

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2598A	Press ~~Mis.~~
1-2	
Dated 1 11	1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st November 1870.*

No. 1. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Nagalore, 19th September 1870, No. 124 :—

In reference to G. O., No. 1,533, dated 21th June 1870, sanctioning two estimates, amounting together to Rupees 440, for the repair of the Parandapally

tank in the Kistnagherry Talook of the Salem District, and remarking that it is not improbable that the ryots under this tank have not from time to time performed such trifling repairs under Kudimaramut as they were bound to do, I have the honour to state that I addressed the Collector of Salem on this subject, and I append his reply, dated 20th instant, No. 103.

2. Mr. Price's argument, it will be seen, consists briefly as follows : that as the ryots, in consequence of their not being properly "looked up" by the Revenue authorities, have neglected for many years to carry out that maintenance and up-holding of the tank which they were bound to do by immemorial custom under Kudimaramut, they should not now be called upon to execute this service until fresh laws are passed on the subject.

3. I must confess for my part that I do not seem to see this. — Indeed, I may say that it appears to me most pernicious doctrine.

4. The law of the land is an excellent law, and although from supineness on the part of the Revenue officers of this district it has been allowed to fall into desuetude, it has never been abrogated. And there is no necessity therefore, in my opinion, for any further legislation in the matter. Indeed, this constant cry for more Acts, followed by the inevitable further enactments explaining what these Acts mean, and bewildering, if not maddening, as they must be to the Natives if they ever read them, is much to be deprecated, if only for the latter reason.

5. In the particular case under notice, I believe, it will be found on enquiry that these ryots have been for years paying an almost nominal tax of 5 Rupees, or so, per acre for land, the right to cultivate which will fetch in the market perhaps Rupees 200 per acre ; and that for all these many years, during which the sapling on the tank bund has grown into a large tree, and gradually introduced its roots through the crevices of the sluice, they have sat quietly at their ease and done nothing. And now they coolly expect that "Government" will, for the paltry rent paid, undertake extensive repairs without calling upon these eight Puttahdars for either a doodoo of extra rent, or an hour of cooly labour.

6. Talk of the lâches of the Public Works Department—that butt of feeble journalists and other scanty wits—what are these compared to such wholesale neglect by the Collector's Department, as above confessed, of the talent committed to their charge ?

7. It appears to me high time that Government should adopt some stringent measures in this matter, and insist upon Kudimaramut, either in labour or coin.

8. At the present moment the tanks and the whole of the irrigation works of this division are *de facto* in charge of no one. The consequence is that not

Ag. Supt. Engrs. Dept.

only are tanks and channels left neglected till they breach, but millions of cubic yards of stored water are allowed to run to waste. The state of the Cauvery channels is a deplorable instance of this neglect.

9. From what I have seen of this district, I am satisfied that even with the present low kists the revenue might be raised 30 per cent. by proper supervision of the irrigation works.

10. I would most strongly urge, therefore, on Government the necessity of taking immediate measures to enforce Kudimaramut, but I would recommend that instead of in labour it should be paid in coin, calculated, say, at 10 per cent. on the kist, and that the money so raised be *bona-fide* expended in the entertainment of special Overseers and head and other coolies charged with the maintenance of their respective circles of irrigation works, and whose duty it would be to attend to the sluices and see that no waste occurs.

11. Among the manifold advantages to Government by the adoption of the system here advocated would be—

1st.—Increased revenue and prosperity to the country.

2nd.—The adoption of regulating sluices of a more suitable construction than that now in force, for the proper and accurate daily supply of water required for the irrigation under each reservoir; the introduction of such sluices cannot be advocated under existing arrangements.

3rd.—Decreased budget requirements for Repairs, Agricultural.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Salem in charge, to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, dated Salem, 2nd September 1870, No. 101.

With reference to your letter, No. 29, dated 2nd July 1870, I have the honour to forward, for your consideration, a copy of a letter addressed to the Collector by me when in charge of the Sub-Division, in which I have reported upon the state of the Parandapally tank, and expressed my opinion that the ryots should not be chargeable with any portion of the cost of repairs.

2. Should your views on this point differ from mine, I shall feel favoured by your informing me where they do.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Salem, to the Collector of Salem, dated Camp at Mathoor, 10th August 1870, No. 437.

I HAVE the honour to return the estimate which accompanied your letter of the 12th ultimo, No. 634, and to inform you, with reference to my letter marginally noted, that I yesterday inspected the Parandapally tank.

No. 390, dated 16th July 1870

2. It is a very old one indeed, and there are only eight Puttahdars who hold lands under it. I could observe no traces of revetment on the bund, which is made of black earth, and is in a very dilapidated state. I learnt that three years ago the ryots repaired the bund, and there are traces of work having been done to it in several places. The breaching of the tank was in no way the fault of the ryots, and was caused as follows:—The sluice is not of masonry, but of loose stones, that is stones put together without chunam; near it is a very large tree, the roots of this, in a long course of years, thrust themselves between the interstices of the stones and displaced them. The ryots were unable, owing to the extreme smallness of the sluice, to remove these; the water worked in, undermined the bank, and the consequence was a breach.

3. The bund has evidently been for many years pretty much in its present state, and I learnt from enquiries made on the spot that it is quite ten years since Government did anything to it.

The ryots seem to have of late tried to repair it as well as they could, but it now requires a great deal more work than it would be just to demand of the few ryots who hold lands under it.

4. The question raised by Government, as set forth in the Superintending Engineer's letter, is a very difficult one to answer. "Kudimaramut" has, as far as I know, never been defined, except by the Board of Revenue, and that this and the "customary labour" alluded to in Act I. of 1858 are identical, is to me somewhat doubtful. As far as I have been able, by enquiries which I made long ago, to ascertain there has been no such thing as "Kudimaramut," in this part of the district for many years. Enforcing any repairs to tanks on the part of the ryots had, until the time of my predecessor, Mr. Thomas, fallen into complete desuetude. He tried his best to revive the system, and I have done the same, but it has been a very difficult task, and even now it is only when a tank is inspected by some Revenue officer that anything can be done. No reliance can be placed on what is said either by the people or the village officials. I think that the state of the bund of the Parandapally tank is the result of the neglect by the District officials for many years to enforce repairs by the ryots; that these having become a dead letter, the ryots were unaware of what was expected of them, and that if they had known what it was they would have performed it without a complaint. The chain having been broken, it is a matter of the most difficult nature to restore it.

5. I would not, under these circumstances, especially as the ryots, when orders were issued by me about three years ago supplying the head of each village with a copy of Act I. of 1858, and insisting on the holders of lands under tanks making petty repairs, did earthwork to the bund, recommend that they should now be called upon to contribute in money or labour; but I would strongly advocate a clear definition of "Kudimaramut," the passing of a law to enforce its performance as so defined, and the utmost rigour in carrying out such penalties as may be prescribed for its neglect.

6. If the tank is fully repaired there will be an increase of cultivation of between 40 and 50 Rupees beyond the present ayacut.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st November 1870, No. 2,598A.

IRRIGATION, No. 1.

As it appears from the correspondence submitted by the Acting Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division,

with reference to G. O. of the 24th June last, No. 1,533, that the Acting Sub-Collector of Salem in charge is of opinion that the Puttahdars under the Parandapally tank should not be required to contribute to the cost of its repair, the Government resolve to direct the execution of the work, provided for in the sanctioned estimate, at the public expense.

2. The subject of the measures to be taken to define, and enforce the due performance of customary labour is under the consideration of Government in connection with the Report of the Public Works Commission.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 01.

Salem collector's office,
2^d September 1870.

3A

From, J. F. Price Esquire
Ag. Sub collector of Salem in charge.
To, Captain R. A. Roberts M.E.,
Superintg. Engineer, 5th Division

Sir,

With reference to your letter
No 29, dated 2^d July 1870, I have the
honor to forward for your consideration
a copy of a letter addressed to the
Collector by me when in charge of the
Sub Division, in which I have
reported upon the state of the Taram
dapalli Tank, and expressed my
opinion that the ryots should not be
chargeable with any portion of the
cost of repairs. —

2. Should your views on this point
differ from mine, I shall feel favored
by your informing me where they do.
I have the honor to

(True copy) [Signed J. F. Price]
Ag. Sub collector
in charge.

R. A. Roberts
Ag. Supt. Engineer 5th Div.

N^o 124

Superintg. Engr's Office, 5th Division,
Madras, 19th September 1870.

From, The Ag. Superintg. Engineer,
5th Division

To, The Secretary Government,
Public Works Department.

Sir,

In reference to G.O. N^o 1533 dated
24th June 1870, sanctioning two estimates
amounting together to Rspees 440 for the
repair of the Sarandapally tank in the
Kistnagherry talook of the Salem District,
and remarking that it is not impro-
bable that the Ryots under this tank
have not from time to time performed
such trifling repairs under Coody-
-Maramma as they were bound to do,
I have the honor to state that I
addressed the Collector of Salem on
this subject, and I append his reply
dated 20th instant N^o 1013. —

2. Mr. Price's argument, it will be
seen consists briefly as follows:— that
as the Ryots in consequence of their m

Enclosure No. 1 in letter

No. 124 of 19th Sept 1870

from Ag. Engrs Office

to the Secretary Govt of Madras

Mr J. H. J. 10

Received 10th Oct 1870

being properly "looked up" by the Revenue Authorities, have neglected for many years to carry out that maintenance & up-holding of the Tank which they were bound to do by immemorial custom, under Coody Marammat, they should not now be called upon to execute this service until fresh laws are passed on the subject:-

3. I must confess for my part that I do not seem to see this. Indeed I may say that it appears to me most pernicious doctrine.

4. The law of the land is an excellent law, and although from supineness on the part of the Revenue officers of this District, it has been allowed to fall into desuetude, it has never been abrogated. - And there is no necessity therefore, in my opinion, for any further legislation in the matter. - Indeed this constant cry for more acts followed by the inevitable further enactments explaining what these acts mean, and bewildering if not maddening as they must be to the

58 natives, if they ever read them, is much to be deprecated if only for the latter reason:-

5. In the particular case under notice, I believe it will be found, on enquiry, that these Ryots have been for years paying an almost nominal tax of 5 Rupees, or so, per acre for land the right to cultivate which will fetch in the market perhaps Rs. 200. per acre, and that for all these many years, during which the sapling on the tank bund has grown into a large tree, & gradually introduced its roots through the crevices of the sluice, they have sat quietly at their ease, and done nothing. - And now they coolly expect that "Government" will for the paltry rent paid, undertake extensive repairs without calling upon these eight Pattadars for either a Doodee of extra rent, or an hour of cooly labor.

6. Talk of the lâches of the Public Works Department - that brood of feeble journalists and other scampy wits - what are these compared to such wholesale

neglect by the Collector's Department, as above confessed, of the talent committed to their charge?

7. It appears to me high time that Government should adopt some stringent measures in this matter, and insist upon Goody Mammatt, either in labor or coin. -

8. At the present moment the tanks and the whole of the irrigation works of this Division are de facto in charge of no one. - The consequence is that not only are tanks and channels left neglected till they breach, but millions of cubic yards of stored water are allowed to run to waste. The state of the canals and channels is a deplorable instance of this neglect. -

9. From what I have seen of this District I am satisfied that even with the present low rates, the Revenue might be raised 30 per cent by proper supervision of the irrigation works.

10. I would most strongly urge therefore on Government the necessity of taking immediate measures to enforce Goody

Mammatt, but I would recommend that instead of labor it should be paid in coin, calculated, say at 10% on the list, and that the money so raised be bona fide expended in the employment of special overseers and head and other coolies, charged with the maintenance of their respective circles of irrigation works, and whose duty it would be to attend to the sluices, and see that no waste occurs. -

11. Among the manifold advantages to Government by the adoption of the system here advocated would be
1. Increased Revenue & prosperity to the country. -

2. The adoption of regulating sluices of a more suitable construction than that now in force, for the proper and accurate daily supply of water, required for the irrigation under each Reservoir. The introduction of such sluices cannot be advocated under existing arrangements. -

3. Decreased Budget requirements

for repairs Agricultural.-

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Rich^d. Roberts Captain R.E.,
Adj. Superintending Engineer.

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171870 Sept (11)
 From the Superintending
 H. The Secy. to Government
 I. M. Department.

Sept 19th }
 Recd 22nd } September 1870.
 N^o 124.

Enclosure 2.

Forwarding copy of
 Salem collector's letter
 on the subject of
 Kuddi Marummal
 required to be done to
 the repairs of Paranda
 -pally Tank in the
 Kistnaghere Talook,
 Salem District, some
 time in G. O. N^o 1533
 of 24th June 1870.

N^o 2598 A. L. Seal

No 1
 Co 5: Oct 1770 Recd 22nd
 Sep 26 1870

1870-
 Salem Sub collectors Office.
 Camp Maithon 10th August 1870.
 87
 From J. F. Price Esqre
 Ag. Sub collector of Salem.
 To C. N. Pochin Esqre
 Collector of Salem.
 Sir,
 I have the honor to return the
 estimate which accompanied your letter
 of the 12th ultimo N^o 634 and to inform
 you, with reference to my letter marginally
 noted, that I yesterday inspected the
 Parandaipally tank.
 It is very old and indeed, and
 there are only 8 Puttadars, who hold
 lands under it. I could observe no
 traces of revetment on the bund, which
 is made of black earth and is in a
 very dilapidated state. I learnt that
 three years ago, the ryots repaired the
 bund, and there are traces of work
 having been done to it in several places.
 The breaching of the tank was in no way
 the fault of the ryots and was caused
 as

as follows. The sluice is not of masonry, but of loose stones - that is stones put together without chunam - Near it is a very large tree. The roots of this, in a long course of years, thrust themselves between the interstices of the stones and displaced them. The roots were unable, owing to the extreme smallness of the sluice, to remove these, the water worked in, undermined the bank, and the consequence was a breach.

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4. The question raised by Government as set forth in the Superintending Engineer's letter is a very difficult one to answer. "Kudi Maramat" has, as far as I know, never been defined, except by the Board of

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and that, if they had known what was, they would have performed it without a complaint. The chain having been broken, it is a matter of the most difficult nature to restore it.

5. I would not, under these circumstances especially as the ryots, when orders were issued by me about three years ago, supplying the head of each village with a copy of Act I of 1858 and insisting on the holders of lands under tanks making petty repairs, did earth work to the limit, recommend that they should now be called upon to contribute in money or labor, but I would strongly advocate a clear definition of "Kudi Marimat," the passing of a law to enforce its performance as so defined, and the utmost rigour in carrying out such penalties as may be prescribed for its neglect.

b. If the tank is fully repaired there
will be an increase of Cultivation of
between 40 and 50 Acres beyond the present
Ayaat- (Enclosy.)
Dict. of Roberto Capt. R. E. J. Price
Sg. 1st/19: Engr. 2nd/5th Div. Sg. Sub Collector.

I have your
\$1.75 Price
a 49. Sub Collector.

Enclosure no. 2 in
letter no. 126 of 19th
September 1870, from the
Ag. Sup. Engineer to
the Secretary to Govt.
D.D.W.

M 3754/70
Pres. 1. Nov 70 L. L. 1.

Govt. Dept.
No. 2598 A.
Proceedings of the Madras Government.
November 1870.
Under date the 1st September 1870.
Read the following

From the Sup. Engineer
of the 5th Div. (Here entered No. 124 of 19th Sept 1870)

As it appears
from the correspondence
submitted by the Acting
Superintending Engineer
of the 5th Div., with re-
ference to G.O. of the
24th June last, No.
1533, that the Acting
Sub Collector of Salem
in charge is of opinion
that the Puttahdars
under the Tanandapully

Tank should not be
required to contribute
to the cost of its repair,
the Government re-
solve to direct the
execution of the work,
provided for in the
sanctioned estimate,
at the public expense.

2 The subject of the
measures to be taken
to define, and enforce
the due performance
of customary labour
is under the consideration
of Government.

121
in connection with the
report of the Public
Works Commission

LM - 24/9/70

W. B.

45
To The S. Eng. & Archt.
Committee
Rev. Secy.
Chief Eng. for S. Eng. & Archt.

Recd 2/11/70.

11237
Govt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the *Superintending Engr.*
S. E. Division

Dated.

Recd.

2

11th Novbr 25984

Nos. *142*

Varandapully Tank - District
The repairs to the Varandapully
Tank in the Salem District
to be executed at the public
expense -

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