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(2) Date of repair 19.11.40.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1779 Press / Mis.

Dated 3.10. 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Assessment - Charge for water
- Godavari and Kistna delta,

India Office,
London, 6th July 1860.

Revenue,
No. 43.

To His Excellency The Honourable The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

Sir,

1. In your Letter of the 10th February last (No. 14), you have called my attention to the discussion which has taken place as to the principle on which the charge for water supplied for irrigation in the Godavery and Kistna Deltas should be adjusted.

2. In Sir Charles Trevelyan's Minute of the 20th November 1859 it is observed, that the question for consideration is, first, whether there shall be a separate, uniform water-rate per acre; secondly, a graduated water-rate; or, thirdly, a consolidated rate, which should include a land assessment graduated according to the quality of the soil.

3. In Lord Stanley's Despatch of the 15th December (No. 5) 1858, the determination of your Government to keep the land assessment distinct from the water-rate was approved, and a desire was expressed that that course should be followed whenever practicable.

4. The third of the modes of proceeding above indicated has, therefore, already been disposed of, and the question for decision is, whether an uniform or a graduated water-rate shall be imposed.

5. Mr. Newill, the Director of Revenue Settlement, is strongly in favour of an uniform water-rate, while the Board of Revenue would prefer the imposition of a graduated rate, adjusted according to the proportionate advantages which the different descriptions of soil may derive from the application of water.

6. Your Government have unanimously determined to adopt the arrangement proposed by Mr. Newill, and have accordingly resolved that an uniform rate of three rupees per acre shall be charged on all land fully irrigated for a single crop. Two-crop land is, if possible, to be dealt with not by fields, but by tracts, a consolidated rate of four rupees being levied when the irrigation is perfect, all sugar-cane land being included in this class; and the temporary irrigation of dry crops is to be charged in tracts, at one rupee an acre. These rules are to be brought into immediate operation in the case of Zemindary land, as well as in that of Inams, unless it can be established that the land was irrigated at the cost of Government at the time the grant was made. In the Government land the order will also be acted on immediately, where it is not barred for the present by the existing system of Revenue settlement.

7. It is difficult, from the materials before me, to form any very decided judgment as to the precise adequacy or otherwise of the money rates

which you have resolved to impose, although, from the information supplied by Mr. Newill, there seems no reason to doubt that even the land which benefits least by the application of water will yield to the cultivator an increased profit fully sufficient to enable him to pay as water-rent a rate of three rupees per acre. I have, however, no hesitation in expressing my opinion that the rate for water should be uniform, and not graduated according to the supposed profits of the recipient. The land assessment will be adjusted according to the qualities of the several descriptions of soil, including their capacity to benefit by irrigation. However much the benefits derived by the purchasers of the water may vary, according to the nature of the soils to which they may apply it, its value to the seller, whether the Government or a private association, like the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, remains the same, whatever the purposes may be for which it is used. It might be better, if it were possible, to adjust the charge by actual measurement, as on the Ganges Canal; but where that cannot be accomplished, the plan of charging according to the area watered is the nearest approximation to it.

8. I have, accordingly, to express my approval of the measure which you have adopted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

C. Wood

7-10-26.

8/2/29 as Pob

20/5/25

6/7/17

No 13 Proc. of Govt for Retr. &c.

Revenue

6th July 1860.

The

Letter to Fort St George

No 43

Received on the 8th Augt 1860.

Approves of the measures adopted by this Government in respect to the adjustment of Charges for water supplied for irrigation in the Godavery & Kistna Deltas -

Copy to Bd of Rev.
Dr of Rev Settt
Sup. of Rev Survey.
5 Oct 1860.

No 56.

No. 1779. 3d October