M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 979 Press / Mis.

Dated 22nd July 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 69. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2d July 1859, No 2570.

Read letter from the Collector of Tanjore, dated 22d June 1859, No. 135, recommending, under circumstances stated, remission of part of the increase by price in the Ooloongoo villages.

(In Con. 29th June 1859, No. 3104.)

Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted for the consideration and orders of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

2. In this communication the Collector brings under notice the great difficulties of the Meerassidars in the Ooloongoo settled villages, who, notwitstanding a deficient harvest, are required to pay an increased demand in consequence of the enhanced prices of grain; all increase in the Market prices above 10 per cent. of the standard rates accruing to Government according to the conditions of the Ooloongoo mode of settlement.

3. The season of Fusly 1268 has been truly disastrous. The early part of it commenced with excessive heavy rain, which from its being unseasonable, did harm. This was followed by three months of comparative drought with deficient freshes in the Cauvery. At this period the early wet crops either perished entirely, or were so much injured as to render it necessary that the land should be replanted, and the cultivation of the main crop fell below that of the preceding Fusly, itself a bad year. In November extensive loss of produce, harvested and standing both of wet and dry lands, was incurred from the inundations which took place in that month. The disasters of the landholders did not end here, for in the following April a severe storm occurred, accompanied by excessive rain, (about 20 inches it is stated,) which did great injury. Unirrigated and garden products particularly suffered. The oil-seed crop, it appears, was entirely destroyed, and the fruit and other trees already much injured by the storms of previous years, were seriously affected.

Para. 11.

4. Under these circumstances the Collector is naturally anxious to obtain for the Ooloongoo settled villages some relaxation of a demand, which, had they been settled on the fixed field assessment principle, like the Tarum settled villages of the District, would not have existed at all. The allegations as to loss of produce have been scrutinized by the Collector and his subordinate Officers, and where, according to the Ooloongoo Rules, the crops were cut and thrashed under the immediate superintendence of the Revenue Officers, the actual produce, and that in some degree deteriorated by the excessive moisture, was found to be only about one-third of the standard grain amount or computed ordinary produce of the land.

Para. 10.

5. In regard to the price of grain, the Collector observes that the rise is 60 per cent. above the preceding year, (when the rate was higher than ever before known since the assumption of the District,) and about 170 per cent. above what is termed the standard rate. The addition to the Government demand on account of this rise in price *alone*, is as much as Rupees 14,30,506, about the entire Land Revenue of an ordinary District, of which the amount proposed for remission is Rupees 9,18,153.

Para. 12.

Statement accompanying Collector's letter.

6. A similar relaxation in the demand on account of this item, was asked and sanctioned last year, and under the more trying circumstances set forth on the present occasion, the Board can have no hesitation in recommending that the indulgence sought by the Collector, may be granted. It will be seen that owing to varying losses and varying prices of grain in the different sections of the District, the Collector prefers remissions of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ according to circumstances to one uniform rate. The Board consider this arrangement sound and would leave it to the Collector to apply either of these rates according to the results of his enquiries on the subject.

E. M. C. 13th in Con. 15th July 1858, No. 157.

See Statement.

7. The Government are aware that under the Ooloongoo system, when the out-turn of the year is likely to fall below 70 per cent. of the standard grain amount, the Meerassidars are at liberty to demand a settlement on the actual produce as ascertained by the Revenue Officers. On such occasions the early or cadapa car crop is entered in the assets at 20 per cent. above the average assessment, and this addition is made in consideration of the superiority of the lands set apart for these crops and of the certainty of the irrigation. Considering the losses entailed by the floods in November, the Collector requested that this addition of 20 per cent. might be foregone, and estimated the aggregate sacrifice of revenue on this account at about Rupees 6,000. Under the peculiar nature of the season, the Board authorized the Collector to grant this relief. Till the accounts of the settlement are before them, the Board cannot say to what extent it has been given, but it appears from the letter now submitted that many Meerassidars, whose losses must have been great, preferred reaping their crops themselves, partly to escape the vexatious interference of public officers, and partly from a conviction that they would meet with consideration under the trying circumstances of the season.

From Collector 26th February in Con. 1st March 1859, No. 842.

Para. 10.

8. The Collector considers that the river embankments are in an unsatisfactory state, and that there is an entire want of confidence in the stability of the works as at present executed. The Board resolve, with reference to this remark, to forward copy of these Proceedings to the Chief Engineer with extract from the letter from the Collector on this point.

Para. 22.

(A true Extract.)

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

No. 70. ORDER THEREON, 22nd July 1859, No. 979.

The Board of Revenue lay before Government a letter from the Collector of Tanjore, representing that in consequence of the disastrous character of the season of Fusly 1268, and the high price of grain, some remission is necessary in the Oolungoo settled villages of that District. Mr. Cadell's proposal, which the Board support, is that where the price of paddy is less than 150 per cent. above the standard, half the increase shall be relinquished; and that where it exceeds 150 per cent, two-thirds of the increase shall be given up. The result would a be remission of no less than Rupees 9,18,000.

2. The Oolungoo settled villages in Tanjore are 1,581 in number, being about one-third of the whole District. Of late years applications for large remissions in these villages have been very frequent. In Fusly 1263 Government thus remitted Rupees 3,51,999; in 1265, Rupees 200,000; in Fusly 1267 Rupees 5,80,000; and in Fusly 1268, it is called on to give up the still larger sum above specified. The application is always accompanied by a representation of the badness of the season and the losses of the Mirásdárs, and the Government do not at all doubt that in every case there has been ground for such representations; but, still, it is apparent that the chief motive to the request is the high price of grain.

3. The present application has led the Governor in Council to examine the Oolungoo settlement. It is based on a grain rent, commutable into money every year at the current selling price. There is a standard grain produce for each village, and a standard commutation rate; every year an average price is determined by certain established means, and where this varies from the standard price by more than 10 per cent. in excess or more than 5 per cent. in deficiency, it is adopted as the commutation rate for the year.

4. The principle of a grain rent, annually commutable at the market price of the year, has at first sight a strong appearance of equity. But in practice it has been found even in more advanced countries that the tendency of such a system is to diminish the independence of the tenant and with it his steady industry. In this country, where the sources of information as to price are so greatly inferior, the effect is, in addition, to lead to extensive fraud and corruption; an effect very greatly heightened by subordinate parts of the Oolungoo arrangements, especially where a village is taken under Amáni.

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

5. On the whole, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the Oolungoo settlement ought to be wholly got rid of; and he regards the present time as peculiarly favorable to the change. The price of grain has ranged very high for several years, and there seems no likelihood of any material fall, because the rise is evidently due to permanent rather than to merely temporary causes. The terms of the Oolungoo settlement therefore will continue to be adverse to the Mirásdár; who will find himself every year called on to pay a large sum over and above what was contemplated when the settlement was made, his only escape being by means of remissions specially granted, and for which he has to pay a heavy price in money, time, convenience, and the sacrifice of self-respect. The Governor in Council has reason to believe that the great bulk of the Mirásdárs of Oolungoo villages are fully alive to the inconveniences under which the system places them under present altered circumstances, however much they may have thought it to their advantage under the low prices of former times; and that they are quite ready and even anxious for its abandonment. He resolves therefore to take immediate steps to effect this change, and happily the means are at hand of doing it simply and easily.

6. The Oolungoo settlement, as already said, is based on a standard grain produce for each village, and a standard commutation price for each máhánam or small circuit of villages. This standard price applied to the Goverment share of the standard produce, which is computed under fixed and known rules, constitutes the standard yearly demand. In about 1,200 villages in the district (styled motta fysal villages) this standard demand is in fact the actual yearly demand, not being subject to addition or diminution with reference to yearly prices, as in the Oolungoo villages. All that is now required is to make a similar arrangement in these latter. This will fix the demand on the village: with respect to that on individual Mirásdárs, they will continue to pay simply according to the *extent* of their land, as they now do under Oolungoo.

7. The commutation price employed in this conversion will be the standard price of the village. The Government might claim to substitute a higher rate, deduced from the prices which have ruled during the last ten years; but they resolve to forego all such right. They have no desire to make the change a source of increased revenue; and they are satisfied also that a settlement based on a price fixed on different data from that of the rest of the District would not give satisfaction and could not be regarded as permanent.

8. The change will be made in all respects on terms similar to those followed in the case of the motta fysal villages; except that no power will be reserved to the Mirásdárs of throwing the village into Amáni in the event of deficient produce. In the Oolungoo villages this is allowed where the estimated yield is below 70 per cent. of the standard; the alternative is frequently resorted to and is a fruitful source of fraud, as well as of demoralization to the Revenue servants. In the motta fysal villages it is permitted when the estimated produce is below 60 per cent. of the standard; but in point of fact the right has rarely or never been exercised in those villages. In the contemplated re-settlement of the Oolungoo villages, no such right to the Mirásdár seems necessary, and none will be allowed.

The increase of measurement found in Mr. Kindersly's survey, in excess of the old land accounts, will be dealt with as in the motta fysal villages; i. e. where there is good ground to believe it to be *bonâ fide* increase of cultivation, it will be added to the standard; but where it shall appear to be due only to more exact measurement, the standard will not be altered.

9. The contemplated re-settlement may be made, as the Governor in Council fully believes, in the course of the next six or eight months, so as to be acted on in the current fusly. It will be necessary that the accounts of each village should be examined by an able and trustworthy officer and a settlement made; and the Governor in Council resolves to entrust this work, under the Collector, to Ramiengar, late Head Sheristadar of Tanjore and now a Deputy Collector in the same district. He has been already appointed, indeed, to make a registration of the inâms of the District; but under altered arrangements he will not now be wanted for that purpose. He is now replaced at the disposal of the Collector for the duty above described; he will perform it under the general control of the Collector, who will revise his work and report upon it when completed. In consideration of the increased responsibility and trust thus laid upon Ramiengar, the Governor in Council resolves to promote him from the third to the second class of Deputy Collector.

10. Ramiengar will have his own establishment as a Deputy Collector; but he will need much more assistance in the work he has to do. The Board, in communication with the Collector, will determine what that additional establishment shall be. The Governor in Council thinks that it may probably be provided out of the existing Revenue establishments of the District; and especially, as respects the accounts, from the large body of Nát Carnums in Tanjore; and as it is of great consequence that Ramiengar should have fully efficient aid, the Board will instruct Mr. Cadell to allow him to select any servants whom he chooses in the District. Should it appear that further help is necessary, beyond what the District establishments can supply, the Government will be prepared to attend to any recommendation from the Board to this effect, duly supported by cause shewn.

11. The Oolungoo system requires a large Revenue establishment, a great part consisting of poorly paid servants. The change about to be made will be greatly favourable to the contemplated reduction in the number of Talùqs in Tanjore and the reduction of the Revenue Establishments.

12. With respect to the present application, the Governor in Council resolves to accede to it, on the condition that the change above indicated in the Oolungoo Settlement is agreed to, as he believes it readily will be. But if in any village, the Mirásdárs should prefer to retain the Oolungoo Settlement, then they will not receive remission on the basis stated by the Collector; but the Government will be prepared to consider their claim in consideration of loss by the floods of November, apart from all allowance for high price. The Mirásdárs of such villages will be made distinctly to understand, also, that for the future the Oolungoo rules as to price will be strictly adhered to, and no remission granted on account of high price.

13. The only District except Tanjore where the Oolungoo system is found, is Tinnevelly. The high price of grain has not led to applications to Government from that District as from Tanjore for remissions; but it is not certain whether remission has been allowed by the Collector, or whether the additional demand has been fully levied. At all events it seems probable that the system is as little liked under high prices in Tinnevelly as in Tanjore, and the Governor in Council would desire to abolish it in the former District also. He requests the Board to report on the subject without delay; stating the facts of the case, the particulars of the settlement in Tinnevelly, and the means at hand for substituting a different settlement.

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

Mem.o

From 13.o 10 Augt/54

Tirby 1263. Remission to the amount of Rupees 351,999 was sanctioned. The claim for this remission was based on the rains of the N. E. Moonsoon having ceased so early as 11th November. The Collector recommended the remission of a portion of the increase to which this Govt. is entitled with reference to the enhanced prices of grain under the Colengoo system of settlement on the ground that the Ryotdars have not means from the resources of the year to meet the demand and stated that it was consonant with former practice and with the expectation held out to the Ryotdars when the Colengoo system was introduced by Mr Cotton in 1822. — — — — — — The Board concurring in the Collectors views observed that tho' the Meerasidars cannot perhaps claim the proposed indulgence on the ground of a pledge specifically given they have reason to expect that their condition will receive due consideration in seasons like the present when very scanty produce and enhanced prices are combined. The Govt concurring — — in the view expressed both by the Collector and the Board sanctioned the remission.

2 M. C No 1069 dt 7 Septr/54.

Revenue 1859 Report.

No 1261 Dy. Secy. to Govt.

Rs. of Sept 22 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.—

Dated 2 Sept 8 } July 1859.
Recd 9 }
C.I.-

No 2570.

No 979 dt 22nd July 1859

Submitting Letters

from the Collector of Tanjore bringing to notice the great difficulties experienced by the Meerasidars in the Orlangoo Settlement Villages who are required to pay an increased demand in consequence of the enhanced prices of grain and recommending that the indulgence sought for by the Collector for granting remission of part of the increase if prices may be accorded

2 Cons: 12th July/58 Nos 48-49

Revenue Letter to C. I. dated 18th Novr/58

No 1064.

Fasly 1264. No remissions were allowed.

Fasly 1265. Remission to the extent of a little more than Rupees 2,00,000 was allowed. The Collector took it upon himself to suspend the collection of 20 per cent of the increase by price in the Coimbatoor villages. He stated that frequent failures of the usual rains and freshes checked the cultivation and diminished the produce, that the crops had been damaged by rats and that the prices have risen much above the Standard. The Board observed that indifferent as the season was the pressure on the Ryots was not so very great as to call for a departure from the standing rule especially as the repetition of the indulgence when it had been given so short a time back as in 1263 had a tendency to foster an idea in the minds of the ryots that they have a prescriptive right to a remission whenever the season may not be so good as ordinarily.

The

See para 2 of the Board's Proc. dated 29 Septr 1858 & 43/72

Bd Proc 12 March 1857 No 760.

& M Jan. 22 April 1857 No 369

The Government observed that a general idea that produce is short of the standard grain assessment is not sufficient to give the Meerasdars claim for remission and that it is essential that the extent of the deficiency should be ascertained by very careful enquiry and that it should be shewn by calculations on which reliance can be placed that an enforcement of the full demand will be injurious to the permanent interests of the province. The collectors proceeding was entirely disapproved but the suspension of the collection of 20 per cent allowed by the Collector was confirmed simply because the heaviest crists of the Rain current Fasly rendered it inexpedient to press for the sum suspended.

5

F. 1266.- No remission was allowed.

1267. Large remissions to the ex-
-tent of Rupees 5,00,000 was allowed
in the Colengoo renteet villages
on account of the high prices. The
Collector brought to the notice of
the Board that the prices of the
grain were cent per cent above
the standard and that under
the rules of the Colengoo settle-
-ment the whole of the excess
minus 10 per cent must go to
Government while owing to defi-
-cient produce, the result of un-
-seasonable rains the ryot was
not a gainer. The Board re- Proc^{s}. 30th June 1858
-commended the relief and the No 2256
Government sanctioned it. The Order dated 16th July
remission allowed was one half 1858
of the gain by the rise in the
prices. The Government in
sanctioning the remission required
full information regarding the
Colengoo system; this was

furnished

furnished in Board's proceedings
dated 1st November 1858 but
the paper was simply recorded.

Revenue Dept

No 979

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 22nd July 1859.

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of

Revenue.

Submitting a letter from the Collr of Tanjore bringing to notice the great difficulties experienced by the Meerasidars in the Coloongoo Settlement Villages who are required to pay an increased demand in consequence of the enhanced prices of grain and recommending that the indulgence sought by the Collector for granting remission of part of the increase by price may be accorded.

(Here enter 2d July 1859 No 2570)

The Board of Revenue lay before Government a letter from the Collector of Tanjore, representing that in consequence of the disastrous character of the season of 1268, and the high price of grain, some remission is necessary

in the Colingoo settled villages of that District. Mr Caudell's proposal, which the Board support, is that where the price of paddy is less than 150 per cent above the standard, half the increase shall be relinquished; and that where it exceeds 150 per cent, two thirds of the increase shall be given up. The results would be a remission of no less than Rupees 918000.

Of late years applications for large remissions in Rice Villages Leebon, of Tanjore have been very frequent. In Fusly 1263 Government have remitted Rupees 351999; in 1265, Rupees 200,000; in Fusly 1267, Rupees 580,000; and in Fusly 1268, it is called on to give up the

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still larger sum above specified. The application is always accompanied by a representation of the badness of the season and the losses of the Ryots; and the Board do not at all doubt that in every case there has been ground for such representations; but still, it is apparent that the chief motive to the request is the high price of grain.

3. The present application has led the Governor in Council to examine the Colingoo settlement. It is based on a grain rent, commutable into money every year at the current selling price. There is a standard grain

grain produce for each village, and a standard commutation rate; every year an average price is determined by certain established means, and where this varies from the standard price by more than 10 per-cent in excess or more than 5 per cent in deficiency, it is adopted as the commutation rate for the year.

4. The principle of a grain rent, annually commutable at the market price of the year, has at first sight a strong appearance of equity. But in practice it has been found even in more advanced Countries that the tendency of such a system is to diminish the independence of the tenant and with it his steady industry. In this country, where the sources of information as to price are so greatly inferior, the effect is, in addition, to lead to extensive fraud and corruption, an effect very greatly heightened by subordinate parts of the Colingoo arrangements, especially where a village is taken under Amani.

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5. On the whole the Governor in Council is of opinion that the Colungoo settlement ought to be wholly got rid of; and he regards the present time as peculiarly favourable to the change. The price of grain has ranged very high for several years, and there seems no

no likelihood of any material fall, because the rise is evidently due to permanent rather than to merely temporary causes. The terms of the Colungoo settlement therefore will continue to be adverse to the mirásdár, who will find himself every year called on to pay a large sum over and above what was contemplated when the settlement was made, his only escape being by means of remissions specially granted, and for which he has to pay a heavy price in money, time, convenience, and the sacrifice of self respect. The Governor in Council has reason to believe that the great bulk of

of the mirásdárs of Colungoo villages are fully alive to the inconveniences under which the system places them under present altered circumstances, however much they may have thought it to their advantage under the low prices of former times, and that they are quite ready and even anxious for its abandonment. He resolves therefore to take immediate steps to effect this change, and happily the

the means are at hand of doing it simply and easily. 6 The Colungoo settlement as already said is based on a standard grain produce for each village, and a standard commutation price for each hánam or small circuit of villages. This standard price applied to the Government share of the standard produce, which is computed under fixed & known rules, constitutes the standard yearly demand. In about 1200 villages in the District (styled motta 6rad villages) thus standard yearly demand is

is in fact the actual yearly demand, not being subject to addition or diminution with reference to yearly prices, as in the Colongoo villages. All that is now required is to make a similar arrangement in these ~~Colongoo~~ latter villages. This will fix the demand on the village: with respect to that on individual mirásdárs, they will continue to pay simply according to the extent of their land, as they now do under Colongoo.

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7. The commutation price employed in the conversion will be the standard price of the village. The Zemindar may claim to substitute a higher rate, deducted from the prices which have ruled during the last ten years; but they resolved to forego all such right. They have no desire to make this change as a source of increased revenue; and they are satisfied, so that a settlement based on a price fixed on different data from that of the rest of the district would not give satisfaction and could not be regarded as permanent.

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selected, indeed, to make a registration of the inams of the District, but under altered arrangements he ~~might~~ will not now be wanted for that purpose. He is now replaced at the disposal of the Collector for the ~~work~~ duty above described; & in consideration of the increased responsibility & trust thus laid upon him, the Governor in Council resolves to promote him to the second class of Deputy Collectors.

10 Ramiengar will have his own Establishment as a Dy. Collector, but he will need much more assistance in the work

work he has to do. The Board in communication with the Collector and with Ramiengar himself, will determine what that additional establishment shall be. The Governor in Council thinks that it may probably be provided out of the existing Revenue establishments of the District, and especially, as respects the accounts, from the large body of Nâl-carnums in Tanjore; and as it is of great consequence that Ramiengar should have fully efficient aid, the Board will instruct Mr. Cadell to allow him to select any servants whom

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6 Copies to the Bd. of Rev. & Trasp. 26th
1 — to Mr. C. Petley

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

No 979.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
D/ 22d July 59.
Pro of the Board of Rev 17 Nov
65 A 83 23.
Pro. of the Bd of Rev 7/5.
Dec 7/59. Ch. 230 in Com 10
February 6 No 88-89.
Pro of the Bd of Rev 14 Dec 60
A. No 3015 in Pro of Govt No 50.

Passing orders on the
Dolingoor Settlement of
Villages in Tanjore.

No 69 & 70.