M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1662 Press Mis.

323 . 824

Dated 19-7-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th July 1865.

No. 323. Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., President Municipal Commission, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Kurnool, 11th July 1865, No. 30:—

SIR,

1. The Government is aware that the Municipality of Kurnool have undertaken the distribution of water, supplied to the town by the Irrigation Company, and the purchase of the same from the Company on behalf of the people of the town. The channels of distribution through two main streets are nearly completed, and water was let into them on the 1st July. Communications are taking place between the Municipality and the Officers of the Company relative to the payment for the water for the current official year, and it is hoped that a satisfactory arrangement will be arrived at. In the coming year the water must be paid for by volume, and the price to be fixed for the same is a matter of vital consequence to the Kurnool Municipality.

2. In the Proceedings of Government, dated 24th June 1865, No. 224, Legislative Department, the Governor in Council has requested the Government of India to permit the introduction of a Bill, into the Council of the Viceroy, for fixing a maximum price for water supplied by the Company for purposes other than irrigation, at 400 cubic yards the Rupee. The correspondence which had taken place between the Consulting Engineer and the Agent of the Company is affixed to those papers.

3. The price originally proposed by Colonel Cotton as the *maximum* rate to be charged was 500 cubic yards for a Rupee, and this rate was accepted by the Government in their Order dated 11th January 1865, No. 37, as a *maximum:* but Colonel Cotton in his letter appended to those papers, under date 29th November 1864, No. 1,138, in the 5th paragraph, valued the water to be supplied to Kurnool at 10 Rupees per cubic yard, supplied hourly through the year, which is at the rate of 876 cubic yards for the Rupee, and his maximum rate referred to future possibilities.

4. The Agent to the Company in his letter dated 14th March 1865, No. 136, objected, on the part of the Company, to any fixed rate, and wished that the maximum rate should be fixed simply as never to exceed double the maximum price that shall for the time being, and from time to time be charged under the Contract.

5. Upon this letter the Consulting Engineer, regarding the question of a maximum rate as merely of possible importance in the future, suggested that a further margin should be allowed to the Company by raising the rate to 1 Rupee for 400 cubic yards, and to this the Government assented in their Order, dated 10th May 1865, No. 964, remarking, however, that no attempt had been made to prove that there is any, much less so great a difference as one-half between the value of water supplied for irrigation and for other purposes.

6. The Provisional Chief Engineer of the Company has just favored the Municipality with his opinion, that there is no reason not to charge the maximum rate about to be legalised for the supply of Kurnool town, which will raise the price to more than double that proposed by Colonel Cotton, of 10 Rupees per cubic yard per hour throughout the year, on the expectation of which moderate charge the Municipality undertook the construction of expensive works of distribution, which will probably cost before completion 50,000 Rupees.

7. At the present rates for irrigation the Company has to supply water for an acre of land throughout the year, for Rupees 8: the most moderate estimate will not give less than 10,000 cubic yards of water as the minimum necessary supply; many persons consider double that quantity of water to be required. At the lowest estimate, the price charged to the Kurnool Municipality for water to irrigate one acre of land throughout the year would, at the proposed maximum rate, be Rupees 25. If any water is supplied for such purposes by the Municipality for gardens in the

town, it must be charged at this extravagant rate per acre to prevent absolute loss, as the whole of the water taken for the town will, in future, be paid for by volume.

8. Besides the price of the water paid to the Company, the Municipality must recover out of the water-rate charged on individuals, the cost of the distribution, which at ten per cent. on the capital expended will probably not be less than Rupees 5,000 by the time the works are completed.

9. The population of the quarters of the town to which water can be supplied, amounts to about twenty-four thousand, and accepting Colonel Cotton's rough estimate that 400 cubic yards per hour throughout the year will finally suffice for the wants of the community, it will be found that instead of Rupees 4,000, which he proposed to charge for that supply, the cost to the Municipality at the rate of 400 cubic yards for a Rupee will be Rupees 8,760.

10. Such an extraordinary difference in the payment to the Company upsets all the calculations on which the intended water-rate was founded, and would necessitate the raising of the rate to an extent that would be burdensome to the community. With the exception of a few wealthy individuals, the majority of the towns people would probably prefer to revert to their old, inconvenient system of procuring water from the rivers on which Kurnool is situated.

11. As it appears that the maximum rate, which by law will be permitted to be charged, is intended to be the normal rate charged by the Company, the Municipality of Kurnool respectfully beg that the Government will re-consider the question, and recommend to the Imperial Legislature that a maximum rate be now fixed proportionate to the price now charged for irrigation, with the proviso that the same may be increased hereafter in the same proportion as the rate for irrigation may be raised in the mode prescribed by the Contract.

12. The Municipality are of opinion that the charge proposed by Colonel Cotton was a fair one, and in accordance therewith, the maximum rate, until an increase be made in the charge for irrigation, might be fixed at 800 cubic yards the Rupee.

13. When Colonel Cotton proposed 500 cubic yards for the Rupee as the maximum rate, it was solely with reference to a future rise in the value of water, and consequent increase of charge for irrigation.

No. 324.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 19th July 1865, No. 1,662.

Forwarded to the Consulting Engineer for the Irrigation and Canal Company, who will obtain an expression of the views of the Company's Agent on the point raised by the Municipality, and submit it to Government with his own opinion.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company.
,, the President of the Municipal Commission, Kurnool.
,, the Public Works Department, } for information.
,, the Board of Revenue, }

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1662.
Forwarded to the
Consulting Engr. for the
Irrig.n Canal Comp.y. He
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opinion.
19th July 65.

To the Consulting Engr. for Irrig.n Canal Company dtd 20 July
" the President of the Municipal Commission Kurnool
" the Public Works Department } for information
" the Board of Revenue }

13. From Colonel Cotton proposed 500 cubic yards for the rupee as the maximum rate, it was solely with reference to a future rise in the value of water, and consequent increase of charge for Irrigation.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

James Lumsden Bruce

President Municipal Commrs

Lt Col Ryall Madras.

Head Quarters

Replied to Enq. 28 September/65
No 58 Misc

11th January/65 No 85/6
10 May/65 — 158/9.
1 July/65 — 19-20.

No. 323 & 324.

1865

Revenue Department
Phoenix Park 10th July 1865

Sir

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Works, dated 7th July 1865, with its enclosures, relative to the progress of the Municipality of Belfast in the construction of the Waterworks.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Thomas Redington

The Under Secretary of State
Home Department

Dated 11th July 1865

Rd 17th

Dn No 1662 - 19 July

Ltr 30

Letter

Referring to the progress of the Municipality of Belfast in the construction of the Waterworks.