M.R.O. 14—10000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	956	Press / Mis.
Dated 22 nd	July	18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 16th to 22d July 1859.

No. 22. Read the following letter from G. N. TAYLOR, Esq., Inam Commissioner; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department; dated Madras, 8th July 1859.

The Proceedings of Government on the subject of remissions dated 18th June 1859, No. 806, although published in the local journals, escaped my observation until yesterday, when I perused them for the first time. I now hasten to correct a misapprehension under which the remarks in para. 7 appear to have been recorded. It was I, and not Mr. Ratliff, who as Acting Collector of South Arcot made the Jammabandy Settlement of Fusly 1267 and sent in the Report dated 25th September 1858 which is attributed to that officer. Whatever discredit therefore the Government are pleased to attach to that settlement belongs to me, and not to Mr. Ratliff, who only joined the district at the close of 1858.

2. Having thus exonerated Mr. Ratliff, I beg respectfully to submit that the Government have adopted an erroneous impression in attributing to the Acting Collector an unauthorized disregard of positive orders. The Board of Revenue was kept fully informed of the prospects of the year from the very first, and when it became evident that the season would be most disastrous to the ryots, and that a considerable extent of land was left unsown solely in consequence of the failure of rain, and from the want of water-supply in rivers and tanks, application was made to the Board for special permission to relax the rule which required that all land in the Puttahs should be paid for. It was not until that permission was given, that I issued instructions as to the course to be pursued at the settlement, and I believe that the subsequent approval of the Government was given to the measures adopted.

3. I feel confident that Mr. Hall, had he been present, would have pleaded as I did for a relaxation, in that particular year, of the system which he always intended should be gradually introduced, and I trust that a re-consideration of the subject and a reference if necessary, to the papers connected with it, will convince the Government that a wise discretion was exercised in extending relief to the ryots on that occasion. The only papers I am able to refer to are my letter to the Board of Revenue dated 27th January 1858, and my administration Report written in May following. From the latter paper I extract the 4th para. "As the season advanced, it "became evident that a large portion of the crop must be lost; the tanks were exhausted, river "and spring channels refused their usual supply, and the standing crops were withering in all "directions, except in those favored localities where the sources of irrigation were unimpaired. "At this period the liberality of Government seemed essential to the future prosperity of the "district, and upon the ground that the ryots were sufferers from circumstances not within their "control, the sanction of the Board was obtained for remissions on a liberal scale. They were "granted for actual withered crops on both dry and wet land, the principle of the dittam, or "engagement, which requires the ryot to pay for unsown land included in his Puttah was re-"laxed, and deductions of Teerva were made for land so taken up but not cultivated for want "of rain; the ryots being allowed at the same time to retain it in their Puttah holding. On "these terms the Settlement was made, and was concluded for the entire district before the end "of April."

4. I anticipated that this liberal concession would be productive of the best results, and the out-turn of the past Fusly 1268 verifies my prediction. Cultivation has greatly extended and the Revenue was 6 lacs in excess of the past Fusly, and higher than in any previous year on record. The Board of Revenue and the Government are in a position to judge from the reports of the local officers how far this state of prosperity may fairly be attributed to the measures carried out in Fusly 1267.

5. I would not be understood to advocate the continuance of remissions for uncultivated portions of a holding, in districts where the assessment has been sufficiently reduced, except under peculiar circumstances and when there is an undoubted failure of water. I would only venture to urge that the character of the season of Fusly 1267 furnished such an exceptional case, and that indulgence was absolutely required.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 16th to 22d July 1859.

No. 23. ORDER THEREON, 18th July 1859, No. 956.

In this letter Mr. Taylor brings to the notice of Government that it was he and not Mr. Ratliff who made the Settlement in South Arcot for Fusly 1267, and granted the large remissions noticed in para. 7 of the order of Government of June 18th 1859, No. 806. He also explains that he acted on that occasion under the special orders of the Board of Revenue, and he dwells on the unfavorable character of the season as fully justifying the indulgence shewn.

2. This explanation necessarily absolves Mr. Ratliff from all responsibility in connection with the remissions; and the Government regret that, under a mistake of the facts, his name was associated with them in the order.

3. Those remissions were made as above noticed under special orders from the Board of Revenue; and Mr. Taylor's reports to the Board on which that permission was given, seem to shew that the season in South Arcot was really one of an exceptional character, in which some relaxation of the rule forbidding remission was necessary.

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

Revenue Dept.

No. 956

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 18th July 1859

Read the following

letter from Mr G. A.

Taylor.

Submitting an explanation

in regard to para 7 of the Proceedings

of Govt. dated 10th June last No. 806 on the (Here enter 8th July 1859)

subject of remissions in South

Arcot.

In this letter Mr

Taylor brings to the notice

of Government that it was

he and not Mr Ratliff

who made the settlement

in South Arcot for Fusly

1267, and granted the

large remissions noticed

in para 7 of the order of

Government of June 18th

1859, No 806. He also

explains that he acted on that occasion under the special orders of the Board of Revenue, and he dwells on the unfavorable character of the season as fully justifying the indulgence shown.

2 This explanation necessarily absolves Mr. Ratliff from all responsibility in connection with the remissions; and the Govt regret that, under a mistake of the facts, his name was associated with them in the order.

3. Three remissions were made as ~~already~~ above noticed under special orders from the Board of Revenue; and Mr. Taylor's reports to the Board on which that permission was given, seem to show that the season in South Arcot was really one of an exceptional character, in which some relaxation of the rule forbidding remission was necessary.

J. W. A.

To Copies Board of Revenue Disp. 18
G. N. Taylor Esq.
J. Ratliff Esq. Disp. 19

Editors Table.

396-72

Revenue 1859 Depart.
Pro: of Govt. 22d July.

No 956.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dt 18th July 1859.

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24-6-59

Passing observa:
=tions on remissions
in South Arcot.

No 22 & 23.