

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No.

567

DATED

29th January 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forwarding to the Board of Rev: for ^{early} remarks a
Supplemental Memorial received from the Godavari
District Association regarding the resettlement
of Godavari

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 82

From the Secretary to the
Godavari D. Association

Order wise ^{29/1/97} No 567829 th Jan 1897

A copy of the
memorial now received will
be forwarded to the Board
of Rev: in continuation of
G.O. 116 this d^y 8th Jan^y 1897
for ^{the} early remarks.

29.1.97

No.

Dated 15th January 1897

Received 18th

Registered 28th

Enclosures 4.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding four printed
copies of the memorial sub-
mitted by this Association
regarding the Settlement of
the Upland taluks of the
D.

29.1.97
29.1.97

The Board of Rev: &c
with 1 copy of the memorial

29/1/97
29/1

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Enc to 80-557/77

To

His Excellency The Right Hon'ble

Sir Arthur Elibank Havelock, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

GOVERNOR AND PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL,

FORT SAINT GEORGE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

With reference to the proposals made by the Board of Revenue re the Revision Settlement of the Upland Taluqs, we, the members of the Godavari District Association, respectfully beg to state as follows:—

2. The annexed statement (from Fasli 1274 to Fasli 1305) shews that the Upland portion of this District is, above all others, frequently liable to vicissitudes of seasons. The area under tank irrigation is 60,437 acres. These tanks depend solely upon rainfall for their supply. As will be seen from the above statement, crops fail in times of drought and, in illustration of, this, we may specially cite the disastrous condition of the crops of the current year. Government has, no doubt, improved some of these tanks under the Tank Restoration Scheme, but, we are not aware of any new tanks of importance having been undertaken in view of conserving the necessary supply. And further, Government has not, since the last settlement, undertaken any irrigation project, as that contemplated in connection with the Yerrakalva called Anumullanka-Pothavaram project, save a few minor ones to conserve the flow of hill-streams in the Upland Taluqs. Further, the tanks in the Upland tracts are not capacious enough to irrigate any considerable area, while, in unfavourable seasons, they are practically valueless. Under these circumstances, we submit that the proposal of the Board of Revenue to increase the existing assessment by 33.3 per cent. on the assumption that improvements have been effected in tank irrigation, is sure to unduly increase the burdens of the ryot. Moreover, the wet rate now in force in the Upland

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Taluqs is Rs. 4-7-2 per acre, a rate evidently higher than the rates obtaining in the Upland portions of Ganjam, Chingleput, Madura, Tanjore and Trichinopoly Districts, (*vide* para 79 of Mr. Clerk's scheme report.) We submit that the character of the soils in the Upland tracts of this District is in no way superior to that of the soils in the Districts above referred to. On the other hand, the soils here are so poor that they are practically unfit for cultivation except where they are adequately replenished with manure at considerable expenditure of money.

3. The only ground urged for raising the rate by 30 per cent. in the case of dry lands is that the prices have doubled, since the last settlement, according to the statistics furnished by the Revenue Department (*vide* para 48 Board's Proceedings No. 43, dated 12-3-1896). We regret we cannot agree with the view of the Board that "so far as regards white paddy, the prices in the Uplands work out higher than in the Delta, and that the prices of the ryots' selling months are higher than, on the average of the whole year." In this connection, we beg to point out that the higher prices that rule in the Upland Taluqs are due more to the deficiency of food stocks therein rather than to anything else, inasmuch as the produce of the Uplands is barely enough for local consumption. We beg leave to question the accuracy of the statement that prices have doubled: the prices reported by the Revenue officers are *retail* ones at which *old* paddy is generally sold in Taluq centres, and cannot be relied on for purposes of determining the value of the Government share of the produce. As in the Delta Taluqs, the increase in prices since the last settlement may be put at 25 per cent. It is to be remembered that nearly one-half of this increase is taken away from the ryot for local taxation. Moreover, with the rise in the prices of the agricultural produce, we submit that the cost of cultivation and labour, and the cost of living have enormously risen, leaving to the ryot little or no margin of profit due to increased prices. And as regards the statement that the prices of produce in the ryots' selling months are higher than on an average of the whole year, we beg to invite your Excellency's attention to the remarks contained in para 32 of our memorial regarding the Deltaic tracts.

4. It is said that improvements effected in communications, and the construction of the East Coast Railway justify an increase in

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the land tax of the Upland tracts. We submit that in the Upland Taluqs, except the Agency Tracts, all roads have been constructed by the Local Fund Department, and, as already explained in the memo. submitted in reference to the Deltaic tracts, we submit that they are to be regarded as private improvements effected by the ryot. Moreover, the roads that have been recently constructed have not appreciably added to the facilities of communication that existed at the time of the settlement. As to the East Coast Railway, we submit that it is simply a line of demarcation between the Deltaic and non-Deltaic tracts of the District, and runs alongside the Ellore and Cocanada canals and serves, so far as the conveyance of the Upland produce is concerned, no better than the canal system which runs parallel to the railway line at a distance of a furlong and is comparatively a cheaper means of conveyance. A reference to the traffic returns will, we believe, confirm our statement that the East Coast Railway carries very little produce belonging to the Upland Taluqs. As a matter of fact, the people of the Upland tracts have generally a good crop only every two or three years, and any surplus they may have after meeting local demand, they generally carry to Rajahmundry, Gokavaram, Peddapur, and grain-selling centres in the Rumpa tracts.

5. The proposal of the Collector to raise the rates of all villages within a *radius* of 12 miles from the Railway line by 35 per cent. will surely cause great hardship to a number of the Upland ryots, as observed by the Board of Revenue. In his supplemental report, the Deputy Commissioner abandons his proposed re-grouping in favor of the Collector's suggestion that the dry rates in villages within 12 miles of the Railway line should be raised by 35 per cent., as against 25 per cent. in the villages beyond this limit. The Board of Revenue, in view to relieve a minority of the Upland population from the rigidity of Mr. Clerk's proposals, suggests that in the Upland Taluqs, the "dry" and "wet" rates should be raised by a third in consideration of prices having doubled, thus reducing the taxation on the villages *within* 12 miles from the Railway line by 2 per cent. and increasing the taxation on all other villages by 8½ per cent., against the uniform increase of 25 per cent., proposed by Mr. Clerk. One important consideration to be borne in mind is that increase of taxation in the Upland portions is likely to affect the people of the Agency Tracts, who consume a portion

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of the produce raised in Upland Taluqs. Again, the Upland ryot keeps a large percentage of his holdings fallow, with a view to renting them to the Delta ryot for grazing purposes, and any increase of taxation must necessarily result in the increase of grazing fees now levied from the Delta ryot. And the Board of Revenue in its Proceedings No. 77, dated 21-3-95, Appendix B, says that the Upland Taluqs of Rajahmundry, Ellore, Peddapur and Yernagudem constitute about 51 per cent. of the land left as pasture. We submit that, exclusive of the unoccupied waste, a large percentage of the area under ryots' occupation is kept fallow, because Upland soils do not pay the expense of cultivation. The Board of Revenue in its Proceedings under review declare that the dry lands of Rajahmundry, Ellore, Yernagudem and Peddapur are mostly poor soils, and crops thereon being precarious and less remunerative, ryots prefer leaving them fallow for pasturage. The Board of Revenue now proposes to raise by 33 per cent. the dry rates levied on this poor soil and we apprehend that the consequence of this sudden increase will be the immediate relinquishment of this land by the ryots.

6. In conclusion, we respectfully submit that there has been no material improvement in the condition of the ryot of the Upland Taluqs, such as to justify the enhancement of the existing assessment as proposed by the Board, and that the adoption of the said proposals would bring about agricultural deterioration. We, therefore, pray that Your Excellency in Council will be pleased to reject the Board's proposals, and allow the existing assessment to stand.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

154 B. Venkata Ratnam

Vice-President.

THE GODAVARI DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION, COCANADA,
December 1896.

[Signature]
Secretary.

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Memo. of information extracted from the Zamabandi Reports of the Godavari District.

1274. The season was on the whole not favourable.

The wet cultivation in the Upland taluqs has been greatly impeded owing to the scanty rains and the tanks not having been filled with water.

1275. The season on the whole was unfavourable.

For want of rain, the wet cultivation in the Upland taluqs was not commenced at the usual time. The dry paddy was injured to some extent.

1277. In the Ellore, Yernagudem and Rajahmundry Taluqs, certain tanks having received little or no water; 4,300 acres of wet lands were left uncultivated for want of water.

1278. The season on the whole is unfavourable.

Dry crops as well as wet crops under rainfed tanks in the Upland taluqs have generally failed for want of rain.

1279. The tanks in the Upland taluqs did not receive a full supply till the latter part of September.

1280. Some tanks in the Upland taluqs did not receive a sufficient supply of water.

1281. The season was unfavourable, especially for the Upland taluqs. There was not sufficient rain in the early part of the year, and the little that fell was partial. The tanks did not receive a full supply of water in the Upland taluqs. Both the dry and wet crops suffered heavily. For want of water, a large extent of land was left waste.

1282. The season was not, on the whole, favourable.

1283. The tanks in the Upland taluqs received only a small supply of water. As the early rains were insufficient and partial, subsequent heavy rains breached the bunds of the tanks in some places.

1284. A great want of rain was felt in the Upland taluqs, where tanks did not receive a sufficient supply of water in many cases till September.

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1303. The out-turn of all the crops, except that of cotton and sugarcane, was middling. Sugarcane yielded the average (13 annas) while cotton yielded a bad (6 annas) crop on account of heavy rains in November, which damaged the other dry crops also, to some extent.

1529 B Venkata Ratnam

Vice-President.

THE GODAVARI DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION, COCANADA,
December 1896.

Secretary.

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THE COOVARY DISTRICT ASSOCIATION,
கோவாரி மாவட்டம், கன்னடம்.

Coovary 15 Jan 1897.

PETITION

From

The Secretary to the Coovary District Association
REVENUE DEPT.
Coovary

To

The Revenue Secretary to the
Government of Fort St. George, Madras.
Sir,

I beg to enclose four printed
copies of the Memorial submitted by
this Association in respect to the revision
Settlement of the Upland Taluqs of this
District.

I beg to remain,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant
S. S. Mahalingam
Secretary

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READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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