

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair 1/1/63

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1616	Press
		~~Mis.~~
<i>1617-1618</i>	Dated	20-6-1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

MB

10

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th June 1863.*

No. 477. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 13th June 1863, No. 1,033:—

Awaiting the opinion of the Agent Madras Irrigation and Canal Company on the subject of the proposed transfer of certain tanks in Kurnool to the Company. } (Vide Revenue Proceedings, 13th June 1863, Nos. 211-212.)

No. 478. ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1863, No. 1,616.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel S. O. E. LUDLOW, R. E., Acting Consulting Engineer Irrigation and Canal Company, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Saint Thomé, 20th May 1863, No. 13:—

SIR,

1. With reference to Government Order No. 1,104, dated 1st May 1863, I have been furnished direct by the Chief Engineer with a copy of his letter to the Agent, containing his views on the subject of the proposed transfer of certain tanks in Kurnool to the Company.

2. This paper has not been communicated to me as yet by the Agent in the usual course with his opinion thereon, but I beg to submit it at once for the information of Government, as I am about to leave the Presidency on Thursday next to inspect the Company's works, as ordered by Government in their Proceedings, No. 819, of the 1st April last.

Referred to the Revenue Department, with reference to the orders in that Department, No. 712, dated 25th April 1863.

22nd May 1863.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

From Colonel H. C. COTTON, Chief Engineer, to F. AGNEW, Esq., Agent Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, dated Madras, 7th May 1863, No. 4 h.

DEAR SIR,

1. The Consulting Engineer in his letter No. 10 of the 5th instant, referring to the Proceedings of Government No. 1,104, dated 1st May, calls for my views on the subject of the transfer of the irrigation under the Nundial tank, to the Company.

2. The Order referred to contains Mr. Minchin's letter to the Board of Revenue of the 2nd March, and the Board's remarks in laying it before the Government.

3. As in very many of Mr. Minchin's letters, regarding the Company's operations, he makes assumptions which are groundless, and on them builds his suggestions.

4. He assumes in this case, that it would be an advantage to the Company to take the Canal through the tank, and argues that for this advantage the Company should pay.

5. He is wrong in his assumption, and had he referred to me for information, as he has more than once been ordered to do, he would have been in possession of something more sound on which to judge of the question before him. So far from its being an advantage, we should lose level by going through the tank, and every foot of level is of value.

6. Mr. Minchin's suggestion was, that all the irrigation of the District should be made over to the Company, on their paying to the Government the present revenue, and recovering perhaps half the amount under the reduced assessment.

7. He says, I "scouted" that suggestion. The expression is not mine, and it certainly does not convey my answer to his suggestion, which was this: that not only would it be unprofitable to the Company to undertake the charge of small detached tanks *on any terms*, but that those not commanded by the main channel would be no part of the scheme sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The only irrigation which can be transferred is that which is commanded by the Company's main channel. The Nundial tank is below the level of the channel, and the land might be transferred if thought desirable.

8. The transfer would benefit the land at least for second crops, as I think Mr. Minchin almost admits, and there seems no reason why a *small* benefit should be lost.

9. It would be no advantage to carry the canal through the tank, and I have not proposed it, but if the subjacent land were made over to the Company, we should be saved a portion of the expense of constructing the large aqueduct by which we cross the supply channel, and the mingling of the waters below the tank, where the land now irrigated, meets that to be supplied from the Company's channel, would not cause contention. They *could* be separated by a bank, and the water from the two sources would be rigidly devoted to their separate purposes, but I think it better there should be no ground of contention or jealousy, and the combined arrangement would have more effect.

10. What I would propose is, that the tank be made over to the Company; that the area of land at present irrigated by it shall be fairly ascertained, and that the revenue derived from that extent of land by the Company shall be carried to the account of the Government less the cost of the repairs of the tank, which might be fixed at an annual average.

11. The water rate on this land, as Mr. Minchin shows, must be reduced, because the Company will irrigate lands of the same character, and in close proximity at, I believe, one-third the present rate. But it makes no difference to the Government whether the management is transferred or not; they will receive the reduced revenue directly or indirectly. The revenue returns will show the average extent of land, on which one crop and two crops have severally been raised, and any increase beyond that may be considered due to the Company's water supply and the revenue from it, theirs.

12. Mr. Minchin appears to think that whatever contract may be determined on between the Government and the Company, something should be done here to make the Company relinquish a part of their profits, or make a payment out of their revenues for some supposed advantages afforded them. It is difficult to understand how Mr. Minchin, accustomed as he must be to revenue calculations, can discover any profit the Company could derive from tanks, fed by jungle streams, at a distance from their works, and thus after paying to the Government the existing high returns, while he evidently foresees that the future returns must be less.

13. It is not with a view to profit to the Company that I propose this transfer, but general convenience and some advantage to the land.

14. The terms of the contract between the Government and the Company will be arranged at Home, and it can only be in details that arrangements can be made here, and they must be in accordance with the spirit of the contract.

15. I must mention the Byap Goodoor tank though it has been brought into the question by mistake. Our channel passes through it, and forming a new bund to the tank, simply removes it further up the valley, and leaves a portion of the bed of great value for culture; the irrigation under this tank might be transferred to the Company in like manner to that under the Nundial tank.

16. The transfer is a mere matter of expediency, and the terms I think plainly define themselves, viz., that no profits should accrue to the Company but such as are due to their works, and that no loss should be sustained by the Company of revenue created by their works. All the revenue which the Government might raise by the tanks, if left in the Collector's hands, should be considered the property of the Government, and all excess the property of the Company.

17. I still propose the transfer on these principles.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) H. C. COTTON, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

To Colonel S. O. E. Ludlow, Consulting Engineer

Irrigation and Canal Company, for information.

ORDER THEREON, 13th June 1863, No. 1,033.

The Government await the Agent's opinion on the subject.

(True Extract.)



Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Consulting Engineer Irrigation and Canal Company.

Department Public Works.

Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

of 171818 Office
Pres. of the
No. 19th St.
Revenue Department

October 10
November 16 } 1818/19

1818/19

1818/19 - 20 June -

(1) Submitting the

Sum of the subject, the
Office on the subject of the
persons, the sum of certain
lands in the same State,
Company - 1818/19

Recorded

1818/19
20 June 1819

1818/19. 4/18.