M.R. O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2216 Press ~~Mis.~~

319-21
Dated 20-8- No 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th August 1868.

Read the following :—

No. 319. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd April 1868, No. 3,000.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th March 1868, No. 226.

1. I have the honor to forward, herewith, the accompanying correspondence, in original, between myself and the Superintending Engineer on the subject of repairing certain tanks in the Sarvasiddy Talook.

2. In December last, eleven estimates, aggregating Rupees 1,039, were countersigned and forwarded on to the Superintending Engineer. That Officer passed the estimates for four, and declined to do so with the rest for reasons given in his No. 248 of the 30th December last, namely :—

1*st*.—That the Ayacut assessment of the land under the same tanks amounts to Rupees 281-8-4, and the estimated cost of repairing them to Rupees 722.

2*nd*.—That the tanks are evidently mere ponds, of which the Public Works Department could not undertake the maintenance without great waste of time and money.

3. This letter I sent to the Principal Assistant for his remarks. Mr. Webster replied on the 22nd February, (enclosed,) deprecating the Superintending Engineer's suggestions.

4. I re-transmitted this letter to the Superintending Engineer, with one from myself, requesting that the estimates might, under the circumstances, be passed.

5. Captain Ryves declined to do so, and still adheres to his former opinion.

6. In the second paragraph of his No. 284, dated 5th instant, he says that it is the intention of Government shortly to make over all minor works to the ryots. Of this I have no other intimation, and, unless it is likely shortly to take place, I would urge that the early orders of the Board in this matter be passed, as to whether the Superintending Engineer can refuse to carry out the estimates that have been approved of by me as Collector.

From the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Camp at Dowlaishweram, 30th December 1867, No. 248.

1. With reference to the list of estimates for repairs of certain tanks in the Sarvasiddy Talook, amounting to Rupees 1,039, dated 12th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I have sanctioned the estimates for the repair of the tanks named in the margin ; the estimates for the repair of the other seven tanks in the list I have not sanctioned for the following reasons :—

	Rs.
Somaveram Yerracheruvu	83
Maduturu Yerraya	77
Jungulur Voora	59
Do. Juvimavu	98

1*st*.—The Ayacut assessment of the land under the seven tanks amounts to Rs. 281-8-4, and the estimated cost of repairing them to Rupees 722.

2nd.—The tanks are evidently mere ponds, which the Public Works Department could not undertake the maintenance of without great waste of time and money.

2. I have therefore the honor to suggest that the authority of Government should be obtained for expunging the names of these, and all other equally insignificant irrigation works from the Register of Government tanks and channels: the assessment of the land dependent on the tank being reduced to the local rate for dry land of the same class; or the difference between the revenue demand for the year's cultivation as wet, and the same calculated at the dry rate, to be deducted annually, on condition that the tank has been properly cared for by the villagers.

3. Government would, of course, have to put the tanks into good order before giving them up as now suggested.

---

* To be returned.

Forwarded* to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector, for report.

VIZAGAPATAM,
3rd January 1867.

(Signed) G. M. PEARSE,
Assistant, for Acting Collector.

From the Acting Principal Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Waltair, 22nd February 1868, No. 37.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your endorsement on the letter of the Superintending Engineer, dated 30th December 1867, in which that Officer declines to sanction the repairs of the tanks marginally noted, and suggests that they should be given up to the ryots, who should only be charged dry rates for the land under them.

		Rs.
1.	Pinnacheruvu at Kondakirla	62
2.	Vuracheruvu of Cheemulapulli	123
3.	Do. Rajam	79
4.	Durmacheruvu at Duppituru...	78
5.	Vuracheruvu at do.	110
6.	Kattamuruvanicheruvu at Marturu	67
7.	Kondagedda of Rajucheruvu at Marturu	203

2. I observe that the estimates submitted were principally for strengthening the bunds of the tanks, and in a few cases, for repairing breaches.

3. There is no doubt that these tanks want repair, and the question arises, by whom is it to be performed? With all deference to the Superintending Engineer, I respectfully submit that the cost of these repairs should be borne by Government. We cannot expect the ryots to perform this sort of work free, as it is not the temporary security but permanent improvement of the tank that has to be effected.

4. Though declining to sanction the repairs of these tanks, should the assessment remain at the present wet rates, the Superintending Engineer has no objection to put the tanks in thorough order, should it be determined to give the tanks up to the ryots, charging only dry rates for the lands under them.

5. None of these tanks have been repaired during the last five years. The Ayacut assessment on the land under them is Rupees 264-11-2, the average collections for the last five years, Rupees 258-1-5. Last year, full assessment was paid on the lands under all the tanks with the exception of those under the Pinnacheruvu at Kondakirla. And this latter tank is the only one of those mentioned, that can be considered as ruined, the assessment charged last year being only a fourth of the Ayacut assessment.

6. The rest of the tanks not being ruined cannot be given up to the ryots under the Board's Standing Order, No. 125, and instead of allowing them to remain as they are, I consider that they should be repaired.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th August 1868.

7. The question as to whether lands under these and similar small tanks should be given up to the occupants at dry rates only may well receive consideration when the Revenue Survey and Settlement of the district takes place; but until that time, I would not advocate any departure from the system obtaining at present, especially as we have had a very large sanction accorded for tank repairs in this district.

8. I have the honor to return the letter from the Superintending Engineer.

From the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated Dowlaishweram, 28th February 1868, No. 150.

1. Referring to your No. 248, dated 30th December last, I have the honor to enclose, in original, a letter* from the Acting Principal Assistant, in which he urges the retention and repair by Government of the tanks you propose to give up to the ryots.

* To be returned.

2. As suggested by Mr. Webster, I think it would be as well to wait until the talooks are surveyed, (this survey is likely soon to take place,) before any changes in the case of irrigation works be contemplated.

3. Under these circumstances, I request you will pass the estimates of the tanks referred to.

From the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Camp at Dowlaishweram, 5th March 1868, No. 284.

† Dated 28th February 1868.

	Rs.
Pinnacheruvu of Kondakirla	62
Vuracheruvu of Cheemapully	123
Do. Rajam...	79
Durmacheruvu at Duppituru...	78
Vuracheruvu at do.	110
Kattamurivanichiruvu at Marturu	67
Kondagedda of Rajucheruvu at Marturu	203

1. Adverting to your letter,† No. 150, in the last paragraph of which you request me to sanction the estimates for repairs of the tanks as per margin, I have the honor to state that I am still of opinion that the repairs, provided for in these estimates, should not be undertaken by Government, and therefore must decline to comply with your request.

2. As it is probable that a revised classification of irrigation works, including the transfer of all minor tanks to the care of the ryots, will shortly be adopted by Government, the particular cases under reference need not be disposed of separately, as suggested in my previous letter.

3. The Acting Principal Assistant Collector's No. 37, dated 22nd February 1868, is herewith returned as requested.

The Board desire to know the area of the Ayacut of each of the tanks referred to, and what would be its dry assessment.

No. 320.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd July 1868, No. 5,334.

Read again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd April 1868, No. 3,000.

Read also the following paper from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1868, forwarded with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 5th May 1868, No. 3,000.

Statement shewing the area of the Ayacut of the undermentioned tanks and the rates of assessment per Acre.

No.	Names of Villages.	Names of tanks.	Ayacut. Extent of land.	Assessment.	Cultivation. Land.	Assessment.	Dry assessment per Acre	Water rate per Acre.	Consolidated per Acre.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Acres.	Rs. A. P.	Acres.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	Kondakirla ...	Pinna Cheruvu	4 0 0	22 6 0	1 0 0	5 9 6	1 12 1	4 0 0	5 12 1
2	Cheemalapulli ...	Vura Cheruvu	4 0 0	22 8 0	4 0 0	22 8 0	1 3 6	4 0 0	5 3 6
3	Rajam	Vura Cheruvu	9 0 0	37 0 0	9 0 0	37 0 0	1 8 1	4 0 0	5 8 1
4	Duppituru ...	Dhurma Cheruvu ...	10 0 0	52 3 9	10 0 0	52 3 9	1 1 1	4 0 0	5 1 1
		Vura Cheruvu	9 20 0	47 12 0	9 20 0	47 12 0	.....	.....	.....
5	Marturu... ...	Kattamurivani Cheruvu ...	2 0 0	32 4 9	2 0 0	32 4 9	1 2 10	4 0 0	5 2 10
		Kondagedda of Raju Cheruvu ...	12 20 0	50 8 8	12 20 0	50 8 8	.....	.....	.....
		Total...	51 0 0	264 11 2	48 0 0	247 14 8	.....	.....	.....

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th August 1868.

1. In this case the Superintending Engineer has declined to pass seven estimates (amounting to Rupees 722) for the repair of as many tanks forwarded to him countersigned by the Collector, on the ground that the works were "mere ponds which the Department of Public Works could not undertake to maintain without great waste of time and money."

2. The average assessment hitherto paid on the lands irrigated by these tanks is 5¼ Rupees, and deducting 4 Rupees as water rate, a dry rate of 1¼ Rupees remains.

3. The Superintending Engineer, in his first letter, proposed to put the works in good order, and hand them over to the ryots on the dry rate.

4. This proposal would involve an annual loss of 200 Rupees, and an expenditure of 722; and on the matter being again referred to him by the Collector, the Superintending Engineer abandoned this proposal, "as it was probable that a revised classification of irrigation works, including the transfer of all minor tanks to the care of the ryots, would shortly be adopted by Government."

5. The Board admit that the maintenance of these petty works does entail a degree of labor on the Department of Public Works incommensurate with the pecuniary returns derived from them: the experience of the last two seasons of drought, however, shews indisputably that these small works have an indirect value far in excess of the mere money profits. They are of opinion that Government should not seek to relieve themselves of the obligation now resting on them of maintaining the works, until some arrangement can be effected which will hold out a reasonable prospect of the works being kept in repair by the people themselves.

6. The Superintending Engineer's proposal that the annual deduction should be conditional on the tank having been properly cared for by the villagers is open to the objection that those who might do their fair share of work would suffer with those who evaded, and the department would still have the task of periodically inspecting the works.

7. The Board would, therefore, recommend the maintenance of the works till the question of policy involved in the reference be decided and made generally applicable.

8. In paragraph 1 of his letter of the 5th March, the Superintending Engineer says, "I am still of opinion that the repairs provided for in these estimates should not be undertaken by the Government, and therefore must decline to pass the estimates."

9. The question herein raised is a very important one, viz., is the Collector or Superintending Engineer the arbitrator as to what works are to be repaired, granting that repairs are necessary.

10. The Board are of opinion that it should be laid down distinctly that the Collector should settle what works shall be repaired, and that the Superintending Engineer should be confined to professional suggestions and objections.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th August 1868.

No. 321. ORDER THEREON, 20th August 1868, No. 2,216.

Miscellaneous.

The Government concur with the Board of Revenue. Captain Ryves's attention will be drawn to Sections 2 and 3 of Chapter XI. of Public Works Code, and he will be informed, through the Public Works Department, that he altogether exceeded his powers in declining (except on professional grounds) to carry out tank repairs considered advisable by the Collector of the district.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

W—2216.

The Govt. concur with the Bd. of Revn.

Captain Ryve's attention will be drawn to Sections 2.3 of Chap. XI of P.W. Code, and he will be informed through the P.W.D. that he altogether exceeded his powers in declining (except on professional grounds) to carry out tank repairs considered advisable by the Collector of the District.

11 Copies to the Bd. of Rev. Dept. 21
21 " " P.W. Dept.

20 August /68