Revenue (1897.) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1051

Dated 15th December

[Despatch Abstract.]

Accepting as a special case, the recommendations of the Board of Revenue for granting further remissions of revenue in the Ramallakottah, Kurnool Dt.

## BACK PAPERS.

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18 4,000—19-7-97.

# Revenue (1897) Department.

**CURRENT No.** 8237

Re Remn Suit. to Write Off. R. D. 5.
[for information before issue]

From The Board of Revenue Sclt.

No. 610

Dated 10th Septr. 1897

Received 22-9-97

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

Order nisi No. 6320 of 7th December 1897. 22 30/9/97

The Govt agree with the Board of Revn

24.9.97.

The proposal is that the Colr. shd take up individual cases of distress and shd recommend that such arrears may be dealt by persons who have not the means to pay shall be written off as irrecoverable. This proposal is entirely against the principle on which remissions are granted for the relief of the ryots in bad seasons, and which is that the cases of individuals shall not be considered, except so far as it is necessary to frame a standard according to which all persons in a given tract may be dealt with. Moreover against the grant of remissions according to individual circumstances recently there set up a strong cry and need not to be repeated. It is sufficient to point out that the present proposal is open precisely the same objections as the grant of remissions according to the (rejected) ascertained facts of individual cases, and should therefore not be accepted. If it is, it will certainly lead to widespread corruption and lamentable waste of the resources of the Govt. I cannot agree to it.

RS
24-9-97

The Report of the Y.C. 3/9/97 is herewith returned.

30/9/97

## SUBJECT.

Suggesting that the arrears of pauper ryots in Ramallakot taluk, Kurnool Dt. maybe treated as irrecoverable

The track remissions we have been granted in the Ramallakot taluk under B.P. No. 655 30.7.97 are not sufficient, and that the local Subs. cannot be trusted to give the information on wh such remissions are founded. The Bd proposes to allow the ryots to remit the whole or part of the arrears due by puttas issued. The amount involved cannot be large & I do not think the order will lead to "widespread corruption", or "a lamentable waste of the resources of Govt."

JG
2/10/97

The proposed remissions are, I understand, not according to individual fields, but according to individual ryots. I think therefore that they are not opposed to the principle laid down, and that they may be allowed on the present occasion.

R.Sk
19.11.97

Dept. to submit to Hon. Mr Bliss.

I request that this may be brought up for discussion in Ct. of Council. Notwithstanding the opinion of my colleagues, being clear, I must record my dissent.

RS
22/11/97

I concur with the Hon. Mr Ryan that relief is wanted, and that this is the only way in which it can be granted.

R.Sk
7.12.97

The above case will be discussed in Council - Hon. Mr Bliss absent - Recommended as a special case to keep the only mode of affording relief in the exceptional circumstances of the taluq

R.Sk
7.12.97

## BACK PAPERS.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

# Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
22 SEP 97
SECRETARIAT RECORDS

*Read.* } 1897. *Enclosures*

*Read.* *Spare copies*

*Printed September th.*

**Proceedings, No. 610, 10th September 1897.**

## SEPTEMBER.

*Remissions.*—With reference to Famine Commissioner's opinion that adequate relief in shape of dry — has not been afforded in Ramallakot taluk, Kurnool district, suggests that the arrears of pauper ryots may be treated as irrecoverable, after proper enquiry, without proceeding to the extremity of selling them up.

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

## (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Read—the following G.O., No. 686, Revenue, dated 10th August 1897:—

*Read*—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 539, dated 30th July 1897:—

Resolution—No. 539, dated 30th July 1897.

In view of recent orders about reducing wages and numbers on relief works, the Famine Commissioner thinks it right to inform Government of the condition of the people as ascertained in his recent inspections.

2. These inspections were made in company with the Sanitary Commissioner, who will report more fully to Government. Of the coolies—some 9,500 in number—inspected at Adóni, a very large proportion were in bad condition. There were 70 emaciated babies on the work and six in the kitchen at Adóni. Scurvy was present in a considerable number of cases. At Kurnool the condition of the coolies was even worse. The number seen was about 10,000. Setting aside old persons, to whom objection might be taken that their condition might be bad in any season, there were fully 1,000 persons in bad condition present. About 70 emaciated famine babies were on the work, and more were seen in the town, and scurvy was very prevalent. The Sanitary Commissioner will give fuller particulars. The Famine Commissioner fears that the steps being taken to restrict relief are premature, and may lead to mortality. It is certain that, even on the wages previously given, the people have markedly fallen off in health.

3. The attention of the Famine Commissioner had already been given to the extent of gratuitous relief in Kurnool, and specially in the Ramallakot taluk, and in his present tour, was specially directed to this matter. The condition of Ramallakot was not properly reported to the Collector. Mr. Mullaly had pronounced it out of danger, and the Taluk and Divisional officers either purposely or through ignorance or incompetency, did not keep the Collector properly informed. The result has been that sufficient works were not opened in this taluk, and gratuitous relief on a large scale has become necessary. Government has drawn the attention of the Collector to this matter, and the Famine Commissioner had already done so. The Collector promised to refer to it specially in his next fortnightly report. For the present, it may be sufficient to note that the prices and numbers on relief in July 1897 are practically identical with the prices and numbers on relief in May 1877. The difference is that in 1877 a third of the population died: no mortality has taken place as *yet* in 1897, but, if too stringent measures are enforced, it is to be feared that mortality will follow.

4. Attention was specially given to the hill villages in Dhone firka. Dhone Subba Rao Garu, a well-known and benevolent land-owner there, has been trying for some time to call attention to this tract. The Famine Commissioner forwarded two of his applications to the Collector for disposal, but the Collector had been misled by his subordinates. In the tract specially inspected by the Famine Commissioner and Sanitary Commissioner near Kocheru, it was found that the crops of 1896-97 had



been something like one anna. The karnam estimated them at one anna, and Dhone Subba Row Garu confirms this. In the report submitted by the karnam, he had to enter the crops as "one to four annas", as there was no other column. The Revenue Inspector, to be on the safe side, put them down as between 4 and 8 annas; the Tahsildar, who does not seem to have made any genuine inspection, put them down as 8 to 12 annas. The result is that these ryots have got no remission. They had not enough even to recoup their cultivation expenses, much less feed their families and pay the kist. They have had to borrow for this purpose. Their applications for loans have received no notice, though dating from 1896. The Tahsildar declares that he has "disposed of them", *i.e.*, rejected them, but no endorsement has been received, and the fresh applications also are unnoticed. The ryots' houses were searched and no food-supplies were found. Their cooking pots showed nauseous blackish balls of greasy leaves, which the women and children eat with greediness during the inspection. It was with reference to this tract that the Famine Commissioner telegraphed to Government asking for permission to open the Kocheru-Pyapalli road as a relief work. He would have had no hesitation in sanctioning this himself, had not Government prohibited the opening of fresh relief works without its permission. Already 450 coolies have migrated from this valley to distant works, but the remainder, for one reason or another, cannot go, and must have some work nearer their homes. The Famine Commissioner regrets to say that the recent sowings in their villages are not likely to yield more than about two-anna crops. It would be better if the ryots were to plough up and resow their lands, but they are evidently too poor to do so.

The Collector will go specially into this matter, for the conduct of the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector requires the closest sifting. These officers seem to have imbibed Mr. Mullaly's views, and the ryots suffer in consequence.

5. The Famine Commissioner regrets to say that the summer sowings throughout the tract between Dhone and Kurnool are generally poor. They may be somewhat better near Veldurti, but much of the lands will not yield more than four-anna crops. The cholam has come up very unequally, large patches in the fields, often as much as half, having failed to come up at all. The taluk will require the most tender treatment, and the Commissioner considers that the Collector should reconsider his recommendations as to dry remissions in this taluk. The kists of fasli 1896-97 have not yet been collected in full, and the ryots should get the tardy benefit of concessions, which, had their Revenue officers been awake, should have been granted already.

6. The Famine Commissioner touches on the condition of the workers at Adóni and Kurnool only lightly, as the Sanitary Commissioner will go into the matter fully; but he respectfully submits to Government that the time has not come for severe reduction of relief. The matter of the reduced wage is one which must be discussed more fully elsewhere. All that the Famine Commissioner can urge at present is that, under the wage hitherto given, the coolies have barely kept health, or have seriously deteriorated. The general adoption of the C and D wages is bound to lead to disaster in this Presidency, if persevered in for any length of time.

7. The famine babies above referred to will all die. What the vital statistics will show is doubtful, as the machinery for recording them seems to be disorganised, *e.g.*, the statistics of Kurnool town show a death-rate of 10 per mille. According to this, the average age of the inhabitants of Kurnool must be 90-Q.E.A. The Collectors of all districts should issue special orders to stimulate accuracy of registration.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Collector of Kurnool.
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

*Order*—No. 686, Revenue, dated 10th August 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Famine Commissioner will be informed that the recent order of Government directing the classification of relief workers and the payment of wages to them in accordance with the provisions of the Code is based on instructions issued by the Government of India. As regards other recent orders the Government fails to see anything in them which necessitates severe reduction of relief, or prevents relief being given to those who are really in need of it.

2. The Famine Commissioner should communicate to the Board, in the Department of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, his observations as to the insufficiency of the dry remissions in the tract referred to in paragraph 5.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture.

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READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 6595, dated 18th August 1897:—

*Read*—G.O., No. 686, Revenue, dated 10th August 1897.

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*Resolution*—Mis. No. 6595, dated 18th August 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture, with copy of Board's
Proceedings, No. 539 of 1897.

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RESOLUTION—No. 610, dated 10th September 1897.

With due deference to the opinion of the Famine Commissioner, it must be observed that it is extremely difficult to form a just estimate of the yield of last year's crops six or seven months after all trace of them has disappeared from the ground; and the extent of the special inspection made, would seem hardly to warrant imposing on the Collector the difficult task of revising his proposals regarding dry remissions for the whole taluk at this late date.

2. The witness referred to in paragraph 4 can hardly be free from an unconscious bias seeing how largely he must benefit by any dry remission granted under the usual rules, without respect to individual circumstances; and it is perhaps somewhat hard on the Revenue Inspector, Tahsildar and Divisional officer to accept the karnam's estimate against theirs, without hearing what they have to say on the subject.



3. The Settlement Commissioner passed along the road from Dhone to Kurnool late in August, and has since seen the portion of the Ramallakot taluk visible from the canal between the Sunkésala anikat and the taluk's eastern limit. Recent favourable and abundant rain has revived the early dry crops and there is now good hope of an average harvest about two months hence. On the black soils cholam is now being sown under favourable auspices.

4. On the whole, the Board believes that the simplest and most effectual method by which the Collector and his Divisional-officers may afford necessary relief to pauper ryots, such as those referred to by the Famine Commissioner in paragraph 4, will be by recommending (after careful enquiry into individual circumstances) that the whole or part of the arrears due from such of them as have not the means to pay, may be written off as irrecoverable without proceeding to the usual extremity of selling them up. The extent and assessment of a defaulter's holding and a brief statement of his visible personal property will furnish a better index of the necessity of the proposed forbearance than any modified estimate of last year's crops that can now be devised, and an unnecessary sacrifice of revenue will be avoided.

5. Considering the quite exceptional severity of the present distress, Government will probably not be indisposed to sanction the procedure now recommended, and it might, the Board thinks, be laid down for the guidance of all Collectors in dealing with pauper defaulters in the current fasli.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

C.W.-8237

The Hon. Mr. Grose, C.I.E.
The Hon. Sir H. Bliss, K.C.S.I.

Instructions on the original docket of this current, which, on reconsideration, I have decided to withdraw. I have therefore removed the docket from the file that a fresh docket may be affixed to the current circ.— The original docket was marked for circ= to the Hon. Members and bore the fully drafted S.O. which the Hon. Mr. from initialled on 24/9/97

RS
28/9/97

Circulated to the Hon. Mr. Grose C.I.E. and the Hon. Sir H. Bliss K.C.S.I. according.

29.9.97.

The Hon. Mr. Grose C.I.E. agrees with opinion of Sir H. Bliss, K.C.S.I.

1/10/97.

Submitted to the Hon. Mr. Grose C.I.E. and the Hon. Sir H. Bliss K.C.S.I.

1/10/97.

What?

1/10/97.

Forms omitted to copy the draft S.O. on the original docket please see fresh docket

RS
30/9/97

RS

Minute

I regret that I cannot concur with the draft order accepting the proposals made in para 4 of the Bd's Proc No 610 of Sept 10, 1897, which are altogether opposed to the principles on which remissions always have been granted in this Presy on "dry" land and always should be. That principle is that, though a sufficient number of individual cases shall be examined to enable the Collector to form an opinion as to the general state of the affected tract, remissions are not to be granted to individuals, but are to take the shape of a percentage reduction of the demands in the Taluk, village or other area in which the shortness of the rainfall may have caused the crops to more or less fail. The reason for this is obvious. It is impossible, with such establishments as we have, to arrange for the consideration of all individual cases by competent and trustworthy officers. If, therefore, individual cases were to be dealt with, it would be necessary to dispose of them upon the reports of subordinates, who could not be trusted, even if competent; and a wide door would thus be opened to corruption.

The present is a thirty and-odd case. A number of very petty individual cases will have to be dealt with, instead of which

it will not be possible for the Chief to make personal inquiry. He has no means of intimate, & sufficient knowledge of his existing trusted and with the leisure to undertake such inquiries, to whom the task might be committed. He will therefore of necessity have to rely on the reports of subordinates, who will then have ~~and no doubt will utilize~~ the opportunity for illicit gain. ~~the opportunity provided~~

The result must be a tacit acceptance of revenue which I cannot believe that any case is established for any special leniency. ~~He~~ ~~has~~ There is no proof of any exclusive failure of crops, but many assertions made by interested persons many months after the crops were off the ground, when it was impossible to apply effective any testing of this assertion.

H. W. Wilson

11/12/97