0/9 8.904—5-3-02.

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2421

DATED 6th June

[Despatch Abstract.]

Stating that the Govt. will not interfere with the Board's order authorizing the grant of remission of assessment on Sugar Cane plantations in the Godavari &c. and requesting the Board to report under what rules it sanctioned the remissions on dry lands and on portions of survey fields

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cus.	1025/97.						

Read B.P. 2470 (Cus 2823)
6-4-98

G.O. Cus No. 2921 dft 6th June 98

The Government will not interfere with the orders issued in the above Proceedings as the remissions authorized by the Board have probably been granted already. But there is no provision in the S.O. for remissions on account of part or total crops ~~and~~ The Board will be called upon to report under what rules it sanctioned these ~~the~~ remissions on dry lands and on portions of Survey fields.

2. A copy of the Collector's letter will be communicated to Dr A. Q. Bourne.

Jury

Everybody knows this. The point is that these lands are in the delta

4.6

RS 6-98

(only para 2) Draft to Govt

To the Bd of Rev (Rev Sec'y) with Enclosures returned

To Dr A. Q. Bourne, Professor of Physics

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 28228.

Order

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

No. 2147 Miscellaneous

Dated 6th April 1898

Received 13 "

Registered 13 "

Enclosures 2

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Petitioning the Collector's proposal to grant remission of assessment on sugar cane plantations in cases in which the crop on the entire plantation has been wholly lost

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

(Sclt. 22—2,0.0.—11-8-97.)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE MADRAS

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Dated 6th April 1898.

No. 2170. Miscellaneous

READ Letter from the Collector of Godavari, Dispsal No 1162 Rev. of 1898 dated 17th march 1898

Resolution

Recorded, pending receipt of further replies to Board's Proceedings No 1662 Miscellaneous dated 5th march 1898.

2. The Board Sanctions the Collector's proposal in para 10 of his letter to grant remission of assessment on Sugar-cane plantations in those cases in which the crop on the entire plantation has been wholly lost. The remission may be granted whether the plantation covers entire Survey fields or portions thereof.

(True Extract)

R. V. Sriniwasach
Secretary

To
The Collector of Godavari
The Secretary to Government Revenue Department.

Revenue Department.

Copy of letter from the Collector of Godavari to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement &c. Dis. No. 1162/Rev. of '98 dated Cocanada, 17th March 1898.

B.P.No.9366 /isc.d/ 20-11-97.
B.P.No.1622 /isc.d/ 5-3-98.

In reference to Board's Proceedings noted in the margin regarding the sugarcane pest, I have the honour to report as follows:-

2. Sugarcane cultivation is carried on to a considerable extent in the four taluks noted in the margin and the disease has appeared this year in the first and last talu:s.

Ramachandrapur T:.
Narsapur Talu:.
Peddapur do.
Cocanada Division.

3. This disease is locally attributed to an insect not previously known to the ryots but its habits are not known to any: nor has it any local names. The disease was in fact never before known or noticed. No other crop has been damaged by this pest.

4. In the Cocanada Division very little damage is reported to have been done to sugarcane. In Ramachandrapur talu:, on the other hand, where sugarcane is grown on the largest scale in the district, real damage appears to have been caused. A statement showing the damage done there is herewith submitted: from which it will be seen that according to the Tahsildar's estimate the total extent cultivated with this crop during this fasli is acres 3991, a little less than 1/8 of which (acres 468) has suffered total loss and a sixth (acres 651) yielded only a 4 annas crop. The average outturn of the crop for the whole taluk is estimated at between 8 and 12 annas. Except in a few cases in a few villages

1.Ulapalli
2.Pandalapaka.
3.Kontuduru.
4.Palatodu.
5.Vandapeta.
6.Yedida and
7.Narsipudi.

no whole gardens have been damaged. The damage has been considerable in the tract lying between Samalcot and Vandapet canals and adjacent to the Cocanada canal which has always been considerable considered to be the best for sugarcane cultivation. Immediately on first intimation of this disease on the 15th October last from the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada, I instituted enquiries and called for reports from the Tahsildars of the several taluks where there is more or less of this

cultivation. The Tahsildar of Ramachandrapur Taluk where the damage has been considerable, first reported on the 10th December last stating that the damage was still spreading and promising more reliable statistics by the end of January, or in the middle of February. In his further report dated 10-2-98, he stated that the figures already reported needed no revision as the disease had not spread after his first report: what was damaged previously was for the most part removed and manufactured into jaggery by the end of December. The damage is, he says, generally attributed to exhaustion of the soil: but this cannot be the whole explanation for cane grown this year in fields which had not been cultivated with sugar cane for a decade or so has also suffered. Another explanation is said to be found in the use as manure of the castor seed refuse of the factories after the oil has been expressed. This refuse has however been so used for a long series of years. But it is significant that in the taluks of Narsapur and Peddapur where such refuse is not employed as manure, no damage of crop has been reported. It does not appear that Dr.Bourne's attention was called to this point. Some ryots attribute the disease to the heavy rainfall, but this is apparently an untenable explanation inasmuch as the rainfall was not greater than that of 1895 in this taluk. Vide margin. Mr.Parker D.P.W Sub-divisional officer in charge of the Eastern Division who has closely inspected some gardens writes as follows:-

	1895 C.In.	1896 C.In.	1897 C.In.
July	7.70	6.02	5.42
August	7.9	5.20	8.46
Septr,	11.47	2.81	10.82
Octr.	8.31	0.53	8.35
Novr.	..	2.11	0.37
Total	34.37	16.67	33.42

"I am inclined to agree with a theory advanced by some ryots that the ground has rotted and produced it. The ground has been cultivated year after year with the same crop- sugarcane. The constant production of such a strong crop fatigues the land and impoverishes it. In addition to this, the fact is well-known that the ryots in ploughing up the land for a new crop of cane only partially remove the old roots. The ground is constantly soaked with water and is absolutely rotted by the decaying stumps and roots. I have smelt in some fields where I have had some digging done, that heavy smell of decayed vegetable matter noticed in old swamps and drains. I do not know if mere decay could produce these parasites but it would certainly appear to foster germs which may have been present already".

3. As regards the symptoms of the disease it is reported that the canes turned red inside and when opened emitted an offensive smell. As soon as a cane is attacked it begins to wither the topmost leaves going first. It seems that these symptoms also appeared in previous years here and there, but no notice was taken as no appreciable damage was caused.

6. The ryots appear to have had a notion that the disease would be arrested by cutting and removing the cane as soon as the above symptoms appeared and they have done accordingly.

7. Several specimens of the insect have been sent to the Supt., Central Museum, Madras as directed by the Board; but Dr. Bourne is of opinion that while some of them are perfectly harmless, others which are capable of doing harm are answerable for but a very infinitesimal portion of the damage compared with that done by a fungoid growth.

8. Agreeably to B.P.No. 1622 Misc., dated 5-3-98, I have instructed my Divisional and Taluk officers to induce the ryots to adopt the precautions mentioned by Dr. Bourne and I am publishing Telugu translations of the measures he recommends in the form of leaflets in the sugarcane growing villages.

9. Mr. Bourne's remedial measures are however I may mention so drastic that I am very doubtful if the ryots will adopt them till driven to do so by further losses, for they do not coincide with any of the views which are that the reddish fungoid growth spoken of by Dr. Bourne is a consequence and not the cause of the disease. In favour of the "water-logged" explanation too, it may be noted that although the rainfall this year in July, August, September and October was no heavier than in 1895 yet in 1897 the rain set in very late (about 15th July) and found the sugarcane in a backward and indifferent condition in consequence of the exceptionally prolonged hot weather. Very possibly the backward cane of 1897 failed because it could not stand the same amount of water in the monsoon as the advanced cane of 1895. Though

equally heavy the rainfall of 1895 too was better distributed as this year the rains were continuous from the middle of July to the middle of October whereas in 1895 there was a welcome break from about the 10th of September to the middle of October.

10. In regard to the damage done, the Tahsildar of Ramachandrapur enquires whether

(1) remission may be allowed in cases of total loss

(2) if it is allowable, whether it can be granted for portions of survey fields planted with sugarcane

(3) what is the standard of total loss in the case of sugarcane? Board's Standing order No. 23 does not contemplate cases of pest. Nor do the rules allow remission for portions of survey fields. But these gardens are generally raised in selected portions of fields and my Sub-Collector recommends that, as a special case, remission may be granted in cases of total loss, whether in whole or portions of fields. What extent of damage is to be taken to be the total loss? I cannot say definitely; nor is it possible for the revenue subordinate officers in this district to say, for they are accustomed only to estimate the yield of paddy and other food grains; but have never had occasion to estimate the yield of sugarcane and other garden crops. As stated above, it is only small portions of gardens here and there that have suffered generally, but whole gardens have not been lost except in solitary instances. In my opinion it would be enough if remission be allowed only in those few instances where gardens have been wholly destroyed and the ryot has reaped nothing, whether it be on whole survey fields or portions thereof. I solicit the Board's early instructions in the matter as it is time for jamabandy.

C.R.R
23.6.98

Statement showing the extent of garden cultivation in the villages of Ramachandrapur Taluk

Name of village	Total extent	Extent of garden cultivation	Sugarcane	Plantain	Betel	Cocoanut	Jack	Mango	Tamarind	Other trees
			Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
1. Kavalakrapalem	345	37	—	14	19	—	—	—	—	—
2. Anaparti	2382	25	339	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Peravarthi	947	27	122	92	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Balantarau	13	70	1	63	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Alamuru	302	26	3	70	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Pamarru	—	12	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3901	2	464	255	19	—	—	—	—	—

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READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

CURREN., No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO								
PAPERS NOT FILED ETC, BEING MEANT FOR DEBTATION IN ORIGINAL.								

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