392

M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 18

(2) Date of repair 22. 7. 1966

(3) Initials of the Referencer CBr

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	392	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated	30- 3. 1874	~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/392

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 30th March 1874.

No. 241. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th March 1874, No. 557 :—

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Keelakarai, 24th February 1874, No. 48 :—

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 26th January 1874, No. 132, I have the honour to submit my report upon the results of the harvest of dry crops with recommendations for the remissions of a portion of the assessment thereon.

2. Madura Taluq.—In this taluq both the early and late rains were partial and scanty, the rain-fall recorded being only inches 24·9½ against 32·1¼ in the previous year. A large extent of Punjah land was brought under cultivation between June and August, but there was little or no rain, and the crops looked very bad till the latter part of October, when rain fell, and a great improvement took place. In November the rain was very partial, and the condition of those villages where rain fell in that month presented a striking contrast to those villages where there was no rain. In December there was no rain, and it is want of rain in November and December that has done the chief mischief.

3. With reference to the effect of the season on the dry crops, the taluq may be divided into four tracts of country.

1.	Tooroombur village	59
2.	Valiaputty do.	43
3.	Madura do.	77
4.	Sholavendan do.	34
		249

4. Some villages enjoyed special advantages being near the Vigai river, or having received the benefit of the partial travelling showers. On this account, 121 villages may be dismissed from consideration.

5. In the Tooroombur tract, fifty-nine villages suffered greatly. The harvest of Cumboo and Varagoo was very poor, not exceeding 5 or 6 Marcals per guly, 36 Marcals being a very good crop. Horse-gram was a total failure, and the Inspecting Officers report that Castor-oil, Dholl and Mochai presented a very wretched appearance.

6. In these villages it seems necessary that one-third of the assessment on the Punjah holdings should be remitted.

7. In the Valiaputty tract, twenty-two villages have suffered greatly, but less than those in Tooroombur ; and in them I recommend a remission of 12½ per cent. of the assessment of the Punjah holdings. This will relieve the ryots from the payment of their last Punjah kist, at the time of their greatest difficulty, which will be before the Kodai harvest is reaped.

8. In Madura tract a remission of 20 per cent. is proposed for seventeen villages, and of 12½ per cent. for eighteen villages.

In twelve villages of the Sholavendan tract, a remission of 12½ per cent. is also recommended.

9. On the whole, the amount of remission in the Madura Taluq will be only about Rupees 5,443. The Nunjah crop has also been bad in all the villages for which remission is recommended.

10. MELUR TALUQ.—This taluq forms the charge of the Assistant Collector, and I beg to enclose copy of his letter, No. 28, dated 3rd February 1874. Mr. Nicholson states that he has been unable to make a personal inspection of the taluq, and it has undoubtedly been impossible for him to do so. The District Judge has officially recorded his opinion that the Judicial duties of the Madura Head-Assistant are too heavy for one officer, yet Mr. Nicholson has at present to perform all these duties in addition to his ordinary Revenue, Magisterial and Municipal work. The appointment of a Deputy-Collector, sanctioned in G. O., dated 3rd February 1874, No. 156, has, however, enabled me to send an officer to Melur, and this taluq will be specially reported on by P. Subbier at an early date.

11. Mr. Nicholson doubts whether remission is necessary, but the taluq is a very poor one, and I have no hesitation in recommending that sanction be granted for the following remissions. The sanction will not be used if the additional Deputy-Collector's report turns out more favourable than I have any reason to expect it will.

12. Forty-six villages of this taluq require no remission.

In twenty-four villages there was very little rain in the beginning of the year, and the [illegible] was that, a small extent of Punjah land was brou[illegible] cultivation. Cholum, Cumboo, Varagoo, Ragi, and Sami yielded a poor harvest, and the pulse crops which were cultivated in the latter part of the season, completely withered in some places, and in others gave a very poor out-turn. The Nunjah crop also is reported to be a complete failure. For these twenty-four villages, I beg to recommend that a remission of ½ of the assessment on Punjah holdings be granted.

These remarks apply to fourteen other villages, but in a less degree, and for these I recommend a remission of ⅓rd the assessment of the Punjah holding.

The total remission in this taluq will be about Rupees 29,191.

13. PEREACOLAM TALUQ.—In this taluq there was a good and seasonable fall of rain in the commencement of the year, and almost all the dry land was brought under cultivation, but the character of the season changed afterwards. The quantity of rain registered was only 18·4⅝ against 25·7¼rd in the preceding year. The chief grain and pulse crops cultivated were Ragi, Sami, Cumboo and Cholum; Horse-gram, Mochai and Castor-oil seeds. Up to October, there was rain from time to time, and the crops presented a healthy appearance; but there was a failure of rain in November and December, and the villages in the lower part of the Cumbum Valley suffered very severely. In fifteen villages situated in that part of the taluq, the dry crops withered, except in the slopes of the hills which enclose the valley, and in a few other favoured localities which received the benefit of occasional showers. Even in these exceptional places it was only the Castor-oil seeds and Mochai sown in intervals with the main crops, viz., Sami, Ragi, etc., which yielded the out-turn of a favourable year. The yield of the main crops was

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1874.

below 8 Annas. Horse-gram which was extensively cultivated both on the slopes of the hills and other places totally withered.

14. In seven of the villages which suffered most, a remission of ⅜rds of the assessment on the Punjah holding seems necessary, and in the remaining eight villages, a remission of ½ the assessment will suffice. This will amount to about Rupees 19,220. The Nunjah crops in these villages failed also to a great extent.

15. SUB-DIVISION—DINDIGUL AND PULNI TALUQS.—I beg to forward copies of letters* received from Messrs. Martin and Cameron, regarding the season and the yield of the dry crops in the Sub-division.

* Dated 16th January 1874, No. 15.
,, 11th February ,, ,, 62.

16. For Dindigul Taluq Mr. Cameron recommends a remission of 75 per cent. in two villages; 50 per cent. in seven; 37½ per cent. in thirteen; 25 per cent. in nineteen; and 12½ per cent. in sixty villages. For Pulni Taluq he recommends a remission of 50 per cent. for sixteen villages; 37½ per cent. for one; 25 per cent. for fifteen; and 12½ per cent. for nineteen villages.

17. I would strike out the rate at 75 per cent. and substitute 50 per cent. because most of the ryots must have already paid 50 per cent. of their assessment, and I would strike out entirely the proposed remission of 12½ per cent. It appears from the reports that the out-turn of crops in the villages for which this remission is proposed, is ⅜ths of a full crop which cannot be much [illegible] age out-turn in these dry taluqs, with the advantage of high prices. I have proposed no remission in the other parts of the district, where the out-turn has clearly exceeded half a full crop. The other proposals of the Sub-Collector may, I think, be sanctioned as the maximum of remission on the understanding that fuller enquiry will be made before the Jammabundy, and that the Settling officer will reduce the sanctioned scale when practicable. The Board will observe that up to the middle of January the Tahsildars considered no remissions necessary, and Mr. Martin, who had seen a great deal of the country, expresses no decided opinion on the subject. I cannot speak with any certainty at present about these taluqs because I have been obliged to go to Ramnad. The total remission in the Sub-division at the rates I propose will not exceed 57,745.

18. Four statements are enclosed for the Board's information. The Tirumangalam Taluq still remains to be reported on, because detailed information has not yet been received from the Tahsildar. The cotton crop there has been fair, but the other dry crops have suffered severely.

—

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Assistant Collector, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 3rd February 1874, No. 28.

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, a statement prepared by the Melur Tahsildar, with reference to the proposed remission on Punjah crops. Owing to the late press of business, I have been unable to make a personal inspection, but from a comparison of the statement with the

9. On the whole, the amount of remission in the Madura Taluq will be only about Rupees 5,443. The Nunjah crop has also been bad in all the villages for which remission is recommended.

10. Melur Taluq.—This taluq forms the charge of the Assistant Collector, and I beg to enclose copy of his letter, No. 28, dated 3rd February 1874. Mr. Nicholson states that he has been unable to make a personal inspection of the taluq, and it has undoubtedly been impossible for him to do so. The District Judge has officially recorded his opinion that the Judicial duties of the Madura Head-Assistant are too heavy for one officer, yet Mr. Nicholson has at present to perform all these duties in addition to his ordinary Revenue, Magisterial and Municipal work. The appointment of a Deputy-Collector, sanctioned in G. O., dated 3rd February 1874, No. 156, has, however, enabled me to send an officer to Melur, and this taluq will be specially reported on by P. Subbier at an early date.

11. Mr. Nicholson doubts whether remission is necessary, but the taluq is a very poor one, and I have no hesitation in recommending that sanction be granted for the following remissions. The sanction will not be used if the additional Deputy-Collector's report turns out more favourable than I have any reason to expect it will.

12. Forty-six villages of this taluq require no remission.

In twenty-four villages there was very little rain in the beginning of the year, and the [illegible] was that, a small extent of Punjah land was brought under cultivation. Cholum, Cumboo, Varagoo, Ragi, and Sami yielded a poor harvest, and the pulse crops which were cultivated in the latter part of the season, completely withered in some places, and in others gave a very poor out-turn. The Nunjah crop also is reported to be a complete failure. For these twenty-four villages, I beg to recommend that a remission of ½ of the assessment on Punjah holdings be granted.

These remarks apply to fourteen other villages, but in a less degree, and for these I recommend a remission of ⅓rd the assessment of the Punjah holding.

The total remission in this taluq will be about Rupees 29,191.

13. Pereacolam Taluq.—In this taluq there was a good and seasonable fall of rain in the commencement of the year, and almost all the dry land was brought under cultivation, but the character of the season changed afterwards. The quantity of rain registered was only 18·4¾ against 25·7½rd in the preceding year. The chief grain and pulse crops cultivated were Ragi, Sami, Cumboo and Cholum; Horse-gram, Mochai and Castor-oil seeds. Up to October, there was rain from time to time, and the crops presented a healthy appearance; but there was a failure of rain in November and December, and the villages in the lower part of the Cumbum Valley suffered very severely. In fifteen villages situated in that part of the taluq, the dry crops withered, except in the slopes of the hills which enclose the valley, and in a few other favoured localities which received the benefit of occasional showers. Even in these exceptional places it was only the Castor-oil seeds and Mochai sown in intervals with the main crops, viz., Sami, Ragi, etc., which yielded the out-turn of a favourable year. The yield of the main crops was

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1874.

2/392

below 8 Annas. Horse-gram which was extensively cultivated both on the slopes of the hills and other places totally withered.

14. In seven of the villages which suffered most, a remission of ⅔rds of the assessment on the Punjah holding seems necessary, and in the remaining eight villages, a remission of ½ the assessment will suffice. This will amount to about Rupees 19,220. The Nunjah crops in these villages failed also to a great extent.

15. Sub-division—Dindigul and Pulni Taluqs.—I beg to forward copies of letters* received from Messrs. Martin and Cameron, regarding the season and the yield of the dry crops in the Sub-division.

* Dated 16th January 1874, No. 15.
,, 11th February ,, ,, 62.

16. For Dindigul Taluq Mr. Cameron recommends a remission of 75 per cent. in two villages; 50 per cent. in seven; 37½ per cent. in thirteen; 25 per cent. in nineteen; and 12½ per cent. in sixty villages. For Pulni Taluq he recommends a remission of 50 per cent. for sixteen villages; 37½ per cent. for one; 25 per cent. for fifteen; and 12½ per cent. for nineteen villages.

17. I would strike out the rate at 75 per cent. and substitute 50 per cent. because most of the ryots must have already paid 50 per cent. of their assessment, and I would strike out entirely the proposed remission of 12½ per cent. It appears from the reports that the out-turn of crops in the villages for which this remission is proposed, is ⅔ths of a full crop which cannot be much [illegible] turn in these dry taluqs, with the advantage of high prices. I have proposed no remission in the other parts of the district, where the out-turn has clearly exceeded half a full crop. The other proposals of the Sub-Collector may, I think, be sanctioned as the maximum of remission on the understanding that fuller enquiry will be made before the Jammabundy, and that the Settling officer will reduce the sanctioned scale when practicable. The Board will observe that up to the middle of January the Tahsildars considered no remissions necessary, and Mr. Martin, who had seen a great deal of the country, expresses no decided opinion on the subject. I cannot speak with any certainty at present about these taluqs because I have been obliged to go to Ramnad. The total remission in the Sub-division at the rates I propose will not exceed 57,745.

18. Four statements are enclosed for the Board's information. The Tirumangalam Taluq still remains to be reported on, because detailed information has not yet been received from the Tahsildar. The cotton crop there has been fair, but the other dry crops have suffered severely.

—

Enclosure No. 1.

From F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Assistant Collector, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 3rd February 1874, No. 28.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, a statement prepared by the Melur Tahsildar, with reference to the proposed remission on Punjah crops. Owing to the late press of business, I have been unable to make a personal inspection, but from a comparison of the statement with the

fortnightly Season reports, and my own previous eye knowledge, I have little doubt but that it is substantially correct.

2. The return has been prepared by my orders in such a way as to show the condition of the villages both as to *Nunjah* and *Punjah* out-turn. My reasons are given further on.

3. It will be seen that in the first two divisions both Nunjah and Punjah crops are poor, that there is much waste owing to failure of rain at seed time, and much shavi owing to failure of rain during the growing times. If Punjah remission is to be granted, I would suggest that $\frac{3}{8}$th or half of the Punjah assessment on all putta lands both cultivated and waste be granted for the two divisions in question.

For the 3rd division chiefly Nattam and Melur, where the Nunjah out-turn is fair, but the Punjah out-turn bad or but very moderate. I see no reason to recommend Punjah remission.

4. I think that the Nunjah out-turn should be considered in this matter since the question in this taluq is not one of actual scarcity of food, but of high prices. When, therefore, the valuable Nunjah crop is good, there can be no reason to grant petty remissions of Punjah which, while it scarcely helps the ryot, unmistakeably cripples Government.

5. Whether remission should be granted at all is a matter for consideration. There is in Melur a population of 128,600 who are almost every one of them cultivators, the taluq being purely agricultural with no towns. There will, therefore, be probably 26,000 householders, of whom 21,700 are Puttadars and the rest cultivators and labourers. The latter are actually paid in-kind and will not be much affected by scarce Punjah crops. The Puttadars *might* be, but in my opinion but slightly; Melur produces large quantities of gram and dry grains which find a market in Madura. If crops are scarce in Melur, market prices will be high, as painful experience in the keen of horses shows. Where twenty-five measures can usually be got in Melur villages, probably not twelve will be got this year. I am therefore at a loss to see how the Melur ryots will be materially affected. There is no polulation in Melur to be provided for, save the cultivators, and they while losing by deficiency will gain by increased value of the crops.

Further, the remission (or so much of it as reaches the actual ryots) when divided amongst so many is after all of little help to individuals from the mere paltriness of the amount. At the same time, the grant of remission begets precisely the spirit of dependence, improvidence and indolence, which should be checked, and is in fact a step backward in education. I have received no requests or but two or three for Punjah remission, and in those cases it was merely added to a request for Nunjah remission. It appears a much more profitable proceeding both for the Circar and for the ryots, that the full amount of revenues should be collected and that the amount which would otherwise have been remitted should be spent in village reproductive works, such as tanks, etc. This plan would have the advantage (1) of inculcating foresight and self-dependence; (2) of diminishing Government losses by failure of crops; (3) of causing a large direct gain to the ryots in increased certainty and extent of cultivation; (4) of a direct gain of revenue to Government from increased cultivation and diminished remissions and an indirect gain from the increased wealth of the ryots; (5) the amount would in effect be remitted to the ryots since the works would as usual be carried out by village contracts and labourers who would thus regain the amount of their payment to Government.

Melur ryots have these further advantage that during the non-cultivation season they can go in large numbers to Ceylon where there is a great demand for labour, the cost of reaching Ceylon is just 4 Annas.

Under these circumstances, it may be a question whether Punjah remission should be granted at all.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 16th January 1874, No. 15.

I HAVE the honour to report that in answer to my enquiries, both the Sub-division Tahsildars have reported that remissions will be unnecessary in any parts of their taluqs. I am not however prepared to endorse their opinions without further enquiry. There was a short rain-fall at the proper season, and though the October rain was more than usual, it was not in time to repair the damage which had already been done to the staple food of grains of the poor class, consequently I anticipate very little above a half crop on the average for these grains and not more than $\frac{3}{8}$ths in parts of the division; especially the west and north-west villages of Pulni Taluq and the villages lying due north of the Vedasendur division of the Dindigul Taluq.

2. The prices of these grains were by last report, however, showing only a very slight upward tendency, not more than is usual at this time of year; but I understand that there has been a very sudden and remarkable rise of prices in the principal division, which must necessarily affect the Sub-division also.

3. There are now in the ground very fine crops of the pulse species all over the Sub-division; these were planted under favourable circumstances, and should, with the help of an ordinary fall of rain, turn out well above the average, but the rain is holding off persistently, and there is already reason to fear that part of this crop may be lost and that the market supply of food may be affected still further hereafter.

4. The store of water for the rice crop should be much the same as this time twelve month (to judge from the registered rain-fall) and the crop looks well; want of rain is, however, complained of, and whether it is from anticipations of a short crop or from the supply being affected by exportation to Bengal and elsewhere, the price of rice is rising very rapidly.

5. I have ordered the Tahsildars to report in detail on the out-turn of the dry grains in the parts of the division I have spoken of, but I write now on the subject to give you my opinion generally before I hand over charge of the Sub-Collectorate to Mr. Cameron.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From J. CAMERON, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 11th February 1874, No. 62.

IN reference to my letter, dated 6th instant, No. 56, regarding the season and crops, I have the honour to report that there has still been no rain-fall up to the present in this Division. The crops, therefore, have suffered very considerably, and a partial remission of assessment is absolulely necessary over a large portion of the Division. The parts of the Division affected are the north-east, north and north-west of Dindigul Taluq and the north, north-west and west of Pulni Taluq.

2. It will be seen in the marginal table that in these taluqs there was very little rain in November and December and none in January. The crops are reported to be only from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the usual out-turn, and large extents have been left uncultivated altogether.

Months.	Dindigul.	Pulni.
April	·39	2·60
May	3·27	3·00
June	·85	·10
July	·61	·00
August	2·66	·70
September	·37	2·25
October	7·07	10·10
November	2·11	3·40
December	1·52	·60
January	·00	·00

3. It is considered necessary that in two villages of Dindigul 75 per cent. on the actual holding should be remitted; on *seven* others 50 per cent.; on thirteen, 37½ per cent.; on nineteen, 25 per cent., and in as many as sixty others that have also suffered but less severely that 12½ or $\frac{1}{8}$th be remitted. Similar percentages

are necessary in Pulni Taluq. The table in the margin will show the amount thus proposed to be remitted, and full particulars will be found in the enclosed Accounts I. and II. regarding these villages severally, their holding, cultivation, percentage of waste, and average outturn of crop, the first being a Villagewar Statement and the other an abstract thereof. I have felt some hesitation regarding these last villages at 12½ per cent., those of Dindigul especially, as it gives hardly any appreciable relief to each individual ryot and entails a considerable amount of loss of revenue to Government. I find, however, that 12½ per cent. has been granted before, and I would recommend it for these further reasons; (1) that being ⅛th it will relieve the ryots of the payment of one kist at a season when they will be most unable to pay it; and (2) that in Dindigul and Pulni the total assessment of the waste of the villages for which this percentage (12½) is proposed, is Rupees 11,972 and 4,797 respectively, and the amount of remission is Rupees 11,340 and 4,423, so that the remission proposed amounts only to the assessment on the waste or very nearly so—(*Vide* Columns 8 and 14 of Account II).

Taluq.	Rate of remission.	No. of villages.	Total of assessment.	Total remission.	Out-turn of cultivated land.
	P. CENT.	RS.	RS.	RS.	
Dindigul ...	75	2	6,133	4,600	½
	50	7	21,323	10,661	½
	37½	13	35,264	13,224	⅜
	25	19	28,645	7,161	¼
	12½	60	90,722	11,340	⅛
Total...	.....	101	1,82,087	46,986	.....
Pulni ...	50	16	34,876	17,438	½
	37½	1	5,170	1,939	⅜
	25	15	17,021	4,255	¼
	12½	19	35,387	4,423	⅛
Total...	.....	51	92,454	28,055	.....
Grand Total.	.....	152	2,74,541	75,041	.....

4. The season continues bad, prices are rising, and in all probability will continue to do so. Water in wells is scarce in a great many places, and fodder is also becoming scarce. There may even be a scarcity of the general food supply of the people, but this can only be conjectured with any certainty when the season is further advanced.

5. I regret that this report has not been submitted earlier, but the information required from Pulni Taluq, to which I alluded in my last letter, was only received yesterday.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 4 to 7.—Statements.

IN the foregoing letter the Collector of Madura proposes reductions in the assessment due upon certain tracts of dry land on which the crops have failed owing to the want of the usual rain in November and December. Each taluq will be noticed separately.

2. MADURA.—The Collector divides this taluq into four tracts as follows:—

	Villages.
Tooroombur	95
Valiaputty...	43
Madura	77
Sholavendan	34
Total...	249

Out of this total there are 121 villages which require, as shown by the Collector, no special alleviations. In the first division, Tooroombur, the dry crops in fifty-nine villages have suffered severely, and the Collector recommends a reduction of ⅓rd of the assessment. In the second tract "Valiaputty" the loss has been less severely felt and the concession recommended is 12½ per cent., or in other words the relinquishment of the last kist, on dry lands in twenty-two villages.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1874.

In the third tract, Madura, 20 per cent. is proposed for seventeen villages and 12½ for eighteen villages, whilst in the final division of Sholavendan the only concession is to be 12½ per cent. in twelve villages. The total amount to be foregone in the Madura Taluq is by these arrangements Rupees 5,443, and the Board sanction the course proposed. Mr. McQuhae should have stated by whom these tracts have been examined.

3. MELUR.—Here in certain localities the dry crops not only failed, but the wet crops afforded no counterbalancing yield, and half of the dry assessment in twenty-four villages and one-third in fourteen villages should, the Collector says, be accordingly remitted. From the state of affairs described this alleviation certainly seems necessary, but as the special Deputy-Collector has been deputed to report on this taluq modifications may be hereafter required subject thereto, the proposed remuneration which is expected to amount to Rupees 29,191 is sanctioned.

4. PERIACOLUM.—Matters looked well in this taluq at the early part of the season, but after the beginning of November they changed for the worse, and consequently in seven villages which suffered most two-third of the assessment and in the remaining eight villages ½ must be foregone. The estimated amount to be thus remitted is Rupees 19,220.

5. DINDIGUL.—From the Acting Sub-Collector's letter it is clear that the remission to some extent on dry lands is required as much in his division as elsewhere and he proposes the following scale of reductions for Dindigul:—

			Villages.
75	per cent.	in	2
50	do.	in	7
37½	do.	in	13
25	do.	in	19
12½	do.	in	60

6. PULNI.—In this taluq the Sub-Collector would grant as follows.—

			Villages.
50	per cent.	in	16
37½	do.	in	1
25	do.	in	15
12½	do.	in	19

The Collector would reduce the 75 per cent. remission to 50 per cent., this high percentage only refers to two villages; and the Board think 50 per cent. will be enough. The Collector would moreover decline to grant the proposed 12½ per cent. as the yield has been fair, and this indulgence has not been granted in other parts of the Province where the out-turn was over half the average yield. On the other hand Mr. Cameron shews that the extent of dry land left actually untilled is large, that prices are very high, that water is scarce; and that the surrender of this last kist will be greatly appreciated. The Board think the best course will be for Mr. McQuhae to consult with Mr. Bliss upon this question of the 12½ per cent. alleviation, and authorise him to act upon the conclusion thereby arrived at. The sums now sanctioned as recommended by the Collector stand thus—

	RS.	A.	P.
Madura	5,443	0	0
Melur	29,191	0	0
Periacolum	19,220	0	0
Sub-division after reducing Paganattam a Cathanut sum to 50 per cent. on holdings	56,211	12	0
Total...	110,065	12	0

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1874.

The Collector should report the results of the further examinations in Melur, and of the further consideration as to the 12½ per cent. reduction in the Sub-division taluq.

These Proceedings will be submitted for the information of Government.

No. 242. ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1874, No. 392.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's Proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Govt. of 1874 Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated March 30th.

Read.

G. O., *30th March* 1874, No. 392.

MARCH.

Nos. 241-242.

Remission of Assessment on dry crops in the Madura District.—Approving the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the Collector's proposals in regard to—.

No. 557.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th March 1874.

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Keelakarai, 24th February 1874, No. 48:—

WITH reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 26th January 1874, No. 132, I have the honour to submit my report upon the results of the harvest of dry crops with recommendations for the remissions of a portion of the assessment thereon.

2. MADURA TALUQ.—In this taluq both the early and late rains were partial and scanty, the rain-fall recorded being only inches 24·9¼ against 32·1¼ in the previous year. A large extent of Punjah land was brought under cultivation between June and August, but there was little or no rain, and the crops looked very bad till the latter part of October, when rain fell, and a great improvement took place. In November the rain was very partial, and the condition of those villages where rain fell in that month presented a striking contrast to those villages where there was no rain. In December there was no rain, and it is want of rain in November and December that has done the chief mischief.

3. With reference to the effect of the season on the dry crops, the taluq may be divided into four tracts of country.

		No.
1.	Tooroombur village	93
2.	Valiaputty do.	43
3.	Madura do.	77
4.	Sholavendan do.	34
		249

4. Some villages enjoyed special advantages being near the Vigai river, or having received the benefit of the partial travelling showers. On this account, 121 villages may be dismissed from consideration.

5. In the Tooroombur tract, fifty-nine villages suffered greatly. The harvest of Cumboo and Varagoo was very poor, not exceeding 5 or 6 Marcals per guly, 36 Marcals being a very good crop. Horse-gram was a total failure, and the Inspecting Officers report that Castor-oil, Dholl and Mochai presented a very wretched appearance.

6. In these villages it seems necessary that one-third of the assessment on the Punjah holdings should be remitted.

7. In the Valiaputty tract, twenty-two villages have suffered greatly, but less than those in Tooroombur; and in them I recommend a remission of 12½ per cent. of the assessment of the Punjah holdings. This will relieve the ryots from the payment of their last Punjah kist, at the time of their greatest difficulty, which will be before the Kodai harvest is reaped.

8. In Madura tract a remission of 20 per cent. is proposed for seventeen villages, and of 12½ per cent. for eighteen villages.

In twelve villages of the Sholavendan tract, a remission of 12½ per cent. is also recommended.

9. On the whole, the amount of remission in the Madura Taluq will be only about Rupees 5,443. The Nunjah crop has also been bad in all the villages for which remission is recommended.

10. Melur Taluq.—This taluq forms the charge of the Assistant Collector, and I beg to enclose copy of his letter, No. 28, dated 3rd February 1874. Mr. Nicholson states that he has been unable to make a personal inspection of the taluq, and it has undoubtedly been impossible for him to do so. The District Judge has officially recorded his opinion that the Judicial duties of the Madura Head-Assistant are too heavy for one officer, yet Mr. Nicholson has at present to perform all these duties in addition to his ordinary Revenue, Magisterial and Municipal work. The appointment of a Deputy-Collector, sanctioned in G. O., dated 3rd February 1874, No. 156, has, however, enabled me to send an officer to Melur, and this taluq will be specially reported on by P. Subbier at an early date.

11. Mr. Nicholson doubts whether remission is necessary, but the taluq is a very poor one, and I have no hesitation in recommending that sanction be granted for the following remissions. The sanction will not be used if the additional Deputy-Collector's report turns out more favourable than I have any reason to expect it will.

12. Forty-six villages of this taluq require no remission.

In twenty-four villages there was very little rain in the beginning of the year, and the consequence was that, a small extent of Punjah land was brought under cultivation. Cholum, Cumboo, Varagoo, Ragi, and Sami yielded a poor harvest, and the pulse crops which were cultivated in the latter part of the season, completely withered in some places, and in others gave a very poor out-turn. The Nunjah crop also is reported to be a complete failure. For these twenty-four villages, I beg to recommend that a remission of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the assessment on Punjah holdings be granted.

These remarks apply to fourteen other villages, but in a less degree, and for these I recommend a remission of $\frac{1}{3}$rd the assessment of the Punjah holding.

The total remission in this taluq will be about Rupees 29,191.

13. Pereacolam Taluq.—In this taluq there was a good and seasonable fall of rain in the commencement of the year, and almost all the dry land was brought under cultivation, but the character of the season changed afterwards. The quantity of rain registered was only 18·4$\frac{3}{4}$ against 25·7$\frac{1}{4}$rd in the preceding year. The chief grain and pulse crops cultivated were Ragi, Sami, Cumboo and Cholum; Horse-gram, Mochai and Castor-oil seeds. Up to October, there was rain from time to time, and the crops presented a healthy appearance; but there was a failure of rain in November and December, and the villages in the lower part of the Cumbum Valley suffered very severely. In fifteen villages situated in that part of the taluq, the dry crops withered, except in the slopes of the hills which enclose the valley, and in a few other favoured localities which received the benefit of occasional showers. Even in these exceptional places it was only the Castor-oil seeds and Mochai sown in intervals with the main crops, viz., Sami, Ragi, etc., which yielded the out-turn of a favourable year. The yield of the main crops was below 8 Annas. Horse-gram which was extensively cultivated both on the slopes of the hills and other places totally withered.

14. In seven of the villages which suffered most, a remission of $\frac{1}{3}$rds of the assessment on the Punjah holding seems necessary, and in the remaining eight villages, a remission of $\frac{1}{2}$ the assessment will suffice. This will amount to about Rupees 19,220. The Nunjah crops in these villages failed also to a great extent.

15. Sub division—Dindigul and Pulni Taluqs.—I beg to forward copies of letters* received from Messrs. Martin and Cameron, regarding the season and the yield of the dry crops in the Sub-division.

* Dated 16th January 1874, No. 15.
,, 11th February ,, ,, 62.

16. For Dindigul Taluq Mr. Cameron recommends a remission of 75 per cent. in two villages; 50 per cent. in seven; 37$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in thirteen; 25 per cent. in nineteen; and 12$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in sixty villages. For Pulni Taluq he recommends a remission of 50 per cent. for sixteen villages; 37$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for one; 25 per cent. for fifteen; and 12$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for nineteen villages.

17. I would strike out the rate at 75 per cent. and substitute 50 per cent. because most of the ryots must have already paid 50 per cent. of their assessment, and I would strike out entirely the proposed remission of 12$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It appears from the reports that the out-turn of crops in the villages for which this remission is proposed, is $\frac{3}{4}$ths of a full crop which cannot be much below the average out-turn in these dry taluqs, with the advantage of high prices. I have proposed no remission in the other parts of the district, where the out-turn has clearly exceeded half a full crop. The other proposals of the Sub-Collector may, I think, be sanctioned as the maximum of remission on the understanding that fuller enquiry will be made before the Jammabundy, and that the Settling officer will reduce the sanctioned scale when practicable. The Board will observe that up to the middle of January the Tahsildars considered no remissions necessary, and Mr. Martin, who had seen a great deal of the country, expresses no decided opinion on the subject. I cannot speak with any certainty at present about these taluqs because I have been obliged to go to Ramnad. The total remission in the Sub-division at the rates I propose will not exceed 57,745.

18. Four statements are enclosed for the Board's information. The Terumangalam Taluq still remains to be reported on, because detailed information has not yet been received from the Tahsildar. The cotton crop there has been fair, but the other dry crops have suffered severely.

—

Enclosure No. 1.

From F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Assistant Collector, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 3rd February 1874, No. 28.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, a statement prepared by the Melur Tahsildar, with reference to the proposed remission on Punjah crops. Owing to the late press of business, I have been unable to make a personal inspection, but from a comparison of the statement with the fortnightly Season reports, and my own previous eye knowledge, I have little doubt but that it is substantially correct.

2. The return has been prepared by my orders in such a way as to show the condition of the villages both as to *Nunjah* and *Punjah* out-turn. My reasons are given further on.

3. It will be seen that in the first two divisions both Nunjah and Punjah crops are poor, that there is much waste owing to failure of rain at seed time, and much shavi owing to failure of

rain during the growing times. If Punjah remission is to be granted, I would suggest that ⅔th or half of the Punjah assessment on all putta lands both cultivated and waste be granted for the two divisions in question.

For the 3rd division chiefly Nattam and Melur, where the Nunjah out-turn is fair, but the Punjah out-turn bad or but very moderate. I see no reason to recommend Punjah remission.

4. I think that the Nunjah out-turn should be considered in this matter since the question in this taluq is not one of actual scarcity of food, but of high prices. When, therefore, the valuable Nunjah crop is good, there can be no reason to grant petty remissions of Punjah which, while it scarcely helps the ryot, unmistakeably cripples Government.

5. Whether remission should be granted at all is a matter for consideration. There is in Melur a population of 128,600 who are almost every one of them cultivators, the taluq being purely agricultural with no towns. There will, therefore, be probably 26,000 householders, of whom 21,700 are Puttadars and the rest cultivators and labourers. The latter are actually paid in kind and will not be much affected by scarce Punjah crops. The Puttadars *might* be, but in my opinion but slightly; Melur produces large quantities of gram and dry grains which find a market in Madura. If crops are scarce in Melur, market prices will be high, as painful experience in the keep of horses shows. Where twenty-five measures can usually be got in Melur villages, probably not twelve will be got this year. I am therefore at a loss to see how the Melur ryots will be materially affected. There is no polulation in Melur to be provided for, save the cultivators, and they while losing by deficiency will gain by increased value of the crops.

Further, the remission (or so much of it as reaches the actual ryots) when divided amongst so many is after all of little help to individuals from the mere paltriness of the amount. At the same time, the grant of remission begets precisely the spirit of dependence, improvidence and indolence, which should be checked, and is in fact a step backward in education. I have received no requests or but two or three for Punjah remission, and in those cases it was merely added to a request for Nunjah remission. It appears a much more profitable proceeding both for the Circar and for the ryots, that the full amount of revenues should be collected and that the amount which would otherwise have been remitted should be spent in village reproductive works, such as tanks, etc. This plan would have the advantage (1) of inculcating foresight and self-dependence; (2 of diminishing Government losses by failure of crops; (3) of causing a large direct gain to the ryots in increased certainty and extent of cultivation; (4) of a direct gain of revenue to Government from increased cultivation and diminished remissions and an indirect gain from the increased wealth of the ryots; (5) the amount would in effect be remitted to the ryots since the works would as usual be carried out by village contracts and labourers who would thus regain the amount of their payment to Government.

Melur ryots have these further advantage that during the non-cultivation season they can go in large numbers to Ceylon where there is a great demand for labour, the cost of reaching Ceylon is just 4 Annas.

Under these circumstances, it may be a question whether Punjah remission should be granted at all.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.

From C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 16th January 1874, No. 15.

I have the honour to report that in answer to my enquiries, both the Sub-division Tahsildars have reported that remissions will be unnecessary in any parts of their taluqs. I am not however prepared to endorse their opinions without further enquiry. There was a short rain-fall at the proper season, and though the October rain was more than usual, it was not in time to repair the damage which had already been done to the staple food of grains of the poor class, consequently I anticipate very little above a half crop on the average for these grains and not more than ⅔ths in parts of the division; especially the west and north-west villages of Pulni Taluq and the villages lying due north of the Vedasendur division of the Dindigul Taluq.

2. The prices of these grains were by last report, however, showing only a very slight upward tendency, not more than is usual at this time of year; but I understand that there has been a very sudden and remarkable rise of prices in the principal division, which must necessarily affect the Sub-division also.

3. There are now in the ground very fine crops of the pulse species all over the Sub-division; these were planted under favourable circumstances, and should, with the help of an ordinary fall of rain, turn out well above the average, but the rain is holding off persistently, and there is already reason to fear that part of this crop may be lost and that the market supply of food may be affected still further hereafter.

4. The store of water for the rice crop should be much the same as this time twelve month (to judge from the registered rain-fall) and the crop looks well; want of rain is, however, complained of, and whether it is from anticipations of a short crop or from the supply being affected by exportation to Bengal and elsewhere, the price of rice is rising very rapidly.

5. I have ordered the Tahsildars to report in detail on the out-turn of the dry grains in the parts of the division I have spoken of, but I write now on the subject to give you my opinion generally before I hand over charge of the Sub-Collectorate to Mr. Cameron.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 3.

From J. CAMERON, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 11th February 1874, No. 62.

In reference to my letter, dated 6th instant, No. 56, regarding the season and crops, I have the honour to report that there has still been no rain-fall up to the present in this Division. The crops, therefore, have suffered very considerably, and a partial remission of assessment is absolutely necessary over a large portion of the Division. The parts of the Division affected are the north-east, north and north-west of Dindigul Taluq and the north, north-west and west of Pulni Taluq.

2. It will be seen in the marginal table that in these taluqs there was very little rain in November and December and none in January. The crops are reported to be only from ¼ to ½ the usual out-turn, and large extents have been left uncultivated altogether.

Months.	Dindigul.	Pulni.
April	·39	2·60
May	3·27	3·00
June	85	·10
July	·61	·00
August	2·66	·70
September	·37	2·25
October	7·07	10·10
November	2·11	3·40
December	1·52	·60
January	·00	·00

3. It is considered necessary that in two villages of Dindigul 75 per cent. on the actual holding should be remitted; on *seven* others 50 per cent.; on thirteen, 37½ per cent.; on nineteen, 25 per cent., and in as many as sixty others that have also suffered but less severely that 12½ or ⅛th be remitted. Similar percentages are necessary in Pulni Taluq. The table in the margin will show the amount thus proposed to be remitted, and full particulars will be found in the enclosed Accounts I. and II. regarding these villages

Taluq.	Rate of remission.	No. of villages.	Total of assessment.	Total remission.	Out-turn of cultivated land.
	P. CENT.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Dindigul ...	75	2	6,133	4,600	¼
	50	7	21,323	10,661	⅜
	37½	13	35,264	13,224	½
	25	19	28,645	7,161	⅝
	12½	60	90,722	11,340	¾
Total...	.....	101	1,82,087	46,986	.....
Pulni ...	50	16	34,876	17,438	¼
	37½	1	5,170	1,939	⅜
	25	15	17,021	4,255	½
	12½	19	35,387	4,423	¾
Total...	.....	51	92,454	28,055	.....
Grand Total.	.....	152	2,74,541	75,041	.....

severally, their holding, cultivation, percentage of waste, and average outturn of crop, the first being a Villagewar Statement and the other an abstract thereof. I have felt some hesitation regarding these last villages at 12½ per cent., those of Dindigul especially, as it gives hardly any appreciable relief to each individual ryot and entails a considerable amount of loss of revenue to Government. I find, however, that 12½ per cent. has been granted before, and I would recommend it for these further reasons; (1) that being ⅛th it will relieve the ryots of the payment of one kist at a season when they will be most unable to pay it; and (2) that in Dindigul and Pulni the total assessment of the waste of the villages for which this percentage (12½) is proposed, is Rupees 11,972 and 4,797 respectively, and the amount of remission is Rupees 11,340 and 4,423, so that the remission proposed amounts only to the assessment on the waste or very nearly so—(*Vide* Columns 8 and 14 of Account II).

4. The season continues bad, prices are rising, and in all probability will continue to do so. Water in wells is scarce in a great many places, and fodder is also becoming scarce. There may even be a scarcity of the general food supply of the people, but this can only be conjectured with any certainty when the season is further advanced.

5. I regret that this report has not been submitted earlier, but the information required from Pulni Taluq, to which I alluded in my last letter, was only received yesterday.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 4 to 7.—Statements.

IN the foregoing letter the Collector of Madura proposes reductions in the assessment due upon certain tracts of dry land on which the crops have failed owing to the want of the usual rain in November and December. Each taluq will be noticed separately.

2. MADURA.—The Collector divides this taluq into four tracts as follows:—

	Villages.
Tooroombur	95
Valiaputty...	43
Madura	77
Sholavendan	34
Total...	249

Out of this total there are 121 villages which require, as shown by the Collector, no special alleviations. In the first division, Tooroombur, the dry crops in fifty-nine villages have suffered severely, and the Collector recommends a reduction of ⅓rd of the assessment. In the second tract "Valiaputty" the loss has been less severely felt and the concession recommended is 12½ per cent., or in other words the relinquishment of the last kist, on dry lands in twenty-two villages.

In the third tract, Madura, 20 per cent. is proposed for seventeen villages and 12½ for eighteen villages, whilst in the final division of Sholavendan the only concession is to be 12½ per cent. in twelve villages. The total amount to be foregone in the Madura Taluq is by these arrangements Rupees 5,443, and the Board sanction the course proposed. Mr. McQuhae should have stated by whom these tracts have been examined.

3. MELUR.—Here in certain localities the dry crops not only failed, but the wet crops afforded no counterbalancing yield, and half of the dry assessment in twenty-four villages and one-third in fourteen villages should, the Collector says, be accordingly remitted. From the state of affairs described this alleviation certainly seems necessary, but as the special Deputy-Collector has been deputed to report on this taluq modifications may be hereafter required subject thereto, the proposed remuneration which is expected to amount to Rupees 29,191 is sanctioned.

4. PERIACOLUM.—Matters looked well in this taluq at the early part of the season, but after the beginning of November they changed for the worse, and consequently in seven villages which suffered most two-third of the assessment and in the remaining eight villages ½ must be foregone. The estimated amount to be thus remitted is Rupees 19,220.

5. DINDIGUL.—From the Acting Sub-Collector's letter it is clear that the remission to some extent on dry lands is required as much in his division as elsewhere and he proposes the following scale of reductions for Dindigul:—

	Villages.
75 per cent. in	2
50 do. in	7
37½ do. in	13
25 do. in	19
12½ do. in	60

6. PULNI.—In this taluq the Sub-Collector would grant as follows.—

	Villages.
50 per cent. in	16
37½ do. in	1
25 do. in	15
12½ do. in	19

The Collector would reduce the 75 per cent. remission to 50 per cent., this high percentage only refers to two villages; and the Board think 50 per cent. will be enough. The Collector would moreover decline to grant the proposed 12½ per cent. as the yield has been fair, and this indulgence has not been granted in other parts of the Province where the out-turn was over half the average yield. On the other hand Mr. Cameron shews that the extent of dry land left actually untilled is large, that prices are very high, that water is scarce; and that the surrender of this last kist will be greatly appreciated. The Board think the best course will be for Mr. McQuhae to consult with Mr. Bliss upon this question of the 12½ per cent. alleviation, and authorise him to act upon the conclusion thereby arrived at. The sums now sanctioned as recommended by the Collector stand thus—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Madura	5,443	0	0
Melur	29,191	0	0
Periacolum	19,220	0	0
Sub-division after reducing Paganattam a Cathanut sum to 50 per cent. on holdings	56,211	12	0
Total...	110,065	12	0

The Collector should report the results of the further examinations in Melur, and of the further consideration as to the 12½ per cent. reduction in the Sub-division taluq.

These Proceedings will be submitted for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with four original statements to be returned.

,, the Collector of Madura.

Remaining Copies will be sent

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Original

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

No 870

PROCEEDINGS, 12TH MARCH 1874, No. 557.

Copy of Orders etc.

Encl 4

Received

MARCH.

No. 557.

Remissions of [assessment—on dry land in Madura District on which crops have failed owing to want of usual rain in November and December 1873.—Orders passed on Collectors proposals in regard to — Board's Proceedings, submitted to Government.

The Acting Secretary

Revenue