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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	839	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	25-3-1955	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

Read the following papers:—

No 622. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 16th February 1875, No. 249:—

ABSTRACT.—*Padugay Lands in Trichinopoly District.*—Passing orders on Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject of —.

No 262.

No 623. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

It will not be at all a difficult matter to lay down on the Revenue Survey or other Maps the extent of padugay which should be reserved for the repair of flood banks and river conservancy purposes.

2 The formation of plantations on padugay lands not needed for conservancy purposes will generally not be objectionable if the alignment of the outer edge of such plantations be parallel to the axis of the river, and if sufficient room be left to afford the mean waterway required by the river in high floods. It will be necessary however to decide, on a review of the river charts, what areas should be considered available for plantations in each part of the river, and it will be desirable that the District Engineer's proposals should be shown on the maps and submitted for the formal sanction of Government.

3. The Cauvery in Trichinopoly has been partially, if not completely, surveyed, and the Coleroon has been fully surveyed from the Upper Anicut to the sea, so that there need be but little delay in settling what lands may with safety be deemed available for plantations and cultivation, respectively. Judiciously managed the plantations may prove a safeguard to the flood embankments, but a good deal of care will be required to prevent their becoming a source of danger.

The Irrigation Department has no wish to retain or possess land in excess of the requirements connected with the management of the rivers, and in the course of time it will be ready to hand over extensive areas which are under reclamation.

In Tanjore this will be the case, and in Nellore it is proposed to reclaim an extensive bay on the right side of the river above the anicut, the greater part of which will eventually be an excellent position for a plantation, while elsewhere on the Pennair there are many places where the river bed is much wider than is necessary.

CAMP, CHINNAKRAKA,
6th March 1875.

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

No. 624.

ORDER THEREON, 25th March 1875, No. 839.

IRRIGATION, No 43.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, Trichinopoly, and to the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore, who will take early steps for exhibiting on maps or surveys of the Agunda Cauvery, Cauvery and Coleroon, the padugay lands required for river conservancy purposes, as also those which, in their opinion, may with safety be devoted to cultivation or

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

plantations, respectively. In laying down the boundaries of the several areas it will be requisite that they should take into account whether in any particular localities the present alignment of the river embankments is faulty, and in that case the proposed revised alignment should be shown, and the boundaries of the reserved (conservancy) and other areas connected therewith.

2. After the general arrangements shall have received the approval of Government, the disposal of the lands not reserved will be determined in the Revenue Department.

3. The District Engineer, Nellore, also will consider in what localities the bed or margin of the Pennair can be made available for plantations.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Trichinopoly.
.. Superintending Engineer, Tanjore.
.. District Engineer, Nellore.
.. Revenue Department.
.. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th February 1875.

Read the following papers —

No 194 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th November 1874,
No 3,373, Forest No 220

Read the following letters :—

From J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq, Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to
J. GROSE, Esq, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th September
1874, No. 222

In accordance with recent instructions I have lately transferred to the Forest Department nearly 1,300 acres of padugay land in the Udaiyarpalaiyam Taluq to be planted as railway fuel reserves, but I think it right to bring to the notice of the Board that as soon as the Assistant Conservator begins his work in any padugay every one in any way concerned at once begins to make objection.

2 This, of course, is no more than was to be expected, because, however much their enjoyment of the padugays may have been curtailed since the settlement, there can be little doubt that the villagers have always used them as pasture ground at any rate, and there can be equally little doubt that when once covered with babool there will be an end of the pasture, so that there is some cause for the outcry

3. Of this, however, the Board are no doubt generally aware, it being inevitable that pasture should disappear before advancing cultivation, and I am not sure that I should have thought it necessary to call their attention particularly to the subject but that I think it probable they have not realised what a large proportion of some villages is being suddenly "reserved".

4. This fact never struck me till the other morning*, when I visited one of the new plantations consisting of about 217 acres of fine land in one

*11th August 1874

block forming part of the villages of Kolananikam and Shembiyagudi, the total area of which villages is 1,254 acres and the area at present under cultivation 923. Of the remainder (acres 331) 97 acres are classed as "poremboko," and, as such, are reserved for public purposes as tanks, ponds, roads, pagodas, tope, burial grounds, channels, streams, village-sites, etc, leaving 234 acres of waste, of which 217 have now been closely reserved.

5. I may add that the cultivated area has increased from acres 739 at the settlement to acres 815 at the present time; it is, therefore, a very serious matter for villagers so situated to be suddenly deprived of two-thirds of their total available waste and nearly all their pasture, and it no doubt seems to them to be more peculiarly hard because they are not allowed the usual option of paying for the land themselves and either cultivating it (as the padugay land in the neighboring Inam village of Tirumaleivadi is cultivated), or holding it as pasture as I found one ryot actually doing with a small piece of padugay he had somehow become possessed of.

6 And this brings me to another point which is, I think, deserving of the Board's consideration, and that is whether there is any really valid reason why such immense tracts of exceptionally fertile soil should be kept permanently out of cultivation.

7. I quite admit and, in fact, feel very strongly that the complete control of the river banks must always be kept in the hands of one department, and no doubt the Public Works Department, which has charge of the river, should also have control over the nannal plantations and the river banks; but the question is, how far this control should extend inland?

8 In many places the Engineers have difficulty in securing even a few yards of margin for their operations, and in some (as in the Ilam village where this was written) their right to interfere with the bank in any way is utterly repudiated, yet, in the case mentioned in the beginning of this letter, they have a reserve from 200 to 550 yards wide in parts which has been kept out of cultivation since the settlement for no earthly reason that I can imagine except that the bank of the river has been constructed at that distance from the river itself.

9. It is not as if there was generally a wide margin of waste land; for, as observed in paragraph 5, in the neighboring villages the padugay is cultivated almost to the water's edge with no apparent injury to any one.

10 It is not the extent of padugay that prevents the river from overflowing but only the strength of the embankments, and the villagers in the present case suffer an additional injustice in this that the banks (which do not, in their present dilapidated condition, prevent their lands from being flooded) are not made out of the reserved padugay but actually still form part and parcel of the ryots' puttah holdings!

11. If I am right in supposing that there is no necessity for the prohibition of cultivation on such broad belts of padugay it is evident that the cost of the fuel plantations must be calculated on the assumption that the land occupied by them is worth from Rupees 50 to Rupees 100 an acre.

12. I have instructed the Assistant Conservator to prepare the necessary estimates for planting the land handed over to him; but, until Government (in the Department of Public Works) decide how much land must be reserved for river conservancy, no progress can be made in extending fuel reserves in the padugays.

13. It may, of course, be urged that the villagers never had any valid claim to the enjoyment of these padugays and that at any rate during the time they have been in charge of the Department of Public Works their claims have been in abeyance; but the loss of the privilege is none the less felt because they had perhaps no legal right to it, and the strict conservancy and occupation of the land by the Forest Department is a very different thing from the easy grass-renting of the Department of Public Works. No particular complaint is made about the latter, but the entire alienation of the land now contemplated excites the most vehement opposition.

14. It might be different, too, if we were forming a village fuel reserve, and I am rather inclined to recommend that in all these cases not more than half the land available in each village should be planted up.

From G HADFIELD, Esq, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Trichinopoly, to J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq, Conservator of Forests, Trichinopoly, dated Kulpatty, 7th October 1874, No. 151

REFERRING to our conversation regarding paragraph 1 of the Board's communication, Forest No 139, of the 22nd August last, I have the honor to inform you that I have issued strict orders to the Overseer to postpone all the work, but at the same time I regret to say that about 18,000 Casuarina plants fit to be permanently put out will be spoiled, and we have to lose the best season for planting. Further, the four pairs of bullocks lately sanctioned were also purchased. Planting the padugays is in no way a restriction to the ryots as they were never allowed to graze their cattle in them, which were, and which are, under the charge of the Department of Public Works.

No 202.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue with reference to my letter, No. 222, dated the 8th September 1874, to which an early reply is requested.

2. The Assistant Conservator has been directed to plant *half* the padugay of each village pending the Board's orders.

3. The restriction of privileges by the Department of Public Works and by the Forest Department are two different things.

TRICHINOPOLY,
13th October 1874.

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. Mr. Pennington brings to notice certain difficulties which have occurred in assigning 1,300 acres of padugay land in the Udaiyarpalaiyam Taluq for planting purposes.

3. In one village the area under cultivation is 923 acres and the waste available for pasturage is 234 acres, of which 217 have now been reserved as padugay land to be planted up leaving only seventeen for the villagers. Directly planting begins and the people are actually excluded the hardship will be bitterly felt. Mr Pennington suggests that much of the land which is very valuable should be left for cultivation. He is inclined to recommend that not more than half the land available in each village should be planted up.

4. The Board observe that the right of Government to these padugays or the greater part of them has been maintained for many years, and is so valuable that it should not be relinquished in any way. Being a wide tract between the usual bed of the river and the artificial banks they are intended to permit the passage of heavy floods when the river rises far above its usual bed. The level is said to be rising, and, if it rises much, the banks, which are dilapidated in many places, will be endangered. Cultivation cannot be permitted because the cultivators would gradually raise the level of their fields to save the crops, and they might also encroach on the usual bed of the river. It has been decided that the padugays may be planted, but the Board fear this also will raise the level by increasing the deposit of mud and debris and may be dangerous unless planting stops at some distance from the usual bed.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th February 1875.*

5 Assuming that the padugays belong, for the most part, to Government, and that they are to be planted up, the Board think the privileges of pasturage, which have been always enjoyed by the villagers, must be treated with consideration. No hard-and-fast line should be laid down, but the Collector should determine, in the case of each village, how much of the padugay land must be left unplanted. A sufficient margin must also be reserved to furnish material for corumboos.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No 195 From Captain CAMPBELL WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Nundial, 20th January 1875, No. 511

With reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 220/3,373, dated 24th November 1874, I have the honor to remark that I discussed the subject of planting up the padugays with Mr. Pennington in August when I visited his district, and it appears strange that neither in his letter nor the Board's Proceedings is any reference made to the officer who is presumed to be the professional representative of Government and the Board in forest and plantation matters.

2 I have already submitted my Inspection Report (G. O., No. 1,511, dated 7th December) paragraph 3 of which, to which I would request attention, deals with the subject of these plantations.

3 It is very desirable to extend them, but I can fully understand the inconvenience to the people which will, however, be, to a certain extent, temporary, and they will benefit eventually by getting cheap fuel and leaves, etc., for manure free of charge, as the Board point out the right of Government to the padugays is unquestioned, but it may be deemed *expedient* to deal liberally in asserting it.

4 The only objection to Mr. Pennington's proposal to plant up half the padugay of each village is that planting compact blocks is cheaper and more convenient than scattered pieces; as it is, in the padugays near Trichinopoly we experience much inconvenience owing to the patches of private land intervening betwixt our plantations. It would, therefore, be preferable, so far as planting is concerned, to plant up all the padugay in one or more villages, and leave an equal extent of common land available for pasturage in others; but I am inclined to agree with the Board's opinion, as expressed in their last paragraph, that "no hard-and-fast line can be laid down, etc.," and that it should be left to the Collector to determine in each case what may and may not be planted. I think, however, the Inspector should then decide whether the area available *should* be planted or not, and that no planting should be undertaken without his approval and the submission of the estimates prescribed.

On this subject I submitted two Circulars approved of by the Board in their Proceedings, No. 65/1,119, dated 11th May 1874, but which do not appear to have been communicated to Government.

5 I do not in the least share the fear expressed by the Board in the concluding portion of paragraph 4 of their Proceedings under consideration.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th February 1875.*

I believe that these plantations *will* raise the level, and in the course of years form a solid and regular embankment, but I believe that this is the best thing which could happen.

It is, in fact, reclaiming so much waste land from the river, and forcing it into a narrower and more regular channel, the greater *scour* in which will keep it much clearer of shifting sand-banks, islands, etc.

The embankment will soon be too strong to be breached, but, if necessary, extra channels can easily be made to carry off flood-water.

6 I believe that apart from the undoubted value of the plantations in supplying timber and fuel they will eventually be found an immense boon to the people in preventing floods, improving the river conservancy, and forming a broad, well-wooded embankment on both sides of the river, affording shelter to the traveller and pleasant recreation grounds for the villagers.

No. 196 ORDER THEREON, 16th February 1875, No. 249.

Forest, No 19

In regard to the "padugay" lands which are referred to in these papers, it appears that the proposal to utilise such tracts for railway fuel purposes emanated from Lieutenant Walker when Deputy-Conservator in Madura, and that Government then remarked* that, "as a rule, these lands are in charge of the Public Works Department, and are required to be retained intact for the preservation of the several irrigation works".

2. Adverting to this remark Lieutenant Walker explained that both the Superintending Engineer and Range Officer at Trichinopoly told him that they had nothing to do with the padugays in that district, although they planted nanul along the outer edge to prevent encroachments by the river. Both these officers, it was said, were strongly in favor of planting trees in all available padugay lands.

3 It appeared that, with two exceptions, the greater part of the padugays in the Trichinopoly Taluq, south of the Cauvery, had been given away on putta. The two excepted tracts were (1) acres 117 36⁺ of unassessed waste near Elambanore railway station, already covered more or less with trees; and (2) acres 250 unsurveyed land further west containing corumboos⁺

⁺ NOTE.—This block, it appears from Lieutenant Walker's Progress Report, dated 10th April 1871 (G. O., 15th June 1871, No. 1,061), would "long since have been taken on putta and irrigated, had it not been retained by Government as padugay and for the supply of branches, etc., for the dams and jungle, retained theretofore under the Tahsildar for the supply of branches and leaves for the repair and construction of corumboos.

4. In the Kulitalai Taluq, further west on the same bank of the river, Lieutenant Walker found 616 acres of waste padugay and 133+264=397 acres held on putta, mostly joint-putta.

5. The Government, on the recommendation of the then Conservator of Forests, sanctioned[†] the formation of plantations on the lands above described, the terms

[†] G. O., 21st March 1871, No. 502, R. D.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th February 1875.*

of compensation to be paid for occupied land being submitted, in the first instance, for their confirmation

6 The Conservator had further remarked, on Lieutenant Walker's authority, that there was more land of the same nature available on the north bank of the Cauvery and on the north and south banks of the Coleroon which would form the subject of a future report. It does not appear that any further report on these tracts was ever received.

7. The importance of encouraging the growth of *Acacia* on padugays generally was noticed* by Major Bellome on more than one occasion. The Board also, in their Proceedings, dated 11th July 1873, No 1,254, paragraph 8, had drawn attention to the previous instructions about these plantations, but no further report from the Collector appears yet to have been submitted.

8. In the mean time, the progress made in planting up the padugay lands already sanctioned is shown, from the most recent reports, to be unsatisfactory (vide Captain Walker's reports recorded in G O's, 25th August and 7th December 1874. Nos 1,067 and 1,511), a very small portion of the area originally (21st March 1871) selected having been utilised owing apparently to objections being raised by the Department Public Works and villagers, while, at the same time, "a considerable area has recently been handed over on the north bank of the river which was not inspected in 1871". It would appear that 370 acres have been acquired out of the 1,380 acres sanctioned in 1871, and that out of this extent 282 had been planted up to March 1874. The objections raised by the officers of the Department Public Works arise, it is explained by the Inspector, from their desire to retain a broad belt on the sides of the channel and embankment, but Captain Walker is of opinion that such reservations are unnecessary if free access is allowed and the necessary materials for dams, etc., supplied (Report recorded in G O, 7th December 1874, No 1,511)

9 Such being the state of the case in the sanctioned plantations, it is now reported, in the first paper recorded above, that a further extent of 1,300 acres of padugay land in the Udaiyarpalayam Taluq has, in accordance with "recent instructions", been transferred to the Forest Department to be turned into fuel reserves. This apparently is the land referred to by Captain Walker as being on the north bank of the river, but no sanction for the transfer can be traced.

10. Padugay land must of necessity, as being in the bed or on the banks of rivers, be valuable for cultivation purposes, and that it is in great request among the ryots the Collector's report sufficiently shows. These tracts are included within village boundaries, and would ordinarily be dealt with under the Durkhast Rules, were it not that it is necessary to reserve a certain extent of land for the conservancy and regulation of river-beds. It is necessary to be careful, however, that no greater foreclosure takes place than is absolutely requisite for the attainment of this object.

11 It seems plain, from what has been stated in the preceding paragraphs, that the exact requirements of the Department Public Works are not accurately defined, and it is the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council that the first step to be taken is to settle what extent of padugay, and for what particular purposes, is to be set aside for river conservancy. The Department Public Works will be requested to

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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settle this, in communication with the Collector, village by village, marking out on the ground the different lots of existing padugay waste which are essential, and recording the same in the village maps

12 This done, the Engineer Department will advise the Collector whether any portions of the reserved padugay land may be allowed for cultivation with due regard to the purpose for which the reserve is made. His Excellency in Council considers that cultivation should be allowed in preference to fuel-growing if it is merely a question between the two, but it may happen that cultivation (river-conservancy being the main object) would be absolutely injurious while fuel-growing would not, and in this case the latter should be preferred. If the Engineer officer considered that both were objectionable, both should be forbidden.

13 If the planting of trees is preferred, it should be limited to such an extent as not unduly to restrict the area available in each village for grazing purposes, and this should be settled by the Collector and Conservator with reference to the circumstances of each village.

14 Where forest operations seem desirable the circumstances of each case should be carefully investigated and reported to the Board of Revenue for orders.

15 Eventually a general report on the subject, with map, showing the extent of land reserved and the mode in which it has been dealt with under this order should be prepared, and what compensation has been settled with reference to G O, 21st March 1871, No 502, already adverted to.

16. Where padugay is not required to be reserved for river-conservancy purposes, it should be given on putta when asked for before any other use is made of the land. No extension of fuel plantations beyond existing sanction should be made on padugay lands without reference to Government.

17 The Governor in Council does not concur in the suggestion made in paragraph 4 of Captain Walker's letter recorded above to plant up all the padugay in one or more villages. The opinion expressed in paragraph 5 is not in accordance with the views generally held on river-conservancy, but it will receive consideration in the inquiry to be instituted under paragraph 11 of this order.

(True Extract.)

Chambers
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department
" the Board of Revenue
" the Officiating Inspector of Forests

Exd F R Bantleman

No. 262.
Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

It will not be at all a difficult matter to lay down on the Revenue Survey or other maps the extent of Padugay which should be reserved for the repair of flood banks and river conservancy purposes.

2 The formation of plantations on Padugay lands not needed for conservancy purposes will generally not be objectionable, if the alignment of the outer edge of such plantations be parallel to the axis of the river, and if sufficient room be left to afford the main water-way required by the river in high floods. It will be necessary however to decide on a review of the river charts what areas should be considered available for plantations.

8 M 1875 receipt

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3 The Canvey in Trichinopoly has been partially, if not completely, surveyed, and the Coleroon has been fully surveyed from the Upper Aricut to the sea, so that there need be but little delay in settling so that lands may with safety be deemed available for plantations and cultivation respectively. Judiciously managed the plantations may prove a safeguard to the flood embankments, but a good deal of care will be required to prevent their becoming a source of danger. The Irrigation Department has no wish to retain or possess land in excess of the requirements connected with the management of the rivers, and in the course of time

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Chief Engineer for Irrigation
6th March 1873

The Secretary to Government
P. W. P.

P. W. 1875 Sept
No: 1707

From

The Chief Engr.
for Irrigation

287
No. 13th March 1875.

No: 262.

Note on a letter from
the Rev. Sept. Submit:
ting Pro: of the Bd. of Rev:
on the subject of Pad-
ugay lands in Tri-
chinpoly Dist.

G. B. No. 839-26-3-75

8 } P. W. Sept
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following-

From Revenue Department (H. E. No 2499/16-4-75)
Chief Engineer for Irrigation (" " 262 " 6 March ")
P 89

Communicated to the
District Engineer Trichinopoly
and to the Superintending
Engineer, Tanjore, who will
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G.M.

To The District Engineer
Supt. Supt. Tanjore
Dist. Supt. Nellore
Revenue Dept.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
131-3-75- with Rev. Sec.

№ 622-624

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Ct. of 1875. 1875

PUBLIC WORKS.

Int Engineer
Nichols.

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U. S. Marine Corps, No. 139

Feb 22. 6 24

^{Pro of the River Dept}
Caduca, Lando - a note

by the Chief Engr for
Engr on the subject of
—, Comm^d with instruction
and to the Dist Engrs under
Nichols & Capt Engrs Tanager
The Dist Engrs are to
consider in what location
the Red on Margin of the
River can be made similar
to the same point