

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1237

Press
Mis.

Dated 23.5.

1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd May 1866.*

No. 437. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th April 1866, No. 2,514.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd January and 8th March 1866, Nos. 507 and 1,605.

Read also the following letters :—

From the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ellore, 16th March 1866, No. 48.

In reply to the remark in the concluding paragraph of the Board's Proceedings No. 1,605, of the 8th instant, regarding "Gramakurch," I have the honor to reply as follows :—

This impost, in its old form, is not now levied anywhere in this District, and therefore, perhaps, the use of the term is rather a misnomer. It now includes only fees paid to Moonsiffs, Curnums, Pettanadars, Vettians and such like village servants. But when I first joined the District, I found that it was largely levied in the shape of temple fees, for which there was no authority whatever. Finding this to be the case, I immediately forbid the entry of them in the Village Puttah, or their collection and distribution by the village authorities. I at the same time told the Ryots, that if, of their own free will, they chose to give fees to any temple, they were at perfect liberty to do so.

From the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nursapur, 17th March 1866, No. 334-13.

1. Referring to the Board's Proceedings of the 8th instant, No. 1,605, I have the honor to state, that Mr. Fraser in his letter of the 26th ultimo, No. 44, has correctly described the discussions which took place on the subject of the emoluments of the village servants, and the orders passed thereon at the time of the settlement of the Western Delta. The assessment in force prior to the introduction of the new settlement, and which included the village charges, necessarily ceased from the date on which the new settlement took effect; and the Government having directed the question of imposing an addition to that settlement to meet the village charges, to be held in abeyance pending further orders, it was not competent to the Collector, in the meantime, to impose such an addition.

2. As regards Mr. Fraser's proposal in paragraph 5, that Madras Act IV. of 1864 should be extended to the Western Delta Talooks for the current Fusly, and to the remainder of the District from the commencement of Fusly 1276, I think that it would be preferable to extend the Act to the whole District simultaneously, from the date last mentioned. The Jummahbundy of the Western Delta Talooks, for the current Fusly, has been for the most part closed, and will have been completed altogether and the Puttahs issued, before a Government Order extending the Act, can be passed. Section 4 requires the amount of the cess payable by each landholder to be entered in his Puttah. It would be deemed a great hardship if, at this late period of the season, the Puttahs were to be re-collected, and a fresh and unexpected demand made upon the Ryots. Further, Section 11 provides that the Act shall take effect from such date as the Government shall direct by Notification in the Gazette, and the expediency of now fixing the 1st July 1865 as that date, and thus giving the Act nine months retrospective effect, seems questionable.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd May 1866.*

1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that the Village Service Cess Act be introduced into the Godavery District from Fusly 1276, commencing 1st July 1866, and that all fees to the village servants contemplated by that Act be discontinued from that date.

2. The old Joint-rent settlement included in these fees, which were embodied in the demand against the village, and then deducted under the head of ordinary remissions, and disbursed to the parties entitled to receive them.

3. On the introduction of the revised assessment this levy ceased, as the new settlement did not include the village service fees, the Government, however, expressly reserving to themselves the power to levy a cess should they deem fit to do so; and the village establishments have consequently been since paid by grants from the Treasury, the Ryots being to a corresponding extent relieved from a payment which was due from them.

4. There seems no reason why this charge on the State revenues should be continued, now that the assessment of the whole District has been revised.

5. The Collector should at once report what percentage on the revenues of the District will be needed to raise the sum due to the Village Establishments as at present constituted.

No. 438. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1866, No. 1,237.

Land Revenue.

No. IV. of 1861, Madras.

1. The Governor in Council concurs with the Board of Revenue as to the expediency of introducing the Village Service Cess Act into the Godavery District from the commencement of the ensuing Fusly, viz., 1st July next, but considers it desirable that the Village Establishments should first be carefully revised so as to avoid further changes in the rate of the cess.

2. The collective Board will, therefore, undertake this revision at once, as pointed out in paragraph 13 of G. O. 23rd November 1865, No. 2,946.

3. As regards the grouping of villages, the Government will here remark that they would wish every place, really deserving of the name of a village, to have its Head man and Taliary. As regards the Curnums and Vetties the grouping system is less open to objection when kept within reasonable limits.

4. The Board will submit their scheme with the least practicable delay.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
,, the Judicial Department.

No. 507.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd January 1866.

Read the following letter from J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bikkavole, Ramachendrapur Taluk, 6th January 1866, No. 4:—

1. In reply to paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 28th November 1865, No. 7,607, I have the honor to report that fees are collected from the Ryots in all the villages in which the joint-renting system obtains for the payment of the village establishments and Sader-warid. It is paid by the Ryots under the name of village charges (or Gramakurch), and is included in the demand of Land Revenue as entered in column 22 of the Jummahbundy Statement No. 3, and deducted under the head of ordinary remissions, as particularized in the Jummahbundy Statement No. 4.

2. The net amount of demand of Land Revenue payable to Government is entered in column 24 of the above-mentioned Statement No. 3.

3. No such fees are collected in the villages in which the new settlement rates have been introduced. The amount provided in the Local Fund Statements for the years 1864-65 and 1865-66, on account of village establishments, is for payment to the village establishments in those villages of the Sub-division in which the joint-renting system has been done away with since Fusly 1272, in lieu of the remuneration which they (the village establishments) received from the Ryots under the name of village charges, as explained above, up to Fusly 1271, as well as for the establishment of Nalwadis hitherto included in the temporary establishments, and annually sanctioned by Government to be continued until the introduction of the new village establishments, also for the payment of village servants sanctioned in the Order of Government, dated 2nd May 1864, No. 761. This charge in joint-rented villages will disappear with the introduction of the new settlement this year.

The Collector will explain why the collection of the Village Service Fees was discontinued by the Government officers on the introduction of the new settlement, seeing that that was expressly sanctioned by Government as *exclusive* of such charges on the land; whether the payment has since been made direct by the Ryots to the village servants; and whether there is any objection to the introduction of the village service cess coincidently with the new settlement, the fees being abolished.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary.

To J. Fraser, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District.

Exd. J. Wright.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th March 1866.

Read the following letter from J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Amlapur, 26th February 1866, No. 44 :—

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of the 22nd ultimo, No. 507, I have the honor to inform you, that the collection of village service fees was discontinued by Government officers, on the introduction of the new settlement in the Western Delta Taluks of this District in Fusly 1272, for the following reasons.

2. In paragraph 162 of his report, dated 13th October 1860, No. 87, Mr. Master, the then Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, asked whether the emoluments that may eventually be fixed for the different offices were to be provided for by an addition to the settlement assessment, or were to be deducted from it, as the assessment which in paragraph 143 of his report has been compared with the proposed settlement includes the village charges. The Board, in paragraph 32 of their Proceedings, dated 23rd April 1861, No. 2,110, state that the assessment proposed by Mr. Newill includes a road fund of Rupees 2 per cent., but no other cess, and suggested that Mr. Pelly's attention should be requested to the subject of remuneration of the village servants, &c. Upon this the Government passed Proceedings, dated 21st June 1861, No. 1,231, and directed in paragraph 5, that "the question of imposing cess for village servants need not be discussed at present." They say that the proposed assessment is moderate enough to admit of such a cess being levied in addition, and the Government reserve the power of imposing it, if, on consideration, they deem it right to do so. No further orders on the subject have been issued yet, except Act No. IV of 1864, for the levy of village cess in lieu of village service fees, in which a certain per centage on land revenue and water tax, has been ordered to be levied on account of remuneration to village servants, &c. But this Act has not been brought into operation yet in this District.

3. No payment has ever been made direct by the Ryots to village servants.

4. On an application made by Mr. Morris, the late Acting Collector, in his letter, dated 17th July 1863, No. 201, for the sanction of Government for Rupees 11,707-15-5 for disbursement to the village servants of the Sub-division Taluks for Fusly 1272, in consequence of the payments of village cess having been discontinued after the introduction of the new settlement assessment, the Government have, in their Proceedings, dated 26th February 1864, conveyed in the Board's Proceedings of the 22nd April 1864, No. 2,432, sanctioned the amount of Rupees 9,964-7-11 to be paid from the allotment of Rupees 13,309 authorized for the payment of the village officers of the Godavery District.—*Vide* Government Order, dated 31st May 1865, No. 1,159, communicated in the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXIII, of the 12th June 1865. In the same manner the payment has been made to the village servants for Fusly 1272, as ordered in the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, dated 12th June 1865, No. LXIII.

5. I think it desirable that Act No. IV, of 1864 be extended, for the current Fusly, to the Western Delta Taluks of the Sub-division, in which the new settlement has been already introduced, and the village service fees abolished, and for the remaining portion of the District from the commencement of next Fusly, into which the new settlement will soon be introduced. The allowances received by the village servants from Gramakurch can then be abolished.

1. Forwarded to the Director of Revenue Settlement for his remarks.

2. The Collector is requested to explain the concluding sentence of his letter. The Board were under the impression that all levy of "Gramakurch" had been long ago prohibited.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary.

To the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

Copy to the Collector of the Godavery District.

Exd. J. Wright.

Received by Mr. Fraser, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, on 26th February 1866.

James W. Fraser, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District.

26th February 1866.

1866.

Department.

No. 607.

Requesting the Collector of the Godavery District to report why the collection of Village Service Fees was discontinued on the introduction of the new settlement, and whether there is any objection to the introduction of the village service fees concurrently with the new settlement, the fees being abolished.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

Recd. 10/6/66

1866.

Department.

No. 1237.

23rd May 1864

The first concert
 in the the Board
 of Revenue as to
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 of in the revenue
 the Village Service
 Cess Act in the
 primary district
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 ment of the En-
 dowed is st 1/4 per cent.
 but can order it
 down at the throat the

No. IV of 1864. Madras.

W.D.

Village Estab-
 lishments should first
 be carefully verified
 so as to avoid fur-
 ther changes in the
 rate of the Cess.

Rate of the Cess to
 should first be de-
 termined.
 The full amount
 should be from the

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

No.

Dec 1076/64

1864.

Department.

Dec 1864 March 1866

No. 1605.

Forwarding to Officiating Director of Revenue
 Settlement for remarks letter from Collector of
 Godavery district reporting why collection of
 Village Service fees was discontinued by Co-
 venient Officers and requesting Collector
 to explain his remarks regarding levy of
 "Gramakurala".

11/1/65

nor any of the last
 Para of the B. d.
 provisions. Neither the
 B. d. are overlooked
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 lected or demand-
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 most arbitrary
 manner - and as
 the Law requires
 that the proceeds
 of the Cess shall
 be applied in the
 village or group of
 villages in which
 it is raised - the
 Collector will have
 as the B. d. provide -
 as certain & re-
 port the rate of the
 levied in each

This Section was
 thus modified by
 the Legislative Coun-
 cil & will pro-
 vide income.
 -ment.
 so to modify & amend
 objections to the
 Bill in Council
 but it is not necessary
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 kind of thing
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 the Collector will have
 to follow if the
 Bill is passed
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village - This will
 occupy much
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 are revised & placed
 on an efficient con-
 dition -
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 that it would be
 best for the Collector
 to therefore
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 the business at once,
 as pointed out in
 para 134 of 28th Nov.

1865 No 2948

As by order of the

proving of village

the first mile here

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would not every

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of a village, but

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& salary and

if necessary, they

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to the former

least receiving

his remuneration

in the free land

in the form of a

remission of ad-

assessment. As regards

the circumstances & matters

the grouping system
is less open to objection
when kept within
reasonable limits.

I think servants
should be paid
in money.

The first mile
to limit their scheme
with the least
practicable delay

J. D. S.

14 April 1865 of West Dept. 25.
Judicial Dept.

32
4

6-7/1/51

Revenue 1866 Dep't
Pro of Govt for May

No 1237

Pro of the Madras
Government
27 23rd May 1866

Genl
Stanh
Doyle
20 May

No 1237-438

Order of the
Village Council of the
Madrass District