

No. 345. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th July 1871, No. 2,726:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 30th May 1871, No. 132.

I HAVE the honour to state that the sanction accorded in the Government

Dated 6th June 1870, No. 823. Order noted, for the continuance of the temporary establishment* entertained to accelerate the collection of sums due on account of Escheats sold, expires with the end of this month.

* 1 Clerk in the Huzoor on...	Rs. 20
6 Do. in the Talooks	120
6 Peons, at 6 Rs. each	36
Total...	176

2. The arrears outstanding to be realized in the Talook of Walluvanad being comparatively little, the establishment allowed for that talook, at a monthly cost of Rs. 26, may be dispensed with. The remaining portion of the establishment costing Rs. 150 per mensem should, however, be retained for another year.

3. The Demand, Collection, and Balance, of the year 1869-70 and 1870-71, are as shown in the subjoined statement:—

	1869-70.	1870-71.
	RS.	RS.
Arrears...	5,79,622	5,12,032
Current demand	2,45,741	1,99,713
Total...	8,25,363	7,11,745
Collection of arrears	2,47,207	1,45,912
Do. of current demand ...	45,309	41,334
Total...	2,92,516	1,87,247
Balance...	5,32,847	5,24,498

4. It will be observed that in the former year the collection made under arrears was at the rate of 43 per cent., but in the latter, it fell to 28 per cent. There has, however, been a comparative increase in the collection under current demand, the rate per cent. being 21 in 1870-71, while it was only 18 in the previous year. The balance outstanding at the close of the year under report, was less than that of the preceding year by more than Rs. 8,000.

5. The decrease in the collection of the arrears is not due to any remissness or neglect on the part of the establishment employed. Indeed, considering the character of the season, the collection made could not have been effected if more than ordinary diligence had not been exerted.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th July 1871.*

6. It will be remembered that the outstanding balances include Rs. 2,63,642 due on account of the settlement in Cochin, the collection of which has been suspended, pending the disposal of the complaint preferred by certain tenants of that talook.

7. The Board are aware that most, if not all, of the lands on which the demand above shown is due, are wet lands, and their purchasers have to depend solely on the produce of these lands for the discharge of the debts due on them. But the price of paddy has fallen to a rate lower than that which prevailed in any of the preceding eight years. This seems to be the immediate cause which interfered with the collection of the year. The next important article of produce from which the ryots of this district derive money is cocoanut, the price of which has also considerably fallen off in the year:—

Years.	Paddy 1st sort per garce.	Paddy 2nd sort per garce.
	RS.	RS.
1863-64...	214	203
1864-65...	224	219
1865-66...	230	210
1866-67...	271	255
1867-68...	194	188
1868-69...	203	184
1869-70...	213	190
1870-71...	190	171

8. The falling off in the price of these two staple articles has necessarily affected the demand for lands as well as their price. In the year 1869-70 seventeen lands were sold by public auction to realize arrears of purchase-money, and the result was an increase of 2 per cent. on the valuation fixed at the original settlement. But forty lands, i.e., more than double the number sold in the previous year, had to be similarly disposed of in the year under report, and a decrease of 2½ per cent. on the original valuation was the result.

9. I am preparing a full report on the whole system and position of the Escheat Settlement in reference to the Secretary of State's Despatch on the Cochin gardens, and trust soon to lay it before the Board; so it is not now necessary to enter at greater length into the subject.

Submitted for the orders of Government with the request that the reduced Escheat Establishment proposed by the Collector may be sanctioned.

2. Much care should be taken in enforcing the demand on account of the sale of escheats. The money is safe and interest is paid, and under these circumstances it is not desirable to force on measures which defeat the object of the settlement, namely, to secure to the hereditary tenants in fee simple the land which they have long possessed.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th July 1871.*

No. 346.

ORDER THEREON, 27th July 1871, No. 1,310.

Land Revenue.

SANCTIONED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. DeC. SCOTT, Captain, R. E.,
Under-Secy., P. W.D.
for Secy. to Govt.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Accountant-General.

27 Oct 61-62

Rev. 1871. Sept.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH JULY 1871, No. 2,796.

Received. 18th July 1871. Encl.

14. 18. 1871. Rev. 1871. Sept. 1871. 1871. 1871.

JULY.
No. 2,796.

Temporary Establishment—employed in Malabar District for collection of sums due on account of Escheat sold.—Letter from Collector, requesting sanction for retention of a portion of, costing Rupees 150 per mensem, for another year, submitted to Government.

1871. 1871. 1871. 1871. 1871.

1871. 1871. 1871. 1871. 1871.

1871. 1871. 1871. 1871. 1871.