

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 958 J & W

DATED 10 Nov 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Panchama Settlement.

Proo. Rev. Sept agreeing with the
Collector of North Arcot in considering
that it is not advisable to restore
the Padavedu tank in the Polur Taluk, &
stating that the Govt is willing that
the tank-bed should be sold for Rs 2125
for the formation of a —, connected to the
CF IV Circle.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., R. No. 2096, Revenue, dated 13th November 1897:—

Read—endorsement of H. A. SIM, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, dated 5th November 1897, transferring the following petition from Revd. C. Millard, Roman Catholic Priest of Arni (North Arcot), to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated Arni, 18th October 1897:—

That your Excellency's petitioner being anxious to procure a stable livelihood to the famine-stricken low caste people near the Javadies Hills, Pólur taluk, has determined to establish a Panchama settlement; that is impossible without the generosity and help of the Government.

In this *North Arcot, Pólur taluk, Padavedu village*, the Jamara tank, survey No. 231, is not to be repaired, but to be assessed and cultivated; fortunate place for my purpose!

If the Government is favourable, I accept the full tank (except the dike) at the estimate of the Revenue officers, asking for a delay of ten (10) years to pay the amount, the tank patta land itself being the guarantee for the payment with exemption of any assessment for three years, and your Excellency's petitioner will ever pray.

Order—R. No. 2096, Revenue, dated 13th November 1897.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for remarks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Under Secy. to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

READ—again the following endorsement, Mis. No. 742, Revenue, dated 17th February 1899:—

Read—the following Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 78 (Petition), dated 25th May 1898:—

Read—endorsement of the Acting Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No. 2096, dated 13th November 1897, and Reference thereon, dated 17th November 1897.

Read—also letter from the Collector of North Arcot, dated 22nd April 1898, Dis. No. 1002-Ver.

Reference—No. 78 (Petition), dated 25th May 1898.

The Collector's report with its enclosures will be submitted to Government, with reference to its order, R. No. 2096, dated 13th November 1897.

2. The Board considers that sufficient ground does not exist in the present case for a departure from the rule laid down in Standing Order No. 18—1, that vacant tank-bed lands should be disposed of by auction. Such of the lands in question, however, as do not fetch more than Rs. 10 per acre at the auction may be assigned in small plots to Panchamas in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 5 (3) of G.O., No. 732, Revenue, dated 17th October 1894. If the Revd. Mr. C. Millard wishes to have any of these small plots, he should, in the Board's opinion, submit carefully-matured proposals for consideration, remembering the conditions prescribed by Government.

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with petition and plan returned and letter and
two enclosures to be returned.

READ—the following letter from A. H. GARRETT, Esq., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Coimbatore, 9th January 1899, No. 6-I:—

Referring to your memo. No. IV—36-N.A., dated 6th September 1898, I have the honour to inform you that I inspected the Padavedu tank on the 8th instant, in company with the Executive Engineer, who at my request had had several pits dug along the line of the proposed restoration.

2. The tank breached in 1884 and when the breach was closed in 1894, it appears from the sections accompanying the estimate, that the scour hole had silted up to tank-bed level. About 4 feet of the surface soil was removed and the new bund was thrown across the old breach. The second breach could, I think, only have been due to the fact that the foundations of the bund were not carried down to the natural soil at the bottom of the scour hole. This was Mr. Hannan's view and, as far as I know, there was nothing to justify Colonel Drake-Brockman's assumption that the breach was due to "leakage through an alluvial soil intermixed with boulders and fissured rock."

3. After seeing the nature of the soil taken out of the pits which have been excavated, I have no hesitation in saying that the breach could be closed without any fear of further failure. The new bund would be kept quite clear of the recent scour hole and it would be advisable to drain the pit in rear of the bund.

4. In the report which accompanied the estimate submitted in 1893 it was anticipated that the tank would irrigate 200 acres. There might be sufficient water for this duty, but I am inclined to think it would be difficult to find the land.

5. But if the extension of cultivation was much less than expected, there would be a very good return on the outlay necessary for closing the breach.

Endorsement No. 1 W.

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with reference to that department note, dated 11th August 1898.

In the circumstances reported by the Superintending Engineer, the undersigned considers that it would be advisable to restore the tank, and on receipt of orders of Government approving the proposal, the Superintending Engineer will be accordingly instructed.

(Signed) W. HUGHES,
Joint Secretary to Government,
Irrigation Branch.

18th January 1899.

Endorsement—Mis. No. 742, Revenue, dated 17th February 1899.

Referred to the Collector of North Arcot for remarks and for report as to the extent and assessment (dry and wet) of the lands forming the tank ayakut, the extent of inam lands under the tank and the increase of revenue, if any, which may be anticipated from water-rate on dry lands after the tank is restored to a state of repair.

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

To the Collector of North Arcot.

READ—the following letter from R. H. CAMPBELL, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Collector and District Magistrate, North Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Chittoor, 29th July 1899, Dis. No. 473—R-Ver.:—

With reference to the Government endorsement, Mis. No. 742, dated 17th February 1899, referring for remarks certain correspondence of the Public Works Department regarding the restoration of Padavedu tank in the Pólur taluk of this district, I have the honour to submit herewith copy of a letter, with enclosures, received from the General Duty Deputy Collector on the subject. From this letter, it would appear that the restoration of the tank is not advisable. The revenue that will accrue to Government by the restoration of the tank is less than that which will be derived by its abandonment. Besides, it is apprehended that the restoration of the tank will make the village of Padavedu, which has been growing in importance and increasing in population ever since the tank breached, damp and unhealthy.

2. The enclosures received with the Government endorsement under reply are returned.

ORDER—No. 669, Revenue, dated 29th September 1899.

Miscellaneous.

The Government agrees with the Collector of North Arcot in considering that it is not advisable to restore the Padavedu tank.

2. In regard to the disposal of the tank-bed, it is observed that the extent available for sale is 115.32 acres estimated to realize Rs. 2,125, and the Government is willing that it should be sold to the Revd. Mr. Millard for this sum for the formation of a Panchama settlement on the following terms:—

- (1) That the price aforesaid be paid in ten equal annual instalments, the first instalment to be payable on delivery of possession and the further instalments at intervals of twelve months from that date.
- (2) That interest be payable on arrears at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.
- (3) That the vendee execute a mortgage of the land to Government as security for payment of the price.
- (4) That he gives sufficient guarantee and security to the satisfaction of the Board of Revenue for the application of the land to the formation and upkeep of a Panchama settlement.

3. In his letters, dated 10th January 1898 and 10th March 1898, addressed to the Tahsildar of Pólur and the Divisional Officer, Mr. Millard requests that the land sold should be exempted from assessment for the first three years, or that the assessment should be levied in gradual increments during the first five years, the full assessment being levied only in the sixth year; and that the occupants of the settlement should be allowed to take free, from the surrounding forests, timber, bamboos and leaves necessary for their huts and agricultural implements.

The requests for a remission of assessment for the first three years or for a progressive cowle are inadmissible. For the first fasli, however, assessment should be

charged only on such area as is cultivated and harvested. In subsequent years the full assessment will be charged on the whole extent, but the lands will be entitled to wet and dry remissions in accordance with the Standing Orders. In regard to the wood, bamboos, &c., required for huts and agricultural implements, the Collector will allow the occupants all the concessions which the rules in force permit.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Public Works Department (Irrigation).
" Revd. Mr. Millard.

Erd. A. Rangaswamy Aiyangar.