M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2471 Press ~~Mis.~~

370-71
Dated 24-9-19 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th September 1868.

No. 370. Read the following Official Memorandum from the Acting Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue :—

Forwarding copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 15th November 1867, No. 7,453, calling on Collector of Madura to submit further information regarding proposed abandonment of tanks in Melur and Dindigul Talooks. (Here enter 19th September 1868.)

No. 371. ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1868, No. 2,471.

Irrigation, No. 16.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. SEWELL,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 7,453.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th November 1867.

Read the following letter from the Honourable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd September 1867, No. 241:—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 23rd November 1865, No. 7,525, communicating the Order of Government, dated the 15th idem, No. 2,777, I have the honour to report that the remarks of the Superintending Engineer, contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of his letter embodied in the Government Proceedings, relate to the petty tanks in the talooks of Melur and Dindigul. I beg to submit a memorandum showing the tanks in the two talooks classified according to their ayacut, cultivation, &c., from which it will be seen that petty tanks, whose ayacut is below 20 Cawnies, are 2,085 in Melur, and 178 in Dindigul. To these only I will confine my remarks, as the Superintending Engineer's suggestions cannot refer to the other tanks.

2. In regard to the petty tanks in Dindigul, the late Sub-Collector wished them to be given up, but suggested that, in cases in which the control of Government water is involved in their supply, they could not expediently be abandoned, although the required outlay for repairs might far exceed the highest year's revenue. The present Sub-Collector is, however, against their abandonment, and states that the expense of repairing these tanks is only in proportion to their extent. I concur with Mr. Arbuthnott, especially considering the small number to be abandoned in Dindigul, and the endless disputes which might arise, between the ryots cultivating under Government tanks and those under the abandoned ones, as to the supply of water when both descriptions of tanks are fed by one common source.

3. The several ryots holding lands under the petty tanks may, through dissensions, not unite in keeping them in repair, and consequently the cultivation may cease, causing loss to Government, in addition to the sacrifice of Rupees 2,373 of revenue to be now made, by fixing a uniform rate of Rupees 2½ per acre on the area cultivated under them.

4. The above remarks generally apply to many similar tanks in Melur. The sacrifice to be made here amounts to Rupees 10,862. Another reason against their wholesale abandonment lies in the fact that, if the Peryaar scheme is carried out, these tanks will be fed by an unfailing supply, and the revenue greatly increased. The price of wet lands in Melur is very low, in consequence of the precarious supply of water. When the value increases, and with it the profits derivable therefrom, the ryots will be very willing to undertake repairs to the sources of irrigation, which can be done under the control of the Revenue authorities, subject to the examination of the Department of Public Works. I apprehend, therefore, no difficulty in maintaining these irrigation works.

5. There are, however, several such miserable tanks as those described by the Superintending Engineer in paragraph 5 of his letter, the ayacut of which ranges from three-quarters to five cawnies. I would abandon these tanks with the exception of such of them as are directly fed by the river channel proposed to be formed in the talook, and those situated in its vicinity. They are not worth retaining as Government tanks, and might well be abandoned to the ryots concerned, as such petty tanks, in most instances, must belong each to one or two individuals, or to one family, who can easily maintain them in good order.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Memorandum of tanks in the Melur and Dindigul talooks, classified with reference to the ayacut and cultivation.

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1. Before submitting the foregoing report to Government, the Board request that they may be furnished with fuller information on the subject of the proposed abandonment of the tanks in question.

2. A Statement in tabular form should be submitted showing the value of the produce under the tanks during ten years, and the probable outlay required during the same period for repairs, also the gain to Government above the Punjah rate, and the rate of this gain as interest on outlay.

No 7453.

3. The Board wish to know, further, what is the number of tanks which the Collector states, in paragraph 5 of this letter, might well be abandoned.

4. It appears to the Board that the reasons given, for retaining other very similar works, do not hold good; and they wish to know whether the expense of maintaining these tanks is only proportionate to the profit.

5. It is unlikely that the ryots would abandon a lucrative kind of cultivation like "Nunjah" for a precarious one such as "Punjah," if the former really paid; and if it does not pay, the Board do not see why they should be forced to carry it on.

6. When the Peryaar project is completed, it will be time enough to consider how its water supply is to be distributed; but to keep up a number of expensive works which do not pay, on the contingency that this project will be sanctioned and completed, does not appear to the Board a wise course of proceeding.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Madura.

Exd. J. Wright.

Board's Proceedings, dated 15th November 1867, No. 7453.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

No.

Dated 15th November 1867.

No. 7,453.

Requesting to be furnished with fuller information on the subject of the proposed abandonment of the tanks in Melur and Dindigul Taluks, Madura District.

1867. Department.

Received 30th November 1867.

No. 1001

Official Memorandum

With reference to his Memorandum dated 12th Instant No 1117 the undersigned has the honor to forward to the Ag Under Secretary to Government Revenue Department a copy of Board's Proceedings dated 15th November 1867 No. 7453, from which it will be seen that the Collector of Madura has been called upon for further information respecting the proposed abandonment of the tanks in the Melur and Dindigul Talooks of that District.

A Memorandum† has been already sent to the Collector who will be now again called upon to expedite his reply. On receipt of the further information required from the Collector a report on the subject will be submitted to Government with as little delay as possible.

† A M. dated 17th June 1868 No 696.

(By Order)

Revenue Board Office
Madras
19th Septr 1868.

F Brandt
Ag Subsecretary

To

The Ag. Under Secretary to Government
with Copy of Bd's Proc. of 15th November 1867
No 7453.

By Order

Rev. 1868. Vol 1st
Pro Annual Ret September
N. M. No 3024.

From
The Ag. Addl Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
To The Ag. Under Secretary
to Government.

Dated 19th
Despd 21st September
Recvd 22nd 1868.

No 1.

Forwarding Copy of Bds
Pro 7158 June 1867 No 7453 Calling
on Collr of Madura to submit
further information Regarding
proposed abandonment of
Tanks in Melur and
Dindigul Taluks.

Pro 24th 24/71.

RECORDED.

Recorded
24th Septr 1868

A 370 & 371

14 Copies Letters Bds Rev Bundle 25