

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 570	Press ~~Mis.~~
252.253	
Dated	16 - 3 - 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th March 1865.*

No. 225. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department :—

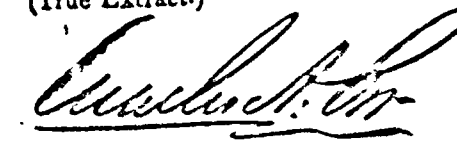
Sanctioning an estimate amounting to Rupees 16,000 for the formation of Salt pans at Pentacottah in the Vizagapatam District, and referring to the Public Works Department an estimate for a road from the pans to the Trunk Road. (Here enter 24th February 1865, No. 411.)

No. 226. ORDER THEREON, 10th March 1865, No. 677.

1. The Governor in Council approves of the estimate amounting to Rupees 23,640, re-submitted by the Board of Revenue, for the construction of a road from the Pentacottah Salt Pans to Toonee on Trunk Road No. 6, in the Vizagapatam District.

2. It has been found impracticable to make any provision in the Budget for 1865-66, for this estimate or for that of Rupees 16,000, sanctioned in the G. O. above recorded, for the formation of the Salt pans. Should, however, funds be hereafter available, a grant will be made to admit of the works being proceeded with.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

- " Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
- " Controller of Public Works Accounts.
- " Accountant General.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th March 1865.*

5. At a rough calculation, the remedial measures thus recommended would result as follows:—

Nunjah Puttah waste remitted	Rs.
Punjab do. do.	1,50,000
Nunjah Shavi	1,00,000
	<u>2,50,000</u>

The general per-centage on cultivated lands would of course be in addition to the amount thus obtained, should the Board deem this further concession necessary.

6. I must apologize for writing thus hurriedly upon so important a subject, but I am anxious that these remarks should reach the Board before they pass orders upon the course previously recommended. I have also less hesitation in thus specially representing the grounds I would advocate, as Mr. Clarke, the 3rd Member of the Board, has lately had an opportunity of seeing the state of the District, and is thus personally acquainted with its requirements.

1. In the first letter above recorded, the late Collector of Tinnevely requested permission, in consideration of the unfavorable nature of the present season, to grant remissions for short produce in accordance with the system in force in his District previous to 1859. The Board observed that special sanction for his adopting this course was unnecessary, as the most recent order of Government on the subject of remissions, (the Order, dated 10th March 1860,) permitted Collectors to grant remission for "Shavi" (which may be taken to include short produce) in accordance with the rules theretofore followed in their respective Districts.

2. In the second letter recorded above, the Acting Collector, Mr. Banbury, objects to Mr. Silver's proposals, principally in consequence of their involving an inquiry into individual losses. Mr. Banbury recommends, in preference, that remission be given (1) for all lands entered in the Puttahs, whether Nunjah or Punjab, which are left waste; (2) for Nunjah Shavi; and (3), that a general per-centage remission be given for partial failure of crop in Nunjah lands dependent for irrigation upon precarious rivers and rain-fed tanks.

3. On a due consideration of the proposals made by both officers, the Board resolve to authorize Mr. Banbury to make the following remissions: (1) full remission on all lands entered in the Puttahs and left waste, whether Nunjah or Punjab; (2) full remission on all Nunjah Shavi, "Shavi" being taken to mean the entire destruction of the crop; (3) a per-centage remission for short produce, at his discretion, on the wet lands dependent on precarious rivers and rain-fed tanks in villages which are shown to have suffered severe, though not entire, loss of crops; and (4) in particular and special instances, where such an indulgence seems to be absolutely necessary, a per-centage remission, also at his discretion, for dry crops which have perished.

4. The Board have been fully informed of the unusually unfavorable nature of the season in Tinnevely, and of the absolute necessity which exists for granting temporary remissions in favor of the Ryots, and they rely upon Mr. Banbury to carry out the orders now issued in a liberal spirit.

5. In their Proceedings, dated 10th February, No. —, the Board have already authorized the Acting Collector to permit both Nunjah and Punjab lands to be taken up for cultivation, for the few remaining months of the revenue year, at reduced rates, and to treat certain favorably assessed lands, and lands held on progressive Cowle, in the same manner as the other lands of the District, as to the grant of remissions for Shavi and short produce. Though Mr. Banbury opposes the letters in which these indulgences were applied for in the margin of a list of now under disposal, it is observed that he does not allude to their contents.

No. 253.

ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1865, No. 370.

Land Revenue.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

No. C30.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th February 1865.

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th January 1865, No. 53:—

1. I have the honor to report the following circumstances relating to the present adverse season in Tinnevely, for the consideration and orders of the Board.

2. The Board, in their Proceedings of 28th November 1859, No. 4,856, ordered that the practice of bringing villages under Amany in certain cases, which was followed under the Oloogoo system, should be discontinued altogether; and in their Proceedings of the 10th March 1860, No. 354, Revenue Department, the Government observe that remissions should be granted for Nunjah crops that had perished from want of water, in accordance with the rules heretofore followed in each District.

3. The practice which prevailed in this District up to 1859, was to ascertain the actual out-turn in both seasons, of the lands which suffered from entire and partial failure of crops, and if the loss incurred by the Ryot exceeded 30 per cent. of the out-turn of his total cultivation in both Carr and Peshnam, remission was granted. This system of granting remissions for crops which yielded short produce, was abolished under the orders of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th November 1859, and remissions have been since restricted to crops that have entirely perished from want of water.

4. Owing to the failure of the north-east monsoon this year, with exception of the lands under the irrigation of the main river, the Tambrapoorney, much of the crops under minor rivers and rain-fed tanks have already perished, and of the rest, much will only yield "Manipidi," or short produce.

5. It would be both very hard and impolitic to enforce payment of the full assessment on such lands in this adverse season, and I beg to recommend that, as a special case, remissions should be granted in this year, for crops which may yield short produce, in accordance with the Rules which were in force up to 1859, and I request the early orders of the Board on the subject.

6. I am of opinion that the crops which may be estimated to yield two grain cottahs and under per seed cottah, should be ordered to be harvested by the Ryots, paying a moiety of the estimated out-turn to Government, and that the lands, the produce of which is above two cottahs, should be brought under Amany.

1. The Board do not see that any special sanction is needed in this case.

2. The Government Order of 10th March 1860, No. 354, directs that the previous rules in each District be maintained in the case of partial losses from bad seasons.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary.

To J. Silver, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely.

Ed. J. Wright.

Observing that no special sanction appears necessary for the grant of remissions in cases where crops yield short produce.

No. 630.

Received
14th February 1865.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

1865.

Department.

No. 871.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th February 1865.

Read again letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, dated 27th January 1865, No. 53, and recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 4th February 1865.

Read also the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palamcottah, 3rd February 1865, No. 73:—

1. I have the honor to request that the Board will kindly pass orders as soon as possible regarding the procedure to be adopted this year with reference to the remissions; and concerning which subject Mr. Silver has already

27th January 1865, No. 53.
2nd " " " 60.
3rd " " " 67.

addressed the Board by the letters marginally noted.

2. It may seem presumptuous in the highest degree by venturing to differ in any way from the course recommended by Mr. Silver, considering his long acquaintance with the District, still I venture to request the Board will take into consideration the following points when disposing of the subject.

3. The season has been undoubtedly very unfavorable, and that alleviation must be given is admitted on all hands; instead, however, of making calculations as to the profits, out-turn, and supposed loss of each individual, would it not be far preferable to adopt the course laid down by Government, and previously approved of by the Board, of granting a general remission on the whole assessment, or on particular Taluks and localities? In the Government Proceedings, dated 18th June 1859, it is ruled that in cases like the present they "will probably be best met, not by investigation of individual cases, a course open to very great objection, but by a general per centage for a particular District or Taluk or tract of country." Should we inquire into the supposed circumstances of each Ryot, and in the cases of "short produce" make "Oladay," or actual division of the crop as is now suggested, I fear the results will be as lamentable as the season itself.

4. I would request the Board's orders on the subject of "short produce;" the subject seems to be investigated here, but I never heard of it elsewhere; it should be borne in mind, that the present enormous price of grain and straw makes up for any deficiencies in the out-turn, and that the Olongoo commutation price is permanently fixed at 3 Rupees per cottah, whereas the selling price actually realized is 10 Rupees per cottah. I beg to submit the following scheme for the Board's consideration. There can be but little doubt that in such a year as the present, and with such an industrious population as the Tinnevely District contains, that but very few cases of wilful neglect of cultivation can have occurred; moreover, as the Board are doubtless aware, the lands have been entered in the Ryots' Puttahs in rather an arbitrary fashion, and the lands whether cultivated or not were included. It is true that one year they paid the whole of the taxes thus entered in their Puttahs, but during the present year, as an exceptional case, I would recommend that both Nunjah and Punjab Puttah; waste be remitted; likewise Nunjah Shavy; the average Punjab rate is, I learn, about 12 Annas an acre; any per centage, therefore, on account of partial failure of Punjab grains is, I think, scarcely needed. With regard to the alleviation to be granted for the Nunjah lands, should the Board deem that a general per centage is necessary, I would submit that there appears no necessity for any indulgence upon those wet lands under permanent river irrigation, their profits will be most remunerative even supposing they only obtain half the usual out-turn, with regard to the lands dependant upon precarious rivers and rain-fed tanks, the Board might be disposed to allow a per centage of remission to be granted throughout, higher under the latter than under the former sources, as the tanks this year have received but a most scanty supply. One great advantage of a per centage, or as it is termed a "Shekada" remission, is that every one clearly knows what he is entitled to get. When individual details are taken up and inquired into, the result is doubtful, and the amount of remission will not unfrequently be according to the amount of douceur the applicant is prepared to pay.

5. At a rough calculation, the remedial measures thus recommended would result as follows:—

	RS.
Nunjah Puttah waste remitted	1,50,000
Punjab do. do.	1,00,000
Nunjah Shavy... ..	1,00,000
	3,50,000

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2. In the second letter recorded above, the Acting Collector, Mr. Banbury, objects to Mr. Silver's proposals, principally in consequence of their involving an inquiry into individual losses. Mr. Banbury recommends, in preference, that remission be given (1) for all lands entered in the Pattahs, whether Nunjah or Punjab, which are left waste; (2) for Nunjah Shavi; and (3) that a general per centage remission be given for partial failure of crop in Nunjah lands dependent for irrigation upon precarious rivers and rain-fed tanks.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

To G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely,
Copy to J. D. Sin, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Edw. Wright.

W. Banbury
Acting Secretary.

*Proceedings of 19. 11
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

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