Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2723

DATED 28th June 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Proceedings of the Court of Wards communicating to the Collectors in charge of Wards' Estates G.O. reviewing the Court's administration report for Fasli 1306 (18

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. [illegible]

From Board of Revenue

Order Memo. No. 2723 dt 18th June 98

No. 4

Recorded pending ~~receipt of the explanation called for in para 3 of the Govt. Order above.~~

Dated 21.5.98.

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Enclosures

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Hlle 24/6/98

C.R. 23/6/98 To the Court of Wards - Draft 1.7.98

C.R. 26/6/98

SUBJECT.

Comments with remarks to the Collectors in charge of Wards' estates G.O. R.D. reviewing the Courts Administration Report for Fasli 1306 (1896-97).

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Court of Wards,

MADRAS.

Printed June th.

Proceedings, No. 4, Press, 21st May 1898.

MAY.

Communicating, with remarks, to the Collectors in charge of Wards' estates Government Order, Revenue Department, reviewing the Court's Administration Report for fasli 1306 (1896–97).

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS.

READ—the following Government Order, No. 197, Press, Revenue, dated 4th April 1898:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, No. 1, Press, dated 19th January 1898:—

Resolution—No. 1, Press, dated 19th January 1898.

The Court resolves to submit to Government its report on the administration of the estates under management during fasli 1306 ending 30th June 1897.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with report, a file of Collectors' reports, and five sets of maps.
„ all Collectors in charge of Wards' estates with report
and a set of three maps (Divisional Officers and Managers).
„ C. Morrison, Esq., with report.
„ the Collectors of other districts, with report and a set of three maps.

Read—Proceedings of the Court of Wards, Mis. No. 124, dated 1st February 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government, in continuation of paragraph 19 of the Court's Administration report for fasli 1306, letter from the Collector of Kistna reporting that the tenants in the deltaic villages of the Telaprole estate are well off but that the tenants in the upland portions compare less favourably owing to the sterility of the soil and occasional failure of rains.

Order—No. 197, Revenue, dated 4th April 1898.

Miscellaneous.

With the Proceedings read above, the Court of Wards submits its report on the administration of the estates under its charge during fasli 1306 (1896-97). The report was received in the Government office on the 27th January or 5 days earlier than the prescribed date. This is very satisfactory and His Excellency the Governor in Council trusts that future reports also will be submitted by the prescribed date.

2. *Number of estates under management.*—There were at the beginning of the year 47 estates under the management of the Court. Seven * of these were surrendered during the year, while five † others were newly taken up. The number of estates under management at the end of the year was thus 45. But the Meduru estate has since left the Court's hands; excluding this and also the estate of the old zamindar of Parlákimedi whose moveable property alone was in charge of the Court, there were 43 estates belonging to as many wards, of whom 39 (three being females) were incapacitated by reason of minority and the remaining four by sex alone.

*1. Dhárákóta.	5. N. Duraiswami Aiyar's estate.
2. Surangi	6. Elagiri.
3. Lakkavaram.	7. Vadimitta.
4. Mailavaram.	
†1. Serugadá.	4. Sivagiri.
2. Mamidivada.	5. Sivasamudram.
3. Meduru.	

3. *Condition of the surrendered estates.*—The statement appended to paragraph 2 of the report shows the condition of the surrendered estates at the time of their surrender, as contrasted with their condition when they were first taken under the Court's

control. The results of the Court's management were as usual satisfactory. In the Dhárákóta estate which was under the control of the Court for over 11 years, the rental rose from Rs. 73,253 to Rs. 1,09,205, while debts aggregating Rs. 1,94,755 were discharged during the period, in addition to an expenditure of Rs. 71,879 on irrigation works and other improvements. The estate was restored with a cash balance of Rs. 1,26,481 as against Rs. 4,994 which was the amount on hand when it first came under management. The condition of the estate of N. Duraiswami Aiyar in the Trichinopoly district also greatly improved under the Court's administration which extended over a period of more than 15 years. The current demand rose from Rs. 14,224 to Rs. 32,017 and the estate was restored with a cash balance of Rs. 21,583, while debts aggregating Rs. 40,016 were paid off and Rs. 12,058 due to the estate recovered. Lands and houses to the value of Rs. 45,989 were also purchased and Rs. 23,057 were expended on irrigation works and other improvements. The Government notes that there was also a satisfactory improvement in the condition of four out of the remaining five estates which were surrendered, and that the cash balance to the credit of all of them rose, while the debts due by them were either wholly discharged or materially reduced.

4. *Holdings and cultivation.*—In the estates which were under management in the two faslis 1305 and 1306 the extent of holdings rose from acres 565,293 to acres 567,798 in the year under review. There was, however, a fall in the extent actually cultivated during the year and the proportion of cultivation to holdings fell from 94·3 per cent. in fasli 1305 to 92·9 per cent. in fasli 1306. The Court states that for want of cultivation accounts, the entire holdings have been returned as cultivated in all the estates in Ganjám and Vizagapatam except two, and in the Palayampatti estate in the Madura district. The Government hopes that, with the introduction of the Proprietary Estates Village Service Act II of 1894 from 1st October last, the difficulty of compelling karnams to maintain accurate cultivation accounts has ceased and that in time future reports will furnish correct statistics.

	ACRES.
Fasli 1305	533,292
„ 1306	527,678

5. *Demand of estates.*—The gross rental demand of all the estates under management during the year under report amounted to Rs. 27,97,929, of which Rs. 60,108 were remitted, leaving a total net demand of Rs. 27,37,821. In the estates which were under management in the two faslis 1305 and 1306, the net demand fell from Rs. 15,19,772 to Rs. 14,52,926 owing chiefly to the unfavourable character of the season in some of the estates.

6. *Demand, Collection and Balance—Arrears.*—The arrear demand at the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 20,42,136, of which Rs. 3,24,516 were collected and Rs. 67,825 written off, leaving a balance of Rs. 16,49,795 at the end of the fasli. Excluding subsequent collections and remissions (Rs. 21,933) and also the amount since found to be irrecoverable (Rs. 8,29,099) the net recoverable balance at the date of the Collectors' reports was Rs. 7,98,763. The large increase in the arrear demand of fasli 1506 as compared with that of the previous fasli (Rs. 9,36,738) is due to the fact that the arrears due in Pithápuram are included in the former, while they were excluded from the latter. Leaving this estate out of account, the arrear balance at the end of the fasli was 65·2 per cent. of the demand at the beginning of the year against 52·5 per cent. in the previous fasli. It is to be regretted that the steady improvement in the adjustment of arrear balances which the figures * for the previous five years showed and which was noticed with pleasure in paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 240, dated 8th April 1897, should not have continued during

* Percentage of arrear balance to demand in—

Fasli.	
1301	84·4
1302	78·1
1303	70·8
1304	68·7
1305	52·5
1306 (including Pithapuram.) ...	80·8

At the date of the Collectors' reports arrears exceeded half a lakh of three undermentioned estates, viz:—

	RS.
1. Kurupám	60,969
2. Telaprole	1,40,074
3. Ettiyapuram	94,742

The collections in Kurupám were most unsatisfactory and the arrear balance actually rose during the year. It is understood that the recovery of a third of the amount still outstanding against the estate is doubtful. This matter requires prompt attention, as the estate will be restored to the proprietor in September next. In Telaprole, the bulk of the arrears is recoverable, but its realization is difficult owing to the litigiousness of the tenants and the collusive action of the process amins. It is hoped that the steps which are reported to have been taken by the manager in this respect will have the desired effect. In Ettiyapuram, the arrear balance represents the accumulations of a long number of years from fasli 1283 and every endeavour is being made to reduce the amount. The Government trusts that the balance will be substantially reduced during the current and ensuing faslis, as the estate will be handed over to the ward at the end of 1899.

	Fasli.	Rs.
Recoverable balance at the end of	1305	58,288
Recoverable balance at the end of	1306	72,209

The *current* collections were equally unsatisfactory. Out of a total current demand of Rs. 27,36,066, Rs. 20,26,373 were collected and Rs. 200 written off, leaving a balance of Rs. 7,09,493 at the end of the fasli. Deducting subsequent collections and remissions amounting to Rs. 1,85,151 as also a sum of Rs. 2,432 since recommended to be written off, the not recoverable balance on the dates of the Collectors' reports was Rs. 5,21,907. This balance is large being 19·1 per cent. of the demand against 9·5, the corresponding percentage of the previous year; but it was due mainly to the unfavourable character of the season in some of the most important estates.

Percentage of balance to the current demand in— Fasli.	
1302	19·8
1303	17·4
1304	16·3
1305	15·9
1306	25·9

7. *Financial condition of the estates.*—The total cash receipts and charges during the year amounted to Rs. 35,18,704 and Rs. 38,85,579, respectively. Excluding the following items, namely, "debts recovered", "amounts borrowed", "sale-proceeds of property", "debts repaid" and "amounts invested in Government securities", the net receipts and charges were Rs. 26,35,273 and Rs. 22,41,426, respectively.

8. *Establishment charges and Government Commission.*—The proportion of establishment charges and Government commission to normal receipts rose from 13·3 per cent. in fasli 1305 to 13·5 per cent. during the year under review. The increase occurred in the case of several of the estates and was due mainly to short receipts on account of the unfavourable character of the season and to the special causes mentioned in paragraph 12 of the report. The continued rise under this head, however, calls for strict vigilance and His Excellency the Governor in Council would invite the special attention of the Court of Wards to the point.

Percentage of establishment charges and Government commission to normal receipts in— Fasli.	
1303	10·0
1304	11·5
1305	13·3
1306	13·5

Faslis.	Percentage of expenditure on public works to		
	Allotments.	Total charges.	Charges excluding debts repaid and amount invested in promissory notes.
1302	52·4	4·8	7·0
1303	38·2	6·0	8·4
1304	56·3	6·9	9·5
1305	57·2	6·1	7·3
1306	69·0	5·4	9·4

9. *Expenditure on Public Works.*—The amount expended on public works was Rs. 2,11,369 or 5·4 per cent. of the total charges of the year against 6·1 per cent. in the previous fasli. But if items of expenditure such as "debts repaid" and "amount invested in Government securities" be excluded, the outlay on public works was 9·4 per cent. of the net charges against 7·3 per cent. in the previous fasli. There was also a satisfactory advance in the proportion of expenditure to allotment, the percentage being the highest during the last five years as shown on the margin.

10. *Utilization of surplus funds and advances to tenants.*—No progress was made during the year under review by way of utilizing the surplus balances to the credit of several estates; such balance exceeded a lakh of rupees in the following cases:—

	Rs.
1. Kurupám	1,32,336
2. Kasimkóta	1,21,708
3. Pithápuram	3,32,913
4. Telaprole	4,23,730
5. Sáptúr	1,86,835
6. Ettiyapuram	2,81,804
7. Kavalpara	1,03,758

The Collectors of Vizagapatam and Malabar have not offered any definite suggestions for the disposal of the balances to the credit of the Kurupám and the Kavalpara estates in their districts, and their attention has been drawn to the omission. In Kasimkóta, estimates are under preparation for the improvement of the irrigation works, while no action can be taken in regard to the surplus in favour of Pithápuram pending the final disposal of the suit to determine the succession. With the balance in Telaprole it is proposed to purchase lands when suitable opportunities offer, and in Sáptúr the surplus has since been considerably reduced by the payment of Rs. 1,15,000 in partial satisfaction of the decree in a suit brought against the ward. The greater portion of the surplus balance to the credit of Ettiyapuram is stated to be required to provide against vicissitudes of the season, but the Government does not understand this and the Court is requested to explain. The assessment was Rs. 2,80,674. Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of small properties adjoining the estate.

Advances for the purchase of seed-grain, cattle, &c., were granted to tenants in three * estates. It is observed, however, that in the case of paddy advanced to the cultivators of certain lands in Sithamalli, interest in kind at the rate of 25 per cent. was charged. The circumstances under which such a high rate of interest was charged should have been explained.

* Maruthanthanallur.
Sithamalli.
Shulagiri.

11. *Education of Wards.*—The educational progress of the wards was, with some exceptions, satisfactory. Six of them were under the care and tuition of Mr. Morrison, the Court's European tutor at *Newington*, Madras; and His Excellency the Governor in Council is glad to receive a favourable report of their conduct and progress in studies. It is reported that arrangements have been made to instruct the Peddakimedi and Kurupam wards in the details of estate management, and the former in revenue law as well. His Excellency the Governor in Council attaches much importance to this course of instruction, specially in the case of elder wards, and requests that the Court will issue instructions accordingly.

12. Paragraph 19 of the report contains interesting information on the condition of the tenants under the Court's management.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Court of Wards.
„ the Public Works Department.

RESOLUTION—No. 4, Press, dated 21st May 1898.

Communicated to all Collectors in charge of Wards' estates.

2. The special attention of the Collectors concerned will be invited to the remarks of Government in paragraphs 6, 8, 10 and 11 of the order read above.

3. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Government Order, the Court submits that in saying that the greater portion of the surplus balance in Ettiapuram is required to provide against vicissitudes of the season, it had in view the following passage of the Manager's report :—

"In an estate like this it is essential with a view to provide against vicissitudes of season, &c., that there should be always on hand money sufficient to meet one year's expenditure."

The Collector will now be requested to explain more fully the necessity for maintaining so large a cash balance.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department. ✓
„ all Collectors in charge of Wards' estates (Dl. C's. & Managers).
Copy to the Collectors of other districts.
„ C. Morrison, Esq.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

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