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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1063	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15-4-	C875- 195.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th April 1875.*

No. 382. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 20th March 1875, No. 453 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd March 1875, No. 503.

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 4th January 1875, No. 8.

With reference to the Board's Order of the 27th November, communicating the Proceedings of Government, in the Public Works Department, of the 5th idem, in which Colonel Mullins' report on the irrigation works of this district is reviewed, and directing me to issue a notice forbidding the improper acquisition of lands in the Veeranam tank-bed and in the beds of other tanks, I have the honor to state that particular instructions have been issued to all Divisional Officers to charge prohibitory assessment on all lands cultivated in tank-beds which are not held on putta. This practice has been in vogue in this district during the last three years, but, previous to that time puttass were issued in some instances for land held in tank-beds.

2. With regard to land in the bed of the Veeranam tank in Fasli 1271, a putta was issued for some six acres by the Curnam without authority, and was consequently cancelled by the Sub-Collector in the following Fasli, and in Fasli 1278 Mr. Hathaway refused to assign this land because it was tank-bed. Subsequently, however, in 1870, on the Executive Engineer, Mr. Norfor, having given his opinion, in the shape of an endorsement on a petition, that the cultivation of the said land was unobjectionable, Mr. Roberts inspected it and assigned about eight cawnies for cultivation, being of opinion that it was unsuited for grazing purposes because, owing to the way in which it cracked, cattle would be likely to break their legs in roaming over it.

3. When I was at Lalpett in the end of 1871, a complaint was preferred to me about the assignment of these grazing grounds, and I called for a report from the Acting Sub-Collector, and in his report he stated that a new sluice had been asked for in the bund of the Veeranam tank near these lands, apparently in order to let the water off and prevent their being swamped, but that he had requested the Range Officer not to construct it, and I am not aware that it has been built.

4. I fear the only way of ousting the puttadar now is under the Act, but it is hardly worthwhile going to the expense of putting the Act in force. If remission is always refused him, however, he may give up the land.

5. With respect to the general question of cultivation in tank-beds, I beg to point out that it will never be possible easily to restrain such cultivation until the waterspread of every tank is contoured and marked out either by stones or by planting trees of a particular kind. This is essentially necessary, but in order to carry it out a small surveying establishment is required to mark out the contours and the distances of the different boundary marks from each other and from the sluice nearest to each. These distances should be all marked out on a plan which should show the height and width of the calingulah and the length of the bund,

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and all the plans for each taluq should be bound up in a volume for easy reference. If a few cross levels were taken at the same time to show the depths of water in each tank when full, it would not be a difficult matter to calculate its capacity for irrigation, and the wet ayacut could then be easily reduced to its proper dimensions and registered on the plan. The reduction of ayacuts now being carried out is, I consider, being commenced at the wrong end.

6. Some arrangement of this sort is very necessary for all rain-fed tanks, for, from their very nature, they go on silting up by degrees year after year, and their capacity diminishing annually.

7. The Board have approved of a similar proposal with respect to the Chembrambankum Tank,* and as they have recommended Government to send a Revenue Survey party from North Arcot, to commence operations in the Tindivanam Taluq, an excellent opportunity offers of carrying out the scheme I propose throughout the district. I should be glad, however, to have a separate party for this special work, consisting of three surveyors, three draughtsmen, and six lascars with the necessary implements for levelling and surveying, and think that with this establishment all the rain-fed tanks in the district could be contoured and plans drawn of them in about two years. The cost would probably be from 8,000 to 10,000 Rupees, and would be money well laid out in my opinion.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to G. O., dated 11th November 1874, No. 65, communicating G. O., Public Works Department, dated 5th November 1874, No. 3,143.

2. It will be seen that the land assigned in the Veeranam tank-bed was granted after certificate by the Executive Engineer. Nothing is required as regards this and other tanks in future beyond watchfulness on the part of the Revenue and Public Works authorities to prevent improper assignments and manifestly injurious encroachments.

3. The Collector's scheme of a special survey and contouring of the tanks in the district appears to the Board unnecessary and expensive. The ryots can probably point out, with sufficient accuracy, the limit of full tank; and, when the Survey Officers enter the district, the Collector can indicate to them what he wishes defined as permanent waterspread.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works
Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th April 1875.*

No. 383.

ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1875, No. 1,043.

IRRIGATION, No. 42.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, South Arcot, who will take care that no such endorsements, as that

referred to in paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter of the 4th January 1875, No. 8, are given in future. Whenever it may be deemed desirable to make parts of tank-beds available for cultivation the circumstances should be fully and specially reported on.

2. Communicated also to all other District Engineers for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, South Arcot.
To all other District Engineers.
To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Public Works Dept.

1052

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the

1043

Read the following:-

Pro. of the Revenue } H.C. No. 453 dated
Department } 20th March 1875.

Communicated
to the District Engineer,
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in para 2 of the collector's
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available for cultivation
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reported on.

2. Communicated
also to all other District
Engineers, for information
and guidance.

W^{27/3/75}

MM

Int. Saint George
March 10/75

To The District Engineer
South Africa
Other District Engineers
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Depo. 17-4-75

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Govt. of 1875; Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

*Int Engineer
South Arcot.*

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 15 April 1875, No. 1043

Nos. 382. 383.

*Engineers for information
and guidance.*

*Can R. beds in S. Arcot Dist.
offer in the
P.W. Dept. ~~Comm.~~ Pro. of
the B. of P.W. reporting what
has been done to prevent
improper acquisition of
lands in — and intiman-
ing that the Collector's
scheme of a special survey
and contouring of the lands
is unnecessary, commt.
to the Dist. Engr. S. Arcot.
and also to all other Dist.*