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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4767 (a)	~~Press.~~
B.P. No.		~~Mis.~~
Dated	21. 8. 1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

My dear Garrison
Will ref. & recent
clamps, kindly arrange
to let Saw this person
arrange & let the per-
cussion close & be bound
up on the arm
Yours
579. W. B. Brown

and upon the ground
of the fact that the Government could do nothing
in the way of

Mistaken by the Hon. Sir W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I. possibly

I wish to place on record my ~~earnest~~ earnest conviction that ~~the~~ serious and
objectionable inconvenience is caused ~~to~~ the distressed districts from ~~the~~ indiscriminate
pressing of the ryots for their kists in the face of most depressing, if not absolutely disastrous,
conditions.

2. There can be no question that under an earnest desire to maintain the State demand in
the face of large falling outlay, a settlement has been made for the year, which is not altogether
moderate under the circumstances, more especially in the case of dry land where remissions are not
accorded by established rules, where discretion is left, and the rule is regard to remissions by per-
centage on taxes and on other. Dry land remissions ~~have been~~ have been timely
allowed in some parts, and the last-mentioned rule operates with special inequality as respects the
small cultivators of the poorer cultivators. Since the settlement was made things have not
improved but the reverse, and the crop which it was hoped might help to pay the demand is
partially at least lost.

3. I myself hold that in a year like this it were wise policy to suspend the demand exten-
sively. Even the largest land-holders in distressed districts must find it difficult to meet their
revenue demands without resort to the money-lender, and interest must be enormous. While
in need, the State may lose five per cent. on the suspended demand, proprietors and peasantry must
pay generally pay twelve to twenty-five per cent. on the paid up demand, besides having their
means of helping others and recovering from disaster much crippled.

4. There is a great dearth of money for the transport and purchase of food and employment
of labour, the more that is left in the country the better. Even the recovery of Zemindars' pesh-
kas is a direct ~~draw~~ drain on the country at such a time, which no expenditure by the State can readily
recoup.

5. Be this as it may, there are a ~~large~~ number of petty land-holders, who simply cannot
support themselves and their families, whose ruin has overtaken with exceptional severity, and who
cannot pay up their revenue demand this year. It is probably hopeless and certainly unwise
to demand and harass this class by Revenue officials. It is a time to give rather than to take.
In respect to the whole of this class, I submit that the demand should be officially and fully sus-
pended at least for one year. No one will lend a rupee while the dun is dogging the poor strug-
gling peasant. No one can advance money for seed when he is aware that probably the pittance
borrowed at high interest will be claimed by the village officers before it reaches the land. In
fact, against this class the unsuspended demand is ~~adding~~ adding ruin to ruin and enabling the
village officers to make money by ~~extorting~~ the demand, practically in suspension as regards the
State, yet a means of petty extortion.

6. It were easy to classify these persons and send out of hand, and such class-suspension
would make the recovery from the others, who might be required to pay, all the easier.

7. It is a matter which the Government should take up in a liberal and statesmanlike way
and not await the declaration of inability to collect by the tax-gatherers, which must sooner or
later be avowed.

11th August 1877. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

Treasury
to be
used

may be used
as

as regards
the want of
dollar

Wm. H. P. H. H.
H. H. H. H.

Memorandum

I wish to place on
records my long personal
and earnest conviction
that most serious and
dangerous consequences
is caused throughout
the distressed Districts
from the indiscriminate
promising of the Right
for their Relief in the
face of most deprecating
if not absolutely disastrous
Conditions.

There can be no
question that under
an earnest desire to
maintain the State
demands in the face
of

of large famine outlay
a Settlement has
been made for the
year, which is not
altogether moderate
under the circumstances,
more especially in the
case of Dryland - where
the Remissions are not
secured by established
Rules - where Discretion
is left to the rule in
regard to Remission,
by per centage on large
area applied. Dryland
Remissions are discretionary
and have been treated
as a gift in some parts.
In last mentioned rule
and operates on the
Special inequality
and

as respects the Small
Dry holdings of the
poorer Cultivators.
Since the Settlement
was made, things have
not improved but the
reverse; and the crop,
which it was hoped
ought help to pay the
demand is partially
at least lost.

I myself hold that
in a year like this, it
were wise policy to
suspend the demand
entirely. Even the
largest land holders in
distressed Districts
must find it difficult
to meet their revenue
demands without resort
to the money lender and
interest

interest must be
enormous. While under
the State may lose 8 per
cent on the suspended
demand, proprietors
and peasants must
very generally pay 12 to
25 per cent on the paid up
demand; besides having
their means of helping their
and recovering from disaster
much crippled.

There is a great dearth
of money for the transport
and purchase of food
and employment of labor,
the more that is left in
the country the better. Even
the recovery of Zamindars
Peshkash is a direct
loss to the country at such
a time when no expenditures
by the State can readily
be made.

Recap.

Be this as it may,
there are a vast number
of petty landholders
who ~~who~~ ^{cannot} support
themselves and their
families whose revenue
has been taken with
exceptional severity
and who simply cannot
pay up their Revenue demands
this year. It is probably
hopeless and certainly
unwise to demand
this class by revenue
bailiffs. It is at times
to give rather than to take.
In respect to the whole
of this class I submit
that the demand should
be officially & fully suspended
at least for one year.

No one will lend a
rupee while the dewan
is dogging the poor struggling
peasants. No one can
advance money for seed
when he is aware that
probably the pittance
borrowed at high interest
will be claimed by the
Village Officers before it
reaches the land. In
fact against this class
the cumulative demand
is simply adding ruin to
ruin & enabling the Village
Officers to make money
by keeping the demand
practically in suspension
(as regards the State) yet
a means of petty extortion.

It were easy to classify
these persons & suspend

out of hand and such
Class-Suspension would
make the recovery from
the others, who might be
required to pay all
the taxes.

It is a matter which
the Govt. should take up
in a liberal & statesmanlike
way & not await the
declaration of inability
to meet by the treasury
which must sooner or
later be arrived at.

W/O J. P. Robinson

3/5/97

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue
Dated 2nd August 1877

Read the following No. 448

letter from
S. Srinivasa Rao

Thasildar of

To R. M. Barlow Esquire
Pomeri Taluqa

Collector, Chingleput District

Owing to the heavy rain that fell some time ago and the consequent moistness of the ground, which lasted ~~which lasted~~ so long, the raggi, cumboos and gingelly crops were in a thriving condition. But they are now beginning to wither from the scorching sun, which grows more and more powerful every day. A week of rain or two would certainly bring them to maturity. The failure of the rains just at this critical time has created great apprehension.

No. 448
S. Srinivasa Rao
Thasildar of
Pomeri Taluqa
Chingleput District

1/5/97

1/5/97

in the minds of the people.

2. The supply of water in the ponds is perceptibly decreasing and articles of consumption are not, in most villages, available.

The people of small villages proceed to large ones and purchase rice in small quantities at $4\frac{1}{2}$ measures per Rupee; and when this is over they are again badly off for it. They are indisposed by taking this rice, inasmuch as it creates a burning sensation in their insides which only serves to increase their appetite.

3. I have made various arrangements in regard to the relief of the distressed. * * * *

If you were especially kind enough to grant liberal remission during

during the recent famine, of this taking. Nevertheless the people are quite unable to pay even the small arrears outstanding against them. I have endeavored but without effect to realize these arrears by sending my subordinates with instructions to collect the amount without putting the ryots to the additional expense of demand in. A small collection was made in the Shrotrian & Zamindari villages. The distressed ryots, if asked for their arrears are determined to go away from their villages.

5. Even the well-to-do ryots use this as a good opportunity of putting off the payment of their arrears; and I propose therefore to attach the property

of such men

Arise 19th
July 1877

Jugun
(S) S. Srenivas Rao
Tahsildar

(True Translation
and Extract)

no 545

Submitted to the Board of
Revenue for information

Collector's Office
Madras
23rd July 1877

(S) R. M. Barlow
Collector

Recorded

(True Copy & Extract)

(S) C. A. Gallon
A. S. Secretary

To the Collector of Chingleput

(True Copy)

C. A. Gallon
A. S. Secretary

To the addl. Secy to Govt. R. D.

1/10
S. S.

Private
Name has been
taken out of
the book to occur
in the matter

Proceeding of the
Board of General
Said 20
August 1877
Recd 2/9/77
Attest August 17th 1877

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Proceeding of the
Board of General

Said 20

August 1877

Recd 2/9/77

Attest August 17th 1877

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