

(1) Number of pages 1-4(2) Date of repair 12-10-38(3) Initials of the Referencer AK**MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.****Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.***Cons. 10-11-59*

G.O. No.	2607	Press Mis.
<i>78-79</i> Dated	7-11-	1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled*gg*

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of November 1859.*

No. 78. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th October 1859, No. 4371.

Read the following letter from T. J. KNOX, Esq., Officiating Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Ossoor, 8rd October 1859, No. 199.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Circular of the 18th November last, No. 4294, on the subject of the commutation of customary unpaid labor into a water cess, and calling attention to some remarks on the subject made by Government in Minutes of Consultation, dated 30th October 1858.

2. I beg to state in reply that the Tahsildars of this district were desired to consult with the principal Ryots in their respective taluqs, and to report the popular opinion on the subject.

3. From the reports submitted, I find that the Ryots of almost all the taluqs are opposed to the measure contemplated by the Board and the Government. The Ryots distinctly state that they would rather, as hitherto, attend to all really urgent marammat works in connection with the tanks and channels, &c., than pay any additional tax in money.

4. Here, as elsewhere, the system of unpaid labour prevails, and on the Department Public Works becoming independent of the Collector, the Ryots, with their usual short-sightedness and ignorance, declined to give their labour as hitherto, but a little experience and Act 1 of 1858 have removed their idle notions, and neither works nor the interests of the public seem to require any change.

5. The only place where the Ryots would consent to a change is the Womalore taluq. In this taluq according to the Tahsildar's report, it appears that the Ryots would agree to pay at the rate of three pice per Rupee on their holdings, if they were exempted from all obligations to render customary unpaid labour. This taluq is chiefly a dry taluq, and the amount this percentage would yield, would be very small, and no reason appears to justify a special arrangement in one taluq out of fourteen.

6. The Board are no doubt aware that there exists a special establishment constituted at the time of the survey for the safe keeping of the Cavary channels in the taluqs of Paramutty and Namcul, and that the establishment is maintained by contributions of grain levied from the Ryots holding land under those channels, and for a further history of this, I would refer the Board to Mr. Brett's letter of the 21st July 1858, No. 93, and the statement No. 1 which accompanied it.

7. The Ryots are most reluctant to pay these contributions, and as neither the amount nor its value are entered in their puttahs, it is clear they cannot be compelled to pay, and I see no course to be pursued but to commute the grain into money payments, enter the amount in the puttah, and enforce payments as in the case of land revenue. Of their liability there can be no question, and in the end a money payment would be more convenient for them and for the Department Public Works, on whom the labour has devolved.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to paragraphs 16 and 17 of Extract Minutes Consultation, 30th October 1858, No. 2306, In. Con. 28th Nov. 1858, No. 5020. Public Works Department, Revenue Irrigation.

2. The Board have expressed their views on the general question of levying a water cess, in their Proceedings, dated 17th February 1859, No. 605.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary.

for the month of November 1859.

No. 79. ORDER THEREON, 7th November 1859, No. 2607.

1. Mr. Brett's letter referred to in that from Mr. Knox submitted by the Board with these proceedings, is necessary to enable Government to deal with the matter treated of in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the latter paper, and the Board will be requested to send it up without delay. It ought to have accompanied the present proceedings. The Board will please also to aid the Government with their opinion on the proposition contained in paragraph 7.

2. The attention of the Board is requested to the order of 27th May 1859 No. 711.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

No. 4371.

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 27th October 1859.

Read the following letter from T. J. KNOX, Esq., Officiating Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Ossoor, 3d October 1859, No. 199.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Circular of the 18th November last, No. 4294, on the subject of the commutation of customary unpaid labor into a water cess, and calling attention to some remarks on the subject made by Government in Minutes of Consultation, dated 30th October 1858.

2. I beg to state in reply that the Tahsildars of this district were desired to consult with the principal Ryots in their respective talooks, and to report the popular opinion on the subject.

3. From the reports submitted, I find that the Ryots of almost all the talooks are opposed to the measure contemplated by the Board and the Government. The Ryots distinctly state that they would rather, as hitherto, attend to all really urgent marammat works in connection with the tanks and channels, &c., than pay any additional tax in money.

4. Here, as elsewhere, the system of unpaid labour prevails, and on the Department Public Works becoming independent of the Collector, the Ryots, with their usual short-sightedness and ignorance, declined to give their labour as hitherto, but a little experience and Act I of 1858 have removed their idle notions, and neither works nor the interests of the public seem to require any change.

5. The only place where the Ryots would consent to a change is the Womalore talook. In this talook, according to the Tahsildar's report, it appears that the Ryots would agree to pay at the rate of three pice per Rupee, on their holdings if they were exempted from all obligations to render customary unpaid labour. This talook is chiefly a dry talook, and the amount this per centage would yield, would be very small, and no reason appears to justify a special arrangement in one talook out of fourteen.

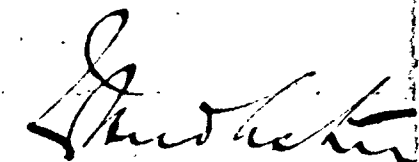
6. The Board are no doubt aware that there exists a special establishment constituted at the time of the survey for the safe keeping of the Cavary channels in the talooks of Paramutty and Namcul, and that the establishment is maintained by contributions of grain levied from the Ryots holding land under those channels, and for a further history of this, I would refer the Board to Mr. Brett's letter of the 21st July 1858, No. 93, and the statement No. 1 which accompanied it.

7. The Ryots are most reluctant to pay these contributions, and as neither the amount nor its value are entered in their puttahs, it is clear they cannot be compelled to pay, and I see no course to be pursued but to commute the grain into money payments, enter the amount in the puttah, and enforce payments as in the case of land revenue. Of their liability there can be no question, and in the end a money payment would be more convenient for them and for the Department Public Works, on whom the labour has devolved.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to paragraphs, 16 and 17 of In Con. 28th Nov. 1858, No. 5020. Extract Minutes Consultation, 30th October 1858, No. 2306, Public Works Department, Revenue Irrigation.

2. The Board have expressed their views on the general question of levying a water cess, in their Proceedings, dated 17th February 1859, No. 605.

(A true Copy and Extract.)



To

J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to Officiating Collector of Salem.

Acting Secretary.

Register No 2294 of 1838.
SM No 5 November 1838 at 14 2/4
Oct 10/38
15 March 1839 at 13 1/4

30 97-1859 *Delaware*
Pro: of Govt 10: 2 *November*
No: 2837.

Proceedings of the
Board of Directors
Dated 27th
Dec: 31st *Winter 1839*
No: 34 1839

(No 2371)

Ad 2607. T. C. No 1859

Submitting for informa-
tion a communication from
the Acting Director of Indian
affairs on the submission
of a petition and a letter
into a matter etc.
from 13th Dec 1839
1838

With an order

No 2607

1. The letter referred

to in that from Mr. Brown submitted
by the Board with these proceedings, is
necessary to enable Government to
deal with the matter treated of in
para 6 and 7 of the latter paper, and
the Board will be requested to send
it up without delay. It might be
have accompanied the present one
= ceeding. The Board will please ex-
press also to aid the Government with their
opinion on the proposition contained
in para 7.

2. The attention of the Board
is requested to the order of 27th May

1839 at 7 1/4.
Short 4th George
10. 20. 1839
10 Copies. Board of Directors. 20 1/2 1838
1839