M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 20

(2) Date of repair 8/8/66

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 416 Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 15r. April 1874 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 23. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th March 1874, No. 668 :—

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Koorinjepady, 18th March 1874, No. 138 :—

In continuation of my letter of the 9th instant, No. 115, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Board, a copy of a letter from the Acting Head Assistant Collector, Mr. Kough, as to the remissions necessary in the Tindivanam Taluq. I have also had further opportunities of inquiring into the state of the western portion of the Cuddalore Taluq, and have seen both the Remission Deputy Collector, who up to the present has found his time fully occupied in inquiring into the state of the Villapuram Taluq, and the Tahsildar of that taluq.

2. The result of my own inquiries is that a remission generally of less than 50 per cent. of the "punjah puttakat" (total extent of dry land held on putta) will not afford any adequate relief in the western part of the Cuddalore Taluq, and I am recording my opinion in the Jamabundi Diary of each village as it comes up of the amount I consider should be recommended to the Board for remission. On the average I think probably the remissions recommended will be rather under than over that amount. The nunjah remissions will be comparatively small in this taluq.

3. In Tindivanam, where Mr. Kough is evidently carrying out the settlement with great care, the average remissions recommended in the western portions will probably be as high as 70 or 75 per cent. of the assessment on the total punjah holdings, but in the eastern portions it will be probably much lower so that the average of the whole taluq in those tracts where remissions are necessary will not improbably be as high as 50 per cent. of the assessment on the total punjah holdings.

4. With regard to Villapuram the Tahsildar showed me an account he had prepared, and from it he said he thought it would be necessary to give 50,000 Rupees nunjah remissions and as much more of punjah. I am not disposed to regard his estimate with much confidence at present, although the Remission Deputy Collector in a draft report he showed me at Cuddalore (on his coming to see Mr. Banbury) had recorded his opinion that either a remission of 25 per cent. on the punjah beriz of that taluq, or of 50 per cent. on all dry lands cultivated with particular crops, such as varagu, ragi, cumboo and horse-gram, which have yielded particularly bad crops or have failed altogether, would be required. He made no propositions as to nunjah remissions, but I again sent him off to report on some very extensive failures of nunjah reported at Pakam and Valavanur.

5. He had expended a vast degree of trouble and pains in arriving at his conclusions, having inspected no less than 133 villages in the taluq. He may just as well I consider stay there, and after making the best use of his time in ascertaining the true state of affairs in that taluq, of which I intend to do the Jamabundi myself, his roving commission may terminate, as it is evidently useless sending him over bare ground in seven other taluqs to make inquiries, which are all now being made and recorded with probably as great correctness as he could make them without any better data to go on.

6. The Deputy Collector on General Duties is only just about to commence his Jamabundi. He is tolerably hopeful about Chekkadi, where better crops in many cases were reaped than could have been expected. In Trinomalay the average punjah remissions recommended will probably be very high.

7. Mr. Lister, I am glad to say, writes to me demi-officially that he does not anticipate any scarcity or distress in Cullakurchy for three or four months, and even then he thinks it extremely doubtful whether any measures of relief will have to be taken. I can only hope that his expectations may be fulfilled.

8. I learn from Mr. Banbury that Mr. Lister considers a remission of the three last punjah kists in all puttas under 25 Rupees will afford adequate relief in that taluq, and that he is ready to push on the road from Cullakurchy to Sankarapuram directly he can get an Overseer to superintend the work and pay the labourers daily. I am making the best arrangements I can to secure an Overseer for him, and have written, as the Board are aware, to Madras for a large quantity of tools, so that as soon as these arrive I hope there will be Local Funds works commenced in all the taluqs which will afford employment to the labourers who are now in want of it.

9. Until the Jamabundi of each taluq is finished, and the amounts of punjah remissions recommended known, I cannot say with any accuracy what remissions ought to be given, and am therefore compelled to confine myself to a general application for permission to give remissions within the limit of 50 per cent. of the punjah beriz in the six taluqs of Cuddalore, Villapuram, Tindivanam, Trinomalay, Trikalore, and Cullakurchy.

10. I make no recommendations with regard to Virdachellum or Chedumbrum because the settlement of the former is over, and because Mr. Lister told me he did not want the Remission Deputy Collector to visit Chedumbrum and seemed not to consider punjah remission wanted there.

ENCLOSURE No. I.

From C. KOUGH, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Tindivanum, 13th March 1874, No. 84.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 75 of the 29th January last, and subsequent communications on the same subject, I have the honour to report, as far as I can at present, upon the state of the taluqs of this division.

2. I have just concluded the settlement of 252 villages, being almost the entire of the two western firkas of Gingee and Veeranamoor in the Tindivanam Taluq. The remissions in punjah in the villages alone upon waste, short crop, and shavy amounted to Rupees 14,488-6-5. The shavy has in every instance been inspected. The loss is attributable to the general failure of rain in December and January.

3. As regards the punjah I have, as each village came up, made careful inquiries, and have also taken the opinions of the Tahsildar, Deputy Tahsildar, and Revenue Inspectors as to their knowledge of the different localities. There are few means now of testing the accuracy of the oral statements of outturn, as there is no vestige of the crops upon the ground.

4. It is quite clear, however, that rain in the earlier months of June and July either failed altogether or was scanty and intermittent. The consequence of this is that when the tanks received water, as they did pretty generally about September or the end of August, the ryots took advantage of this to put their wet cultivation in hand, trusting to revert to a large portion of the dry later on; but the total failure of rain after November rendered this design impracticable. Hence large punjah waste.

5. I myself had a bird's-eye view of this part of the country from the highest point in Gingee, the roof of the granary on the citadel hill. This was on the 28th February. The country was a desert all round, with exception of a little corner of water remaining in two or three of the larger tanks.

6. As regards the punjah outturn I have in a very large proportion of cases tested the cultivation under each description of grain with the outturn under the same as far as the latter can be ascertained. Some measurements made by the Tahsildar, as well as the opinions of those of my Taluq Officers who have visited different places, show that these are not far from the mark; and I believe that, with a very few exceptional cases throughout these two firkas, the punjah outturn has not exceeded if it has come up to one-fourth.

7. In some cases I have charged punjah waste where I considered it attributable to causes other than the season. In every village I have noted the percentage of remission which I considered should be given, and this, except in some few cases where I have written 25 and 30 per cent., has been put down at 75 per cent. on the whole punjah assessment. I am aware how large this appears, but after careful inquiry I think it is not disproportioned to the loss, and that less will not afford material relief.

8. I am now engaged in the settlement of the Cusbah firka. The portions of this lying eastward are far better off, but towards the westward I anticipate a state of things similar to that above noted.

9. As regards the Villapuram Taluq I have no reports by me. Those submitted by the Tahsildar were sent to you direct with my docket, No. 58 of the 19th February. As you are yourself about to settle this taluq you will have doubtless opportunity of ascertaining its condition fully. Meanwhile I should mention that the Special Deputy Collector, who has just been through that taluq, appears to consider the punjah loss has amounted to about 50 per cent. on the whole.

10. In a separate letter I shall submit my views as to the necessity for relief works and where and what they should be. This information is nearly collected, but I have not houses, and yet had time to go through it but shall do so very shortly.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

THE information conveyed in this letter is somewhat vague, and not altogether consistent with what the Board have heard from their 2nd Member, who is now on duty in South Arcot and has travelled through most of the country to which Mr. Garstin refers.

2. The Board accordingly resolve to refer the letter to Mr. Banbury.

3. These Proceedings will be submitted for the information of Government.

No. 24. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1874, No. 416.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd F. R. Bantleman.

South Arcot
No 84

To
The Jt. Collectors Office
Cuddalore 13th March 1874

From
Charles Rough Esquire
Asst. Assistant Collector
South Arcot

To
J. H. Garstin Esquire
Collector of S. Arcot

Sir,

With reference to your letter No 75 of the 29th January last and subsequent Communications on the same subject I have the honor to report as far as I can at present upon the State of the Talugs of this Division

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6

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Inam Commr
Sd/ C. Knyght
Asst Head Assn Collector

True copy
Sd/ J. H Garstin
Collector

True copy

Revenue Department

13 N

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 24th March 1874

No. 138 Read the following

From,

J. F. C. Garstin Esquire
Collector of South Arcot

To,

J. Gross Esquire
Secretary to the Board of
Revenue Madras

13 N

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 9th Instant No. 115 I have the honor to forward for the information of the Board a copy of a letter from the Acting Head Assistant Collector Mr. Hough as to the remissions necessary in the Tindivanam Taluq. I have also had further

Encl. 1 to
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
dated 24th March 1874

J. Gross
Secretary

Rec. 9th 3/74.

1st Asst. 4/4/74 No. 411
dn. 13.3.74. 23.

11 N

Copied by Raghavendra Reddy

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2. The result of my own enquiries is that a remission generally of less than 50 per cent of the punjah puttakatt (total extent of dry land held on puttah) will not afford any adequate relief in the western part of the Cuddalore Talook and I am recording my opinion in

15-17

in the Jammabundy Diary of each village as it comes up, of the amount I consider should be recommended to the Board for remission. On the average I think probably the remissions recommended will be rather under than over that amount. The rough remissions will be comparatively small in

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of the assessment on the total Punjah holdings but in the eastern portions it will be probably much lower so that the average of the whole Taluq in those tracts where remissions are necessary will not improbably be as high as [illegible] to the assessment on the total punjah holdings.

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Beriz

23.IV

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I have &c.

South Arcot Collector's office Camp Kurungapady 18th March 1874

Sig'd J. H. Gardiner Collector

The information conveyed in this letter is somewhat vague and not altogether consistent

consistent with what the Board have heard from their second member who is now on duty in South Brest and has travelled through most of the Country to which Mr. Gardiner refers.

The Board accordingly resolve to refer the letter to Mr. Banbury.

These Proceedings will be submitted for the information of Government.

[True Copy & Extract]

J Grole
Secretary

To The Secretary to
Government Revenue
Department
with Copy of Enclosure

[illegible]

8 R.J. March/74 No. 168-69.

Revenue 1874 Depte

No 972.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 24th March 1874
Desp 24 — " — "
Rec'd 25
cent.

Special Agent
Deputy

Referring to Board's Second member, letter from Collector of South Arcot forwarding report on State of Salugs in Head assistants Division and requesting permission for granting remissions within limit of 50 percent of Punjah Bering in Cuddalore Talla = punjah Rs 416 Gp.

Recorded
April 74

14 To the Bd of Revenue 13 April 74.

23-24

25 March/74 - K 30