

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 254

Press
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Dated

29-1-18 68

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th January 1868.*

No. 515. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th January 1868 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ahtur, Tinnevely District, 18th January 1868, No. 28.

1. When I reported the floods in the Tambrapurney river on the 31st of October last, there was every indication of a bountiful monsoon. Since then, however, we have had but little rain, and the river has been extraordinarily low for the season, the consequence is that the more distant tanks that should have been fed from the river have as yet had no water supply, and the crops, under many of the rain-fed tanks, are likely to prove a failure. I have called on Division Officers and Tahsildars for detailed information, and will shortly submit an estimate of the remissions that will have to be made this year. In the meantime, however, I beg to submit a scheme for alleviating any possible distress in a very large tract of country by the execution of a work of great permanent good without any cost to Government.

2. The area to be irrigated from the Strivycuntum anicut is as poor as any in the district. Under many of the tanks there is no cultivation at all this year, and under others, the cultivation is just now commencing at the time when the crop should be harvested.

3. The anicut, when built, will give these tanks a proper supply, but there is no necessity to wait for the anicut, which may not be completed for years, as there is always a head of water in the river, and an ordinary river-channel, without any anicut at all, would give a large supply, the ryots are anxiously waiting for permission to draw off water at once, and propose building a head sluice, and digging a channel three miles in length entirely at their own expense.

4. The interest of the people in the anicut scheme was evinced by their paying down 32,450 Rupees as a subscription towards the work; the Government sanctioned the expenditure of this sum in the collection of materials, and I have accordingly carted 20,370 cut-stones from the old fort at Samulcottah, and have laid them down on the site of the work at a cost of 14,000* Rupees. These stones average three feet in length by one in breadth and thickness, and are sufficient for the facing in front and rear for the top of the anicut, and for an apron eight yards in width; if quarried and carted to the work, these stones would have cost 50,000 Rupees; but they have cost the Government nothing, and there is still 18,450 Rupees of the money subscribed in hand.

* This is more than the people on the northern side of the river subscribed, so they have had their equivalent in stone. The people on the southern bank want their money laid out on a channel.

5. If the Government accede to the following proposal, and permit me to lay out the balance in hand on a channel instead of on the further collection of materials, a revenue of 67,616 Rupees will be secured in a very adverse season, and if the ryots get a Car crop in June, they will profit by that alone to the extent of a lac of Rupees. I beg, however, respectfully to remind the Board that every day is precious, and that if sanction be not accorded at once, it will be of no use this season.

6. The people of the villages to be benefited are all unanimous in feeling there are no conflicting interests; the work is so highly popular that all available labor will be given at almost nominal rates, and material of all kinds will be provided without the slightest difficulty.

7. I have spent the last month in a minute inspection of the villages east of the proposed anicut and south of the river, and have visited them all in company with Lieutenant Shepherd, R. E., an Officer specially deputed for the work. With the aid of Maps and Land Registers, and from information gained from the ryots, I have been able to prepare an accurate estimate of the area capable of irrigation from the anicut, and have marked it off with yellow dots in the accompanying Map;

* 5,800 acres.

the area colored yellow throughout† has been levelled, and is that proposed to be irrigated by Colonel Horsley many years ago; levels have not yet been taken for the dotted area,† but it is sufficient at present to know that this area is but little above the sea, while the Kadamba tank, a few miles distant, is estimated by Colonel Horsley to receive water enough for 20,000 acres at a level of 31 feet above the sea.

8. The yellow dotted area, as well as that colored entirely yellow, forms part of the general anicut scheme, and will not be much‡ affected by the present proposal, which is merely to bring water in due season to existing tanks, and so secure a revenue on 6,217 acres of this Nunjah now very uncertainly irrigated; this Nunjah is marked with lines in the Map, and is mostly in the villages of Tenteruperi, Anundanpuram, Kanam, Nallur, Armuganeri, and Attur, its assessment is 67,616 Rupees.

9. I propose crossing the river next week, and preparing statistics regarding the capability of irrigation on the north, and I had intended to have submitted but one report on the subject, but the necessity of this particular case is so urgent, as there are but three months before us for building a head sluice, cutting a channel, and strengthening several tank banks, and the ryots are so anxious to take instant advantage of the working season already begun, that I lose no time in bringing forward a scheme which, though complete in itself, is but a fragment of the irrigation system comprised in the anicut scheme.

10. Colonel Horsley proposed two main channels, one on either side of the river; the northern villages have their channel now, though not of the full width it will be, and the southern villages had a channel once, but it has long ago silted up; the heads of the two channels are opposite each other, just above the proposed site of the anicut.

11. The southern channel fed the Kadamba tank, and a long chain of minor works extending down to the sea. Since the channel choked up the Kadamba tank, and its tributaries have received merely surplus water from the Tenkara tank, and the Kadamba tank, comprising a water-spread of three square-miles,

instead of being the first on its own channel is now the eighth on the Mamdur channel, and gets not a drop of water until the seven tanks above it are filled; these seven tanks take three months to fill, and the crop may be sown and reaped under some of the upper tanks before the ground can be ploughed at the lower end of the chain. Of course, the crop is precarious in a cultivating season, extending from December to May, instead of from October to February, and on the average 6,000 Rupees have been remitted annually for failure of crop in these villages. All this will be changed by the execution of the work now proposed, which is virtually the restoration of the old channel from Strivycuntum to the Kadamba tank, though somewhat altered in line* by Colonel

* Following Colonel Horsley's line now will be so much excavation gained, and will save Government some 30,000 Rupees; but should it be thought irregular to commence any part of the anicut work in anticipation of the sanction of the Supreme Government, I need not break ground on the line at all, but by taking off the head sluice a little higher up the river will merely restore an old channel, which will do good service till such time as the anicut is built.

† 84 feet wide at top.
36 feet wide at bottom.

yards in depth by twelve yards in width at bottom for a distance of nearly three miles, and the estimate allows 2 Annas a cubic yard for earth-work. For present purposes one-third of the estimated width†

‡ 60 feet wide at top.
12 feet wide at bottom.

at bottom would be sufficient, and a temporary head sluice might be built to be re-placed by a permanent sluice, when the anicut is built and the channel is dug out completely hereafter; this would greatly reduce the cost, as the ryots agreed to excavate it at half the estimated cost, or at one Anna a yard; cutting three miles will cost 15,840 Rupees, add for the head sluice 500 Rupees, and for two syphon sluices in the line 700 Rupees, total 17,040 Rupees, leaving 1,410 Rupees for sundries.

13. Independently of the present advantage of this work, there is the prospective advantage of its helping to drain the river while the anicut is in course of construction, and of its being a kind of trial line to shew how far the Kadamba tank and its tributaries will be benefited by the anicut scheme. I trust that the Board will not see any objection to the present proposal, as should the anicut never be built, the channel will be quite as useful as the channel on the opposite bank now is, and as long as there is water in the river, there will always be water flowing through the proposed channel into the Kadamba tank; there is no engineering difficulty, and there are ample funds in hand. Lieutenant Shepherd, who is now on the spot, is available for the supervision of the work, and I will render all aid in my power, and try and get the work finished by June. The levels have all been taken, and Colonel Horsley's plans and sections for the head sluice and channel are now with Lieutenant Shepherd, who shares my opinion as to the advantages to be derived from the work. Lieutenant Shepherd has reported on the subject to the Superintending Engineer now at Madura and to avoid delay I have forwarded a copy of this letter to the Superintending Engineer, requesting him to be good

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enough to communicate at once with the Board, should he generally approve of the scheme.

1. The Board regret to receive the foregoing unfavourable account of the state of the crops in the Tinnevely District. Mr. Puckle's letter will be forwarded for the information of Government, with the Board's earnest recommendation that the work recommended by him be at once undertaken on the terms proposed.

2. The Superintending Engineer's letter will be forwarded when received.

No. 516.

ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1868, No. 254.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government authorize the Collector to carry out his proposals.

2. They desire to learn from the Collector how it was that the ryots allowed a channel to silt up, to the restoration of which they now attach so much importance. The due application of "Kudi Maramut" should have obviated the evil.

(True Extract.)

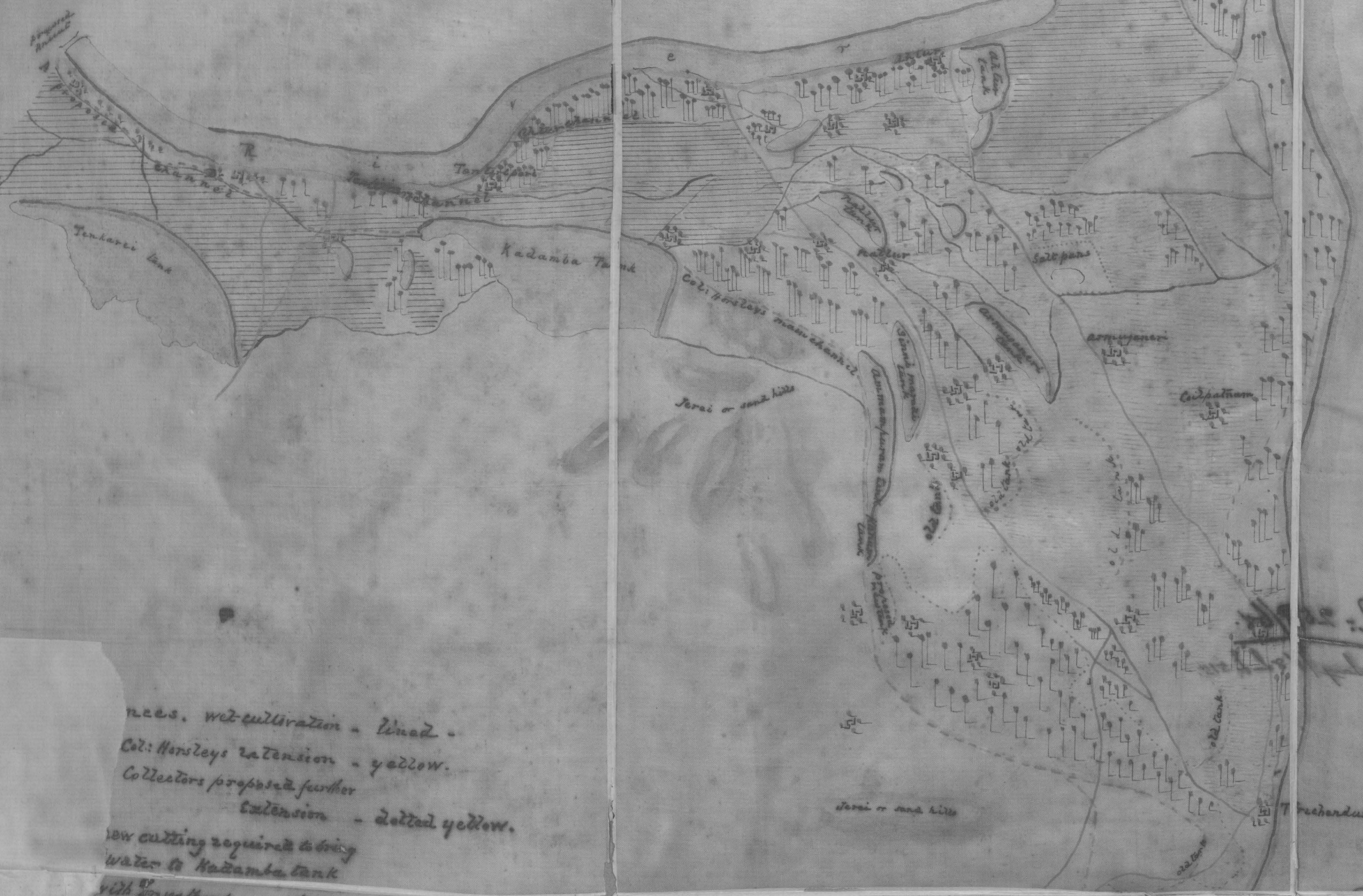
(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Sketch of the country East of the
 proposed Anicut at Sreevaygundam
 on the South bank of the river.



nees. wet-cultivation - lined -
 Col: Horsleys extension - yellow.
 Collectors proposed further
 extension - dotted yellow.
 low cutting required to bring
 water to Kadamba tank
 with or without an anicut - A & B.

N. K. Puckler
 Collection.

No 254

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proposals - ~~for~~ they

1 Copy Letter Col. of Timor
14 Copies in B. of Rev. 20

Drain & Land for

21 Copy of L. of W. The for. has it was that
the Govt. allowed a channel

to fill up, & the destruction of
the now a much more important
The due application of 'Kudi' ~~the~~
should have obtained the right. ~~for~~

29. Jan 1868

by R. I have ascertained from for. Govt.
that he has no objection on the
score of interference with the
ancient project.