

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 1309

DATED 16 February 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Irrigation Cess: Govt., Sec. Dept., sanctioning the levy of
voluntary — of 6 annas an acre for the ~~work~~ conservation
of the Wallajah Channel, in the Cuddalore Taluk, South Arcot Dist.,
forwarded to the officers concerned for information.

80
16-250

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Order No. 1308 16.2.98

No. 440 Misc.

Dated 27th January 1898

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Communicated to
the officers concerned for
information.

1812
98.

1174

Issue

114

9298

To the Chief Engineer
Superintendent
of D.W.R.
17/2/98
voluntarily
an acre
Wallaajah

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.
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No.	Date.
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$\frac{F}{16}$ 2,000-13-10-97

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Rev.
Sett., No. 751 dated 30th Novr. 1897.

ORDER thereon, No. 440 Wis., c/ 27th Jany. 1898.

The Collector's proposal which is supported by the Board of Revenue in para 3 of its Proceedings read above is sanctioned.

(True Extract)

Wm. Mayonbanks
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Board of Rev., R.S.
Copy to the P.W.D.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue.

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

CHIEF ENGINEER
FOR IRRIGATION.

30 DEC. 1897

No. *R 440/97*

Recd.

Enclosures

1897.

Regd.

Spare copies

Printed December 22nd.

Proceedings, No. 731, 30th November 1897.

NOVEMBER.

Irrigation cess.—Submitting, for the orders of Government, Revenue Department papers regarding the levy of voluntary — of 6 annas an acre for the conservancy of the Wallajah channel, in the Cuddalore taluk, South Arcot district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 255, dated 19th January 1895 :—

Read—the following letter from A. E. CASTLESTUART STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Camp, Tirukkóyilur, 9th December 1894, Ref. on Regr. No. 5218-Eng. :—

I have the honour to submit, for the sanction of the Board, the following proposal for the future conservancy of the channel called the "Wallajah channel" which takes off from the Penniar and feeds thirteen villages in the Cuddalore taluk. The total length of the channel is $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It is provided with complete masonry works, most of which require ordinary repairs except two which require reconstruction having been seriously damaged by the floods of 1884. Estimates for these have been prepared by the Public Works Department, and are ready.

2. In October 1892, a mahazar was received from the ryots of the villages of Melgoveraput, Kizhagoveraput and Tiruvádi which are at the tail end of the channel offering to pay a cess of 4 annas an acre in commutation of the common labour required of them to clear the channel. Mr. Hammick inspected the channel on the spot and considered it would be hopeless to expect that the channel would ever be cleared by communal labour, seeing that in spite of urgent requisitions to that end, the villagers had done nothing. He accordingly proposed the levy of a voluntary cess of 6 annas an acre and enquired if all the ryots of the thirteen villages were willing to pay it. The Divisional-officer has now reported that they are all willing to pay and have expressed their willingness in writing.

3. The channel irrigates 2,000.13 acres of wet, 221.74 acres of dry and 128.66 acres under Puvasi in all the villages aggregating 2,350.53 acres. The Public Works Department estimate the cost of opening the channel at Rs. 900 and its maintenance in future years at Rs. 500 and for establishment at Rs. 360. At 6 annas an acre, the revenue would be Rs. 881 which would be quite sufficient in all ordinary years.

4. I request therefore that sanction may be obtained for the levy of the cess.

Reference on the above, dated 22nd December 1894.

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for favour of remarks.

2. The Collector is requested to report details of the establishment proposed.

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Collector of South Arcot.

READ—the following letter from A. E. CASTLESTUART STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Cuddalore, 10th January 1895, Ref. on Regr. No. 5218-Eng. :—1

In reply to paragraph 2 of the Board's Ref. on Genl. Regr. No. 8148, dated 22nd December 1894, I have the honour to give below the details of establishment proposed in this office Ref. on No. 5218-Eng., dated 9th December 1894 :—

	Rs.
1. Maistry on Rs. 15 per mensem for a year	180
3. Lascars on Rs. 5 each per mensem for a year	180
Total	360

Resolution—Mis. No. 255, dated 19th January 1895.

Recorded, pending receipt of reply from the Chief Engineer to the Ref. on Genl. Regr. No. 8148 of 1894.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Collector of South Arcot.

READ—the following letter from J. S. WILSON, Esq., Executive Engineer, South Arcot Division, to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, dated 1st February 1896, No. 85-S.E. :—

With reference to your No. V/3-S.A., dated 8th January 1895, calling for a report on the Wallajah channel and enquiring whether it is an Imperial work, I have the honour to report as follows :—

"The channel is an Imperial one, No. 245 in the list and takes off from the right bank of the Penniar in the village of Ulunthampett. It is rather more than 10 miles long and irrigates according to the Collector's statement a total area of 2,350.3 acres in thirteen villages. The masonry works of the channel have been occasionally repaired by the Public Works Department and one estimate amounting to Rs. 1,400 was sanctioned and worked out in 1884-85; this was for silt clearance and repairs to masonry works. The Public Works Department has never except on this occasion undertaken the annual silt clearance. It is now proposed by the Collector to accept an offer of the villagers to pay an annual cess as a commutation of the kudimaramut labour required from them and an opinion has been asked for as to the annual cost of maintenance including establishment. The channel has hitherto been badly conserved and no establishment is at present maintained by the department for its conservancy or the regulation of water.

"As regards the cost of maintenance, the Sub-divisional officer reports that, as the deep bed of the river is at a distance from the head of the channel, a spring channel would have to be cut every year to bring water from the river bed to the channel. The Sub-divisional officer does not state what would be the probable length of such a channel and in any case the cutting of such channels is not an operation which the Public Works Department in this division is in the habit of undertaking; it would, I think, be more cheaply done by the ryots or the Minor Irrigation Department. It might cost annually about Rs. 150—200. As regards the maintenance of the channel itself, the removal of silt, repairs to masonry works, &c., this work could be done

annually by the Public Works Department, the cost might be put at Rs. 300, at Rs. 30 per mile which should be sufficient after the channel had once been put in thoroughly good order to keep it up in an efficient manner.

"As regards the establishment required, as it is not, I presume, intended that Public Works Department should undertake the actual distribution of the water, the Public Works Department establishment would be such as would be sufficient to give a sufficient staff to work the head-sluice and to carry out the ordinary mile coolie's work. For this, one head cooly on Rs. 8 and 3 mile coolies on Rs. 5 should be sufficient. Their pay would come to Rs. 276. As regards water distribution, this could best be done by kavalgars acting through the village monigars under the Minor Irrigation Department. Their number might be that suggested by the Sub-divisional officer, viz., 4, at Rs. 5 per mensem, their pay would amount to Rs. 240. The annual amount needed therefore for the general upkeep and regulation of the channel will, according to the above data, amount to—

	RS.
(1) Spring channel	200
(2) Maintenance of channel and masonry works	300
(3) Public Works Department petty establishment	276
(4) Minor Irrigation coolies for distribution of water	240

Total ... 1,016

an amount which is Rs. 135 above the amount specified by the Collector as the probable amount of the special cess.

"I have given orders for an investigation of the state and capabilities of the channel and am of opinion that if the channel is put into proper order and carefully maintained, an increase in the irrigated area is probable, in which case the excess on the cost of maintenance over the amount of the cess will be reduced. I do not think, however, that the excess need stand in the way of the arrangement as so far very little of the attention which a channel of such importance deserves has been paid to it and the entertainment of maintenance establishment need not I think be considered as debitable to the amount of the voluntary cess. The complete estimate for the channel will be submitted when received."

Endorsement by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, No. 311-E.I., dated 10th December 1896.

"To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, with reference to his No. V/3-S.A., dated 8th January 1895."

Endorsement by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, No. 74-M., dated 2nd March 1897.

Copy of endorsement No. 311-E.I., dated 10th December 1896, from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, is forwarded to the Board of Revenue for information in reply to its reference, dated 22nd December 1894, on Genl. Regr. No. 8148 of 1894.

2. The maintenance of channel and masonry works is properly a charge on Public Works Department funds. The cess of 6 annas should be accepted and anything more required provided from ordinary funds.

Reference on the above, dated 23rd March 1897.

Before obtaining the sanction of Government to the levy of the cess referred to, the Board desires to have a report from the Collector as to his view on the suggestions of the Executive Engineer, in regard to the establishment required under the Public Works Department and the Revenue Department.

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Collector of South Arcot.

READ—the following letter from A. E. CASTLESTUART STUART, Esq., I.C.S., F.G.S., F.L.S., F.R.G.S., Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Cuddalore, 4th July 1897, Ref. on Regr. No. 5218-Eng. :—

In reply to the Board's Ref. on Genl. Regr. No. 1734, dated 23rd March 1897, I have the honour to state that the establishment proposed by the Executive Engineer of this district for the maintenance of the Wallajah channel is sufficient.

RESOLUTION—No. 731, dated 30th November 1897.

The papers read above will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. In his letter disposed of in B.P., No. 255, dated 19th January 1895, read again above, the Collector of South Arcot requested sanction for the levy of a voluntary irrigation cess of 6 annas an acre, in commutation of the customary labour required of the ryots of thirteen villages in the Cuddalore taluk, irrigated by the Wallajah channel, which takes off from the Penniar. It was reported that the total length of the channel was $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles and that it was provided with complete masonry works, most of which required ordinary repairs except two which required reconstruction. The proposal to levy the cess emanated from Mr. Hammick, the former Collector of the District, who, on receipt of a petition in October 1892 from the ryots of three villages at the tail end of the channel offering to pay a cess of 4 annas an acre in commutation of the labour required of them to clear the channel, inspected the spot and coming to the conclusion that it would be hopeless to expect the work to be done by communal labour, proposed the imposition of a voluntary cess of 6 annas an acre and directed inquiry to be made as to whether all the ryots of the thirteen villages were willing to pay it. The ryots of all the villages having expressed their willingness in writing to pay the cess at the rate proposed, sanction for the imposition of the cess was asked for by the Collector as stated above. It was also reported by the Collector that the Public Works Department estimated the cost of clearing the channel at Rs. 900, its annual maintenance at Rs. 500 and the establishment required at Rs. 360, and that the cess which would amount to Rs. 881 on the aggregate acreage of 2350.53, would be quite sufficient in all ordinary years. The Collector's letter was forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for favour of remarks, and that officer having apparently referred the letter to the Executive Engineer, the latter officer reported that, as the deep bed of the river was at a distance from the head of the channel, a spring channel would have to be cut every year at a cost of Rs. 150—200 to bring water from the river bed to the channel; that the maintenance of the channel estimated to cost Rs. 300 a year could be attended to by the Public Works Department; that an establishment consisting of a head cooly on Rs. 8 and 3 mile coolies on Rs. 5 each costing in all Rs. 276 per annum would be necessary under the Public Works Department, and that another consisting of 4 coolies at Rs. 5 per mensem for distribution of water costing Rs. 240 per annum would be required under the Revenue Department. The Chief Engineer forwards the Executive Engineer's report in reply to the Board's Reference and,

in doing so, observes that the maintenance of the channel and masonry works is properly a charge on the Public Works Department funds and that the cess of 6 annas should be accepted, any amount required in addition being provided from ordinary funds. The Collector, to whom the proposal regarding establishment was referred for report, states that the establishment as proposed by the Executive Engineer is sufficient.

3. In these circumstances, the Board supports the Collector's proposal that sanction may be accorded for the acceptance, in and from the current fasli, of a voluntary cess of 6 annas an acre in lieu of the customary labour which the thirteen villages referred to are bound to contribute.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Copy to the Collector of South Arcot.