M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2265 Press Mis.

772-773

Dated 29-8-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th August 1866.

No. 772. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Submitting, with remarks, letter from Collector of Bellary, forwarding Statements shewing results of reduction of well land assessment as sanctioned by Government. } (Here enter 10th August 1866, No. 5,535.)

No. 773. ORDER THEREON, 29th August 1866, No. 2,265.

Land Revenue.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 5,535.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th August 1866.

Read the following letter from A. HATHAWAY, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th November 1865, No. 242 :—

1. I have the honor, as directed in paragraph 16 of the Order of Government, No. 581, dated 6th April 1864, embodied in the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,247, under date the 13th idem, to forward herewith two Statements showing the result, in detail, of the relief therein sanctioned through the reduction of assessments on well lands, of which one is a Comparative Statement of the old and new rates, &c., and the other an abstract thereof. From the latter it may be seen that the settled extent of Government land under wells is 51,104 acres, bearing an assessment according to the old rates of Rs. 1,72,961, now reduced under the sanction quoted, to Rs. 67,022; by which a sum of Rupees 1,05,939 (column 8), or about sixty-one per cent., was surrendered by Government. But the area under actual cultivation of Fusly 1273 is 38,641 acres, bearing under the old rates an assessment of Rupees 1,30,695, now reduced to Rupees 51,183, by which a reduction of Rupees 79,512 (column 14), or about sixty-one per cent., was effected.

2. The amount of Fasaljasty, or second crop assessment, given up on the total extent under well lands, is Rupees 48,119; and therefore the total relief accorded under the above orders amounts to Rupees 1,27,631, as shown in column 16 of the abstract.

3. The amount of road cess at two per cent. charged on the reduced rate of assessment, as directed in paragraph 20 of the Government Order, and ordered to be levied by Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 8,211, dated 22nd December 1864, is Rupees 843 (column 17), reckoned upon Rupees 42,167 in column 13 of the abstract.

4. Under the head "Particulars of reduction of assessments," the Board will observe that the changes were effected in four kinds; of which the second and fourth shown in the abstract were prescribed by the Board of Revenue; and the remaining two were made under the same principle, as initiated by Government; which plan I was obliged to follow at the settlement, after a deliberate consideration of the various doubtful points which suggested themselves to me at the time.

5. In carrying out the Orders of Government in this matter, it was brought to my notice in many villages, that lands, though nominally under the well Ayacut, had the benefit of other sources of irrigation permanently since a series of years; and considering the smallness of the highest Punjah rate, to the level of which the former had to be reduced, the hardship which might be caused to the Ryots, by disallowing the use of Government sources of irrigation which they had from a long time enjoyed on payment of Tirvajasty, and the confusion and diversity of practice which might result were a system of levying a water rate for the use of Government water, allowed in such cases as are under notice, and in many instances the difficulty which would be felt by the Ryots by the insufficieny of water in a well to raise a crop without the aid of Government sources of irrigation, if the latter were denied on the ground of the reduction of well land assessment, &c., I considered it most equitable and fair to reduce the high assessments so as to equalize it with the highest Punjah rate of the District, provided the minimum was one Rupee, and the maximum three Rupees per acre, without any additional charge under the name of Tirwajasty or water rate. By this arrangement there is a nominal increase under this head of Rupees 356, as shown in column 6.

6. In reducing the old well land assessment to the highest Punjah rate of the village in which the former existed, all assessments in the rates of which there was a difference of two Annas between the dry and wet rates of the village above a Rupee, the minimum rate sanctioned, the fraction was altered into four Annas, in consonance with wet rates, to maintain a uniformity of practice throughout. Thus, for instance, the old rate of well lands assessment was 12 Rupees per acre; which, under the new sanction, had to be reduced to the level of the highest Punjah

rate of the village, which was, say, Rupee 1-2-0 per acre. In doing so, the latter rate was altered into Rupee 1-4-0; the relief being beyond all comparison with the reduced assessment. By this arrangement there appears a nominal increase in column 6 of Rupees 698.

7. In respect to villages in which the highest Punjah rate of the old well land assessment was below a Rupee per acre, (the minimum sanctioned, to the level of which the former was altered,) there appears a nominal increase of Rupees 11,052 in the same column.

8. With regard to lands, the assessments of which were unaltered by reason of the old rates being equal to the new ones, as particularized in the second part of the Abstract Statement, there will be seen, under columns 6 and 12 of the total Ayacut and actual cultivation respectively, a nominal increase under each, of Rupees 412 and 304, which is traceable to the reasons assigned in paragraphs 6 and 7 above.

9. I have the honor to forward herewith two Abstract Memoranda, A. and B., the former showing the fluctuations in the Ayacut, and the latter, in the actual cultivation, under wells, in consequence of the relief sanctioned in the above order being carried out.

10. From Memorandum A., the Board will find that the extent, viz., 58,883 acres, assessment 2,00,878 Rupees, under well irrigation settled after the late revision of assessment, under Order of Government, No. 531, dated 2nd June 1857, has, under the well land sanction, been reduced to 51,104 acres, assessed at Rupees 1,72,961. This latter assessment is now reduced to Rupees 67,022, as per column 7 of the abstract alluded to above.

11. The fluctuations in the area may be accounted for in the following manner:—Lands irrigated from Government sources under the designation of "Daruvu" wells, or irrigation by Pickotas and Kapalas, constructed on the banks of the Toongabadra, Pennar, Huggery, and Chettravaty rivers, and other large channels, which, previous to receipt of the Government Order under reply, were included partly under well Ayacut, and partly under nullah or channel Ayacut, for obvious reasons shown in the Memorandum, were transferred to the latter Ayacut, (channel,) as reported in my letter, No. 131, dated 13th July 1865, and approved of by the Board in their Proceedings, No. 5,522, dated 7th September last.

12. Lands irrigated by means of "Garisa" wells in the beds of tanks, nominally entered under the well Ayacut, but actually for a series of years irrigated from Government sources, and as such charged with Tirwajasty, have likewise been transferred to their respective heads of irrigation (channel).

13. Lands nominally entered as under well Ayacut, (the existing wells being all ruined,) and being irrigated from Government sources, such as tanks and channels, were transferred to their proper heads of irrigation. The result of the changes reported on in this and the preceding paragraphs, 11 and 12, is a reduction in well Ayacut of 10,577 acres, as shown in Memorandum A.

14. Lands which were hitherto included in the unirrigated Ayacut, and charged with Tirwajasty, from their being converted into wet cultivation by irrigation from wells, have been transferred to their legitimate head. The well Ayacut, and the assessment thereon has been reduced to the Punjah rates of the village, as sanctioned by the Rules.

15. Similarly the lands hitherto under wet, or irrigated Ayacut, as under ruined tanks and channels, of which there are scarcely any traces, but actually cultivated by irrigation from wells since a series of years, have been transferred to the latter Ayacut, as properly belonging to well irrigation; and the assessments thereon have been reduced to the highest Punjah rate of the village in which they are situate.

16. From the foregoing explanation, and the accompanying Statements, I trust that the Board will find sufficient information on the subject. In conclusion, I have the honor to state that the nature of the relief sanctioned was fully explained to the Ryots at the time of my distributing Puttahs during the last Settlement, which continued up to April last.

17. The detailed Statements of the old and new rates of assessments on well lands, notwithstanding stringent orders having been issued for the speedy preparation of the same, were not received from the Taluks in many cases till July last; and, even then, some of them had to be returned for correction, in consequence of their having been found incorrect; and I think the Board will allow that, considering no extra assistance was available, and that myself and my establishment had daily to work extra hours to carry on the current duties of this District, in consequence of my having only one Deputy Collector (the Treasury one) and no Assistant, three months, were not too long a period to allow for performing, satisfactorily, the laborious work of having the said important Statements scrutinized in my office; abstracts thereof made; and the several calculations tested.

18. Trusting that this explanation, as called for in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 3rd instant, will be considered satisfactory.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Statement showing particular of the rates of well land assessment reduced under sanction of Government, dated 6th April 1864, during the Settlement of Fusly 1274.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Statement of reduction of assessment of well lands under sanction of Government, conveyed in Board's Proceedings, No. 2,247, dated 13th April 1864.

ENCLOSURE No. 3, A.

ABSTRACT.—Memorandum of the Ayacut of well lands.

ENCLOSURE No. 4, B.

ABSTRACT.—Comparative Statement of cultivation under well lands.

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1. Ordered that the foregoing letter and Statements accompanying be submitted to Government, with reference to paragraphs 15, 16, and 20 of their Proceedings, dated 6th April 1864, No. 581.

2. The Government Order quoted contains in itself a short history of the discussion of the old well land question of Bellary; so that it is unnecessary to make reference to any previous correspondence on the subject. The two modes in which Government sanctioned relief were; first, to relinquish the second crop assessment on the old private well lands; and second, to reduce the first crop assessment to the highest Punjah rate of the village, the minimum being one Rupee per acre. The results of these operations are recorded by the Collector in the accompanying two Comparative Statements, Nos. 1 and 2, the latter being an abstract of the former. The entire extent of well land coming within the scope of the Government Order was 51,104 acres, of which however only 38,641 acres were actually under cultivation in Fusly 1273, (vide column 9 of Abstract Statement). The second crop assessment given up on the above cultivated well land amounts to 48,119 Rupees (column 15), and the reduction of assessment to Rupees 79,512 (column 14); so that the total relief afforded to the people is 1,27,631 Rupees, or sixty-one per cent.

3. The Collector carried out his reductions on four different plans; and in paragraph 4, he explains why he did so. The Collector's letter demands no special comment from the Board. The only point which seems to call for notice is the principle on which he treated well land partially enjoying Government irrigation. He states in paragraph 5 that he considered it most equitable and fair to reduce the assessment on such lands to the highest dry rate of the District, provided the maximum were three Rupees and the minimum one Rupee, without any additional charge for Government water. This may not have been altogether wrong as regards the particular cases in question, but the more regular way of dealing with these lands would have been to reduce the assessment to the highest dry rate of the village, and then to make a separate charge for the Government water in accordance with the District practice. Circumstantially, however, the

Collector appears to have done this in a manner, and his plan is simple. It might have been better perhaps for the Ryots in many cases to have had a smaller rate proportionately assessed; but three Rupees for well land, with occasional aid from a Government tank, is a fair enough consolidated rate.

4. Referring to paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter, the Board would observe that there was no necessity to add two Annas in the third of the Collector's four classes, in fixing the reduced assessment wherever there was a difference of two Annas between the dry and wet rates of the village above the minimum of one Rupee, so as to make the fraction a uniform one of four Annas. But as, in Bellary, the *well* lands come under the classification of irrigated land, there is no objection to throwing all the well lands into one or other of the staadard irrigated rates, which, no doubt, was the Collector's reason for adopting this course.

5. On the whole, the Board would confirm the Collector's proceedings. To alter them would be to cause much confusion again in the accounts, and the difference after all is small.

6. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Government Order, it will be observed that the Collector has imposed a road cess of two per cent., and that it amounts altogether to 843 Rupees as shown in column 17 of the Abstract Statement. This is rated on 42,167 Rupees, the new assessment on well lands on which actual reduction was carried out. The total new assessment of 51,183 Rupees, shown in column 13 of the Abstract Statement, appears to include 91,06 Rupees, the assessment on that portion of the well lands on which no reduction was required.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with four enclosures.

Copy to the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.
" to the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro. 17th Decr/62 No 7940150
" 16th April.. No 3847181
C.R.C. 2nd June/57 No 58

1866. Departm

No. 2591.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 10th August 1866.

No. 5,535.

RECORDED.

Submitting with remarks letter from Coll
tor of Bellary forwarding statements show
results of reduction of well land assessment
sanctioned by Government.