On all land cultivated with a late crop.

The fields sown with late crops, as exhibited in the village accounts, may be taken as the tract to receive remission. No remission should be given on fields cultivated with an early crop, or with cotton, or by means of wells, or on topes. Inam lands paying a jodi equal to the full assessment may have the benefit of the concession.

7. The Collector is requested to grant remission on the above lines, and to submit a villagewar account showing what the total amounts to.

8. In the Board's opinion no postponement of collections in respect of the dry assessment on areas cultivated with early crops and cotton is necessary. The Board also considers that sufficient grounds are not shown for applying to Government under section 56 of Regulation 1 of 1803, to sanction postponement of collections in the two petty villages in Pulivendla taluk, referred to in paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Cuddapah (Divisional-officers—Tahsildars).

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department

(with enclosures and map in original to be returned).

„ „ Land Revenue Department.

READ—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 4434, dated 22nd July 1898.

ABSTRACT—Informing Government that Board's Proceedings, No. 128 of 1898, was despatched to the Collector of Cuddapah on 25th March 1898.

ORDER—No. 499, Revenue, dated 30th August 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The Government is constrained to remark that the Board's orders directing the grant of remissions on waste and on lands cultivated with late crops are not in accordance with the principles laid down in Board's Standing Order No. 23 for the grant of dry remissions. In view, however, of the special circumstances reported and as a special case, the Government accepts the resolution of the Full Board.

2. The Board should point out to the Collector that he has ignored paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 1290, dated 14th March 1898, which, it has been ascertained, was despatched to him on the 25th idem. Mr. Vaughan appears to realize his duty as a

Collector but imperfectly. Without any independent enquiry and without obtaining the views of the Divisional officer, he accepted the recommendation of a Tahsildar to postpone the collection of the revenue in two villages, and he also accepted the recommendation of his Deputy Collector to give dry remissions in certain villages in face of his own opinion to the contrary formed after personal investigation.

(True Extract.)

for Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,

Land Records and Agriculture).

„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

„ the Public Department. ✓

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,

Secretary.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

70 Copies.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____ } 189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATED
189 . .

WARRANT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO G. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BRING WANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
F = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.