M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-21.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1183 Press ~~Mis.~~

1782 — 1833

Dated 7 — 7 — 1886

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th July 1864.

No. 132. Read the following :—

MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT.

On the Despatch from H. M. Secretary of State, dated 24th February 1864, *No.* 7.

1. There are two points in the Despatch from the Secretary of State to which I wish to allude. The first has reference to the proportion of the net produce to be taken for the assessment; the 2nd to the amount of the commutation rate; and my object in wishing to bring these two matters again under the consideration of the Secretary of State, is, because I conceive that the grounds upon which I have advocated the proportion of one-third of the net crop as a fair assessment, and a commutation rate based upon the average prices of a series of years, appears to me to have been misunderstood.

2. In paragraph 13 the Secretary of State says, "I have failed to discover from the papers before me the grounds upon which Sir W. Denison has determined on selecting one-third of the net produce as the share to be accepted by the Government." I regret that I did not at the time make the grounds upon which I based this proposal more clear, but the fact was that I did not wish to lengthen out a correspondence which had been protracted to an inordinate extent, and therefore in my last minute, I spoke in general terms; looking to the fact that in my former minutes I had discussed the same subject much at length. In my first minute of 1863, I stated that it was impossible to determine, upon abstract grounds, what proportion of the crop a Government or a landlord might take, but that this must depend upon the price, or the rate of commutation from a grain to a money rent or assessment. I then showed that a proportion exceeding one-third of the net crop would involve a very large increase in the amount paid by the ryot, if a commutation rate based upon the actual prices obtained by the ryot, were assumed. Starting then from the price obtained by the ryot on an average of years, which, as stated in my last minute, on a mean of fifteen years, was as near'y as possible 12 annas per cullum, I worked back to the conclusion that one-third of the net crop was the utmost which the ryot could afford to pay; assuming, from the statements made, that the assessment proposed by Mr. Puckle was the maximum which could be exacted.

3. In paragraph 18 of the Despatch, the Secretary of State says, "I find that all the authorities (with the exception of your Excellency) are of opinion that the rate of 8 annas per Harris' Cullum of paddy is a fair and reasonable amount to be assumed as the price which a ryot would, on the average of years, be likely to obtain for his grain at his own homestead," but I beg to observe that what the Government ought to have had before it were "*facts*," not "*opinions*;" and I beg further to observe that the facts deduced from the returns of the last fifteen years showed that the ryot had, as I observe in my last minute, obtained on an average of those years, not less than 12 annas per Cullum for his grain.

4. I regret, therefore, that the Secretary of State should not have established as a principle, that the commutation price should be determined by a reference to the actual prices obtained by the ryot on an average of a given number of years. At present the Government is left altogether at a loss to ascertain upon what principle it is to regulate the rate of commutation.

(Signed) W. DENISON.

28*th June* 1864.

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 7th July 1864, No. 1,183.

Ordered that the foregoing Minute be forwarded to the Home Government.

(True Extract.)

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

Minute

There are two points in the Despatch from the Secretary of State to which I wish to allude ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~

The 1st has reference to the proportion of the net produce to be taken for the assessment

The 2nd is the amount of the commutation rate —

and my object in ~~[illegible]~~ wishing to bring these two matters again under the consideration of the Sec of State ~~being~~ is I conceive that the grounds upon which I have advocated the proportion of one third of the net assets as a fair ~~[illegible]~~ assessment and a commutation ~~rate~~ based upon the average prices of a series of years, appear to have been misunderstood — —

~~I [illegible]~~

In Para 13 the Sec of State says I have failed to discover from the papers before me the grounds upon which Lord Denison(?) has determined

on selecting one third of the
net produce on the basis
of the according to Gre-
gory report that, during such
time make ~~[illegible]~~
the previous appointed
Edward has proved
prove clear, but the fact
over that, did not avoid
the Lieutenant of a consid-
=derable extent, & Thereupon
on my last minute
spoke in general terms,
stating to the fact that on
my former marriage
had discussed this same
subject more at length
in my first minute of 1863
he stated that it was one
=sophable to determine upon
abstract grounds what
proportion of the Costs
Gregory or a landlord might
take, and he referred that
upon must depend upon
the price assumed as
the basis of commutation
this rule I communicate
from a point to a many
=ment.
Next we agreed that a pro
=portion exceeding one
third of the net Costs would
encounter a very large am
=ount in the amounts
paid by the Poor to the

~~[illegible]~~
+ assuming from the
statements made that
the assessment proposed
by the Poor was the
proper maximum
which could be exacted

commutation rate based
upon the actual price
for the last three years
but Gregory stated
that from the
price obtained by the Poor
on an average year,
which
deducted in my last
minute, on account of
seven years was an
nearly as possible 12 annas
per cullum ~~[illegible]~~
worked back to the com-
=mission that one third
of the net Costs was the
utmost which the Poor
could afford to pay,
~~[illegible]~~
for Para of the Deputa-
tion Lee stated that
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
it was the Opinion that all the
Landholders, (with the
exception of some Excellency)
Gregory) were that the
Rate of 8 annas per
Cullum would appear
moderate and would
be agreed to by the Poor
many years
he thought he obtain from
them at his own Rate
stated & that they
were prepared that at

[illegible] ought to have
been at the [illegible]
mark of seven [illegible]
They [illegible] to observe
that the [illegible] should
[illegible] return from
the Coast 15 days
should that the Report
had, as [illegible] received
any Part thereof,
or cannot obtain any
of the said Days, or
any Part thereof
before the [illegible]
[illegible]
Report thereof to the
Governor [illegible]
[illegible] Court should
think fit to appoint
a Time for the
Commutation Price
should be determined
by a Reference to the
Oath of [illegible] Persons
by the Report a Jury to be
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
at present the Good and
sufficient Cattle of the
Country [illegible]
[illegible] Cattle at a
Time [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

Laid by Committee

20-6-64

Copy in a letter to
the Colony dated 31st 18

Laid

Extract from Minute of Council dated 28th June 1864

Referred to the Home Office

[illegible]

Arrival 1864 28th June
Read 20th October
No 1757

Minute as to the
Removal of Convicts

Dated 28th June 1864
Received

Recording his views on the
Despatch from H. M. Secretary
of State dated 24th February 1864 No 7
relative to the protection of the
rate to be taken for the
Repayment and the Amount of the
Commutation rate

J. Cato - 1st 1863.