

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2580	Press
		~~Mis.~~
	361-362	
Dated	19-10	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 361. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st March 1863, No. 1,720.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nundial, 21st February 1863, No. 28:—

1. I have the honor to address the Board on the subject of the Proceedings of Government dated 18th August 1862, No. 1,752, directing that certain experiments should be carried out in this District, for testing the actual produce of land under different classes of wet and dry cultivation.

2. The order was received in this Office on the 23rd August last, direct from Government, and no subsidiary instructions on the subject have been received from the Board.

3. On the 1st of September last, I left the District on a three months' leave, and during my absence, and since my return, the order appears to have been overlooked both by Mr. Banbury and myself, until my attention was drawn to it the other day by the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement.

4. It would not be too late to carry out the experiment ordered for second wet crops, or some of the later dry ones, but I fear it would be far more costly than may have been anticipated by Government, and there is no item in the Budget that I am aware of, from which the expenses can be met.

5. No Ryot would sell the standing produce on his ground except at a price that could not possibly be realized by its sale, after the harvest expenses. The loss on each acre of wet cultivation would probably not fall short of Rupees 5, while the experiment, as carried on by Government would be highly unpopular amongst the agricultural classes.

6. I beg also respectfully to submit that such experiments would be of little practical value, would give no information that is not already at our disposal, and would afford no fair guide by which to calculate the value of water, or the rate that ought to be charged for it.

7. The amount of produce on dry and wet cultivation is known to every practical agriculturist, and I hope Revenue Officer in the country. On wet cultivation, for a single crop, it ranges from 640 to 213 Madras measures per acre, according to the goodness of the soil, and quantity of manure made use of. As in all other agriculture, the higher and more expensive the mode of cultivation, the greater is the return.

8. In ordinary dry cultivation the amount of produce ranges from 213 to 70 Madras measures per acre, according to the nature of the soil, and in this mode of cultivation, manure is hardly ever applied.

9. I believe that no practical man doubts the fact that by the application of water, the produce of a field can be tripled, if at the same time high cultivation, and manuring be adopted.

10. The application of water, to a poor soil without manure, adds but little to its fertility.

11. The produce now obtained in the highly manured and well cultivated fields, irrigated under the Nundial tank, can afford no criterion as to what will be the produce of the whole Koondaur valley if brought under irrigation from the Canal. Neither the amount of population, nor resources of the people can bring

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the whole under high cultivation, and the more rapidly and widely the water is made use of, the poorer will be the return to the individual cultivator, though the whole returns would of course be greatly increased.

12. I presume it to be the intention of the designers of this irrigation scheme, to tempt the people to extend their irrigation, by granting the water at a cheap rate. Were a high water rate of even Rupees 7 per acre adopted, there is no doubt that the water would be used to a small extent most profitably by the Ryots. They would then take as much water as would be required for lands that they could cultivate highly, and leave the bulk of their fields under the present dry cultivation. I am not sure whether such a system would not be the best for the people, but it would destroy the sole chance that exists of making the Company's works ever pay the Government guarantee.

13. I would beg to refer the Board and Government to the printed report on Mr. Bayley's proposed Survey and Settlement of Kurnool. The accounts of produce published in that report are perfectly trustworthy, and I am convinced that no experiments that could now be carried out, would give more reliable information.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the consideration and decision of Government, with reference to their Order quoted by the Collector.

2. The Board are disposed to concur in opinion with Mr. Minchin, that the information already on record as to the relative value of irrigated and unirrigated land in this country affords as complete and reliable data as can be obtained by the proposed experiment, and that the latter is likely to prove far more costly than Government contemplated. The Government Order was communicated by the Board to the Collectors of the Godavery and Kistna Districts, who will now be requested to state what steps they have taken to give it effect.

No. 362.

ORDER THEREON, 19th October 1865, No. 2,550.

Land Revenue

Recorded with reference to G. O. dated 6th August 1864, No. 1,409, sanctioning the revised assessment in Kurnool District.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1,720.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st March 1862.

Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nundial, 21st February 1863, No. 28:—

1. I have the honor to address the Board on the subject of the Proceedings of Government dated 18th August 1862, No. 1,752, directing that certain experiments should be carried out in this District, for testing the actual produce of land under different classes of wet and dry cultivation.

2. The order was received in this Office on the 23rd August last, direct from Government, and no subsidiary instructions on the subject have been received from the Board.

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4. It would not be too late to carry out the experiment ordered for second wet crops, or some of the later dry ones, but I fear it would be far more costly than may have been anticipated by Government, and there is no item in the Budget that I am aware of, from which the expences can be met.

5. No Ryot would sell the standing produce on his ground except at a price that could not possibly be realized by its sale, after the harvest expenses. The loss on each acre of wet cultivation would probably not fall short of Rupees 5, while the experiment, as carried on by Government would be highly unpopular amongst the agricultural classes.

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would be required for lands that they could cultivate highly, and leave the bulk of their fields under the present dry cultivation. I am not sure whether such a system would not be the best for the people, but it would destroy the sole chance that exists of making the Company's works ever pay the Government guarantee.

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1. Ordered to be submitted for the consideration and decision of Government, with reference to their Order quoted by the Collector.

2. The Board are disposed to concur in opinion with Mr. Minchin, that the information already on record as to the relative value of irrigated and unirrigated land in this country affords as complete and reliable data as can be obtained by the proposed experiment, and that the latter is likely to prove far more costly than Government contemplated. The Government Order was communicated by the Board to the Collectors of the Godavery and Kistna Districts, who will now be requested to state what steps they have taken to give it effect.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to J. I. Minchin, Esq., Collector of Kurnool.

Ed. J. Wright.

As 361 5362.

W. H. Hudleston

5-12-05

Revenue 1863. Department.
Secy of Govt for Madras.

No. 705

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 21st March 1863.

Despatched

Received

No. 1,720.

89-2537.

Submitting with remarks, a letter from the Collector of Kurnool, affording certain information regarding the experiments directed to be made for testing the actual produce of land under different classes of wet and dry cultivation in the District.

Recorded with reference to the letter of the 15th March 1863, and the instructions of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th March 1863.