

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1498

DATED 22nd April 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording R.P. Submg. report called for in G.O. No. 438 of 3. 9. 96 as to whether land revenue in Tanjore district is collected without excessive pressure since the introduction of New Settlement rates in fasli 1303 (1893-94).

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
		Ch 49 3766					

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Current No 1235

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd. 12 Feby

Regd. 12 n

1898.

Enclosures 15.

Spare copies

Printed February th.

Proceedings, No. 50, 3rd February 1898.

Order mis no. 1698 D 22 Apr 98

Recorded

1 from order 1

FEBRUARY.

25-4-99

To the Board of Revenue. Sett.
with Colliery & other matters

6-4-99

Settlement rates.—Submitting report called for in G.O., No. 438, dated 3rd September 1896, as to whether land revenue in Tanjore district is collected without excessive pressure since the introduction of new — in fasli 1303 (1893-94).

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

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 231, dated 15th September 1896:—

Read—the following G.O., No. 438, Revenue, dated 3rd September 1896:—

Read—the following Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, No. 11 (Revenue), dated 30th July 1896:—

I have considered your Excellency's letter, No. 3 (Revenue), dated the 12th June 1896, forwarding a consolidated report upon the Tanjore Settlement, together with reviews by the Revenue Board and your Government.

2. I find that my predecessor received and considered reports * regarding the completion of the Tanjore Settlement at the end of 1893. The work of resettling Tanjore began in 1887 and was completed in 1893; it cost 21 lakhs and it secured

* From the Government of India, No. 138, dated 5th September 1893; No. 84, dated 6th December 1893.
an increase of 12 lakhs in the revenue, or 32 per cent. on the old demand. I fully approve the action of your predecessor's Government, in reducing the proposed increase of revenue from 14½ lakhs to 12 lakhs. These figures are in both cases exclusive of second-crop charges and cesses. The increase of assessment fell short of 25 per cent. in the case of four-fifths of the land-holders; in the case of one-fifth of the land-holders the increase of revenue became gradually leviable. The new demand has been collected since the year 1893-94; but the present papers do not state whether it has been paid without friction or excessive pressure.

3. I share the opinion of your Government regarding the good work done by Mr. G. P. Clerk, the Deputy Commissioner of Settlement; his efforts appear to have been cordially seconded by Messrs. M.R.Ry. T. Krishnamurthi Iyengar and M.R.Ry. M. Adinarayana Iya, who were entrusted with much important work under Mr. Clerk.

Order—No. 438, Revenue, dated 3rd September 1896.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for information and for communication to the officers concerned.

2. The figures "1887" and "32" in paragraph 2 of the Despatch are apparently clerical errors for "1888" and "29", respectively, for the settlement work in the district was not actually commenced until December 1888, and the increase of assessment due to settlement was 29.2 per cent. on the original demand.

3. From the jamabandi reports of the past two years it does not appear that there has been friction or excessive pressure in the collection of the revenue since the introduction of the new rates, though the number of coercive processes issued has shown a material increase, chiefly confined to the Tanjore taluk. The Board is requested to submit a short report on the subject for transmission to the Secretary of State.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, &c.).

Resolution—No. 231, dated 15th September 1896.

Communicated to the officers in charge of Settlement Parties, Nos II, III and V, and to the Collector of Tanjore.

2. The Collector of Tanjore will be requested to submit the report called for by Government in paragraph 3 of its order read above.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Officers in charge of Revenue Settlement Parties, Nos. II, III and V.
Collector of Tanjore.

" Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" " Officers in charge of other Revenue Settlement Parties.

READ—again Board's Proceedings, No. 4972, dated 6th July 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the Collector of Tanjore with reference to the report submitted by him, to furnish further information on certain points.

READ—letter from the Collector of Tanjore, dated 10th December 1897, No. 5910-Rev.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting information called for in B.P., No. 4972, dated 6th July 1897.

Resolution—No. 50, dated 3rd February 1898.

In the Government Order read above, Government calls for a short report as to whether the land revenue in the Tanjore district is being collected without friction or excessive pressure, since the introduction of the new settlement rates in fasli 1303 (1893-94).

2. The Acting Collector (Mr. Ayling) submitted a report on the subject in June 1897, but it did not satisfactorily explain an apparently large increase in the number of defaulters whose property was sold for arrears in faslis 1304 and 1305, and a further reference was made with a view to ascertain how far (if at all) the sales could be ascribed to over assessment.

The Collector (Mr. Andrew) in a report which reached the Board on 13th December 1897 now states that a strict scrutiny of the figures of the Tanjore taluk, followed by local enquiry in the villages, has revealed that the statistics of coercive process given in the jamabandi reports for faslis 1304 and 1305 are utterly wrong, and for fasli 1305 are grossly exaggerated. The posting statements from which the statements of coercive process should be compiled cannot be found, and the taluk registers of sales and processes have not been properly written up. For the purposes of the jamabandi reports, the statistics appear to have been deliberately fudged, presumably by some clerk in the Taluk office to save himself trouble; and the Collector has not yet discovered the delinquent. Enquiry is proceeding, and the Collector promises that the officers whose misconduct, or neglect, has contributed to the falsification of the statistics shall be duly called to account. When he has passed orders in the matter, he should submit a copy thereof to the Board for information.

3. With this explanation of the long delay, the Board proceeds to comment on the revised statistics which the Collector reports to be correct, and which exhibit the extent to which coercion has had to be resorted to in collecting the revenue since fasli 1303.

4. The following statement shows the land revenue demand (including cesses) for the five years ending fasli 1306, the number of persons, or pattadars, by whom it was paid, and the percentage collected within each year.

The figures are exclusive of the demand on permanently settled proprietary estates, which are not affected by the new settlement.

Fasli.	Demand.	Number of pattadars.	Percentage collected.
	RS.		
* 1302	45,28,792	1,79,078	98.6
1303	56,23,645	2,15,463	83.5
1304	63,77,245	2,15,705	99.0
1305	65,62,781	2,16,345	98.0
1306	64,97,439	2,17,842	99.4

* The year preceding settlement.

In the year when the new rates came into force (fasli 1303) the demand in many parts of the district was not settled till late in the fasli and the collections in consequence show a considerable balance; but in succeeding years the percentage collected leaves nothing to be desired.

5. The following statement shows for the same period the number of defaulters whose property was sold, the amount of arrears, the extent of land sold, and the amount realized :—

Fasli.	Number of defaulters.	Amount of arrears.	Amount realized by sale of			
			Personal property.	Land.		
				Acres.	Assessment.	Amount realized.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
† 1302	1,027	25,382	7,928	1,284	3,118	22,288
1303	980	28,292	9,758	895	2,445	21,471
1304	2,246	37,432	8,961	3,223	8,123	55,246
1305	1,027	35,777	12,080	1,076	3,438	39,073
1306	1,549	46,928	16,033	2,260	6,204	47,721

† The year preceding settlement.

According to the Collector's jamabandi statements the average annual number of persons whose default caused the sale of moveable or immoveable property for arrears of revenue in the three years (faslis 1300—1302) preceding the settlement, was 1,150 in round numbers.

The corresponding average for the three years ending fasli 1306 is 1,600. Some increase of coercion in consequence of the enhanced demand was to be expected.

6. The average number of pattadars during the said three years was over 216,000; and coercion was applied to collect the revenue from about one pattadar out of every one hundred and thirty-five.

7. The average amount of arrears in respect of which property was sold was about Rs. 40,000; or about six rupees in every thousand of the demand.

8. The average amount realized by the sale of moveable property was about Rs. 12,300, or less than two rupees in every thousand of the demand.

9. The average extent of land annually brought to sale during the triennium was somewhat under 2,200 acres assessed at Rs. 5,900, or at about Rs. 2-11-0 per acre.

The sum realized at auction of the said extent was rather over Rs. 47,000, or about eight times the annual assessment.

It is unnecessary for the Board to dwell on the fact that at these auctions the friends of the defaulters often so arrange matters that the lands sold do not fetch their true market value.

10. The total extent of land bought-in by Government for want of bidders in the three faslis 1304 to 1306, according to the jamabandi statements, was 973 acres, of which 797 acres were in the Tanjore taluk. Particulars of dry and wet, area and assessment, are given below :—

TOTAL bought-in by Government in the district in the three years 1304—1306.

Dry.		Average incidence per acre.	Wet.		Average incidence per acre.
Extent.	Assessment.		Extent.	Assessment.	
ACS. 692	RS. 1,066	RS. A. P. 1 8 8	ACS. 281	RS. 1,072	RS. A. P. 3 13 0

SIMILAR figures for the Tanjore taluk separately.

Dry.		Average incidence per acre.	Wet.		Average incidence per acre.
Extent.	Assessment.		Extent.	Assessment.	
ACS. 639	RS. 955	RS. A. P. 1 8 0	ACS. 158	RS. 627	RS. A. P. 3 15 6

Unfortunately the Board cannot, without a further reference to the Collector, which would entail much further delay, tell how much of the area thus bought in has been subsequently taken up for cultivation.

Almost the whole of the dry, and by far the greater portion of the wet, is situated in the south-west part of the Tanjore taluk, outside the limits of the delta, where the cultivators are almost exclusively Kallars, the descendants of the "Colleries," of whom Orme, the historian, makes such frequent mention.

This caste, as their name implies, were robbers and cattle-lifters by profession, and though of late years they have largely relinquished their hereditary calling, and have settled down to agriculture and honest pursuits, they still give the local Government officers much trouble, and are full of devices for avoiding payment of the revenue. It must also, in fairness, be said that the tract is liable to great vicissitudes of season, which frequently render the payment of the most moderate assessment very difficult.

It will be seen that the average assessment of the dry land bought-in is only Rs. 1-8-0 per acre, and that the average assessment of the wet lands is below Rs. 4. Prior to settlement the accounts showed 107,000 acres occupied as "dry" in this taluk, and the incidence of the old assessment was Rs. 1-5-1 per acre.

The occupied dry area by survey was 112,000 acres and the incidence of the new rates, thereupon, amounts to Rs. 1-5-3 per acre.

There was thus practically no increase of dry rates by the new settlement on this part of the district, and the rates are such as can be paid with ease except in bad seasons.

11. The average assessment of the wet lands bought-in (Rs. 3-15-6) is somewhat heavier than the average wet rate of the non-deltaic portion of the Tanjore taluk (Rs. 3-7-0), but the extent (158 acres) is small and scattered, and there is no ground for regarding the assessment as excessive.

12. For the last two years the prices of all grains have been extremely high, and in all parts of the district irrigated from the Cauvery the ryots have been reaping the full advantage of their favourable situation, and making extraordinary profits.

13. It is apparent from what has been stated above that practically the whole of the new settlement demand is being punctually collected without any unusual or excessive resort to coercion. By entering into the details of cases in which property has been brought to sale it might further be shown that in a large proportion of the

total number the sales have been brought about by causes wholly unconnected with the rate of assessment,—such as family quarrels, disputes between joint pattadars, disputes between mortgagors and mortgagees, absenteeism and the like. But the comparatively small proportion of the demand collected by coercion appears to render it unnecessary so to lengthen this report.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with the Collector's reports, Nos. 2705, dated
9th June 1897, and 5910, dated 10th
December 1897, and their enclosures, in original.

Copy to the Collector of Tanjore.

Can No. 1235 of 1898

From *the Bd Rev Sett L R + A*

No 50 Dated 12 Feby 1898

FOR ORDERS.

Secy

A

In G.O. ⁴³⁸₃₋₇₋₉₆ in communicating to the Bd of Rev. the Secy of States despatch on the Settlement of Tanjore, the Bd was asked to submit a short report ~~on the~~ for transmission to the Secy of State on the ~~budget~~ question whether the new demand had been collected without fiction or undue pressure.

His Lordship has remarked that this matter was not stated in ~~the report~~ ^{the report} from the paper then before him.

The Current is the Board's report.

It appears that the first report made by

like despatch in G.O. 438 A 3-5-96

B

The Collector of Tanjore did not sufficiently explain the an apparently large increase in the number of defaulters whose property was sold for arrears of revenue in fasli 1304 & 1305 & that the Bd thereupon called for a further information. Messrs then found that the figure relating to the statistics of coercion processes in the Tanjore Taluk for fasli 1304 & 1305 had all been fudged in the Taluk Office apparently to save trouble. The Collector's further report on this matter is in the linked file below. Correct statistics on Tanjore statistics are barely correct as ^{they} could be made ~~have~~ however, been compiled by Collector from the Sale records & from the

3

Taluk as. As the result it has been found that the figures ^{for coercion processes} reported for this Taluk in the Jambabandi accounts have been greatly exaggerated. The Board gives the statistics for fasli 1302 to 1306 inclusive & comments on them in paras 4, 5, & 6 of the present Prop.

~~Under separate cover~~

~~By separate cover~~

The paper lay over, pending the Bd's report on G.O.

214 & 15-1-97 which pointed out that ^{the property of} a high proportion of the patta dar ^(among the districts) Tanjore was sold for arrears of revenue in fasli 1304 &

asked for an explanation.

This report has been

received 18.P.128 & 25-5-98

& the 2 Resd has sent in

R in the
file above

C

up with a note today. (G.O. 214 d 15-1-97)
 to which B.P. 123 d 23-5-98 is reply
 was with the Janam
 Registration paper
 filed from cues on 7 Nov 98)

The matter is not
 however urgent & the
 reports were ~~collected~~ for
 required for information
 only.

It will be seen
 that in B.P. ^{L. Res.} 123 d 23-5-98 C
 the Board is not quite
 satisfied with the explanation
 given by the collector for
 the ^{comparatively} high percentage of
 defaulters whose property
~~has been sold~~ has been sold
 in part pashi in
 areas of revenue

The percentages of
 the number of ~~defaulters~~ sales
 to the number of pallas
 according to the correct
 figures are as follows

Fasli	% sales to pallas
1300	77.8
1301	59.9
1302	57.3
1303	45.5
1304	8.8
1305	3.4
1306	1.7

B.P. 123 d 25 May 98 para 9. C

< This figure is taken from
 the Janam pama bandi
 Report of 1906 para 23

5 After discussing the
 separate figures
 for each Taluk, the
 in the Law Res Dept
 Bd comes to the conclusion
 that "taking the District
 as a whole & the
 average percentage of
 sales is too high"
 and ~~that~~ consider
 that "if it should be

Last clause
 of para 8 of
 B.P. 123 d
 25 May 1998 C

" found to continue
 " a special enquiry
 " will be necessary in
 " view to the adoption
 " of measures of relief
 The Bd in the Self

B.P. 50 d 3 Feb 98
 the current Dept consider in the
 other hand that it
 is apparent " that
 " practically the whole
 " of the new settlement
 " demand is being
 " punctually collected
 " without any unusual
 " or excessive resort to
 " coercion " & states
 that " By entering
 into the details of
 cases in which proper

"has been brought to
 "to sale it might
 "further be shown that
 "in a large proportion
 "of the total number
 "the sales have been
 "brought about by
 "causes wholly un-
 "connected with the
 "rate of assessment -
 "such as family quarrels,
 "disputes between
 "joint partners
 "disputes between
 "mortgagors & mortgagors"
 "absenteeism & the like"

Submitted that the
 correct figures for
 Tanjong while they
 show a slight increase
 in the use of coercive
 processes after the
 introduction of the
 settlement do not
 disclose anything
 like "friction" or
 "Excessive pressure"

The increase at
 settlement appears to

made collection more
 difficult in an
 indirect way is
 by giving rise to
 quarrels among
 joint holders & by
 pressing on absentees
 who had leased their
 lands. (Vide the
 Collection of Tanjong -
 Mr Aglins - report
 of 9 - June 1897)

B

For order whether
 a brief ^{definite to the Secy of State} ~~report~~ embodying
 the latest figures ~~for~~
 (as per li 1307) which
 the Bd has been
 asked to furnish,
 and ^{proceeding} ~~from~~ the ~~Secy~~ new
 taken of the Bd, in the
 Left Dept may be
 drafted?

There seems
 no particular need
 to send any report
 at all. For the Secy
 of State did not
 ask for one; and the

Whole question of the
 extent to which coercive
 processes have been
 employed in this
 Press for the recovery
 of arrears of land
 revenue & ~~whether~~ whether
^{the extent of} their employment
 shows our system of land rev.
 settlement & administration
 to be in any way defective
 has been threshed out
 in replying to Mr Rogers
 criticisms

W.C.
 1.12.98

W.C. I don't think the
 Sec. of State wants any
 report. The pp may
 be recorded

W.C.
 16/12/98

(1) H.C.
 (2) H.C.

Para 3 of the G.O. on page 2 of the
 B.P. directed the Board to
 submit "a short report for
 transmission to the Sec. of State"

I incline to agree that it
 need not be sent - The report is
 satisfactory, but unfortunately discloses
 the way in which our demand for
 statistics leads to wholesale fudging

W.C.
 4-1-99

To us

Please see draft order on dockets

below.
 W.C.
 6.4.99

Seymour
 11/1/99

C 1712.25.
 18/4/99

I accept the above.

7.9.99

31.3.99

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 189
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING WANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only