

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	896	Press ~~Mis.~~
61-62 Dated 3-4-1869 N.		

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd April 1869.*

No. 61. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th March 1869 :—

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 16th March 1869, No. 707.

THE Board regret that the measures which, after careful and anxious consideration of the facts before them, they adopted for the relief of the ryots of the sub-division of Madura, have met with only qualified approval from Government.

2. The Board always attach great weight to the opinions and recommendations of local Officers; but when those opinions and recommendations are not supported by the facts adduced as their basis, and especially when they emanate from comparatively inexperienced Officers, the Board conceive that it is their duty to act on their own appreciation of the facts laid before them, their general experience in revenue administration, and the personal knowledge of the particular district concerned, which any of their body may possess. They cannot think that they would be justified in evading the responsibility, or that Government would suffer them to divest themselves of it.

3. In this particular instance they found that, owing to drought, land bearing an assessment of Rupees 1,10,000 was absolutely waste, and had yielded nothing, and yet the practical effect of the recommendations of the local Officers was to make the ryots pay Rupees 42,000 for this land. Again it appeared that the cultivated area had yielded, on an average, less than half an ordinary crop, and others but quarter, and yet the recommendation of the local Officers practically resulted in charging full assessment on this land.

4. That such heavy losses have been sustained is vouched for by Mr. Bliss after an extensive personal inspection. Further, the present is the third year of severe drought, and the resources of the ryots may be inferred from the fact that their puttahs average but 10 Rupees each.

5. With these facts before them the Board could not see their way to any other conclusion than that the relief proposed by the local Officers was utterly inadequate to the exigencies of the case, as established by themselves.

6. The larger measure of relief, which the Board granted, comprised the remission of the full assessment on all waste, and remissions on cultivation up to fifty per cent. generally and seventy-five per cent. in an exceptional tract : where the losses had been peculiarly heavy to be apportioned to individual cases at the Jummahbundy at the discretion of the settling Officer, Mr. Bliss.

7. The Board have reconsidered the subject carefully since, and feel convinced that the losses which the ryots have suffered during these three successive seasons of drought, render the relief accorded essential, if their impoverishment for years to come is to be arrested. But if Government consider that the Board have been too liberal, there is still time to reduce the relief granted in such degree as Government deem fit. It will be seen from the Sub-Collector's letter, disposed of in the Board's Proceedings of the 17th, (which were passed before the present Order of Government reached them,) that the waste has been ordered to be struck out of

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Govt. of 1869, Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated April, 3rd.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 3rd April 1869, No. 896.

APRIL.

Nos. 61-62.

Remissions of assessment in Madura Sub-division.—Board's Proceedings in respect to this matter, with orders thereon.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd April 1869.*

the ryots' puttahs; but this Order cannot yet have been largely carried out. The settlement for the cultivation has yet to be effected, consequently any modification of the Board's instructions, which Government see fit to order, can still be carried out without material embarrassment.

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 3rd April 1869, No. 896.

Miscellaneous.

THE Right Honorable the Governor in Council does not deem it expedient to interfere with the discretion exercised

by the Board of Revenue in sanctioning remissions of revenue in the Madura District.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

W. 896. R. D.
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Underdate the 1869
Read the following Pro of the
Board of Revenue
M. 19 March 1869.

The Rt Honble the
Govt in Council does
not deem it expedient
to ~~pass any~~ further
the ~~discretionary~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~
rules ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~Board of Revenue~~
sanctioning of revenue
which have been sanctioned
by the Board in the
Madras District.

W. 896.

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