

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	161	Press <u>Mis.</u>
³²⁰⁻³²² Dated	21-1-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st January 1868.*

No. 320. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th January 1868 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 10th January 1868, No. 5.

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of the Board of Revenue, that the season in Coimbatore is a bad one, and that the crops, wet and dry, have consequently suffered. In the early part of October there was a good fall of rain, and things promised well; many lands were ploughed and sown, and others were prepared for the seed-grain, but since about the 16th of that month there has been little or no rain in many of the talooks, and the consequence is, that some lands were left waste, whilst others have yielded no crop, and many lands have not given more than half and one-quarter of their usual produce. These remarks apply chiefly to dry lands, but I regret to add that many lands under tank and river irrigation have also suffered, and that the crops on them have withered. The Noyel river, which derives its supply of water from the Bolamputty hills during the south-west monsoon, has been worst off.

2. The parts of the district which have suffered most are the Coimbatore and Pulladum Talooks, a portion of the Darapuram and Oodoomulpettah Talooks, the western part of the Perindoray Talook, the north-east part of the Pollachy Talook beyond the influence of the south-west monsoon, a portion of the Collegal Talook, and about forty villages in the north-west part of the Suttimungalum Talook.

3. There is reason to believe that in none of the above parts of the district have the ryots got more than one-half of their dry crops.

4. The talooks which have suffered most are Coimbatore and Pulladum, and of these two Pulladum is worst off. In it the ryots have lost most of their dry crops.

5. Under these circumstances, I consider there are strong grounds for making considerable remission of the Government demand on dry and wet lands.

6. Of course, on those dry lands cultivated by means of wells no remissions are required. I however propose that on all dry lands left waste, seventy-five per cent. of the assessment shall be remitted. It may be urged that the whole assessment should be remitted, but it is to be remembered that on waste dry lands the expenses of ploughing and cost of seed have not been incurred, and that the ryots have also had the grazing of them for their cattle and sheep. On the dry lands on which the crops have withered, and which have yielded not more than half and one-fourth of their usual crops, I propose that a general remission of twenty-five per cent. shall be made. With the exception of Coimbatore and Pulladum, this remission will not have to be made generally throughout all the talook, but in such villages as have suffered most. It will be the duty of those making the Settlement to ascertain the villages and groups of villages in which the greatest loss of crop has taken place. A general remission in such villages is the only course that can be conveniently followed. To attempt through the subordinate agency

Talug

in the talooks to look into individual cases, would be useless, and end in the ruin of many of the Government servants.

7. On a rough estimate the remission on dry waste lands will amount to Rupees 85,000, and on lands the crops on which have withered (Shavy) to Rupees 1,60,000.

8. On the wet lands it is estimated that the remission on waste and shavy lands will amount to not less than Rupees 70,000. The total remission on dry and wet lands will thus, according to the present estimates, amount to Rupees 3,15,000, and I request the Board will be pleased to sanction the course of proceeding above proposed in the Settlement about to be commenced, and issue instructions at an early date. The district has steadily improved within the last few years. In the past official year the largest revenue on record was collected, although in 1865-66 Rupees 2,51,000 were under the sanction of Government knocked off the permanent revenue. All this is indication of prosperity, and it requires but the fostering care of a generous Government to insure its continuance. I trust, therefore, that the Board will not hesitate to sanction remissions on the principles advocated above. Whatever their amount may be, Government is sure to benefit in the ratio of its justice and liberality. I have never yet seen Government suffer from being liberal to the ryots, but I have frequently seen the ryots suffer from the illiberality of Government.

9. From the above, it will probably be concluded that the condition of the people is very bad. Bad it certainly is, but not nearly so bad as at first sight it appears. In the first place it should be remembered that many of the ryots have, in addition to their *bonâ fide* dry lands, other dry lands irrigated by means of wells, and that most, if not all, of these lands have yielded one and two crops of produce sufficient to keep their owners from great distress; still it must not be forgotten that a year like the present trenches greatly on their means, and forces many of them to incur debts, which it may take them years to get over. Coimbatore is now connected by rail with the sea-board in the east and west, and is but a few hours from Tanjore, which already is sending grain into the country. It is thus apparent that as long as the people have money, they may suffer distress, but that famine will be kept from their doors. I confess I do not anticipate anything like famine. Distress there may probably be in parts, but there will be no difficulty in meeting it should it rise. With two rail-roads running east and west and north and south through a great part of the district, and with the means of information available, we can anticipate any expected distress, and set works on foot for the benefit of the people.

10. For the relief of the poor in Pulladum and Suttimungalum Talooks, I recommend that I be allowed at once to set on foot two works. The works proposed will be re-productive, and I request that they may be carried out solely under the Revenue Authorities. The work in Pulladum is the clearing out of the silt in the Neelamboor tank. The Tahsildar, with whom I discussed the subject the other day, is of opinion that if Rupees 5,000 are placed at his disposal, he will be able to

give employment to a large body of poor people, and to restore a fine tank which

				RS.	A.	P.	
* For Fusly	1272	...	...	522	1	7	ayacut of the tank is Rupees 1,640.
Do.	1273	...	...	526	11	0	For the last five years* it has not yielded
Do.	1274	...	...	526	11	0	more than Rupees 537-0-10 per annum,
Do.	1275	...	...	526	11	0	and it is contemplated that by the
Do.	1276	...	...	583	1	9	expenditure of the above-named sum,
				2,685	4	4	it will at once yield Rupees 1,640 per

Average beriz per annum ... 537 0 10
annum, in addition to restoring the

springs of all the wells in the adjacent country.

11. The work in Suttimungalum Talook is the repair of the Kaniampolliem anicut channel, for this work Rs. 3,000 will be required. I would refer the Board to my letter, dated 20th March 1866, No. 76, for an account of the state of this work. The repair of the anicut is also emergently required, but this should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works, and, if possible, at once. If these works are sanctioned, the poor shall be employed on them, and accounts of the work done shall be duly submitted. In the event of any further works requiring to be undertaken, I shall recommend the construction of the road from Tirpoor Railway Station through Pulladum and Pareaputty to Oodoomulpettah. This road runs right through the country which has suffered most from want of rain, and is much required. It passes through parts of Palladum, Darapuram, and Oodoomulpettah Talooks, so that works on it could be conveniently managed by the Tahsildars of the respective talooks.

12. Copy of a letter from Mr. McQuhae, Sub-Collector, on the condition of the sub-division, and the remissions he proposes, is forwarded for the information of the Board, and I shall be glad if the large remissions proposed by him are authorized in any very special cases; for instance, in villages in which there are no lands irrigated from channels or wells, and in which it is clearly established to the satisfaction of the European settling Officer that the crops have yielded a minimum of produce.

13. I might have written earlier to the Board, but deferred doing so until I felt satisfied that I could place before them a fairly correct estimate of the condition of the district and people.

No. 321. From the Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Coimbatore, 7th January 1868, No. 3.

In reply to your letter of the 11th December 1867, No. 488, I have the honor to state my opinion that remission on Punjab land will be necessary in most parts of the Darapuram Talook, and perhaps in some villages of Caroor and Oodoomulpettah also. The Tahsildar of Caroor reports that in some places a full Punjab crop has been obtained, and in others a half crop, and he considers remission unnecessary. The Tahsildar of Oodoomulpettah makes a similar report. In Darapuram the season appears to have been more unfavorable, and the Tahsildar recommends a remission of three-fourths of the assessment on Punjab waste and ten per cent. on cultivated Punjab. The season has been very unfavorable, and those villages where there is no Nunjah, and few wells must have suffered severely. I would, therefore, recommend that the settling Officer be permitted to determine in what villages remission is necessary in all three talooks, and I think that Rupees 40,000 will be sufficient for the sub-division. The remission where granted should, I think, be at

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st January 1868.

least fifty per cent. on waste and thirty per cent. on cultivated Punjab. I do not think that a lower rate of remission will give any real relief to the ryots.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board authorize the Collector to apply the remission rules to the dry lands of the district in any villages in which this course may appear to be necessary, i. e., the full assessment will be remitted on all dry lands left waste, and a per-centage remission on all lands, the crops of which have not come to maturity. The Board would also fix this latter remission at fifty per cent. of the assessment, though should the Collector think fit hereafter to recommend the remission of a still large proportion, the Board will be prepared to do so. This remission should be granted on the same principles as those on which the remissions for withered crops on wet lands are now allowed, (See Standing Order No. 137, paragraph 6,) and without any attempt to estimate individual losses.
3. The Board also resolve to request the Government to make a special grant of Rupees 20,000 for the purpose of carrying out the three works referred to by Mr. Grant, in the manner proposed. It is very desirable that the road from Tirpoor to Oodoomulpettah should be commenced, and there are at present no funds available from the Road Fund.
4. With advertence to the G. O., under date 23rd April 1866, No. 1,266, Public Works Department, the Board presume that the proposed clearing out of the Kaniampolliem channel meets with the Superintending Engineer's approval.

No. 322. ORDER THEREON, 21st January 1868, No. 161.

Miscellaneous.

1. Before sanctioning any expenditure on the Nilamboor tank or the Kaniampolliem channel, the Government desire to receive the remarks of Colonel Walker, the Superintending Engineer, on the Collector's proposals.
2. They authorize the Collector to set in hand at once the road from Tirpoor Railway Station to Oodoomulpettah as a special relief work, and sanction a present grant of Rupees 10,000 for the work.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Collector of Coimbatore.
.. the Department Public Works.
.. the Accountant General.
.. W. Robinson, Esq.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Pulladium and Suttimungalum Taluq, I re-
commend that I be allowed at once to set
on foot two works. The works proposed, will
be re-productive, and I request that they may
be carried out solely under the Revenue authorities.
The work in Pulladium is the clearing out of the
Silt in the Steelamboor Tank. The Tahsildar
with whom I discussed the subject the other day,
is of opinion that if Rs. 5000 are placed at his
disposal, he will be able to give employment to a
large body of poor people, and to restore a
fine Tank which has become comparatively
useless. The Aya cut of the Tank is Rupees
1640. For the last 5 years it has not yielded
more than Rupees 537-10 per annum, and
it is contemplated that by the expenditure
of the above named sum, it will at once
yield Rupees 1640 per annum in addition to
restoring the Springs of all the Wells in the
adjacent Country.

The work in Suttimungalum
Taluq.

For 1272	Rs. 522-1-7
..... 1273	526-11-00
..... 1274	526-11-00
..... 1275	526-11-00
..... 1276	583-1-9
	2685-4-4
Average	
Being	537-10-00
Annua	

2685-4-4
537-10-00
2685-4-4

on their means, and forces many of them to incur debts which it may take them years to get over. Coimbatore is now connected by Rail with the Sea-board in the East and West, and is but a few hours from Singapore which already is sending Grain into the Country. It is thus apparent that as long as the people have money, they may suffer distress, but that famine will be kept from their doors. I confess I do not anticipate any thing like famine. Distress ~~there~~ may probably be in spots but there will be no difficulty in meeting it should it rise. With two rail-roads running East and West and North and South through a great part of the District, and with the means of information available, we can anticipate any expected distress and set works on foot for the benefit of the people.

10.

For the relief of the poor in

Pullachin

left waste, and a percentage remission on all lands the crops of which have not come to maturity. The Board would also fix this latter remission at 50 per cent of the Assessment, though should the collector think fit hereafter to recommend the remission of a still larger proportion the Board will be prepared to do so. This remission should be granted on the same principles as those on which the remissions for withered crops on wet lands are now allowed (See Standing Order No 137 para VI) and without any attempt to estimate individual losses.

3. The Board also resolved to request the Government to make a special grant of Rupees 20,000 for the purpose of carrying out the three works referred to by Mr. Grant, in the manner proposed. It is very desirable that the road from Sirpoor to Codoomalpettali should be commenced, and there are at present no funds available from the Road Fund.

With advertence to the G. O. under date 23rd April 1868 No 1288 P. W. D. the Board presume that the proposed clearing out of the Kammampallim Channel

Dear Grant, I have
thought, we made
at once - but as
the papers are not
shown that Col.
Walker has very
good reasons for
disagreeing with
Kammampallim
channel work, I
must not allow it
to be undertaken
unless the Sub-Commissioner
has cleared his mind.
He might be desired
to determine whether
there is a new channel
way he excavated
from the right
bank of the river
W.D.

meets with the Superintending Engineers
approval.

(True Copy and Extract)

W. A. Lyell
Secretary.

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

121
51
I would sanction the Remission
suggested by Mr. Grant and
the works suggested by him
with the provision however
suggested by Mr. Phillips
that the improvement of
the Kamea River Channel
on the ^{left} bank of the
River be approved by the
Superintending Engineer
who might also report
on the expediency of being

C. W. Lyell

a channel in connection
with the ancient on the
^{right} side. I believe
that the repair of the
ancient is indispensable.

61
I would submit that
unimpaired communication
by the finest ship. I
have no doubt that
proposed by the Board
of Revenue. I do not
understand the Board's
action in the matter. Many
for some of day cargo
are quite opposed to it
and yet the Board
make no decision
unimpaired in advance
of the others that the
Board is not opposing

any water for doing so.
 I think this should be allowed.
 I cannot help fearing that
 the Board in this matter
 are having every thing
 this morning.
 I would further be
 recommended by the Board
 provided that the Board
 approve of the improvement
 of the Linnepollan channel.
 The third work is only advised
 to as an extra work to improve
 the navigation of the Linnepollan
 channel.

Approved
 Council
 21. Jan 1868

No 61-71
 Report sanctioning
 any expenditure on the Linnepollan
 & Linnepollan or the Linnepollan
 channel. The Board
 desire to receive the sanction
 of the Board to the Linnepollan
 proposals.
 They authorize the
 Col. Linnepollan to all
 the road from the
 Railway Station to the
 Linnepollan as a special Linnepollan
 work & sanction a special
 grant of £1000 for the
 work.

1st Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 2nd Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 3rd Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 4th Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 5th Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 6th Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 7th Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 8th Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 9th Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan
 10th Copy to the Board of the Linnepollan

C. M. Campbell

meets
- as per

To
- as per

C. M. B. S. S.

Rev. 1868. Dec. 11.
Pro. of Gov. for January
No. 149.
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

After inspection
of the report of
the Collector
21.1.1868

Dated 18:
Dec. 18 } Jan. 1868.
Recd. 18

E. L. V. No. 17

No. 151-214 Copy
Submitting for information of
Government report of Collector
of Coimbatore on the state of the
Season & crops in District; re-
questing that a special grant
of Rs 20,000 may be sanctioned
for the purpose of carrying out
certain works & authorizing
Collector to apply the remission
rules to the dry lands of the
District in any villages in
which this course may ap-
pear to be necessary.

No. 320 D. 322.

C. 18.1.1868

[Signature]