M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 440	Press / Mis.
Dated 2-9-1859.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Encl. 1

In the Br. Memo to the Secty to Govt. R D dated 26th August 1853.

R 1858/59

Pr Copy of Board's Proto & Annexe dated 2d May 1859 - No. 1552.

No. 1552.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 2d May 1859.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of South Arcot, dated 18th April 1859.

(In Con. 19th April 1859, No. 1769.)

With this communication Mr. Ratliff forwards a letter from Mr. Pugh, of Messrs. Parry and Co.'s house, complaining of some changes introduced into the current settlement by which the cultivation of Sugarcane is likely to be seriously impeded. The measures of which Mr. Pugh complains are—I, charging fasaljasty for Sugarcane when grown on single crop land and II, refusing, after the current Fusly, the remission hitherto allowed for one year when Nunjah land; is left fallow to recruit after yielding a cane crop.

2. The subjects of Mr. Pugh's complaint appear to be plus connected with Rules 6 and 8, in the revised Hookumnamah which the Acting Collector forwarded to the Board for approval
In Con. 16th February 1859, No. 619. with his letter of 14th February last.

3. On the first point the Board direct that Sugarcane is to continue to be treated as a single crop when grown on registered one-crop land, even though the ryot should also hold some double crop or doubtful of 2 crop land, on which he raised only a single crop. From the information collected by the Board it is certainly very doubtful whether Sugarcane requires more irrigation than one crop of paddy. The rule approved of by
See Board's Pro. of 20th August 1858.
Government for the case of cocoanut or other fruit trees [illegible] would be followed, viz. a single assessment should be charged on one-crop land, but fasaljasty should be charged for land which is supplied with irrigation for 2 crops, as Government should not lose its second assessment in consequence of the cane crop or fruit trees occupying the land.

4. On the second point the general principle advocated by Mr. Ratliff is sound, but the Board doubt whether the assessment is not still too high for it to be carried out without discouraging the cultivation of Sugarcane and thus injuring the District on a most important point. Mr. Pugh remarks that the ryot has already to pay teerwah for one year, without receiving any produce, while his land is being prepared for the cane crop, and as the Nunjah assessment is still high, and it is of the greatest importance to introduce European capital and the cultivation of valuable produce into the District, the Board resolve to give instructions that the system hitherto followed of allowing remission for Podoogal Caranboo after a cane crop is for the present to be continued. Its abolition will properly come under consideration among the arrangements of the Director of Revenue Settlements for remodelling the Land assessment on general and uniform principles.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To

J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot.

No. 1949.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 27th May 1859.

Read again the following letters;—

From the Acting Collector of South Arcot, dated 14th February 1859, No. 22.

(In Con. 16th February 1859, No. 619.)

From do. do. dated 1st April 1859, No. 60.

(In Con. 4th April 1859, No. 1465.)

In the first of these letters, Mr. Ratliffe submitted for approval a Draft of new Hookumnamah Rules, according to the instructions given in the Board's Circular of 6th October 1858, No. 3751, and in the second communication he forwarded the opinions of the Sub Collector and the Head Serishtadar called for by the Board regarding the 5th Rule of the set which proposes to introduce an important change in the practice hitherto followed in the District regarding Fallow lands.

2. To commence with this subject, the Board observe that Mr. Ratliffe considered it objectionable, in consequence of the late modification of the Assessment, to continue remissions for Poodoogal or Fallow lands in the following two instances;—

I. Nunjah land left fallow after being cultivated with Sugarcane.

II. Poonjah land left fallow after being cultivated with a Waragoo crop.

The first of these two cases has been disposed of in the Board's Proceedings of 2nd May 1859, No. 1552, and the case of the Fallow Poonjah land will now be considered.

3. Mr. Ratliffe proposed to put an entire end to this remission in the ensuing Fusly and promulgated a Notification to this effect in the District Gazette. But the Sub Collector, Mr. McDonell, who is now in charge of the District, thinks that such a measure would be premature, and the Head Serishtadar only advocated it on the condition that the highest Poonjah Turams were to receive a further reduction, as their Assessment is still high compared with other Districts.
See Gazette of 25th Feb. 1859, pages 335 and 336.

4. The Board concur with Mr. Ratliffe 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. Ratliffe. 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. Para. 5 of the Acting Collector's Memo. No. 222, published in the District Gazette of the 25th February last, will therefore have to be cancelled.

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

†E. M. C. 2d Sept. 1858, No. 1200, p. 6, circulated with Board's Circular 6th Oct. 1858, No. 3751.

5. Having thus disposed of this important point, the Board wish to be aided in the consideration of the other rules proposed by Mr. Ratliffe, by being informed how far they agree with or differ from the Hookumnamah now in force. Clear explanation should have been given on this point when the new rules were forwarded for approval and the Board wish now to receive a copy of the Hookumnamah in present force.

6. In their Proceedings of the 3rd instant, No. 1573, the Board have sanctioned revised rules for the reception of Durkhoasts. These rules are to be acted on at once and can hereafter be incorporated with the revised General Hookumnamah.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To

Æ. R. McDONELL, Esq., Officiating Collector of South Arcot.

Encl: 2.

From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue dated 4th July 1855 No. 1683 on the Settlement of Land Revenue for Fusly 1263.

Para 38. The extent of Sugar cane, Cotton and Indigo cultivation is given in Statement 15, and in accordance with the desire of Government the average assessment of the land on which these products are grown is detailed in its enclosure A. The cultivation in the 16 Districts, for which alone returns are procurable was as follows.

	Fusly 1263	F 1263	Difference
Sugar Cane	20,310	21,695	+1,385
Cotton	664,313	593,995	-65,318
Indigo	153,519	120,314	-33,205

Sugar cane which is planted on lands supplied with irrigation, shews a slight increase, but when it is considered that the irrigated lands under cultivation, speaking here of Nuzjah only — and omitting Zemindary and Enam Villages, comprize 13,32,776 Cawnies, its extent must be looked on as highly unsatisfactory. In Kurnool, where the rate of assessment evidently

Acts

acts as a prohibition, measures will be taken to effect an immediate remedy; and in other districts also, the Board believe that the present revenue system restricts the cultivation. Under the rules now in force the extra tax charged for a second rice crop is levied when Sugar-cane is grown, and the Board incline to the opinion that it would be advantageous to Government and the people for this practice to be abolished. Sugar-cane undoubtedly occupies the land and requires occasional irrigation as long as two rice crops; but the Board are led to think that the amount of water which it requires is not equally great, and Government may deem it advisable to alter the present rule, although not unjust in itself, if it is found a check the cultivation of a valuable and important article of export. The Board propose to address the Government again after collecting information on this subject.

5

Official Memorandum

With reference to the Memo: of the Secretary to Government dated 25th August 1859. No 227, the Secretary to the Board of Revenue has the honor to forward Printed Copies of the Board's instructions to the Collector of South Arcot on the subject of permission for Pardoogal on Fallow lands.

B.R. Reg. 2/2727 May 59. No 1552 & 1949

Revenue Board's Office
Fort Saint George
26th August 1859

(By order)
I. D. Starr
Secretary

N.B. Foolscap Copies of the above paper are not available.

To
J. A. Brandillon Esqr
Secy to Govt
Revenue Dept.

C. Burton
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Extract from a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue dated 4th July 1865. No. 1083 on the settlement of Land Revenue for Fasly 1263.

P28. Respecting tax on lands cultivated with Sugar cane.

Revenue 1859 Depart.

No 1558

Treasury Office Illinois

From The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
To The Secretary to Treasury
Revenue Department

Dated 31st
Recd Augt 25 } August 1859.
Recd 27th
E.L. No.

Lodged

Forwarding printed Papers
of the Boards instructions
to the Collectors of South
Arcot on the subject of
remission for Poor cultivation on
Fallow lands

Lodged

Mis No 440

Ch Sept 30 58