M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-33.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 707 Press ~~Mis.~~

384-396

Dated 6 & 16 March ~~11~~ 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 16th March 1869.

Read the following :—

No. 394. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th February 1869.

Read the following letter from J. R. ARBUTHNOTT, Esq., Officiating Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madura, 19th February 1869, No. 55:—

ADVERTING to the official memorandum of the Under Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, No. 16, dated 11th instant, I have the honor to report that the season has been generally good throughout the principal division, including the large Zemindaries of Ramnad and Shivagunga. The outturn from dry lands is a fair average yield, except in parts of the Melur Talook, where the crops have suffered from want of timely rain. The yield from wet lands has been generally good, and the harvest is not yet come to a close. In the sub-division the season has been less favorable, as the Board will have seen from the reports of the Acting Sub-Collector, enclosed in my letter of the 17th instant, No. 52. Owing to the scarcity of rain in the sub-division, the wet crops have, in some cases, yielded a poor return: in rain-fed localities the wet crops have been good.

2. On the whole, I am glad to say that the season has been favorable, and that I apprehend no scarcity. Grain is generally about twenty-five per cent. cheaper here than it was this time last year.

3. I subjoin a statement of prices prevailing in January 1869 in the cusbah towns of the several talooks:—

Name of the cusbah towns of each talook.	Grains.	Prices in Fuslies.		
		1276.	1277.	1278.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Tirumangalam	Paddy	284 6 5	269 8 1	219 3 6
	Cholum	142 3 2	.....	94 12 9
	Cambu	189 9 7	269 8 1	142 3 2
	Raggy	287 0 0	260 0 0	142 3 2
	Varagu	.....	.....	.....
Madura	Paddy	287 14 10	266 6 1	219 9 4
	Cholum	440 13 8	229 13 1	155 10 11
	Cambu	184 5 3	229 13 1	178 12 0
	Raggy	226 3 6	229 13 1	137 14 2
	Varagu	.....	.....	.....
Melur	Paddy	237 0 0	177 12 0	127 12 1
	Cholum	118 8 0	237 0 0	131 10 8
	Cambu	237 0 0	158 0 0	132 4 6
	Raggy	237 0 0	237 0 0	133 5 0
	Varagu	141 15 3	158 0 0	79 0 0
Periacolum	Paddy	320 14 10	251 2 4	173 12 8
	Cholum	410 13 7	233 5 11	221 3 1
	Cambu	252 12 8	214 9 8	173 12 8
	Raggy	208 0 5	183 15 11	134 4 7
	Varagu	.....	.....	.....
Dindigul	Paddy	301 5 7	261 8 4	185 10 8
	Cholum	392 4 5	291 11 1	220 12 8
	Cambu	180 9 2	215 10 6	161 5 9
	Raggy	235 12 4	221 15 7	174 5 6
	Varagu	.....	.....	.....
Palny	Paddy	249 8 7	280 10 2	178 15 8
	Cholum	360 6 9	284 6 5	246 0 6
	Cambu	150 4 0	237 0 0	164 5 3
	Raggy	225 6 6	237 0 0	177 13 0
	Varagu	.....	.....	.....

The Collector gives a favorable account of the eastern talooks and the Zemindaries of Ramnad and Shivagunga. The condition of the western talooks on sub-division is not so good, but no present cause for anxiety exists. The price of all food-grains has notably declined, as compared with last year.

No. 395. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st March 1869.

Read the following letter from J. R. ARBUTHNOTT, Esq., Officiating Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1869, No. 52:—

I have the honor to forward copies of three letters, received from the Acting Sub-Collector, as noted in the margin, reporting on the state of the season in the sub-division, and applying for the grant of a remission on punjah holdings for the current Fusly.

24th September 1868, No. 191.
14th January 1869, ,, 11.
9th February ,, ,, 39.

2. As Mr. Bliss has founded his reports upon personal inspection, as well as hearsay, I have no hesitation in supporting his recommendations.

3. The only other dry land remission that seems to be required in the district will be a discretionary remission, not exceeding twenty per cent., in certain parts of the Meloor Talook, where the rain-fall has been very scanty.

4. Under these circumstances I have the honor to request the sanction of the Board for granting the following remissions on dry lands in this district;—

(1.) Fifteen per cent. for the Dindigul Talook.
(2.) Twenty per cent. for Palney, with exception of nine villages.
(3.) Seventy-five per cent. for the said nine villages.
(4.) Twenty per cent. for a portion of the Meloor Talook.

5. The financial results of these remissions will be a sacrifice of revenue, which may be roughly estimated at a lac of Rupees for the whole district.

6. This report has been submitted to the Board after the prescribed time; because up to the beginning of February a few showers of rain would have materially improved the prospects of the ryots in those parts of the district where remissions are most required.

Enclosure No. 1.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 28th September 1868, No 191.

I regret to have to report, for your information, that the dry crops throughout the sub-division are suffering very severely from want of rain. There has been very little rain generally since the beginning of August, and I feel sure, from inquiries and personal observation, that on an average not more than half a full crop of cholum, (the principal early dry grain,) can be expected. Even now I hear of crops being cut and sold for fodder to clear the ground for sowing, as soon as the north-east monsoon sets in. If no rain should fall, or the rain should be but partial during the next week, I anticipate very serious consequences. It will scarcely be possible that in any place more than a quarter crop can be reaped; and in many cases the first crop will be entirely lost, and the ryots barely enabled to save themselves from starvation by what they may make by grain as a second crop.

2. I have not heard of any distress beyond what is usual at all times, and have no reason to anticipate scarcity for the present. Should any symptoms of distress show themselves I will lose no time in informing you.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. R. ARBUTHNOTT,
Officiating Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 18th January 1869, No. 11.

I much regret that in a season, which has been so generally favorable throughout the district, I should have to request you to move the Board to grant me authority to make a considerable remission, at the Jummahbundy, of the assessment on dry lands in the Dindigul and Palney Talooks. I should have reported on this subject before the end of 1868, but was in hopes that timely rains would save the pulse-crops. Rain has come, it is true, but not early enough to do much good, and I am reluctantly obliged to ask the Board to sacrifice a large portion of the revenue of my division.

2. The season in the sub-division has been peculiar. In the month of May there was a copious fall of rain which induced a considerable increase of cultivation, and gave me the greatest hopes that we should once more have a prosperous year; but since then, the rains have not only been somewhat scanty, but partial and unreliable in the extreme. As you are aware, dry cultivation is but precarious at the best of times. The delay of a week in the fall of rain may not always destroy the crops, but will, to a certainty, considerably diminish the outturn. This year we have had many such delays, and the crops have suffered proportionately; for instance, I see from my Office Registers that no rain, to speak of or useful for cultivation, fell in the consecutive number of days given below for the following months:—

Months.	Days. Dindigul.	Days. Palney.	
1868, May	.....	13th & 7th	* Detailed account mislaid; but total rain for month only 1¼ inches.
,, June	23rd	*	
,, July	19th & 7th	31st	
,, August	29th	29th	
,, September	8th & 13th	21st	
,, October	23rd	8th & 11th	
,, November	25th	12th & 15th	
,, December	31st	30th	

The consequence has been a very serious loss of produce, extending, according to what I have seen and heard, to one-half in Dindigul and more in Palney. There are, of course, exceptional villages which have fared better, and others which have fared worse; but I am confident that I am not far wrong, on an average, in putting the loss as high as I have said. At one time I feared things would be worse than they are, and so reported in my letter, No. 191, dated 28th September 1868. In the beginning of October, however, we had some heavy showers which saved a great extent of crop that was then fast withering.

3. Had this been an ordinary year, or had failure of crops been the rule rather than the exception throughout the country, I should have refrained from making this application; but it is not an ordinary year: it follows two years of scarcity almost amounting to famine, and the people have no surplus store to fall back on; and, on the other hand, the general character of the harvest has been such that prices are very rapidly falling, and my ryots will not be able to secure good rates for the scanty stock of grain they will be able to bring to market, after reserving sufficient for their maintenance and for seed for next season.

4. I cannot, of course, until the settlement is made, ascertain accurately the effect of the measures I have now the honor to recommend; but a close approximation may be made as follows:—

	Dindigul.	Palney.
	Rs.	Rs.
The dry holdings at the commencement of the Fusly were...	2,21,101	124,185
Deduct land given up	9,437	9,450
	2,11,664	1,14,735
Add land taken up about.....	18,303	7,797
Add enclosed waste, one-third charged to Sevoy jama last Fusly, and whole to be charged this Fusly.....	17,692	26,604
Total...	2,47,659	1,49,136
Of which cultivation up to end of December.....	1,90,622	95,787
Balance waste.....	57,037	53,349

If therefore, as I venture to recommend, fifteen per cent., in Dindigul and twenty per cent. in Palney, on the whole amount of the dry holdings be remitted, the reduction in the demand would be in Dindigul Rs. 37,149 and in Palney Rs. 29,826, or a total of Rupees 66,975. Assuming that the waste still remaining at the time of the Jummahbundy will be Rupees 1,00,000, the remission I now propose will be less than three-quarters of the sum the people will have to pay Government as tax on lands they have not cultivated. Of course, this is not entirely the fault of the weather, or I would propose a larger remission; for the fact is that, to some extent, the people have themselves to blame for the large amount of waste that appears in their holdings. They never, for instance, resign their fallows, and many of them hold on to lands they do not use, just to keep other people out; and that this is not a supposition, or a rare case, is proved by the large sum I have entered above as assessment on enclosed waste. You will notice that this sum alone more than accounts for the balance of waste which will be left after deducting the above remission. I would not wish to relieve the ryots of this charge; for, as a matter of principle, it should be paid, as has long ago been decided. I merely mention the case to explain why I do not propose a higher rate of remission.

5. No doubt Rupees 67,000 is a large sum, but a comparison with previous years will, I trust, satisfy the Board that it is not, under the circumstances, too much. In Fusly 1275 the total remission on dry lands was Rupees 40,316, and in Fusly 1276 Rupees 71,861. In the former of those years, waste only was remitted; and in the latter, besides waste, there was a remission of ten per cent.* on the cultivation in Dindigul and five per cent. in Palney. In Fusly 1277 there was a total remission of Rs. 1,01,618 on dry assessment, of which nearly the whole was, at the rate of thirty per cent.† on the holding, waste, not being remitted, except in one or two special cases, on the principle that it is impossible to ascertain its amount with any accuracy—a principle with which I agree, and on which I propose to make remission this year also. A reference to the Jummahbundy accounts will show that the total demand on account of dry land was Rupees 2,43,054 in Fusly 1277, and Rupees 2,55,321 in Fusly 1276. If my calculations as above are correct, there will this year be a total demand, under this head, of Rupees 3,29,819, showing an increase of Rupees 86,765 over Fusly 1277, and Rupees 74,498 over Fusly 1276, after deduction of Rupees 67,000 remission. There will, therefore, be at all events no loss of revenue.

* Sanctioned in Board's Order, No. 2,124, dated 3rd April 1867.

† Sanctioned in Board's Order, No. 915, dated 6th February 1869.

6. I request that I may receive an early answer, as the preparation of puttahs will shortly commence.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. R. ARBUTHNOTT,
Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 9th February 1869, No. 39.

IN paragraph 2 of my letter, No. 35, dated the 4th instant, I expressed an opinion that punjah remission, at a higher rate than that I have already* proposed for the Palney Taluk, generally would be needed for the dry villages lying between the Amravatti and Shanmuganadi rivers; but that I was not, at the time of writing, in a position to make definite proposals on the subject.

* Vide my letter, No. 11, dated 18th January 1869.

2. I had then personally inspected the cultivation of four only out of the nine dry villages comprised within the above limits, but have since inspected four more. The ninth village, Kolamigoudan, which lies near the centre of the tract of country in question, has been inspected by the Tahsildar, from whose report it appears that its state is no better than that of the villages I have myself seen.

3. The illness of a Curnum has unfortunately prevented my as yet obtaining statistical information of the state of two villages, so that the figures given below relate only to seven; but this omission is of little importance, since no one village is, in my opinion, better or worse off than another, and the general average result cannot be much different from that shown below for seven villages out of nine; and as the time for Jummahbundy is so near, I think it better to write at once than to wait, perhaps several days, for information which, when received, is not likely to be of importance, as leading to a different conclusion from that already in my possession.

4. In the seven villages I find the dry* holdings at the present time, after allowing for lands resigned and taken up during the Fusly, are Cawnies 12,126-2-2, assessed at Rs. 13,760-9-3. Of this the cultivation is Cawnies 7,843-3-2, assessed at Rupees 9,770-11-7.

* Wet holdings only Cawnies 9-2-0, assessed at Rs. 52-4-8.

5. From the above total of cultivation, however, must be deducted Cawnies 316-5-1, assessed at Rupees 1,064-10-0, which, though classed as punjah, is really in a far more favorable category being garden lands irrigated by raising water from the rivers Shanmuganadi and Amravatti, which are never dry. I exclude these lands, because, from personal inspection, I am satisfied that their crops have been, on the whole, good, and that they need no remission. Making this deduction, therefore, there remains, as cultivation dependent on the rains, Cawnies 7,526-14-1, assessed at Rupees 8,706-1-7.

6. Now the waste included at present in the ryots' holdings is Cawnies 4,282-15-0, assessed at Rupees 3,989-13-8. The putcut waste, therefore, is in extent more than, and in assessment nearly half the cultivation. Add to this waste the further "enclosed waste," which is this year to be charged, and which amounts to Cawnies 6,033, assessed at Rupees 6,331-15-10, and we have a total of waste, for which the people will have to pay amounting to Cawnies 10,315-15-0, assessed at Rupees 10,321-13-6, as compared with the cultivation shown in the preceding paragraph. The total waste, therefore, is in extent 137 per cent., and in assessment 118 per cent. of the cultivation.

7. Many of my records are out at Palney, from which place I have just come in for a few days, and I am, therefore, unable to say what proportion the extent of the waste bears to the extent of the cultivation of the rest of the Palney Taluk; but I have calculated the proportion as far as regards assessment, and find that while the total dry cultivation of the rest of the taluk is Rupees 1,00,000, the total waste (calculated as above by the addition of "enclosed waste") is Rupees 30,000. I need say no more to show how very much worse off these particular villages are than the rest of the taluk.

8. Before, however, going on to make any proposals for remissions, I think I should place before you my opinion as to the outturn that the ryots have obtained, or are likely to obtain from their cultivated lands.

9. As I said before, I have inspected personally the cultivation of eight villages out of the nine in question. The crops now on the ground are gram, cotton, and cholum in dry lands, and

cholum, tonsecco, and a few chillies in gardens. The dry-land crops are the only ones of the year of the lands on which they are growing, and the garden crops are second crops, the first having, as a rule, been raggy. The-dry land crops are all fast withering. The gram has, in many places, entirely failed to come up at all, it being evident, from the appearance of the ground, that not a drop of rain has fallen since it was ploughed in November and December. In other, and the majority of places, the plants have come up, but are in such a state that I do not believe the outturn will be as much as the quantity of seeds sown. Certainly not enough to pay the total expenses of cultivation, which will only be the case in a very few favored localities. The cotton and cholum crops are in a slightly better state; but in very few cases are they now half the height they should be at this season. They are all stunted, and cannot possibly yield more than a quarter crop, and perhaps not that. From every thing I can hear, and I have lost no opportunity of making inquiries, the condition of the unirrigated crops already cut was not much, if at all, better. I do not believe that more than a quarter of a full crop was, on an average, realised. The garden cultivation is, of course, in a better state, and the crops now on the ground are moreover second ones; but in *very* few cases is there now more than two feet of water in the wells (generally less,) and the people have already, in many instances, abandoned the attempt to bring to maturity the whole of the standing crops, and are endeavouring, by the sacrifice of a portion, to save the remainder, by devoting to it the whole of the available water. I remarked, also, that it was seldom that the whole ayacut of a well was now under cultivation. It is impossible, of course, for me to say positively what sort of a harvest was obtained from the first crops under the wells, for I did not myself see them; but I see no reason to disbelieve the universal assertion of the people that that also was but poor. Indeed, the present state of the wells shows that they cannot possibly have had a good supply of water at any time during the season, and it is clear that good crops cannot be got with but little water in unusually deep wells. On the whole, I am of opinion that, on the most favorable estimate, the dry crops have not exceeded a quarter of a full crop, and that the wet crops will not amount, on the whole, to more than one full crop, instead of two or three as usual.

10. Under these circumstances, and considering the very evident depression of the people, who have had no gleam of prosperity for many years, I feel it my duty to recommend the grant of remissions on an unusually liberal scale. My proposal is as follows:—

11. By the old custom of the talook remission has, until very recently, been allowed on all putcut waste land in all seasons, good or bad, and the ryots have further not been required to pay for "enclosed waste." If the same rule prevailed now, the remission under these two heads would, as shown above in paragraph 6, amount for this year to Rupees 10,322, or fifty-four per cent. of the total demand. I consider, however, that it can rarely be advisable to remit the assessment on waste as such: first, because it is well nigh impossible to ascertain accurately its extent, with regard to which we are at the mercy of the Curnums; and, secondly, because such remission favors the lazy, at the expense of the enterprising cultivator. I would rather, therefore, charge the waste, and then remit on the holding; and I would propose that this year the punjah remission in the nine villages in question should be given in this manner, and at the rate of seventy-five per cent. This, if granted, will be liberal no doubt but not more, I venture to think, than is necessary. Indeed, I believe that if it is not granted, the people will do as they openly told me they would—run away. It may be thought that their saying so was a mere figure of speech; but I was never so addressed before, even in the hard days of 1866, and I cannot help thinking that they mean what they say. Should this proposal be approved of, you will notice that the loss of revenue will be Rupees 14,271, or 10,465 more than at the twenty per cent. rate I have proposed for the talook generally, and Rupees 3,949 more than would have been the case in any season only a few years ago.

Thalicoth.	Megaraputti.
Pasbyatter.	Kolim gondan.
Modapadi.	Kovilammaputti.
Muddinaikenputti.	Kottathoray.
Rajamputti.	

12. I should further mention that in the hope of sanction being accorded to my proposals, in which case the demand for the Fusly would but little exceed the collections up to the present date, I have taken on myself the responsibility of directing the suspension of collections of revenue until further orders.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th March 1869.

13. I am addressing you separately on the necessity of making early arrangements for the employment of the people on public works, in case the failure of the harvest should cause any further such general distress as to make it difficult for the people to maintain themselves.

14. In conclusion, Sir, I must express my deep regret at the late date at which I am bringing the state of this part of the country to your notice. Had I known of it before, I should, of course, have reported it then; but I did not know it, because, while other duties detained me at a distance, I received not one single word of information on the subject from the Tahsildar, except in the general form of statements in the monthly returns as to the want of rain and short outturn throughout the talook. I had, therefore, no idea that my presence was peculiarly necessary in the western villages. It is not impossible, however, that Mr. Burby himself was ignorant of their state, for, from July to January, he never went near them, and in the latter month for two days only, and to only two villages; and even then he sent me no report, and left me in ignorance until informed by the people themselves on my arrival at Palney.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. R. ARBUTHNOTT,
Officiating Collector.

With this letter the Acting Collector of Madura forwards copies of three letters from his Acting Sub-Collector, Mr. Bliss, regarding the condition of the sub-division.

2. In his first letter, dated so far back as the 28th September last, Mr. Bliss reported that the dry crops throughout the division were suffering very severely from want of rain; that personal observation and inquiries satisfied him that cholum, (the chief early dry grain,) would not yield on an average more than half a full crop; that already standing crops were being cut and sold for fodder, with a view to clear the ground for seed on the opening of the north-east monsoon; and that if sufficient rain did not fall within the ensuing week, the harvest could hardly exceed a quarter crop anywhere, while, in many cases, total loss would ensue, and the ryots would be barely able to save themselves from starvation by their profits from a second crop of grain.

3. In the beginning of October some heavy showers fell, and saved a great extent of crop then fast withering. Thus Mr. Bliss's apprehensions were happily not realised; but the Collector was not justified in withholding from the Board and Government the critical condition of this portion of the district.

4. In his second letter, dated 18th January last, Mr. Bliss reported that, though the north-east monsoon had been so generally favorable throughout the district, the Dindigul and Palney Talooks formed an unfortunate exception. A copious fall of rain in May induced a large increase of cultivation, but the subsequent falls were scanty, and at considerable intervals. The consequence, notwithstanding the showers in October, was a loss of produce in Dindigul to the extent of fifty per cent., and in Palney of even more. Mr. Bliss sought permission to grant a remission in Dindigul of fifteen and in Palney of twenty per cent., on the total assessment of the dry land holdings, which he calculated would involve a loss of revenue to the amount of about 67,000 Rupees.

5. In his third letter, dated 9th February, Mr. Bliss reports on nine villages in the Palney Talook, which have especially suffered. In eight of these Mr. Bliss has personally examined the cultivation, and his report is most serious. The crops on the ground are, in dry land, gram, cotton, and cholum, and are the only crops of the year. The gram in many places has entirely failed to germinate; in others, the yield will not exceed the quantity sown, and certainly not suffice to pay the expenses of cultivation. The cholum and cotton are in a slightly better condition, but stunted and not likely to yield more than a quarter crop, if so much. The crops then off the ground had been little, if at all, better. In the garden, one crop, raggy as a rule, had been harvested, but the yield was poor. On the whole, Mr. Bliss believes that on these lands only one full crop, instead of two or three as usual, would be obtained, and from the failure of the wells, the cultivated area was considerably less than usual. The ninth village Mr. Bliss has not visited, but he has no reason to believe that its state is any better than that of the others. In respect to these nine villages Mr. Bliss recommends a remission of seventy-five per cent. of the assessment of the entire

holdings. Mr. Bliss believes that if this is not granted, the people will abandon the villages. Meanwhile, he has stopped the collections. The proposed remissions will amount to Rupees 14,271.

6. There can be no room for doubt, in the Board's opinion, that liberal and immediate fiscal relief is absolutely necessary in this part of the district. Not only has the season been disastrous, but, in Mr. Bliss's words, "it follows two years of scarcity almost amounting to famine, and the people have no surplus store to fall back on;" and further, owing to the favorable character of the season in other parts of the district, prices are falling, and the fortunate few who have surplus grain cannot expect to be reimbursed for deficient yield by high prices.

7. The Board are decidedly of opinion that the whole of the punjah waste should be remitted. Such a season as that described is clearly not one in which to enforce rigidly the rule of charging for dry waste. The result of so enforcing it would be, that practically the people would get no remission at all for actual loss of crop. The total remission proposed by Mr. Bliss is under Rupees 68,000, while the assessment of the absolutely waste land is 1,10,000 Rupees. So that practically the people will not only have to pay full assessment on lands which have yielded from one-fourth to one-half a full crop, but also Rupees 42,000 more for land which has absolutely yielded nothing. The revenue thus relinquished this year is not really a recognised asset. It is, in fact, a penalty imposed to deter ryots from retaining lands which they have not the means of cultivating and thereby preventing others from taking them up to the prejudice of Government; but it is obvious that in such a season the lands, even if relinquished, would, for the most part, have remained waste. Certainly a year like the present is not one in which to carry out a principle by penalties to the further impoverishment of the people. The Board do not understand the impossibility alleged by Mr. Bliss of ascertaining the real extent of waste.

8. On the cultivated dry land, the Board resolve to direct fifty per cent. remission generally, and seventy-five per cent. in the nine villages specially mentioned. The loss of crop universally has certainly not been less than one-half, and the ryot has to pay all expenses of cultivation out of this diminished yield, while simultaneously prices are falling.

9. In the wet land, where one crop instead of two and three has been obtained, the Board are of opinion that remission for land which has been left waste is sufficient. Where, however, less than one crop in the year has been obtained the remission should be proportioned to the loss.

10. These measures will entail a loss of, in round numbers, Rupees 1,80,000 of *bona fide* revenue, exclusive of the waste remission. The Board are satisfied that a smaller measure of relief will not suffice to prevent the ryots sinking into absolute pauperism. Even with this remission it must be some years before they can retrieve the losses caused by three successive seasons of drought. The Board are confident that liberality to the ryots, in their present distress, will be financially advantageous to the State, and is dictated alike by policy and humanity. In granting these remissions, Mr. Bliss will, of course, be guided by the information acquired at the Jummabundy as to particular holdings and localities.

11. The promised report on the arrangements, which will be necessary to afford the people employment, if this measure should prove requisite, should be submitted without delay. Special grants of funds will be needed for the purpose, as the Road Fund is deeply involved already. The provision of special superintendence, tools, etc., if required in this contingency, will not be overlooked by the Acting Sub-Collector. Supplies of medicines for the epidemics, which occur in seasons of distress, should be laid in, in time, and generally all precautions taken with wise foresight.

12. The Tahsildar should be required to explain his remissness in a case of such exigency and his explanation should be laid before the Board.

13. The Board request further details regarding the Meloor Talook; meanwhile they authorise the Collector to make discretionary remissions of dry assessment in that talook, in parts of which he reports a scanty rain-fall, such as to necessitate it. The Collector will report on the probable amount of this remission.

14. He should state also to what extent, both here and in the sub-division, collections have been made, and suspend further collection till the demand has been adjusted at the Jummabundy.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th March 1869.

15. The Board must remark that there has been reprehensible delay in bringing the condition of the Meloor Talook and of the sub-division to the knowledge of the Board and Government. Had this course been adopted sooner the Acting Collector and his Sub-Collector would ere this have learned to what extent relief might be afforded, and might have acted promptly and decidedly, while if the apprehended necessity had passed the sanctioned measures might have been left in abeyance.

16. The Board are aware that Mr. J. R. Arbuthnott only joined the district in January last.

No. 396. ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1869, No. 707.

Miscellaneous.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council confirms the Orders of the Board of Revenue, but is of opinion that the Board would perhaps have acted more prudently if in the first instance, they had restricted themselves to granting such remissions of Revenue, as the District Officers, after careful local enquiry, recommended.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Govt. of 1869; Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Fasli Cir: 583/72

Dated March, 10th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 10th March 1869, No. 707.

MARCH.

Nos. 331-333.

Season in Madura District.—Orders of the Board of Revenue with reference to the granting of remissions of Revenue, &c., approved.

Received Daily Issue Nos.:
Madras, Northern, Madura
& Tanjore Trade districts
Postage prepaid ..... Co. 19 Jany 69 to 154
20 Feb - 433.
6 March - 592
6 " - 625.
13 " - 687
16 " - 707.

Lett 623/68

Transcribed 593/72

Received
for Secy's orders
on the Sending the
Accounts of Post
to Superintendents

Rec. from Madras March 16 & Oct. 707

Same as
No 559 & 655
for Aiden

Rec'd 24 Feb 69

Write the first Prop. above recorded
the Bd of Revenue on behalf of
very favorable report of the
condition of the Greenville part
of the Macedonia District shewing
that no cause for anxiety exists
and that the prices of Spirits
are ruling where 25 per cent below
the prices ruling last year with

Rec'd 26 March 69

Read record proceedings of the
Board forwarded a letter
from acting Collector
since letter from the A.
Sub Collector giving a much
less favorable picture of
the condition of the two talukas
which form the Sub division
of the District.

Mr Blair, the A. Sub Collector
recommends that in consequence

of the exceptionally unfavourable
nature of the season, and
bears in mind that the
present year is exceptional
years of scarcity, a special
remission of the assessment of
the dry lands[x] of his charge
to the extent of 15 per cent
in the Divisional Talukas, and
20 per cent in Salary Talukas
be sanctioned. He also proposes
that in nine villages of the
Gilt of which he has himself inspected
Cutlur taluka the remission shall
be 25 per cent ~~beyond~~ out of
consideration for the very evident
"depression of the people who
"have had no gleam of prosperity
"for many years"

The W. Pat Collector proposals
are recommended by the C. Coll.
for sanction who also requests
that he may be permitted to
grant a discretionary remission,

[x] all of them held in the Gudlak, whether cultivated, or waste.]

not to exceed 10 per cent, in
the dry lands of certain Talukas
of the Nizam Talukas
The Board of Revenue
for more fuller than two
Distinct Officers having sanctioned
a remission of 50 per cent
of the cultivated dry lands
in Gudiyam & Divisions, and
75 per cent of the assessment
the nine especially distressed
villages of the former taluka
They also express an opinion
that the whole of the assessment
of the dry waste lands left
waste should be remitted,
The District Officers have apparently
carefully based their scheme on
certain rules, and made a
change for land left waste
principle the Board
in the other hand think that
the principle should not be
enforced. With the report
of the Officers & the Board

No 707 Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Dated the 16th March 1864

Read the following Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue
Nos 607 & 608 dated 4th March 1864

The Rt Hon'ble the
Gov. in Council does
confirm the rules of
the Board of Revenue,
but is of opinion that
the Board would have
exercised a wiser discretion
if they had
restricted themselves to
granting such remissions
of revenue, as the
Distt Collectors, after
careful local enquiry,
recommended

[illegible]

To Copies to Mr. Ch. Bd. of Rev. Dept. 17.

(1)

before them, however strong
& the wishes of the Board will be fully gratified
in such cases, if they
transmit the amount of remission
which the District Officer thought
it necessary to forego. The argument
to be brought forward by the Bd
that the assessment of the
waste land is not a proper
one to be considered, can at once
be met by the fact that many
of the gardens but a moiety cultivated
or all land held, whether cultivated
or not, which is fixed with reference
to an average fasli, allowing for
bad seasons and occasional fallows.
It is true that other lands may
not have been fixed in this manner
but the present rules have had the
effect of putting the land on a fair
footing in an equally favourable position.
In sanctioning the Bd's rules it must be
remembered that they have apparently
been unnecessarily liberal.

[illegible]

I understand the
more liberal terms
were accorded by the
Board but I doubt the
expediency of [illegible]
as unreasonably low
for it is [illegible]
declare them.
I should leave
Collectors discretion
to sanction a [illegible]
of the local officers.
I do not see why [illegible]
should have [illegible]
Board. Their [illegible]
& sir our [illegible]
their respective

yes WDM

perhaps laniated
more prudently &
in the first instance.