M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2637	Press / ~~Mis.~~
245-66		
Dated	15 — 10 —	~~19~~ 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2637

No. 245. Read the following letter from the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, (Revenue,) to the Acting Under Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Simla, 30th September 1868, No. 319 :—

In continuation of my letter, No. 307, dated 21st instant, I have the honor to forward a translation of a Petition from certain inhabitants of the Karai Talook, in the Coimbatore District, and to request that any remarks on the statements therein made, which occur to His Lordship in Council, may be included in the report which the Madras Government has been asked to furnish on the petition from the inhabitants of the Dharampuram Talook.

Petition from SUNDARAM IYEN and several others, to His Excellency SIR JOHN LAWRENCE, Viceroy and Governor General of India, dated 5th February 1868.

PETITION respectfully presented by the undersigned inhabitants of Kasunprathy, Melpolyam, Pileyuru, Punchamathevy, Koyam, Pully, and Sonor villages of Karai Talook, Zillah Coimbatore, of the Madras Presidency.

1. That since 1866 they had several times petitioned the Collector, Sub-Collector, and Revenue Board, protesting against the water-tax levied under Act IV. of 1865, but obtained no redress as yet, although it was evident to the said authorities that the levy of such a tax was not just and equitable.

2. That notwithstanding the road cess levied in the village at the rate of half an Anna per Rupee, the educational tax at the same rate was also levied on the ryots, and that, if they are thus over-burdened with several taxes, they will not be able to maintain themselves.

3. That not having had sufficient rain for the last fourteen years, there was a total failure in the Punjah cultivation, and the Nunjah crops also have withered for the same cause. In obtaining remission for certain lands of heavy assessment, great trouble and hardship is experienced by the petitioners.

4. That, as proposed by Mr. Sullivan, the Sub-Collector of the district, a tax under Act IV. 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 ; and that, as proposed by another officer, an Ameen has been appointed to collect the taxes, interest charged to those who fail to pay their taxes by 10 A. M. on the 30th of every month.

5. That in the matter of stamps and registration, they sustain both loss of money and labor, which is a great injustice, and that they have no means to maintain themselves owing to the imposition of various taxes.

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

7. That after the administration of the country passed into the hands of Her Majesty, the s[illegible]s of all the European and Native Officers were increased without a thought being given to the hardships that would be suffered by the 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.

8. That it has been proposed by another officer, who was specially appointed to frame Acts, that the Revenue Civil Servants, Police, and Military Establishments, should be paid by local taxation.

9. That instead of levying unjust taxes on them, Government may take up all their property and provide the children of the petitioners with means of livelihood and protect them.

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

11. That they continue to enjoy certain lands granted to them rent free by former Rajahs ; that in the reign of Hyder and Tippoo the said lands were continued to them free of half rent, and since the time of the British settlement, the said half rent free lands became attached by them, and one-eighth Tirwa was levied on the remaining half ; that they continued to pay the Tirwa till 1861 for the lands, and when the Inam Commission was established in 1862, the Commissioner proposed a Tirwa at the rate of quarter and half, which was sanctioned accordingly by the Government, and Puttahs issued to parties by the said Commissioner, and that meanwhile the road cess at the rate of half an Anna per Rupee was introduced.

12. That being heavily taxed on all sides, they are unable to point out what tax they would wish to be exempted from ; and that it was not in accordance with justice for Government to abolish the customs tax, which yearly yielded four lakhs of Rupees, and impose taxes which only tend to ruin them.

13. That it would be opposed to justice on the part of any Government to assess only one Tirwa on lands, and have in consequence laid all their troubles and grievances before a Government possessed with high authorities.

14. Pray, therefore, that the said taxes levied on them against their wish, and those proposed to be introduced hereafter, may be cancelled.

(Signed) SUNDARAM IYEN and several others.

(True copy.)

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

No. 246. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1868, No. 2,637.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for early report, in continuation of G. O., 9th October 1868, No. 2,606.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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8-263.

Commits to the Board of Revenue for early report in Continuation of G.O. 9 Oct 1868 No 2606

15th Oct 1868

14 Copies to Mss. Dept & Surveyor Genl

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated October, 15th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 15th October 1868, No. 2,637.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 245-246.

Petition to Governor General from certain inhabitants of Karai Taluk, Coimbatore District—Board of Revenue to submit early report thereon.