Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th March 1873.

No. 142. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th March 1873, No. 305 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 20th January 1873, No. 38 :—

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of an application, dated 7th instant, from the Rev. Dr. J. Chamberlain of the American Mission for the favourable consideration of the Board of Revenue.

2. It will be seen that the indulgence now asked for was not mooted by Dr. Chamberlain when he first applied for the grant of Cowle, sanctioned by Government in their Proceedings dated 15th May 1868, No. 1,370, referred in Board's Proceedings No. 4,561, dated 19th June 1868. But owing to the heavy cost of clearing the jungle caused by the fact of the locality being extremely feverish, and much difficulty experienced in procuring labour, the work of cleaning and reclaiming the land has so far been a failure to the Mission.

3. Dr. Chamberlain therefore requests that the Cowle rate of assessment be collected upon that portion of land actually reclaimed and cultivated instead of upon the full extent.

4. As remarked by the Board that part of the district where the new village of Arunadayam is situated is sadly in need of enterprise, it would, I consider, be a pity strictly to enforce the terms of the Cowle which will have the effect of compelling Dr. Chamberlain to resign the land altogether.

5. The collection of the Cowle rate of assessment upon the cultivated area would still be a clear gain to Government, for I am certain that if Dr. Chamberlain gives up the village there will be no demand for lands in that locality, and the whole extent of land he has been able to reclaim will speedily relapse into jungle again.

6. I beg therefore strongly to recommend that the Board will, in consideration of the exceptional circumstances of this case, be pleased to recommend that Government shall sanction the indulgence asked for by Dr. Chamberlain.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Rev. Dr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, American Mission, Palmanair, to the Acting Collector of North Arcot, dated 7th January 1873.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st May 1868, No. 3,205, and the Government order thereon of 15th May 1868, No. 1,370, with the subsequent order of the Board of Revenue to the Acting Collector of North Arcot thereon of 19th June 1868, and the letter from the Collector of North Arcot, officially communicating the same to me dated 19*th October* 1869, I have the honour to request—

(1.) That you will be so good as to inform me of the date from which Cowle rent is to be paid on the land made over to me in the village of Arunadaya (formerly Bodaviriapalli), as there seems to be some difference of opinion in the matter.

(2.) That you will be so good as to inform me as to what amount of land the tax must be paid on. On this I have to remark—

(1.) That when I made application for the land once belonging to the deserted village of Bodaviriapalli, I was not aware of its extent but supposed it to be much less than it proved to be

(2.) That I was under the impression that only the portion which had been actually taken up at the end of the five years would be assessed, and had no idea of the possibility of rent being called for on the whole acreage once cultivated over 60 years ago.

(3.) That the land has not proved so good as I had supposed, that the redeeming it from the jungle has been much more expensive, and that the seasons have been very bad up to the present one. The experiment has not been a success; the subduing of the jungle having cost ten times the total value of the crops so far raised.

(4.) Less than one-fifth of the land has thus far been brought under cultivation. If then the tax is levied on the whole acreage even at the reduced rate of one-fourth, as per the Cowle terms, it will fall so heavily upon the cleared portion as to be entirely prohibitive; that is, instead of paying the full tax on the seven cawnies cultivated we must pay one-fourth tax on some 38 cawnies, making more than the full tax on the cultivated portion, thus presenting the anomaly of our paying a higher tax on the cleared portion of the jungle land on the south of the river than is paid on the old cultivated and richer lands on the north side of the river; and that while professing to hold it on exceptionally favourable terms to pay for the heavy expense incurred in clearing the jungle.

(5.) I would be glad of a speedy answer. As, if the tax is to be levied on the whole of the land once cultivated, but now thick jungle, it will be necessary for me to give up the Cowle and withdraw from the attempt entirely so soon as the present crops are harvested.

(6.) The Board of Revenue in their Proceedings dated 1st May 1868, recognized that "that part of the district is in a very bad condition and much in need of enterprise," and would, I think, see the policy of so liberally interpreting the Government order as to allow of the possibility of that enterprise being applied to it.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with reference to G. O., 15th May 1868, No. 1,370.

2. Under the circumstances described in Mr. Chamberlain's letter, it is clear that the enterprise cannot continue if the assessment is levied on the entire area of land granted him on Cowle tenure. It has been found impossible to bring more than a limited portion of this land under cultivation up to this time.

3. The explanation afforded accounts sufficiently for this circumstance. The Board are of opinion that the Cowle rate should be levied only on the cultivated portion of the village.

No. 143. ORDER THEREON, 14th March 1873, No. 311.

Land Revenue.

THE Board's proposal is approved.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 305.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th March 1873.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 20th January 1873, No. 38:—

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3. Dr. Chamberlain therefore requests that the Cowle rate of assessment be collected upon that portion of land actually reclaimed and cultivated instead of upon the full extent.

4. As remarked by the Board that part of the district where the new village of Arunadayam is situated is sadly in need of enterprise, it would, I consider, be a pity strictly to enforce the terms of the Cowle which will have the effect of compelling Dr. Chamberlain to resign the land altogether.

5. The collection of the Cowle rate of assessment upon the cultivated area would still be a clear gain to Government, for I am certain that if Dr. Chamberlain gives up the village there will be no demand for lands in that locality, and the whole extent of land he has been able to reclaim will speedily relapse into jungle again.

6. I beg therefore strongly to recommend that the Board will, in consideration of the exceptional circumstances of this case, be pleased to recommend that Government shall sanction the indulgence asked for by Dr. Chamberlain.

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From Rev. Dr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, American Mission, Palmanair, to the Acting Collector of North Arcot, dated 7th January 1873.

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(2.) That I was under the impression that only the portion which had been actually taken up at the end of the five years would be assessed, and had no idea of the possibility of rent being called for on the whole acreage once cultivated over 60 years ago.

(3.) That the land has not proved so good as I had supposed, that the redeeming it from the jungle has been much more expensive, and that the seasons have been very bad up to the present one. The experiment has not been a success; the subduing of the jungle having cost ten times the total value of the crops so far raised.

(4.) Less than one-fifth of the land has thus far been brought under cultivation. If then the tax is levied on the whole acreage even at the reduced rate of one-fourth, as per the Cowle terms, it will fall so heavily upon the cleared portion as to be entirely prohibitive; that is, instead of paying the full tax on the seven cawnies cultivated we must pay one-fourth tax on some 38 cawnies, making more than the full tax on the cultivated portion, thus presenting the anomaly of our paying a higher tax on the cleared portion of the jungle land on the south of the river than is paid on the old cultivated and richer lands on the north side of the river; and that while professing to hold it on exceptionally favourable terms to pay for the heavy expense incurred in clearing the jungle.

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(6.) The Board of Revenue in their Proceedings dated 1st May 1868, recognized that "that part of the district is in a very bad condition and much in need of enterprise," and would, I think, see the policy of so liberally interpreting the Government order as to allow of the possibility of that enterprise being applied to it.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with reference to G. O., 15th May 1868, No. 1,370.

2. Under the circumstances described in Mr. Chamberlain's letter, it is clear that the enterprise cannot continue if the assessment is levied on the entire area of land granted him on Cowle tenure. It has been found impossible to bring more than a limited portion of this land under cultivation up to this time.

3. The explanation afforded accounts sufficiently for this circumstance. The Board are of opinion that the Cowle rate should be levied only on the cultivated portion of the village.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J Grole
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Received

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 4TH MARCH 1873, No. 305.

Dept of March 73.
Encl.

MARCH.
No. 305.

Land in Arnadayam Village in North Arcot District, made over to Rev. Dr. Chamberlain of American Mission in 1869.—Request of this gentleman that Cowle rate of assessment may be collected on portion of—actually reclaimed and cultivated and not upon the full extent of the land, submitted for orders of Government.

No 703
Rec'd 18 73.