

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 935 D

DATED 20 Oct 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Irish Settlements. Pres. Rev. Secy
remitting for consideration the
suggestion of the Bd of Rev. that certain
irrigation projects should be investigated
before any steps are taken for the
formation of — in the western taluks
of the South Arcot DL, commd to
the SE P Circle —

Remitting to the Public Works Department for consideration the suggestion of the Board of Revenue that certain irrigation projects should be investigated before any steps are taken for the formation of — in the western taluks of the South Arcot district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 978, Revenue, dated 9th March 1899:—

Read—the following extract from the address presented to His Excellency the Governor during his eleventh tour, by the District Board, South Arcot:—

11. We beg leave to lay before your Excellency one other matter for consideration. Some parts of the district especially the coast taluks are getting densely populated; and as agriculture is the main source of living and as the land available for tilling must be limited, living for a considerable section of the population is becoming next to impossible for want of demand for labour. It is also a fact that in the western taluks large extent of assessed land fit for cultivation is this day lying waste. We venture therefore to make a suggestion both in the interest of Government and in the interest of needy ryots that sufficient facilities and encouragement may be held out by Government to enable the formation of fresh settlements in the western taluks.

Order—Mis. No. 978, Revenue, dated 9th March 1899.

The Board of Revenue is requested to favour Government with a report on the matter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue),
Mis. No. 2808, dated 31st August 1899:—

The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. NICHOLSON.

Resolution—Mis. No. 2808, dated 31st August 1899.

The Board resolves to submit to Government the report called for in G.O., Mis. No. 978, Revenue, dated the 9th March last, regarding the suggestion made by the South Arcot District Board that facilities should be afforded by Government for the formation of fresh settlements in the western taluks of the district.

2. As stated by the District Board, there is a large extent of assessed waste in the Tiruvannamalai taluk, but investigation shows that little of it is or ever will be available for assignment by way of organized settlements to immigrants from the eastern

taluks. The Collector has sent a list of 101 villages with a gross waste cultivable area of 65,921 acres, but of this extent only 55,089 acres are really cult vable and only 3,587 are in blocks of 50 acres and upwards, the rest being the usual scattered waste cultivated occasionally in years of exceptionally good rainfall. Moreover, these 101 villages had in 1891 a population of 77,639 for the development of which the bulk of the waste land must necessarily be left. The only tract where good land occurs to any appreciable extent is in the neighbourhood of Chekkadi in the south-western part of the taluk. A list of the villages comprised in this area, together with the extent of waste land available for assignment on patta as well as the extent of village-site at present unoccupied by houses and the existing population is noted in the margin.

3. There is reason to suppose that the restoration of the ruined anicuts of Malaiyanur Chekkadi and Reddiyapalaiyam across the Pambaran and the construction of new anicuts near Kalnattur and Pudur Chekkadi across the Varattar, an affluent of the Pambaran, would render a large tract of land fit for wet cultivation. But the Board agrees with the Collector in considering that these projects must be investigated by the Public Works Department before any steps can safely be taken to induce ryots in the coast taluks to migrate and form fresh settlements in this portion of the Tiruvannamalai taluk. The neighbourhood is difficult of access, being badly off for communications and intersected by streams which become impassable during rainy weather. This is a defect which is likely to continue, for the Collector reports that the District Board is at present hard pressed for money to keep the existing roads in good repair and that there are many bridges on more important routes which have never been rebuilt since the disastrous floods of 1884 and should receive attention before any philanthropic measures such as that suggested by the District Board are undertaken. The Board concurs in this view.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
for Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—No. 674, Revenue, dated 2nd October 1899.

Miscellaneous.

The suggestion in paragraph 3 of the Board's resolution will be remitted to the Public Works Department for consideration.

(True Extract.)

To the Public Works Department (I.)
" Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
Copy to the Madras Missionary Conference.
" " South Indian Association.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
60 Copies.