

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	703	Press <u>Mis.</u>
294-95 Dated	18-3-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 294. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th March 1868.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Salem, 12th March 1868, No. 68 :—

1. I have to bring to the notice of the Board the condition of ryots at the present time of this district with reference to their Poonjah holdings, and would beg that the matter may receive early consideration.

2. The Board are aware that the present rules preclude Collectors from giving remission on Poonjah Shavy and waste. The late season has been so unsatisfactory for dry cultivation, that the general outturn cannot be computed to be more than one-half, and not that in many instances. The talook of Uttengherry is a remarkable instance of this. I feel sure that I am not far wrong when I say that the average crop of Poonjah in this talook is not much over one-fourth. In this state of things, it becomes imperative that something should be done to avert what otherwise will become great distress. The Head Assistant's division has been examined from end to end by Mr. Best, Mr. Woodroffe, and Mr. Lee Warner, and their reports to me, which have all been in demi-official form, have confirmed my opinion that remissions are absolutely necessary. My Sub-Collector, too, reports unfavorably of the adjoining talook of Kistnagherry. I quote part of his last note to me. "There is no concealing the fact that the season is bad. There is no water in any of the tanks, and water in the well is beginning to fail. This talook (Kistnagherry) is especially in an unsatisfactory state, as it got little or none of the rain of the other day, and none of that of July last. Small-pox prevails somewhat, and disease has broken out amongst the cattle. The people in some villages have begun to eat Tamarind seeds, &c., and the supply of labor exceeds the demand." All this clearly shews that immediate action must be taken in the matter. Mr. W. Robinson, who arrived here yesterday, has been informed minutely of the state of affairs, and he quite agrees with me that Poonjah remissions must be granted if actual distress of a very serious nature is not to be brought about. The two talooks under my immediate charge are in a better condition, and should work be available for the villagers, when their operations at the cultivation are over, I have little to fear. What I would request is that Poonjah remissions on Shavy and waste may be allowed as regards all the talooks where the state of affairs actually necessitate its being granted.

1. Under the circumstances reported, the Board authorize the Collector to apply the remission rules to unirrigated lands in such parts of the district as he deems it advisable to do so.

2. The Board understand from their Acting 3rd Member, that the Collector has already been directed to submit a list of works for the purpose of providing labor for the able-bodied poor; but with advertence to his quotation from the Acting Sub-Collector's letter, regarding the condition of the people in the Kistnagherry talook, the Board resolve to request Government to sanction any immediate outlay Mr. Pochin may deem necessary in anticipation of the submission of estimates.

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

No. 295. ORDER THEREON, 18th March 1868, No. 703.

Miscellaneous.

The Board's Proceedings are approved, and the Collector is authorized to incur, at his discretion, such expenditure as may be necessary for relief works, in anticipation of sanction to the Budget of special works about to be submitted.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Collector of Salem.
„ W. Robinson, Esq.
„ the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

W. 703.

The Board's proceedings are approved & the Collector is authorized to incur at his discretion such expenditure as may be necessary for relief works in anticipation of sanction to the Budget of special works about to be submitted.

14 Copies to the Board of Revenue
5 - Collector of Salem
1 - Mr. Robinson Esq.
6 Copies to the Secy. to Govt.

18th March 1868.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue
18th March 1868.

Reported to Engr
No. 16 of 30.3.1868

Exd. S. T. Augustin.