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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1206 07 Press Mis.

131/246

Dated 5-2- 1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 131. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 29th March 1871, No. 577.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1871, No. 763.

Read the following letter from the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 6th January 1871, No. 2.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, No. 411, of 29th November 1870.*

* Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous, No. 1,788, dated 2nd December.

2. In making my report, the incompleteness of which is remarked on in the Proceedings just quoted, I beg to state that I based my opinion on no figured statements of any sort. I merely alluded to the insufficiency of water for navigation in the river and canals, and in this I was guided both by personal inspection of the river and channels and what every one says of them.

3. There is ample water in the river now for all ordinary cultivation as it at present exists, and I believe the channels led from the anicut can hold a sufficiency of water to supply all the land ever likely to be brought under cultivation within their influence. I should call Dalwa extraordinary cultivation, but it is not in much favour with the ryots in this district, and I think should not be encouraged, as it scourges the land too much.

4. The supply of water at present afforded is, as the Engineers will testify, more than sufficient for what is wanted of it; and therefore sugarcane cultivation might no doubt be much extended with our present supply.

5. I have just had an opportunity of hearing from Colonel Keating, the Acting Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, on his way through Cocanada to Calcutta, a great deal about the proposed opening up of the Godavery for navigation. A part of the scheme, I believe, is the formation of reservoirs to store water in for admission into the river during the months when it is most shallow, or from middle of February to middle of June; but, I believe, the sites of none of these have been yet definitely fixed on. But the whole scheme will, if sanctioned, cost such an enormous sum of money that any increase of the cultivation or navigation in this district, which would be the result of an increased supply of water in the river, would be a mere nothing in return for the necessary outlay. The traffic, which the connection of the Central Provinces with the Godavery District and coast might, it is hoped, cause to spring up, is at present utterly non-existent, and must be of very slow growth even after it has commenced, owing to the desolate nature of the country through which that traffic will have to pass. It is therefore now absolutely impossible even to guess at what its amount may be. I do not believe that the additional quantity of water required for cultivation in this district could be procured at anything like a reasonable outlay of money.

THIS letter will be submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 29th November 1870, No. 1,873.

2. The Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, reported, in the letters recorded with Government Order, 7th January 1870, No. 76, (Irrigation,) that

storage of water in reservoirs on the Upper Godavery was important for navigation, for sugarcane and garden cultivation, and for the earlier preparation of seed-beds for the great rice-crop of the delta, but not for the Dalwa crop.

3. The Secretary of State desired that the views of the Revenue authorities on the subject should be ascertained (Government Order, 2nd June 1870, No. 1,374).

4. In a letter, dated the 18th July 1870, No. 209, the Collector reported briefly that an increased volume of water would be beneficial in the dry months. He was called on to report more fully, and to forward the figured statements on which his opinion was based (Government Order, 29th November 1870, No. 1,878).

5. This letter is his reply, but it gives very little additional information. Mr. Fraser believes that the proposed storage would not be beneficial *in proportion to its cost*, because—

(1.) The Dalwa crop, which it would facilitate, is a crop to be discouraged.

(2.) Sugarcane cultivation can be extended with the present supply of water.

(3.) Traffic with the Central Provinces does not exist at present, and would only spring up very slowly.

(4.) The existing water-supply is more than equal to the demands of the existing cultivation.

6. The Board have no information as to the probable cost of the storage scheme; but as their opinion seems to be desired as to its advantages independent of its cost, they must request the Collector, after carefully perusing the papers recorded with the Government Order, communicated to him in Board's Proceedings, 30th March 1870, No. 2,126, to report *fully* on the following points:—

Supposing that water can be stored so as to give a discharge of 250,000 cubic yards an hour and keep the channels navigable during the dry months—

(1.) Might Dalwa cultivation be expected to increase; and, if so, to what extent, and with what effect on the revenue?

(2.) Would sugarcane and garden cultivation increase to a greater extent than with the present supply of water; and, if so, how far, and with what effect on the revenue?

(3.) What additional receipts might be expected from navigation, it being remembered that the cotton of Guntoor and the northern talooks is being transported in the dry months?

(4.) Would the increased facilities of navigation give a great impetus to cultivation by creating an increased demand for produce; and, if so, what would be the probable effect on the revenue?

(5.) Would much be gained by the fact that seed-beds for the rice-crop could be prepared earlier?

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES MACLEAN,
Actg. Under-Secy. to Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 8th July 1871.

No. 132. Endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated 6th June 1871, No. 23.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th May 1871, No. 2,046.

Read the following letter from the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ramachendrapur, 31st March 1871, No. 108.

I HAVE the honour to report that since the receipt of the Board's Proceedings of 17th February 1871, No. 763, I have again carefully perused the papers recorded with the Government Order contained in Board's Proceedings, No. 2,126, of 30th March 1870.

2. I am ordered to report fully on five points connected with these papers, the first being, "might Dalwa cultivation be expected to increase; and, if so, to what extent, and with what effect on the revenue?" and I am also to suppose that "irrespective of cost water can be stored so as to give a discharge of 250,000 cubic yards an hour and keep the channels navigable during the dry months."

3. I will begin with the last part first. The dry months may be taken as three, extending from middle of March to middle of June. At this moment several of the channels in the immediate vicinity of my camp are open for navigation, and the first freshes of the Godavery are seldom down before the 15th or 20th June. Now, these dry months are the very ones when water is least needed, imperatively, for cultivation, and are therefore those in which repairs or improvements on the channels are always, if possible, executed. We have not one set of channels for navigation and another for cultivation, and therefore in no year can all channels be kept open at the same time, no matter what the supply of water in the river. Some important line will always be closed for this period for repairs. I think that in the papers which I am directed to peruse carefully the Superintending Engineer clearly shows that shortcomings in Dalwa cultivation are not attributable to want of water in the river. The name "Dalwa," in its usual acceptation, tends rather to mislead. It is generally believed to signify a second crop of paddy taken off land that has only just been relieved of a heavy first crop. Now, much cultivation in this district is so called because of the time of year at which it occurs. Much land in the Bhimaveram Talook has hitherto been so badly drained that it is swamped with water up till the end of December or even later, and so uncultivable. It is only when the water dries up or runs off that cultivation can be, and is, undertaken. But here the land has borne but one crop. The amount of land that usually bears two crops of paddy in the fusly is small, probably not more than 5,000 acres. The ryots know that cultivating in this way spoils their land by giving it no rest, and, therefore, wisely avoid it. Therefore, if the supply that our channels now carry be better regulated in its distribution, and, above all, drainage—thorough and efficient drainage—be established, cultivation would no doubt rapidly increase. But then our accounts would show a falling off in Dalwa and an increase in first-crop cultivation. The name "Dalwa" I would repeat, till explained, is a mistake. I think a better and more easily understood term would be "cultivation" (of paddy) commenced before 1st January and do. after 1st January of each fusly.

Much low-lying land in Amlapur Talook, along the margin of the Godavery and near its exit into the sea, that now is hardly ever cultivated for fear of inundation by the river, would be cultivated were the river embanked. This, I believe, it has been all along intended to do at some time; but it has been so frequently deferred that the ryots almost despair of its ever being done. What the increase of first-crop cultivation might be were the measures I have referred to completed it is impossible to estimate with any exactness, because it would be slow and dependent a good deal on the completion of already-projected roads; but that it would be great, and to the extent probably expected by the Engineer Department, I have little doubt.

4. II.—"Would sugarcane and garden cultivation increase to a greater extent than with the present supply of water; and, if so, how far, and with what effect on the revenue?"

The number of acres under this cultivation now in the whole district is about 13,500 acres. The chief crops cultivated are sugarcane, betel, turmeric, chillies, onions, and yams. Of this we may estimate 8,000 acres as watered solely by the anicut channels. By far the largest portions are in Amlapur, Ramachendrapur, Tanuku, and Nursapur Talooks, and principally in Amlapur and Nursapur. Sugarcane cultivation is begun about the middle of February, when the crops for the next season are planted. Therefore, water is required continuously for these from this time till a month before the crop is cut, or for eleven months. Turmeric, chillies, and onions are planted in the middle of November, and the crops come to maturity and are gathered before the 1st May. Therefore, if the supply of water till then in all channels were certain, the cultivation of these last-named three crops would much increase. There is always a ready market for them. If the supply of water were as certain for April, May, and June as it is now up to that date, and it were always declared by 1st January of each year what channels would be closed for repairs, the uncertainty that now exists under these heads would cease, and I think the present amount of sugarcane cultivation, or 2,500 acres, might be doubled, and the present revenue from the same source, of course, be doubled too. Other garden cultivation might be increased in the same proportion if all uncertainty as to supply of water were prevented.

5. III.—"What additional receipts might be expected from navigation, it being remembered that the cotton of Guntoor and the Northern Talooks is being transported in the dry months?"

No doubt, if the line of canal from Bezoara to Cocanada were always with certainty kept open in the dry months, receipts from past license fees would largely increase. These fees are collected by the Engineer Department. The most of the cotton exported from Cocanada comes from Guntoor. The out-turn in cotton of our Northern Talooks is small; but the uncertainty of the whole line of navigation I refer to being at all times open in the dry months is too great for me to calculate what the increased receipts from license fees would be.

6. IV.—All I can say on this head is that, if to increased facilities of navigation be added a sufficiency of good roads for traffic throughout the district, so that produce can at all times be easily transported to market, no doubt cultivation would largely increase, and revenue with it.

7. V.—The ryots now always wish to have their rice seed-beds prepared in May or even in April. I learn that under the Nursapur canal, when water is at present available, seed-beds are being prepared at the present time. The ryots believe that, by transplanting earlier than June or July, the usual time, they would secure the certainty of a good crop of rice. To secure this, therefore, would benefit the ryots more than the revenue. The ryots would like to be able to begin transplanting before the rains set in in June. They would not, as they frequently do now, keep lands in their possession uncultivated; but the revenue would not benefit much directly by early transplanting and seed-sowing being secured.

No. 763, dated 17th February 1871, (recorded in G. O., No. 577, dated 29th March 1871).

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings marginally noted.

2. In this letter the Collector replies to certain categorical questions put with a view to elicit his opinion as to the probable effect on cultivation and revenue of extensive storage of water in the interior to afford a fuller supply during the dry months of the year.

3. He explains the nature of the Dalwa crop. It is not, as has sometimes been conceived, a second rice-crop. It is a single late rice-crop raised on land which, from natural condition or imperfect drainage, is under water during the early part of the agricultural year, and can only be put under crop when the water leaves it. It is an indifferent and a make-shift crop, and disappears when better drainage enables the ryot to raise one during the proper cultivation season. The Collector observes that the ryots of the Godavery do not raise two crops of rice on the same land as a rule, for they dread the disadvantage of overcropping and exhausting their land. It seems even doubtful whether a steady supply during the later months would cause extensive cultivation of a second crop on land which had already yielded a good first-crop between June and December.

4. On the whole, it is clear that the Dalwa is not an important or even a desirable crop, and the prospect of its extension is no good reason for large expenditure on reservoirs. The area of this cultivation has fallen off, probably before more efficient drainage and facility for cultivating the more seasonable early rice-crop, and perhaps this cultivation would disappear altogether were there the means of raising an ordinary crop on the same land.

5. In fact, it seems clear that money spent on drainage, embankment, and better regulation of existing works would, on the whole, be more profitably laid out, both as regards the Dalwa tracts and the low-lying lands, in the Amlapur Talook.

6. There seems every reason to anticipate extension of sugarcane and garden cultivation from a steady supply of water during the dry months, and the earlier the seed-beds can be put down the better the prospects of the regular rice-crop. The impression, however, produced by these papers is that the existing supply in the river would go far to meet the requirements of the agricultural population for the present if it could be better regulated and if the closing of channels for clearances were less frequent and prolonged. At all events, the Board cannot urge the interest of these casual crops as an argument for large expenditure on inland

reservoirs until existing local impediments have so far diminished as to admit of more distinct judgment as to what is wanted and at what cost the object can be obtained. Time, too, must be allowed for the development of the system of local roads and communications with its beneficial effects on the prosperity of the district.

7. Increased facility of navigation would produce larger canal revenue, and re-act on cultivation and trade most beneficially; but it is clear that one of the most serious difficulties and disturbing causes lies in the necessity for closing the canals for repairs. It appears to the Board that money will for the present be more usefully employed in overcoming these difficulties and making more readily available the supply which the Superintending Engineer's letter * shows there now is, and the conclusion to which the Board have thus arrived agrees almost precisely with that stated by him and endorsed by Government, in their Order † noted in the margin.

* No. 2,845, dated 30th October 1869, and recorded in G. O. † No. 76, dated 7th January 1870, Public Works Department.

8. It is perhaps worthy of consideration whether more might not be done to devote all the available water to one line of navigation in the hot weather.

COMMUNICATED to the Department of Public Works in continuation of G. O., 29th March 1871, No. 577.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting-Under Secy. to Govt.

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1871, No. 1,806.

IRRIGATION, No. 10.

ORDERED that these papers be forwarded to the Government of India with reference to the Proceedings in the Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) dated Simla, 20th May 1870, No. 191-I.

2. The Collector's report and the conclusion to which the Board of Revenue have arrived confirm the opinion of this Government expressed in their Proceedings dated 7th January 1870, No. 76.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 134. DOCKET No. 1,807, dated 8th July 1871.

COPY of the above forwarded to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

P. W. 1871 Dcpts
Brief Govt for Orissa
No 2637.

Pro: of the 6th June
Revenue Dept.

Rec'd 6th June
Read 7th June } 1871

No 23

Communicating
Prov: of the Board of
Rev: on a letter from
the Collector furnishing
the further information
requested regarding
the effect on cultivation
& revenue, of extensive
storage of water in
reservoirs on the
Upper Godavery —
No 1806-1807 - 8 July 1870

P. W. Dcpt 6

No 1806. 9

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 8th July 1871
Read the following

Proceedings of the Madras Government } No 577 29 March 1871
in the Revenue Dept — }
do — do — do — / do — 23 — 6 June —

Ordered that
these papers be for-
warded to the Govt
of India with reference
to the Proceedings in
the Public Works Dept
(Irrigation) dated Simla
20th May 1870 — No 191 - I.

The Collector's
report and the conclusions
to which the Board of
Revenue have arrived
confirm the opinion
of this Govt expressed
in their Proceedings
dated 7th Jan: 1870.

No 22

A/A.

43/4

Desp: 10/7/71

Rangam 1/2 2 1/2 Dr.
Rudhra
Lingam
Reader

Docket No. 1807 dated

Copy of the

above forwarded to the

Government of India.

Cost of 1871 Works.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Offg Superintending Engr
1st Circle
and
To the Secretary to the Govt
of India

Dated

Rec'd.

G. O. 8th July 1871. No. 1806-1807.

Nos. 1310 1331 1324-