900

India Office,
London, 24th July 1873.

Revenue,
No. 18.

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

My Lord,

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 31st March, No. 3 of 1873, transmitting the proceedings of your Government, relative to the remission of the assessment of six taluqs in the Nellore District, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I observe that your approval of the revised assessment is founded on the fact that it is recommended by the Board of Revenue, and you consider that, on the strength of this recommendation, it may safely be accepted. I am not, however, wholly satisfied with this conclusion, when I find that the Board of Revenue itself reports that the assessment is "heavy," and, with the cesses, "very heavy;" that "the commutation rate is as high as can safely be ventured on;" that "the grain yields are high;" that "the allowances for carriage of produce, vicissitudes of season," &c., are "lower than in other districts," and that "generally the tendency is towards exacting as much as the people can pay;" that "the district has little foreign trade;" that "a large proportion of the land-holders consists of small occupants," and that the "saleable value of land is very low."

3. The misgivings which these admissions are calculated to inspire are not diminished when I advert to the history of our proceedings in respect to this district, which is given in the proceedings of the Board. The assessment from the period of our acquisition of the territory has been severe, compelling frequent reductions and remissions, and it appears that so late as 1854 a "large quantity of land was found to be out of cultivation."

4. I cannot regard this state of things as satisfactory and, before confirming these proceedings, I desire to be informed how far this assessment conforms to the principle of taking not more than one half the net produce of the soil, and also what the selling price of land actually is in the Government and in the Inam lands.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

14907.

Rep

4

No 5.

Revenue
24th July 1873

No
Letter to Fort St George
No 18.

Bros 26 Augt 1873
L. R. 202.

Council

Requesting to be informed on certain points, before confirming the proceedings of Govt relative to the remission of assessment in the case of six talukas in the Nellore Dt.

L. 199-200

L. 202-203

Received at Cantonment on the 17 Augt 1873

5,7

Revenue

1 Copy of G.O. 28 Augt 1873 No 900 taken out of this Bundle for Reference from England of 25th May 1874 No 11 - Che the Table of Contents printed 1873, the G.O. is noted 22 Augt and the Nos are 202-203 - while on the G.O. itself the date is printed as 25 Augt & the Nos as 199-200

L.R. 29/6/74.

One copy of G.O. 25 Aug

4 No 5

Revenue Dept. 7.12

Confidential

No 903

Pros of the Madras Govt
under date the 25 Augt 1873.

Read the following
Despatch from the Rt Honble
the Secy: of State for India

H. S. 24 July 1873, No 18.

requesting to be informed on
points before conforming
proceedings of Govt relative to
suspension of assessment in the
ore Dt.

The foregoing Despatch
will be forwarded to the
Board of Revenue for very
early report after commu-
nication with the Director
of Revenue Settlement.

2. Previous to the re-
ceipt of this despatch the
Governor in Council had
it in contemplation, owing
to the adverse character of
the present season to
modify to some extent the
instructions

Augt 1873 No 903 - put up with pencil cuts No 912 and sent to Offg a-t-l Augt 174

1 Copy stitched with original.
24 Copies delivered to the Reference Dept. by the Registrar on the 9 Nov 73

instructions issued for the introduction of the Revised Settlement into the Principal Division of the Nellore District in the Proceedings of Govt. under date 6 March 1873, No. 267, and orders have now been issued to this effect

Despd in dt. 6
W. g Circle
25 Sept.

AUGUST.

Nos. 199-200.

Revised Assessment in the Nellore District. Forwarding to the Board of Revenue for early report despatch from the Secretary of State, desiring to be informed how far the — conforms to the principle of taking not more than one-half the net produce of the soil, &c.