

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	7129	Press
	488-489	~~Mis.~~
Dated	29-5-1865.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th May 1865.*

No. 488. Read the following letter from the Very Reverend B. F. AMARANTE, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Saint Thomé, 12th May 1865 :—

SIR,

Enclosures 3, viz :—
2 Statements.
1 Bond.

1. I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, under date the 23rd April 1864, No. 701, passing orders on my

proposal to take the village of Vurtharajapoorum, in the Madras District, either on Zemindary tenure or on a long lease.

2. The Government state in their Order under acknowledgment, that the uncertainty regarding the Pommel tank works, and the large proportion of waste, preclude the Government from acceding to my request at present.

3. They observe also that the reasons which the Board had in declining my offer were, that a rental fixed on an average of past years, at a time when the revenue of the village was steadily increasing, would be disadvantageous to Government; that there was a considerable extent of cultural waste; and that the construction of the Pommel tank, if that work was carried out, would submerge a large portion of the village, while, if it was not, the irrigation might, in the Engineer's opinion, be greatly improved.

4. The Government further observe that the village comprises 1,055 Acres of culturable land, assessed at Rupees 3,550, of which 339 Acres, assessed at Rupees 1,190, were cultivated in Fusly 1272, leaving 716 Acres, assessed at Rupees 2,390, waste.

5. I beg to submit the accompanying Statement A., which shews the Ayacut as well as the cultivation and assessment of the entire village, the remissions paid by Government, and their net collection from Fusly 1270 to 1273. It appears from this Statement that the extent of land cultivated in Fusly 1272 was Acres 336-12-4, bearing an assessment of Rupees 1,230-9-2, and not Acres 339, assessed at Rupees 1,190; and that the Government having granted a remission of Rupees 256-0-9, their net collection was only Rupees 974-8-5.

6. With reference to the culturable waste, and the recent increase of revenue alleged by the Board of Revenue and referred to by Government, I beg leave to observe, that although there existed a large extent of waste, yet it did not now come into existence. Nothing was hitherto done, either by the Government or its officers or by the land-holders in turning this waste to account, or to bring it under cultivation. For this purpose a capital was required, and an assurance to the Ryots that they would not be over-taxed in case of the failure of their crops. There was none to advance this capital, or to hold out such an assurance. When I was treating with the Meerassidars about the purchase of a quarter share of their village, I told them it was my intention to apply and take the village on Mootah tenure, and that in regard to kist and short produce, they would be treated with the same leniency as the Ryots of my Mootah village of Canoor receive from me. Assurances like these made some of them extend their cultivation, and when I purchased the quarter share of the village in Fusly 1271, I brought cultivators from a distance, supported them, and advanced them with agricultural means to bring the lands under cultivation. The result was, as stated by Government in their Order under acknowledgment, a steady increase of revenue. This is owing to me alone, as the increase of revenue which the Government derived was almost wholly paid by me as shall be shewn immediately.

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7. In Fusly 1271 I made the purchase, and the extent of culturable land which came to my quarter share was only Acres 4-5-12 of Poonjah and 10-11 of Nunjah, besides waste. The assessment I paid for them in that year was as follows:—

Acres 4-5-12 of Poonjah assessed at ...	ES.	A.	P.
Do. 10-11-0 of Nunjah do. ...	9	3	9
	49	0	3
Deduct remission ...	53	4	0
Total ...	1	15	6
Net ...	56	4	9

In Fusly 1272 the assessment paid was for

Acres 2-9-0 of Poonjah ...	ES.	A.	P.
Do. 6-9-12-4 of Nunjah ...	6	11	8
	244	6	2

251 1 10 Increase above Fusly 1271.
194 13 4

In Fusly 1273 the extent of my cultivation and assessment were:—

Acres 6-14-12 of Poonjah ...	ES.	A.	P.
Do. 8-0-8-4 of Nunjah ...	15	15	2
	293	6	5
	309	5	7

253 1 1

8. From the Statement A. it will be seen that the difference of cultivation of the entire village from year to year was as follows:—

	Total land.	Net collection after deducting remissions.	Difference between Fusly 1271 and the other Fuslies.
	ES.	A.	P.
Fusly 1270 ...	229	10	14
" 1271 ...	256	11	10
" 1272 ...	336	12	4
" 1273 ...	394	14	0
		ES.	A.
		627	1 4
		749	11 3
		974	8 5
		1,066	0 8
		ES.	A.
		122	12 11
		224	10 2
		316	2 5

This is what the Board of Revenue call, perhaps without knowing or looking into the particulars, a steady increase of revenue; but His Excellency in Council will see that this increase was almost wholly paid by me.

8. The accompanying Statement B. shews the difference between the cultivation of the entire village, including the Cowle lands, and that of the quarter share of the Meerassy lands cultivated by me. Deducting my share of the cultivation from that of the entire village, the residue shews the revenue which the other Meerassidars and land-holders paid the Government, and a comparison between Fusly 1271 and the subsequent Fuslies also shews that the increase of revenue which the Government derived from their industry was in Fusly 1272 only Rupees 1-14-9 above Fusly 1271, and in Fusly 1273 Rupees 62-8-4 over the same Fusly; while the increase of revenue which the Government have derived from my quarter share was in Fusly 1272 Rupees 94-13-4, and in Fusly 1273 Rupees 253-1-1; and thus the Govern-

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ment will find that the alleged increase of revenue was almost wholly paid by me. Had it not been for the stimulus given by me, perhaps the Government would not have derived even the comparatively trifling increase which they did from the other land-holders.

9. Since purchasing a part of the village I have done my best to extend the cultivation, in the hope that Government would see what industry and capital when properly advanced might do to forward their interest. I believed that this would induce them to receive favorably my application for the grant of the village to me on Mootah tenure; but instead of the increase of revenue, which they have derived by my means, serving as an argument in my favor, the Board and the Government have taken advantage of it to employ it against myself, and to allege it as a ground for not acceding to my request. As for my part I did not wish to take advantage of Government by doing nothing, or shewing no increase of revenue until I got the village on Mootah tenure, but I did all to shew what the village was capable of yielding, that Government might be enabled to fix such an assessment as would fully secure their interest without losing sight of mine.

10. The accompanying Bond will shew what the cultivators are indebted to me. I have been at the expense of inducing them to quit their village and residence, and of removing and settling in this village, to provide them with houses for their accommodation and with agricultural means, and to advance them money for their support. The produce of the year before last (Fusly 1272) was so small that I was only able to recover an hundred Rupees short of the kist, viz., Rupees 251-1-10, I had to pay to Government. In last year also it was only by pressure on the Ryots that I was able to recover and pay the Government their kist without getting anything for my benefit. Thus the Government will see that I hold a Bond, amounting to nearly 400 Rupees, solely for money advanced to the Ryots, and for paying the Government kist, which up to this day I have not the means of recovering. The Government have largely benefited from my expenditure and my endeavors, while I have derived nothing. Perhaps it may be alleged that the other land-holders are in the same circumstance as myself, and that without deriving some benefit they should not have continued their cultivation. But it must be observed that the other land-holders have had large remissions, and I should be loath to seek for it, because I would then have to throw myself on the favor of the Native officials of the District, and I know I cannot purchase any favor without handsomely paying for it. Such, however, is the rule which places the land-holders under the Puttah system at the mercy of those officers, but the Government in enforcing the rule take upon themselves the responsibility for the consequences which must obviously result from it. Besides the large remissions they get, the land-holders reside on the spot, and they watch and take away from the Ryots what is due to them and to Government, leaving the Ryots with hardly any subsistence, and with absolutely nothing to cover their nakedness. In fact the Government derive all the benefit, the land-holders a trifle, but the Ryots nothing; and it is in consequence of this disproportionate, if not unfair, distribution of benefits that the large waste remaining in every village where the means of irrigation is not ample, is to be attributed.

11. It cannot be expected that I would continue to carry on the cultivation wholly for the benefit of Government without even recovering my outlay. On the receipt of the Order of Government I thought of selling away my quarter share of the village, but from the offers I received I find that I could only part with it at a very great sacrifice. As, however, I find that the Board and the Government have been mistaken in thinking that they are not beholden to me for the increase of revenue they have derived, I am encouraged to hope and have resolved upon re-submitting the case to Government; and I respectfully request that you will be so good as to lay the same before His Excellency in Council with reference to my representation, dated — December 1863, and referred to in the Order under acknowledgment.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th May 1865.*

No. 489.

ORDER THEREON, 29th May 1865, No. 1,129.

Land Revenue

1. The Government see no reason to disturb the Orders passed in their Proceedings, dated 23rd April 1864, No. 701.
2. The consideration of the Pommel tank project would alone preclude the acceptance of Mr. Amarante's proposals.

(True Extract.)

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Very Reverend B. F. Amarante.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

N^o 1129. 3^o

*The Government see no reason
to disturb the orders passed in their Proceed-*

ings dated 23rd April 1864, N^o 701. -

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of

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*The consideration of the
Pommel tank project would alone preclude
the acceptance of Mr. Amarante's propo-*

*sals. -
29th May/65.*

To the Very Reverend B. F. Amarante with Respects &c &c

114 - Board of Revenue. -

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Pro-15th December 1865
23rd April 1866

Peronne 1865. Nept.
Dis. of Govt. for May
17. 1262

From
The Very Reverend
B. H. Amarante

With an order

Dated 12th May 1866.

Recd 2 . 5 . 6

Co-2. N-1129. 27 May

by him, & requesting that
Govt may re-consider his
case with reference to his
representation of Decr 1865
as he is dissatisfied with
the Govt declining to grant
him the village either on
Lamindari tenure or on
a long lease -

458-459.

217 May 1866

Submitting two
statements showing the
Agent as well as the
cultivation and assess-
ment of the village
of Partharajapuram in
the Marath and the
difference between the
cultivation of the whole
village & that of the portion
of Mirassil lands cultivated
by