

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	737	Press <i>Man</i>
<i>265-66</i> Dated	23-8-1840	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd March 1868.*

No. 365. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th February 1868, No. 1401.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th February 1868 :—

1. With reference to paragraph 4 of my letter of the 23rd January 1868, No. 23, I have the honor to submit the following special report on the state of the dry cultivation in the Kadarambham portion of this district.

2. On the day that I wrote to the Board, there was, as I expected, a heavy fall of rain throughout the district; but, although on the whole it did much good, its utility for agricultural purposes was necessarily restricted; for, where lands had been left waste from want of seasonable rain, a single rain-fall at this period of the season could not, of course, be sufficient for cultivation being commenced anew; and where, on the other hand, young plants had already perished from drought, the loss was irretrievable. It was thus only where the crops were about half grown, and had not come to maturity, that this rain was beneficial.

3. It is still necessary, therefore, that for Punjah and Manavari lands, which do not come within the scope of the ordinary remission rules, a special remission should be granted this year in consideration of the exceptional character of the season. At the same time, this special remission is not required anywhere in the delta, since the dry cultivation therein bears generally a very small proportion to the wet, and being, moreover, carried on under the influence more or less of river-channels, never fails altogether.

4. I have had some villages taken at random in different parts of the district beyond the delta examined in detail in order to ascertain the actual extent of loss sustained therein, and the result is exhibited in the enclosed Statement No. 1. From this it will be seen that the actual loss in the villages which have been examined, under the three heads of waste, entire shavi, and partial failure of crop, varies from ninety-six to thirty-four per cent. on the assessment of the entire Punjah and Manavari Ayaout. With reference to the result thus obtained, I have grouped the villages which form the subject of this report into different classes, as shewn in the following paragraph.

5. The aggregate number of villages beyond the delta is 288,* distributed among the five talooks of Tanjore, Puttukottai, Mannargudi, Tritrapundi, and Nogarpatam. From this number must be deducted forty-five villages in the two talooks last mentioned held on a lease termed "Katgulgai," (which will be separately noticed,) as also 116 in other talooks in which the loss in dry cultivation has been so small as to need no special relief on that account. To the remaining 127 must be added four villages, which, though they belong to the class of Nirarambham, or river-irrigated villages, contain, in point of fact, such an insignificant proportion of land under river-irrigation, as hardly to come within that definition, and are, moreover, from their generally poor condition, deserving of indulgent consideration. The total number of villages,

* As lately formed by clubbing small ones together.

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therefore, which are to share in the benefit of the proposed special remission, is 131 classified as follows:—

1st Class	19
2nd „	57
3rd „	36
4th „	3
5th „	16

6. For these different classes, I would propose a scale of per-centage remission on the assessment of the total Punjab and Manavari Ayacut; thus—

1st Class	50 per cent.
2nd „	35 „
3rd „	30 „
4th „	25 „
5th „	20 „

7. I enclose another Statement, (No. 2,) shewing the aggregate Punjab and Manavari Beriz of the villages grouped in each class, and the per-centage to be remitted, from which it will be seen that the total amount to be thus remitted is Rupees 34,200.

8. With respect to the Katgutgai villages above alluded to, these, as the Board are aware, were leased out each for a lump sum for a term of seven years, which expired in Fusly 1274. During the past two years, the Katgutgai lease was, with the Board's sanction,* successively

* 18th November 1865, No. 7,392.
16th January 1867, „ 305.

renewed for a year, on abatement of the lump assessment according to a

scale adjusted to the extent of loss sustained in the several groups of villages, having been allowed in consideration of the exceptional character of the season. This year, a peculiarly bad season occurring after a series of adverse ones, precludes the possibility of a new settlement being introduced, as contemplated, and the same arrangement that was made during the past two years must be adopted; therefore, also this year with respect to these villages.

9. It is hardly necessary to premise that these villages, which depend solely and entirely on falling rain, are peculiarly affected by the failure of such rains; but I must add that the showers that actually fell during the past year were so unequally distributed, that the extent of loss sustained in the different villages has been extraordinarily varying. Deputy Collector Shiveasa Row has examined in detail four of the thirty-eight villages in the Tritrapundi talook, and the result is separately exhibited in Statement No. 1, from which it will be seen that the ascertained loss in those four villages varies from ninety-two to sixty-six per cent.

10. Of the total number of forty-five villages in question, it has not been found necessary to grant any relief for seven, and the remaining thirty-eight have been thrown into four groups, for which a scale of remission is proposed as follows:—

	Number of villages.	Per-centage on the total assessment to be remitted.
1st Group	7	50
2nd do.	10	35
3rd do.	7	30
4th do.	14	25

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11. The total amount of remission for the Katgutgai villages thus calculated, amounts, as separately shewn in Statement No. 2, to Rupees 12,826, and this added to the sum of Rupees 34,200, the amount of special remission for unirrigated lands in other Kadarambham villages, makes up a total of Rupees 47,026. I beg to solicit the sanction of the Board for remitting this amount at the settlement of the current Fusly.

12. With regard to the future settlement of the Katgutgai villages, I have had a plan carefully prepared for the same, and have also collected all necessary details of information for introducing the settlement which I consider best adapted to the peculiar circumstances of these villages. This plan I will do myself the honor of submitting hereafter, for the consideration and orders of the Board, in order that, if sanctioned, and the circumstances of next year are ordinarily favorable, it may then be brought into operation.

13. In my previous report* on the prospects of the season, I stated that, so far as the wet cultivation was concerned, the remissions allowable under the

* Paragraph 3.

ordinary rules would meet sufficiently the requirements of the season even in the upland parts of the district. I have now had before me sufficient information for forming an approximate estimate of the total amount of remissions for irrigated lands throughout the whole district, and I feel I may safely state that it is not likely to be more than a lac of Rupees for waste, shavi, &c., for the whole wet crops in this district. Inclusive of the special remissions recommended in this report, the aggregate amount of remissions for this year may, accordingly, be roughly calculated to be under a lac and a half; an amount even less than this has often been granted in an ordinarily favorable season. I consider, therefore, that, with the exception of the special remissions in the dry cultivation, the district of Tanjore must this year be considered to be in a flourishing condition.

14. The special remissions which I have herein recommended will, I am confident, give the ryots of the upland villages adequate relief as far as the pressure of Government demand is concerned; but, at the same time, the condition of the poorer and laboring classes in those villages, who earn their livelihood by agricultural labor, remains to be considered. Fortunately for Tanjore, so far as the greater part of the district is concerned, there is no need for the intervention of the State in order to relieve the wants of the population; but in that exceptional part which lies at the south-eastern extremity of the district beyond the reach of river-irrigation, the people have, owing to a succession of bad seasons, been reduced to an impoverished state, and it is a very difficult matter to keep them in their homes, as they are much disposed to sell their cattle and emigrate with their whole families.

15. For this purpose, therefore, I would beg to recommend that a sum of Rupees 5,000 be spent from the District Road Fund, (of which there will be ample remaining unexpended,) on works of local utility, as specified in the enclosed list No. 3.

16. These works, while they provide employment to those that are without any means of subsistence, will, at the same time, conduce much to the comfort and convenience of the population generally. The first three items on the list are repairs of roads which pass through the poorest of the villages in the part of the district referred to, the first of them, namely, the road from Vedaramiem to

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Muttupettai, being, moreover, a cross-line of general importance. The other items on the list provide for clearing and putting in good repair eight tanks by the roadside in different localities, and which will be the means of securing good water for drinking purposes for both men and cattle.

17. As all these are earth-works of a simple nature, it does not appear to me necessary that they should be executed upon estimates prepared by the professional department. There is, moreover, no time now for any preliminary arrangements being made. Should the Board approve, therefore, of the expenditure I have proposed, I beg I may be permitted to put them in hand at once, and to carry out as much as possible before the close of the current official year, as well as the remainder in the beginning of the next year, debiting the expenditure to the accounts of the respective years as it is actually incurred. Bills of actual expenditure will, of course, be submitted when the works are finished.

18. I would beg to add that, from the condition of the ryots as above stated, any contribution from them towards the cost of the works I have proposed is out of the question, and the whole, therefore, will have to be paid from the District Road Fund.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract.—Statement showing the extent of waste and entire shaven out of the unriparated areas as ascertained by actual examination in the withinmentioned Kadaramblam villages in the District of Tanjore, Fusly 1277.

Enclosure No. 2.

Abstract.—Statement showing the amount of remission proposed to be granted for Pungan and Mannayam lands in the Kadaramblam villages, in the District of Tanjore, Fusly 1277.

Enclosure No. 3.

Abstract.—List of works proposed to be executed from the District Road Fund in the Tirupandi talook, in the District of Tanjore.

1. The proposals made by the Collector in paragraphs 5, 6, 10, and 11, are sanctioned, and his suggestion, that an expenditure of Rupees 5,000 be incurred from Local Funds for the purpose of providing work for able-bodied poor in certain localities, is approved. The charge can be met from the current year's reserve, and the Board authorize the Collector to incur the expenditure.

2. The Board await the Collector's further proposals in regard to the Katgutgai villages.

No. 336. ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1868, No. 737.

Miscellaneous

The Board's Proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Accountant General

and S. T. Augustin.

*Copy to 1051.528 3.2.1868
Reported to England No. 16830.3.1868*

2. The Board await the Collector's further proposals in regard to the Katgutgai villages.
(A true Copy and Extract.)

[Signature]
Secretary.

To the Collector of Tanjore.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

.. to W. Robinson, Esq., C.S.I.,

Additional Member of the Board of Revenue, on special duty.

[Signatures and stamps]
23rd March / 68
Exd. J. Wright.