M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 753 Press ~~Mis.~~

143-144

Dated 10-5- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of May 1860.

No. 143. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 22nd March 1860, No. 21 :—

1. My attention has been called to your Proceedings of the 22nd July 1859, in which you dispose of the application of the Collector of Tanjore, forwarded by the Board of Revenue, for a remission, in favor of the Mirásdárs of the Olungu-rented Villages of that District, of a sum of Rupees 9,18,153, to relieve the pressure on them occasioned by a deficient harvest combined with unusually high prices of grain.

2. I observe that you have given a conditional sanction to this proposal, but you have at the same time directed the immediate abandonment of that mode of Settlement, and the substitution in its stead of that styled "Motta Faisal," temporarily adopted by Mr. Kindersley in about 1,200 Villages, as preparatory to the introduction of the Raiyatwár Assessment.

3. You have based your Orders on the probability of a continuance of the high prices which have ruled for the last few years, and the anticipation of a constant necessity for complying with the demands of the Mirásdárs for special remissions on this account. But the circumstance of high prices can certainly afford no plea for remissions, unless it be accompained with short crops in the hands of the cultivators, of which the probability of a continuance cannot be predicated.

4. In directing this alteration of tenure, you state that the Government might claim a higher rate at which to fix the commutation price, but you have resolved to forego that advantage, and to adopt the standard price of the Village as the rate of conversion. You have also deputed a Deputy Collector for the special duty of carrying out your Orders, and you have directed that intimation should be made to those Mirásdárs under the Olungu system who decline to accede to the terms proposed, that they are not fully to share in the remissions which in these Orders you have authorized the Collectors to make, or to expect in future any relaxation of the terms under which the demand on them increases with increased prices.

5. Without entering into a discussion of the merits of your scheme, I have to remark that, at first sight, it seems to involve a considerable sacrifice of present revenue, which it was not necessary to incur, and that some partial relaxation of the rules by which the commutation rates in Olungu Villages are regulated would have met the existing difficulty, and have been satisfactory to the Mirásdárs. The "Motta Faisal" Settlement, as above observed, was a step preparatory to the introduction of a Raiyatwár Assessment. It was intended only to have a very temporary operation, and it was disapproved at the time by the Board of Revenue and the Government, and its extension to other Villages prohibited, and allowed only in the 1,200 Villages mentioned by you, because the Collector, Mr. Kindersley, having concluded his engagements with the Mirásdárs, it was deemed inexpedient to annul them. The policy, therefore, of substituting what was avowedly a temporary arrangement condemned as erroneous, and permitted only in a certain number of Villages on special and peculiar grounds, appears questionable.

6. Your plans, too, appear to have been carried into effect without consulting the Board of Revenue, either as to the advisability of the measure itself, or as to the mode in which it should be brought into operation, or as to its probable financial results ; and though it appears to be a measure rather largely affecting the revenue, and to be of considerable importance, it has not formed the subject of separate communication to Her Majesty's Government, but has been treated as an ordinary occurrence, sufficiently noticed by being recorded on your Proceedings.

7. I observe that in the case of Tinnevelly, where a somewhat similar Settlement exists, you have very properly called on the Board of Revenue for a report previous to action; and iit appears to me that it would have been more satisfactory if a similar course had been followed hn regard to Tanjore.

8. I have now to desire that you will obtain from the Board of Revenue full information as to the probable financial effects of the change which you have ordered, together with an

intimation of their opinion as to the extension of the Motta Faisal system, with reference to the objections which were raised to it during Mr. Kindersley's Collectorate, and to its temporary character, and also as to the temper in which the Mirásdárs have received it.

No. 144. ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1860, No. 753.

1. This Despatch will be communicated to the Board of Revenue, who will be requested to report on the points noticed in the concluding paragraph.

2. With respect to the feeling of the Mirásdárs, however, on the subject of the conversion of the Olungu into Motta Faisal, the Government observe that the Honorable the President had good opportunities of ascertaining it on his late visit to the Tanjore District; and the result is recorded in the Government Order of the 10th February, No. 212, paragraphs 11 to 13.

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

24-71

Rev. Department

No 753

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 10th May 1860.

Read the following

Despatch from the Right

Honorable the Secreta

-ry of State for India -

Making observations on the Pro: of this Govt sanctioning Conditional remissions to the Mirasdars of the Olungu rented villages in Tanjore & directing that the Olungu settlement be abandoned and "Motta Faisal" substituted, and desiring that full information may be obtained from the Board of Rev: on certain points connected with the alteration of Tenure.

(Here enter 22d March 1860 No 212)

Olungu

This Despatch will be Communicated to the Board of Revenue who will be requested to report on the points noticed in the concluding paragraph.

2- With respect to the feeling of the Mirasdars, however, on the subject of

of the conversion of the
Nilungu into Motta
Saisal, the Govern-
ment observe that the Hon.
the President
~~Governor~~ had good
opportunities of ascer-
taining it on his late
visit to the Tanjore
District; and the
result is recorded in
the Government order
of the 10th February No. 212
Lines 11 to 13.

Copies to Mr. Board of Revenue
Dispatch

Revenue 1860 Dep.t
Pro: of Govt 10th May.

No 753.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
D/10th May/60.

Rec.d Pro. 23 May/60.
No. 17.

With Home Despatch
22d March/60 No 21
Board to report on
the points noticed in the
concluding paragraph
of the Court's Despatch
No. 21 on the subject of
the conversion of the

Reported to England
D/9th May No 6 of 1866
Land Revs

156/341

19/5/70

5.6.07

1266-72-20

11/8/20

20/12/20

No 1423 & 1424

27 April 21 Army