

AGRARIAN DISTRESS
IN
SIRSI & SIDDAPUR

*Being the report of the Committee appointed by
The Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee
to enquire into the agrarian situation in
Sirsi and Siddapur Talukas, in
North Canara*

KARNATAK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE
D H A R W A R

1931

Eight Annas

OFFICE OF THE
KARNATAK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE,
DHARWAR.

20-12-1931.

A Committee consisting of Sjts. Narayanrao Joshi, T. S. Nayak, D. P. Karmarkar, and B. V. Burli was constituted at the meeting of the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee at Ankola to enquire into and report on " (1) The coercive measures adopted by the revenue officials for the realisation of revenue last year; (2) the general economic condition of the ryots in the two talukas and especially of the garden-holders: (3) the extent of *Kole roga* this year; (4) The adequacy or otherwise of the

*With best compliments from
The General Secretary
The Karnatak Provincial
Congress Committee*

the directions of The Council of the K. P. C. C.

The Committee have recorded their appreciation of the assistance rendered by Mr. Masur and Mr. R. V. Jathar, LL. B., Dharwar, in their labours.

Karnad Sadashivrao,
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Mr. B. V. Burli was unable to work on the Committee owing to other pressing duties. Mr. T. S. Nayak and Mr. H. G. Masur, B. A., of Belgaum whose services were requisitioned by the Committee, toured through about 30 villages in the two talukas from 25th October to 2nd November and recorded statements of agriculturists on the subjects of enquiry. Messers Narayanrao Joshi, D. P. Karmarkar and T. S. Nayak visited the talukas during the 2nd week of November and recorded further evidence. The Committee submitted its report on the 22nd November and it was considered and adopted by the Council of the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee. It is now published for the information of the public in accordance with the directions of the Council of the K. P. C. C.

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CONTENTS

<i>PREFACE :</i>	i
<i>CONTENTS</i>	ii
I. ECONOMIC CONDITION OF SIRSI AND SIDDAPUR PRIOR TO 1930	1—9
1. General description : North Canara a forest area. 2. Impediments to Agriculture. 3. Area and assessment. 4. Former forest privileges. 5. Reaction in Forest-policy : Present forest privileges inadequate. 6. Antagonism between forest and agriculture. 7. Causes of Agricultural deterioration. 8. Decrease in population. 9. Effect of migration of labour. 10. Inadequacy of gun-licenses. 11. Agricultural Indebtedness. 13. Price-fall in 1930.			
II. FALL IN PRICES AND GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE			9—15
13. Government approached for relief : Ryots' efforts fail. 14. Coercive measures in progress. 15. Signs of reconciliation. 16. Government's breach of faith. 17. Gratuitous attack on Congress. 18. False allegations. 19. Coercion again.			
III. OPPRESSIVE COERCION BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS	...	...	16—21
20. Coercive measures in practice. 21. Harsh, unjust, and irregular methods. 22. Officials' abuse of statute law. 23. Relief work and Government indifference.			
IV. INADEQUACY OF PRESENT REMISSIONS		...	21—23
24. Remissions granted by Government inadequate. 25. Present economic distress. 26. Economic re-survey essential.			
V. EFFECT OF KOLEROGA IN 1931	...	...	23—24
27. Koleroga in 1931. 28. Conclusions. 28. Recommendations			
VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS		...	24—25
APPENDIX TO PARA 28— Annuvaluation of betel-crop in some villages of Sirsi and Siddapur talukas			
	...	...	26—28

APPENDICES

1. Statement of Mr. S. N. Keshawain, President, Sirsi Taluka Ryot Sangh, Sirsi	...	...	1
2. Extract from Settlement Officer's report	...	...	3
3. Summary of the Statement of Sj- Gangadhar Ramachandra Patwardhan, Sirsi	...	...	4

II

4.	Summary of the Statement of Sj. Hari Ramakrishna Vaidya of Bilgi regarding the deterioration of agriculture	5
5.	Statement shewing agricultural wages prevalent in Sirsi taluka from 1898-1929 : Statement shewing agricultural wages prevalent in Siddapur taluka from 1895-1931	6
6.	Letter of the Collector, North Canara to Mr. S. N. Keshawain.	
7.	Extract from first order of the Commissioner in regard to suspensions in Sirsi and Siddapur talukas, dated 7th April 1931.	7
8.	Letter by Sj. R. R. Diwakar to Sj, P. R. Chikodi in regard to the above, dated 8th April 1931	8
9.	Revised order of the Commissioner, dated 9th April as modified in view of Sj. Diwakar's letter	8
10.	Letter by the Commissioner to Mr. S. N. Keshawain, President, Sirsi Taluka Ryots' Sangh, Sirsi	9
11.	Confidential circular issued from the Mamlatdar's office, Sirsi, to Circle Inspectors and Village Officers	10
12.	Cases of persons in Sirsi taluka who paid the first instalment but whose attached property was not returned	11
13.	Cases of temple grants refused on the plea that the Managing trustees pleaded inability to pay the 2nd instalment	11
14.	Order of Mamlatdar to village officers asking his subordinate officers to expedite collection	11
15.	Letter by Sj. Keshawain to the Commissioner, dated 4th May 1931	12
16.	Letter by Commissioner alleging that Congress was not acting up to the agreement of 9th April	13
17.	Letter by Sj. R. R. Diwakar to Sj. P. R. Chikodi regarding allegations by the Commissioner against Congress	14
18.	Letter received by the Secretary, K. P. C. C., from the Commissioner, S. D. (Dated 27th June 1931)	16
19.	Extracts from the letter of Mr. L. T. Karki, M. L. C. to the Collector, Karwar	17
20.	Communique of the Director of Information Bombay regarding Government of Bombay's Resolution <i>re</i> remissions on gardenlands in Sirsi and Siddapur	20
21.	Some statements of agriculturists <i>re</i> the coercive and repressive measures employed by revenue officers to realise revenue in Sirsi and Siddapur	21

I. ECONOMIC CONDITION OF SIRSI AND SIDDAPUR PRIOR TO 1930.

1. Sirsi and Siddapur are contiguous talukas in the eastern side of the North Canara district, which is predominantly a forest area. Sirsi has an area of about 490 sq. miles and a population of 39,955, in 1931. Siddapur has an area of 331.8 sq. miles and a population of 33,379. The land revenue demand for Sirsi is Rs. 1,55,413(a) and for Siddapur 1,48,823(b). So far as economic conditions are concerned these two talukas exhibit common characteristics and have been treated as a homogenous area in our enquiry. As the Kanara Gazetteer observes, "most of Kanara is hilly and thickly wooded. A somewhat broken and irregular range of Central hills divides the district into two parts, the uplands with an area of nearly 3000 sq. miles. The talukas of Sirsi and Siddapur form the eastern part of this upland portion of the district. Of the hills in the two talukas the chief in Sirsi are Bhedasgave and Menshigudda, the height being 2500 ft. and 2000 ft. above sea level respectively; in Siddapur, are Hukali, Rakshas and Mavinagundi, 1500, 1600 and 1600 ft. above the sea-level respectively.

GENERAL
DESCRIPTION

North Canara is essentially a forest district, and about 90% of the total area is a forest. The following table will give an idea of the occupied and forest area in acres in Sirsi and Siddapur talukas. (The figures are for 1924-25).

North Canara
a Forest Area

	Occupied,			Govt. Waste.	Forest.	Other.	Total.
	Total	Cultivated.	Fallow.				
Sirsi	94,880	19,128.	15,752.	3,974.	169,738.	4,342.	212,926.
Siddapur	54,849	24,861.	30,361.	6,262.	245,410.	9,879.	314,040.

2. These forest tracts, as has well been observed by the Gazetteer (1885) (P. 18) especially the upland forest, are always feverish and at intervals are visited by specially fatal outbreaks. Bad water, stagnant or laden with vegetable matter, and the want of free currents of air are

Impediments
to
Agriculture

(a) Of this Rs. 71,755 of for paddy land; Rs. 71,648 for garden land, and Rs. 12,020 for grazing land.

(b) Of this Rs. 55,741 for paddy land, Rs. 87,734 for garden land and Rs. 5384 for grazing land.

supposed to be the two chief causes of the unhealthiness of the forests. The crops have to face the onslaught of wild animals namely, elephants, wild pigs etc. The climate is injurious to cattle and those that withstand diseases are many a time a prey to tigers which heave a heavy toll year by year. Under these adverse circumstances agriculture has always been a hard problem for the agriculturists and made still harder by the callous indifference— as we shall presently see— of the Government which was expected to protect their interests,

Area and Assessment

3. The cropped area may be broadly divided into two categories namely ricelands and garden lands. The following table gives the the respective areas in acres and assessment in rupees of the two talukas.

	Total area assessed	Total assessment.	Garden land area.	Assess- ment.	Rice- land area	Assess- ment.	Other Assess- area ment.
Sirsi	60,692	157,771,	6098	77,368	28609,	68358	25996 12045.
Siddapur	88,260	144835	7444	93,706	18022,	45665	12794 5514.

The average assessment for garden lands in Sirsi and Siddapur is Rs. 12-9-5 and Rs. 11-7-7 per acre; the average for rice-lands is Rs. 2-5-11 and Rs. 2-8-0 per acre respectively.

Betel, pepper, and cardamom are grown in the gardens and they are the main paying crops in the garden area. It must be noted here that pepper and cardamom are only minor crops and betelnut is the main crop in the garden. It is the price of the betelnut, therefore, that is the determinant factor in the income of the garden-land-holder. It will also be noted that the prices of betelnut were the lowest in 1930 than those ever recorded since 1888. Chief of the other crops grown is (*not a garden crop*) sugar-cane.

The rainfall in these two talukas generally does not fail and the average (worked for 1900-1923) for Sirsi is, 97.26 and 113.66 for Siddapur. But there is always a fear of destruction of the rice crops by wild pigs and of garden crops by wild elephants and the rot-disease (*Koleroga*) of which more hereafter.

Former Forest Privileges

4. Agriculture in a forest area is a peculiarly difficult adventure and the peasants are entitled to special privileges if they are to prosper. That they used to get these privileges in the past is amply proved by the testimony of the Gazetteer(c), who writes: (P. 24)

(c) References to the Gazetteer are, in this report to be always understood as references, to the Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Volume XV, Part I, Kanara, published in 1883,

“Of the forest priveleges exercised by the people, the chief are clearing patches of the forest for wood-ash or *Kumari* tillage, lopping leaves for manuring spice and betel gardens, growing pepper in certain ever-green forests, free grazing and free or cheap wood and fuel. The people have always enjoyed free grazing in certain parts of the forests. Under the survey Settlement in each village certain numbers have been set a part for free grazing. All classes are allowed to take free of charge, for their private use, bamboos, poor timber fit to build huts and cattle-sheds, head-loads of firewood, grass and fallen leaves for manure, thorn, brush wood, and stakes for hedges and dams, wood for field tools and dead *sago* and other palm for water courses. They are also given good building timber at from one eighth to a quarter of the marked price, and they are allowed to take larger quantities than head-loads of fuel on paying a fee of 6 d. (4 annas) a cartload.”

Rule No. 1 under the Forest Act of 1878 provided as follows :—

“The people may, in accordance with customary usage, cut and collect in the Government forest of their own village when not specially reserved for the growth of timber or the conservancy purposes, the following sorts of forest produce: (1) Bamboos of sorts (2) jungle wood for small houses, hut, chuppers, cattleshed etc. (3) dry wood for fuel (4) leaves and grass for manure etc. (5) Thorns and brush-wood and stakes for hedges and dams, (6) wood for agricultural imple-ments, (7) dead *sago*, and other palm trees for water courses etc. ex-cepting those that may be prohibited,..... In the case of villages within the boundary of which there is no forest, an adjacent tract beyond the boundary will be set apart for the use of the villagers, who must, before resorting to it, produce before the Patil in charge of it, a permit from their *own village officer*(d),”

5. So long as such liberal priveleges were given it appears that the ryot found it tolerable to carry on his pursuit with a sense of ease. Reaction in
Forest Policy
“The arrangements then made were not dictated solely by considerations of revenue and conservency but were also influenced by sympathy and regard for the customary priveleges of the ryots and the welfare of the agriculturists.(e)” The forest was divided into two classes in 1880—the

(d) Vide Gazetteer p. 417.

(e) Forest grievances in North Canara, representation made to the Col-lector of North Canara on behalf of the Kumta Agricultural Association in March 1918—p. 7.

reserved and protected. In the whole of the North Canara district the reserved forest was 466 sq. miles, while that of the other class was 3048 sq. miles. The needs of the ryots could well be met by recourse to the minor protected jungle. But a reactionary policy set in 1890 and the reaction has been progressively worsening since then and today the ryot justly feels that his interests are being sacrificed to the forest.

Present forest
privileges
inadequate

The agriculturist has been deprived of the right of free grazing. In many a case, people complained to us that they were charged for grazing their cattle in their own *bettas* (f). They are allowed certain privileges in minor jungles. *e.g.* removal of head-loads of felled dead wood of unreserved trees for domestic purposes but not for the purposes of *Jagri*, removal of clay and stones indicated by the Forest officer, of canes, creeper and forest produce *save those* specially reserved from time to time, of thorns, brushwood, bamboos etc. But these privileges appear to have been of no use at some places because the minor jungles there are useless. We shall not dilate on this point but only refer to the able presentation of this subject in the representation made to the Collector of Kanara on behalf of the Kumta agricultural Association by S. G. R. Masur, the Secretary of the Association in 1918, which memorandum the Collector was pleased to characterise "as a reasoned and able presentation of the case for agriculture." Further it is common knowledge that the administration of the Forest rules has been unduly rigorous.

Poor and ignorant ryots are hunted down for trivial wrongs. The forest administration report for 1906-07 contains the following remarks: "There is a general complaint all along the coast that under the existing settlement no provision exists for supplying the agricultural and domestic needs of the people." The trouble given by petty officials was not small. "According to the Collector's experience the guards of Sirsi division bear the least enviable reputation in the district. Blackmail is doubtless of every-day occurrence. As a class, they seem to stand in urgent need of improvement" (Forest Administration Report 1907-03).

Antagonism
between forest
& agriculture

. What we have stated in general terms in the district has been equally true as to the talukas of Sirsi and Siddapur. The reserved forest in Sirsi is 236.64 sq. miles as against 34.01 in 1880. A clear analysis of

(f) Land given to the agriculturists at the rate of 9 acres per one acre of gardenland to enable the gardeners to prepare manure etc. from the leaves there-from-

the pressure of the forest on agriculture is presented in the notes by Non-official Members incorporated in the Report of the Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee Part 2. P. 63. "Kanara is the only forest district in the Presidency where population and cultivation are both declining. The Committee visited some places in Kumtha and Sirsi talukas where forest has been extended to the very doors of the cultivations and habitations." The report then proceeds to give instances and observes, "Proximity of closed proper forest round about cultivation and habitation serves as a haunt for wild animals and reptiles dangerous to life and cultivation and a hot-bed for malaria brought about by the thick overgrowth of useless vegetation choking the process of ventilation and by the decaying of organic matter. It interferes with the right of grazing and the exercise of privileges. It also gives rise to impounding of cattle, ravages of wild beasts, scarcity of water, harassment by forest officials, insanitary conditions of the locality affecting the lives of the residents, thereby making the very existence of agriculture and habitation difficult and impossible. On account of such forest pressure, *both population and cultivation in some villages and hamlets have been extinct and in the case of some villages they are in the very verge of extinction*" From our own personal observation and the repeated statements made to us we are in a position to say that almost the limit has been reached in this matter and it is no mere rhetoric to say that the agriculturists are feeling that their interests are being throttled by the invasions of the reserved forests. Even Mr. H. Tupper, as back as 1918 admitted that there had been an antagonism between agriculture and the forest. He hoped that the antagonism would be temporary but that has proved to be a vain hope.

7. It is not our purpose to enter into a detailed enquiry into all the causes of the present agricultural deterioration but we feel bound to touch on the main causes of the present misery and discontent. The precis of the Settlement report has dealt with the present deterioration of agriculture especially the garden tract in detail. Among other things, it says "(1) Wild pigs cause much of the loss to crops. (2) In some parts people have deserted whole villages and *majares* or groups of villages, havoc played by the wild elephants being the principal cause of the migration of the villagers. (3) Considerable mischief is done to crops by monkeys also everywhere. (4) There are sufficient grounds for issuing more gun licenses in all parts of the taluka. (5) Considerable difficulties are experienced in regard to keeping the lands under cultivation. (6) *One third of the private lands are lying uncultivated. Fallow land has in-*

**Causes of
Agricultural
deterioration**

creased by about 50% since the year 1900. (7) The enormous increase in deaths between the years 1912 and 1921 is the result of the insanitary climate and malaria. (8) The condition of the owners of garden lands is not what it ought to be. Most of them are largely indebted and this indebtedness is mainly responsible for their inferior cultivation. (9) The cultivation of the garden lands is not as profitable as it was some years ago."

Decrease in
population

8. Under these trying circumstances it would not be surprising if people chose to desert their homes and find a more convenient living elsewhere. In fact we find that the two talukas like the rest of the district are being gradually depopulated as the census figures given below will show :—

		1891	1901	1911	1921	1931
SIRSI	...	53,922	53,071	47,835	40,987	39,955
SIDDAPUR.	...	42,631	41,344	37,334	32,208	33,379

So during the course of 40 years Sirsi shows a decrease of about 14000 or about 26% and there is a decrease of 9252 or 21% in the Siddapur taluka. Appendix M. to the precis of Collins' report for Siddapur taluka shews that whole families have sometimes deserted their homes and moved to neighbouring territory. A large part of the decrease was due to the migration of those who lived on labour. Prohibition of raising *Kumri* has been stated to us to be one of the causes contributory to this migration of labour from the territory.

This scarcity of labour led in its turn to the deterioration in cultivation. The number of fallow lands increased in both the talukas as can be seen from the table given below : (extracted from the Precis)

SIRSI			
	Average for 1900-01—1904-05.	Average for 1910-11—1914-15.	Average 1919-20—1923-24.
Occupied	20,260	33,475	34,620
Of which cultivated	20,020	20,172	19,799
Fallow	7,240	13,303	14,821
Govt. waste	10,046	4,766	3,608

Effect of
Migration of
labour

9. It is a fact that the decrease in the cultivated area is not as great as the decrease in the population. But this does not mean that the people were any the better for it, because the decrease in popula-

tion has been, as shown above, due to the migration of labour which in its turn led to deterioration of crop produce and an increase in the cost of cultivation. Another effect of this gradual scarcity of labour resulted in the rise in wages which is given in full in the appendix.

Further there has been deterioration in the out-turn of garden crops as is observed by Mr. Baskerville in the *Precis of the Settlement Report*: "There is sufficient evidence to show that the out-turn of garden-crop has deteriorated. The difference in the out-turn of pepper and Cardamom is apparent."

10. The scarcity of labour, the pressure of forest on agriculture, the deterioration in crop produce, the deprivation of agricultural facilities which the ryots enjoyed in former times are thus the main causes of the deterioration of agriculture in these talukas. There is one more contributory cause yet to be dealt with, namely the inadequate facilities with regard to the protection of the crops. The rules under the Arms Act are rigorous, and the rules as to shooting in the forest are still more so. Possession of a gun is not therefore as great a comfort as otherwise it would have been. Nobody can shoot into a Reserved forest and the Reserved forest has sometimes come so close to the villages that this rule practically means that destruction of wild animals is almost prohibited. Then again in the issue of licenses a discrimination is made between big landholders and smaller ones. Political opinion is penalised and we have a copy of an order before us which shows that at one stroke of the pen on one single day the Collector cancelled the gun-licenses given for crop-protection of 89 persons on the alleged grounds of their sympathising with the Civil disobedience movement. And unless it is seriously argued that persons that happen to range themselves against the present system of Government have no civic rights to protect their life and property from the depredation of wild animals, such orders can have no legal or moral justification. The rules do empower certain authorities to withhold a license for reasons they may consider fit, but political opinions and activities of a person can be no valid ground for cancelling a license, unless the authorities have really reasons to think that the license would be abused. There was another complaint brought before us in this connection that before a license can be secured the applicant has to spend on an average Rs. 40-50 in satisfying the subordinate officials in Government service. We have no reason to disbelieve these complaints and we think this must be acting as a great deterrent.

Inadequacy of
Gun-licenses

Agricultural indebtedness

11. Hedged in by so many handicaps it is no surprise if during the last 30 years we find the peasantry heaving in debt. We have not been able to secure exhaustive figures for each village in the two talukas but the evidence that has come before us is sufficient to give us an idea of the extent of indebtedness from which these poor peasants have been suffering. We cull a few extracts from the reports we have received in regard to indebtedness. The following table gives the results of an intensive study of four villages from different parts of Sirsi taluka.

Name of villege.	No. of families.	Total Debt.	No. of families having no debt.	Average debt per family.
Hare-Hulikal ...	16	17,700	2	1,106-4-0
Targod ...	20	31,750	3	1,587-8-0
Mundgesar ...	27	18,775	5	695-8-0
Gonsar ...	23	28,300	?	1,230-0-0

A similar detailed study in Harogar centre revealed a debt of Rs. 94,981-4-0 in an aggregate of 102 families.

Price fall in 1930

12. It was owing to these adverse circumstances that Mr. Collins the Settlement Commissioner recommended a reduction in the assessment of gardenlands to the extent of Rs. 5,720 in Sirsi and Rs. 5,972 in Siddapur. But these proposals were not put into effect. The peasants, especially the garden land-holders, continued to border on bankruptcy when there was a sudden and severe slump in prices in 1930. The seriousness of the fall may be seen from the table of the course of prices given below :—

Prices prevalent in the Siddapur taluka from 1900—1931.

The same prices hold good for Sirsi also more or less.

The figures represent Seers of 80 tolas per rupee (g).

	Betelnuts	Cardamoms.	Pepper.	Rice.
1888-1899 ...	3- 1	0- 5	2- 9	11-12
1900-1908 ...	3- 0	0- 5	1- 8	10- 6
1909-1917 ...	2- 8	0- 5	1-12	8- 9
1918 ...	2- 3	0-10	1- 3	7-13
1919 ...	2- 8	0- 9	1- 2	4- 2
1920 ...	2-14	0- 5	1-12	5- 6

(g) The rates are all as in Government records.

The figures stand respectively for Seers and Chataks ($\frac{1}{8}$ of a Seer).

1921	...	2- 4	0- 7	2- 2	6-12
1922	...	1-13	0- 5	2- 2	5-15
1923	...	1- 8	0- 3	2- 0	5-15
1924	...	1- 4	0- 2	2- 0	6- 2
1925	...	Figures not available to us			
1926 Jan.	...	1-10	0- 4	0-12	7- 0
1927 „	...	2- 5	0- 4	0-13	6- 7
1928 „	...	1-13	0- 3	0- 9	5-14
1929 „	...	1- 9	0- 3	0- 9	6-11
1930 „	...	1-12	0- 5	0-10	7-11
1930 April	...	2- 6	0- 6	0- 9	9- 4
1930 July	...	3- 2	0- 7	0-12	8-11
1930 October	...	5- 2	0-12	1- 0	8- 3
1931 Jan.	...	4-13	0- 9	1-10	9-11

Betelnut and Rice are, as already observed, the two main paying crops and the prices detailed above will easily show the fall they underwent. The condition of the garden-land was already so bad in 1924 that in spite of a rise in prices as between the period 1888-1924 Mr. Collins had to propose a reduction of assessment on garden-lands. When prices went far lower than those current in 1924, the condition of the garden-land-holders may easily be imagined. As for the rice lands, the prices of rice having undergone serious fall, the anticipations of Mr. Collins that the prices current in 1924 would be steady, failed and the owners of rice-lands were also hit hard by the slump in prices. We might here draw attention to the fact that so far as betelnut is concerned the prices current in October 1930 were the lowest ever recorded during the preceding 42 years. So were the prices of the other commodities more or less.

II. FALL IN PRICES AND GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE.

13. When the prices fell so abnormally, the lot of these already impoverished agriculturists may better be imagined than stated. Till 1930 they had regularly paid the assessment somehow or other but this fall in prices tried their strength and found them humbled down. Their only course was to approach the authorities, and seek relief by way of suspension or remission. The agriculturists of Sirsi met in a conference in January and discussed the economic distress. The agriculturists of

Government
approached for
relief.

Siddapur held a conference in which resolutions were passed praying for relief. Representations were made by the agriculturists but as Mr. Keshawain puts it in his statement, the Collector of the District was not disposed to consider the representations sympathetically. He replied that "the rains were particularly favourable and that the current prices were not less than those which prevailed at the time of the original settlement viz. about the year 1885 and that these were not valid grounds for relief." He ignored the fact that the cost of production had very highly increased during that period. A deputation of representatives of land-holders and ryots waited upon the Collector at Sirsi in the first week of February, but no definite assurance of relief was given to them. All that the Collector did was to extend the date of payment of the 2nd instalment from 15th April to the 15th May. We find that the main reasons of this indifference of the officials was that in the wrong belief that this was a political move the Government authorities did not pause to enquire into the economic distress of the peasants.

Under these circumstances the farmers made a resolve not to pay the taxes until the Government enquired into the economic distress and gave appropriate relief. The Congress gave them full support in this their hour of need. Most of the garden land-holders stood firm. In spite of all efforts by Government officials, Rs 45,000 were yet due on account of the first instalment in Sirsi and Rs. 40,000/- in Siddapur. Most of this balance was due from garden-land-owners. After the Gandhi-Irwin Agreement, the Working Committee issued instructions that where-ever no-tax campaign was going on, on an economic basis, people affected should seek redress through other ways. Representatives of the two talukas met together and discussed the situation with Provincial leaders. It was there settled that Mahatma Gandhi should be approached and kept informed of the situation. It was also settled to approach the revenue officials again.

Ryots' efforts
fail.

Accordingly a deputation of the ryots of Siddapur waited upon the Collector but in vain. Mr. Keshawain, the president, of Sirsi Ryots Association wrote to the Collector representing to him all the facts. In reply the Collector wrote that the date of the payment of the 2nd instalment was extended to the 15th of May and added with a sense of finality "This is the utmost concession that can be granted." Meanwhile Mr. Diwakar was deputed to see Mahatmaji. He saw Mahatmaji and explained the whole situation. Mahatmaji accorded whole-hearted support to the

cause of the ryots. Mr. Diwakar came to Poona and at his request, Messrs. Karki, Jog, and Angadi, members of the Bombay Legislative Council, saw Mr. Smart, the Commissioner, S. D. but the Commissioner did not pay any heed in regard to the request for relief in these two talukas. The matter was again raised in the Legislative Council by Mr. V. N. Jog on 18th March 1931 but the Revenue member, Mr. Hudson suggested that the movement was political. While these approaches were being made, coercive processes had already begun.

Coercive
measures in
Progress.

14 The first attachment of movable property was effected in Siddapur taluka on 8th March. At that time Rs. 45,000 were due on the first instalment in Sirsi and about Rs. 40,000 in Siddapur. Most of this balance was due from garden-land-owners. Attachments commenced in the Sirsi taluka on the 26th March. Till the 9th April, there were in all 65 attachments of movable property in Sirsi and 80 in Siddapur. The attached property was attempted to be sold in 8 cases in Siddapur. Criminal proceedings were instituted against volunteers who peacefully picketed the auction sales. Notices under S. 46, District Police Act to quit the district were issued against 10 volunteers in the Siddapur taluka. No such prosecutions were however launched in Sirsi taluka though attachments etc. continued.

15 In the meanwhile, as these coercive processes were in full swing the Congress representatives again waited upon Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel, the President of the Congress. It is understood that as a result of a talk between Mahatmaji and the Viceroy, a more conciliatory attitude was taken by the revenue officials and we find that the Commissioner, Southern Division became amenable to a compromise and through the mediation of S. P. R. Chikodi, M. L. C. of Belgaum, entered into an agreement with S. R. R. Diwakar, the then president of the Karnataka Prov. Congress Committee under whose direction the movement in Sirsi and Siddapur had been conducted and on the 9th April, the Commissioner, S. D. issued the following order.

Signs of
reconciliation.

No. R. E. V.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, S. D.
Belgaum, 9th April 1931.

MEMORANDUM:

" Mr. R. R. Diwakar proposes to call off the no-tax campaign in Sirsi and Siddapur talukas provided the Collector receives and deals with individual applications of holders of garden-lands asking for suspension of the 2nd instal-

ment owing to hardship in paying due to the heavy fall in the price of betel nut and other garden produce. (Vide Commissioner's Memorandum No. R.E.V. dated 7th April 1931).

" If the Collector finds on enquiry into individual cases of hardship that a case for the general postponement of the 2nd instalment of land revenue on garden lands in the above two talukas appears to have been made out, he should report to the Commissioner with a view to obtaining Government orders for the grant of this concession. The Commissioner has no power to grant such a concession.

"As soon as Mr. Diwakar fulfills his promise to call off the campaign, coercive processes should be stopped including action under Section 148 L. R. Code.

" Fines for non-payment of revenue imposed but not already levied will be cancelled."

Sd/ W. W. Smart,
Commissioner, S. Division.

**Government's
breach of faith**

16. In accordance with the above-mentioned agreement, the economic campaign ceased, volunteers were withdrawn and Congress workers did their best to persuade land owners to pay up the first instalment and present applications for the suspension of the 2nd instalment. It pains us much to have to come to the conclusion, after full consideration of the evidence and record before us, that officials then and thereafter, did not play by the game with the poor distressed ryots. Even by taking loans and sometimes by the sale of necessaries of life, the land-holder somehow paid the first instalment in the hope that ready relief would be given in the second instalment. Their hopes proved futile. All went well till the 25th April. Ryots paid the first instalment and began to take back their articles. Cases against the volunteers were postponed *sine die*. Fines were remitted. But a re-action set in after the 25th, by which date, mainly owing to the persuasion of Congress authorities, the people had paid over most of the amount due on the first instalment even at great hardship, in many cases by recourse to loans. In some cases, the attached movable articles were not returned even after payment of the 1st instalment. Mr. Keshawain wrote a letter on the 22nd April to the Collector, bringing to his notice all the relevant facts about garden-lands and also urged that in view of the fact that 50% of the rice lands were fallow, the Collector be pleased to consider the question of suspending land revenue demand on fallow rice lands also.

He wrote another letter on the 27th to the same effect. We regret to say that the Commissioner in reply to this letter made allegations against the Congress, with whom he had entered into a solemn agreement, allegations which we find are false and unworthy to have been made by a responsible officer like the Commissioner. In paragraph 2 of that letter be observed :

" The present settlement in these two talukas has remained unaltered from 40 to 60 years, during which time in spite of a rise in prices and favourable circumstances, Government have kept faith with the occupants and occupants have kept faith with Government, until they were instigated or intimidated not to pay, by the Congress leaders, who embarked on a no-tax campaign in spite of the Irwin-Gandhi Pact. "

17. We have carefully scanned through the evidence that was brought before us. We have closely observed the situation on the spot. We have seen the poverty of the distressed ryots in the true perspective. And we venture to submit that there is no truth in the attack levelled against the Congress by the Commissioner. By all that we have seen and read, we are convinced that, had not the Congress come to the rescue of the poor ryots, they would not have been able to earn the concessions they have been able to, with Congress support and under Congress guidance. In his letter dated 4th May to the Commissioner Mr. Keshawain observed " Referring to the Congress activities, I can only say that the ryots in their helplessness welcomed any assistance in their hour of need. The Congress people cannot be blamed for their coming to the aid of the ryots. In other parts as well as in this district also, the no-tax campaign was called off as soon as the truce was declared. But in Sirsi and Siddapur talukas it was not based on political motives but it was due to acute economic depression. The people have approached with their representation and have all along acted in a constitutional way." We find that the undignified remarks of the Commissioner are perfectly un-warranted by the facts. It is sufficient for us to observe here that if one wants to see how Govt. has kept faith with the poor agriculturists, he should just glance through the causes of misery of the occupant as given by the Settlement Commissioner in his Report. The Commissioner further stated in his letter :—

Gratuitous
Attack on
Government.

" In any case, they (i. e. the estimates of costs of cultivation etc) are irrelevant as Government have in the last session of the Bombay Legislative Council stated clearly that suspensions will not and can not be granted on the ground of the fall in prices in one year during the course of settlements

guaranteed for 30 years, It is only persons who are genuinely unable to find money to pay the second instalment that have any claim to consideration. It is possible that the Collector may find from the result of enquiry in the capacity to pay of small garden-holders in the less favourably situated tracts that these are genuinely unable to pay owing to inability to raise the amounts due on the 2nd instalment."

**False
Allegations.**

18. Applications were addressed by the ryots to the Collector in accordance with the agreement of the 9th April. Naturally the cause of the requested suspension was nearly the same in all the applications. Naturally also Congress workers helped the people in the draft and despatch of these applicants. In strict accordance with the agreement, the Collector ought to have personally enquired into the ability or otherwise of the applicants. He went to 2 or 3 villages, in one case accompanied by Mr. Keshawain and then he appears to have done with enquiries. The following letter from the Commissioner shows what was the result of the Collector's enquires:—

Office of the Commissioner S. D.
Belgaum, 31st April 1931.

DEAR MR.....

" I have received a letter from Mr. Aminuddin which shows that the Congress leaders or the Local agitators are not keeping to the letter or spirit of the undertaking given by them. Petitions in a stereotyped form obviously dictated by Congress are pouring in for suspension or remission of not only the 2nd instalment of garden-lands but of rice lands.

" The petitions are not individual applications even for the suspension of the 2nd instalment of garden-lands. They give no individual reasons for inability to pay and are mostly from Muligenidars (i. e. permanent tenants) of garden-lands and not from the occupants who appear to have recovered their rents already.

" The above remarks apply specially to Sirsi where volunteers deprived apparently of Congress pay are moving about and getting food and money from the people.

" Also the Congress told the people not to pay the 2nd instalment without instructions and are assuring all garden-holders of land that the 2nd instalment will be postponed.....

" It is impossible for the Collector to decide in accordance with the Congress undertaking in this case and the terms of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact whether

petitions for suspension are genuine or not if stereotyped applications are made wholesale.

Yours sincerely,
W. W. Smart."

We shall only observe, with regard to the contents of the letter, that the allegations made were wholly incorrect. We regret that responsible officers like the Collector and the Commissioner should have given themselves to use undignified language like that in some parts of the letter quoted above.

19. In pursuance of the spirit of the letter above-mentioned, stereotyped replies that the application was rejected began to be received by the agriculturists. But coercive measures commenced even before the final decision of the Collector on all the applications. On the 11th June the following order was issued by the Mamlatdar of Sirsi :—

Coercion
again.

" From the Taluka Katcheri—

" The following order has been received from the Commissioner by telegram. to all Circle Inspectors and Village Officers :

" Land revenue has been in arrears for a long time in your firkas and circles. Therefore there is no need of a *demand notice*.

" Now land revenue has to be realised by resort to all coercive processes other than *demand notice*.

" Therefore in cases where attachment is necessary orders should immediately be taken from here.

" In cases where attachment is inadequate, forfeit notice should be sent. In the 70 villages previously communicated coercive measures should not be undertaken for the present, in regard to the 2nd instalment of the garden-land.

" The year end is approaching. Therefore all processes should be completed within 10 days. If you fail to do this you will be held responsible. Your report that all coercive processes have been completed should reach before the 25th June '31. You should not fail, understand.

11-6-31

Sd/ V. A. Telang"
Mamlatdar, Sirsi.

Accordingly, without much thought as to whether the agriculturists were really able to pay or not coercive processes were begun. These will be notified in a little detail in the next paragraph. But we find here necessary to note our considered opinion that the agreement of the 9th April was not scrupulously observed by the Government.

III. OPPRESSIVE COERCION BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Coercive
Measures in
Practice.

20. According to the Government admission in Sirsi taluka there were in all 120 attachments of movable property and 5 sales of movable property, forfeiture of rice lands 11, of garden lands 9. In Siddapur taluka there were 231 attachments of which sales were effected in 10 cases; attached property returned in remaining 221 cases; in 8 cases rice lands were forfeited and in 9 cases garden-lands. Government officials were expected to be careful to observe all legal requirements and not to give unnecessary provocation to the sentiments of the persons in distress. We have recorded numerous statements as to the peculiarly harsh—in some cases—irregular manner in which the coercive processes were enforced. We have found that in a large number of cases the Police accompanied the revenue officials. The people had exhibited no tendency of violence and the presence of the Police could have been utilized only to exercise pressure on the poor peasants. Of the numerous statements of complaints that have been recorded in our inquiry we quote here one or two to illustrate the method of these coercive processes.

Statement of Shrikrishnabhatta Ganapatbhatta of Kerehonda, of Chapparmane grama:—

(i) "The assesment I have to pay amounts to Rs. 40. Last year the crop was not good and prices were not fair. In this way assesment could not be paid. On the 2nd instant I received a notice. But before I received the notice, they had attached property at my house. They did not give me time when I asked it at the time of attachment. They attached a copper pot and a milch buffaloe. Then in accordance with the Mamlatdar's order that the attached goods would be released on payment of the first instalment, I raised a loan and paid the first instalment. They asked me to come after 4 days. I went accordingly but still they did not give. After a time I paid the second instalment. Then they returned my copper pot. They did not return the buffaloe. On being asked about the buffaloes they said that the buffaloes was sold for the grazing fees. Thus I did not get back my buffaloe. At the time of paying the first instalment I had paid the grazing fees Rs. 3-8-0 in accordance with the Mamlatdar's word (instruction). But still he did not give me my buffaloe at that time.....I waited at his door and said I would fast till I got back my buffaloe. I was pushed away by the Police. I am now getting rice from the relief fund."

Statement of Ganapayya Subrayya, Itagi gram, Siddapur Taluks:—

(ii) Patel, Shanbhag and Ugrani came to attachment for first instalment of Rs. 6/-. Deponent not at home nor any male member. Wife of deponent

asked officials to wait but they did not comply. Out of fear she tried to shut the door, but the door being forcibly pushed in by the attaching party stuck and injured the woman's forehead, and bangles in her hand also broke.

21. We shall not make any further extracts. There are numerous complaints of this nature. We shall just cite a few more instances of high-handedness in the matter of these attachments. The property of the uncle of Mahadev Subrao of Shivgaum (Sirsi taluka) was attached for the latter's arrears. At Mattinke in Shiralgi (Siddapur taluka), the Mamlatdar had gone with armed police, Circle Inspector, and village officer; the shanbhag lifted a pot in which rice was being cooked and attached it. This was brought to the notice of the Mamlatdar but he expressed his helplessness to do anything in the matter. At Makkigadde of Shashigali grama, Siddapur taluka, the Circle Inspector, shanbhag, and 2 armed police broke open the door of Vishweshwar Venkappa Hegade in his absence, in spite of the protest of his servants and took out articles for attachment. Revenue officials attached a cart and bullocks belonging to Ganapati Narayanbhatt of Hannagunde, Siddapur Kasaba (Siddapur taluka) for arrears due from his aunt. In some cases the floor of the house was dug and in others, articles of daily necessity and agricultural implements were attached. We have excluded all secondary evidence from our enquiry and we are in a position to state, as our considered opinion, *that the revenue officials in many cases were unnecessarily harsh, unjust and irregular in the manner of conducting coercive processes.*

Harsh, unjust
and irregular
methods.

22. We regret, however that the officials were not content with such sort of oppressive coercion. We have to take note of what, in all certainty was a gross injustice to the already too oppressed peasantry and a gross fraud practiced on the Government by its subordinate officials. It appears that realising that in spite of all coercion, the ryots would not be able to pay the balance, they proposed a tagavi loan of Rs. 25,000 to help the ryots who were in distress. When the peasants clamoured for a suspension, what was the motive in the tagavi loan which was to be advanced to the ryot at 8% interest is not plain to us. Nor are we aware of any published resolutions of the Government in regard to this matter. We are sure from personal enquiries made that no peasants asked for Tagavi when they had still not paid up the assessment. We are unable to say who originated the idea of giving tagavi to the people when still the assessment had yet to be realised from the peasants. From

Officials'
Abuse of
Statute Law

what followed, we must observe that this was an ill-judged measure. We have a suspicion that the peasants were unwilling to avail of this, what strikes us as a gratuitous loan, lest it be credited in payment of their arrears and over and above a burden of 8% interest created; for, the Commissioner in a letter to the General Secretary of the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee says, "Rs. 25,000/- has been sanctioned by Government for distribution as tagavi for purchase of seed & bullocks in the three talukas of Sirsi, Siddapur and Yellapur as a special case. Its distribution has begun but is being expedited. *Little advantage of this concession has been taken so far.*" We shall now proceed to see how, at least in some cases this was abused. We quote a couple of relevant statements:—

"I, Jeevottam Krishnabhatt of Bilgi Taluka Siddapur state on solemn affirmation as follows:—

"I had paid the 1st instalment of last year's assessment. I had not paid the second instalment on account of difficulties. The Magistrate's clerk, *Ugrani* and the shanbbag had come for attachment. Tappeli, Topa (cooking pot) and other pots used for cooking puddings were attached and taken to the Patel's house. On the very next day the shanbbag said 'I shall give tagavi. Pay up the assessment by that and take back the movable property.' The Magistrate's clerk wrote the tagavi form that I wanted the money for bullocks and seed. The amount of my second instalment is Rs. 23. They took my signature on the tagavi form for that much amount. They did not pay me in cash. They have given me merely a receipt for assessment."

The statement of Subrao Venakataraman Hegde of Tallinmane Bakkal grama of Sirsi Taluka is as follows:

"I could not pay the 2nd instalment last year on account of difficulties. There was an attachment in the neighbour's house. The shanbbag said to me 'Why worry yourself unnecessarily? Take tagavi and pay up the assessment.' The amount of my second instalment is Rs. 19. I applied for a tagavi loan of Rs. 50/- in the hope that it may be useful both for the assessment and agricultural purposes. But the Mamlatdar said "That much cannot be sanctioned. Only amount to the extent of the assessment will be sanctioned.' He sanctioned 20 rupees, gave me one rupee in cash and credited the remaining for assessment."

Another statement of one Venkataramanna Timmappa Hegde of

" I had not paid the 2nd instalment of last year on account of difficulties. About Rs. 200/- had to be paid. They had come for attachment. But they went away without attaching property. And the Circle Inspector, shanbhag etc., asked me to pay the assessment at least by taking tagavi. I put my signature to the tagavi application prepared by shanbhag. On presenting the application the Mamlatdar said that more than Rs.100 could not be sanctioned. I said that it would be of no use, to me. On hearing this the Mamlatdar enclosed the application in an envelope and sent it to the Prant officer, with me. The Prant officer sanctioned it. Then I was given a receipt for my assessment and after deducting the assessment I was given six or seven annas. "

Nagappa Shivaram Hegde of Tallinmane Bakkala grama of Sirsi Taluka stated before the Committee that at the instance of the shanbhag he applied to the Mamlatdar for tagavi for Rs. 100. The assessment he was to pay was Rs. 26. But the Mamlatdar said ' That much (Rs. 100) cannot be sanctioned. We shall give you only to the extent of the assessment.' A tagavi of Rs. 30 was granted and after deducting the amount of assessment, Rs. 4 were paid in cash to the applicant. We shall not burden this account by a detailed report of these instances which are summarised in the appendix. We have no reasons to disbelieve the witnesses, who have made open statements with a full knowledge of the consequences and they were warned that the statements would be published making allowances as far as possible to minor inaccuracies, in statements made by them. The broad fact remains that some of the subordinate revenue officials in the two talukas abused the provisions of the *Agriculturists' Loan Act* (India Act XII of 1884) which provides for such loans only for the relief of disress, the purchase of seed or cattle or any other purpose not specified in the *Land Improvement Loans Act* of 1883 but connected with agricultural objects with the knowledge that they were so contravening the express provisions of the said Act. Referring to this gross irregularity, Mr. L. T. Karki in his letter to the Collector (22-6-1931) said " Another gross irregularity of which I have heard is that those who have no means to pay the second instalment are made to apply for short term loans under the *Agriculturists' Loan Act* to the extent of the instalment due to be paid as assessment and the money directly credited to Government as assessment paid by the Khatedar, which is nothing short of book-adjustment. This novel procedure of revenue recovery means a distinct departure and abuse of the provisions of the Act which admits of purchase of seed and plough-animals, to carry on agricultural operations when impeded, due to

indigence of the cultivators." It is not for us to judge what effect such doings have on the administration, for the persons affected are bound to lose faith in the legality of Government transactions. But we are of opinion that this abuse of tagavi has imposed on the persons concerned the additional burden of interest at 8%. For otherwise these persons were entitled to a suspension of assessment due from them. Our enquiry has not enabled us to exhaust the number of such instances and therefore we are not in a position to say what portion of the sanctioned tagavi was so abused. Nor are we in a position to fix the responsibility and apportion blame for this abuse. It is neither profitable, nor, we believe, necessary within the scope of our enquiry to apportion blame in that manner. But we feel it our duty to record our opinion that Government who ought to be jealous of the purity of administration do institute an enquiry into these serious allegations of the ryots and bring to book all of its servants who are found, on an impartial enquiry, to be guilty of these breaches of a statutory provision so that popular confidence in Government, which, we have observed has received a rude check, may be restored.

Relief Work
and Govt.
Indifference

23. The distress of the ryots was so great that in spite of coercion and even after the realisation of part of assessment from the Tagavi, ostensibly granted for seed and cattle, there still remained a substantial balance. This the Government ultimately suspended. The amount of such suspension in Sirsi taluka was Rs. 8,000/- and Rs. 12,000/- in Siddapur. But the economic distress had thrown a large number of agriculturists into destitution and in some cases the exactions of land revenue brought the peasants to starvation. It was found on enquiry that about 314 families would require immediate relief. A local committee with Sjt. Keshawain as president approached the Gandhi Seva Sangha, Karnatak Branch for help. Seth Jamanalal Bajaj paid a visit to the two talukas on the 1st June, and the work commenced in July. About Rs. 10,000/- were collected for this work from all parts of Karnataka, as well as distant places like Bombay and Rangoon. Medicine was also distributed. But it is sad to note that the Government not only did not do anything to promote the relief but it tried to thwart it wherever it could. The Collector wrote to the President, Karwar District Local Board that there was no keen distress and when the Board did ultimately sanction Rs. 500/- the Collector refused to sanction it. Similar grants were made by the Municipalities of Sirsi and Kumtha and the taluka

Local Boards of Siddapur and Kumtha but the Collector vetoed all these grants. We must characterise this indifference as unwise and callous.

IV. INADEQUACY OF PRESENT REMISSIONS

24. It will be remembered that when Mr. Collins made his proposals for reduction in the assessment of garden lands, the prices of garden produce were bright but now in addition to the other handicaps the gardeners are faced with a heavy fall in prices. In its rejoinder to the Congress charge sheet Government stated that "the question of some permanent reduction of garden assessment will be now considered." In a resolution published on 17th [October the Government of Bombay stated:—

Remissions
granted by
Government
Inadequate.

"The current settlements of Sirsi, Siddapur and Yallapur talukas and Mundgod Mahal were to expire in 1925-26. Mr. G. F. S. Collins, C. I. E., O. B. E., I. C. S. who was appointed as the Settlement officer submitted his revision proposals in 1926 but no orders were issued on them in consequence of the decision of the Government not to introduce revision settlements pending legislation regarding the principles according to which assessment should be revised.

"In this report Mr. Collins has suggested the following reductions in the assessment of garden-lands.

Taluka or Mahal.	Rs.
Sirsi.	5,720
Siddapur.	5,972
Yallapur.	5,434
Mundgod.	40
	<hr/>
	17,166

"The Governor-in-council considers that the relief recommended for occupants of garden-lands should not be withheld because the proposals as a whole are kept in abeyance. *The need of concession has been accentuated by the recent fall in the prices of garden produce.* The remissions (*sic* suspensions) amounting to Rs. 20,000 were given last year to occupants of garden land, in the talukas of Sirsi and Siddapur. In order to secure more equitable *distribution* of land revenue demand as a whole in the areas in question, the Governor-in-council is now pleased to direct that remissions equal to the reductions proposed by Mr. Collins should be granted every year on garden-lands in the talukas of Sirsi and Siddapur, Yallapur and Mundgod mahal, till current settlements are finally revised. The orders should have effect from the current revenue year, 1931—1932."

We have to make some observations with regard to this resolution. First, whatever the general policy, we deem it unfair to the distressed garden-holders that the proposals were not immediately put into effect, especially in view of the admitted fact of their distress and need of giving immediate assistance. We think it is up to Government even now to give retrospective effect to the concessions as from 1925-26. But as if to meet that in anticipation Government have put forward the reason of the fall in prices for a reduction now and hereafter. One might ask, why did Government forget this fact when the Revenue member declared from his seat in the Legislative council *that a fall in prices would be no relevant factor in judging the suspension for a particular year?* It is a clear shifting of ground and we have no hesitation in saying that the peasants are entitled to a similar remission for the last 5 years at least.

Present Economic Distress

25. This is not all. For, in our opinion the distress of the ryot would not be lessened to any great extent by piecemeal concession. We are afraid that the agriculturists, especially the garden land owners are on the verge of bankruptcy. We do not want to be understood to suggest that there are not any persons that are not well off, but the number of agriculturists who eke out a comfortable living among the agriculturists of Sirsi and Siddapur is very small. And by far the large majority are living on the verge of starvation. This year has seen the climax of misery. They have not been able to repay their debts. Those of them that have tilled other people's lands have not been able to pay their land-lord's rent. We shall just cite an illustration or two from among the facts that have been brought to our notice. The following speaks for itself :—

TOTGARS' SOCIETY, SIRSI

YEAR.	DEBT DUE.	DEBT CLEARED.	STILL DUE.
1925	16,500	13,350	3,150
1926	29,925	24,490	5,435
1927	24,425	22,180	2,245
1928	21,000	17,200	3,800
1929)	11,800	Not paid at all.	All debts are all still due.
1930)			

It is clear from the above that the ryots' capacity to pay is crippled. To take another instance there is a Co-operative Society at Hulgol whose balances of debts have been progressively increasing.

Another index of the present condition would be to examine whether and to what extent agriculturists paid their revenue by recourse to loans. It is difficult to have an exhaustive survey of this nature. We have some figures placed before us which, show that a number of persons had to borrow money to pay the tax and we have come across an instance when the peasant sold away part of his immoveable property to pay the land revenue.

26. The time has therefore come for the taking of an exhaustive economic survey of the conditions of the peasantry in the two talukas, at present. Conditions may vary in different localities but a scrutiny ought to enable us to give a general idea of the precise extent of the people's misery. We do not pretend to have made such a thorough statistical enquiry but we must say we have done our best to acquaint ourselves with the general economic condition of the agriculturists at the present day. In order to avoid vagueness we deputed Sjt. T. S. Nayak to make a house to house enquiry in 2 villages and his results show that the average income was 81 and expenditure 83 leaving no margin to pay the debt which averaged Rs 60 per head. This was the state of things last year, when though the prices fell, the crop was at least not much below the normal yield.

Economic Re-
survey Essen-
tial.

V. EFFECT OF KOLE-ROGA IN 1931

27. If the fall in prices last year was abnormal, there is no substantial improvement this year. In addition to this a new factor has made the situation far worse than what it was; that is the abnormal ruin of the garden crops owing to the Kole-Roga (Rot-Disease). That this disease takes an annual toll of crops is not disputed. We have been informed that the average annual loss amounts to about 10-12% of the crops on the gardens affected. As to the origin of the disease, our impression from what we saw and heard and read is that this disease arises either from an excess of rain or an alternate attack of rain and sun. The disease not only ruins the year's crops but in many a case completely dries up the tree which means an absolute loss. We have ourselves seen a garden at Bilgi which had been completely affected by Kole-Roga and 90% of the crop had been ruined and we saw a number of trees killed by the disease. The disease being recurrent every year, the ryots tie covers for the bunches of betel-stalks, which is a good remedy in normal times

Kole-roga
in 1931

But it does not serve any purpose if the rains are abnormally excessive as they were this year. The table given below will show the extent of rain during the last 4 years in Siddapur taluka :—

	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	Nov.
1928	2-95	46-86	24-42	2-56	11-87	
1929	33-84	40-10	22-38	8-51	2-62	
1930	25-75	31-8	16-63	11-39	8-25	
1931	11-14	43-11	57.48	8.59	3-9	

The season of growth of the betel crop is from June to October. And this year's excessive rain just at the period when betelnut was yet unripe has played havoc to some extent in Sirsi and to a large extent in Siddapur. It may be argued that since this disease is annual what grounds are there to show that the disease is abnormal this year. In the absence of better statistics we have perforce to have recourse to personal testimony, and that testimony has brought home to our minds the fact that the ruin this year is enormous. We append herewith an anewari estimate prepared by Congress deputies. The calculation and estimates were made a month ago, and the misery must have been aggravated since then. Even a cursory glance through the figures will show the enormous loss that the agriculturists have had to suffer through this Act of God. We shall not waste more space in commenting on the obvious and we shall only observe that the agriculturists are entitled to liberal suspension this year also, to the extent of their misery.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Conclusions.

29. We have come to the end of our survey. We have done our best to give our considered opinions on the points of reference that were entrusted to us for enquiry and report. And our opinions as summarised on each point are as follows :—

1. That Government was *ab initio* completely indifferent to the misery of the people and that some Government officials have been harsh and unjust and irregular in the methods of realising the revenue.

2. That the economic condition of the agriculturists has been gradually deteriorating largely owing to the ruinous forest policy of the Govt. and that during the last year and this year particularly they are on the verge of bankruptcy on account of low prices, and ruin to garden crops on account of Kole-roga.

3. That the crops have been substantially ruined this year by an abnormal onset of Kule-roga and the agriculturists are entitled to generous concessions by way of suspensions and remissions.

4. That the concessions announced by the Govt. of Bombay in regard to garden-lands on the 17th of October are inadequate and should be extended to the extent rendered necessary by the present economic conditions and that they should have retrospective effect from at least the date of the last Settlement enquiry, 1925-26.

29. We shall conclude our report with our recommendations as ^{Recommendations.} regards the remedial measures that are necessary to be adopted for the amelioration of agriculture, especially the garden-lands in these two talukas. We must first observe that no extraneous aid would be useful unless the agriculturist bestirs himself to realise the seriousness of his position and sets about improving his prospects. It is a hopeful sign to learn that the Sirsi Mahamandal has prescribed economic measures cutting down expenses of an agriculturist family, on such ceremonial occasions like marriage. But no effort by the agriculturist is likely unless the State removes the abnormal handicaps under which the average agriculturist, especially the garden land owner, is working today. And among measures for the amelioration of the agriculturist's condition at the present time would be :—

- (1) That forest policy be regulated in consonance with the needs of agriculture and all the privileges noted in the Gazetteer be restored to the agriculturist.
- (2) That assessment on fallow lands be exempted.
- (3) That a fresh inquiry into the economic condition of agriculture be made by Government and the assessment revised in accordance with the need of present situation.
- (4) With reference to the conditions in the last and current year, the Committee recommends that the amount of Tagavi credited to assessment be counted as suspended arrears and that liberal concessions by way of suspension and remission be given in those villages where they are found to be just and necessary.

DHARWAR,
22-11-1931

N. G. JOSHI
D, P. KARMARKAR
T. S. NAYA

Appendix to Paragraph 2B

ANNA-VALUATION OF BETEL CROP IN SOME VILLAGES

I SIRSI TALUKA

Hegade Katte Centre

*Kotagehalli	3	Bettañni-mane, Emmi-gundi, Kallagadde	5
*Negar	4	Gavinbena, Kalla Metbu	3
*Mudgar	8	Chanchakār	5
Onakai-Hegadekatte of Shivalligrama	3	Melin-Kanalli One part of Kodbāl	2 3

Harugar Centre

Neggu	3	* Balavalli	6
Hulekal-centre	5		

The villages marked with an asterisk have received partial suspension last year.

II SIDDAPUR TALUKA

Anna-valuation of betel-crops in some villages of Siddapur taluka by personal observation.

Kansur Centre

Halkani	4	Adakalli	5
Halgesar (Devisar)	3	Yalugar	5
Other villages of Devisar grama	6	Banagi	5
Gananaguddi	2½	Kodsear	5
Kangod-kansur	5	Kansur	5
Girgadde	5	Taggin-balagār	5

Lambapur Centre

Vajgod	3½	Other <i>majares</i> of Danamaon	3
Sungali-Mane	4	Keremane	3
Kolagin-Mane	3	Alavalli	4
Suttalmane	2½	Hukkali	4
Masali-Makki	2½	Kudgund	3
Danamaon- <i>majare</i>	6		

Dodmane Centre

Kaunsale	2	Kadavadi	3
Kibbale	3	Kallakni	2
Gubbagod	3	Dodmane	3
Naigar	2		

Herur Centre

Hullunde	3½	Keregadde	3
Nandigal <i>majare</i> of Harigār	6	Kanohikai	5
Other <i>Majares</i> of Nandigal	3	Umbalamane	4
Hosatot	5	Murur	2
Taresar	3	Aṇalebail	3
Heggur	3	Attimuradu	5
Amābail	2½	Hegge	4
Halegauri	5	Kibballi	5
Sarkulli	2½		

Balur Centre

Karjagi	5	Hasargod	5
Balesar	6		

Bilgi Centre

Hosamanju-grama	1½	Other <i>Keris</i> of Bilgi	5
Hārurkeri, of Bilgi	3		

Karki Saval Kendra

Honne-Hadda	5	Hemgar	5
Kodasar	5	Babdarkeri	4
Muttalli	4	Sampgod	2
Harsi-mane	6	Golgod	2
Kaval-koppa	5	Godlabil	5
Huttagār	4	Karki-savala	4

APPENDIX TO PARAGRAPH 21.

Kyadgi Centre

Kyadgi-grāma	5	Sakigoli	3½
Itagi	4		

Annewari estimate of betal-crop in some of the Villages in which land revenue collection was suspended in 1930-31.

Kudgund	3	Kadavadi	3
Hukkali	4	Kallakai	2
Alavalli	4	Dodmane	3
Keremane	3	Ilimane	6
Danmaon	3	Hullunde	3½
Talekere	3	Harigar	3
Vajagod	3½	Hegge	4
Sungolimane	4	Kanchikai	5
Kelaginmane	3	Girgadde	5
Suttalmane	2½	Halkani	4
Masalemakki	2½	Halgesar of Devisar	3
Kaunsale	2	Other majares of Devisar	6
Kibbale	3	Gamangudde	2½
Negar	2	Kangod, Kansur	5

APPENDICES

1. *Statement of Mr. S. N. Keshawain, President,
Sirsi Taluka Ryot Sangh, Sirsi.*

The economic conditions of the ryots in these parts are anything but satisfactory. The abnormal fall of price last year accentuated the situation. The garden holder was especially badly hit. The situation was duly brought to the notice of the authorities and relief was sought. In the beginning the Collector of the District was not disposed to consider the representations sympathetically. He replied that the rains were particularly favourable, and that the current prices were not less than those which prevailed at the time of the original settlement, viz about the year 1885, and that there were not valid grounds for granting relief. He did not, however, take into account the other factors that affect the situation. In the past, the cost of production was very low. The wages had increased nearly fourfold during the last 45 years. The habits of the people and the standard of living have also changed. So, it could be seen, that unless the wages and cost of living appreciably decreased, the ryot could not make both ends meet. In fact, the garden holder could not realise even the cost of production by the sale of his produce last year. All these things were then represented to the Collector, and also a deputation of landholders and ryots waited upon him at Sirsi in January 1931. The then Collector Mr. Baskerville was pleased to say that he wanted assurance from the people that it was no part of the no-tax campaign and that if they paid the 1st instalment of revenue, he would consider favourably about the suspension of the 2nd instalment taking, into consideration the economic depression prevailing.

On the strength of this assurance, more than half of the khatodars paid their first instalment, while others were trying to find out the necessary funds to pay. The Government also tried to recover the balance of the 1st instalment by having recourse to coercive measures from March 1931. But still the full amount could not be recovered. In the meanwhile, the Collector was approached to make the announcement of the suspension of the 2nd instalment, so that pressure may be brought on those who had still to pay the 1st instalment to make payment. To our great surprise and consternation, the Collector sent a reply saying that the due date of the 2nd instalment was advanced from the 15th April to the 15th May 1931. This was no concession at all. What was required was relief until the next harvest. The ryots could not be expected to find money during the intervening period. It was therefore deemed advisable to approach the Commissioner and wait in deputation upon him.

For this the help of the members of the Legislative Council from the Karnatak was also sought. Repression was still going on. Mr. R. R. Divakar, President of the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee, moved in the matter on behalf of the ryots. Mr. P. R. Chikodi of Belgaum saw the Commissioner with a view to make an appointment with him for members of the Legislative Council and the distressed ryots to wait upon him and represent matters. It appears that the Commissioner was already satisfied that there was acute economic depression in these parts and an agreement was arrived at by which the Collector was to enquire into individual cases and if he found during the course of enquiry that a case for general suspension existed, that he should recommend for the same.

In view of this assurance, the ryots were urged to pay the balance of the 1st instalment and most of it was paid by borrowing and other means. In the meanwhile, the Commissioner revised his opinion and it was ordered to give suspension only in a few ill-favoured tracts without the promised enquiry. I produce the copies of the relevant correspondence that passed between the Ryots Association and the Government. The result was that coercive measures were again resorted to and the ryots had to undergo much hardship. Even then all the revenue could not be realised. The Government then granted some of the ryots *takavi* loans and recovered land revenue. What balance still remained after these adjustments, was suspended.

Owing to this state of things, it became imminent to organise relief to the needy gardenholders by way of distribution of weekly doles of rice. This work was organised by a local committee in co-operation with the Gandhi Seva Snagha and the local Congress Committee. I am glad to say that the general public here as well as outside and also some public institutions generously responded to our appeal and we were able to collect sufficient funds to meet the crying need.

Owing to heavy and continuous rains this year, betelnut gardens in many parts of the Sirsi and Siddapur Talukas are seriously affected by the "Koleroga" with the result that in some places, where they are worst affected, even a four annas crop is not assured. Though this disease could be found on a small scale every year, its havoc this year is terrible. Such parts where the disease has taken its heavy toll deserve the sympathetic consideration of the Government in the matter of the recovery of Land Revenue. The government have recently, by a Press Communique sanctioned a reduction of Land Revenue in the Sirsi, Siddapur and Yellapur Talukas. The reduction is based on the report of Mr. G. F. S. Collins, the then Settlement Officer in 1926. Though the annual reduction in Revenue on Garden lands by about Rs. 17000/- in these talukas would be welcomed by the hardpressed ryot, this measure would not go a long way in easing the situation. In normal times, it would have afforded some relief. The conditions during the last two years have much

changed and it would not be too much to ask Government to hold a fresh enquiry in the light of the present conditions and revise the land revenue accordingly. The reduction now sanctioned applies only to a number of villages which are in a worse condition. The conditions in the other parts also deserve the consideration of Government.

To give an idea of the present situation, I give below the prices of the garden produce that prevailed in 1926— the year of the settlement report — and the prices that now rule. From this table, the extent of economic depression as affecting the garden-lands can be gauged.

THE PRICES OF GARDEN PRODUCE IN THE YEAR 1926

Betelnuts.	Per maund	Rs. 9/-
Pepper.	"	Rs. 13/-
Cardamom.	"	Rs. 55/-

IN THE YEAR 1930

Betelnuts.	Per maund	Rs. 3/-
Pepper	"	Rs. 8/-
Cardamom.	"	Rs. 28/-

The lot of the rice landholders is in no way better. Fallow lands have increased by about 50% since the year 1900 as can be seen from the settlement report of Mr. Collins. The population has gone down by 25 and 24.4 percent respectively in the Sirsi and Siddapur Talukas during the last 3 decades. Unless Government affords relief by reducing land revenue on the rice lands and improving village conditions the lot of the ryots and land-owners will be anything but desirable.

Sirsi
18-11-1931

A. N. Keshawain,

2. Extract from settlement officer's report

- (1) The original settlement began in these talukas in the year 1869 and ended in 1888.
- (2) Gross yield of garden crops of Sirsi Taluka in the year 1923-24.

Betelnut 8313 Khandis	(18 lbs. = 1 maund)
Pepper 769 ..	(20 mds = 1 Khandi)
Cardamoms 71½	
- (3) *Hundreds of families from this Taluka migrated to Dharwar, Mysore and Mundagod.*
- (4) The large area of garden land in the lowest group is important and

clearly shows that the assessment of these gardens is excessive and that their owners are on the verge of resigning them. *Para 38 Page 9*).

- (5) In the last group there has been an almost complete absence of sale statistics and those which exist show that land has little or no selling value, (*Para 48 C 3*)
- (6) The western ghat substrata contain some of the wildest and the most in-accessable parts of the Dist. and it is an area of marked deterioration. Many Villages are on the crest of the ghats and in some of them the garden cultivation extends down the sides of the ghats in steep terraces, the garden cultivation being, where the water supply is plentiful of mixed *supari* and Coconut. The labour expended in constructing these gardens must have been enormous. But they are now for the most part ruined or abandoned. In the north part of it the villages round Menshi used to be very prosperous fifty years ago. Now some of them are deserted and in the remaining, the population is fast disappearing and the cultivation being abandoned. The six or seven villages near Dewaramane in the north of the old abandoned "Vaddi Ghat" road comprising what is known as the Mutli ghat area constitutes the west part of the Taluka. The main Sirsi-Kumta road traverses the southern part of the ghat subtract, but the cultivation is confined chiefly to the small hamlets which lie on the road. South of it, Bugdi Village has been abandoned and Hosur nearly abandoned owing to the incursions of wild elephants.

3. *Summary of the Statement of Sj. Gangadhar Ramachandra Patwardhan, Sirsi.*

The betel, pepper and cardamom produce has decreased during the last 25 years, especially the cardamom. The main reasons are: (a) want of adequate rains. (b) rise in the cost of labour- (c) depression in the minds of the agriculturists. The cardamom plant which used to live 20-25 years is now alive only for a year or two. Cardamom has also suffered from *Katteroga*, and the fall in prices does not induce the agriculturist to devote much attention to it. The percentage of decrease in betel and pepper produce is 25% but in cardamom the decrease is 80%.

This year the betel-crop has suffered on account of *Koleroga*. The pepper-crop is also spoilt by the falling betelnuts.

The reason of rice-lands being fallow is the loss to crops by wild animals.

Monkeys bring loss to betel-crop, cardamom, and plantain-trees. Wild-cats eat cardomom. Monkeys, wild-cats, wild-pigs, destroy the sugar-cane produce. Sometimes elephants bring permanent ruin to the gardens. The rice lands are attacked mainly by wild pige.

The reasons of the people's indebtedness are: (1) the increase in their wants. Formerly agriculturists used to grow rice to the extent of satisfying their wants and so had not to buy it. In the present day the agriculturist puts in less labour than before. (2) the easiness with which they could get more loans. (3) litigation on account of prosecution by the forest department and otherwise.

The method I would suggest for wiping away this debt would be to collect a fund and lend money at a very low interest to the ryots.

Till now 14 villages and mazares have been deserted. The two reasons of such desertion are malaria and the wild animals in the forest. The main reason of deterioration in cattle-wealth is its destruction by tigers year by year.

The suggestions that I should like to make in regard to Mr. Collin's settlement report are as follows: There has been error in grouping the gardens. In the same area there are grades of gardenland, and each garden ought to be assessed according to its fruitfulness.

4. *Summary of the Statement of Hari Ramakrishna Vaidya of Bilgi regarding the deterioration of agriculture.*

- 1 Rains are not timely during the last 12 years.
- 2 (a) Formerly temporary licences were given for the period June-December. That practice has been stopped since 1930.
 - (b) Gun-licenses are given only to those who own large properties but who do not make adequate use of their guns. The poorer people who would make a proper use of guns are not given licences.
 - (c) For obtaining a competency Certificate from the subordinate officials namely Village officers, police etc. one is compelled to bribe them at least to the extent of 40 Rupees.
- 3 The Kole disease has increased during the last 12 years. The method of spraying as a safeguard against *Koleroga* is costly and besides makes the betelnut hard.
- 4 Before the operation of the Forest Act, forest round about the plantains used to be cleared. But now, on account of the proximity of the jungle the trouble from wild animals has increased. Malaria has taken a growing toll. Cattle wealth has decreased on account of its destruction by wild animals. Grazing land has decreased.
- 5 There has been *Scarcity of labour*, on account of numerous deaths at the time of the influenza epidemic and labourers are afraid to come to these talukas on account of malaria.

- 6 There has been decrease in the *efficiency of labour*. Of my seven servants 4 are disabled by disease.
- 7 Formerly cattle used to multiply well. But now we have to import cattle on a large scale.

5. *Statement shewing agricultural wages prevalent in Sirsi Taluka from 1898-1929*

1899	0 3 6	1909	0 5 6	1920	0 8 0
1899	0 4 0	1910	0 5 0	1921	0 9 6
1900	0 4 0	1911	0 5 0	1922	0 12 0
1901	0 4 0	1912	0 6 0	1923	0 14 0
1902	0 4 0	1913	0 6 0	1924	0 13 0
1903	0 4 0	1914	0 6 0	1925	
					{ 0 14 0
1904	0 4 0	1915	0 6 6	1926	{ 0 12 0
					{ 0 15 0
1905	0 4 0	1916	0 6 0	1927	{ 0 12 0
1906	0 4 0	1917	0 6 0	1928	0 14 0
1907	0 4 0	1918	0 7 0	1929	0 14 0
1908	0 4 0	1919	0 7 0		

Statement shewing agricultural wages prevalent in Siddapur Taluka from 1895-1931.

1895	0 4 0	1907	0 4 0	1919	0 6 0
1896	0 4 0	1908	0 5 0	1920	0 7 6
1897	0 4 0	1909	0 5 0	1921	0 7 0
1898	0 4 0	1910	0 4 9	1922	0 8 0
1899	0 4 0	1911	0 4 6	1923	0 9 0
1900	0 4 0	1912	0 5 0	1924	0 9 0
1901	0 4 0	1913	0 5 0	1925	... ..
1902	0 4 0	1914	0 4 0	1926	0 10 0
1903	0 4 0	1915	0 6 0	1927	0 12 0
1904	0 5 0	1916	0 6 0	1928	... ..
1905	0 4 3	1917	0 6 0	1929	0 12 0
1906	0 4 0	1918	0 6 0	1930	0 12 0
				1931	0 10 0

6. *Letter of the Collector, North Canara to Mr. S. N. Keshawain.*

KANARA COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.
Karwar 28th March 1931.

Dear Mr. Keshawain,

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 25th March. As you will probably have learnt already, the due date of the second instalment has been advanced in this district from the 5th April to the 15th May, so as to give land holders more time for making arrangements to pay it. *This is the utmost concession that can be granted.*

Yours truly,
 J. D. Baskerville

7. *Extract from.*

*First Order of the Commissioner in regard to suspensions in
 Sirsi andi Sddapur Talukas, dated 7th April.*

ABOUT KOD

Under Rule XXXI of the Suspension and remission rules, irrigated lands, (tari) on which about Rs. 46000/- have been already remitted this year as water rate, can be treated as an HOMOGENOUS TRACT and suspension granted for the soil-assessment according to the Anevary of these lands. The Collector has power to do this without reference to the Commissioner.

ABOUT SIDDAPUR & SIRSI

The average assessment of lands growing rice is only Rs. 2-6-9 per acre and this assessment dates from between 1869-1888 as no enhancement was made in 1900 revision.

It is therefore impossible to consider suspension or remission of assessment on rice land as the rice crops this year have been fully normal.

As to garden crops the average assessment is Rs. 12-13-9 per acre and owing to the very serious drop in the price of betel-nut it is possible that owners of garden lands may find it difficult to pay the second instalment, the Collector can accept and dispose of applications of individuals and order postponement of recovery till next Revenue Year when these arrears will be authorised arrears for 1930-31. Contumacious defaulters are under Sec. 148 Land Rev. Code not entitled to the benefit of the postponement of the second instalment till 25th May 1931 granted by the Commissioner and should not be given this concession.

8. *Letter by Sj. R. R. Diwakar to Sj. P. R. Chikodi in regard to the above, dated 8th April.*

BELGAUM
8th April 31

My dear Chikodi,

I thank you very much for your keen interest and your timely intervention in the matter of the economic distress of the three Talukas of Sirsi, Siddapur and Hirekerur. I equally thank the Commissioner for his sympathies to the ryots.

I have read carefully the concessions embodied in the Commissioner's note. As regards Kod, I think that the concessions extended will considerably ease the situation though they may not completely satisfy the ryots. I am glad to see that the Commissioner has realised the difficulties of the gardeners of Sirsi and Siddapur on account of the heavy fall in the prices of betel-nut. There too if the suspension of the 2nd. Instalment is made a general rule rather than a matter of discretion in individual cases it will help the gardeners as a whole class who have been equally hit.

The agitation in the three Talukas was based on economic grounds and I do not think that there was any contumacy as such in the defaulters. Even if the Officers have reasons to say that there were such cases, I would urge you to plead that that should not be made any ground for vindictive treatment.

The atmosphere in the Talukas is at present very uneasy on account of the sufferings imposed by the coercive measures. I am quite anxious to see that the sufferings cease as early as possible and in view of the concessions, I shall try my best to see that normal conditions are restored.

Mean-while I hope you will kindly urge the Commissioner to stay the coercive measures including fines, notice fees etc. and prosecutions in the Talukas in connection with this affair. That will avoid all unnecessary sufferings and the ryots will feel at ease.

Yours Sincerely,
Sd/- R. R. Diwakar

9. *Revised order of the Commissioner, dated 9th April as Modified in view of Sj. Diwakar's letter.*

No. R. E. V.
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER S. D.
Belgaum, 9th April 1931

MEMORANDUM:

Mr. R. R. Diwakar proposes to call off the no-tax campaign in Sirsi and Siddapur Talukas provided the Collector receives and deals with individual applications of holders of garden lands asking for suspension of the 2nd instal-

- ment owing to hardship in paying due to the heavy fall in the price of betel-nut and other garden produce (vide Commissioner's Memorandum No. R. E. V. dated 7th April 1931).

If the Collector finds on enquiry into individual cases of hardship that a case for the general postponement of the second instalment of land revenue on garden lands in the above two Talukas appears to have been made out, he should report to the Commissioner with a view to obtaining Government Orders for the grant of this concession. The Commissioner has no power to grant such a concession.

As soon as Mr. Diwakar fulfills his promise to call off the campaign, coercive processes should be stopped including action under Section 148, Land Revenue Code.

Fines for non-payment of revenue imposed, but not already levied will be cancelled.

Sd/ W. W. Smart,
Commissioner, S. Division.

To,

The Collector of Kanara (*Camp Sirsi*) with spare copies for Assistant Collector and Mamlatdar of Sirsi and Siddapur.

.....

Copy to P. R. Chikodi Esquire, M. L. C., Belgaum.

Sd/ W. W. Smart,
Commissioner, S. D.

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10. *Letter by the Commissioner to Mr. S. N Keshawain,  
President, Sirsi Taluka Ryot Sangh, Sirsi.*

No. R. V. E.  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, S. D.  
*Belgaum 1st May 1931.*

**MEMORANDUM:**

With reference to his letters of 22nd and 27th April to the Collector of Canara in his capacity of President, Sirsi Taluka Ryots Association, Mr. Keshawain is informed that the occupants of Sirsi and Siddapur must pay up the whole of the first instalment on all lands and second instalment on rice lands and garden lands also unless the Collector who is judge in this matter is satisfied that any individual is genuinely unable to pay. Stereotyped petitions by garden-owners which are word for word the same have no value as the alleged general ground such as malaria etc. and do not prove the

individual's incapacity to find money to pay. It is not surprising that some rice-lands remain fallow and are relinquished as the average assessment on rice-land is only Rs.2-6-9 per acre and is under Rs. 2/- in places.

2. The present settlement in these two talukas has remained unaltered for from 40 to 60 years, during which time inspite of a rise in prices and favourable circumstances, Government have kept faith with occupants and occupants have kept faith with Government until they were instigated or intimidated not to pay, by the Congress leaders who embarked on a no tax campaign in spite of the Irwin-Gandhi pact.

3. Estimates of costs of cultivation submitted by cultivators whether backed by Congress Leaders or not are worthless and have been proved to be so. In any case they are irrelevant, as Government have in the last Legislative Council stated clearly that suspensions will not and cannot be granted on the ground of the fall in prices in one year during the course of Settlements guaranteed for 30 years. It is only persons who are genuinely unable to find money to pay the second instalment that have any claim to consideration. It is possible that the Collector may find from the result of enquiry into the capacity to pay of small garden holders in the less favourably situated tracts that these are genuinely unable to pay owing to inability to raise the amount due on the second instalment.

Sd/ Commissioner / S. D.

*11. Confidential Circular issued from the Mamlatdar's office, Sirsi  
to Circle Inspectors and village officers*

OF 9708

" FROM MAMLATDAR'S OFFICE SIRSI

The following telegraphic order received from the Commissioner S. D. to Circle Inspectors and village officers:—

As the amount of land revenue not recovered from your circle and Firka has been very great since many days it is not necessary to issue demand notice to the defaulters.

It is now necessary to recover all the revenue dues even adopting the coercive measures besides the issue of demand notice.

Where attachment seems to be necessary, order from this office should be obtained before recovering the dues by attachment.

When it is found that the dues cannot be recovered even by attachment forfeit notices should be issued. No coercive measures should be enforced to recover the second instalment of revenue on garden lands. The end of the revenue year is approaching. Therefore all the measures must be resorted to during the next ten days. *If you fail to do this, you will be held responsible for this.* You must send the report to this office before 25-6-31 to the effect that you have adopted all the measures for the recovery. Do not fail. 11-6-31"

(Sd.) V. A. Telang  
Mamlatdar, Sirsi

12. *Cases of persons in Sirsi Taluka who paid the first instalment but whose attached property was not returned*

(On the plea that the second instalment was not paid, though according to the Smart-Divakar agreement, the property ought to have been returned after payment of 1st instalment.)

1. Mr. Ganapati Nagappa Hegde, Mr. Laxmi-Narayan Hegde, Mr. Subraya Sheshappa Hegde, and Mr. Ramakrishna Vishveshwar Hegde, all of the village Navageri paid the first instalment on 25th April but the *Shanbhog* refused to give back the property.

2. Mr. Govind Krishnappa Hegde of Boppankodlu suffered in the same way at the hands of the Shirastedar on 24th April.

3. Gajanan Seetaram Bhat of Kerekai of Kulve Firka paid the 1st instalment on 22-4-1931 but was refused his property on 2nd May, by the Shirastedar.

4. Similar are the cases of Ganapayya Paramayya Hegde of Shivalli, Bisalkop Firka and Mrs. Laxi-amma Shankarappa of Hare-hulekal.

13. *Cases of temple grants refused on the plea that the managing trustees pleaded inability to pay the 2nd instalment.*

On the 20th May, the Shirastedar refused the annual grant of the Ganapati temple, simply because the honorary trustees of this public temple had not yet paid the 2nd instalment. The temple owed no dues to the Government. On the 21st May the Shirastedar refused the grant of the Someshwar temple of Somasagar in Sirsi Taluka on the same plea.

14. *Order of Mamlatdar to village officers asking his Subordinate office to expedite Collection.*

FROM MAMLATDAR'S OFFICE, SIRSI

With reference to the order No.  $\frac{f\ 7604}{29-4-31}$  from the D. D. C's office Divn. the following order has been issued.

The commissioner had given some some concessions in the first instalment on 9/4/31. We can not continue to grant these concessions as they are. Sufficient time has been given to those who desire to pay off their assessment dues. And the property of those who withhold payment deliberately must be attached. *Especially the property of those persons who instigate others to withhold payment must be attached.* In default of payment of first instalment in time the defaulters are bound to pay second instalment also immediately. Therefore attachments must be effected for both the instalments. This order must be brought into force immediately.

(Sd.)

Mamlatdar Sirsi.

15. *Letter by Sj. Keshawain to the Commissioner, dated 4th May 1931.**From,*

S. N. Keshawain, Esquire.,  
 President, Sirsi Taluka Ryot's Association.,  
 SIRSI.

*To,*

The Commissioner, S. D.  
 Belgaum.

Sirsi. 4th May 1931.

*Subject : SUSPENSION OF LAND REVENUE IN THE SIRSI TALUKA.*

With reference to your No. R. E. V. dated the 1st inst. I have the honour to point out that the Ryots have been paying up the first instalment some how or other after being assured that they will obtain relief in respect of the second instalment. Applications from individuals might be similar in some cases, where the grievances were the same, but malaria is not the main ground urged as alleged by the authorities. In their difficulty to find a good writer, some discrepancies might have crept in. It seems rather strange that the local authorities should ignore the main grounds and make much of the weak points if any in the applications, when they have not the inclination to listen to the real grievances of the ryots. If the applications are carefully gone through and enquiries made with an unbiased mind, they will convince any impartial critic that the Ryots' paying power is at its lowest ebb this year. The difficulties and the reasons for not relinquishing fallow rice-lands are mentioned in the Revision Settlement Report of Mr. Collins and it is not necessary to repeat them here.

As regards the contention that the present settlements have remained unaltered for the last 40 to 60 years, I may point out to you that Mr. Collins in his last Revision Settlement Report recommended the reduction of Land Revenue on garden lands in the Sirsi and Siddapur talukas, taking into account the local unfavourable conditions. But his recommendations were not brought into force. This was in normal times. How the situation must have aggravated in an abnormal year can better be judged. Referring to the Congress activities, I can only say that the Ryots in their helplessness welcomed any assistance in their hour of need. *The Congress people cannot be blamed for their coming to the aid of the Ryots.* In other parts as well as in this District also, the no tax campaign was called off as soon as the truce was declared. But in the Sirsi and Siddapur talukas, it was not based on political motives but was due to acute economic depression. The people here approached the authorities with their representations and have all along acted in a constitutional way.

It is easy for local authorities to dispose off the estimates of cost of cultivation and income submitted by cultivators as worthless, when they cannot meet them by their own arguments. The peculiar conditions of this taluka

are already urged and the Ryots' incapacity to pay can be discerned if the local authorities care to go into the question sympathetically and with an unbiassed mind. This year no Savakar or Coperative Society has been able to recover even a portion of their dues. The landlord also has not received rent from the garden lands. These facts alone will speak for themselves as to the miserable condition of the Ryots this year.

The new Collector has started with an assumption that the ryots have a surplus this year deducting the cost of cultivation though the actual facts and figures are otherwise. In his individual enquiries also, he has not elicited all the points, which would go to make clear the capacity or otherwise of the ryots to pay. To tell the truth, the lot of the bigger land-holder is more deplorable in these parts since he could not either manage his holding economically during the critical time owing to unwieldiness, or recover his rent when a portion of his property is leased. He has already paid the first instalment, though he did not receive rent.

I would therefore urge upon you to visit this place personally and have an idea as to the actual state of affairs. Otherwise, I believe, that the lot of the ryots is doomed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

(Sd) S. N. Keshawain

President, Sirsi Taluka Ryots Association.

*Letter by Commissioner alleging that Congress was not acting up to the agreement of 9th April.*

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER S. D.  
Belgaum 39-4-31

DEAR MR.....,

I have received a letter from Mr. Aminuddin which shows that the Congress leaders or the local agitators are not keeping to the letter or spirit of the undertaking given by them.

Petitions in a stereotyped form obviously dictated by Congress, are pouring in for suspension or remission of not only the 2nd instalment of Garden-lands but of rice lands.

The petitions are not *individual* applications even for suspension of the second instalment of garden lands. They give no individual reasons for inability to pay and are mostly from mulgenidars of garden lands and not from the occupants who appear to have recovered their rents already.

The above remarks apply specially to Sirsi where volunteers deprived apparently of Congress pay are moving about and getting food and money from the people.

Also the Congress told people not to pay the second instalment without instructions and are assuring *all* garden-holders of land that the second instalment will be postponed.

The understanding is quite clear and to the following effect :—

(1) The first instalment on all lands will at once be paid up. (2) The first and second instalments on all rice lands will be paid up. (3) Individual applications i.e. not stereotyped petitions word for word the same alleging general grounds such as Malaria etc, for suspension of the second instalment should be made by those who genuine are unable to pay.

The facts stated in Mr. Aminuddin's letter are confirmed by an application I have received from Mr. Keshwain which shows up the tactics which are being used.

All perishable articles and cattle have been returned. It is only in cases in which the holders obstinately refuse to pay the first instalment that non-perishable articles have not been returned and such cases are few.

It is impossible for the Collector to decide in accordance with the Congress undertaking in this case and the terms of the Gandhi-Irwin pact whether petitions for suspension are genuine or not if stereotyped applications are made whole-sale.

Your sincerely,  
Sd. W. W. Smart.

16. *Letter by Sj. R. R. Diwakar, to Sj. P. R. Chikodi regarding allegations by the Commissioner against Congress.*

Dear Mr. Chikodi,

After you showed me the Commissioner's letter dated 30-4-31 on the 2nd May, I thought it better to see the Collector of Karwar personally. I went to Sirsi after casually explaining to you all the allegations made in the letter against the Commissioner. When I went to Sirsi, I saw also the Commissioner's memorandum to Mr. Keshwain dated 1st May.

I was surprised as well as very much pained to read some of the allegations as they divert our attention from the main issue, namely, the bad condition of the ryots and the 2nd instalment of garden lands.

I saw the Collector at Sirsi on the 6th of May. Mr. L. T. Karki, M. L. C. also happened to be there. Point by point I explained to the Collector as to

what has been done and what not by the Congress. He seemed to be quite satisfied and said that he would write to the Commissioner to that effect,

I clearly told the Collector that all the volunteers who were working under the Congress during the campaign in Sirsi and Siddapur had been withdrawn from that work since the undertaking given by the Congress. Such of those who came from outside the District had been sent home. Those who were now there belonged to the locality and most of them were engaged in doing the constructive work of the Congress such as enrolment of Congress members, formation of Congress Committees etc. I may also say that they are working under the local committees and helping the people to understand the truce-terms. I am not prepared to admit the charge hinted at, that some of the volunteers have been trying to maintain themselves at the expense of the villagers by misinterpreting and deceiving the people.

I hold that the owners of rice-lands are quite wrong if they have applied for suspension of 2nd instalment under the order of 9-4-1931. I am assured by my people that they have never instructed any of them to do so. When asked by ryots regarding 2nd instalment what we have done is, we told the people that we pressed on the attention of the Commissioner the necessity for the general suspension of the 2nd instalment, of garden lands only, that the Commissioner replied that he had no powers to make such an order and if the Collector found on enquiry that there were reasons for general suspension he might report to the Commissioner for obtaining the necessary orders from the Government. I must emphatically repudiate the charge against us of having asked the people not to pay 2nd instalment.

As regards the allegation that applications are stereotyped and therefore dictated by the Congress, I simply say that the cause of their being stereotyped does not lie in the dictation of the Congress but on the common causes that are operating in the talukas and in the general custom of villagers who get applications written by writers who copy from some common draft. If in addition to heavy fall in prices and other relevant matter, malaria and other irrelevant things have crept in, that merely shows the ignorance of the villagers as to the nature of applications required to be sent. I told the Collector that such applicants should be given a fair chance of being heard rather than be dismissed for their ignorance. I went then through the application of Mr. Keshwain also which contains much extra matter. When I asked him the reason of putting in so much, he said that he did it as the President of the Association of ryots so that the whole perspective might be presented to the officers concerned.

On inquiry, I find that the owners of land are not realising or rather are unable to realise rents. It is not at all a fact that owners are realising rents



while they are putting up tenants to make applications for suspension of the 2nd instalment. I find that mostly only those who had been served with demand notice etc. have now applied. When I discussed this point with the Collector, I found that his was merely an inference that the owners had realised rents.

I had ascertained that there was an order to bring into play Section 148 L. R. C. even before the 2nd instalment became due on the 15th of May. When I brought this to the notice of the Collector, he said that it had been stayed. I brought to his notice that in certain cases (a list of such cases has been attached herewith), attached property had not been released even when the 1st instalment had been paid up. He asked me to refer such cases to him. But I pleaded for general orders. I have sent him a copy of the above list and have written to him again.

It is but lately that such cases are happening and they go a great way in disturbing the calm that has been restored. If under such circumstances, the Government decides to realise the 2nd instalment of garden lands without considering the case for a general postponement, it is possible the atmosphere of distrust may prevail.

There is no question about those who can pay. The question is regarding those who cannot pay and who might have run into debt even to pay the 1st instalment. If the majority is of the second type, there may be said to be a general case. However, I hope the ryots are not driven to desperation where more time can be given them for making payment which in no case they seem to refuse.

I hope that side issues about the Congress and undertakings etc. do not divert our attention from the main issue. I hope also that the peace once secured by your joint efforts is not disturbed and all misunderstandings are cleared away, so that all can work in harmony and co-operation.

Your most sincerely,  
R. R. Diwakar

*Letter received by the Secretary K. P. C. C. from the  
Commissioner S. D.*

No. R. E. V. — (C)  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER S. D.  
*Belgaum 27th June 1931.*

#### MEMORANDUM

The Commissioner S. D. presents compliments to the Gen. Secretary K. P. C. C. Dharwar, and in reply to his letter dated 22nd June 1931 has the honour to state :

(1) The Collector of Kanara has reported that all applications for suspension of the 2nd instalment of land revenue have been dealt with except in 115

villages of Siddapur taluka and 70 of Sirsi taluka the condition of gardens has deteriorated.

(2) Arrears of the 1st instalment on all kinds of land remained uncollected and the collection of the 2nd instalment both of rice, khushi and garden lands was practically at a stand-still in Siddapur taluka and negligible in Sirsi taluka long after the very latest date on which it should have been paid. The date for the collection of the 2nd instalment was postponed from the 5th April to the 15th May 1931 to give the Khatedars the utmost possible facilities for payment. Therefore coercive processes which had been stopped were renewed with the Commissioner's approval but subject to Collector's superintendance and discretion, except as regards the 2nd instalment of garden lands in the 115 villages of Siddapur and the 70 villages of Sirsi taluka where they have been *strictly prohibited* by the Commissioner for the present.

The recommendations of the Collector as to suspensions in these villages are awaited.

(3) Rs. 25,000/- have been sanctioned by Government for distribution as takavi for purchase of seed and bullocks in the three talukas of Sirsi, Siddapur and Yellapur as a special case. Its distribution has begun but is being expedited. *Little advantage of this concession has been taken so far.*

(4) The Commissioner has taken steps to ascertain whether the above orders have been made widely known. They are in no way inconsistent with the Commissioner's orders dated the 9th April 1931.

Sd/ W. W. Smart,  
Commissioner S. D.

19. *Extracts from the letter of Mr. L. T. Karki, M. L. C.  
to the Collector, Karwar.*

*Camp, Sirsi 22nd June 1931.*

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2. The news of distress in gardening centres of the above two talukas made me personally visit Herur, Kansur, Tyagli, Bilgi, and Kyadgi in Siddapur taluka and Hegdekatte and Targode in the Sirsi taluka. The distress is acute where garden cultivation alone prevails and where rice-cultivation is proportionately inadequate. This year's abnormal fall in the prices of garden produce has failed to cover even the cost of cultivation. A very large percentage of gardeners find no money to engage outside labour and many gangs of below-ghat labourers had to return home disappointed this working season and some worked on credit. Thus their next year's cropping prospects are also minimized, since tying "kotte" to protect the tender arecanut crop is an essential process involving money and labour which the gardeners have not the means

to employ. Some gardeners are in immediate need of food-supply while some can wait for a month or two ; those who have no staple food-grains live upon green plantains, plantain-flour, jackfruit, cloves and seed and this I have personally seen in some of the distressed households. These gardeners have absolutely no hope of any income till the next crop is marketed, about December next, nor can they leave gardens and earn elsewhere since they would be deprived of the benefits of the love and labour applied to the gardens. Thus while the next year's crop is threatened in various ways some of them stand in need of immediate relief. I can quote a recent yet clear instance regarding the acute distress of the gardeners. There is deep prejudice and a ruling superstition among the Brahmin cultivators against handling the plough. Some of them have been fined by their respective Mutts for violating this social custom. But the pressure of the present distress is so great that on the 18th June 1931 a large crowd of Havik Brahmins, en masse, broke the superstition and began ploughing rice fields in the proximity of the Nelemav mutt, in the Herur village of the Siddapur taluka. I chanced to be personally present at the time and that was an impressive occasion.

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4. I have during my enquiry heard that inroads of wild elephants were another menace. In Targode centre several villages have been affected and a herd of some three elephants moved on to Manjuni side after doing much mischief of sugarcane and supari in Hegdekatta village. It pained me much to hear that the administration paid no heed to the cry of the distressed villagers and to their repeated petitions and telegrams. I understand that the Shikari's services have been dispensed with, since some months, and the rifle purchased for elephant-shooting is rusting as it is not fit for that purpose. To add to this trouble gun-licences of many gardeners have not been renewed and in some cases withdrawn and thus the garden crops have been left to be attacked by many pests. These grievances, even now, need to be immediately removed, else gardening would be rendered impossible in the jungle tracts and the life of the gardeners would not be worth living.

5. Recovery of the land revenue in these two talukas seems to engage the attention of the Officers, to-day, more than the acute distress of the ryots. Everywhere I went I heard the wail of the gardeners and they told me that they paid the first instalment of the assessment with greatest difficulty in the hope that some concession would be given to them in the matter of the second instalment due to be paid later, since they had appealed to the Commissioner individually stating their cases. Many of the gardeners had risked their everything in meeting the demand of the first instalment. Now I see that in most cases even without considering these petitions and even without issuing demand-notices coercive measures for the immediate recovery of the second instalment have been launched.

6. The irregularities and the coercion brought into play in recovering the second instalment of garden-lands are, I understand, a chapter of imposing the greatest hardship on the ryots. Complaints to the effect that *cooking utensils and food provisions are attached have been brought to me*. I have so far traced one case in which a pair of plough bullocks has been attached. Some times the inmates of the houses, men, women, and the children, are driven out, armed Police are kept at the door and attachments are carried on. The floor is dug in many instances, even endangering the houses in the heavy rains where the digging extends even to the very base of the walls. All this in the expectation of coming on hidden treasure. Money paid voluntarily is entered as money found during the course of attachment. It seems it is an attempt by Officers to prove contumacy. Another gross irregularity of which I have heard is that those who have no means to pay the second instalment are made to apply for short term loans under the Agriculturists Relief Loans Act to the extent of the instalment due to be paid as assessment and the money directly credited to Government as assessment paid by the khatedar which is nothing short of book-adjustment. This novel procedure of revenue recovery means a distinct departure and abuse of the provisions of the Act which admits of purchase of seed and plough animals to carry on agricultural operations where impeded, due to indigence of the cultivators.

7. I have also scrutinized instances in which the value and weights of attached moveable properties are not entered in the lists provided by the attaching officers and attachments are made, in some cases, in the absence of adult members of the houses searched; the attached things are left in charge of the Patel of the village while in the receipt handed over to the owner the things are shown as left in his or his nearest relative's possession to be produced whenever called upon to do so. There are also complaints that the Sub-Registrars refuse to admit deeds presented for registration unless proof is given them that assessment of the concerned parties is fully paid; the village officers do not furnish copies of record of rights and the Revenue Courts do not admit Rent Suits until assessment is fully paid. Cash Alienation Allowances due to be paid to many temples have been withheld pending full payment of assessment due from the trustees and priests of the temples in their personal capacity. This is the tale of distress I have heard in many places needing thorough public enquiry.

8. I was reliably informed at Hegdekatta that a Christian Ugrani of the village was urged to enter the houses of the Brahmin gardeners and was made to roam through kitchen and all parts of the houses which never admitted non-Brahmins thus committing violence to all religious ideas and sentiments. I was assured that it was never necessary to do so as there were others in the

party who could have entered any parts of the houses without prejudice to religious feelings.

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12. I learn that the Congress workers co-operated with the Authorities in collecting the first instalment when the Commissioner promised to consider the postponement of the second instalment. I had a talk with some of them and they are still willing to bring moral pressure on those who are able to pay. While speaking with them I gathered that the coercive measures were a surprise to them since presumably applications for suspension were under consideration and negotiations were going on through Mr. Chikodi according to the Commissioner's orders dated 9th April 1931. I still feel that it were better for all if the coercive methods are replaced by conciliatory measures which will bring pressure on those who are able to pay and which will give relief to those who deserve relief. The question whether certain individuals are able to pay or not need not present any difficulty as it can be easily managed if the local leaders are taken into confidence."

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20. *Communique of the Director of Information Bombay regarding Government of Bombay's Resolution re remissions on garden-lands in Sirsi and Siddapur.*

With The Compliments of  
The Director of Information, Bombay.

P-249  
17-10-31

A resolution of the Government of Bombay states :—

"The current settlements of the Sirsi, Siddapur and Yallapur talukas and Mundgod Mahal were to expire in 1925-26. Mr. G. F. S. Collins, C. I. E. O. B. E., I. C. S., who was appointed Settlement Officer, submitted his revision proposals in 1926, but no orders have been issued on them in consequence of the decision of Government not to introduce revision settlements, pending legislation regarding the principles according to which assessments should be revised.

In his reports Mr. Collins had suggested the following reductions in the assessment of garden lands :—

| Taluka or Mahal. | Rs.    |
|------------------|--------|
| Sirsi            | 5,720  |
| Siddapur         | 5,972  |
| Yallapur         | 5,434  |
| Mundgod          | 40     |
| TOTAL            | 17,166 |

The Governor in Council considers that the relief recommended for occupants of garden-lands should not be withheld because the proposals as a whole are kept in abeyance. The need of concessions has been accentuated by the recent fall in the prices of garden produce and remissions amounting to nearly Rs. 20,000 were given last year to occupants of garden-lands in the talukas of Sirsi and Siddapur. In order to secure a more equable distribution of the land revenue demand as a whole in the areas in question, the Governor in Council is now pleased to direct that remissions equal to the reductions proposed by Mr. Collins should be granted every year on garden-lands in the talukas of Sirsi, Siddapur, and Yallapur and in the Mundgod Mahal till the current settlements are finally revised. The orders should have effect from the current revenue year, 1931-32."

21. *Statements of agriculturists on the coercive and repressive measures employed by Revenue Officers to realise in Sirsi and Siddapur.*

**Narayan Narasappa Hegde, Adymane, Shivagaum of Shivagaum gram :—**

Deponent requested Circle Inspector to ask the Brahmin Shanbbag to enter. But in spite of his request the Circle Inspector made the Christian Ugrani enter deponent's house. Even his kitchen was entered into.

**Mahadev Subrao Shetty, of Shivagaon grama :—**

Deponent's relative's property attached for deponent's arrears.

**Ramachandra Venkataramana Hegde, Mattinkeri of Shiralgi grama, Siddapur Taluka :—**

Mamlatdar, 2 armed constables, Circle Inspector, Patil and Shanbbag came for attachment. Cooking pot with half-cooked rice attached. Mamlatdar was approached but pleaded helplessness. 2 pots of Gal also attached.

**Timmanna Krishnabhata, of Telaginakolagi Kolagi grama, Siddapur Taluka :—**

Had to pay 64-8-0 assessment. At the time of first instalment 3 armed constables, one Patel and 2 ugranis came for attachment. Only his wife at home. Patel began attachment. Cooking pot with half-baked rice on the oven taken off, cleaned and attached. Other articles included 1 big pot, 1 small pot of daily use, a small bogoni (Pot), buffalo with its calf. In the meantime he arrived. Receipt not given. The whole lot sold in auction for Rs. 24-4-0.

**Ganapati Narayanbhata, of Honnegundi, Kasaba Siddapur, Taluka Siddapur :—**

His property attached and sold for his mother-in-law's arrears, in spite of protest. Cart and oxen attached.

**Vishweshwar Venkappa Hegde, of Makkigaddi, Sashigoli grama, Siddapur Taluka :—**

Had not paid assessment on account of economic distress. 6 Shanbhags, Circle Inspector, 2-3 armed constables, 3 Patils and 3 ugranis had gone to his house. Only servants were at home. Patil pulled up the door of the house in spite of servant's protest and property attached. Property released when instalment was paid but Rs. 18/- were taken from him as conveyance charges of articles attached. Half a mound of pepper was missing.

**Krishnabhatta Ganapabhatta Kerehond, Chapparmane grama, Siddapur Taluka :—**

Had to pay Rs. 40/- as assessment; was not able to pay on account of economic distress. Notice was served on 2-4-1931 but even before that copper pots and milch buffaloes attached. On payment of first instalment articles attached, excepting buffaloes, returned. Later informed that buffaloes were sold for grazing fees, went to Mamlatdar's house but was driven away by police. Deponent had to secure relief from Relief Fund.

**Nagesh Ganesh Hegde, Doddamane grama, Siddapur Taluka :—**

Rs. 1000 rent due from tenants but only Rs. 250 could be realised this year. Therefore could not pay assessment. At the time of first instalment 8-10 armed constables, 8-10 ugranis, 8-10 Shanbhags, 3-4 Circle Inspectors and 3-4 Patels had gone to deponent's house. Deponent not at home. In spite of protest of his brother, one pot of cooking betel attached, and another pot belonging to the labourers' gang attached in spite of protest. Middle room dug knee-deep.

**Ganapayya Subrayya Harije, Itagi grama, Siddapur Taluka :—**

Patel, Shanbhag and ugrani came for attachment for first instalment of Rs. 6/-. Deponent not at home nor any male member. Wife of deponent asked officials to wait but they did not comply. Out of fear wife tried to shut the door, but the door being forcibly pushed in by the attaching party stuck and injured the woman's forehead, bangles in her hand also broke.

**Balakrishna Shantabhatta Bilgi, Taluka Siddapur :—**

Paid first instalment with great difficulty. Not possible to pay 2nd instalment on account of economic distress. Rs. 38/- due on 2nd instalment. Government officials asked him to pay Rs. 15/- cash and apply for Rs. 25 tagavi loan. He did so. A receipt for payment of assessment was given but nothing in cash.

**Upendra Shanabhatta of Bilgi, Taluka Siddapur :—**

Could not pay 2nd instalment on account of non-realisation of rent from tenants. With great difficulty managed to pay Rs. 32/- out of it. Rs. 32/-

remained. There was an attachment. He was advised to pay Rs. 8/- in cash and apply for the rest for Tagavi loan and asked to mention that the amount was wanted for bullocks and seed. He did accordingly. Then and there the Shanbhag gave a receipt as for payment of the assessment. At this time the Mamlatdar was also camping at Bilgi.

**Damodar Sheshagiriappa Bedkani of Bilgi, Taluka Siddapur :—**

Could not pay 2nd instalment on account of non-receipt of geni (rent) from tenants. Rs. 30/- due on 2nd instalment, Rs. 10/- paid by pledging movables went to apply for Tagavi for the remaining amount, was instructed to write that the amount was wanted for bullocks and seed and asked not to mention that it was for assessment. Did so to avoid attachment. Had applied for Rs. 24/- only Rs. 20 were sanctioned and were credited to the assessment in arrears.

**Subraya Krishnappa Hegde, Karkisaval grama, Siddapur Taluka :—**

Could not realise geni (rent) due from tenants, therefore could not pay even first instalment. Circle Inspector, Shanbhag, 4-5 armed constables came for attachment. The party dug the floor with a *Hari-kol* (digging iron bar) but could get nothing. After Smart-Diwakar agreement paid part of first assessment in the hope that 2nd instalment would be suspended. Part was paid by tenants. But there was no suspension of the 2nd instalment.

**Timmayya Mabalayya Hegde, Mangrami, Taresai grama :—**

Could not pay assessment on account of economic distress owing to fall in prices. But paid somehow the first instalment in the hope that the 2nd instalment would be suspended but there was not suspension. 10-12 people came for attachment. All members of the house asked to go out. Gul pots attached. Floor in middle room dug to the depth of a foot or more. Then come to know that tagavi was given for payment of assessment. Applied for tagavi which was sanctioned but it was credited for assessment.

**Saraswati Annayabhat (a widow) of Shirgodhail, Kabbali grama, Siddapur Taluka :—**

Paid first instalment by recourse to loan in the hope that second instalment would be suspended. There was attachment for 2nd instalment. The attachment party broke open her house in her absence and attached Rs. 1-8-0 belonging to her and Rs. 5/- belonging to others. After that, paid the balance of Rs. 15/- by selling rice that she had kept for her sustenance.

**Vighneshwar Nagappa Hegde of Sirgodbail, Kabbaligrama Taluka, Siddapur :—**

Paid first instalment in great distress, with the hope that second instalment would be suspended. But 2nd instalment not suspended. Circle Inspector, Shanbhag and 2-3 armed constables went for attachment. Rs. 23/- due on 2nd instalment. Attaching officers asked to attach pots etc. But they attached rice which I had kept against the rainy season. On being informed



that they would release rice bag if application for tagavi was made and assessment paid therefrom. applied seeing no other remedy, was instructed to write that tagavi was wanted for binding Kottes. Rice bag which had been taken to Patel's house was then released. Rs. 1/- taken for coolie hire for taking the bag. Receipt for assessment not given.

**Balayya Santayya Bilgi, of Bilgi, Taluka Siddapur :—**

Has been warned not to reap his crops this year without permission. Asked as to the reason of this, the Mamlatdar said that he has been selected just as an example.

**Shivaram Venkappa Hegde, of Sarigoli, grama Sarigoli, Taluka, Siddapur :—**

Articles of daily use like pot of cooking rice, bathing pot, pot for cooking betal, 1 copper pitcher etc. were attached, for the 2nd instalment.

**Hari Subraya Pai, of Bilgi :—**

7 bags of pepper attached for 2nd instalment. Asked as to why attachments were being effected in villages that were recommended for suspensions, the *Shanbhog* said they had orders to that effect.

**Jivottama Krishna Bhatta, of Bilgi, Taluka Siddapur :—**

Cooking pots attached for 2nd instalment of Rs. 23. At the instance of *Shanbhog* applied for Tagavi which was credited towards the payment of his arrears.

**Venkataramana Timmappa Hegde,**

At instance of *Shanbhag* applied for Tagavi to pay assessment which amounted to a little less than Rs. 200.

**Shivaram Timmayya Hegde, of Balgod :—**

Notice of forfeiture issued for arrears of both instalments. Has applied for suspension.

**Parameshwar Shivaram Hegde, of Harogar, Taluka. Sirsi :—**

At instance of *Shanbhag* applied for Tagavi to the extent of Rs. 100. Arrears were Re. 75 and that amount only was sanctioned as Tagavi and credited towards payment of arrears.

**Ganapati Ramakrishna Hegde, of Hipanhalli, Taluka, Sirsi :—**

At instance of *Shanbhag* applied for Tagavi, Rs. 34 and odd were credited from this amount towards payment of revenue arrears and about Rs. 5 and odd were paid to him.

**Mabalayya Ramayya Hegde, of Balgod :—**

Forfeiture notice for default in paying both instalment. 2nd instalment suspended. Asked to pay first instalment by recourse to *Tagavi*. Rs. 50 was sanctioned. Rs. 42-9-0 was credited to arrears of revenue and Rs. 7-7-0 were actually paid to him.