

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1295

Press
~~Mis.~~

117-119

Dated

7-6-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

117-119

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th June 1867.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 117. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th March 1867, No. 1,890.
Readt he following letter from the Collector of the Kistna District, to the Secretary
to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 1st March 1867, No. 55.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for the orders of the Board, copies of
a letter forwarded to the Inam Commissioner, and of his reply thereto, on the subject
of the proposal of certain Inamdars in the villages of Dayempad, &c., in Gudiwada
talook, that portions of their Inams be resumed, and a title to the remainder free of
quit-rent be granted to them.

From the Collector of the Kistna District, to the Officiating Inam Commissioner, Madras, dated
Circuit Cutcherry at Vinukonda, 27th December 1866, No. 8.

1. I have the honour to inform you that for the three temples, situated in the villages of Day-
empad, Pallevada, and Wurimedilunka, in the
Gudiwada talook, Title Deeds, numbered as per
margin, were issued by your department for 66

acres of Inam land in the said villages, with a quit-rent of Rupees 42 per annum.

2. The holders of the Inams in question complain of their inability to pay the quit-rent, with
arrears, owing to the lands being situated in the Colair islands ; and request that out of their Inams,
such portion of land as may be equal to the quit-rent may be resumed by Government, and the
remainder confirmed to them as Inams free of any quit-rent, and new Title Deeds issued.

3. The Inams have been surveyed and found to be A. 79, C. 9, as will be seen from the State-
ment, being the enclosure of the Tahsildar's
Arzee, No. 596.* According to the principle
adopted by your department, the assessment on
this A. 79, C. 9 of land amounts to Rupees 203-14-0, the quit-rent being Rupees 51-8-0, and the
land equal to this sum is A. 19, C. 89, which the Inamdars request may be included in the Govern-
ment land in lieu of the quit-rent on their Inams, making over to them the remaining extent of
A. 59, C. 20 under fresh Title Deeds free of assessment, and remitting the arrears due by them.

From the Officiating Inam Commissioner, to the Collector of the Kistna District, dated Madras,
12th February 1867, No. 121.

In reply to your letter,† dated 27th December 1866, No. 8, I have the honour to state that I
do not feel myself competent to authorize you to
resume portions of the Inams therein referred to,
and to remit in lieu the quit-rents on the Inams.

† Enclosures herewith returned.

The matter is one which should be referred for the orders of the Board of Revenue. My own
opinion is that it is not desirable that any such exchange should be made.

Forwarded to the Acting Inam Commissioner for his remarks.

No. 118. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st May 1867, No. 3,126.
Read again letter from the Collector of the Kistna District, dated 1st March 1867,
No. 55, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th idem, No. 1,890.

Read also the following letters.

From the Collector of the Kistna District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
dated Masulipatam, 9th March 1867, No. 69.

In continuation of my letter, of the date and number as per margin, I have the
honour to annex herein copies of fur-
ther correspondence with the Inam

1st March 1867, No. 55.

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Commissioner, and request the orders of the Board on the subject of resumption of a portion of Inams therein referred to, in lieu of quit-rent which the Inamdars are unable to pay, and of granting Freehold Title Deeds for the remaining portion of the Inam lands.

From the Collector of the Kistna District, to the Officiating Inam Commissioner, dated Vinucondah, 27th December 1866, No. 7.

* To be returned, No. 611, of 18th December 1866.

1. I have the honour to forward, herewith, an Arzi from the Gudiwada Tahsildar with enclosures.*

2. You will perceive therefrom that a Title Deed was issued by your department with a quit-rent of Rupees 5 for an Inam of Acres 8, Cawnies (Cents?) 96, belonging to Sri Amruteswara Swamyvar, in Pottelunka village, in the Kaikalur division of the talook.

3. There accrued a balance on account of quit-rent, amounting to Rupees 30, from Fuslics 1270 to 1275. The holder of the Inam states that the land being situated in one of the islands of the Collair will not yield produce every year, and he is, therefore, unable to pay the arrears and quit-rent; he requests, therefore, in lieu thereof that a proportionate extent of land from his Inam may be incorporated with Government land, and the remainder continued to him under a fresh Title Deed free of any quit-rent in the same manner as has been done in the case of some Temple Inams of Culdindy Purganah in the same talook.

4. As I think the application reasonable, I beg to submit it for your favourable consideration.

From the Officiating Inam Commissioner, to the Collector of the Kistna District, dated Madras, 22nd February 1867, No. 169.

In reply to your letter,* dated 27th December 1866, No. 7, I have the honour to state that I

* Enclosures herewith returned.

do not feel myself authorized to resume a portion of the Inam therein referred to, and to relieve the Inamdar from the obligation of paying the quit-rent fixed on the Inam. I would suggest your submitting the question for the orders of the Board of Revenue.

From the Officiating Inam Commissioner, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 3rd April 1867, No. 9.

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th March 1867, No. 1,890.

2. I still consider that it is not desirable to resume portions of Inams in lieu of the quit-rents due on the lands, and Mr. Taylor entertained the same opinion, though in one or two instances he deviated from the rule.

3. My reasons for holding this view are as follow:—

1st.—It would be difficult to determine the exact extent and the locality of the land to be resumed. The Collector proposes that the land resumed should bear the same proportion to the whole extent of the Inam as the quit-rent does to the full assessment upon which the quit-rent has been calculated. In other words, if one-fourth or one-eighth of the assessment has been charged as the quit-rent, he proposes to resume one-fourth or one-eighth of the land. This mode of carrying out resumption of lands in lieu of quit-rents is open to manifest objection. One-fourth or one-eighth of the extent of land is not necessarily equal to one-fourth or one-eighth of the value of the Inam, and it would certainly not be possible always to resume the land in one convenient locality if any regard is to be paid to the quality of the land resumed. The only feasible method of carrying out the proposed

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7th June 1867.*

measure would be by resuming an area equal in value to the quit-rent. There are, however, objections even to this course. In many districts Inams have been assessed for the first time by this department. No *fieldwar* assessment was made, but a lump sum was fixed on general considerations on the whole Inam. This assessment cannot, therefore, furnish any data for determining the value of the land which would be equal to the quit-rent, and for this purpose recourse must be had to the rates of the Revenue Settlement Department. In most cases this would involve a long delay, as it will be several years before the Settlement and Survey are completed in all the districts of the Presidency. It must also be borne in mind that the Settlement rates would not be available in all cases, as that department does not extend its operations to Zemindaries, or to whole villages in Government talooks.

2ndly.—The management of the resumed portions of Inams when situated in Zemindaries, or Inam villages, would be attended with difficulty and inconvenience. The Board are aware that the collection of quit-rent on Inams in Zemindaries has to be made over to the Zemindars, and I think it very doubtful whether they would consent to this arrangement if clogged with the condition of allowing Inamdars to resign portions of their Inams in redemption of the quit-rents.

3rdly.—The measure proposed is calculated to diminish the security for the punctual realization of the quit-rent. While at present the whole Inam is responsible for the quit-rent, only a portion of it will be so under the proposed arrangement. Moreover remissions will have to be allowed on the resumed portions of the Inam lands, to which at present they are not entitled. And further there is a possibility of the resumed lands being thrown up, and of a consequent sacrifice of the whole quit-rent.

4thly.—If the indulgence is allowed as a general measure, it would involve the necessity of re-opening the Inam Settlement throughout the Presidency.

4. The foregoing remarks apply generally to all the districts of the Presidency, though chiefly to the Northern Circars and the Districts of Tinnevely, Nellore, Tanjore, and Kurnool, where Inams have been assessed by this department for the first time on general considerations without particular reference to the capabilities of each field.

5. I cannot say how far the observations I have made are applicable to the particular cases of Inams referred to in Mr. Thornhill's letter. I have only to observe that they are said to be more or less frequently inundated by the waters of the Kollair Lake, and I believe that portions of them are more liable to inundation than others.

6. I can understand that, notwithstanding the difficulties I have pointed out, it might be considered expedient to permit the holders of Inams attached to Pagodas and other religious institutions to resign portions of their Inams in redemption of the quit-rent. Unless, however, the arrangement were extended to the whole, or at least to a large majority of the Inams held by religious institutions throughout the Presidency, there would be little real advantage in carrying it out in a few isolated cases.

1. The Board resolve to submit the papers above recorded for the consideration and orders of Government.

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2. The Board never contemplated allowing *all* Inamdars the privilege of resigning a portion of their Inam land in redemption of the quit-rent. They are of opinion that this concession might with advantage be made in the case of all *religious* endowments when desired. Whatever weight may be due to the objections raised by Mr. Blair, the Board are of opinion that they would be more than counterbalanced in these cases by the political advantages gained in thus absolutely severing all connection between the Government and the religious institutions of the people, and in insuring the endowments against the contingency of resumption for arrears of quit-rent.

3. As observed by Mr. Blair, the terms on which Mr. Thornhill proposes to carry out the measure in the case under notice by him are faulty, but there would be practically no difficulty in resuming so much of the Inam as would bear an assessment equal to the quit-rent, having in view of course the assessment of similar lands in the vicinity. This is an arrangement of frequent occurrence.

4. Where the quit-rent is not payable to Government, the Board would leave matters as they are; their object being solely to relieve Government from the invidious task of attaching and selling religious endowments for arrears.

No. 119. ORDER THEREON, 7th June 1867, No. 1,295.

Miscellaneous.

1. The proposals submitted by the Board, and which involve many very important considerations, arose out of applications from holders of Inams in the Colair lake islands for relief, by partial relinquishment, from a quit-rent which they assert to be excessive as a *fixed* annual charge, although less than the full assessment charged for such lands on ryots who have the option of annual relinquishment or can claim remission in the event of inundation.

2. The facts of the case seem to prove the correctness of the assertion, and the Government do not deem it necessary to dispose of the somewhat complicated question raised by the Board in order to afford relief in these individual cases.

3. They desire, therefore, that the Board will obtain a report from the Collector on this point, and consider whether the applicants are fairly entitled to a reduction of their permanent quit-rent on account of the special liability of their lands to inundation.

4. Meanwhile, the Government will only observe that any question of the sale of temple endowment lands for arrears of quit-rent should not be disposed of without reference to them.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department

H. 1295

*Proceedings of the Madras Govt
under date the 7th June 1867.*

Read the following

Proc. of the Bd. of Rev.

*Submitting for
consideration & orders with
remarks, letter from Collyer
of District Lt on the subject
of resumption of certain
Inams in the Lt.*

*(Here enter 21st May
1867, No. 3126)*

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W.H.

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July of June 1869

Pro Board of Revenue
2/16 Oct 1869 2855

Board to report
on the application for
a reduction of public
rent on account of
the liability of persons
in the Colon, take
steps to inundation.

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