

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 250

Press
~~Mis.~~

494.495

Dated

29-1-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 494. Read the following letter from the Consulting Engineer Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 22nd January 1866, No. 143 :—

1. I have the honor, in continuation of my letter No. 137 of the 5th instant, to forward, for the consideration of Government a letter, No. 156 of the 9th instant, from the Chief Engineer Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, which was received with the Agent's Endorsement No. 531 of the 19th instant.

In this letter Mr. Latham points out that the practice, which has already to some extent prevailed, of Ryots asking for water for land forming only a part of a numbered field of the Revenue Survey, has led to the canal water being used over a larger area than that for which it is intended that payment should be made.

• No. 137 of 5th instant, paragraph 9. 3. I have recommended* that except where a part of a survey field is above the requisite level, water be supplied only to the survey fields in full, and I think also with the Chief Engineer (end of paragraph 6) that it is advisable that all cases, which may be brought to notice, of lands being cultivated with canal water, without first being registered for such cultivation should be strictly dealt with, in order that the Ryots may understand from the first that it is intended to prevent any laxity in this respect. The District Gazette would probably afford the best means of making the penalties inflicted for the fraudulent or irregular use of canal water a warning to others.

Endorsement of the Agent and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, dated Madras, 19th January 1866, No. 531.

From the Provisional Chief Engineer Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Kurnool, 9th January 1866, No. 156.

1. I have the honor to enclose a list of the numbers and areas, as given by the Revenue Survey, of the fields irrigated in latter half of 1865, amounting to 1,617½ Acres or so. It has been carefully prepared by Mr. Dodson.

2. Of these numbers some are compounds containing houses paying house water-rate to the Municipality of Kurnool, and such, and I think such only, are exempt from liability to pay further rate.

3. Of the rest the return has been prepared exactly on the principle of your advertisement in the Kurnool Gazette of 22nd October 1864 (of which a copy is appended) if the word "waste" be omitted and the word "wet" be inserted before cultivation.

4. It is clear that the mode of estimating the acreage liable to wet assessment must follow some analogy ; and I know of no other than the mode in which the Government make their estimates of acreage liable to assessment.

5. It is seen that if a man ploughs up and sows a portion of a demarked field, the Government practice known all over the Presidency, is to enter the whole area of the field against his name, and the assessment has to be paid on the whole area. Yet the facility for ascertaining that it really is only partly cultivated is great, a single inspection by a responsible Officer suffices to shew it. A greater reason exists for charging water assessment on a whole field part of which is put under

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irrigation from our canals, and part irrigated from wells, or cultivated with garden herbs or dry crop, for it would require a watch day and night by a dependable officer for the whole period of the cultivation, in order to ascertain whether the Company's water be not run over the whole of the field. It may indeed be said that the whole of such a field in practice even if it be involuntarily on the part of the cultivator receives the full benefit of the Company's irrigation. In other respects the similarity between wet and dry cultivation seems complete. For instance, in each it is equally inadvisable that a man should take up more land than his means enable him to cultivate. It is, however, noticeable that a Ryot has to pay as much for his fallow as for his crop on the Government dry system, while wet cultivation needs no fallow.

6. I have little doubt that in some cases in 1865, Ryots have cultivated half an acre or more in a field or number adjoining that for which they asked water, under the impression that they might succeed including the water-rate for so much, and thus a Ryot might hope to get twice as much wet crop as he paid for, by overrunning his boundary lines on all sides. My impression is that the most merciful way of dealing with such cases, and also with cases of carelessness or wilfulness, is to be strict from the first.

7. It seems that the ordinary Government rule thus applied, gives more than double the amount of the assessment as returned to the Deputy Collector, and this shews the importance that the mode of levying the rate should be considered and set at rest, before irrigation extends.

8. The exact area of the cultivation in those plots or fields for which water has been asked has been estimated by the village Curnuma, who of course are interested parties, at some where about 600 Acres, and my Native Irrigation Superintendent has checked the calculation, and agrees with it pretty nearly. But in the first place neither calculation includes the cultivation that has taken place in numberless cases in adjacent plots, where village waste, farmers' roads, &c., have been very considerably encroached upon, and in the next place I am not prepared, as a rule, to accept either calculation as at all fair to the Company. Supposing it ruled that only the exact area cultivated is to pay water-rate, then that area should be ascertained on the responsibility of officers equal in rank to those who have conducted the Demarcation and Revenue Surveys for the settlement of the Government revenue, and no provision has been made either by Government or by the Company for such a staff capable of making such an intricate Survey, far more intricate than the Revenue Survey, which simply has to take up the generally straighter divisions of fields from stone to stone as demarked by the demarcation party. A survey which would have to be completed yearly in the course of a few months, and prosecuted just at the time when the country is impracticable in the thick of the cultivation. You are no doubt aware that the difficulty is no imaginary one. The tracks demarked for the use of the villagers through their fields *have*, by arrangement amongst the villagers themselves, been partly or wholly cultivated, and the traffic (if there be any) temporarily diverted to the higher ground. Water courses *have* been dammed across, ploughed and sown as soon as the time of danger of damage from floods has passed, and so forth. This is a great evil, and I hope that many water courses will be made, in time, as fruitful as those of the wet hills, and this would not be prevented, I believe, by the rule that if a Ryot carries on wet cultivation in any plot he must pay water-rate for the whole.

I have brought the subject fully forward now, because it is of great importance that it should be settled before next season. The settlement was postponed by Colonel Cotton until the extent of irrigation should render it of importance, in order that as much experience as possible might be gained in the interim. I have the honor to request your consideration of my remarks while preparing the lists of water-rate due to the Company for the past season of 1865, and the favor of your views, if in any case you cannot agree with me, as to the fairness of the mode of levying it, which I have proposed above, and have acted on in preparing the enclosed list. It will be remembered that the demarcation of land under the canal has been conducted with a special view of having the size of the plots suitable to wet cultivation.

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

Forwarded to the Consulting Engineer, with reference to this Office No. 499 of 2nd January 1866.

(Signed) F. H. HENSLOWE,
Agent and Manager.

NOTICE.

1. The Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement has brought to the notice of the Collector that the Ryots are in the habit of taking up portions of demarcated waste land in any manner that suits their own convenience, without paying attention to the limits of numbers as laid down by settlement authorities.

2. In taking up waste lands, Ryots are never to take up less than a survey number, and if a portion be brought under cultivation by any Ryots without orders, the whole number must be entered in his Puttah. The occupation of demarcated waste lands except in accordance with the demarcation is forbidden in the Board's Circular Order dated August 7th 1861, No. 4,261, the provisions of which will be strictly enforced.

17th October 1864.

(Signed) J. I. MINCHIN, *Collector.*

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. C. BEAUMONT,
Officer in charge.

Referred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

PORT SAINT GEORGE,
3rd January 1866.

No. 495.

ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1866, No. 250.

Miscellaneous.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for their observations.

(True Extract.)

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

the Board of Revenue.
the Public Works Department.

S. T. Augustin.

Enclosure

N^o 1113

Consulting Engineer's Office
Irrigation and Canal, C.
Madras 22nd January 1866

~~in the morning~~
~~the day~~
~~of the 11th inst.~~
~~of the 11th inst.~~
~~of the 11th inst.~~

From

Captain John. Mullins, R.E.
Consulting Engineer, I. and, C.C.

Colonel W. T. Orr, R.E.
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

Sir,
I have the honor, in continuation of
my letter N^o 1137 of the 5th Instant, to forward
for the consideration of Government a letter,
N^o 1156 of the 9th Instant, from the Chief
Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal
Company, which was received with the Agent's
indorsement N^o 531, of the 19th Instant.

2 In this letter Mr. Nathan points out
that the practice, which has already to some
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field of the Revenue Survey, has led to the
Canal water being used over a larger area
than that for which it is intended that a
payment should be made.

N^o 1137 of 5th Instant
para 9.

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 requisite level, water be supplied only to the
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it is advisable that all cases, which may be
brought

114 To the Board of the D. O. S. 1st Jan'y
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Robert Lindbergh Captain R.E.

Consulting Engineer 1866

Departed to England
25th June 24.35 of '66.
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Refers to the
Bernard Department

Adrian J. Orr

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29 May 1966

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My dear Mr. Garrison

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Wm. L. Garrison

The Secretary to Council

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*File of the Journal of Mary
of 8 Feb/1600 A.D.*

21st 22nd 27th Janry
MS. B. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

forward for Mr. Can-

Callender 1st, of Mass.

From the Chief Engineer
Hudson River Canal Co.

while he waits and the

of medals originated in
London Sept. 1865 —

Richard