M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

(1) Number of pages_____

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(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3260	Press
~~B.P. No.~~ 305-306		~~Mis.~~
Dated	18-11-1874	~~195~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 305. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 19th August 1874, No. 1,046:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th July 1874, No. 1,831.

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 29th May 1874, No. 926.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 482, dated 31st March 1873, I have the honor to reply that, in the delta, field channels alone are cleared by the villagers. A few cases are reported, where the larger channels have been done by them, but it is uncommon; and if the expense is great (for the ryots will not do such work themselves) it is always done by the Department Public Works.

2. The regulation of the water-supply in the channels is always by the Department Public Works. Sometimes the delta Gumastas also arrange disputes about turns among the villagers; but as a rule once the water gets into the field channels, the villagers manage the distribution; and there is no fighting save when water is very scarce, or a ryot very cantankerous.

3. There are no Nirguntees in any of the delta villages, and as we have got on so long without them, I do not think them necessary now. They would be of no special use in either of the two cases mentioned. The Munsif always has his Mohatad and Vettyans to assist him in such matters.

4. In regard to paragraph 1 of G. O., dated 5th March 1873, No. 713, Public Works Department, asking when the channels can be made over, I would notice that they require constant clearing, and many of them have been neglected for some years. As the duty of keeping them clear has for so long been accepted by Department Public Works, I think that only the channels, that are certified to be clear and in really good working order, should be given over, and that it should be done in a formal manner by an officer of the Department Public Works, who should point out to the head people of the village the whole piece they are in future responsible for, the other channels should be first cleared at Government expense, before the duty is thrown on the villagers.

5. In regard to the new Water-tax Rules, giving the option to ryots of taking or refusing water, I think Government must strengthen the hands of the Collector of this district, and of the ryots themselves, or much trouble may arise.

6. The ryots should have some means given them of compelling all the members of the village to do or pay for their quota of work. It is sometimes the case that a section of the villagers would work, may be, because their lands are so situate that unless the channels are fully efficient they suffer, while those whose lands are situate on such a level that the channel, even when full of silt, still gives them a sufficiency, will not, for the very obvious reason that, if they hold out, it is likely that the others will do what is necessary at no expense to themselves. The system, that has been introduced into the Kistna, is one of individual responsibility against the old system of joint rents and general responsibility, that first led to such a thing as holding all the villagers jointly responsible for the irrigation

works of their village, and there should be no wonder that a man not benefited by a certain work, declines to repair it for the good of another man, with whom he has no interest in common.

7. This is taking a favorable case, however, and we shall find most frequently that the whole village is so apathetic that they will leave the channels alone till, year by year, the silt so accumulates that the expense will be beyond their means; then they will take advantage of the rules and give up water.

8. If the ryots are to have the greatest benefit, and the Government the greatest profit, to be derived from the anicut works, the Collectors must have power to compel their labor.

9. It is not "customary" and therefore not Kudimaramat; but even if it were, I should have to confess my inability to compel work fairly, as long as no penalty attaches to a refusal, and as long as I have not special agency to carry it out.

10. I must, therefore, give my opinion that, until the steps indicated in my paragraph 5 are taken, both Government and the ryots are likely to suffer by the enforcement of the new rules.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to G. O., dated 11th March 1873, No. 48.

2. As the case is stated in the Board's Proceedings disposed of in G. O., dated 29th May 1874, No. 651, "the Board are called upon to report—

(1.) From what date the charge of the water supplied to single villages from the moment it quits the regulating sluice can be vested in the village officers, and whether any increase in the number of Nirguntees will be necessary.

(2.) The suggestion of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that the Collector should keep the District Engineer informed of the areas to be irrigated and that later application for water should be transmitted direct to the Range Officer from the taluq.

(3.) The suggestion of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, that Government should have the option of ceasing to irrigate any land after giving due notice and make rules as to the terms on which, after irrigation has been relinquished, a subsequent supply may be obtained."

3. The Collector of the Kistna District says nothing about the second and third points, but Government have already decided that the revised Water-tax Rules which are in force in Kistna as well as Godavery, provide for all that the Chief Engineer wants.

4. With regard to the first point, Mr. Leman reports that no Nirguntees will be wanted, that the village channels should be handed over in a formal manner when the Public Works Officers can certify that they are cleared and in good order and not before, that the field channels are already controlled by the villagers, and that an Act will be necessary to enable the Collector to compel the villagers to keep the channels clear whether they are willing or unwilling to do so.

5. The Board are of opinion that the Collector is right in proposing that the channels should first be put into thorough order, and then formally handed over to the villagers, and in thinking that an Act empowering him to compel labor may

be necessary, but this last is a general question applicable to all districts, and the transfer in the Kistna District need not be deferred until it has been settled. Much may be done through the influence of Tahsildars and other Revenue officers to induce the villagers to perform the task allotted to them, but the effects of the transfer should be carefully watched. This particular difficulty seems not to have been of sufficient importance to call for notice in the neighbouring district of Godavery.

MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON.
(Here enter 3rd August 1874.)

Irrigation, No. 3.

As in Godavery (G. O., 29th May 1874, No. 651,) the transfer should be made experimental for one year, such channels as are in good order being handed over at once and the remainder as they are cleared out and repaired.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council is averse to compulsory labor in any form, and cannot, therefore, concur in the Board's recommendation that such an Act as that suggested should be passed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. DEC. SCOTT, Major, R.E.,
Under Secretary, P.W.D.,
for *Acting Secretary to Government.*

No. 306. ORDER THEREON, 18th November 1874, No. 3,260.

IRRIGATION, No. 31.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer, Kistna, who will take measures for placing the village channels in order, with a view to their early transfer to the village officers. Major Hasted will keep the Collector informed from time to time of the channels about to be transferred, and it will be desirable that a Revenue Officer should be present at the formal transfer.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Kistna.
" District Engineer, Godavery.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

Progs from Revn Deptt - (No 1046 dated 19th augt 1874)

3260

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and

Secl Transfer
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Re means for giving effect to
the Resolt & maintaining
the condition of the channels
transferred to Municipalities
1879

and it will be desirable
that a Revenue officer
should be present at
the formal transfer.

Wm. 2/9/74

Genl.

— G.T. The Secretary —
19.10.74

with reference to Rep.
of 19th Aug. &c &c

Sec. 5272.

305-306.

Sd. Lupe Genl of Krishna S
" Dy Genl of Godavery S
" Clk. Genl for Virugn S
" Rev: de Stt S

signed & s. copies despd 24/11/74

Circ 3/9/74 Rec'd 28/10/74

5389

Govt. of [1874] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Supg: Engr.
Kistna

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 18 Nov. 1874, No. 3260

Nos. 305-306.

Village Channels in the Kistna Dt. Proceedings in the Revenue Deptt. directing the transfer of the — to the Villagers experimentally for one year, such Channels as are in good order being handed over at once, & the remainder as they are cleared out & repaired, & remarking that the Govt. cannot concur in the Boards recommendations that an Act be passed to compel labor, Cond to the ~~Supg Engr with instructions~~ Supg Engr with instructions

Coll 3/9/14 Feb 28/1874