

Revenue Department

N^o 26

Integ 7-1-1859

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 11th January 1859.

No. 23. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works; dated Fort St. George, 17th December 1858, No. 6382.

SIR,

Enclosures 2.

1 Copy of letter No. 19 dated 7th Dec. 1858 from Captain Orr with one enclosure.

No. 19 dated 7th Dec. 1858.

With reference to para. 2 of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1433, dated 23rd October 1858, in the Revenue Department, directing that Lieutenant Vertue be called upon to pay certain sums alleged to be due upon 10 acres of Inám lands in the Masulipatam District, or shew cause to the contrary, I do myself the honor to submit for the information of Government copy of a letter received from the Acting Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle,

representing that Lieutenant Vertue acted in the matter entirely under his orders, and explaining the circumstances under which the land in question was taken up for cultivation.

From Captain C. A. ORR, Acting Superintending Engineer Northern Circle; to Lieutenant Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, dated Fort Saint George; 7th December 1858, No. 19.

SIR,

As in para. 2 of Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 23d October last, No. 1433, passing orders on a report by the Board of Revenue on the settlement of the balances outstanding on Inám lands in the District of Masulipatam, it is ordered that Lieutenant Vertue be called upon, through you to pay the sum of Rupees 140-2-11 said to be due by him for 10 Acres of Inám land taken up by him and converted into wet cultivation, by irrigation obtained from the Kistnah Annicut channels, or shew cause to the contrary, I have the honor to inform you that Lieutenant Vertue acted entirely under my orders in the matter, and that I am therefore in a position to give full explanations of the transaction and to shew, I hope, good cause not only why the charge should not now be paid, but also why it should never have been preferred.

2. Finding in 1855 that although the season was most unfavorable for dry crops, much land well situated for wet cultivation under one of the main channels in the neighbourhood of Cunkeypau was being neglected because the people clung to the prejudice which no argument could remove, that black alluvial soil was not suitable for irrigation, I determined upon giving them ocular proof of their mistake, in the hope that they would then adopt an improved system of culture, and with this view, I entered into an agreement with certain Inámdars to have the use of their lands for the season. These were accordingly taken up and planted with paddy, which as a matter of course on so rich a soil with abundance of water, thrived as Delta crops under such circumstances do. Seeing this and without making any reference to me, the Inámdars proceeded to the Sub-Collector in whose charge the talook was situated and preferred a claim against me for remuneration for the use of their land, without regard to the agreement previously made with me. Mr. Fraser the Sub-Collector mentioned this to me in conversation, and proposed as the most equitable arrangement that the Inámdars should have half the produce whatever it might be, to which I objected, because they had no possible right to claim more than the small sum agreed to be paid to them for land which they would not themselves cultivate, and because I considered they were not justified in making, or Mr. Fraser in entertaining, a complaint against me under the circumstances, and I laughed aloud at the idea of the settlement proposed as being purely of native origin.

3. Such was the character of the first demand against me for the use of the land, and having thus met it, I heard nothing more on the subject, till Lieutenant Vertue who had the immediate charge of the works around Cunkeypau, was served with a requisition to pay assessment on the land as wet cultivation. Lieutenant Vertue referred to me, and on the claim coming before me through the Tahsildar, I distinctly explained to him that I resisted it as I would every other intention to thwart my measures of improvement, and that I would not pay because, acting in my public capacity for a public purpose, I considered the demand unnecessary, and believed that compliance with it would lower my position in the eyes of the Ryots,

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and weaken not only my own, but the influence of the Department in the District, adding that even if payment for the improvement I had introduced were right in principle, the sum charged per Acre was so heavy as effectually to counteract the good I wished to do, since there was nothing to show that any Ryot following my example, as I desired, might not be mulcted at the same rate.

4. The Tahsildar by my desire laid all these circumstances before the Acting Collector, who by this time was the same Mr. Fraser. I have before mentioned and I do not remember having heard any thing more of the matter, till Mr. T. Knox assumed charge of the district, when it was again brought forward and I thought finally settled by a private communication from me explaining the grounds of the refusal I persisted in, and advising that, as I would not pay without the positive orders of Government, the sum claimed should be remitted and the subject dropped.

5. In his reply Mr. Knox admitted the force of all I said, and seemed to leave it to me to pay or not as I pleased out of the profits, which he took it for granted, I had obtained from the sale of the produce, but which in reality were nothing, notwithstanding the goodness of the crops on the 10 acres of Inám land, because much too late in the season, I took up 10 acres more of jeraytie, which did not turn out so well, but more especially because I had gone to the great expense of planting about an acre of sugarcane procured from Rajahmundry and of laying out a plantain garden, both of which though promising to be most useful examples to the people, and likely to introduce among them much more valuable products, I was obliged to abandon on finding how my exertions to benefit the people, and through them the Government, were met by the Revenue authorities.

6. The Government has heard much of the impossibility of levying a water-cess of three or four Rupees an acre, or even two, on the lands converted from dry to wet cultivation in the Deltas watered by the Godavery and Kistnah Annicuts, and it is therefore perhaps fortunate that it has now before it the evidence which this formal demand upon me affords of the opinion formed of the value of water, previous to the bearing of the question on the importance of Public Works was perceived, by one at least of the Revenue officers, who have taken an unfavorable view of the capabilities of the land to bear a moderate increase of assessment on being thoroughly irrigated. If Rupees 14 an acre, besides compensation for the use of the land to the Inámdars, is a fair charge, which I am not disposed to deny, since the lands under tanks above the influence of the Annicut in the same talook, and therefore subject to the drawback of being dependant upon the vicissitudes of the seasons, are rated at from Rupees 5 to Rupees 16, what vast sums of money have been lost to the State in the Districts of Rajahmundry and Masulipatam, and what responsibility has been incurred by those who have neglected to collect it.

7. As Government may be interested to know the results of my interference, I enclose copy of a document prepared for my private information after I had left the district last year, by my locum tenens Captain Chambers, detailing the progress wet cultivation was making in Cunkeypaud, and the adjoining villages in consequence of the people having been actually shewn the benefits of irrigation on their soil. The statements given show how rapid the change has been, and I have just learnt from him, that in Cunkeypaud alone

Exactly 988. this season, the area under paddy, as just surveyed, is nearly 1000 acres, it having been 137½ the year following its introduction by me, and 466½ last year. If the other eight villages have extended their operations in the same proportion, there are probably not less than 4000 acres under irrigation

Exactly 4290. this season in those 9 villages, and there can be little doubt that in a year or two every acre they possess will be converted into most prolific rice bearing land, instead of lying waste, or being so roughly cultivated as to yield the scantiest livelihood to the owners and husbandmen.

Memorandum on the Irrigation under the Poolairoo near Kunkeypaud.

1. About Kunkeypaud and its neighbouring villages, represented in the accompanying plan, are the first lands under the complete command of the Bezoarah anicut; the soil of this tract is composed of the usual Delta deposit, but is not of any very great richness; hitherto it has not been greatly productive, much of it remaining waste, whilst the portion under cultivation was planted with dry grain and paid a Mamool sist averaging 1½ Rupees an acre.

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2. In Fusly 1265 (1855-56) the Poolairoo channel being then completed as far as the Kunkeypaud Lock and filled with water from the Kistnah, the District Engineer took great pains to persuade the villagers to plant paddy instead of dry crops, but without much effect.

3. The Ryots, who had never had any thing to say to wet cultivation before, did not see the good of engaging in it, then, and said as others have said before now, that paddy would not grow on their soil whose nature it was to produce Cholum.

4. The District Engineer then planted himself a small rice field near Kunkeypaud, which in some degree opened the Ryots' eyes; seeing the success of Captain Orr's crop, they were induced to give the novelty a trial, and were perhaps also persuaded to try the experiment from knowing that the Collector would only levy a water rate of one Rupee an acre for the 1st year the land was irrigated.

5. In Fusly 1266 (1856-57) therefore the cultivation of rice commenced in the following villages, the extent of whose new wet cultivation, and whose Mamool sist is noted in the following table; the number of acres of cultivated ground within their limits and the proportion of Manium to Zeroyty land I cannot accurately obtain, but as an approximate statement 8000 acres of cultivated Zeroyty may be accepted in addition to waste and to the holdings of the Maniumdars.

Villages.	Mamool sist.	Acres of land under rice in Fusly 1266.	Amount of water rate in addition to Mamool sist.
	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Gungoor.....	503		
Eadoopoogulloo...	2,106	2½	2½
Gosalah... ..	718	138½	167½
Kunkeypaud... ..	2,629	137½	137½
Colevennoo... ..	2,679	48½	48½
Conatanapaud	130	21½	21½
Pooddootoor... ..	1,014	20½	20½
Neppullah... ..	627	53½	53½
Coondair... ..	1,570		
Total Rupees...	11,976	425	454½

6. Of these 425 acres from ¼ to ½ were the property of Inámdars.

7. This must have proved a very successful speculation to the Ryots, for in the present Fusly 1267 (1857-58) the cultivation has increased as follows, an extra Rupee water tax being imposed on each acre irrigated for the second year.

Villages.	Acres of land under rice in Fusly 1267.	Amount of water rate in addition to Mamool sist.
	Acres.	Rs.
Gungoor.....	68	68
Eadoopoogulloo...	118½	121½
Gosalah.....	169½	307½
Kunkeypaud.....	466½	604
Colevennoo.....	344½	392½
Conatanapaud.....	91½	113
Pooddootoor.....	69½	92½
Neppullah.....	129½	183½
Coondair.....	73½	73½
Total...	1531	1956

8. This acreage which is furnished me by the Revenue servants is somewhat less than what is shewn in the plan, the measurements of which were taken by natives in my Department; of the 1531 acres assessed 204 are Inám lands.

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9. The area of the land lying within the boundaries of the above 9 villages which can be cultivated with paddy may be taken as exceeding 10,000 acres in extent; and as it is purposed to increase the water rate, year by year, until it reaches 4 Rupees an acre, we may reckon on Government eventually obtaining from them (the 9 villages) a yearly income of Rupees 40,000 in addition to the original sist of Rupees 11,976.

10. This tax, as appears by the following calculation, will leave the Ryot a margin on which he can realize large profits.

11. The crops at and about Kunkepaud this year were very fine exciting the admiration of the Sub-Collector and his subordinate Revenue officers who estimated the yield at 30 pooties a cutty*; the Ryots themselves said the crop only averaged 25, but it was of course their interest to set as low a value as they could on the yield as they were not sure whether the Sub-Collector would not put on the land for this Fusly a water rate somewhat heavier than one Rupee an acre.

12. Grain Merchants from Guntoor bought up on the fields much of the produce at Rupees 14 a pooty; the amount realized on an acre was therefore $30 \times 14 = 24$ Rupees plus the straw, against $1\frac{1}{2}$ Rupees (the mamool sist) $\times 4$ Rupees the maximum water rate $\times$ the expenses of cultivation which may be taken at from 8 to 10 Rupees. Grazing cattle on the land or a second crop are not taken into account, for these nothing is charged by the Government.

13. The present sist in this talook on lands under tanks varies from 5 to 16 Rupees an Acre.

14. The above will, I think, conclusively show how profitable irrigation works must be both to the State and to the people.

15. The amount expended hitherto in this tract on minor channels of irrigation in sluices, dams, &c., amounts up to January 1858, to Rupees 9,454.

For Captain ORR.

(Signed) E. LAWFORD, Lieut. Col.
Officiating Chief Engineer.

No. 24.

ORDER THEREON, No. 26; dated 7th January 1859.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for any remarks they may have to offer.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Superintending Engineer's Office
Northern Circle

Fort St George 7th December 1858.

From Captain Orr
The Acting Superintending Engineer
Northern Circle

To Lt Colonel E. Lawford
The Officiating Chief Engineer &c
Sir Fort St George 7th Dec 1858

As in para 3 of Letter of Govt. of the 23rd October last No 1433, passing orders on a report by the Board of Revenue on the Settlement of the balances outstanding on Enam lands in the District of Masulipatam, it is ordered that Lieutenant Vertue be called upon, through you to pay the sum of Rupees 140.2.11 said to be due by him for 10 Acres of Enam land taken up by him and converted into wet cultivation, by irrigation obtained from the Tistnah Ancient Channels, or show cause to the contrary. I have the honor to inform you that Lieutenant Vertue acted entirely under my orders in the matter, and that

that I am therefore in a position to give full explanations of the transaction and to shew, I hope, good cause not only why the charge should not now be paid, but also why it should never have been preferred -

2. Finding in 1855 that although the season was most unfavorable for dry crops, much land well situated for wet cultivation under one of the main channels in the neighbourhood of Cum. Keypond was being neglected because the people cling to the prejudice which no argument could remove, that black alluvial soil was not suitable for irrigation, I determined upon giving them a full proof of their mistake, in the hope that they would then adopt an improved system of culture, and with this view, I entered into an Agreement with certain Enamdars to have the use of their lands for the season. These were accordingly taken up and planted with paddy, which as a matter of course on so rich a soil with abundance of water, proved as Delta crops under such circumstances do. Seeing this and without making any

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any reference to me, the Enamdars proceeded to the Sub Collector in whose charge the Talook was situated and preferred a claim against me for remuneration for the use of their land, without regard to the Agreement previously made with me. Mr. Fraser the Sub Collector mentioned this to me in conversation, and proposed as the most equitable arrangement that the Enamdars should have half the produce whatever it might be, to which I objected, because they had no possible right to claim more than the small sum agreed to be paid to them for land which they would not themselves cultivate, and because I considered they were not justified in making, or Mr. Fraser in entertaining a complaint against me under the circumstances, and I laughed aloud at the idea of the Settlement proposed as being purely of native origin.

3 Such was the character of the first demand against me for the use of the land, and having thus met it, I heard nothing more on the subject, till

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Sentenant Vertue who had the immediate charge of the works around Ben Key pond, was served with a requisition to pay Assessment on the land as wet Cultivation. Sent Vertue referred to me, and on the claim coming before me through the Tahsildar, I distinctly explained to him that I resisted it as I would every other intention to thwart my measures of improvement, and that I would not pay, because, acting in my Public capacity for a public purpose, I considered the demand unnecessary, and believed that compliance with it would lower any position in the eyes of the Ryots, and weaken not only my own, but the influence of the Department in the District, adding that even if payment for the improvement I had introduced were right in principle, the sum charged per Acre was so heavy as effectually to counteract the good I wished to do, since there was nothing to show that any Ryot following my example, as I desired, might not be mulcted at the same rate.

4 The Tahsildar by my desire laid all these circumstances before the

the Acting Collector, who by this time was the same Mr. Fraser. I have before mentioned, and I do not remember having heard any thing more of the matter, till Mr. J. Kniss assumed Charge of the District, when it was again brought forward, and I thought finally settled by a private Communication from me explaining the grounds of the refusal I persisted in, and advising that, as I would not pay without the positive orders of Government, the sum claimed should be remitted and the subject dropped.

5 In his reply Mr. Kniss admitted the force of all I said, and seemed to leave it to me to pay or not as I pleased out of the profits, which he took it for granted, I had obtained from the sale of the produce, but which in reality were nothing notwithstanding of ~~some land~~ because much too late in the Season. I took up 10 acres of the goodness of the Crops on the 10 Acres more of Jerahtie, which did not turn out so well, but more especially because I had gone to the great expense of planting about an acre of Sugar Cane procured from Rajahmundry and of laying out a Plantain Garden, both of which though promising to be most useful examples to the people, and likely to introduce among them much more valuable products,

I was

I was obliged to abandon on finding how my exertions to benefit the people, and through them the Government, were met by the Revenue Authorities.

6. The Government has heard much of the impossibility of levying a water cess of three or four rupees an acre, or even two, on the lands converted from dry to wet Cultivation in the Deltas watered by the Godavery and Krishna Rivers, and it is therefore perhaps fortunate that it has now before it the evidence which this formal demand upon me affords of the opinion formed of the value of water, previous to the bearing of the question on the importance of Public Works perceived, by one at least of the Revenue Officers, who have taken an unfavorable view of the Capabilities of the land to bear a moderate increase of Assessment on being thoroughly irrigated. If Rupees 10 an acre, besides Compensation for the use of the land to the Enamdars, is a fair charge, which I am not disposed to deny, since the lands under tanks above the influence of the Amlat in the same talook, and therefore subject to the drawback of being dependant upon the vicissitudes of the seasons, are rated at from Rupees 5 to Rupees 10, what vast sums of money have been lost to the State

Exactly 988.

Exactly 4260

in the District of Rajahmundry and Machilipatnam, and what responsibility has been incurred by those who have neglected to collect it.

7. As Government may be interested to know the results of my interference, I enclose copy of a document prepared for my private information after I had left the District last year, by my Locum tenens Captain Chambers, detailing the progress wet Cultivation was making in Bunkypand, and the adjoining Villages in consequence of the people having been actually shown the benefits of irrigation on their soil. The statements given show how rapid the change has been, and I have just learnt from him, that in Bunkypand alone this season, the area under paddy, as just surveyed, is nearly 1000 Acres, it having been 137 1/2 the year following its introduction by me, and 466 3/4 last year. If the other eight villages have extended their operations in the same proportion, there are probably not less than 4000 acres under irrigation this season in those 9 Villages, and there can be little doubt that in a year or two every acre they possess will be converted into most prolific rice bearing land, instead of lying waste, or being so roughly Cultivated as to

yield

yield the scantiest livelihood to the owners
and husbandmen.

I have the honor to be
Maj. C. A. Orr. Captain
Sup^t. Engineer N. Circle

True Copy /
Lieut. Colonel
Officiating Chief Engineer

taken up for cultivation

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your Most Obedt Servant
Lewis J. St. Colonel
Officiating Chief Engineer
L. May

Portland, Me.
17th December 1863

Not from the

N^o

1 Decr Sept

Central Office of Public Works

Port Saint George 17th Decr '58

N^o 6382

Read the following letter

From Lt. Colonel E. J. J. J.
The Officiating Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government

Department Public Works

Sir

Port Saint George 17th Decr '58

With reference to para 2 of Ex: Minio

Com: N^o 1433 dated 23rd October '58 in the

Revenue

Revenue

Copy of letter N^o 19

17th Decr '58 from

the Revenue

the Revenue

Revenue Department, directing that Lieutenant

Vertue be called upon to pay certain sums

alleged to be due upon 10 acres of Inam

lands in the Marulipattam District, or show

cause to the contrary, I do myself the honor

to submit for the information of Government

Copy of a letter received from the Acting

Superintending Engineer of the Northern

Circle representing that Lieutenant Vertue

acted in the matter entirely under his

orders, and explaining the circumstances

under which the land in question was

taken

N^o 19 of 7th Decr '58

Dec 29 1838

Pro. of the Gov. of New York
to the Hon. Secy of the War

No 23 & 24.

Dec 23 1838

Dec 1838
Dec 29 1838
From

The Secretary of the War
to the Secretary of the War

Dated 11th Dec 1838
Received 18th Dec 1838

No 23 & 24
Dec 29 1838

Reference to the Secretary of the War
No 1433 of 1838
Copy of a letter from the
Acting Engineer in Chief
explaining the reasons
therefor under which the
same should be placed
in the hands of the
Secretary of the War
to be taken up for
consideration
with an order

No 26.

Forwarded to the Board
of Review for any remarks they
may have to offer.

John C. George, Jr.
1st January 1839

Refers to the 23rd Dec 1838
Dec 29 1838