M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1762 — Press ~~Mis.~~

58-59

Dated 24 — 12 — 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of December 1859.

No. 58. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st August 1859, No. 3417.

Read letter from the Collector of Nellore, dated 6th November 1858, No. 189, reporting on the shrotriem balances of his district, for Faslis 1265 and 1266.

(In Con. 28th December 1858, No. 5101.)

Read also letter from the same officer, dated 11th June 1859, No. 82, requesting an early sanction of Government for writing off certain irrecoverable Maramut balances charged on shrotriems, &c., recommended in the previous communication.

(In Con. 14th June 1859, No. 2767.)

Resolved that the letters above recorded and the statement which accompanied the first letter, be submitted for the information and orders of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

* *Principal division*..... 37
Sub do. 19
56

† *Fasli* 1265.....7,623
„ 1266.....6,858
14,481

2. Statement No. 1 shews the balances outstanding against 56* shrotriems up to August 58 for Faslis 1265 and 1266.† The total amount is Rûpees 14,481, of which Rupees 2,801 are due on shrotriems in the possession of their proprietors, and the remainder, Rupees 11,680, on those under attachment. The aggregate balance is classed as follows ;—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Recoverable	1,726	9	3
Doubtful	2,125	13	10
Irrecoverable	10,628	9	3
Total...	14,481	0	4

25 *Yerraballi.*
26 *Vilayuntipallam.*
27 *Saggapuram.*
31 *Timmaiyapallam.*
10 *Annantapuram.*

3. The doubtful balance is due for Faslis 1265 and 1266 on the five villages noted in the margin. The Collector states that all of them are in the possession of their owners, but from the entries in the statement it would appear that the last-mentioned shrotriem, No. 10, was taken under attachment in Fasli 1266, as the arrears due for that Fasli from the village is entered under the head of "Zufty" in the statement. A reduction of Jody was recommended by the Acting Collector, Mr. Ratliff, on these villages in common with some others, but the consideration of this question was postponed‡ pending the general survey. The arreas in each case, now shewn, amount to nearly the difference between the former Jody and that proposed by the Collector. The reduction of Jody was recommended in consequence of certain portions of the land having been washed away and rendered unfit for cultivation. There is, therefore, no probability of the amount being ever collected.

‡ *E. M. C. 27th Sept.* 1855, *paragraph* 8, *R. D., No.* 1090, *in Con. 16th October* 1855, *No.* 2816.

4. The Collector considers it undesirable that these villages should be attached and held under amany, as nothing better can be expected under the management of the Government officers, and observes that the balances may be retained in the accounts, till the question of the reduction of Jody is finally settled. The Board observe that the arrears due on these villages, up to Fasli 1264, were already sanctioned to be written off; and the present balances have accrued in consequence of the injury from floods. The retention of such balances in the accounts without any chance of their realization, answers no purpose, and the Board would, therefore, recommend the whole being remitted.

5. Four of the five villages above noticed are in the possession of their proprietors, and the Collector will consider whether he cannot enforce the payment of full Jody till the general survey is made, as directed in paragraph 8 of Extract Minutes Consultation, 27th September 1855, R. D., No. 1090. The present mode of remitting every year a portion of the Jody is tantamount to granting a permanent remission.

In Con. 16*th October* 1855, *No.* 2816.

6. The irrecoverable balances are due on 34 shrotriems to the amount of Rupees 10,628-9-3, of which only Rupees 590-13-3 accrued on nine shrotriems, while in possession of their proprietors, and Rupees 10,037-12 on 25, while under attachment.

7. Of the nine shrotriems in possession of their owners three have been attached for arrears from Fasli 1267; but as the out-turn in that Fasli was smaller than the amount of peishcush, there exists no chance of the previous arrears being realized. The balances on the remaining six estates accrued in consequence of portions of land in them having been appropriated for public works, on account of which reduction of Jody and grants of land in exchange were sanctioned for five villages in Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 25th June 1857, No. 643. The Collector states that reduction of Jody was made from Fasli 1266 to the villages noted in the margin, and that these balances were on account of the previous years in which the lands taken up for roads were not in the enjoyment of the proprietors; but, from the entries shewn in the margin, it would appear that this is the case only with the first of the three villages. With regard to the other two villages, the balances are shewn under Fasli 1266, the year in which the Jody was reduced, and no reason is apparent why any further remission should be allowed on account of the balances of these two villages, the Jody having been already reduced. These balances, amounting to Rupees 98-14-0, will, therefore, be excluded from the sum that may be recommended for sanction pending further explanation, which the Collector will be pleased to afford.

In Con. 6*th July* 1857, *No.* 2501.

	Fasli 1265.			*Fasli* 1266.		
1 *Anupallipád*.....	44	1	10	0	0	0
15 *Pothereddipoliem*	0	0	0	72	13	10
37 *Rangnaramapúram*.	0	0	0	26	0	2
	44	1	10	98	14	0

8. Of the 25 shrotriems on which the balances accrued while under the management of Government officers, the village of Tummagunta (No. 24) in Talamunchy talook yielded nothing in Fasli 1265 in consequence of its tank having been breached and there being very little cultivation. Nearly the whole amount of peishcush is, therefore, exhibited as an irrecoverable balance, and the village was incorporated with the Government lands from Fasli 1266. This measure appears hard, but the Collector will be good enough to state what revenue was obtained from the village in this, as well as in the subsequent Faslis, with explanation of the grounds on which resumption is thought proper.

3 *Narekalapully*.	21 *Velikerla*.		
5 *Tallapoody*.	23 *Vencanapoorum*.		
9 *Uddapully*.	29 *Moonoolapoody*.		
12 *Davarapolem*.	30 *Doobagunla*.	*In Con.* 16*th Oct.* 1855, *No.* 2816.	
13 *Goondlapolem*.	39 *Munnungedinna*.		
14 *Gungaveram*.	41 *Razoopolem*.		
18 *Ramachendrapoorum*.	56 *Obanapolem*.		

9. Of the remaining 24 shrotriems 14 have been restored to the owners in accordance with the views expressed in paragraph 8 of Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 27th September 1855, No. 1090, some in Fasli 1266, some in Fasli 1267, and some in Fasli 1268. The balances now recommended for remission are those which accrued from a deficiency in the out-turn while they were under amany previous to their restoration. The village of Gollapolliem (No. 19) was engaged to be taken in Fasli 1268, and the Collector considers that the shrotriem should be finally resumed if it is not taken back within a reasonable time. The Board concur in this view.

10. There then remaining nine shrotriems still under attachment. They are kept under Government management as the Shrotriemdars have declined to receive them back unless the Jody was reduced; and the balances against them are the differences between their peishcush and their actual out-turn. They are, therefore, classed as irrecoverable.

11. Statement No. 2 shews the balances of a date prior to Fasli 1265, viz. Faslis 1263 and 1264. They are found in four villages which are also included in statement No. 1 on account of arrears subsequent to Fasli 1264. The irrecoverable balances in the villages amount to Rupees 1,114-0-1 out of the whole balance of Rupees 697-1-10.

12. Statement No. 3 exhibits the amount of Maramut balances due on 13 shrotriem villages, amounting to Rupees 2,304-9-11. The Collector explains fully each of these balances. In some cases they have accrued while the shrotriems were under attachment, and in others while in possession of the owners, which were since resumed for arrears. Again, in some cases of costly repairs, the equity of charging a proportion of the total expenditure to the estates is considered open to question, particularly as the lands may not sensibly benefit by the outlay. Under the circumstances explained, the Board concur with the Collector as to the necessity of writing off these balances.

Paragraph 26.

13. Under the explanation afforded in these Proceedings, the Board recommend that sanction be granted for the remission of Rupees (15,074-3-1,) fifteen thousand and seventy-four Annas three and Pie one. The particulars are given below:—

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Statement No. 1 arrears of Faslis 1265 and 1266.						
Doubtful (paragraph 4).....				2,125	13	10
Irrecoverable (paragraph 2).....	10,628	9	3			
Deduct amount disallowed pending further explanation (paragraph 7).....	98	14	0			
				10,529	11	3
				12,655	9	1
Statement No. 2 irrecoverable arrears of Faslis 1263 and 1264 (paragraph 11).....				114	0	1
Statement No. 3 Maramut balances (paragraph 12)				2,304	9	11
				15,074	3	1

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary*.

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, 24th December 1859, No. 1762.

1. With these proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit a letter from the Collector of Nellore, dated so long ago as November 6th 1858, reporting on the balances outstanding in the shrotriam villages of that district for faslis 1265 and 1266.

2. The shrotriam villages in the Nellore district are 274 in number; of which it was stated in 1854 that 179 had usually paid up their jodi, while heavy arrears were outstanding against the remaining 95. In the order just referred to, Government remitted arrears in these villages to the amount of Rupees 1,67,222; leaving Rupees 10,485 for further investigation. Some of the arrears thus remitted were of so old a date as 1807; but most of them originated after the disastrous year 1832. Thirty-four of the villages were under attachment and were administered by Government officers; and some had been in that position for many years.

Order of Government June 2d 1854 *No.* 631.

Ibid paragraph 5.

3. In an order dated September 27th 1855*, the Government reviewed two more long and detailed reports from the Board of Revenue on the arrears in these villages, which brought down the information to fasli 1262 (1852-53) they then remitted a further sum of Rupees 13,561†; and postponed other arrears, to the amount of Rupees 4,753, for further enquiry. In the same order it was directed, paragraphs 8 and 12, that for the future the jodi should be punctually paid, on pain of immediate and final resumption of the defaulting village.

* *Proceedings of Government 27th September* 1855 *No.* 1090.

† *Do. paragraph* 13.

4. In November* 1856, the subject was again under the consideration of Government. They then reviewed a detailed proceeding of the Board of Revenue, reporting on the arrears of faslis 1263 and 64, and those of fasli 1262 left unsettled in the previous order. On that occasion the Government† remitted arrears to the amount of Rupees 24,424, and referred back others to the amount of Rupees 4,344 for further report.

* *Proceedings of Government 25th November* 1856 *No.* 1248.
† *Do. paragraph* 11.

5. The Board's present proceedings, as already stated, relate mainly to the arrears for faslis 1265 and 1266. A. D. 1855-56 and 1856-57 with a few small sums for former years. These arrears are in fifty six villages, and their total amount, being Rupees 14,481, is divided into recoverable, doubtful, and irrecoverable as follows.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Recoverable..... ...	1,726	9	3
Doubtful.....	2,125	13	10
Irrecoverable...	10,628	9	3
Total...	14,481	0	4

6. The "doubtful" balance is in the five villages named in the margin. It accrued in the faslis 1265 and 1266, being after the date of the order mentioned above at the end of paragraph 3. The late acting Collector Mr. Ratliff recommended certain reductions in the jodi of these villages, but the information was insufficient. The balances withheld, by the connivance, certainly, of the Tahsildars, are about equal in each case to Mr. Ratliff's proposed reduction. In his present report the Collector recommends that the balances should be retained in the accounts till the general survey, while the Board recommend that they shall be written off. All these five villages were in possession of their proprietors at the date of the Collector's report‖: but one of them is stated to have been subsequently sequestered by the Collector for arrears in fasli 1266, this sequestration being in violation of the order of Government in 1855 already referred to.

	Rs.	*A.*	*P.*
Yerraballi.....	341	5	6
Vélugantipallam ...	517	2	2
Saggapuram.....	458	7	1
Timmaiyapallam ...	242	6	1
Annantapuram..... ...	566	9	0
	2,125	13	10

‖ *November 6th* 1858.
September 27th 1855 *No.* 1090 *Paragraphs* 8 *and* 14.

7. The "irrecoverable" balances amounting to Rupees 10,628-9-3 are in 34 villages. Of these villages nine were in the hands of their owners at the time the arrears under report accrued, viz. in faslis 1265 and 1266. But three of them were attached by the Collector in fasli 1267; this again being in breach of the order of September 1855. The arrears in the remaining six villages are stated to consist of the amount due on certain land which has been taken by Government for public works. In three of these six villages a deduction has been made in the jodi in consequence, and the Collector says that the present outstanding arrear is for years anterior to that deduction; the Board, however, judging from the Collectors statement, say that this is the case in one village only, Anupallipád. Further explanation therefore is necessary respecting the balances outstanding in these six villages.

	Fasli 1265.			Fasli 1266.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A	P.
Pippareddipalli..... ...	.....	...	...	32	5	6
To Kalapúdi... ...	.....	...	...	20	15	6
Rangnaramapúram... ...	.....	...	...	26	...	2
Annpallipad... ...	44	1	10	.....	...	...
Pothereddipoliem...	.....	...	...	72	13	10
Sitarampuram..... ...	44	11	5	14	11	5
Chinnakandlagunta ... Chamurtwari kandriga.	.....	...	...	51	3	1
Petluri Chamurtwari kandriga...	.....	...	...	179	12	5
Darmavaramgudi Erramvari kandriga ...	.....	...	...	134	2	1
	58	13	3	532	0	0

8. Deducting these villages there remain 28 for the arrears of which no such justification is pleaded. Of this number twenty-five were under the Collector when the arrears accured viz. in faslis 1265 and 1266; the three others named in the margin having been since sequestered by the Collector as just noticed. But 14 of those 25 have since been taken back by their owners, in pursuance of the order of September 1855; and another, Gollapalliam has been engaged to be so taken back, but the owner puts off finally taking charge. Nine others still remain under management, as the owners would not take them back without reduction of jodi; and one (Tummagunta) which the owner would not take back, has been incorporated by the Collector with the Government villages; the tank in this village had been breached and it yielded scarcely any thing in fasli 1265.

	Fasli 1266. *Rs.*	*A.*	*P.*
Chinnakandla gunta Channurtwari kandriga..... ...	51	3	1
Bellari Chamurtvari kandriga.....	179	12	5
Darmavaramgudi Erramvari kandriga.....	134	2	1

9. The balances recommended for remission in the fourteen villages above referred to as having been taken back by their owners, accrued under Government management, being the difference between the net actual collections and the jodi. The order of September 1855 intended an immediate adjustment; but instead of that, the shrotriamdars were allowed to defer making a final decision, and the villages were given up at different times, in the three faslis 1266 to 1268. The present arrears accrued through that delay.

10. In paragraph 11 the Board notice the small remaining arrears of faslis 1263 and 1264; being recoverable Rupees 83-1-9, and irrecoverable Rupees 114-0-1. The latter balance is stated to be in villages under Government management; and the Board recommend that this sum should be remitted.

11. The jodi or quit rent of shrotriam villages, like other jodi, is usually exacted and paid under all circumstances, without deduction or remission. In Nellore, however, heavy balances had been allowed to accrue in many villages, and to run on increasing for many years, without being brought to the knowledge of Government; and ultimately the greater part of those arrears was remitted. In the order* of 1855 however, the Government reverted to the original and proper condition of tenure of these villages. They directed† that all the villages then under attachment should be given up to their proprietors, if willing to receive them; on the understanding that thenceforward the full jodi must be paid; and that failure would involve the forfeiture of the shrotriam. The acting Collector Mr. Ratliff had recommended in the case of of some villages that the jodi should be lowered, bnt not on very tangible grounds. It was further ordered, therefore, that if any proprietor was unwilling to take back his village on the condition just stated, such village should be retained under management, till the revenue survey of the district, then believed to be imminent; and that at the survey the case of these and other villages in which the jodi was alleged to be too high, should be finally considered.

* *September 27th* 1855 *No.* 1090.
† *Do. paragraphs* 8 *and* 14.

12. In the order of November 25th 1856, the absolute liability of the shrotriamdars for the full amount of the jodi was again plainly asserted.

Proceedings of Government 25th November 1856 *No.* 1248 *paragraph* 2.

13. The Government are of opinion that their orders now to be passed need not be confined to the particular arrears before them, but may be final, in pursuance of the resolution of September 1855. The present tenure of many of these villages is the worst possible. Under the prevailing practice of remitting outstanding arrears, the shrotriamdars are kept in constant dependence on the táluq servants, and are obliged to obtain their good will; they are also deterred from any efforts to improve their properties. Probably also some who otherwise would pay regularly, are induced by the incessant resistance of others to play the same game. All these, as well as the bad influence of such a state of things on the táluq and district servants are manifest evils. And to this is to be added another of no slight magnitude, viz. the large amount of wholly unprofitable labour expended by Government servants of various grades, from the Tahsildar up to the Government itself, in the periodical investigation of these balances.

14. There are nine villages still under attachment, as the owners decline to take them unless the jodi is reduced. It is proper therefore that the views of Government should be declared respecting them. A shrotriam is a property held on condition of a certain yearly payment; if the holder fails to fulfil that condition he forfeits his title; Government is not bound to alter the condition except under special circumstances. If land is taken for Government purposes, a deduction should of course be made from the jodi, as was done in certain cases in

1857; or if the customary jodi has been raised, it may properly be reduced to its former amount, as was done in 1856,* in the case of Manningidinna; or again, if, as alleged in the case of Vávalatipád, an act of Government has rendered part of the lands useless,† a deduction should be made. But other pleas put forward are inadmissible; for example, land being injured or washed away by flood, or a reduction of assessment in Government villages. As to the former, the risk must be held to be that of the shrotriamdar; and as to the second, if it is admitted in the case of shrotriams it must be so much more in that of zemindaries, muttahs, and other permanently settled properties, where the peshkash does not pretend to be favourable, but to be fixed on the assets; yet the Government are not aware that reduction has ever been applied for, and certainly it has not been allowed, in such properties on such a plea. In 1855 it was proposed to defer the settlement of such claims till the general survey; but the survey of Nellore not being now likely to be immediately undertaken; it is proper that these jodis should be investigated and settled at once.

* *June 25th No.* 643. *November 25th No.* 1248 *paragraph* 7.

† *Order November 24th* 1858 *No.* 1576.

15. The nine villages now in question, except Vávalatipád of which the claim is under enquiry, should be dealt with on the principle enunciated above. It should be clearly explained to the owners, that Government do not recognize their claims to reduction of jodi; and that unless they choose to take their villages back on the terms stated in paragraph 8 of the order of September 27th 1855, they will be finally resumed at the close of the current fasli. Should any agree to these terms, the Government will permit the whole of the past arrears to be written off, to avoid encumbering the owners with old demands. But there must be a distinct understanding, on the part both of the shrotriamdars and of the Collector, that no future arrears will be remitted, but that in case of default the village will forthwith be finally resumed. The present high prices give the shrotriamdars so much advantage, compared with ten or twenty years back, (as their receipts from wet land at least are most likely *in kind*) that in most cases it may be expected that the offer will be readily accepted, if the hope of ultimate reduction of the jodi is cut off.

16. The following then are the principles on which the shrotriams of the Nellore district will now be dealt with.

First. The villages now under management will be given back to the owners with a remission of all arrears; and the quit rent, will in future, be strictly exacted. If the owners decline to receive back their villages on these terms, they will be finally added to the Government lands.

This rule will not extend to villages sequestered by the Collector since September 1855; such villages will be dealt with under the following rule.

Second. The quit rent due since 1856 on the villages which have been taken back by their owners, or which have never been under attachment, will be required to be paid by reasonable instalments; and quit rents hereafter accruing will be strictly exacted. On failure of payment, the village will, as in the former case, be at once resumed and incorporated with the Government lands.

Third. If quit rents have in any case been raised without authority, or any other of the legitimate grounds for seeking a reduction of it stated above in paragraph 14, are found in any village, the matter should be inquired into and reported upon; but no reduction of quit rent will be allowed merely because it is high, or by reason of losses or changes not caused by an act of the Government.

17. The Board of Revenue will take immediate measures for giving effect to these orders. They will instruct the Collector to report without delay what villages of the nine now under attachment, as noticed above in paragraph 14, are taken back by their owners, and what arrears due on them are to be remitted; and also what arrangements have been made by the owners of other villages under balance to satisfy the demand, and what security has been given for the fulfilment of those engagements. The acting Collector will also be instructed to give full effect to the general rules laid down in the preceding paragraph; and the Government rely on him to take care that no place is allowed, henceforward, for those lax and dilatory proceedings in relation to these shrotriams, which have hitherto been customary. No arrears should be allowed; but villages failing to discharge their jodi punctually, should be finally resumed.

18. In paragraph 12 the Board recommend that Rupees 2,304-9-11, being the amount still outstanding on account of the cost of repairs made by Government in shrotriam villages (to tanks and channels watering Government villages also) should be remitted. The reasons given by the Collector for this recommendation in paragraphs 22 to 30 of his letter, appear sufficient; and the Government accordingly remit the amount, viz. Rupees two thousand three hundred and four, annas nine and pice eleven.

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

Memorandum

The Shotriam villages in the Nellore District are in an unsatisfactory and anomalous condition. In many of them the jody is constantly in arrear, and Government are called on from time to time to remit large sums on that account. It seems to me that a final order should now be passed respecting them.

2 These Shrotriams are 274 in number; of which it was stated in 1854 that 179 had usually paid up their Jody, while heavy arrears were outstanding against the remaining 95. In the year just mentioned Government remitted arrears in these villages to the amount of Rupees 1,67,222, leaving Rs 19,485 for further investigation. Some of the arrears

Order of Govt June 2. 1854.

Ibid

thus

thus permitted were of so old a date as 1807; but most of them originated after the disastrous year 1832. Thirty four of the villages were under attachment and were administered by Government Officers; and some had been in that position for many years.

3 In an order dated September 27th 1855, the Government reviewed two more long and detailed Reports from the Board of Revenue on the arrears in these villages, which brought up the information to Fusly 1262 (1852/53). They then remitted a further sum of Rupees 13,560; and postponed other arrears, to the amount of Rupees 4,753 for further enquiry.

4. In November 1856 the subject was again under the consideration of Govt. They then reviewed a detailed Proceeding of the Board of Revenue reporting on the arrears of Fusles 1263 and 1264, and those of Fusly 1262 left unsettled in the previous order; and

No 1090

* Para 13

* 25th November 1856 No 1248.

remitted arrears to the amount of Rupees 24,424, and referred back others to the amount of Rupees 4,344 for further report.

5 The Board now again send up a letter from the Collector dated so long ago as November 6th 1858, reporting on the arrears of fifty six villages for Fusles 1265 & 66, to the amount of Rupees 14,481. But before entering on the consideration of these arrears, I propose to place the circumstances of the case before Government, in view to a final settlement, if it shall be deemed proper.

6 The Jody or quitrent of Shrotriem villages, like other Jody, is usually exacted and paid under all circumstances without deduction or remission. In Kellur, however, heavy balances had been allowed to accrue in many villages, and to run on increasing for many years, without being brought, as it seems, to the knowledge of Government; and

ultimately

ultimately the greater part of those arrears was permitted. In the order of 1855 however, the Government reverted to the original and proper condition of tenure of these villages; they directed (Para 8) that all the villagers then under attachment should be given up to their proprietors, if willing to receive them, on the understanding that henceforward the full Jody must be paid; and that failure would involve the forfeiture of the Shrotriams. The Collector had recommended in the case of some villages that the Jody should be lowered, but not on very tangible grounds. It was further ordered, therefore, that if any proprietor was unwilling to take back his village on the condition first stated, such village should be retained under management till the Revenue Survey of the District, then believed to be imminent; and that at the survey the case of these and other villages in which the Jody was alleged to be too high, should be finally considered.

Sept 27.

7 In the order of November 25/56, the absolute liability of the Shrotriemdars for the full amount of the Jody was again plainly asserted. Mr Elliot also on that occasion recorded a minute in which he strongly objected to the course that had been followed in the case of these Shrotriems, and urged that those under attachment should at once be given back to the proprietors, and that all the holders should be made clearly to understand that no failure to pay the Jody would be overlooked for the future, but would be followed by immediate resumption.

Paras 2 and 5

8 The arrears treated of in the Boards present Proceedings, are mainly for Fasslies 1265 & 1266, (Calendar years 1855/56 & 1856/57,) with some

some small sums for former years- The total amount, being Rupees 14,481, is divided into recoverable, doubtful, and irrecoverable, as follows-

	Rs	A	P
Recoverable	1,720	9	3
Doubtful	2,125	13	10
Irrecoverable	10,628	9	3
Total Rs	14,481	0	4

9 The doubtful balance is in the five villages named in the margin. It accrued in the fasties 1265 & 1266, being after the date of the Govt declaration mentioned above in Para 6. The late Acting Collector Mr Ratliff, who showed very little judgment in dealing with the shrotriems either as Sub Collector or as Acting Collector recommended certain reductions in the Jody of these villages, but the information was insufficient

	Rs	A	P
Yerabully	341	5	6
Valagumdepollum	517	2	2
Suggapoorum	458	7	1
Timmayapollum	242	6	1
Anumlapooram	566	9	0
	2,125	13	10

insufficient The balances withheld, by connivance of course of the Tahsildar, are about equal in each case to Mr Ratliff's proposed reduction. In this present report the Collector recommends that the balances should be retained in the accounts till the general survey; The Board recommend that they shall be written off. I see no reason whatever why the resolution of Govt, of which the proprietors had full notice, should not be put in execution against these villages- I would recommend therefore that unless the proprietors undertake to pay these arrears together with

with any further that may have accrued in Fusleis 1267 & 1268, within a reasonable time, and by instalments to be fixed, and give really valid security for the same, the villages shall be forth with returned and incorporated with the Govt villages. All these five villages were in possession of their proprietors at the date of the Collectors report; but one of them is stated to have been subsequently sequestered by the Collector for arrears in Fasly 1267; this sequestration being in direct violation of the order

Sepbr 27/55 - Para 8. Orde of Government above referred to

10. The irrecoverable balances amounting to Rupees 10,628-9-3 are in 34 villages of these villages, nine were in the hands of their owners at the time the arrears accrued viz in Fusleis 1265 & 66. But three of these nine villages were attached by the Collector in Fasly 1267, again in direct breach of the order of September 1855. The arrears in the five remaining villages are stated to consist of the amount due on certain land which has been taken by Government for public works. In three of these five villages a deduction has been made in the Jody in consequence, & the Collector says that the present outstandings

	Fasly 1265			Fasly 1266		
	Rs	a	p	Rs	a	p
Tipparaddipalli	"	"	"	33	5	6
Tokalapúdi	"	"	"	20	15	6
Ringnaramapuram	"	"	"	26	"	2
Anukallipad	44	1	10	"	"	"
Pothoreddipolem	"	"	"	72	15	10
Sitarampuram	14	9	5	14	11	5
Chinnakandagunta	"	"	"	61	3	1
Chinnatwari Kundriga						
Pothunchamaiwari Kundriga	"	"	"	179	12	5
Carmavaramgadi	"	"	"	136	2	1
Ermavari Kundriga						
	58	10	3	532	"	"

Para 7

outstanding arrear is for years previ
ous to that deduction. the Board, however
judging from the Collector's statement, say
that this is the case in one village only. The
balance in that village, Anumpallipad, being
rupees 44-12-0, may be remitted at once.
Respecting the other two of these three villages,
as well as the other three respecting which no explan
ation is given, further information must be called for.

11. Deducting these six villages, there
remain 28 for the arrears of which no such justifica
tion is pleaded. all these as it seems were
under the Collector when the arrears accrued
viz in Fuslies 65 & 66. But fourteen of the number
have been taken back by their owners in pursuance
of the order of Sept^r 1855 & another, Gollapallium
has been engaged to be so taken back,
but the owner put off finally
taking charge. Ten other villages
have remained under management, as the
owners would not take them back without
reduction of jody: & one (Tammagunta) which the
owner would not take back has been in-
corporated by the Collector with the
Government villages: the tank in this
village had been breached and it yielded
scarcely anything in Fuslies 1265

12. The balances recom-
mended for remission in all
these fourteen villages accrued
under Government management,
being the difference between the
net actual collections and the
jody. The order of September
1855 intended an immediate re-
adjustment, but instead of this,
the Shrotrimmedars were allowed
to defer making a final decision,
and the villages were given up
at different times, in the three
Fuslies 1266 to 68. The present
arrear accrued through that
delay, and partly perhaps the
owners might be backed answer-
able for them, but probably
the Government will remit the
arrears, so as to allow the owners
management to begin without
incumbrance. In the case of Golla-
pallium adverted to in the pre-
-ceding paragraph, the Board

recommend

recommend that if the owner does not take it back" within a reasonable time" it shall be finally resumed, this seems proper, and the time fixed may be the end of the current Fusly, or June 30th/60.

13. There are nine villages still under attachment, as the owners decline to take them unless the Jody is reduced - The survey of Nellore not being now likely to be undertaken for some years, I think these jodies may be investigated and settled at once, and I do not think the enquiry need be a very long or difficult one. A Shrotrium is a property held on condition of a certain yearly payment; if the holder fails to fulfil that condition he forfeits his title. I do not see that Government is bound to alter the condition - If land is to be taken for Government

* June 25th No 603.

* Nov 25th No 1248 Para 7.

order Nov 24/58 No 1576.

Government purposes, a deduction should of course be made from the Jody as was done in 1857; or if the customary Jody has been raised, it may properly be reduced to its former amount, as was done in 1858 in the case of Mannunigidinna; or again, if, as alleged in the case of Varala-tipad, an act of Government has rendered part of their lands useless, a deduction should be made. But it seems to me that other pleas put forward are inadmissible, for example, land being injured or washed away by flood, or a reduction of assessment and Government villages - as to the former, the risk attends the most & liable to be that of the Shrotrumdar; and as to the second, if it is admitted in the case of Shrotrums it must be so much more in that of Zamindaries,

zamindaries, Mottahs and other permanently settled properties, where the Peishkash does not pretend to be favourable, but to be fixed on the assets; yet I am not aware that reduction has ever been applied for, and certainly it has not been allowed, in such properties in such a plea.

14. I think then that these nine villages, except Vevalatpaad of which the claim is under enquiry, may be dealt with on this principle. I would suggest that the owners should be told plainly that Government do not recognize their claims to reduction of Jody, and that unless they choose to take their villages back on the terms stated in Para 8 of the order of September 27/55, they will be finally resumed at the close of the current Fusly. Should any agree to these terms, I think the whole of the past arrears should be remitted. But there must be a distinct understanding on the part both of the Shrotriemdars and of the Collector and even the Board of Revenue, that no future arrears will be remitted, but that in case of default the village will forthwith be finally resumed.

The

15. The present high prices give the Shrotriemdars so much advantage, compared with ten or twenty years back, (as their receipts from wet land at least are most likely in kind) that in most cases it may be expected that the offer will be readily accepted, if the hope of ultimate reduction of the Jody is cut off. The exceptions to this will probably be cases where the village has been under management for many years, the nominal owner deriving no advantage from it. In such cases it will be no loss or privation to put an end to this nominal and profitless ownership.

16. From a statement which I procured direct from the Collector† it appears that the order of September 1855 has not been at all fully acted on. Balances are there shown in 131 villages, to the amount of Rs 18274, the whole having accrued after the date of that order, except a trifling sum (Rs 203) in Fusslies 163 and 164. This slackness agrees with the general past management of the District, but I hope

† Doc.s A accompanying Part.

hope the present Collector is a man with a will. I would propose that orders should be given for the peremptory collection of these arrears, except in the cases proposed above to be otherwise treated, and for the enforcement of forfeiture of the Shrotriums in case of failure to pay.

17. In para 11 the Board notice the small remaining arrears of Fasles 1063 and 1064 being, recoverable, Rs. 583-1-9, and irrecoverable, Rs. 114-0-1. The latter is in villages under Government management, and the Board recommend that this sum should be remitted. I think this recommendation may be acceded to.

18. In para 12 the Board recommend that Rs. 2304-9-11, being the amount still outstanding on account of the cost of repairs made by Government in Shrotrium villages (to tanks and channels watering Government villages also) should be remitted. The reasons given by the Collector for this recommendation in paragraphs 28 to 30 of his letter

letter, appear to me to be sufficient, and I think it should be acceded to. In many cases the land Revenue balances of the same years have been remitted, and it seems only fair to remit these maramat balances also; in other cases the work failed, or was of little or no benefit to the Shrotrium village.

19. The final settlement of these Shrotriums in the mode above proposed, viz. by allowing a reduction of Jody where there is a valid ground for it, and by rigidly enforcing the demand in all other cases, appears to me desirable on various grounds. Under the present system the Shrotriumdars are kept in constant dependence on the Taluq servants, and are obliged to obtain their good will; they are also deterred from any efforts to improve their properties. Probably also some who otherwise would pay regularly, are induced by the incessant resistance of others to play the same game. All these, as well as the bad influence of such a state of things on the Taluq

and

and District servants are manifest evils. There is another, however, of no slight magnitude, which I wish to mention here, viz. the great amount of unprofitable labour which the present system entails on Government Establishments. Since 1854, inclusive, there have been six long and detailed Reports from the Collector to the Board of Revenue on the arrears, besides further explanatory letters. All these papers have been reviewed in five long Reports by the Board and these latter again by Government. The labour entailed by all these enquiries and reports, on Tahsildars and the Collector as well as on the Board and Government, and their respective offices, is no light matter; the plan now proposed will dispense with the necessity for all this work, and so leave more time available for more important matters.

Nov. 28

I entirely concur in the general view taken in this Memorandum.

The villages now under management should be given back with a remission of all arrears, and the Quit Rent should, in future, be strictly exacted. If the owners decline to receive back their villages they should be finally added to the Fisc.

The Quit Rent due since 1856 on the villages which have been given back or have always remained in the hands of the owners, should be required to be paid by reasonable instalments, and Quit Rents hereafter accruing should be strictly exacted.

If Quit Rents have in any cases been illegally remitted the matter should be inquired into and reported upon. I (would not recommend any reducing of the Quit Rent merely because it is high. In that case I keenly feel the truth of Sir Bourdillon's concluding remarks.

Lax administration is, however, one main cause of the waste of valuable public time. Nothing can be right if we cannot depend upon our orders being exactly and promptly obeyed.

Ootacamund 30 Nov 1859

H. Stuart

The views laid down by the President on pages 2, 3 & 4 meet with my entire concurrence. It was to be expected that measures which have been long neglected & have fallen into such confusion as the records have, would cause much trouble & labour to adjust them. I do not however that the trouble entailed by such arrangements affords ground for seeking a more summary settlement.

I have written to Sir Bourdillon to ask him to make some suggestions as to the best means of preventing the recurrence of the evils which have arisen in the Revenue Department.

No 1762

Revenue Depart

No 1762

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 24th Decr 1859.

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board

of Revenue

Submitting correspondence from the Collector of Nellore reporting on the Shrotriam balances of his District for Faslies 1265 & 1266, & recommending that Sanction be granted for the remission of Rupees 15,074-3-1.

(Here enter 31st Augt/59 No 3417)

1 With these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit a letter from the Collector of Nellore dated so long ago as November 6th 1858, reporting on the balances outstanding in the Shrotriam villages in that District for Faslies 1265 and 1266.—

2 The Shrotriam villages in the Nellore District

The Revenue land dotted in the Tracing annexed is shaded Red & Yellow—

The Shrotriam land is shaded Yellow—

The Shrotriams are Grants of Land or a Revenue for Public Services—They partake of the nature of Trusts, & have hereby imposed upon the Grantee the duty of collecting the Revenue from the Ryots & paying it into the Public Treasury—

W Morehead

28th Nov. 1859

Districts are 274 in number, of which it was stated in 1854 that 179 had usually paid up their Jodi, while heavy arrears were outstanding against the remaining 95. In the ~~order~~ ~~now~~ just ~~now~~ renewed Govt. remitted arrears in these villages to the amount of Rs. 167222. leaving Rs 10485 for further investigation. Some of the arrears thus remitted were of so old a date as 1807; but most of them originated after the disastrous year 1832. Thirty four of the villages were under attachment and were administered by Government Officers, and some had been in that position for many years.—

Order of Govt June 2d. 1854 No 631.

Ibid para 5.

3 In an order dated September

* Pro: of Govt 27th Sep 55 No 1090

* do para 13

+ that for the future the Jodi shall be punctually paid, on pain of immediate & final resumption of the defaulting village.

* Pro: of Govt 25th Nov: 56 No 1248.

a 11

September 27th 1855, the Govt. reviewed two more long and detailed Reports from the Board of Revenue on the arrears in these villages, who brought down the information to Fasli 1262 (1852/53) they then remitted a further sum of Rs 13,561; and postponed other arrears, to the amount of Rupees 4,753, for further inquiry. In the same order it was declared, that Rs 80 12, ~~Rs~~ 4 In November 1856, the subject was again under the consideration of Government. They then reviewed a detailed proceeding of the Board of Revenue, reporting on the arrears of Faslis 1263 & 64, and those of Fasli 1262 left unsettled in the previous order. On that occasion the Government remitted

arrears

arrears to the amount of Rupees 24424, & referred back others to the amount of Rupees 4344 for further report.

5 The Board's present proceedings, as already stated, relate mainly to the arrears for Faslis 1265 and 1266. A.D. 1855/56 & 1856/57 with a few small sums for former years. These arrears are in fifty-six villages, and their total amount being Rs 14,481, is divided into recoverable, doubtful, and irrecoverable as follows

	R	A	P
Recoverable	1,426	9	3
Doubtful	2,125	13	10
Irrecoverable	10,628	9	3
Total Rs	14481	4	4

6 The "doubtful" balance is in the five villages named in the margin. It accrued in the Faslis 1265 & 1266 being after the date of the ~~Govt~~ ~~order~~ ~~declaration~~ mentioned above

	R	A	P
Yerraballi	341	5	6
Vlaganbipallam	517	2	2
Sagapuram	458	7	1
Immaiyapallam	242	6	1
Anantapuram	566	9	0
	2,125	13	10

× November 6th/58.

above at the end of para 3 & 4 the late Acting Collector Mr. Ratcliff recommended certain reductions in the Jodi of these villages, but the information was insufficient. The balances withheld, by the connivance, certainly, of the Tahsildars, are about equal in each case to Mr Ratcliff's proposed reduction. In this present report the Collector recommends that the balances should be retained in the accounts till the General Survey, while the Board recommend that they shall be written off. All these five villages were in possession of their proprietors at the date of the Collector's report; but one of them is stated to have been subsequently sequestered by the Collector for arrears in Fasli 1266.

this

This sequestration being in violation of the order of Govt in 1855 already referred to.

Sep: 27/55 No 1090 Paras 8 & 14

7 The "irreconcilable" balances amounting to Rs 1628-9-3 are in 34 villages. Of these villages nine were in the hands of their owners at the time the arrears under report accrued, viz in Faslis 1265 & 1266. But three of them were attached by the Collr in Fasli 1267; this again being in breach of the order of Sep: 55. The arrears in the remaining six villages are stated to consist of the amount due on certain land which has been taken by Govt for public works. In three of these six villages a deduction has been made in the jodi in consequence, and the collector says that the present outstanding arrear is for years anterior to that deduction; the Board, however, proposing to

	Fasly 1265			Fasly 1266		
	R	a	P	R	a	P
Tiruparadikipalli	"	"	"	32	5	6
Tirukalapudi	"	"	"	20	15	6
Rangnayamapuram	"	"	"	26	"	2
Annupallipad	44	1	10	"	"	"
Pothireddipolium	"	"	"	72	13	10
Sitarampuram	44	11	5	14	11	5
Chinnakandlagunta Chamurtwari Kandriga	"	"	"	51	3	1
Pedduri Chamardwari Kandriga	"	"	"	179	12	5
Parmayyaranguda Erramvari Kandriga	"	"	"	134	2	1
	58	13	3	532	"	"

from the Collectors statement, say that this is the case in one village only, Annupallipad. Further explanation therefore is necessary respecting the balances outstanding in these six villages.

8 Deducting these pillages there remain 28 for the arrears of which no such justification is pleaded. Of this number twenty five were under the Collector when the arrears accrued viz in Faslis 1265 and 1266; the three others named in the margin having been since registered by the Collector as just noticed. But 14 of

	Fasly 1266. R a P.
Chinna Kandlagunta Chamurtwari Kandriga	51-3-1
Pedduri Chamardwari Kandriga	179-12-5
Parmayyaranguda Erramvari Kandriga	134-2-1

of those 25 have since
been taken back by
their owners, in pursuance
of the order of September
1855; and another, Gollapalliam
has been suggested to be so
taken back, but the owner
puts off finally taking charge.
Nine others still remain
under management, as the
owners would not take
them back without reduction
of Jodi; and one (Chunnagunta)
which the owner would not
take back, has been incor-
porated by the Col-
lector with the Govern
ment villages; the
tank in this village
had been breached
and it yielded scarce-
ly any thing in Fasli 1265-

The

9 The balances recom-
mended for remission in the
fourteen villages above referred
to as having been taken back
by their owners, accrued
under Government management,
being the difference between
the net actual collections and
the Jodi. The order
of September 1855 intended
an immediate adjustment;
but instead of that, the
Shrotriemdars were allowed
to defer making a final
decision, and the villages
were given up at different
times, viz the three
Faslies 1266 to 1268. The
present arrears accrued
through that delay.

10 In Para 11

the

the Board notice the small remaining arrears of Fasli 1263 and 1264; being recoverable, Rupees 583-1-9 and irrecoverable Rupees 114-0-1. The latter balance is stated to be in Villages under Government management; and the Board recommend that this sum should be remitted.

The

11 The Jodi or quit-rent of Shrotriam villages, like other Jodi, is usually exacted and paid under all circumstances, without deduction or remission. In Nellore, however, heavy balances had been allowed to accrue in many villages, and to run on increasing for ~~many~~ many years, without being brought ~~to notice~~ to the knowledge of Govt., and ultimately the greater part of those arrears was remitted. In the order of Govt. 7th Septr 27th 1855 No 1090 of 1855 however the Govt. reverted to the original and proper condition of tenure of these villages. They directed, — that all the villages then under attachment should be given up to their proprietors, if willing to receive them, on the understanding, that three do paras 8 & 14. forward the full Jodi must be paid; and that

that failure would involve the forfeiture of the shrotriems. The Acting Collr. Mr. Ratliff had recommended in the case of some villages that the Jodi should be lowered, but not on very tangible grounds.

It was further ordered, therefore, that if any proprietor was unwilling to take back his village on the condition just stated, such village should be retained under management till the Revenue Survey of the District then believed to be imminent; and that at the survey the case of these and other villages in which the Jodi was alleged to be too high, should be finally considered.

In

Govt 25 Nov 56 No 1248 para 2.

In the order of November 25 1856, the absolute liability of the Shrotriemdars for the full amount of the Jodi was again plainly asserted.

13 The Government are of opinion that their orders now to be passed need not be confined to the particular arrears before them, but may be final, in pursuance of the Resolution of September 65. The present tenure of many of these villages is the worst possible. Under the prevailing practice of remitting outstanding arrears, the Shrotriemdars are kept in constant dependence

dependence on the Taluq servants, and are obliged to obtain their good will; they are also deterred from any efforts to improve their properties. Probably also some who otherwise would pay regularly, are induced by the incessant resistance of others to play the same game. All these, as well as the bad influence of such a state of things on the Taluq and District servants are manifest evils. And to this is to be added another of no slight magnitude, viz the large amount of wholly unprofitable labour expended by Govt servants of various grades, from the Tahsildar up

up to the Govt itself, in the periodical investigation of these balances.

14 There are nine villages still under attachment, as the owners decline to take them unless the Body so reduced. It is proper therefore that the views of Govt should be declared respecting them. A shrotriem is a property held on condition of a certain yearly payment; if the holder fails to fulfil that condition he forfeits his title, Government is not bound to alter the condition except under special circumstances. If land is taken for Government purposes, a deduction should of course be made from the body as was done in certain cases in

in 1857; or if the customary
to dry has been raised, it
may properly be reduced
to its former amount, as
was done in 1856 in the
case of Mannargidimma;
or again, if, as alleged in
the case of Vavalatipad,
an act of Government has
rendered part of the lands
useless†, a deduction should
be made. But other pleas
put forward are inad-
missible; for example,
land being injured or
washed away by floods,
or a reduction of assessment
in Government villages. As
to the former, the risk must
be held to be that of the
Shrotrieumdar; and as to
the second, if it is ad-
mitted in the case of
Shrotriums it must be
so much more in that
of Zamindaries, Mottahs
and other permanently
settled properties, where
the Peishkash does not
pretend to be favour-
-able, but to be fixed
on the spot. Yet the

June 25th No 643

⊗ Nov 25 No 1248 para 7.

† Order Nov 24th 58
No 7576

Government are not
aware that reduction
has ever been applied
for, and certainly it
has not been allowed,
in such properties on
such a plea. In 1855
it was proposed to
defer the settlement
of such claims till
the general survey;
but the survey of Pei-
-kash not being more
likely to be immedi-
-diately undertaken,
it is proper that these
godies should be in-
-vestigated and settled
at once.

15. The nine villages
now in question, except
Vávalatipad of which
the claim is under
enquiry

enquiry, should be
dealt with on the
principle enunciated above.
principle. It should
be clearly explained
to the owners, that Go-
-vernment do not
recognize their claims
to reduction of Jody;
and that unless they
choose to have their
villages back on the
terms stated in Para
8 of the order of
September 27th 1855,
they will be finally
resumed at the close
of the current Fusly.
Should any agree to
these terms, the Go-
-vernment will
permit

permit the whole of
the past arrears to
be written off, to avoid
encumbering the
owners with old
demands. But there
must be a distinct
understanding, on
the part both of the
Shrotriemdars and
of the Collector, that
no future arrears
will be remitted, but
that in case of default
the village will forth-
-with be finally resumed.

The

The present high prices give the Shro-
-triumdars so much advantage, compared with ten or twenty years back, (as their receipts from rent land at least are most likely in kind) that in most cases it may be expected that the offer will be readily accepted, if the hope of ultimate reduction of the Jody is cut off-

The

16. The following then are the principles on which the Shotriums of the Nellore District will now be dealt with.

First The villages now under management will be given back to the owners with a remission of all arrears, and the Quit rent, will in future, be strictly exacted. If the owners decline to receive back their villages on these terms they will be finally added to the Government lands.

But This rule will not extend to Villages sequestered by the Collector since September 1855, such villages will be dealt with under the following rule.

Second. The Quit Rent due since 1856 on the Villages which have been taken back

back by their owners, or which have never been under attachment will be required to be paid by reasonable instalments; and Quit Rents hereafter accruing will be strictly exacted. On failure of payment, the Villages will as in the former case be at once resumed and incorporated with the Government lands.

Third. If Quit Rents have in any case been, raised without authority, or any other of the legitimate grounds for seeking a reduction of it stated above in Para 11½, are found in any village, the matter should be inquired into and reported upon; but no reduction of Quit rent will be allowed merely because it is high, or by reason of losses or changes not caused by an act of the Government.

17 The Board of Revenue will take immediate measures for giving effect to these orders. They will

will instruct the Collector to report without delay what villages of the nine now under attachment, as noticed above in Para 14, are taken back by their owners, and what arrears due on them are to be permitted; and also what arrangements have been made by the owners of other villages under balance to satisfy the demand, and what security has been given for the fulfilment of those engagements. The Acting Collector will also be instructed to give full effect to the general rules laid down in the preceding paragraph; and the Government rely on

on him to take care that no
place is allowed, henceforward,
for those lax and dilatory
proceedings in relation to
these Shotriums, which
have hitherto been customary.
No arrears should be allowed,
but villages failing to
discharge their Jodi punc-
-tually, should be finally
resumed.

18. In Para 12 the
Board recommend that
Rupees 2,304-9-11 being the
amount still outstanding
on account of the cost
of repairs made by
Government in Shro-
-triums Villages (to
tanks and channels wa-
-tering Government villages
also) should be remitted.

The

The reasons given by the
Collector for this recom-
-mendation in paragraphs
22 to 30 of his letter, ap-
-pear sufficient, and
the Government accordingly
remit the amount viz
Rupees Two thousand
three hundred and
four, annas nine and
pice eleven.

To Copies to the
Board of Rev. Dated 24th
Account Genl — as
Civil Auditor — as

DD 80 hrs 12-14

2.X.5-5"

" 14-15"

30.6.57