Sectt. II-27—1,000—25-5-36.

Revenue (1897) Department.

Grigl SERIES.

G.O. No. 442

DATED 5. 6. 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

ment.

ont.

ıue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 442.

DATED 5th June 1897.

10

[Despatch Abstract.]

Remissions.

Accepting, with remarks, Board's instructions for the grant of — in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Ganjam in consideration of the exceptional character of the season.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
G.O. 5959/97							

[Rev]enue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3486

Sent to the Hon. W. Bliss C.S. [illegible]

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS 28 APR 97

R.S. 28-5-97

Print. W. Bliss. C.S. [illegible] Board [illegible] 28-5-97

From The Board of Revenue Revenue Settlement Land Records & Agriculture Madras

Order 4/5/97

Recorded 17.5.97

No. 282 Pres.

Dated 5th April 1897

Received 28-4-97

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Season remissions.— Passing orders on proposals from the Collector of Ganjam about the granting of — in the district.

The proposed scale for [illegible] Board (Sett.) the grant of remission [illegible] is wrong. In accordance with the true principles of remission the case where there has been no yield & that where there is some should be kept quite distinct. I would say: For waste & total loss, full remission.

Under 2 annas. 85%.

Under 4 annas. 50%.

Under 6 annas. 75%.

and this might apply [illegible]

R.C. 28/5

I have noted on the file [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

lost and rain fed lands.

[illegible] 11/5/97

I agree with the Secretary as to the rates of remission. I think that partial remission should on no account be given on individual fields but only tract-wise.

[illegible] 6/5/97

I would suggest that it be left to the Collector to decide whether partial remissions be given on individual fields or tract-wise, — the former if the Collector can carry it out, the latter if he can't.

[illegible] 17.5.97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	5313	[illegible]	[illegible]
	106		
	392		
B.P.	472	[illegible]	
B.P.	327	[illegible]	
	5716	[illegible]	8-[illegible]
B.P.	327	Land Rev.	28-3-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
[illegible]	[illegible]		

Draft a resolution [illegible]

[illegible] 11/5/97

The point appears to be: Should full remission be granted if any crop at all has been secured? The rules on the subject are quite clear & are that full remission can only be granted when, owing to lack of water not due to the ryots' fault, "the land is left waste or when the crop is totally lost" [B.S.O. 23]. Now it appears to be intended to treat as cases of total loss of crop (1) cases of wet crops in which the outturn has not exceeded one-eighth of a full crop and (2) cases of "rainfed" crops in which the outturn has not exceeded one-sixteenth of a full crop. I cannot ascertain from the file, which appears to be incomplete, the origin of this relaxation of the B.S.O. — The original was given, I think, in another file which was linked to this at the time of its original circulation and on which I recollect writing at some length to the effect that the relaxation of rule was inadmissible. I can only repeat the opinion. It seems to me that to allow cases in which there has been any crop at all to count as cases of total loss of crop is a most dangerous procedure because it leaves a discretion to the Taluk Subordinates which is quite certain to be abused to the certain detriment of Govt. and the almost certain detriment of the ryot. Once, that is, it is admitted that the amt. of remission on a particular field may depend on the proportion of crop got in, there can be no security at all that false representations, which it is, I must [illegible], quite impossible to check, will not be made as regards every particular field with regard to which the Taluk Subordinates can come to terms with the ryot. No course more wasteful and demoralizing can be imagined. It should not be countenanced — by the "recording", that is, by the approval, of the B.R. proposals.

The case as to partial remission stands on quite a different footing. The rule is that partial or proportionate remissions may be given for partial loss of crop in unsettled districts and Ganjam is a settled district but under the special circs of the current fasli it is proposed to grant it there as a special favour of treatment as an unsettled district. I am not sure that this concession is necessary but I do not dissent from the decision to grant it. The grant must however be upon the special condition stipulate[d]

the grant of full remissions from that of partial remissions. Full remissions are granted for total loss upon individual irrigated fields. Partial remissions for partial loss are never granted upon individual fields and never should be. They are granted upon all the fields (of the particular kind) in a village or group of villages or Taluk or other defined tract of country, which may be great or small according to the circs — may extend, that is, to a whole district or be limited to the area irrigated by a named sluice of a particular tank or channel. This difference of the main condition upon which partial remissions are given from that on which total remissions are given greatly reduces, if it does not altogether remove, the objection to taking into consideration the extent to which the crop has failed, or the proportion of crop got in, in whichever way it is thought best to put it. The question whether a particular field has been left waste, or whether the crop on a particular field has been a total failure, is one which is comparatively simple of solution. To an experienced person, the state of the surface of the soil and of the withered stalks which remain after the straw has been lost are almost certain indications, though for greater safety it is the general rule to refuse to admit that crops have failed unless the straw is left unset until the field has been inspected. [This rule, it may be noted in passing, has not been followed in Gm, vide page 3 of the Colr's letter]. But when the question is as to the extent to which the crop has failed, there is no such guide, and no security for the truth of the reports which may be made other than inspection by a thoroughly trustworthy person. But thoroughly trustworthy persons, available for crop inspection, are very few indeed — It is possible that there may be enough of them for the examn on the ground of the reports of subordinates regarding the total failure of the crops or the fact of no cultivation in the comparatively small number of fields which have been left waste or in which the crop has totally failed; but it is certain that there are nothing like enough of such persons for the examn on the ground of the large addl area over which, in such a year as this, the crops are reported by the subordinates to have partially failed — Hence it is that, in regard to crops which have partially failed, the subordinates are practically unchecked, so that, if remissions of partial loss were to be given for individual fields, it would have full opportunity to bargain with

⊗ When remissions on rainfed (paddy) crops are under consideration, they may be treated as irrigated, the circs as to the examn of the fields being the same.
HS

the holder of each field and to grant or refuse to grant, remission, not according to the facts of the case, but according to what they can succeed in getting out of him for their own benefit. The bargaining, no doubt, may begin with the ryot, but this does not make the case any better. The rule therefore is that partial remissions shall not be given for individual fields but only for tracts of country, so that the opportunities of the subordinates to bargain with the ryots may be as small as possible; that this rule is a good one will hardly be disputed; the converse, then, should be admitted, vizt, that when individual (that is, full) remissions are granted there should be no question of the proportion of the crop secured —

For these reasons I cannot approve of the order proposed to be issued

HS
29/5/97

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed April th.

Proceedings, 5th April 1897, No. 282.

APRIL.

Season remissions.—Passing orders on proposals from the Collector of Ganjám about the granting of — in the district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from C. J. WEIR, Esq., Collector of Ganjám, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 6th February 1897, No. 180-Ver.:—

I have the honour to submit the following report regarding the results of inspection of crops lately made in the three Government taluks in the district and the extent to which remission and postponement of collection of assessment will, in my opinion, be necessary.

2. I enclose a copy of a printed circular I issued to Divisional and Taluk officers giving detailed instructions as to how the original and check azmaish should be made by the officials of several grades. The original inspection was commenced early in November by the Revenue Inspectors assisted by the ten crop inspectors sanctioned by the Government * and by a few clerks of the Divisional and Taluk offices deputed to that duty. Fifty per cent. of the fields in all the villages were re-inspected by Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Stationary Magistrates. The Divisional officers also checked the work of Revenue Inspectors and taluk officers to a great extent. I myself visited all three Government taluks when the inspection was going on, and supervised the work. The result of the inspection was, for each village, recorded in statement No. I prescribed in the circular and from these statements an elaborate posting statement No. II was prepared for the whole taluk. I herewith forward No. II statements of the three taluks. These show the following particulars for each village under rainfed and wet:—

(1) Occupied area and assessment.

(2) Extent and assessment of land left waste in ordinary years.

(3) Extent and assessment of land left waste in the present year owing to unfavourable season.

(4) Cultivated extent and assessment.

(5) Outturn under the several annotations with particulars of extent and assessment.

3. I consider that the crop inspection this year has, on the whole, been very thoroughly made. Though it was commenced as early as possible after it was ascertained that such a thorough azmaish was necessary in some villages in the Berhampur and Goomsur taluks, the paddy was cut before inspection. Owing to the great heat and brilliant sun shine, the crop ripened simultaneously over large areas, and as section 18 of the Famine Code forbids interference with harvesting operations, it was impossible to inspect all crop while on the ground. This was especially true of rainfed paddy which is harvested early. In such cases, the estimation of crop was based on local enquiry and examination of paddy in the thrashing floor.

4. In the last famine year of 1889, remissions were granted in this district according to the orders of the Board and Government in B. P., dated 13th February 1889, No. 61, and dated 7th May 1889, No. 227 (Settlement), and G.O., No. 108, dated 19th February 1889, and No. 398, dated 18th May 1889 (Revenue). In paragraph 7 of B. P., dated 7th May 1889, No. 227 (Settlement), the Board remarked that whenever dry remissions are granted, they should include both ordinary and manavari (rainfed) dry land.

* *Vide* G.O., Mis. No. 5355, dated 26th December 1896, communicated with B.P., dated 2nd January 1897, Mis. No. 13, Revenue Settlement.

5. The essential difference between "dry" properly so called and rain-fed lands in this district has, however, of late years been frequently insisted upon, and it has been recognised in settling the Rushikulya water-rates. In this season especially, the difference between "dry" and "rainfed" was strongly brought out. The great bulk of the dry crop in this district is an early crop which arrives at maturity at the end of south-west monsoon. Taking the district all round, this crop was moderately good. Rainfed paddy ripens six weeks to two months later than early dry crops and requires the rains of north-east monsoon. This year there were no north-east monsoon rains and the crop nearly everywhere failed more or less. The early dry crop was an average one nearly everywhere and in some parts of the district even more than average. It had all been cut and removed long before any azmaish was started. No attempt was therefore made to estimate the outturn, and no data for doing so except the extremely doubtful karnam's outturn figures were available for doing so.

6. The loss of the rain-fed crop—partial or total—was, on the other hand, widespread and general. I therefore consider that in all villages where 50 per cent. of rain-fed paddy was less than six-anna crop, percentage remission should be given without reference to the amount of dry crop or its outturn.

7 As regards dry crops, I do not consider that any case for remissions can be made out in any part of the district. The Tahsildar of Berhampur is the only officer who recommends it and has entered in the No. 2 statement of his taluk the outturn of dry crops. His estimate of the outturn of dry crops is based merely on the reports of the karnams. Owing to the lateness of the last jamabandi of Berhampur taluk, karnams and revenue inspectors were detained at taluk head-quarters at the time when dry crops were on the ground and were not in a position to judge of the outturn. Up to October there was not a word about extensive failure of dry crops and the outturn statements of Berhampur karnams were doubtless written up after they knew that exceptional remissions were likely. I believe they are entirely unreliable. It is true that the late dry crops, notably horse-gram, did very badly in parts, but such crops were not in large tracts and some of them were second crops.

8. As regards wet crops of 2 annas and under, the Board in paragraph 8 of its Proceedings, dated 28th August 1896, No. 327 (Land Revenue) say that full remissions are given in such cases and this was done in the famine of 1889. The Government, however, has apparently desired to consider this subject further—*vide* G.O., No. 514, Revenue, dated 8th October 1896. I would, however, recommend that in this year, considering the general and widespread failure of crops, full remissions on all wet with an outturn of 2 annas and under should be allowed. In the Gumsoor taluk there are a few unsurveyed and unsettled villages, but, as the assessment in them is very low, I think for purposes of remission, the wet lands in them may be treated as wet in surveyed and settled villages. In 1889 they seem to have been so treated and percentage remissions were not granted as prescribed in Board's Standing Order No. 23.

9. The statement A enclosed is an abstract for the district showing the totals of the No. 2 statements of the three taluks, and the statement given below compares the outturn of wet and rainfed in 1896 with that in 1889.

Taluks.	Outturn.	In 1897. Rainfed. Extent.	In 1897. Rainfed. Assessment.	In 1889. Rainfed. Assessment.	In 1897. Wet. Extent.	In 1897. Wet. Assessment.	In 1889. Wet. Assessment.
		Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Particulars not available.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Particulars not available.
Berhampur	Waste	609·46	894 5 3		1,032·97	2,359 0 9	
	Shavi	8,305·13	13,299 6 6		19,827·45	58,973 0 0	
	One-anna	3,483·24	6,535 15 7		12,904·92	40,025 2 11	
	Two-anna	1,973·38	3,107 5 6		7,474·38	21,652 0 11	
	Four-anna	1,706 57	2,712 15 7		6,283·68	18,863 14 6	
	Above four-anna	6,972·13	9,001 12 9		27,060 64	76,842 1 9	
	Total	22,049·91	34,551 13 0		74,583·84	2,18,715 4 10	
Chicacole	Waste	38·25	60 0 0		1,691·42	4,213 7 0	
	Shavi	336·32	507 13 0		7,216·50	18,793 3 0	
	One-anna	12·65	20 1 0		2,599·8	8,150 4 0	
	Two-anna	62·74	92 11 0		2,939·73	9,856 2 0	
	Four-anna	3·63	6 7 0		3,098·2	11,297 8 0	
	Above four-anna	14·27	21 7 0		82,515·68	1,39,246 9 0	
	Total	467·86	707 7 0	49,058	49,960·33	1,91,597 1 0	
Goomsur	Waste	454·56	531 10 2	589	173·38	475 14 7	
	Shavi	10,071·19	16,068 15 3	13,436	5,535·12	14,639 6 2	
	One-anna	3,302·12	6,054 8 9	6,435	2,382·13	6,254 0 6	
	Two-anna	3,654·72	5,414 8 8	2,655	2,848 74	7,405 13 3	
	Four-anna	5,629·74	7,822 6 0	6,924	3,434·72	6,667 14 7	
	Above four-anna	12,091·81	17,630 4 1	5,768	21,744·57	70,012 11 1	
	Total	35,204·44	52,521 15 11	35,807	36,118·96	1,07,455 12 1	
Berhampur	Waste	1,710					
	Shavi	7,252					
	One-anna	6,651					
	Two-anna	3,205					
	Four-anna	2,428					
	Above four-anna	1,997					
	Total	22,143					
Chicacole	Waste	61					
	Shavi	286					
	One-anna	60					
	Two-anna	214					
	Four-anna	267					
	Above four-anna	251					
	Total	1,139					
Goomsur	Waste	810					
	Shavi	20,252					
	One-anna	4,882					
	Two-anna	4,131					
	Four-anna	3,645					
	Above four-anna	1,512					
	Total	35,232					

The noticeable points about these figures are that the area of waste was much larger in 1889 than in 1897, that the amount of shavi except in Goomsur is larger this year, while the amount of good crop (over 4 annas) is everywhere in excess of 1889 and mostly largely so. Having in view the most recent orders contained in B.P., dated 28th August 1896, No. 327, I recommend the following remissions on rainfed this year, subject to the condition laid down in paragraph 6 above :—

Shavi and crop of one anna and under.	Full remission.
Between 1 and 2 annas	85 per cent.
Do. 2 and 4 „	50 „
Do. 4 and 6 „	25 „

The percentages sanctioned in 1889 were—

Waste.	Full.
Two annas and less	75 per cent. or more.
Between 2 and 4 annas	50 per cent.
Do. 4 and 8 „	Not exceeding 25 per cent.

In taluk statement No. 2 land usually left waste is distinguished from land left waste this year owing to bad season. With regard to rainfed waste, the rule in paragraph 4 (*c*) of B.P., dated 28th August 1896, No. 327, will be followed. In the case of wet, remission will be granted on the latter class of waste.

10. *Postponement of kists.*—As remarked by the Board in B.P., dated 31st December 1896, No. 472, this is of doubtful benefit to the ryots. In 1889 definite postponement of kists was not recommended nor granted. But the Government in G.O., No. 106, Revenue, dated 19th February 1889, communicated with B.P., dated 19th February 1889, No. 74 (Settlement) only ordered that collections should not be pressed pending jamabandi. All taluk officers recommend postponement of kists, but Tahsildars have an obvious interest in doing so. I do not at all think that the ryot is worse prepared to pay up this year than in 1889 and if remissions on rainfed and wet are given on the scale proposed, there should not, I think, be any necessity for postponement of the kists on these lands, as the ryot will get a crop bearing a high money value on all the lands on which he has to pay. As regards the kists on dry lands I fear that, if we insist on collecting it, hardship may be wrought in many instances, *e.g.*, in Palatalagam khandam of Chicacole taluk where ryots are poor and where, though they had a fair dry crop, their wet and rainfed crops almost totally failed. I would therefore recommend the postponement of third and fourth kists in this khandam. On this subject the Tahsildar of Chicacole reports: ". . . . . The dry fields yielded a fair outturn in almost all the villages. But the yield has almost been used for home consumption and for hire to labourers that assisted the ryots in wet cultivation which unfortunately sustained loss. The remnant of the outturn still with the ryots is barely sufficient for their maintenance especially in the villages of Paltalagam khandam and in most of the villages of the northern firka. Hence I submit that the postponement of dry assessment, though the postponement is not an unmixed blessing to the indigent ryot, is in my humble opinion indispensible." The Tahsildar's remarks are endorsed by the Principal Assistant Collector.

11. In Berhampur and Goomsur, paddy crop nowhere failed to such an extent as in Palatalagam, but on the other hand the dry crop itself was not so good. I think therefore it would be advisable to postpone the second and third dry kists in all villages in these taluks where 50 per cent. of the cultivated area of wet and rainfed was under a 4-anna crop. Great difficulty has so far been experienced in getting the ryots to pay up any of their dry kist, and probably even to collect the earlier kists coercive process will be necessary. Bringing some grain on the market in this way would not be altogether an evil, but if we collect the whole kist, we may have to exhaust the ryots' stock and proceed against his immoveable property. The enclosed statements marked C show separately the cultivated rainfed area and that on which the yield was above 4 annas in all the villages in Berhampur and Goomsur taluks. Similar information for wet is available in colums 66, 67, 76 and 77 of taluk statement No. 2.

12. A list of the statements sent with this is enclosed.

Resolution—dated 5th April 1897, No. 282.

The letter read above contains the proposals of the Collector of Ganjám regarding remissions of assessment, and postponement of collections to be allowed in the three Government taluks of the district on account of the unfavourable character of the season.

2. The proposals regarding rainfed and wet lands are based on the results of a special inspection instituted by the Collector. The original inspection was made by the ordinary revenue, and ten special Inspectors sanctioned in G.O., Mis. No. 5355, dated 26th December 1896, with the aid of a few clerks deputed from the divisional and taluk offices, and their work was over-inspected by Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Stationary Sub-Magistrates under the supervision of the Collector. The inspection, so far as it went, was conducted in as careful and thorough a manner as practicable, and the results thereof are fully recorded in the statements which accompany the Collector's report. The paddy crop in some villages of the Berhampur and Goomsur taluks, however, had been cut before inspection, but the outturns in these cases were estimated by local inquiry and with reference to the quantity of paddy on the threshing floor.

3. As regards dry crops, none of them were inspected, as they had been cut and removed long before inspection was begun; and the Collector considers that no case for dry remissions can be made out in any part of the district. He states that "the early dry crop was an average one nearly everywhere and in some parts of the district even more than average;" and that though "the late dry crops, notably horse-gram, did very badly in parts, such crops were not in large tracts, and some of them were second crops." The only officer who recommends dry remission is the Tahsildar of Berhampur; and he has furnished a statement showing the cultivation and outturn of dry crops in his taluk; but the Collector states that these statistics are entirely unreliable as they are based not on any inspection performed when the crops were on the ground but on estimates subsequently made by karnams.

4. The only concession which the Collector considers necessary in respect of dry lands, is to postpone the collection of the third and fourth kists on such lands in the Palatalagam khandam of the Chicacole taluk, and the second and third kists in all the villages of the Berhampur and Goomsur taluks, where 50 per cent. of the cultivated wet and rainfed area yielded a crop of less than 4 annas. In the circumstances explained by the Collector, the Board accepts his view that there is no necessity for granting dry remission. As regards the proposed postponement of collections, he is requested to state whether the postponement is to be made only up to the jamabandi or to the next fasli and to report the probable amount of revenue involved.

5. As regards wet lands the Collector proposes to grant full remission on all wet, with an outturn of two annas and under, and on all waste. This proposal which is in accordance with the concession sanctioned in the famine year 1889 is approved. The following are the particulars of the occupation and cultivation of wet lands in the three taluks:—

	Acs.	Rs.
Total wet	160,663	5,17,768
(1) Mamul waste	1,117	3,753
(2) Other waste	1,351	3,296
(3) Shavi	32,579	92,405
(4) One-anna crop and less	17,887	54,469
(5) One to 2-anna crop	13,263	38,914
(6) Two to 4 annas	12,816	38,829
(7) Above 4 annas	81,321	2,86,101

The total amount of remission according to the Collector's proposal comes to Rs. 1,92,837. This amount includes the remission to be granted on the wet lands in

certain unsurveyed and unsettled villages in the Goomsur taluk which the Collector would treat, as in 1889, like wet in surveyed and settled villages for purposes of remission as the assessment in the villages is very low.

6. As regards rainfed or manavari lands, the Board in reviewing the Collector's proposals for remission in the famine year 1889, observed, in its Proceedings, No. 227,* dated 7th May 1889, that manavari lands "fall under the rules relating to remissions on unirrigated lands in exceptional circumstances;" that "if the manavari dry lands are entitled to consideration, the ordinary dry lands in the same tracts must be acknowledged to be so also," and that "if, on the other hand, the ordinary dry lands are not considered to deserve any consideration, no remission should be granted on (manavari) rainfed dry lands in the same tracts." Referring to these observations, the Collector states that there is an essential difference between the ordinary dry lands and rainfed lands in his district; that this difference has been recognised in fixing different water-rates for dry crops and rainfed paddy under the Rushikulya project; that the great bulk of the dry crop in the district is an early crop which ripens at the end of the south-west monsoon, while the rainfed paddy ripens from six weeks to two months later and requires the help of the north-east monsoon rains; and that in this year the early dry crops yielded an average crop, while owing to the total failure of north-east monsoon, the rainfed crops suffered totally or partly everywhere. For these reasons the Collector recommends that in all villages where 50 per cent. of rainfed paddy was less than 6-anna crop, percentage remission should be given without reference to the extent of dry crop or its outturn. He proposes accordingly full remission for waste and shavi, including, under the latter head, a crop of one anna and less, and percentage remission for partial loss of crop on the following scale:—

(1) Crop between 1 and 2 annas ... ... 85 per cent.
(2) Do. 2 and 4 annas ... ... 50 „
(3) Do. 4 and 6 annas ... ... 25 „

This scale has been adopted by the Collector with reference to paragraph 4 of B.P., dated 28th August 1896, No. 327 (G.O., No. 514, dated 8th October 1896). Apparently the above items 1, 2 and 3 include respectively a 2-anna, a 4-anna and a 6-anna crop also.

* G.O., No. 398, dated 18th May 1889.

7. The following are the particulars of the rainfed area in the three taluks:—

	Area. Acs.	Assessment. Rs.
Total occupation	57,722	87,781
(1) Waste (mamul)	954	1,264
(2) do. (due to season)	149	222
(3) Shavi	18,713	29,876
(4) One anna and less	6,798	10,610
(5) One to 2 annas	5,691	8,615
(6) Two to 4 annas	7,340	10,541
(7) Four to 6 annas	3,559	5,491
(8) Above 6 annas	14,520	21,163

The bulk of the rainfed area is in the taluks of Berhampur and Goomsur, the extent in Chicacole being only 468 acres. In regard to usual (mamul) waste, the Collector states that the rule in paragraph 4 (c) of B.P., dated 28th August 1896, No. 327, will be followed, that is, that remission thereon will be allowed only where the cultivated lands of individual ryots have yielded less than a 6-anna crop. The Board generally approves the lines on which it is proposed to allow remission on rainfed lands. The figures quoted above have been taken from statement A received with the Collector's letter and refer apparently to the whole of the district and not merely to those villages in which 50 per cent of the rainfed paddy yielded less than a 6 anna crop and where alone remissions are to be granted. The Collector is allowed requested to report the extent and assessment of lands on which remission is to be at the different rates proposed by him.

8. In a letter * addressed to the Land Revenue Department, the Collector states that if the proposals in the report read above be sanctioned, the total amount of remissions to be granted in the district will be about Rs. 2,50,000. Deducting from this Rs. 1,92,837, which represents the total wet remission above referred to, the balance of Rs. 57,163 would seem to be the total amount of remission proposed to be granted on rainfed lands. This amount being itself slightly in excess of that calculated according to the rates proposed by the Collector on the areas entered against items (1) to (7) in the preceding paragraph, the Board presumes that the actual amount to be remitted will be much less.

* No. 268, dated 15th February 1897.

9. The Collector does not consider that there is any necessity for postponement of kists on wet or rainfed lands. Collections will not be pressed pending jamabandi; but thereafter the unremitted portion of kists on these lands will be collected.

(True Copies and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasa
Secretary.

To the Collector of Ganjám, with villagewar statements returned.
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Land Revenue Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Current Number 3588

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
1 MAY 97
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Printed April th.

Recd. 1.5.97.
Regd. 2.5.97

Proceedings, 8th April 1897, No. 295.

APRIL.

Kist Collections.—Submitting to Government proposals regarding remission of dry assessment and suspension of — in Anantapur.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from K. C. MANAVEDAN RAJA, Esq., Acting Collector of Anantapur, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 2nd March 1897, Ref. on C. No. 3425 :—

I have the honour to submit my proposals for the grant of dry remissions in this district for fasli 1306, together with statements marked A to F showing talukwar particulars of rainfall, supplies to tanks, extent of holding and cultivation, ruling prices and the amounts of remissions involved in the proposals.

2. In my report Dis. No. 4105, dated 9th November last, embodied in B.P., dated 19th November 1896, No. 358, I have already dealt with the condition of the district as it stood at the end of October, and have therein furnished statistics of rainfall and progress of cultivation in the several taluks up to that month. Before therefore attempting to deal with the character of the season as it has since developed itself, and its effect on the condition of crops and the outturn thereof, it is well to recapitulate some of the salient points already touched upon in that report.

The district, as is well known, is situated in the very centre of what is called the "famine zone"; even in normal years, there is a characteristic deficiency of rainfall in both the monsoons, which has helped to give it the position of being one of the driest in the Presidency. As already reported, the south-west monsoon opened in the year under report fairly well, and the rainfall at the end of August, though below average, was by no means such as to cause any apprehension of distress or even loss of crop on any extensive scale. The next two months of September and October resulted in sore disappointment to the agriculturists, as not only the fall of rain in these months was considerably below the expected average and less than the quantity registered in any of the previous famine years, excluding 1876, but was distributed so unevenly over different areas of the taluks and came in at such long intervals as to detract greatly from its value either in stimulating the cultivation of waste lands or resuscitating the chief standing crops on the ground which had by that time commenced to wither. The showers, especially in the latter month, seldom exceeded three-fourth of an inch and generally were very insignificant all over the district, with the exception of a few favoured localities in the three southern taluks, and hardly such as to withstand the tropical sun, and sink below the surface of the earth. The early rains, however, led to extensive sowings on the prevailing red-soils of the district—a fact which sufficiently explains the comparative largeness of dry cultivation during the year, a perceptible decrease being only observable in the black-cotton tracts of the

northern taluks. The following figures will contrast the difference between the total cultivation of the current year and the average based on the preceding four years, and also that of fasli 1301 :—

	Total dry first crop cultivated up to the end of January. ACS.
Fasli 1302	878,801
" 1303	972,002
" 1304	1,023,686
" 1305	1,119,602
Total ...	3,994,091
Average ...	998,522
Fasli 1306	961,884
Difference ...	36,638 (or only 3·6 % less).
Fasli 1301	696,440

3. The progress of the season since November has only served to aggravate the distress of the agricultural population. Neither the waste lands nor the standing crops have been benefited in any measure, by the rains such as have fallen since then. Between the 27th of October and the 18th of November, not a drop of rain fell in any part of the district, and when the rains did actually set in in the end of November, it was generally found that the rainfall was neither copious nor seasonable. The few light showers that fell towards the close of December were of no consequence. Like the *mungari* falls on the red-soil, these later rains once more stimulated vast sowings, especially in the black-soil tracts, which are generally brought under cultivation by the aid of the latter monsoon, and only led to wastage of a large quantity of seed and labour, which could have otherwise been a saving to the ryot. These crops, which consisted mostly of white cholum and Bengal-gram, have shared the fate of the earlier ones and have yielded little more than fodder.

4. Enclosure D gives the statistics of monthly rainfall of the several taluks for a series of years, including the famine years of 1876, 1884 and 1891. The total rainfall during the current year in each of the taluks exceeds the quantity registered in each of the previous famine years and would be evidently misleading if taken by itself. On the contrary, the true significance of the failure of both the monsoons will only be apparent when the rainfall of the two monsoons is considered separately. The north-east monsoon, as already observed, was far too late and seriously deficient and scanty. The subjoined table compares the rainfall during this season with that of the two preceding famine years 1884–85 and 1891–92 :—

Taluk.	1876–77.	1884–85.	1891–92.	1896–97.	Average rainfall.
1. Anantapur	0·75	4·97	4·74	2·02	6·82
2. Gooty	1·10	3·41	5·00	2·23	7 00
3. Tadpatri	1·59	4·65	6·83	2·58	7·37
4. Dharmavaram ..	0 85	8·12	3·84	2·80	7·64
5. Penukonda	2·55	8·55	8·02	3·09	9·15
6. Hindupur	0·80	10·52	4·20	2·92	7·85
7. Madakasira	0·80	8·37	4·52	3·75	9·12
8. Kalyandrug	..	..	..	3·05	6·25

It is evident from the above, that the fall during the current year was only a third of the average due and in certain taluks not even one-half of that recorded in the preceding years referred to. A comparison of the totals given in statement D will also disclose that at least in the two northern taluks the rainfall from 1892 has been almost continually deficient; the two central taluks of Anantapur and Dharmavaram had no doubt a slightly greater fall in 1895–96 than Gooty, but in the year

just preceding it, viz., 1894–95, the fall was markedly deficient and approached only that of a distinctly bad year being only 16 and 15 inches, respectively, in round figures. The same remarks apply in a more or less degree to the taluks of Kalyandrug and Penukonda, though at the latter the quantity recorded this year is in excess of the rainfall in any of the five northern taluks. Further in Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug, the rainfall during the year has been the lowest; and considering the nature of the prevailing soils in these taluks, consisting, with some exceptions, of red gravelly lands, stony and poor and mostly fit only for the growth of a mere catch-crop like late horse-gram, it will be manifest that the agricultural distress in these three taluks is nothing less in its intensity than that in the two northern taluks. Besides, the previous history of famines in the district will show that in no case was there such a close succession of adverse seasons as with regard to the current year. The recurring periods of drought were mostly at an interval of a decade or at the worst seven or eight years, but between the present year and 1892, there is but an interval of four years. Some of which as already stated were little better than actual droughts. So far therefore as these five taluks are concerned, it might, I think, be safely affirmed that they have had a succession of bad seasons with slow but gradual deficiency of rainfall, the deficiency at last culminating in the astoundingly low falls registered at each of these stations during the current year. I consider therefore that these five taluks should have a uniform treatment in regard to the grant of dry remissions and that the terms of such grant should, in the peculiar circumstances of the prevailing drought, be more liberal than the concessions allowed in former years.

5. The following statement compares the extent of waste and the proportionate yield on the area cultivated during the year, with that of the preceding famine year 1891–92 :—

Name of the taluk.	Dry holding (fasli 1306). Extent.	Dry holding (fasli 1306). Assessment.	Extent cultivated (fasli 1306).	Proportion of waste to holding. Fasli 1306.	Proportion of waste to holding. Fasli 1301.	Proportion of cultivated area which yielded. Annas 6 and over. Fasli 1306.	Annas 6 and over. Fasli 1301.	Between 4 and 6 annas. Fasli 1306.	Between 4 and 6 annas. Fasli 1301.	Fasli 1306. Between 2 and 4 annas.	Fasli 1306. Between 1 and 2 annas.	Fasli 1306. Total.	Fasli 1301. Between 1 to 4 annas.	*Nil* or total loss. Fasli 1306.	*Nil* or total loss. Fasli 1301.
	ACS.	RS.	ACS.												
1. Gooty	263,106	1,73,904	233,383	11	20	11	18	10	14	16	9	25	32	54	36
2. Tadpatri	165,990	1,34,077	134,904	19	20	13	14	4	16	5	4	9	26	74	44
3. Anantapur ..	211,595	60,427	155,776	27	19	11	13	5	28	23	13	36	40	48	19
4. Kalyandrug ..	183,406	56,507	141,182	23	22	10	13	10	19	25	52	77	40	3	28
5. Dharmavaram ..	134,620	35,553	100,919	25		12		4		23	26	49		35	
Total ..	958,719	4,60,468	766,164	20	20	11	15	7	9	18	21	39	34	44	32
1. Penukonda ..	100,325	28,406	52,052	24	34	32	32	31	35	19	5	24	32	13	1
2. Hindúpur ..	77,975	30,703	52,658	32	38	42	23	6	26	18	8	26	42	26	10
3. Madakasíra ..	81,826	30,266	65,945	20	40	47	24	21	44	14	3	17	26	15	6
Total ..	260,126	89,375	170,655	25	37	40	26	19	35	17	5	22	33	17	16

The above will show that the yield in the five northern taluks, as estimated in the current year, is less than in the preceding famine year 1891–92 (fasli 1301) under almost every heading of outturn. In Hindúpur and Madakasíra, the percentage of crops that yielded more than 6 annas is about twice that of the year above referred to, while in Penukonda it is nearly equal. There is also a marked decrease in the percentage of waste in these three taluks and certain parts of these seem to have fared better than the rest. These three taluks require therefore separate treatment. The accompanying table gives rangewar figures for these taluks.

STATEMENT showing the dry and wet cultivation with the yield thereon in the several ranges of the Hindupur, Madakasira and Penukonda taluks during fasli 1306.

Name of the Ranges.	Holdings. Dry.	Holdings. Wet.	Holdings. Total.	Waste. Dry.	Waste. Wet.	Waste. Total.	Cultivation. Dry.	Cultivation. Wet.	Cultivation. Total.	Cultivation. Percentage of cultivation to holdings.	Extent totally withered. Dry.	Extent totally withered. Wet.	Total. Extent.	Total. Percentage of cultivation.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.		ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	
Hindupur taluk.														
1. Hindupur range	22,871	8,393	30,764	8,115	1,908	10,023	14,256	6,485	20,741	67·3	375	59	434	2·0
2. Buddali do.	33,833	3,733	37,566	8,623	1,680	10,303	25,210	1,939	27,149	72·2	8,913	476	9,389	24·5
3. Lepatchi do.	21,771	6,225	27,996	8,579	1,254	9,833	13,192	4,971	18,163	64·8	4,485	768	5,243	28·8
Madakasira taluk.														
1. Madakasira range	33,901	3,751	37,652	6,585	390	6,975	24,497	3,173	24,670	65·5	272	18	290	1·1
Topes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,819	188	6,007	17·7	..	..	..	..
2. Amarapuram range ..	30,847	5,869	36,716	6,776	2,801	9,577	22,665	2,667	25,332	68·9	8,017	678	8,695	34·3
Topes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,406	401	1,807	6·8	..	..	..	..
3. Ratnagiri range ..	17,078	3,852	20,930	2,520	692	3,212	13,932	2,448	16,380	78·2	2,101	298	2,399	14·6
Topes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	626	712	1,338	7·8	..	..	..	..
Penukonda taluk.														
1. Bukkapatnam range ..	100,325	13,615	113,940	48,273	5,762	54,035	22,684	2,116	24,800	50·8	4,135	33	4,173	12·7
2. Penukonda do. ..							17,836	1,763	19,599		2,359	53	2,412	12·3
3. Roddam do. ..							11,532	1,966	13,498		172	26	198	1·4

Statement showing the dry and wet cultivation with the yield thereon in the several ranges of the Hindupur, &c., taluks—*cont.*

Name of the Ranges.	Extent yielded less than 2 annas.				Extent yielded less than 6 annas and above 2 annas.				Extent yielded less than 6 annas and above 4 annas.				Extent of dry yielded more than 6 annas.
	Dry.	Wet.	Total.		Dry.	Wet.	Total.		Dry.	Wet.	Total.		
			Extent.	Percentage of cultivation.			Extent.	Percentage of cultivation.			Extent.	Percentage of cultivation.	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24*	25	26	27	28
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.
Hindupur Taluk.													
1. Hindupur range	..	1	1	..	570	6,410	6,980	33·5	570	6,410	6,980	33·5	12,674
2. Buddali do.	1,995	28	2,023	7·4	2,418	1,245	3,663	13·4	2,418	1,245	3,663	13·4	6,725
3. Lepatchi do.	2,247	667	2,914	16·0	686	2,138	2,824	15·6	686	2,138	2,824	15·6	1,677
Madakasira Taluk.													
1. Madakasíra range	41	..	41	0·1	6,203	3,144	9,347	37 0	4,689	1,666	6,355	25·0	11,328
Topes	..	..	..	..	4,689	1,666	6,355	25·0	..	..	..	..	6,729
2. Amarapuram do.	822	91	923	3·6	..	..	..	..	3,087	1,920	5,007	30·6	4,451
Topes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..4	..	..	..	..
3. Ratnagiri do.	1,087	107	1,194	7·2	3,087	1,920	5,007	30·6	..	..	..	..	..
Topes	..	..	..	..	..4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Penukonda Taluk.													
1. Bukkapatnam range	620	24	644	2·5	4,420	1,992	6,412	25·8	4,420	1,992	6,412	25·8	11,149
2. Penukonda do.	2,111	35	2,146	10·9	7,111	1,646	8,757	44·6	7,111	1,646	8,757	44·6	4,372
3. Roddam do.	298	17	315	2·3	4,468	1,632	6,020	44·6	4,468	1,632	6,020	44·6	881

The following villages in the firkas noted against them are also reported to have borne a fair crop during the year:—

Ratnagiri firka (Madakasira taluk).

1. Ratnagiri.
2. Kaki.
3. Dodderi.
4. Badgira.
5. Runganahalli.
6. Pilligundla.

Amarapur firka.

1. Malligamadugu.
2. Mandlapalli.
3. Gurigahalli.
4. Byrenahalli.
5. Mallasamudram.
6. Kalvahalli.
7. Badachoragiri.
8. Chickachoragiri.
9. Holtethimmanahalli.
10. Bommagundanahalli.
11. Agraharam.
12. Tirumaladevarahalli.
13. Guddathahalli.
14. Boodihalli.
15. Hireturpi.
16. Karikera.
17. Phalaram.
18. Gudibanda.
19. Mapuragundu.
20. Sivaram.

Bukkapatam firka (Penukonda taluk).

1. Kesapuram.
2. Mylasamudram.
3. Sidderamapuram.
4. Kothelachakkapalli.

Subjoined is a table which shows the percentage of inspection by the Revenue Inspectors and Tahsildars and the number of villages where the crops were inspected by the Divisional Officers:—

Name of the taluk.	Percentage of inspection.		Inspection by Divisional Officers.	
	By Revenue Inspectors.	By Tahsildars.	Total number of circar villages in the taluk.	Number of villages in which crops were inspected.
1. Gooty	70	25	143	58
2. Tadpatri	72	The Tahsildar inspected the crops in 59 villages.	92	35
3. Anantapur	69	42	112	46
4. Kalyandrug	81	20	124	45
5. Dharmavaram	77	17	84	13
6. Penukonda	65	50	90	31
7. Hindupur	73	17	78	14
8. Madakasira	85	63	143	5

6. My proposals are therefore as follows:—

(*a*) *For the five northern taluks.*—(1) Full remission may be granted for all waste, total loss and a crop not exceeding 4 annas, and (2) 50 per cent. remission may be allowed for a crop of from 4 to 6 annas.

(*b*) *For the three southern taluks.*—(1) No remission need be granted for the cusba ranges of the Hindupur and Madakasíra taluks and for the tract comprising the 6 (six) villages of the Ratnagiri range of the latter taluk referred to in paragraph 5 *supra*;

(2) I recommend a 25 per cent. remission for all waste, total loss and a crop not exceeding 4 annas in the Roddam range in the Penukonda taluk and in Ratnagiri range of the Madakasíra taluk except in the six and in the twenty villages referred to;

(3) Fifty per cent. remission for all waste, total loss and a crop not exceeding 4 annas in the remaining part of these three taluks and in the four villages of the Bukkapatnam range in paragraph 5 *supra*; and lastly

(4) Seventy-five per cent. remission for all waste, total loss and crop not exceeding 4 annas in the Bukkapatnam range with the exception of the four villages alluded to.

Instructions will be issued to the Jamabandi officers to take into consideration the extent of loss in each village or tract both on dry and on wet lands as required by the rules, and to grant remissions only in deserving cases.

1.	Gooty	1,54,767
2.	Tadpatri	1,17,066
3.	Anantapur	49,442
4.	Kalyandrug	49,660
5.	Dharmavaram	29,381
6.	Penukonda	19,227
7.	Hindupur	8,456
8.	Madaksira	3,855
	Total ...	4,31,804

The marginally-noted figures show the financial effect of the proposals made above as per details given in statement A for each taluk.

7. I must not also omit to mention that in the two years immediately preceding the fasli under report, the season was in no way favourable for wet cultivation. Several irrigation sources in the district received but partial supplies, and large amount of tirvakammi, waste and shavi had to be allowed during these years as shown in statement C.

Statement B shows the talukwar remissions anticipated this year under "wet" and the district total under this head approximates to Rs. 2,16,663. These remissions will be granted in the usual course at the ensuing jamabandi.

8. It only remains for me to consider how far there is necessity for postponing the collection of the dry assessment that becomes chargeable. The facts above stated will, I trust, sufficiently prove the justice of such a measure. The collection of revenue, if insisted on, must lead to the adoption of coercive measures, which to a half-crippled peasant population cannot but mean a serious disaster. In the present state of the season, and with the comparatively high range of prices maintained since the failure of the monsoon, it needs hardly any mention that the ordinary ryot will be wanting the means whereby to pay up the Government kists, since he had by this time sold up his little stocks and is now in great risk of running hopelessly into debt for the sake of maintaining himself and his family. One result, therefore, of any harshness in collection, will be that the ryots' lands will have to be auctioned for arrears of revenue and largely purchased by Government for a nominal value—a step alike condemned by the dictates of sound policy as by the injurious effects it has on the cultivating ryot in involving him in prolonged misery, privation and indebtedness even after he has tided over the present season.

I would, therefore, recommend that the collection of the unremitted portion of the dry assessment including the cesses on the whole dry assessment, except in parts where no remissions are granted, may be postponed till the next fasli. The same concession may also be extended to the holders of (minor dry) inams, though such holders are not entitled to any remissions. These inam lands have fared no better than the Circar lands.

READ—also letter from the Acting Collector of Anantapur, dated 21st March 1897, Ref. on C. No. 3425.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting revised statements A and B and a statement showing the revised figures to be entered for the Penukonda taluk.

RESOLUTION—dated 8th April 1897, No. 295.

In the letters read above, the Collector of Anantapur submits proposals for the grant of dry remissions and suspension of collections in the district rendered necessary by the unfavourable character of the season.

2. The south-west monsoon opened fairly well, and the rainfall up to the end of August, though below average, was not, the Collector says, so low as to give any cause for anxiety; on the other hand the timely rains in May and June encouraged extensive sowings and the moderate rains in July and August contributed to keep up the increase in cultivation in all taluks except Tadpatri. But the months of September and October, which are essentially wet months in the district, brought in such a small quantity of rain, which was even less than that in any of the previous famine years except 1876–77, that not only there was no stimulus for the cultivation of waste lands, but the early crops previously grown suffered generally. At the end of November came some rain, but it was neither copious nor timely. The few light showers which fell in December tended to stimulate vast sowings of the late crops, especially in the black-cotton soils; but these crops, which consisted chiefly of cholam and bengal-gram, also suffered for want of subsequent rains, thus causing wastage of seed and labour, and the yield was little more than fodder. The lateness and scantiness of the north-east monsoon was thus the main cause of the distress. The average rainfall of the monsoon ranges from 6·25 to 9·15 inches in the several taluks, but the fall in 1896–97 was only from 2·02 to 3·75 inches, and was in every taluk far less than in the preceding two famine years, viz., 1884–85 and 1891–92. The Collector states that so far as the five northern taluks are concerned, "it might be safely affirmed that they have had a succession of bad seasons, with slow but gradual deficiency of rainfall, the deficiency at last culminating in the astoundingly low falls" registered at each of the taluks during the current year, and proposes that these five taluks should have a uniform treatment in regard to the grant of remissions; and that the terms of such grant should, in the peculiar circumstances of the prevailing drought, be more liberal than the concessions allowed in former years.

3. The following table shows the total extent of holding, the areas cultivated and left waste and the outturn under each anna-rate for fasli 1306:—

	Total holdings.	Waste.		Cultivation.	Shavi.		2-anna crop and less.		Between 2 and 4.		Between 4 and 6.		Six and above.	
		Area.	Percentage.		Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage
	ACS.	ACS.		ACS.	ACS.		ACS.		ACS.		ACS.		ACS.	
Northern taluks— Gooty, Tadpatri, Anantapur, Dharmavaram, Kalyandrug	958,719	187,807	20	770,912	341,166	44	147,588	20	140,193	18	54,948	7	87,017	11
Southern taluks— Penukonda, Hindúpur, Madakasira	266,655	73,117	27	193,538	30,938	16	9,214	5	29,876	15	50,776	26	72,734	38
Total ..	1,225,374	260,924	22	964,450	372,104	38	156,802	16	170,069	18	105,724	11	159,751	17

Note.—There is difference under waste and cultivation in the northern taluks between this statement and that given in the statement appended to paragraph 5 of the Collector's report. The latter includes tope lands in all except the Kalyandrug taluk. In this statement, tope lands are included under lands yielding six annas and above. The figures for the southern taluks are the revised figures furnished by the Collector.

The above information is based on the inspection of Revenue Inspectors, as checked by Tahsildars and Divisional Officers. In the five northern taluks, 20 per cent. of the total dry holding was left waste, the proportion being the same as in fasli 1301; while no less than 44 per cent. of the cultivated area sustained a total loss of crop and 20 per cent. more gave a crop of only As. 2 and less. The cultivated area, which yielded As. 6 and above, was only 11 per cent. against 15 per cent. in fasli 1301, while 18 and 7 per cent., respectively, yielded between As. 2 and As. 4 and between As. 4 and As. 6.

In the three southern taluks, the waste amounted to 27 per cent. against 37 per cent. in fasli 1301, and a much larger proportion, viz., 38 per cent. against 26 per cent. in fasli 1301, yielded As. 6 and more, while 26 per cent. gave an outturn of

between As. 4 and As. 6 and 15 per cent. between As. 2 and As. 4, the areas under shavi and under As. 2 and less being 16 and 5 per cents., respectively. Parts of these taluks are also reported to have fared better than the rest. The Collector, therefore, states that these taluks do not require as liberal a treatment as the northern taluks.

4. The Collector proposes for the northern taluks full remission on all waste and total loss and for crop not exceeding As. 4, and 50 per cent. remission on the extent which gave a crop of from As. 4 to As. 6.

5. As regards the southern taluks, the Collector's proposals are worded in the body of the report somewhat obscurely; but the statements forwarded by the Collector make his meaning clear. In paragraph 5 of the report, he gives a list of the villages which are reported to "have borne a fair crop during the year;" of these six are in the Ratnagiri firka, and twenty in the Amarapuram firka of the Madakasíra taluk, and the remaining four in the Bukkapatnam firka of the Penukonda taluk. The Collector states that no remission need be granted for the head-quarter ranges of Hindúpur and Madakasíra taluks; nor for the six villages of the Ratnagiri range of the latter taluk above referred to. For the rest of the tract, remission is recommended for waste, total loss of crop and for crop not exceeding As. 4, at 25 per cent. in the Roddam range of Penukonda, in the remaining portion of the Ratnagiri range of Madakasíra, that is, excluding the six villages mentioned above and in the twenty villages of the Amarapuram range; at 75 per cent. in the Bukkapatnam range of the Penukonda taluk except the four villages above referred to; and at 50 per cent. in all other parts of the tract. The proposals in regard to the three southern taluks will be seen in one view in the subjoined statement:—

Name of taluk.	Name of firka.	Total dry. Ayacut.	Total dry. Assessment.	Extent for which remission is recommended.	Percentage remissions recommended. *	Amount of remission.
		ACS.	RS.	ACS.		RS.
Penukonda ..	Bukkapatnam	33,889	11,779	17,704	4 villages 50 per cent. Rest 75 per cent.	125
	Penukonda	26,745	8,064	15,819	50 per cent.	3,702
	Roddam	46,270	10,769	19,409	25 per cent.	2,143
						1,118
Hindúpur ..	Hindúpur	22,371	9,002	..	No remissions.	..
	Buddalier Hodi Honda ..	33,833	13,805	24,690	50 per cent.	5,121
	Lepatchi	21,771	7,896	19,408	50 percent.	3,335
Madakasíra ..	Madakasíra	33,901	11,560	..	No remissions.	..
	Amarapuram	30,847	11,385	18,023	20 villages 25 per cent. Rest 50 per cent.	240
	Ratnagiri	17,078	9,371	6 villages Rest 8,914	No remissions. 25 per cent.	2,775
						840

* In respect of all waste, shavi and crops not exceeding As. 4.

No remission is proposed in the case of lands which have yielded between As. 4 and As. 6.

6. The total amount of dry remission recommended by the Collector comes to Rs. 4,18,533, of which Rs. 3,99,134 appertain to the northern taluks and the remaining Rs. 19,399 to the southern taluks as shown below:—

Items.	Area.	Assessment.	Remission.
	ACS.	RS.	RS.
Northern Taluks—			
1. Waste	187,807	66,191	66,191
2. Shavi	341,166	2,17,812	2,17,812
3. Crop of 4 annas and less	287,781	1,03,504	1,03,504
4. Crop from 4 to 6 annas	54,948	23,296	11,627
Total ..	871,702	4,10,803	3,99,134
Southern Taluk	..	..	19,399

7. The areas and assessment of the tracts for which remission is proposed in the southern taluks under the several items are not clearly ascertainable from the Collector's report. Of the amount of remission above referred to, Rs. 13,499 relate to tracts for which 50 per cent. remission has been recommended, and Rs. 2,198 and Rs. 3,702 to those for which 25 and 75 per cent. remission, respectively, has been proposed. The marginal figures show the amount of dry remission proposed for the several taluks.

	RS.
1. Gooty	1,54,767
2. Tadpatri	1,17,066
3. Anantapur	49,442
4. Kalyandrug	48,528 *
5. Dharmavaram	29,331
6. Penukonda	7,088
7. Hindupur	8,456
8. Madakasíra	3,855
Total ...	4,18,533

* This is exclusive of Rs. 1,132 relating to tope lands incorrectly included in waste in the Collector's statement against Kalyandrug.

8. The Collector's proposals regarding the northern taluks are similar to those made in fasli 1301, but the Board then considered that it would suffice to grant full remission on waste and shavi, and 50 per cent. remission on lands which yielded less than a four-anna crop. Considering, however, that the present scarcity has followed so closely on the last one, and that the season this year was worse than in fasli 1301, the Board concurs in the Collector's opinion that the taluks in question deserve a more liberal treatment. In the adjoining district of Bellary, the Board has sanctioned full remission for waste and for tracts in which the crops entirely failed or yielded not more than 2 annas, 50 per cent. remission in tracts on which the yield is estimated at from 2 to 4 annas and 25 per cent. remission in tracts where the yield is between 4 and 6 annas. The Board considers that the same scale should be adopted in Anantapur. From the statements forwarded by the Collector, it would appear that he contemplates granting full remission in respect of waste and shavi in all the affected areas; but this is opposed to the rules in force on the subject. Dry remission being granted as a matter of grace, it is granted with reference not to the yield of individual fields, but to the average yield of affected tracts. No remission on waste or shavi should be allowed in tracts in which the average yield has been estimated to be fair, *i.e.*, to be 6 annas and over. In tracts where the yield is less and where in consequence a certain percentage of the dry assessment is proposed to be remitted, it is usual to remit the full assessment on lands left waste, with the restriction that where the cultivated lands of individual ryots have yielded a 6-anna crop or more the assessment on only such waste as is not usually left fallow or reserved for pasture is remitted, but in respect of all cultivated lands, the percentage remission fixed for the tract should alone be allowed, whatever may be the yield of the individual fields comprised therein. The Collector is requested to issue orders accordingly.

With regard to the southern taluks, the Collector proposes to allow certain percentage remissions varying from 25 to 75 per cent. in respect of tracts which have yielded not more than 4 annas. As these taluks were on the whole much better off than the rest of the district, the Collector's proposals are approved, with the modification that in the Bukkapatnam range (excluding four villages) of the Penukonda taluk only 50 per cent. remission should be granted for tracts which yielded between 2 and 4 annas, instead of 75 per cent. as recommended by the Collector, the former being the rate sanctioned above for similar tracts in the northern taluks. As observed above, lands left waste in these tracts should be allowed full remission, the percentage remission being applied only to cultivated lands. There are no sufficient data for estimating the amount of remissions according to the modifications made by the Board; and the Collector will be requested to furnish the same as soon as practicable.

As regards suspension of revenue, the Collector recommends that, in tracts in which dry remissions are granted, the collection of the unremitted portion of the dry assessment, including the cesses on the whole dry assessment, may be postponed till next fasli; and that the concession may be extended to the holders of minor dry inams, as these inam lands have fared no better than Government lands. The Collector's proposals are approved and will be submitted for the sanction of Government. In other

cases, the Collector may use his discretion and allow suspension in individual cases in which the collection of the demand may cause hardship to the ryot. This indulgence may be extended to minor dry inams (*vide* G.O., No. 367, dated 25th March 1885).

10 9. In granting the remissions above referred to, jamabandi officers should be guided by the instructions contained in paragraph 7 of B.P., dated 19th April 1892, No. 303.

11 10. The Collector estimates the total amount of wet remission for the district at Rs. 2,16,663.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasa[?]
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
Copy to Land Revenue Department.
" all other Collectors.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

D/4—1,000—11-6-96.

8

C No. 3588/97.

Affirm with the Hon. Mr. Grose with agreement to H. E.'s rule.

[initials] 16/5/97

From the Board of Revenue, Settlement.

Dated 189

The Hon. Mr. Grose C.S.I.
The Hon. Mr. Bliss C.S.I.
H. E. the Governor

FOR ORDERS.

I think we must accept the proposals of the Board, remembering that the season is so exceptional that ordinary rules must be departed from.

J. G. 15/5/97

2

It is no doubt true that the rains in the end of the year were a failure. But there was no failure in the South of the district. Rain fell on in Sept. and there was a further fall in Nov. In the North the rains failed in Augt. The crops sown with the early rains did not fail though those sown with the later rains did so.

Figures show that this can not have been the case.

[initials] 13/5/97.

The paper read above relates to the grant of dry remissions and the suspension of kist collections in the district of Anantapur for fasli 1306.

The rainfall in the district during the fasli was only a third of the average due and in certain taluks not even one-half of that recorded in either of the preceding famine years of 1884-85 and 1891-92; the early and the late rains in the district respectively stimulated vast sowings in the red and the black soils, but the subsequent drought caused both crops to fail, thus resulting in a wastage of large quantity of seed and labour. For the above reasons and in view of the fact that ~~the district has had successive visitations of bad seasons close upon each other~~ there have been a succession of bad seasons, the remissions proposed are, as in the

c 14/5/97

R.C. 28/5/97

FOR ORDERS.

The Collector recommends that the district should be allowed special consideration and liberal treatment. He also proposes that the five northern talubs which have fared very badly should be treated more liberally than the three southern. For the former he recommends (i) full remission for all waste, total loss and a crop not exceeding 4 annas, and (ii) fifty per cent remission for a crop of from 4 to 6 annas.

3 As regards the three southern talubs, the collector's proposal is that remission should be given only for waste, loss of crop and crop not exceeding four annas, and that none need be given in respect of crops of 4 as to 6 as; and as some tracts of these talubs have fared better than others, he makes the following recommendations:-

+ These recommendations then is no means of checking

[illegible]

Talubs	No remission	25 p.c. remission	50 p.c. remission	75 p.c. remission
Hindupur.	Hindupur Range	..	Buddali & Lepatchi Ranges.	..
Madakasira.	Madakasira Range	Amarapuram Range except 20 villages ~~Range~~.	Twenty villages in the Amarapuram Range	..
	Ratnagiri Range (6 villages)	Ratnagiri Range (except 6 villages)		
Penukonda.	..	Roddam Range.	Penukonda Range and 4 villages in Bukkapatnam Range.	Bukkapatnam Range, except 4 villages.

4 The Board of Revenue admits that the district requires special treatment and that the northern talubs require more liberal remissions than the southern, but considers that it will be sufficient to allow the same remissions for the northern talubs that have been allowed in the adjoining district of Bellary, viz (i) full remission for waste and for tracts in which the crops entirely failed or yielded not more than 2 annas, (ii) fifty per cent. remission in tracts on which the yield is estimated at from 2 to 4 annas and (iii) 25 per cent. remission in tracts where the yield has been between 4 and 6 annas. With regard to the Southern talubs the Board has allowed the Collector's proposals with the modification that in the Bukkapatnam Range also, only fifty per cent. remission should be granted in tracts which yielded between 2 and 4 annas, instead of 75 per cent as proposed by the Collector.

5 The Collector seems to be under the impression that the remissions proposed are, as in the

case of wet lands, to be granted only in the case of holdings that have really suffered. But under para 4 of B. S. O. No 23, dry remission is not granted with reference to individual fields, but with reference to tracts in which crops have failed and as a percentage on the total demand of the tracts. Thus in tracts in which no remission is considered necessary the full assessment is to be collected even on waste and shari. In a tract where full or partial remission is granted, the remission is to apply to all the holdings in the tract although some of the holdings may have yielded a fair or even a good crop; according to this rule, in a tract where only partial remission is granted, lands left waste should get only the partial remission, but the Board says that in such cases, the practice is to remit the whole assessment on all lands left waste (except in the case of ... where ... [illegible]) ~~on account of the season~~ (i.e. on the excess over the normal waste) and to apply the percentage remission only to cultivated lands. The Board has issued instructions to the Collector that the remissions should be granted in accordance with para 4 of B. S. O. No 23 as modified by this practice.

The Collector also recommends that the collection of the dry assessment may be postponed to the next fasli and the Board supports the Collector's recommendation. This may be approved.

RS
12-5-97

[illegible] 12/5/97.

[illegible] 13. 5. 97.

The remission at settlement for vicissitudes of season & unprofitable areas is 25% in these districts. The whole years amt. is thus remitted in every four and as there have been four good years since 92 the ryots have really had discounted to them the present year's revenue. In the case of those who let in years the amt. here this year is double what it is in an ordinary year and so they will gain both ways.

[illegible] 13/5/97.

An amt. of ... is only now going when settled. I thought 2 or 3 ... ... already been settled. RS

This practice is quite wrong & should be put a stop to.

[illegible] 13/5/97.

The practice is wrong ordinarily but this is a very exceptional season

JG

The whole late front of remissions is most ... demoralising and should be discouraged.

6

The question is whether ... wholesale ... is necessary JG

[illegible] 13/5/97.

This is a doubtful kindness to the ryot ... will subject him to much trouble next year as well as keep up the price of grain

[illegible] 13/5/97.

Yes — but it would be pernicious to go in for wide-spread concessions (?) processes in the middle of a Famine

JG

I don't see how some dry remissions are to be avoided this year in Bellary, Anantapur &c, nor do I object to the proposal to let the collection of the unremitted balance stand over. On the contrary I think it a good thing to do so. But as to the way in which the remissions are to be granted, I consider the Secy to be right & the Bd. wrong. Dry remissions, if granted at all, which should hardly ever be necessary in settled districts such as Bellary & Cuddapah, shd. certainly be granted in strict accord with the Standing Order. If so granted, although still objectionable, they do as little harm as may be, for they afford the smallest possible opportunity for malpractices on the part of the officials. But if granted in the way now proposed by the Bd., they afford every opportunity for such malpractices. The Bd. takes certain tracts & proposes in each of them to remit (i) the whole, or a percentage, as the case may be, of the assmt. on the lands left waste or on which the crops have wholly failed or have yielded less than a 2-anna crop, (ii) a percentage in cases in which the yield has been from 2 to 4 annas or from 4 to 6 annas,

A

and (iii) nothing when the percentage of yield has been over 6 annas.) It is evident that in granting remissions in this way, the door is left ~~wide~~ open for a dispute (which will doubtless be to the advantage of the Village & Taluk servants) in the case of each individual field, as to whether the field was left waste, or yielded nothing, or under 2 annas, or from 2 to 4 annas, or from 4 to 6 annas, or over 6 annas. In short, the possibilities of ~~speculation~~ corruption are infinite & the result cannot fail to be that the Village & Taluk servants will get most of the remissions & the ryots little or none. The Bd. should be instructed to revise its proposals, not only for Anantapur, but also for all other districts in which dry remissions are being allowed; and to adhere strictly to its own Standing Order, which has been expressly devised to meet such circumstances as those at present existing in those districts, for the reasons I have endeavoured to set forth. To allow any other course would be a great mistake & most injurious to the ryots.

HB
15/5/97

I cannot find that the Board propose the individual examination, which the Hon. Mr. Bliss deprecates in his Note. Perhaps the Hon. Mr. Grose would kindly look through the papers again & give his views on Mr. Bliss's objections.

Truth that of course that the Bd. [illegible] to, in total remission on fields left wholly waste, but the Hon. Mr. Bliss seems to refer to something more than this. It appears that the intention of the Bd. is more clearly expressed in the latter half of para 8 of their Proceedings than in the former half.

A.S.H.
20.5.97

Circa

Like H.E. I certainly did not understand the Bd's proposals as necessitating an examination of each field.

The waste is shown by the village accounts, & the remission on waste can be granted with reference to them & not on an inspection of fields.

In Para 10 of its Pro. the Bd tells the Colr. that punnah-bandi officers must be guided by the instructions in para 9 of Bd. Pro. 19 Ap. 92. 303. One of those instructions was, "the punnahbandi officers should take into consideration the extent of the loss in each village ^or tract^ both in dry & wet lands." In para 6 of his letter the Colr says, "Instructions will be issued to the punnah-bandi officers to take into consideration the extent of loss in each village or tract both on dry & wet lands as required by the rules & to grant remissions only in deserving cases". On this, the Secy notes, "not understood". It is, however, based on the para. I have quoted from the Proceedings of 1892. In their Pro. of the 28. 4. 97 323 (Bellary remission) in the annexed file, which, though issued after, seems to have been passed before the Pro. now under consideration, & which was communicated to all Colrs, the Bd says: "Dry remission being granted as a matter of grace, it is granted with refce not to the yield of individual fields but to the average yield of affected tracts. No remission on waste should therefore be allowed in tracts in which the estimated yield has been estimated to be fair & & while in tracts where the yield is less & ^where^ in consequence a certain percentage of the dry assessment is proposed to be remitted the full assessment on lands left waste & not merely a percentage remission.

That is, remission will be granted ~~according to~~ the circs of individuals, which, in respect of the dry lands ~~and~~ is exactly what should not be done. In regard, even, to the wet lands, it is no question of desert. The question is Was there a total loss of crop or no cultivation because of want of water for which the ryot is not responsible, the words "total ~~[illegible]~~ loss" not including a 1 or 2-anna crop as proposed in the present case (C.N. 3486)?

HB

[illegible] refers to an[illegible] [illegible] of individuals [illegible] holdings but of villages or [illegible].

Seen A.S.H.
4.6.97

— with the restriction, however, that where the cultivated lands of the individual owners have yielded 6 annas or more, remission shd be granted on only such waste as is not usually left fallow or reserved for pasture." In the Pro recorded in GO 22.11.82 No 1302, the BD reporting generally on the remission system with refer[ence] to some enquiry from the G. of I. said that in the case of dry land remission in exceptional seasons was generally granted by tracts, no remission being given when the average crop was 6 annas or more, 50% when it was between 6 & 4 annas, 75% when it was between 4 & 2 annas, & 85% when it was less than 2 annas, & full on waste, where the cultivated land of individuals had yielded less than a 6 anna crop &c. × If there is any doubt that in granting these remissions in Anantapur the circumstances of individual fields but not of tracts will be taken into consideration this point may be noticed, but I don't think there is. The fact is — as used to be in my

This the which is wrong, as C[illegible] introducing ~~[illegible]~~ the question of the outturn of individual crops into the general question of the amt. of full remission to be granted [illegible] see below

HS

× Govt accepted this report & communicated it to the G. of I.

The Govt. seems to not to have been quite wrong in this point — HS

I fear there is

HS

There may be no precedent for the Govt. negativing the Bd's orders in regard to dry remissions — I don't know — but it is clear that every thing which is done must once be done for the first time, and that, if the Bd should go wrong, it is the function of Govt. to correct it. It may be ~~that things~~ [illegible] at this time advanced too far for the correction made by Govt. to be carried out ~~without~~ great confusion & inconvenience — If so, the Bd's error on this occasion ~~cannot be corrected~~ & must be put up with, but the correct principle should certainly be laid down for the future guidance of the Bd.

HS

being thoroughly well known to Collectors.

Under para 4 of BO. 23 dry remission can be granted on the sanction of the Bd, & I know of no instance in which such sanction has been negatived by Govt. Their Pro of 8.4.97 came here on 15.5.97 & it is now 30.5.97. Probably the ~~settlement~~ jamabandy of some of the taluks is already finished, & it wd cause difficulty & confusion to interfere now. The only thing the Bd submits for orders in para 9 is the extent to which suspensions of revenue shall be allowed.

JG
30/5/97

On looking into the papers again, I see that, in stating the Bd's proposals as at A in my note of 15/5/97, I did misapprehend them. My misapprehension was, however, only as to the extent of the Bd's proposals, not as to their principle. The Bd's proposals are to be found, so far as I object to them, at the place marked "not correct" by the Secretary on p. 11 of the current. They show that, in order to carry out the scheme of remissions proposed, it will be necessary to make an examination of the cultivated lands of individual ryots, so that, before it is decided whether the full assessment on the waste is to be remitted or not, it may be ascertained whether the cultivated lands of the individual ryot yielded a 6-anna crop or not. This examination of individual lands, in order to the grant of full dry remission ~~[illegible]~~ to, or the withholding of it from, their holdings, is

wrong in principle. No individual ryot should get more, or less, than the rate of remission settled for the tract because his cultivated lands have yielded more, or less, than half an average crop. If the system is permitted, the door is at once opened to all the malpractices to which I have pointed in my note of 15/5/97 herein, and in my note of 29/5/97 on C No. 3486 (dealing with remissions in Ganjam), to which reference should be made.

BS
31/5/97

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3983.

From

The Board of Revenue,
Rev. Sett.

No. 323.

Dated

Received 12.5.97

Registered 12.5.97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Passing orders on proposals from the Collector of Bellary for grant of remissions on dry lands in his district.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date
Cus	5316/97		
P.O.	32/3		

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

Printed May th.

Proceedings, 28th April 1897, No. 323.

APRIL.

Remissions.—Passing orders on proposals from the Collector of Bellary for grant of — on dry lands in his district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 16th March 1897, Ref. on Cur. No. 807 :—

With reference to paragraph 5 of B.P., dated the 18th December 1896, No. 448, and to the Proceedings noted in the margin, I have the honour to submit, for the orders of the Board and Government, the following proposals for the remission and suspension of the collection of assessment on dry lands in the four taluks comprising the Head Assistant Collector's division. Mr. Spencer's report is submitted in original. Proposals in regard to other divisions have just been received and are being checked in my office. As the jamabandi of Harpanahalli has already commenced and that of Kúdligi and Hospet will shortly begin, I request that early orders may be passed on the papers now submitted.

B.P., dated 31st December 1896, No. 472, Settlement.
B.P., dated 25th January 1897, No. 61, Settlement.
B.P., dated 3rd February 1897, No. 94, Settlement.

2. In 1888, the Government observed that the districts of Bellary and Anantapur "are the poorest and most backward in the Presidency, the most sterile and the most subject to drought; the ryots pay the present revenue with difficulty; they have as yet far from fully recovered from the famine, and to impose upon them largely increased burthens will certainly check, if not entirely arrest, their progress." I beg that this description of the district may be borne in mind in considering my proposals, which, I venture to think, are by no means unduly favourable to the ryot. I would also take this opportunity of deprecating the distinction which is made between wet and dry lands in respect of remission and to the *dictum* that "dry lands are settled with special reference to bad seasons." It is true that a deduction of 25 per cent. of the gross produce is made "for vicissitudes of the season," but a similar deduction is made in the case of wet lands also. Moreover this deduction is made not solely for seasonal vicissitudes but on account of stony and barren patches in the field, and for customary fallows and on both accounts dry land requires more consideration than wet land, but does not get it. When, therefore, the rains fail and crops are lost the owner of dry land has as strong and equitable a claim to remission as the owner of wet.

G.O., No. 731, Revenue, dated 23rd October 1888, and B.P., dated 24th October 1888, No. 591, Settlement.

3. I now proceed to give the information required by the Board in paragraph 5 of its Proceedings, dated 18th December 1896, No. 448. The following statement gives the rainfall statistics for the four taluks :—

—		1876-77.	1884-85.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Average.
Hospet—		INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
South-west monsoon	.. ..	9·35	11·40	16·43	23·93	30·84	21·75	19·93	11·65	19·52
North-east do.	.. ..	0·72	8·55	4·00	5·97	13·52	5·24	7·30	0·66	7·34
	Total ..	10·07	19·95	20·43	29·90	44·36	26·99	27·23	12·31	26·86
Kúdligi—										
South-west monsoon	.. ..	11·37	5·40	6·15	26·24	27·64	15·63	31·78	10·28	17·34
North-east do.	.. ..	..	9·85	3·45	5 23	15·31	6·17	8·49	1·39	6·75
	Total ..	11·37	15·25	9·60	31·47	42·95	21·80	40·27	11·67	24 09
Harpanahalli—										
South-west monsoon	.. ..	7·75	6·32	6·92	18·67	23·32	15·86	16·85	19·34	16·15
North-east do.	.. ..	1·70	5·45	3·60	8·35	11·76	6·00	5·63	3·47	7·16
	Total ..	9·45	11·77	10·52	27·02	35·08	21·86	22 48	22·81	23·31
Hadagalli—										
South-west monsoon	.. ..	5·14	4·79	4·22	20·90	11·05	10·29	16·05	9·61	14·59
North-east do.	.. ..	0·85	3·40	2·83	3·73	9·12	7·21	3·56	2·84	6·38
	Total ..	5·99	8·19	7·05	24·63	20·17	17·50	19·61	12·45	20·97

If the south-west monsoon in Harpanahalli be accepted, it will be found that there has been a general deficiency of rain all over the four taluks. Kúdligi is as bad now as in the great famine year 1876–77, and Hospet is not much better. In Hadagalli, the deficiency as compared with the average rainfall is very great. The cultivation statistics are no less unfavourable—*vide* statement given below :—

Taluks.	Total from April 1896 up to the end of January 1897.						Total of the previous year for the corresponding periods.	
	First crop.		Second crop.		Total.		First crop.	
	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Adóni	309,034	1,814	39,378	188	348,412	2,002	320,269	2,388
Alur	261,218	11	28,779	..	289,997	11	333,152	258
Bellary	308,664	4,127	15,395	290	324,058	4,417	452,046	4,349
Ravadrug	171,061	8,517	5,616	3,788	176,577	12,305	218,986	9,229
Hospet	64,742	13,584	617	513	65,359	14,097	109.251	14.928
Kúdligi	159,077	4,707	295	125	159,372	4,832	169,314	5,483
Harpanahalli ..	195,013	3,548	3,258	1,108	198,271	4,656	19[illegible]211	3,522
Hadagalli	233,357	1,248	1,681	119	235,038	1,367	244,377	883
Total ..	1,702,165	37,556	94,919	6,131	1,797,084	43,687	2,042,636	41,140

Taluks.	Total of the previous year for the corresponding periods—*cont.*				Average of previous 5 years including last year.					
	Second crop.		Total.		First crop.		Second crop.		Total.	
	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Adóni	9 576	498	329,845	2,886	325,398	2,650	6,097	427	331,495	3,077
Alúr	8,228	5	341,380	363	304,267	249	4,474	19	308,741	268
Bellary	6,871	238	458,917	4,587	387,127	4,321	2,713	142	389,840	4.463
Ravadrug	1,505	3,283	220,491	12,512	227,903	9,741	2,067	2,241	229,970	11,982
Hospet	673	30	109,924	15,233	94,811	13,775	571	638	95,382	14,413
Kúdligi	266	118	169,610	5,601	159,563	5,479	238	147	159,801	5,626
Harpanahalli ..	3,565	221	198,776	3,743	185.986	3,369	1,147	115	187,1[illegible]3	3,484
Hadagalli	663	42	245,040	925	229,397	1,295	585	55	229,982	1,350
Total ..	31,347	4,710	2,073,983	45,850	1,914,452	40,879	17,892	3,784	1,932,344	44,663

In Harpanahali the extent of cultivation is rather above the average, but in the remaining three taluks it is much below the figures of last year, the deficiency in Hospet being no less than 34,000 acres. The following statement shows the waste, the extent to which the crops failed and the acres on which there was some yield.

Statement B.

Particulars of dry holdings and cultivation—Bellary district.

Revised statement showing the particulars of holdings and revenue for fasli 1305.

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and revenue for fasli 1305.				Particulars of holdings and cultivation current fasli.												Remarks.			
	Dry holdings.		Total revenue dry, wet and miscellaneous.		Dry holdings in affected villages.		Waste.		Actual cultivation excluding topes, &c.		Yield 6 annas and over.		Between 4 and 6 annas.		Between 2 and 4 annas.		Two annas and below including total loss.			
	Extent.	Assessment.			Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.		
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19
	Acs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.		
Hospet	86,974	39,687	1,75,973		84,675	38,129	52,799	14,110	50,174	23,415	..	..	1,971	939	7,448	4,158	40,755	18,341	Ryotwar.	
Kudligi	169,731	76,671	1,19,172		166,079	73,200	26,663	9,964	136,626	61,708	493	751	25,363	13,709	69,305	24,169	41,365	18,179		
Harpanahalli	185,232	1,05,975	1,34,214		36,271	20,087	1,553	775	33,426	19,142	..	..	3,373	1,588	23,026	14,333	7,027	3,221		
Hadagalli	213,611	1,26,632	1,62,103		109,155	59,943	12,576	7,496	95,279	51,547	6,558	3,405	66,666	30,189	16,806	13,722	8,249	4,441		
Total ..	655,548	3,48,865	5,81,462		396,180	1,91,359	73,591	32,345	315,406	1,55,812	7,061	4,156	97,873	46,425	116,585	60,269	94,196	41,972		
Hospet	..	..	..		3,618	2,175	951	529	2,575	1,616	..	..	67	58	369	465	2,119	1,043	Items whose quit-rent is equal to assessment.	
Kudligi	..	..	..		1,737	1,312	366	267	1,300	982	..	..	267	201	568	410	485	471		
Harpanahalli	..	..	..		137	113	21	13	116	100	..	..	8	6	91	83	17	12		
Hadagalli	..	..	..		1,833	1,502	213	153	1,608	1,327	39	86	1,192	910	969	262	118	119		
Total ..	..	..	..		7,325	5,132	1,541	952	5,599	4,025	39	36	1,514	1,174	1,397	1,220	2,739	1,595		
Hospet	..	..	..		4,910	1,646	1,686	614	3,184	998	..	..	114	46	1,117	254	1,953	694	Unauthorised cultivation.	
Kudligi	..	..	..		10,197	3,122	1,240	400	8,810	2,632	..	..	1,290	473	3,353	963	4,167	1,196		
Harpanahalli	..	..	..		263	105	44	17	217	87	..	..	71	31	109	43	87	13		
Hadagalli	..	..	..		2,307	620	155	52	2,181	668	70	12	1,304	357	802	196	5	3		
Total ..	..	..	..		17,707	5,492	3,124	1,083	14,392	4,286	70	12	2,779	907	6,381	1,456	6,162	1,910		
Hospet	..	..	..		93,203	41,949	35,435	15,253	55,933	26,029	..	..	2,152	1,043	8,954	4,554	44,827	20,132	Total	
Kudligi	..	..	..		178,013	77,664	28,259	10,621	146,636	65,322	493	751	26,910	14,383	73,216	29,442	46,017	19,745		
Harpanahalli	..	..	..		35,671	20,305	1,618	805	33,759	19,329	..	..	3,462	1,624	23,226	14,459	7,081	3,46		
Hadagalli	..	..	..		113,325	62,065	12,944	7,701	99,068	53,442	6,667	3,453	69,152	31,456	17,877	14,180	8,572	4,556		
Grand Total ..	655,548	3,48,865	5,81,462		420,212	3,01,983	78,258	34,380	335,396	1,64,122	7,160	4,204	101,666	48,306	122,273	61,935	103,277	45,477		

Sketches illustrating the several rates of yield are enclosed.

4. The above statement is mainly based upon the inspections of Messrs. Spencer and Lloyd, both of whom have seen the worst part of the affected tracts and a great deal of the rest, and their estimates may be accepted. I joined the district too late to make any inspection of crops myself. The notes of inspection recorded by Mr. Lloyd are enclosed for the Board's information.

5. It will be seen that there has been widespread loss of crop, and that only on a relatively small area was any appreciable yield obtained. My proposals for dealing with this failure of the harvests from the fiscal point of view are briefly as follow :—

(*a*) That no concessions be granted in respect of dry lands where the yield of both Mungari and Hingari crop is As. 6 or above.

(*b*) That the dry assessment be remitted altogether on lands which have yielded As. 2 or less and also on all waste in villages where dry remissions are allowed.

(*c*) That where the yield is between As. 2 and 6, the collection of assessment be suspended till next year, subject to the conditions mentioned in paragraph 8 of B.P., dated 7th April 1892, No. 275, viz., that if the next monsoon be generally favourable the demand should be collected and that if unfavourable in any tract it might in that tract be remitted.

(*d*) That lands cultivated without authority and not objected to by the Jamabandi or Divisional Officer and inam lands charged with full assessment or with quit-rent or jodi equal to or more than the full assessment be treated in this matter like the ryotwar land.

(*e*) That the Collector be invested with discretion to suspend the collection of the demand in individual cases, not falling within the above category, where such collection would cause considerable hardship.

These proposals are, it will be seen, identical with those sanctioned for fasli 1301, and as they worked well then, there is no reason why they should not be equally successful this year also. It is granted on all hands that a crop of As. 2 and less may be taken as total failure (*vide* paragraph 2 of B.P., No. 472), and the remission of the full assessment on such lands in a bad season has never been refused hitherto. As regards lands where the yield is from As. 2 to 6, it must be noted that the estimates of outturn in terms of As. 3, 4, 5, 6 vary with each inspecting officer and can seldom be depended upon, and I have, therefore, not adopted Mr. Campbell's proposal to make a distinction between lands yielding As. 4 and 6. And while I am strongly opposed to pressing the ryot pay when he has not the means I fully accept the view that revenue should not be unnecessarily foregone. In paragraph 9 of G.O., No. 758, Revenue, dated 29th December 1896, the Government has asked the Board to consider whether sufficient relief may not be given to the ryots by postponements of collections rather than by the grant of remissions, and I think the past experience of this district favours the Government view. In fasli 1302, the arrear demand was Rs. 3,60,271, the collection of which had been suspended from fasli 1301. The current demand was Rs. 16,76,117 and of the total of over twenty lakhs, only Rs. 538 had to be written off, the balance at the end of the year being Rs. 74,725. In proposing suspension of revenue Mr. Campbell took As. 4 as the limit, being of opinion that a ryot could by availing himself of the high prices and selling a small amount of grain, easily pay up the Government dues. Things have changed for the worse since, and judging from the large number of people that are resorting to the relief works in the eastern taluks and from special reports on the western taluks, and also from the gradually diminishing exports, increasing imports of grain, I fear that the stocks are falling low and that the resources of the poorer ryots are either exhausted or are fast drying up. In these circumstances, I would fix the limit at 6 annas which represents half an average outturn.

6. According to my proposals set forth above, the amounts to be remitted and suspended will be as follows :—

—	Remissions.			Suspension.
	Waste.	2 annas and below.	Total.	Between 2 and 6 annas
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hospet	15,253	20,139	35,392	6,883
Kádligi	10,621	20,778	31,399	43,211
Harpanahalli	805	3,216	4,021	15,862
Hadagalli	7,701	4,353	12,054	45,441
Total ..	34,380	48,477	* 82,857	1,10,387

* Includes Rs. 1,480 increment remission which must be excluded.

Detailed statistics for each class of holding are given in the statement appended to this report.

7. In the above proposals the village has been taken as the unit according to its average yield except in eleven cases where portions of villages have been taken as units, the tracts being so well defined as to admit of differentiation.

8. Dry lands protected by wells or channels will be excluded from remission.

9. No statistics of wet remission have yet been compiled but the estimated amount for this division is Rs. 40,000.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT showing the details of each class of holdings.

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and cultivation.						Total remission, columns 3 and 7.	Deduct increment remission.	Net remission.	Amount to be suspended.	Deduct increment.	Net assessment to be suspended.	Remarks.
	Waste.		Between two and six annas.		Two annas and below, including total loss.								
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Hospet	32,799	14,110	9,419	5,074	40,755	18,341	32,451	736	31,715	5,074	14	5,060	Ryotwar.
Kádligi	26,663	9,964	94,668	41,778	41,365	19,179	29,143	604	28,539	41,778	614	41,164	
Harpanahalli ..	1,553	775	26,399	15,921	7,027	3,221	3,996	106	3,890	15,921	221	15,700	
Hadagalli	12,576	7,496	83,472	43,911	5,249	4,231	11,727	34	11,693	43,911	205	43,706	
Total ..	73,591	32,345	213,958	1,06,684	94,396	44,972	77,317	1,480	75,837	1,06,684	1,054	1,05,630	
Hospet	951	529	456	523	2,119	1,093	1,622	..	1,622	523	..	523	Inams whose quit-rent is equal to assessment.
Kádligi	356	257	815	611	485	371	628	..	628	611	..	611	
Harpanahalli ..	21	13	99	88	17	12	25	..	25	88	..	88	
Hadagalli	213	153	1,451	1,172	118	119	272	..	272	1,172	..	1,172	
Total ..	1,541	902	2,821	2,394	2,739	1,595	2,547	..	2,547	2,394	..	2,394	
Hospet	1,685	614	1,231	300	1,953	698	1,312	..	1,312	300	..	300	Unauthorized cultivation.
Kádligi	1,240	400	4,643	1,436	4,167	1,196	1,596	..	1,596	1,436	..	1,436	
Harpanahalli ..	44	17	180	74	37	13	30	..	30	74	..	74	
Hadagalli	155	52	2,106	553	5	3	55	..	55	553	..	553	
Total ..	3,124	1,083	8,160	2,363	6,162	1,910	2,993	..	2,993	2,363	..	2,363	
Hospet	35,435	15,253	11,106	5,897	44,827	20,132	35,385	736	34,649	5,897	14	5,883	Total.
Kádligi	28,259	10,621	100,126	43,825	46,017	20,746	31,367	604	30,763	43,825	614	43,211	
Harpanahalli ..	1,618	805	26,678	16,083	7,081	3,246	4,051	106	3,945	16,083	221	15,862	
Hadagalli	12,944	7,701	87,029	45,636	5,372	4,353	12,054	34	12,020	45,636	205	45,431	
Grand Total ..	78,256	34,380	224,939	1,11,441	103,297	48,477	82,857	1,480	81,377	1,11,441	1,054	1,10,387	

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. G. SPENCER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated 25th February 1897.

With reference to correspondence ending with your Dis No. 752, dated 7th February 1897, regarding dry remissions, I have the honour to submit herewith revised statements showing the outturn of crops in the four taluks of my division.

2. The statements received from Tahsildars were found to require modifications and corrections in several particulars. The Hospet, Kúdligi and Harpanahalli statements gave the numbers of acres in each affected village under each class of outturn instead of treating the whole village or tract as a unit and assigning the average outturn for the village or tract to all the cultivation within such limits. The class of some of the villages in Hadagalli taluk had to be altered because I found from my own observation and after consulting Mr. Lloyd, who visited this taluk when the mungari crops were on the ground, that the Tahsildar's crop estimate was, in a few cases, a little excessive. The Hospet statement was received without a map. The statements furnished from the taluk offices have therefore necessarily undergone a considerable amount of re-arrangement and re-tabulation in my office before they could be reduced to the form in which I understand the Board of Revenue require the information. The Hospet statement, the last received, did not arrive till the 21st instant. Hence the few days' delay that has occurred in the submission of my report due in your office by the 22nd February has been entirely unavoidable, for to have submitted the information in the incorrect form in which it was received in this office would have been useless.

3. From what I have seen of the affected villages since I rejoined this division last December I am convinced that the proposal made in paragraph 5 of B.P., No. 472, dated 31st December 1896, to restrict the remission of dry assessment to 25 per cent. on total failure of crops in villages that have fared well in the preceding season would, in a famine year like the present, be a measure both quite insufficient to meet the needs of the situation and productive of such an amount of hardship and suffering as Government would not, I think, readily inflict.

4. The following are a few of the reasons that may be enumerated in support of a lenient policy in dealing with the demands to be made in the current year:—

(1) The loss of crop is general and widespread, and not confined to a few villages or to a few fields in those villages.

(2) Most of the villages affected are purely dry villages and the soil in the north of Kudligi and parts of Hospet and Hadagalli is so stony and poor that even in the best of seasons tenants of small holdings cannot save enough to make provision against a time of scarcity like the present. The holdings especially in Kúdligi are small.

(3) The ryots in this division have hardly any industry or other means of livelihood to depend on besides the crops on their lands. In Kúdligi and Harpanahalli there is a certain quantity of pasture land on which considerable flocks of sheep and goats reared, and these are no doubt a material assistance to the well being of the richer ryots, but in the present year pasture has also failed almost entirely except in the unaffected villages of Harpanahalli taluk. But he would be a bold man who asserted that Bellary compares favourably with other districts in the matter of forest and pasture land. In a country where ryots have to spend money on the purchase of fuel and fodder and wood for domestic purposes, they cannot be expected to make their crops go so far as in a well-wooded country.

(4) Rigid collections of Government dues in a year of adversity affects the poorer class of ryots more severely in proportion than those more well-to-do, because it is common to find the poorer soils on the margin of cultivation occupied by the poorer ryots and the soils nearest the village cultivated by those who have acquired wealth to purchase them, and derived profit from their superior quality.

Thus general sales for arrears of revenue in a year of scarcity tend to put the majority of the fields of the village into the hands of those who are able to tide over the bad season without being sold up. In fact it affords an exemplification of the saying that "to him that hath shall be given."

(5) In the greater part of this division the general condition of the ryots is apparently such that they can last on till the next monsoon without resorting to relief-works, provided that they are not obliged to sell their cattle and the scanty stock of fodder, remaining as the last result of their withered crops which is barely sufficient to keep their cattle alive till June. But if they are forced now to sell their cattle to pay their kists, they will have to part with them at miserably poor prices, and when bad times begin at last to mend they will find themselves in a crippled condition for making a fresh start in life being without oxen to plough or money to purchase seed. Meanwhile, Government will have to support a larger population on the relief-works and the expenses consequent on a famine year will thus be increased under a different head. At present they are reluctant to leave their villages and swell the attendance on distant relief-works being unwilling to entrust their cattle which are to them, as one ryot told me, "as their children," to the tender mercies of strangers.

(6) It is true that none of the taluks in this division fared badly during the three previous faslis. But Bellary is a district with an average rainfall that is always small compared with most districts, and thus it is generally one of the first to suffer in a famine year. There was a fairly large interval between the famine of 1876–77 and 1891–92, but the distress of 1891–92 is quite fresh in the memory of all, and it is doubtful how far the ryots can be said to have recovered from its effects.

(7) In 1891–92 remission for loss of crop seems to have been dealt with by Government in a liberal spirit. The result of 25 per cent. remissions on totally failed lands and nothing elsewhere would, I fear, be considerable disappointment and dissatisfaction, because there is no obvious reason for treating the same ryots differently in similar seasons.

(8) The argument that the ryots who harvested any crop at all will benefit by the high prices that prevail this year in selling their produce does not, I think, hold good with those who reaped a crop under 6 annas in value, for such short crops that barely suffice for purposes of consumption leave nothing to spare for sale.

5. In such a combination of circumstances the least rates of remissions that I can see my way to recommend are these:—

(*a*) Full remission for all cultivation in tracts in which the average outturn is below 2 annas, and waste excluding mamul wastes as rick yards, &c. There is no reason for making a distinction in the case of inams whose quite-rent is equal to assessment of jeroyity lands, or for sivoyjama cultivation, seeing that there was no means of foreseeing, when the lands were first occupied, the disastrous character to the season to follow.

(*b*) In tracts where the average outturn is between 2 to 4 annas all cultivation and waste (excluding mamul wastes) to be given 50 per cent. remission.

(*c*) In tracts where the average outturn is between 4 to 6 annas all cultivation and waste (excluding mamul wastes) to be given 25 per cent. remission.

6. I am naturally not over confident that Government will be prepared to concede anything in the case of villages with an average outturn of over 4 annas, and if it be found impossible to grant any remissions for such lands the question of postponing collections till next year will then have to be considered in the case of some of the poorer villages in Hosaballi firka of Kúdligi taluk. A point worthy of notice in this connection is that as regards outturns, villages have, for purposes of this statement, been classed as units in accordance with the average outturn on the majority of fields therein. In some cases the extent of cultivation with an outturn of 2 to 4 annas and that with an outturn of 4 to 6 annas has been about equal with a slight difference in favour of one class or the other, which is, however, sufficient to turn the balance in favour of the class which preponderates. Thus an instance can easily be imagined in which two adjoining villages with almost equal loss of crops would be placed in two different classes owing to the slight excess in one of the lands with an inferior yield and a slight excess in the other of lands of a better yield. The consequence of granting no remissions for fields with an outturn of over 4 annas would thus be that one village would get half their assessment remitted and the other village which to the outward observe fared not a whit better, would have to pay the whole assessment, a result calculated to excite no little jealousy among the inhabitants of the less favoured village.

7. For purposes of remission each village has been taken, with a few exceptions in Hadagalli taluk, as a unit. In a few villages in Hadagalli taluk and Kothur village in Kúdligi taluk a division has been made into two tracts as there has been a marked difference in their outturn and the tracts are also composed of different soils separated by well-defined limits.

8. My reason for proposing only partical remission for wastes in tracts where the average outturn of cultivation is above 2 annas, is that in all such tracts the extent of cultivation is greater than the waste and there is therefore no reason why in villages where the majority of holdings has been cultivated a portion should be left waste. The excuse cannot be advanced here as in the case of wet lands that water was not available for a particular field. They are all dry lands whose cultivation depends on rain. Partial as the rains have been this year, the rainfall can hardly be supposed to have differed in quantity for different parts of the same village.

To treat adjoining ryots differently when one has cultivated his land and raised a 2 to 4 annas crop and the other has left his field waste through neglect or want of enterprise, giving to the former half remission and to the latter full remission would be a course tending to discourage sowing in a doubtful season, and an unfair advantage for the man who has saved his seed and labour. I am, therefore, inclined to place all the waste in tracts where the cultivated land has yielded some outturn in the same class as the cultivated extent for purposes of remission.

9. As regards suspension of kists, my Tahsildars are not in favour of it. The investment of Divisional Officers and Tahsildars with a discretionary power to relax collections in exceptional instances where the advantage of such a concession is undubitable would, I think, meet all requirements. I would therefore submit that collections of all amounts which cannot be remitted may begin from the 15th March. Postponement to a further date will greatly increase the difficulties in collection and lead to a large number of land sales, besides swelling the list of irrecoverable arrears.

10. Should my proposals sketched in the foregoing paragraphs be approved the details of remission for each taluk will be as below.

11. *Kúdligi Taluk.*—The whole of the Hansi and Choranur firkas (with the exception of the marginally-noted villages*) and two villages in Kottur firka, *i.e.*, 41 villages in all, *i.e.*, the whole of the northern and eastern portion of the taluk has been a total failure.

* *Hansi firka.*
Nos. 9, 13, 14, 21, 25 26, 27—7.
Choranur firka.
Nos. 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 45, 93, 96, 94—9.

† 59, 60, 61, 92—4.

All the Hoshalli firka with the exception of 4 † villages, *i.e.*, the whole of the south and south-eastern portion of the taluk and the central portion of the taluk which comprises seven villages in Hansi and nine in Choranur firkas and the west and the south-west portion including several villages in Kottur and a few in Hansi firka have yielded from 2 to 4 annas. The rest of the taluk notably a greater portion of the Kottur firka and three villages in Choranur firka have yielded from 4 to 6 annas and two villages Banvikallu and Talahalli and a portion of Kottur have yielded a crop of above 6 annas.

This taluk has been thoroughly inspected. Mr. Lloyd, my predecessor, visited a few villages in each firka of the taluk in December. Both the permanent and the present Tahsildar have done a satisfactory amount of sowing and crop inspections in all parts and directions. I have myself seen 12 affected villages in this taluk including parent villages and hamlets in the month of January principally in Hansi and Choranur firkas. Hansi is an exceedingly dry range, but a few villages in Choranur contain tanks which received a little supply of water. The figures for remission in this taluk are—

—	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inam whose quit-rent = assessment.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Full remission for tracts below 2 annas yield	22,456 7 0	1,387 14 0	513 4 9	24,357 9 9
50 per cent. for tracts from 2 to 4 annas	16,108 3 7	577 2 0	246 12 5	16,932 2 0
25 per cent. for tracts from 4 to 6 annas	3,707 2 5	127 4 3	57 15 7	3,892 6 3
Total ..	42,271 13 0	2,092 4 3	818 0 9	45,182 2 0

I am satisfied that the estimate of crops has been fairly made in this taluk. Only I have had to reduce two villages, viz., Halasagaram and Appayyanahalli, where the failure of crops seemed to have been as complete as in any village I have seen, from the class of 2 to 4 annas to under 2 annas. The Revenue Inspector who accompanied me seemed to be of the same opinion and the reason for raising the class of these two villages is not known to me. The above figures do not include the figures for four villages, viz., (1) Kalingeri, (2) Gendinaholi, (3) Amaredivaragudda, (4) Choranur, for which the karnams have not submitted their accounts.

12. *Hadagalli Taluk.*—Only in portions of two villages, viz, Holagondi and Itigi, has there been total failure of crops in this taluk. Seven whole villages and three tracts in three villages in Kadlabal firka, portions of two villages, viz., Sonna and Moregiri in Holagondi firka and five villages (57, 59, 60, 61, 63) in Hire Hadagalli firka have yielded between 2 to 4 annas. The rest of the taluk has yielded above 4 annas. Figures for remission in this taluk are :—

—	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inam whose quit-rent = assessment.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Full remission for tracts below 2 annas yield	5,004 13 1	2 7 0	123 5 3	5,130 9 4
50 per cent. for tracts from 2 to 4 annas	9,069 1 5	110 15 0	156 12 10	9,336 13 3
25 per cent. for tracts from 4 to 6 annas	8,037 5 9	95 13 9	251 12 1	8,384 15 7
Total ..	22,111 4 3	209 3 9	531 14 2	22,852 6 2

I have seen sixteen villages in this taluk in the months of January and February, and Mr. Lloyd, saw more than 25 per cent. in November, when the early crops were standing.

13. *Harpanahalli Taluk.*—In this taluk all the strip of country beginning from Harpanahalli and extending north-west and comprising the six villages of Harpanahalli, Madapur, Kulahalli, Mannerachavalvada, Nagati Barapur, Sivalinganahalli, together with Gajapur to the north-east of the taluk have yielded an outturn of 2 to 4 annas.

Another village Musavanakallahalli is also reported to be slightly affected. Its outturn is 4 to 6 annas. The only villages seriously affected are Alalur and Hagamur. Their outturn is below 2 annas.

The figures for remission for this taluk will be—

—	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inam whose quit-rent= assessment.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Full remissions for tracts which yielded below 2 annas.	3,373 13 0	16 5 0	12 13 0	3,402 15 0
50 per cent. for villages whose outturn is from 2 to 4 annas	7,275 1 0	26 7 0	47 8 0	7,349 0 0
25 per cent. for one village whose estimated yield is from 4 to 6 annas	411 14 3	8 9 0	1 6 6	421 13 9
Total ..	11,060 12 3	51 5 0	61 11 6	11,173 12 9

The Tahsildar has excluded from the statement two villages, Kadati and Kunchur, at first reported to be affected, because they are isolated villages which do not form a well-defined tract. The loss of crop in them is reported to be not very great.

I have seen two villages of this taluk, Alalur and Hagamur, and two hamlets of another affected village. Mr. Lloyd inspected Alalur and Harpanahalli.

14. *Hospet Taluk.*—In this taluk, the whole of Daroji firka excluding two villages Ramasagar (48), Lingadahalli (52), Nagalapur (56) and Papinayakanhalli (69), the whole of Kamalapur firka, excepting Anantanayana Gudi and Nagenahalli (85 and 87) and all the southern portion of Narayandeverkeri firka and the villages of Bupapur (105), Narayanadeverkeri (110), Anapinakata (111) and Venkatapur (112) in the north-west of the taluk have failed totally.

The figures for remissions for this taluk will be—

—	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inams whose quit-rent== assessment.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Below 2 annas (full remissions)	31,217 15 7	1,296 7 0	1,584 3 1	34,099 9 8
2 to 4 annas (50 per cent. remissions)	2,276 5 6	132 8 0	84 1 6	2,492 15 0
4 to 6 ,, (25 ,, ,,)	248 3 0	12 11 9	16 6 3	277 5 0
Total ..	33,742 8 1	1,441 10 9	1,684 10 10	36,868 13 8

Mr. Lloyd made a thorough inspection of Hospet taluk and I have seen a few villages in Daroji firka and in the Antapur valley.

15. The total remission for the whole division is as follows :—

—	Taluks.	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inam whose quit-rent= assessment.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Full remission for tracts below 2 annas.	Kúdligi	22,456 7 0	1,387 14 0	513 4 9	24,357 9 9
	Hadagalli	5,004 13 1	2 7 0	123 5 3	5,130 9 4
	Harpanahalli ..	3,373 13 0	16 5 0	12 13 0	3,402 15 0
	Hospet	31,217 15 7	1,296 7 0	1,584 3 1	34,099 9 8
	Total ..	62,053 0 8	2,703 1 0	2,233 10 1	66,989 11 9
50 per cent. for tracts from 2 to 4 annas.	Kúdligi	16,108 3 7	577 2 0	246 12 5	16,932 2 0
	Hadagalli	9,069 1 5	110 15 0	156 12 10	9,336 13 3
	Harpanahalli ..	7,275 1 0	26 7 0	47 8 0	7,349 0 0
	Hospet	2,276 5 6	132 8 0	84 1 6	2,492 15 0
	Total ..	34,728 11 6	847 0 0	535 2 9	36,110 14 3
25 per cent. for tracts from 4 to 6 annas yield.	Kúdligi	3,707 2 5	127 4 3	57 15 7	3,892 6 3
	Hadagalli	8,037 5 9	95 13 9	251 12 1	8,384 15 7
	Harpanahalli ..	411 14 3	8 9 0	1 6 6	421 13 9
	Hospet	248 3 0	12 11 9	16 6 3	277 5 0
	Total ..	12,404 9 5	244 6 9	327 8 5	12,976 8 7
	Grand Total ..	1,09,180 5 7	3,794 7 9	3,096 5 3	1,16,071 2 7

16. The grand total remissions for the four taluks would be approximately Rs. 1,16,071.

This does not include the four villages in Kúdligi taluk whose accounts have not been received. The total remission, including these villages, may be put down in round numbers as Rs. 1,20,000, exclusive of increment remissions. Remissions for wet land have not been provided for here. They will be dealt with at jamabandi according to existing orders. Villagewar statements (will follow) showing the various outturns tractwar for each taluk, together with an abstract for the whole division, are herewith submitted in the form prescribed.

Rough maps for each taluk showing the affected tracts are also submitted herewith. It should be well understood that these plans have reference solely to dry crops and have nothing whatever to do with the outturn from wet lands. I may add that the rainfall figures inserted in the Kúdligi map are obviously inaccurate.

17. I have not submitted the Tahsildar's statements with this report, because, as already stated, the figures were not altogether accurate. If you wish to refer to them for checking my figures, they will be sent at your requisition by return of post.

READ—also the following letter from H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 3rd April 1897, Ref. on C. No. 941 :—

In continuation of my letter, Ref. on C. No. 807, dated 16th March 1897, I have the honour to submit my proposals for the remission and suspension of the collection of assessment on dry lands in the Adóni and Bellary divisions comprising the taluks of Adóni and Alúr, Bellary and Rayadrug.

2. I have explained in paragraphs 2 to 4 of my letter quoted above my reasons for the grant of remissions in this district during the current year and it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here. The proposals formulated in paragraph 5 of that letter also hold good in the case of the four taluks in question.

3. The letters of the Head-quarter Deputy Collector and the Divisional Officer, Adóni, are herewith submitted in original. The large number of people attending the relief-works in Adóni, Alúr and Bellary taluks sufficiently proves the necessity for the grant of remissions and other concessions in those taluks. As regards the Rayadrug taluk which is not so seriously affected as the others, the Divisional Officer has based his recommendations on a careful personal inspection of the villages. As I joined the district only in February, I could not myself make any useful field inspections; but what I have seen and learnt in Bellary and Alúr convince me that the heavy remissions recommended are justified by the failure of the crops. In Adóni the season was less disastrous, and the same degree of concession is not necessary.

4. As regards this taluk, the Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar differ in their proposals, and in their estimates of the outturn of crop in some villages. The Divisional Officer states that he has not been able to personally ascertain the state of things in all the parts of taluk, and his inspection was meagre. He tells me that in his opinion, the Tahsildar has erred on the side of over-estimation yet he takes, in these papers a more favourable view than the Tahsildar. Having regard to the numbers on relief-works in the Adóni taluk I am disposed to think that the Tahsildar's estimate is too high and that more remission and suspension of revenue than he has recommended will be necessary. I have reserved the annual settlement of the taluk for myself and every opportunity will be taken during the jamabandi to make more careful inquiries. In the meanwhile, I have adopted the Tahsildar's figures for purposes of this report.

5. In regard to Bellary taluk also the Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar have some difference of opinion as regards the method of calculating the average outturn of each village. The Tahsildar's calculations are unintelligible and I have adopted the figures of the Divisional Officer.

6. The following statement gives the rainfall statistics of the four taluks :—

STATEMENT showing rainfall during several years shown below.

Name of taluk.	Monsoon.	1876–77.	1884–85.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	Average.
Bellary ..	South-west monsoon.	5·85	3·57	6·81	17·66	14·09	11·13	19·45	8·54	12·27
	North-east do.	..	3·34	1·65	7·14	7·66	8·67	10·01	3·94	6·57
	Total ..	5·85	6·91	8·46	24·80	21·75	19·80	29·46	12·48	18·84
Rayadrug.	South-west monsoon.	8·10	4·27	4·67	13·97	12·77	7·59	18·34	14·48	11·62
	North-east do.	0·10	5·70	1·60	3 74	9·76	7·66	6·71	1·34	7·01
	Total ..	8·20	9·97	6·27	17·71	22·53	15·25	25·05	15·82	18·63
Adóni ..	South-west monsoon.	11·15	12·36	11·02	23·53	16·06	25·86	20·05	14·42	21·12
	North-east do.	0 10	3·13	2·28	14·09	5·50	4·23	4·29	1·61	5·98
	Total ..	11·25	15·49	13·30	37·62	21·56	30·09	24·34	16·03	27·10
Alúr ..	South-west monsoon.	5·68	6·83	7·42	17·08	19·89	17·52	17·50	10·59	15·98
	North-east do.	0·12	2·48	2·65	13·02	5·81	6·54	6·43	1·14	6·53
	Total ..	5·80	9·31	10·07	30·10	25·70	24·06	23·93	11·73	22·51

If the south-west monsoon in Rayadrug be expected, it will be seen that even if the two monsoons are viewed separately, there was a general deficiency of rain all over the four taluks as compared with the average of the 25 years. The north-east monsoon was a failure in all the taluks, and there was in consequence a widespread failure of the lingari crop.

7. The statement of cultivation has already been submitted with the letter quoted above. The total dry cultivation in Adóni is 348,412 acres against the five years' average of 331,495; but when the first crop alone is taken into account, it falls much short of the average. In the remaining taluks the deficiency is perceptible, and notably so in Rayadrug where it falls short of the average by 53,393 acres.

8. The following statement shows the waste, the extent to which the crops failed and the areas on which there was some yield.

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and revenue for fasli 1305.			Particulars of holdings and cultivation.					
	Dry holdings.		Total revenue, dry, wet and miscellaneous.	Dry holdings in affected villages.		Waste.		Actual cultivation excluding topes, &c.	
	Extent.	Assessment.		Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Adóni	ACS. 220,134·0	RS. A. P. 2,01,306 0 0	RS. A. P. 2,61,402 0 0	ACS. 96,156·52	RS. A. P. 85,396 7 0	ACS. 11,926·72	RS. A. P. 9,802 10 0	ACS. 82,743·7	RS. A. P. 74,746 7 0
Alúr	213,147·0	2,59,127 0 0	3,19,603 0 0	214,676·45	2,61,950 9 0	39,478·92	48,192 4 0	174,275·39	2,12,922 11 0
Bellary	314,147·0	2,62,179 0 0	3,57,423 0 0	306,101·45	2,59,824 4 7	98 251·21	89,687 7 9	206,752·45	1,69,386 7 7
Rayadrug	156,438·0	88,959 0 0	1,52,008 0 0	99,457·0	69,139 0 0	25,341·0	22,957 0 0	72,065·0	45,379 0 0
Total ..	..	..	..	716,391·42	6,76,310 4 7	174,997·85	1,70,639 5 9	535,835·91	5,02,434 9 7
Adóni	..	..	..	4,361·31	3,422 4 0	393·69	304 14 0	3,926·58	3,081 7 0
Alúr	..	..	..	3,166·43	3,758 14 0	167·25	185 0 0	2,999·3	3,573 12 0
Bellary	..	..	..	3,553·51	2,074 14 3	422·93	527 13 0	2,891·90	1,643 2 3
Rayadrug	..	..	..	4,392·0	1,670 0 0	95·0	90 0 0	4,292·0	1,579 0 0
Total ..	..	..	..	15,473·25	10,926 0 3	1,078·87	907 11 0	14,109·51	9,777 5 3
Adóni	..	..	..	514·29	331 11 0	90·45	64 0 0	423·83	267 11 0
Alúr	..	..	..	900 92	951 9 0	171·5	193 12 0	729·87	757 13 0
Bellary	..	..	..	2,947·28	2,121 6 5	1,096·3	911 2 3	1,851·25	1,210 4 2
Rayadrug	..	..	..	27·0	24 0 0	1·0	1 0 0	96 0	23 0 0
Total ..	..	..	..	4,389·48	3,428 10 5	1,358 53	1,169 14 3	3,030·95	2,258 12 2
Adóni	220,134·0	2,01,306 0 0	2,61,402 0 0	101.032·11	89,150 6 0	12,410 86	10,171 5 0	87.093 45	78,095 9 0
Alúr	213,147·0	2,59,127 0 0	3,19,603 0 0	218,743·80	2,66,661 0 0	39.817·22	48,571 0 0	178.0**4·29	2,17,256 4 0
Bellary	314,147·0	2,62,179 0 0	3,57,423 0 0	812,602·24	2,64.020 9 3	99,770·17	90,926 7 0	211,495·80	1,72,139 14 0
Rayadrug	156,438·0	88,959 0 0	1,52,008 0 0	103,876·0	70,833 0 0	25,437 0	23,048 0 0	76,383 0	46,951 0 0

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and cultivation—*cont.*								Remarks.
	Yield 6 annas and over.		Between 4 and 6 annas.		Between 2 and 4 annas.		Below 2 annas including total loss.		
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	
11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Adóni ..	ACS. ..	RS. A. P. ..	ACS. 44,585·15	RS. A. P. 40,944 15 0	ACS. 27,182·10	RS. A. P. 25,396 5 0	ACS. 10,977·82	RS. A. P. 8,425 3 0	Ryotwar.
Alúr ..	175·35	243 11 0	..	..	33,294·74	37,362 11 0	140,805·30	1,75,316 5 0	
Bellary ..	26,472·37	19,507 5 0	4,545·79	2,332 6 0	13,891·61	8,456 4 0	161,842·68	1,39,090 8 7	
Rayadrug ..	19,493·0	7,876 0 0	3,048·0	1,112 0 0	3,937·0	1,282 0 0	45,587·0	35,109 0 0	
Total ..	46,141 72	27,627 0 0	52,178·94	44,389 5 0	78,305·45	72,497 4 0	359,212·80	3,57,941 0 7	
Adóni ..	..	..	2,050·93	1,663 3 0	901·9	750 4 0	972·56	648 0 0	Inams whose quit-rent is equal to assessment.
Alúr ..	15·72	21 5 0	..	..	199·96	214 11 0	2,783·35	3,337 12 0	
Bellary ..	67·31	35 10 3	..	..	951·69	375 5 0	1,872·90	1,132 3 0	
Rayadrug ..	2,944·0	897 0 0	170·0	51 0 0	..	..	1,178·0	631 0 0	
Total ..	3,027·3	953 15 3	2,220·93	1,714 3 0	2,052·74	1,340 4 0	6,806·81	5,748 15 0	
Adóni ..	..	..	411·89	256 11 0	11·94	11 0 0	..	..	Unauthorized cultivation.
Alúr ..	..	..	..	..	36·49	46 15 0	693·38	710 14 0	
Bellary ..	143·46	68 15 0	140·33	80 0 0	..	..	1,567·46	1,061 5 2	
Rayadrug ..	26·0	23 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total ..	169·46	91 15 0	552·22	336 11 0	48·43	57 15 0	2,260·84	1,772 3 2	
Adóni ..	..	..	47,047·97	42,864 13 0	28,095·13	26,157 9 0	11,950·38	9,073 3 0	Grand Total.
Alúr ..	191·7	265 0 0	..	..	33,531·19	37,624 5 0	144,282·3	1,79,364 15 0	
Bellary ..	26,683·14	19,611 14 3	4,686·12	2,412 6 0	14,843·30	8,831 9 0	165,283·4	1,41,284 0 9	
Rayadrug ..	22,463·0	8,796 0 0	3,218·0	1,163 0 0	3,937·0	1,282 0 0	46,765·0	35,740 0 0	

9. In the above proposals every village has been taken as the unit according to its average yield. It is only in a few cases of Bellary and Rayadrug taluks that a tract less than a village has been adopted as the unit, the difference in the average yield of crops in those areas being considerable and marked. Sketches showing the tracts which yielded different rates of outturn in each taluk are herewith submitted.

10. According to my proposals, the amounts to be remitted and suspended will be as follows:—

Taluk.	Remission.			Suspension.	Remarks.
	Waste.	2 annas and below.	Total.	Between 2 and 6 annas.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Adoni	10,171	9,073	19,244	69,022	Increment remission, which will be lost for little in those taluks, has not been excluded, the figures being not available.
Alúr	48,571	1,79,365	2,27,936	87,624	
Bellary	90,926	1,41,284	2,32,210	11,244	
Rayadrug	23,048	85,740	58,788	2,445	
Total ..	1,72,716	3,65,462	5,38,178	1,20,335	

Detailed statistics for each class of holdings are given in the statement appended to this report.

11. No statistics have been given by the Tahsildars or the Divisional Officers showing roughly the amount of wet remission to be granted.

APPENDIX.

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and cultivation.						Total remission, columns 3 and 7.	Amount to be suspended.	Remarks.
	Waste.		Between 2 and 6 annas.		2 annas and below including total loss.				
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	ACS.	RS. A. P.	ACS.	RS. A. P.	ACS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Adóni	11,926·72	9,802 10 0	71,767·25	66,341 4 0	10,977·82	8,425 3 0	18,227 13 0	66,341 4 0	Ryotwar.
Alúr	39,478 92	48,192 4 0	33,294·74	37,362 11 0	140,805·30	1,75,316 5 0	2,23,508 9 0	37,362 11 0	
Bellary	98,251·21	89,687 7 9	18,437·40	10,788 10 0	161,842·68	1,39,090 8 7	2,28.778 0 4	10,788 10 0	
Rayadrug	25,341 00	22,957 0 0	6,985·0	2,394 0 0	45,587·00	35,109 0 0	58,066 0 0	2,394 0 0	
Total ..	174,997·85	1,70,639 5 9	130,487·39	1,16,886 9 0	359,212·80	3,57,941 0 7	5,28,580 6 4	1,16,886 9 0	
Adóni	393·69	304 14 0	2,952·02	2,413 7 0	972·56	648 0 0	952 14 0	2,413 7 0	Inams whose quitrent is equal to assessment.
Alúr	167·25	185 0 0	199·96	214 11 0	2,783.35	3,337 12 0	3,522 12 0	214 11 0	
Bellary	422·93	327 13 0	951·69	375 5 0	1,872·90	1,132 3 0	1,460 0 0	375 5 0	
Rayadrug	95·00	90 0 0	170·00	51 0 0	1,178·0	631 0 0	721 0 0	51 0 0	
Total ..	1,078 87	907 11 0	4,273·67	3,054 7 0	6,806·81	5,748 15 0	6,656 10 0	3,054 7 0	
Adóni	90·45	64 0 0	423·83	267 11 0	..	..	64 0 0	267 11 0	Unauthorized cultivation.
Alúr	171·05	193 12 0	36·49	46 15 0	693·38	710 14 0	904 10 0	46 15 0	
Bellary	1,096·03	911 2 3	140 33	80 0 0	1,567·46	1,061 5 2	1,972 7 5	80 0 0	
Rayadrug	1·00	1 0 0	..	..	..	..	1 0 0	..	
Total ..	1,358·53	1,169 14 3	600·65	394 10 0	2,260·84	1,772 3 2	2,942 1 5	394 10 0	
Adóni	12,410·86	10,171 8 0	75,143·10	69,022 6 0	11,950·38	9,073 3 0	19,244 11 0	69,022 6 0	Total.
Alúr	39,817·22	48,571 0 0	33,531·19	37,624 5 0	144,282·03	1,79,364 15 0	2,27,935 15 0	37,624 5 0	
Bellary	99,770 17	90,926 7 0	19,529·42	11,243 15 0	165,283·04	1,41,284 0 9	2,32,210 7 9	11,243 15 0	
Rayadrug	25,437·0	23,048 0 0	7,155·00	2,445 0 0	46,765·00	35,740 0 0	58,788 0 0	2,445 0 0	

Resolution—dated 28th April 1897, No. 323.

The Collector of Bellary submits, with his first letter read above, proposals for dry remissions and for postponement of collections in the Head Assistant Collector's division, and with the second letter, similar proposals for the taluks comprised in the Bellary and Adóni divisions. The reports of the Divisional Officers accompany the Collector's letters.

2. The average rainfall of the district is 22·74 inches; but the total fall during the year 1896–97 amounted to only 14·41 inches or about 36·77 per cent. less. There was a deficiency in both the monsoons except in Rayadrug and Harpanahalli where the south-west monsoon gave more than the average rainfall, but it was followed by a deficient north-east monsoon. The season in Kúdligi was nearly as bad as in the great famine year 1876–77, and in Hospet it was not much better.

3. The extensive failure of crops throughout the district was, however, due not so much to the shortness of the total rainfall as to its uneven distribution. The rainfall up to August was nearly equal to the average, and this stimulated large sowings of dry crops in all the taluks. In Hadagalli and Harpanahalli the cultivated area was more than the average and not far below that in the previous year; in Kúdligi it was about equal to the average though less than that in the previous year by about 10,000 acres, while in Adóni, it was only about 5 per cent. less than the average. In the other four taluks, the total dry cultivation was from 14 to 31 per cent. less than the average. Taking the district as a whole, the extent of cultivation was only about 11 per cent. less than the average, but the outturn was most seriously affected by the extremely short rainfall in the months of September and October. In November, there was a fair rainfall which was above average and much black cotton soil in the eastern taluks of the district was sown, but owing to the absence of rain in the subsequent months, the yield was practically *nil*.

4. The following statement shows particulars of the total dry holding in the affected villages including unauthorised cultivation and minor inams paying quit-rents equal to assessment, which are included by the Collector in his proposals for remission and suspension of revenue:—

Taluk.	Total dry holding.	Waste.		Cultivation excluding topes, &c.	2 annas and less including total loss.	
		Area.	Percentage.		Area.	Percentage.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.	Acs.	
1. Hospet	93,203	35,435	38	55,933	44,827	80
2. Kúdligi	178,013	28,259	16	146,636	46,017	31
3. Harpanahalli	35,671	1,618	5	33,759	7,081	21
4. Hadagalli	113,325	12,944	11	99,068	5,372	5
Total ..	420,212	78,256	19	335,396	103,297	31
5. Adóni	101,032	12,412	12	87,093	11,950	14
6. Alúr	218,743	39,817	18	178,004	141,282	81
7. Bellary	312,601	99,770	32	211,495	165,283	78
8. Rayadrug	103,876	25,437	25	76,383	46,765	62
Total ..	736,252	177,436	24	552,975	368,280	67
Grand Total ..	1,156,464	255,692	22	888,371	471,577	53

Taluk.	2 to 4 annas.		4 to 6 annas.		6 annas and above.	
	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Acs.		Acs.		Acs.	
1. Hospet	8,954	16	2,152	4	..	..
2. Kúdligi	73,216	50	26,910	19	493	..
3. Harpanahalli	23,226	69	3,452	10	..	..
4. Hadagalli	17,877	18	69,152	70	6,667	7
Total ..	123,273	37	101,666	30	7,160	2
5. Adóni	28,095	32	47,048	54	..	..
6. Alúr	33,531	19	..	..	191	..
7. Bellary	14,844	7	4,686	2	26,682	13
8. Rayadrug	3,937	5	3,218	4	22,463	29
Total ..	80,407	14	54,952	10	49,336	9
Grand Total ..	203,680	23	156,618	18	56,496	6

Twenty-two per cent. of the total holdings was waste, and only 6 per cent. of the cultivated area yielded a crop of 6 annas and more, while 53, 23 and 18 per cent. yielded, respectively, crops of 2 annas and less including shavi, of 2 to 4 annas and of 4 to 6 annas. No lands in Hospet, Harpanahalli and Adóni yielded a crop of 6 annas and above, while the areas which yielded that outturn were very small in Kúdligi and Alúr. These estimates are for the most part based on the inspection of Divisional Officers except in the case of Alúr and Adóni taluks, where the Divisional Officers' inspection was meagre.

5. Mr. Spencer's report contains a clear and complete account of the tracts affected, and of the degree of distress prevailing in the several taluks of his division. The reports of the other Divisional Officers are not so exhaustive, but they nevertheless give a fair idea of the state of the season and the fate of the crops in their respective divisions; and the Collector states that "the large number of people attending the relief works in Adóni, Alúr and Bellary taluks sufficiently proves the necessity for the grant of remissions and other concessions in those taluks"; and that "as regards the Rayadrug taluk which is not so seriously affected as the others, the Divisional Officer has based his recommendations on a careful personal inspection of the villages."

6. The Collector recommends full remission on lands which have yielded 2 annas and less and on all waste in villages where dry remissions are allowed, and suspension of collections till next fasli where the yield is between 2 and 6 annas, subject to the condition that if the next monsoon also be unfavourable in any of these tracts, the amount suspended therein should be remitted. As already stated, the above concessions are to be extended to unauthorised cultivation not objected to by the Divisional or Jamabandi officer, and to minor inams with quit-rents equal to the assessment. The Collector also proposes that he may be allowed the discretion to suspend the collection of the demand in individual cases not covered by the above proposals.

7. The recommendations above mentioned are almost identical with those sanctioned in fasli 1301, and though, as remarked by Mr. Stuart, they worked well then, the Board doubts whether they go far enough to meet the situation this year.

Only 6 per cent. of the total cultivated area gave a crop of 6 annas and above against 9 per cent. in fasli 1301. In the latter fasli, there was a crop of 6 annas and above, more or less in all the taluks, but in the current year there was no such crop in the affected tracts in three out of the eight taluks, while in one other taluk there was practically no yield above 4 annas. In the comparison instituted above, the figures for fasli 1301 have been taken from the appendix to B.P., dated 7th April 1892, No. 275, but these figures, it will be seen, were considered by the Board to have been exaggerated, and the actual state of things was, most likely, better. For fasli 1301, the Collector's

proposals were far more liberal than those ultimately sanctioned by the Board. Full remission was recommended for all waste, for total loss of crop, and crop of less than 2 annas, 75 per cent. remission for a crop of 2 annas, 50 per cent. for crop above 2 and up to 4 annas, and 25 per cent. for crop above 4 but not exceeding 6 annas. The Board, however, considered those recommendations unduly liberal, chiefly on the ground that the tendency of village officers and Revenue Inspectors is to under-estimate the yield. The Board also observed that the "circumstances of the district in that year had largely deprived District Officers of the time which might otherwise have been devoted to a systematic inspection of the crops," and that "notwithstanding the large losses reported, the ryots had been able throughout a large part of the district to dispense with all necessity for Government relief." In the present year, however, there is no apprehension of any under-estimate of the crop outturn inasmuch as the attention of the Collector was drawn in time to the necessity for organizing for proper inspection and check, and the Divisional Officers have done good work in the way of inspection except in the case of Adóni division. Moreover, as observed by the Collector, the numbers on relief works clearly point to the necessity for more liberal concessions than in fasli 1301.

In the case of the Adóni taluk, the Collector is not apparently satisfied with the inspection of the Divisional Officer M.R.Ry. S. Ramu Aiyar Avergal, but he has arranged to settle the taluk himself this year, so that there can be no fear that the taluk will derive undue benefit by the application thereto of any general scheme of remissions which may be sanctioned for the whole district.

The average outturn in the present year is as low as in fasli 1301, but the distress has been greater, owing apparently to the fact that the district had had in fasli 1301 a longer interval to recover from the effect of the general distress of fasli 1294, than it has had since fasli 1301. There were no doubt some bad years during the interval between faslis 1294 and 1301, but in those years, only portions of the district were affected.

8. Mr. Spencer, the Head Assistant Collector, a most careful officer, states that the lowest rates of remission he can see his way to recommend, are:—

A. "Full remission for all cultivation in tracts in which the average outturn is below 2 annas and waste (excluding mamul waste as rick yards, &c.)"

B. "In tracts where the average outturn is between 2 to 4 annas, all cultivation and waste (excluding mamul waste) to be given 50 per cent. remission."

C. "In tracts where the average outturn is between 4 to 6 annas, all cultivation and waste (excluding mamul waste) to be given 25 per cent. remission."

These proposals are made in connection with the four taluks constituting the Head Assistant Collector's division, but the facts stated in the Collector's second report and the reports of the Divisional Officers show that the conditions are as unfavourable in the remaining four taluks, and in parts thereof distinctly worse; and the Board sees no reason for treating these two tracts differently.

9. All things considered, the Board would give full remission in tracts in which the crop entirely failed or yielded not more than 2 annas, 50 per cent. remission in tracts in which the yield is estimated at from 2 annas to 4 annas, and 25 per cent. remission where the yield is between 4 and 6 annas. From the estimates given by the Collector of the amount of remissions which will have to be granted if his proposals are approved, it would appear that he contemplates granting full remission in respect of waste in all the affected areas; but this is opposed to the rules in force on the subject. Dry remission being granted as a matter of grace, it is granted with reference, not to the yield of individual fields, but to the average yield of affected tracts. No remission on waste should therefore be allowed in tracts in which the average yield has been estimated to be fair, *i.e.*, to be 6 annas and over; while in tracts where the yield is less and where in consequence a certain percentage of the dry assessment is proposed to be remitted, the full assessment on lands left waste should be remitted and not merely a percentage remission, as proposed by the Head Assistant Collector; with the restriction, however, that where the cultivated lands of the individual owners have yielded 6 annas or more, remission should be granted

on only such waste as is not usually left fallow or reserved for pasture. It is observed that the Head Assistant Collector would exclude mamul waste from remission in *all* cases, but this is going too far. In ordinary seasons, it may be to the advantage of the ryot to leave uncultivated a portion of his holding for the pasturage of his cattle or for other purposes, but in a season such as the present, no such advantage will accrue.

10. The statements received from the Collector do not furnish sufficient data for estimating the amount of remissions according to the modifications ordered by the Board. The Collector will be requested to furnish the same as early as possible.

11. In tracts in which dry remissions are granted, the collection of the unremitted portion of the dry assessment may be postponed till the next fasli as recommended by the Collector. The sanction of Government is requested for this concession.

12. The concessions granted and recommended above are in accordance with the existing orders on the subject, and are the least which, in the Board's opinion, will enable the ryot to pay the Government demand without the application of coercive process. They comply, in fact, with the *dictum* laid down in regard to that matter by the Famine Commissioners.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Bellary.
" Copy to Land Revenue Department.
" all other Collectors.

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1051

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
15 MAY 97

From The Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land
Records, and Agriculture)
Madras

Order

No. 3350 Miscellaneous

Dated 12th May 1897

Received 15.5.97

Registered "

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Government with remarks letter from the Collector of Bellary requesting to move the Government to pass early orders on Board's Proceedings No. 323 Press, dated 28th April 1897 regarding the grant of dry remissions in the Bellary District.

No. 9 15/5

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE. MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 12th May 1897.

No. 3350 Miscellaneous.

READ the following letter from the Collector of Bellary dated 4th May 1897, Reference No: 197:—

I have the honour to request that the Government may be moved to pass early orders on Board's Proceedings No: 323 Press dated 28th April 1897 regarding the grant of dry remissions and to communicate a copy direct to me, so that the Jamabandi of the district may be completed before the Fasli year closes.

Resolution

Submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

2. Para

2 Pending the orders of Government on the Board's Proceedings, the Collector is requested to proceed with the Jamabandi of the district in accordance therewith.

(True copy Extract)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary

To the Secretary to Government,
Rev: Dept

To the Collector of Bellary

Exd 13/5/87

Revenue Dept

Read C.Nos.3982 & 4051. of 97

The Hon: Mr. Carale c/r
The Hon: Mr. Bliss c/r
H. E. the Governor

For orders.

The first of the above current contains proposals for the remission and suspension of collection of the unremitted portion of dry kists in the Bellary district.

2. Mr.Stuart premises by drawing attention to an observation made by Govt.in passing orders on the proposal for the settlement of Bellary and Anantapur to the effect that these two districts "were the poorest and most backward in the Presidency,the most sterile and the most subject to drought,that the ryots paid the present revenue with difficulty,that they had as yet far from fully recovered from the famine,and that to impose upon them largely increased burthens would certainly check,if not entirely arrest their progress;" and he requests that this description of the ~~discription o~~ ~~the~~ district may be borne in mind in considering his proposals. He also takes this opportunity to deprecate the distinction which is made between wet & dry lands in respect of ~~the~~ remission and to the dictum that dry lands are settled with special reference to bad seasons,and proceeds to urge that the owner of dry lands has as strong and equitable a claim as,if not a great-

The new assessment recognizes this state of things. [initials]

The allowance of 25% for vicissitudes of season & unprofitable areas is only one of many circumstances which have to be taken into consideration. Wet land is charged on the supposition that it can be irrigated. When it cannot the grant of remission is equitable. [initials]
C 29/5/87

the trip, the owner of net.

3 The following are the Collector's recommendations:-

(a) Every village to be regarded as a separate tract for the grant of dry remissions under para 4 of Board's Standing order No.25. In a few exceptional cases portions of villages are taken as separate tracts.

(b) No concessions to be granted where the yield of both Mungari and Hingari crop is annas 8 or above.

(c) Full remission in cases where the ~~yield~~ yield is annas 2 or less and also on all waste in villages where dry remissions are allowed.

(d) In cases where the yield is between 2 annas and 4 annas, the collection of the assessment to be suspended till next year, subject to the condition that the postponed demand is to be remitted in tracts in which the next monsoon should also happen to be unfavourable.

(e) Sivajama lands and inam lands bearing full assessment, or a quitrent or jodi equal to or more than the full assessment, to be accorded the same treatment as ryotwar lands.

(f) The Collector to be invested with discretion to suspend the collection of demand in individual cases, not falling within the above category, where such collection would cause considerable hardship.

The above are in effect identical with the proposals sanctioned in 1891-92, and the Collector considers that these which worked well in that year, wil also work well in the present year. Mr. Stuart observes that while stongly opposed to pressing the ryot to pay when he has not the means, he is of opinion that revenue should not unnecessarily be foregone. He draws attention to the remark contained in para 9 of G.O. No. 758 dated 29-12-96 in which the Board was asked to consider whether sufficient relief may not be given to the ryots by postponements of collections rather than by the grant of remissions, and states that the past experience of the district favours the Govt. view—only Rs. 538 having had to be written off in fasli 1302 out of a total demand of over 20 lakhs for that fasli (consisting of Rs. 360,271 the collection of which had been suspended in fasli 1301 and a current demand of Rs. 1,676,117) the balance at the end of the year being only Rs. 74,725.

The effect of the Collector's proposals is a remission of Rs. 6,21,0[illegible] and a suspension of collection of Rs. 2,30,722 ~~[illegible]~~

This is what he says in para 9 of his letter on p. 16 of the B.P. with regard to the Adoni & Bellary divns. — He may intend the same with regard to the H.A.C.'s divn., but I cannot find that he says so. [initials]

Flag B

"The estimate first proposed by the Collr of Bellary & ac. cepted by the Bd (10.38 lakhs against a normal demand of 15.62 lakhs)"
Finally the Collr estimated 7.50 lakhs for F 1306
The amount in F 1301 was 6.92/29 lakhs.
GO 29.12.96 / 758 (flagged B)
[initials]

PTO

Mr. Spencer, the Head Assistant Collector of the district, in his report regarding the taluks of his division, viz., Hospet, Kudligi, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli however recommends, as the lowest rates of remission he could see his way to recommend, the following scale, mamul waste being excluded:-

(a) full remission for waste and for yield of two annas and below;

(b) fifty per cent remission for tracts in which the yield is between two and four annas ; and

(c) twenty-five per cent remission in tracts where the average yield has been between four and six annas.

All things considered the Board of Revenue adopts for the whole district the scale of remission proposed by Mr. Spencer, except in the matter of waste for which the Board is of opinion that full remission should be allowed in all tracts in which remission (full or ~~of~~ partial) is granted ~~except~~ save in individual cases where the yield has six annas or more when remission should be restricted to the excess over the mamul waste. ~~It having appeared from the estimates of the amount of remissions given by the Collector that he proposed the grant of remission on all waste, the Board points out that this is opposed to the rules and that dry remission being granted as a matter of grace, it should be allowed not with reference to individual fields but to the average yield of individual~~

ditto
HS

I cannot ... from C No 4051 it is clear that the fuel body had not begun upto the 12th inst. HS
31/5/97

I think the Bd's proposals must be accepted. See my note of this date in the linked file (about remissions in Anantapur). The Bd Pro is dated the 28th April, & it has probably been acted on already. I never saw the paper till yesterday, the 29th May.

(Received 13th)

JG
30.5.97

AAH
4.6.97

6. The Board also recommends for the sanction of Govt that in tracts where remissions are granted, the collection of the unremitted portion may be postponed till the next fasli.

7 The Collector requests orders by wire.

RS
20-5-97

[illegible] 28.5.97

tracts. The Board's instructions are in accordance with the Standing Orders

H. E. the Governor

Note.

C. Nos. 3486, 3588 and 3983 relating to the season remissions in Ganjam, Anantapur, and Bellary respectively are recirculated for orders with reference to the notes recorded by the H.M's thereon. The proposals in regard to Anantapur (C. No. 3588) and Bellary (C. No. 3983) relate only to dry remissions; those in regard to Ganjam (C. No. 3486) relate to both wet and dry (rain fed partly) remissions

2 The main questions discussed in the H.M's notes are:—

(a) whether a crop of two annas or one anna and less should be treated as total loss of crop.

(b) whether any recommendations should be accepted which necessitate the individual azmoish of dry ~~lands~~ fields

3. As regards (a). B.S.O No. 23 para 1 allows remission for wet lands in settled districts only in the case of total loss of crop and of waste from causes beyond the ryots' control; and it makes no distinction

between ordinary years and years of drought. The reason of this is that the revision of assessment at settlement takes into account partial loss of crop due to unfavorable seasons. To treat a wet crop of two annas or one anna as total loss involves therefore in the first place a needless sacrifice of revenue; and, what is, far more serious, it leaves a discretion ~~to~~ in the hands of the Taluk Subordinates and village officials which is sure to be abused; for ~~while~~ (it will be impossible for) the Jamabandi officer ~~can say~~ to find out whether a short crop was below or above two annas though he can find out by inspection with corporation ~~a close examination in~~ ease & much greater certainty on what fields the crops have been totally lost or what fields have been left waste. This latter objection, however, does not apply to dry remissions which are granted not with reference to individual fields but with reference to tracts which have suffered from drought. Under para 4 of BSO No 23 dry remissions (partial as well as total) are granted only in exceptional years of drought and then only as a percentage deduction from the aggregate demand of the tract affected so that each dry field in the tract ~~wt~~ gets the benefit of the partial or total remission whatever may have been its yield. Thus, as para 4 is worded, fields which have been left waste or in which the crops have been lost will get only the percentage remission of the tract. This system involves, ~~only~~ on the part of the ~~[illegible]~~ Agmoishing officer, only the examination of a certain percentage of fields with a view to estimate the average out-turn of the tract; there is no necessity to determine the out-turn of each individual field ~~field~~, and any departure from the standing orders which involves such a necessity must be deprecated.

4. Before proceeding to consider the orders issued ~~proposals made~~ by the Board in regard to the above three districts it is well to bear in mind that ~~the~~ in view of the very exceptional character

of the past season, the Govt may ~~sanction~~ allow, as it has done on similar occasions in the past, ~~deviate~~ a departure from the standing orders; but it ~~must~~ should be distinctly impressed on the Board and Collectors that such departure is exceptional and should not be permitted in ordinary years. The resumé given in para 3 of the note dt 29-5-97 on C. Nos 1745 & 2384 will illustrate the danger of occasional departures being adopted in ordinary years.

This applies only to wet remission, as dry remissions are granted only in exceptional years.

Godavari case.

5. Ganjam. ~~Wet~~

Wet. The Board ~~recommends~~ approves the Collector's recommendation to grant full remission on all wet, with an out-turn of two annas and less, and on all waste. That is on (1) manual waste (2) other waste (3) total loss of crop (4) Crop of two annas and less. The same concession was granted in the famine of 1889* in ~~the district~~ Ganjam in Chingleput* & N. Arcot(x) in 1892 and in Tinnevelly in 1895. But from what has been said above it will be clear that the remission of the assessment in (3) & (4) is against standing order 23 para 1.

Para 5 of B.P. ([illegible])

Para 4 of B.P. [illegible] $\frac{398}{[illegible]}$ [illegible] C

* [illegible] C, 1491, (x) [illegible] 7, [illegible] GG

[illegible] C

5-8 Para, of [illegible] $\frac{398}{1889}$ [illegible] C

Dry. Dry includes (1) dry proper and (2) manavari or rain-fed paddy. It is not proposed to grant dry remissions in the district; according to the instructions issued in para — of B.P. $\frac{227}{7-5-89}$ at the last famine this decision should also apply to manavari lands, but the Collector contends that there is an essential difference between manavari and dry lands, and that remissions should be granted for the former as was done in 1889. The scale of remission accepted by the Board is compared below with that sanctioned in 1889: —

Intended class of crop	1889	1897.
	Not stated (x)	Full remission
Crop of 1 anna & less	75 p.c or more.	
Bet 1 and 2 annas		85 p.c
Bet 2 and 4 annas	50 p.c	50 p.c
Bet 4 and 6 annas	25 p.c where necessary	25 p.c
Bet 6 and 8 annas		Nil

(x) Presumably full.

The Collector's letter is not quite clear ~~on the point~~ as to whether he proposes to grant the above remissions fieldwar or tractwar, but pa. 6 of his letter would seem

to show that he intends them to be tractwar, and there is no doubt that the Board does intend them to be so. ~~The~~ Waste lands are to ~~waste and others will~~ get full remission in all the tracts in which ~~no partial~~ remissions (even partial) are granted; this point will be referred to presently.

6. <u>Anantapur Dry</u>

The Board's orders are —

Paras 8-9 of B.P. (C. 4 3578 ...)

	Northern Taluks		Southern Taluks
Total loss of crop / Two annas & less	Full remission	Total loss. Two annas & less. Bet. 2 & 4 annas	50 p.c. in some tracts, 25 p.c. in some others and none in the rest.
Bet 2 & 4 as.	50 p. c		
Bet 4 & 6 a's.	25. p. c.		

In the penultimate sub-para of para 6 of his letter the Collector speaks of granting remissions <u>only in deserving cases</u>, but the cases referred to are perhaps those of <u>villages & tracts</u>, not of <u>individual fields</u>: at any rate the Board's instructions are clear that the remission is to be tract war.

7. <u>Bellary Dry</u>. The same as in the northern taluks of Anantapur.

8. It will thus be seen that so far as cultivated dry and manavari lands are concerned the Board's instructions are that the remission is to be tractwar (not fieldwar) and are therefore in accordance with para 2 of B.S.O.; but it says that the waste (manual and seasonal) in the tracts in which remissions are granted should get full remission instead of the percentage remission of the tract, except in the case of individuals whose cultivated fields have yielded 6 annas & more who should get remission only on the seasonal waste. This it says is the usual practice; the practice is at least as old as 1882 and the Hon: Mr Grose says that it is well known in the districts. Is it to be continued? It involves the determination of (1) what fields have been left waste (2) whether the cultivated lands of the owners of these fields have yielded a fair crop. The former can, as pointed out by the Hon: Mr Grose

× Vide para 2 of B.P. in T.D. 1302 / 22-11-82 HH

It is stated that so in a B.P. Proc: of 1882 and has been so reported to the Govt of India. It is not in accordance with the Sc order. I have never heard of it in my experience before: In the same Proc. it is ~~stated~~ that it is not the rule for Div.l Officer to inspect before remission is granted. This I have never known written. but in the order perhaps Div.l Officer is used in a sense different from Div.l Officer.

[illegible] 29/9/17

1

be determined from the village registers without the necessity of a local inspection; although this will leave a power in the hands of village officers ~~which might be abused~~; but the latter will give rise to the abuses by Taluk and village officials referred to by the Hon: Mr. Bliss. The practice can be modified in two ways; (1) we can order that all waste lands should get full remission irrespective of the out-turn of the other cultivated lands of their owners or (2) that they shall get only the percentage remission of the tract 10.

J. [illegible] 5/6/97.

I w^d submit that this statement is misleading. These opinions are useless except as a basis for actual inspection. The Kurnam by writing the word "waste" against a field in the Adangal could get anyone to be allowed full remission.

[illegible] 2/6/97. [illegible]

Read c. Nos 3486, 3583, & 3922 & 4057 (ab.)

G.O. (Press) No. 442 d/5th June 1897

This proposal to differentiate between individuals according to the supposed yield of their fields will give rise to the most widespread corruption. It is far better to adopt either of the courses set out in the note.

I w^d submit that the matter may be disposed of by the annexed order.

"Govt accept the Board's instructions for the grant of remissions in the dists of Anantapur, Bellary & Ganjam in consideration of the exceptional character of the season with the exception that all waste dry lands sh^d get full remission irrespective of the out-turn of the other cultivated lands of their owners; but in doing so consider it necessary to observe that these proposals depart from the standing orders in several important particulars as to which orders will be passed when the revised standing order submitted with B^d Pro. No. 313 dated [illegible] comes under consideration."

[illegible] 2/6/97.

I agree. Wire issue of this order.

[illegible] 2/6/97

Government (1897) of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures

Regd. Spare copies

G.O., No. 442, 5th June 1897.

JUNE.

Remissions.

Accepting, with remarks, Board's instructions for the grant of — in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Ganjám in consideration of the exceptional character of the season.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 5th April 1897, No. 282:—

Read—the following letter from C. J. WEIR, Esq., Collector of Ganjám, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 6th February 1897, No. 180-Ver.:—

I have the honour to submit the following report regarding the results of inspection of crops lately made in the three Government taluks in the district and the extent to which remission and postponement of collection of assessment will, in my opinion, be necessary.

2. I enclose a copy of a printed circular I issued to Divisional and Taluk officers giving detailed instructions as to how the original and check azmaish should be made by the officials of several grades. The original inspection was commenced early in November by the Revenue Inspectors assisted by the ten crop inspectors sanctioned by the Government * and by a few clerks of the Divisional and Taluk offices deputed to that duty. Fifty per cent. of the fields in all the villages were re-inspected by Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Stationary Magistrates. The Divisional officers also checked the work of Revenue Inspectors and taluk officers to a great extent. I myself visited all three Government taluks when the inspection was going on, and supervised the work. The result of the inspection was, for each village, recorded in statement No. I prescribed in the circular and from these statements an elaborate posting statement No. II was prepared for the whole taluk. I herewith forward No. II statements of the three taluks. These show the following particulars for each village under rainfed and wet:—

(1) Occupied area and assessment.
(2) Extent and assessment of land left waste in ordinary years.
(3) Extent and assessment of land left waste in the present year owing to unfavourable season.
(4) Cultivated extent and assessment.
(5) Outturn under the several annotations with particulars of extent and assessment.

* *Vide* G.O., Mis. No. 5355, dated 26th December 1896, communicated with B.P., dated 2nd January 1897, Mis. No. 13, Revenue Settlement.

3. I consider that the crop inspection this year has, on the whole, been very thoroughly made. Though it was commenced as early as possible after it was ascertained that such a thorough azmaish was necessary in some villages in the Berhampur and Goomsur taluks, the paddy was cut before inspection. Owing to the great heat and brilliant sun shine, the crop ripened simultaneously over large areas, and as section 18 of the Famine Code forbids interference with harvesting operations, it was impossible to inspect all crop while on the ground. This was especially true of rainfed paddy which is harvested early. In such cases, the estimation of crop was based on local enquiry and examination of paddy in the thrashing floor.

4. In the last famine year of 1889, remissions were granted in this district according to the orders of the Board and Government in B.P., dated 13th February 1889, No. 64, and dated 7th May 1889, No. 227 (Settlement), and G.O., No. 106, dated 19th February 1889, and No. 398, dated 18th May 1889 (Revenue). In paragraph 7 of B.P., dated 7th May 1889, No. 227 (Settlement), the Board remarked that whenever dry remissions are granted, they should include both ordinary and manavari (rainfed) dry land.

5. The essential difference between "dry" properly so called and rain-fed lands in this district has, however, of late years been frequently insisted upon, and it has been recognised in settling the Rushikulya water-rates. In this season especially, the difference between "dry" and "rainfed" was strongly brought out. The great bulk of the dry crop in this district is an early crop which arrives at maturity at the end of south-west monsoon. Taking the district all round, this crop was moderately good. Rainfed paddy ripens six weeks to two months later than early dry crops and requires the rains of north-east monsoon. This year there were no north-east monsoon rains and the crop nearly everywhere failed more or less. The early dry crop was an average one nearly everywhere and in some parts of the district even more than average. It had all been cut and removed long before any azmaish was started. No attempt was therefore made to estimate the outturn, and no data for doing so except the extremely doubtful karnam's outturn figures were available for doing so.

6. The loss of the rain-fed crop—partial or total—was, on the other hand, widespread and general. I therefore consider that in all villages where 50 per cent. of rain-fed paddy was less than six-anna crop, percentage remission should be given without reference to the amount of dry crop or its outturn.

7. As regards dry crops, I do not consider that any case for remissions can be made out in any part of the district. The Tahsildar of Berhampur is the only officer who recommends it and has entered in the No. 2 statement of his taluk the outturn of dry crops. His estimate of the outturn of dry crops is based merely on the reports of the karnams. Owing to the lateness of the last jamabandi of Berhampur taluk, karnams and revenue inspectors were detained at taluk head-quarters at the time when dry crops were on the ground and were not in a position to judge of the outturn. Up to October there was not a word about extensive failure of dry crops and the outturn statements of Berhampur karnams were doubtless written up after they knew that exceptional remissions were likely. I believe they are entirely unreliable. It is true that the late dry crops, notably horse-gram, did very badly in parts, but such crops were not in large tracts and some of them were second crops.

8. As regards wet crops of 2 annas and under, the Board in paragraph 8 of its Proceedings, dated 28th August 1896, No. 327 (Land Revenue) say that full remissions are given in such cases and this was done in the famine of 1889. The Government, however, has apparently desired to consider this subject further—*vide* G.O., No. 514, Revenue, dated 8th October 1896. I would, however, recommend that in this year, considering the general and widespread failure of crops, full remissions on all wet with an outturn of 2 annas and under should be allowed. In the Goomsur taluk there are a few unsurveyed and unsettled villages, but, as the assessment in them is very low, I think for purposes of remission, the wet lands in them may be treated as wet in surveyed and settled villages. In 1889 they seem to have been so treated and percentage remissions were not granted as prescribed in Board's Standing Order No. 23.

9. The statement A enclosed is an abstract for the district showing the totals of the No. 2 statements of the three taluks, and the statement given below compares the outturn of wet and rainfed in 1896 with that in 1889.

Taluks.	Outturn.	In 1897. Rainfed. Extent.	In 1897. Rainfed. Assessment.	In 1889. Rainfed. Extent.	In 1889. Rainfed. Assessment.	In 1897. Wet. Extent.	In 1897. Wet. Assessment.	In 1889. Wet. Extent.	In 1889. Wet. Assessment.
		Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Particulars not available.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Particulars not available.
Berhampur ..	Waste	609·46	894 5 3	6,065		1,032·97	2,359 0 9		
	Shavi	8,305·13	13,299 6 6	15,257		19,827·45	58,973 0 0		
	One-anna	3,483·24	5,536 15 7	14,207		12,904·92	40,025 2 11		
	Two-anna	1,973·38	3,107 6 6	8,537		7,474·38	21,652 0 11		
	Four-anna	1,706·57	2,712 15 7	11,346		6,283·68	18,863 14 6		
	Above four-anna	6,972·13	9,001 12 9	16,203		27,060 64	76,842 1 9		
		22,049·91	34,551 13 0	71,615		74,583·84	2,18,715 4 10		
	Waste	38·25	60 0 0	5,975		1,591·42	4,213 7 0		
	Shavi	336·32	507 13 0	2,717		7,216·60	18,793 3 0		
	One-anna	12·65	20 1 0	1,093		2,599·8	8,190 4 0		
	Two-anna	62·74	92 11 0	3,857		2,939·73	9,856 2 0		
	Four-anna	3·63	5 7 0	4,934		3,099·2	11,297 8 0		
	Above four-anna	14·27	21 7 0	36,482		32,515·53	1,39,246 9 0		
		467·86	707 7 0	49,058		49,960·33	1,91,597 1 0		
	Waste	454·86	531 10 2	589		173·38	475 14 7		
	Shavi	10,071·19	16,068 15 3	13,436		5,535·12	14,639 6 2		
	One-anna	3,302·12	6,054 8 9	5,435		2,382·13	6,254 0 5		
	Two-anna	3,654·72	5,414 8 8	2,655		2,848·74	7,405 13 3		
	Four-anna	5,629·74	7,822 6 0	6,924		3,434·72	8,667 14 7		
	Above four-anna	12,091·81	17,630 4 1	5,768		21,744·97	70,012 11 1		
		35,204·44	62,521 15 11	35,807		36,118·96	1,07,455 12 1		
Chicacole ..	Waste	609·46	894 5 3	6,065		1,032·97	2,359 0 9		
	Shavi	8,305·13	13,299 6 6	15,257		19,827·45	58,973 0 0		
	One-anna	3,483·24	5,536 15 7	14,207		12,904·92	40,025 2 11		
	Two-anna	1,973·38	3,107 6 6	8,537		7,474·38	21,652 0 11		
	Four-anna	1,706·57	2,712 15 7	11,346		6,283·68	18,863 14 6		
	Above four-anna	6,972·13	9,001 12 9	16,203		27,060 64	76,842 1 9		
		22,049·91	34,551 13 0	71,615		74,583·84	2,18,715 4 10		
	Waste	38·25	60 0 0	5,975		1,591·42	4,213 7 0		
	Shavi	336·32	507 13 0	2,717		7,216·60	18,793 3 0		
	One-anna	12·65	20 1 0	1,093		2,599·8	8,190 4 0		
	Two-anna	62·74	92 11 0	3,857		2,939·73	9,856 2 0		
	Four-anna	3·63	5 7 0	4,934		3,099·2	11,297 8 0		
	Above four-anna	14·27	21 7 0	36,482		32,515·53	1,39,246 9 0		
		467·86	707 7 0	49,058		49,960·33	1,91,597 1 0		
	Waste	454·86	531 10 2	589		173 38	475 14 7		
	Shavi	10,071·19	16,068 15 3	13,436		5,535·12	14,639 6 2		
	One-anna	3,302·12	6,054 8 9	5,435		2,382·13	6,254 0 5		
	Two-anna	3,654·72	5,414 8 8	2,655		2,848 74	7,405 13 3		
	Four-anna	5,629·74	7,822 6 0	6,924		3,434·72	8,667 14 7		
	Above four-anna	12,091·81	17,630 4 1	5,768		21,744·97	70,012 11 1		
		35,204·44	62,521 15 11	35,807		36,118·96	1,07,455 12 1		
Goomsur ..	Waste	609·46	894 5 3	6,065		1,032·97	2,359 0 9		
	Shavi	8,305·13	13,299 6 6	15,257		19,827·45	58,973 0 0		
	One-anna	3,483·24	5,536 15 7	14,207		12,904·92	40,025 2 11		
	Two-anna	1,973·38	3,107 6 6	8,537		7,474·38	21,652 0 11		
	Four-anna	1,706·57	2,712 15 7	11,346		6,283·68	18,863 14 6		
	Above four-anna	6,972·13	9,001 12 9	16,203		27,060 64	76,842 1 9		
		22,049·91	34,551 13 0	71,615		74,583·84	2,18,715 4 10		
	Waste	38·25	60 0 0	5,975		1,591·42	4,213 7 0		
	Shavi	336·32	507 13 0	2,717		7,216·60	18,793 3 0		
	One-anna	12·65	20 1 0	1,093		2,599·8	8,190 4 0		
	Two-anna	62·74	92 11 0	3,857		2,939·73	9,856 2 0		
	Four-anna	3·63	5 7 0	4,934		3,099·2	11,297 8 0		
	Above four-anna	14·27	21 7 0	36,482		32,515·53	1,39,246 9 0		
		467·86	707 7 0	49,058		49,960·33	1,91,597 1 0		
	Waste	454·86	531 10 2	589		173 38	475 14 7		
	Shavi	10,071·19	16,068 15 3	13,436		5,535·12	14,639 6 2		
	One-anna	3,302·12	6,054 8 9	5,435		2,382·13	6,254 0 5		
	Two-anna	3,654·72	5,414 8 8	2,655		2,848 74	7,405 13 3		
	Four-anna	5,629·74	7,822 6 0	6,924		3,434·72	8,667 14 7		
	Above four-anna	12,091·81	17,630 4 1	5,768		21,744·97	70,012 11 1		
		35,204·44	62,521 15 11	35,807		36,118·96	1,07,455 12 1		

Taluks.	Outturn.	In 1897. Rainfed. Extent.	In 1889. Rainfed. Assessment.
		Acs.	Particulars not available.
Berhampur ..	Waste	1,710	
	Shavi	7,252	
	One-anna	6,651	
	Two-anna	3,205	
	Four-anna	2,423	
	Above four-anna	1,997	
	Total	22,143	
Chicacole ..	Waste	61	
	Shavi	286	
	One-anna	60	
	Two-anna	214	
	Four-anna	267	
	Above four-anna	251	
	Total	1,139	
Goomsur ..	Waste	810	
	Shavi	20,252	
	One-anna	4,882	
	Two-anna	4,131	
	Four-anna	3,645	
	Above four-anna	1,512	
	Total	35,332	

The noticeable points about these figures are that the area of waste was much larger in 1889 than in 1897, that the amount of shavi except in Goomsur is larger this year, while the amount of good crop (over 4 annas) is everywhere in excess of 1889 and mostly largely so. Having in view the most recent orders contained in B.P., dated 28th August 1896, No. 327, I recommend the following remissions on rainfed this year, subject to the condition laid down in paragraph 6 above :—

Shavi and crop of one anna and under.	Full remission.
Between 1 and 2 annas	85 per cent.
Do. 2 and 4 „	50 „
Do. 4 and 6 „	25 „

The percentages sanctioned in 1889 were—

Waste.	Full.
Two annas and less	75 per cent. or more.
Between 2 and 4 annas	50 per cent.
Do. 4 and 8 „	Not exceeding 25 per cent.

In taluk statement No. 2 land usually left waste is distinguished from land left waste this year owing to bad season. With regard to rainfed waste, the rule in paragraph 4 (*c*) of B.P., dated 28th August 1896, No. 327, will be followed. In the case of wet, remission will be granted on the latter class of waste.

10. *Postponement of kists.*—As remarked by the Board in B.P., dated 31st December 1896, No. 472, this is of doubtful benefit to the ryots. In 1889 definite postponement of kists was not recommended nor granted. But the Government in G.O., No. 106, Revenue, dated 19th February 1889, communicated with B.P., dated 19th February 1889, No. 74 (Settlement) only ordered that collections should not be pressed pending jamabandi. All taluk officers recommend postponement of kists, but Tahsildars have an obvious interest in doing so. I do not at all think that the ryot is worse prepared to pay up this year than in 1889 and if remissions on rainfed and wet are given on the scale proposed, there should not, I think, be any necessity for postponement of the kists on these lands, as the ryot will get a crop bearing a high money value on all the lands on which he has to pay. As regards the kists on dry lands I fear that, if we insist on collecting it, hardship may be wrought in many instances, *e.g.*, in Palatalagam khandam of Chicacole taluk where ryots are poor and where, though they had a fair dry crop, their wet and rainfed crops almost totally failed. I would therefore recommend the postponement of third and fourth kists in this khandam. On this subject the Tahsildar of Chicacole reports: ". . . . The dry fields yielded a fair outturn in almost all the villages. But the yield has almost been used for home consumption and for hire to labourers that assisted the ryots in wet cultivation which unfortunately sustained loss. The remnant of the outturn still with the ryots is barely sufficient for their maintenance especially in the villages of Paltalagam khandam and in most of the villages of the northern firka. Hence I submit that the postponement of dry assessment, though the postponement is not an unmixed blessing to the indigent ryot, is in my humble opinion indispensible." The Tahsildar's remarks are endorsed by the Principal Assistant Collector.

11. In Berhampur and Goomsur, paddy crop nowhere failed to such an extent as in Palatalagam, but on the other hand the dry crop itself was not so good. I think therefore it would be advisable to postpone the second and third dry kists in all villages in these taluks where 50 per cent. of the cultivated area of wet and rainfed was under a 4-anna crop. Great difficulty has so far been experienced in getting the ryots to pay up any of their dry kist, and probably even to collect the earlier kists coercive process will be necessary. Bringing some grain on the market in this way would not be altogether an evil, but if we collect the whole kist, we may have to exhaust the ryots' stock and proceed against his immoveable property. The enclosed statements marked C show separately the cultivated rainfed area and that on which the yield was above 4 annas in all the villages in Berhampur and Goomsur taluks. Similar information for wet is available in colums 66, 67, 76 and 77 of taluk statement No. 2.

12. A list of the statements sent with this is enclosed.

Resolution—dated 5th April 1897, No. 282.

The letter read above contains the proposals of the Collector of Ganjám regarding remissions of assessment, and postponement of collections to be allowed in the three Government taluks of the district on account of the unfavourable character of the season.

2. The proposals regarding rainfed and wet lands are based on the results of a special inspection instituted by the Collector. The original inspection was made by the ordinary revenue, and ten special Inspectors sanctioned in G.O., Mis. No. 5355, dated 26th December 1896, with the aid of a few clerks deputed from the divisional and taluk offices, and their work was over-inspected by Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Stationary Sub-Magistrates under the supervision of the Collector. The inspection, so far as it went, was conducted in as careful and thorough a manner as practicable, and the results thereof are fully recorded in the statements which accompany the Collector's report. The paddy crop in some villages of the Berhampur and Goomsur taluks, however, had been cut before inspection, but the outturns in these cases were estimated by local inquiry and with reference to the quantity of paddy on the threshing floor.

3. As regards dry crops, none of them were inspected, as they had been cut and removed long before inspection was begun; and the Collector considers that no case for dry remissions can be made out in any part of the district. He states that "the early dry crop was an average one nearly everywhere and in some parts of the district even more than average;" and that though "the late dry crops, notably horse-gram, did very badly in parts, such crops were not in large tracts, and some of them were second crops." The only officer who recommends dry remission is the Tahsildar of Berhampur; and he has furnished a statement showing the cultivation and outturn of dry crops in his taluk; but the Collector states that these statistics are entirely unreliable as they are based not on any inspection performed when the crops were on the ground but on estimates subsequently made by karnams.

4. The only concession which the Collector considers necessary in respect of dry lands, is to postpone the collection of the third and fourth kists on such lands in the Palatalagam khandam of the Chicacole taluk, and the second and third kists in all the villages of the Berhampur and Goomsur taluks, where 50 per cent. of the cultivated wet and rainfed area yielded a crop of less than 4 annas. In the circumstances explained by the Collector, the Board accepts his view that there is no necessity for granting dry remission. As regards the proposed postponement of collections, he is requested to state whether the postponement is to be made only up to the jamabandi or to the next fasli and to report the probable amount of revenue involved.

5. As regards wet lands the Collector proposes to grant full remission on all wet, with an outturn of two annas and under, and on all waste. This proposal which is in accordance with the concession sanctioned in the famine year 1889 is approved. The following are the particulars of the occupation and cultivation of wet lands in the three taluks:—

	Acs.	Rs.
Total wet	160,663	5,17,768
(1) Mamul waste	1,447	3,763
(2) Other waste	1,351	3,296
(3) Shavi	32,579	92,105
(4) One-anna crop and less	17,887	54,469
(5) One to 2-anna crop	13,263	38,914
(6) Two to 4 annas	12,816	38,829
(7) Above 4 annas	81,321	2,86,101

The total amount of remission according to the Collector's proposal comes to Rs. 1,92,837. This amount includes the remission to be granted on the wet lands in

certain unsurveyed and unsettled villages in the Goomsur taluk which the Collector would treat, as in 1889, like wet in surveyed and settled villages for purposes of remission as the assessment in the villages is very low.

6. As regards rainfed or manavari lands, the Board in reviewing the Collector's proposals for remission in the famine year 1889, observed, in its Proceedings, No. 227,* dated 7th May 1889, that manavari lands "fall under the rules relating to remissions on unirrigated lands in exceptional circumstances;" that "if the manavari dry lands are entitled to consideration, the ordinary dry lands in the same tracts must be acknowledged to be so also," and that "if, on the other hand, the ordinary dry lands are not considered to deserve any consideration, no remission should be granted on (manavari) rainfed dry lands in the same tracts." Referring to these observations, the Collector states that there is an essential difference between the ordinary dry lands and rainfed lands in his district; that this difference has been recognised in fixing different water-rates for dry crops and rainfed paddy under the Rushikulya project; that the great bulk of the dry crop in the district is an early crop which ripens at the end of the south-west monsoon, while the rainfed paddy ripens from six weeks to two months later and requires the help of the north-east monsoon rains; and that in this year the early dry crops yielded an average crop, while owing to the total failure of north-east monsoon, the rainfed crops suffered totally or partly everywhere. For these reasons the Collector recommends that in all villages where 50 per cent. of rainfed paddy was less than 6-anna crop, percentage remission should be given without reference to the extent of dry crop or its outturn. He proposes accordingly full remission for waste and shavi, including, under the latter head, a crop of one anna and less, and percentage remission for partial loss of crop on the following scale:—

(1) Crop between 1 and 2 annas ... ... 85 per cent.
(2) Do. 2 and 4 annas ... ... 50 „
(3) Do. 4 and 6 annas ... ... 25 „

* G.O., No. 398, dated 18th May 1889.

This scale has been adopted by the Collector with reference to paragraph 4 of B.P., dated 28th August 1896, No. 327 (G.O., No. 514, dated 8th October 1896). Apparently the above items 1, 2 and 3 include respectively a 2-anna, a 4-anna and a 6-anna crop also.

7. The following are the particulars of the rainfed area in the three taluks:—

	Area. Acs.	Assessment. Rs.
Total occupation	57,722	87,781
(1) Waste (mamul)	954	1,264
(2) do. (due to season)	149	222
(3) Shavi	18,713	29,876
(4) One anna and less	6,798	10,610
(5) One to 2 annas	5,691	8,615
(6) Two to 4 annas	7,340	10,541
(7) Four to 6 annas	3,559	5,491
(8) Above 6 annas	14,520	21,162

The bulk of the rainfed area is in the taluks of Berhampur and Goomsur, the extent in Chicacole being only 468 acres. In regard to usual (mamul) waste, the Collector states that the rule in paragraph 4 (*c*) of B.P., dated 28th August 1896, No. 327, will be followed, that is, that remission thereon will be allowed only where the cultivated lands of individual ryots have yielded less than a 6-anna crop. The Board generally approves the lines on which it is proposed to allow remission on rainfed lands. The figures quoted above have been taken from statement A received with the Collector's letter and refer apparently to the whole of the district and not merely to those villages in which 50 per cent. of the rainfed paddy yielded less than a 6 anna crop and where alone remissions are to be granted. The Collector is requested to report the extent and assessment of lands on which remission is to be allowed at the different rates proposed by him.

8. In a letter * addressed to the Land Revenue Department, the Collector states that if the proposals in the report read above be sanctioned, the total amount of remissions to be granted in the district will be about Rs. 2,50,000. Deducting from this Rs. 1,92,837, which represents the total wet remission above referred to, the balance of Rs. 57,163 would seem to be the total amount of remission proposed to be granted on rainfed lands. This amount being itself slightly in excess of that calculated according to the rates proposed by the Collector on the areas entered against items (1) to (7) in the preceding paragraph, the Board presumes that the actual amount to be remitted will be much less.

* No. 268, dated 15th February 1897.

9. The Collector does not consider that there is any necessity for postponement of kists on wet or rainfed lands. Collections will not be pressed pending jamabandi; but thereafter the unremitted portion of kists on these lands will be collected.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Ganjám, with villagewar statements returned.
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Land Revenue Department.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th April 1897, No. 295 :—

Read—the following letter from K. C. MANAVEDAN RAJA, Esq., Acting Collector of Anantapur, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 2nd March 1897, Ref. on C. No. 3425 :—

I have the honour to submit my proposals for the grant of dry remissions in this district for fasli 1306, together with statements marked A to F showing talukwar particulars of rainfall, supplies to tanks, extent of holding and cultivation, ruling prices and the amounts of remissions involved in the proposals.

2. In my report Dis. No. 4105, dated 9th November last, embodied in B P., dated 19th November 1896, No. 358, I have already dealt with the condition of the district as it stood at the end of October, and have therein furnished statistics of rainfall and progress of cultivation in the several taluks up to that month. Before therefore attempting to deal with the character of the season as it has since developed itself, and its effect on the condition of crops and the outturn thereof, it is well to recapitulate some of the salient points already touched upon in that report.

The district, as is well known, is situated in the very centre of what is called the "famine zone"; even in normal years, there is a characteristic deficiency of rainfall in both the monsoons, which has helped to give it the position of being one of the driest in the Presidency. As already reported, the south-west monsoon opened in the year under report fairly well, and the rainfall at the end of August, though below average, was by no means such as to cause any apprehension of distress or even loss of crop on any extensive scale. The next two months of September and October resulted in sore disappointment to the agriculturists, as not only the fall of rain in these months was considerably below the expected average and less than the quantity registered in any of the previous famine years, excluding 1876, but was distributed so unevenly over different areas of the taluks and came in at such long intervals as to detract greatly from its value either in stimulating the cultivation of waste lands or resuscitating the chief standing crops on the ground which had by that time commenced to wither. The showers, especially in the latter month, seldom exceeded three-fourth of an inch and generally were very insignificant all over the district, with the exception of a few favoured localities in the three southern taluks, and hardly such as to withstand the tropical sun, and sink below the surface of the earth. The early rains, however, led to extensive sowings on the prevailing red-soils of the district—a fact which sufficiently explains the comparative largeness of dry cultivation during the year, a perceptible decrease being only observable in the black-cotton tracts of the

northern taluks. The following figures will contrast the difference between the total cultivation of the current year and the average based on the preceding four years, and also that of fasli 1301 :—

	Total dry first crop cultivated up to the end of January. Acs.
Fasli 1302	878,801
„ 1303	972,002
„ 1304	1,023,686
„ 1305	1,119,602
Total	3,994,091
Fasli 1306	998,522
Average	961,884
Difference	36,638 (or only 3·6 % loss).
Fasli 1301	696,440

3. The progress of the season since November has only served to aggravate the distress of the agricultural population. Neither the waste lands nor the standing crops have been benefited in any measure, by the rains such as have fallen since then. Between the 27th of October and the 18th of November, not a drop of rain fell in any part of the district, and when the rains did actually set in in the end of November, it was generally found that the rainfall was neither copious nor seasonable. The few light showers that fell towards the close of December were of no consequence. Like the *mungari* falls on the red-soil, these later rains once more stimulated vast sowings, especially in the black-soil tracts, which are generally brought under cultivation by the aid of the latter monsoon, and only led to wastage of a large quantity of seed and labour, which could have otherwise been a saving to the ryot. These crops, which consisted mostly of white cholum and Bengal-gram, have shared the fate of the earlier ones and have yielded little more than fodder.

4. Enclosure D gives the statistics of monthly rainfall of the several taluks for a series of years, including the famine years of 1876, 1884 and 1891. The total rainfall during the current year in each of the taluks exceeds the quantity registered in each of the previous famine years and would be evidently misleading if taken by itself. On the contrary, the true significance of the failure of both the monsoons will only be apparent when the rainfall of the two monsoons is considered separately. The north-east monsoon, as already observed, was far too late and seriously deficient and scanty. The subjoined table compares the rainfall during this season with that of the two preceding famine years 1884–85 and 1891–92 :—

Taluk.	1876–77.	1884–85.	1891–92.	1896–97.	Average rainfall.
1. Anantapur	0·75	4·97	4·74	2·02	6·82
2. Gooty	1·10	3·41	5·00	2·23	7·00
3. Tadpatri	1·59	4·65	6·83	2·58	7·37
4. Dharmavaram ..	0·85	8·12	3·84	2·80	7·64
5. Penukonda	2·55	8·55	8·02	3·09	9·15
6. Hindupur	0·80	10·52	4·20	2·92	7·85
7. Madakasira	0·80	8·37	4·52	3·75	9·12
8. Kalyandrug	..	..	..	3·05	6·25

It is evident from the above, that the fall during the current year was only a third of the average due and in certain taluks not even one-half of that recorded in the preceding years referred to. A comparison of the totals given in statement D will also disclose that at least in the two northern taluks the rainfall from 1892 has been almost continually deficient; the two central taluks of Anantapur and Dharmavaram had no doubt a slightly greater fall in 1895–96 than Gooty, but in the year

just preceding it, viz., 1894–95, the fall was markedly deficient and approached only that of a distinctly bad year being only 16 and 15 inches, respectively, in round figures. The same remarks apply in a more or less degree to the taluks of Kalyandrug and Penukonda, though at the latter the quantity recorded this year is in excess of the rainfall in any of the five northern taluks. Further in Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug, the rainfall during the year has been the lowest; and considering the nature of the prevailing soils in these taluks, consisting, with some exceptions, of red gravelly lands, stony and poor and mostly fit only for the growth of a mere catch-crop like late horse-gram, it will be manifest that the agricultural distress in these three taluks is nothing less in its intensity than that in the two northern taluks. Besides, the previous history of famines in the district will show that in no case was there such a close succession of adverse seasons as with regard to the current year. The recurring periods of drought were mostly at an interval of a decade or at the worst seven or eight years, but between the present year and 1892, there is but an interval of four years. Some of which as already stated were little better than actual droughts. So far therefore as these five taluks are concerned, it might, I think, be safely affirmed that they have had a succession of bad seasons with slow but gradual deficiency of rainfall, the deficiency at last culminating in the astoundingly low falls registered at each of these stations during the current year. I consider therefore that these five taluks should have a uniform treatment in regard to the grant of dry remissions and that the terms of such grant should, in the peculiar circumstances of the prevailing drought, be more liberal than the concessions allowed in former years.

5. The following statement compares the extent of waste and the proportionate yield on the area cultivated during the year, with that of the preceding famine year 1891–92 :—

Name of the taluk.	Dry holding (fasli 1306). Extent.	Dry holding (fasli 1306). Assessment.	Extent cultivated (fasli 1306).	Proportion of waste to holding. Fasli 1306.	Proportion of waste to holding. Fasli 1301.	Proportion of cultivated area which yielded. Annas 6 and over. Fasli 1306.	Annas 6 and over. Fasli 1301.	Between 4 and 6 annas. Fasli 1306.	Between 4 and 6 annas. Fasli 1301.	Fasli 1306. Between 2 and 4 annas.	Fasli 1306. Between 1 and 2 annas.	Fasli 1306. Total.	Fasli 1301. Between 1 to 4 annas.	*Nil* or total loss. Fasli 1306.	*Nil* or total loss. Fasli 1301.
	ACS.	RS.	ACS.												
1. Gooty	263,106	1,73,904	233,383	11	20	11	18	10	14	16	9	25	32	54	36
2. Tadpatri	165,990	1,34,077	134,904	19	20	13	14	4	16	5	4	9	26	74	44
3. Anantapur ..	211,595	60,427	155,776	27	19	11	13	5	28	23	13	36	40	48	19
4. Kalyandrug ..	183,406	56,507	141,182	23	22	10	13	10	19	25	52	77	40	3	28
5. Dharmavaram ..	134,620	35,553	100,919	25		12		4		23	26	49		35	
Total ..	958,719	4,60,468	766,164	20	20	11	15	7	9	18	21	39	34	44	32
1. Penukonda ..	100,325	28,406	52,052	24	34	32	32	31	35	19	5	24	32	13	1
2. Hindúpur ..	77,975	30,703	52,658	32	38	42	23	6	26	18	8	26	42	26	10
3. Madakasíra ..	81,826	30,266	65,945	20	40	47	24	21	44	14	3	17	26	15	3
Total ..	260,126	89,375	170,655	25	37	40	26	19	35	17	5	22	33	17	16

The above will show that the yield in the five northern taluks, as estimated in the current year, is less than in the preceding famine year 1891–92 (fasli 1301) under almost every heading of outturn. In Hindúpur and Madakasíra, the percentage of crops that yielded more than 6 annas is about twice that of the year above referred to, while in Penukonda it is nearly equal. There is also a marked decrease in the percentage of waste in these three taluks and certain parts of these seem to have fared better than the rest. These three taluks require therefore separate treatment. The accompanying table gives rangewar figures for these taluks.

Statement showing the dry and wet cultivation with the yield thereon in the several ranges of the Hindupur, Madakasira and Penukonda taluks during fasli 1306.

Name of the Ranges.	Holdings. Dry.	Holdings. Wet.	Holdings. Total.	Waste. Dry.	Waste. Wet.	Waste. Total.	Cultivation. Dry.	Cultivation. Wet.	Cultivation. Total.	Cultivation. Percentage of cultivation to holdings.	Extent totally withered. Dry.	Extent totally withered. Wet.	Extent totally withered. Total. Extent.	Extent totally withered. Total. Percentage of cultivation.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.		ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	
Hindupur taluk.														
1. Hindupur range	22,371	8,393	30,764	8,115	1,908	10,023	14,256	6,485	20,741	67·3	875	59	434	2·0
2. Buddali do.	33,833	3,733	37,566	8,623	1,680	10,303	25,210	1,939	27,149	72·2	8,913	476	9,389	24·5
3. Lepakshi do.	21,771	6,225	27,996	8,579	1,254	9,833	13,192	4,971	18,163	64·8	4,485	758	6,243	28·8
Madakasira taluk.														
1. Madakasira range	33,901	3,751	37,652	6,585	390	6,975	24,497	3,173	24,670	65·5	272	18	290	1·1
Topes	..	5,869	36,716	6,776	2,801	9,577	6,819	188	6,007	17·7	..	..	..	..
2. Amarapuram range	30,847	..	..	..	..	..	22,665	2,667	25,332	68·9	8,017	678	8,695	34·3
Topes	..	3,862	20,930	2,520	692	3,212	1,406	401	1,807	5·8	..	..	..	..
3. Ratnagiri range	17,078	..	..	..	..	..	13,932	2,448	16,380	78·2	2,101	298	2,399	14·6
Topes	..	..	..	..	..	..	626	712	1,338	7·8	..	..	..	..
Penukonda taluk.														
1. Bukkapatnam range	100,325	13,615	113,940	48,273	5,762	54,035	22,684	2,116	24,800	50·8	4,135	38	4,173	12·7
2. Penukonda do.							17,836	1,763	19,599		2,359	53	2,412	12·3
3. Roddam do.							11,532	1,966	13,498		172	26	198	1·4

Statement showing the dry and wet cultivation with the yield thereon in the several ranges of the Hindupur, &c., taluks—*cont.*

Name of the Ranges.	Extent yielded less than 2 annas.				Extent yielded less than 6 annas and above 2 annas.				Extent yielded less than 6 annas and above 4 annas.				Extent of dry yielded more than 6 annas.
	Dry.	Wet.	Total.		Dry.	Wet.	Total.		Dry.	Wet.	Total.		
			Extent.	Percentage of cultivation.			Extent.	Percentage of cultivation.			Extent.	Percentage of cultivation.	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.
Hindupur Taluk.													
1. Hindupur range	..	1	1	..	637	15	652	3·1	570	6,410	6,980	33·5	12,674
2. Budduli do.	1,995	28	2,023	7·4	5,169	190	5,349	19·7	2,418	1,246	3,663	13·4	6,725
3. Lepatchi do.	2,247	667	2,914	16·0	4,097	1,408	5,505	30·3	686	2,138	2,824	15·6	1,677
Madakasira Taluk.													
1. Madakasira range	41	..	41	0·1	3,653	11	3,664	18·0	6,203	3,144	9,347	37·0	11,328
Tupes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Amarapuram do.	832	91	923	3·6	2,398	232	2,630	10·3	4,689	1,666	6,355	25·0	6,729
Topes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Ratnagiri do.	1,087	107	1,194	7·2	3,206	125	3,331	20·3	3,087	1,920	5,007	30·5	4,451
Topes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Penukonda Taluk.													
1. Bukkapatnam range	620	24	644	2·5	2,360	62	2,422	9·7	4,420	1,992	6,412	25·8	11,149
2. Penukonda do.	2,111	35	2,146	10·9	1,923	29	1,952	9·9	7,111	1,646	8,757	44·6	4,332
3. Roddam do.	298	17	315	2·3	5,693	391	6,084	45·0	4,488	1,532	6,020	44·6	681

The following villages in the firkas noted against them are also reported to have borne a fair crop during the year:—

Ratnagiri firka (*Madakasira taluk*).

1. Ratnagiri.
2. Kaki.
3. Dodderi.
4. Badgira.
5. Runganahalli.
6. Pilligundla.

Amarapur firka.

1. Malligamadugu.
2. Mandlapalli.
3. Gurigahalli.
4. Byrenahalli.
5. Mallasamudram.
6. Kalvahalli.
7. Badachoragiri.
8. Chickachoragiri.
9. Holtethimmanahalli.
10. Bommagundanahalli.
11. Agraharam.
12. Tirumaladevarahalli.
13. Guddathahalli.
14. Boodihalli.
15. Hireturpi.
16. Karikera.
17. Phalaram.
18. Gudibanda.
19. Mapuragundu.
20. Sivaram.

Bukkapatam firka (*Penukonda taluk*).

1. Kesapuram.
2. Mylasamudram.
3. Sidderamapuram.
4. Kothelachakkapalli.

Subjoined is a table which shows the percentage of inspection by the Revenue Inspectors and Tahsildars and the number of villages where the crops were inspected by the Divisional Officers:—

Name of the taluk.	Percentage of inspection.		Inspection by Divisional Officers.	
	By Revenue Inspectors.	By Tahsildars.	Total number of circar villages in the taluk.	Number of villages in which crops were inspected.
1. Gooty	70	25	143	58
2. Tadpatri	72	The Tahsildar inspected the crops in 59 villages.	92	35
3. Anantapur	69	42	112	46
4. Kalyandrug	81	20	124	45
5. Dharmavaram	77	17	84	13
6. Penukonda	65	50	90	31
7. Hindupur	73	17	78	14
8. Madakasira	85	63	143	5

6. My proposals are therefore as follows:—

(*a*) *For the five northern taluks.*—(1) Full remission may be granted for all waste, total loss and a crop not exceeding 4 annas, and (2) 50 per cent. remission may be allowed for a crop of from 4 to 6 annas.

(*b*) *For the three southern taluks.*—(1) No remission need be granted for the cusba ranges of the Hindupur and Madakasíra taluks and for the tract comprising the 6 (six) villages of the Ratnagiri range of the latter taluk referred to in paragraph 5 *supra*;

(2) I recommend a 25 per cent. remission for all waste, total loss and a crop not exceeding 4 annas in the Roddam range in the Penukonda taluk and in Ratnagiri range of the Madakasíra taluk except in the six and in the twenty villages referred to;

(3) Fifty per cent. remission for all waste, total loss and a crop not exceeding 4 annas in the remaining part of these three taluks and in the four villages of the Bukkapatnam range in paragraph 5 *supra*; and lastly

(4) Seventy-five per cent. remission for all waste, total loss and crop not exceeding 4 annas in the Bakkapatnam range with the exception of the four villages alluded to.

Instructions will be issued to the Jamabandi officers to take into consideration the extent of loss in each village or tract both on dry and on wet lands as required by the rules, and to grant remissions only in deserving cases.

1. Gooty	... ...	1,54,767
2. Tadpatri	... ...	1,17,066
3. Anantapur	... ...	49,442
4. Kalyandrug	... ...	49,660
5. Dharmavaram	... ...	29,331
6. Penukonda	... ...	19,227
7. Hindupur	... ...	8,456
8. Madaksira	... ...	3,855
	Total ...	4,31,804

The marginally-noted figures show the financial effect of the proposals made above as per details given in statement A for each taluk.

7. I must not also omit to mention that in the two years immediately preceding the fasli under report, the season was in no way favourable for wet cultivation. Several irrigation sources in the district received but partial supplies, and large amount of tirvakammi, waste and shavi had to be allowed during these years as shown in statement C.

Statement B shows the talukwar remissions anticipated this year under "wet" and the district total under this head approximates to Rs. 2,16,663. These remissions will be granted in the usual course at the ensuing jamabandi.

8. It only remains for me to consider how far there is necessity for postponing the collection of the dry assessment that becomes chargeable. The facts above stated will, I trust, sufficiently prove the justice of such a measure. The collection of revenue, if insisted on, must lead to the adoption of coercive measures, which to a half-crippled peasant population cannot but mean a serious disaster. In the present state of the season, and with the comparatively high range of prices maintained since the failure of the monsoon, it needs hardly any mention that the ordinary ryot will be wanting the means whereby to pay up the Government kists, since he had by this time sold up his little stocks and is now in great risk of running hopelessly into debt for the sake of maintaining himself and his family. One result, therefore, of any harshness in collection, will be that the ryots' lands will have to be auctioned for arrears of revenue and largely purchased by Government for a nominal value—a step alike condemned by the dictates of sound policy as by the injurious effects it has on the cultivating ryot in involving him in prolonged misery, privation and indebtedness even after he has tided over the present season.

I would, therefore, recommend that the collection of the unremitted portion of the dry assessment including the cesses on the whole dry assessment, except in parts where no remissions are granted, may be postponed till the next fasli. The same concession may also be extended to the holders of (minor dry) inams, though such holders are not entitled to any remissions. These inam lands have fared no better than the Circar lands.

Read—also letter from the Acting Collector of Anantapur, dated 21st March 1897, Ref. on C. No. 3425.

Abstract.—Submitting revised statements A and B and a statement showing the revised figures to be entered for the Penukonda taluk.

Resolution—dated 8th April 1897, No. 295.

In the letters read above, the Collector of Anantapur submits proposals for the grant of dry remissions and suspension of collections in the district rendered necessary by the unfavourable character of the season.

2. The south-west monsoon opened fairly well, and the rainfall up to the end of August, though below average, was not, the Collector says, so low as to give any cause for anxiety; on the other hand the timely rains in May and June encouraged extensive sowings and the moderate rains in July and August contributed to keep up the increase in cultivation in all taluks except Tadpatri. But the months of September and October, which are essentially wet months in the district, brought in such a small quantity of rain, which was even less than that in any of the previous famine years except 1876–77, that not only there was no stimulus for the cultivation of waste lands, but the early crops previously grown suffered generally. At the end of November came some rain, but it was neither copious nor timely. The few light showers which fell in December tended to stimulate vast sowings of the late crops, especially in the black-cotton soils; but these crops, which consisted chiefly of cholam and bengal-gram, also suffered for want of subsequent rains, thus causing wastage of seed and labour, and the yield was little more than fodder. The lateness and scantiness of the north-east monsoon was thus the main cause of the distress. The average rainfall of the monsoon ranges from 6·25 to 9·15 inches in the several taluks, but the fall in 1896–97 was only from 2·02 to 3·75 inches, and was in every taluk far less than in the preceding two famine years, viz., 1884–85 and 1891–92. The Collector states that so far as the five northern taluks are concerned, "it might be safely affirmed that they have had a succession of bad seasons, with slow but gradual deficiency of rainfall, the deficiency at last culminating in the astoundingly low falls" registered at each of the taluks during the current year, and proposes that these five taluks should have a uniform treatment in regard to the grant of remissions; and that the terms of such grant should, in the peculiar circumstances of the prevailing drought, be more liberal than the concessions allowed in former years.

3. The following table shows the total extent of holding, the areas cultivated and left waste and the outturn under each anna-rate for fasli 1306:—

	Total holdings.	Waste.		Cultivation.	Shavi.		2-anna crop and less.		Between 2 and 4.		Between 4 and 6.		Six and above.	
		Area.	Percentage.		Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.
	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.	Acs.		Acs.		Acs.		Acs.		Acs.	
Northern taluks— Gooty, Tadpatri, Anantapur, Dharmavaram, Kalyandrug	958,719	187,807	20	770,912	341,166	44	147,588	20	140,193	18	54,948	7	87,017	11
Southern taluks— Penukonda, Hindúpur, Madakasíra	266,655	73,117	27	193,538	30,938	16	9,214	5	29,876	15	50,776	26	72,734	38
Total ..	1,225,374	260,924	22	964,450	372,104	38	156,802	16	170,069	18	105,724	11	159,751	17

Note.—There is difference under waste and cultivation in the northern taluks between this statement and that given in the statement appended to paragraph 5 of the Collector's report. The latter includes tope lands in all except the Kalyandrug taluk. In this statement, tope lands are included under lands yielding six annas and above. The figures for the southern taluks are the revised figures furnished by the Collector.

The above information is based on the inspection of Revenue Inspectors, as checked by Tahsildars and Divisional Officers. In the five northern taluks, 20 per cent. of the total dry holding was left waste, the proportion being the same as in fasli 1301; while no less than 44 per cent. of the cultivated area sustained a total loss of crop and 20 per cent. more gave a crop of only As. 2 and less. The cultivated area, which yielded As. 6 and above, was only 11 per cent. against 15 per cent. in fasli 1301, while 18 and 7 per cent, respectively, yielded between As. 2 and As. 4 and between As. 4 and As. 6.

In the three southern taluks, the waste amounted to 27 per cent. against 37 per cent. in fasli 1301, and a much larger proportion, viz., 38 per cent. against 26 per cent. in fasli 1301, yielded As. 6 and more, while 26 per cent. gave an outturn of

between As. 4 and As. 6 and 15 per cent. between As. 2 and As. 4, the areas under shavi and under As. 2 and less being 16 and 5 per cents., respectively. Parts of these taluks are also reported to have fared better than the rest. The Collector, therefore, states that these taluks do not require as liberal a treatment as the northern taluks.

4. The Collector proposes for the northern taluks full remission on all waste and total loss and for crop not exceeding As. 4, and 50 per cent. remission on the extent which gave a crop of from As. 4 to As. 6.

5. As regards the southern taluks, the Collector's proposals are worded in the body of the report somewhat obscurely; but the statements forwarded by the Collector make his meaning clear. In paragraph 5 of the report, he gives a list of the villages which are reported to "have borne a fair crop during the year;" of these six are in the Ratnagiri firka, and twenty in the Amarapuram firka of the Madakasíra taluk, and the remaining four in the Bukkapatnam firka of the Penukonda taluk. The Collector states that no remission need be granted for the head-quarter ranges of Hindúpur and Madakasíra taluks; nor for the six villages of the Ratnagiri range of the latter taluk above referred to. For the rest of the tract, remission is recommended for waste, total loss of crop and for crop not exceeding As. 4, at 25 per cent. in the Roddam range of Penukonda, in the remaining portion of the Ratnagiri range of Madakasíra, that is, excluding the six villages mentioned above and in the twenty villages of the Amarapuram range; at 75 per cent. in the Bukkapatnam range of the Penukonda taluk except the four villages above referred to; and at 50 per cent. in all other parts of the tract.

The proposals in regard to the three southern taluks will be seen in one view in the subjoined statement:—

Name of taluk.	Name of firka.	Total dry. Ayaout.	Total dry. Assessment.	Extent for which remission is recommended.	Percentage remissions recommended. *	Amount of remission.
		Acs.	Rs.	Acs.		Rs.
Penukonda ..	Bukkapatnam	33,839	11,779	17,704	4 villages 50 per cent. Rest 75 per cent.	125
	Penukonda	26,745	8,064	15,319	50 per cent.	3,702
	Roddam	46,270	10,769	19,409	25 per cent.	2,143
Hindúpur ..	Hindúpur	22,371	9,002	..	No remissions.	1,118
	Baddalier Hodi Honda ..	33,833	13,805	24,690	50 per cent.	..
	Lepatchi	21,771	7,896	19,408	50 percent.	5,121
Madakasíra ..	Madakasíra	33,901	11,560	..	No remissions.	3,335
	Amarapuram	30,847	11,385	18,023	20 villages 25 per cent. Rest 50 per cent.	..
	Ratnagiri	17,078	9,371	6 villages Rest 8,914	No remissions. 25 per cent.	240 2,775
						840

* In respect of all waste, shavi and crops not exceeding As. 4.

No remission is proposed in the case of lands which have yielded between As. 4 and As. 6.

6. The total amount of dry remission recommended by the Collector comes to Rs. 4,18,533, of which Rs. 3,99,134 appertain to the northern taluks and the remaining Rs. 19,399 to the southern taluks as shown below:—

Items.	Area.	Assessment.	Remission.
	Cs.	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Taluks—			
1. Waste	187,807	66,191	66,191
2. Shavi	341,166	2,17,812	2,17,81
3. Crop of 4 annas and less	287,781	1,03,504	1,03,504
4. Crop from 4 to 6 annas	54,948	23,296	11,627
Total ..	871,702	4,10,803	3,99,134
Southern Taluk	...	..	19,399

7. The areas and assessment of the tracts for which remission is proposed in the southern taluks under the several items are not clearly ascertainable from the Collector's report. Of the amount of remission above referred to, Rs. 13,499 relate to tracts for which 50 per cent. remission has been recommended, and Rs. 2,198 and Rs. 3,702 to those for which 25 and 75 per cent. remission, respectively, has been proposed. The marginal figures show the amount of dry remission proposed for the several taluks.

	Rs.
1. Gooty	1,54,767
2. Tadpatri	1,17,066
3. Anantapur	49,442
4. Kalyandrug ... ... *	48,528
5. Dharmavaram	29,331
6. Penukonda	7,088
7. Hindupur	8,456
8. Madakasíra	3,855
Total ...	4,18,533

* This is exclusive of Rs. 1,132 relating to tope lands incorrectly included in waste in the Collector's statement against Kalyandrug.

8. The Collector's proposals regarding the northern taluks are similar to those made in fasli 1301, but the Board then considered that it would suffice to grant full remission on waste and shavi, and 50 per cent. remission on lands which yielded less than a four-anna crop. Considering, however, that the present scarcity has followed so closely on the last one, and that the season this year was worse than in fasli 1301, the Board concurs in the Collector's opinion that the taluks in question deserve a more liberal treatment. In the adjoining district of Bellary, the Board has sanctioned full remission for waste and for tracts in which the crops entirely failed or yielded not more than 2 annas, 50 per cent. remission in tracts on which the yield is estimated at from 2 to 4 annas and 25 per cent. remission in tracts where the yield is between 4 and 6 annas. The Board considers that the same scale should be adopted in Anantapur. From the statements forwarded by the Collector, it would appear that he contemplates granting full remission in respect of waste and shavi in all the affected areas; but this is opposed to the rules in force on the subject. Dry remission being granted as a matter of grace, it is granted with reference not to the yield of individual fields, but to the average yield of affected tracts. No remission on waste or shavi should be allowed in tracts in which the average yield has been estimated to be fair, *i.e.*, to be 6 annas and over. In tracts where the yield is less and where in consequence a certain percentage of the dry assessment is proposed to be remitted, it is usual to remit the full assessment on lands left waste, with the restriction that where the cultivated lands of individual ryots have yielded a 6-anna crop or more the assessment on only such waste as is not usually left fallow or reserved for pasture is remitted, but in respect of all cultivated lands, the percentage remission fixed for the tract should alone be allowed, whatever may be the yield of the individual fields comprised therein. The Collector is requested to issue orders accordingly.

With regard to the southern taluks, the Collector proposes to allow certain percentage remissions varying from 25 to 75 per cent. in respect of tracts which have yielded not more than 4 annas. As these taluks were on the whole much better off than the rest of the district, the Collector's proposals are approved, with the modification that in the Bukkapatnam range (excluding four villages) of the Penukonda taluk only 50 per cent. remission should be granted for tracts which yielded between 2 and 4 annas, instead of 75 per cent. as recommended by the Collector, the former being the rate sanctioned above for similar tracts in the northern taluks. As observed above, lands left waste in these tracts should be allowed full remission, the percentage remission being applied only to cultivated lands.

There are no sufficient data for estimating the amount of remissions according to the modifications made by the Board; and the Collector will be requested to furnish the same as soon as practicable.

9. As regards suspension of revenue, the Collector recommends that, in tracts in which dry remissions are granted, the collection of the unremitted portion of the dry assessment, including the cesses on the whole dry assessment, may be postponed till next fasli; and that the concession may be extended to the holders of minor dry inams, as these inam lands have fared no better than Government lands. The Collector's proposals are approved and will be submitted for the sanction of Government. In other

cases, the Collector may use his discretion and allow suspension in individual cases in which the collection of the demand may cause hardship to the ryot. This indulgence may be extended to minor dry inams (*vide* G.O., No. 367, dated 25th March 1885.

10. In granting the remissions above referred to, jamabandi officers should be guided by the instructions contained in paragraph 7 of B.P., dated 19th April 1892, No. 303.

11. The Collector estimates the total amount of wet remission for the district at Rs. 2,16,663.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Anantapur.
Copy to Land Revenue Department.
„ all other Collectors.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 28th April 1897, No. 323:—

Read—the following letter from H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 16th March 1897, Ref. on Cur. No. 807:—

With reference to paragraph 5 of B.P., dated the 18th December 1896, No. 448, and to the Proceedings noted in the margin, I have the honour to submit, for the orders of the Board and Government, the following proposals for the remission and suspension of the collection of assessment on dry lands in the four taluks comprising the Head Assistant Collector's division. Mr. Spencer's report is submitted in original. Proposals in regard to other divisions have just been received and are being checked in my office. As the jamabandi of Harpanahalli has already commenced and that of Kúdligi and Hospet will shortly begin, I request that early orders may be passed on the papers now submitted.

B.P., dated 31st December 1896, No. 472, Settlement.
B.P., dated 25th January 1897, No. 61, Settlement.
B.P., dated 3rd February 1897, No. 94, Settlement.

2. In 1888, the Government observed that the districts of Bellary and Anantapur "are the poorest and most backward in the Presidency, the most sterile and the most subject to drought; the ryots pay the present revenue with difficulty; they have as yet far from fully recovered from the famine, and to impose upon them largely increased burthens will certainly check, if not entirely arrest, their progress." I beg that this description of the district may be borne in mind in considering my proposals, which, I venture to think, are by no means unduly favourable to the ryot. I would also take this opportunity of deprecating the distinction which is made between wet and dry lands in respect of remission and to the *dictum* that "dry lands are settled with special reference to bad seasons." It is true that a deduction of 25 per cent. of the gross produce is made "for vicissitudes of the season," but a similar deduction is made in the case of wet lands also. Moreover this deduction is made not solely for seasonal vicissitudes but on account of stony and barren patches in the field, and for customary fallows and on both accounts dry land requires more consideration than wet land, but does not get it. When, therefore, the rains fail and crops are lost the owner of dry land has as strong and equitable a claim to remission as the owner of wet.

G.O., No. 731, Revenue, dated 23rd October 1888, and B.P., dated 24th October 1888, No. 591, Settlement.

3. I now proceed to give the information required by the Board in paragraph 5 of its Proceedings, dated 18th December 1896, No. 448. The following statement gives the rainfall statistics for the four taluks:—

—	1876–77.	1884–85.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	Average.
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
Hospet—									
South-west monsoon	9·35	11·40	16·43	23·93	30·84	21·75	19·93	11·65	19·52
North-east do.	0·72	8·55	4·00	5 97	13·52	5·24	7·30	0·66	7·34
Total ..	10·07	19·95	20·43	29·90	44·36	26·99	27·23	12·31	26·86
Kúdligi—									
South-west monsoon	11·37	5·40	6·15	26·24	27·64	15·63	31·78	10·28	17·34
North-east do.	..	9·85	3·45	5 23	15·31	6·17	8·49	1·39	6·75
Total ..	11·37	15·25	9·60	31·47	42·95	21·80	40·27	11·67	24·09
Harpanahalli—									
South-west monsoon	7·75	6·32	6·92	18·67	23·32	15·86	16·85	19·34	16·15
North-east do.	1·70	5·45	3·60	8·35	11·76	6·00	5·63	3·47	7·16
Total ..	9·45	11·77	10·52	27·02	35·08	21·86	22·48	22·81	23·31
Hadagalli—									
South-west monsoon	5·14	4·79	4·22	20·90	11·05	10·29	16·05	9·61	14·59
North-east do.	0·85	3·40	2·83	3·73	9·12	7·21	3·56	2·84	6·38
Total ..	5·99	8·19	7·05	24·63	20·17	17·50	19·61	12·45	20·97

If the south-west monsoon in Harpanahalli be accepted, it will be found that there has been a general deficiency of rain all over the four taluks. Kúdligi is as bad now as in the great famine year 1876–77, and Hospet is not much better. In Hadagalli, the deficiency as compared with the average rainfall is very great. The cultivation statistics are no less unfavourable—*vide* statement given below:—

Taluks.	Total from April 1896 up to the end of January 1897.						Total of the previous year for the corresponding periods.	
	First crop.		Second crop.		Total.		First crop.	
	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Adóni	309,044	1,814	39,378	188	348,412	2,002	320,269	2,388
Alúr	261,218	11	28,779	..	289,997	11	333,152	358
Bellary	308,663	4,127	15,395	290	324,058	4,417	452,046	4,349
Bayadrug	171,061	8,517	5,516	3,788	176,577	12,305	218,986	9,229
Hospet	64,742	13,584	617	513	65,359	14,097	109.251	14,928
Kúdligi	159,077	4,707	295	125	159,372	4,832	169,344	5,483
Harpanahalli	195,013	3,548	3,258	1,108	198,271	4,656	195,211	3,522
Hadagalli	233,357	1,248	1,681	119	235,038	1,367	244,377	883
Total ..	1,702,165	37,556	94,919	6,131	1,797,084	43,687	2,042,636	41,140

Taluks.	Total of the previous year for the corresponding periods—*cont.*				Average of previous 5 years including last year.					
	Second crop.		Total.		First crop.		Second crop.		Total.	
	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Adóni	9 576	498	329,845	2,886	325,398	2,650	6,097	427	331,495	3,077
Alúr	8,228	5	341,380	363	304,267	249	4,474	19	308,741	268
Bellary	6,871	238	458,917	4,587	387,127	4,321	2,713	142	389,840	4.463
Bayadrug	1,505	3,283	220,491	12,512	227,903	9,741	2,067	2,241	229,970	11,982
Hospet	673	305	109,924	15,233	94,811	13,775	571	638	95,382	14,413
Kúdligi	266	118	169,610	5,601	159,563	5,479	238	147	159,801	5,626
Harpanahalli	3,565	221	198,776	3,743	185,986	3,369	1,147	115	187,133	3,484
Hadagalli	663	42	245,040	925	229,397	1,295	585	55	229,982	1,350
Total ..	31,347	4,710	2,073,983	45,850	1,914,452	40,879	17,892	3,784	1,932,344	44,663

In Harpanahalli the extent of cultivation is rather above the average, but in the remaining three taluks it is much below the figures of last year, the deficiency in Hospet being no less than 34,000 acres. The following statement shows the waste, the extent to which the crops failed and the acres on which there was some yield.

Statement B.

Revised statement showing the particulars of dry holdings and cultivation—Bellary district.

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and revenue for fasli 1305.				Particulars of holdings and cultivation current fasli.										Remarks.
	Dry holdings.		Total revenue dry, wet and miscellaneous.	Dry holdings in affected villages.	Yield 6 annas and over.		Between 4 and 6 annas.		Between 2 and 4 annas.		Waste.		Actual cultivation excluding topes, &c.		
	Extent.	Assessment.		Extent.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	
1	2	3	4	5	6		7		8		9		10		
	Acs.	Rs.	Rs.	Acs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	
Hospet ..	86,974	39,687	1,75,973	84,675	..	..	1,971	939	7,448	4,135	32,799	14,110	50,174	23,415	Ryotwar.
Kúdligi ..	169,731	76,671	1,19,172	166,079	493	761	25,363	13,709	69,305	28,069	9,964		136,626	61,708	
Harpanahalli ..	185,232	1,05,975	1,34,214	35,271	..	..	3,373	1,588	23,026	14,333	1,553	775	33,426	19,142	
Hadagalli ..	213,611	1,26,632	1,62,103	109,165	6,558	3,405	66,666	30,189	16,806	13,722	12,676	7,496	95,279	51,647	
Total ..	655,548	3,48,865	5,81,462	396,180	7,051	4,156	97,373	46,425	116,585	60,259	73,591	32,345	315,405	1,55,812	
Hospet ..					..	..	67	58	389	465	951	529	2,575	1,616	Inams whose quit-rent is equal to assessment.
Kudligi ..					..	..	267	201	558	410	866	257	1,300	932	
Harpanahalli ..					..	..	8	5	91	83	21	13	116	100	
Hadagalli ..					39	86	1,182	910	269	262	213	153	1,608	1,327	
Total ..					39	36	1,514	1,174	1,307	1,220	1,641	952	5,599	4,025	
Hospet ..				4,910	..	..	114	46	1,117	254	1,685	614	3,184	998	Unauthorised cultivation.
Kúdligi ..				10,197	..	..	1,290	473	3,353	963	1,240	400	8,810	2,632	
Harpanahalli ..				263	..	..	71	31	109	43	44	17	217	87	
Hadagalli ..				2,317	70	12	1,304	357	802	196	155	52	2,181	568	
Total ..				17,707	70	12	2,779	907	5,381	1,456	3,124	1,083	14,392	4,285	
Hospet ..	86,974	39,687	1,75,973	93,203	..	..	2,152	1,043	8,954	4,854	35,436	15,253	65,933	26,029	Total.
Kúdligi ..	169,731	76,671	1,19,172	178,013	493	751	26,910	14,383	73,216	29,442	10,621	146,636	65,322		
Harpanahalli ..	185,232	1,05,975	1,34,214	35,671	..	..	3,462	1,624	23,226	14,469	1,618	805	33,759	19,329	
Hadagalli ..	213,611	1,26,632	1,62,103	113,325	6,667	3,453	69,152	31,456	17,877	14,180	12,944	7,701	99,068	53,442	
Grand Total ..	655,548	3,48,865	5,81,462	420,212	7,160	4,204	101,666	48,506	123,273	62,935	78,256	34,380	336,396	1,64,122	

Sketches illustrating the several rates of yield are enclosed.

4. The above statement is mainly based upon the inspections of Messrs. Spencer and Lloyd, both of whom have seen the worst part of the affected tracts and a great deal of the rest, and their estimates may be accepted. I joined the district too late to make any inspection of crops myself. The notes of inspection recorded by Mr. Lloyd are enclosed for the Board's information.

5. It will be seen that there has been widespread loss of crop, and that only on a relatively small area was any appreciable yield obtained. My proposals for dealing with this failure of the harvests from the fiscal point of view are briefly as follow:—

(*a*) That no concessions be granted in respect of dry lands where the yield of both Mungari and Hingari crop is As. 6 or above.

(*b*) That the dry assessment be remitted altogether on lands which have yielded As. 2 or less and also on all waste in villages where dry remissions are allowed.

(*c*) That where the yield is between As. 2 and 6, the collection of assessment be suspended till next year, subject to the conditions mentioned in paragraph 8 of B.P., dated 7th April 1892, No. 275, viz., that if the next monsoon be generally favourable the demand should be collected and that if unfavourable in any tract it might in that tract be remitted.

(*d*) That lands cultivated without authority and not objected to by the Jamabandi or Divisional Officer and inam lands charged with full assessment or with quit-rent or jodi equal to or more than the full assessment be treated in this matter like the ryotwar land.

(*e*) That the Collector be invested with discretion to suspend the collection of the demand in individual cases, not falling within the above category, where such collection would cause considerable hardship.

These proposals are, it will be seen, identical with those sanctioned for fasli 1301, and as they worked well then, there is no reason why they should not be equally successful this year also. It is granted on all hands that a crop of As. 2 and less may be taken as total failure (*vide* paragraph 2 of B.P., No. 472), and the remission of the full assessment on such lands in a bad season has never been refused hitherto. As regards lands where the yield is from As. 2 to 6, it must be noted that the estimates of outturn in terms of As. 3, 4, 5, 6 vary with each inspecting officer and can seldom be depended upon, and I have, therefore, not adopted Mr. Campbell's proposal to make a distinction between lands yielding As. 4 and 6. And while I am strongly opposed to pressing the ryot pay when he has not the means I fully accept the view that revenue should not be unnecessarily foregone. In paragraph 9 of G.O., No. 758, Revenue, dated 29th December 1896, the Government has asked the Board to consider whether sufficient relief may not be given to the ryots by postponements of collections rather than by the grant of remissions, and I think the past experience of this district favours the Government view. In fasli 1302, the arrear demand was Rs. 3,60,271, the collection of which had been suspended from fasli 1301. The current demand was Rs. 16,76,117 and of the total of over twenty lakhs, only Rs. 538 had to be written off, the balance at the end of the year being Rs. 74,725. In proposing suspension of revenue Mr. Campbell took As. 4 as the limit, being of opinion that a ryot could by availing himself of the high prices and selling a small amount of grain, easily pay up the Government dues. Things have changed for the worse since, and judging from the large number of people that are resorting to the relief works in the eastern taluks and from special reports on the western taluks, and also from the gradually diminishing exports increasing imports of grain, I fear that the stocks are falling low and that the resources of the poorer ryots are either exhausted or are fast drying up. In these circumstances, I would fix the limit at 6 annas which represents half an average outturn.

6. According to my proposals set forth above, the amounts to be remitted and suspended will be as follows:—

	Remissions.			Suspension.
	Waste.	2 annas and below.	Total.	Between 2 and 6 annas.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Hospet	15,253	20,132	35,385	5,883
Kádligi	10,621	20,746	31,367	43,211
Harpanahalli	805	3,246	4,051	15,862
Hadagalli	7,701	4,353	12,054	45,431
Total ..	34,380	48,477	* 82,857	1,10,387

* Includes Rs. 1,480 increment remission which must be excluded.

Detailed statistics for each class of holding are given in the statement appended to this report.

7. In the above proposals the village has been taken as the unit according to its average yield except in eleven cases where portions of villages have been taken as units, the tracts being so well defined as to admit of differentiation.

8. Dry lands protected by wells or channels will be excluded from remission.

9. No statistics of wet remission have yet been compiled but the estimated amount for this division is Rs. 40,000.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT showing the details of each class of holdings.

Taluka.	Particulars of holdings and cultivation.						Total remission, columns 3 and 7.	Deduct increment remission.	Net remission.	Amount to be suspended.	Deduct increment.	Net assessment to be suspended.	Remarks.
	Waste.		Between two and six annas.		Two annas and below, including total loss.								
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Acs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Hospet	32,799	14,110	9,419	5,074	40,755	18,341	32,451	736	31,715	5,074	14	5,060	Ryotwar.
Kádligi	26,663	9,964	94,668	41,778	41,365	19,179	29,143	604	28,539	41,778	614	41,164	
Harpanahalli ..	1,553	775	26,399	15,921	7,027	3,221	3,996	106	3,890	15,921	221	15,700	
Hadagalli	12,576	7,496	83,472	43,911	5,249	4,231	11,727	34	11,693	43,911	205	43,706	
Total ..	73,591	32,345	213,958	1,06,684	94,396	44,972	77,317	1,480	75,837	1,06,684	1,054	1,05,630	
Hospet	951	529	456	523	2,119	1,093	1,622	..	1,622	523	..	523	Inams whose quitrent is equal to assessment.
Kádligi	356	257	815	611	485	371	628	..	628	611	..	611	
Harpanahalli ..	21	13	99	88	17	12	25	..	25	88	..	88	
Hadagalli	213	153	1,451	1,172	118	119	273	..	272	1,172	..	1,172	
Total ..	1,541	902	2,821	2,394	2,739	1,595	2,547	..	2,547	2,394	..	2,394	
Hospet	1,685	614	1,231	300	1,953	698	1,312	..	1,312	300	..	300	Unauthorised cultivation.
Kádligi	1,240	400	4,643	1,436	4,167	1,156	1,596	..	1,596	1,436	..	1,436	
Harpanahalli ..	44	17	180	74	37	13	30	..	30	74	..	74	
Hadagalli	155	52	2,106	553	5	3	55	..	55	553	..	553	
Total ..	3,124	1,083	8,160	2,363	6,162	1,910	2,993	..	2,993	2,363	..	2,363	
Hospet	35,435	15,253	11,106	5,897	44,827	20,132	35,385	736	34,649	5,897	14	5,883	Total.
Kádligi	28,259	10,621	100,126	43,825	46,017	20,746	31,367	604	30,763	43,825	614	43,211	
Harpanahalli ..	1,618	805	26,678	16,083	7,081	3,246	4,051	106	3,945	16,083	221	15,862	
Hadagalli	12,944	7,701	87,029	45,636	5,372	4,353	12,054	34	12,020	45,636	205	45,431	
Grand Total ..	78,256	34,380	224,939	1,11,441	103,297	48,477	82,857	1,480	81,377	1,11,441	1,054	1,10,387	

Enclosure No. 1.

From C. G. SPENCER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated 25th February 1897.

With reference to correspondence ending with your Dis. No. 752, dated 7th February 1897, regarding dry remissions, I have the honour to submit herewith revised statements showing the outturn of crops in the four taluks of my division.

2. The statements received from Tahsildars were found to require modifications and corrections in several particulars. The Hospet, Kúdligi and Harpanahalli statements gave the numbers of acres in each affected village under each class of outturn instead of treating the whole village or tract as a unit and assigning the average outturn for the village or tract to all the cultivation within such limits. The class of some of the villages in Hadagalli taluk had to be altered because I found from my own observation and after consulting Mr. Lloyd, who visited this taluk when the mungari crops were on the ground, that the Tahsildar's crop estimate was, in a few cases, a little excessive. The Hospet statement was received without a map. The statements furnished from the taluk offices have therefore necessarily undergone a considerable amount of re-arrangement and re-tabulation in my office before they could be reduced to the form in which I understand the Board of Revenue require the information. The Hospet statement, the last received, did not arrive till the 21st instant. Hence the few days' delay that has occurred in the submission of my report due in your office by the 22nd February has been entirely unavoidable, for to have submitted the information in the incorrect form in which it was received in this office would have been useless.

3. From what I have seen of the affected villages since I rejoined this division last December I am convinced that the proposal made in paragraph 5 of B.P., No. 472, dated 31st December 1896, to restrict the remission of dry assessment to 25 per cent. on total failure of crops in villages that have fared well in the preceding season would, in a famine year like the present, be a measure both quite insufficient to meet the needs of the situation and productive of such an amount of hardship and suffering as Government would not, I think, readily inflict.

4. The following are a few of the reasons that may be enumerated in support of a lenient policy in dealing with the demands to be made in the current year:—

(1) The loss of crop is general and widespread, and not confined to a few villages or to a few fields in those villages.

(2) Most of the villages affected are purely dry villages and the soil in the north of Kudligi and parts of Hospet and Hadagalli is so stony and poor that even in the best of seasons tenants of small holdings cannot save enough to make provision against a time of scarcity like the present. The holdings especially in Kúdligi are small.

(3) The ryots in this division have hardly any industry or other means of livelihood to depend on besides the crops on their lands. In Kúdligi and Harpanahalli there is a certain quantity of pasture land on which considerable flocks of sheep and goats reared, and these are no doubt a material assistance to the well being of the richer ryots, but in the present year pasture has also failed almost entirely except in the unaffected villages of Harpanahalli taluk. But he would be a bold man who asserted that Bellary compares favourably with other districts in the matter of forest and pasture land. In a country where ryots have to spend money on the purchase of fuel and fodder and wood for domestic purposes, they cannot be expected to make their crops go so far as in a well-wooded country.

(4) Rigid collections of Government dues in a year of adversity affects the poorer class of ryots more severely in proportion than those more well-to-do, because it is common to find the poorer soils on the margin of cultivation occupied by the poorer ryots and the soils nearest the village cultivated by those who have acquired wealth to purchase them, and derived profit from their superior quality.

Thus general sales for arrears of revenue in a year of scarcity tend to put the majority of the fields of the village into the hands of those who are able to tide over the bad season without being sold up. In fact it affords an exemplification of the saying that "to him that hath shall be given."

(5) In the greater part of this division the general condition of the ryots is apparently such that they can last on till the next monsoon without resorting to relief-works, provided that they are not obliged to sell their cattle and the scanty stock of fodder, remaining as the last result of their withered crops which is barely sufficient to keep their cattle alive till June. But if they are forced now to sell their cattle to pay their kists, they will have to part with them at miserably poor prices, and when bad times begin at last to mend they will find themselves in a crippled condition for making a fresh start in life being without oxen to plough or money to purchase seed. Meanwhile, Government will have to support a larger population on the relief-works and the expenses consequent on a famine year will thus be increased under a different head. At present they are reluctant to leave their villages and swell the attendance on distant relief-works being unwilling to entrust their cattle which are to them, as one ryot told me, "as their children," to the tender mercies of strangers.

(6) It is true that none of the taluks in this division fared badly during the three previous faslis. But Bellary is a district with an average rainfall that is always small compared with most districts, and thus it is generally one of the first to suffer in a famine year. There was a fairly large interval between the famine of 1876–77 and 1891–92, but the distress of 1891–92 is quite fresh in the memory of all, and it is doubtful how far the ryots can be said to have recovered from its effects.

(7) In 1891–92 remission for loss of crop seems to have been dealt with by Government in a liberal spirit. The result of 25 per cent. remissions on totally failed lands and nothing elsewhere would, I fear, be considerable disappointment and dissatisfaction, because there is no obvious reason for treating the same ryots differently in similar seasons.

(8) The argument that the ryots who harvested any crop at all will benefit by the high prices that prevail this year in selling their produce does not, I think, hold good with those who reaped a crop under 6 annas in value, for such short crops that barely suffice for purposes of consumption leave nothing to spare for sale.

5. In such a combination of circumstances the least rates of remissions that I can see my way to recommend are these:—

(*a*) Full remission for all cultivation in tracts in which the average outturn is below 2 annas, and waste excluding mamul wastes as rick yards, &c. There is no reason for making a distinction in the case of inams whose quite-rent is equal to assessment of jeroyity lands, or for sivoyjama cultivation, seeing that there was no means of foreseeing, when the lands were first occupied, the disastrous character to the season to follow.

(*b*) In tracts where the average outturn is between 2 to 4 annas all cultivation and waste (excluding mamul wastes) to be given 50 per cent. remission.

(*c*) In tracts where the average outturn is between 4 to 6 annas all cultivation and waste (excluding mamul wastes) to be given 25 per cent. remission.

6. I am naturally not over confident that Government will be prepared to concede anything in the case of villages with an average outturn of over 4 annas, and if it be found impossible to grant any remissions for such lands the question of postponing collections till next year will then have to be considered in the case of some of the poorer villages in Hosaballi firka of Kúdligi taluk. A point worthy of notice in this connection is that as regards outturns, villages have, for purposes of this statement, been classed as units in accordance with the average outturn on the majority of fields therein. In some cases the extent of cultivation with an outturn of 2 to 4 annas and that with an outturn of 4 to 6 annas has been about equal with a slight difference in favour of one class or the other, which is, however, sufficient to turn the balance in favour of the class which preponderates. Thus an instance can easily be imagined in which two adjoining villages with almost equal loss of crops would be placed in two different classes owing to the slight excess in one of the lands with an inferior yield and a slight excess in the other of lands of a better yield. The consequence of granting no remissions for fields with an outturn of over 4 annas would thus be that one village would get half their assessment remitted and the other village which to the outward observe fared not a whit better, would have to pay the whole assessment, a result calculated to excite no little jealousy among the inhabitants of the less favoured village.

7. For purposes of remission each village has been taken, with a few exceptions in Hadagalli taluk, as a unit. In a few villages in Hadagalli taluk and Kothur village in Kúdligi taluk a division has been made into two tracts as there has been a marked difference in their outturn and the tracts are also composed of different soils separated by well-defined limits.

8. My reason for proposing only partial remission for wastes in tracts where the average outturn of cultivation is above 2 annas, is that in all such tracts the extent of cultivation is greater than the waste and there is therefore no reason why in villages where the majority of holdings has been cultivated a portion should be left waste. The excuse cannot be advanced here as in the case of wet lands that water was not available for a particular field. They are all dry lands whose cultivation depends on rain. Partial as the rains have been this year, the rainfall can hardly be supposed to have differed in quantity for different parts of the same village.

To treat adjoining ryots differently when one has cultivated his land and raised a 2 to 4 annas crop and the other has left his field waste through neglect or want of enterprise, giving to the former half remission and to the latter full remission would be a course tending to discourage sowing in a doubtful season, and an unfair advantage for the man who has saved his seed and labour. I am, therefore, inclined to place all the waste in tracts where the cultivated land has yielded some outturn in the same class as the cultivated extent for purposes of remission.

9. As regards suspension of kists, my Tahsildars are not in favour of it. The investment of Divisional Officers and Tahsildars with a discretionary power to relax collections in exceptional instances where the advantage of such a concession is undubitable would, I think, meet all requirements. I would therefore submit that collections of all amounts which cannot be remitted may begin from the 15th March. Postponement to a further date will greatly increase the difficulties in collection and lead to a large number of land sales, besides swelling the list of irrecoverable arrears.

10. Should my proposals sketched in the foregoing paragraphs be approved the details of remission for each taluk will be as below.

11. *Kudligi Taluk.*—The whole of the Hansi and Choranur firkas (with the exception of the marginally-noted villages*) and two villages in Kottur firka, *i.e.*, 41 villages in all, *i.e.*, the whole of the northern and eastern portion of the taluk has been a total failure.

* *Hansi firka.*
Nos. 9, 13, 14, 21, 25 26, 27—7.
Choranur firka.
Nos. 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 45, 93, 96, 94—9.

† 59, 60, 61, 92—4.

All the Hoshalli firka with the exception of 4 † villages, *i.e.*, the whole of the south and south-eastern portion of the taluk and the central portion of the taluk which comprises seven villages in Hansi and nine in Choranur firkas and the west and the south-west portion including several villages in Kottur and a few in Hansi firka have yielded from 2 to 4 annas. The rest of the taluk notably a greater portion of the Kottur firka and three villages in Choranur firka have yielded from 4 to 6 annas and two villages Bauvikallu and Talahalli and a portion of Kottur have yielded a crop of above 6 annas.

This taluk has been thoroughly inspected. Mr. Lloyd, my predecessor, visited a few villages in each firka of the taluk in December. Both the permanent and the present Tahsildar have done a satisfactory amount of sowing and crop inspections in all parts and directions. I have myself seen 42 affected villages in this taluk including parent villages and hamlets in the month of January principally in Hansi and Choranur firkas. Hansi is an exceedingly dry range, but a few villages in Choranur contain tanks which received a little supply of water. The figures for remission in this taluk are—

—	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inam whose quit-rent = assessment.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Full remission for tracts below 2 annas yield	22,456 7 0	1,387 14 0	513 4 9	24,357 9 9
50 per cent. for tracts from 2 to 4 annas	16,108 3 7	577 2 0	246 12 5	16,932 2 0
25 per cent. for tracts from 4 to 6 annas	3,707 2 5	127 4 3	57 15 7	3,892 6 3
Total ..	42,271 13 0	2,092 4 3	818 0 9	45,182 2 0

I am satisfied that the estimate of crops has been fairly made in this taluk. Only I have had to reduce two villages, viz, Halasagaram and Appayyanahalli, where the failure of crops seemed to have been as complete as in any village I have seen, from the class of 2 to 4 annas to under 2 annas. The Revenue Inspector who accompanied me seemed to be of the same opinion and the reason for raising the class of these two villages is not known to me. The above figures do not include the figures for four villages, viz., (1) Kalingeri, (2) Gendinaholi, (3) Amaredivaragudda, (4) Choranur, for which the karnams have not submitted their accounts.

12. *Hadagalli Taluk.*—Only in portions of two villages, viz., Holagondi and Itigi, has there been total failure of crops in this taluk. Seven whole villages and three tracts in three villages in Kadlabal firka, portions of two villages, viz., Sonna and Moregiri in Holagondi firka and five villages (57, 59, 60, 61, 63) in Hire Hadagalli firka have yielded between 2 to 4 annas. The rest of the taluk has yielded above 4 annas. Figures for remission in this taluk are :—

—	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inam whose quit-rent = assessment.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Full remission for tracts below 2 annas yield	5,004 13 1	2 7 0	123 5 3	5,130 9 4
50 per cent. for tracts from 2 to 4 annas	9,069 1 5	110 15 0	156 12 10	9,336 13 3
25 per cent. for tracts from 4 to 6 annas	8,037 5 9	95 13 9	251 12 1	8,384 15 7
Total ..	22,111 4 3	209 3 9	531 14 2	22,852 6 2

I have seen sixteen villages in this taluk in the months of January and February, and Mr. Lloyd, saw more than 25 per cent. in November, when the early crops were standing.

13. *Harpanahalli Taluk.*—In this taluk all the strip of country beginning from Harpanahalli and extending north-west and comprising the six villages of Harpanahalli, Madapur, Kulahalli, Manneracharalvada, Nagati Barapur, Sivalingapahalli, together with Gajapur to the north-east of the taluk have yielded an outturn of 2 to 4 annas.

Another village Musavanakallahalli is also reported to be slightly affected. Its outturn is 4 to 6 annas. The only villages seriously affected are Alalur and Hagamur. Their outturn is below 2 annas.

The figures for remission for this taluk will be—

—	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inam whose quit-rent= assessment.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Full remissions for tracts which yielded below 2 annas.	3,373 13 0	16 5 0	12 13 0	3,402 15 0
50 per cent. for villages whose outturn is from 2 to 4 annas	7,275 1 0	26 7 0	47 8 0	7,349 0 0
25 per cent. for one village whose estimated yield is from 4 to 6 annas	411 14 3	8 9 0	1 6 6	421 13 9
Total ..	11,060 12 3	51 5 0	61 11 6	11,173 12 9

The Tahsildar has excluded from the statement two villages, Kadati and Kunchur, at first reported to be affected, because they are isolated villages which do not form a well-defined tract. The loss of crop in them is reported to be not very great.

I have seen two villages of this taluk, Alalur and Hagamur, and two hamlets of another affected village. Mr. Lloyd inspected Alalur and Harpanahalli.

14. *Hospet Taluk.*—In this taluk, the whole of Daroji firka excluding two villages Ramasagar and Kanni Thinnapur (7 and 9 respectively), all Gadiganur firka, excepting Tumati (34), Malapur (48), Lingadahalli (52), Nagalapur (56) and Papinayakanhalli (69), the whole of Kamalapur firka, excepting Anantanayana Gudi and Nagenahalli (85 and 87) and all the southern portion of Narayandeverkeri firka and the villages of Bupapur (105), Narayanadeverkeri (110), Anapinakata (111) and Venkatapur (112) in the north-west of the taluk have failed totally.

The figures for remissions for this taluk will be—

—	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inams whose quit-rent== assessment.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Below 2 annas (full remissions)	31,217 15 7	1,296 7 0	1,584 3 1	34,099 9 8
2 to 4 annas (50 per cent. remissions)	2,276 5 6	132 8 0	84 1 6	2,492 15 0
4 to 6 ,, (25 ,, ,,)	248 3 0	12 11 9	16 6 3	277 5 0
Total ..	33,742 8 1	1,441 10 9	1,584 10 10	36,868 13 8

Mr. Lloyd made a thorough inspection of Hospet taluk and I have seen a few villages in Daroji firka and in the Antapur valley.

15. The total remission for the whole division is as follows :—

—	Taluks.	Ryotwar.	Sivoyjama.	Inam whose quit-rent== assessment.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Full remission for tracts below 2 annas.	Kúdligi	22,456 7 0	1,387 14 0	513 4 9	24,357 9 9
	Hadagalli	5,004 13 1	2 7 0	123 5 3	5,130 9 4
	Harpanahalli ..	3,373 13 0	16 5 0	12 13 0	3,402 15 0
	Hospet	31,217 15 7	1,296 7 0	1,584 3 1	34,099 9 8
	Total ..	62,053 0 8	2,703 1 0	2,233 10 1	66,989 11 9
50 per cent. for tracts from 2 to 4 annas.	Kúdligi	16,108 3 7	577 2 0	246 12 5	16,932 2 0
	Hadagalli	9,069 1 5	110 15 0	156 12 10	9,336 13 3
	Harpanahalli ..	7,275 1 0	26 7 0	47 8 0	7,349 0 0
	Hospet	2,276 5 6	132 8 0	84 1 6	2,492 15 0
	Total ..	34,728 11 6	847 0 0	535 2 9	36,110 14 3
25 per cent. for tracts from 4 to 6 annas yield.	Kúdligi	3,707 2 5	127 4 3	57 15 7	3,892 6 3
	Hadagalli	8,037 5 9	95 13 9	251 12 1	8,384 15 7
	Harpanahalli ..	411 14 3	8 9 0	1 6 6	421 13 9
	Hospet	248 3 0	12 11 9	16 6 3	277 5 0
	Total ..	12,404 9 5	244 6 9	327 8 5	12,976 8 7
	Grand Total ..	1,09,180 5 7	3,794 7 9	3,096 5 3	1,16,071 2 7

16. The grand total remissions for the four taluks would be approximately Rs. 1,16,071.

This does not include the four villages in Kúdligi taluk whose accounts have not been received. The total remission, including these villages, may be put down in round numbers as Rs. 1,20,000, exclusive of increment remissions. Remissions for wet land have not been provided for here. They will be dealt with at jamabandi according to existing orders. Villagewar statements (will follow) showing the various outturns tractwar for each taluk, together with an abstract for the whole division, are herewith submitted in the form prescribed.

Rough maps for each taluk showing the affected tracts are also submitted herewith. It should be well understood that these plans have reference solely to dry crops and have nothing whatever to do with the outturn from wet lands. I may add that the rainfall figures inserted in the Kúdligi map are obviously inaccurate.

17. I have not submitted the Tahsildar's statements with this report, because, as already stated, the figures were not altogether accurate. If you wish to refer to them for checking my figures, they will be sent at your requisition by return of post.

Read—also the following letter from H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 3rd April 1897, Ref. on C. No. 941 :—

In continuation of my letter, Ref. on C. No. 807, dated 16th March 1897, I have the honour to submit my proposals for the remission and suspension of the collection of assessment on dry lands in the Adóni and Bellary divisions comprising the taluks of Adóni and Alúr, Bellary and Rayadrug.

2. I have explained in paragraphs 2 to 4 of my letter quoted above my reasons for the grant of remissions in this district during the current year and it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here. The proposals formulated in paragraph 5 of that letter also hold good in the case of the four taluks in question.

3. The letters of the Head-quarter Deputy Collector and the Divisional Officer, Adóni, are herewith submitted in original. The large number of people attending the relief-works in Adóni, Alúr and Bellary taluks sufficiently proves the necessity for the grant of remissions and other concessions in those taluks. As regards the Rayadrug taluk which is not so seriously affected as the others, the Divisional Officer has based his recommendations on a careful personal inspection of the villages. As I joined the district only in February, I could not myself make any useful field inspections; but what I have seen and learnt in Bellary and Alúr convince me that the heavy remissions recommended are justified by the failure of the crops. In Adóni the season was less disastrous, and the same degree of concession is not necessary.

4. As regards this taluk, the Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar differ in their proposals, and in their estimates of the outturn of crop in some villages. The Divisional Officer states that he has not been able to personally ascertain the state of things in all the parts of taluk, and his inspection was meagre. He tells me that in his opinion, the Tahsildar has erred on the side of over-estimation yet he takes, in these papers a more favourable view than the Tahsildar. Having regard to the numbers on relief-works in the Adóni taluk I am disposed to think that the Tahsildar's estimate is too high and that more remission and suspension of revenue than he has recommended will be necessary. I have reserved the annual settlement of the taluk for myself and every opportunity will be taken during the jamabandi to make more careful inquiries. In the meanwhile, I have adopted the Tahsildar's figures for purposes of this report.

5. In regard to Bellary taluk also the Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar have some difference of opinion as regards the method of calculating the average outturn of each village. The Tahsildar's calculations are unintelligible and I have adopted the figures of the Divisional Officer.

6. The following statement gives the rainfall statistics of the four taluks :—

Statement showing rainfall during several years shown below.

Name of taluk.	Monsoon.	1876–77.	1884–85.	1891–92.	1892–93	1893–94.	1894–95.	189[illegible]–96.	1896–97.	Average.
Bellary ..	South-west monsoon.	5·85	3·57	6·81	17·66	14·09	11·13	19·45	8·54	12·27
	North-east do.	..	3·34	1 65	7·14	7 66	8·67	10·01	3·94	6·57
	Total ..	5·85	6·91	8·46	24·80	21·75	19·80	29·46	12·48	18·84
Rayadrug.	South-west monsoon.	8·10	4·27	4·67	13·97	12·77	7·59	18·34	14·48	11·62
	North-east do.	0·10	5·70	1·60	3 74	9·76	7·66	6·71	1·34	7·01
	Total ..	8·20	9·97	6·27	17 71	22·53	15·25	25·05	15·82	18·63
Adóni ..	South-west monsoon.	11·15	12·36	11·02	23·53	16·06	25·86	20·05	14·42	21·12
	North-east do.	0 10	3·13	2·28	14·09	5·50	4·23	4·29	1·61	5·98
	Total ..	11·25	15·49	13·30	37·62	21·56	30·09	24·34	16·03	27·10
Alúr ..	South-west monsoon.	5·68	6·83	7·42	17·08	19 89	17·52	17 50	10·59	15·98
	North-east do.	0·12	2·48	2·65	13 02	5·81	6·54	6·43	1·14	6·53
	Total ..	5·80	9·31	10·07	30·10	25·70	24·06	23·93	11·73	22·51

If the south-west monsoon in Rayadrug be expected, it will be seen that even if the two monsoons are viewed separately, there was a general deficiency of rain all over the four taluks as compared with the average of the 25 years. The north-east monsoon was a failure in all the taluks, and there was in consequence a widespread failure of the lingari crop.

7. The statement of cultivation has already been submitted with the letter quoted above. The total dry cultivation in Adóni is 348,412 acres against the five years' average of 331,495; but when the first crop alone is taken into account, it falls much short of the average. In the remaining taluks the deficiency is perceptible, and notably so in Rayadrug where it falls short of the average by 53,393 acres.

8. The following statement shows the waste, the extent to which the crops failed and the areas on which there was some yield.

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and revenue for fasli 1305.			Particulars of holdings and cultivation.					
	Dry holdings.		Total revenue, dry, wet and miscellaneous.	Dry holdings in affected villages.		Waste.		Actual cultivation excluding topes, &c.	
	Extent.	Assessment.		Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.
Adóni	220,134·0	2,01,306 0 0	2,61,402 0 0	96,156·52	85,366 7 0	11,926·72	9,802 10 0	82,743·7	74,746 7 0
Alúr	213,147·0	2,59,127 0 0	3,19,603 0 0	214,676·45	2,61,950 9 0	39,478·92	48,192 4 0	174.275·39	2,12,922 11 0
Bellary	314,147·0	2,62,179 0 0	3,57,423 0 0	306,101·45	2,59,324 4 7	98 251·21	89,687 7 9	206,752·45	1,69,386 7 7
Rayadrug	156,438·0	88,959 0 0	1,52,008 0 0	99,457·0	69,139 0 0	25,341·0	22,957 0 0	72,065·0	45,379 0 0
Total ..	..	..	..	716,391·42	6,76,310 4 7	174,997·85	1,70,639 5 9	535,835·91	5,02,434 9 7
Adóni	..	..	..	4,361·31	3,422 4 0	393·69	304 14 0	3,926·58	3,081 7 0
Alúr	..	..	..	3,166·43	3,758 14 0	167·25	185 0 0	2,999·3	3,573 12 0
Bellary	..	..	..	3,553 51	2,074 14 3	422·93	527 13 0	2,891·90	1,543 2 3
Rayadrug	..	..	..	4,392 0	1,670 0 0	95·0	90 0 0	4,292·0	1,579 0 0
Total ..	..	..	..	15,473·25	10,926 0 3	1,078·87	907 11 0	14,109·51	9,777 5 3
Adóni	..	..	..	514·28	331 11 0	90·45	64 0 0	423·83	267 11 0
Alúr	..	..	..	900 92	951 9 0	171·5	193 12 0	729·87	757 13 0
Bellary	..	..	..	2,947·28	2,121 6 5	1,096·3	911 2 3	1,851·25	1,210 4 2
Rayadrug	..	..	..	27·0	24 0 0	1·0	1 0 0	26·0	23 0 0
Total ..	..	..	..	4,389·48	3,428 10 5	1,358 53	1,169 14 3	3,030·95	2,258 12 2
Adóni	220,134 0	2,01,306 0 0	2,61,402 0 0	101,032·11	89,150 6 0	12,410·86	10,171 8 0	87,093·49	78,095 9 0
Alúr	213,147·0	2,59,127 0 0	3,19,603 0 0	218,743 80	2,66,661 0 0	39,817·22	48,571 0 0	178.004·29	2,17,254 4 0
Bellary	314,147·0	2,62,179 0 0	3,57,423 0 0	312,602 24	2,64.020 9 3	99,770·17	90,926 7 0	211,495·50	1,72.139 14 0
Rayadrug	156,438·0	88,959 0 0	1,52,008 0 0	103,876·0	70,833 0 0	25,437·0	23,048 0 0	76,383·0	46,981 0 0

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and cultivation—*cont.*								Remarks.
	Yield 6 annas and over.		Between 4 and 6 annas		Between 2 and 4 annas.		Below 2 annas including total loss.		
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	
11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	
Adóni	..	..	44,585·15	40,944 15 0	27,182·10	25,396 5 0	10,977 82	8,425 3 0	
Alúr	175·35	243 11 0	..	..	33,294·74	37,362 11 0	140,805 30	1,75,316 5 0	Ryotwar.
Bellary	26,472·37	19,507 5 0	4,545·79	2,332 6 0	13,891·61	8,456 4 0	161,842·68	1,39,090 8 7	
Rayadrug	19,493·0	7,876 0 0	3,048·0	1,112 0 0	3,937·0	1,282 0 0	45,587·0	35,109 0 0	
Total ..	46,141 72	27,627 0 0	52,178·94	44,389 5 0	78,305·45	72,497 4 0	359,212·80	3,57,941 0 7	
Adóni	..	..	2,050·93	1,663 3 0	901·9	750 4 0	972·56	648 0 0	
Alúr	15·72	21 5 0	..	..	199·96	214 11 0	2,783·35	3,337 12 0	Inams whose quit-rent is equal to assessment.
Bellary	67·31	35 10 3	..	..	951·69	375 5 0	1,872·90	1,132 3 0	
Rayadrug	2,944·0	897 0 0	170·0	51 0 0	..	..	1,178·0	631 0 0	
Total ..	3,027·3	953 15 3	2,220·93	1,714 3 0	2,052·74	1,340 4 0	6,806·81	5,748 15 0	
Adóni	..	..	411·89	256 11 0	11·94	11 0 0	..	..	
Alúr	..	..	..	..	36·49	46 15 0	693·38	710 14 0	Unauthorized cultivation.
Bellary	143·46	68 15 0	140·33	80 0 0	..	..	1,567·46	1,061 5 2	
Rayadrug	26·0	23 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total ..	169·46	91 15 0	552·22	336 11 0	48·43	57 15 0	2,260·84	1,772 3 2	
Adóni	..	..	47,047·97	42,864 13 0	28,095·13	26,157 9 0	11,950·38	9,073 3 0	
Alúr	191·7	265 0 0	..	..	33,531·15	37,624 5 0	144,282·3	1,79,364 15 0	Grand Total.
Bellary	26,683·14	19,611 14 3	4,686·12	2,412 6 0	14,843·30	8,831 9 0	165,283·4	1,41,284 0 9	
Rayadrug	22,463·0	8,796 0 0	3,218·0	1,163 0 0	3,937·0	1,282 0 0	46,765·0	35,740 0 0	

9. In the above proposals every village has been taken as the unit according to its average yield. It is only in a few cases of Bellary and Rayadrug taluks that a tract less than a village has been adopted as the unit, the difference in the average yield of crops in those areas being considerable and marked. Sketches showing the tracts which yielded different rates of outturn in each taluk are herewith submitted.

10. According to my proposals, the amounts to be remitted and suspended will be as follows:—

Taluk.	Remission.			Suspension.	Remarks.
	Waste.	2 annas and below.	Total.	Between 2 and 6 annas.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Adóni	10,171	9,073	19,244	69,022	Increment remission, which will be but too little in these taluks, has not been excluded, the figures being not available.
Alúr	48,571	1,79,365	2,27,936	37,624	
Bellary	90,926	1,41,284	2,32,210	11,244	
Rayadrug	23,048	35,740	58,788	2,445	
Total ..	1,72,716	3,65,462	5,38,178	1,20,335	

Detailed statistics for each class of holdings are given in the statement appended to this report.

11. No statistics have been given by the Tahsildars or the Divisional Officers showing roughly the amount of wet remission to be granted.

APPENDIX.

Taluks.	Particulars of holdings and cultivation.										Remarks.
	Waste.		Between 2 and 6 annas.				—	—			
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	2 annas and below including total loss.		Total remission, columns 3 and 7.	Amount to be suspended.			
					Extent.	Assessment.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			10
	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Acs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Adóni	11,926·72	9,802 10 0	71,767·25	66,341 4 0	10,977·82	8,425 3 0	18,227 13 0	66,341 4 0	Ryotwar.		
Alúr	39,478·92	48,192 4 0	33,294·74	37,362 11 0	140,806·30	1,75,316 5 0	2,23,508 9 0	37,362 11 0			
Bellary	98,261·21	89,687 7 9	18,437·40	10,788 10 0	161,842·68	1,39,090 8 7	2,28,778 0 4	10,788 10 0			
Rayadrug	25,341·00	22,957 0 0	6,985·0	2,394 0 0	45,587·00	35,109 0 0	58,066 0 0	2,394 0 0			
Total ..	174,997·85	1,70,639 5 9	130,487·89	1,16,886 9 0	359,212·80	3,57,941 0 7	5,28,580 6 4	1,16,886 9 0			
Adóni	893·69	304 14 0	2,962·02	2,413 7 0	979·56	648 0 0	952 14 0	2,413 7 0	Inams whose quit-rent is equal to assessment.		
Alúr	167·25	185 0 0	199·96	214 11 0	2,783·35	3,337 12 0	3,522 12 0	214 11 0			
Bellary	422·93	327 13 0	951·69	875 5 0	1,872·90	1,132 3 0	1,460 0 0	875 5 0			
Rayadrug	95·00	90 0 0	170·00	61 0 0	1,178·0	631 0 0	721 0 0	61 0 0			
Total ..	1,078 87	907 11 0	4,273·67	3,054 7 0	6,806·81	5,748 15 0	6,656 10 0	3,054 7 0			
Adóni	90·45	64 0 0	423·83	267 11 0	...	...	64 0 0	267 11 0	Unauthorized cultivation.		
Alúr	171·06	193 12 0	36·49	46 15 0	693·38	710 14 0	904 10 0	46 15 0			
Bellary	1,096·03	911 2 3	140·83	80 0 0	1,567·46	1,061 5 2	1,972 7 5	80 0 0			
Rayadrug	1·00	1 0 0	..	..	..	..	1 0 0	..			
Total ..	1,358·63	1,169 14 3	600·65	394 10 0	2,260·84	1,772 3 2	2,942 1 5	394 10 0			
Adóni	12,410·86	10,171 8 0	75,143·10	69,022 6 0	11,950·38	9,073 3 0	19,244 11 0	69,022 6 0	Total.		
Alúr	39,817·23	48,571 0 0	33,531·19	37,624 5 0	144,282·03	1,79,364 15 0	2,27,936 15 0	37,624 5 0			
Bellary	99,770·17	90,926 7 0	19,529·42	11,243 15 0	165,283·04	1,41,284 0 9	2,32,210 7 9	11,243 15 0			
Rayadrug	25,437·0	23,048 0 0	7,156·00	2,445 0 0	46,766·00	35,740 0 0	58,788 0 0	2,445 0 0			

Resolution—dated 28th April 1897, No. 323.

The Collector of Bellary submits, with his first letter read above, proposals for dry remissions and for postponement of collections in the Head Assistant Collector's division, and with the second letter, similar proposals for the taluks comprised in the Bellary and Adóni divisions. The reports of the Divisional Officers accompany the Collector's letters.

2. The average rainfall of the district is 22·74 inches; but the total fall during the year 1896–97 amounted to only 14·41 inches or about 36·77 per cent. less. There was a deficiency in both the monsoons except in Rayadrug and Harpanahalli where the south-west monsoon gave more than the average rainfall, but it was followed by a deficient north-east monsoon. The season in Kúdligi was nearly as bad as in the great famine year 1876–77, and in Hospet it was not much better.

3. The extensive failure of crops throughout the district was, however, due not so much to the shortness of the total rainfall as to its uneven distribution. The rainfall up to August was nearly equal to the average, and this stimulated large sowings of dry crops in all the taluks. In Hadagalli and Harpanahalli the cultivated area was more than the average and not far below that in the previous year; in Kúdligi it was about equal to the average though less than that in the previous year by about 10,000 acres, while in Adóni, it was only about 5 per cent. less than the average. In the other four taluks, the total dry cultivation was from 14 to 31 per cent. less than the average. Taking the district as a whole, the extent of cultivation was only about 11 per cent. less than the average, but the outturn was most seriously affected by the extremely short rainfall in the months of September and October. In November, there was a fair rainfall which was above average and much black cotton soil in the eastern taluks of the district was sown, but owing to the absence of rain in the subsequent months, the yield was practically *nil*.

4. The following statement shows particulars of the total dry holding in the affected villages including unauthorised cultivation and minor inams paying quit-rents equal to assessment, which are included by the Collector in his proposals for remission and suspension of revenue:—

Taluk.	Total dry holding.	Waste.		Cultivation excluding topes, &c.	2 annas and less including total loss.	
		Area.	Percentage.		Area.	Percentage.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Acs.	Acs.		Acs.	Acs.	
1. Hospet	93,203	35,435	38	56,933	44,827	80
2. Kúdligi	178,013	28,259	16	146,636	46,017	31
3. Harpanahalli	35,671	1,618	5	33,759	7,081	21
4. Hadagalli	113,325	12,944	11	99,068	5,872	5
Total	420,212	78,256	19	335,396	103,297	31
5. Adóni	101,032	12,412	12	87,093	11,950	54
6. Alúr	218,743	39,817	18	178,004	144,282	81
7. Bellary	312,601	99,770	32	211,495	165,283	78
8. Rayadrug	103,876	25,437	25	76,383	46,765	62
Total	736,252	177,436	24	552,975	368,280	67
Grand Total	1,156,464	255,692	22	888,371	471,577	53

Taluk.	2 to 4 annas.		4 to 6 annas.		6 annas and above.	
	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Acs.		Acs.		Acs.	
1. Hospet	8,954	16	2,152	4	..	..
2. Kúdligi	73,216	50	26,910	19	493	..
3. Harpanahalli	23,226	69	3,452	10	..	..
4. Hadagalli	17,877	18	69,152	70	6,667	7
Total	123,273	37	101,666	30	7,160	2
5. Adóni	28,095	32	47,048	14	..	..
6. Alúr	33,531	19	..	..	191	..
7. Bellary	14,844	7	4,686	2	26,682	13
8. Rayadrug	3,937	5	3,218	4	22,463	29
Total	80,407	14	54,952	10	49,336	9
Grand Total	203,680	23	156,618	18	56,496	6

Twenty-two per cent. of the total holdings was waste, and only 6 per cent. of the cultivated area yielded a crop of 6 annas and more, while 53, 23 and 18 per cent. yielded, respectively, crops of 2 annas and less including shavi, of 2 to 4 annas and of 4 to 6 annas. No lands in Hospet, Harpanahalli and Adóni yielded a crop of 6 annas and above, while the areas which yielded that outturn were very small in Kúdligi and Alúr. These estimates are for the most part based on the inspection of Divisional Officers except in the case of Alúr and Adóni taluks, where the Divisional Officers' inspection was meagre.

5. Mr. Spencer's report contains a clear and complete account of the tracts affected, and of the degree of distress prevailing in the several taluks of his division. The reports of the other Divisional Officers are not so exhaustive, but they nevertheless give a fair idea of the state of the season and the fate of the crops in their respective divisions; and the Collector states that "the large number of people attending the relief works in Adóni, Alúr and Bellary taluks sufficiently proves the necessity for the grant of remissions and other concessions in those taluks"; and that "as regards the Rayadrug taluk which is not so seriously affected as the others, the Divisional Officer has based his recommendations on a careful personal inspection of the villages."

6. The Collector recommends full remission on lands which have yielded 2 annas and less and on all waste in villages where dry remissions are allowed, and suspension of collections till next fasli where the yield is between 2 and 6 annas, subject to the condition that if the next monsoon also be unfavourable in any of these tracts, the amount suspended therein should be remitted. As already stated, the above concessions are to be extended to unauthorised cultivation not objected to by the Divisional or Jamabandi officer, and to minor inams with quit-rents equal to the assessment. The Collector also proposes that he may be allowed the discretion to suspend the collection of the demand in individual cases not covered by the above proposals.

7. The recommendations above mentioned are almost identical with those sanctioned in fasli 1301, and though, as remarked by Mr. Stuart, they worked well then, the Board doubts whether they go far enough to meet the situation this year.

Only 6 per cent. of the total cultivated area gave a crop of 6 annas and above against 9 per cent in fasli 1301. In the latter fasli, there was a crop of 6 annas and above, more or less in all the taluks, but in the current year there was no such crop in the affected tracts in three out of the eight taluks, while in one other taluk there was practically no yield above 4 annas. In the comparison instituted above, the figures for fasli 1301 have been taken from the appendix to B.P., dated 7th April 1892, No. 275, but these figures, it will be seen, were considered by the Board to have been exaggerated, and the actual state of things was, most likely, better. For fasli 1301, the Collector's

proposals were far more liberal than those ultimately sanctioned by the Board. Full remission was recommended for all waste, for total loss of crop, and crop of less than 2 annas, 75 per cent. remission for a crop of 2 annas, 50 per cent. for crop above 2 and up to 4 annas, and 25 per cent. for crop above 4 but not exceeding 6 annas. The Board, however, considered those recommendations unduly liberal, chiefly on the ground that the tendency of village officers and Revenue Inspectors is to underestimate the yield. The Board also observed that the "circumstances of the district in that year had largely deprived District Officers of the time which might otherwise have been devoted to a systematic inspection of the crops," and that "notwithstanding the large losses reported, the ryots had been able throughout a large part of the district to dispense with all necessity for Government relief." In the present year, however, there is no apprehension of any under-estimate of the crop outturn inasmuch as the attention of the Collector was drawn in time to the necessity for organizing for proper inspection and check, and the Divisional Officers have done good work in the way of inspection except in the case of Adóni division. Moreover, as observed by the Collector, the numbers on relief works clearly point to the necessity for more liberal concessions than in fasli 1301.

In the case of the Adóni taluk, the Collector is not apparently satisfied with the inspection of the Divisional Officer M.R.Ry. S. Ramu Aiyar Avergal, but he has arranged to settle the taluk himself this year, so that there can be no fear that the taluk will derive undue benefit by the application thereto of any general scheme of remissions which may be sanctioned for the whole district.

The average outturn in the present year is as low as in fasli 1301, but the distress has been greater, owing apparently to the fact that the district had had in fasli 1301 a longer interval to recover from the effect of the general distress of fasli 1294, than it has had since fasli 1301. There were no doubt some bad years during the interval between faslis 1294 and 1301, but in those years, only portions of the district were affected.

8. Mr. Spencer, the Head Assistant Collector, a most careful officer, states that the lowest rates of remission he can see his way to recommend, are:—

A. "Full remission for all cultivation in tracts in which the average outturn is below 2 annas and waste (excluding mamul waste as rick yards, &c.)"

B. "In tracts where the average outturn is between 2 to 4 annas, all cultivation and waste (excluding mamul waste) to be given 50 per cent. remission."

C. "In tracts where the average outturn is between 4 to 6 annas, all cultivation and waste (excluding mamul waste) to be given 25 per cent. remission."

These proposals are made in connection with the four taluks constituting the Head Assistant Collector's division, but the facts stated in the Collector's second report and the reports of the Divisional Officers show that the conditions are as unfavourable in the remaining four taluks, and in parts thereof distinctly worse; and the Board sees no reason for treating these two tracts differently.

9. All things considered, the Board would give full remission in tracts in which the crop entirely failed or yielded not more than 2 annas, 50 per cent. remission in tracts in which the yield is estimated at from 2 annas to 4 annas, and 25 per cent. remission where the yield is between 4 and 6 annas. From the estimates given by the Collector of the amount of remissions which will have to be granted if his proposals are approved, it would appear that he contemplates granting full remission in respect of waste in all the affected areas; but this is opposed to the rules in force on the subject. Dry remission being granted as a matter of grace, it is granted with reference, not to the yield of individual fields, but to the average yield of affected tracts. No remission on waste should therefore be allowed in tracts in which the average yield has been estimated to be fair, *i.e.*, to be 6 annas and over; while in tracts where the yield is less and where in consequence a certain percentage of the dry assessment is proposed to be remitted, the full assessment on lands left waste should be remitted and not merely a percentage remission, as proposed by the Head Assistant Collector; with the restriction, however, that where the cultivated lands of the individual owners have yielded 6 annas or more, remission should be granted

on only such waste as is not usually left fallow or reserved for pasture. It is observed that the Head Assistant Collector would exclude mamul waste from remission in *all* cases, but this is going too far. In ordinary seasons, it may be to the advantage of the ryot to leave uncultivated a portion of his holding for the pasturage of his cattle or for other purposes, but in a season such as the present, no such advantage will accrue.

10. The statements received from the Collector do not furnish sufficient data for estimating the amount of remissions according to the modifications ordered by the Board. The Collector will be requested to furnish the same as early as possible.

11. In tracts in which dry remissions are granted, the collection of the unremitted portion of the dry assessment may be postponed till the next fasli as recommended by the Collector. The sanction of Government is requested for this concession.

12. The concessions granted and recommended above are in accordance with the existing orders on the subject, and are the least which, in the Board's opinion, will enable the ryot to pay the Government demand without the application of coercive process. They comply, in fact, with the *dictum* laid down in regard to that matter by the Famine Commissioners.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Bellary.

Copy to Land Revenue Department..
„ all other Collectors.

Read—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 12th May 1897, Mis. No. 3350.

Abstract.—Submitting to Government with remarks letter from the Collector of Bellary requesting to move Government to pass early orders on Board's Proceedings, No. 323, dated 28th April 1897, regarding the grant of dry remissions in the Bellary district.

Order—No. 442, Revenue, dated 5th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Government accepts the Board's instructions for the grant of remissions in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Ganjám in consideration of the exceptional character of the season with the exception that all waste dry lands should get full remission irrespective of the outturn of the other cultivated lands of their owners; but in doing so considers it necessary to observe that these proposals depart from the Standing Orders in several important particulars as to which orders will be passed when the revised Standing Order submitted with Board's Proceedings, No. 313, dated 26th April 1897, comes under consideration.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Collector of Bellary.

Engd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.