M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 829	Press ~~Mis.~~
13-14	
Dated 21- 5- 1860.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

820 2 21.5.60

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of May 1860.

No. 13. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th May 1860, No. 2,372:—

Read letter from the Director of Revenue Settlement, dated 5th May 1860, No. 433.

(In Con., 7th May 1860, No. 2,113.)

1. With the above letter Mr. Newill submits a draft of the Rules which he proposes for the water Assessment of the Godavery and Krishna Deltas, in accordance with the principles laid down in the Order of Government, dated 7th December last, No. 1,656, Revenue Department.

In Con., 8th December 1859, *No.* 6,121.

2. The Board have but few remarks to make on the Rules.

3. They do not quite understand Rule VI. If it is intended to give the Raiyats the option of taking or refusing water, as they may judge most consistent with their own interests, which is one of the advantages of separating the Land Assessment from the water Cess, all that should be required is that the Raiyat should make known his wish before a fixed date. The Rule, as it stands, however, seems to make compliance with the Raiyat's application contingent on the opinion of the Collector and Engineer as well as the wishes of the other Raiyats. The Board think that either the option should be allowed with only the condition they have stated, or that it should be ruled that "Nanjai" land cannot be re-converted into "Punjai" unless the means of irrigation fail. The Board prefer the latter.

RULE VII.—The last provision of this Rule will necessarily involve that a minority of Raiyats who do not wish to convert "Punjai" permanently into "Nanjai" must do so, if the majority desire it. The Board are not quite sure that this was contemplated by Government when they approved of irrigation being regulated by tracts.

RULE VIII.—The Board would allow these applications to be made at any time of the year, as compliance with them rest entirely with the Department Public Works.

RULE IX.—The Board would add "for trespass" at the end. It would be as well perhaps to ascertain from the Government Pleader whether a Criminal prosecution would be legal especially in addition to a double charge for the water surreptitiously taken.

RULE XII.—The wording of this rule might be improved.

4. The Board think that Mr. Newill should satisfy himself of the sufficiency of Mr. Purvis' reasons for altering the dates in Rules VI and VII, before adopting the suggestion.

5. Mr. Knox states in his letter to Mr. Newill, that he was under the impression that a varying water Cess had been determined on at the conference of local Officers held by His Excellency the Governor in his late tour. As Mr. Newill does not allude to this, the Board presume that Mr. Knox was mistaken.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, 21st May 1860, No. 820.

The Board send up with their remarks a set of rules proposed by the Director of Revenue Settlement for the water rate in the Godavery and Krishna Districts. The Board state that there is one of the rules which they do not understand. Mr. Newill being now at Madras, it would be much better that the Board should confer with him, and understand his rules before reporting on them. On other of the rules also, it appears to Government that it would be for the good of the public service, and would save further correspondence and possible misunderstanding, if the Board were freely to confer with Mr. Newill, and then lay the rules before Government, with any modifications that such free discussion might lead to. The rules will therefore be returned to the Board.

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

~~DRAFT OF PROPOSED~~ RULES

For the water assessment in the Godavari and Kistna Deltas.

I. The new Revenue Settlement will be made in the Godavari and Kistna Deltas on the principle of an assessment of the land according to its natural capabilities without irrigation, (taking into account its irrigable properties), and a separate water assessment to be levied as follows:

II. A water rate of three Rupees an acre will be charged in addition to the land assessment (Punjai tirwa) on all land fully irrigated for a single crop of paddy of whatever description and however cultivated, or for any other crop grown in the place of paddy on Nunjai lands, except sugar-cane and other crops requiring water for the whole season, which are specially provided for. In case of lands to be newly brought under irrigation, one half of the above rate of three Rupees will be charged for the first year and the full rate in the subsequent years, *provided that if the land is thrown up at the end of the first year, the full rate will be charged for it, and also that one ryot may transfer his land to another without forfeiting the favorable rate for the first year.*

III. All tracts of land fully supplied with water for another crop of any description in addition to the single paddy crop will be charged with a consolidated water-rate of four Rupees an acre, the same to be paid in all years (except in case of failure of water), whether two crops are grown or not. Sugar-cane lands and gardens requiring water for the same period as a double crop of paddy, &c., to pay four Rupees an acre water-rate.

IV. Where water is supplied for a second crop to fields not included in the tracts classed as two crop lands chargeable with the consolidated rate of four Rupees an acre, a water rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ Rupee an acre will be levied for such second crop.

V. Temporary irrigation for dry crops where arranged in tracts will be charged one Rupee an acre; but all isolated fields thus watered will be charged 1½ Rupee an acre.

VI. When ryots desire to discontinue the irrigation of land classed as Nunjai, and chargeable with the three Rupees or four Rupees water-rate, notice of the same must be given to the Collector in writing on or before the end of February (~~31st March~~), who will, after enquiry from the Engineer officers as to the nature and sufficiency of the supply of water and investigation of other causes which may have given rise to the application, arrange for the discontinuance of the water and order the transfer of the land in the accounts from Nunjai to Punjai, if such a course is required. This transfer will not be allowed for isolated fields, which are necessarily benefitted by the surrounding irrigation, although not ostensibly supplied directly with water, and the cases will be considered with reference to the general wishes and interests of the community rather than the caprice of a few individuals.

VII. When ryots desire to irrigate dry land, and to convert it permanently into Nunjai cultivation, application is to be made to the Collector, either direct or through the Tahsildar, on or before the end of February (~~31st March~~). The Collector will then arrange with the Public Works' Department for the supply of water, and will direct the entry of the land under the head of Nunjai or irrigated. The arrangements for the supply of water to lands to be newly irrigated will be regulated by tracts and not by detached fields.

VIII. Where water is temporarily required for dry crops, application may be made in a similar manner, ~~up to (31st March) or if necessary at a later period~~, and the Collector will arrange with the Public Works' Department for the supply, if other exigences will admit of it.

IX. Where water is surreptitiously taken by ryots, double the water rate which would be chargeable according to these rules will be rigidly exacted, and the parties thus taking it will be further liable to a criminal prosecution.

X. These rules apply to all Inam lands, with the following exceptions. Lands which have ~~not~~ been granted as Nunjai Inams and fully ~~and~~ irrigated accordingly at the Government cost will not be charged with water ~~cost~~ assessment, but such Nunjai Inams as were formerly imperfectly irrigated and have since been fully supplied with water from the Anicut works will be charged at half the above water rates.—

XI. The water-assessment as above described will form the basis of calculation for settlement with Zemindars and Proprietors for the use of water for their estates; but preference will be given to a consolidated payment for a whole tract, or to a charge according to the quantity of water supplied, as most conducive to the interests of all parties.

XII. In ~~the~~ a part of the Kishna Delta in the Guntur District ~~in which~~ a consolidated water-rate of four Rupees an acre has been introduced.* ~~the same will continue undisturbed, but all lands, not engaged under the rules hitherto in existence for the progressive imposition of the water-rate, will, on being hereafter brought under irrigation, be charged with water assessment in a way similar to that adopted in other parts of the Kishna and Godavari Deltas, viz., Rupees 1½ the first year, Rupees 3 the 2nd year, and Rupees 4 the 3rd year.~~ In other parts of the Delta in that District where the system of Nunjai rates prevails, it will remain undisturbed till the new Revenue Settlement.

* This arrangement will give way to the general rules above described.

Revenue Settlement Office,
Madras, ~~13th December 1859.~~
13th May, 1860

Director of Revenue Settlement.

Revenue Settlement Office,
Madras, 4
13th December 1859

No. 1083

From,
H. Neill Esqre
Director of Revenue Settlement

To,
W. Knox Esqre
Collector of Masulipatam

Collr of Godavaris District.

Sir,

Para 1. In reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government dated 7th December 1859 No. 1656, directing the immediate introduction of a general water rate as far as practicable in the Deltas of the Rajahmundry and Masulipatam Districts, and requesting me in communication with the Collectors of the two Districts to submit some rules with respect to the ryots taking supplies of water or discontinuing its use, I have the honor to submit the following points for your consideration and opinion with a draft of the rules I would suggest.

2. The Government have recognized the proposed plan of charging for water by tracts, and this applies with double force to the first or main crop. It seems unnecessary therefore to provide for any isolated fields of regular wet Cultivation being converted to dry at the option of the ryot. When land is once brought into the irrigated class, it should as a rule be considered as held on condition of payment of the consolidated assessment

For

Inclosure in a Letter from the Director of Revenue Settlement to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue dated 13th May 1860 No.

D 1039/60

Rules for the water assessment in the Godavari and Kristna deltas.

Recd 21st May 1860.

Read

for land and for water. Provision may, however, be made for special cases, where it may be necessary to free the land from the water charge after it has been brought under it. The rule as sketched out for the discontinuance of water supply and charge is, however, drawn up in terms convey = = ing the greatest freedom of action consistent I think with security against fraud and accuracy of account.

No 6

3. The charge of Rupees three an acre is fixed for the paddy crop. Under this charge should be included all descriptions of paddy whether they require water for 4 or 6 months or acre called coarse or fine, or black, red or white, whether sown broad cast or transplanted. Any distinctions in charging differently for water with reference to the particular descriptions of paddy or the manner of its cultivation, or the considering one to be a dry crop and another a wet crop seem inconsistent with the success = = ful application of a general water rate. It is true, coarse paddy is often raised on swampy or flooded ground by the aid of the rains without special irriga = = tion, but the crop is always precarious from vicissi = = tudes of season and liable to failure, so that it is usually in the North contrasted in its outturn with the white paddy crop. Where, however, there is regular irri = = gation the coarse paddy crop has been found to come to pretty much the same standard as regards the quantity as the white paddy crop. This has been illustrated by numerous experiments in the Colorun Delta. The difference of about two Rupees in the price per bushel between the two descriptions of grain is not sufficient to distract the consideration of equality of charge for water. Unless this rule is adopted there will be no safety against fraud on a most extensive scale, as the distinction can only be drawn by exa = = mination while the crops are growing, and is not practicable from looking at the stubble.

4. While as above observed there seems no necess = = ity for providing, generally for the optional discontinuance on the part of individuals of water for regular irriga = = tion, or in other words the change of Punjai into Punjai cultivation, perfect freedom should be allowed in taking water for lands to be brought newly under irrigation; but in this case the Engineer or other officer who distributed the water should not be ex = = pected to tap the channel or make auxiliary cuts for the supply of isolated fields, but arrange it in tracts as the ryots are found prepared to engage for them. The charge for the 2nd crop viz Rupee 1, was purposely made low, in order that a consolidated rate of Rs 4 for two crop land might be borne in all years including those in which a 2nd crop may not be raised. In my proposal the consolidated rate was stated as an experiment to be tried. It is therefore necessary to retain the other rate of Re 1½ per acre or 50 per cent of the general charge, for ir = irrigation by separate fields in cases in which the land may not be classed as double crop under a consolidated rate.

5. Another point for consideration is whether the general rate of Re 3 should be fully imposed in

in the first year on lands newly brought under irriga=
=tion - The irrigation I presume may or may not
be perfect in the first year, so that no general argu=
=ment can be deduced on the ground that land is
not "fully irrigated" from the first. But the change
in the mode of cultivation requires changes in the
ryots farming stock and other agricultural arrange=
=ments, as well as some expenditure in laying out the
fields with ridges or banks to regulate the irrigation,
and deserves consideration. The terms originally
allowed of exemption for the first two years were
purposely made extremely liberal to encourage the
use of the water, but they are unnecessarily so at
the present time, when the ryots have learnt to app=
=preciate its value; — and I think it should be charged
from the first making a deduction of half the assess=
=ment for the 1st year only.

6. In two Talúks of the Krishna Delta in Guntúr a general consolidated water rate of 4 Rs an acre is charged without reference to crops. This is in accordance with the more recent proposal now sanctioned, and may I think remain, but all land which have not hitherto been engaged under the rules hitherto existing for the progressive imposition of the water rate, should be brought under charge in the same way as those in other parts of the Delta, viz 1/2 Rs the 1st year 3 Rs the 2nd and the full consolidated rate of Rs 4 in the 3rd year.

7. The dates in Rules 6 and 7 will require to be fixed with reference to the several periods of the freshes in the two Rivers.

General

8. General of the foregoing points are of much importance in the future administration of the District and I have stated my views freely with regard to them, and embodied the same in the accompanying draft Rules as a convenient basis for the further inves=
=tigation of the subject. Your experience in the District will suggest some emendations, altera=
=tions or additions, which will have my best consideration in transmitting the matter through the Revenue Board to Government.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. . Newill

Director of Revenue Settlement

(True Copy)

Newill

(Director of Revenue Settlement

Compd.

Godavari District
Collector's Office, Dwarapudi
31st January 1860

No. 155.

From

A. Purvis Esqr.
Collector of the
Godavari District

To

H. Newill Esqr.
Director of Revenue Settlement
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to ac-
knowledge the receipt of your letter
of the 13th Ultimo forwarding draft
of the rules which you, with reference
to the orders of Government of the
7th Idem propose, in reference to
the Ryots taking supplies of
water or discontinuing the use
of it.

2. I concur with you in
thinking it unnecessary to pro-
vide for isolated fields of regu-
lar wet cultivation being con-
verted into dry. Such a course

should

Copy in a Letter to Govt
Fort St George 1860 No 110.

Enclosure in a Letter from
the Asst to Director of Revenue Settlt
& the Board of Revenue
dated 5th May 1860. No

Letter from Collr
of Godavari
No 1039 of 60.

Copy of Letter from Asst to
Director of Revenue Settlement &
Collector of the Godavari
& Kristna Districts, dated
13th Decr 59 forwarding for
opinion draft of rules for
the regulation of supplies
from the Godavari and
Kristna Anicuts.

should not be allowed unless under very peculiar or special circumstances. The rule you refer to, that land classed as irrigated, and supplied with water at the Public cost, should continue to pay assessment as such is, I believe, of nearly universal application throughout this Presidency. Rule VI as proposed by you appears to me fully to meet the contingencies for which it is necessary to provide when tracts are to be transferred from the irrigated to the dry land head. I think however the latest date of notice should be the 31st of January, rather than the same date of March.-

3. I also concur with you in thinking that the charge of 3 Rupees per Acre for the Paddy crop should include all kinds of paddy whether sown broad cast or transplanted. It had, under the orders of a late Commissioner for the Northern Circars, till lately

been

Salama 2.00.25
Bodama 2.08.25
Veradam 0.15.00

been usual to class land cultivated with paddy of the kinds noted in the margin, and indeed all sown broad cast, as dry, but I do not consider the distinction desirable, though much less water is, it is true, required for such crops. The effect of the rule will probably be to discourage the raising crops of the kind, but I do not think this is to be regretted.

4 While I think that one half only of the tax for the use of water should be imposed in the first year in which the same is supplied, I am of opinion that the rule proposed by you is sufficiently liberal. In my own opinion a great mistake was made when the works came into operation in this part of the country in allowing the use of the water, even for a single season, wholly free of cost.-

5 I do not think any date

Can

can conveniently be fixed within which applications for water for dry crops must be made, as whether the water is required or not often depends so entirely upon the season. Parties anxious for water should at once address the Tahsildar and in communication with the Public Works Department the water, if, in the words of the proposed rule, other exigencies admit, will be supplied.

6. In rule X I would insert the word "fully" "before" irrigated and "wholly" "before" at the Government cost". Much of the land classed in the village accounts as "usual wet" was before the Anicut water reached it but very precariously irrigated. The difficulty moreover of ascertaining what was really "usual wet land," as it is called, was so great that I have in most cases ignored the rate, which has been in force in the division of the District immediately under me for the

N.B. Grants are seldom forthcoming, and when they are the land is not, as in other parts, declared to be wet or dry.

2 Rupees per acre

the last few years, on all paddy land, except the kinds referred to in Paragraph 3, irrigated from the Anicut. It may not be fair to impose the full rate of 3 Rupees per acre on all such lands, but the benefit the holders derive from the early period of the season at which they are enabled to commence their farming operations, and the certainty of the supply, is very considerable, and all such lands should certainly pay something additional. My remarks are intended to apply to Inams, lands in permanently settled Estates, and Ryoti lands under the existing system. On the introduction of the Survey rates all Ryoti land irrigated will of course pay the fixed rate for the use of the water.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

x W. Francis

A. Grail.
Collector.

Copy via Letter to Engr
Nellore Collector dated 12th Nov.

No. 1849 dated 28th April 1860
From The Collector
To Do. Kist.

Subd. 31st January 1860
Rec'd. 5th February "

P 10329/60.

Do 2nd 155 D 7115/60

Referring to the Board's
Order in reference to
the Report submitted
with master -

Enclosure in a letter from the
Secretary of Revenue Settlement
& the Secretary to the Board of
Revenue dated 5th May 1860
No 437

No. 24

Kistna District Collr
Kacheri at Masulipatam
27th April 1860.

From

W. Knox Esqre
Collector of Kistna District

To

H. Newill Esqre
Director of Revenue Settlement
Madras.

Sir,

1. In reply to your letter acc-
-companied by a Draft of proposed
rules for the water assessment in the
Godavary and Kistna Deltas, I have
the honor to offer the following remarks
I regret the delay which has occurred
owing to the heavy and pressing
current work and the settlement of
this enlarged District -

2. I cannot altogether concur in
your proposal to have a separate
charge

charge for land according to its natural capabilities without irrigation taking into account also its irrigable properties - In the case of old manial wet land, it seems almost impossible to fix a fair cist on it as dry, for which it is quite unfitted tho' first rate wet land, and I am decidedly against one general rate of 3 Rupees for the water to be levied per acre as the regular wet assessment - I thought that, at the discussion held when the Governor was here, the question was settled, and that the necessity of at least 3 rates had been made apparent to all - But, as this is not the case, I shall only add my reasons for my opinion as shortly as I can that they may be on record, should the question be again mooted -

I

3. I object to a single water rate of three Rupees, because I believe it to be excessive in some instances, and insufficient in others - In Garuva or Kandy ca a Coast Villages, the average wet tarum is 1/6 ad 2/6 per acre and this, tho: less than your proposed water rate, is as much as such lands can pay one year with another - Again in the rich Delta lands of Tenalli Taluq, Rupees 4 or even 5 might be charged, and the ryots would still make a handsome profit -

4 I object to a single rate, because the best dry land is not always that which yields the best crop when turned into wet, and it is a well known fact that, as for example, / In Ogidi Pelanghi Taluq / very poor dry land, when watered, yields first rate wet Crops - Now, this difficulty can only be met

not by having different water rates. You cannot in fairness raise the dry tarums in bad lands because some day they may be watered or vice-versa.- Can you reduce the rate of good dry land? Government suffer in both cases if there is but one rate and the gain to the farmer is very unequal.-

5. I can see no difficulty, once the land is classed, in applying a certain water rate to certain classes of land and another rate to other decriptions of land; and I believe this is the opinion of every practical man who has thought much on this point.-

6. I fully concur in your remarks about broad-cast paddy, always supposing that, as the land on which black paddy is sown, is higher than that used for

for white and the value of the crop is less, there will be a corresponding reduction in the dry assessment of the land.

7. I think your proposition to charge one half assessment the first year a very fair and judicious one but a ryot should not be allowed to take up a new land, convert it into wet, and throw it up till he had paid the full tarum the second year, unless he got a ryot to take it off his hand at the full tarum.-

8. The Consolidated rate of 4 Rs. is by no means excessive, but you are, I suppose, aware that no water for a second crop can be supplied from the Kistna, and I therefore think the Guntoor Taluqs.- now paying that sum should be placed

placed on the same footing as the others in Masulipatam -

9. Sugar cane and Garden lands can well afford to pay the consolidated rate - Rules 5, 6, 7 & 8 call for no remarks as our views on these points are the same -

10 Rule 9 is a very good one, but I assure an act will be necessary to make a ryot liable to a Criminal prosecution for using water without permission - His neighbour allows him to draw off the water from his fields and so there is no trespass -

I much regret that Inamdars have not been called on to pay for the regularity and certainty of the supply - The old Estimate was one bad year in 3, so that a rate of 1/3 or 1/4 that charged to ryots might justly have been charged - Inamdars in Gudiwada paid 12as or 1R per acre, without, I may say, a dissentient voice - They fully admit the justness of the claim -

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt Servt

Willox
Collector

Fasli 1266-1267.

Compd [illegible]
by Acctt

No. 2,372.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th May 1860.

Read letter from the Director of Revenue Settlement, dated 5th May 1860, No. 433.

(In Con., 7th May 1860, No. 2,113.)

With the above letter Mr. Newill submits a draft of the Rules which he proposes for the water Assessment of the Godavery and Kistna Deltas, in accordance with the principles laid down in the Order of Government, dated 7th December last, No. 1,656, In Con., 8th December 1859, No. 6,121. Revenue Department.

2. The Board have but few remarks to make on the Rules.

3. They do not quite understand Rule VI. If it is intended to give the Rayats the option of taking or refusing water, as they may judge most consistent with their own interests, which is one of the advantages of separating the Land Assessment from the water Cess, all that should be required is that the Rayat should make known his wish before a fixed date. The Rule, as it stands, however, seems to make compliance with the Rayat's application contingent on the opinion of the Collector and Engineer as well as the wishes of the other Rayats. The Board think that either the option should be allowed with only the condition they have stated, or that it should be ruled that "Nunjai" land cannot be re-converted into "Punjai" unless the means of irrigation fail. The Board prefer the latter.

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(A true Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Bourdillon, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to H. Newill, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement.

Ryots

Ed. J. Wright.

Revd. Despatch

No 820.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Under date the 21st May 1860

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting with their observations a letter from the Director of Revenue Settlement forwarding a draft of the Rules which he proposes for the water assessment of the Godavery and Kistna Deltas, in accordance with the principles laid down in the order of Govt. dated 7th December last No. 1656 Revenue Department.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Revenue 1860 Departt.
Pros. of Govt. 31st May
No 1039

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

Dated 16th
Desp. 18 } May 1860.
Received 18
E.I. 1 letter
6 Encls
Returned No 2372.

Submitting with the Board's observations a letter from the Director of Revenue Settlement forwarding a Draft of the Rules which he proposes for the water assessment of the Godavery and Kistna Deltas, in accordance with the principles laid down in the order of Govt. dated 7th December last No. 1656. Revenue Department.

No 870. 21st May

Copy in a Letter to Govt
dy 10th Octr 1860 No. 110.

29/10/54

192/94

11-7-69

No 13.

being now at Madras, ~~and~~ it would be much better that the Board should confer with him, and ~~thus~~ understand his rules before reporting on them. On other of the rules also, it appears to Government that it would be for the good of the public service, and would save future correspondence and possible misunderstanding, if the Board were freely to confer with Mr. Newill, and then lay the rules before Govt. with any modifications that such free discussion might lead to. — The rules will therefore be returned to the Board.

J. A.

11 Copies - Board of Revenue, and 6 Enclos. Dis[illegible]
11 " Director of Rev: Settlement &c

Copy in a Letter to Govt
Dy 10th Oct 60 No 110.

Revenue 1860 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt 31st May
No 820

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dy 21st May 1860

Pro: of the Board of Revenue Dy 26th
May 60 Ct No 1196 in sequence
22 Sep. 1690.

Board to confer with the Dr of Revenue Settlement before submitting the proposed rules for the water rates in the Godavery and Kristna Districts.

Memorandum

2-8-05

28.9.66

No 13 & 14.