

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th May 1876.*

No. 101. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st April 1876, No. 1,063:—

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pallipuram, 4th April 1876, No. 203.

In forwarding copy of a letter, No. 32, of the 23rd instant, from Mr. Spencer, Assistant Collector, for favorable consideration, I have the honor to observe that I fully endorse his remarks as to the hardship suffered by that most useful and hard-worked class of village servants, the Taliaries and Vetties, in a year when large remissions are granted.

2. At best, these deserving village drudges are not well paid when their continuous and multifarious duties are considered; yet when a bad year comes, they not only suffer with others but are further shorn of half their emoluments. This was the case the year before last, and they will be heavy losers again this bad season.

3. If the Board consider any remedy should be applied before the introduction of the settlement throughout the district, which will be a work of some years, the only thing I can suggest will be to supplement their Merah in bad years so as to make the emoluments come up to those enjoyed in an ordinary season, say 1282; but if this is done, the measure should be applied to all taluqs, and the outlay involved in a bad year like this would be about Rupees 26,000.

4. I have not included the Curnams in this recommendation; they are better remunerated and have putta lands, and their status is altogether different from that of the Toties (Vetties) and Taliaries, who as a class are miserably poor.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. E. SPENCER, Esq., Assistant Collector, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Sydapet, 23rd March 1876, No. 32.

In forwarding the enclosed petition from the Taliari of the village of Vada Mathurai, in the Trivellore Taluq, requesting that his fees for the present fasli be calculated upon the ayen and not upon the settled beriz of the village, I have the honor to request your views as to the best course to be adopted to prevent the village servants in years of unusual scarcity from being mulcted of their not excessive emoluments.

2. The fact that these emoluments are calculated upon the settled beriz of the village renders doubly disadvantageous the position of the village officers, as compared with other classes dependent for subsistence upon the soil. For in years of plenty the ryot reaps the benefit of a full crop, while the Toti and Taliari get merely their percentage of the fixed revenue paid to Government. Again, as in the present case, where Government relinquishes a portion of its rent in favor of the ryot, it also relinquishes a proportionate fraction of the village officer's emoluments.

3. For some time complaints of this description have been re-occurring, and have been invariably met with the answer that the claims of the village officers will be duly considered when the new settlement is introduced. Meanwhile, they are starving and immediate relief is urgently needed.

4. I do not dwell upon the fact that village officers are generally in this district looked down upon by their fellows on account of their abject poverty, instead of being held in respect as public officials. All that need now be considered is, how we shall retain our officers and keep them efficient until the new settlement. In many villages already the Toties and Taliaries have

a worse condition than

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come to me and said that they were anxious to give up their Isam rights and become ordinary coolies. Many more are at once coolies and public officer.

It is plain that, if any relief is afforded to the village officers this fasli, it must come either from Government or from the ryots. If Government are to meet the expense, I would have to make an application to the Board of Revenue requesting sanction for disbursement of the village officer's fees calculated upon the gross beriz. If, on the other hand, you think that the Board would be unwilling to sanction this course, the amount might be collected from the ryots by making it a condition of every settlement that the full expenses that would fall to the village officer, were the total average beriz collected, be in all cases paid to them.

6. As there is still a considerable number of the villages of the Trivellore Taluk unsettled, I have the honor to request an early answer, that I may, in determining the beriz of each village, give effect to such orders as you may deem fit to pass.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

In the foregoing letter the Collector brings to notice the hardship entailed on the Taliaries and Vetties in a bad year when large remissions have to be granted, owing to their Merahs being calculated on the net instead of the gross beriz, and suggests that in such years their Merahs should be supplemented to the extent requisite to bring their emoluments up to those enjoyed in an ordinary season. He estimates the cost of the measure in a year like the present at about Rupees 26,000, and would not extend the concession to Carnams, who are better off.

2. The Collector does not state his opinion as to whether the expense should fall entirely on Government or should be shared between Government and the ryots. Strictly speaking, the ryot should contribute half, as the Merahs paid to village officers are drawn from the gross produce contributed both by the ryots and Government in equal proportions. The case of the inferior village servants dependent on grain fees for their remuneration is undoubtedly hard, and they are entitled to some relief, but the ryots can ill-afford the charge in a bad year, and the Board suggest that the extra cost should be regarded as an additional remission of revenue consequent on a season of scarcity and be written off the accounts. The simplest plan will be to pay the Merahs calculated on the gross beriz by means of deductions from the puttis as is done now, the whole of the extra cost being borne by Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 102.

ORDER THEREON, 12th May 1876, No. 605.

Land Revenue, No. 4.

The Board will be informed that the Governor in Council is not prepared to adopt the form of relief proposed.

2. As a general rule, the Village Cesses Act is introduced simultaneously with the new settlement in any district; but in regard to the position of Village Officers

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in being put, the Government will assent, if the Board desire it, to the introduction of the Act on the basis of the settlement now in progress, before the settlement is actually introduced in force.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. J. W. Lewis.

a worse condition than

R. S.

Progs. Bd. Rev. - 2/21/4-6.

This appears quite inadvisable.

The late Mr. B. has been desirous of a notice, has again & is inherent in the common law of the County. & it is a peculiar necessity. & it is clear in the immediate future the old customs of the remains are superseded by the Act of 1876.

It is merely to the Gov. that the Gov. are not prepared to adopt any intermediate plan of duties. The Settlers. in progress will bring relief but of the Gov. decision it - the Gov. will consider the expediency of introducing the Act on the basis of the Gov. settlement. is anti-creation of the Settlers.

2/5- No 2

The Village servants in the Chinghaput district are in a worse condition than

These village servants are remunerated, in part, by grain fees. By Indian usage, 50 per cent of the grain, as it leaves the threshing floor, belongs to the State, 50 per cent to the cultivator. To pay the village servants, each party foregoes 1 or 2 per cent of its share - which small percentage is handed over in kind.

Now here is a bumper season, the village servants are very well off & vice versa. They know this very well, & have been content up to this time to let the good seasons go by. One of their duties is to guard the crop - & when help the village fields are uncultivated, this of course is an easier job.

But here the proposal is for the State to pay them the whole difference between their fees in a bad year & their fees as they would be, if the whole assessed area of the village had been cultivated - and in the accounts we are to debit the sum to "Remuneration of Land Revenue".

2. If this is conceded - why stop here? They get rent free lands - if there is a bad year, we ought to give them salaries in addition. Indeed, in famine years, our salaries

in any other district of the country with which I am acquainted. Their bumper seasons are unknown to them. - The grievance brought to notice is real - and I should be glad to see a remedy applied. - I should be disposed unless there is any real impediment to admit the same suggested and in - produce at once Act IV. of

1864.

A. E.

8/5/75.

Jacqueline H. H.
Hobson
10/5

that he raised all round; also, in the case of Englishmen with families at home, when the Exchange rates are high

18/5/76

Recd of Table of Board of Recs on 12 May 1876
 21. The Secy of Recs on 24 May 1876

Keds Pops
 Remuneration of
 certain Village Officers

From orders

Choboo

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 basis of the Act as now in progress,
 before the Settlement is actually
 declared in force.

Sd. 11/5/76

12 May 77

C. 1st May/76 R 11 May

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 21 April 1876.

Read the following:-

No. 32

From H. W. Barton Esqr.
 Collector of the
 Chingleput District
 To C. A. Galton Esqr.
 Secretary to the
 Board of Revenue
 Madras.

In forwarding copy of a letter No. 32
 of the 23rd instant, from the Secy, Secy.
 - tant Collector, for favorable consideration,
 I have the honor to observe that I fully
 endorse his remarks as to the hardships
 suffered by that most useful and
 hard-worked class of village servants, the
 Taluaries and Vettis, in a year, when
 large remissions are granted.

At best, these deserving village drudges
 are not well paid, when their continuous
 and multifarious duties are considered,
 yet when a bad year comes, they not
 only suffer with the others but are further

shown of half their emolument. This was the case the year before last, and they will be heavy losers again this bad season.

3. If the Board consider, any remedy should be applied before the infliction of the settlement throughout the district - which will be work of some years - the only thing, I can suggest, will be to supplement their meagre in bad years, so as to make the emolument come up to those enjoyed in an ordinary season, say Rs 282; but if this is done, the measure should be applied to all taluqs, and the outlay, involved in a bad year, like this, would be about Rs 26,000.

4. I have not included the *sumams* in this recommendation; they are better remunerated and have petty lands and their status is altogether different from that of the *Totties* (*Vetties*) and *Talians*, who as a class are miserably poor.

Chief of District
District Office
Pallikraiy.
4 April 1876

R. W. Barlow
Collector

C. 1. May 1876

Chief of District
Assistant Collector's Office
Saidapet
23 March 1876

No. 32,

From E. S. Spencer
Assistant Collector of the
Chief of District
R. W. Barlow
Collector of
Chief of District.

Sir In forwarding the enclosed Petition from the Taluk of the village of Vadamaruani, in the Tiruvallur Taluk, requesting that his fees for the present Puzli, be calculated upon the Aye, and not upon the settled Borig of the village, I have the honor to request your views as to the best course to be adopted to prevent the village servants in years of unusual scarcity from being mulcted of their not excessive emolument.

2. The fact, that these emoluments are calculated upon the settled borig of the village, renders doubly disadvantageous the position of the village officers, as compared with other classes, dependent for subsistence upon the soil. For in years

of plenty, the ryot reap the benefit of a full crop, while the Foli and Falian get scarcely their percentage of the fixed revenue, paid to Government. Again as in the present case, when Government relinquishes a portion of its rent, in favor of the ryot, it also relinquishes a proportionate fraction of the village officers' emoluments.

3. For some time, complaints of this nature, have been re-occurring & ~~have~~ invariably met with the answer that the claims of the village officers will be duly considered, when the new settlement is introduced. Meanwhile they are starving & immediate relief is urgently needed.

4. I do not dwell upon the fact, that village officers are generally in the district looked down upon by their fellows, on account of their object poverty, instead of being held in respect as public officials. All that need now be considered is, how we shall retain our officers ~~and~~ ^{and} keep them efficient until the new settlement.

In many villages, already the Foli and Falian have come to me and said that they are anxious to give up their land rights, and become ~~the~~ ^{as} coolies. They were at once ~~very~~ ^{at once} and public.

5. It is plain that, if any relief is afforded to the village officers this Foli, it must come either from Government or from the ryot. If Government are to meet the expense, I would suggest that an immediate application be made to the Board of Revenue, requesting sanction for disbursement of the village officers' fees, calculated upon the Ayee Beriz. If on the other hand you think that the Board ^{would} be unwilling to sanction this course, the amount might be collected from the ryot by making it a condition of every permission that the full emoluments, that would fall to the village officers, were the total Ayee Beriz collected, be in all cases paid to them.

6. As there is still a considerable number of the villages of the Travelling Taluk ~~which~~ I have the honor to present an early answer, that I may in a ~~few~~ ^{few} days the ~~period~~ ^{period} of each village, for effecting such orders as you may deem fit to pass.

I have to
(12) E. E. Spencer
Asst. Collr.

(True copy)

(12) - R. W. Boston.
Collector

In the foregoing ~~letter~~ ^{letter} the collector brings to notice the hardship entailed on the Talukis and Vethis in a bad year when large remissions have been granted owing to their merals being calculated on the net instead of the gross ~~being~~, and suggests that in bad years their merals should be supplemented to the extent requisite to bring their emoluments up to those enjoyed in an ordinary season. He estimates the cost of the measure in a year like the present

at about Rs 2000 and would not submit the question to Curran, who is better off.

2. The collector does not state his opinion as to whether the expense should fall upon the Government or should be shared between the Government and the ryots. Strictly speaking, the ryots should contribute half, as the merals paid to village officers are deductions from the gross produce contributed both by the ryots and Government in equal proportions. The case of the inferior village servants dependent on grain fees for their remuneration is undoubtedly hard, and they are entitled to some relief, but the ryots can ill-afford the charge in a bad year and the Board suggest that the extra art should be regarded as an additional remission of revenue, consequent on a season of scarcity and be written off the accounts. The simplest plan will be to pay the merals calculated on the

18/5/51
by Collector

was orig by means of deductions
from the ~~particulars~~ as done now, the
whole of the Enha ~~act~~, being borne by
Government.

(True Copy Enha)

To The Secretary's Government R.D.
Ch. C. C. C.

By M. M. M.

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