

(1) Number of pages—5
(2) Date of repair—
(3) Initials of the Referencer—

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2042	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19-6-1877.	197

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2002
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th June 1877, No. 2,042.

Read the following paper:—

No. 413. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th June 1877.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 4th June 1877, No. 1,959.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Board of Revenue, the enclosed letters from the Head Assistant Collector recommending the grant of remission on dry lands in his division to the maximum of 75 per cent.

2. In the Board's Proceedings, dated 24th November 1876, No. 2,960, sanction was granted for the remission of 25 per cent. of the dry assessment throughout the whole district, but from the state of the cultivation in the Head Assistant's division I think that a more liberal consideration is necessary. Mr. Spencer gives at length his reasons for this concession, and I endorse them. Care will, however, be taken to adhere, as far as possible, to the instructions prescribed in Board's Proceedings, dated 1st March 1877, No. 941.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. E. SPENCER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Tanjore, dated Combaconum, 12th May 1877, No. 114.

REFERRING to Board's Order, No. 2,960, dated 24th November 1876, fixing as the extreme limits of remission of dry lands at 25 per cent. on the Government beriz, I have the honor to state that unless a greater indulgence is extended to the ryots of this division, not only will the realization of the Government dues be a matter of considerable difficulty, but the ryots themselves will probably be hardly pressed to keep themselves alive until the next harvest.

2. During my later tour in the dry villages of this division I discovered, both by personal inspection and by information gathered from the ryots themselves, that the dry crops have this year been almost a total failure.

3. The only grain that appears to have produced anything like an average outturn is the "cumbu" sown in October and November last.

4. Much of the dry land in the Tanjore Taluq was left uncultivated in the early part of the season, as the ryots deferred sowing in the hope of an ample fall of rain, which never came. The three days' heavy rain that fell at Christmas was the signal for sowing almost all the lands usually put in cultivation in September and October. On these lands the crops, owing to a total lack of any subsequent rainfall, are sadly below the average.

5. I see in the last season report submitted by the Tahsildar of Tanjore Taluq that the dry crops now being harvested are giving an outturn of one-eighth of the average of other years, and, from what I have seen with my own eyes, I do not think this statement at all exaggerated.

6. Many lands ordinarily cultivated have been this year left entirely waste.

7. I am quite aware that Tanjore, with its numerous river-channels, is an exceptionally favored district, and I should hesitate to recommend remission beyond the extent sanctioned by the Board in the order above alluded to if the dry lands were equally distributed with the wet.

8. As it is, however, the dry villages are almost exclusively in the hands of ryots cultivating their own soil and depending upon their produce for their daily bread. The wet lands, on the other hand, belong to rich Mirassidars, who cultivate them through their porakudies and enjoy their melwaram at their ease.

9. Under these circumstances, I respectfully request that you will, should you see fit, recommend to the Board of Revenue that punjah remission up to 75 per cent. may be granted wherever it seems necessary.

10. I am of opinion that in this division no remission on the second crop of two-crop lands is necessary. A very large proportion of the paddy grown in this district is annually

exported, and owing to the high prices obtaining in famine districts the exports this year have been unusually large. The rice grown in the Tanjore and Combaconum taluqs has averaged three-fourths of a humper crop, and as the prices are more than double the average, the Mirassidars are realizing large profits on their sales.

11. The state of the dry villages will have to be carefully watched until the next harvest. Green fodder is not over-abundant, but at the same time a large portion of the dry crops yielded a fair amount of straw even where the grain failed utterly. The tanks and wells still contain about three months' supply of water, so that I do not think any apprehension is to be felt on this head.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From E. E. SPENCER, Esq., Head Assistant Collector, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, dated Combaconum, 25th May 1877, No. 123.

ADVERTING to your letter, No. 2 "Extra," dated the 17th instant, calling for certain statistics to enable you to decide whether it will be possible to suspend for the time, and subsequently to collect, the assessment leviable for the current fasli on dry lands in this division, I have the honor to submit the two statements appended. The first (A), prepared under my personal instructions by the Tahsildar of Tanjore, shows the total extent of dry lands under cultivation in his taluq, their assessment, the expenses of cultivation, and the average outturn in ordinary years, with certain supplementary details regarding rainfall, &c., recorded for the purpose of comparison. The second (B), prepared from statements given by the Curnams of two villages in the centre of Vallam Division, where I was camping at the time I received your letter, is perfectly reliable with respect to the lands (Senjipatte and Paliapette) under their supervision. I can personally bear witness to their honesty, having severely tested, by personal examination of each field, the genuineness of the large remission statements submitted by them.

2. A comparison of the statistical tables herewith submitted shows that the villages above named enjoy exceptional advantages, the ryot realizing a profit of about 14% of the total produce, whilst, according to the statement submitted by the Tahsildar, the average profit to the ryot on dry lands is about two-thirds of that amount, i.e., 9%. The dry lands of Senjipatte and Paliapette are, however, far above the average, which will account for the difference. I have, in the last few days, examined in person no less than nine of the villages in the western or dry portion of the Tanjore Taluq. The villages in that direction either consist entirely of dry lands, or possess a few velis of nanjah irrigated by tanks of insignificant size. The result is that a loss of wet cultivation is invariably accompanied by poverty of dry crops. Even if a tank at the beginning of the season receives a full supply, there is no hope for the crops under it, unless the supply is periodically renewed during the time of cultivation. Similarly rain at intervals is necessary to dry crops; if the wet crops fail, the dry shares the same fate. Hence it is that in the Vallam Sub-division the loss has fallen most heavily on the ryots. The outturn has certainly not met the expense of cultivation, and I am afraid that it will be quite hopeless to suspend the collection of the Government dues in the hope of inducing subsequent payment, whether by instalments or otherwise.

The average holdings of ryots in the dry villages in this division is about 1/2 veli, of which at least two-thirds will be dry land. One fact, however, must not be overlooked. The ryots of almost if not all the "kadarambam" villages cultivate their own lands, so that Items 1 and 4 in the cost of cultivation detailed in Statement B are not absolute expenditure, but represent the value of labor brought to the land by the cultivator.

But even taking this into consideration, I am quite convinced that it will be impossible to collect in future faslis the amount of any remissions that may now be made. The wretched houses in which the Callans of the Tanjore Taluq as a body live, the paucity and inferior condition of their cattle, the lack of capital of any kind, whether in grain or jewels, all these go to prove, I respectfully submit, that unless considerable and material concessions are made to them, we must expect a frightful increase of grain crime in the already turbulent and lawless Vallam Sub-division.

It will be seen on looking at the rain account in Statement A that in Faslis 1275 and 1277 the rainfall was 17 and 11 inches, respectively.

The punjah remissions in the former of these years amounted to Rs. 20,000 and in the latter Rs. 27,000.

I calculate that the remissions on punjah this year will amount to Rs. 40,000 at the least if the proposal contained in my letter, No. 114, of the 12th instant, be entertained. Lest, in the face of the above figures with regard to the rainfall in the years under notice, the amount I suggest should be remitted be thought unreasonably large, I would remark that the rainfall has this year been so sporadic that it is impossible to base any accurate calculation upon the rain account kept in the taluq. For instance, at Combaconum only 2 inches of rain fell in the Christmas holidays, whilst at Nedamangalam, on the borders of the Salem Taluq, 7 inches were registered.

As I am anxious to complete my Jamabandi as soon as possible, I beg early instructions as to how I am to be guided in settling the dry assessment payable this fasli.

STATEMENT giving the information called for in the Collector's letter, dated 17th May 1877, regarding the dry Lands in the Kadarambam (unirrigated) of the Tanjore Taluq, together with Rainfall, Price of Paddy, and Remission granted.

Total extent of dry Lands.	V. M. S.	RS. A. P.	Assessment	Expenses of Cultivation.	RS.	Profits to the Ryots.	RS.	Number of Ryots.	Average extent of holdings of the Ryots.	VELIS.	Rainfall.	PRICE OF PADDY PER KALAM.		REMISSION GRANTED.		Remission of 20, 30, 35, 50 per cent. was sanctioned.
												RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	Nanjah.	Punjab, including Manavari Nanjah.	
											IN. CENTS.					
											17 25					
											11 20					
											47 8					
											33 66					
											20 15					
											27 65					
											33 87 1/2					
											1275					
											1277					
											1281					
											1282					
											1283					
											1284					
											1285					
											1286, up to March 1877.					
Dry	11,055 3 0	86,240 0 2		5,88,500	2,35,400	20,800										
Manavari Nanjah...	714 10 0	10,931 0 0														

(Signed) E. E. SPENCER,
Acting Head Assistant Collector.

Revenue Department, 19th June 1877, No. 2,042.

DETAILED Statement showing Expenses of Cultivation and Profit to Cultivator in ordinary years on dry Lands in two Kadarambam Villages, Tanjore Taluq.

EXPENSE OF CULTIVATION FOR VARAGU AND OTHER GRAINS PER VELL.			PRODUCE PER VELL.		PROFITS PER VELL.		Remarks.
Particulars.	Grain.	Value.	Grain.	Value.	Grain.	Value.	
1. For ploughing ...	KALAM.	RS. A. P.	KALAM.	RS. A. P.	KALAM.	RS.	In the current fasli (1286) 46 kalams of grain were spent for cultivation, but on an average 10 or 15 kalams have been harvested in certain lands, so there is a loss of 31 kalams per vell.
2. Seed Grain...	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
3. Manuring, &c. ...	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
4. Reaping ...	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Assessment ...	46	34 8 0	90	67 8 0	44	34	
		7 0 0	Straw	8 0 0			
Total ...		41 8 0		75 8 0			

(Signed) E. E. SPENCER,
Acting Head Assistant Collector.

THE Board resolve to give the settling officer discretion to give dry remission up to a maximum of 50 per cent. of the assessment in the upland portion of the Tanjore Taluq on the distinct understanding that this is to be a maximum and not to be given in all cases. The application ought to have been made earlier. The Jamabandi ought to be over now.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 414. ORDER THEREON, 19th June 1877, No. 2,042.

Land Revenue, No. 8.

THE Board's Proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. E. ...
Goodman.

Copy of [1877] ...
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June, 19th.

Encl.

Recd.

G.O., 19th June 1877, No. 2,042.

JUNE.

No. 413-414.

The Board to Tanjore District. Approving the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue granting settling officer discretion to give dry remission up to a maximum of 50 per cent.

8719/10 Nov 42

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 13 June 1877

13th RA 6316 Read the following No 1959

Division to the maximum of 75

per cent.

2. In the Board's Proceedings

Dated 24 November 1876 No 2960

Sanction

From H. S. Thomas Esquire
Collector of Tanjore

To H. E. Stokes Esquire
Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,
I have the honor to submit
for the consideration and orders
of the Board of Revenue the en-
closed letters from the Asst
Collector recommending the grant
of remission on dry lands in his

Sanction was granted for the remission of 25 per cent of the dry assessment throughout the whole district but from as far as possible to the instructions prescribed in Board's Proceedings dated 10th March 1877 No 941. I have &

the state of the cultivation in the Head Assistant's Division I think that a more liberal consideration is necessary. Mr. Spencer gives at length his reasons for this concession & I endorse them. Care will however be taken to adhere

Tanjore }
Collr's Office }
Vallam 4th June 1877 }
I have & }
(M) H. S. Thomas }
Collector

^{facts here}
The Board resolve to give the settling officer discretion to give dry remission up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the assessment in the upland portion of the Tanjore Taluq on the ^{distinct} understanding that this is to be a maximum and not to be given in all cases. The application ought to have been made earlier - The jamahans ought to be over now.

(True copy & Extracts)
(D) H. E. Stokes
Secretary
To The Collr of Tanjore &
(True copy)

CH

To The Secy to Govt A.D. Secretary
with copies of enclos

Rev: Mr. Deane
102898

Receipt of the
Board of Revenue

dated 13th
June 1877

Received by me the
Steward of the
Board of Revenue
a sum of 50 per cent
of the amount on the
disturbance of the
land 10. 50. a Provisional
to be given in all cases

Care

White Man

15 June 1877
4/3-10
19 June 1877

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are above
The Board of Revenue
N. 2042