M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-1-32.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1314 Press ~~Mis.~~

~~Mis~~

Dated 28 - 9 - 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 24th September to 4th October 1859.

No. 54. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1859, No. 3677.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of South Arcot, dated 2d September 1859, No. 199, stating his views on the modified rates of assessment proposed by Government on the poonjah lands.

(In Con. 7th September 1859, No. 4447.)

After Government had issued its orders* that all remissions are hereafter to cease in the Land Revenue Settlements, including those for fallow and other waste, the Board called† upon Mr. McDonell for a detailed expression of his views, as some previous correspondence showed that both in his and the Head Serishtadar's opinion, such an order could not be carried out in South Arcot unless the poonjah assessment was further reduced. While considering the subject Mr. McDonell received the order of Government, dated 23d August 1859, No. 1127, making a further modification of the higher poonjah rates, and in his reply now under review, he expresses his opinion on the entire subject.

* *Pro. of Govt. 18th June* 1859, *No.* 806, *in Con. 20th June* 1859, *No.* 2906.

† *Board to Acting Collr. 4th August* 1859. *In Con. 24th August* 1859, *No.* 4241.

2. Premising that the land revenue demand had been based *on the cultivation*, and that the Collector Mr. A. Hall, had repeatedly reported that the assessment must be further lowered before that system could be abolished, Mr. McDonell gave a table of reduced poonjah rates which he had intended to propose. These rates were five in number, ranging from Rupees 2-14 to Rupee 1-2 per cawney, and would have lowered the poonjah assessment to the amount of Rupees 2,05,225 on the cultivation, and of Rupees 2,82,770 on the waste.

Para. 11.

3. But on receiving the orders* of Government which sanctioned reductions in the higher poonjah turums, Mr. McDonell modified his views. As respects those turums he adopts the arrangements fixed by Government, but proposes that the lower turums should receive some reduction also. He supports this recommendation on the following arguments;—

* *23rd August* 1859, *No.* 1127, *in Con. 24th August* 1859, *No.* 4241.

I. The order stopping future remissions for waste and fallow affects *all* lands and not the higher classes only.

II. Much of the waragoo cultivation, (after which it is customary to leave dry land fallow,) is carried on in these classes.

III. In the general reduction of the assessment of South Arcot, sanctioned by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation 26th June 1854, the lower poonjah turums received only a reduction of 25 per cent., while the higher turums received 33 per cent.

IV. Even after that reduction the poonjah assessment of South Arcot was shown to be high, averaging Rupees 2-4-4 per cawney, which exceeded the rates of the adjoining districts and doubled those of Bellary, Cuddapah and Coimbatore.

4. The additional relief which Mr. McDonell advocates for the four last turums, which are unaffected by the late Government order, is eight per cent. and if it is granted they will receive the same reduction (33 per cent.) which was accorded to the higher turums in 1854. As those turums have now been further reduced, and the order stopping all future remissions affects every class of land, the Board are of opinion that this measure is required and recommend it for the sanction of Government. Its effects will be to reduce the assessment on the lands in cultivation by Rupees 40,954, and on the waste, by Rupees 73,977.

Para 15.

5. Should this arrangement be approved by Government, the scale of poonjah rates will stand as follows:—

Present rates. Turum.	Present rates. Per cawney.	Government scale.		Mr. McDonell's scale.	
3rd.	7 1	1st.	7 1 for garden lands	1st.	do.
4th.	5 15	2nd.	4 5 or only	2nd	do.
5th.	4 12			3rd.	do.
6th.	4 5	3rd.	3 13	4th.	do.
7th.	3 9	4th.	3 4		
8th.	2 14	5th.	2 11	5th.	do.
9th.	2 11			6th. (late 9th)	2 8
				7th. (late 10th)	2 0
10th.	2 3	6th.	2 8	8th. (late 11th)	1 9
11th.	1 11	7th.	1 11	9th. (late 12th)	1 1
12th.	1 2	8th.	1 2		

Memorandum.—All the above rates include one Anna for road fund.

6. On a recent occasion the poonjah assessment of this district came under the Board's consideration, in consequence of the Acting Collector, Mr. Ratliff, proposing to make a sudden and unconditional abolition of all remissions. Mr. Ratliffe had no previous acquaintance with the province, and the Board afer obtaining the opinions of the Sub-Collector and Head Serista-dar, deemed it advisable to postpone the measure for the present, as the Collector, Mr. Hall, was expected back in the district very shortly. On this occasion they recorded the following remarks;—

"The Board concur with Mr. Ratliff in thinking it highly desirable to get rid of those remissions, and thus simplify the revenue system of the province and put an end to opportunities of fraud. But as the Collector, Mr. Hall, did not find this measure practicable when the modified rates of assessment were introduced, the Board are of opinion that it is not expedient to carry it out now in the sudden and summary manner proposed by Mr. Ratliff. It must be remembered that according to the old system of the province, the settlement was made on the cultivation, and when the dittum system was introduced, the Board approved* a notice issued to the people containing an announcement that remission would be allowed for poonjah lands left fallow after being cultivated with a waragoo crop. Under these circumstances and with reference to the general principle laid down by Government† on the subject, the Board consider that the remission allowed for poonjah poodoogal or fallow land must be continued until the rates of assessment undergo further scrutiny either in reference to this question or in the progress of the revenue survey. Paragraph 5 of the Acting Collector's memorandum, No. 222, published in the District Gazette of the 25th February last, will, therefore, have to be cancelled."

* *From Collr. 19th July in Con. 5th August* 1850, *No.* 1762.
Board's Proceedings 5th August 1850.

† *E. M. C. 2nd September* 1858, *No.* 1200, *p.* 86, *circulated with Bd's. Circular 6th October* 1858, *No.* 3751.

7. It only remains for the Board to observe that not only had the poonjah cultivation of the current year commenced before the people were aware that the customary remmission for fallow was to be abolished, but that the District Gazette of 3rd June last contained a Circular notification by the Collector, distinctly stating that the rules permitting remission on punjah and poonjah poodoogal lands, cultivated respectively with sugar-cane and varagu, would remain for the present uncharged. Unless, therefore, the change of system should be deferred until the ensuing Fusly, they deem it essential that it should be accompained by the reductions of the poonjah rates now recommended, as well as by those which the Government sanctioned in their proceedings of the 23rd ultimo, No. 1127.

In Con. 24th August 1859, *No.* 4241.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Acting Secretary.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 24th September to 4th October 1859.

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 28th September 1859, No. 1314.

In their Proceedings of the 23rd August No. 1127 the Government proposed certain further reductions in the assessment of the higher classes of Punjah land in the District of South Arcot which appeared not to have been sufficiently reduced under the arrangements of 1854, and requested the opinion of the Board of Revenue on the measure. The Proceedings above recorded convey the Board's reply to that reference, after communication with the Acting Collector of the District.

2. Mr. McDonnell had intended to recommend a scale of reductions far more liberal than that proposed by Government; and to include all the dry land of all classes, being of opinion that the order prohibiting remission for waste and fallow could not be brought into operation in South Arcot without such further reduction. Having received the Government proposal, however, he forbears to press for a larger measure of relief to the higher lands than that therein contemplated; but he urges that some relief ought to be given also to the land in the lower classes. This he places at 8 per cent., so as to make the entire reduction on those lands equal to that originally given on the higher lands; viz. 33 per cent. He points out that the reductions proposed by Government affect only 1,28,000 acres out of 4,14,000, or less than one-third; while the land chiefly used for varagu on which fallows have hitherto been allowed, is in the lower classes. The reductions thus advocated by Mr. McDonnell amount to Rupees 40,954 on the cultivation of Fusly 1266, while that proposed by Government was Rupees 39,848, making a total of Rupees 80,802. The Board support Mr. McDonnell's recommendation.

3. The Honorable the Governor in Council yields to the opinion of the Board and the Acting Collector, as to the necessity of a reduction on the lower as well as on the higher rates in South Arcot; and he authorizes and directs the reductions now recommended, in addition to those proposed in the order of Government of August 23rd, No. 1127.

4. These reductions will take effect in the present year, and immediate publicity should be given to this order throughout the District. The abolition of remissions for fallow and waste will likewise be brought into operation this year, according to the last para. of the Board's Proceedings; and this fact also should be made universally known in every part of the District, without delay.

5. The Punjah classification in South Arcot will thus for the future be as follows:—

Class.	Rate per Cani. Rs.	A.	
1st	7	1	for former Garden land only.
2nd	4	5	
3rd	3	13	
4th	3	4	
5th	2	11	
6th	2	8	
7th	2	0	
8th	1	9	
9th	1	1	

These rates include in every case one anna per cani for the road fund.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Rec.d Dec.r 6th

No. 1314.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 28th September 1859
Rec.d the following Encl.s
& the Board's Order.

Submitting with observations a letter from the Acting Collr of South Arcot stating his views on the proceedings taken by Government for the disposal of Topes on the Pennycondah Road

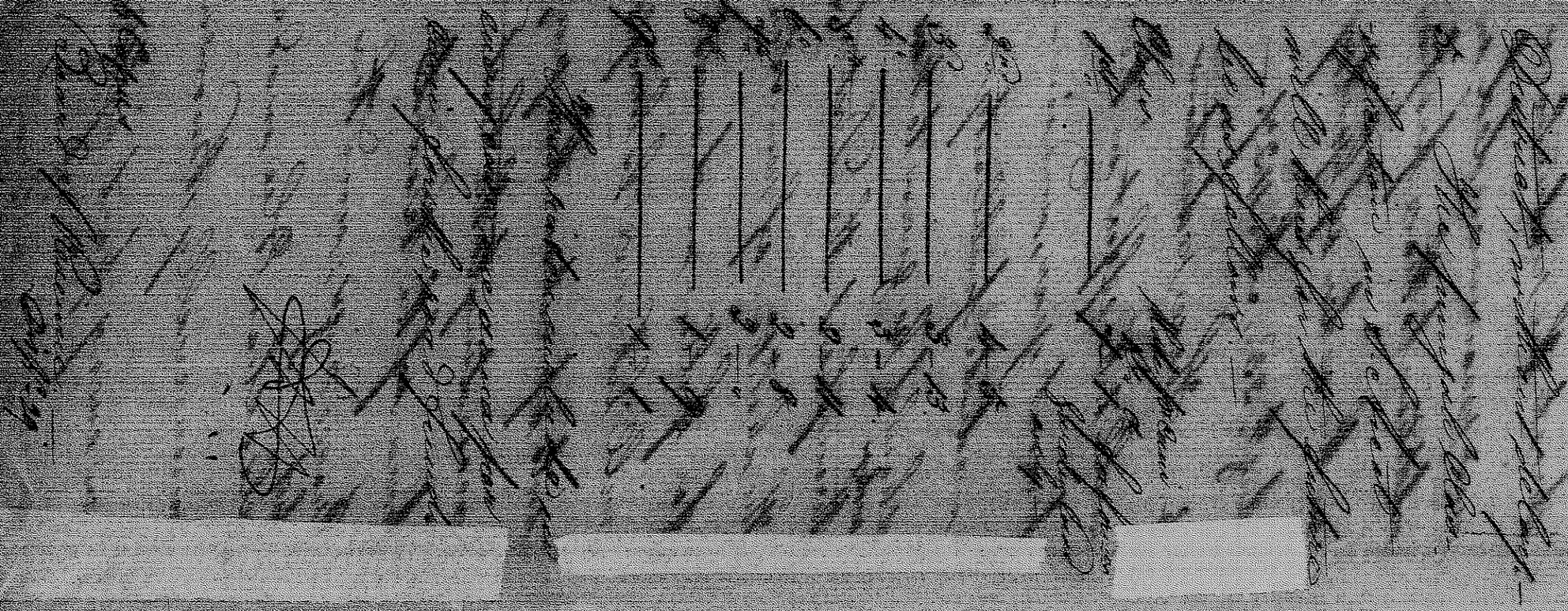
Recorded in Mis.l Dep.t Dec.r 1859
No. 3677.

In the Proceedings of the 25th August last No. 1129 the Board transmitted certain further Resolutions on the Government Order dated 14th June last No. 1054 directing the Collr of Salem to dispose of the Topes on the Pennycondah Road by Public Auction, and to report the result for the information of Government.

Read
Recd
Read

Board of Trade, on the
measure, the proceed-
-ings above recited, and do convey
to the Board the high satisfaction
with which we have observed
the zeal, the skill, and perseverance
manifested by Colonel
Mudge, the Deputy Controller
of the Department. —

That Mr. McDonnell
be informed that the measure
proposed by him appears
to this Board perfectly
well calculated to effect
all the objects which he
had in view, but that
the Board cannot, at
present, recommend
that any reward be
given to him for the
communication of it



Copy in a Dr. to Mr
of 24th. March 1857 No. 72

Revenue 1859 Deptt.
Copy Gn. 4th October

No 1314.

From the Madras Govt.
of 28th. Sept. 59.

Forwarding the proposal
recommended by the Commissioner
of Salem as well as Engineer
officer on the Canjeri Canal
with a view to its
execution.