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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 319 Press ~~Mis.~~

668-669

Dated 26-1- 18 ~~66~~.

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,*
*26th January* 1866.

No. 668. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department :—

Passing orders on certain correspondence submitted by the Board of Revenue, regarding the transfer, to the ryots, of ruined tanks in the Madras District. (Here enter 19th January 1866, No. 162.)

No. 669. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1866, No. 319.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 114. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Rxd. S. T. Augustin.

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th January 1866.*

No. 319. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th January 1866, No. 46.

Read again letter from the Collector of Madras, dated 21st July 1865, in Board's Proceedings, 14th September 1865, No. 5,699.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 10th November 1865, No. 368 :—

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated the 14th September last, No. 5,699, I have the honor to state that the cultivation referred to in paragraph 5 of my letter of the 21st July was Nunjah raised by such small amount of water as the tank in its ruined state might hold, or by means of wells sunk at the private expense of the ryots.

2. In regard to the latter part of the Proceedings, I beg to state that it is impossible to give the extent of Nunjah cultivation under ruined tanks in the whole District without calling for a special report from the Talook; but I give in the margin* the extent of waste compared with the cultivation in the two cases in which I have recently made over tanks to private parties.

| | Acres. | Rs | A. | P | Waste. Acres. | Rs. | A. | P. | Future Revenue at Rupees 2-8-0 an Acre. Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Attanthangal ... ... | 74 30 8 | 231 | 14 | 1 | 4 23 | 1 | 1 | 10 2 | 187 | 0 | 0 |
| Sattangadu ... ... | 43 12 4 | 151 | 3 | 4 | 246 3½ | 6 | 8½2 | 7 4 | 103 | 4 | 6 |

3. In the case of Attanthangal, though a good portion of the Nunjah Ayacut was already under cultivation, and the making over of the tank to the applicant the Yegabogum Mirassidar would be attended with a present sacrifice of revenue to the extent of Rupees 44 per annum, I thought it best to make it over to the applicant, as the probable increase in the revenue was so small that it was not considered advisable by the Department Public Works to undertake its repairs. The same remarks apply to the tank in Sattangadoo also.

4. Should the Board finally decide that only ruined tanks that have an infinitesimal extent of Nunjah cultivation under them may be made over to private parties, I would beg the Board to define the limit of such cultivation. In the case of tanks other than rain-fed ones no such definition is required, as every such case will have to be reported upon to the Board, and their orders obtained in the matter.

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1. Submitted to Government with reference to the Order quoted by the Collector.

2. The Board are not disposed to hamper the liberal policy enunciated in their Standing Circular Order, under date 12th January 1863, No. 11, by laying down any precise limit of the kind referred to in paragraph 4. The Collector will exercise his own discretion in disposing of each case, as directed in paragraph 10 of the Order of Government. It will generally be sufficient if the Collector ascertain that no outlay has been made on the tank by Government for a series of years, and that the Department Public Works are satisfied that no such outlay would be remunerative to Government. The meaning of the term "out of repair for five years" must be taken to be, that a considerable portion of the land classed as irrigated has not been cultivated for that period, in consequence of no outlay having been made

on the tank. As to the query put in paragraph 4 of the first letter above recorded, the Collector should require all applicants to make their own arrangements with the holders of any existing wet cultivation under the tank, and should only accede to the application on the understanding that the composition rate of assessment is to be paid for all the land included in the Nunjah Aaycut of the tank.

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No. 320. ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1866, No. 162.

Land Revenue.

1. In their Order of the 5th April last, the Government enquired whether some of the 907 tanks, reported by the Collector of Madras to be out of repair in that District, might not be made over to the Ryots on the terms sanctioned in their Order of the 23rd December 1862, regarding "ruined Tanks."

2. The Board in the Proceedings above recorded submit two reports from the Collector on the subject. From these it appears that the Collector has received only twenty-two applications for the transfer of ruined tanks, and of these only two have been complied with. In the other cases either the Public Works Department has undertaken the restoration of the tanks, or the applicants, on further consideration, have withdrawn their applications. The Collector ascribes the paucity of applications to the circumstance that none but unprofitable works can be made over to the Ryots, as in all cases where the Public Works Department report that the repair of the tanks will be profitable to Government, the tanks are reserved.

3. This procedure is inconsistent with the intentions of Government. It was not supposed that the restoration of the ruined tanks of the country would generally be unprofitable to the State, but it was felt that many years must elapse before the Government could supply funds for their restoration, and the Government came to the conclusion that it was better to offer such tanks on moderate terms to the Ryots for immediate restoration, than to retain them in their ruined condition till they could themselves restore them. At the same time the probability of Government being in a position to restore the works within a reasonable period was a consideration not to be overlooked, and Collectors were, therefore, vested with discretionary power to reject applications for ruined tanks. It is desirable that the Board should remind Collectors of this consideration, for if the figured Statement given in the margin of Mr. Fane's letter, dated 10th November 1865, No. 368, be correct, he has entirely misapprehended the order and intention of Government. The irrigable area of the first tank entered in that Statement is shewn to be nearly 80 Acres, of which 75 Acres, assessed at 232 Rupees, are cultivated, and only about 5 Acres, assessed at Rupees 1-10-2, waste. Such a tank cannot be considered "ruined;" and even if it needs repairs these must be of a very trivial description. Yet Mr. Fane appears to have made the tank over to the Merassidar of the village for Rupees 187, or 44 Rupees less than Government now realize. This is termed "a present sacrifice of revenue;" but even if the Merassidar cultivates all the waste, his total payment will only amount to Rupees 198, so that Government will permanently lose Rupees 34 per annum on the most favorable supposition. The chances, however, are that the Merassidar will come to the same conclusion as the Department Public Works, viz., that the repair of the tank will be unprofitable. The



Government, it is observed, have been put to no expense, at all events for ten years, on account of repairs to this tank. The Board will call upon the Collector for full explanation of his proceedings.

4. In the second case, the cultivated area amounts to 43 Acres, assessed at Rupees 151, but the proportion of waste is large, viz., 245 Acres, assessed at 842 Rupees. This may, therefore, be considered a "ruined" tank by a liberal rendering of the terms.

5. The Government remark that in the Statement the assessment of the present cultivation is noted as the "future revenue" of the works; but it is doubtless understood that the owner of the tank is to pay the fixed rate on every acre brought into cultivation by his restoration of the work.

6. The Collector and the Board both use the expression "*out of repair* for more than five years," but the tanks coming within the scope of the Government order are "*ruined* tanks which have been in that condition for five years." The Government consider it desirable to lay down, as a guide to Collectors, that when the cultivation under a tank bears the proportion of 25 per cent. to the irrigable area, the work is not to be considered "ruined."

7. The Government do not find that any report has yet been received on the working of their Order, dated 23rd December 1862, No. 2,673, and desire that the call be attended to without delay.

(True Extract.)

*Secretary to Government.*

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

1866 Depte
Proc. of Govt. for January
No 329
Proc. of Govt. in the
Rev. Depte
Dy 19 } Jany
Rec'd 24 }
No 162

Passing orders
on certain correspon-
dence subs. by the
Board of Revenue
regarding the transfer
to the ryots of assessed
lands in the
Madras Dt.

with enclosures
No 319. 25th January 1866

List

Civil Voucher

No 319

Return to the
Superintending Engineer
of the 4 Divn

Fort St George
26th January 1866.

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Dept. 29th January

No 668. 669