M.R. O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2606 Press ~~Mis.~~

181-82.
Dated 9 — 10 — 19 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th October 1868.

No. 181. Read the following letter from the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, (Revenue,) to the Acting Under Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Simla, 21st September, 1868, No. 307 :—

1. I have the honor to enclose a translation of a petition from certain inhabitants of the Dharampuram Talook, in the Coimbatore District, and to request that the Madras Government will favor His Excellency in Council with its opinion on the representations made therein to the Government of India.

2. His Excellency in Council is desirous of being informed whether there is reason to believe that the petition represents the feelings of any considerable or influential portion of the community in regard to taxation.

Petition from VENCATACHELLUM PILLAY and others, to His Excellency Sir JOHN LAWRENCE, Viceroy and Governor General of India, dated 16th December 1867.

Petition respectfully presented by the undersigned inhabitants of Dharampuram Talook, Zillah Coimbatore, of the Madras Presidency.

That they continued to enjoy the Nunjah Inam lands situated in their village, granted to them rent free by the former Rajahs ; that in the reign of Hyder and Tippoo the said lands were continued to them free of half rent, and since the settlement of the English Government the said half rent free lands became attached by them, and one-eighth tirwa was levied on the remaining half; that they continued paying the tirwa till 1861 for the enjoyment of the lands ; that when the Inam Commission was established in 1862, the Commissioner proposed a tirwa at the rate of one-fourth and a half, which was sanctioned accordingly by Government, and puttahs issued to parties by the said Commissioner ; that meanwhile the road cess at the rate of half an Anna per Rupee was introduced, but it was not known that that cess was to be levied on the amount of tirwa or produce, and that additional taxes under Act VII. of 1865 for the supply of water and for the repair of public works were also imposed on them.

That the Range Officer in charge of the Engineering Department erected fresh sluices to supply water to the karai lands ; that he having failed in his attempt, application was made to Government for permission to irrigate their lands as usual ; and that Government, no doubt, are aware that the Range Officer expended a large sum of money on the construction of the said sluices, but no final orders have been passed on the subject. The talook authorities then proposed that the loss incurred by the failure of the Range Officer in constructing sluices for their karai lands should be made good by local taxation, and it would be but reasonable that the loss so incurred should be compensated for by the Range Officer, Mr. Webben.

That if they are even granted Inam lands rent free in value ten times greater than what they now hold, they would find it very hard to pay the taxes levied on them.

That when the country was first governed by the East India Company, they were not subject to any taxes of the kind, and no difficulty was experienced by them in obtaining redress.

That after the administration of the country passed into the hands of Her Majesty, the salaries of all the European and Native Officers were increased without a thought being given to the hardships that would be suffered by people ; and that Mr. Pelly, a Member of the Revenue Board, framed and submitted an Act to Government proposing increases to the salaries of the village establishment, in order to induce them to show a saving to Government.

That, as proposed by Mr. Sullivan, the Sub-Collector of the district, a tax under Act VII. of 1865 has been imposed for water.

That the road cess is being collected at the rate of half an Anna per Rupee, as proposed by other Officers.

That, as proposed by another Officer, an Ameen has been appointed to collect taxes, interest being charged to those who fail to pay their taxes by 10 A. M. on the 30th of every month.

That in the matter of stamps and registration they sustain both loss of money and labor, which is a great injustice.

That it has been proposed by another Officer, who was specially appointed to frame Acts, that the Revenue, Police, Military, and other establishments should be paid by local taxation ; and that having had no regular rains for the last twelve years, they have suffered great distress by the failure of Punjah and other crops.

That instead of imposing taxes on lands assessed at one-fourth and half tirwas, it would be better if they were assessed at full tirwa.

Moreover, they do not wish to hold the nominal enjoyment of Inams under the British Government.

That in the abolition of land customs the inhabitants of the country greatly rejoiced to see the justice of the Government, and that, although immediately afterwards the tirwa on salt was raised, it was not felt by them.

That being heavily taxed on all sides, they are unable to point out what tax they would wish to be exempted from ; that if Government choose, they may take possession of their lands and send them elsewhere to earn their livelihood.

That it was not in accordance with justice for Government to abolish the customs tax, which yields yearly four lakhs of Rupees, and impose taxes which only tend to ruin them.

That it would be consistent with justice on the part of any Government to assess only one tirwa on lands.

That they have now laid all their troubles and grievances before a Government possessed with high authorities.

(Signed) VENCATACHELLUM PILLAY,
(,,) PASUPATHY PILLAY, and others.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. MACLEOD,
Registrar, Foreign Department.

No. 182. ORDER THEREON, 9th October, 1868, No. 2,606.

Miscellaneous.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for early report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated October, 9th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 9th October 1868, *No.* 2,606.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 181-182.

Petition to Governor General from certain inhabitants of Coimbatore District.—Board of Revenue to submit early report on the representations therein contained.