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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public works* DEPARTMENT.

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| G.O. No. 845 | Press           |
| 583-84       | <del>Mis.</del> |
| Dated 26. 3  | 1872.           |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
26th March 1872.*

No. 583. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer,  
1st Division, to the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint-  
Secretary to Government, dated Dowlaishweram, 6th March 1872,  
No. 3,738:—

I HAVE the honour to forward, for submission to the Government, the accom-  
panying copy of letter from Deputy  
One copy of letter No. 3, dated 8th February 1872. Collector R. Durma Row, as it appears  
to me that our works are not equitably

treated in the matter of remissions, no option being allowed us to refuse water to  
people who are said frequently to put up a picottah at the end of the season just  
for the purpose of getting off the water-rate readily enough granted to them by  
the Revenue authorities so long as the land-tax remains untouched.

2. Now that the land here benefits enormously by the supply of water, no  
one doubts, never mind how it is laid on; to this has to be added the security  
the works afford in protecting the crops from river-floods, in affording the means  
of conveyance at the cheapest possible rates to the best markets for the sale of  
produce, and the certainty with which this can be raised year by year; notwith-  
standing all these advantages the water-rate of the district has been made the  
lowest of all the districts of this Presidency, and remissions are moreover allowed  
on any pretence on even this rate.

3. It is perfectly impossible for the Government to be satisfied that the out-  
lay made by them on such works as these are right in principle if the returns  
from them are made to bear all losses. Mr. Fraser, the late Collector of the  
District, was decidedly of opinion the water-rate should be raised to Rupees 6 an  
acre considering all the advantages of the water-supply, or 50 per cent.; instead of  
this, however, meeting with any consideration, a reduction of 25 per cent. is  
allowed, because a man says he lifts the water a foot or two. Under these circum-  
stances I beg respectfully to solicit permission be granted to us to refuse the  
supply of water unless a guarantee is given that the full water-rate will be paid.

4. The land-tax in this district has been secured as far as it is possible to  
do so from any loss by these works affording a full supply of water for all pur-  
poses as well as protection from all risks, such as river floods, failure of rain, etc.,  
yet remissions, if necessary, are never made on this, but the works which maintain  
the prosperity of the district in full vigour are made to bear the loss; it may have  
been wrong to make any distinction in assessing the district for revenue, and in  
England no distinction is made in levying the income-tax as to how much  
should be levied on one source of income, and how much on another, and in  
giving remissions no such distinctions are ever taken into account. Why then  
should the water-rate here be made to bear all the losses incident to the land?

5. It is of importance to get this question decided soon, so that we may  
estimate correctly the losses the works have to sustain, as well as the profits they  
yield, now that the completion projects are being put in hand.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
26th March 1872.*

From the Deputy Collector, to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated Nursapur, 8th March 1872, No. 3.

In reply to your letter No. 3,291 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you it would appear from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,321, of the year 1866, that lands irrigated by baling are entitled to a remission of one-fourth of the water cess, and not of the land-tax. I have therefore proposed to remit one-fourth of the water cess levied on the fields of Madury Veerasalingum, for which water is baled.

No. 584. ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1872, No. 845.

**IRRIGATION, No. 28.**

With the above letter the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division forwards a letter from the Deputy Collector stating that he has proposed to remit one-fourth of the water cess on certain lands to which water has been supplied by baling in accordance with Proceedings of the Revenue Board, No. 2,321, dated 6th April 1866.

Circular No. 6.

2. The Superintending Engineer takes exception to the reduction of 25 per cent. from the water rate because water has to be raised, and implies that picottahs are frequently put up at the end of a season in order that the water tax may be reduced and that remissions are too readily granted.

3. The Government are unable to act upon general statements such as these, and the Superintending Engineer should bring to the notice of the Collector any cases in which picottahs have been put up merely for the purpose of obtaining a reduction in the water rate, after having satisfied himself that the water in the channels throughout the season has been on a sufficient level to command the lands on which remissions are claimed. The Government are of opinion that if water has to be raised for any portion of a season the proprietors of the land thus supplied are entitled to a remission of a portion of the water rate in order to cover the cost of raising the water.

4. The Superintending Engineer further states that, in consideration of the advantages derived from the canals both by providing cheap means of conveyance for produce and by affording a permanent supply of water, the water rate generally should be raised. The Government are of opinion that the consideration of the question relative to the increase of the water rate in the Godavery District may be postponed until the completion of the projects for the improvement of the delta now under execution, as it is probable that an increase in the water rate would retard the conversion into wet cultivation of land for which those projects are calculated to provide a full and constant supply of water.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,  
Ag. Joint-Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.  
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.  
" Board of Revenue.  
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

123

Godavery District Deputy Collector  
Office, General Duty, Nursapur  
8th February 1872

From

R. Narayana Rao

Deputy Collector

To

The Superintending Engineer  
1st Division

Dowlaiswaram

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 3291 of the 25th Ultimo, I have the honor to inform you it would appear from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue No. 2321 of the year 1866 that lands irrigated by baling are entitled to a remission of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the water cess, and not of the land tax. I have therefore proposed to remit  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the water cess levied on the fields of Madury Veerasalingum, for which water is baled.

I have the honor to be  
Sir,

Your most obedient servant  
Muziris R. Narayana Rao  
Deputy Collector

True Copy

Wm. T. Tucker Esq. Col. R.E.  
Ag. Superintending Engr 1st Div.

No. 3738

From

Lieut. Col. J. S. Fisher M.E.  
Acting Superintending Engineer

1st Division

To

Major W. S. Oakes M.E.

Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation and  
Joint Secretary to Government,

SIR,

Madam

I have the honor to forward for <sup>copy of</sup> submission to the Government the accompanying letter from Deputy Collector N. D. Dhanoo, as it appears to me that our works are not equitably treated in the matter of dispensing water, no option being allowed us to refuse water to people who <sup>can insist</sup> frequently put up a Peerkab at the end of the season just for the purpose of getting off the water-rates readily enough granted to them by the Revenue authorities so long as the land <sup>has</sup> remains uncultivated. Now, that the land here hereafter is <sup>increased</sup> by the supply of water, no one doubts, never mind how it is <sup>in</sup> <sup>to</sup> this has to be added the security the works afford in protecting the crops from river-floods, in affording the

Means

means of conveyance at the cheapest possible  
rates to the best markets for the sale of produce.  
And ~~with~~ <sup>the</sup> certainty with which this can be  
raised year by year, notwithstanding  
all these advantages, the water rate of the  
District has been made the lowest of  
all the Districts of this Province, and  
remissions are moreover allowed on any  
pretence or even this rate.

3 It is perfectly impossible for the  
Government to be satisfied that the outlay made  
by them on such works is as they are right in  
principle if the returns from them are made  
to bear all the outlay. Now, the J. C. Board  
of the District, was strongly of opinion the  
water rate should be raised to 100 per cent.  
considering all the advantages of the water  
supply, or 50 per cent. instead of this, however  
meeting with very considerable opposition  
if 25 per cent. is obtained because a man says  
he lifts the water a foot or two, under these  
circumstances, I beg respectfully to solicit  
permission be granted to us to refuse the  
supply of water unless a guarantee is given  
that the full water rate will be paid.

The

4. The Land tax in this District has  
been secured as far as it is possible to do  
so from any loss by these works affording  
a full supply of water for all purposes as well  
as protection from all risks, such as ruin  
floods, failure of rain &c. yet remissions  
if necessary are never made on this, but the  
works which maintain the prosperity of the  
District in full vigor are made to bear  
the loss, it may have been wrong to make  
any distinction in assessing the District  
for Assessment in England, no distinction  
is made in levying the income tax as to  
how much should be levied on one source  
of income, and how much on another, and  
in giving remissions, no such distinctions  
are ever taken into account; why then  
should the water rate here be made to  
bear all the losses incident to the Land?

5 It is of importance to get this  
question decided soon, so that we may  
estimate correctly the losses the works have  
to sustain, as well as the profits they  
yield, now that the completion projects are  
being put in hand.

I am Sir,  
Your most Obedt. Servant  
Wm. T. Trenchard Esq. Col. M.  
A. & S. Engineers & Surveyors



reduction of 25 per cent  
from the water rate  
because water has been  
raised, and implies that  
Picottahs are frequently  
put up at the end of a  
season in order that  
the water tax may be  
reduced and that  
remissions are too  
readily granted.

3. The Government  
are unable to act upon  
general statements such  
as these and the Supt.  
Engineer [should adduce  
specific instances in which  
remissions have been  
granted too readily and]  
should bring to the notice  
of the Collector any cases  
in

This is too wide-  
reaching and  
etc:

in which Picottahs have  
been put up merely for  
the purpose of obtaining  
a reduction in the water  
rate, after having sa-  
tisfied himself that  
the water in the Chan-  
nels throughout the  
season has been on  
a sufficient level to  
command the lands  
on which remissions  
are claimed. The  
Government are of opinion  
that if water has been  
raised for any portion  
of a season the Proprietors  
of the land thus sup-  
plied are entitled to  
a remission of a portion  
of the water rate in  
order to cover the  
cost

cost of raising the water.  
The Super Engineer  
further states that in  
consideration of the  
advantages derived  
from the Canals both  
by providing cheap  
means of conveyance  
for produce and by  
affording a permanent  
supply of water the water  
rate generally should  
be raised. The Govt  
are of opinion that the  
consideration of the  
question relative to the  
increase of the water  
rate in the Godavery  
District may be  
postponed until the  
completion of the projects  
for

for the improvement of  
the Delta, now under  
execution, as it is pro-  
bable that an increase  
in the water rate would  
retard the conversion  
into wet cultivation  
of land for which those  
projects are calculated  
to provide a full  
and constant supply  
of water.

L.P.

H

Super Engineer, Secy  
Chief Engr. for Brigades  
Dy of Revenue  
Rev. Secy  
Despatch

*[Faint, illegible handwriting visible through the paper.]*

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PUBLIC WORKS.

The Asst. Superintending Engr.  
1st Division

Date

No.

Encl.

26<sup>th</sup> June 845.

No. 5834582

Lands. Paper on the  
letter from the Asst. Engr.  
the 7<sup>th</sup> of June and single  
letter from the Asst. Engr.  
Gustavey St. stating that  
has proposed to remove  
the fourth of the water ceps  
on certain lands to which  
water has been supplied  
by halting.