

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 5017

DATED 28 Sept

[Despatch Abstract.]

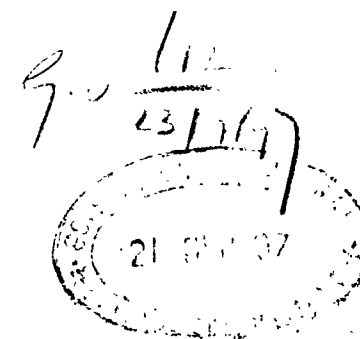
Recording Prop of the Board of Rev on the
Govt order reviewing the report on the
settlement of Land Rev of the Presidency for
farli 1305-

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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



REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

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

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

Printed September th.

Proceedings, No. 605, 6th September 1897.

G.O. No. 605/17 dt 23/9/97

Recorded

list

ac.

22/9/97

SEPTEMBER.

Settlement of Land Revenue.—Communicating to all Collectors, with remarks, Government Order, Revenue Department, reviewing the report on the — of the Presidency for fasli 1305 (1895-96).

la-9

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

Read—the following G.O., No. 612, Revenue, dated 23rd July 1897:—

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 9th April 1897, No. 297.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government report on the settlement of land revenue (Jamabani) for fasli 1305 (1895-96).

Order—No. 612, Revenue, dated 23rd July 1897.

Land Revenue No. 15.

With the Proceedings read above, the Board of Revenue submits its report on the Land Revenue Settlement of the Presidency for fasli 1305 or the year ending with 30th June 1896. The Board's resolution, though dated the 9th April last, was not received in the Government office till the 14th May following or nearly two and a half months after the prescribed date. The delay in the submission of the report is explained to be due to pressure of work in the Board's office. His Excellency the Governor in Council trusts that no efforts will be spared by the Board to secure the submission of future reports within the prescribed date.

2. *Season and Crops.*—The season was, on the whole, favourable for agricultural operations except in Nellore, in parts of Kurnool and North Arcot and in the two West Coast districts. The total rainfall in the Presidency was nearly 11 per cent. in excess of the average of the twenty-five years ending 1894-95 and 19 per cent. higher than in the previous year, the increase being distributed between both the monsoons. The earlier, or south-west monsoon, was late in some districts, but the quantity of rain registered was more or less above the average in all the districts except Kurnool and Madras. In the West Coast districts, however, it was ill distributed, the rainfall having been heaviest in June and July and deficient in the remaining months. The north-east monsoon was quite up to the average except in the Northern Circars and Nellore, the rains being particularly heavy in South Arcot, Tanjore and Tinnevely. The districts of Gódvári and Kistna suffered considerable damage and Tanjore and Tinnevely also suffered to some extent from floods.

Owing to the generally favourable character of the season, the total area of crops, which has been steadily increasing during recent years, showed a still further advance during the year under review, the increase being 3 per cent. as compared with the previous year and 6 per cent. as compared with the average of the five years ending 1893-94. The increase as compared with fasli 1304 showed itself under both food and non-food crops, that in the former being 1.8 per cent. and that in the latter 7.6 per cent. From the statement appended to paragraph 11 of the Board's report, it is seen that the average outturn of food-crops ranged from 6 to 13 annas and may be said to have been generally fair during the year under review.

	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	Total.
Average of 25 years ending	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
1894-95	28.38	16.42	44.80
1891-92	19.43	13.67	33.50
1892-93	35.57	14.02	49.59
1893-94	28.74	20.32	49.26
1894-95	28.84	12.88	41.72
1895-96	31.77	16.85	49.62

Fasli.	Area in million acres.	Fasli.	Area in million acres.
1896	24.6	1301	24.3
1297	25.1	1302	26.4
1298	25.3	1303	27.4
1299	26.1	1304	27.0
1300	26.1	1305	27.9

3. *Sanitary condition.*—The total number of deaths registered was higher than in the previous year by a little more than 3 per cent. There was a decrease under "cholera" and "dysentery and diarrhoea"; but this was more than counterbalanced by the large increase in the deaths from other causes. The number of deaths from cholera showed a decrease of nearly 35 per cent. as compared with the previous year and was the smallest on record since fasli 1296. It was observed in the previous year's review that the number of deaths from small-pox in Malabar was suspiciously low and it was feared

Fasli.	Number of deaths.	Average death-rate per mille.
1296	578,200	20.3
1297	631,230	22.6
1298	613,097	21.9
1299	667,620	23.5
1300	684,249	22.3
1301	807,581	24.0
1302	669,383	19.9
1303	696,092	20.7
1304	633,883	18.8
1305	654,891	19.8

that this might be due to some error in classification. The figure reported for the year under review shows a further decrease and the Sanitary Commissioner will be requested in the Local and Municipal Department to report as to the accuracy of the figures. As pointed out in previous reports, both the total number of deaths reported and their classification among the different diseases are admittedly defective and a Bill, which will, it is hoped, soon be introduced in the Local Legislative Council to enforce the registration of births and deaths outside municipal limits, will, when passed into law, to a great extent, remedy the defects.

4. *Condition of cattle.*—Pasture and fodder were generally sufficient and the condition of cattle was good except in a few districts. As stated in the review of the previous year's report, the registration of cattle mortality from natural decay and accidents and of deaths among sheep and goats have been ordered to be discontinued. The mortality of cattle from diseases showed an increase of about 11 per cent. as compared with the previous year, but most of this increase must be set down to more accurate registration. There was a large increase under "Rinderpest" chiefly in the Bellary and Anantapur districts, where the mortality from this disease amounted to 66 per cent. of that in the whole Presidency and enquiries made went to show that the disease was endemic in these districts and was aggravated by scarcity of fodder and water and that to a certain extent the disease had been brought in by cattle from the Nizam's territory travelling across to Mysore.

5. *Prices.*—As a consequence of the favourable character of the season and good harvests, the prices of the principal food-grains which had risen considerably during fasli 1293 to 1301 and which had been steadily falling since then showed a further fall during the year under review.

	Paddy, second sort.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	Ragi.
Normal rates	25.4	26.7	28.3	28.0
1296	27.0	27.7	27.5	29.9
1297	28.0	28.6	27.3	30.9
1298	25.8	26.0	24.6	28.6
1299	23.5	25.6	24.4	27.9
1300	22.4	24.0	23.2	25.9
1301	18.3	17.0	16.5	18.0
1302	18.3	18.2	18.7	19.8
1303	21.3	19.9	20.0	22.2
1304	22.6	23.2	22.8	25.5
1305	23.9	25.4	25.6	28.1

As compared with the previous year, the fall in the price of rice amounted to 5 per cent., while in the case of dry grains it ranged from 9 to 11 per cent. In spite of this fact, the prices of the chief food-grains except ragi were still higher than the normal rates, but, as observed by the Sanitary Commissioner in his report for 1895, this does not indicate a want of prosperity among the masses of the population. He states "on the opposite, whilst there is probably more than one factor at work—including the price of silver—it would seem to be a natural accompaniment of increased prosperity under changing conditions of life consequent upon a greater grade of refinement in living and especially owing to increased railway facilities." Moreover the increase in the exports of rice and paddy during 1894-95 coincident with a fall in the imports of grain and pulse is, in the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, some index of the agricultural prosperity of the people. But at the same time it must be stated that any large increase in the price of food-grains, if not accompanied by a corresponding increase in the rate of wages, will cause considerable hardship to such of the labouring classes as are remunerated by payment in money; and accordingly in 1892 the Government called for a report as to whether the old custom of paying field labourers in grain was being superseded by payment in money and if so whether the

4 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), No. 605, 6TH SEPT. 1897.

labourers suffered by this change. The importance of the subject has been impressed upon the Board of Revenue from time to time and in 1895, when the Government of India requested that a copy of the report on the subject might be forwarded to that Government, the Board was desired to submit the report without delay. The Board then stated that the report was under preparation, but two years have now elapsed and the report has not yet been submitted. The statistics collected on the subject will lose all their value if further delay should occur in reviewing them and the Government must accordingly insist on the report being submitted without further loss of time.

6. *Permanently-settled estates and shrotriem jodi.*—The revenue payable to Government on permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 50.01 lakhs showing a decrease of Rs. .36 lakhs as compared with the previous year. The decrease was mainly due to the direct collection of water-rate by Government from the ryots of the Gudur pargana in the Kistna district which had hitherto been collected by the zemindar. The quit-rent payable to Government on villages held on shrotriem or other favourable tenure amounted to Rs. 7.37 lakhs being less than in the previous year by about a thousand rupees owing mainly to the inclusion in the demand of fasli 1304 of quit-rents levied in that fasli in respect of previous years. In this connection it may be stated that the rules framed by the Board of Revenue under the Proprietary Estates Village Service Act II of 1894, are now under the consideration of Government.

7. *Extent of Ryotwar holdings.*—Excluding as usual the South Canara district which has not yet been fully surveyed, the total area under occupation which has been steadily increasing showed a further advance in the year under review, the increase as compared with fasli 1301 being 203,761 acres or .9 per cent. There was a gross increase of 209,762 acres in seventeen districts and a gross decrease of 6,001 acres in three others, viz., Kurnool, Nilgiris and Malabar. The increase in holdings was generally due to the extension of cultivation on account of the favourable character of the season, especially in the districts of Nellore, Cuddapah, Anantapur, Bellary and Salem, in which districts more than 75 per cent. of the increase was secured. The comparison instituted by the Board in paragraph 23 of its report between the occupied area of the year under review and that of fasli 1285, the year before the great famine of 1876-78, shows that the rate of increase in the holdings which was 11 per cent. in the previous fasli rose to 12 per cent. in the year under review. But, as pointed out in previous reports, a portion of this increase is due to the excess brought to account on the introduction of the new settlement into certain districts and to the inclusion of resumed inam lands under holdings. If these items which amount to 1.09 million acres were excluded the net increase due to extension of cultivation would amount to 1.32 million acres or 6 per cent. If cultivation shown under "Miscellaneous" is taken into account the increase would be 1.83 million acres or 9 per cent. This improvement is, as pointed out by the Board, shared by all districts except Kurnool which has not yet recovered from the effects of the famine of 1876-78. It was remarked in the previous year's review that the Collector was of opinion that the cause of the district not sharing in the general advance might be traced to reservation of arable lands for fuel and fodder purposes and that he had accordingly made arrangements to set free for cultivation such lands as were not required for reserved forests. It is now observed that in 120 out of a total of 697 villages lands to the extent of 104,064 acres have been set free; but this is stated to include poramboke and unclassified waste. The Board expects a report from the Collector as to the extent of assessed lands set free and as to the extent thereof brought under cultivation. This report will be awaited with interest.

In paragraphs 24 and 25 of the report, the Board furnishes the information called for in paragraph 7 of the last year's review as to the extent to which cultivable lands which have been reserved under section 26 of the Forest Act, but which are not required for forest purposes have been set free in the several districts and as to the

progress made in the disafforestation of forest blocks of less than one square mile in extent with reference to the orders contained in G.O., No. 261, dated 10th May 1895. It appears that in regard to the former, exact information is not available in many districts, but it is reported that in six districts no cultivable waste was ever taken up for reservation; that in three others sufficient land is available for extension of cultivation outside the reserve area; and that in the remaining districts arrangements have been made for throwing out of reservation the area of cultivable lands included in reserved areas which were either not required for forest purposes or which were needed for extension of cultivation. In regard to the disafforestation of forest blocks of less than one square mile in extent, it appears from the statement appended to paragraph 25 of the report that 127,870 acres have been abandoned by the Forest Department and made available for cultivation. The statement on the margin shows the total area of land newly taken up and the extent relinquished during the ten years ending with the year under review. It will be seen therefrom that occupation increased by 1.7 million acres during the decade, and the Government has no doubt that the measures adverted to above will tend to a further extension of holdings and be

Fasli.	Relinquished.	Newly taken up.	Difference.
In thousands of acres.			
1296	345	721	376
1297	404	577	173
1298	442	496	54
1299	286	547	261
1300	371	450	79
1301	328	320	8
1302	218	424	206
1303	282	485	203
1304	292	537	245
1305	323	531	208
Total	3,291	5,086	1,797

greatly appreciated by the agricultural classes.

8. *Ryotwar—Actual cultivation.*—Owing to the generally favourable character of the season the total area cultivated during the year, under review, exclusive of miscellaneous cultivation, showed an increase of about 1.6 per cent, as compared with fasli 1304. This increase was distributed among all the districts except Trichinopoly, South Arcot, Ganjam, Nilgiris and Malabar in which districts there was a decrease. The decrease was comparatively trifling in the latter districts except in Trichinopoly, where it amounted to 23,536 acres. But the decrease in this district was only nominal being due to the introduction during the year of

revised survey areas for the first time in cultivation accounts. The average of cultivation to holdings amounted to 84.3 per cent. in the year under review against 83.7 in the previous year. This improvement occurred under both dry and wet, the percentage of dry cultivation to holdings having risen from 81.6 to 82 and that of wet cultivation from 92.7 to 94.6. The extent of dry waste is still considerable and the report called for in paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 266, dated 11th May 1895, as to whether the system of fallows is being deliberately practised in the several districts, and whether in those districts in which large extent of patta land is reserved for pasturage the practice is due to any undue curtailment of common grazing grounds should be submitted to Government without any further delay.

The marginal statement shows the total extent of lands left waste and the extent on which remission was granted during the last ten years. It will be seen therefrom that, owing to the favourable character of the season, the extent on which remission was granted was the smallest during the decade and was only 1.1 per cent. of the total extent left waste. No remissions were granted during the year on dry lands left waste, a concession allowed only in exceptional years of drought and scarcity.

Fasli.	Extent left waste.	Extent on which remission was granted.	Percentage.
ACS.			
1296	2,969,275	71,832	3
1297	2,915,632	54,648	2
1298	3,150,650	102,040	3
1299	3,131,643	87,447	2
1300	3,314,699	135,846	4
1301	4,307,523	567,578	20
1302	3,669,007	174,172	4
1303	3,408,024	40,288	1
1304	3,615,476	109,977	3
1305	3,614,452	39,328	1

9. *Remissions and deductions from the beriz.*—The total assessment on ryotwar holdings amounted to Rs. 426.35 lakhs, so that there was a decrease of 5 per cent. as compared with the previous year. Owing to the extension of holdings and cultivation adverted to above, the assessment would have shown an increase of about Rs. 1.40 lakhs but for the fact that in the Kistna district there was a decrease of about Rs. 3.59 lakhs. This large decrease was due to the transfer of wet lands to dry, on application made by the ryots to discontinue irrigation in consequence of the enhancement of the water-tax during the year under review; but as most of these lands were subsequently irrigated and charged with a separate water-tax the decrease was only nominal and was more than made up for by the increase under charge for water referred to in paragraph 10 *infra*.

The remissions and deductions from the beriz amounted to Rs. 19.64 lakhs or a decrease of 5.22 lakhs or 21 per cent. as compared with fasli 1304. Owing to the generally favourable character of the season the remissions dependent on the state of the season showed a decrease of Rs. 3.18 lakhs, and but for the damage caused by the floods in the Gólkivari, Kistna and Tinnevely districts the decrease would have been still larger. The decrease under "fixed remissions" was mainly due to the lapse of one more year since the introduction of the new settlement in certain districts and the consequent decrease in the increment remissions allowed in them.

10. *Second crop charge and water-rate.*—The revenue under these heads amounted to Rs. 27.22 lakhs being an increase of Rs. 9.77 lakhs or 56 per cent. as compared with fasli 1304. This increase was mainly due to the enhancement of water-rate from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 in the Gólkivari and Kistna districts during the year under review, and to the inclusion in Kistna of the water-tax on lands transferred from wet to dry in the accounts but which were afterwards irrigated and therefore charged with separate water-rate.

11. *Miscellaneous Revenue.*—The revenue under this head, detailed in paragraphs 35 to 42 of the Board's report, amounted to Rs. 67,69,581 being an increase of Rs. 3,01,745 or 4.7 per cent. as compared with fasli 1304. Owing to the enhancement in the rates of water charge in the Gólkivari and Kistna districts already referred to, there was an increase of about Rs. 2.50 lakhs in the amount charged in zemindaris, whole inam villages and minor inams. There was also a large increase in the rents secured for lanka lands in Gólkivari, in the sale-proceeds of tank-bed lands in Kistna and Nellore and of Lineparivarthana gardens in Tanjore. It is observed that the assessment of lands cultivated but not included in holdings showed an increase of Rs. 33,000. More than 50 per cent. of the revenue under this head appertained to the four districts of South Arcot (Rs. 1,18,140), Kistna (Rs. 86,938), North Arcot (Rs. 53,565) and Madura (Rs. 53,110). As regards South Arcot it is reported that as most of the lands shown under this head cannot bear continuous cropping the ryots are unwilling to include them permanently in their holdings. In Kistna the revenue was nearly double that in the preceding year and is explained to be due partly to the enhancement of the water-rate and the extension of cultivation of valuable lands and partly to the fact that the bulk of the area under the Pedalanka channel which is under construction is awaiting sale. The large amount shown against the other two districts is ascribed mainly to extension of cultivation on account of the favourable season and in Madura partly also to pottas not having been issued pending selection of lands for the Periyár channels and distributaries. That cultivation shown under "Miscellaneous" should, as far as possible, be minimised and brought to account at the time of the jamabandi has been repeatedly impressed on the District Officers and the Government hopes that sufficient attention is being paid to this important matter.

12. *Net Ryotwar demand.*—Including miscellaneous revenue and second-crop assessment and charge for water and deducting the remissions mentioned in paragraph 9 *supra* the net ryotwar demand amounted to Rs. 501.63 lakhs being an increase of 15.81 lakhs or more than 3 per cent. as compared with the previous year. This large increase notwithstanding a decrease of Rs. 2.23 lakhs in the assessment on holdings was due to the saving of Rs. 5.22 lakhs under "Remissions" and to the increase of Rs. 12.82 lakhs under water-rate, second-crop charge and miscellaneous revenue. These variations have been already explained.

13. *Demand, Collection and Balance.*—The total current demand under the several heads of land revenue amounted to Rs. 559.02 lakhs being an increase of Rs. 15.45 lakhs or 2.8 per cent. as compared with the previous year. It will be observed from the figures marginally noted that the total current demand was the highest on record and that it exceeded that of the average of the five years preceding the great famine of 1876—78 by Rs. 109.26 lakhs or 24 per cent.

The current demand under cesses amounted to Rs. 75.92 lakhs or an advance of Rs. 2.02 lakhs on that of fasli 1304. The increase occurred under all the three heads of zemindaris, shrotriems and ryotwar villages. That under the first head (Rs. 35,000) was chiefly due to the discovery that land-cess had not been imposed in the Ganjam district on inams in zemindaris which were granted subsequent to the permanent settlement and to the final determination of land-cess due on the Venkata-giri and Kalahasti zemindaris for the three years ending fasli 1305, so that an excess over the amounts provisionally adopted in the previous years' accounts was levied. The increase in ryotwar villages was due to the increase in the ryotwar demand and to the introduction of the Village Cess Act for the first time into portions of the Malabar district.

Including cesses the total current demand amounted to Rs. 634.93 lakhs being an increase of about 17.47 lakhs or nearly 3 per cent. as compared with the previous year, and it is satisfactory to note that Rs. 626.76 lakhs were collected during the year, leaving a balance of only Rs. 8.17 lakhs or nearly 1.3 per cent. at the close of the year against 2.01 per cent. outstanding at the end of the previous fasli. The

percentage of collections to the demand was the highest on record. The arrear demand at the beginning of the year amounted to nearly 14½ lakhs of rupees of which only 1.61 lakhs remained outstanding at the end of the year. The total balance of arrears and current at the end of the year was thus only Rs. 9.78 lakhs or 1.5 per cent. of the total demand. It will be seen from the marginally-noted figures, which show the arrear balance at the end of each fasli, that the work of collection is progressing satisfactorily and reflects great credit on the administration.

It is observed from paragraph 48 of the Board's report that the outstanding balance at the end of the year under review was by subsequent collections and remissions reduced to Rs. 1.65 lakhs on the 1st February 1897 nearly 80 per cent. of which

	Fasli 1304.	Fasli 1305.
Lakhs of rupees.		
(i) Assessment on holdings ..	428.68	426.35
Deduct—		
(ii) Remissions	24.86	19.64
(iii) Remainder	403.72	406.71
Add—		
(iv) Water-rate and second-crop charge	17.45	27.22
(v) Miscellaneous revenue ..	64.65	67.70
Total ryotwar demand ..	485.82	501.63

	Current demand in lakhs of rupees.	Current demand in lakhs of rupees.
Average of five years before the famine ..	1300 483.07	1301 457.54
1296 449.76	1302 493.64	1297 529.99
1297 474.02	1303 543.57	1298 559.02
1298 478.86	1304	1299 484.54
1299 481.23	1305	

Fasli.	Percentage of collection to demand.	Fasli.	Percentage of collection to demand.
1283 ..	89.1	1300 ..	95.1
1284 ..	90.7	1301 ..	92.0
1285 ..	90.3	1302 ..	96.0
1296 ..	95.8	1303 ..	96.8
1297 ..	96.5	1304 ..	98.0
1298 ..	96.4	1305 ..	98.7
1299 ..	96.7		
Lakhs of rupees.		Lakhs of rupees.	
1296 ..	23.23	1301 ..	45.74
1297 ..	22.83	1302 ..	26.97
1298 ..	23.70	1303 ..	21.21
1299 ..	21.87	1304 ..	14.74
1300 ..	29.02	1305 ..	9.78

8 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGR.), No. 605, 6TH SEPT. 1897.

related to the Tinnevely and Malabar districts. The greater portion of the balance in the latter district was due on Sultan Musa Ali Raja's estate and it is reported that a portion of it will, with his consent, be adjusted from the surplus to his credit in the accounts relating to the Laccadive Islands and that the remainder will have to be realized by coercive process. The remaining arrears in Malabar relate mostly to the Wynaad taluk and the Board states that the necessary steps have been taken for their recovery. In G.O., No. 2718, dated 10th July 1896, the Government directed that an enquiry should be made and a report submitted as to the causes which have tended to extensive relinquishments and sales of land for arrears of revenue both in the Malabar and the Nilgiri-Wynaad since the introduction of the revenue settlement into these taluks. This report should be expedited. The arrears outstanding in the Tinnevely district related mostly to estates under the management of the Court of Wards and could not therefore be immediately realised.

The Board states that a separate report will be submitted on the subject of the reconciliation of the collections of land revenue and cesses as shown in the jamabandi and the Accountant-General's statements. The Board of Revenue is requested to report why it was not possible to reconcile the figures earlier with reference to the instructions contained in paragraph 12 of G.O., No. 613, dated 5th August 1890.

It is stated that in most of the districts there was no material difference between the amount actually credited to land and village cesses and that which should have been credited. This shows that the rule regarding the adjustment of collections between land revenue and cesses is now well understood. It is, however, observed that in some of the districts the final adjustment of collections has been allowed to fall into arrears and the Board reports that a suggestion of the Deputy Director of Land Records and Agriculture to have the work of distribution made in the Collector's Huzur office instead of in the Taluk office is now under its consideration.

14. *Coercive Processes.*—The statistics relating to the extent to which coercive processes were employed for the collection of land revenue are analysed in paragraphs 53 to 60 of the report and the Board concludes by saying that it hopes before long to deal with the whole subject of sales of land for arrears of revenue and that it therefore considers it unnecessary to dilate further on the subject at present. This report will be awaited with interest and in the meantime the Government will briefly notice the salient features in the figures analysed by the Board.

The marginal abstract shows that although there was, as compared with the

	1304.	1305.
Number of demand notices ..	5,640,788	5,888,904
Do. of attachment notices ..	236,151	231,308
Do. of sale notices ..	191,828	178,347
Do. of defaulters whose property was attached ..	236,151	231,308
Amount of arrears for which property was attached .. Rs.	19,18,867	20,44,184
Number of defaulters whose property was sold ..	10,371	10,757
Amount of arrears for which property was sold .. Rs.	1,70,828	1,76,059
Amount realized by sale of property ..	1,77,644	1,86,692
Extent of land sold .. Acs.	27,899	27,728
Do. bought in by Government ..	10,853	10,512
Total holdings in million ..	22.23	22.44
Total current demand in lakhs ..	547.39	564.86
Arrears at the beginning of the year ..	18.01	11.70

per cent. in the previous year. There was a small increase in the number of defaulters whose property was sold, but its percentage to the total number of pattadars remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 33 per cent. As pointed out by the Board the

small proportion borne by sales to sale and attachment notices, viz., 6 and 4.7 per cent., respectively, shows that the formalities prior to actual sale are so little onerous that a large number of ryots deliberately withhold payment until the last moment. The slight increase in the number of pattadars whose property was sold (3 per cent.) follows the increase in the amount of arrears for which property was sold, but it must be noted that the percentage of such arrears to total land revenue demand was the same as in the previous year, viz., 27 per cent.

The marginal statement shows the number of defaulters whose property was

Fasli.	Number of defaulters whose property was sold.	Amount of arrears for which the property was sold.
1296	30,915	Rs. 3,75,821
1297	35,750	2,88,840
1298	17,346	2,58,166
1299	11,339	2,10,804
1300	11,115	1,90,279
1301	11,118	1,61,576
1302	12,400	2,00,997
1303	14,198	2,13,021
1304	10,371	1,70,828
1305	10,757	1,76,059

sold and the amount of arrears for which it was sold during the last ten years. The figures show satisfactory improvement and the slight increase observable during the year under review as compared with fasli 1304 is more than accounted for by the increase in the acreage of holdings on the one hand and in the land revenue demand on the other.

Again, the extent of land sold and that bought in by Government were smaller than in the previous year and the Board points out that the most noticeable features of the working of coercive processes during the year under review were a rise in the number of defaulters whose lands were sold and at the same time a fall in the extent of land sold as well as in the extent of lands bought in by Government. This result is what might have been expected from the circumstance that the bulk of the holdings in this Presidency consists of estates paying less than Rs. 10 and that the percentage of this class to the total holdings is yearly increasing.

The marginal statement shows the extent of land sold and that bought in by

Fasli.	Extent of land sold.	Extent bought in by Government.
1296	Acs. 37,402	Acs. 17,986
1297	31,824	13,639
1298	31,675	13,788
1299	23,615	12,429
1300	21,771	9,346
1301	20,273	9,637
1302	30,296	14,668
1303	54,484	25,592
1304	27,899	10,853
1305	27,728	10,512

also be noted that 2,628 acres of the extent bought in by Government in fasli 1305 and such lands have to be bought in by Government in the first instance owing to want of competition or to combination among the bidders. This conclusion is not, however, a safe one in the absence of figures to show the amount realised by the sale of these lands and the Board of Revenue will accordingly be requested to furnish this information in future reports.

It was observed in the last year's review that there was great disparity between the estimated value of lands sold and the amount actually realised therefor, and that the Board had issued instructions directing that in every case the estimated value should be calculated, not at twenty times the assessment as in previous years but

with reference to the market value of similar lands in the neighbourhood. The figures furnished for fasli 1305 show an improvement as compared with those of 1304, the percentage of the amount realized by sale of real property to its value thus estimated more accurately having risen from 31.5 to 48.6. The estimates will show a nearer approximation to the actuals realized if the figures for the Bellary and Malabar districts, where real property estimated at Rs. 1,15,540 and Rs. 30,170, realized only Rs. 3,701 and 14,009, respectively, are excluded. The Collectors of these districts should be called on to report the cause of this disparity.

The figures above analysed clearly indicate the ease and regularity with which a large revenue is raised from a numerous body of peasant proprietors and the result reflects great credit on the district administration. While of this opinion His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that resort to coercion for the collection of land revenue will be considerably reduced, if as observed by the Collector of Cuddapah, the Tahsildars take personal pains in seeing that the village establishments and Revenue Inspectors discharge their duty properly.

15. *Advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.*—With reference to the Government of India resolution printed in G.O., No. 658, dated 20th July 1893, the Government will briefly notice the transactions during the year under these two Acts.

	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Total.
<i>In thousands of rupees.</i>			
Official year.	1887-88 .. 78	40	1,18
	1888-89 .. 1,31	36	1,67
	1889-90 .. 1,39	45	1,84
	1890-91 .. 2,28	43	2,71
	1891-92 .. 15,28	1,57	16,85
April to June 1892 ..	10,42	1,03	11,45
	1302 .. 10,65	1,34	11,99
Fasli year.	1303 .. 4,21	8	4,29
	1304 .. 2,56	16	2,72
	1305 .. 1,74	9	1,83
Total ..	50,52	5,91	56,43

under these rules, and the Board states that the preference shown in former years to the Special Well Rules continued in all the districts except Ganjam and Salem and that these Collectors have not assigned any reason for the apparent preference to the ordinary rules in these districts. As pointed out in the last year's review, the only possible explanation for the preference shown to the ordinary rules, although the rate of interest is lower under the Special Well Rules, seems to be that the latter are not so well known as they ought to be. It is hoped that the earlier republication of the rules in the current year which the Board has ordered will enable ryots to better appreciate their advantages.

In G.O., No. 643, dated 23rd September 1895, it was stated that to simplify as far as possible the procedure under these rules, which, to some extent, deterred the ryots from applying for State loans, a revised set of rules had been drawn up and had been submitted for the orders of the Government of India. The sanction of that Government is still awaited.

Eight hundred and eighty-one new wells were constructed and 852 old wells were repaired with the aid of State loans, the area benefited being 3,137 and 3,583 acres, respectively. The average cost of constructing a new well is stated to be Rs. 178, and that of repairing an old one to be Rs. 139. The number of wells constructed since the promulgation of the rules amounted to 14,811 and that repaired 15,985, the total extent benefited being 42,802 and 57,565 acres, respectively.

The following statement shows the advances and recoveries under both the Acts:—

	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.
Outstanding at the beginning of the year	RS. 30,65,226	RS. 24,534
Advanced during the year	1,74,118	8,690
Recoveries and remissions	Total 32,39,344	33,224
	3,22,732	12,607
Balance	29,16,612	20,617
Interest due	1,33,726	2,239
Interest recovered and remitted	1,25,686	2,112
Balance	8,040	127

	Total number of applications.	Applications received through the Registration Department.	Percentage of column 3 on column 2.
1297	125,965	40,455	32.1
1298	130,312	42,340	32.5
1299	131,998	46,673	35.4
1300	142,701	50,254	37.9
1301	117,817	48,013	40.8
1302	127,658	56,654	44.4
1303	114,563	52,637	45.9
1304	110,037	50,886	46.2
1305	107,866	50,081	46.4

16. *Transfer of Revenue Registry.*—The number of applications presented for transfer of revenue registry showed a decrease of nearly 2 per cent. as compared with fasli 1304 and is probably due to the favourable character of the season. The decrease occurred both in the number of applications presented direct to Revenue Officers and in that presented through the Registration Department, but the percentage of the latter to the total number of applications continues to show an increase.

As regards disposals there was an improvement in both classes of applications and the Government hopes that the instructions issued by the Board in paragraph 69 of the report will ensure even better results in the future.

The number of cases dealt with under Board's Standing Order No. 20, paragraph 6, which directs the issue of pattas to persons who have been in possession of lands against 3,946 in the previous year. Nearly 69 per cent. of the cases related to the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and North Arcot. Sufficient progress was also made in Kistna, Gódvári, South Canara and Madura in securing agreement between ownership and revenue registry. Little or no action was taken in the other districts and the Board states that this was probably due to the doubt hitherto entertained by Revenue Officers in several districts as to whether paragraph 6 of Standing Order No. 20 contemplated their moving in the matter of their own accord without application from the parties. As this doubt has now been set at rest the Board hopes that considerable progress will be made in securing greater agreement between ownership and revenue registry.

17. *Inspection of boundary and field-marks.*—Though the figures reported in statement No. 27 are admittedly incomplete, they give a general idea of the work turned out in the several districts. About 7 per cent. of the total number of marks was either missing or out of repair and it was only in 19 per cent. of such cases the necessary action was taken to restore them. This result is hardly satisfactory, but the Government is glad to note that the backwardness of the work has attracted the attention of the Collectors and that steps have been taken to secure fair progress in the future. The Collector of Nellore considers that, in view of the large number of stones missing in his district, it is hopeless to make satisfactory progress with the ordinary establishment and that a resurvey of the district is necessary. The promised report on the subject will be awaited. The Board's proposal to employ in districts which have not been recently surveyed a special survey staff for some years to assist the karnams in restoring the marks and in drawing up field books of all measurements and sub-divisions is still under the consideration of Government.

12 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), No. 605, 6TH SEPT. 1897.

18. *Examination of Village and Taluk Accounts.*—It is observed that the village and taluk accounts were maintained fairly well on the whole and that the defects disclosed on an examination of them are being pointed out to the District Officers. The proper maintenance of these registers is a *sine qua non* for the successful working of the land revenue administration and Government cannot insist too strongly upon sufficient personal attention being paid by District and Divisional Officers to this important portion of their work.

19. *Irrigation Works.*—The total number of irrigation sources has been returned as 487,572 or an increase of 10,540 as compared with the previous year. Excluding wells the variations under the other items were mostly nominal being due to correction of errors or omissions in the returns of previous years. The total number of wells with separate ayacuts exhibited an increase of 10,592 being due partly to the construction of new wells and partly to rectification of year. Besides these wells with separate ayacuts, there were 138,069 wells utilised for supplementing irrigation from Government sources. The number of new works constructed during the year under review is reported as 7 tanks and 3,850 wells.

20. *Rent roll.*—The total number of holdings amounted to 3,159,570 being an increase of about 1.2 per cent. as compared with the previous year. More than 55 per cent. of the increase occurred under joint pattas and this, as observed in previous reports, is evidently due to the desire of the ryots to secure documentary evidence of their joint rights. The increase occurred in all districts except Kurnool and is due to the extension of cultivation adverted to in paragraph 8 *supra*. It is observed from the statement appended to paragraph 85 of the Board's report that more than 68 per cent. of the increase in holdings occurred in the lowest class, i.e., ryots paying less than Rs. 10. The average dry assessment being Rs. 1-0-5, it follows that the area held by these petty pattadars must necessarily be below 10 acres. As the average assessment paid by these ryots is only about Rs. 3-13-0, the average extent of their holdings must be under 4 acres. The social and economic importance of this serious fact can hardly be overestimated especially when taken in conjunction with a normal increase of population of 10 per mille per annum and the progressive sub-division of holdings consequent on the Hindu Law of succession and partition.

(True Extract.)

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

Resolution—No. 605, dated 6th September 1897.

The Government Order read above will be communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. The reports referred to in paragraphs 5, 8 and 13 of the Government Order will be submitted separately.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), No. 605, 6TH SEPT. 1897. 13

3. The attention of the Collector of Kurnool is drawn to the concluding portion of the first sub-paragraph of paragraph 7 of the Government Order and he is requested to furnish, as early as possible, the further information promised in his letter, dated 28th March 1897, No. 258-Ver., as also that called for in Board's Proceedings, No. 2790, dated 14th April 1897, thereon.

4. With reference to the Government's remark regarding Nellore in paragraph 17 of the Government Order, the Collector will be requested to expedite the submission of the special report regarding the necessity for the resurvey of the district promised in paragraph 24 of his letter No. 4065-Ver., dated 2nd November 1896, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, No. 88, dated 6th January 1897.

5. The figure 393,87 entered against fasli 1296 in column 3 of the statement at paragraph 20 of the Government Order should be 398,87 and will be corrected accordingly.

6. The portion of the Government Order relating to subjects dealt with in the Land Revenue Department will be disposed of in that department.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasa
Secretary.

To all Collectors.
" the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Land Revenue Department.

Exd. Md. Pahlwan.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189.

AGAIN G.O., No
189

DATED

Document No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

LEAD UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT NO. 8202.

From The Board of Revenue,
Rev. Sett. L. R. & Agri.

His No: 5018 dated 23 Sept 1897

Transferred to the
Revenue Department.

No. 7734 His

By G. Stokes
As Secy to Govt

Dated 20
Received 21
Registered 22
Enclosures 2.
Spare copies.

Sept: '97

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Govt
for the collection of