

Revenue (1898) Department.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Settlement of Land Revenue.

Recording B.P. Communicating, with remarks,
to all collectors, G.O. reviewing the Board's report
on the _____ of the Presidency for the
year ending 30th June 1897 (Fasli 1306)

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

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

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1898.28-10-98*

Settlement of Land Revenue.—Communicating, with remarks, to all Collectors G.O. reviewing the Board's report on the — of the Presidency for the year ending 30th June 1897 (fashi 1306).

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

READ—the following G.O., No. 474, Revenue, dated 25th August 1898:—

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 260, dated 20th July 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government report on the settlement of Land Revenue (Jamabandi) for fasli 1306 (1896-97).

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 4610, dated 28th July 1898:—

Read—the following letter from MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 15th July 1898, Dis. No. 2702-Genl.:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 3533, * dated 10th June 1898, and in continuation of this office Ref. on Cur. No. 395-B. and G. of 1898, dated 25th May 1898, I have the honour to state that the Tahsildar of Pattikonda reports that, out of 24,067 acres reported in this office Ref. on Cur. No. 258-Ver., dated 28th March 1897, to have been set free by the Forest Department, 7,541 acres is the extent of assessed lands, and of this 155 acres have been taken up for cultivation.

Resolution—Mis. No. 4610, dated 28th July 1898.

Submitted to Government with reference to the remarks made in sub-paragraph of paragraph 20 of Board's Proceedings, No. 260, dated 20th July 1898.

2. Out of 104,064 acres set free from forest reservation in five taluks, 42,338 acres were assessed land, and of this 6,378 acres have been brought under cultivation.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. BENSON,
Dy. Dir., L. Rds. and Agri.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—No. 474, Revenue, dated 25th August 1898.

Land Revenue No. 12.

With the foregoing Proceedings the Board of Revenue submits its report on the settlement of the land revenue in the Presidency for fasli 1306, or the revenue year ending 30th June 1897. The

advance copy of the report was received in the Government Office on the 25th July 1898, about five months after the prescribed date, and the report itself was received five days' later. This long delay in its submission is due to delay in completing the jamabandi in some of the districts affected by distress in the fasli under report and to the consequent late reports from these districts.

2. Season and crops.—The rainfall for the Presidency, taken as a whole, though 4.2 per cent. less than that of the preceding year, was over 6 per cent. in excess of the average of 25 years ending 1894-95; the excess occurred both under the south-west and the north-east monsoons, and the year was generally not unfavourable for agricultural operations except in the Deccan districts and in parts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, North Arcot, Salem and the Nilgiris. During the south-west monsoon the rainfall on the Nilgiris and on the West Coast considerably exceeded the

	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	Total.
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
Average of 25 years ending—	28.38	16.42	44.80
1894-95	19.83	13.67	33.50
1891-92	35.57	14.02	49.59
1892-93	28.74	20.52	49.26
1893-94	28.84	12.88	41.72
1894-95	32.77	16.85	49.62
1895-96	29.37	18.17	47.54

normal, leading to floods in the deltas of the Godavari, Kistna and Cauvery. The same monsoon set in fairly well in the East Coast districts, but the fall in September proved scanty in the Circars and in the Deccan districts and was light in the Carnatic. At the beginning of October the state of the season in these districts gave cause for grave anxiety. The north-east monsoon rains began late and, though copious over the whole of the southern half of the Presidency, amounted to only one-fourth to half the average in the Circars and the Deccan. There was in consequence a disastrous failure of crop in Ganjam, the littoral parts of Vizagapatam, some of the upland portions of Godavari, and in the four Deccan districts. The ill effects of this failure were increased by the prevalence of famine in other parts of India which led to large exports of grain from this Presidency and an excessive rise in prices. State relief became necessary in the Deccan districts in November and later in the Circars also. The several measures adopted by Government for the relief of distress and the success that has attended these efforts are fully set forth in the report on the late famine submitted by the Famine Commissioner which has already been reviewed by the Government.

The total extent of land cultivated, including areas cropped more than once, was 26.61 million acres, and was 1.24 million acres, or about 4½ per cent. less than in fasli 1305; but did not fall below the average of the five non-famine years ending fasli 1304. The decrease as compared with fasli 1305 is divided fairly equally between food and non-food crops and was due to the deficient rainfall. The falling off was very marked in the areas under paddy, cumbu and "other food-grains" and under cotton, gingelly and

Fasli.	Area in million acres.	Fasli.	Area in million acres.
1297	25.1	1302	26.4
1298	25.3	1303	27.4
1299	26.1	1304	27.0
1300	26.1	1305	27.9
1301	24.3	1306	26.6

ground-nuts, while there was a substantial increase in the extent under cholam. The percentage of the area under food-crops to the total area cropped exhibited a slight increase. The statement appended to paragraph 8 of the Board's report gives the average outturn of the different crops in each district, from which it will be seen that the outturn in the affected districts of the staple crops was generally very poor. In the non-affected districts the outturn, as estimated by the village officers, ranges from 6 to 13 annas; but having regard to the known tendency of these officials to under-estimate outturns and to the fact that as a general rule they persist in regarding an average crop as one of 12 annas, the Government agrees with the Board of Revenue in considering that the outturn in these districts during the year was probably not much below the normal.

3. *Sanitary condition.*—The total number of deaths registered during the year was higher than in the preceding year by 64,840 or 9.9 per cent., and was the highest recorded during the last ten years except the year 1301 (1891-92). It is, however, worthy of note that taking the affected districts as a whole but little increase was shown in the death-rate, and that the only affected districts returning an increased mortality were Ganjām and Anantapur; the increase in the former being almost wholly due to cholera and small-pox and in the latter to cholera. The epidemic, which was on the decline during the preceding two years, became widely prevalent during the fasli, the reported deaths from it numbering 93,629 against 13,675 in fasli 1305 and 20,886 in fasli 1304. From statement No. 2 appended to the Board's resolution it is observed that over 76 per cent., of the deaths from cholera occurred in the districts of South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevely and Malabar, Ganjām being the only famine-stricken district in which the deaths from this cause are returned as exceeding 5,000. There was also increased mortality from small-pox, more than one-half the deaths occurred in Ganjām. The mortality from this cause in Malabar was again suspiciously low. How far the increased mortality under these diseases was due to the famine conditions that prevailed has been discussed in Board's Famine report. The deaths from fevers were fewer than in any fasli since 1300.

4. *Condition of cattle.*—As might be expected from the adverse character of the season, the condition of cattle was not satisfactory. Cattle diseases, especially rinderpest and anthrax, were widely prevalent in several districts; and it has been estimated that in the two years 1896 and 1897 about 350,000 head of cattle and 400,000 sheep and goats were lost in the Deccan and the two Northern districts in consequence of drought and disease.

5. *Prices.*—The marginal statement gives the average retail prices in imperial seers per rupee of the chief food-grains for the Presidency as a whole for the past ten years. It will be seen from this statement that prices rose continuously during the years 1297 to 1301 and reached their maximum in fasli 1301, and that the steady fall which commenced after the famine of this fasli ceased in the year under report. As a result of the previous good harvests the price of food-grains in fasli 1305 were remarkably low, the dry grains being as cheap as they were before the great famine 1876-78. From the commencement of the year under report

	Paddy, second sort.	Cholam.	Cumbu.	Ragi.
Normal rates ..	26.4	26.7	26.3	28.0
1297 ..	28.0	28.6	27.3	30.9
1298 ..	25.8	26.0	24.6	28.6
1299 ..	23.5	25.6	24.4	27.9
1300 ..	22.4	24.0	23.2	25.9
1301 ..	18.3	17.0	16.5	18.0
1302 ..	18.8	18.2	18.7	19.8
1303 ..	21.3	19.9	20.0	22.2
1304 ..	22.6	23.2	22.8	25.5
1305 ..	23.9	25.4	25.5	28.1
1306 ..	19.9	18.0	19.5	20.6

prices began to rise at first slightly and afterwards rapidly owing mainly to demand from other parts of India and for export. The rise was specially marked in the Circars and the Deccan, but received a check towards the close of November 1896, when there was a temporary improvement in the season, with a fall in prices following the harvests, but the upward tendency soon re-asserted itself and at the close of the fasli the prices of the staple food-grains were higher in the Circars and the Deccan than the scarcity

rates, and higher than the warning rates everywhere else. The average prices of the year were 21 per cent. dearer than normal in the case of rice, and 35 to 48 per cent. dearer in the case of dry grains.

6. *Peishkash in permanently-settled estates and shrotriem jodi.*—The revenue payable to Government on permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 49.80 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 0.21 lakh as compared with the previous year. The decrease was due (a) to the reduction of the peshkash of certain estates, portions of which had been acquired for public purposes, (b) to the transfer from the zemindars to the ordinary ryotwar agency of the collection of quit-rent on minor inams in certain zamindaris in the Ganjām district, and lastly (c) to the transfer to the head of "Tributes from Native States" of the revenue payable by the Sultan Musa Ali Raja of Cannanore on account of the Laccadive Islands.

The quit-rent payable to Government on villages held on shrotriem or favourable tenure amounted to Rs. 7.36 lakhs against Rs. 7.37 lakhs in the preceding year. The variations are explained in statement No. 8 appended to the Board's Proceedings and call for no remarks.

7. *Number of ryotwar villages.*—The total number of ryotwar villages in the year was 23,057, or 130 less than in the preceding year, the decrease being due to the clubbing of villages in four taluks of Anantapur brought under settlement during the year. The number would have been further reduced had not the revision of village establishments in the Kurnool district sanctioned in G.O., No. 735, dated 21st December 1896, been postponed on account of the famine.

8. *Extent of ryotwar holdings.*—Excluding the occupied area in the South Canara district which has not yet been fully surveyed and for which statistics are in

Fasli.	Occupied area in thousands of acres.	Percentage as compared with fasli 1285.
1285 ..	20,021	..
1297 ..	20,499	102.3
1298 ..	20,723	103.5
1299 ..	21,045	105.0
1300 ..	21,141	105.6
1301 ..	21,157	105.6
1302 ..	21,626	108.0
1303 ..	21,945	109.6
1304 ..	22,232	111.0
1305 ..	22,436	112.0
1306 ..	22,463	112.2

consequence not available, and also excluding land occupied without pattas, the total extent under occupation during the year amounted to 22.46 millions of acres or 0.12 per cent., more than in the previous year. In fact, however, there was a small decrease in the extent of holdings, as on the introduction of the new settlements in the four taluks of Anantapur, an excess by survey was disclosed of acres 42,452 over the area of holding shown in the village accounts. Omitting this nominal increase, there was an actual decrease of 14,631 acres in the extent of ryots' holdings, representing a decrease of .065 per cent. Details of the net variations in the different districts are given in Appendix A to the Board's report, from which it is observed that there were increases aggregating acres 77,770 in thirteen districts and decreases aggregating 92,401 in seven others. The increases are attributed chiefly to extension of cultivation and partly to the assignment on patta of lands previously charged under the head of "Miscellaneous." The largest increase (acres 14,004, almost wholly dry) occurred in the famine-affected district of Bellary and was due to the usual extension of occupation in the earlier months when the south-west monsoon was promising and the ryots could not foresee the disastrous failure which was to follow. The largest decreases occurred in Anantapur (acres 19,148), Cuddapah (acres 9,338), Kurnool (acres 8,939), Salem (acres 8,007), and were due to the adverse character of the season in the first three districts. Remembering that there was an excess by survey in Anantapur of acres 42,452, it will be seen that the real decrease in this district was acres 61,600; the decrease in Salem was only nominal and was due to the transfer during the year to the head of "Miscellaneous" of land held on temporary pattas which had been included under holdings in the previous years. The Board points out that compared with fasli 1285, the year which preceded the great famine, the area under holdings in the fasli under report had extended by nearly 2.44 millions of acres or 12.20 per cent. Adding to this the extent of occupation (42 million acres) shown under "Miscellaneous," but excluding from it the excesses brought to account on the introduction of the new settlement and also inam lands resumed since fasli 1285 and included under holdings, the resulting increase due mainly to extension of cultivation

amounts to 1.73 million acres or 10.7 per cent. All the districts participate in the extension except Kurnool where the net area occupied was 72,112 acres less than in fasli 1285. The tardy recovery of this district from the effect of the great famine has formed the subject of much enquiry, and one of the explanations suggested was excessive reservation of arable lands for fuel and fodder purposes. Arrangements were accordingly made for setting free for cultivation such lands as were not required for these purposes, and an extent of 104,064 acres was thus set free in 420 villages in five taluks in fasli 1305; further operations being discontinued in fasli 1306 under the pressure of famine work. The Board of Revenue questions, however, whether the cause suggested has had any material influence in retarding the recovery of the district considering that the extent still available for cultivation is 429,000 acres

Faslis.	Relinquished.	Newly taken up.	Difference.
<i>In thousands of acres.</i>			
1297	404	577	173
1298	442	496	54
1299	286	547	261
1300	371	450	79
1301	328	320	8
1302	218	424	206
1303	282	485	203
1304	292	537	245
1305	323	531	208
1306	368	358	10
Total	3,314	4,725	1,411

9. Ryotwari lands—Actual cultivation.

Faslis.	Extent cultivated, dry and wet.	Extent left waste.		Percentage of cultivation to occupied area.		
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	
<i>In thousands of acres.</i>						
1285	..	17,462	2,183	376	86.6	90.0
1297	..	17,584	2,687	228	83.8	94.3
1298	..	17,573	2,877	273	82.8	93.3
1299	..	17,911	2,875	257	83.0	93.8
1300	..	17,822	3,020	298	82.3	92.8
1301	..	16,849	3,851	457	77.4	89.1
1302	..	17,957	3,386	283	80.6	93.3
1303	..	18,637	3,177	231	82.0	94.6
1304	..	18,616	3,302	313	81.6	92.7
1305	..	18,921	3,295	219	82.0	94.6
1306	..	18,157	3,975	332	78.2	92.1

bar and was particularly marked in the

Faslis.	Extent left waste.	Extent on which remission was granted.	Percentage.
<i>ACS.</i>			
1297	2,915,632	54,648	2
1298	3,150,650	102,040	3
1299	3,131,643	87,437	2
1300	3,318,699	135,846	4
1301	4,307,523	867,578	20
1302	3,669,007	174,172	4
1303	3,408,024	40,288	1
1304	3,615,475	109,977	3
1305	3,514,452	39,324	1
1306	4,306,770	655,194	15

10. Remissions and deductions from beriz.—Exclusive of water-rate and second crop separately charged, the total assessment on ryotwar holdings amounted to 433.20

or over one-fifth of the occupied area. His Excellency the Governor in Council is disposed to concur with the Board. For it appears from a subsequent report that although out of the 104,064 acres set free from forest reservation 42,338 acres were assessed lands, only 6,378 acres have been as yet brought under cultivation.

The marginal statement shows the total area of land newly taken up and the extent relinquished during the decade ending with the year under review.

The marginal statement shows for a period of ten years the extent cultivated, the extent left waste, and the percentage of cultivation to occupied area. The extent of dry land left waste in fasli 1306 was the largest on record during the period, while the extent left waste under "wet" exceeded the figures of every year except fasli 1301 which was exceptionally bad. The percentage of cultivation to occupied area was also less than in any other year, fasli 1301 excepted. The total area cropped exclusive of "miscellaneous" cultivation amounted to 18.16 million acres against 18.92 million acres in the previous year or 80.83 per cent. of the total holdings against 84.34 per cent. in the previous year. The decrease occurred in all the districts except Nellore and Maladeccan districts and North Arcot. The area under "miscellaneous" cultivation was 74 million acres against 83 million acres in fasli 1305. The total area cultivated was therefore 18.90 million acres as compared with 19.75 million acres in the previous year, a decrease of 4.4 per cent. The marginal statement gives the total extent of lands left waste and the extent on which remission was granted during the last ten years. Owing to the unfavourable character of the season the extent on which remission was granted during the fasli under report was, excluding fasli 1301, the highest during the decade.

lakhs or nearly 7 lakhs more than in the previous year. Nearly 5½ lakhs of the increase occurred in the Gódvári and Kistna districts, and it was due to the retransfer to wet of lands which had been transferred to dry in the previous year when the ryots declined to continue to take water for irrigation in consequence of the enhancement of the water-tax. The gain in this respect in these two districts is, however, balanced by corresponding loss under water-rate. There was a large increase of Rs. 71,253 in Madura owing mainly to the levy of enhanced rates of assessment on land irrigated from the Periyár reservoir.

	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
<i>In lakhs of Rupees.</i>					
Season remissions	14.72	3.45	9.14	5.96	32.07
Fixed remissions	2.74	6.61	6.11	4.32	3.23
Deductions from beriz.	19.63	13.46	9.61	9.35	9.41
Total	36.99	23.52	24.86	19.63	44.71

In Anantapur, the levy of assessment on the excess occupation discovered at the survey caused an increase of Rs. 15,027. The increase would have been greater had not the bad season led as noted above to relinquishment of a large area. The remissions and deductions from the beriz amounted to 44.71 lakhs, the details of which are given in Statement No. 13 appended to the Board's report. Of this amount 32.07 lakhs or nearly 72 per cent., pertained to season remissions as against 5.96 lakhs in the previous year. The amount remitted on account of waste was 9.6 lakhs, of which 6.4 lakhs were granted in respect of acres 137,766 of wet waste, chiefly in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kistna, Cuddapah, Anantapur and North Arcot. On the other hand, there were large decreases due to extended cultivation in the remission granted on wet waste in Nellore, Chingleput and Tinnevely. The total amount remitted on account of "shavi" or short crop, wet and dry, was 16.04 lakhs. Almost the whole of this remission was granted in the Circars and the Deccan and about a fourth of it related to wet lands. Remission granted in respect of dry lands in Ganjam and the Deccan districts on account of waste, "shavi" and short crop aggregated 15.36 lakhs. A remission of 1.27 lakhs was also granted in Gódvári in respect of lands flooded or injured by water. Besides the season remissions noted above, fixed remissions and deductions from beriz were granted to the extent of Rs. 3.23 and 9.41 lakhs against Rs. 4.32 and 9.35 lakhs in the previous year. Under this head are included the increment remissions granted on the introduction of new settlement rates of assessment. These, occurring mainly in Tanjore and Trichinopoly and to a small extent in Anantapur, amounted to 1.70 lakhs, being 1.12 lakhs less than in the previous year. Fixed remissions on account of irrigation by lift were 1.15 lakhs, or slightly in excess of the previous year.

11. Second-crop charge and water-rate.—The revenue under these heads amounted to 20.21 lakhs or about 7 lakhs less than in the previous year. Of this decrease more than 6 lakhs occurred in water-rate, and of this nearly 5 lakhs related to the Gódvári and Kistna districts where, as already stated, there was a large retransfer to wet of land which had in the previous year been transferred to dry. Deficient water-supply accounts generally for the falling off in other districts. In Ganjam the deficiency of the rains caused a demand for Government water, while in Nellore, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura and Tinnevely the favourable south-west monsoon accounts for the increase. The second-crop charge declined in every district except the four Circar districts, and Nellore, Tinnevely and Coimbatore. For this decline the unfavourable character of the north-west monsoon is generally accountable except in Tanjore where the decrease in the area sown with second crop is ascribed partly to heavy floods which caused breaches in the river embankments and partly to the extension of "ottadam" cultivation (in which short crop and long crop paddy are sown together) which is charged as single crop.

12. Miscellaneous revenue.—The revenue under this head, the particulars of which are detailed in paragraphs 31 to 40 of the Board's report and Statement No. 16

Fasli	Lakhs of rupees.
1305	67.70
1306	65.32
	2.38

appended thereto, exhibited a decrease of 2.38 lakhs, nearly one-half of which occurred in respect of lands not included in the jamabandi or of lands cultivated without darkhast. The decrease under these heads is attributed partly to the

unfavourable season and partly to the prompt disposal of "darkhast" cases. The extent of poramboke encroached upon is still over 78,000 acres and the Government trusts that as directed by the Board of Revenue, Collectors will see that in cases where there is no objection to the occupation of the poramboke, the land is promptly transferred to the head of assessed land and granted on regular patta, and that in other cases effective proceedings are promptly taken to compel withdrawal from the encroachments.

13. *Net Ryotwar demand.*—Including "miscellaneous" revenue and second-crop assessment and charge for water and excluding the remissions mentioned in paragraph 10 *supra*, the net ryotwar demand amounted to 474.04 lakhs or 27.59 lakhs less than in the preceding year. The variations under the several heads are shown in the statement on the margin.

Decrease.		Lakhs of rupees.
(a) Under second-crop charge and water-rate.	..	7.0
(b) Increase under season remissions	..	26.1
(c) Under miscellaneous revenue	..	2.4
Total ..	..	35.5
Increase.		
(d) In the assessment of holdings	..	6.8
(e) Decrease under fixed remission	..	1.1
Total ..	..	7.9
Net decrease ..	..	27.6

		Current demand in lakhs of rupees.
Average of five years before the famine ..	..	449.76
1297	..	478.86
1298	..	481.23
1299	..	484.54
1300	..	490.07
1301	..	457.54
1302	..	493.64
1303	..	529.99
1304	..	543.57
1305	..	559.02
1306	..	531.19

with fasli 1305, which is mainly due to the reduction in the rate of village-cess from 9 pies in fasli 1305 to 8 pies in the fasli under report as ordered in G.O., No. 47, Revenue, dated 29th January 1896.

16. *Total demand including Cesses and Arrears.*—The total demand under land revenue and cesses amounted to Rupees 604.70 lakhs, of which Rs. 572.59 lakhs or 94.7 per cent. were collected within the year and Rs. 32.10 lakhs or 5.3 per cent. at the close of the year against Rs. 8.17 lakhs or 1.3 per cent. in the preceding year. The large increase in the closing balance is due to the suspension of collections in the distressed districts. The arrear demand in the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 9.84 lakhs, of which Rs. 8.19 lakhs were collected within the fasli and Rs. 0.39 lakhs written off the accounts, leaving a balance of 1.25 lakhs or 12.7 per cent. at the end of the year against 11.0 per cent. in fasli 1305. The total balance outstanding at the end of fasli 1306, both arrears and current, inclusive of the balance relating to the Local and

Special Funds amounted to 33.63 lakhs, but the bulk of this amount has since been collected, written off the accounts, or ascertained to be irrecoverable; and the realizable

balance on the 1st June 1898 was Rs. 5.55 lakhs relating mainly to Cuddapah (Rupees 4,03,144), Malabar (Rs. 90,554), Kurnool (Rs. 22,335) and Anantapur (Rs. 10,176). The bulk of the balance in Malabar is due from Sultan Musa Ali Raja of Cannanore, and no steps have been taken to effect a recovery thereof pending receipt of the orders of the Government of India on a reference made to them.

17. In the statement appended to paragraph 47 of the report, the Board of Revenue reconciles the figures of collections reported by District officers and the figures reported by the Accountant-General. It is observed that when all the adjustments are made there exist very slight differences to the extent of Rs. 8 in the case of four districts, which, as observed by the Board of Revenue, may be ascribed to the rounding off of the figures.

In paragraph 48 of the report, the Board of Revenue describes the procedure adopted in distributing the collections between land revenue and cesses, and gives a list of 37 taluks in which there occurred differences between the amounts actually credited and those which should have been credited. It is stated that these differences cannot be avoided in years in which the season is unfavourable as the credits are made in the first instance with reference to an assumed current demand which does not take remissions of land revenue into account. The Collectors concerned report that the differences have been or are being adjusted.

18. *Land Revenue—Charges of District Administration.*—The charges debited during the year to this head including salaries of Revenue Inspectors but not those of village establishments amounted to Rs. 43.57 lakhs or 7.5 per cent. on the total amount of land revenue and cesses realized.

	1304.	1305.	1306.
Number of demand notices.	5,690,788	5,888,994	5,816,226
Number of attachment notices.	236,151	231,308	230,487
Number of sale notices.	191,828	178,347	175,576
Number of defaulters whose property was attached.	236,151	231,308	230,487
Amount of arrears Rs. for which property was attached.	19,18,867	20,44,184	20,77,873
Number of defaulters whose property was sold.	10,371	10,757	8,197
Amount of arrears Rs. for which property was sold.	1,70,828	1,76,059	1,59,084
Amount realized by sale of property.	1,77,644	1,86,692	1,83,233
Extent of land sold. Acs.	27,899	27,728	21,467
Extent of land bought in by Government.	10,853	10,512	7,076
Total holdings in millions.	22.23	22.44	22.46
Total current demand in lakhs of rupees.	547.39	564.86	531.19
Arrears at the beginning of the year.	18.01	11.70	9.84

19. *Coercive Processes.*—The statistics relating to the extent to which processes under Act II of 1864 were employed for the realisation of Government dues during the year under review are analysed by the Board of Revenue in paragraphs 51 to 59 of the report. The marginal statement compares for three years the particulars relative to the number of such processes and the extent to which it was found necessary to resort to the extreme measure of selling the defaulter's property for the recovery of the demand. It will be seen that, taking the Presidency as a whole, the number of processes issued during the year shows a decrease under all heads as compared with fasli 1305. The number of demand notices exhibited a decrease in eleven districts, markedly so in Coimbatore (183,053), Trichinopoly (173,896) and Tanjore (123,851), while in the districts of South Arcot (101,426) and Kistna (61,208) and eight others there was an increase in the number of such notices. The arrears were paid on presentation of the demand in 96.04 per cent. of the cases in which such notices were issued. The number of defaults in respect of which property was attached was 7.27 per cent. of the total number of pattadars against 7.32 per cent. in the previous year, and sale notices were issued in 76.2 per cent. of the cases in which property was attached as against 77.1 per cent. in the previous year. It was necessary to resort to the sale of the property attached or distrained in 8,197 cases only, or 4.7 per cent. of the total number of cases in which sale notices were issued against 5.0 per cent. in the preceding year. The decrease is partly accounted for by the suspension of collections in districts affected by scarcity, while in districts

in which the season was not unfavourable the high selling price of grain enabled the ryots to pay the demand easily.

The marginal statement shows the number of defaulters whose property was sold and the amount of arrears for which it was sold during the last ten years. It will be seen that the figures under both heads are the lowest on record during the period. It is satisfactory to note that the estimated value of the land sold and the amount actually realized by the sale approximately in the year under report more closely than in the previous year; but there is still great disparity in some districts between the estimated value and the amount realized, *e.g.*, in Bellary, Coimbatore, Salem and the Nilgiris. The further reports called for from the Collectors of Vizagapatam and Tanjore relative to the causes of the high percentage of sales to the number of pattadars should be submitted to Government for information.

Fasli.	Extent of land sold.	Extent bought in by Government.	Ratio of amount realized to estimated value.
1297	31,824	13,639	..
1298	31,675	13,786	..
1299	23,615	12,429	..
1300	21,771	9,346	..
1301	20,273	9,637	..
1302	30,296	14,668	..
1303	54,434	25,592	..
1304	27,899	10,853	..
1305	27,728	10,512	48.6 p. c.
1306	21,467	7,076	79.4 ..

employment of special agency in these districts have not been explained.

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

The advances under both the Acts since the promulgation of the rules are shown in the margin. Owing to the adverse character of the season, the demand for State loans largely increased during the year under report, the amounts disbursed aggregating to 10.87 lakhs, of which 70 per cent. were granted in the Deccan districts. Of the loans granted under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 3.19 lakhs or 38 per cent. were for the repair and construction of wells, and of this amount 2.28 lakhs were advanced under the special Well rules. Of the amount shown under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 63 per cent. was advanced for the purchase of fodder, 21 per cent. for the purchase of cattle, 12 per cent. for the purchase of seed-grain, and 4 per cent. for the purchase of iron ploughs and manure.

	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Total.
<i>In thousands of rupees.</i>			
Official year. { 1887-88 ..	78	40	1.18
1888-89 ..	1.31	26	1.67
1889-90 ..	1.39	45	1.84
1890-91 ..	2.28	43	2.71
1891-92 ..	15.28	1.57	16.85
April to June 1892 ..	16.42	1.03	17.45
Fasli year. { 1302 ..	10.55	1.34	11.89
1303 ..	4.21	8	4.29
1304 ..	2.56	16	2.72
1305 ..	1.74	9	1.83
1306 ..	8.50	2.37	10.87
Total ..	59.02	8.28	67.30

The number of new wells constructed was 489, while 322 old wells were repaired during the year with the aid of State loans, against 881 new wells and 882 old wells, respectively, in the previous year. The area benefited by these improvements

aggregated 2,998 acres. The number of wells constructed since the promulgation of the rules is 15,300 and the number repaired 16,307, the total area benefited being 44,146 acres and 58,779 acres, respectively.

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

	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.
	RS.	RS.
Outstanding balance at the beginning of the year	29,18,480	20,630
Advanced during the year	8,40,974	2,37,321
Total	37,68,454	2,57,951
Recoveries and remissions	2,49,277	11,992
Balance	35,19,177	2,45,959
Interest due	1,26,612	1,345
Interest recovered and remitted	1,12,641	1,044
Balance	13,971	301

The sanction of the Government of India has been received to the revised amalgamated set of rules under the Loans Acts and has been communicated to the Board of Revenue. As already directed in G.O., No. 884, dated 22nd October 1897, early steps should be taken for the introduction of the revised forms prescribed, and the working of the new rules should be watched carefully.

21. *Transfer of Revenue Registry.*—The number of applications presented for

Fasli.	Total number of applications.	Applications received through the Registration Department.	Percentage of column 3 on column 2.
1	2	3	4
1297	125,965	40,455	32.1
1298	130,312	42,340	32.5
1299	131,998	46,676	35.4
1300	132,701	50,254	37.9
1301	117,817	48,018	40.8
1302	127,658	56,654	44.4
1303	114,563	52,637	45.9
1304	110,037	50,886	46.2
1305	107,866	50,081	46.4
1306	105,208	53,319	50.7

transfer of revenue registry showed a further decrease of over 2 per cent. as compared with fasli 1305; but the proportion which the applications received through the Registration Department bear to this number continues to increase. The total number of applications for disposal during the year, inclusive of those pending disposal at the beginning of the year, amounted to 116,048, of which 58,743 were received through Registration officers and 57,305 direct by Revenue officers. Of those received by the Registration Department, 52,751 were disposed of during the year, leaving a balance of 5,992 or 10.20 per cent. as compared with 9.7 per cent. in the preceding year. Of those received direct by Revenue officials, 52,930 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 4,375 or 7.64 per cent. against 8.4 in the previous year.

The number of cases dealt with under Board's Standing Order No. 20, paragraph 7, which directs the issue of pattas to persons who have been in possession of lands as ostensible owners and have paid the revenue on them for twelve years or more, was 8,187 against 4,105 in the previous year.

22. *Examination of village and taluk accounts.*—Village and taluk accounts were maintained fairly well on the whole, but the Government notes the Board's observation that the registration of vital statistics still continues to be defective in several districts; this matter should receive the earnest attention of Collectors.

23. *Inspection of boundary and field marks.*—The figures reported under this head are admittedly incomplete. During the year under report about 8 per cent. of the total marks were returned as either missing or out of repair. In 30 per cent. of these

cases the necessary action was reported to have been taken. The Government cannot impress too strongly upon Collectors the necessity for prompt and vigorous action in this important matter.

24. *Irrigation Works*.—The number of irrigation works of each class is shown on the margin. The variations as compared with the previous year are reported to be due to the rectifications of errors in the accounts of the preceding year and the construction of new wells. These do not include wells used for supplementing irrigation from Government sources which were returned as 149,380 against 138,069 in the previous fasli. The number of new works constructed during

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Tanks	35,105	35,146	34,990
River channels..	6,253	6,389	5,911
Spring channels ..	7,568	7,510	7,515
Anicuts	567	566	553
Ayacut wells	427,534	437,931	439,936
Total	477,032	487,572	488,905

the year under review is reported as 6 river channels, 1 tank and 8,774 wells. About 64 per cent. of the new wells appertain to the North Arcot district.

As required in G.O., No. 968, dated 4th October 1887, the Board of Revenue furnishes in statement 25-B appended to the report particulars of land irrigated under Government or private sources of irrigation. The Board of Revenue fears that the returns are far from accurate and states that the figures are being compared with those already reported in the Statistical A, and Irrigation returns and that explanations of discrepancies will be called for.

Fasli.	Number of pattas in thousands.	Amount of assessment in thousands.	Number of registers holding joint patta in thousands.
		RS.	
1281	2,392	3,75,20	..
1286	2,429	3,58,33	1,456
1291	2,518	3,76,93	1,730
1296	2,762	3,93,87	2,049
1301	2,922	4,09,55	2,513
1302	2,983	4,20,95	2,631
1303	3,056	4,39,65	3,051
1304	3,121	4,44,39	3,279
1305	3,169	4,52,18	3,356
1306	3,170	4,52,01	3,260

25. *Rent Roll*.—Particulars relating to the number of holdings among the different classes of pattadars are analysed in paragraph 74 of the Board's report and do not call for any special remarks. It is observed that 66.56 per cent. of the pattas are in respect of holdings on which the assessment charged is under Rs. 10, and 22.88 per cent. in respect of holdings paying between Rs. 10 to 30.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture),
,, the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

RESOLUTION—No. 357, dated 21st September 1898.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. With reference to paragraph 8 of the G.O., the Collector of Kurnool will be requested to report, in his jamabandi report for fasli 1307, the progress made in setting free land hitherto reserved for fuel and fodder purposes in the remaining 277 villages.

3. The attention of Collectors is specially invited to the remarks of Government in paragraphs 12, 22 and 23 of the G.O.

4. The figure 3,250 entered against fasli 1306 in column 4 of the statement at paragraph 25 of the G.O., should be 3,350, and will be corrected accordingly.
5. The portion of the G.O., relating to subjects dealt with in the Land Revenue Department will be disposed of in that department.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To all Collectors (Divisional-officers and Tahsildars).
" the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Land Revenue Department.

Exd. P. Saetharam.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

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

<i>Recd.</i>	}	1898.	<i>Enclosures</i>
<i>Regd.</i>			<i>Spare copies</i>

Printed October *th.*

Proceedings, No. 357, 21st September 1898.

SEPTEMBER.

Settlement of Land Revenue.—Communicating, with remarks, to all Collectors G.O. reviewing the Board's report on the — of the Presidency for the year ending 30th June 1897 (fashi 1306).

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

Read—the following G.O., No. 474, Revenue, dated 25th August 1898 :—

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 260, dated 20th July 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government report on the settlement of Land Revenue (Jamabandi) for fasli 1306 (1896-97).

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 4610, dated 28th July 1898 :—

Read—the following letter from MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 15th July 1898, Dis. No. 2702-Genl. :—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 3533, * dated 10th June 1898, and in continuation of this office Ref. on Cur. No. 395-B. and G. of 1898, dated 25th May 1898, I have the honour to state that the Tahsildar of Pattikonda reports that, out of 24,067 acres reported in this office Ref. on Cur. No. 258-Ver., dated 28th March 1897, to have been set free by the Forest Department, 7,541 acres is the extent of assessed lands, and of this 155 acres have been taken up for cultivation.

Resolution—Mis. No. 4610, dated 28th July 1898.

Submitted to Government with reference to the remarks made in sub-paragraph of paragraph 20 of Board's Proceedings, No. 260, dated 20th July 1898.

2. Out of 104,064 acres set free from forest reservation in five taluks, 42,338 acres were assessed land, and of this 6,378 acres have been brought under cultivation.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. BENSON,
Dy. Dir., L. Rds. and Agri.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—No. 474, Revenue, dated 25th August 1898.

Land Revenue No. 12.

With the foregoing Proceedings the Board of Revenue submits its report on the settlement of the land revenue in the Presidency for fasli 1306, or the revenue year ending 30th June 1897. The

advance copy of the report was received in the Government Office on the 25th July 1898, about five months after the prescribed date, and the report itself was received five days' later. This long delay in its submission is due to delay in completing the jamabandi in some of the districts affected by distress in the fasli under report and to the consequent late reports from these districts.

2. Season and crops.—The rainfall for the Presidency, taken as a whole, though 4.2 per cent. less than that of the preceding year, was over 6 per cent. in excess of the average of 25 years ending 1894-95; the excess occurred both under the south-west and the north-east monsoons, and the year was generally not unfavourable for agricultural operations except in the Deccan districts and in parts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, North Arcot, Salem and the Nilgiris. During the south-west monsoon the rainfall on the Nilgiris and on the West Coast considerably exceeded the

	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	Total.
Average of 25 years ending—	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
1894-95	28.38	16.42	44.80
1891-92	19.83	13.67	33.50
1892-93	35.67	14.02	49.69
1893-94	28.74	20.52	49.26
1894-95	28.84	12.88	41.72
1895-96	32.77	16.85	49.62
1896-97	29.37	18.17	47.54

normal, leading to floods in the deltas of the Godavari, Kistna and Cauvery. The same monsoon set in fairly well in the East Coast districts, but the fall in September proved scanty in the Circars and in the Deccan districts and was light in the Carnatic. At the beginning of October the state of the season in these districts gave cause for grave anxiety. The north-east monsoon rains began late and, though copious over the whole of the southern half of the Presidency, amounted to only one-fourth to half the average in the Circars and the Deccan. There was in consequence a disastrous failure of crop in Ganjam, the littoral parts of Vizagapatam, some of the upland portions of Godavari, and in the four Deccan districts. The ill effects of this failure were increased by the prevalence of famine in other parts of India which led to large exports of grain from this Presidency and an excessive rise in prices. State relief became necessary in the Deccan districts in November and later in the Circars also. The several measures adopted by Government for the relief of distress and the success that has attended these efforts are fully set forth in the report on the late famine submitted by the Famine Commissioner which has already been reviewed by the Government.

The total extent of land cultivated, including areas cropped more than once, was 26.61 million acres, and was 1.24 million acres, or about 4½ per cent. less than in fasli 1305; but did not fall below the average of the five non-famine years ending fasli 1301. The decrease as compared with fasli 1305 is divided fairly equally between food and non-food crops and was due to the deficient rainfall. The falling off was very marked in the areas under paddy, cumbu and "other food-grains" and under cotton, gingelly and

Fasli.	Area in million acres.	Fasli.	Area in million acres.
1297	25.1	1302	26.4
1298	25.3	1303	27.4
1299	26.1	1304	27.0
1300	26.1	1305	27.9
1301	24.3	1306	26.6

ground-nuts, while there was a substantial increase in the extent under cholam. The percentage of the area under food-crops to the total area cropped exhibited a slight increase. The statement appended to paragraph 8 of the Board's report gives the average outturn of the different crops in each district, from which it will be seen that the outturn in the affected districts of the staple crops was generally very poor. In the non-affected districts the outturn, as estimated by the village officers, ranges from 6 to 13 annas; but having regard to the known tendency they persist in regarding under-estimate outturns and to the fact that as a general rule they persist in regarding an average crop as one of 12 annas, the Government agrees with the Board of Revenue in considering that the outturn in these districts during the year was probably not much below the normal.

3. *Sanitary condition.*—The total number of deaths registered during the year

Fasli.	Number of deaths.	Average death-rate per mille.
1296	578,200	20.3
1297	631,230	22.6
1298	613,097	21.9
1299	667,620	23.5
1300	634,249	22.3
1301	807,581	24.0
1302	669,383	19.9
1303	696,092	20.7
1304	633,883	18.8
1305	654,891	19.8
1306	719,731	22.0

	Mortality.	
	Fasli 1305.	Fasli 1306.
Ganjám	24,446	38,325
Vizagapatam	34,763	33,316
Górávari	40,187	34,387
Kernool	19,218	16,046
Bellary	21,214	20,312
Anantapur	12,614	14,242
Cuddapah	27,025	23,751
Total	179,467	180,379

5,000. There was also increased mortality from small-pox, more than one-half the deaths occurred in Ganjám. The mortality from this cause in Malabar was again suspiciously low. How far the increased mortality under these diseases was due to the famine conditions that prevailed has been discussed in Board's Famine report. The deaths from fevers were fewer than in any fasli since 1300.

4. *Condition of cattle.*—As might be expected from the adverse character of the season, the condition of cattle was not satisfactory. Cattle diseases, especially rinderpest and anthrax, were widely prevalent in several districts; and it has been estimated that in the two years 1896 and 1897 about 350,000 head of cattle and 400,000 sheep and goats were lost in the Deccan and the two Northern districts in consequence of drought and disease.

5. *Prices.*—The marginal statement gives the average retail prices in imperial seers

	Paddy, second sort.	Cholam.	Cumbu.	Ragi.
Normal rates ..	26.4	26.7	26.3	28.0
1297	28.0	28.6	27.3	30.9
1298	25.8	26.0	24.6	28.6
1299	23.5	25.6	24.4	27.9
1300	22.4	24.0	23.2	25.9
1301	18.3	17.0	16.5	18.0
1302	18.8	18.2	18.7	19.8
1303	21.3	19.9	20.0	22.2
1304	22.6	23.2	22.8	25.5
1305	23.9	25.4	25.5	28.1
1306	19.9	18.0	19.5	20.6

prices began to rise at first slightly and afterwards rapidly owing mainly to demand from other parts of India and for export. The rise was specially marked in the Circars and the Deccan, but received a check towards the close of November 1896, when there was a temporary improvement in the season, with a fall in prices following the harvests, but the upward tendency soon re-asserted itself and at the close of the fasli the prices of the staple food-grains were higher in the Circars and the Deccan than the scarcity

was higher than in the preceding year by 64,840 or 9.9 per cent., and was the highest recorded during the last ten years except the year 1301 (1891-92). It is, however, worthy of note that taking the affected districts as a whole but little increase was shown in the death-rate, and that the only affected districts returning an increased mortality were Ganjám and Anantapur; the increase in the former being almost wholly due to cholera and small-pox and in the latter to cholera. This epidemic, which was on the decline during the preceding two years, became widely prevalent during the fasli, the reported deaths from it numbering 93,629 against 13,675 in fasli 1305 and 20,886 in fasli 1304. From statement No. 2 appended to the Board's resolution it is observed that over 76 per cent., of the deaths from cholera occurred in the districts of South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevely and Malabar, Ganjám being the only famine-stricken district in which the deaths from this cause are returned as exceeding

rates, and higher than the warning rates everywhere else. The average prices of the year were 21 per cent. dearer than normal in the case of rice, and 35 to 48 per cent. dearer in the case of dry grains.

6. *Peishkash in permanently-settled estates and shrotriem jodi.*—The revenue payable to Government on permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 49.80 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 0.21 lakh as compared with the previous year. The decrease was due (a) to the reduction of the peshkash of certain estates, portions of which had been acquired for public purposes, (b) to the transfer from the zemindars to the ordinary ryotwar agency of the collection of quit-rent on minor inams in certain zamindaris in the Ganjám district, and lastly (c) to the transfer to the head of "Tributes from Native States" of the revenue payable by the Sultan Musa Ali Raja of Cannanore on account of the Laccadive Islands.

The quit-rent payable to Government on villages held on shrotriem or favourable tenure amounted to Rs. 7.36 lakhs against Rs. 7.37 lakhs in the preceding year. The variations are explained in statement No. 8 appended to the Board's Proceedings and call for no remarks.

7. *Number of ryotwar villages.*—The total number of ryotwar villages in the year was 23,057, or 130 less than in the preceding year, the decrease being due to the clubbing of villages in four taluks of Anantapur brought under settlement during the year. The number would have been further reduced had not the revision of village establishments in the Kurnool district sanctioned in G.O., No. 735, dated 21st December 1896, been postponed on account of the famine.

8. *Extent of ryotwar holdings.*—Excluding the occupied area in the South Canara district which has not yet been fully surveyed and for which statistics are in consequence not available, and also excluding land occupied without pattas, the total extent under occupation during the year amounted to 22.46 millions of acres or 0.12 per cent., more than in the previous year. In fact, however, there was a small decrease in the extent of holdings, as on the introduction of the new settlements in the four taluks of Anantapur, an excess by survey was disclosed of acres 42,452 over the area of holding shown in the village accounts. Omitting this nominal increase, there was an actual

Fasli.	Occupied area in thousands of acres.	Percentage as compared with fasli 1285.
1285	20,021	100.0
1297	20,499	102.3
1298	20,723	103.5
1299	21,045	105.0
1300	21,141	105.6
1301	21,157	105.6
1302	21,626	108.0
1303	21,945	109.6
1304	22,232	111.0
1305	22,436	112.0
1306	22,463	112.2

decrease of 14,631 acres in the extent of ryots' holdings, representing a decrease of .065 per cent. Details of the net variations in the different districts are given in Appendix A to the Board's report, from which it is observed that there were increases aggregating acres 77,770 in thirteen districts and decreases aggregating 92,401 in seven others. The increases are attributed chiefly to extension of cultivation and partly to the assignment on patta of lands previously charged under the head of "Miscellaneous." The largest increase (acres 14,004, almost wholly dry) occurred in the famine-affected district of Bellary and was due to the usual extension of occupation in the earlier months when the south-west monsoon was promising and the ryots could not foresee the disastrous failure which was to follow. The largest decreases occurred in Anantapur (acres 19,148), Cuddapah (acres 9,338), Kurnool (acres 8,939), Salem (acres 8,007), and were due to the adverse character of the season in the first three districts. Remembering that there was an excess by survey in Anantapur of acres 42,452, it will be seen that the real decrease in this district was acres 61,600; the decrease in Salem was only nominal and was due to the transfer during the year to the head of "Miscellaneous" of land held on temporary pattas which had been included under holdings in the previous years. The Board points out that compared with fasli 1285, the year which preceded the great famine, the area under holdings in the fasli under report had extended by nearly 2.44 millions of acres or 12.20 per cent. Adding to this the extent of occupation (42 million acres) shown under "Miscellaneous," but excluding from it the excesses brought to account on the introduction of the new settlement and also inam lands resumed since fasli 1285 and included under holdings, the resulting increase due mainly to extension of cultivation

amounts to 1.73 million acres or 10.7 per cent. All the districts participate in the extension except Kurnool where the net area occupied was 72,112 acres less than in fasli 1285. The tardy recovery of this district from the effect of the great famine has formed the subject of much enquiry, and one of the explanations suggested was excessive reservation of arable lands for fuel and fodder purposes. Arrangements were accordingly made for setting free for cultivation such lands as were not required for these purposes, and an extent of 104,064 acres was thus set free in 420 villages in five taluks in fasli 1305; further operations being discontinued in fasli 1306 under the pressure of famine work. The Board of Revenue questions, however, whether the cause suggested has had any material influence in retarding the recovery of the district considering that the extent still available for cultivation is 429,000 acres or over one-fifth of the occupied area.

Faslis.	Relinquished.	Newly taken up.	Difference.
<i>In thousands of acres.</i>			
1297	404	577	173
1298	442	496	54
1299	286	547	261
1300	371	450	79
1301	328	320	8
1302	218	424	206
1303	282	435	203
1304	292	537	245
1305	323	531	208
1306	368	358	10
Total ..	3,314	4,725	1,411

9. Ryotwari lands—Actual cultivation.

Faslis.	Extent cultivated, dry and wet.	Extent left waste.		Percentage of cultivation to occupied area.	
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
<i>In thousands of acres.</i>					
1285	17,462	2,183	376	86.6	90.0
1297	17,584	2,687	228	83.8	94.3
1298	17,573	2,877	273	82.8	93.3
1299	17,911	2,875	257	83.0	93.8
1300	17,822	3,020	298	82.3	92.8
1301	16,849	3,851	457	77.4	89.1
1302	17,957	3,386	283	80.6	93.3
1303	18,537	3,177	231	82.0	94.6
1304	18,616	3,302	313	81.6	92.7
1305	18,921	3,295	219	82.0	94.6
1306	18,157	3,975	332	78.2	92.1

bar and was particularly marked in the

Faslis.	Extent left waste.	Extent on which remission was granted.	Percentage.
<i>ACS.</i>			
1297	2,915,632	54,648	2
1298	3,150,650	102,040	3
1299	3,131,643	87,437	2
1300	3,318,699	135,846	4
1301	4,307,523	867,578	20
1302	3,669,007	174,172	4
1303	3,408,024	40,288	1
1304	3,615,475	109,977	3
1305	3,514,452	39,324	1
1306	4,306,770	655,194	15

10. Remissions and deductions from beriz.—Exclusive of water-rate and second crop separately charged, the total assessment on ryotwar holdings amounted to 433.20

His Excellency the Governor in Council is disposed to concur with the Board. For it appears from a subsequent report that although out of the 104,064 acres set free from forest reservation 42,338 acres were assessed lands, only 6,378 acres have been as yet brought under cultivation.

The marginal statement shows the total area of land newly taken up and the extent relinquished during the decade ending with the year under review.

The marginal statement shows for a period of ten years the extent cultivated, the extent left waste, and the percentage of cultivation to occupied area. The extent of dry land left waste in fasli 1306 was the largest on record during the period, while the extent left waste under "wet" exceeded the figures of every year except fasli 1301 which was exceptionally bad. The percentage of cultivation to occupied area was also less than in any other year, fasli 1301 excepted. The total area cropped exclusive of "miscellaneous" cultivation amounted to 18.16 million acres against 18.92 million acres in the previous year or 80.83 per cent. of the total holdings against 84.34 per cent. in the previous year. The decrease occurred in all the districts except Nellore and Maladeccan districts and North Arcot. The area under "miscellaneous" cultivation was .74 million acres against .83 million acres in fasli 1305. The total area cultivated was therefore 18.90 million acres as compared with 19.75 million acres in the previous year, a decrease of 4.4 per cent. The marginal statement gives the total extent of lands left waste and the extent on which remission was granted during the last ten years. Owing to the unfavourable character of the season the extent on which remission was granted during the fasli under report was, excluding fasli 1301, the highest during the decade.

lakhs or nearly 7 lakhs more than in the previous year. Nearly 5½ lakhs of the increase occurred in the Gódvári and Kistna districts, and it was due to the retransfer to wet of lands which had been transferred to dry in the previous year when the ryots declined to continue to take water for irrigation in consequence of the enhancement of the water-tax. The gain in this respect in these two districts is, however, balanced by corresponding loss under water-rate. There was a large increase of Rs. 71,253 in Madura owing mainly to the levy of enhanced rates of assessment on land irrigated from the Periyár reservoir. In Anantapur, the levy of assessment on the excess occupation discovered at the survey caused an increase of Rs. 15,027. The increase would have been greater had not the bad season led as noted above to relinquishment of a large area. The remissions and deductions from the beriz amounted to 44.71 lakhs, the details of which are given in Statement No. 13 appended to the Board's report. Of this amount 32.07 lakhs or nearly 72 per cent., pertained to season remissions as against

	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
<i>In lakhs of Rupees.</i>					
Season remissions ..	14.72	3.45	9.14	5.96	32.07
Fixed remissions ..	2.74	6.61	6.11	4.32	3.23
Deductions from beriz.	19.53	13.46	9.61	9.35	9.41
Total ..	36.99	23.52	24.86	19.63	44.71

5.96 lakhs in the previous year. The amount remitted on account of waste was 9.6 lakhs, of which 6.4 lakhs were granted in respect of acres 137,766 of wet waste, chiefly in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kistna, Cuddapah, Anantapur and North Arcot. On the other hand, there were large decreases due to extended cultivation in the remission granted on wet waste in Nellore, Chingleput and Tinnevely. The total amount remitted on account of "shavi" or short crop, wet and dry, was 16.04 lakhs. Almost the whole of this remission was granted in the Circars and the Deccan and about a fourth of it related to wet lands. Remission granted in respect of dry lands in Ganjam and the Deccan districts on account of waste, "shavi" and short crop aggregated 15.36 lakhs. A remission of 1.27 lakhs was also granted in Gódvári in respect of lands flooded or injured by water. Besides the season remissions noted above, fixed remissions and deductions from beriz were granted to the extent of Rs. 3.23 and 9.41 lakhs against Rs. 4.32 and 9.35 lakhs in the previous year. Under this head are included the increment remissions granted on the introduction of new settlement rates of assessment. These, occurring mainly in Tanjore and Trichinopoly and to a small extent in Anantapur, amounted to 1.70 lakhs, being 1.12 lakhs less than in the previous year. Fixed remissions on account of irrigation by lift were 1.15 lakhs, or slightly in excess of the previous year.

11. Second-crop charge and water-rate.—The revenue under these heads amounted to 20.21 lakhs or about 7 lakhs less than in the previous year. Of this decrease more than 6 lakhs occurred in water-rate, and of this nearly 5 lakhs related to the Gódvári and Kistna districts where, as already stated, there was a large retransfer to wet of land which had in the previous year been transferred to dry. Deficient water-supply accounts generally for the falling off in other districts. In Ganjam the deficiency of the rains caused a demand for Government water, while in Nellore, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura and Tinnevely the favourable south-west monsoon accounts for the increase. The second-crop charge declined in every district except the four Circar districts, and Nellore, Tinnevely and Coimbatore. For this decline the unfavourable character of the north-west monsoon is generally accountable except in Tanjore where the decrease in the area sown with second crop is ascribed partly to heavy floods which caused breaches in the river embankments and partly to the extension of "ottadam" cultivation (in which short crop and long crop paddy are sown together) which is charged as single crop.

12. Miscellaneous revenue.—The revenue under this head, the particulars of which are detailed in paragraphs 31 to 40 of the Board's report and Statement No. 16 appended thereto, exhibited a decrease of

Fasli	Lakhs of rupees.
1305	67.70
1306	65.32
	2.38

2.38 lakhs, nearly one-half of which occurred in respect of lands not included in the jamabandi or of lands cultivated without darkhast. The decrease under these heads is attributed partly to the

unfavourable season and partly to the prompt disposal of "darkhast" cases. The extent of poramboke encroached upon is still over 78,000 acres and the Government trusts that as directed by the Board of Revenue, Collectors will see that in cases where there is no objection to the occupation of the poramboke, the land is promptly transferred to the head of assessed land and granted on regular patta, and that in other cases effective proceedings are promptly taken to compel withdrawal from the encroachments.

13. *Net Ryotwar demand.*—Including "miscellaneous" revenue and second-crop assessment and charge for water and excluding the remissions mentioned in paragraph 10 *supra*, the net ryotwar demand amounted to 474.04 lakhs or 27.59 lakhs less than in the preceding year. The variations under the several heads are shown in the statement on the margin.

Decrease.		Lakhs of rupees.
(a) Under second-crop charge and water-rate.	7.0	
(b) Increase under season remissions	26.1	
(c) Under miscellaneous revenue	2.4	
Total ..	35.5	
Increase.		
(d) In the assessment of holdings	6.8	
(e) Decrease under fixed remission	1.1	
Total ..	7.9	
Net decrease ..	27.6	

		Current demand in lakhs of rupees.
Average of five years before the famine ..	449.76	
1297	478.86	
1298	481.23	
1299	484.54	
1300	490.07	
1301	457.54	
1302	493.64	
1303	529.99	
1304	543.57	
1305	550.02	
1306	531.19	

with fasli 1305, which is mainly due to the reduction in the rate of village-cess from 9 pies in fasli 1305 to 8 pies in the fasli under report as ordered in G.O., No. 47, Revenue, dated 29th January 1896.

16. *Total demand including Cesses and Arrears.*—The total demand under land revenue and cesses amounted to Rupees 604.70 lakhs, of which Rs. 572.59 lakhs or 94.7 per cent. were collected within the year and Rs. 32.10 lakhs or 5.3 per cent. at the close of the year against Rs. 8.17 lakhs or 1.3 per cent. in the preceding year. The large increase in the closing balance is due to the suspension of collections in the distressed districts. The arrear demand in the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 9.84 lakhs, of which Rs. 8.19 lakhs were collected within the fasli and Rs. 0.39 lakhs written off the accounts, leaving a balance of 1.25 lakhs or 12.7 per cent. at the end of the year against 11.0 per cent. in fasli 1305. The total balance outstanding at the end of fasli 1306, both arrears and current, inclusive of the balance relating to the Local and

Special Funds amounted to 33.63 lakhs, but the bulk of this amount has since been collected, written off the accounts, or ascertained to be irrecoverable; and the realizable

balance on the 1st June 1898 was Rs. 5.55 lakhs relating mainly to Cuddapah (Rupees 4,03,144), Malabar (Rs. 90,554), Kurnool (Rs. 22,335) and Anantapur (Rs. 10,176). The bulk of the balance in Malabar is due from Sultan Musa Ali Raja of Cannanore, and no steps have been taken to effect a recovery thereof pending receipt of the orders of the Government of India on a reference made to them.

17. In the statement appended to paragraph 47 of the report, the Board of Revenue reconciles the figures of collections reported by District officers and the figures reported by the Accountant-General. It is observed that when all the adjustments are made there exist very slight differences to the extent of Rs. 8 in the case of four districts, which, as observed by the Board of Revenue, may be ascribed to the rounding off of the figures.

In paragraph 48 of the report, the Board of Revenue describes the procedure adopted in distributing the collections between land revenue and cesses, and gives a list of 37 taluks in which there occurred differences between the amounts actually credited and those which should have been credited. It is stated that these differences cannot be avoided in years in which the season is unfavourable as the credits are made in the first instance with reference to an assumed current demand which does not take remissions of land revenue into account. The Collectors concerned report that the differences have been or are being adjusted.

18. *Land Revenue—Charges of District Administration.*—The charges debited during the year to this head including salaries of Revenue Inspectors but not those of village establishments amounted to Rs. 43.57 lakhs or 7.5 per cent. on the total amount of land revenue and cesses realized.

	1304.	1305.	1306.
Number of demand notices.	5,690,788	5,883,994	5,816,226
Number of attachment notices.	236,151	231,308	230,487
Number of sale notices.	191,828	178,347	175,575
Number of defaulters whose property was attached.	236,151	231,308	230,487
Amount of arrears Rs. for which property was attached.	19,18,867	20,44,184	20,77,873
Number of defaulters whose property was sold.	10,371	10,757	8,197
Amount of arrears Rs. for which property was sold.	1,70,828	1,76,069	1,59,081
Amount realized by sale of property.	1,77,644	1,86,692	1,83,239
Extent of land sold. Acs.	27,899	27,728	21,467
Extent of land bought in by Government.	10,863	10,512	7,076
Total holdings in millions.	22.23	22.44	22.46
Total current demand in lakhs of rupees.	547.39	564.86	531.19
Arrears at the beginning of the year.	18.01	11.70	9.84

19. *Coercive Processes.*—The statistics relating to the extent to which processes under Act II of 1864 were employed for the realisation of Government dues during the year under review are analysed by the Board of Revenue in paragraphs 51 to 59 of the report. The marginal statement compares for three years the particulars relative to the number of such processes and the extent to which it was found necessary to resort to the extreme measure of selling the defaulter's property for the recovery of the demand. It will be seen that, taking the Presidency as a whole, the number of processes issued during the year shows a decrease under all heads as compared with fasli 1305. The number of demand notices exhibited a decrease in eleven districts, markedly so in Coimbatore (183,053), Trichinopoly (173,896) and Tanjore (123,851), while in the districts of South Arcot (101,426) and Kistna (61,208) and eight others there was an increase in the number of such notices. The arrears were paid on presentation of the demand in 96.04 per cent. of the cases in which such notices were issued. The number of defaults in respect of which property was attached was 7.27 per cent. of the total number of pattadars against 7.32 per cent. in the previous year, and sale notices were issued in 76.2 per cent. of the cases in which property was attached as against 77.1 per cent. in the previous year. It was necessary to resort to the sale of the property attached or distrained in 8,197 cases only, or 4.7 per cent. of the total number of cases in which sale notices were issued against 5.0 per cent. in the preceding year. The decrease is partly accounted for by the suspension of collections in districts affected by scarcity, while in districts

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in which the season was not unfavourable the high selling price of grain enabled the ryots to pay the demand easily.

The marginal statement shows the number of defaulters whose property was sold

Fasli.	Number of defaulters whose property was sold.	Amount of arrears for which the property was sold.
1297	35,750	2,88,840
1298	17,346	2,58,466
1299	11,339	2,10,804
1300	11,115	1,90,279
1301	11,118	1,61,576
1302	12,400	2,00,997
1303	14,198	2,13,021
1304	10,371	1,70,828
1305	10,757	1,76,059
1306	8,197	1,59,084

Fasli.	Extent of land sold.	Extent bought in by Government.	Ratio of amount realized to estimated value.
1297	31,824	13,639	..
1298	31,675	13,786	..
1299	23,615	12,429	..
1300	21,771	9,346	..
1301	20,273	9,637	..
1302	30,296	14,668	..
1303	54,484	25,592	..
1304	27,899	10,853	..
1305	27,728	10,512	48.6 p. c.
1306	21,467	7,076	79.4 "

and the amount of arrears for which it was sold during the last ten years. It will be seen that the figures under both heads are the lowest on record during the period. It is satisfactory to note that the estimated value of the land sold and the amount actually realized by the sale approximated in the year under report more closely than in the previous year; but there is still great disparity in some districts between the estimated value and the amount realized, *e.g.*, in Bellary, Coimbatore, Salem and the Nilgiris. The further reports called for from the Collectors of Vizagapatam and Tanjore relative to the causes of the high percentage of sales to the number of pattadars should be submitted to Government for information.

It is observed that the proportion of the processes served by special agency rose from 2.8 per cent. in fasli 1305 to 4.0 per cent. in the fasli under report. The increase is contributed chiefly by the Gódvári and Kistna districts where the number of processes served by this agency increased more than two-fold. The reasons for the more extended

employment of special agency in these districts have not been explained.

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

The advances under both the Acts since the promulgation of the rules are shown in the margin. Owing to the adverse character of the season, the demand for State loans largely increased during the year under report, the amounts disbursed aggregating to 10.87 lakhs, of which 70 per cent. were granted in the Deccan districts. Of the loans granted under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 3.19 lakhs or 38 per cent. were for the repair and construction of wells, and of this amount 2.28 lakhs were advanced under the special Well rules. Of the amount shown under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 63 per cent. was advanced for the purchase of fodder, 21 per cent. for the purchase of cattle, 12 per cent. for the purchase of seed-grain, and 4 per cent. for the purchase of iron ploughs and manure.

	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Total.
<i>In thousands of rupees.</i>			
Official year.	1887-88 .. 78	40	1,18
	1888-89 .. 1,81	36	1,67
	1889-90 .. 1,39	45	1,84
	1890-91 .. 2,28	43	2,71
	1891-92 .. 15,28	1,57	16,85
April to June 1892	16,42	1,03	11,45
Fasli year.	1302 .. 10,55	1,34	11,89
	1303 .. 4,21	8	4,29
	1304 .. 2,56	16	2,72
	1305 .. 1,74	9	1,83
	1306 .. 8,50	2,37	10,87
Total	59,02	8,28	67,30

The number of new wells constructed was 489, while 322 old wells were repaired during the year with the aid of State loans, against 881 new wells and 882 old wells, respectively, in the previous year. The area benefited by these improvements

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aggregated 2,998 acres. The number of wells constructed since the promulgation of the rules is 15,300 and the number repaired 16,307, the total area benefited being 44,146 acres and 58,779 acres, respectively.

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

	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.
	RS.	RS.
Outstanding balance at the beginning of the year	29,18,480	20,630
Advanced during the year	8,49,974	2,37,321
Total	37,68,454	2,57,951
Recoveries and remissions	2,49,277	11,992
Balance	35,19,177	2,45,959
Interest due	1,26,612	1,345
Interest recovered and remitted	1,12,641	1,044
Balance	13,971	301

The sanction of the Government of India has been received to the revised amalgamated set of rules under the Loans Acts and has been communicated to the Board of Revenue. As already directed in G.O., No. 884, dated 22nd October 1897, early steps should be taken for the introduction of the revised forms prescribed, and the working of the new rules should be watched carefully.

21. *Transfer of Revenue Registry.*—The number of applications presented for transfer of revenue registry showed a further decrease of over 2 per cent. as compared with fasli 1305; but the proportion which the applications received through the Registration Department bear to this number continues to increase.

Fasli.	Total number of applications.	Applications received through the Registration Department.	Percentage of column 3 on column 2.
1	2	3	4
1297	125,965	40,455	32.1
1298	130,312	42,340	32.5
1299	131,998	46,676	35.4
1300	132,701	50,254	37.9
1301	117,817	48,018	40.8
1302	127,658	56,654	44.4
1303	114,563	52,637	45.9
1304	110,037	50,886	46.2
1305	107,866	50,081	46.4
1306	105,208	53,319	50.7

compared with 9.7 per cent. in the preceding year. Of those received direct by Revenue officials, 52,930 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 4,375 or 7.64 per cent. against 8.4 in the previous year.

The number of cases dealt with under Board's Standing Order No. 20, paragraph 7, which directs the issue of pattas to persons who have been in possession of lands as ostensible owners and have paid the revenue on them for twelve years or more, was 8,187 against 4,105 in the previous year.

22. *Examination of village and taluk accounts.*—Village and taluk accounts were maintained fairly well on the whole, but the Government notes the Board's observation that the registration of vital statistics still continues to be defective in several districts; this matter should receive the earnest attention of Collectors.

23. *Inspection of boundary and field marks.*—The figures reported under this head are admittedly incomplete. During the year under report about 8 per cent. of the total marks were returned as either missing or out of repair. In 30 per cent. of these

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cases the necessary action was reported to have been taken. The Government cannot impress too strongly upon Collectors the necessity for prompt and vigorous action in this important matter.

24. *Irrigation Works.*—The number of irrigation works of each class is shown on the margin. The variations as compared with the previous year are reported to be due to the rectifications of errors in the accounts of the preceding year and the construction of new wells. These do not include wells used for supplementing irrigation from Government sources, which were returned as 149,380 against 138,069 in the previous fasli. The number of new works constructed during the year under review is reported as 6 river channels, 1 tank and 8,774 wells. About 64 per cent. of the new wells appertain to the North Arcot district.

As required in G.O., No. 968, dated 4th October 1887, the Board of Revenue furnishes in statement 25-B appended to the report particulars of land irrigated under Government or private sources of irrigation. The Board of Revenue fears that the returns are far from accurate and states that the figures are being compared with those already reported in the Statistical A₂ and Irrigation returns and that explanations of discrepancies will be called for.

Fasli.	Number of pottas in thousands.	Amount of assessment in thousands.	Number of registers holding joint pottas in thousands.
1281	2,392	Rs. 3,75,20	1,456
1286	2,429	3,58,33	1,730
1291	2,518	3,76,94	2,049
1296	2,762	3,93,87	2,543
1301	2,922	4,09,55	2,631
1302	2,983	4,20,95	3,051
1303	3,056	4,39,65	3,279
1304	3,121	4,44,39	3,356
1305	3,160	4,52,18	3,250
1306	3,170	4,54,01	

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

RESOLUTION—No. 357, dated 21st September 1898.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. With reference to paragraph 8 of the G.O., the Collector of Kurnool will be requested to report, in his jamabandi report for fasli 1307, the progress made in setting free land hitherto reserved for fuel and fodder purposes in the remaining 277 villages.

3. The attention of Collectors is specially invited to the remarks of Government in paragraphs 12, 22 and 23 of the G.O.

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4. The figure 3,250 entered against fasli 1306 in column 4 of the statement at paragraph 25 of the G.O., should be 3,350, and will be corrected accordingly.

5. The portion of the G.O., relating to subjects dealt with in the Land Revenue Department will be disposed of in that department.

(True Copy and Extract.)

P. V. M. S. S. S.
Secretary.

To all Collectors (Divisional-officers and Tahsildars).
„ the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department. ✓
„ the Land Revenue Department.

Erd. P. Seetharam.