M.R. O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue · DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2129. Press ~~Mis~~

490-91

Dated 21st. July 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

[illegible]

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 21st July 1869.

No. 490. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1869, No. 4,027:—

Read the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 9th April 1869, No. 99.

In this district there are extensive tracts of land in the beds of tanks, and notably in those of the lately enlarged ones of Cholaveram, Red Hills, and Chembrambaucum, which, by being left waste, have hitherto been unprofitable both to the State and to the people.

2. This is a pity I consider, and is a great waste of means. I therefore would recommend our utilizing this land whenever practicable by growing upon it such sorts of trees and grasses as will stand being flooded and submerged in water for a month or two at a time, or even longer.

3. Of such trees the best sort that I know is the Acacia Arabica, which I have seen flourishing luxuriantly with its hole three feet deep in water, of grasses, (1) the sort used for thatching; (2), the sort good for buffaloes and milch-cows, and known by the native name of "Thandan Kuttay."

4. The Acacia Arabica is a most useful tree, and its cultivation was particularly recommended for encouragement by the Board, and the grasses above-mentioned are both valuable, especially the one used for thatching purposes, and which, if grown near a large town, always commands a high price.

5. The planting of either of these would not in the least disturb the beds of the tanks, or make them unfit receptacles for water by stirring up the soil, as the trees are pitted and the grasses dibbled into the ground; if a small assessment was fixed upon the land so cultivated it would somewhat repay the Government for the large sums lately granted, or that will have to be granted as compensation for such lands on the score of their being within the water-spread of the new projects.

6. Before anything can be done, however the Board must permit their hitherto existing orders regarding tank-beds to be so far relaxed as to enable durkhasts to be received by Revenue officers from parties agreeing to cultivate only trees or grass in them. Of course, the puttah given to the Durkhastdar would be so worded as to enable Government to resume the land at once, if any of the specified conditions were infringed.

7. The land might be given under Tope Rules, but I would not recommend it being so, as I find from experience in this district that when land is got for nothing it is invariably more carelessly cultivated than when an assessment, however small, is payable upon it.

8. I have reason to believe that if the Board will sanction my proposal, a great many people, both Europeans and Natives, would go in for the cultivation of both the tree and the grasses I have named.

9. Each case could, if necessary, be made special and reported upon to the Board before the land was made over. In proposals for land in the beds of tanks that have not been lately enlarged, and for which no compensation has therefore been given, I would consider that the claims of the ryots had a preference over outsiders; but in proposals for the lands for which compensation has been paid by Government I would consider that the Government having the entire control over

them could grant them away on Tope Rule terms, or any other terms that might seem most conducive to their own or to the public good, and to whomsoever they thought proper.

10. I would observe that the Acacia Arabica, in addition to affording most valuable timber and fodder for sheep, is a grand tree for shade, bearing beautiful green foliage at the hottest season of the year, and for that reason is quite as much to be encouraged as tending to keep the ground moist and springs open as the forest trees of late years so recommended for encouragement, and planted at so great an expense along the road-sides and in all hilly and jungly tracts.

11. To recapitulate, I wish the Board to allow (specially in this district, if necessary) the rules to be relaxed, and tank-beds to be given up for tree or grass cultivation; the cowles to be special, and the land to have a light assessment fixed upon it; the cowle to contain enactments binding the holders to special cultivation, and in default the land to be liable to instant forfeiture.

THE Board observe that cultivation in tank-beds has been prohibited, because the breaking up by plough or otherwise of the shallow parts of the water-spread led to the absorption of a great deal of water, and the more rapid accumulation of silt; but under Mr. Fane's explanation there appears to be no objection to the planting of the Acacia Arabica and similar trees in such places; and he is accordingly authorised to adopt this part of his proposal.

2. As regards the cultivation of the kinds of grass mentioned in paragraph 3, it is probable that the extensive dibbling in of such grass and its thick growth may lead to greater absorption than is desirable; but the Board will not object to experiments being made in one or two places at first, the result of which should be reported to them at as early a date as practicable, when the scheme can be elaborated should it be found desirable to do so.

3. The Board concur in the Collector's remarks in paragraphs 6 to 9. In the case of lands purchased by Government, and forming the beds of tanks recently enlarged, they might be granted to any applicant on whatever terms would be most conducive to the interests of Government and the public; but in respect of lands for which no compensation has been paid, the durkhasts of the ryots should be preferred to those of outsiders.

4. The grant of special puttahs seems preferable to that of cowles under the Tope Rules. The lands should bear a light assessment, and the puttahdars should be bound to special cultivation on pain of forfeiture of their lands should they break through their engagement. Moreover, it should be distinctly stated in the puttahs that compensation will not be given if it is found necessary to enlarge the water-spread or raise the level of the tank.

5. The Board have expressed approval of a Notification issued by the Collector of Trichinopoly, allowing ryots to plant Karuvellah trees on the beds of tanks under certain conditions, which will be found at page 827 of the *Trichinopoly Gazette* for the 3rd April. A similar measure might be beneficial in the Madras District.

2-

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st July 1869.

No. 491. ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1869, No. 2,129.

Miscellaneous.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council is unable to confirm the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue recorded above.

2. Trees of the class in question may, however, be planted along the outer-edge of the water-spreads of tanks either by the inhabitants of the village on permission previously obtained, or by the Revenue authorities from the Jungle Conservancy Fund; but no puttahs should be issued for the land and no revenue should be derived from it or from the trees, except such of them as may have been planted by Government, the proceeds of which should be credited to the Local Fund.

3. The Government consider it to be of much importance that the communal rights of the villagers in all grazing ground, including, of course, the beds of tanks when dry, should be carefully maintained, and any step calculated to lead to a supposition that individual rights can be created in the land forming the water-spread of a tank, should be carefully avoided.

4. A copy of this order should be communicated to all Collectors in the form of a special Circular Order for their information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. Library
Public Works
Revenue
THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 24th July 1869.
Recd.
Read.
G. O. 28th July 1869, No. 2,123.
Encl.

Copy of Proceedings on the subject of planting tank beds with trees.

20-4-09

From the Dr Comr of Frds
& 22d Oct 1870. Cho 8249.

No. 4,027.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th June 1869.

Read the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 9th April 1869, No. 99:—

In this district there are extensive tracts of land in the beds of tanks, and notably in those of the lately enlarged ones of Cholaveram, Red Hills, and Chembrambaucum, which, by being left waste, have hitherto been unprofitable both to the State and to the people.

2. This is a pity I consider, and is a great waste of means. I, therefore, would recommend our utilizing this land whenever practicable by growing upon it such sorts of trees and grasses as will stand being flooded and submerged in water for a month or two at a time, or even longer.

3. Of such trees the best sort that I know is the Acacia Arabica, which I have seen flourishing luxuriantly with its hole three feet deep in water, of grasses, (1) the sort used for thatching; (2) the sort good for buffaloes and milch cows, and known by the native name of "Thandan Kuttay."

4. The Acacia Arabica is a most useful tree, and its cultivation was particularly recommended for encouragement by the Board, and the grasses above-mentioned are both valuable, especially the one used for thatching purposes, and which, if grown near a large town, always commands a high price.

5. The planting of either of these would not in the least disturb the beds of the tanks, or make them unfit receptacles for water by stirring up the soil, as the trees are pitted and the grasses dibbled into the ground; if a small assessment was fixed upon the land so cultivated it would somewhat repay the Government for the large sums lately granted, or that will have to be granted as compensation for such lands on the score of their being within the water-spread of the new projects.

6. Before anything can be done, however, the Board must permit their hitherto existing orders regarding tank beds to be so far relaxed as to enable durkhasts to be received by Revenue Officers from parties agreeing to cultivate only trees or grass in them. Of course the puttah given to the Durkhastdar would be so worded as to enable Government to resume the land at once, if any of the specified conditions were infringed.

7. The land might be given under Tope rules, but I would not recommend it being so, as I find from experience in this district that when land is got for nothing it is invariably more carelessly cultivated than when an assessment, however small, is payable upon it.

8. I have reason to believe that if the Board will sanction my proposal a great many people, both Europeans and Natives, would go in for the cultivation of both the tree and the grasses I have named.

9. Each case could, if necessary, be made special and reported upon to the Board before the land was made over. In proposals for land in the beds of tanks that have not been lately enlarged, and for which no compensation has therefore been given, I would consider that the claims of the ryots had a preference over outsiders; but in proposals for the lands for which compensation has been paid by Government I would consider that the Government having the entire control over them could grant them away on Tope rule terms, or any other terms that might seem most conducive to their own or to the public good, and to whomsoever they thought proper.

10. I would observe that the Acacia Arabica, in addition to affording most valuable timber and fodder for sheep, is a grand tree for shade, bearing beautiful green foliage at the hottest season of the year, and for that reason is quite as much to be encouraged as tending to keep the ground moist and springs open as the forest trees of late years so recommended for encouragement, and planted at so great an expense along the road-sides and in all hilly and jungly tracts.

11. To recapitulate, I wish the Board to allow (specially in this district if necessary) the rules to be relaxed, and tank beds to be given up for tree or grass cultivation; the cowles to be special, and the land to have a light assessment fixed upon it; the cowle to contain enactments binding the holders to special cultivation, and in default the land to be liable to instant forfeiture.

THE Board observe that cultivation in tank beds has been prohibited, because the breaking up by plough or otherwise of the shallow parts of the water-spread led to the absorption of a great deal of water, and the more rapid accumulation of silt; but under Mr. Fane's explanation there appears to be no objection to the planting of the Acacia Arabica and similar trees in such places; and he is accordingly authorised to adopt this part of his proposal.

2. As regards the cultivation of the kinds of grass mentioned in paragraph 3, it is probable that the extensive dibbling in of such grass and its thick growth may lead to greater absorption than is desirable; but the Board will not object to experiments being made in one or two places at first, the result of which should be reported to them at as early a date as practicable, when the scheme can be elaborated should it be found desirable to do so.

3. The Board concur in the Collector's remarks in paragraphs 6 to 9. In the case of lands purchased by Government, and forming the beds of tanks recently enlarged, they might be granted to any applicant on whatever terms would be most conducive to the interests of Government and the public; but in respect of lands for which no compensation has been paid the durkhasts of the ryots should be preferred to those of outsiders.

4. The grant of special puttahs seems preferable to that of cowles under the Tope rules. The lands should bear a light assessment, and the Puttahdars should be bound to special cultivation on pain of forfeiture of their lands should they break through their engagement. Moreover, it should be distinctly stated in the puttahs that compensation will not be given if it is found necessary to enlarge the water-spread, or raise the level of the tank.

5. The Board have expressed approval of a Notification issued by the Collector of Trichinopoly, allowing ryots to plant Karuvellah trees on the beds of tanks under certain conditions, which will be found at page 827 of the *Trichinopoly Gazette* for the 3rd April. A similar measure might be beneficial in the Madras District.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. Grose
Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of Madras.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" to the Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Rec'd 1869. Board of Revenue, MADRAS. No. 1956.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH JUNE 1869, No. 4,027.

Encl. Received

JUNE. No. 4,027.

Tank beds—hitherto left waste in Madras District,—Orders passed on letter from Collector recommending planting of, with Acacia Arabica and certain kinds of grass.

4

and they will supply
Shade the pastures
for their village. I have
seen there trees growing
deeply immersed in
water for many months of
the year & flourishing
Next to the cultivation
of grapes and the

planting of leaves
& persons beyond the
limits of the village.
I would lead the
Sanhedrin generally
to the praying of the
village authorities
the Collector & Police
the Acacia arabica.
We might bath
a Council.

No. 215

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Under date the 21st July 1869

Read the following Mins
of the Bd of Revenue
dated 5th June 1869, & order

The Rt Hon'ble the Govr
in Council is unable
to confirm the Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue
recorded above.

Trees shall not be planted along the outer edge of the watersheds of tanks, either by the inhabts of the village or by the Revenue authorities, from the Temple Conservancy funds, but no patta should be issued for the land

on which such trees are planted, without permission previously obtained,

and no revenue should
be derived from it, or
from the trees, except
such as may have been
planted by govt. the proceeds
of which should be credited
to the Local Fund.

The govt considers it
to be of much importance
that the communal rights
of the villagers in all
grazing grounds, including,
of course, the beds of
tanks when dry, should be

carefully maintained,
and any steps calculated
to limit to the supposition that
~~any~~ individual rights
created
can be ~~declared~~ in the
land forming the watershed of a
~~bed of~~ tank should
be carefully avoided.

A copy of this order
should be communicated
to the Govt of Mad. P.W.D
to all Collrs for their
information and guidance

14 Letter to Govt Rev Dept 1882

P.W.D.

35
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