

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1423	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	25. 5	195
		1875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th May 1875.*

No. 419 Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th April 1875, No 956 —

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, dated 12th April 1875, No 961, passing orders on papers submitted by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the subject of the enjoyment by the Abkari renters of palmyra and date trees on canal bunds

Copy of the Board's Proceedings on this subject will be submitted to Government in the Public Works Department

2. Defined trees are not rented out to Abkari renters as seems to be supposed, but they have, according to well-understood and long-standing custom, a right to draw toddy from all trees in Government waste Except for the production of toddy, a resource not open to the Public Works Department, revenue can be derived from the trees only by renting out the fruit, and for this only a mere trifle—small owing to the very number of the trees—could be obtained, and altogether disproportionate to the injury which would accrue to the imperial revenue from their being denied to the Abkari Contractor

3 Under the arrangement proposed in the Board's Proceedings there will be no division of authority within the canal boundaries, nor will the retention or removal of the trees be at the discretion of any but the canal officers, who will be at liberty to credit to canal revenue the sale proceeds of trees or leaves cut The District Engineer does not object to the entry of toddy drawers on the canal banks, and from paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter it is apparent that such entry will do no harm to the canals

4 The Abkari rents of the district terminate with June next, but the new contracts have been disposed of for three years from that time without any reservation The Board are strongly of opinion that the arrangement suggested by them should not be disturbed.

5 The Board respectfully submit to Government that, before orders were passed in the matter, their Proceedings on the letter addressed to them by the Collector, copy of which was before Government, might have been asked for or awaited

(True Extract)

(Signed) H. E STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th April 1875, No 825.

From G D LEMAN, Esq, Collector of the Kistna District, to H E STOKES, Esq, Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 15th February 1875, No 211

I HAVE the honor to forward a letter from Major Hasted, the Superintending Engineer of the district, on the subject of palmyra trees inside the limits of the lands which are included under the canals

2 We have talked the matter over, but cannot agree about it Major Hasted claims the produce of the trees for his department as canal revenue I wish it credited with the Abkari revenue

3 Whether he or I be right in our estimate of the effect it might produce with the Abkari revenue to forbid the use of them for toddy matters little The changes that are to be made in the next sales are so radical that I do not think that it is possible to make a guess at what it is likely to be, that the real effect is of comparatively small matter, but there is no doubt that it is likely to influence the bidders

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th May 1875.*

4. I do not think the question—by what funds were the trees planted? has much to do with the matter; most of the trees are self-sown, and it would be quite impossible to speak for certain of the rest.

5. I object mainly, on the ground that Major Hasted's proposal would limit all Imperial source of revenue and give the proceeds to enable to a local one. If it is to be commenced on a main canal why should it stop there, and why should not a new source of revenue to irrigation be introduced by the extension of the plantation of liquor-producing trees.

6. The damage likely to occur by drawers of toddy entering on the banks cannot, I think, be great; it is not as if the bank was a plantation into which no one but the Forester could enter, it is really the tow-path of the canal, and is frequently used as a road by the people of adjacent villages.

7. Neither liquor shops nor buildings would, of course, be allowed in canal limits (I am not aware that any exist now), and if Major Hasted so desired it, I would not object to his cutting down trees without reference to me, though it would be well he should send me a yearly report for my information.

From Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, Kistna, to G D LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, dated Masulipatam, 13th January 1875, No 170.

I HAVE the honor to call your attention to a subject which we have already discussed, viz., the enjoyment by the Abkari renter of palmyra and date trees on canal lunkas or bunds.

2. With the exception of a few trees which were planted before the canals were excavated and were included in the land taken up for them, all the trees were planted by officers of this department, and I believe the cost was charged to the works. I am aware that latterly the plantations on canal lunkas were kept up from Jungle Conservancy Funds, but I do not think that any portion of those funds was expended in planting palm trees, I therefore look upon these trees as canal plantations.

3. If the plantations on canal lunkas are to be properly kept up, it is essential, I think, that no one should be allowed to interfere with the trees, and I should, therefore, wish that no toddy should be drawn from the palm trees at all, but that the fruit should be gathered as in the case of other trees. Should, however, it appear that any serious diminution of the Abkari rent is likely to occur from the palm trees on canal lunkas being reserved (which I cannot think will be the case), I would consent that the Abkari renter should tap the trees under certain conditions; such as that no liquor shop or other building should be erected within the canal limits, and that toddy-drawers should be allowed entrance only for the purpose of collecting the toddy, &c.

4. In the latter case, the rent of the trees should be credited, I think, to the canal revenue, and this department should retain its right to cut down such trees as the officers may think desirable.

5. If it is decided, as I think it should be, that the Abkari renter should have nothing to do with the trees, I would undertake that no toddy should be drawn from them, and that they should be retained for the sake of the fruit and leaves alone.

THE Board observe that the Superintending Engineer is prepared to remit the Abkari renter to tap the trees on condition that no liquor shop or other building should be erected within canal limits; that toddy-drawers should be allowed entrance only for the purpose of drawing toddy, and that the Department Public Works should retain the right to cut down such trees as the officers of the Department may think desirable.

2. They are of opinion with the Collector that to declare the trees reserved and not at the disposal of the Abkari renter like other trees on Government waste lands for toddy-drawing might have an injurious effect on the Abkari sales, and therefore think that it is advisable that Major Hasted's proposals should be accepted. The revenue which might be derived from renting out the fruit and leaves would, the Board imagine, be very trifling, and it is not advisable to risk on account of it the interest of a branch of Imperial revenue so important as the Abkari.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th May 1875.*

3. From paragraph 4 of his letter, the Superintending Engineer seems to be under the impression that Government trees are rented out to the Abkari renters for specific sums. This is not the case, but the Board think that if the levy of any rents for fruit and leaves is not inconsistent with the use of the trees for Abkari purposes, such rents should be credited to the canals.

(True Copies and Extract)

(Signed) H E STOKES,
Acting Secretary

No 420.

ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1875, No 1,423

IRRIGATION, No 50

THE Honorable the Governor in Council thinks that the Board of Revenue attach undue importance to

the trees on the canal lunkas capable of yielding toddy, and that their value is extremely small. The Board apparently refer to the lunkas in paragraph 2 of their Proceedings of the 17th April as Government waste. This is a mistake, and it should be understood that ground occupied by irrigation works is not waste.

2. As it is stated that new contracts for the Abkari rental have been disposed of without reservation for three years from June next, the privilege of drawing toddy as hitherto will be continued for that period under the conditions noted in paragraph 1 of the Board's Proceedings, No 825, of the 6th April, thereafter the trees will be excluded from the rental.

(True Extract)

Major, R.E.,

Offg Joint Secretary to Government

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

" District Engineer, Kistna

" " " Godavery

" " " Nellore

" " " Tanjore

" " " Trichinopoly

" " " Madura

" " " Vizagapatam

" " " Ganjam.

" " " Chingleput

" " " North Arcot

" " " South Arcot

" " " Salem

" " " Coimbatore

" " " Tinnevely

To the Board of Revenue

" Revenue Department

" Controller of Public Works Accounts

Exd S T Austin.

Spare Copies

No. 956.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th April 1875

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 12th April 1875, No 961, Public Works Department —

ABSTRACT.—*Palmyra and Date trees* —Passing orders on papers submitted by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the subject of the enjoyment by the Abkari renters of—on canal bunds.

COPY of the Board's Proceedings on this subject will be submitted to Government in the Public Works Department

2. Defined trees are not rented out to abkari renters as seems to be supposed, but they have, according to well-understood and long-standing custom, a right to draw toddy from all trees in Government waste. Except for the production of toddy, a resource not open to the Public Works Department, revenue can be derived from the trees only by renting out the fruit, and for this only a mere trifle—small owing to the very number of the trees—could be obtained, and altogether disproportionate to the injury which would accrue to the Imperial revenue from their being denied to the Abkari Contractor

3. Under the arrangement proposed in the Board's Proceedings, there will be no division of authority within the canal boundaries, nor will the retention or removal of the trees be at the discretion of any but the Canal Officers, who will be at liberty to credit to canal revenue the sale proceeds of trees or leaves cut. The District Engineer does not object to the entry of toddy drawers on the canal banks, and from paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter it is apparent that such entry will do no harm to the canals.

4. The abkari rents of the district terminate with June next, but the few contracts have been disposed of for three years from that time without any reservation. The Board are strongly of opinion that the arrangement suggested by them should not be disturbed.

5. The Board respectfully submit to Government that, before orders were passed in the matter, their proceedings on the letter addressed to them by the Collector, copy of which was before Government, might have been asked for or awaited.

(A true Extract)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,

with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 6th April 1875, No 825

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with do

„ to the Collector of the Kistna District,

with copy of G O, dated 12th April 1875, No, 961

Erd. E. O Shunker.

the first thing a Renter would do when
learn that trees from which he had
been drawing toddy were being cut down
the Canal Officers would be to complain
to the Revenue Officers, and it is hardly
worthwhile to retain longer than is un-
avoidable a very probable cause of dis-
content - I do not think either Mr. Deane

Major Hasted would be disposed to quarrel
about trifles, but there has been in
many Districts more consideration about
few worthless trees than would have sufficed
to bring the time occupied into account to
do a great deal of good work. It would probably
be a waste of time to count the palms & State how
many will remain after the Canals have been
widened, but it would, it is thought, be better to
let them run the risk of complaints with
the unpleasant consequences they entail.

3 If the plantations on canal lunkas are to be properly kept up, it is essential, I think, that
no one should be allowed to interfere with the trees, and I should, therefore, wish that no toddy
should be drawn from the Palm trees at all, but that the fruit should be gathered as in the case of

Memo

I have the honor to submit with reference to the remarks of the Honble Mr. Ellis in the margin of the draft order regarding Palm trees on the Canal lunkas of the Kistna Delta, that the evidence of the local officers of the Revenue & Prov. D supports the view that these trees are of very little importance as regards the amount of the Abkari rental. My recollection of the Canals is that the trees are not numerous except in a short length of the Masulipatam Canal below Orissa.

For years to come great modifications of the Canals will be in progress under the completion estimates and many trees will have to be removed - It seems to be much better therefore that these palm trees should not be taken into account by Abkari rental.

No 825

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th April 1875.

Read the following letter from G D LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to H E STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 15th February 1875, No 211 -

I HAVE the honor to forward a letter from Major Hasted, the Superintending Engineer of the district, on the subject of Palmyra trees inside the limits of the lands which are included under the canals

2 We have talked the matter over, but cannot agree about it. Major Hasted claims the produce of the trees for his department as canal revenue. I wish it credited with the Abkari revenue

3 Whether he or I be right, in our estimate of the effect it might produce with the Abkari revenue to forbid the use of them for toddy, matters little. The changes that are to be made in the next sales are so radical that I do not think that it is possible to make a guess at what it is likely to be, that the real effect is of comparatively small matter, but there is no doubt that it is likely to influence the bidders

4 I do not think the question - by what funds were the trees planted? has much to do with the matter, most of the trees are self-sown, and it would be quite impossible to speak for certain of the rest

5 I object mainly on the ground that Major Hasted's proposal would limit all Imperial source of revenue and give the proceeds to credit to a local one. If it is to be commenced on a main canal, why should it stop there, and why should not a new source of revenue to irrigation be introduced by the extension of the plantation of liquor-producing trees

6 The damage likely to occur by drawers of toddy entering on the banks cannot, I think, be great, it is not as if the bank was a plantation into which no one but the Forester could enter, it is really the tow-path of the canal and is frequently used as a road by the people of adjacent villages

7. Neither liquor shops nor buildings would, of course, be allowed in canal limits (I am not aware that any exist now), and if Major Hasted so desired it, I would not object to his cutting down trees without reference to me, though it would be well he should send me a yearly report for my information.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major J O. HASTED, R E, Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, Kistna, to G D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, dated Masulipatam, 13th January 1875, No 179

I HAVE the honor to call your attention to a subject which we have already discussed, viz, the enjoyment by the Abkari renter of Palmyra and Date trees on canal lunkas or bunds

2 With the exception of a few trees which were planted before the canals were excavated and were included in the land taken up for them, all the trees were planted by officers of this department, and I believe the cost was charged to the works. I am aware that latterly the plantations on canal lunkas were kept up from Jungle Conservancy Funds, but I do not think that any portion of those funds was expended in planting Palm trees, I therefore look upon these trees as canal plantations.

3 If the plantations on canal lunkas are to be properly kept up, it is essential, I think, that no one should be allowed to interfere with the trees, and I should, therefore, wish that no toddy should be drawn from the Palm trees at all, but that the fruit should be gathered as in the case of

other trees Should, however, it appear that any serious diminution of the Abkari rent is likely to occur from the Palm trees on canal lunkas being reserved (which I cannot think will be the case), I would consent that the Abkari renter should tap the trees under certain conditions; such as that no liquor shop or other building should be erected within the canal limits, and that toddy-drawers should be allowed entrance only for the purpose of collecting the toddy, &c

4. In the latter case, the rent of the trees should be credited, I think, to the canal revenue, and this department should retain its right to cut down such trees as the officers may think desirable

5. If it is decided, as I think it should be, that the Abkari renter should have nothing to do with the trees, I would undertake that no toddy should be drawn from them, and that they should be retained for the sake of the fruit and leaves alone

(True Copy)

(Signed) G. D. LEMAN,
Collector.

The Board observe that the Superintending Engineer is prepared to permit the Abkari renter to tap the trees on condition that no liquor shop or other building should be erected within canal limits, that toddy-drawers should be allowed entrance only for the purpose of drawing toddy, and that the Department Public Works should retain the right to cut down such trees as the officers of the Department may think desirable

2 They are of opinion with the Collector that to declare the trees reserved and not at the disposal of the Abkari renter like other trees on Government waste lands for toddy-drawing might have an injurious effect on the Abkari sales, and therefore think that it is advisable that Major Hasted's proposals should be accepted The revenue which might be derived from renting out the fruit and leaves would, the Board imagine, be very trifling, and it is not advisable to risk on account of it the interests of a branch of Imperial revenue so important as the Abkari

3. From paragraph 4 of his letter, the Superintending Engineer seems to be under the impression that Government trees are rented out to the Abkari renters for specific sums This is not the case, but the Board think that if the levy of any rents for fruit and leaves is not inconsistent with the use of the trees for Abkari purposes, such rents should be credited to the canals

(True Copies and Extract)

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

To the Collector of the Kistna District,
the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Erd. W. H. French.

Palm trees—inside the limits of lands included under the canals in Kistna District—Remarks passed with reference to question whether the produce of—should be treated as Canal revenue or Abkari revenue.

APRIL
No 825

Received

25/5/75

PROCEEDINGS, 6TH APRIL 1875, No 825.

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

1875.

Encl.

P. H. Mept

Pro: of the Madras Government

Read the following

Pro: of the Board of Revenue (H. E. No 956 of 17 April 1875)

1428 of 25 May 1875

I am not sure whether our
policy in the S. P. W. for excluding
the Palmyra trees from future
contracts is correct. vide Pro:
of Rev's proceedings. I think
on the whole it will better
to leave matters as they are
and let toddy be drawn by Abkari
renters. The Canal officers
do not object - and if the trees
are not used for toddy they
are valueless. MR

His Excellency the
Governor in Council thinks
that the Board of Revenue
attach undue importance
to the trees on the Canal
lunkas capable of yield-
ing toddy, and that their
value is extremely small.
The Board apparently
refer to the lunkas in
view of their present

N^o 419.-420

This was a mistake, and it
should be understood that
ground occupied by iriga-
tion is or is not waste.

2. It is also stated that new contracts for the above rental have been disclosed or without reservation for 3 years from June next, the privilege of changing, totally, as tenants will be continued for that

in London the conditions
noted in para 1 of the 1890
Proceedings No. 825 of the
O. & G. C. C. Thereafter the
two will be excluded
from the rental.

1. 27/4/13

Q

To Dr Kistner To Rev Board
 " " Sodanery Rev Dept
 " " Bellmore Contl Map
 " " Tampere of Supr Div
 " " Zehlendorf
 " " Hudson Hart. Dist
 " " Washington Supt
 " " Garrison Baltimore

sc. 840 - 7 June/75

23/11/26.

2578

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Chief Engineer
Madras

Dated

Recd

Encl

G. O. 25 May 1875, No 1423

Nos. 419-420

Palmyra and Date trees
on Canal banks. - Passing
orders on Proceedings of
the Board of Revenue
remarking on G.O. No 961
of 12th April 75, P.W.D.,
regarding _____ in
the Kistnah District.