

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 928

Press
Mis.

Dated 20-4-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th April 1866.*

No. 306. Read the following Endorsement of the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, dated Madras, 13th April 1866, No. 173:—

Read the following letter from the Agent and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Consulting Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, dated Madras, 11th April 1866, No. 663.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the water-rate, which is, I presume, now before the Government for their decision, I beg to transmit an Extract from a Report recently sent me by the Provisional Chief Engineer, showing that, supposing it had been agreed to pay the water-rate in kind, taking rice as the staple, the rate would now have risen naturally to 6 Rupees. It is not necessary for me to pursue the argument, though it would be easy to shew from the progress of events since the rate was fixed at 4 Rupees, that even a higher rate than 6 Rupees might very justly be fixed.

EXTRACT.

No immaterial amount of experience has also been gained since the 4 Rupee rate was fixed, from the ascertained increased value of land under the canal in the first Section, and the general rise in the grain markets from year to year.

7. The Officers of the Company have nothing to do officially with the Ryots. The Ryots apply to Government for water, or for remission, and the Company supplies upon the demand of Government. A certain amount of information will be supplied by the Returns of irrigation under the Nundial tank, for which I have asked the Revenue Officers. But it is very difficult for me to arrive at authentic information about the actual value of water. It is important to know not only the land and water-rate paid to Government, but also the rate at which the holders can sublet their fields: and this is carefully concealed from the Company's Officers. One thing seems clear; and that is, that the water we now hope to supply will not affect the local markets, which are kept up by purchasers in Bellary. Taking the average wholesale price of rice in the District from the Revenue tables we find it to be about Rupees 510 a garce of 3,200 Madras measures, or 6½ measures a Rupee, so that 25 measures of rice suffice to pay the maximum water-rate for an acre of land!*

Statement shewing the daily average number of Coolies and Artificers combined, employed on the Company's works from September 1865 to February 1866 inclusive, with the average price of common rice per garce; taken from the Talook Returns of the District of Kurnool.

Month.	Price of Rice.	Number of Coolies and Artificers combined on the works.	Remarks.
1865.	RS.	RS.	
September... ..	470	7,654	
October	498	7,484	
November	527	5,514	
December	526	4,062	
1866.			
January	521	3,771	
February	515	2,648	
Total...		31,133	

One garce is equal to 3,200 measures (of 100 cubical inches) Madras, or 3,600 Kurnool.

* An acre of fair land properly tilled yields 1,200 measures of paddy, or 600 of rice; besides, some 80 bundles of straw worth at least 20 Rupees.

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It will be noticed that the average price of rice in Kurnool for the six months previous to the experimental adoption of the 4 Rupee rate was Rupees 346 a garce. The average price for the last six months is Rupees 509, or about 50 per cent. higher; so that if the rate had been fixed on a sliding scale, to be equal in value to a fixed per-centage of the produce, it would have *naturally* become Rupees 6 an acre by this time. The importance of raising so low a water-rate will easily be understood.

9. The accompanying Reports of the Resident Engineers have been carefully prepared, and leave me very little to add. The revenue plans of the fields in the Nundikota coor Talook are not yet published; and it is necessary to wait for them before the exact total area of the fields under the canal can be given. Of the 24 or 25,000 acres commanded this season, we may, however, suppose that at least 16,000 are irrigable *fields*. The only made-road for that part of the District is the one to Kurnool which is in a right direction for the Bellary traffic. It is not the prevalence of sown lands but of sown intellects that makes it impossible to predict with certainty the spread of wet cultivation. The *final* result is easy to predict, for the inducement of high profit will act, in time, on the most dull or suspicious minds.

(True Extract)

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

1. Submitted for the consideration of Government, in continuation of Endorsement No. 166 of the 22nd March 1866.

2. With this letter the Agent forwards an Extract from a Report by the Provisional Chief Engineer, which contains certain remarks tending to shew that the increase of the price of grain in the Kurnool District, since the water-rate of Rupees 4 an acre was fixed, has been 50 per cent., and that, therefore, had the rate been payable in kind, it would have increased in value to Rupees 6, the water-rate which the Company have asked the Government to sanction.

3. The Chief Engineer refers in his remarks to the land and water-rate paid to Government for wet lands. These in the Kurnool District appear to be included in one assessment, and the Madras Land Revenue Report for Fusly 1273 (1863-64) shews that the total area of wet cultivation in Kurnool, for Fusly 1273, was acres 20,886, the assessment on which was Rupees 1,61,766, or Rupees 7-12-0 nearly an acre. The dry cultivation for the same year is entered at acres 11,08,489, assessment Rupees 10,66,946, or Rupees 0-15-5 an acre. The difference between the dry and wet assessments per acre just noticed is not, however, a reliable guide to the value of the water, because the former includes a large extent of unproductive land at a low assessment, whereas the dry land which the canal will irrigate does, at least below the 40th mile of the main canal, probably carry an assessment much higher than the average of less than 1 Rupee above shewn. Above the 40th mile the area of land to be watered is comparatively limited, owing to the proximity of the canal to the Toombuddra. The Revenue Report does not give the details of cultivation by Talooks, and the information obtainable in this Office, therefore, is insufficient to enable the average dry assessment of the lands, which will be watered by the canal, to be stated in this Endorsement.

Referred to the Revenue Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
14th April 1866.

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th April 1866.*

No. 307.

ORDER THEREON, 20th April 1866, No. 928.

Miscellaneous.

Referred to the Board of Revenue, in continuation
of G. O. 10th April 1866, No. 821.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

.. the Public Works Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

W-928.

Referred to the Vch
of Rents in continuation
of ~~10th April 1866~~ ⁸²¹ ~~10th April 1866~~

14 To the Board of ~~Revenue~~ ^{Revenue}
21 at the B. & D. Dept. ~~for 21st April~~
J. P. S.
20th April 1866.



by the same, who added in the Subscribers list

Chandler's Office,
No. 8 Canal Company,

Madison, 13th April 1846.

Voluntaries

Captain, Mr.

Chandler's Office for the N. C. Company

The Secretary to the Committee &
the President of the N. C. Co. -

Chandler's Office -

No 10th April 1866

Referred to
the Revenue De-
partment.

Wm. A. R. A.
J. E.
Secretary to Govt
St. George
14th April 1866

Reported to England
on 5th June No 25 of 1866

No 306-307

Entit. P. A.

Rev. 1866 Depo
From 1862
The Consulting Engineer
To
The Secretary to Govt.
(L. P. W.)

Dated 13th April 1866
No 1866
Ca: me

Submitted for the consid-
eration of Government a letter
from the Agents forwarding
an extract from a report
by the Provisional Chief
Engineer regarding the subject
of water rates &c.

No 928 20 1866
With order

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