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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1236. Press / Mis.

Dated 23. 5. 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd May 1866.

No. 435. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on a report from the Collector of Vizagapatam on the state of season, and on the necessity of repairing irrigation works in that District. } (Here enter 17th May 1866, No. 1,587.)

No. 436. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1866, No. 1,236.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Sgned) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
17th May 1866.

No. 451. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 1st May 1866, No. 1,028:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th April 1866, No. 2,877,

Read the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th April 1866, No. 325.

1. I have the honor to report on the state of the season for the past fortnight ending 31st March last.

2. In the Government Táluqs of Survasiddhi and Golgonda, matters seem to be very discouraging. Mr. Boswell, who has just concluded the settlement of the former Táluq, writes as follows:—

"Up to this time there has been no rain, and the want of drinking water, both "for men and beasts, is beginning to be seriously felt in some parts of both the "Survasiddhi and Golgonda Táluqs. In the former Táluq small-pox is still prevalent, "and in the latter the cattle disease is doing much damage. No cholera or other "contagious disease prevails at present in the villages along the trunk road by "which troops are accustomed to be marched. Prices continue at the same high "point they had already reached, but do not at present exhibit a tendency to rise "further, as Native Astrologers predict a good season for next year, and grain "dealers with this prospect consider it better to sell at present prices, than lose the "opportunity by storing.

"The settlement of the Survasiddhi Táluq has just been completed. On account "of the very general disrepair into which the irrigation works have fallen, and the "unfavorable nature of the season, a remission of Rupees 30,361-9-5 has had to be "granted on irrigated lands as against Rupees 8,457-5-1 remitted last year. Even "with this remission many of the present Ryots are throwing up their holdings, "and are migrating to the Godavery District. There is no need whatever however "for further remission; what is wanted is a grant for the repair of irrigation works. "This would give employment to the poorest classes in their present temporary "distress, and obviate the necessity for large remissions in future years. There is "plenty of water brought down by the river Saradanadi and Varahanadi, but the "channels require clearing out, and the tanks in their present condition cannot "retain the water brought to them, and therefore much of it is carried off to the sea "and lost."

3. I trust the Board will support the Principal Assistant's proposals, and move for a thorough reparation of the existing works of irrigation, to the benefit of the public revenue, and the relief of the laboring classes.

4. In the Zemindary portion, the season has been much the same as in the Government estates. The want of rain is becoming more alarming every day. Prices of grain and salt rising. Cholera and small-pox still prevalent.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board request attention to the remarks on the state of disrepair of the irrigation works.

3. The same tale comes from many other Districts, and the Board cannot but anticipate serious effects on the revenue ere long, and on the general prosperity of the country, if effective means are not speedily adopted for checking and remedying the evil.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
17th May 1866.

Communicated to the Department Public Works.
(True Extract.)
(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 452. ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1866, No. 1,587.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 58.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division, who will observe from the current year's Budget that the grant for repairs to Agricultural works in the Vizagapatam District is Rupees 6,000. This amount should be expended, in communication with the Collector, to the best possible advantage.

2. The Board of Revenue are requested to call upon the Collector to furnish a statement of the works of irrigation in the Survasiddhi Táluq which are not in an efficient state of repair, and to report, with reference to paragraph 2 of his letter, how much of the remissions granted during the recent settlement was owing to absence of repairs, and how much to the bad season. In cases in which remissions were granted on account of the absence of necessary repairs to irrigation works, the Government wish to be informed whether the respective names and alleged bad condition of those works were promptly, or ever, brought to the notice of the Officers of the Public Works Department, and if so, whether any and what action was taken in the matter.

3. With regard to the remark that the "channels require cleaning" the Government desire to be informed how far the practice which prevails in some other parts of the country of requiring the Ryots to clear, or to assist in clearing the accumulations in channels, obtains in the Vizagapatam District, and whether proper measures are taken by the village authorities to enforce the performance of this customary duty.

4. The Board of Revenue must be aware that the Government have a very limited amount of money assigned to them for allotment to the repair of works of irrigation, and that they endeavour to distribute it throughout the Districts of this Presidency in such manner as, with the information before them, they consider most advantageous. Under these circumstances, general statements, such as those made in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, cannot meet with attention; but if instances of specific works having been allowed to fall into decay are brought forward, the Government will be ready to take the matter into consideration, and, if funds for the repair of those works are not available from the ordinary grant, they will endeavour to provide them from other sources.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.