

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1710	Press Mis
^{L 28-29.} Dated	18-6-	M 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th June 1868.

No. 428. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th June 1868, No. 4,227.

Read the following letter from the Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of North Arcot, dated Trivatoor, 23rd May 1868, No. 221:—

1. I have the honor to report the particulars of a severe hail-storm which visited the village of Anacayur, in the Wandewash talook, on the 9th instant, and the occurrence of which was reported to you, in general terms, by the Tahsildar on the 11th instant.

2. On the former date, the country not only in the immediate neighbourhood of Anacayur, but for miles round was subject, in an unusual degree, to severe atmospheric influences. I was encamped at Wandewash, over which swept a gale of wind, accompanied by dust, such as I have never witnessed before. About the same time a storm of rain, unusually heavy, visited Conjeveram and the neighbourhood, and the gale, which blew from the north, swept over the whole of the intermediate country. It was, however, for the most part unaccompanied by rain.

3. Anacayur is situated on the southern bank of the Cheyar, and is eleven miles north of Wandewash. At about four o'clock, on the afternoon of the 9th instant, a heavy storm of wind and rain blew over that village, but after a down-pour for about a quarter of an hour, the rain was accompanied by hail, which lasted till about 5 p.m., and in the short space of three-quarters of an hour, completely destroyed the rice-crop, standing on nearly 200 cawnies of land, and almost ready for the sickle. The villagers describe the hailstones as being of the size of large grapes, or of a fruit called செல்லிகாய், which resembles a large cherry in size and shape, and state that the hail was so thick that they had to flee to their homes for refuge, it being impossible to remain in the fields.

4. The ryots came to me *en masse* on the 13th instant on my arrival at Chengadu, and reported their losses, requesting that I would personally visit the spot, and grant relief in the shape of remission of assessment. I accordingly visited Anacayur on the following day, and inspected the scene of the disaster. The statements of the villagers were fully borne out by the results of my observation. The paddy crops on about 200 cawnies, situated under the tank, had been completely beaten down, and the corn, which was almost ready for reaping, had been threshed out by the hail, as effectually as if it had been done by a flail or threshing machine; nothing but the straw remained. The corn which had been beaten out of the ear, by the force of the hail, falling on a damp uneven surface, or being buried in the cracks and-crannies of the paddy-fields, had begun to germinate, and in some places had sprouted up so thickly that the ground itself was hardly visible.

To glean was impossible; and this self-sown crop can come to nothing, consequently, the whole has been irrecoverably lost, and the ryots have been suddenly bereft of their anticipated harvest.

5. I enclose a statement received from the Tahsildar, shewing the assessment payable on the fields of which the crops have been thus destroyed, and the extent of the loss sustained by the ryots in consequence. The value of the produce lost is stated to be Rupees 4,900, and the assessment payable on the fields amounts to Rupees 1,925-1-6.

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Of the latter sum, Rupees 124-12-7 being due for lands from which the ryots had no produce at all, I have ordered the amount to be entirely remitted. The remaining amount is the assessment upon those lands on which a first crop has already been raised and harvested, consequently, under the ordinary Remission Rules, the ryots have no *claim* for remission of this assessment; but taking into consideration the loss they have just sustained, and the adverse character of the season, together with the fact that two crops are usually raised on these lands, for which the consolidated full assessment is paid, I have thought it only just to the ryots to remit at least one-third of the assessment, (Rupees 1,800-4-11,) and have accordingly authorized remission to that amount, namely, Rupees 600-1-7.

6. I may add that this storm visited several villages in the neighbourhood of Anacayur, but did little damage except to Mango and other fruit trees; there being no standing crops which could be affected by it. Reports were also received that hail-storms, of less severity, occurred in some ten or twelve villages in the adjoining talook of Arcot on the previous day, (8th instant,) but the damage which has resulted from them is reported to be very slight.

Submitted for the information of the Board.

(Signed) G. VANEAGNEW,
Acting Collector.

The Board approve the remission made by the Sub-Collector, in consideration of the peculiarity of the case, and the exceptional nature of the season.

No. 429.

ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1868, No. 1,710.

Land Revenue.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Pay = 1868. Department
No of Govt for June

No. 2065.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 8th June 1868.

Supd 11
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No. 4,227.

Approving of the remissions made by the Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot to the Ryots of Anacayur whose standing crops were destroyed by a hailstorm.

RECORDED

10th June 1868

No 428-429

13 June 1868

14 June 1868