M.R.O. 1—33,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 748. Press Mis.

257-58
Dated 20-5-1870 N.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

148

No. 257. Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, (Revenue,) to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 17th March 1870, No. 6 :—

I HAVE had under my consideration in Council the despatch from your Excellency in Council, dated the 30th September last, (Land Revenue, No. 7,) in which you again refer for my decision "the general question of declaring permanent the "grain-values arrived at during the present revision of assessments" in your Presidency.

2. I have again carefully re-considered that question, and I have seen no sufficient reason for modifying the determination which I communicated to you in my despatch of the 8th April last, No. 7.

3. If, as you seem to believe, the ryots are unwilling to devote their labour and capital to the improvement of their lands, "so long as it is apprehended that, "after every period of thirty years, the increased value which the land has attained "by private outlay of this description will be investigated, and the State-demand "upon it proportionably augmented," I have only to observe that it was never intended that the increased value, which might be given to land by the application of private labour and capital, should be taken into account in forming any new assessment; and it seems to me that it would be easy to dispel any such impression, if it exists, from their minds, by adding to the Proclamation notifying the confirmation of the settlement for a term of thirty years, and its liability to revision at the expiration of that period, some words equivalent to those contained in the Circular Orders quoted in the margin.

"It is to be explained to the ryots that when "the general rates of a district may be "altered, the demand will be regulated with "reference to the intrinsic quality and posi- "tion of the land, as compared with other "land of similar natural soil and situation, "and not with reference to any improve- "ment which may have been effected by the "ryot at his own cost."—Standing Orders "of the Board of Revenue, 1820 to 1865, page 88.

4. Under this explanation, the last objection raised in your despatch would seem to disappear. There would be no necessity for any "classification and investigation of the different soils" on the occasion of a new settlement. Any general causes of increase or decrease, which might have come into operation since the previous settlement, would have to be duly considered, and any necessary alterations might be made in the grain-assessments by the addition or subtraction of a per-centage on the recorded amounts. If no ground for change had arisen, the grain-assessments, although no pledge would be given for their permanency, would remain unaltered.

5. I am accordingly not prepared to withdraw the instructions communicated to you in my despatch of the 8th April last, No. 7.

6. I have to signify to you my approval of the instructions which you have addressed to the Board of Revenue, in view to the occupiers of land being generally informed that the recent assessments made by the Settlement Department will be revised after thirty years' duration.

7. I fully concur with your Government and the Board of Revenue that no change should be made in the assessments of those districts, the settlements of which have already been revised, until thirty years from the date on which the new settlements were introduced in those districts respectively.

No. 258. ORDER THEREON, 20th May 1870, No. 748.

Land Revenue.

ORDERED to lie over.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Battleman.

Govt. of 1870. Judicial.

REVENUE.

To

Dated May, 20th.

Rec'd.

G. O., 20th May 1870, No. 748.

MAY.

Nos. 257-258.

Grain-values arrived at during the revision of assessment in the Madras Presidency.—Despatch from Home Government on this subject ordered to be sent.

28/4/23 II

26.2.24 II

India Office,
London, 17th March 1870.

Revenue,
No. 6

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

My Lord,

Para. 1. I have had under my consideration in Council the Despatch from your Excellency in Council, dated the 30th September last (Land Revenue, No. 7), in which you again refer for my decision "the "general question of declaring permanent the grain values arrived at "during the present revision of assessments" in your Presidency.

2. I have again carefully reconsidered that question, and I have seen no sufficient reason for modifying the determination which I communicated to you in my Despatch of the 8th April last (No. 7).

3. If, as you seem to believe, the ryots are unwilling to devote their labour and capital to the improvement of their lands, "so long as it is "apprehended that, after every period of thirty years, the increased "value which the land has attained by private outlay of this description "will be investigated, and the State demand upon it proportionably "augmented," I have only to observe, that it was never intended that the increased value which might be given to land by the application of private labour and capital should be taken into account in forming any new assessment, and it seems to me that it would be easy to dispel any such impression, if it exists, from their minds, by adding to the Proclamation notifying the confirmation of the settlement for a term of thirty years, and its liability to revision at the expiration of that period, some words equivalent to those contained in the Circular Orders quoted in the margin.*

* "It is to be explained to the ryots that when the general "rates of a district may be altered, the demand will be regu-"lated with reference to the intrinsic quality and position "of the land, as compared with other land of similar "natural soil and situation, and not with reference to any "improvement which may have been effected by the ryot "at his own cost."—Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue, 1820 to 1865, page 88.

4. Under this explanation, the last objection raised in your Despatch would seem to disappear. There would be no necessity for any "classification and investigation of the different soils" on the occasion of a new settlement. Any general causes of increase or decrease which might have come into operation since the previous settlement would have to be duly considered, and any necessary alterations might be made in the grain assessments by the addition or subtraction of a percentage on the recorded amounts. If no ground for change had arisen, the grain assessments, although no pledge would be given for their permanency, would remain unaltered.

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5. I am accordingly not prepared to withdraw the instructions communicated to you in my Despatch of the 8th April last (No. 7)..

6. I have to signify to you my approval of the instructions which you have addressed to the Board of Revenue, in view to the occupiers of land being generally informed that the recent assessments made by the Settlement Department will be revised after thirty years' duration.

7. I fully concur with your Government and the Board of Revenue that no change should be made in the assessments of those districts, the settlements of which have already been revised, until thirty years from the date on which the new settlements were introduced in those districts respectively.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

Rev. Dept 4

Memo: for Orders
on No 6

It is understood that no steps are to be taken yet in regard to the Notification that the assessment is for 30 years. Perhaps this Despatch had better lie over

I.O.S

Settled at Council that the Despatch be ordered to lie over

17/5/20

No. 25.

Revenue

17. March 1870

To
Letter to Fort St. George

No. 6.

Received on the 14th April 1870

Vid
Marseilles & Bombay

No. 748

Ordered to lie over

WWS

List

20th May 1870

WWS.

Declining to modify the decision communicated in despatch of the 24th April last regarding the general question of declaring permanent the grain values annexed at present revision of assessments in the Madras Presidency.

5 0 / 4

No. 748. 20 May