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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	477	(2)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	22.2.		1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd February 1876.*

No. 394. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 11th February 1876, No. 184:—

ABSTRACT.—*Water-rate for supply of water from Madras Irrigation Canal.*—Communicating to the Public Works Department Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting reports from Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah regarding composition of—

No. 395. ORDER THEREON, 22nd February 1876, No. 477.

IRRIGATION, No. 40-C.

THE Government do not think that the proposed rules for compounding would be of any use. The views of the Board of Directors of the Company will be awaited.

(True Extract)

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

To the Revenue Department.

„ Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
„ „ for Irrigation.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1876.*

No. 101. Read the following proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th January 1876, No. 94 :—

Read the following letters :—

From W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kurabapally, 15th October 1875, No. 211.

I HAVE the honor to report on the subject of G.O., Public Works Department, No. 1,430, dated 25th May 1875, as directed in the footnote of the Board, G.O., Rev. Dept., 5th June 1875, No. 1,201. Miscellaneous No. 5,491, dated 18th June 1875.

2. No harm can be done by allowing the ryots to compound for a water-supply at a lower rate than that now paid, but I am not at all sure that the terms will be generally accepted.

3. Perpetually modifying rules is, I think, a mistake. If canal water is not taken by the ryots to the extent that it might be taken, it is quite clear that the main fault lies in the price the ryots have to pay for it. I believe that the water-rate is too high, and, while this is the case, modifications in small matters will have no effect on the revenue.

4. I enclose a copy of a letter* from the Deputy Collector in charge of canal affairs in this district. He mentions three objections to the composition for water becoming popular. They are, 1st, that the ryots have to depend upon inferior servants of the company for their water-supply; 2ndly, that the canal water contains salt; and, 3rdly, that the supply of water after December is doubtful.

5. The first objection must exist so long as an independent company exists. The villagers cannot arrange among themselves for their water-supply as they do when they take water from purely Government works of irrigation. I have heard of the complaint of salt in the canal water, but I cannot say what truth there is in it. The salt is said to be brought down by the Kundair River.

6. These objections do not bear upon the particular subject of composition, but, if they exist, something more than modification of rules and a compounding for rates will be necessary before the ryots will be induced to irrigate their lands more freely.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. KRISHNA ROW, Acting Deputy Collector, to W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapally, 8th October 1875, No. 42.

ADVERTING to your footnote, No. 312, affixed to the G.O. of the 25th May last, No. 1,430, calling upon my predecessor to give an early report with reference to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the said order, I beg to state that the limited experience I have acquired of the canal irrigation agriculture during my short stay in this division goes against my competency to form an independent opinion on the subject mooted therein, but I venture, however, to offer a few suggestions based upon the information collected on my personal inquiry during the late canal irrigation settlement.

2. During the inquiry some wealthy ryots seemed to appreciate fully the proposed encouraging plan of giving the intending ryots an option of compounding for their water-supply, but at the same time they expressed their unwillingness to take advantage of the contemplated system without some additional facilities being afforded to them. At present they complain that they

are left at the mercy of the ill-paid bankers, and that these crops really suffer at times from want of water. They further state that, when they find their crops to be in sore need of irrigation, they cannot get the timely supply without a banker's permission, and that the present system of obtaining canal water for irrigating their standing crops in the provinces, and with the consent of the bankers entails delay and forms a fearful restraint upon them for using freely (as they do under Government irrigation works) the Company's canal water, and, in case of refusal at such crisis, it becomes an unpleasant task to go and complain before their superiors located at some distance. To avoid all such difficulties or such ill-fortune, I think the free use of water by the ryots themselves may be allowed from the distribution channel without any intervention of the bankers, or some other remedial measures may be adopted to remove the grievance of the ryots.

3. Secondly, a great majority of the ryots are under the impression that the Kundair River water spoils the productive power of their lands and makes them unprofitable. There may be some force or truth in their argument, and I think it would be advisable not to allow in the main channel the Kundair River water after carefully testing, by scientific means, its intrinsic and unproductive quality.

4. Thirdly, they say that the uncertainty of water supply after 1st December also discourages them to raise paddy crops. These wet crops require irrigation for full six months in this division, and any discontinuation of water tends to yield less produce and sometimes to total failure, which eventually results as a loss to the ryot. The cultivation of paddy crop in this division is, it appears, generally commenced in the "Adeela and Hada" seasons, or, in other words, in the middle of August, and it, therefore, requires continuous supply till February. Under the new Rule V. the company do not guarantee for water supply beyond the 1st December, and I think, therefore, that modification of the rule by prolongation of this period is also an important subject to be taken into consideration.

5. As regards the composition rates, the Tahsildars of Pudukottah and Cuddalore state that three-fourths of the present full charge may be allowed for all classes when applications are made for compounding, but I think the reduction of one-fourth and one-half water-rate as given below only for the first and second classes would be advisable. The term of years for which the composition should be allowed may be fixed at first starting from three to five, as I fear any longer period would not give us a ready notion of the practical working of this system.

	DOUBLE RATE.			SIMPLE RATE.			MONTHLY RATE.		
	Present Full.	Proposed Composition.		Present Full.	Proposed Composition.		Present Full.	Proposed Composition.	
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
First Class ...	12	9	0 0	6	4	8 0	1	8 0	0 12 0
Second Class ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
For one Crop...	...	...	...	4	3	0 0	1	0 0	0 8 0
For a Series...	6	4	8 0	...	...	...	1	0 0	0 8 0

6. With regard to paragraph 4 of the Government Order, I beg to state that the suggestions offered in the above paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 also apply to this view of the matter. Further, I learn that the recent modification of the Rule II. sanctioning the submission of applications to canal officers has had only a partial effect in relieving the inconvenience of the ryots. Though an application is made to the canal officer in the first instance, he cannot readily comply with the ryot's request in granting the ticket in the absence of any means to know the number and extent of the field for the irrigation of which canal water is applied, and thus leaves the ryot in obscurity, and awaits the attendance of the curnam to ascertain from him the necessary information required to fill in the form of application. It is not uncommon that the curnam frequently absent^d himself from the village on different callings, and during the revenue jamabandi his absence will, no doubt, be longer. The canal officer, being placed in difficulty to procure the attendance of the curnam, reports to his superiors the non-supply of information at the time he wanted, and

the consequent delay in the preparation of accounts is eventually brought to the notice of Government repeatedly as has been done in the last year. Even during the presence of the curnam in his village a ready co-operation cannot, I think, be expected for some time more owing to a great fuss or misunderstanding which lately occurred regarding the receipt of applications under Rule II. I think, therefore, that the ryot should be relieved of his responsibility by the simple surrender of an application ticket showing the name of field and the approximate number of acreage he wants to irrigate, leaving the other adjustment of numbers and correct extent thereof to be entered afterwards by the canal officer and the curnam jointly. I beg at the same time to suggest whether it would not be desirable to appoint specially one of the curnams attached to each village to carry on the duties connected with the canal department. In the absence of a second curnam a ghiremissaldar may be entertained for this special work as he would already be in the enjoyment of a portion of a curnam inam. Where such an arrangement cannot be made (which will not be the case in many instances), the present misal curnam only should be made responsible for all work.

7. Again, I observe that a great laxity is shown in timely examination of crops damaged or otherwise affected by some malady. The extraordinary delay that has taken place in several cases has rendered the late inspection most futile. I would, therefore, think it advisable to entertain for this district one special Inspector under the Divisional Officer to conduct then and there these multifarious duties of examination of fields, to assist canal officers in procuring the necessary information and aid which they may be in need of, and to explain to the ryots occasionally (while moving about through the villages) the rules and other orders affecting their agricultural operations. I dare say his services will also be most beneficial in making speedy measurements of lands required for both the Canal and Railway Companies and in facilitating the prompt disposal of claims of puttadars and inamdars whose lands have been, or will be, taken occasionally in anticipation of sanction, and whose claims in many cases are still pending, for the last several years, without settlement.

8. Moreover, I have to bring to your notice a hard case I had to deal with during the last settlement. A, holding a hotel garden on Nos. 1 and 2, each measuring, for instance, 2 acres, applied for canal water to irrigate only one garden, No. 1. While thus irrigating his garden, he unconsciously takes water for a few cents (say five or ten) of the adjoining garden land. On examination, this turns out to be the surreptitious irrigation. As no mention is made in the G.O. of the 26th August 1875, No. 1,289, as to the surreptitious irrigation of double crops,

* Read with G.O., dated 7th February 1875, No. 154.

I think, under the new rules, * the above five or ten additional cents have to be charged for full acre, which will amount as follows:—

	Double Rate.		
	RS.	A.	P.
Charge for full acre ...	12	0	0
Fine for the first time, at 8 annas per acre ...	0	8	0
*Total...	12	8	0

This charge upon a poor ryot will certainly be a heavy burden. I think, therefore, that some lenient provision should be introduced in the rules in dealing such cases.

9. Lastly, I think it is very desirable (as I suggested in last year) to issue yearly settlement tickets† to all ryots who have to pay the water-rates as we cannot leave them entirely to the tender mercies of the curnam for ascertaining the exact amount thereof. The receipt for the payment of the amount therein specified may be given to them on its reverse side as a safeguard against the unfair treatment from the village heads.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. D. HORSLEY,
Collector.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1876.*

From J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th November 1875,
No. 455.

With reference to G.O. in the Public Works Department, dated 25th May 1875, No. 1,430, I have the honor to submit, for the approval of the Board, draft rules drawn up by myself and the Chief Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, in consultation with the Conservancy Engineers of the Company and the Special Deputy Collector.

2. The proposed rules (if approved) will be applicable to all ryots now paying Rupees 6 per acre. It is understood that ryots taking up new lands for cultivation under the canal will have the benefit of the progressive rates (Rupees 3, 4, and 5) until the fourth year of cultivation, when they will have the option of compounding.

3. The Board will observe that the concession has been confined to the first class of crops falling under Rule VI., Clauses 1 and 2. We have not thought it advisable to extend it to crops falling under Clauses 3, 4, and 5.

4. I am to state that the Chief Engineer's concurrence in the rules is subject to the confirmation of his Directors.

Enclosed as No. 1.

Draft Rules for Compounding Water-rate.

1. Ryots intending to irrigate a field for several years will be allowed to compound for ten years.
2. For ryots compounding the rates for first class-crop (Rule VI., Clauses 1 and 2,) will be Rupees 5 per acre per crop instead of Rupees 6.
3. The ryots must guarantee to pay the reduced rate year by year whether they cultivate or not, provided there is water in the canal.
4. As regards remission, Rule X. will not be applicable to compounders except in case of failure from excessive rains and floods.

(Signed) J. HOPE,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 5th June 1875, Miscellaneous No. 1,201.

2. The Collector of Kurnool, after consultation with the Chief Engineer of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, forwards draft rules for the composition of water-rate, which have been approved by Mr. Latham subject to the consent of the Directors.

3. The period of composition proposed is ten years, and Rupees 5 per acre instead of Rupees 6 is to be the single-crop rate. It is proposed to confine the composition to crops charged with the six-rupee rate (Rule VI., Clauses 1 and 2), and the reduced rate of Rupees 5 is to involve the forfeiture of all claims to remission, except in case of failure from excessive rains or floods.

4. The Collector of Cuddapah thinks that composition can do no harm, but proposes no specific rate or conditions. He objects to constant change, and is of opinion that, with a water-rate fixed so high as Rupees 6 per acre, something more than modifications in small matters is required.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1876.*

5. It seems to the Board that the forfeiture of claims to remission is not compensated by the reduction in the rate proposed in the scheme submitted from Kurnool, and that the period of composition is too long. They think that the proposed rules will be a dead letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 11th February 1876, No. 184.

Irrigation, No. 2.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department with reference to paragraph 3 of the Order in that Department, dated 25th May 1875, No. 1,430.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
.. the Board of Revenue.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

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By the Hon: W. Robinson &c

15 May 30 - 1430

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FORMER CASES.

Current No. of 187

P. W. 1896 Sept.
M. WORKS FORM No. 3

Current No. 1174

Revenue Dept.

No. 1814 }
Dated 11 } February 1876.
Recd. 14 }

Subject: - Regarding Compo-
sition of water rate for
supply of water from
Madras Irrigation Canal.

ENCLOSURES.

From to
" "
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Orders and Proceedings in file.

Depart- ment.	No.	Date.	ENDORSEMENTS.		
			Depart- ment.	No.	Dated.
Recd.	155	29 Oct/75			
"	84	4 Aug/76			
"	2976	21 Oct/76			
"	51	7 Jan/78			
"	50	8 Jan/78			
"	4430	25 Aug/78			

LATER CASES.

Current No. of 187

" "
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394-595

18-2-76

1174 1177 The Government do not think that the proposed rates for manufacturing, etc.,
would be of any use. The name of the Board of Directors of the Company
will be omitted.
1/22 Oct/76/110.

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Code of 1878 Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

Revenue Dept

Recd
23/2/70

Dated

By

For

U. O. 22 Feb 1870. No. 477

No. 394-395-

Composition of water rate for
Supply of water from the
Madras Irrigation Canal.

The proposed rules for the
— Considered. One of no
use - the views of the Board
of Directors of the Company
on the subject awaited.