

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1641

Press
Mis.

11-72

Dated

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st August 1862.

No. 11. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th July 1862, No. 4,505:—

Read the following papers.

Government Order, dated 17th June 1862, No. 1,327.

(In Cons. 18th June 1862, No. 3,757.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq.,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Muddenapalli, 24th June 1862,
No. 91.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Order of the Board, dated 11th June 1862, No. 3,747, I have the honor to state that being under the impression that the communication of Mr. Sutton's Circular of questions regarding Cotton was authorized by

	RS.	A.	P.
1 Pair of Dovali Cloths...	3	4	6
1 Head Cloth, 1st sort ..	1	5	6
1 do. 2nd do.	0	14	0
1 Piece of cloth for a sheet, 1st sort ..	1	9	6
1 do. do. for do. 2nd sort ..	1	3	0
1 Woman's cloth..	1	2	6
1 Pair of upper cloths ..	1	3	5

Total...	10	10	5
Banghy to Madras, if not on service ..	6	0	0
Total..	16	10	5

Government, and as a specimen of the cloths in ordinary wear was requested by Mr. Sutton, I presume, in order to see whether Manchester could compete in course, as well as in long cloths, with the country productions, I made a selection as marginally noted.

It is a matter for Government to decide whether the specimens should be sent, and if it were considered of sufficient importance, the cost and carriage might be requested to be paid in London, or by bill on Madras. I have no doubt that Mr. Haywood, if communicated with, would at once send a Cheque for the trifling amount of the specimens requested by Manchester. Of course an item, like the above, is an unforeseen charge, and can be paid out of the Budget Estimate of Rupees 4,000 "Unforeseen charges, Revenue," for 1862-63 with the sanction of Government.

2. As the Board request a detailed account of land out of cultivation by over-assessment,

	Acres.	Assessment.
		RS.
Dry... ..	4,970	10,021
Garden	801	6,515
Wet... ..	2,403	20,837
	8,174	37,373

† Acres 7,172.

I shall reply to the reference on a future date, as the preparation of a detail of acres in every Taluq is a matter of time. I shall only briefly notice that my predecessor found it necessary to reduce assessment on waste land* to the value of Rupees 37,373; and that out of these lands, which were all applied for, Rupees 33,675† was taken into cultivation, which showed the net result of increase of revenue.

3. The Board are aware that some 30 years ago the Collector of Cuddapah allowed wells to be dug in dry lands, without Teervajasty. This boon caused a great transfer of capital and labor from the old high assessed garden lands, to the new well lands. Since then a re-action, or rather an extension of cultivation has taken place, and old waste garden lands are inquired for at the reduced assessment of half the Tarwary rate, *minus* the remission. For example:

Reduced rate.

the original Tarwary rate being Rupees 10— $\frac{1}{2}$ = Rupees 5.

Remission. . .

The current rate being Tarwary Rupees 10— $\frac{1}{2}$ = $6\frac{2}{3}$,
the actual reduction being $1\frac{1}{3}$, or about 16 per cent.; on tank, and channel, and dry lands, the

Reduced rate.

remission would be, say, Rupees 10, being the Tarwary rate,— $\frac{1}{2}$ = Rupees 5—0

The current rate Rupees 10— $\frac{1}{2}$ = „ 7— $\frac{1}{2}$

Net reduction $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 25 per cent.

4. Whether the reduction of assessment should be gradual, moving with the increase of cultivation and demand for waste land, or whether all lands thrown up should be at once reduced, which would involve rather a transfer of capital and labor than a direct increase of cultivation, is a matter for the Board to decide. The waste lands cannot be all taken up at once. This is

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st August 1862.*

shown by the amount still uncultivated, although reduced after application for remission. The first course has the advantage of ensuring a steady increase of cultivation, the last course gives the Ryots a large choice of land. Over-assessment is a relative term, for low rated lands may be as over-assessed as high rated land, the point being determined by the profit realizable. Mr. Murray's reduction of Rupees 37,373 of assessment on waste, has resulted in a net increase of one-third of a lac of revenue from increased cultivation; so that his plan of gradual reduction, on applications, has suited the increasing powers of the Ryots for cultivation, and has borne good fruit.

1. The above Order of Government will be communicated to the Collector with instructions to forward a copy of Mr. Sutton's queries to enable the Board to revise Mr. Wedderburn's answers as desired by Government, and copy of the letter as revised will be eventually communicated to Mr. Wedderburn.

2. The Board had already called on him for explanation of the statement in his answer No. 21, that irrigable land in his District is kept out of cultivation by over-assessment, and his reply above recorded will be now submitted to Government.

3. The Board proceed to pass the following remarks upon it.

4. Mr. Wedderburn in his reply to the Board's question as to how he proposes to defray the cost of the articles that he has collected on his own responsibility, fails to perceive that it is not the amount of the sum which was objected to by the Board, but the disregard of all rule apparent in his proceedings, he having, on the application of a private individual, and without any authority, or even the cognizance of Government, proceeded to collect specimens for transmission at Government cost to England, and remarked upon the fact in his letter to Mr. Sutton, so as to throw on the Board or Government, the "onus" of repudiating his unauthorized act, and of thus apparently throwing obstacles in the way of obtaining information on this important branch of trade in the present crisis.

5. The Board consider Mr. Wedderburn's act to be unjustifiable, but under the peculiar circumstances of the case, they will request the permission of Government to charge the cost of the articles and of their carriage to Madras, and transmission to England to the Collector's Contingent Bill. The charge can be met from the provision for these expenses in the District Budget Estimate.

6. As to the statement in his letter that irrigable land is kept out of cultivation by over-assessment, Mr. Wedderburn's present letter affords little explanation, and the Board will await the promised detailed report.

7. Meanwhile they will only remark that his present letter is not consistent with his former statement, inasmuch as he now appears to state that although there may be over-assessed land in the District, still no land that would otherwise be in demand is by this reason kept out of cultivation.

8. The Collector ought to be aware that if land is kept out of cultivation by over-assessment, the fault and the remedy rests with himself, inasmuch as the Circular Order, dated 31st August 1854, *et seq.* called on all Collectors to submit proposals for revising the assessment in all such cases, and if revision was not made when necessary, the local Officers are alone responsible for the existing objectionable state of things.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 12.

ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1862, No. 1,641.

The Governor in Council sanctions Rupees (16-10-5) sixteen, Annas ten and Pice five, being the amount of charges incurred by the Collector of Cuddapah for the collection of certain specimens of cloth to be forwarded to the Cotton Supply Association at Manchester. He concurs with the Board of Revenue as to the irregularity of the purchase.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Acting Chief Secretary.

Dr, 17th June / 62 822403
2413

Rev = 1862. Department.
Office of Govt for August.

No. 2023.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 14th July 1862.
Aug 21st 1862
Manning - 1862.
No. 4505.

Requesting the sanction of Government for including in the Contingent Bill of the Collector of Cuddapah, the charge incurred in his unauthorized transmission to England of specimens of Cotton, and submitting his report on the subject of irrigable lands kept out of cultivation by over-assessment, as also awaiting the Collector's detailed report on the latter subject.

c 28th July 1862

28th July 1862

28th July 1862

28th July 1862

28th July 1862

The Governor in Council sanction

Rs 16-10-5 sixteen, annas ten and five pie

Being the amount of charges incurred by the

Collector of Cuddapah for the collection of certain specimens of cloth to be forwarded

to the Cotton Supply Association of Bombay

chequer. He concurs with the B^d of Revenue

to the irregularity of the purchase

28th July 1862

To the B^d of Revenue 28th July 1862

3 - Accountant General

3 - Civil Engineer