M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1525 Press
~~Mis.~~

1464 - 1465

Dated 9 — 7 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th July 1867.

No. 144. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Simla, 19th June 1867, No. 82 I :—

I am directed to forward copy of a Despatch addressed this day to the Secretary of State, and to request that if in any case there is in the Madras Presidency the practice of charging for water by volume, it may be reported to the Home Government.

Despatch from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, dated Simla, 19th June 1867, No. 99.

1. We have had it brought to our notice that in paragraph 4 of Lord Cranborne's Despatch, No. 82 of 1866, it is remarked that the system of charging for water by volume "has long existed "in many parts of Southern India." This was overlooked at the time the Despatch was received; but as we have now observed that it is stated at page 19 of Mr. Markham's Report on Spanish Irrigation that "in native irrigation works in India, especially in the Madras Presidency, the system is one of charging [for water] by volume," we think it well to state distinctly that, so far as our information extends, the assertion is incorrect; and more, that from the existing system of levying revenue in Madras, it would seem to us to be purely impossible. Indeed, the charge of a separate water-rate has only been very recently adopted in two districts of that Presidency, under specific orders from Her Majesty's Government.

2. A copy of this Despatch will be forwarded to the Madras Government, with a request that it will report direct to you if in any singular case there is such a practice in that Presidency as charging for water by volume.

No. 145. ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1867, No. 1,525.

Miscellaneous.

1. Referred to the Board of Revenue for enquiry and report.

2. So far as the public revenue from irrigated land is concerned, the Government believe that no trace exists in this Presidency of the system of charging for water *by volume*. The system of distribution is generally that of 'horary rotation,' said by Mr. Markham to prevail in Spain.

3. It is, however, observed that the system of "charging by volume" in the Madras Presidency is said by Mr. Markham to be in use under "*native* irrigation works," and the Board will endeavour to ascertain whether this is the case under *private* works.

4. The system of assessing the public tax on irrigated land in this Presidency on the *area* irrigated, involves no such necessity "for annual measurement, and consequent harassing interference with the cultivators," as Mr. Markham supposes.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.