M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1219 Press ~~Mis.~~

25-26

Dated 3 - 6 - 1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 25. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1862, No. 3,024:—

Read the following letter from B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Sydapet, 24th April 1862, No. 129.

SIR,

1. Adverting to the Board's Order of the 16th instant, No. 2,525, I have the honor to state that the Memorial* of the Weavers, which accompanied the Proceedings of Government of the 14th idem, No. 828, is signed by those said to be residing in the Goodiattum Táluq of the North Arcot District, and by a very few of that class said to be residing at the Konjeveram Táluq of this District. This throws doubt on the genuineness of the Petition, as it does not contain the signatures of several of the wealthy Weavers residing at Konjeveram, added to the suspicious circumstance that many of those who are purported to have signed the Petition have omitted to give their village names. There is, therefore, good reason for believing that the address is the handiwork of one Chellapa Mudali, alluded to in my letter to the Board of the 19th February last, No. 47, and who is known to be repeatedly addressing the higher authorities regarding the abolition of the Muhturfa tax and other alleged grievances.

* Herewith returned.

2. The Petitioners pray, in the 2nd clause of paragraph 2 of their Petition, to reduce the present rate of taxation by assessing their dwelling houses and backyards at Punjah rates. The practice in this District is to charge, from one to two Pagodas per Cawny, for any cultivation in backyards attached to houses no longer in an habitable state, but to exempt it in those attached to residences. The assessment was formerly from one to six Pagodas, and was reduced to seven Rupees in 1857.

3. Petitioners proposed to have their backyards assessed before the abolition of the License Tax, which was substituted for the previous Muhturfa, but since this boon has been granted, they are doubtless content with existing circumstances, though some few of them will still be subjected to the Income Tax.

4. I think that it is now a matter befitting the consideration of the Government, whether or not artizans and tradesmen should not be taxed in some way, for we give up about 34,240 Rupees as Muhturfa in this District, and there seems no good reason why these people should not make some return to the State for the protection which they enjoy, and why the agriculturist should alone be taxed.

5. Other professions might be made to contribute to the public revenue, by an assessment imposed on their dwellings and backyards, which might be the present Totakal rate referred to in paragraph 2, but charged as a quit-rent upon the extent occupied by both house and garden.

Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Order quoted by the Collector. It appears from Mr. Cunliffe's report that backyards are only assessed when attached to houses not habitable, and then at a very reduced rate to that formerly imposed.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, 3rd June 1862, No. 1,219.

Ordered that the following Endorsement be passed on Petition No. 2,981 of 1861:—

The Muhturfa tax having been abolished it is not necessary to forward the Petitioners' Memorials to England. They are therefore returned.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

upon repeal the authors contemplated the abolition of the Motarpa, but now an income tax is superadded - We therefore pray for either

1 abolition or suspension of Moturpa taxes - or

2 Assessment of our houses & Lands as Punjab, as agreed to formerly & sent to Supr: Govt: - or

3 - Assessment of ₹ 1 R per Coom - See former correspondence.

The weavers [Cuniflepet] headed by Chellappa and [illegible] Pariar

A 1 Nov 43 memorialised the Govt of India, their petition was forwarded here for report. It complained of the exaction

B 3 March 44 No 84 of the Coom tax & prayed for its abolition.

C 417 of Chellapa Local Govt reported that the [certain] Cuniflepet weavers had been long recently charged, & than in some Dists & did throughout the Provces had been paying it all along & that Govt had actually paid it prior to 1802 when it was discontinued & enabled them to establish themselves & the trade was continued with Hyder - The indulgence was continued up to present time by the exaction of the local officers. The import is a general one & Govt had no grounds for exemption. It was therefore levied under Regn of 82.

On similar memorial had been transmitted with report & Govt of Directors 20 Nov 42 No 43

D 9 Sep 44 Ct of Directors - concur in the propriety of the imposition of the tax & the means adopted for enforcing its collection, but observe that at a time the Revenues are suspended, & pressing on the

to manufact^rs from the discontinuance of Govt encouragement, to large increase in imports of British piece goods & heavy rates of land customs, would be otherwise beneficial if the recomposition had been preceded by an inquiry into the weavers' actual condition.

This inquiry was directed & Govt think it should be confined to Chingleput.

E
Q. No. 6
28 May 44

The result of this inquiry as to Chingleput was rep^d to the Ct. under date 12 ap 44 no 95, and Govt were ordered to institute gen^l inquiries & report.

E No 55
8 June 44

Govt of India referring to D states that in their opinion the loom tax & the abolition of all duties on Piece goods & weavers' occupations would not, unless very objectionable, with the views of the manufacturing classes. Govt did not interfere as it was a source of revenue to Govt but wished to know the total Rev: yielded by it.

No 7-23 ap 45
G
No 22 of
30 Aug 44

Govt. observe that notwithstanding the imposts on piece goods in England & the demand for country cloth in Chingleput has been maintained & the weavers of Madras & Salem have increased in number & wealth & applied to other occupations on account of the low rate of labour & do not appear prepd to relinquish their usual amount of cloth &c.

In reply Govt forwarded a further memorial with F.P. & C.

Chellappa Mudaly, dated 28 Feb & 11 May 45 had been forwd

Bd & Collr rep^d that memorial was not from weavers but proceeded from shopkeepers & others

Mem^d 30 Dec 46 to Govt

V. 11 May 46
10 11 May 46

Subsequently more memorials to the same effect & asking for a special Comm^n were presented but the Govt declined to forward them on the ground that the contained nothing new, & that a Commission could not be appointed.

(1) Revenue Board's report showed that the condition of the weavers of Madras was less unfavorable than 5 & 6 yrs ago.

No 294 of 16 May 46

They therefore resolved to await further report

(1) India Govt having received copy of Govt's

21 Mar 46 no 201

(25 June 46) Remarks requested further information & shewed

2 ap 46-449

it appd had been furnished with letter dated

7 ap 46 no 409

7 ap 46

Bd's report admits that the weavers trade is deteriorated, but noticing the recent abolition of the land transit duties would not recommend the total remission of the Loom Tax as contd by Indian Govt. Nor did they favor Export duty on piece goods, already small, & said they did not expect benefit there as the manufacture is chiefly carried on by cultivators & labourers who cannot afford to employ capital in improvements.

They forwd a report on Mr Cotton's general

Memorial dated 30 Jan 46 addressed to Govt praying for a remission among other taxes of that "settled on the houses & dwellings of the poor" & which had been illegally resumed.

Memorial letter

Bd to Collr 26 Jan 46 to Collr upon the same case

26 Dec 46

Petrs to Govt in C. 15 Dec 48 - say to that if Income tax be remitted the petrs are willing to pay interest House tax moderately proportionate to their means, & for this adjustment of their Revenues, they will ever pay

No. 3,024.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th May 1862.

Read the following letter from B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Saidapet, 24th April 1862, No. 129 :—

1. Adverting to the Board's order of the 16th instant, No. 2,525, I have the honor to state that the Memorial* of the weavers, which accompanied the Proceedings of Government of the 14th idem, No. 828, is signed by those said to be residing in the Goodiattum Taluk of the North Arcot District, and by a very few of that class said to be residing at the Konjeveram Taluk of this District. This throws doubt on the genuineness of the Petition, as it does not contain the signatures of several of the wealthy weavers residing at Konjeveram, added to the suspicious circumstance that many of those who are purported to have signed the Petition have omitted to give their village names. There is, therefore, good reason for believing that the address is the handiwork of one Chellappa Mudali, alluded to in my letter to the Board of the 19th February last, No. 47, and who is known to be repeatedly addressing the higher Authorities regarding the abolition of the Moturpha tax and other alleged grievances.

* Herewith returned.

2. The Petitioners pray, in the 2nd Clause of paragraph 2 of their Petition, to reduce the present rate of taxation by assessing their dwelling houses and backyards at Punjah rates. The practice in this District is to charge, from one to two Pagodas per Cawny, for any cultivation in backyards attached to houses no longer in an habitable state, but to exempt it in those attached to residences. The assessment was formerly from one to six Pagodas, and was reduced to seven Rupees in 1857.

3. Petitioners proposed to have their backyards assessed before the abolition of the License tax, which was substituted for the previous Moturpha, but since this boon has been granted, they are doubtless content with existing circumstances, though some few of them will still be subjected to the Income tax.

4. I think that it is now a matter befitting the consideration of the Government, whether or not artizans and tradesmen should not be taxed in some way, for we give up about 34,240 Rupees as Moturpha in this District, and there seems no good reason why these people should not make some return to the State for the protection which they enjoy, and why the agriculturist should alone be taxed.

5. Other professions might be made to contribute to the public revenue, by an assessment imposed on their dwellings and backyards, which might be the present Totakal rate referred to in paragraph 2, but charged as a quit-rent upon the extent occupied by both house and garden.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Memorial.

Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Order quoted by the Collector. It appears from Mr. Cunliffe's report that backyards are only assessed when attached to houses not habitable, and then at a very reduced rate to that formerly imposed.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting **Sub-Secretary.**

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D., with a Memorial.

Copy to B. Cunliffe, Esq., Collector of Madras.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro 14th April 1862 No. 219-220

Pr. 1219

Ordered that the following Endorsement be passed on Petition No. 2981 of 1861—

The Moturpha tax having been abolished it is not necessary to forward the Petitioners' Memorials to Govt. They are therefore returned—

Chief Sec. to Govt. Dispatch Endorsement to Govt. with Memorial

A Chief Sec.

Fort St. George 3d June 1862

No 25 & 26

Rev. 1862. Department.

Prog. Govt for June.

No. 1437.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 12*th May* 1862.

Despatched. 16th —

Received. 17th —

C. I Memorial

No 3,024.

Submitting with remarks letter from the Collector of Madras reporting on the Memorial from certain weavers praying for a reduction in the Moturpha taxation by assessing their dwelling houses and backyards at punjah rates.

No 1219. 3d June.

With accordingly