

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	511	Press ~~Mis.~~
	298-299	
Dated	23 - 3 - 1918	64

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd March 1864.*

No. 298. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th March 1864,
No. 1,515:—

Read the following letters.

From the Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Ramachendrapur, 16th February
1864, No. 35.

1. I have the honor to forward for the information of the Board, a copy of a letter just received from the Acting Sub-Collector, in which he acquaints me with various changes he has thought it right to make in the Settlement of the Talook of Tanuku. I think Mr. Chase has jumped too rapidly to conclusions, and I have, therefore, requested him to be good enough to charge Tirwajasti for all land classed as irrigated by the Settlement Department, unless the means of irrigation have in each instance permanently failed, or unless there has been an

Board's Proceedings, 28th October 1863, No. 6,900.

evident mistake in the entry. The Board may, perhaps, agree that some of his contemplated changes are advisable; but they cannot be carried into effect, until the receipt of the sanction of the Board. I think that all the points which he has mentioned have been brought to the notice of the Board in my letter of the 2nd instant, No. 22, a copy of which I have forwarded for his information, and I hope that most of the doubtful questions will be set at rest by the Board's answers to the six queries which that letter contains.

2. I also forward a copy of the Acting Sub-Collector's letter, No. 16 of the 11th instant, for the information of the Board, in order that they may be fully acquainted with his opinion on the subject. I do not enclose the draft copy of rules to which he refers, because the Board have not asked my opinion regarding the whole of the Rules, but regarding those only which relate to Mamool wet lands in Zemindaries and Ináms; and I propose to send both his opinion and my own, when I have received a communication from the Collector of the Kistna District

Vide Board's Proceedings, 6th February 1864.

on the subject. I have requested Mr. Chase to suspend the collection of Tirwajasti on those Ináms which have formerly been irrigated for dry crops, until the receipt of the Board's orders.

3. Meanwhile I forward these two letters, as an appendix to mine regarding the Tirwajasti of the Talooks of Tanuku* and Undi†, and the Board will now see that the question is not a small one, and that the inquiry has grown in

* Letter to the Board, 30th September 1863, No. 322.
† Vide letter to the Board, 2nd February 1864, No. 22.

magnitude since the one Arzi which the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement forwarded to the Board with such an air of injured innocence.

4. I also enclose a copy of my letter to the Acting Sub-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From T. CHASE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of the Godavery District, to H. MORRIS, Esq.,
Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Tanuku, 13th February 1864, No. 21.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Orders and Proceedings of the Board entered in the margin, I have the honor to inform you, that I have been obliged to allow the sum of Rupees 6,033 to be remitted on account of lands which have not received water in the village of Tanuku during this Fusly.

2. The amount may appear large, but I feel sure the Board cannot raise any objections to it, for the remission is just, and by so employing the discretionary power vested in me by the Board, the increase of land cultivated next year will show that the remission was necessary, and will be in a year or two quite compensated for by more land being brought under cultivation.

3. I have thought it obligatory on me to bring this prominently to your notice, that it may be at once laid before the Board who must be prepared to see a diminution, I calculate, of about 1,50,000 in the revenue of the Sub-division.

4. This has been caused by the Settlement Department, classing lands of the several descriptions marginally noted as "wetted," and by the application of the Tirwajasti rule, "that land once classed as Nunjah cannot be transferred to Punjah unless the means of irrigation fail permanently." Last year it was considered that as long as the anicut stood, the means of irrigation could not literally be said to have failed, and as the Settlement had classed as wet nearly all the lands in this Talook particularly, it was absolutely necessary to charge Tirwajasti without reference to the lands having actually received water.

5. The Board have now so immensely extended the meaning of the above quoted rule by adding the words "at the option of the holder," and construed "permanent failure" to mean "discontinuance of supply" that I feel it my duty not to charge for water unless water has actually been received. Hence the large remission necessary.

6. I shall in all cases, when I have allowed large remission, send you due notice, so that, when the final accounts of the demand for the Fusly are closed, great diminution in the revenue may not be the cause of much surprise.

7. The Board, by not having mentioned a word regarding the increase of Establishment in reply to your letter, have tacitly refused any. I shall have therefore to do this correction and remission work trusting to the Village and Talook accounts, but shall in all cases of great change or remission being required, personally visit the village, and so apply the best test I have it in my power to make use of.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. MORRIS, Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From T. CHASE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of the Godavery District, to H. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Tanuku, 15th February 1864, No. 16.

SIR,

1. In reply to your Official Memorandum of 7th of 1864, I have the honor to submit this report regarding the Tirwajasti rules at present in force in this District, and to recommend fresh ones to be substituted for them.

2. I am glad this question has been placed before me, for it enables me to give my opinion on the subject, and shows that the Board of Revenue tacitly acknowledge that there is something faulty about the present rules.

3. This result has been arrived at by the rules having been introduced in all their entirety in this Western Delta, the only sure way to prove practically they could not stand a trial, and so to obtain in their substitution the adoption of some sound and simple method of charging for Government water.

4. The whole of the difficulties in this Sub-division have been caused by these Tirwajasti rules and the adoption by the Settlement Department, of such distinctions as "irrigated" and "irrigable" land.

5. I commenced the Jamabandy of the Tanuku Talook on the 3rd of February, and to convince myself of the truth of the numberless complaints regarding Tirwajasti, I immediately visited the following places:—

Kakaraparru.	Illindalaparru.
Peravally.	Vipparru.
Kavalipuram.	Surampudi (Agraharum.)
Velpur.	Kaldhari.
Tetali.	Tanuku.

and found that the cry of injustice raised on all sides was only too true. I found land that has never been watered, and, in fact, never could have been watered, has been entered in the accounts

as permanently wet, and, as such, though cultivated with dry crops charged with full water assessment; that lands on which only a Dolwa crop has been planted has been charged with double water assessment; that some isolated dry fields have been exempt from water assessment while the neighbouring contiguous fields, though cultivated with the same crops, have been charged with water assessment; that ten thousands of acres have been thrown out of cultivation, because though dry they have entered in the settlement Accounts as wet, or as "irrigated," and that lands growing dry crops have been transferred under the head of "irrigated," because they have received for dry crops, for one year, Government water.

6. If in a few days these complaints have been found literally true, the presumption is that nearly all the complaints are so.

7. The tendency and apparent object of the present rules are to force the Ryots against their will to take water. The general effect of applying force in one direction, is to cause vacation in another. Many Ryots coerced, by the rules, to take water, throw up their cultivation altogether. So the Government instead of gaining, as much as they might expect, by supplying water, actually lose by the cultivation being decreased to a very large extent, and this decrease may be expected to go on, to the impoverishment of the Ryots, and to the serious diminution of Government revenue.

8. I would recommend a just and generous policy, and adopt as the fundamental rule regarding the water assessment the following:—

Water assessment will be charged for water actually received. I would do away with all the arbitrary distinctions of "irrigated," "irrigable," &c., from the accounts, and, in their stead, introduce, only two headings, namely, "Land Assessment" and "Water Assessment," which will be peculiarly applicable to this Western Delta, where the settlement has been formed on the basis of a dry assessment.

9. I am convinced that this is the only right course, and that if it be adopted at once in this Delta, the results will in two or three years show that I am not mistaken. The Ryots will get rich, and contended, instead of being poor, living in the most wretched huts, and full of complaints, while the Government revenue will be enhanced in proportion to the extent of the increased spread of cultivation.

10. I append a list of rules I recommend to be immediately introduced, and request you will have them forwarded at once to the Board of Revenue for their sanction.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. MORRIS, Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From H. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of the Godavery District, dated Ramachendrapur, 16th February 1864, No. 15.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to inform you that I have forwarded your letter, No. 21 of the 13th instant to the Board of Revenue; but as I think you have in some instances misinterpreted the wishes of the Board, I request that you will be kind enough, during the settlement in which you are now engaged, to charge Tirwajasti on all dry lands which have been formerly converted into wet, and recently changed again into dry; on dry lands which were formerly irrigated for black paddy and similar dry crops; on entire fields, portions of which have been irrigated; and in fact on all land which has been classed as irrigated by the Settlement Department, with the exception of those palpable errors to which the Board referred in their Proceedings of 28th October, and of total or partial failure of supply.

2. Most of the changes which you have made require the previous sanction of the Board. They may agree in the advisability of some; but I am nearly sure that they will not allow of lands once classed as wet to be transferred to dry, unless the means of irrigation permanently

option of the landholder. This interpretation is not warranted by the rules or by the Board's Proceedings in the case of land formerly under wet cultivation and registered as wet, and for which the requisite supply of water is available at pleasure.

In this case, and in that of land actually cultivated as wet, the existing rules require the regular payment of the full water cess, but in no other case, and in the great majority of the cases specified by Mr. Chase, either the rules do not require the payment of any water cess, or a special occasional and partial rate is provided.

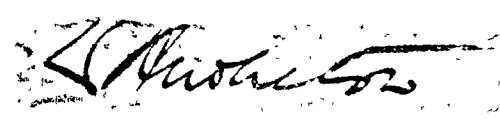
6. The Board trust that the instructions contained in their Proceedings dated 23rd February 1864, No. 1,234, will serve to remedy much of the misunderstanding that has prevailed to so mischievous an extent, and Mr. Newill, who will by this time have assumed charge of the District, is fully informed as to the intentions of the Board and the course they desire to be pursued; but they cannot refrain from expressing their opinion that much of the confusion and mischief that have taken place, is due to the extraordinary delusion entertained by the local Revenue officers, that they were powerless to modify the erroneous classification of Dry land as Wet, made in the Settlement Registers, or were debarred from acting on a common sense interpretation of the water rate rules, although the arrangement by which they considered themselves bound was palpably unjust, oppressive, and opposed to facts.

7. The Board observe that Mr. Chase was not authorized to pledge the Government to the arrangement stated in paragraph 10 of his letter dated 19th February 1864, and the Collector will not consider himself in any way bound by this promise.

8. Mr. Chase must be well aware of the difficulty and complication that ensued from a similar unauthorized proceeding on the part of a former Sub-Collector in regard to the demand for Tirwajasti in connection with the Anikut works, and should have been more careful than to repeat the error.

9. The Board will not relieve him from the responsibility for his unauthorized act, if it should prove productive of inconvenience.

(True Copy and Return)



Secretary.

To H. Newill, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District.
Copy to J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
to R. E. Master, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. J. Wright.

