

Revenue Department

No 181

Enter 10—2—1859

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th February 1859.

No. 18. Read the following letter from J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., on Special Duty; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, in the Revenue Department; dated Rajahmundry, January 1859.

SIR,

I have the honor to state for the information of Government that I have this day sent in my report on the Kistna Delta, in accordance to Minutes of Consultation in the Revenue Department* under date the 12th March and 17th September last.

2. In para. 6 of my letter of the 27th November 1858, I anticipated being able to bring to a close, by the end of January, the additional enquiries sanctioned in Minutes of Consultation under date the 11th December last; but, as far as I can see now, I shall not, I am afraid, be able to submit the result of those enquiries for another month. The requisite Returns have not yet been received from the Collectors of Rajahmundry and Masulipatam; and, although I am informed that the greater part of the required information has been prepared; still, when received, it will take some time to compare with the irrigation Returns received from the D. P. W.; and it will probably be necessary for me to visit in person some of the localities where great discrepancies may be apparent on the face of the accounts; which will of course be a cause of additional delay. But however that may be, no exertions shall be wanting on my part, to send in the general Statements as soon as is compatible with general correctness.

3. Under these circumstances I have deemed it advisable to submit my report on the Kistna without further delay; as the results obtained on measuring the irrigated area of the four villages; my personal observations during the monsoons; and the information I have subsequently acquired, are such as to justify my respectfully claiming for this Delta, the immediate attention of Government.

4. Having given full details in the report, I will not trespass on the time of Government by repeating those details; I will simply state the conclusions at which I have arrived on the above grounds, and the results to which those conclusions point.

5. In the four villages there is only 11 per cent. of concealed irrigation; and in three of the villages there is no increase to be seen in the Revenue Returns either. Whilst the trifling increase in the extent of the irrigated area in these three villages, may be further inferred from the fact, that there is 23 per cent. of concealed irrigation in the fourth village, where the Government demand has nevertheless been doubled in the last three years. In fact under the present tenure, concealed irrigation is a healthy sign; and the cause why irrigation has not spread properly, in the other three villages, is to be found in the swamped state of the Delta.

6. From the end of July to the beginning of December the Masulipatam portion of the Kistna Delta is under water. I myself saw large tracts of valuable land utterly swamped. The internal traffic of the Delta is at a stand still. There is no proper water-way either for drainage or the carriage of goods. And I believe that this unseemly state of affairs is as injurious to the Public Revenues, as to the ryots and the traders of the Delta. The fourth village I had better add is situated on the high ground near Bazawarah; and hence this village is saved from the effects that make themselves so injuriously manifest for thirty miles between this village and the sea-shore.

7. Doubtless the levels of the Delta have always made its efficient drainage a matter of difficulty; and last year may have been a more severe season than usual. But, so long as the present arrangements last, the difference in seasons can only be a difference in the depth of water on the land. The increased supply of water now obtained, by means of the Anicut is poured into the Delta by the old irrigation channels, which, in former days, could both irrigate and drain the country, after a fashion, but, now, are utterly inadequate to meet the double duty. The supply of water has been vastly increased, without any corresponding change being made in the drainage arrangements. An unexpected plump of rain inevitably puts the country under water, and inflicts perhaps enormous damage on the crops; whilst no attempt has been

Said

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made here as in the Godavery, to turn these lines of drainage to good account, as means of communication, and thus give to trade vastly improved means of transit, instead of the old bullock tracks that, now, are altogether under water.

8. That such a state of affairs could be at once set to rights, I of course do not presume to assert. In fact, as regards drainage, it is obvious, without any professional knowledge, that an effective reform must be slow and costly. But I have good reason to believe that much might be done at once to establish decent means of communication. I have been informed, by one well qualified to give an opinion, that the Boodamair, the main line of drainage into the Colair Lake, might easily be made navigable throughout the year. There is also the Poolairoo, the main line of irrigation, which might similarly be turned to good account, and so open out another tract of Delta land. And finally, as these improvements might be effected for a lac, or a lac and a quarter, I trust that I shall be excused for venturing to bring the matter to the direct notice of Government, in the earnest hope, that something may be done, in this dry weather, to give the Kistna Anicut fair play for the future.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, No. 181; dated 10th February 1859.

The Government will await the receipt of Mr. Dykes' Report from the Board of Revenue. Meanwhile, they resolve to communicate his present letter to the Chief Engineer and to call the attention of that officer to what is said in paras. 5 to 8 as to the state of both the crops and the communications of Masulipatam, mainly as it seems from the absence of means to dispose of the surplus water. Colonel Faber will call on the District Engineer for his opinion as to the best means of promptly alleviating the evil.

2. Believing also that Colonel A. T. Cotton, from his knowledge of the locality may be able to offer valuable suggestions as to the means of applying a prompt remedy to the evils complained of, the Governor in Council resolves to send a copy of Mr. Dykes' letter to that officer with the request that he will submit his views on the subject.

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

*Refute in Sunday Jan. 24
1859*

My Dear Mr. Dillon

*I write today officially,
to bring them to the direct notice
of Govt. the present discreditable
state of the Kistna Delta land,
if I have taken a liberty in doing
so, I shall trust to your kind
help to put my conduct in its
proper light*

*Col A. Cotton is expected
here at the end of the next
week with the Chief, & I shall*

Written Officially in the hope that
God may think fit to act on
the strength of my representations,
I direct Col C. to take this op-
portunity of examining the
Wicketa Delta & reporting what,
in his opinion, would be the
simplest & easiest way,
first of opening out, &
secondly, of draining the country.
This note & my official will
probably reach you on
Wednesday or Thursday; &

to the contrary, I have
intended to propose; & that
to a man may soon have
of Col. Cotton's
hydraulic
aged drafter,
to make, would
official as regard
accounts into order,
thence towards
of the year does
cool, from the Incandates
Incandates - of this being

accomplished, whilst the present
Vhorintadar continues in the
District, I see little chance.

The Govt will be surprised to
see that, in one of the villages
enclosed, the Jains, by
a clever house fire, are
paying less now, than they
did before the house was
built. I am not surprised,
knowing Shashik, the
head Vhorintadar's feelings
on the subject. And I suspect

that there are more villages
than this, where similar
arrangements have been made.
It is curious to see the difference
between Raj's & Jains in this
respect. As long as I am in
both districts are made alike,
but a big change has been
made in this respect also,
i.e. Raj's. Whilst Shashik, I
suspect ^{is determined} to break the Jains
in their attempt to get the
Jains for nothing. I say

I therefore wrote accordingly
but, when I visited Mr. Wadsworth
the other day, I was collecting
that information I could, that
might be useful should the
Gov. approve of my suggestion.
I found I was mistaken, I had
again got Cotton's address wrong.
He is, I
believe, residing in what was also
done here. The canal head
was excavated all right, &
the rest of the canal was

6
left to be excavated later after
the full width. Should the
calculations of the D.P. W. have
I imagine, been somewhat
disconcerted by the unusual
deposit of silt in the Western
all this cotton would be
at home in, I have been
could give me good
advice as to the most
suitable way of getting about
the measurement of water.

Mr. Hearster has written to say, that
Mr. Hearster objects to my being
furnished with his results on
regarding the drop here. I fear
I shall have a similar
experience from Ballard; & I am
sorry for it, as I should like
to be able to give God all the
information I can as to the
value of water, & trust that
God will direct the water to
be sold, however little there
may be to sell. It will be a
better thing, I perhaps the better,

telegraphic message would
just catch Col Cotton, in time
for him to arrange for visiting
the Mission, either at once, or
on the return of the Chief from
Oregon.

The St. Vincent wants Col
Cotton, & the Walter Blackman.
As I expected the idea of
visiting the Goodwin's friends
as far as with the Mission
D.P.W., although I am on 1200
boats & I feared this last

particular, there is the last look about
the Colours in the Visitor's Gallery
in this Delta. I believe
navigation is not first rate,
I don't do in the Visitor's Delta,
in consequence: I Col. C. would
be able to speak authoritatively
on this & other points, which
have been brought forward in
my report at length, I believe,
of much importance.
I therefore sincerely hope
that there is no serious objection

Revenue Dept

No 181
Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 10th February 1859.

Read the follow-
ing letter from J. W.
B. Dykes Esq^r - on
special duty.

At

the

10th

Here enter January 1859

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J. A.

10 Copies to the Chief Eng. Disb. 11
3 - to Asst. Sec. &
1 - to Col. A. J. Cotton &
1 - to Mr. Dykes &

Q. 12th March/58 M. 99-107.

— 21st 2nd March/58 — 39-40.

— 14th March — 26-27

Revenue 1859 Sept. 10.

Sept. 15th February.

24/81.

Abstracts of Law:

27th 10th February/59.

From July Aug^o 27th 31st March/59

From 31st March/59 — 10th Nov/59

From 10th Nov/59 — 31st Dec/59

From 31st Dec/59 — 31st Jan/60

From 31st Jan/60 — 31st Feb/60

From 31st Feb/60 — 31st Mar/60

From 31st Mar/60 — 31st Apr/60

From 31st Apr/60 — 31st May/60

From 31st May/60 — 31st Jun/60

From 31st Jun/60 — 31st Jul/60

From 31st Jul/60 — 31st Aug/60

From 31st Aug/60 — 31st Sep/60

From 31st Sep/60 — 31st Oct/60

From 31st Oct/60 — 31st Nov/60

From 31st Nov/60 — 31st Dec/60

From 31st Dec/60 — 31st Jan/61

From 31st Jan/61 — 31st Feb/61

From 31st Feb/61 — 31st Mar/61

M. 18419