

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 93

Press
Mis.

196-197

Dated 21-1-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st January 1865.*

No. 196. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th December 1864, No. 8,061.

Read the following letter from the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kistnagiri, 7th December 1864, No. 221:—

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter received from Sub-Collector Mr. Thomas, regarding the construction of certain tanks in his division. I have examined the site of proposed tank No. 1, and consider it so promising that, I think, an officer should be sent at once to take the levels of that part which will form the bed of the new tank. On these levels will of course depend the area of the water-spread, and the quantity of water. I think it unnecessary to notice particularly Mr. Thomas's calculations, because there are really no data to go on till the area is ascertained by careful levelling; but, supposing that the area will only be one-third or one-fourth of the enormous area given by the Sub-Collector, the construction of the tank will probably be highly remunerative.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Sub-Collector of Salem, to the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, dated Oosoor, 25th November 1864, No. 356.

1. Observing that the Government Order has, in Proceedings No. 381, dated 6th February 1864, paragraph 89, expressed a readiness and anxiety to sanction funds for the repair of old irrigation works; and that Sir Charles Trevelyan, in producing his last Budget, intimated that a more liberal allotment could be made to this Presidency, if remunerative projects were forthcoming; I beg to submit the following suggestions for the repair of old, and the construction of new, irrigation works in this Sub-division.

2. You will remember that in paragraph 9 of my Jummahbundy Report for Fusly 1273, and in my letter No. 301, dated 13th October 1864, I drew attention to the fact that hundreds of tanks were out of repair, in fact, 492 in my Sub-division alone. The revenues of the State are, as a natural consequence, seriously affected thereby.

3. *The Public Works Department unequal to the task.*—The fault is generally said to lie with the Officers of the Department of Public Works, and complaint is made that they do not even spend the money allotted, much less bring to notice the wants of the country, and apply for the grant of the increased funds necessary for its prosperity. My own opinion is that the Officers of that Department are expected to do more than is possible. Much of their valuable time is frittered away in office detail, that could be just as efficiently and more economically performed by a native subordinate.

4. I am led to venture these general remarks because they refer immediately to the root of our main difficulty. Unless there be executives there can be no execution; unless a Special Engineer Officer be appointed, the projects I am about to submit must end in so much waste paper.

5. I instance Mr. Paynter, the Officer whose range includes the most part of my Sub-division.

6. He informs me that he has submitted many estimates for the repair of breached and ruined old tanks; but as in every case in which the proposed outlay exceeds the highest year's revenue, the estimate is returned to him unsanctioned, and the old tank is termed a new work, for which a full survey and detailed specification is required before sanction can be obtained, the consequence is that the repair is in most cases abandoned; for it is no easy matter to survey and plan the water-spread, the water-shed, and the irrigable area, also to take the levels of the bund, and the tank bed, and to calculate the cubic contents, the probable rain-fall, and all the details of the cost of the work, and of the manner in which it is to be performed. It is a laborious and tedious undertaking.

7. Mr Paynter's range covers an area of nearly three thousand square miles including about three hundred miles of road : how is it possible that, besides his ordinary range duties, he can go through the aforesaid lengthy operation with each of four hundred and ninety-two tanks ? One tank that I shall mention hereafter, (paragraph 10,) will be alone sufficient, in my opinion, to absorb the whole of his time and attention for at least three months.

8. Mr. Paynter observed some nine months ago, and has very recently informed me of the two largest of those sites for tanks that I have mentioned below ; but he has been so burdened with more immediately pressing work, that he let them pass unreported on, as he tells me he was once before very reluctantly compelled to do in another District also. In fact, I have had the greatest difficulty in constraining him, though not unwilling, to give me so much of his fully occupied time as was necessary for the joint tour of inspection we have now made.

9. We followed the circuitous course of the Pennar river, and discovered good sites for four new tanks and one supply channel.

10. *Tank No. 1.*—The largest and the most promising site (Mr. Paynter's) is about four miles from Kistnagiri. There is an extensive level basin almost surrounded by rocky hills, which form a natural bund, with one narrow gap, through which flows the Pennar. An embankment of half a mile long, and 80 or 100 feet high, will complete the bund, and the whole river will be dammed up.

11. The cost of construction, Mr. Paynter estimates roughly at from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lacs of Rupees.

12. The basin is so capacious, and so far level, that from 80 (eighty) to 100 (one hundred) square miles of water-spread will, Mr. Paynter roughly estimates, be the probable result. The reservoir thus formed will, I believe, be the largest in India, not even excepting the well known Cumbum tank in the Kurnool District.

13. There is also no lack of water, as the Pennar is never quite dry, is for three or four months in fresh, and at times an overwhelming flood. The rivers that feed the Cumbum tank can bear no comparison to it.

14. It is the same river that has caused the late disastrous floods in Cuddalore, and the formation of these tanks may, in some measure, serve to protect Cuddalore from the occurrence of similar inundations, though only in some measure, for the Pennar will still drain a very large area to the east of these tanks.

15. At the same time danger need scarcely be anticipated, as the rocky saddles of the surrounding hills afford facilities for ample, durable, and natural calingulas.

16. I believe that the water flowing into this basin will be sufficient to fill and re-fill it several times, so that two crops can be raised in a year ; but, if future experience shews the contrary, there is still every facility for forming a large supply tank in the narrow gorges higher up the same river.

17. Of irrigable area too there is plenty. It extends much farther than the eye can see, and consists of some of the richest soil in the Sub-division.

18. I am afraid to hazard an estimate of what proportion the yearly income will bear to the outlay. A survey alone can ascertain that and other points which are here roughly suggested. But it is sufficient that there will probably be from 80 (eighty) to 100 (one hundred) square miles of water-spread of considerable depth, (for the bund will be eighty or hundred feet high or perhaps higher,) and that there is enough of good soil whereon to utilize it.

19. If I am bound to hazard a rough estimate, I will arrive at it as follows :—The water-spread in the tank is estimated at from eighty to hundred square miles. In many tanks of ordinary dimensions and ordinary depth in this District, the irrigable area is ten times as great as the water-spread in the tank. In the Nellore District it is the general rule. With a tank of the extraordinary depth I propose, and having a river to fill and re-fill it, I may, therefore, conclude it will at least be not less. Then $80 \text{ or } 100 \times 10 = 800 \text{ or } 1,000$ square miles = 5,12,000 or 6,40,000 acres, which, at a beriz of Rupees 5 an acre, gives a yearly revenue of Rupees 25,60,000, or Rupees 32,00,000. Five Rupees and 3 Rupees per acre is the lowest average taxa-

tion I can apply ; many wet lands pay Rupees 20 and Rupees 30 per acre, and these are fertile. If from the acreage taken we exclude a margin for channels, roads, village sites, and present Ináms, and cast off on that account $3\frac{1}{2}$ lacs, we still cannot reduce the lowest calculation below 12 lacs a year of revenue.

20. But I only hazard these calculations, because I imagine I am bound to do so. I repeat that nothing but an accurate survey can conduct us to data sufficiently reliable to form the basis of a calculation. All that I venture to support is that the sale of the right of occupancy of the waste lands will realize not less than the cost of construction and compensation ; and that if that item is waived, the yearly revenue will do the same ; and this is, I think, quite enough to warrant a survey.

21. There is a long low ridge between Kistnagiri and this basin, so low that I imagine the bund could be built to such a level as to arrange for some of the surplus water running over it through sluices, and so keeping full five good tanks in and near Kistnagiri. No remission will then be called for on the lands under these tanks, they might give two crops, and be charged accordingly.

22. *Submerged lines.*—The area submerged will of course be very great, two whole Muttahs will disappear, and several hamlets have to be removed. These difficulties need present no obstacles. All whom I have as yet consulted not only offer no opposition, but are willing enough to receive compensation, and take up wet lands instead under the projected tank.

23. I should also mention that the probability is that a considerable portion of the road from Kistnagiri to Royacottah will be submerged. When compared with the advantages to be secured, this loss is insignificant. After a survey of the site has been made, it will be time enough to consider what other line should be substituted.

24. I am averse to giving the owners of submerged lands an equivalent in land under the proposed tank. I think it would be better to pay them compensation in money, and charge it to the cost of the work, and let them, with others, purchase what new lands they like ; so that, after survey, the estimated outlay may be the more clearly balanced against the estimated income. It will also be the more straightforward and easy way of dealing with all concerned. They will receive in a more tangible and more readily calculable form the value of what they part with and will be in a position to suit themselves about purchasing.

25. *Selling the right of occupancy.*—In such a great project the item of compensation will of course be considerable. I think that by selling, instead of giving the right of occupancy of the waste lands below the tank, I can raise a sum that will more than equal this item.

26. Irrigable lands are well known to be very valuable property. In this locality the right of occupation alone is only too difficult to purchase at from Rupees 200 to Rupees 400 an acre. In some cases the price even rises as high as Rupees 1,000 an acre. Wherever a wet field is in the market, there is a rush to be the fortunate owner of it. It will not cost more than Rupees 100 an acre to level and lay out fresh lands for wet cultivation, and I am told that the right of occupancy alone of such lands will readily sell at Rupees 100 or Rupees 150 an acre. I believe that at Rupees 100 an acre there will be a perfect scramble to obtain the ordinary Puttah for such lands.

27. I see no reason why the Government should give away for nothing what it has every right to sell. If from liberal motives it be thought expedient to waive this right, and give it away, the attempt will certainly be futile. The Government may decide to be generous, but the native authorities will not. They will undoubtedly sell to their own private advantage, and every petty Gumastah, and troublesome Accountant, will have his share. In so large a project, and, in a bribe-loving country like India, the facilities will be as great as the temptation. Human nature cannot resist it ; authority cannot control it. No Collector, no Tahsildar, on earth can prevent it ; however much he exerts himself, or even flatters himself that he has succeeded.

28. I propose that the Government should neither forego its imperial rights, nor leave room for under-hand practices, but itself obtain the value of the irrigable land it hands over. It

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21st January 1865.

is not the freehold, but simply the liberty of occupancy, that I propose to sell, and that subject to the usual assessment.

29. Lands which are at present held by Ryots must of course remain with their possessors, and the extra wet cess (Teerwajasty) can in the case of dry and grass lands be added; but all waste lands can be dealt with as I propose.

30. I am quite aware that, as a rule, it would be bad political economy to throw difficulties in the way of the increase of cultivation, but a new and large irrigation work is an exception for many cogent reasons, which it will be unnecessary for me to set forth.

31. If the irrigable waste lands under this proposed tank realize at auction the average price of Rupees 100 an acre, then each thousand acres will give a lac of Rupees, and from the whole saleable area I should think we might safely hope to realize certainly more than the compensation money required for submerged Muttahs, fields, and hamlets, and more than the whole cost also of the construction of the tank. How many thousand acres of irrigable waste there may be I do not know and it would be premature to ascertain, especially as I am unwilling to burden the Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors just as the annual Revenue Settlement is approaching.

32. My own rough calculation is as follows:—We have an irrigable area of 1,000 or 800 square miles, (see paragraph 19 supra.) this is 6,40,000 or 5,12,000 acres. Of this we can surely count on not less than four per cent. being waste, for the average of waste in that whole Talook is above 400 per cent. This gives 25,600 or 20,480 acres of waste land, which, at Rupees 100 an acre, gives Rupees 25,60,000 (25½ lacs), or Rupees 20,48,000 (20½ lacs). But here I must again repeat what I say in paragraph 20.

33. But if I am considered too sanguine in this respect, the most desponding must agree, that the project cannot fail eventually to be most remunerative in the extent to which it will permanently swell the revenues.

34. Observing that there is already a certain amount of excitement evinced about these proposed tanks, (and knowing that if my proposals are approved of, the Natives will anticipate me in obtaining information thereof much earlier than I can hope to do, and can easily thwart the intention of a sale, by at once taking up the waste land for dry tracts, and thereby establishing possession,) I have lost no time in taking upon me to provide against this by issuing orders (copies enclosed) to the two Tahsildars concerned, directing them in every case of application for land under these sites, before making it over, to take from the applicant a deed (Muchilika, form enclosed) by which he binds himself to resign the land to Government if so required.

35. If you agree with me, and the Board sanction the sale, this measure will have the effect of preventing our being fraudulently anticipated; it will also prevent speculators from squatting in the bed of the tank with the sole view of establishing a claim to compensation; if my proposal is not approved of, these deeds have only to be re-called and cancelled, and every thing will be as if they had never existed.

36. The suggestions which I have submitted on the form of compensation, and the sale of the right of occupancy of the irrigable lands, will be equally applicable to the other new tanks, to the enumeration of which I will proceed.

37. Tank No. 2.—There is another very promising site (Mr. Paynter's) higher up the same river, near Kamanthoddi, and opposite the 160 mile-stone on the road from Kistnagiri to Oosoor.

38. This also is a hill-girt basin or tank three-fourths formed by nature, and supplied with natural rock calingulas, requiring an artificial bund of half-a-mile in length to complete it, and give a water-spread of ten or fifteen square miles.

39. The cost of construction we calculated roughly at one lac, and the probable yearly revenue at Rupees 50,000.

40. Of irrigable area there appears to be no deficiency.

41. Though some of it belongs to the Poligar of Shulagiri, there will be no difficulty in arranging for the payment of an extra water cess (Niruculi).

42. As several considerable tributaries join the Pennar below this site, I do not anticipate any difficulty on the score of the supply of water for Tank No. 1.

43. Of the submerged lands the majority are waste. The cultivated fields pay kist to Government to the amount of Rupees 280 per annum. Two hamlets would have to be removed.

44. There is a small temple on what will form a part of the bund. It will probably be in the way. The Ryots, however, would much rather remove their place of worship than forego their hopes of a tank, and have so expressed themselves.

45. If the bund were raised too high, a mile of trunk road No. 1 (from Kistnagiri to Oosoor) would be under water, but this, I think, should be just avoided.

46. Tank No. 3.—Some miles further up the same river, near Samanapalli, and at the spot where stands the boundary stone between the village of Samanapalli and Kulu, the banks are steep and narrow, and a bund might be thrown across, which would be about thirty feet deep, narrow at the base, and most of the way up the bank.

47. We calculated it would cost about Rupees 5,000 or Rupees 6,000, and give a yearly revenue of about the same amount.

48. The irrigable area would be more than sufficient for the water. Two channels can be run, one along each slope on the two sides of the river to the distance of five or six miles, if necessary.

49. A small portion of one slope and a part of the bund will lie in the Bagalur Poliaput. An arrangement for charging water cess can doubtless be entered into. The Poligar is deeply involved in debt, and would not be able to share the expense of construction, so as to entitle him to levy a cess in his own lands.

50. The submerged lands would be inconsiderable.

51. Tank No. 4.—Following up the river we come to the Chinnar, a tributary of the Pennar. Near Zampalli this stream might be crossed for about Rupees 2,000 and an ordinarily remunerative tank formed. The Oosoor Tahsildar shewed me the spot, and can point it out again.

52. All the lands above and below it are waste, and though cultivable, are poorer than those hitherto referred to. The tank will, I doubt not, be remunerative, though not to such a degree as the larger tanks above-mentioned.

53. Excepting the gap between tanks Nos. 3 and 4, we can thus obtain one uninterrupted line of irrigation from one end of the Sub-division to the other.

54. Chendrambadi Tank.—The Chendrambadi tank, which is just a mile from Oosoor, though not a small one, constantly fills in a single night. There is, however, a leak in it, which the Department of Public Works has been always going to repair for the last two years. Now I understand that a fresh estimate has been made and sanctioned. Mr. Paynter proposes that the same opportunity be taken to raise this bund four or six feet, and thus, at a comparatively small outlay, obtain a considerable increase of irrigated area, besides avoiding the necessity of remission.

55. Bade Thalab Channel.—The Bade Thalab, or big tank, is the main one at Kistnagiri. The lands under it are fertile, and being close to the town, valuable. But the water supply is insufficient. The accounts of the last five years shew that on an average Rupees 1,540 per annum are remitted for untilled lands (Nunji Bunjer) and withered crops (Shavi). I have just walked over it, and the acres upon acres of withered paddy were a sad sight indeed. The Ryots are always eagerly pressing that another supply channel may be made. My predecessor represented it in his letter No. 229, dated 8th October 1862, to the address of the District Engineer, Salem, and so have I in my letter No. 88, dated 29th April 1864, and I am told that Mr. Collector Orr also brought the matter to notice just before he left the District. His letter will be found, I presume, among your records.

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21st January 1865.

56. I entertain no doubt but that a channel can be brought from the Verushanavatti (Kurubarapalli river), a considerable tributary of the Pennar. Mr. Paynter and I rode over the ground. These are the two routes mentioned in the margin. But the length of the channel will be considerable, and it is doubtful whether it would not prove too expensive to be profitable. By the former route the channel would have to be about six miles long, by the latter four. It will, however, be worth examining more scientifically with a view to an approximate estimate being made.

57. The advantages are that the Badu Thalab, and another tank above it, would be kept supplied, and two crops might be yearly raised and paid for, besides saving the annual amount shewn in paragraph 55.

58. *Ruined Tanks.*—When the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings No. 1,500, dated 15th March 1864, Standing Circular No. XXIII of 1864, called for an abstract statement of ruined tanks, that submitted with my letter No. 301, dated 13th October 1864, shewed that there were no less than 492 such tanks in the Sub-division alone, which it would take about a lac of Rupees to repair. The return would be more than half a lac per annum.

59. *Special officer required.*—Seeing that I have herein shewn a call for the profitable expenditure, on irrigation works, of from 4 to 5 lacs of Rupees, for every item of which expenditure a survey and detailed specification will be required before it can be sanctioned, and that I have shewn also in paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 that the Range Officer's hands are full, I think the only sequence is that a special officer is imperatively required for survey, irrespective of superintending the construction of the works that may be sanctioned.

60. If a special officer is not appointed to this duty it will be postponed *sine die*, as other irrigation works have been, till eventually lost sight of. If, on the contrary, such an officer is appointed, I will undertake to shew him several other sites besides those above-noticed. I have in a former letter mentioned two anicuts on the other Chinnar river, and a tank site near Pennagaram; and I have since heard of, but not inspected, other considerable basins near Denkenkotta.

61. Again, for such an officer there will be no lack of employ for at least a year. In other localities, the Government has acknowledged the wisdom of appointing officers to the special duty of looking for fit sites. Here the sites are ready waiting to be surveyed and reported on.

62. I trust I may be pardoned the suggestion that Mr. Paynter's services in this matter point him out as deserving of consideration. He will take more than ordinary interest in the work, and his place, as a Range officer, can probably be filled without difficulty.

63. This range has been till lately much neglected, so that I trust we may not be deprived of Mr. Paynter's services without his place being supplied.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT, *Collector.*

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government with the Board's request that such special arrangements may be made in the Department Public Works as will enable Lieutenant Paynter to devote himself to the complete examination of the projects brought to notice by Mr. Thomas, and the preparation of the necessary estimates.

2. It would be useless to discuss details at this stage, but there seems no reason to doubt that the projects, if feasible, would prove abundantly remunerative in a financial point of view, and of great benefit to the country.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7
21st January 1865.

No. 197.

ORDER THEREON, 21st January 1865, No. 93.

Miscellaneous.

The Government highly appreciate Mr. H. S. Thomas' desire for the improvement of his Division, but they have no Officer available at present to institute the enquiries necessary, before undertaking such extensive works as those mentioned in his letter; and the projects contemplated and in course of execution are as numerous as they have the means of at present carrying out.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

disposition in practice and in theory of the fact and of the law of the land.

The first consideration is the
nature of the project. It is
of a promising character.
The project must be care-
fully examined by a few
disinterested officers.
The first step is to be
a matter of fact and
theory and the first
step is to be a fact.
The account of water is
given by the river and the
amount consumed in the
navigation of the river is
the greater right, and so

have the list properly
typed and enrolled - it
the duty of the examination
if the other projects, a special
officer will be necessary &
Mr Pagrater - if his services can
be spared and his qualifications
are undoubted - would be the best
person to select, as most of the
projects originated with him &
he is acquainted with the list
a reference on this point will
be made to the S.M.

The survey of the river
and in the continuation of the
but some special arrangements must be made
for measuring the water discharge and

Exd. J. Wright

2. It would be useless to discuss details at this stage, but there seems no reason to doubt
that the projects, if feasible, would prove abundantly remunerative in a financial point of view, and
of great benefit to the country.

(True Copies and Extract.)

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to Honorable D. Arbuthnot, Collector of Salem.

Secretary.

Arbuthnot

Pro. 6 February 1864
115 @ 1512 1/2
1 March 1864

W. 1864
No. 83

Revenue 1864. Department.
Pro of Govt. for Survey

No. 2252

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 16th December 1864.

~~Sup. 19~~
~~Rev. 20~~
Rev. 18 Jan 1865

No. 8,061.

No. 93. 21 Jan

Submitting letter from the Collector of Salem
and requesting that special arrangements be made
in the D. P. W. for the examination by Lieuten-
ant Paynter of the projects brought to notice
by the Sub-Collector for the construction of cer-
tain tanks in his Division.

196

Revenue Department.
No. 93.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 21st. Jan. 1865

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue

Submitting letter from
the Collector of Salem and requesting
that special arrangements be
made in the D. P. W. for the ex-
amination by Lieut. Paynter,
the projects brought to notice
by the Sub-Collector, for the
construction of certain tanks
in his division.

Here enter 16th December 1864
No. 8061

The Government highly
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will
JP

are

are as numerous as they
have the means of at places
hanging out.

To the Board of Revenue Dec 22 6 Jan
to the Bd Dept N

1 Queen St. Sept.
Pro of Govt. for Lady

1793

Pr of the Madras
Government
21 January/65

Pres of the Board of Revenue
24 November 1868 C/3774

Stating that no office
: cess is available at present
to institute enquiries re-
: lative to the Construction
and improvement of Tanks
in Salem.—

№ 1964194.