

(1) Number of pages 6
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>1026</u>	Press Mis.
Dated <u>5-3-63</u>	18 <u>63</u> .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd June 1863.*

No. 516. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 16th June 1863, No. 1,056:—

Passing orders on the Despatch from the Home Government requesting that the question as to the best means of realizing returns from the works of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company may be re-considered, and that the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, may be adopted. (Vide Revenue Proceedings, 16th June 1863, Nos. 258-259.)

No. 517. ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1863, No. 1,636.
Communicated to the Consulting Engineer Irrigation and Canal Company.

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable SIR C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India (Revenue), to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 30th March 1863, No. 9 :—

SIR,

Para. 1. I have had under my consideration in Council your Letter of the 10th September last (No. 58), with which you forward to me the correspondence which has recently taken place on the question as to the best means of realizing returns from the works of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

2. The main point for consideration in this Department relates to the mode in which a return for the increased value given to the land by the application of water shall be obtained, whether by a consolidated assessment on the irrigated land, including both land assessment and water cess, or by a separate water cess, to be paid in addition to the ordinary dry land assessment.

3. You inform me that you have decided on adhering in Kurnool to the old established system of a consolidated assessment on irrigated land, paying to the Irrigation Company the difference between this assessment and that which the land would have paid if unirrigated.

4. In issuing these orders, which, however, cannot immediately be acted on, Your Excellency in Council appears to have overlooked the repeated instructions from the Home Government contained in the Despatches referred to in the

margin,* that the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, should be adopted in all cases in which it might be found practicable.

Neither your Government nor the Board of Revenue suggest that the plan is impracticable in Kurnool, but the latter authority alleges that a consolidated assessment would be more exact and fair in its operation, and would promote harmonious action in the distribution of the water. Why this result should necessarily follow is not very clear; but I am of opinion that it might lead to inconvenient differences between the Officers of the Government and those of the Irrigation Company, which it is most desirable to avoid. Where the water is paid for separately from the land assessment by Ryots, who use it or not, at their option, there can be no question as to the amount of the return which it yields; but where the two are mixed up in a consolidated assessment, there is always room for dispute as to how much is due to the land, and how much to the water. Moreover, there would still be the necessity of fixing a separate water-rate for Inam and other lands not subject to the regular assessment.

5. After full consideration, I have to request that your Excellency will reconsider your proceedings, and, unless some difficulty should exist in the case of Kurnool, of which I am not now aware, that you will adopt the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, of which Her Majesty's Government have, on more than one occasion, expressed their decided preference. It is most important that means should be at once taken to make it clear to the Ryots that the payment for the use of the water supplied by the Irrigation Company is altogether separate and distinct from the land assessment, and that the latter will, under no circumstances, be liable to be increased on account of the advantages which the land may derive from the supply of water.

6. The other arrangements to which you have called my attention in the letter under reply, do not appear to require any observations from me.

ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1863, No. 1,056.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue and Acting Director of Revenue Settlement for their information and guidance.

2. The Government observe that owing to the manner in which the Settlement operations are being conducted in Kurnool, viz., so as to show the dry as well consolidated Nunjah assess-

ment of the land, there will be no difficulty in carrying out the wishes of the Home Government when those operations are completed.

3. The Government understand that the field operations have been brought to a close and that the Deputy Director is now preparing his report. Mr. Master will instruct his Deputy to frame Statements exhibiting the result of applying a separate water-rate, to the dry assessment, in comparison with the consolidated Nunjah assessment proposed.

4. Mr. Master will also in communication with the Board of Revenue consider and report what arrangements will be necessary in order to carry out the system of a separate water-rate along the course of the Company's works in the rest of the Kurnool District, and in Cuddapah and Nellore.

5. The reasons which induced the Government to prefer the consolidated Nunjah system to the system of a separate water-rate will be again submitted to the Home Government for a final decision of the question.

(True Extract.)



Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ Director of Revenue Settlement.

„ Public Works Department,

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

129) 1863 2nd 1/2
 Per old *Antipodine*
 200007.

of report in the
 returned parts
 100007
 100007

During rain in
 the deep water from the time
 En^d suggesting that the water
 as to the best means of making
 return from the north of the water
 1863 may be considered, and
 that the plan of a separate water
 -me, which from the time
 movement may be adopted
 1863. 2nd 1/2 1/2
 With an *Antipodine*

129) 1863 2nd 1/2
 100007.

Commenced to the
 sailing *Antipodine* and boat
 100007

Elephant 2
 200007
 100007
 100007

25
 3