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

No 433 Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
dated Fort St George, 7th April 1875, No 17 —

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq, Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation
and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J MULLINS, R E, Chief
Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 24th March 1875, No. 42

In reference to G O, No 50, of 8th January 1875, I have the honor, at the desire
of the Directors, to ask you to place before Government the Board's Minute of 23rd
February last, a copy of which I enclose

2 The Board also desire me to urge the importance, in the interests of irrigation
generally, that the ryots should by some means be made to understand that the present
charges, fixed by Government after the Meeting of Cuddapah, will not be reduced. If
the ryots only once have an idea that by holding out, in their turn, from using the
water, they will be able to beat down the price fixed after all the deliberation,
circumstance, and public display of the present rates, held forth by the Government
and the Company as a formal tender of water-supply, then it will be next to impossible
to extend the area now supplied, and even those who have already grown wet crops
may contract their irrigation

3 In contributing the following remarks, I am very anxious to leave nothing
unsaid, which it is in my power to say, in order to assist the Government in coming to
a successful decision on this difficult matter —

(1) In reference to the rate for filling Government tanks, I need scarcely remind
you that in my view Rupees 6 being a fair rate for rice, that it is equivalent in
average seasons to about 800 cubic yards a rupee delivered on the fields, and to about
1,600 cubic yards a rupee for water stored at the beginning of a season in a tank in
which the evaporation will in three or four months approximately equal the water
delivered. The supplies given by the canal to Government tanks have generally
maintained the tanks with from one to three months' supply in them. If the officers
of Government find that they can utilize the canal water by the aid of existing tanks,
but in a rather wasteful way, I think that it is at present fair that the canal alone
suffer by the waste, until there be an ample demand for the canal water for less
wasteful irrigation, and this seems to be the view of the Board, who only ask a
reconsideration by the Government, with whom they leave the final settlement of the
exact rate to be charged

(2) I have few facts to add in reference to the already carefully considered water-
rates for general irrigation. I have, however, had the areas of land actually irrigable
from existing channels, and also that capable of being irrigated by slight extensions
of the channels, carefully got out, except for Sirwel and Koilcuntla still incomplete

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I believe this has been done with the greatest possible accuracy, where village maps exist, field by field. The result so far is (in acres) :—

Taluqs	Irrigable	Commanded	Total
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES
Ramalakota	3,409	344	.
Nundikotkur	72,960	41,359	.
Nundial, Upper	33,343	1,489	.
Do Lower	16,950	4,587	.
	126,662	47,779	174,441
Sirwell	.	.	100,000
Koilkuntla	.	.	80,000
Total for Kurnool District (say)			354,500
Cuddapah T	8,499	17,225	..
Prodatoor	8,143	3,460	.
Jummulamadgoo	2,390	.	.
	19,032	20,685	39,717
Grand Total, about	.	.	394,000

4 In the Upper Division the proportions of different qualities of land has been carefully completed, and give in *per cent* of the whole—

Not arable	8	{ Village sites, &c, about 4 per cent Roads and vagoos 4 per cent
Black Cotton	41 1	
Soudoo	1 8	
Poor or shallow	14 0	
Good, mixed	35 1	
	100 0	

5 That is the best description I can yet give of the land immediately affected. From it may be roughly deduced the quantities likely to be in question. The object is to induce ryots to place the better half of the land under wet cultivation, so as to yield securely 100,000 tons of grain more than the present fluctuating average, and at the same time to maintain the cultivation of the remaining half. They are now placed in such a position, as far as regards the ryots on 200,000 acres of the best arable mixed soil, and black cotton soil, that each ryot, if he be asked for rice at the market rate, will take irrigation and grow it, unless he thinks that by holding out in concert with his neighbours he can obtain a permanent lowering of the water-rate.

6 On behalf of this and similar projects, then, it is of great importance to show firmness in upholding the rates. At the same time it is certainly even more necessary that the rates be made fair and reasonable. Possibly this additional year's experience may have acquainted the Revenue Department with some facts bearing on this.

7 In the early years my impression is that water was applied for for poor land in very large proportion to the good land, though both paid the same rate for water. Water is now, I think, more valued for land already good, but I see no grounds yet for

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suggesting a different water-rate for different soils, while there are many definite objections to it.

8 One deficiency in the rules is striking. There is no inducement to a ryot to compound for a permanent supply, and I am assured that the Directors would agree to a fixed charge of Rupees 5 per acre to take effect from the commencement of irrigation, and to be regarded as a maximum rate, conditional however that the land so cultivated under full irrigation shall continue to be so cultivated year by year. This would not interfere with the present rules, but, if approved by Government, would form an additional rule to meet the convenience of those ryots who might prefer its conditions to those now in force.

9 There are a few small points which might be perhaps improved upon a revision of the rules, *e g*, the note to Rule VI about "levelling and bunding" should perhaps distinctly close the door to any idea of a ryot's being able to get the low rates by a temporary cessation of irrigation for a few years.

10 But whatever other improvements be made let us hope that Government may at least find it possible to remove all known unpediments that shall have an influence in restraining general enterprise and even obstructing individual thrift. To fix the rates may prove impossible, however essential to success, but at least the way to obtain water may be thrown open by depriving the Curnums of a monopoly of taking applications for water, and by allowing ryots to apply to the canal officers if they so prefer. It is a sad necessity, if it prove so to be, that obliges a revenue to be given up, which is for aught we know willingly paid. An expensive and prolonged effort to rouse the feeble enterprise of the natives may be rendered nugatory by some insignificant deterring agency, and no such obstructions can be left in the way with impunity.

Extract from Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Directors of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company held on the 23rd February 1875

THE orders of the Madras Government, Nos 50 and 51, read at the last Meeting, were again considered, and the following minute was recorded hereon, *viz* —

"The Board of Directors have had under their consideration the order of the Madras Government, No 50, dated the 8th ultimo, and the record of Proceedings which accompanies it. By this order two separate matters are dealt with —

"(1) The charge to be made by this Company for water supplied for irrigation purposes to Government tanks, and

"(2) The propriety of a reduction of the rates charged for water supplied from the Company's works for irrigation.

"In regard to the first of these, assuming the quantity of water consumed in rice irrigation as stated in the correspondence by the Company's Chief Engineer at 4,840 cube yards per acre, the rate of charge at Rupees 6 per acre would be about 800 cube yards per rupee. On this basis, then, it appears that Rupee 1 per 1,000 cube yards is by no means an unreasonable charge, and that Rupee 1 for 1,440 cubic yards would be to the disadvantage of the Company, and this view of the case is confirmed by the Order of Government, No 984, of 13th September 1873, and by the opinion recently expressed by the Government Consulting Engineer in his letter of the 15th October 1874. If the Government, however, on reconsideration of the question still think that the charge should be Rupee 1 for 1,440 cubic yards, the Directors are willing to accept their decision and assent to a modification of Rule 6 accordingly.

"With reference to the second point, the fact cannot be doubted that the water-rates lately agreed to and promulgated are such as will leave to the cultivators a very liberal balance of the extra profits produced by the use of the Company's water, and such also as those cultivators will

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cheerfully pay provided they are not permitted to indulge in the hope that by refraining from irrigating their lands they may secure to themselves a still further share of those extra profits. The rules were settled after mature consideration on the part both of the Government and the Company, and were regarded as offering full provision to meet the case of ryots desiring to change their cultivation from dry to wet by a reduction of charge during the 1st and 2nd years, when the outlay required to effect such change has to be incurred. In this judgment of the Directors the real cause of the delay in the spread of irrigation is not a question of price but one of convenience and freedom of action on the part of the ryots, and they see no reason to doubt that if the ryots could obtain the water they require simply by direct application to the canal officers, by which delay and the evils inseparable from indirect communication would be avoided, that irrigation would rapidly extend. The Directors earnestly trust that before the coming season the present rule requiring all applications for water to be made to the Curnums, which has been found to operate so unsatisfactorily, will be kindly modified by the Government in the direction suggested. The Directors are persuaded that for the present it would be productive of serious disadvantage to the prospects of irrigation were any proceedings adopted that might tend to unsettle the minds of the ryots, and lead them to a belief that they had it in their own power to force a reduction in the price of the water, irrespective of its value, merely by postponing to use it. The present question is not whether a rate felt to be oppressive shall be reduced, but whether a portion of that which beyond all doubt does not reach over a high charge shall be given up without proof that a reduction will induce a more promptly increasing spread of irrigation, and still more while the rule before mentioned is maintained, which it is admitted by those who have had experience of its working has had a most prejudicial influence in retarding progress.

“(Signed) J WESTWOOD”

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G Os, Nos 50 and 51 of the 8th and 7th January 1875, respectively

2 It will be seen the Board of Directors of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company consider that Rupee 1 for 1,000 cubic yards of water supplied to a Government tank would be a fair rate, but that if on further consideration the Government still think the rate should be 1 Rupee for 1,440 cubic yards the Board will accept their decision.

3 With regard to the reduction of water-rates the Board are unwilling to accede to any further reduction, at any rate until the alterations and adjustments of rates made in 1874 have had a full and fair trial, and they deprecate the allowing it to be in any way supposed that such a reduction is contemplated. They notice the rule under which applications for water must as a rule be made to the Village Curnums and advocate its abrogation and the sanction of the submission of applications to Canal Officers.

4 The minor alterations of, or additions to, rules recommended in the letter from the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, may it is thought await the disposal of the more important considerations. Compounding for permanent irrigation may easily be arranged for. The low rates allowable on the commencement of irrigation are not applicable to lands irrigated, then not irrigated and subsequently irrigated again.

5 It will be desirable that all alterations of the rules considered necessary should be brought forward at one time, as frequent modifications will be sure to unsettle the minds of the ryots.

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

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No 434

ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1875, No 1,430

IRRIGATION, No 51

THE Honorable the Governor in Council does still consider that the charge for water supplied to Government tanks from the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal should be 1 Rupee for 1,440 cubic yards, and as the Board of Directors have consented to the adoption of this rate the charges for supplies in the past season and in future will be adjusted accordingly.

2. The Honorable the Governor in Council regrets that the Board do not share the views of the Government as to the advisability of lowering the rates for irrigation. The rates as fixed last year will be given a fair trial, and it will be understood that, as they cannot be altered without the concurrence of the Company, no change will be made without due notice being published in the District Gazettes and at the several villages under the canal.

3. The suggestion of Mr Latham that the cultivators should have the option of compounding for their water-supply at a fixed and lower rate for a series of years is a good one, and the subject will be referred, through the Revenue Department, to the Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah in order that they may, after communication with the Company's Manager and Chief Engineer for Irrigation, report for what periods it will be desirable to allow composition, and what rates for the several classes of irrigation would be likely to be popular.

4 It will be better not to attempt to introduce modifications of the rules more than once a year. Such alterations as may be thought by either the Manager or the Revenue Officers to be desirable should be discussed locally, and transmitted for consideration about October, and they can then be disposed of in time to give the ryots concerned notice, three months before the commencement of the irrigation season, of the modifications sanctioned. The Honorable the Governor in Council will be glad to receive any proposals which the Manager and the Revenue Officers think will conduce to irrigation under the canal becoming more popular or which will render the meaning of the rules as they stand more clear.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J O HASTED, Major, R E,

Offg Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department

- „ District Engineer, Kurnool.
- „ „ Cuddapah
- „ Chief Engineer for Irrigation
- „ „ and Manager Irrigation and Canal Company
- „ Examiner of Railway and Canal Accounts

MT. 1845 BPLE
 No 17 12-24-74

From
 The Chief of
 Irrigation
 The Secretary to Govt
 P.W.D.

Dated 7 April
 Received 15 April 1875.

Submits for orders
 certain papers from the
 Chief Manager
 Mr. J.C. regarding
 water to be charged
 for water supplied for
 the M. J. C. Co.

60 18/75 1097-99
 25 18/74 466-467
 29 18/75 155
 110 18/75 155
 3 18/74
 60 18/75 1097-99
 44 33
 10 18/75 1097-99
 10 18/75

9
 The Secretary has the honor
 to report, with refer-
 ence to the Hon. Mr. Simon's
 remark in, margin of
 Order on (whenever) Bank
 book, that in each
 Range of the Chingleput
 District there is a Sub-
 Divisional Officer, (a
 Supervisor) ready to
 act for the Range Offi-
 cer in his casual ab-
 sence — In the case
 of the Sydapett or Mount
 Range, Colonel Moberly
 himself has taken
 charge, placing Mr.
 Supervisor Watkins, the

company will
 that letter can be dispo-

Sub Divisional Officer, in
charge of the Military
and Public Works gene-
rally, and acting in
the Sub. Divisional Officer
of the adjacent R.
Mr. Supervisor Sanderson
to look after the Water
Works and Parks -

Altogether, the tempo-
rary arrangements are
good and effectual -
but the reference nar-
turally, brings forward
the subject of perma-
nent provision of an
Officer for the Sydney Park
Range - It consists
out of one Park, and
is therefore easily super-

used; but the impor-
tance of the Migration
and Military Works
included in it is, such
as to require an Officer
of professional resource
and devotion to his
duties - Mr. Hornington
cannot be credited with
these qualities; and
Colonel Walker, as Chief
Engineer, desired to
take advantage of that
gentleman's demand
for continuance of Pre-
sidence House Rent
and other indulgence
which no other Officer
posted to the Range
would think of claiming
for his removal -
ing - With this view

he submitted to the Hon^{ble}
Mr. Ellis, the accompanying
ing Draft, which was found
misapprehended of, amongst
his papers. The
happiest solution of the
difficulty will perhaps
be found, not in send-
ing Mr. Stronington to
South West, an origi-
nal District requiring an
able man, but in suf-
fering him to hold the
Mount Range till Capt.
Woods' arrival from Mys-
ore, sending him to
Malabar, Capt. Woods
to South West, appointing
some one else for the Mount
who may then be available.

C. M. W.

17.7.79
and put on 26.6.79

Attach the original G.C.
No. 2492 of 3^d Sept 1874
with remark "not
printed" Austin checked to
+ wrong f.o.
1430. d/25. May 1875

Letter from the Chief Engr. for Irrigation No. 17,
dated 7 April 1875

I conclude that the Govt
will adhere to their opinion
that the rate for water
supplied to a Government
Tank shall be 1 R.
for 1440 Cubic Yards &
to this enhanced rate
the Company unwillingly
consent

As was anticipated the
Company decline to ^{reduce} ~~reduce~~
^{water} the Rates until the
Rates have had a fair
trial & with this we must
I conclude be satisfied
I think the Company are
right in pressing the attention
that application for water
shd be made direct to the panel

Circulated for
orders
Joint Secy. to Government
S.H.C.

Officer instead of to the Curram
& I believe recent experience
has shown this to be misfary.
These seem to be the
most important points for
consideration - The remaining
suggestions in Mr. Latham's
letter can be disposed
of later as suggested by
the ^{Chief} ~~for~~ Engineer for huf.

The tank supply rate is
 said to be 1000 yds per tank
 and is apparently that 1000 yds per tank
 is disproportionate & that he
 has given this price by
 (I don't recollect - heavy
 the Ch. of Ind. made
 out higher rate
 accept
 I think no weight to
 surmises as to combination
 of lower rates. The fact is the
 obstinacy of the Comptroller
 in maintaining rates - has
 some other reasons - has proved
 a mistake. At least - rates
 for the first attention to have
 been far greater -
 as to the composition
 of the water - here I call for
 collection of water -
 orders have already given
 absolutely the wonder of seeing
 application for water
 B.H. M.

GO - 25 May/75 No 1430

12
 17
 P. B. Dept
 Proceeding of the Government

Read the following:

From the Chief Engineer } (M.S. No 17 dt 7th April/75)
 for Irrigation }

GO no. 1430 dt 25th May/75 -

His Excellency the
 Governor in Council does
 still consider that the
 charge for water supplied
 to Govt tanks from the
 Madras Irrigation and
 Canal Company's Canal
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future will be adjusted accordingly.

2. His Excellency requests to be informed that the Board do not share the views of the Govt as to the advisability of lowering the rates for irrigation. The rates as fixed last year will be given a fair trial, and it will be understood that, as they cannot be altered without the concurrence of the Company, no change will be made without due notice being published in the District Gazette and at the several villages under the Canal.

3. The suggestion of Mr. Latimer that the cultivators should have the option of compounding for their water supply at a fixed and lower rate for a series of years is

a good one, and the subject will be referred through the Revenue Department to the Collectors of Sironod and Buddapah in order that they may, after communication with the Company's Manager, report for what periods it will be desirable to allow composition and what rates for the several classes of irrigation would be likely to be popular.

4. It will be better not to attempt to introduce modifications of the rules more than once a year. Such alterations as may be thought by either the Manager or the Revenue Officers to be desirable should be discussed locally, and then submitted for consideration about October, and they

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 they stand more clear.

433-434

M.M.

- Rev. Dept.
- S. L. Kurnool
- Cuddalore
- Off. Insp. Irrigation & Engrs.
- L. R. & Canal Off.
- Off. Insp. Manager & Canal Co.
- S-C desps 8-6-75
- 1st Bdy 11-5-75 R-2

2474
 Govt. of 1875 Madras.
 PUBLIC WORKS.

To
 The Revenue Dept.

Dated
 Issued
 Recd. Encl.
 G O. 25th June 1875, No. 1430

Nos. 433-434

Rates for water supplied
from the Madras Irrigation
and Canal Company's Canal.

Passing orders on the letter
 of the Chief Engineer for
 Irrigation submitting papers
 from the Chief Engineer and
 Manager of the Company
 regarding