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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

GO No.	243	Press
U23.476		ME
Dated	3-2-4	18-6-42

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd January 1864.*

No. 493. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department:—

Communicating Despatch from the Home Government }
together with that to which it is a reply, regarding the } (Here enter 16th January 1864, No. 99.)
system to be adopted in assessing the lands irrigated in }
Karnool by the Irrigation Company.

No. 494. ORDER THEREON, 22nd January 1864, No. 243.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 88 of 1863.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

RIGHT HONORABLE SIR,

1. We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches, dated 30th March and 30th May last, regarding the system to be adopted in assessing the lands irrigated in Kurnool by the Irrigation Company.

2. We beg to inform you that the settlement operations now in progress have been so conducted as to admit either of a consolidated "Nunjah" assessment being imposed or of the land being assessed as unirrigated, and a separate rate being levied for irrigation. The land in fact is being assessed as "unirrigated" and "irrigated," the difference between these rates representing the charge for irrigation. There will, therefore, be no difficulty in carrying out your wishes.

3. Our reasons for giving the preference to a Nunjah assessment as between the Government and the Ryots, are the following :—

I. The consolidated system is perfectly understood by the people and most acceptable to them.

II. The varying effect of irrigation on different soils is more easily met by a varying consolidated assessment than by an uniform water rate, which necessarily falls heaviest on the poorest lands, and is unduly low on the lands which benefit most by irrigation.

4. We beg to point out that a consolidated Nunjah assessment, while possessing these practical advantages as between Government and the Ryots, does not preclude an arrangement between Government and the Company similar in effect to the imposition of a separate water rate. Once the Nunjah assessment is fixed the Government can easily ascertain with sufficient accuracy, for practical purposes, the *average* charge per Acre for irrigation, and the Irrigation Company can be paid at this rate per Acre for all water newly supplied by them.

5. We request your instructions as to whether the Ryots are to have the option of using water or not. An expression in paragraph 4 of your Despatch, dated 30th March, evidently implies that the option is to be allowed; but the question is of importance and we wish to guard against any misapprehension of your views on it.

6. Under the system of a consolidated Nunjah assessment of course no such option is allowed, the Ryot receives a remission of assessment when water is not supplied; but he cannot claim to have his land assessed as Punjab, so long as irrigation is available. The same principle is followed in the Godavery Delta, and it is obvious that on other terms the Government could not safely go to the expense of providing irrigation. In the cases of the Irrigation Company the contract leaves the charge for water to be fixed by arbitration when the Company and Government do not agree as to its amount, and further admits of its being raised in the same manner. The question therefore arises whether the Ryot should be allowed the security against an excessive charge which the option of deciding by a stated period of each year, whether he will have water or not, will give him.

We have the honor to be,

Right Honorable Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
20th August 1863.



Exd. S. T. Augustin.

FORT ST. GEORGE.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

47/208/166
*Letter to the Right Honorable
the Secretary of State for
India.*

*Dated 20th August,
No. 88 of 1863.*

Replying to Despatches from Home Government,
dated respectively 30th March and 30th May
1863, Nos. 9 and 27, regarding the system to be
adopted in assessing the lands irrigated in
Kurnool by the Irrigation Company.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th January 1864.*

No. 192. 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, 24th November 1863,
No. 81:—

SIR,

1. I have had under my consideration in Council the letter from your Excellency's
Government, dated the 20th August last (No. 88), regarding the system to be adopted in assess-
ing the lands irrigated in Kurnool by the Madras Irrigation Company.

2. I learn with much satisfaction that there is no difficulty in carrying into effect the
views expressed in my Despatch of the 30th March last (No. 9), in favor of the plan of a sepa-
rate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, of which Her Majesty's Government have, on
various occasions, expressed their decided preference.

3. With reference to your question, "whether the Ryot should be allowed the security
"against an excessive charge which the option of deciding, by a stated period of each year,
"whether he will have water or not, will give him," I am clearly of opinion that such option
should be permitted. There is little ground for apprehension that the option would be exer-
cised by the cultivator in the way of declining to use the means of irrigation when they are sup-
plied to him at a moderate price, and the possession of it would in no respect limit the right
which your Government, acting on your own behalf or on that of the Irrigation Company, must
retain, of declining to supply any particular tract of country with water, unless the cultivator
should be prepared to enter into engagements to take the water at the stipulated rate in such
numbers and for such terms of years as might warrant the required outlay. Although few
would, probably, reject the opportunity, yet no compulsion to take the water must be exercised
towards the dissentients, and they must in no way be disturbed in the possession of their lands,
as long as they desire to hold them, and continue to pay the ordinary rate of assessment.

4. I desire that these instructions may be considered as generally applicable, and not as
confined only to the District of Kurnool.

No. 193. ORDER THEREON, 16th January 1864, No. 99.

This Despatch, together with that to which it is a reply, will be communicated to the Board
of Revenue, the Consulting Engineer Irrigation and Canal Company and the Director of Revenue
Settlement. The Board will issue instructions in conformity with the orders conveyed in para-
graphs 3 and 4 of this Despatch.

(True Extract.)

L. R. Lunn

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
" Consulting Engineer Irrigation and Canal Company, } with No. 88.
" Director of Revenue Settlement,
" Public Works Department,

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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22nd Jan 4/61

Communicating Ser-
vice from the Home Exch. to
write that British is a refuge, re-
solving the question of a hypothec
in offering the funds raised
in Germany for the Emigration
Company.

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Remedy

No 248-22 January -