M.R.O. 1—10,006—23-2-59.

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(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2888	Press / Mis.	—
Dated	23-10	195	1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 458. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 18th October 1876, No. 223 W:—

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 Ayaloor, 6th October 1876, No. 101.

Famine.

I HAVE the honor to say that I have received copies of your letter,* or demi-official note, to Government, proposing that Government should become responsible for water-rate on any extent of dry crop which the people can be induced to irrigate; and that ryots be told that they will not be charged water-rate unless the crop be *successful;* and that the Government should turn to account the water-supply which the Company has furnished and provided at the disposal of Government.

* Of 19th instant.

2. Here the proposal is double (1) to induce ryots to try what is to them an experiment by irrigating dry crops. We now have perhaps 5,000 or 6,000 irrigated where we ought to have 150,000 or 200,000. To persuade them most *effectually* (and it is of no use to unnecessarily hazard failure in a case of this kind) Government must endeavour to put the ryots in a position in which *they*, doubting of success, will feel that they cannot lose by the experiment, *i.e.*, no water-rate should be levied unless the crop will pay for dry assessment and water-rate and labour and seed, &c., which is, in fact, unless the crop be successful. Nothing less than a "12-Anna crop" should be charged, and that should be estimated liberally for the ryot. Poor ryots on poor land paying 8 Annas dry assessment *cannot* have such a crop, and they would feel perfectly secure if they knew that none less than a $\frac{3}{4}$ crop would pay Rupees 2 rate. Many ryots also, it is found, will not make up their minds to run the risk of irrigating their crop until it is seriously injured, and not likely to pay them their expenses of cultivation (*e.g.* Pussulur and Chapirevula, visited this week by the Deputy Collector). I therefore urge that it be distinctly published that nothing under a 12-Anna crop will pay any water-rate in dry crops.

3. The second proposal is that Government should act in some way so as to utilize the canal water. There is only one way so far as I see. Government cannot pour water into fields after they are sown without the ryot's consent. But now that rain is hopeless, Government may order the canal officers to pour water and spread it over unsown fields. I have heard the estimates being sent in to the Collector of the proportion of sown land to unsown; and, as he says in his report of 30th August, given in the newspapers, they seem very untrustworthy. They should state how much of the crop sown has simply perished. Even then allowance must be made for the desire of Curnams and Reddies to make out as much land as possible sown, fearing lest they should be called on to sow more. The canal officers are anxious to irrigate, anxious that the irrigation should be successful, and are well

acquainted with the unsown tracts most accessible to water, and of the best soil. It is quite probable that if these fields were flooded the ryots would cultivate. The ryots frequently say that till they know that the field can be irrigated they will not apply. I am prepared to undertake the cost of distributing water over the whole of any unsown field, so far as the ground admit, and to the full extent of which my staff is capable. I should attempt it by contract, or piece work, at so much an acre, employing men acquainted with such work.

4. In reply to the G.O., No. 1,329, of 23rd ultimo, on the subject, the Revenue Board hardly meet the case. They order the publication of a statement that water-rate on dry crops will not be levied unless where a "fair" crop is realized; and the word fair is, as a fact, translated in the Telugu notice as "half" (a/c ಅರ್ಧ). Now, it is already customary to grant remission to crops which fail to the extent of half, owing to the land being bad, or other reason beyond the ryots' control; and the existing rules provide for this. The Board pass no order regarding the utilizing of the canal water in an active way, so that, in fact, things remain much as they were. I am quite sensible that their resolution should stimulate the local revenue officers into more action; and the fact that for dry crop the Government officers will not be bound to collect the water-rate paid by Government to the Company will be likely to convince the ryots of a liberal treatment, and induce them to come forward and claim remission more freely than they ordinarily do.

5. The Deputy Collector of Nandial has already visited some dozen villages without any success, beyond a promise or two to irrigate if no rain fall within a month. He also has hopes of inducing one man to irrigate 14 acres in Pussulur. No doubt it will take some days to talk the ryots over. Care requires to be taken to prevent ryots thinking that those who apply in the authorized way, through the canal officers, will be in any respect in a worse condition than others. 2,000 or 3,000 acres more will probably be irrigated this month, unless a fresh excuse for delay occur in any uncertainty in reference to mode of application.

6. I will give a sketch of the prospect from the road on which I drove hither from Kurnool. At Kurnool I left prices double what they were early in the year, and grain so scarce that customers mobbed the shops, or wandered from one to the other for hours, in some cases, before they could get grain or rice. After leaving the municipal limits the road encircles Kurnool, having their crops on the Kurnool side. From the 3rd mile to under Juggernat hill (6th) all is bare, except the Kaderbagh valley on the left distance. Irrigation under Tandripad tank is just failing. 6th to 9th mile the arable land has a few crops on it. 9th mile to 21st bare, except a remnant under the cliffs at the 13th mile, and a few fields under picottas at the 15th. You drive from thence to the 21st mile without being able to see a blade of crop or grass or weed to the horizon. 21st mile to 24th a few low crops. Thence none to the 45th, though there is a green tinge of verdure on the fields when viewed at a little distance. Thence to this bungalow is about half sown. All the flourishing crop between Kurnool and Nundial would make about half a dozen fields; and the whole green crop including that dried up and that still very young might amount to an ordinary village. In the Koverdaur valley I believe most of the land is sown; and it is doubtless worth a struggle to save that.

7. The remark in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, since it is not made to me, and only in a document which the emergency of the circumstances has brought into my hands, needs no remark from me except that the Government may rest fully assured that, so far as I know, such opinion as it expresses must be based on a mistaken knowledge of the part actually taken by the Company's officers and their own. It was the Revenue officers who used to delay the ryots' applications two or three months before giving notice to the Company that they had applied. It was the Revenue officers who, if freely trusted to use and give account of water, supplied so frequently deficient and utterly confused and untrustworthy accounts (or sometimes, as at Chennur or Bilenlgudur, none) as to necessitate an expensive machinery to prevent oppression of the ryots and fraud on the Government. You have printed with G.O., No. 1,661, of 26th June 1873, an account of a settlement in which, in spite of the Rules, the Company's officer accepted every and any remission which the Revenue officer desired, with only one condition, that the reason for it should be stated in writing and apply to all similar cases without favor. It is a different matter when the question was one, not of leniency, but of fact; then the canal officers could not yield as they could on matters of opinion.

8. I wish however to ask your attention to the irrigation under tanks. The Company, it seems to me made a liberal, as it was a double, concession. For crops grown under tanks partly by tank water and partly by canal water the *full* water rate is for Government 4 Rupees and for the Company 6 Rupees. The Company however proposed or accepted the present rules by which in such cases they receive only Rupees $1\frac{1}{2}$ a month for irrigating fields under tanks when the tank is dry, and only Rupee 1 per 1,440 cubic yards (enough amply to irrigate a quarter of an acre from seed time to harvest) of water supplied to refill a tank. I find that the conditions on which the Revenue officers have offered canal irrigation to the ryots under Nandial and Kanalla tanks are alternative, viz., *to have the tanks filled* by the canal, in which case the Revenue officers would collect from them (besides dry assessment) full Government water-rate and full canal-rate, making a total water-rate of Rupees 10; or that the ryots might take *direct irrigation from the canal* on their own application, in which case, if the tank filled from rain, however partially, they would have to pay the full Government rate also.

In this case then the Revenue officers told the ryots that they should, under certain conditions, *i.e.*, if the ryots accepted the former alternative, collect from them on account of canal water supplied them a greater sum (viz., Rupees 6 an acre) than Government would pay the Company for it (viz., Rupee 1 per 1,440 cubic yards), and this seems to me opposed to the terms of the contract between the Secretary of State and the Company, as it did prevent the ryots having their tanks filled from the canal. The mode of collection of the canal water-rate from the ryots deserves, I think, in general, consideration and improvement both in form and punctuality.

SUBMITTED to Government.

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

No. 459. ORDER THEREON, 28th October 1876, No. 2,833.

IRRIGATION, No. 50.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department for consideration with reference to the Order in that Department, No. 1,329, dated 23rd September 1876.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 458 Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 18th October 1876, No. 223 W:—

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I HAVE the honor to say that I have received copies of your letter,* or demi-official note, to Government, proposing that Government should become responsible for water-rate on any extent of dry crop which the people can be induced to irrigate; and that ryots be told that they will not be charged water-rate unless the crop be *successful;* and that the Government should turn to account the water-supply which the Company has furnished and provided at the disposal of Government.

* Of 19th instant.

2. Here the proposal is double (1) to induce ryots to try what is to them an experiment by irrigating dry crops. We now have perhaps 5,000 or 6,000 irrigated where we ought to have 150,000 or 200,000. To persuade them most *effectually* (and it is of no use to unnecessarily hazard failure in a case of this kind) Government must endeavour to put the ryots in a position in which *they*, doubting of success, will feel that they cannot lose by the experiment, *i.e.*, no water-rate should be levied unless the crop will pay for dry assessment and water-rate and labour and seed, &c., which is, in fact, unless the crop be successful. Nothing less than a "12-Anna crop" should be charged, and that should be estimated liberally for the ryot. Poor ryots on poor land paying 8 Annas dry assessment *cannot* have such a crop, and they would feel perfectly secure if they knew that none less than a ¾ crop would pay Rupees 2 rate. Many ryots also, it is found, will not make up their minds to run the risk of irrigating their crop until it is seriously injured, and not likely to pay them their expenses of cultivation (*e.g.* Pussulur and Chapirevula, visited this week by the Deputy Collector). I therefore urge that it be distinctly published that nothing under a 12-Anna crop will pay any water-rate in dry crops.

3. The second proposal is that Government should act in some way so as to utilize the canal water. There is only one way so far as I see. Government cannot pour water into fields after they are sown without the ryot's consent. But now that rain is hopeless, Government may order the canal officers to pour water and spread it over unsown fields. I have heard the estimates being sent in to the Collector of the proportion of sown land to unsown; and, as he says in his report of 30th August, given in the newspapers, they seem very untrustworthy. They should state how much of the crop sown has simply perished. Even then allowance must be made for the desire of Curnams and Reddies to make out as much land as possible sown, fearing lest they should be called on to sow more. The canal officers are anxious to irrigate, anxious that the irrigation should be successful, and are well acquainted with the unsown tracts most accessible to water, and of the best soil. It is quite probable that if these fields were flooded the ryots would cultivate. The ryots frequently say that till they know that the field can be irrigated they will not apply. I am prepared to undertake the cost of distributing water over the whole of any unsown field, so far as the ground admit, and to the full extent of which my staff is capable. I should attempt it by contract, or piece work, at so much an acre, employing men acquainted with such work.

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SUBMITTED to Government.

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

No. 459 ORDER THEREON, 28th October 1876, No. 2,888.

IRRIGATION, No. 50

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department for consideration with reference to the Order in that Department, No. 1,329, dated 23rd September 1876.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
" Revenue Department.

Payment of Water-rate by ryots for dry crop, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.—Passing orders on endorsement of Chief Engineer for Irrigation submitting letter from Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, anent the —.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Madras Irrigation & Canal Company.
Cuddalore Station, 8th October 1876.

No 101.

To
Colonel Orme C. Wilkins, R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Sir,

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(1). I have the honour to say that I have received copies of your letter,(a) or D. O. note, to Government proposing that Government should become responsible for watercrate on any extent of dry crop which this people can be induced to irrigate; and that not be told that they will not be charged watercrate unless the crop be successful: and that the Government would turn to account the water supply which the Company has furnished, and provided at the disposal of Government.

(a) Sd 19th inst.

(2). Now the proposal is double (1) to incur upon it by what it to them an experiment, by irrigating dry crops. We now have perhaps 5,000 or 6,000 irrigated where we ought to have 150 or 200 thousand To persuade them most effectually (and it is of no use to unnecessarily hazard failure in a case of this kind) Government must endeavour to put the note in a

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Collector of the proportion of sown land to unsown; and, as he says in his report of 30th August given in the newspapers, they seem very untrustworthy. They should state how much of the crop sown has simply perished. Even then allowance must be made for the desire of Tenants and Ryots to make out as much land as possible sown, fearing lest they should be called on to sow more. The Canal Officers are anxious to irrigate, anxious that the irrigation should be successful, and are well acquainted with the unsown and are well acquainted with the most accessible to water, and of the best soil. It is quite probable that if their fields were flooded the ryots would cultivate. The ryots frequently say that till they know that the field can be irrigated they will not apply. I am prepared to undertake the cost of distributing water over the whole of any unsown field, so far as the ground admits, and to the full extent of which any Staff is capable. I should attempt it by contracts or piece work, at so much an acre; employing men acquainted with such work.

(3). In reply to the Government Order No 1329 of 23rd ult: on the subject, the Revenue Board hardly meet the case. They order the publication of a statement that water-rate, on dry crops will not be levied unless where a "fair" crop is

(realized

position ~~raised up~~, and that at all ~~events~~ ~~many~~ might will see [illegible] amount to an ordinary village. In the expense [illegible] I believe more of the land [illegible] and it is doubtless worth a struggle to save that.

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(7). I wish however to ask your attention to the irrigation under tanks. The Company it seems to me made a liberal, or it was a double, concession. For crops grown under tanks partly by tank water and partly by canal water the full water rate is for Government 4 rupees and for the Company 6 rupees. The Company however proposed or accepted the percentages by which in which cases they receive only Rs 1½ a month for irrigating fields under tanks when the tank is dry, and only Rs 1 per 1440 cubic yards (enough amply to irrigate a quarter of an acre from seed time to harvest) of water supplied to refill a tank. I found that the condition on which the Revenue officers have offered canal irrigation to the ryots under Nandial and Kandla tanks are alternative, viz.; to have the tanks filled by the Canal — in which case the Revenue officers would collect from them (besides dry assessment) full Government water-rate and full Canal rate, making a total water rate of Rs 10; or, that the ryots might take direct irrigation from the Canal on their own application, in which case, if the tank filled from rain, however partially, they would have to pay the full Government rate also.

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Rs 26-6-73 No 1661
" 4-8-74 " 24
" 8-1-75 " 50.
Nos 9 Rs 28-7-76 - 1329

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
John H Latham
Chief Engineer & Manager

No 450/1
" 223-W.

Submitted to Government

Octacamund
17 October 76 } No. 2888 / 2804/76

Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Communicated to the Revenue Department for consideration with reference to the order in that Dept. No 1329, dated 23 Sept. 1876

Chief Engineer's Office
14 October 1876

C. Ellis 5
C. Cohen 4
Receipt 21
Desp. 21
Ent 26-10-76

Govt. of {1876} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Chief Engr. & Sec. to Govt.

Dated

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 28th October 1876, No. 1588

Nos. 4584

Comparative Statement of Estimates, Tenders, Contracts, Expenditure and Progress of Works in the Executive Engineer's Division for the month of September 1876.

Chief Engr. & Sec. to Govt.