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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 11 July 57

G.O. No. 1346 Press Mis.

7879

Dated 13 — 7 — 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 78. Read the following letter from Colonel W. E. BAKER, Secretary to the Government of India; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 27th May 1857, No. 2703.

SIR,

I am directed to inform you that the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council has observed in the Proceedings of the Government of Fort Saint George, noted in the margin, the orders issued in reference to a proposal by Major Lawford, for placing the maintenance of certain irrigation channels in Trichinopoly, on a more satisfactory basis. His Lordship in Council highly approves of the principle of the contemplated change, which, in supercession of the present practice of requiring the cultivators to undertake the necessary clearances, either without payment, or on payment of a sum below the value of the labor they give, would substitute a system of direct Government management the cost of which should be made good by a cess on the irrigated lands.

Nos. 18 and 19 of the printed Pro. for the week ending 4th Novr. 1856.
Nos. 7 and 8 of do for week ending 10th February 1857.

2. The Governor General in Council, however, observes that the entire outlay said to be necessary for the above purpose, is not covered by the rate which it has been proposed to levy on the land, and that a permanent charge against the State will consequently be created to make good the difference. This charge, I am to observe, would of necessity require the sanction of the Government of India, as is the case with all permanent charges on the Revenue for whatever purpose. I am therefore directed to suggest for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor of Madras in Council whether the whole cost of the proposed maintenance and clearances might not be met by a rateable charge on the land benefitting by the water. The entire management of the operations could then be carried on at the discretion of the local Engineer Officers without those restraints which cannot otherwise be dispensed with, and the power of expanding or contracting the expenditure according to the exact requirements of each particular season, could be granted which would appear most desirable, but which it would be difficult to secure so entirely if the work had to be carried out under the close control which it is necessary to exercise over all State outlay.

3. The perfect equity of such a system to the cultivators is as apparent as its convenience. The only question that could arise would be with reference to any existing liability on the part of the Government to assist in the maintenance of the irrigating channels, a liability which would seem to be implied in the arrangement which has been sanctioned by the Madras Government, by which a portion of the charge amounting to 700 Rupees, is left to be provided for from the general Revenues. The inconvenience of a joint responsibility of this nature partly devolving on the Government and partly on the cultivators, would appear to the Governor General in Council too evident to call for any comment, and it would seem worthy of consideration whether the liability of the State would not be better met by an equivalent reduction of the assessment on the irrigated land. The relative rights and duties of the Government and the cultivators would thus become simplified and better defined. The water would be paid for in a more definite manner. The charge for the maintenance of the principal works would devolve entirely on the State, while that for the clearance of the channels would, in like manner, devolve entirely on the cultivators and be divided rateably amongst them in proportion to their share in the benefits derived from the irrigation.

No. 79. ORDER THEREON, No. 1346; dated 13th July 1857.

Ordered that the letter above recorded be referred to the Board of Revenue with a request that they will expedite the submission of the report called for in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 286 of 9th February 1857, taking this letter into consideration when reporting.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 2703

From

Colonel W. C. Baker,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To

F. Pycroft, Esqre.,
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Dated the 27th May 1857.

Public Works Dept.
Revenue

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Right Honble the Governor General in Council has observed in the Proceedings of the Government of Fort St. George noted in the margin, the orders issued in reference to a proposal by Major Lawford for placing the maintenance of certain irrigation Channels in Trichinopoly, on a more satisfactory basis. His Lordship in Council highly approves of the principle of the contemplated change, which, in supersession of the present practice of requiring the cultivators to undertake the necessary clearances, either without payment, or on payment of a sum below the value of the labor they give, would substitute a system of

No. 184 & 190 of the printed Proceedings for the week ending 4th Novr 1856.
No. 7 & 8 of Ds. for week ending 10th February 1857.

of direct Government management the cost of which should be made good by a cess on the irrigated lands.—

2. The Governor General in Council, however, observes that the entire outlay as said to be necessary for the above purpose is not covered by the rate which it has been proposed to levy on the land, and that a permanent charge against the State will consequently be created to make good the difference.— This charge, I am to observe, would of necessity require the sanction of the Government of India, as is the case with all permanent charges on the Revenue for whatever purpose.— I am therefore directed to suggest for the consideration of the Right Honble the Governor in Council of Madras whether the whole cost of the proposed maintenance and clearances might not be met by a rateable charge on the land as benefitting by the water.— The entire management of the operations could then be carried on at the discretion of the local Engineer Officers without those restraints which cannot otherwise be dispensed with, and the power of expanding or contracting the expenditure according to the exact requirements of each particular season, could be

be granted which would appear most desirable, but which it would be difficult to secure so entirely if the work had to be carried out under the close control which it is necessary to exercise over all State outlay.—

3. The perfect equity of such a system to the Cultivators is as apparent as its convenience.— The only question that could arise would be with reference to any existing liability on the part of the Government to assist in the maintenance of the irrigating channels— a liability which would seem to be implied in the arrangement which has been sanctioned by the Madras Government, by which a portion of the charge amounting to Seven hundred Rs. 700 Rupees, is left to be provided for from the general Revenues.— The inconvenience of a joint responsibility of this nature partly devolving on the Government and partly on the Cultivators, would appear to the Governor General in Council too evident to call for any comment, and it would seem worthy of consideration whether the liability of the State would not be better met by an equivalent reduction of the assessment on the Irrigated land.— The relative rights and duties of

the

the Government and the Cultivators would thus become simplified and better defined. The water would be paid for in a more definite manner. The charge for the maintenance of the principal works would devolve entirely on the State, while that for the clearance of the channels would, in like manner, devolve entirely on the Cultivators and be divided ratably amongst them in proportion to their share in the benefits derived from the irrigation.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obed.t Servant

For Wm. The 27th May 1857.

Sold.r Engineer Colonel
Secy to the Govt. of India

R.W.D

No. 1346

~~No 1207~~

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 13th July 1857.

Read the following letter from the Sec: to the Govt of India (Numbered No 2703 of 27 May 1857)

Ordered that the letter above recorded be referred to the Board of Revenue with a request that they will expedite the submission of the Report called for in E.M.C No 286

Public Works 1857 Dept
Do to Council 14th July.

No. 1207

From the Secretary to the Government of India

Dated 27th May
Received 12th June } 1857

S & No. 1346. 13th July No. 2703.

Approving the proposition made by Major Lumsford for placing the maintenance of certain irrigation Channels in Kelimoholy on a satisfactory basis.

Cons: 10th Feby 57 Nos 7 & 8.
— 4th Octr 56 — 18 & 19.
— 9th Decr — 44 & 45.
— 16th — — 129 & 130.
— 31st March 57 — 344 & 348

No 78.

17 July 1857

of 9th Feb 1859, taking
this letter into con-
sideration for long
Lo. [illegible]

J.N.:

Christ the Redeemer
Chap. 14

Cons. 10th Feby /57 No 47 48.
— 4th March /57 — 18 & 19
— 9th Dec — 44 & 45
— 16th — 129 & 130.
— 31st March /57 — 384 - 788.

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Dº to Cons 11th July.

C No 1316.

Extract Mins: of Cons.
Dº 13th July /57.

8 - 7 - 8 9 & Rec.
4 - 12 - 8 9

Referring to the Board of Revenue a Letter from the Govt. of India, respecting a proposal of Major Lawford, for placing the maintenance of certain irrigation Channels in Trichinopoly on a more satisfactory basis than that which at present prevails, & requesting the Board to expedite the submission of the Report called for in the Order of the 9th February /57.

No 78 & 79.

Copy sent to the Cons. Dept.
I. C. Cy 375. Sept. 1879