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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	125-9	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
247-248		
Dated	19-1-	1874.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th January 1874.*

No. 247. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ellore Canal, 19th November 1873, No. 50 B:—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 6th November 1873, No. 51.

I HAVE the honour to offer a few remarks on G. O.,* No. 984, of the 13th September, and the papers which accom-

* Public Works G. O., No. 155, dated 29th October 1873.

pany it.

2. The object of the discussion I take to be the invention of some means by which the canal shall receive, in the way of water-rate or insurance fee, a fair proportion of the actual benefit which its existence confers on the country. By *actual* I mean *direct* benefit, such as is produced by the use or presence of the water. I suppose that the Government, when they guaranteed a large interest in order to obtain the canal, felt sure that the canal would be worth its cost to the country as a whole; but it is also evident from the measures taken and the terms made with the Company, that Government consider it most desirable that the burden of the cost of the canal should not be permanently left upon the whole country, but should be as speedily as possible laid upon the portion of it directly benefited by the canal.

3. I am unable to suggest any example of a well-known kind of enterprise similar to the canal. In some cases it acts as a *working partner* of a ryot, as where it furnishes a continuous supply to rice which he grows on land too dry ever to grow rice without such assistance. In these cases there is little difficulty in fixing a water-rate which shall secure to the canal an average remuneration equal to a fourth (say) of the *nett* profit due to its presence. There is as little difficulty in collecting the rate, for the ryot is aware that if he take the water he must pay the water-rate; but that, if he prefer it, he may let it alone, and will then not have to pay.

4. In some cases the canal acts more as a *sleeping partner*, to be drawn upon in emergencies; as where a ryot having land on which rice can be grown in wet seasons without artificial aid, but on which rice would without aid perish so frequently, as a matter of fact, that it would be ruinous to attempt its culture, sows rice with the intention of drawing on the canal when he needs it. In this case the nett profit due to the canal is precisely the same as before; yet he would only use the canal water perhaps six weeks one year, three another, and not at all on wet years. In this case the ryot argues, let the country as a whole pay for the water when I do not want it; I wish to pay for it for the proportion of time I use it. By the existing rules ryots who choose to take the risk, and to sow without application to the Collector, are to pay double rate should they afterwards need the water. But this rule has been interpreted to apply only to fraudulent irrigation by the Revenue Board, or rather the Revenue Board have ruled that the double rate shall only be levied where fraud is proved.

5. In many other cases the ryot has some artificial aid, like a tank, above his field, or some natural aid, like a stream, which enables him to grow rice to perfection in all but dry seasons; so that before the canal existed he has long grown rice upon it. He has been accustomed to lose not only the profit, but the whole crop occasionally, in dry years. I am not here saying that the actual

cultivator, the clodhopper who ploughs the soil, would lose all this. The loss I am aware would often be spread over many parties, *e.g.*, the Government might lose the schist, the holder his rent, the sowcar the half of the grain, and the cultivator only his "profit" (supposing the sowcar paid him for all the labour he bestowed on the field). I mention this because Mr. Chase has mistaken me to mean that the cultivator loses the whole crop in a drought, which is of course not the case unless the word 'cultivator' be held to include all parties directly interested in the crop. Anyhow, in dry years the *whole crop* would be lost, and the canal in those years saves the *whole crop*, and not the *profit* only. Circumstances have induced the ryots to grow the rice yearly in *jeopardy* from time immemorial; in the previous cases rice is grown solely in reliance on the canal, and is never in jeopardy, nor ever would have been. Any actuary would readily acknowledge the great difference this makes, and I will not enter into it here. I will only say that assuming that rice grown under a given tank has been wholly lost once in ten years on the average, then the canal should be paid yearly by that land one-tenth the fair proportion, say one-fortieth the gross value, of the crop on an average season. In this case the canal acts more like an *Insurance Company*, and should be paid whether the water be really used or not. If this be not done, those interested in such land get benefit for which the country pays, or else, in a dry year, they must when they use canal water be taxed a 'fair proportion' of the gross crop saved; and not of the profit of wet crop over dry only, as in the first case.

6. Very similar to this last case is that of dry crops grown under the canal. The rent of dry land under the canal rises—Rupees 4 an acre in the few cases of good land I happen to know—simply because of the insurance almost gratuitously given by the canal at the expense of the country. But in this case there is very rarely a question of the *total* loss of the crop, and it is for the public interest that the ryot should use canal water when, and as much as ever, the crop requires. A rate or penalty on the use of water must tend to make a ryot hold on in hope of rain until his crop has already commenced to suffer. The original rules were meant, at first, to meet the case of dry crop thoroughly; and were only altered in course of discussion so as to let slip the point required to be secured. Yet the original rules would probably not have worked well. So far as I understand them they stood originally as follows:—Any ryot by applying before the 1st April could purchase as many floodings as he liked at 1 Rupee each, afterwards (this was only fair) he must pay double if he waited till he actually wanted the water.

7. However this be, it is only in the interests of the Government and people of India that I discuss the question. To give dry crops an insurance from drought at a slight charge on their *profits* in dry years, in other words at a *very low* rate, is not only to insure them at the public cost, but it is an encouragement to dry crops as against wet; while it is to the interest of the public that the irrigated districts should be cultivated with wet crops which are so productive as to secure the public from famines.

P.S.—I am glad to be able to correct an error of the printer of an extract from a report of Mr. Dodson's printed at Home, referred to in Mr. Chase's letter,*

* Paragraph 3.

No. 73, of 3rd March 1873, to the Secretary of the Revenue Board. I believe the context explains the mistake.

For Rupees 100, Read Rupees 10-0.

(Signed) J. H. L.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. I think that although it may be quite possible to show that, under certain circumstances, canal water is much more valuable to cultivators of wet or dry crops than is the case at other times, there has not, either on the part of the Chief Engineer and Manager of the Company, or otherwise, been any serious intention of charging generally for the water used upon the basis of its particular value to individuals under exceptional circumstances. Variation of charge for crops may be advisable, but a further variation according to the state of the weather or season at the time of application would not be an arrangement which would work well in practice, and one great objection to it would be that ryots could never understand how much they would have to pay, if indeed any two persons could be got to agree on this point.

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 248.

ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1874, No. 125.

IRRIGATION, No. 25.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

No 51.

Kurrumool 6th Nov. 1873
From the Agent and manager
Madras Irrigation and Canal Coy
Kurrumool 5

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to offer a few
remarks on G. O. No²⁸⁴ of the 13th September,
and the papers which accompany it.

P. h. 4. 6
No. 155 of 29th 8/73

The object of the discussion I take to
be the invention of some means by which the
Canal shall receive, in the way of water-rate
or insurance fee, a fair proportion of the
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the country. By actual I mean direct benefit,
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the water. I suppose that the Government,
when they guaranteed a large interest in order
to obtain the Canal, felt sure that the Canal
would be worth its cost to the country as a
whole: but it is also evident from the measures
taken & the terms made with the Company,
that Government consider it most desirable
that the burden of the cost of the Canal should
not be permanently left upon the whole
country, but should be as speedily as possible
laid upon the portion of it directly benefited
by the Canal.

I am unable to suggest any example
of

of a well known kind of enterprise similar to the Canal. In some cases it acts as a working partner of a rayot; as where it furnishes a continuous supply to rice which he grows on land too dry even to grow rice without such assistance. In these cases there is little difficulty in fixing a water rate which shall secure to the Canal an average remuneration equal to a fourth (say) of the net profit due to its presence. There is as little difficulty in collecting the rate; for the rayot is aware that if he take the water he must pay the water-rate; but that, if he prefer it, he may let it alone, and will then not have to pay.

In some cases the Canal acts more as a sleeping partner, to be drawn upon in emergencies; as where a rayot having land on which rice can be grown in wet seasons without artificial aid, but on which rice would without aid perish so frequently, as a matter of fact, that it would be ruinous to attempt its culture, sows rice with the intention of drawing on the Canal when he needs it. In this case the net profit due to the Canal is precisely the same as before; yet he would only use the Canal water perhaps 6 weeks one year, 3 another, & not at all on wet years. In this case the rayot agrees to let the country as a whole pay for the water when it does not want it. I wish to pay for it, for the proportion of time I use it.

(By)

...the existing rules rays who choose to
take the risk; & to sow without application
to the Collector, are to pay double rate, should
they afterwards need the water. But this
rule has been interpreted to apply only to
fraudulent irrigation by the Revenue Board:
or rather the Revenue Board have ruled
that the double rate shall only be levied
where fraud is proved.

In many other cases the rayst has ^{above his} ~~his~~
some artificial aid, like a tank, ~~the tank~~
~~field~~ or some natural aid, like a stream,
which enables him to grow rice to perfection
in all but dry seasons; so that, before the
Canal existed, he has long grown rice upon
it. He has been accustomed to lose - not only
the profit, but - the whole crop occasionally,
in dry years. - I am not here saying that
the actual cultivator, the clod-hopper who
ploughs the soil, would lose all this. The clod
I am aware would often be spread over
many ~~parties~~ parties e.g. the Govt might lose
the soil, the holder his rent, the soncar
the half of the grain, & the cultivator only
his "profit" (supposing the soncar paid him
for all the labour he bestowed on the field).
I mention this because Mr Chase has
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In this case the Canal acts more like an
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rent of dry land under the Canal rises -
4 Rupees an acre in the few cases of good
land I happen to know - simply because
of the insurance almost gratuitously given
by the Canal, at the expense of the Country.
(But

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed^t servant
J^{ms} Waltham
Agent and Manager

P.S. I am glad to be able to correct
an error of the printer of an extract from
a report of Mr Dodson's printed at home,
referred to in Mr Chadwick's letter ^{of} 10-73 of
3rd March 1873 to the Secretary of the
Revenue Board. I believe the context
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for £100 read £100
J^{ms} W.

N 50 B

Submitted for the information of Government.

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Office of the Chief Eng^r } Wundhmins Secy. Col. R. E.
 for Irrigation }
 Collore Canal 19th Nov 73 } Chief Engineer for Irrigation

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes and signatures on the left page, including names like 'J. B. No. 307' and 'No. 57']

Lucy

19

Read the following

From the Chief Engr^g (H. E. No. 50 B of 19th Nov 1873)

The Government consider that, (however equitable in principle the variation of charge for a given quantity of water, according to its actual value at the time of its supply to the crop to be irrigated, might be, no arrangement based upon this consideration, could be practically carried into effect, and that it will be sufficient if water be charged for with reference to the quantity required for particular crops, and to its value in increasing the productiveness of lands cultivated.

I've sent all the
 money I could
 spare out the other
 day from my bank
 account.

P. R. 1843 Richard Smith:
Wm. Gardner 1844
P. R. 1844 6541.
Wm. Gardner

Be Chief Surgeon
to the Brigade.

The Secretary
August 11. 1888.

B. 50 1/2

Added 19th Nov
Dec 1893

Reads /

Sept 25. 19 "Aug 174.
 a hawk - with
 new feathers
 from the city
 & brought in 14 eggs
 only new feathers
 these all so the
 982 - 18 Sep 73 W.
 100 lbs supplied &
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 but by the 50's can't

To Mr.

with them
by 20/11/73
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with them
by 20/11/73

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To The Ch: Eng: for Enigatun

Deposited 20/1/74

Ch 6541
Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

to the Chief Eng. for
Irrigation

Dated

Recd.

Encl. /

G. O. 19 August No. 125.

Nov. 24 1874

M. S. P. Note by the
Ch Eng for Engrs. submitting
letter from the Agent &
Manager, M. S. P. Co.,
offering remarks on
G. O. No. 984 of 1873 in the
Dept. regarding the rate of
payment for water supplied
from the Govt. Canal &c.
Recorded.