

(1) Number of pages 10(2) Date of repair 9-4-38(3) Initials of the Referencer P**MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.****Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.***Cons. 15-3-57*

G.O. No.	534	Press Mis.
13-14 Dated	10-3.	1857 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled*9/4/38*

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 15th March 1859.

No. 13. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1859, No. 605.

Read letter from the Collector of Bellary, under date the 30th October 1858, No. 199, proposing the levy of a Maramut Cess on the Lands irrigated by the Toombudra Channels.

(In Con. 28th December 1858, No. 5070.)

In Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 9th February 1857, No. 286, In Con. 5th March 1857.

P. W. D. Revenue Irrigation, the Government referred for the consideration and report of the Board the question whether where customary labor is contributed by the Ryots towards the repair of works of irrigation, it should not be commuted to a fixed money Cess.

2. When consulted on the subject, the Collector of Bellary expressed, as regards works in general, an adverse opinion; as he calculated that more aid was obtained at present from the Ryots in the way of labour than could be exacted in the shape of a Cess, without making the rate very onerous.

3. But he mentioned that, while the ordinary repairs to all the other Channels in the District were executed by the Ryots themselves, by an amount of labour estimated to be worth from Rupees 61,000 to 63,000, the Toombudra Channels alone, which are the most considerable in the District, are repaired wholly at the expense of Government, and he intimated his intention to submit, as soon as the revision of the Assessment of the lands irrigated from those Channels should be completed, a proposition for levying a rate for defraying the charge incurred in the ordinary repairs.

4. The letter now recorded is the communication thus promised. It shews that the Toombudra lands have obtained remissions equal on an average to 25 per cent.; and that the charge for repairs on an average of 10 years has been 16,730 Rupees or deducting the cost of Annicuts to 11,760 Rupees. This charge, Mr. Pelly proposes to transfer from Government to the Ryots by the levy of a Maramut Cess, to meet it.

5. The basis of the recommendation is the considerable reduction of Assessment obtained by the Ryots, and the circumstance of all the other Channels of the District being repaired by the people themselves. On a careful consideration of the subject, however, the Board are of opinion, that it is inexpedient to introduce a Maramut Cess, where there has not been customary labor. The approbation of such a Cess expressed by Government, applied, they observe, only to cases where such labour has existed, as is

It is also necessary that a distinction should be made between works which the Ryots are by custom bound to do, and those which have hitherto been done by Government. The rate of commutation should represent only the former. In Con. March 1857. shewn by the Extract from para. 3 of the Extract Minutes Consultation of 9th February 1857, No. 286, given in the margin; and the

Board are of opinion that where it can be avoided the multiplication of Cesses on the land is very undesirable and tends to produce confusion and discontent. It will be better on the revision of an Assessment, that the rate of Assessment should be fixed with reference to the principle that Government undertakes to keep the irrigation works in repair. Where a Cess is levied over and above the Assessment for a Road fund as in South Arcot, it is to be appropriated, the Board would remark, to afford the inhabitants what they have not enjoyed before, viz., good District Roads. But the Toombudra Channels have been all along enjoyed by the Ryots without a charge for repairs. A new Tax on this account, therefore, is not likely to be paid cheerfully, although imposed simultaneously with the grant of remissions—and the more unobjectionable as well as the simpler arrangement would appear to be, to fix the rates of remission with reference to an understanding that Government shall continue as at present to repair the channels.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed). J. D. SIM,

Secretary.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 15th March 1859.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, No. 534; dated 10th March 1859.

To enable them to decide on the question put before them in this paper, the Government require some more detailed information as to the actual facts of the case. The Board of Revenue will be requested to submit explanation on the following points:

1st. In the case of the River Channels of Bellary generally, what repairs are performed by the Ryots? are the minor Channels only cleared out by them, or the main Channels also? If the former, what is practically the line between Channels kept clear by the Ryots and by the Government respectively.

2nd. Do the Ryots perform other work; as for example, repairing and revetting the Banks, closing Breaches, building or repairing Sluices?

3rd. Are the Annicuts also repaired by the Ryots? and if so, do they maintain all, or the smaller only; and in the latter case, what is practically the limit?

4th. If all this work, or any considerable part of it, is done by the Ryots, by what means is it done? and is any other agency employed, besides ordinary village labour.

5th. In the case of the Toombuddra Channels, where do the Government repairs stop? Do they extend to the small Channels supplying the fields? and if not, what is the practical or recognized limit between works repairable respectively by Government and by the Ryots.

2. To these questions an early reply is requested. It is observed that the Collector's letter now laid before Government, was three months and a half in the Board's office.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 605.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 17th February 1859.

Read letter from the Collector of Bellary, under date the 30th October 1858, No. 199, proposing the levy of a Maramut Cess on the lands irrigated by the Toombudra Channels.

(In Con. 28th December 1858, No. 5070.)

In Con. 5th March 1857. In Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 9th February 1857, No. 286, P. W. D. Revenue Irrigation, the Government referred for the consideration and report of the Board the question whether where Customary labour is contributed by the Ryots towards the repair of works of irrigation, it should not be commuted to a fixed money Cess.

31st March in Con. 20th April 1858. 2. When consulted on the subject, the Collector of Bellary expressed, as regards works in general, an adverse opinion; as he calculated that more aid was obtained at present from the Ryots in the way of labour, than could be exacted in the shape of a Cess, without making the rate very onerous.

3. But he mentioned that, while the ordinary repairs to all the other Channels in the district were executed by the Ryots themselves, by an amount of labour estimated to be worth from Rupees 61,000 to 63,000, the Toombudra Channels alone, which are the most considerable in the district, are repaired wholly at the expense of Government, and he intimated his intention to submit, as soon as the revision of the assessment of the lands irrigated from those Channels should be completed, a proposition for levying a rate for defraying the charge incurred in the ordinary repairs.

4. The letter now recorded is the communication thus promised. It shews that the Toombudra lands have obtained remissions equal on an average to 25 per cent.; and that the charge for repairs on an average of 10 years has been 16,730 Rs. or deducting the cost of anicuts to 11,760 Rupees. This charge, Mr. Pelly proposes to transfer from Government to the Ryots by the levy of a Maramut Cess, to meet it.

5. The basis of the recommendation is the considerable reduction of Assessment obtained by the Ryots, and the circumstance of all the other channels of the district being repaired by the people themselves. On a careful consideration of the subject, however, the Board are of opinion, that it is inexpedient to introduce a Maramut Cess, where there has not been customary labor. The approbation of such a Cess expressed by Government, applied, they observe, only to cases where such labour has existed, as is shewn by the Extract from para. 3, of

"It is also necessary that a distinction should be made between works which the Ryots are by custom bound to do, and those which have hitherto been done by Government. The rate of commutation should represent only the former."

In Con. March 1857. the Extract Minutes Consultation of 9th Feby. 1857, No. 286, given in the margin; and the Board are of opinion that where it can be avoided the multiplication of Cesses

on the land is very undesirable and tends to produce confusion and discontent. It will be better on the revision of an Assessment, that the rate of Assessment should be fixed with reference to the principle that Government undertakes to keep the irrigation works in repair. Where a Cess is levied over and above the Assessment for a Road fund as in South Arcot, it is to be appropriated, the Board would remark, to afford the Inhabitants what they have not enjoyed before, viz. good District Roads. But the Toombudra Channels have been all along enjoyed by the Ryots without a charge for repairs. A new tax on this account, therefore, is not likely to be paid cheerfully, although imposed simultaneously with the grant of remissions—and the more unobjectionable as well as the simpler arrangement would appear to be, to fix the rates of remission with reference to an understanding that Government shall continue as at present to repair the channels.

(A true Extract.)

J. D. Bourdillon
Secretary.

To
J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to Collector of Bellary.

P. W. Dep^o

No. 534

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 10 ~~February~~ ^{March}, 1859

Read the following
Extract from the Proceed-
ings of the Board of
Revenue.

(Here enter 17th February 1859
No. 605)

To enable them to
decide on the question
put before them in this
paper, the Government
require some more de-
tailed information as to
the actual facts of the
case. The Board of
Revenue will be requested
to submit explanation
on the following points.
1st In the case of the
river channels of Bellary
generally


No
W. C.

At the Council held on 17th Feb^y 1859

At the Council held on 17th Feb^y 1859
Extract from the Minutes
of the Board of Revenue

dated 17th & 18th February 1859.

1 Enc. Attached

No. 5

At the Council held on 17th March 1859

Submitting with
an explanation of the Board's
views and desiring that
a letter from the Collector of
Bellary, explaining the state of
the Maranah, be on the basis
submitted by the Government
Chambers.

At the Council held on 17th March 1859

generally what repairs
are performed by the
Ryots? Are the minor
channels only cleared
out by them, or the main
channels also? If the
former, what is practi-
cally the line between
channels kept clear by
the Ryots & by the Govern-
ment respectively.

2. Do these ^{Ryots} perform
other works; as for ex-
ample repairing and
revetting the banks, closing
breaches, building or
repairing sluices &c.

3. Are the canals also
repaired by the Ryots? and
if so do they maintain all,
or the smaller only, and
in the latter case what
is the ^{the} practical limit?

4. If all this work,
or any considerable
part of it, is done by
the Ryots, by what
means is it done? and
is any other agency em-
ployed, besides ordinary
village labour.

5. In the case of the
Sombuddra channels
where do the Govern-
ment repairs stop? Do
they extend to the small
channels supplying the
fields? and if not what
is the practical or
recognized limit between
works repairable res-
pectively by Government
and by the Ryots.

2 To these questions
an early reply is re-
quested. It is observed

that

that the Collector's
letter now laid before
Government, was three
months and a half
in the Board's Office.

AM

3 Copies to the D^y of the D^y with an Encl.

Wm. M. Smith

Q^d Enr: 10th February / 57 or 58. Public Works 1859 Sept 1st
Q^d to Enr: 15th March.

No 594.

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Selected Chain of Lines:
Sth 10th March / 57.

From 13th of January 14th of April 57.
C^d 1292 in Enr: 12th May 14-15.

Requesting from the
Board an early reply to the
question of interest regarding
the levy of a permanent rate
on the lands irrigated by the
Bombarda Channel in
Bally and observing that
the estimate after the 1st
subject was 3 1/2 months in
the Board's Office.

No 1244