

Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 154

Dated 15th March

[Despatch Abstract.]

Dry remission

Passing orders on Bd's Prop. submitting
to Govt. with remarks, proposals of the Collr.
of Cuddapah regarding — for faali 1306.

GO.	GO.	GO.	GO.
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CURRENT No. 50

Order

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

No. 1. Press

Dated 3rd January 1898

Received 5-

Registered 5 —

Enclosures 4

Spare copies

SUBJECT:

org remissions

Submitting to
Government, with the
remarks, proposals of
the collector of Cuddapa
regarding ——— for
Faspi 1306.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 3rd January 1898.

No. 1. Press.

Read the following letter from the Collector of
 Cuddapah, dated 19th December
 1897, Dis no 6803 of 97:—

With reference to Board's Proceeding
 No 330 Press, dated 1st May 1897, I have
 the honor to state as follows:—
 2. The agricultural year, Fasli 1306,
 opened auspiciously with timely
 rains and this stimulated sowings
 of dry crops. When I left India
 on Privilege leave on the 1st October
 1896, the District was in good con-
 dition and there was not the slightest
 reason to suspect that it would be
 overtaken by dist. or Famine.
 The North-East Monsoon on which
 the fate of the first dry crop depends

in Co. 4613
 3887
 78 Y

is not then due. I returned to duty
on the 6th January '97 and what the
state of the first dry crop was, I
am not in a position to say, as it
was entirely off the ground by that
time. As soon as the rains of October (1)
failed, my locum tenens, Mr A. J.
Forbes issued instructions for a
detailed and thorough azmoish
by superior officers of all crops
doomed to failure, but nothing
appears to have been done as the
following extracts from the reports
of Divisional Officers will show.
The fate of the first dry crop is thus
unknown and I cannot be held
personally responsible for this.
After the November rains, a very
large extent of land was resown
as the annexed abstract of culti-
vation will show and when I
rejoined the District, this crop
was still young and in good condi-
tion. What I had to ascertain
personally was then the fate of
the second crop. I travelled over
a greater portion of the affected
area

area in the latter part of January
and in February, when I found that
the Cholam crop in many places was
green and strong, though stunted
in growth, and its fate remained
doubtful until March. The other
crops which were in a more hopeful
state than the Cholam were also not
ripe for harvest and I was compelled
to ask for time, while the harvest was
doubtful as no report could be
made until it was definitely known
what the yield was or was likely to be
or whether the crop was an entire
failure. My wide enquiries showed
that there was nothing like a uni-
versal or widespread failure of the
1st dry crop, but in accordance with
the Board's Standing Orders, Trachur
statements were called for and to this
end clear instructions were issued
by me on Mr Ranga Rao's reference
printed in B. P. No 162 dated 25th February
1897. The Board was aware of this. Mr
M. V. Narayanasami Pillai, the Special
Deputy Collector in Famine duty,
in whom the Board asked me to place

in 1.2 $\frac{162}{15-3}$
79 K

explicit confidence and whom I
specially asked to watch the state of
crops and submit a report on dry
emissions and Dy collector Syed
hadir Padsha Sahib who was in
charge of the Head Quarters Division
from the latter part of December
to the latter part of March reported
to me that, if tracts were to be consid-
ered there should be no remissions
and they therefore did not prepare
tractwar statements, and I accordingly
submitted my report to the Board.

13. The Board having in the Pro-
ceedings under reply suddenly
called for tractwar statements I did
everything to obtain them in as short
a time as possible; but the state-
ments and sketches submitted by
the Tahsildars were so very varied
in form and incomplete that I did
not consider them fit to be submitted
to the Board. For instance, the sketches
submitted by the Tahsildar of
Jammalamodugu were not of use,
as they did not indicate the position
of the tracts on which poor crops were
obtained

obtained. The statements sent up
by this Tahsildar did not give detail
as to the extent of dry land left
waste, nor did it appear that the
extent of well lands & topes was
excluded. The Proddutur statements
were somewhat better but the extent
and assessment on occupied waste
was not given. In Pulivendla, no
details as to the area under each
anna rotation were furnished
and the Tahsildar who was new
to the Taluk stated that he was
unable to speak about the condition
of the crops. The Cuddapah Taluk
statements were also defective,
as the financial effect of his
proposals could not be correctly
determined from the statements
furnished by the Tahsildar.
Even if these defects were remedied
my principal difficulty was that
no useful proposals for remission
could be framed on the Kurnam's
estimates of outturn which was

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1. The number of people who are
 2. in the room is 100.

4. When the Commissioner visited the Dist. about the 10th September/97, the Tahsildar's statements were placed before him, and on personal consultation, it was arranged that a fresh set of statements in the form proposed by the Commission should be called for from the Tahsildars. Accordingly I issued a circular on the 12th September/97 giving the Tahsildars three weeks' time to submit the revised statements. The Proddatur and Jammalamadugu Tahsildar's statements were received just in time. The Tahsildar of Cuddapah submitted them after a delay of 4 days. The Pulivendla Tahsildar has been the last to send them after three telegrams were sent to him. I regret that owing to the unpunctuality of the Tahsildars, I was not able to send my uncalculated report to the Commission within the time agreed and that subsequently owing to the heavy and worrying work, I have had to do most of it very urgent and personal e.g. - distribution of Indian Charitable

i.e. the statements
submitted on the
3rd. etc.

7th 18th Oct

When did they
send?

The Collector's report
is dated 19th December

Charitable Relief Fund money — and the manner in which the same has laid upon my health. I have failed to dispose of this matter. I am deeply sensible of the very considerate manner in which I have been treated by the Commissioner and regret exceedingly that I have caused such delay in an important matter. I ought to have applied for leave early in October when I began to find that my health rendered me unequal to getting through my work efficiently, but there were several matters that seemed to me to require to be done by myself and I have foolishly postponed too long applying for relief. My application for 22 months furlough is now before Government. The Commissioner is possibly aware that a medical Board ordered me home for 2 years in 1892 for indisposition brought on by sun exposure, and during the current year owing to Famine Operations. I have undergone

Public.
Need to be
be examined?
WS

a very great deal of exposure which has seriously affected my powers of work. I trust that if the leave I am now asking for is granted I shall be able to do satisfactorily work on my return to duty.

5. At the personal conference with the Commissioner, he was of opinion that as in the three other Deccan districts, remissions on dry lands in this district should be given with reference to tracts in accordance with the Board's Standing Orders. As has been stated above, no tractwise statements have been prepared in any village, and the only course now left is to treat each village as a 'tract'. Further, the average yield for purposes of calculating the percentage of remission has to be arrived at, with reference to the Curram's estimate of outturn, which, as I have already stated, is most unreliable and under the mark. The result is that several villages which faced well would under the percentage system, get more than

x No harvest
suffered all crops &
village is treated
as a tract

than what they decide with reference to the wellknown condition of the crops and the state of the crops. I therefore instructed Tahsildars to reduce the amount of remission to a reasonable sum, where necessary, with reference to their personal knowledge of each village. The rates of remission ordinarily proposed are:—

- (i) 100 percent in villages in which the average yield was below 2 annas.
- (ii) 50 percent in villages in which the average yield was between 2 and 4 annas.
- (iii) 25 percent in villages in which the average yield was above 4 and below 6 annas.

In calculating
the valuation of

the average, the extent on which an outturn of 6 annas and above was realized was excluded. Unfranchised Inams paying Jodi are to share in the remissions. Wasti including mammul lands, is to get full remission irrespective of the percentage allowed for the failure of the crop. Well known and Tapes have been excluded from these proposals. Fully assessed inams will also have the benefit of the remissions, as they are all treated as ryotwar lands in this district. In similar villages which according to the ordinary calculations on Kurnams figures of outturn, would get a remission of 100 and 50 percent, the Tahsildars have, with reference to the directions given to them, recommended only 50 and 25 percent respectively with due regard to their local knowledge and the condition of the crops &c in those villages. From my own observations and enquiries in June 1892

able to state that such villages do not deserve more than the amount recommended by the Tahsildars. The Tahsildar of Pulinendla has not attended to the instructions on this point. He has contented himself with merely giving the percentages arrived at with reference to the Thurnam's figures.

In most villages of this taluk, the Jamin Deputy Collector, Mr. R. V. Narayana Sainmi Pillai has entered his own remarks and submitted his proposals regarding the amount of remission that may fairly be granted. A copy of his letter Ref. No.

1202 dated 10th October 1897 regarding the statements of his taluk is submitted

for the Board's information. In some villages where the Dy. Collector has not made his remarks,

I have not considered it necessary to give full remission and have reduced it by half as Thurnam's accounts are unreliable. The village statements submitted by the Tahsildars

Encl. 2
to Government

are herewith forwarded as per accompanying list.

The annexed abstract shows the number of villages in each taluk, in which remission is recommended under the three classes above described, and the amounts involved.

Taluk	Total no of villages	no of villages in which remission is recommended	Full remission		50 percent recommended		25 percent recommended		Total	
			no of villages	Amount	no of villages	Amount	no of villages	Amount	no of villages	Amount
Cuddapah	130	93	2	219	18	12184	17	5755	37	18158
Poddatur	70	38	..	..	26	34453	6	4000	32	38453
Jammalamadugu	113	18	19	20014	56	4934	20	6355	95	76683
Pulivendla	101	18	18	17721	59	53317	6	3815	83	7486
Total	414	167	39	37954	159	149265	49	19925	247	26714

From the above statement it will be seen that the total amount proposed to be remitted in the four affected talukas is Rs. 2,07,147 - n - n. This includes Rs. 8549 on waste lands in June 1897 and Rs. 1124 on unfranchised godi lands.

6. The above proposals are submitted on the supposition that the provisions of the existing standing orders are not to be departed from, but I beg to point out, as observed by Government in G. O. No. 442 Rev. dated 5th was

'C printed in B. P. No. 441 dated 16th June 1897
 (Settl. Records). Even the above proposals are not
 fully in accord with the standing orders and
 are at variance with them in several important
 particulars; and I therefore beg leave to urge
 that Government may be moved to consider my
 proposal to abandon the idea of granting
 any remission except in the case of petty
 pattadars paying Rs 30 and less. My reasons
 for such a proposal are contained in parts
 of my letter printed in page 5 of B. P. No.
 331 dated 1st May 1897. To state briefly
 they are: -

1 General remission on dry lands are unnecessary
 sacrifice of revenue which the circumstances
 of the year do not demand. Good seasons
 in the past years enabled many of the large
 land holders to store large stocks of grain,
 which they sold at very high prices. The
 excellent rice crops they have had in 1906
 p. 1306 under wells and channels; realized
 at least double the profits of ordinary years
 owing to high prices. The petty pattadars are
 much less than the large land holders.

in 40 $\frac{4613}{3897}$

Printed in the
 Third Town
 Minutes - 75

are, in many cases, affected by a single
 bad season as their income of ordinary years
 does not leave them a sufficient margin for
 bad years and to enforce payment of assessments
 this year from such persons on lands which have
 suffered, would probably be to involve them
 in debt. The grant of dry remissions is purely
 an act of grace and this concession must not
 be intended to those who are not in need of it.
 In the memorial presented to His Excellency
 the Governor by the Cuddalore District
 Association, they did not ask for more
 than this. The two Deputy Collectors Mr. B.
 Rangh Rao and Mr. Narayanaiah Pillai
 also advocated almost similar views.

7. At the personal conference with
 the Commissioner, he said, I think that as
 the amount of remission to be granted
 to petty pattadars under my proposal
 was much larger than that to be
 granted under the tractwar system, it
 was

was not likely to receive support. I have therefore slightly changed the proposals as follows -

- (a) Full remission to all pattadars paying Rs 10 and under.
- (b) 50 percent remission to all pattadars paying above Rs 10 and up to Rs 20.
- (c) 25 percent remission to all pattadars paying above Rs 20 and up to Rs 30.

9. The financial effect of this proposal is favourable to government as the sub-joined statement will show:-

Taluko	100 percent recommended		50 percent recommended		25 percent recommended		Total		Remission recommended under present regulation
	No of pattadars	Amount	No of pattadars	Amount	No of pattadars	Amount	No of pattadars	Amount	
Cuddapah	4138	12425	739	4100	319	1468	5196	17993	18168
Proddatur	3082	11183	1069	6758	468	2604	4619	10545	38453
Kammalamadugu	6529	21189	1683	10786	751	3955	8963	35930	75683
Palvancha	9458	26794	2461	12636	1004	4382	12923	43762	74853
Total	23207	71591	5952	34280	2542	12359	31701	118230	20747

Villagewar

Villagewar detailed statements for this alternative proposals are also submitted - as per list for the Board's information. I request that the Board will support this proposal and submit it for the sanction of Government. 10. The Sub collector's report regarding Gowkanapalle of Thadiri Taluk is herewith submitted.

Resolution.

The letter read above contains the proposals of the Collector of Cuddapah concerning the grant of dry remission in his District for Fasli 1306, and will be submitted to Government with reference to Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement, Land Records & Agriculture) No. 330 dated 1st May 1897 recorded in G. O. Revenue No. 4613 vis dated 3rd September 97. The letter reached the Board's office on December 20th 1897.

2. The Board must leave it to Government to censure or excuse the collector.

the inordinate delay, which so long ago as May last was severely commented on by the Board.

Famine duty combined with the known inferiority of the Cuddapah Revenue establishment has no doubt exposed the Collector to much unusual work & worry, and the Board is aware that there has been no lack of effort on his part, but had it been better directed the Board cannot but think that such excessive delay might have been avoided.

3. The Collector & his Divisional officers represented in April last the difficulty of recommending dry remission by tracts, in as much as certain of the dry crops, which are scattered here and there in considerable variety in every village, had withstood the drought better than others, and had yielded fairly. Cotton & oil seeds were in particular alleged to have yielded well; and in the case of many mixed crops, e.g. Cholam & cotton, Korra & cotton, horsegram and

Cotton, horsegram & cotton, it was very hard to determine how the outturn should be estimated.

It is no doubt true that no plan of granting per centage dry remissions by tracts (taking the village as the unit in the manner contemplated in Board's Standing order no 23) can now be devised which shall not be open to many serious & obvious objections. The Collector accordingly repeats his recommendation that the attempt to estimate the loss of dry crops last year by tracts, with a view to granting a per centage remission proportionate to the average loss on each tract, should be abandoned, and that relief in respect of the assessment due on dry lands should be restricted to 247 villages, selected as having suffered most out of the total of 414 villages in the four Taluqs and that in these 247 villages, a

should be granted only to the petty pottadars who alone (so he contends) are unable to meet the Land Revenue demand.

4. He proposes that in the said 247 villages remission of dry assessment should be granted on the following lines:-

(a) Full remission to all pottadars paying Rs 10 + under:

(b) 50 per cent to all pottadars paying more than Rs 10 + up to Rs 20.

(c) 25 per cent to all pottadars paying more than Rs 20 and up to Rs 30.

Under this proposal, out of a total of 69,120 pottas in the four affected taluqs, 23,207 pottas (more than one-third of the whole) will receive

full remission of dry assessment:

5,952 pottas will receive 50 per cent:

2542 will receive 25 per cent: 31,701

pottas in all will receive remission amounting to Rs 118,230.

The full demand on account of dry lands in the four taluqs in 1305 was about Rs 5,63,000. The proposal is open to several objections.

C. (1)

(1) There are no satisfactory data for drawing the dividing line between villages which should receive remission + those which should not.

(2) In the villages selected for remission the dividing line between full, half, + a quarter remission is arbitrary + will work hardship. The pottadar from whom Rs 10 is due will escape altogether, while his neighbour whose assessment is Rs 11 will have to pay up Rs 5-8-0 + so on.

(3) Many pottadars may hold, or share in, several pottas, and in some cases small pottas are held by merchants, owners of indigo vats + others, for land not devoted to agriculture.

(4) The relief proposed is in the opinion of some, whose opinion is entitled to respect, inadequate.

5. If, in the alternative, a per centage remission be given village by village, equally to all

pottadars

pattadars of a village, in proportion to the supposed average yield of all the dry crops, and without reference to individual crops or individual losses, it can now be based on little else than the local officers' & general knowledge of the circumstances of the ryots of each village as a body, and it is probable that the apportionment will be very unequal in its incidence, & that many will receive remission who are not in distressed circumstances, while the poorest may not receive sufficient relief.

Under the most favourable circumstances the preparation of an estimate of the average loss of crop, village by village, taking all dry crops together, is attended with much difficulty; and after such protracted delays it is simply impossible to obtain any trustworthy data.

6. The Board as at present constituted therefore resolves to recommend to Government acceptance

acceptance of the Collector's proposals as on the whole the best way out of the difficulty. The remission will for the most part undoubtedly reach the poorest classes of pattadars, who stand most in need of lenient treatment, and further relief to other pattadars in distressed circumstances can be judiciously afforded in the manner indicated in Board's Proceedings (Rev. Lett. Land Records & Agri.) No 610 dated 10th September 1897, and approved by Government in G.O. No 1051 Revenue dated 15th December 1897. 7. The very early orders of Government on the Collector's proposals are solicited. The Famine Commissioner has been consulted & concurs in the Board's recommendation.

(True copy & extract)

R. V. Srinivasan

Name as C No 50 of 1898

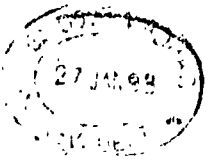
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.



Printed January th.

Proceedings, No. 1, 3rd January 1898.

JANUARY.

Dry Remission.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, proposals of the Collector of Cuddapah regarding — for fasli 1306.

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

READ—the following letter from A. C. TATE, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 19th December 1897:—

With reference to B.P., No. 330, Press, dated 1st May 1897, I have the honour to state as follows.

2. The agricultural year, fasli 1306, opened auspiciously with timely rains and this stimulated sowings of dry crops. When I left India on privilege leave on the 1st October 1896, the district was in good condition and there was not the slightest reason to suspect that it would be overtaken by distress or famine. The North-East monsoon on which the fate of the first dry crop depended was not then due. I returned to duty on the 6th January 1897 and what the fate of the first dry crop was, I am not in a position to say, as it was entirely off the ground by that time. As soon as the rains of October failed, my *locum tenens*, Mr. A. T. Forbes issued instructions for a detailed and thorough azmoish by superior officers of all crops doomed to failure, but nothing appears to have been done as the following extracts from the reports of Divisional officers will show. The fate of the first dry crop is thus unknown, and I cannot be held personally responsible for this. After the November rains, a very large extent of land was re-sown as the annexed abstract of cultivation will show and when I re-joined the district, this crop was still young and in good condition. What I had to ascertain personally was then the fate of the second crop. I travelled over the greater portion of the affected area in the latter part of January and in February, when I found that a cholam crop in many places was green and strong, though stunted in growth, and its fate remained doubtful until March. The other crops which were in a more hopeful state than the cholam were also not ripe for harvest, and I was compelled to ask for time, while the harvest was doubtful as no report could be made until it was definitely known what the yield was or was likely to be or whether the crop was an entire failure. My wide enquiries showed that there was nothing like a universal or widespread failure of the first dry crop, but in accordance with the Board's Standing Orders, tractwar statements were called for and to this end, clear instructions were issued by me on Mr. Runga Rau's reference printed in B.P., No. 162, dated 25th February 1897. The Board was aware of this. M.R.Ry. M. V. Narayanasami Pillai, the Special Deputy Collector on famine duty, in whom the Board asked me to place implicit confidence and whom I specially asked to watch the state of crops and submit a report on dry remissions and Deputy Collector Syed Khadir Padsha Sahib, who was in charge of the head-quarter division from the latter part of December to the latter part of March, reported to me that if tracts were to be considered there should be no remissions, and they therefore did not prepare tractwar statements, and I accordingly submitted my report to the Board.

3. The Board having in the Proceedings under reply suddenly called for tractwar statements, I did everything to obtain them in as short a time as possible; but the statements and sketches submitted by the Tahsildars were so very varied in form and incomplete that I did not consider them fit to be submitted to the Board. For instance, the sketches submitted by the Tahsildar of Jammalamadugu were not of use, as they did not indicate the position of the tracts on which poor crop was obtained. The statements sent up by this Tahsildar did not give details as to the extent of dry

land left waste, nor did it appear that the extent of well lands and topes was excluded. The Proddatur statements were somewhat better but the extent and assessment on occupied waste was not given. In Pulivendla, no details as to the area under each anna notation were furnished and the Tahsildar who was new to the taluk stated that he was unable to speak about the condition of the crops. The Cuddapah taluk statements were also defective, as the financial effect of his proposals could not be correctly determined from the statements furnished by the Tahsildar. Even if these defects were remedied, my principal difficulty was that no useful proposals for remission could be framed on the karnam's estimate of outturn which was, I believe, purposely under-rated this year in order to get remissions. I was unable therefore to counter-sign or forward statements which I knew to be unreliable. While I was hesitating to submit a report based upon them I understood that the Commissioner, Mr. Winterbotham, was to visit this district and I therefore postponed submitting the incomplete statements till after I had a personal interview with the Commissioner.

Dry Cultivation.

Taluka.	Government.		Inam.		Total.		Total of previous year.		Average of five years.	
	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Cuddapah	1,05,990	21,791	48,938	10,370	1,54,928	32,161	1,68,260	10,909	1,62,039	10,968
Proddatur	90,576	23,867	45,594	11,088	1,36,170	34,955	1,35,880	5,788	1,13,935	4,734
Jammalamadugu ..	1,13,513	24,112	57,269	11,063	1,70,782	35,175	1,78,062	3,055	1,84,985	3,413
Pulivendla	1,29,737	27,834	39,375	7,827	1,69,112	35,661	1,93,789	5,405	1,93,130	4,773

4. When the Commissioner visited the district about the 10th September 1897, the Tahsildar's statements were placed before him, and on personal consultation, it was arranged that a fresh set of statements in the form proposed by the Commissioner should be called for from the Tahsildars. Accordingly I issued a circular on the 12th September 1897, giving the Tahsildars three weeks' time to submit the revised statements. The Proddatur and Jammalamadugu Tahsildars' statements were received just in time. The Tahsildar of Cuddapah submitted them after a delay of four days. The Pulivendla Tahsildar has been the last to send them after three telegrams were sent to him. I regret that owing to the unpunctuality of the Tahsildars, I was not able to send my consolidated report to the Commissioner within the time agreed and that, subsequently owing to the heavy and worrying work I have had to do—most of it very urgent and personal, *e.g.*, distribution of Indian Charitable Relief Fund money—and the manner in which the same has told upon my health, I have failed to dispose of this matter. I am deeply sensible of the very considerate manner in which I have been treated by the Commissioner, and regret exceedingly that I have caused such delay in an important matter. I ought to have applied for leave early in October when I began to find that my health rendered me unequal to getting through my work efficiently, but there were several matters that seemed to me to require to be done by myself and I have foolishly postponed too long applying for relief. My application for 22 months' furlough is now before Government. The Commissioner is possibly aware that a Medical Board ordered me home for two years in 1892 for indisposition brought on by sun exposure, and during the current year owing to famine operations I have undergone a very great deal of exposure which has most seriously affected my powers of work. I trust that if the leave I am now asking for is granted I shall be able to do satisfactory work on my return to duty.

5. At the personal conference with the Commissioner, he was of opinion that, as in the other three Deccan Districts, remissions on dry land in this district should be given with reference to tracts in accordance with the Board's Standing orders. As has been stated above, no tractwar statements have been prepared in any village; and the only course now left is to treat each village as a "tract." Further, the average yield for purposes of calculating the percentage of remission has to be arrived at, with

reference to the karnam's estimate of outturn, which, as I have already stated, is most unreliable and under the mark. The result is that several villages which fared well would, under the percentage system, get more than what they deserve with reference to the well-known condition of the ryots and the state of the crops. I therefore instructed Tahsildars to reduce the amount of remission to a reasonable sum, where necessary, with reference to their personal knowledge of each village. The rates of remission ordinarily proposed are—

- (i) 100 per cent. in villages in which the average yield was below two annas.
- (ii) 50 per cent. in villages in which the average yield was between two and four annas.
- (iii) 25 per cent. in villages in which the average yield was above four and below six annas.

In cabulating the average, the extent on which an outturn of 6 annas and above was realized was excluded. Unenfranchised inams paying jodi are to share in the remissions. Waste including mamul waste is to get full remission irrespective of the percentage allowed for failure of crop. Well lands and topes have been excluded from these proposals. Fully assessed inams will also have the benefit of the remissions, as they are all treated as ryotwar lands in this district. In several villages which according to the ordinary calculations on karnam's figures of outturn, would get a remission of 100 and 50 per cent., the Tahsildars have, with reference to the directions given to them, recommended only 50 and 25 per cent., respectively, with due regard to their local knowledge and the condition of the ryots, &c., in those villages. From my own observations and enquiries, I am able to state that such Tahsildar of Pulivendla has not attended to the instructions on this point. He has contented himself with merely giving the percentages arrived at with reference to the karnam's figures. In most villages of this taluk, the Famine Deputy Collector, M.R.Ry. M. V. Narayanasawmi Pillai, has entered his own remarks and submitted his proposals regarding the amount of remission that may fairly be granted. A copy of his letter, Ref. No. 1202-F., dated 10th October 1897, regarding the statements of this taluk is submitted for the Board's information. In some villages where the Deputy Collector has not made his remarks, I have not considered it necessary to give full remission and have reduced it by half as karnam's accounts are unreliable. The village statements submitted by the Tahsildars are herewith forwarded as per accompanying list. The annexed abstract show the number of villages in each taluk, in which remission is recommended under the three classes above described and the amounts involved:—

Taluku.	Total number of villages	Number of villages in which no remission is recommended.	Full remission.		50 per cent. recommended.		25 per cent. recommended.		Total.	
			Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.
Cuddapah ..	130	93	2	RS. 219	18	12,184	17	5,755	37	18,158
Proddatur ..	70	38	..	..	26	34,453	6	4,000	32	38,453
Jammalamadugu ..	113	18	19	20,014	56	49,311	20	6,358	95	75,683
Pulivendla ..	101	18	18	17,721	59	53,317	6	3,815	83	74,853
Total ..	414	167	39	37,954	159	1,49,265	49	19,928	247	2,07,147

From the above statement it will be seen that the total amount proposed to be remitted in the four affected taluks is Rs. 2,07,147. This includes Rs. 31,549 on waste including mamul waste and Rs. 1,124 on unenfranchised jodi inams.

6. The above proposals are submitted on the supposition that the provisions of the existing standing orders are not to be departed from, but I beg to point out that, as observed by Government in G.O., No. 442, Revenue, dated 5th June 1897

(printed in B.P., No. 441, dated 16th June 1897 (Settlement Records) even the above proposals are not fully in accord with the Standing Orders and are at variance from them in several important particulars, and I therefore beg leave to urge that Government may be moved to consider my proposal to abandon the idea of granting any remission except in the case of petty pattadars paying Rs. 30 and less. My reasons for such a proposal are contained in paragraph 4 of my letter printed in page 5 of B.P., No. 330, dated 1st May 1897. To state briefly, they are—

General remissions on dry lands are an unnecessary sacrifice of revenue which the circumstances of the year do not demand. Good seasons in the past three years enabled many of the large land-holders to store large stocks of grain, which they sold at very high prices. The excellent ragi crops they have had in fasli 1306 under wells and channels, realized at least double the profits of ordinary years owing to high prices. The petty pattadars on the other hand, who are little better than labourers, are in many cases affected by a single bad season, as their income of ordinary years does not leave them a sufficient margin for bad years and to enforce payment of assessment this year from such persons on lands which have suffered would probably be to involve them in debt. The grant of dry remissions is purely an act of grace and this concession need not be extended to those who are not in need of it. In the memorial presented to His Excellency the Governor by the Cuddapah District Association, they did not ask for more than this. The two Deputy Collectors M.R.Ry. Runga Rao and Narayanasawmi Pillai also advocated almost similar views.

7. At the personal conference with the Commissioner, he said, I think, that, as the amount of remission to be granted to petty pattadars under my proposal would be much larger than that to be granted under the tractwar system, it was not likely to receive support. I have therefore slightly changed the proposals as follows:—

- (a) Full remission to all pattadars paying Rs. 10 and under.
- (b) 50 per cent. remission to all pattadars paying above Rs. 10 and up to Rs. 20.
- (c) 25 per cent. remission to all pattadars paying above Rs. 20 and up to Rs. 30.

8. The financial effect of this proposal is favourable to Government as the subjoined statement will show:—

Taluku.	100 per cent. recommended.		50 per cent. recommended.		25 per cent. recommended.		Total.		Remission recommended under tractwar system.
	Number of pattadars.	Amount.	Number of pattadars.	Amount.	Number of pattadars.	Amount.	Number of pattadars.	Amount.	
Cuddapah ..	4,138	RS. 12,425	739	RS. 4,100	319	RS. 1,468	5,196	RS. 17,993	18,158
Proddatur ..	3,082	11,183	1,069	6,758	468	2,604	4,619	20,545	38,453
Jammalamadugu ..	6,529	21,189	1,683	10,786	751	3,955	8,963	35,980	75,683
Pulivendla ..	9,458	26,794	2,461	12,636	1,004	4,332	12,923	43,762	74,853
Total ..	23,207	71,591	5,952	34,280	2,542	12,359	31,701	1,18,230	2,07,147

Village statements for this alternative proposal are also submitted as per list for the Board's information. I request that the Board will support this proposal and submit it for the sanction of Government.

9. The Sub-Collector's report regarding Gowkanapalle of Kadiri taluk is herewith submitted.

RESOLUTION—No. 1, dated 3rd January 1898.

The letter read above contains the proposals of the Collector of Cuddapah concerning the grant of dry remissions in his district for fasli 1306, and will be submitted to Government, with reference to B.P. (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 330, dated 1st

May 1897, recorded in G.O., Mis. No. 4613, Revenue, dated 3rd September 1897. The letter reached the Board's office on 20th December 1897.

2. The Board must leave it to Government to censure, or excuse, the Collector for the inordinate delay, which so long ago as May last was severely commented on by the Board. Famine duty combined with the known inferiority of the Cuddapah revenue establishment has no doubt exposed the Collector to much unusual work and worry, and the Board is aware that there has been no lack of effort on his part; but had it been better directed, the Board cannot but think that such excessive delay might have been avoided.

3. The Collector and his Divisional-officers represented in April last the difficulty of recommending dry remission by tracts, inasmuch as certain of the dry crops, which are scattered here and there in considerable variety in every village, had withstood the drought better than others, and had yielded fairly. Cotton and oil-seeds were in particular alleged to have yielded well; and in the case of many mixed crops, e.g., cholan and cotton, korra and cotton, horsegram and cotton, it was very hard to determine how the outturn should be estimated.

It is no doubt true that no plan of granting percentage dry remissions by tracts (taking the village as the unit in the manner contemplated in Board's Standing Order No. 23) can now be devised which shall not be open to many serious and obvious objections.

The Collector accordingly repeats his recommendation that the attempt to estimate the loss of dry crops last year by tracts, with a view to granting a percentage remission proportionate to the average loss on each tract should be abandoned, and that relief in respect of the assessment due on dry lands should be restricted to 247 villages, selected as having suffered most out of the total of 414 villages in the four taluks; and that in these 247 villages, remission should be granted only to the petty pattadars, who alone (so he contends) are unable to meet the land revenue demand.

4. He proposes that in the said 247 villages remission of dry assessment should be granted on the following lines:—

- (a) Full remission to all pattadars paying Rs. 10 and under.
- (b) 50 per cent. to all pattadars paying more than Rs. 10 and up to Rs. 20.
- (c) 25 per cent. to all pattadars paying more than Rs. 20 and up to Rs. 30.

Under this proposal, out of a total of 69,120 pattas in the four affected taluks, 23,207 pattas (more than one-third of the whole) will receive full remission of dry assessment; 5,952 pattas will receive 50 per cent.; 2,542 will receive 25 per cent.; 31,701 pattas in all will receive remission amounting to Rs. 1,18,230.

The full demand on account of dry lands in the four taluks in fasli 1305 was about Rs. 5,63,000.

The proposal is open to several objections—

(1) There are no satisfactory data for drawing the dividing line between villages which should receive remission and those which should not.

(2) In the villages selected for remission, the dividing line between full, half, and a quarter remission is arbitrary and will work hardship. The pattadar from whom Rs. 10 is due will escape altogether, while his neighbour, whose assessment is Rs. 11, will have to pay up Rs. 5-8-0 and so on.

(3) Many pattadars may hold, or share in, several pattas, and in some cases small pattas are held by merchants, owners of indigo vats and others, for land not devoted to agriculture.

(4) The relief proposed is in the opinion of some, whose opinion is entitled to respect, inadequate.

5. If, in the alternative, a percentage remission be given, village by village, equally to all the pattadars of a village, in proportion to the supposed average yield of all the dry crops, and without reference to individual crops or individual losses, it can now be based on little else than the local officers' general knowledge of the circumstances of the ryots of each village as a body, and it is probable that the apportionment will be very unequal in its incidence, and that many will receive remission who are not in distressed circumstances, while the poorest may not receive sufficient relief.

Under the most favourable circumstances the preparation of an estimate of the average loss of crop, village by village, taking all dry crops together, is attended with much difficulty; and after such protracted delay it is simply impossible to obtain any trustworthy data.

6. The Board as at present constituted therefore resolves to recommend to Government acceptance of the Collector's proposals as, on the whole, the best way out of the difficulty. The remission will, for the most part, undoubtedly reach the poorest classes of pattadars, who stand most in need of lenient treatment, and further relief to other pattadars in distressed circumstances can be judiciously afforded in the manner indicated in B.P. (R. S., L. R. and Agri.) No. 610, dated 10th September 1897, and approved by Government in G.O., No. 1051, Revenue, dated 15th December 1897.

7. The very early orders of Government on the Collector's proposals are solicited. The Famine Commissioner has been consulted and concurs in the Board's recommendation.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with original enclosures as per list to be returned, *M. S. Srinivasan* ✓
" Collector of Cuddapah.
" Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

Revenue (189⁸) Department.

CURRENT No. 486.

S

2/1/1898

From
The Board of Revenue
Madras
Madras

Order

Also forward

No. 577-Misc

Dated 27th January 1898

Received 29th

Registered 29th

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

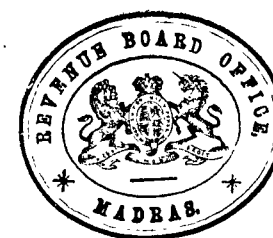
Submitting to Government
letter from the Collector of Cuddalore
requesting that early orders
may be passed on his letter.
Disposal no 6803 of 1897
Rev
regarding the dry remission
for fasli 1306

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 27th January 1898.

No. 577 Miscellaneous

READ

the following letter from the Collector of Cuddalore, Current No. $\frac{235}{Rev}$ of 1898 dated 25th January 1898:-

I have the honor to request the favor of early orders on this office disposal No. $\frac{6803}{Rev}$ of 1897 dated 19th ultimo regarding the dry remissions for fashi 1306 so as to enable me to complete the jamabandi of the affected taluk and submit the jamabandi report for fashi 1306

Resolution

Submitted to Govern-
ment in continuation of
Board's

Board Proceedings No 1 dated 3?

January 1898

(True Copy & Extract)

R. V. Sundarasingh
Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Cuddapah

Encl
29/1/98

Cuss 56/98. 2786.

Note.

The current read above embodies proposals for the grant of dry remissions in the Cuddapah district for fasli 1306. The questions for the orders of Govt are

- (i) the delay of the collector in submitting these proposals and
- (ii) the proposals themselves.

2. The first four paras of Mr. Tate's letter are devoted to an explanation of the circumstances under which the submission of the proposals was delayed. He attributes the delay, ^{in the first instance} to the ~~unfortunate~~ ^{unfortunate} tardiness of the talukdars in furnishing the requisite information and latterly to heavy work and ill-health on his own part. The Board of Rs dwells but little on this point and leaves it to the Govt to censure or excuse the collector. Mr. Tate is now on 22 months' furlough. Attention is in this connection solicited to ~~pass~~ ^{the} remarks of Govt in para 3 of P.O. No 4609 ^{2.9.97} (Confidential) and the notes thereunder.

3. The proposals for remission embrace four taluks - Cuddapah, Boddan, Jammalamadugu and Pulivendla - and relate to 247 out of 414 villages comprising these taluks. Mr. Tate gives details

Mr. Tate has already been told in EO 4609 that his delay in submitting these proposals reflects ^{2.9.97} great discredit on him. This discredit is not palliated by the work he had to do in connection with Famine Relief & the state of his locality, but it is not palliated by the statements in this letter that his subordinates disobeyed orders, and that he spent a great deal of his time in such matters as the distribution of Famine the Charitable Committee's Relief Fund money. If he had been more fit for a collector's work, he would have made his subordinates obedient, & known of some of them who could be trusted to disburse the Relief Fund money, whilst he attended to some more important matters.

On the 6th April 1898, Mr. Tate reported to the Bd that some of the crops in the affected taluks of the district had yielded badly, whilst others had yielded well, & that it was only petty talukdars, paying Rs 30 or less, who should get "Dry" remission, & they only with respect to the crops which had failed. The Bd rejected this proposal absolutely, & said that if tracts could not be classified for the purpose of granting "dry" remission

C. 19/4/98
R. 26/2/98
P. 24/4/98
R. 24/4/98
R. 24/4/98
R. 24/4/98

2

We take now and a list of villages in which the local officers say there has been a yield of 2 annas or less, of between 2 & 4 annas, & of between 4 & 6 annas; & proposes that they should get total remission, half remission, & a quarter remission respectively. This list is partly founded on unchecked Karmari returns which, as repeated stated by the Comr, are quite untrustworthy, & partly on the arbitrary conjectures of local officers. There was no inspection of the villages, whilst crops were in the ground, & there is no way of testing the surmises on which the list has been prepared. It is impossible to see whether it is just to the State or the ryots, & it cannot be accepted. As the Bd say, no backward of them of granting "remission can now be devised" which shall not be open to many serious & obvious objections.

vide B.P. $\frac{330}{1.8.72}$ $\frac{1.45}{1.8.72}$ $\frac{4613}{5.4.97}$ Y

It seems to favor of his proposal of April, viz that mission should be sent.

note B.P. $\frac{330}{1.5.92}$ $\frac{4613}{2.4.97}$ ✓

It seems to part of his proposal of April, viz that minimum old pension

I have no doubt that there was
great distress in the affected parts
of Cuddapah, & that "dry remissions"
is well known there, as much as in
vide. para 4 of ^{B. P.} ~~Government~~ (Current)
no 56

remissions are granted, but having regard to the large amounts involved under such a proposal and the improbability of the proposal receiving any support, he has now ~~pro~~ suggests a scale of percents age remissions proportionate to the total payable by each petty trader. viz,

- (a) ^{Full} ~~for~~ remission to those paying
Rs 10 and less
- (b) 50 p.c remission to those paying
above Rs 10 and up to Rs 20
- (c) 25 p.c remission to ~~those~~
paying above ^{Rs 20} Rs 20 & up to Rs 30.

4. The Board of Rev: notes that the Collector's proposal is open to several objections, viz, that there are no satisfactory data upon which the villages which should receive remission could be fixed; selected, that the dividing line between full, half and quarter remissions is arbitrary and will work hardship, that the holders of many small pottas may ~~not~~ be well-to-do and not stand in need of any remission and that the relief proposed is, in the opinion of some, whose opinion is entitled to weight, inadequate. In view, however, of the fact that any estimate

may be summarized as follows:

which can now be framed can be but mere guesses, based as they are on little else than the local officers' general knowledge of the circumstances of the ryots of each village as a body, the Board of Revenue recommends the acceptance of the Collector's proposals as the best way out of the difficulty, suggesting the adoption simultaneously of the procedure approved by Govt for the grant of relief in the Ramallakot taluk, Kurnool district, in cases in which the sanctioned remissions failed to afford the needed relief, viz, to write off as irrecoverable sum due from ryots in distressed circumstances without proceeding to sell up the defaulters' property.

5. The effect of the collector's proposals if remissions are granted under the rules are exhibited in the statements below:-

No. I

Taluks.	Total number of villages	Number of villages in which no remission is recommended.	Full remission.		50 per cent. recommended.		25 per cent. recommended.		Total.	
			Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.
Cuddapah ..	130	93	2	RS. 219	18	12,184	17	5,755	37	18,158
Proddatur ..	70	38	..	..	26	34,453	6	4,000	32	38,453
Jammalamadugu ..	113	18	19	20,014	56	49,311	20	6,368	95	75,683
Pulivendla ..	101	18	18	17,721	59	53,317	6	3,815	83	74,853
Total ..	414	167	39	37,954	159	1,49,265	49	10,928	247	2,07,147

4
What accounts we have been described as untrustworthy, but my experience leads me to believe that they are not untrustworthy as to their two primary things, where there is any good at all, they cannot be trusted as to the amount of it.

24/2/98

Sir H. Bliss
26/2/98

Considering the frightful delay which has occurred, and the injury which will be done to the people if inadequate relief is offered to them after seasons unduly late and very bad here, I think it will be best to accept Mr. Tate's proposals, notwithstanding the objections to them, the four taluks I fully admit. Their final result will be that, though in some exceptional cases ryots may get relief who do not really need it, the poorer pottadars of the four taluks will have a substantial concession made to them in a form which is as unlikely as any not to be intercepted by the taluk and village establishments.

As Mr. Tate, there is nothing to be said. It is proved that his incapacity in controlling his subordinate is a fact that was known before.

27/2/98

To Hon. Mr. Bliss again, as Hon. Sir

The Hon. Sir H. Bliss, if I understand him, means to accept Mr. Tate's proposals en bloc and as set down by H. H. ?

13/2/98

I also understand the Hon. Sir H. Bliss to agree with the Board in accepting Mr. Tate's proposals. On reconsideration I understood my opinion was that the proposals of remissions as to the total loss of crop will certainly be a very limited relief, & inadequate, considering what the people have suffered. Mr. Tate has distinctly stated, however, that we cannot say because of the delay it is attributable to a late officer, not the proper recourse to the Ramallakot procedure is out of the question.

24/3/98

H. H. The Governor

24/3/98

No. II

Amounts involved by the adoption of the Collector's proposals.

Taluka.	100 per cent. recommended.		50 per cent. recommended.		25 per cent. recommended.		Total.		Remission recommended under tractwar system.
	Number of pottadars.	Amount.	Number of pottadars.	Amount.	Number of pottadars.	Amount.	Number of pottadars.	Amount.	
Cuddapah ..	4,138	RS. 12,425	2,069	RS. 6,212	1,034	3,106	5,196	17,993	18,158
Proddatur ..	3,082	11,183	1,541	5,591	770	2,604	4,619	20,545	38,453
Jammalamadugu ..	6,529	21,189	3,264	10,756	1,632	3,955	8,963	35,930	75,683
Pulivendla ..	9,458	26,794	4,729	12,636	2,364	4,332	12,923	43,762	74,853
Total ..	23,207	71,591	11,603	34,280	5,790	12,359	31,701	1,18,230	2,07,147

6. In the case of the

reported, the Collector's proposals may be approved and as also the Board's proposals to supplement the relief afforded by the proposed remissions by waiting off the ryots who are really unable to pay. The Collector's proposals are in the matter of (vide No. 786/98). With regard to the second of the Board's recommendations, attention is drawn to the Hon. Sir H. Bliss's minute of dissent recorded in No. 1051 of 15.12.97.

The collector requests very early orders in the matter - (Please see No. 786/98).

16/2/98

Secy

The delay in submitting proposals may be summarized as

follows

① The first dry coals were not properly examined. Mr Tate was absent at the time.

(2) Up to March
the second crops had
not so failed as to
justify proposals for
dry remissions.

(3) When the Board
in May ordered tactical
statements to be prepared
no reliable information
could be got. The
Karnau estimates
could not be trusted as
then were written
with a knowledge that
dry remissions wd
probably be granted
(Vide B.P. No 322 &
6th November 1896 Fly A)

The collector proposals
therefore amount to this.
There is no evidence of
complete failure of
the crops. But the
small pattadar have
certainly suffered during

The past fasti. Therefore
omission may
result in the Taluk
most affected to those
holding
small pattahs.

It is difficult
to submit to find any
reasons to justify the
adoption of these
proposals. The board
seems to accept them
~~as a~~ for want of
better.

Wm. L. G. B.

The Bd recommends that the relief thus granted should be supplemented by writing off the arrears of time as found inadvisable to pay. This recommendation was accepted as a very exceptional case indeed for Ramallah Taluk in Kurnool. It was an exceptional case indeed.

S.O. 1131
15 Dec 87

PDZ

Para 5 of B.P. 60 d 10 Sep 87
on which G.O. 1057 d 15 Dec 87 *Flag*
was passed contemplated
the rule being made
General - during the
present year &
apparently the Board
has read the G.O. as
approving of this course.

W.H.
18/1/88

H.M.

If there was no where
complete failure, dry remissions
should be granted. Prices were
so high that even a trifling
return placed a report in
a position in which in any
other year he would not think
of claiming remission. Of
course there were hard
cases where the holding was
small & gave insufficient
for a season's food for the
family. But ~~the~~ ~~the~~
~~the~~ the agrarist was either
too late or untrustworthy; &
to grant remission on individual

This is ^{very}
often the case
H.M.

1 on village

1 on village
H.M.

considerations is not the
approved. A man with
a small holding is one
taking, may have ~~some~~
other land in another taluk
or in another district or
have other means of
livelihood. To test such
cases w? only throw
money, improperly earned,
into the hands of Village
officers & Res. inspectors.
Once the principle of
~~partial~~ remission with
reference to the condition
of a whole tract, and
that properly inspected, is
departed from there is
no safe ground.

The Kamalakot case was
exceptional & intended to
be so. W. J. G. should be censured
7-19/1/88

Read

(1) B. P. No. 1, d/3-1-98 (C. No. 56)

(2) B. P. No. 577, d/29-1-98 (C. No. 786)

Order (Press), No. 154 of 15th March 1898.

His Excellency the Governor in Council fully admits the force of the objections to which Mr. Tate's proposals are open. ^{to say the least} The ryots, however, need relief after what was undoubtedly a bad season. In consequence of the great delay occasioned by the most reprehensible dilatoriness of the collector and his subordinates, no scheme of remissions free from serious objection can now be devised. His Excellency the Governor in Council determines, therefore, to accept Mr. Tate's proposals in their entirety.

2. With reference to the Board's suggestion to afford further relief after the manner recently adopted in the Pammallakot Taluk of the Kurnool District, the Government desires to point out that that procedure was sanctioned as a special case in exceptional circumstances. No similar course can be sanctioned in the present case.

for.

1/11

12/1/98

8/7/98

To the Board (Rev. Settlement)

To the Financial Deptt.

Public Deptt.

Public Deptt.

24/3/98

2. C. 10/1/98

29.3.98

Government {1898} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

} 1898.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 154, 15th March 1898.

MARCH.

Dry remissions.

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting to Government, with remarks, proposals
of the Collector of Cuddapah regarding — for fasli 1306.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture) No. 1, dated 3rd January 1898:—

Read—the following letter from A. C. TATE, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 19th December 1897:—

With reference to B.P., No. 330, Press, dated 1st May 1897, I have the honour to state as follows.

2. The agricultural year, fasli 1306, opened auspiciously with timely rains and this stimulated sowings of dry crops. When I left India on privilege leave on the 1st October 1896, the district was in good condition and there was not the slightest reason to suspect that it would be overtaken by distress or famine. The North-East monsoon on which the fate of the first dry crop depended was not then due. I returned to duty on the 6th January 1897 and what the fate of the first dry crop was, I am not in a position to say, as it was entirely off the ground by that time. As soon as the rains of October failed, my *locum tenens*, Mr. A. T. Forbes issued instructions for a detailed and thorough azmoish by superior officers of all crops doomed to failure, but nothing appears to have been done as the following extracts from the reports of Divisional officers will show. The fate of the first dry crop is thus unknown, and I cannot be held personally responsible for this. After the November rains, a very large extent of land was re-sown as the annexed abstract of cultivation will show and when I re-joined the district, this crop was still young and in good condition. What I had to ascertain personally was then the fate of the second crop. I travelled over the greater portion of the affected area in the latter part of January and in February, when I found that a cholam crop in many places was green and strong, though stunted in growth, and its fate remained doubtful until March. The other crops which were in a more hopeful state than the cholam were also not ripe for harvest, and I was compelled to ask for time, while the harvest was doubtful as no report could be made until it was definitely known what the yield was or was likely to be or whether the crop was an entire failure. My wide enquiries showed that there was nothing like a universal or widespread failure of the first dry crop, but in accordance with the Board's Standing Orders, tractwar statements were called for and to this end, clear instructions were issued by me on Mr. Runga Rau's reference printed in B.P., No. 162, dated 25th February 1897. The Board was aware of this. M.R.Ry. M. V. Narayanasami Pillai, the Special Deputy Collector on famine duty, in whom the Board asked me to place implicit confidence and whom I specially asked to watch the state of crops and submit a report on dry remissions and Deputy Collector Syed Khadir Padsha Sahib, who was in charge of the head-quarter division from the latter part of December to the latter part of March, reported to me that if tracts were to be considered there should be no remissions, and they therefore did not prepare tractwar statements, and I accordingly submitted my report to the Board.

3. The Board having in the Proceedings under reply suddenly called for tractwar statements, I did everything to obtain them in as short a time as possible; but the statements and sketches submitted by the Tahsildars were so very varied in form

and incomplete that I did not consider them fit to be submitted to the Board. For instance, the sketches submitted by the Tahsildar of Jammalamadugu were not of use, as they did not indicate the position of the tracts on which poor crop was obtained. The statements sent up by this Tahsildar did not give details as to the extent of dry land left waste, nor did it appear that the extent of well lands and topes was excluded. The Proddatur statements were somewhat better but the extent and assessment on occupied waste was not given. In Pulivendla, no details as to the area under each anna notation were furnished and the Tahsildar who was new to the taluk stated that he was unable to speak about the condition of the crops. The Cuddapah taluk statements were also defective, as the financial effect of his proposals could not be correctly determined from the statements furnished by the Tahsildar. Even if these defects were remedied, my principal difficulty was that no useful proposals for remission could be framed on the karnam's estimate of outturn which was, I believe, purposely under-rated this year in order to get remissions. I was unable therefore to counter-sign or forward statements which I knew to be unreliable. While I was hesitating to submit a report based upon them I understood that the Commissioner, Mr. Winterbotham, was to visit this district and I therefore postponed submitting the incomplete statements till after I had a personal interview with the Commissioner.

Dry Cultivation.

Taluks.	Government.		Inam.		Total.		Total of previous year.		Average of five years.	
	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.
Cuddapah	RS. 1,05,990	RS. 21,791	RS. 48,938	RS. 10,370	RS. 1,54,928	RS. 32,161	RS. 1,68,260	RS. 10,909	RS. 1,62,039	RS. 10,968
Proddatur	90,576	23,867	45,694	11,088	1,36,170	34,955	1,35,880	5,788	1,43,935	4,734
Jammalamadugu ..	1,13,513	24,112	57,269	11,063	1,70,782	35,175	1,78,062	3,055	1,84,985	3,413
Pulivendla	1,29,737	27,834	39,375	7,827	1,69,112	35,661	1,93,789	5,405	1,93,130	4,773

4. When the Commissioner visited the district about the 10th September 1897, the Tahsildar's statements were placed before him, and on personal consultation, it was arranged that a fresh set of statements in the form proposed by the Commissioner should be called for from the Tahsildars. Accordingly I issued a circular on the 12th September 1897, giving the Tahsildars three weeks' time to submit the revised statements. The Proddatur and Jammalamadugu Tahsildars' statements were received just in time. The Tahsildar of Cuddapah submitted them after a delay of four days. The Pulivendla Tahsildar has been the last to send them after three telegrams were sent to him. I regret that owing to the unpunctuality of the Tahsildars, I was not able to send my consolidated report to the Commissioner within the time agreed and that, subsequently owing to the heavy and worrying work I have had to do—most of it very urgent and personal, e.g., distribution of Indian Charitable Relief Fund money—and the manner in which the same has told upon my health, I have failed to dispose of this matter. I am deeply sensible of the very considerate manner in which I have been treated by the Commissioner, and regret exceedingly that I have caused such delay in an important matter. I ought to have applied for leave early in October when I began to find that my health rendered me unequal to getting through my work efficiently; but there were several matters that seemed to me to require to be done by myself and I have foolishly postponed too long applying for relief. My application for 22 months' furlough is now before Government. The Commissioner is possibly aware that a Medical Board ordered me home for two years in 1892 for indisposition brought on by sun exposure, and during the current year owing to famine operations I have undergone a very great deal of exposure which has most seriously affected my powers of work. I trust that if the leave I am now asking for is granted I shall be able to do satisfactory work on my return to duty.

5. At the personal conference with the Commissioner, he was of opinion that, as in the other three Deccan Districts, remissions on dry land in this district should be given with reference to tracts in accordance with the Board's Standing orders. As has been stated above, no tractwar statements have been prepared in any village; and the

only course now left is to treat each village as a "tract." Further, the average yield for purposes of calculating the percentage of remission has to be arrived at, with reference to the karnam's estimate of outturn, which, as I have already stated, is most unreliable and under the mark. The result is that several villages which fared well would, under the percentage system, get more than what they deserve with reference to the well-known condition of the ryots and the state of the crops. I therefore instructed Tahsildars to reduce the amount of remission to a reasonable sum, where necessary, with reference to their personal knowledge of each village. The rates of remission ordinarily proposed are—

- (i) 100 per cent. in villages in which the average yield was below two annas.
- (ii) 50 per cent. in villages in which the average yield was between two and four annas.
- (iii) 25 per cent. in villages in which the average yield was above four and below six annas.

In calculating the average, the extent on which an outturn of 6 annas and above was realized was excluded. Unenfranchised inams paying jodi are to share in the remissions. Waste including mamul waste is to get full remission irrespective of the percentage allowed for failure of crop. Well lands and topes have been excluded from these proposals. Fully assessed inams will also have the benefit of the remissions, as they are all treated as ryotwar lands in this district. In several villages which according to the ordinary calculations on karnam's figures of outturn, would get a remission of 100 and 50 per cent., the Tahsildars have, with reference to the directions given to them, recommended only 50 and 25 per cent., respectively, with due regard to their local knowledge and the condition of the ryots, &c., in those villages. From my own observations and enquiries, I am able to state that such villages do not deserve more than the amounts recommended by the Tahsildars. The Tahsildar of Pulivendla has not attended to the instructions on this point. He has contented himself with merely giving the percentages arrived at with reference to the karnam's figures. In most villages of this taluk, the Famine Deputy Collector, M.R.Ry. M. V. Narayanasawmi Pillai, has entered his own remarks and submitted his proposals regarding the amount of remission that may fairly be granted. A copy of his letter, Ref. No. 1202-F., dated 10th October 1897, regarding the statements of this taluk is submitted for the Board's information. In some villages, where the Deputy Collector has not made his remarks, I have not considered it necessary to give full remission and have reduced it by half as karnam's accounts are unreliable. The village statements submitted by the Tahsildars are herewith forwarded as per accompanying list. The annexed abstract show the number of villages in each taluk, in which remission is recommended under the three classes above described and the amounts involved:—

Taluku.	Total number of villages	Number of villages in which no remission is recommended.	Full remission.		50 per cent. recommended.		25 per cent. recommended.		Total.	
			Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.	Number of villages.	Amount.
Cuddapah ..	130	93	2	RS. 219	18	RS. 12,184	17	RS. 5,755	37	RS. 18,158
Proddatur ..	70	38	..	..	26	34,453	6	4,000	32	38,453
Jammalamadugu ..	113	18	19	20,014	56	49,311	20	6,358	95	75,683
Pulivendla ..	101	18	18	17,721	59	53,317	6	3,815	83	74,853
Total ..	414	167	39	37,954	159	1,49,265	49	19,928	247	2,07,147

From the above statement it will be seen that the total amount proposed to be remitted in the four affected taluks is Rs. 2,07,147. This includes Rs. 31,549 on waste including mamul waste and Rs. 1,124 on unenfranchised jodi inams.

6. The above proposals are submitted on the supposition that the provisions of the existing standing orders are not to be departed from, but I beg to point out that, as observed by Government in G.O., No. 442, Revenue, dated 5th June 1897

(printed in B.P., No. 441, dated 16th June 1897 (Settlement Records) even the above proposals are not fully in accord with the Standing Orders and are at variance from them in several important particulars, and I therefore beg leave to urge that Government may be moved to consider my proposal to abandon the idea of granting any remission except in the case of petty pattadars paying Rs. 30 and less. My reasons for such a proposal are contained in paragraph 4 of my letter printed in page 5 of B.P., No. 330, dated 1st May 1897. To state briefly, they are—

General remissions on dry lands are an unnecessary sacrifice of revenue which the circumstances of the year do not demand. Good seasons in the past three years enabled many of the large land-holders to store large stocks of grain, which they sold at very high prices. The excellent ragi crops they have had in fasli 1306 under wells and channels, realized at least double the profits of ordinary years owing to high prices. The petty pattadars on the other hand, who are little better than labourers, are in many cases affected by a single bad season, as their income of ordinary years does not leave them a sufficient margin for bad years and to enforce payment of assessment this year from such persons on lands which have suffered would probably be to involve them in debt. The grant of dry remissions is purely an act of grace and this concession need not be extended to those who are not in need of it. In the memorial presented to His Excellency the Governor by the Cuddapah District Association, they did not ask for more than this. The two Deputy Collectors M.R.Ry. Runga Rao and Narayanasawmi Pillai also advocated almost similar views.

7. At the personal conference with the Commissioner, he said, I think, that, as the amount of remission to be granted to petty pattadars under my proposal would be much larger than that to be granted under the tractwar system, it was not likely to receive support. I have therefore slightly changed the proposals as follows:—

- (a) Full remission to all pattadars paying Rs. 10 and under.
- (b) 50 per cent. remission to all pattadars paying above Rs. 10 and up to Rs. 20.
- (c) 25 per cent. remission to all pattadars paying above Rs. 20 and up to Rs. 30.

8. The financial effect of this proposal is favourable to Government as the subjoined statement will show:—

Taluku.	100 per cent. recommended.		50 per cent. recommended.		25 per cent. recommended.		Total.		Remission recommended under tractwar system.
	Number of pattadars.	Amount.	Number of pattadars.	Amount.	Number of pattadars.	Amount.	Number of pattadars.	Amount.	
Cuddapah ..	4,138	RS. 12,425	739	RS. 4,100	319	RS. 1,468	5,196	RS. 17,993	18,158
Proddatur ..	3,082	11,183	1,069	6,758	468	2,604	4,619	20,545	38,453
Jammalamadugu ..	6,529	21,189	1,683	10,786	751	3,955	8,963	35,930	75,683
Pulivendla ..	9,458	26,794	2,461	12,636	1,004	4,332	12,923	43,762	74,853
Total ..	23,207	71,591	5,952	34,280	2,542	12,359	31,701	1,18,230	2,07,147

Village statements for this alternative proposal are also submitted as per list for the Board's information. I request that the Board will support this proposal and submit it for the sanction of Government.

9. The Sub-Collector's report regarding Gowkanapalle of Kadiri taluk is herewith submitted.

Resolution—No. 1, dated 3rd January 1898.

The letter read above contains the proposals of the Collector of Cuddapah concerning the grant of dry remissions in his district for fasli 1306, and will be submitted to Government, with reference to B.P. (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 330, dated 1st

May 1897, recorded in G.O., Mis. No. 4613, Revenue, dated 3rd September 1897. The letter reached the Board's office on 20th December 1897.

2. The Board must leave it to Government to censure, or excuse, the Collector for the inordinate delay, which so long ago as May last was severely commented on by the Board. Famine duty combined with the known inferiority of the Cuddapah revenue establishment has no doubt exposed the Collector to much unusual work and worry, and the Board is aware that there has been no lack of effort on his part; but had it been better directed, the Board cannot but think that such excessive delay might have been avoided.

3. The Collector and his Divisional-officers represented in April last the difficulty of recommending dry remission by tracts, inasmuch as certain of the dry crops, which are sown here and there in considerable variety in every village, had withstood the drought better than others, and had yielded fairly. Cotton and oil-seeds were in particular alleged to have yielded well; and in the case of many mixed crops, e.g., chulam and cotton, korra and cotton, horsegram and cotton, it was very hard to determine how the outturn should be estimated.

It is no doubt true that no plan of granting percentage dry remissions by tracts (taking the village as the unit in the manner contemplated in Board's Standing Order No. 23) can now be devised which shall not be open to many serious and obvious objections.

The Collector accordingly repeats his recommendation that the attempt to estimate the loss of dry crops last year by tracts, with a view to granting a percentage remission proportionate to the average loss on each tract should be abandoned, and that relief in respect of the assessment due on dry lands should be restricted to 247 villages, selected as having suffered most out of the total of 414 villages in the four taluks; and that in these 247 villages, remission should be granted only to the petty pattadars, who alone (so he contends) are unable to meet the land revenue demand.

4. He proposes that in the said 247 villages remission of dry assessment should be granted on the following lines:—

- (a) Full remission to all pattadars paying Rs. 10 and under.
- (b) 50 per cent. to all pattadars paying more than Rs. 10 and up to Rs. 20.
- (c) 25 per cent. to all pattadars paying more than Rs. 20 and up to Rs. 30.

Under this proposal, out of a total of 69,120 pattas in the four affected taluks, 23,207 pattas (more than one-third of the whole) will receive full remission of dry assessment; 5,952 pattas will receive 50 per cent.; 2,542 will receive 25 per cent.; 31,701 pattas in all will receive remission amounting to Rs. 1,18,230.

The full demand on account of dry lands in the four taluks in fasli 1305 was about Rs. 5,63,000.

The proposal is open to several objections—

(1) There are no satisfactory data for drawing the dividing line between villages which should receive remission and those which should not.

(2) In the villages selected for remission, the dividing line between full, half, and a quarter remission is arbitrary and will work hardship. The pattadar from whom Rs. 10 is due will escape altogether, while his neighbour, whose assessment is Rs. 11, will have to pay up Rs. 5-8-0 and so on.

(3) Many pattadars may hold, or share in, several pattas, and in some cases small pattas are held by merchants, owners of indigo vats and others, for land not devoted to agriculture.

(4) The relief proposed is in the opinion of some, whose opinion is entitled to respect, inadequate.

5. If, in the alternative, a percentage remission be given, village by village, equally to all the pattadars of a village, in proportion to the supposed average yield of all the dry crops, and without reference to individual crops or individual losses, it can now be based on little else than the local officers' general knowledge of the circumstances of the ryots of each village as a body, and it is probable that the apportionment will be very unequal in its incidence, and that many will receive remission who are not in distressed circumstances, while the poorest may not receive sufficient relief.

Under the most favourable circumstances the preparation of an estimate of the average loss of crop, village by village, taking all dry crops together, is attended with much difficulty; and after such protracted delay it is simply impossible to obtain any trustworthy data.

6. The Board as at present constituted therefore resolves to recommend to Government acceptance of the Collector's proposals as, on the whole, the best way out of the difficulty. The remission will, for the most part, undoubtedly reach the poorest classes of pattadars, who stand most in need of lenient treatment, and further relief to other pattadars in distressed circumstances can be judiciously afforded in the manner indicated in B.P. (R. S., L. R. and Agri.) No. 610, dated 10th September 1897, and approved by Government in G.O., No. 1051, Revenue, dated 15th December 1897.

7. The very early orders of Government on the Collector's proposals are solicited.

The Famine Commissioner has been consulted and concurs in the Board's recommendation.

(True Copy and Extract).

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with original enclosures as per list to be returned.
„ Collector of Cuddapah.
„ Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

READ—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 577, dated 27th January 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government letter from the Collector of Cuddapah requesting that early orders may be passed on his letter Disposal No. 6803-Rev. of 1897, regarding the dry remissions for fasli 1306.

ORDER—No. 154, Revenue, dated 15th March 1898.

Land Revenue No. 4.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that Mr. Tate's proposals are open to very grave objections.

The ryots, however, need relief after what was undoubtedly a bad season. In consequence of the great delay occasioned by the most reprehensible dilatoriness of the Collector and his subordinates, no scheme of remissions free from serious objection can now be devised. His Excellency the Governor in Council determines, therefore, to accept Mr. Tate's proposals in their entirety.

2. With reference to the Board's suggestion to afford further relief after the manner recently adopted in the Ramallakot taluk of the Kurnool district, the Government desires to point out that that procedure was sanctioned as a special case in exceptional circumstances. No similar course can be sanctioned in the present case.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture), with nine enclosures.
„ the Financial Department.

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Exd. Shaik Karim.

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