

Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.C., No. 285

Dated 19th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Remissions.

Stating that the B's orders authorizing the
grant of — on portions of fields without previous
sub-division both in S. Area and Cheungpuk are
opposed to the principles of remission approved of
by Court and that, as the orders appear however
to have been given effect to by ^{the} Colls. of these
D's, the Court is pleased in the circumstances
and as a very special case to allow the concession
this year as a matter of grace.

[illegible]

Q. No.	Q. Text	A. No.	A. Text	Q. No.	Q. Text	A. No.	A. Text

CURRENT No. 3246



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

No. 2886
~~8858~~ Mis.

Received 1. May

Registered 3' 2

Enclosures /

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Su bmitting for th e orders of
Govern m ent, Revenue Department,
letter from th e Collector of
Ch in gleput requesting a reconsidera
ti on of the order regarding
r em issions for portions of wet
fields Chingleput

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1523	15	4-90
30	2708	21	4-98
11	168	5	3-92
"	77	23	2-93
"	76	14	2-98

fo 1659 & 18 4-98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Memorandum

Referring to Government Order No 1649 Mis. dated 15th April 1898, communicated with the Board's Proceedings No 2708 Mis. dated 21st idem which have been received since I handed over charge of the district, I would suggest that the Board be asked to request the Government to reconsider its order in view of the fact that the jagir of the Ponneri, Tiruvallur and Bidaper taluks and of half of the Conjeevaram and Chingleput taluks has already been conducted and the remission in question granted, and the ryots informed accordingly.

2. The Government considers that the season in this district has not been so exceptional as to justify the grant of remissions on portions of fields. The ryots, however, are entitled to claim to have their fields subdivided for the purpose of obtaining "wet" remission, provided that

That the new field is not less than one acre in extent vide the last sentence of para 1 of Board's Standing Order No 23. In the current year the subdivision has been dispensed with, partly as a concession, but more particularly because the cases of part waste and shami were so numerous that it would have been quite impossible to make the necessary subdivisions before settlement and it was of the greatest importance that the Jamabandi should be conducted and the demand settled without delay. Up to the end of February, all the Revenue Inspectors and Tahsildars were fully engaged in agrimensing shami, and others also had to be specially deputed to assist them.

3. In this connection I would invite attention to Mr. Thomson's remark in para 20 clause (3) of his letter read in Board's Proceedings No 168 dated 5th March 1892. In proposing to grant remission in that year for "part-field waste and shami, subject to the one-acre rule," he remarked: "This is generally put forward, as in anticipation of sub-division, but the sub-division does

does not occur because it is not asked for, and, if it were, the revenue staff could not find the time to do it before settlement." The Board granted the concession in that year, and reduced the limit from one to half an acre (vide para 6 of the Board's Proceedings quoted above); and the same was done in Fasli 1302 also (vide para 4 of Board's Proceedings No 79 dated 23rd February 1893).

4. This is the further consideration that has been granted this year, viz: the reduction of the limit from one to half an acre. The limit of one acre is an arbitrary one. Whether it was absolutely necessary to reduce the limit in the current fasli is a matter of opinion, but the concession was at any rate an equitable one, and if, after having been granted, it is now withdrawn, the ryots will undoubtedly feel aggrieved.

5. Having done the jamabandi of the Ponneri taluk, I am more strongly convinced than before of the necessity for granting the concession and it should be borne in mind that no remission has

has been granted this year for short crop (up to 2 Annas) as was done in Fasli 1300 to 1302. A comparison of the current year with Fasli 1300 and 1302 (1890-91 and 1892-93), in which years there was a somewhat similar failure of the North-East Monsoon rains, has been made in para 4 of my letter dated 4th February 1898, No 270 read in Board's Proceedings No 76, dated 14th idem. The remissions for shani in the current fasli in the Ponnéri and Saidapet taluks are now known, and are approximately Rs. 38,000 and 25,000 respectively. This clearly establishes the fact that the season in the current fasli, though not so bad as in Fasli 1300, has been much worse than in Fasli 1302.

6. I would therefore suggest that the Government be asked to consider the matter further in view of the facts:

1) That no remission has been granted this year for short crop (nor for "mamool" waste).

2) That it is impracticable in a year like the present to comply with all the applications that would be made for

for the subdivision of fields for the purpose of granting remission up to the one-acre limit, and
(3) that remissions up to the limit of half an acre have already been granted in three taluks and in half of two others.

(Signed) D. D. Murdoch
Late Ag. Collector
Chingleput District
Saidapet
25th April 1898.

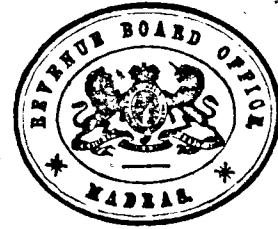
(True Copy)

(Signed) J. H. Robertson
Ag. Collector

(True Copy)

H. B. Srinivasan
Secretary

Encl
28-4-98



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

Dated *29th April* 1898.
No. *2886* Mis.

READ

the following letter from the collector of Chingleput, Ref on No. *321* of 1898 dated *27th April 1898*: —

With reference to Board's Proceedings No. 2708 Mis dated 21st instant, communicating Government Order No. 1649 Mis, dated 15th idem declining to sanction remission on portions of fields, I have the honor to request that the Board will be pleased to ask Government to reconsider its order. The grounds on which I make this application are to be found in the accompanying Memorandum which was prepared at my instance by my predecessor. I venture to hope that in view of the facts set forth therein Government will see its

way to confirming the concession granted by the Board.

2. As the matter is an urgent one, I would suggest that the Government be asked to communicate its final orders to me by telegram.

Resolution

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The attention of Government is invited to the fact that the same concession as has ^{been} disallowed for Bhingleput was granted by the Board for South Arcot, and that the Board's Proceedings was recorded in G. O. No. 1659 dated 18th April 1898 without objection. Of the two Districts, Bhingleput has decidedly suffered the most.

3. On the ground that the Jamabandi has been completed in three taluks in Bhingleput, and over a great portion of two other taluks, the Board ventures to hope that Government may be disposed to allow the remissions granted on portions of fields to stand. It is beyond question

question that the failure of crop on areas for which the ryots will still have to pay full assessment has been very widespread and severe, and apart from the disappointment, which will be caused by the withdrawal of remissions already proclaimed by what was supposed to be competent authority, the revision of the village accounts in the tracts already settled will cost an amount of time and trouble which is to be deprecated.

(True Copy and Extract)

R. B. Jamnawala
Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.
with copy of memorandum.
Copy to the collector of Bhingleput.

Contd.
24/5/98

B.P. 2886 (Cus. 3246).
29-4-98

To Secretary

Flap A

In its Proceedings embodied in G.O. 1649 dated 15-4-98, the Board of Revenue, in consideration of the exceptional circumstances of the current year, approved the proposal of the Collector of Chingleput to grant waste and Thavi remission on portions of wet Survey field subject to a minimum limit of half an acre. The Govt., however, was of opinion that the season in the District was not so exceptional as to justify the grant of such remissions and accordingly directed the withdrawal of the Board's order - vide G.O. quoted above. The Collector now requests a reconsideration of the above G.O. on the following grounds:—

(1) That no remission has been granted this year for the crop (up to 2 annas) as was

done

Spec

C 1645/98
R 17/98

done in fasli 1300 to 1302
nor for Mamul waste, though
the Season ⁱⁿ of the Current fasli
has been much worse than
in fasli 1302.

(2) That under S.O. No 23
the ryots are entitled to have
their fields subdivided for the
purpose of obtaining wet
remissions, provided that the
new field is not less than
one acre in extent, but that
in the Current year the sub-
division was dispensed with
partly as a concession, and
partly because, owing to the
cases of part waste and Thavi
being too numerous, it would
be impossible to comply with
all the applications that would
be made for the sub. division.

(3) That the Board granted
the concession in 1892 and 1893
the limit of part field being
reduced from one to half
an acre.

(4) That, relying on the
Board's authority, remissions
up

Para 5 & 6 of B.P. 168 flay C
5-3-92

Para 4 of B.P. 29 flay E
23-2-93

Ev 1659
18-4-98

up to the limit of half an acre
have already been granted in
three taluks and in half of
two others; and that if this equi-
table concession after having
been granted is now withdrawn
the ryots will undoubtedly feel
aggrieved.

2. The Board in submitting
the Collector's letter points out
that the concession which was
disallowed for Behringpant was
granted for South Arcot also, but,
the Govt did not object to it
though the latter district suf-
fered less than the former. In
view of the fact that the jamabandi
of the greater portion of the district
has been completed, that the failure
of crops has been very widespread
and severe, that the withdrawal
of remissions already proclaimed
will cause disappointment to the
ryots, and that ^{the} revision of the
village accounts in the tracts
already settled will cost much
time & trouble, the Board of Revenue
supports the Collector's request

the

that the remissions granted on portions of fields may be allowed to stand.

It will be seen ~~Orders are requested~~

from the H.M's Note written in connection with the revision of S.O. no. 23 regarding grant of remissions, ^{that} the Hon. Sir Henry Bliss strongly objects to the grant of remissions on portions of fields in any case, and that he prefers the system of giving remissions tract-wise in extraordinary seasons. The draft order on the revised S.O. is now with the Secretary. Orders are requested.

See Sub division should be applied for in good time both to enable effective inspection as well as to allow of the work being done before rain abates. In each Taluk there is I believe a date fixed by which such applications should be made. At least this was the practice

Extract stitched with G.O. 1649
15-4-98

Put it up with this (G.O.)
12/5/98

The file is ^{now} with the 1st Div.
B.P. 313 (cont) put up.
26-4-97

in Tanjore. If the ryots choose (they certainly will choose if they are allowed) to wait till late in the year & then put in applications in quantities it is obvious that neither inspection nor subdivision can be effectual.

The grant of these part remissions wholesale without subdivision seems to ^{have} become a practice in Chingleput. It is submitted that a continuance of the practice is likely to lead to the most demoralising effects. It is against the principle of remission which has been approved of by the Govt.

On these grounds it is submitted that it may be held that G.O. 1649 of 15 April 18 should be upheld. On

File A &

other hand, it might be urged, that as the Collector does, that the mischief has been done; the rights have been led to suspect the concession; it has actually been granted to them; & to withdraw it now would work hardship.

Perhaps the best way out of the difficulty would be to allow the concession this year as a matter of grace as the Collector had given effect to the Bd's order before he received those of the Govt. and to insist on the strict observance the rules in future years.

Respectfully,
Secy. South Arcot

The Board remarks that Govt. "recorded" B.P. 126 & 16 Mar 98 wherein the Bd approved of the grant of part remission

8/11/57
14/5/78
Rev. & also in 8/2/57

Ep. 1659 & 18. 4/58 9

without subdivision in South Arcot.

This was it is much regretted due to oversight in this office

B.P. 1768 since 8. 11. 3-58 which dealt with part remissions in Chingleput dealt with that point alone & the matter was specifically noted in the 1st Arcot. section of the office. The subsequent B.P. No 126 & 16 Mar 98 ~~was~~ ^{was} recorded dealt with the state of the season in South Arcot & incidentally referred to the concession of part remission ^{in the} that district. ^{& was dealt with in the} As the Bd remarks if the concession is not to be given in Chingleput a fortiori it should not be given in South Arcot. If however it is decided to allow the

concession in Chingleput
for this year as a
matter of grace, the
same course may
be adopted in South
Arcot.

MLL
12.5.98

Hrs.

I much regret that the
Chingleput order should have
been overlooked in recording
the S. Arcot report. As the remission
has been actually given
in S. Arcot it need not
be interfered with now.
The proposed order in
the Chingleput case
will keep matters
straight for the future

J.P.
14/5/98

J.P.
16/5/98

B.P. 1768 - (Cuo. 2022)
11.3.98

To Secretary

In this B.P. the
Board has authorised the
Collector of Chingleput to
grant remissions of
assessment on portions
of fields which have
been left waste or on
which crops have wither-
ed.

2. In G.O. 687
2-12-96
the Govt. prohibited the
grant of remissions on
portions of fields. In
submitting a revised
S.O. on remissions, the
Board accepted the order
as applicable to ordinary
seasons only, and pre-
suming that it was
not intended to preclude
the grant of remissions
in exceptional cases,
added a sentence at the
end of the first para
of the S.O. authorising
them

Para 4 of B.P. 313
26.4.97

Page 3 of B.P. 313
26.4.97

C. 214/98.
12.5.98

their grant in such cases.

3. It is to be regretted that the Board did not first obtain the orders of Govt on the subject. The papers on the revised S.O. recently returned from circulation and a draft order is under preparation. It will be seen from the Hon's remarks on p. 13 of the Office note (copy put up below) that the Hon. Secy has

B.P. 313
26-4-97

strongly objected to the grant of remissions on portions of fields in any case and that the Hon. Mr. Gase has expressed his concurrence in the objection.

4. It is submitted that the Board's order requires therefore to be cancelled.

10/3/98
H. I don't think there is any sufficient reason for the proposed remission on partial fields. S.B. 2/4/98

the Board must be understood to have no objection to it. J.E. 4/4/98

I don't object to special remissions in extraordinary seasons under the S.O. orders of Govt. But I think that the only safe course will be to give such special remissions tract-wise. I cannot therefore agree to the grant of remissions in any case on portions of fields which it would be quite impossible to ascertain. Merely to have ample opportunities for getting these fields divided for the purpose of remission & these should be few. In these very exceptional cases the Govt will decide whether the remission should be total or partial.

(Sd) H.W.B.

I agree

(Sd) J.E. 4/3/98

(Sd) A.E.H.

14/3/98

Contract from Office note.

9. As regards grant of remissions on portions of fields left waste or the crops on which had withered. —

In its Prop No 2353 the Bd laid down that as a general rule, such remissions should never be allowed on wet land.

In 1879, the Collr of Chingleput raised the question whether the remission can or cannot be granted on a part of a survey field in which no sub-division has taken place where such portion is waste or has become sterile, and he gave it as his opinion that it was not equitable, as the Bd had to measure the portion actually cropped, charge that, and remit the remainder, but that such a course would enormously increase the work of the revenue officials & give room for fraud.

and that where a field was
so situated that the whole of it
could not be easily cultivated,
the ryot could have the fields
subdivided. x x x

Print.
m.o. first.
19/5/98

~~The proposals in Chingleput and Arcot
are also referred to the principle
that remissions, where
granted, should be given in
respect of a general failure of
crop throughout a whole tract
and in respect of the failure
of certain special crops~~

Yes
8/5

See p. 1. This is
the order which was
first copied & put up for
signature before the
General P. H. was sent
up for orders!
19/5/98

Readman G.P. 16498 15-4-98
" " 80 1657 18-4-98
" B.P. 2886 (Cus 3246)
29-4-98

G.O. No 285 of 19th May 1898

The Board's orders
authorizing the grant of re-
missions on portions of
fields, without previous sub-
division, both in South
Arcot and Chingleput are
opposed to the principles of
remission approved of
by Govt. As the orders have
been passed when they have been given effect
to some extent been already
to the Collector of the district
given effect to the Govt.
is pleased to allow the
concession this year as
a matter of grace. The
Board should be careful to see that
the rules should be strictly ob-
served in future years.

ordered that the following be
despatched to the Collector of
Chingleput
"B.P. 2886 of 29 ultimo
concession granted by Board con-
firmed"

To the Bd of Rev (Rev. Sett.)
Nab. Para 2 of G.O. on C.M. 277
may be cancelled.
17/5/98 18-5-98

Government {1898} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1898.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 285, 19th May 1898.

MAY.

Remissions.

Stating that the Board's orders authorizing the grant of—on portions of fields without previous sub-division both in South Arcot and Chingleput are opposed to the principles of remission approved of by Government and that, as the orders appear however to have been given effect to by the Collectors of these districts, the Government is pleased in the circumstances and as a very special case to allow the concession this year as a matter of grace.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 1649, Revenue, dated 15th April 1898:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 1768, dated 11th March 1898:—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Chingleput, Reference on No. 386 B. & G., dated 9th March 1898:—

Referring to my letter, No. 270, dated 4th February last, to the Famine Secretary, I have the honour to state that I find it necessary to recommend the grant of remission for part-field "shavi" (withered crop) or waste subject to a limit of half an acre.

This concession is the more necessary as remission for short * crop is not being granted and as it has not been found practicable to grant any remission in respect of the large extents of dry land cultivated with "manavari" paddy and varagu, although these crops have also suffered very severely.

2. In very many cases wells and ponds have been used to supplement the deficient supply in the tanks, and the crops on portions of fields have thus been saved. It is both equitable and advisable to grant remission in such cases in respect of the portions that could not be saved, and sub-division for this purpose even if the limit is taken at one acre is not practicable before settlement in a year like the present one in which the number of such cases is very large. Similar considerations apply to part-field waste.

3. This concession was granted in faslis 1301 and 1302 (*vide* paragraph 6 of Board's Proceedings, No. 168, dated 5th March 1892, and Board's Proceedings, No. 79, dated 23rd February 1893).

4. The favour of very early orders is solicited.

Resolution—Mis. No. 1768, dated 11th March 1898.

In the exceptional circumstances of the current year, the Collector's proposal to grant waste and shavi remissions on portions of wet survey fields, subject to a minimum limit of half an acre, is approved.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Chingleput.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—Mis. No. 1649, Revenue, dated 15th April 1898.

The Government does not consider that the season in the Chingleput district is so exceptional as to justify the grant of remissions on portions of fields, and regrets therefore to be unable to approve the order passed by the Board of Revenue in its Proceedings read above. The order should be withdrawn.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).

Read—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 1659, Revenue, dated 18th April 1898:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 126, dated 16th March 1898:—

Read—the following letter from L. M. WYNCH, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Cuddalore, 10th March 1898, No. 354-Ver.:—

I have the honour to submit the further report on the condition of this district called for in paragraph 5 of B.P., Mis. No. 97 (Settlement), dated 10th January 1898.

The following statement exhibits the rainfall recorded for each taluk for a series of years from 1891, divided between the South-West and North-East monsoons:—

South-West rainfall—Rainfall from April to September.

Taluk.	Stations.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
		INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
Cuddalore ..	Cuddalore ..	6.96	24.67	17.55	25.47	19.01	6.04	20.04
	Panruti ..	12.99	18.10	13.91	23.66	25.26	11.24	26.12
	Kamblimedu ..							4.97
	Vanur ..	7.95	26.10	14.91	19.88	24.26	8.65	15.73
Villupuram ..	Villupuram ..	9.84	21.50	14.23	27.01	22.92	18.06	21.52
	Merkanam ..	9.00	22.86	23.04	34.08	21.84	7.41	18.77
Tindivanam ..	Tindivanam ..	10.49	33.96	18.69	25.30	25.87	14.20	26.50
	Gingee ..	7.83	22.04	17.71	26.17	20.45	16.69	21.76
	Mannargudi ..	8.05	13.43	9.49	14.40	19.86	17.73	19.91
Chidambaram ..	Chidambaram ..	7.59	22.55	13.96	24.64	30.02	13.10	22.88
	Bhuvanagiri ..	7.95	23.55	13.23	20.72	31.13	13.59	27.58
	Manambadi ..							7.70
	Tirukkóvilūr ..	11.21	22.01	17.87	30.61	26.89	10.97	27.65
Tirukkóvilūr ..	Tirukkóvilūr ..	10.26	25.04	17.89	25.25	19.98	18.48	28.37
Kallakurichi ..	Ulundurpet ..	9.88	25.13	21.18	19.10	25.88	13.37	33.50
	Kallakurichi ..	12.63	17.41	19.33	14.55	28.83	10.57	27.85
Vridhachalam ..	Tittagudi ..	7.30	20.53	22.12	17.67	26.92	11.44	31.32
	Vridhachalam ..	9.70	25.40	18.61	21.39	28.73	17.05	25.20
Tiruvannámalai ..	Chengam ..	9.10	23.55	19.20	21.53	25.19	11.16	25.30
	Tiruvannámalai ..							

It appears from this statement that the rainfall during the South-West monsoon was good last year and in the five preceding years except 1896 in which the deficiency was made up in the North-East monsoon as will be seen from the next statement which shows the rainfall from November to March. The North-East monsoon rains are, however, practically confined to the months of November to December.

Taluka.	Stations.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98 up to February.
Cuddalore ..	Cuddalore ..	44.28	12.61	53.63	21.93	49.76	55.50	13.65
	Panruti ..	31.25	7.19	25.00	19.64	43.90	31.05	6.97
	Kamblimedu ..							18.83
	Vanur ..	33.28	9.75	32.03	8.09	31.76	38.70	11.07
Villupuram ..	Villupuram ..	31.66	8.27	22.48	13.52	32.79	30.28	9.62
	Merkanam ..	27.90	9.90	45.77	13.51	34.42	42.50	9.08
Tindivanam ..	Tindivanam ..	23.24	4.40	18.78	12.01	22.23	17.55	8.52
	Gingee ..	19.47	5.98	30.51	13.68	26.91	23.07	9.84
	Mannargudi ..	33.32	9.13	49.28	23.91	40.11	47.31	11.85
Chidambaram ..	Chidambaram ..	44.76	14.10	53.20	28.14	52.56	55.33	16.99
	Bhuvanagiri ..	43.85	12.18	40.61	23.44	47.56	46.01	11.61
	Manambadi ..							15.94
	Tirukkóvilūr ..	22.20	2.77	14.91	14.28	21.48	20.80	6.64
Tirukkóvilūr ..	Tirukkóvilūr ..	27.97	8.64	31.25	10.17	33.37	23.76	8.51
Kallakurichi ..	Ulundurpet ..	18.38	9.76	27.43	18.03	27.83	19.84	13.83
	Kallakurichi ..	23.72	9.30	25.80	17.55	32.07	23.50	6.21
Vridhachalam ..	Tittagudi ..	22.23	7.94	32.21	12.70	32.70	16.54	7.93
	Vridhachalam ..	10.65	6.04	21.00	15.30	20.44	13.15	10.63
Tiruvannámalai ..	Chengam ..	16.48	13.01	17.47	14.53	14.92	12.73	14.20
	Tiruvannámalai ..							

well while the North-East monsoon proved a failure to a greater degree than it has been this year.

Cultivation.—The following statement gives the area of dry land cultivated in each month from April 1897 to February 1898, compared with the average for the previous five years. Owing to the favourable rains early in the season, the cultivation up to end of September shows an increase. Since then there has been

a falling off due to the deficiency of the fall in subsequent months:—

				Average rainfall for the month.	Average rainfall for 25 years ending 1894-95.
				ACS.	ACS.
April	1897	...	...	0.41	0.61
May	"	...	...	1.87	2.51
June	"	...	...	2.32	2.07
July	"	...	...	2.34	3.06
August	"	...	...	9.33	5.59
September	"	...	...	8.21	5.54
October	"	...	...	5.14	7.87
November	"	...	...	3.86	9.15
December	"	...	...	1.24	...
January	1898	...	...	0.19	...
February	"	...	...	0.73	...

[illegible]

The area cultivated under wet crops is slightly in defect of the areas cultivated in 1895-96 and 1896-97 but exceeds the area cultivated in 1892-93 as shown below both under 1st and 2nd crop:—

Taluka.	1892-93.										1895-96.									
	First crop.					Second crop.					First crop.					Second crop.				
	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13								
Tindivanam ..	55,946	2,953	58,900	10,648	305	10,953	58,751	2,961	61,712	15,834	681	16,515								
Tiruvannamalai ..	24,861	1,312	26,173	4,688	138	4,826	27,103	1,241	28,344	8,537	280	8,817								
Villupuram ..	45,645	2,236	47,881	8,596	259	8,855	47,515	2,612	50,127	9,241	342	9,583								
Cuddalore ..	27,144	2,549	29,693	6,605	720	6,325	30,356	2,798	33,154	4,987	636	5,623								
Tirukkoyilur ..	89,479	2,757	92,236	8,390	422	8,812	41,926	2,669	44,595	9,471	545	10,016								
Kallakurichi ..	24,584	1,667	26,251	9,167	438	9,605	26,514	1,586	28,100	10,508	456	10,964								
Vridhaachalam ..	10,079	631	10,710	1,812	81	1,893	18,090	592	18,682	2,467	60	2,527								
Chidambaram ..	98,293	6,564	104,857	5,413	292	5,705	100,137	6,447	106,584	6,259	376	6,635								
Total ..	326,031	20,569	346,600	54,317	2,655	56,972	350,392	20,906	371,298	66,304	3,376	69,680								

Taluka.	1896-97.										1897-98.									
	First crop.					Second crop.					First crop.					Second crop.				
	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.	Govern- ment.	Inam.	Total.					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25									
Tindivanam ..	57,615	2,855	60,470	10,483	856	10,833	57,162	2,817	59,979	9,244	277	9,521								
Tiruvannamalai ..	30,170	921	31,091	5,922	105	6,027	25,383	1,081	26,464	11,683	167	11,850								
Villupuram ..	46,365	2,464	48,829	8,179	247	8,426	46,783	2,532	49,315	8,378	265	8,643								
Cuddalore ..	30,969	2,951	33,920	4,618	706	5,324	29,738	2,780	32,518	6,855	749	7,604								
Tirukkoyilur ..	41,230	2,518	43,748	9,280	547	9,777	41,623	2,572	44,195	10,102	573	10,675								
Kallakurichi ..	26,830	1,648	28,478	9,780	362	10,142	26,376	1,628	28,004	9,774	436	10,210								
Vridhaachalam ..	17,418	568	17,986	2,623	90	2,718	18,922	600	19,522	3,466	107	3,573								
Chidambaram ..	101,827	6,352	108,179	4,200	262	4,462	100,052	6,333	106,385	5,651	342	5,993								
Total ..	352,124	20,167	372,291	55,040	2,669	57,709	346,039	20,343	366,382	65,153	2,916	68,069								

Harvest returns are only available up to the end of November. The figures are compared below with the returns (for the whole year) of the two preceding years and of the year 1892-93. These figures show that, on the whole, the two preceding years have been fairly good, and that the yield of the cumbu crop this year was better than last. The ragi crop does not appear to have done so well except in Tirukkoyilur and Villupuram taluks, but then a considerable area under this crop remained to be harvested at the end of November. The harvest of cumbu and ragi in 1892-93 was better than it has been this year. But no figures are available to show the area under varagu in the former year, so that the circumstances of the two years cannot be exactly compared.

The area on which wet crops have become shavi in each taluk and the amount of probable remissions will be furnished in a supplemental report, as the figures received from the taluks are incomplete. The amount of remission will probably be less than what was at first anticipated.

Prices.—High prices have been prevalent throughout the year—and speaking generally, they have ruled higher than they were in 1892-93.

The prices of second-sort rice is now easier owing to imports from Rangoon and Cocanada, but the prices of cumbu and ragi exhibit an upward tendency as shown below:—

STATEMENT of prices of grains in January and February 1898.

Stations.	Grains.	January 1898.				February 1898.			
		First week.	Second week.	Third week.	Fourth week.	First week.	Second week.	Third week.	Fourth week.
Tindivanam ..	Rice, second sort ..	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50
	Cumbu ..	15-40	15-40	16-17	16-17	16-94	16-94	16-17	16-17
	Ragi ..	15-11	15-11	15-11	15-11	15-11	15-11	15-11	15-11
Tiruvannamalai ..	Rice, second sort ..	8-75	10-06	9-63	10-06	10-06	10-06	10-50	10-06
	Cumbu ..	17-33	17-33	16-17	16-17	16-17	16-17	16-17	16-17
	Ragi ..	15-90	15-90	14-71	14-71	14-71	14-71	15-90	15-90
Tirukkoyilur ..	Rice, second sort ..	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50
	Cumbu ..	18-48	18-48	18-48	18-48	16-94	16-94	16-94	16-94
	Ragi ..	17-49	17-49	17-49	15-90	16-70	15-90	15-11	15-11
Villupuram ..	Rice, second sort ..	9-63	9-63	10-28	11-38	10-06	10-06	9-63	9-63
	Cumbu ..	16-17	16-17	16-17	16-17	16-17	16-17	16-17	14-63
	Ragi ..	15-90	15-90	15-90	15-90	15-90	15-90	15-90	15-11
Panruti ..	Rice, second sort ..	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	10-50	10-50
	Cumbu ..	16-94	16-94	16-94	16-94	16-94	16-94	15-40	14-63
	Ragi ..	16-70	16-70	16-70	16-70	16-70	16-70	15-60	14-31
Cuddalore ..	Rice, second sort ..	10-50	10-06	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63
	Cumbu ..	16-94	15-40	16-17	15-40	15-40	15-40	14-63	14-63
	Ragi ..	15-11	15-11	15-11	15-11	15-11	15-11	14-31	14-31
Tirupapaliyur ..	Rice, second sort ..	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50	11-38	11-38	11-38	11-81
	Cumbu ..	16-17	15-40	15-40	14-63	14-63	14-63	14-63	14-63
	Ragi ..	15-11	14-31	15-11	14-81	13-91	14-31	14-31	14-31
Porto Novo ..	Rice, second sort ..	11-38	11-38	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63
	Cumbu ..	15-40	15-40	..	15-40	15-40	14-63	15-40	14-63
	Ragi ..	15-11	15-11	..	15-11	..	14-31	14-31	15-11
Chidambaram ..	Rice, second sort ..	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	9-63	10-50	10-50	10-50
	Cumbu ..	15-40	15-40	15-40	15-40	15-40	15-40	15-40	15-40
	Ragi ..	14-31	15-90	15-90	15-11	15-11	15-90	15-90	15-90
Vridhaohalam ..	Rice, second sort ..	8-75	8-75	8-53	9-19	10-50	10-06	10-06	10-06
	Cumbu ..	16-94	16-94	17-33	16-94	16-17	16-66	16-66	16-94
	Ragi ..	19-08	19-08	19-08	18-29	17-89	16-70	17-09	17-49
Kallakurichi ..	Rice, second sort ..	10-94	10-94	10-06	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50	10-50
	Cumbu ..	19-25	19-25	18-48	18-48	16-94	16-94	16-94	16-94
	Ragi ..	17-49	17-49	15-90	15-90	15-11	15-11	14-31	15-11

Scarcity rates—

Rice 8-4
Cumbu 13-
Ragi 14- } Seers of 80 tolas per rupee.

Paddy and rice are still being exported by sea and rail but not in large quantities, the figures for February being 1,979 cwts. of rice and 2,207 cwts. of paddy exported as against 3,264 cwts. of paddy and 668 cwts. of rice imported. The figures for export and import for the years 1896-97 and 1897-98 are compared below:—

STATEMENT of exports and imports of food-grains.

Name of crop.	Years.	Exports.		Imports.	
		By rail.	By sea.	By rail.	By sea.
Paddy	1896-97	• 111,400	285,292	• 19,600	12
	1897-98	† 511,800	286,458	† 45,500	15,757
Rice	1896-97		67,289		432
	1897-98		258,879		5,841

• February and March 1897.

† April to November 1897.

In spite of the large quantities exported from the district, I have no reason to suppose that stocks of paddy and rice are depleted, on the other hand it is a general complaint that grain is being held up for still higher prices. Grain-dealers are very well aware that Government will not interfere with the course of trade and hold up their stock accordingly.

Enquiries are, I learn, being made from Rangoon for quotation of prices for March, April and May and importation from here and Cocanada will have a steadying effect on the price of rice and tend to maintain it at about its present level.

Fodder and pasture.—Pasture is becoming scanty in the Tindivanam, Villupuram, Tirukkóyilúr and Chidambaram taluks, but there is at present no lack of fodder and the condition of cattle is good everywhere except in parts of Tiruvannámalai, Villupuram and Cuddalore taluks where rinderpest is prevalent.

Drinking-water.—Rain fell fairly generally on the 12th of last month and replenished tanks and wells so that for the present there is no anxiety about drinking-water supplies for man and beast.

Agricultural operations.—Agricultural operations still continue to afford employment and I have not heard of any abnormal movement of labourers in search of work.

I now proceed to append abstract of the Divisional-officer's reports with such remarks thereon as the results of my own observations in the parts of the district I recently visited suggest.

General Duty Deputy Collector's Division.—(Muhammad Azizuddin Sahib Bahadur).

Kallakurichi taluk.—Rainfall from April to October exceeded the average for ten years being 44 inches against 34.31. There were frequent freshes in the five rivers by which the taluk is traversed. There are 27 spring and 21 anikat channels, while of the 351 tanks, 100 are supplied by river-channels. Shavi occurs in very few villages. The cumbu and ragi crops yielded well. Varagu was cultivated on 37,901 acres, of which the greater portion is reported to have yielded an eight-anna crop and the rest not less than 4 annas.

The high range of prices is not due to the state of the season in the taluk or to lack of food-grains but to large exports to Salem. This taluk cannot be considered affected.

Tirukkóyilúr taluk.—The South-west monsoon rainfall was copious, being 27.65 inches as against an average of 20.79 during preceding ten years. Cumbu and ragi crops were cultivated more extensively this year than last and yielded better crops. Varagu was grown on 23,390 acres and though it has been affected to a certain extent by the deficient rainfall, there are no villages in which the crop has become a total failure. In most cases the outturn was from middling to fair and in others from bad to middling.

The outturn of broadcast paddy has, in a majority of cases, been from middling to fair. The partial failure of these crops has been compensated by the extensive cultivation of dhol. High prices are due to activity of trade and large export by road and rail. There are ample stocks of grain in the taluk.

There are no signs of emaciation among children or adults. The Deputy Collector has made an extended tour through this taluk. Wet remissions will not exceed Rs. 3,000.

Beyond camping for one day at Ulundurpet (the Deputy Tahsildar's headquarters) and riding and driving thence to Panruti—the road runs through the so-called affected tract of this taluk—I have made no personal inspection here as I have no anxiety about this taluk and I am going to do the jamabandi of the taluk myself next month.

Sub-Division—Mr. V. Venugopal Chettiar.—There is no need to grant any dry remissions in Tiruvannámalai and Villupuram taluks. The early sowings yielded well. Varagu has turned out fairly well and dry paddy has not been extensively sown.

Standing crops gingelly, cholan, indigo and "dew" cumbu are doing well. In the Gingee, Deputy Tahsildar's Division of the Tindivanam taluk, cumbu, ragi, thenai and samai did fairly well. Varagu had a good outturn. Early indigo—a full harvest—groundnut middling, standing crops are fair. The same remarks apply to the Tahsildar's division. The Merkanam division of the same taluk consisting of 59 villages has fared less favourably. The favourable rains of August and September stimulated extensive sowings of broadcast paddy, which has failed in several villages and yielded a poor outturn in others. A detailed inspection of these villages has been made by the Tahsildar, the Deputy Tahsildar and the Sub-Collector. The Tahsildar inspected 32, the Deputy Tahsildar 18 and the Sub-Collector 25 (including villages in which Tahsildar's and Deputy Tahsildar's inspection was checked). The estimates of outturns entered in the karnam's 1-A statement were found to be unreliable and, after local enquiry and inspection, the average yield of all the dry crops of the season worked out to 6 annas and over in 54 villages. The five villages in which it was less are Merkanam, Kandada, Bramadesam, Tirukkanur and Vadagaram. There has not been a succession of bad seasons in this tract. The ryots of the first three villages are more or less well-to-do and have extensive cocoanut and casuarina plantations and also hold lands in other villages which have not suffered to the same extent. The remaining two villages show an average yield of only 3-4 annas. They are, however, very small; the cultivated area aggregating only 521 acres assessed at Rs. 757. The waste is 53 acres.

No classes of the people can be said to be stinting themselves in their daily meals, none of the larger ryots have dispensed with their Pariah servants. Some coolies are said to have migrated from Merkanam, Ananjur and Sathambadi firkas to Kolar. Inquiries made in Merkanam division show that these men who left these parts departed six months ago.

The sales of the arrack and toddy shops for the three taluks have resulted in a decrease of Rs. 495 only below last year's rentals.

The necessity for accurate registration of vital statistics has been impressed on village officers.

Condition of cattle and people generally good. Ryots have ample stocks. Rice is being exported from Tiruvannámalai, and Rangoon rice is available in markets which are well supplied.

As already reported to the Board, I inspected several villages in the Villupuram and Tindivanam taluks at the end of January and beginning of February. Judging from my own impression of what I then saw of the standing crops, I should say the Tahsildar in correcting village officer's estimates of outturn has gone to the other extreme of overestimating the harvest. But I think the results of the detailed inspection which has been made may be accepted as showing that the grant of dry remissions is not called for in any of the villages. I have directed the Tahsildars to postpone collection of kists on all wet waste (other than mamool waste) and shavi till after jamabandi. This applies also to water-rate on dry lands irrigated where the crops are found to have become shavi. I have issued orders too that application for subdivision of survey fields in view to remission for partial waste and partial shavi of one acre and upwards in extent need not be insisted on, in addition to application for remission, and that it will be sufficient in such cases if the areas of waste and shavi is calculated by the khasra method and rough measurement sketches prepared. The

work of accurate measurement and preparation of plans in duplicate which have to be plotted to scale, before the area can be computed by the area square and the formal sub-numbering and lettering of the sub-divisions in the account, would entail far too great a labour on the subordinate revenue establishment and is, I submit, unnecessary for the protection of the revenue. Tahsildars have also been given to understand that coercive measures should not be rigorously applied to recover arrears due by poor ryots. A general postponement of collections throughout the tract is not, in my opinion, called for, inasmuch as the broadcast paddy has not been a total failure in all villages and the outturn of the varagu crop varies considerably from village to village and even in parts of the same village. In addition to this crop, cholam, cumbu, ragi, thenai and samai have been grown but less extensively, and these crops have yielded fairly well. In many of the villages there are several wells.

I request therefore that the Board will be pleased to approve the orders which I have already issued, which will afford all the relief that is at present required.

Assistant Collector's Division.—M.R. Ry. H. Subbaraya Aiyar Avargal, Dewan Bahudur, who is now in charge of the division, relieved Mr. Banerji on the 7th February and has visited nearly every part of the Cuddalore taluk. He reports that there has not been a total loss of dry crop anywhere. Here, as elsewhere, the crops that have fared worst are varagu and broadcast paddy. In every village, however, there was a crop of cumbu with outturn varying from middling to fair. In the Val-lam firka in which most of the purely dry villages are situated, there are large areas covered by topes. The last four years have been good, and no grant of dry remissions is recommended. Applications for such remissions have been more numerous from this taluk than elsewhere, and the Deputy Collector reports having received 427 applications for postponement of kists. He recommends leniency in execution of processes for recovery of arrears from poor ryots and suggests making careful enquiries at jamabandi in view to postponing collections of March and April kists when necessary.

The rates of interest are very high now and it is not advisable to force ryots into the hands of the usurer or to sell up their lands, and in deserving cases I think the Divisional-officer and Tahsildar must be allowed to exercise discretion. No general rule can be laid down. The number of pattadars under Rs. 10 for instance, does not form a safe guide, as in two or three villages in which I made enquiries, I found that from 30 to 50 per cent. of the number held lands elsewhere or had shares in other pattas or other means of livelihood besides agriculture and could not be classed in the category of pauper pattadars.

The markets are fairly well supplied with food-grains. The people are healthy and show no signs of deterioration. The Deputy Collector is encouraging the people to take loans for sinking wells and is making the best use of the Taluk Board funds available for improving the sources of drinking-water supply.

He suggested in another communication that remissions for part field shavi and waste should be granted for areas less than one acre in extent down to 25 cents. I accompanied him to one village and found that only one or two cases there would have required the concession, and I am not disposed to recommend it.

The exact limit of one acre need not be too rigidly insisted on, but I would certainly not reduce the area eligible for the concession below 50 cents.

Head Assistant Collector's Division.—(Mr. MacIver).—The Head Assistant Collector's report is meagre. There is no need for anxiety about the Chidambaram taluk. A few villages are said to be affected in the north-east corner of the taluk near Porto Novo, and a few more in the west of the taluk, but no dry remissions are called for.

The affected part of the Vriddhachalam taluk is the western corner. In the south many of the tanks are fed, by river channels taken off the Vellár, and the water-supply here has not failed. In the centre the villages irrigated by the Memattur anikat channel have enjoyed good crops.

The area of wet waste and shavi under rain-fed tanks is not very great. Cumbu and ragi are cultivated to a greater extent than varagu and both these crops did fairly well. In the western parts varagu is largely sown mixed with cotton or dhol and these crops have done fairly as shown in the margin.			
Wet waste	...	...	acs. 247
Shavi	...	...	1,394
Wet cultivation, Government—	...	...	16,893
First crop	...	...	2,495
Second crop	...	...	

The gingelly crop has been a partial failure in part but generally the outturn is quoted by the Revenue Inspector and Tahsildar at As. 8.

I marched through the taluk at the end of last month and saw some good standing crops of castor and tobacco under wells and some fair crops of cotton. At Veppur I mustered the Deputy Tahsildar, three Revenue Inspectors and eight or ten karnams and satisfied myself that there had been no such general loss of crop as to call for dry remissions. The Deputy Tahsildar and Revenue Inspectors anticipated some difficulty in collecting the April kist in some villages, but the first two kists have been realised without any undue resort to coercion. In fact, processes have been issued for a smaller amount and in a fewer number of cases than they were up to the same period last year.

The district got through the bad season of 1892-93 which, as above noted, was very similar to the present one, without dry remissions being granted or kists being postponed, and in view of the fact that 1896-97 was a better year than 1891-92 I do not think such concessions are called for now.

To sum up then my conclusions are—

- (1) that no dry remissions are required;
- (2) that postponement of kists is not necessary over any particular tract;
- (3) that it will be sufficient to allow Divisional officers and Tahsildars discretion to refrain from resorting to extreme measures to recover kists due from really poor pattadars;
- (4) that sub-divisions of survey fields for purposes of remission need not be insisted on and that jamabandi officers may be allowed discretion to grant remission for part field waste and shavi of less than 1 acre, but not less than 50 cents in extent; and
- (5) that the collection of kists due on wet lands left waste or on which crops have become shavi should be postponed till jamabandi.

Estimates are available for small works in all tracts in which there is likely to be a demand for employment before the next South-West monsoon breaks. Then work could be assigned on contract in the manner laid down in paragraph 16 of the Famine Code. But if the South-West monsoon proves a failure extensive works will be required and the Executive Engineer has applied for additional establishment to prepare estimates. The number of sanctioned estimates is at present inadequate. There are only nine public works costing less than Rs. 5,000 each. The road works provided in the famine programme are scarcely suitable as test works as they provide chiefly for collection of gravel in quarries. There are scarcely any roads in the district on which relief workers could be employed on stone breaking.

I regret that I was unable to submit this report within the date required by the Board, but I only returned from camp on the 1st instant and some further information which I had to call for from the Tahsildar of Vriddhachalam to supplement the Head Assistant Collector's report was received only on the 5th instant, and the drafting of this report has been interrupted by a visit which I paid to the new Governor of the French Settlements.

The Divisional officers' reports will be submitted to the Board if required.

Read—also the following letter from L. M. WYNCH, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Cuddalore, 13th March 1898, Dis. No. 362-Ver.:—

In continuation of my letter No. 354-Ver., dated 10th instant, I have the honour to forward the statement showing for each taluk the estimated area of wet waste and shavi. The figures for fasli 1302 (1892-93) are juxtaposed and it will be seen that, except in the Tindivanam taluk, the area of wet waste is considerably less this year than it was then, while, with the same exception, the amount of estimated remissions for loss of crop is also very much less.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

STATEMENT showing the extent and assessment of wet waste and shavi in the South Arcot district.

Taluka.	Wet waste.		Wet shavi.		Total.		Actuals, wet waste.		For fasli 1302.	
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Shavi.	Total.
1. Chidambaram ..	210	1,058	227	1,090	437	2,148	113	566	5,388	5,954
2. Cuddalore ..	561	2,533	1,769	8,057	2,330	10,590	1,554	8,325	11,184	19,509
3. Tirukkóyilúr ..	186	891	601	2,817	787	3,708	2,211	10,765	14,368	25,133
4. Villupuram ..	561	2,781	3,277	17,558	3,838	20,339	1,960	9,827	26,643	36,470
5. Tindivanam { 5 Firkas.	3,319	14,759	7,280	33,476	10,599	48,235	1,393	5,601	20,219	25,820
6. Tiruvannámalaí ..	1,205	5,806	1,251	5,317	2,456	11,123	1,962	8,822	9,985	18,807
7. Kallakuruchi ..	10	48	46	137	56	185	1,696	8,520	7,761	16,281
8. Vriddhachalam ..	247	1,260	1,394	7,132	1,641	8,392	744	3,940	9,500	13,440
Total ..	6,299	29,136	15,845	75,584	22,144	1,11,155	11,633	56,366	1,05,048	1,61,414

Resolution—No. 126, dated 16th March 1898.

Submitted to Government with reference to paragraph 5 of B.P., Mis. No. 97, dated 10th January 1898.

2. It is observed from the above that the South-West monsoon was good last year and in the preceding five years, except 1896 in which the deficiency was made good by the copious fall of the succeeding monsoon, while the North-East monsoon of the past four years preceding the year under report was fair and distinctly better than those of the years immediately preceding the season of 1892-93 which was very similar to the one under reference.

3. Cultivation up to September 1897 was above the average owing to the good South-West monsoon, but fell off subsequently. It is anticipated that, except in Tindivanam taluk, the remission for wet waste and shavi will be considerably lower than in 1892-93.

4. Prices generally ruled high all through the year and were in fact higher than they were during 1892-93. The merchants are reported to be inclined to hold up stocks in the hope of obtaining higher prices, but the price of second-sort rice has become easier owing to imports from Rangoon and Cocanada.

5. Pasture is reported to be getting scarce in the Tindivanam, Villupuram, Tirukkóyilúr and Chidambaram taluks. Agricultural operations still afford employment for the labouring classes.

6. The Collector does not apprehend any necessity for granting State relief of any kind. He regards the position of the district as very similar to, but somewhat

better than that of 1892-93, and considers no greater concession than was granted in that year is now called for. His conclusions are—

- (1) no dry remissions are required for the district;
- (2) that postponement of kists is not necessary over any particular tract;
- (3) that it will be sufficient to allow Divisional officers and Tahsildars discretion to refrain from resorting to extreme measures to recover kists due from really poor pattadars;
- (4) that sub-division of survey fields for purposes of remission need not be insisted on, but that jamabandi officers may be given the discretion to grant remission for part field waste and shavi of less than 1 acre, but not less than 50 cents in extent; and
- (5) that the collection of kists due on wet lands left waste or on which crops have become shavi should be postponed till jamabandi.

The Board accepts the Collector's opinion and approves of his proposals.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of South Arcot.

Order—Mis. No. 1659, Revenue, dated 18th April 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 2886, dated 29th April 1898:—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Chingleput, Ref. on No. 321 B. & G., dated 27th April 1898:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 2708, dated 21st instant, communicating G.O., Mis. No. 1649, dated 15th idem, declining to sanction remission on portions of fields, I have the honour to request that the Board will be pleased to ask Government to reconsider its order. The grounds on which I make this application are to be found in the accompanying memorandum which was prepared at my instance by my predecessor. I venture to hope that in view of the facts set forth therein, Government will see its way to confirming the concession granted by the Board.

2. As the matter is an urgent one, I would suggest that the Government be asked to communicate its final orders to me by telegram.

ENCLOSURE.

Memorandum.

Referring to G.O., Mis. No. 1649, dated 15th April 1898, communicated with the Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 2708, dated 21st idem, which have been received since handed over charge of the district, I would suggest that the Board be asked to request the Government to reconsider its order in view of the fact that the jamabandi of the Ponnéri, Vallúr and Saidapet taluks and of half the Conjeeveram and Chingleput taluks has already been conducted and the remission in question granted, and the ryots informed accordingly.

2. The Government considers that the season in this district has not been "so exceptional" as to justify the grant of remissions on portions of fields." The ryots, however, are entitled to claim to have their fields sub-divided for the purpose of obtaining "wet" remission, provided that the new field is not less than one acre in extent (*vide* the last sentence of paragraph 1 of Board's Standing Order No. 23). In the current year the sub-division has been dispensed with, partly as a concession, but more particularly because the cases of part waste and shavi were so numerous that it would have been quite impossible to make the necessary sub-divisions before settlement and it was of the greatest importance that the jamabandi should be conducted and the demand settled without delay. Up to the end of February, all the Revenue Inspectors and Tahsildars were fully engaged in azmoishing shavi, and others also had to be specially deputed to assist them.

3. In this connection I would invite attention to Mr. Thomson's remark in paragraph 20, clause (3), of his letter read in Board's Proceedings, No. 168, dated 5th March 1892. In proposing to grant remission in that year for "part-field waste and shavi, subject to the one-acre rule", he remarked: "This is generally put forward, as 'in anticipation of sub-division,' but the sub-division does not occur because it is not asked for, and, if it were, the revenue staff could not find the time to do it before settlement." The Board granted the concession in that year, and reduced the limit from one to half an acre (*vide* paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings quoted above); and the same was done in fasli 1302 also (*vide* paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings, No. 79, dated 23rd February 1893).

4. This is the further consideration that has been granted this year, viz., the reduction of the limit from one to half an acre. The limit of one acre is an arbitrary one. Whether it was absolutely necessary to reduce the limit in the current fasli is a matter of opinion, but the concession was at any rate an equitable one, and if, after having been granted, it is now withdrawn, the ryots will undoubtedly feel aggrieved.

5. Having done the jamabandi of the Ponnéri taluk, I am more strongly convinced than before of the necessity for granting the concession and it should be borne in mind that no remission has been granted this year for short crop (up to 2 annas) as was done in faslis 1300 to 1302. A comparison of the current year with faslis 1300 and 1302 (1890-91 and 1892-93), in which years there was a somewhat similar failure of the north-east monsoon rains, has been made in paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 270, dated 4th February 1898, read in Board's Proceedings, No. 76, dated 14th idem. The remissions for shavi in the current fasli in the Ponnéri and Saidapet taluks are now known, and are approximately Rs. 38,000 and 25,000, respectively. This clearly establishes the fact that the season in the current fasli, though not so bad as in fasli 1300, has been much worse than in fasli 1302.

6. I would therefore suggest that the Government be asked to consider the matter further in view of the facts—

(1) that no remission has been granted this year for short crop (nor for "mamool" waste);

(2) that it is impracticable in a year like the present to comply with all the applications that would be made for the sub-division of fields for the purpose of granting remission up to the one-acre limit; and

(3) that remissions up to the limit of half an acre have already been granted in three taluks and in half of two others.

SAIDAPET,
25th April 1898.

(Signed) D. D. MURDOCH,
Acting Collector.

Resolution—Mis. No. 2886, dated 29th April 1898.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The attention of Government is invited to the fact that the same concession as has been disallowed for Chingleput was granted by the Board for South Arcot, and that the Board's Proceedings was recorded in G.O., No. 1659, dated 18th April 1898, without objection. Of the two districts, Chingleput has decidedly suffered the most.

3. On the ground that the jamabandi has been completed in three taluks in Chingleput and over a great portion of two other taluks, the Board ventures to hope that Government may be disposed to allow the remissions granted on portions of fields to stand. It is beyond question that the failure of crop on areas for which the ryots will still have to pay full assessment has been very widespread and severe;

and apart from the disappointment, which will be caused by the withdrawal of remissions already proclaimed by what was supposed to be competent authority, the revision of the village accounts in the tracts already settled will cost an amount of time and trouble which is to be deprecated.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of memorandum.

Copy to the Collector of Chingleput.

ORDER—No. 285, Revenue, dated 19th May 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The Board's orders authorizing the grant of remissions on portions of fields, without previous sub-division, both in South Arcot and Chingleput, are opposed to the principles of remission approved of by Government. As the orders appear, however, to have been given effect to by the Collectors of these districts, the Government is pleased, in the circumstances and as a very special case, to allow the concession this year as a matter of grace. The Board should be careful to see that the rules are strictly observed in future years.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

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FROM THE G. O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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R. B.

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