

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 376

Press
~~Dis.~~

Dated 11/2/1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1868.*

No. 196. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th January 1868, No. 706:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 23rd January 1868, No. 27.

1. As no change for the better in the season can be expected, I have now the honor to address the Board, and request their sanction to certain measures of relief, which I think are absolutely necessary to save the ryots of this district from utter prostration of their future resources, if not from actual starvation.

2. The Board must have perceived from the weekly season reports that the failure of the dry cultivation has been nearly as complete as that of the wet.

3. Unfortunately, too, at its commencement the season was so favorable that a much larger area than usual was brought under the plough, and as so much of this has failed, the ryots, in addition to their other misfortunes, have lost both the value of their seed and their labor. I would therefore beg, in the first place, to recommend that all the uncultivated waste be not charged; this will involve a sacrifice of about Rupees 1,12,475.

4. It would seem fairer, perhaps, to remit Punjah Shavi also, and I should have recommended it, had it not appeared to me quite impossible to determine what is really Shavi and what not, over so large an area, and upon crops that have been successively growing ever since June last.

5. The second measure of relief, I would propose, is to charge Punjah assessment on all Nunjah lands in which, owing to a deficiency of water, a dry crop has been raised; but as, in each case, it would be difficult to determine the appropriate rate without giving room for fraud, I would suggest my being permitted to charge generally the average dry rate of the village, except in the cases where that rate is higher than the wet assessment, there I would charge the adjoining dry rate. It is impossible to give the Board, at present, any definite idea of the sacrifice likely to be involved in this proposal; but I have reason to believe that it will not be very great, as dry crops grown on wet lands are not very common in this district.

6. In certain villages also there are regular Nunjah lands from which a crop has been raised entirely by the aid of private wells; in such cases, I beg that I may be allowed to exercise my discretion, and to relax the usual wet demand, inasmuch as the ryots in all these cases have really this year drawn none of their supply of water from a Government source, and therefore should be charged only a dry rate; in estimating this rate, the same principle as that mentioned in the previous paragraph may be followed.

7. If the Board sanction the measures I have advocated, they may rely upon my extending it only to such cases as are absolutely needed.

1. The Board have already authorized the application of the Remission Rules to dry lands in the Coimbatore and North Arcot Districts, and the same course should be adopted in Madras. All unirrigated land which has been left waste, or the crops of which have totally perished, should be charged nothing, and a general per-centage remission should be granted for partial loss of crop on the same descrip-

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tion of land. This latter remission should take the form of a per-centage reduction of the assessment on all dry lands in such villages or tracts as have suffered from drought, and should amount to one-half or one-quarter of the assessment according as, on the average, a half or three-quarters crop has been reaped in the tract.

2. The Collector's proposals in paragraphs 5 and 6 of his letter are also approved and sanctioned.

No. 197. ORDER THEREON, 11th February 1868, No. 376.

Land Revenue.

Approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. 1868 Department.
Pr. of Govt. for Hoby
No. 317.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 29th January 1868.
Decd 1 Feb
Rev. 37

No. 708.

Directing Collector of Madras to follow course authorized in Coimbatore and North Arcot Districts in regard to application of remission rules to dry lands, and sanctioning the measures of relief proposed by Collector in paras 5 and 6 of his letter.

No. 376
Approved
W. H. Hudleston
11 Feb 1868

25 Feb 1868

12 Copies to the N. & N. Arcot Revenue Divisions

No 196 & 197