M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1812 Press Misc

110 · 111

Dated 7 — 8 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

5200
12-8-1867

B.P.M. 5200
12-8-1867.

No. 110. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th July 1867, No. 4,766.

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 28th February 1867, No. 45½:—

1. Adverting to the Orders of Government, communicated in Board's Proceedings noted in the margin, I have the honor to submit two Statements A and B, giving all the details connected with the lands which it is proposed to assign in lieu of ready-money allowances for the support of the several religious institutions, Hindu and Mahommedan, throughout this district.

Standing Circular No. LXXXIII, Board No. 4,188, 9th July 1863.

2. In preparing these statements, a premium of ten per cent. has been allowed on occupied lands, of fifteen per cent. on unoccupied waste, and of twenty per cent. on immemorial waste. To complete this arrangement, it becomes necessary to transfer lands paying an aggregate assessment of Rupees 42,097-6-6, that being the total amount of cash allowances heretofore payable to the several religious institutions enumerated in the statements, inclusive of the premium allowed for vicissitude of season, expense of management, and other contingencies.

3. The trifling difference of Rupees 2-3-4, in the value of lands so assigned, is made up of fractional parts, too minute to be brought into the reckoning in equalizing the valuations. This difference is so insignificant, as scarcely to deserve notice.

4. The Poultry at Sholinghur has been included with the other religious institutions in the transfer, their Statement A, and lands assigned in lieu of its ready-money allowances, although the charity itself is to remain in the management of the Revenue authorities, under the instructions conveyed in paragraph 3 of the Board's Circular, No.——, dated——

5. In many instances, the ryots have expressed great dissatisfaction at the prospect of becoming tenants under the trustees of these religious institutions; but as there was no alternative course open, the lands selected by the trustees have been entered in the statements, and I have done all in my power to re-assure the ryots by giving them to understand, that the rights and privileges which they have heretofore enjoyed under Government will not be disturbed by the change, and that the trustees will have no power to raise the assessment, or otherwise intermeddle with their tenures. The trustees have, on the other hand, been as plainly informed, that, in respect of occupied lands, they merely take the place of the Government, and are only entitled to collect the assessment which such lands now bear.

6. In cases where the Meerah is directly leviable by the village servants from the ryot, the liability lies, as heretofore, on the ryots even under the change of tenancy which the new measure involves, but a difficulty arises in cases where this charge (Meerah) is borne by Government and has been met heretofore by a Puttah assignment on the revenues of the particular village concerned.

To Board, No. 263, dated 23rd December 1863.
From ,, ,, 616, ,, 28th January 1864.
To ,, ,, 64, ,, 17th March ,,
From ,, ,, 7,335, ,, 11th November ,,

7. Referring to the correspondence noted in the margin, on the subject of Meerah fees payable to village servants, I am not quite sure that I understand the meaning of the Board's remarks in the latter part of paragraph 1 of the last of these papers.

8. It is, however, evident that the value of lands, allotted in commutation of temple allowances, being the mere equivalent of what has hitherto been paid in ready-money to the institution, *plus* the premium allowed to meet contingencies, the trustees cannot be charged with the Meerah without affecting the equivalent thus given in substitution of the ready-money allowances hitherto paid to the temples in their management.

9. It is clearly the intention of Government that each institution should have in land, the full equivalent of the allowance which it has hitherto received in cash, and I do not suppose that in computing the rate of premium which should be allowed, it was ever assumed that a Meerah charge was among the contingencies to be so provided for.

10. In dealing with this class of cases, the following questions present themselves :—

1*st*.—How is the Meerah charge to be provided for in villages in which the whole occupied ayacut is made over as Inam for the endowment of temples.

2*nd*.—How in villages, where, after the lands transferred as Inam have been deducted from the total ayacut, the remainder of the cultivable area only yields an assessment equal in value to the Meerah fees due on the entire ayacut, or, in other words, when the village beriz is absorbed in Inam and Meerah.

3*rd*.—In cases again where the entire *Nunjah* ayacut of a village have been assigned as Inam, how is the Meerah to be raised ?

The Board will recollect, from my former reports, that in this district a Meerah rate is not collected as Punjah. To all this it may be answered, that with the absorption of the village revenue will disappear the necessity of providing for the remuneration of Monigar and Curnum. But this does not dispose of the difficulty, as the Monigar will still have to inspect the cultivation of those lands, even after they have been transferred on Inam tenure, and the former has accounts to render of land reclaimed from Government Porumboke or upon which water-tax may become due. The Curnum will still have his Register of Puttahs and Muchilkas to keep under Section 6, Act VIII of 1865, and the Monigar, if the task of revenue collection be somewhat lighter, will still have his Magisterial and general duties in the village to perform.

11. The only alternative, as it appears to me, for providing for the Meerah charge in villages in which the Government demand has either been greatly affected by the transfer of its land to temple Inam, or where such demand has wholly ceased to exist, will be to pay these fees out of the general revenues of the talook concerned, the rate being fixed on an average of the cess for the last five years and disbursed quarterly or half-yearly as may be found most convenient. Any balance of Government demand in such villages would then be carried to account without deductions for Meerah thus otherwise provided for. An exception might, perhaps,

be made in the case of villages, where the Meerah falls short of its usual amount owing to the partial transfer of its lands, by an equivalent assignment on the Puttah demand of any ryot of that village, whom the servant entitled to such fees might select.

12. On learning from the Board whether they are disposed to accept my proposition, or have some other plan which recommends itself to their preference, I shall submit a statement shewing the sacrifice of revenue on account of Meerah payable by Government upon lands granted as Inam to religious institutions.

13. As regards the issue of deeds of grant, I beg to suggest that they may be drawn up in the name of the Pagoda or Mosque, &c., as the case may be, and distributed to the trustees duly appointed by their respective Managing Committees. These titles will be prepared and forwarded for the purpose of having the Government seal impressed on them as soon as the assignment of the Inam lands (as distributed in my statements) to their respective religious institutions has been finally sanctioned.

14. There are still some cases pending in connection with these assignments of lands. These will shortly be tabulated and submitted to the Board in a Supplemental Statement.

---

1. The letter relates to the assignment of land proposed to be made to Hindoo nd Mahommedan religious institutions in the North Arcot District, in lieu of the llowances in money they now receive. The Board observe that the Collector has llowed for variations of season, in accordance with the principles laid down in overnment Order, dated 2nd July 1865, No. 1,166. The discrepancies he adverts in paragraph 3 of his letter are of no consequence.

2. In some cases the Meerahs payable out of the assigned lands have hitherto een paid by the occupants of the lands. Wherever this has been the practice, the ere transfer will make no difference. The ryots will continue to pay the Meerahs it of their share of the produce as usual.

3. But in the great majority of cases the village Meerahs have been paid out the Government dues. In these cases they must continue to be disbursed from overnment sources, and must henceforward be paid from the Government treary. The proposed assignments of land do not include them, and if they are to paid by the trustees of the institutions, a special assignment will have to be ade on their account. This, besides burdening the trustees with a duty not operly devolving on them, would throw the remuneration of Government servants persons over whom the Government have little control, an arrangement which uld be much to be deprecated.

4. The Board infer from the statements which accompany the Collector's er, that in some cases the endowments are for the support of the person who formed the service (in whose family the office is hereditary) as well as for the ntenance of the institutions, while in others they are wholy for the maintenance ne institution, the performance of the services, &c., and are free from conditions onal to the holders.

5. The Inam Commissioner should be instructed to issue title-deeds for the gnments when they have been converted into land. In the former case the

4

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

deed should specify the family performing the service, and declare the office hereditary in it to *lineal* descendants so long as the service is carried on. In the latter case no conditions whatever should accompany the enfranchisement, the land being conferred simply on the institutions. A condition should be entered in *all* the deeds reserving the occupancy rights of the ryots.

6. When this has been done, the Board would place all the institutions under the management of the Committee under Act XX of 1863.

7. If these views have the concurrence of Government, the Collector will be called upon by the Board to submit the circumstances of each endowment for the guidance of the Inam Commissioner, and the preparation of the deeds.

No. 111. ORDER THEREON, 7th August 1867, No. 1,812.

Miscellaneous.

The views expressed by the Board have the approval of Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant General.
„ the Inam Commissioner.

Exd. S. T. Augusti.

Dated 25th July 1867.

No. 4,766.

Passing orders on letter from Collector of North Arcot, relating to assignment of land proposed to be made over to Hindoo and Mahomedan Religious Institutions in lieu of allowances in money.