M.R.O. 1—24,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1030	Press Mis.
335		
Dated	15-6-1869	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

BNS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
FORT ST. GEORGE,
15*th April* 1869.

No. 1,030.

No. 335.
To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Miscellaneous.

WITH advertence to your Under Secretary's letters of the 21st and 30th September last, numbered 307 and 319, requesting information in regard to certain statements made in two petitions, which had been addressed to the Government of India, and appear to proceed from residents of the Coimbatore District, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a letter from the Board of Revenue, under date 4th February 1868, No. 778, with enclosures, which affords the information sought.

2. I am also directed to express the entire concurrence of this Government in the remarks of the Board of Revenue in paragraphs 6 and 7 of their letter.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Foreign 1869 Department.

[———]

From Government of Fort St. George.

Dated 15th April. } No. 1,030, 6 spare copies.

R. } Enclosures.

D. No.

L. No. Progs. { D. No.

APRIL.

No. 235.

Submitting letter from Board of Revenue reporting on two petitions from certain inhabitants of Coimbatore addressed to Government of India, complaining of excessive taxation.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th April 1869.

No. 334. From the Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 4th February 1869, No. 778:—

WITH reference to Government Orders, 9th October 1868, No. 2,606, and 15th October 1868, No. 2,637, calling, at the instance of the Government of India, for a report on two petitions in which the inhabitants of the Coimbatore District complain of excessive taxation, I am directed to submit a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, with enclosures, in which is contained a full report on the special grievances brought to notice by the petitioners.

2. The Nirgunty Fee Cess was sanctioned by Government Orders, 16th November 1865, No. 2,810, and 26th September 1866, No. 2,592. It was introduced in substitution for the labor and grain-fees which the ryots had been accustomed to pay, and though there now seems to be a doubt whether the ryots ever really liked the cess, it was understood at the time that they wished it. The rates levied have been from one Rupee to two Rupees an acre for running water, and from eight Annas to one Rupee an acre for water raised by pecottahs. The total amount collected last year was Rupees 35,831, or about six per cent. on the Nunjah revenue of the talooks where the cess was in force.

3. The impost was only introduced experimentally, and on the ground that the cultivators wished it. A report, which has been lately received from the Collector, shows that this is no longer the case, and if so, the cess must be abolished. The general question as to whether a similar tax should be levied *by law* in all parts of the Presidency is now under consideration.

4. The enhancement of quit-rent on Inams, complained of by petitioners, is the payment voluntarily made by them for the freehold in perpetuity of the land, which they did not previously possess, and which it was left to their option either to purchase or not, as they chose. The enhancement on the whole district was Rupees 13,741, and the present quit-rent is still less than the full assessment by Rupees 71,592.

5. Similarly the Education Cess, under Madras Act VI. of 1863, is a voluntary assessment paid for educational advantages which the State could not otherwise provide, but which the people may take or not, just as they please. In Coimbatore the Act had been introduced in 347 villages in 1866-67, and the amount collected was Rupees 2,076.

6. With reference to paragraph 2 of the letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, recorded in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, 9th October 1868, No. 181, I am to say that there can be little doubt that the repugnance to taxation, exhibited by petitioners, is general in this as in all other countries. There has, it must be admitted, been a considerable increase in taxation of late years; but the condition of the people has materially improved during the same period, and they are consequently better able to bear the additional burdens which the necessities of the State have imposed upon them.

7. The Board, however, do not consider it desirable to discuss the policy of Government and the incidence of taxation in reporting on petitions which have

certainly no claim to be taken as conveying a representation of the views of the community, or of any important portion of it. The petitioners have the means of obtaining redress locally for any well-founded cause of complaint.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd R. R. Bantloman.

No. 778.

From J. GROSE, Esq., Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue,

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

SIR,

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I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

J Grose
Sub-Secretary.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,
Madras,
4th February 1869.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Rev. Dept.,
with copy of Collector's letter, dated 3rd December 1868,
No. 316, and its enclosures.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Bentham Project

To
The Secretary to the Govt of India
Foreign Department

Sir,

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a

1 October /68 Nos. 181-182 —
5 " " " — 245/46
6 September /68 — 606-609
1 November /68 — 201/62

Perennial Distt —
W. 1157.

BOARD OF REVENUE, MADRAS.

1869.

LETTER, 4TH FEBRUARY 1869, No. 778.

Encl 2
Received 16 Feb 1869

FEBRUARY.
No. 778.

F. 22/1/30-15 Apl 68

Petition—presented to Government of India by inhabitants of Coimbatore District complaining of excessive taxation,—Collector's report on, submitted to Government, with remarks.

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2. I am also directed to express the entire concurrence of this Government in the remarks of the Board of Revenue in paras 6 & 7 of their letter.

20/7

Secretary