

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1056	Press
	Mis-
258-259	
Dated	16 6- 19-18/3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th June 1863.*

No. 258. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India (Revenue), to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 30th March 1863, No. 9:—
SIR,

Para. 1. I have had under my consideration in Council your Letter of the 10th September last (No. 58), with which you forward to me the correspondence which has recently taken place on the question as to the best means of realizing returns from the works of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

2. The main point for consideration in this Department relates to the mode in which a return for the increased value given to the land by the application of water shall be obtained, whether by a consolidated assessment on the irrigated land, including both land assessment and water cess, or by a separate water cess, to be paid in addition to the ordinary dry land assessment.

3. You inform me that you have decided on adhering in Kurnool to the old established system of a consolidated assessment on irrigated land, paying to the Irrigation Company the difference between this assessment and that which the land would have paid if unirrigated.

4. In issuing these orders, which, however, cannot immediately be acted on, Your Excellency in Council appears to have overlooked the repeated instructions from the Home Government contained in the Despatches referred to in the margin,* that the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, should be adopted in all cases in which it might be found practicable.

Neither your Government nor the Board of Revenue suggest that the plan is impracticable in Kurnool, but the latter authority alleges that a consolidated assessment would be more exact and fair in its operation, and would promote harmonious action in the distribution of the water. Why this result should necessarily follow is not very clear; but I am of opinion that it might lead to inconvenient differences between the Officers of the Government and those of the Irrigation Company, which it is most desirable to avoid. Where the water is paid for separately from the land assessment by Ryots, who use it or not, at their option, there can be no question as to the amount of the return which it yields; but where the two are mixed up in a consolidated assessment, there is always room for dispute as to how much is due to the land, and how much to the water. Moreover, there would still be the necessity of fixing a separate water-rate for Inam and other lands not subject to the regular assessment.

5. After full consideration, I have to request that your Excellency will reconsider your proceedings, and, unless some difficulty should exist in the case of Kurnool, of which I am not now aware, that you will adopt the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, of which Her Majesty's Government have, on more than one occasion, expressed their decided preference. It is most important that means should be at once taken to make it clear to the Ryots that the payment for the use of the water supplied by the Irrigation Company is altogether separate and distinct from the land assessment, and that the latter will, under no circumstances, be liable to be increased on account of the advantages which the land may derive from the supply of water.

6. The other arrangements to which you have called my attention in the letter under reply, do not appear to require any observations from me.

No. 259. ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1863, No. 1,056.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue and Acting Director of Revenue Settlement for their information and guidance.

2. The Government observe that owing to the manner in which the Settlement operations are being conducted in Kurnool, viz., so as to show the dry as well consolidated Nunjah assess-

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ment of the land, there will be no difficulty in carrying out the wishes of the Home Government when those operations are completed.

3. The Government understand that the field operations have been brought to a close and that the Deputy Director is now preparing his report. Mr. Master will instruct his Deputy to frame Statements exhibiting the result of applying a separate water-rate, to the dry assessment, in comparison with the consolidated Nunjah assessment proposed.

4. Mr. Master will also in communication with the Board of Revenue consider and report what arrangements will be necessary in order to carry out the system of a separate water-rate along the course of the Company's works in the rest of the Kurnool District, and in Cuddapah and Nellore.

5. The reasons which induce the Government to prefer the consolidated Nunjah system to the system of a separate water-rate will be again submitted to the Home Government for a final decision of the question.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

India Office,
London, 27th March 1863.

Revenue,
No. 9

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

SIR,

Para. 1. I have had under my consideration in Council your Letter of the 10th September last (No. 58), with which you forward to me the correspondence which has recently taken place on the question as to the best means of realizing returns from the works of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

2. The main point for consideration in this Department relates to the mode in which a return for the increased value given to the land by the application of water shall be obtained, whether by a consolidated assessment on the irrigated land, including both land assessment and water cess, or by a separate water cess, to be paid in addition to the ordinary dry land assessment.

3. You inform me that you have decided on adhering in Kurnool to the old established system of a consolidated assessment on irrigated land, paying to the Irrigation Company the difference between this assessment and that which the land would have paid if unirrigated.

4. In issuing these orders, which, however, cannot immediately be acted on, Your Excellency in Council appears to have overlooked the repeated instructions from the Home Government contained in the Despatches referred to in the margin,* that the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, should be adopted in all cases in which it might be found practicable.

* 17th December (No. 17) 1856, para. 13.
9th September (No. 5) 1857.
15th December (No. 5) 1858, paras. 8 to 12.
6th July (No. 14) 1860.
20th November (No. 82) 1861, para. 4.

Neither your Government nor the Board of Revenue suggest that the plan is impracticable in Kurnool, but the latter authority alleges that a consolidated assessment would be more exact and fair in its operation, and would promote harmonious action in the distribution of the water. Why this result should necessarily follow is not very clear; but I am of opinion that it might lead to inconvenient differences between the officers of the Government and those of the Irrigation Company, which it is most desirable to avoid. Where the water is paid for separately from the land assessment by ryots, who use it or not, at their option, there can be no question as to the amount of the return which it yields; but where the two are mixed up in a consolidated assessment, there is always room for dispute as to how much is due to the land, and how much to the water. Moreover, there would still be the necessity of fixing a separate water-rate for enam and other lands not subject to the regular assessment.

5. After full consideration, I have to request that your Excellency will reconsider your proceedings, and, unless some difficulty should exist in the case of Kurnool, of which I am not now aware, that you will adopt the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, of which Her Majesty's Government have, on more than one occasion, expressed their decided preference. It is most important that means should be at once taken to make it clear to the ryots that the payment for the use of the water supplied by the Irrigation Company is altogether separate and distinct from the land assessment, and that the latter will, under no circumstances, be liable to be increased on account of the advantages which the land may derive from the supply of water.

6. The other arrangements to which you have called my attention in the letter under reply, do not appear to require any observation from me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Clark

8-2-1900

100-1056
Revenue Department
No. 1056

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 16th June 1893-

Read the following
report submitted from the
Right Honourable the Secy
of State for India:-

Requesting that
the Proceedings on the
question as to the best
means of realizing returns
from the works of the Madras
Irrigation and Canal Co. may
be re-considered and sug-
gesting the adoption of the
plan of a separate water
rate distinct from the land
assessment more than once
preferred by Her Majesty's
Govt:-

(Here sent to the
March 18th 1899)

Mr. J. H.
J. H.

100-1056

Revenue Department
The question as to the best
means of realizing returns
from the works of the Madras
Irrigation and Canal Co. may be
re-considered and suggesting
the adoption of the plan of a
separate water rate distinct
from the land assessment more
than once preferred by Her Majesty's
Government.

No 258

1. Communicated to the
Board of Revenue and
Relief Officers of Revenue
Settlement for their infor-
mation and guidance.
2. The Govt. observe
that owing to the manner
in which the Settlement
operation

Dec 1863 & 24/6
being 25 for dinner

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to the 10/1056
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