M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

---

## Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

| | |
|---|---|
| G.O. No. 1779 | Press Mis.- |
| 56-57 | |
| Dated 3-10- | 1860. |

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
17798 *3rd October* 1860.

No. 56. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart, Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 6th July 1860, No. 43 :—

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 ; second , 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 favor 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 Zamíndári land, as well as in that of Ináms, 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.

———

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 3rd October 1860, No. 1,779.

Ordered that this Despatch be communicated for the information of the Board of Revenue and the Director of Revenue Settlement.

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

Revenue Department

No 1779

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 3d October 1860.

Read the following despatch

from the Right Honorable the

Secretary of State for India.

Approves of the measure adopted by this Government in respect to the adjustment of charges for water supplies for irrigation in the Godavery and Kristna deltas. (Here under 6th July 1860 No 13)

Ordered that this

dispatch be communicated

for the information of the Board

of Revenue and the Director of

Revenue Settlement. with ref.

~~[illegible] to the Proceedings of~~

~~Fort 7th Dec/59, No 1656.~~

~~The further correspond.~~

~~[illegible] on this subject will now~~

~~be reported to the Right Honble~~

~~the Secretary of State.~~

~~Bd of Revenue 24 May/60. Revd 28th.~~
~~to May/60 Rec~~

Copies - Board of Revenue
B " Dr. of Revenue Settlement
D " Insp.r of Revenue Survey

Passing Orders on Home dtrs:
No 43 of 1860 (Rev: Dept.).

Water Appropriment, Godavery
and Krishna deltas.

12-9-08.

1130

Revenue & Agl Dept.
Proc: of Govt for Selection -
No 1779.

Proc: of Madras Govt
Dt 3rd October 1860.

Home Despatch
respecting charges for
water supplied for
irrigation in the Godavery
and Krishna Deltas
communicated to Govt
by Revenue and Board
of Revenue Settlement

No 6 of 57.

Last - Immediate