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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1229	Press <u>Mis.</u>
169-70	
Dated 10. 5	1870 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th May 1870.*

No. 169. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th March 1870, No. 2,030 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th January 1870, No. 15.

WITH reference to Board's Order of the 8th November last, No. 8,256, communicating the Proceedings of Government, under date the 23rd October 1869, No. 103, relative to the compensations settled for the lands taken up on account of the road from Deevatiputty to the Ahtur Railway Station, I have the honour to send, enclosed, the translation of the explanation called for by the Board from the Tahsildar of Salem, as to why so high a rate of compensation was fixed.

2. It is true I at first thought the rates were too high, and so expressed myself to the Engineer of the Range. I was led to this impression from the fact of lands, sold at auction on account of Revenue arrears, having fetched prices comparatively much lower. I however proceeded myself to the spot, and afterwards found that the Tahsildar had for his standard prices given for lands in the neighbourhood at private sales. I thus considered that no further notice was required.

The Urzee addressed to the Collector by the Tahsildar of Salem Talook.

WITH reference to your Takeed, dated 12th November 1869, No. 487, informing me that a letter with a Government Proceedings was received from the Board on the report of the Superintending Engineer that the compensation settled by me for lands taken up for the road from Deevatiputty to the Ahtur Railway Station was too high, and calling for an explanation, I beg to state as follows :

2. An order was received from you to the effect that I should take up the lands required for the road by conciliatory means, if possible, rather than by having recourse to the Act. In accordance with this order, and the estimate framed by arbitrators after considering the quality of the soil, I prepared and submitted an account. The orders received on the subject and Urzees addressed in reply are as follow :—

1. Takeed No. 181, dated 17th June 1864.
2. Urzee „ 424, „ 25th October 1865.
3. Takeed „ 664, „ 11th December „
4. Urzee „ 129, „ 13th April 1866.
5. Do. „ 145, „ 27th April „
6. Takeed „ 116, „ 8th May „
7. Urzee „ 244, „ 11th July „
8. Takeed „ 298, „ 26th September 1866.
9. Do. „ 133, „ 26th February 1867.
10. Urzee „ 226, „ 25th April „
11. Takeed „ 344, „ 7th June „
12. Urzee „ 318, „ 10th „ „
13. Takeed „ 372, „ 14th „ „
14. Endorsement No. 511, dated 10th October 1867.

3. The punjah lands extending from the east of the Deevatiputty Police Station situated on the line of the proposed road, to the east of the village of Kadiampatti, adjoin the villages of Nachampatti and Kadiampatti, and are hereditarily held by ryots. As some of these lands are wet and garden irrigated by wells, the ryots requested that the proposed road might be made on the old track situated in the village. I brought the matter to your notice, but received an order,

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dated 11th December 1865, No. 664, directing me that the proposed road should be made according to the plan; upon which I spoke to the ryots, and they were satisfied with the arrangement. I also appointed arbitrators to make an estimate of compensation. Finding that they were not satisfied with the rates, I proceeded to the spot and settled the matter amicably. After their consent, I prepared and submitted an account with my Urzee to your address; dated 13th April 1866, No. 129. I also sent a copy of the same to the Range Officer who applied for the same. The Range Officer then sent me a part of the amount, informing me that the rest of the sum would be sent afterwards. I received your sanction and disbursed the amount, and informed the ryots that the remainder would be paid as soon as received. No objection whatever was raised at the time either by you or the Engineer as to the amount being high. If there had been any, I would have caused the ryots to appear personally before you to obtain a final decision on the matter. An Order, dated 26th February 1867, having been received from you, I appointed the halli of the Dharampuri Talook, who were present during the time of the annual settlement, as arbitrators to frame an estimate of compensation. The estimate so made was a little higher than the former one. I brought the same to your notice with my opinions through an Urzee, dated 25th April 1867, No. 226. Under your instructions I proceeded in the matter, having received the consent of the ryots, and given deliberate consideration to valuation made by the arbitrators. I already informed the particulars in my Urzees Nos. 129 of 1866 and 226 of 1867.

4. The Superintending Engineer mentions in his letter that a certain nunjah land, put up to auction for arrears of revenue, was sold at 60 rupees the acre. This land is not adjacent either to the village of Kadiampatti or Nachampatti; it is situated in the village of Palamedu which is near the Ahtur Railway Station: it is surrounded by jungle, and frequented by wild beasts during the harvest time; it is too unhealthy for people to live there; but the land having the means of irrigation, a contractor who carried out the road-work, and who resided at Salem bought it at auction. According to the above rate, an estimate of compensation was framed for the nunjah lands required for the proposed road in the village of Palamedu. In the grant of compensation for lands taken up in the same village in 1864 for the Ahtur Station, it appeared that rates were fixed at Rupees 40 and 20 per acre of puteut punjah, and at Rupees 80 per acre of nunjah land.

As the proposed road was to pass through the punjah lands held on puttahs by Tirumani and Mandi in the village of Kadiampatti, a valuation was made for them at 60 rupees the acre. It appears that a portion of these lands on one side of the road, measuring 36 gulies, was left waste by its holder as unfit for cultivation, and purchased subsequently by one Muthu Moodelly for Rupees 35 for a threshing floor, etc. In accordance with this price the average rate per acre amounts to Rupees 43. The other portion which was also left waste was purchased at the same rate.

5. Roads were made in the Doramangalam Division from Pattipuram to Semmandapatti. The lands taken up for these roads are not of so good a quality. It appears that the rate of compensation fixed by the Deputy Tahsildar for punjah was 40 rupees the acre.

6. Compensation was disbursed at Rupees 100 the acre for punjah lands taken up for public purposes near Sooramungalum. The fact of this may be known by a reference to the Collector's Takeed, dated 2nd March 1865, No. 123. Though these lands were valued high from their being situated close to the Salem Railway Station, yet almost all the lands put up to auction for arrears of Revenue in Sooramungalum and its adjacent villages, were punjah of small fields, and but in few cases found any bidder. The rate at which each acre was sold seems to have been from 1 to 15 rupees. Very few of the lands put up to auction are of good quality. There may be cases in which purchasers do not bid either through the combination of ryots or a motive of subsequently obtaining the land on durkhast after Government has nominally purchased it. You are aware that no comparison can be drawn between the sale-proceeds of lands put up to auction for arrears of revenue and the compensation for lands taken up for roads and when wanted by Government. I have already stated that almost all the lands taken up for the said Deevatiputty road belonged to ryots of the adjoining villages, who were unwilling to part with them.

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10th May 1870.*

7. Under such circumstances, I am unable to afford further explanation on the subject. I therefore beg to submit that I never entertained any evil intention of causing loss to Government, nor was I guilty of wilful carelessness. I beg herewith to enclose the letter and Proceedings sent with your Takeed.

SALEM,
20th December 1869.

(Signed) RAMASAWMY,
Tahsildar.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) C. N. POCHIN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government, with reference to Government Order, (Revenue Department,) dated 23rd October 1869, No. 103.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department, with reference to the order in that Department, dated 15th October 1869, No. 3,321.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20th April 1870.

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

No. 170.

ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1870, No. 1,229.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 14.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
.. Revenue Department.

Ans 23, Secy/19 No. 103 Mus.

Transferred to
the Public Works
Department with
reference to the order
in that Dept. dated
15th Oct. 1869, No. 3321.

For the
1870
Ag. Under Secy. Govt

e. 4. May 1870 A. 6. May

(6) + 5
1870. Oct.
1861.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS. 1869.

PROCEEDINGS, 28TH MARCH 1870, No. 2,030.

Received 8th April 1870 Encl.
27 " " "

101229-10 May 1870

MARCH.
No. 2,030.

Compensation—fixed for land taken up on account of road from Deevatiputty to Ahtur Railway Station in Salem District.—Letter from Collector forwarding translation of explanation furnished by Tahsildar of Salem, regarding high rate of, submitted to Government.

With an Order
Transferred

Recd. 12/5/70

Gift

Nº 1229

*Ordered to be re-
corded -*

N

*Wm. H. George
10 May 1970*

W.H.

*To the Supr Engr. & Dir. ✓
- in Revenue Dept ✓*

Recd 12/5/70

OK

Co No 1661

Govt. of 1870: M. C. S.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr
5th Division

Dated

Recd.

10 May 1870, No. 1229.

Nos. 169-170

Rate of Compensation
paid for land taken
up in account of
the road from Decra-
tupally to Kottur Rail-
way Station in Salem
Dist. received through
the Board of Revenue,
Record D.

Compensation -
Translation of
Explanation pro-
vided by J. A.
Siddar of Salem
regarding the chief