M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 99 Press ~~MIS.~~

192—193

Dated 16—1—~~19~~ 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 16*th January* 1864.

No. 192. 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, 24th November 1863, No. 81:—

SIR,

1. I have had under my consideration in Council the letter from your Excellency's Government, dated the 20th August last (No. 88), regarding the system to be adopted in assessing the lands irrigated in Kurnool by the Madras Irrigation Company.

2. I learn with much satisfaction that there will be no difficulty in carrying into effect the views expressed in my Despatch of the 30th March last (No. 9), in favor of the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, of which Her Majesty's Government have, on various occasions, expressed their decided preference.

3. With reference to your question, "whether the Ryot should be allowed the security "against an excessive charge which the option of deciding, by a stated period of each year, "whether he will have water or not, will give him," I am clearly of opinion that such option should be permitted. There is little ground for apprehension that the option would be exercised by the cultivator in the way of declining to use the means of irrigation when they are supplied to him at a moderate price, and the possession of it would in no respect limit the right which your Government, acting on your own behalf or on that of the Irrigation Company, must retain, of declining to supply any particular tract of country with water, unless the cultivator should be prepared to enter into engagements to take the water at the stipulated rate in such numbers and for such terms of years as might warrant the required outlay. Although few would, probably, reject the opportunity, yet no compulsion to take the water must be exercised towards the dissentients, and they must in no way be disturbed in the possession of their lands, so long as they desire to hold them, and continue to pay the ordinary rate of assessment.

4. I desire that these instructions may be considered as generally applicable, and not as confined only to the District of Kurnool.

No. 193. ORDER THEREON, 16th January 1864, No. 99.

This Despatch, together with that to which it is a reply, will be communicated to the Board of Revenue, the Consulting Engineer Irrigation and Canal Company and the Director of Revenue Settlement. The Board will issue instructions in conformity with the orders conveyed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Despatch.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
" Consulting Engineer Irrigation and Canal Company,
" Director of Revenue Settlement,
" Public Works Department,
} with No. 88.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

India Office,
London, 24 November 1863.

Revenue,
No. 81

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

SIR,

Para. 1. I have had under my consideration in Council the letter from your Excellency's Government, dated the 20th August last (No. 88), regarding the system to be adopted in assessing the lands irrigated in Kurnool by the Madras Irrigation Company.

2. I learn with much satisfaction that there will be no difficulty in carrying into effect the views expressed in my Despatch of the 30th March last (No. 9), in favour of the plan of a separate water-rate, distinct from the land assessment, of which Her Majesty's Government have, on various occasions, expressed their decided preference.

3. With reference to your question, "whether the ryot should be "allowed the security against an excessive charge which the option of "deciding, by a stated period of each year, whether he will have water "or not, will give him," I am clearly of opinion that such option should be permitted. There is little ground for apprehension that the option would be exercised by the cultivator in the way of declining to use the means of irrigation when they are supplied to him at a moderate price, and the possession of it will in no respect limit the right which your Government, acting on their own behalf or on that of the Irrigation Company, must retain, of declining to supply any particular tract of country with water, unless the cultivators should be prepared to enter into engagements to take the water at the stipulated rate in such numbers and for such terms of years as might warrant the required outlay. Although few would, probably, reject the opportunity, yet no compulsion to take the water must be exercised towards the dissentients, and they must in no way be disturbed in the possession of their lands, so long as they desire to hold them, and continue to pay the ordinary rate of assessment.

4. I desire that these instructions may be considered as generally applicable, and not as confined only to the district of Kurnool.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,

C. Wood

No 17

Revenue,

24 Nov.r 1863

Proon of Govt for 1 Janv 1864

The

Letter to Fort St George

No 81.

Received on the
5th January 1864

Via

Marseilles.

1/16/69 $700

7-10-96.

Smith & Co. Custom House Agts.