M.R. ⊕. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1726. Press ~~Mis.~~

394-95

Dated 17th June 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17*th June* 1869.

No. 394. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th May 1869, No. 3,657:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 7th May 1869, No. 97.

In paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 26th ultimo, No. 2,794, submitted to Government, they have remarked that "the Collector has not yet submitted his proposals for the settlement of the Peishcush of the Baharzulli and Nidadavole Estates." But I beg to point out to the Board that I have already submitted my proposals on the subject *vide* my letter of the 18th December 1868, No. 319, and its accompaniments. As directed by the Board, in their Proceedings of the 29th January 1869, No. 624, the above proposals have been sent to the Zemindarnis for any objections they may have to offer. This fact has been reported to the Board in my letter, dated 8th March 1869, No. 42, recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st idem, No. 2,092.

Submitted to Government, with reference to the Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

No. 395. Order thereon, 17th June 1869, No. 1,726.

Land Revenue.

Before acting upon the proposals which the Collector has already submitted for the settlement of the Baharzulli and Nidadavole Estates, the Government desire to learn the result of his communication with the Zemindarnis.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

No. 624.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 29th January 1869.

Read the following letter from J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 18th December 1868, No. 319:—

WITH reference to the long correspondence that has taken place regarding the settlement of what is and what is not "Mamul Nunjah" land in the Nidadavole and Baharzally Purgannahs of the Nidadavole Zemindary, I beg to forward copy of a report lately received from my Acting Sub-Collector Mr. Horsfall on the subject in which, after a most careful and exhaustive personal inquiry into the whole matter, he has arrived at a conclusion which I beg to support.

2. Mr. Horsfall visited nearly every village that he refers to, in person, and left nothing undone that was practicable in order to get at the root of the matter.

3. The Board will doubtless observe the ridiculous and untenable argument advanced by the Zemindarnis "that all land entered in their accounts as cultivable wet ayacut should be considered as the quantity actually cultivated," a statement which those same accounts positively contradict. Of course only what can satisfactorily be proved to have been usually cultivated as wet prior to the construction of the anicut can be considered mamool Nunjah.

4. This amounts to, according to Mr. Horsfall's calculations, $9,059\frac{75}{100}$ acres only. The amount to be paid for by the Zemindarnis excluding second crop cultivation, which is small and precarious, is on $27,700\frac{0}{100}$ acres Rupees 1,10,800-3-8, from which deducting 10 per cent. for expenses of collection, we have a net sum to be added to the Peishcush to be paid in future of Rupees 99,720. To this must be added annually the cost of any irrigation that is used for dry crops. The Zemindarnis pay now in addition to their present Peishcush only Rupees 28,488. It further appears that there are still 9,766 acres of land unirrigated, but capable of irrigation.

5. I must say that I do not agree with Mr. Horsfall in thinking 4 Rupees an acre too high a charge for water. As roads are extended in the sub-division it will be possible to convey wet produce easily from all parts of it to Cocanada or Masulipatam for exportation by sea, or to other parts of the district for distribution and consumption elsewhere.

6. If the Zemindarnis are assured that the addition to their Peishcush of Rupees 99,720 be all that shall be made in all future time, they will, I think, on due consideration, assent to it, more particularly if Government reduce the sum now paid by them as proposed by the Board in their Proceedings, No. 5,128, of 23rd September 1861, paragraphs 13 and 14.

Board No	201	of	1863.
,, ,,	1,221	,,	
,, ,,	1,278	,,	
,, ,,	2,218	,,	
,, ,,	311	,,	
,, ,,	473	,,	
,, ,,	474	,,	
,, ,,	319	of	1864
,, ,,	391	,,	

7. Copies of statements forwarded with Mr. Horsfall's letter are also herewith sent (by banghy.)

8. Board's Petitions as noted in the margin are herewith returned.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of the Godavery District, dated 27th November 1868.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue noted in the margin, to submit the result of my inquiry into the "usual wet lands" of the Nidadavole and Baharzally Purgannahs of Nidadavole Zemindary.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th November 1867, No 7,769.

2. This inquiry was conducted by me in accordance with the directions contained in paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter, No. 192, dated the 21st August 1867; that is, the average extent of land cultivated from former sources for ten or five years prior to the anicut irrigation has been taken to be "usual wet," and as such has been excluded from the estimate of the charge to be made against the Zemindarnis for the benefit accruing to their estates from the anicut and Government irrigation works connected therewith.

3. No fellwar accounts are forthcoming, and it has consequently been necessary to calculate the aggregate wet cultivation of each village, without taking into consideration the cultivation of particular fields which cannot at this late date be fixed with any certainty or even approximately.

4. The Baharzally Purgannah consists of fifty-six villages, and was formerly irrigated by means of the Appa Row channel which, as its name signifies, was made by one of the Zemindars and was dug from the Godavery at Vijeshwaram. There were also several minor channels or Kolus such as the Pandi Kodu, Weyeru, Rudrayakodu, Bapayya, and Pamula Kodu; but the irrigation under these sources was precarious and uncertain in the extreme. Since the construction of the anicut the Purgannah has been entirely dependent upon it for irrigation, and now receives instead of its former precarious and insufficient supply of water, an abundant and certain supply, owing to which the wet cultivation in this estate is being annually extended.

5. Of the above fifty-six villages, thirty-seven are the Seri villages of the Zemindarnis, thirteen are Agraharams, and have already been enfranchised by the Inam Commissioner, and the remaining six are Mokhassa villages. The present inquiry extends only to the thirty-seven Seri villages and is based upon the cultivation and other accounts received direct from the Collector of Masulipatam in whose Collectorate this Purgannah was formerly included, and from the Culi Talook Cutcherry to which all accounts relating to the Purgannah had been transferred from Akivid on the abolishment of the latter Office in 1861. The Zemindarnis were repeatedly called upon to furnish any accounts they had, but those that were produced, after I had commenced the inquiry, were useless, as they did not show the extent of the wet cultivation in each village, but only the amount of produce, and they were merely copies of accounts which we had already got. The Curnums of the several villages produced no accounts whatever.

6. Excluding from calculation the accounts of Fusly 1248, a year particularly adverse to the Zemindarnis and known as the famine year, I find, taking the abovementioned average of ten years' cultivation where there are accounts, and of a less number of years where accounts for a period of ten years are not forthcoming, the average extent of land in the Purgannah cultivated each year with wet crops to be 8,896 acres and 11 cents, and for this extent only as having been irrigated from sources existing prior to the anicut, and as therefore being "usual wet," can the Zemindarnis be considered entitled to receive Government water free of all charge. This extent is, I am aware, considerably less than that entered in the account furnished by Mr. R. E. Master, when Sub-Collector, with his letter to the Collector, dated the 11th April 1861, No. 82, for the three Fuslies marginally noted; but the difference is to some extent explained by the fact that these years are those immediately preceding the completion of the anicut which appear to have been very favorable, whereas in forming my average a series of years have been taken into account, and the total thus arrived at, taking good and bad seasons together, is of course less favorable.

1261.
1262.
1263

*E.

Appended is a tabular statement* showing the returns for these three Fuslies according to the old accounts as compared with those furnished by Mr. Master. There is nothing to show from what sources Mr. Master drew his information; but I believe it must have been from accounts furnished him at the time by the Curnums which are consequently less reliable than the old accounts written as they were at the actual time of cultivation, and when there was no object in making the usual wet cultivation appear greater than it really was. In support of this I would instance one village, Juggannadhapuram, No. 15 in the statement, in which, as per Mr. Master's account, the extent noted in the margin was irrigated during these three Fuslies, whereas in the old accounts for the same Fuslies there is no wet cultivation entered at all. I have inspected the lands of this village and ascertained from inquiry amongst the ryots of Gannapavaram to which Juggannadhapuram is subordinate, that prior to the anicut there was no wet cultivation in this village, and that such is the case I am convinced from

Fusly.	Acres.
1261	373
1262	450
1263	600

my own observation, since it depends entirely for irrigation upon the Chinna Kapavaram channel which was made subsequent to the anicut.

7. The cultivation accounts of the years subsequent to the anicut show that the wet cultivation has been more than trebled, reaching in Fusly 1277 acres 29,365, cents 51 from which if we deduct the extent of usual wet lands acres 8,896, cents 11 the actual increase in wet cultivation subsequent to the anicut amounts to acres 20,469 and odd, representing in money value at 4 Rupees per acre Rupees 80,918-15-2, an increase which is mainly, if not solely, attributable to the anicut and Government irrigation works.

This amount is arrived at by a charge of Rupees 8-4 and 2 respectively.—*Vide* Result Statement.

8. Against this method of calculation the Zemindarnis strongly protest. They argue that the entire extent of land entered in the old accounts as wet Gudikat should be considered "usual wet" irrespective of the actual extent of cultivation. This claim is inadmissible, for although nearly the whole Purgannah with the exception of the village sites consists of low lands, and although, were the irrigation and drainage works in a state of perfection, which they are not, the whole of the wet Gudikat of the old accounts and even more might be irrigated, the fact still remains that it never was fully cultivated with wet crops. The wet Gudikat of the old accounts appears to have been an estimate made in successive years of the extent of land which might, under the most favorable seasons, be brought under wet cultivation; it was in fact nothing more than an estimate of the area capable of irrigation. Furthermore the objection that the lands entered as wet in the old accounts should be considered usual wet is met and finally disposed of in Government Order, No. 196, dated the 16th January 1864, where the principle is laid down that the mere designation of mamool Nunjah is not sufficient, and that "only the Nunjah ayacut proved to the satisfaction of the local authorities to have been customarily cultivated as such in times past under the old channels and tanks without the aid of the anicut works shall in future be exempt from all water rate for a single crop." It is true that the Purgannah was irrigated from the Appa Row kalva and other channels dug and maintained at the expense of former Zemindars; but the irrigation under these channels was very uncertain: in years of heavy floods the lands were inundated, and when the Godavery freshes failed water was not procurable. The statement advanced by the Zemindarnis, that the means of irrigation have not been improved by the anicut and other Government works, is directly rebutted by the cultivation returns of the years prior and subsequent to the anicut.

9. They assert that the Peishcush was fixed in Fusly 1212 with regard to the lands being wet. Whether this was the case or not I have no means of ascertaining. It does not seem, however, to affect the question at all since it is proposed now to charge only for improvements that have been made to the estate at the Government expense, and it cannot be denied surely, that Government having incurred a vast outlay on the improvement of the Zemindary is entitled *pro tanto* to recoup itself to the extent of the benefit actually accruing from its works. When in 1849 the Peishcush was apportioned between the three estates, I find that the Peishcush on this Purgannah was fixed at Rupees 38,224, a sum which did, I presume, represent at that time two-thirds of the collections, whilst at the present day it is little more than one-fourth of the demand.

10. They also urge as a set-off the deterioration of the villages bordering on the Collair lake from inundation subsequent to the anicut; were this the case, the accounts would naturally show a corresponding decrease in the cultivation; but far from this being the case, the cultivation in these villages has gone on extending in a corresponding ratio with the other villages of the Purgannah. The drainage of the Collair would no doubt be of infinite benefit to the Zemindary, and were it effected, a large extent of country at present inundated would be brought under cultivation.

11. The Zemindarnis have produced before me an Inayathnamah from the Collector of Masulipatam, dated the 26th February 1840, and upon this they lay great stress as proving the prosperity of the Purgannah in former times. It is therein stated that the demand of the Purgannah for the year 1780 amounted to Rupees 1,68,749; this is manifestly an error; the Collector intruded no doubt the whole Zemindary inclusive of the Nidadavole and Ambarupeta estates, and that such was the case is corroborated by the fact that when the Zemindary was under Government management from 1261 to 1269, a period of nine years, the receipts averaged only Rupees 1,50,000 per

annum. It is absurd to suppose that the Baharzally Purgannah alone ever yielded the enormous revenue claimed for it. Even now although the accounts show that it has gone on progressing from year to year, the demand never, so far as we can learn, reached so high a figure.

12. I have thus endeavored to meet the principal objections raised by the Zemindarnis; there are others of minor importance and equally untenable, and it would be useless to endeavor to meet in detail each petty objection that might be brought forward.

13. I cannot but admit, however, that Rupees 4 per acre is too high a charge for water for the generality of lands in this Purgannah. The soil is poor, and the almost universal crop grown thereon is paddy, a crop which at the current rates of 12 Rupees per putty,* the average produce of an acre is scarcely remunerative to the cultivator.

* This was written some months ago, prices are now rising rapidly.

14. The system of renting out whole villages only is observed by the Zemindarnis, and no distinction is made between the land and water assessment, both being included in one lump sum. The whole village in fact is rented out to the highest bidder upon a lease of one or more years, and he makes the most he can out of his bargain. This method does away with the necessity of individual collections on the part of the Zemindarnis, and reduces the cost of management to a minimum. Still it cannot but be considered in the highest degree prejudicial to the true interests and welfare of the cultivating classes who, strange though it may seem, have gone on submitting from year to year to increasing rents. This is no doubt owing in a great measure to the prevailing ignorance of the provisions of the Madras Act VIII. of 1865, to the very remunerative prices that have been obtained up to the last year, and to their natural dislike to throw up lands held by them from generation to generation. They regard the Zemindarnis as the owners of the soil, and acquiesce with few exceptions in their right of disposing of the lands to the best advantage.

15. Though not connected with the immediate subject of the present inquiry, it will perhaps not be considered out of place to allude here to the wet lands in the Mokhassa villages in this Purgannah. The Mokhassadars are unable to produce former accounts showing the lands cultivated with wet crops prior to the anicut, and it is consequently impossible for me to arrive at any exact estimate of their extent; but there is no reason to suppose that they were in either a better or worse condition than the lands of other villages in the estate; and though it would appear that under the Order of Government strictly interpreted they should be charged fully for Government water since they have failed to show that their lands were irrigated prior to the anicut, I venture to recommend a relaxation of the rule in their case. One Rupee or one Rupee eight Annas imposed as the Government charge for water upon each acre of land now irrigated could not with any show of reason be objected to by the Mokhassadars, whilst an uniform charge to this extent would, I conceive, be remunerative to Government. The Inam villages have, I believe, been still more favorably treated by the Inam Commissioner.

16. The circumstances of the Nidadavole Purgannah are very different from the Baharzally Purgannah. Prior to the anicut there was little or no wet cultivation at all, and this item only appears in two villages, Nidadavole itself and Singavaram, and there only to the extent of 163 acres, 67 cents. The irrigation for second crop in Fusly 1276, and first crop in Fusly 1277, extended to acres 9,163·3, and the estimated Tirwajasti is Rupees 37,639-5-3. From this has to be deducted acres 163·67, the usual wet lands, leaving a balance of acres 9,2999·36 irrigated and dependent upon the anicut works. This brings up the amount that ought to be paid as Tirwajasti by the Zemindarnis on the lands irrigated from the anicut in both Purgannahs to Rs. 1,17,903-9-9, from which if we deduct 10 per cent. for trouble of collection and vicissitudes of season, we get Rupees 1,06,113 as the consolidated amount to be paid by the Zemindarnis on account of Government water.

17. In making this calculation I have included the second crop cultivation as well as the first, and it may be objected that the former should not be taken into consideration in forming the estimate for the purpose of determining the permanent charge for anicut water, since the second crop cultivation is uncertain and varies with the circumstances of each year. The difference is comparatively trifling, and excluding it from calculation, we have still acres 28,547·90, the charge for water on which is Rupees 1,13,094-4-8, from which if we deduct 10 per cent., the balance to be charged is Rupees 1,01,784-13-5.

	Rs.
Nidadavole Estate	80,837
Baharzally Estate	40,000
Total	1,20,837

	Rs.
Baharzally	1,21,000
Nidadavole	1,48,247
Add Tirwajasti on the Nidadavole estate	37,639
Total	3,06,886

18. If to the present Peishcush* be added the above charge for water we obtain a total demand against the estate of *Rupees* 2,22,671, a sum somewhat exceeding two-thirds of the admitted assets, which must, I have reason to believe, be about three lacs of Rupees, as shown in the margin. The Zemindarnis are provided annually with returns of the wet cultivation in the Nidadavole estate, and of course levy the Tirwajasti according to these accounts separately from the land tax, which is not, as I have above observed, the practice in the Baharzally estate.

19. On the other hand there remain acres 9,766·56 of lands not yet irrigated and capable of irrigation, and there is every reason to hope that the greater portion of this will be brought under cultivation in the course of a few years, whilst it would appear from the correspondence on the subject of this Zemindary, a list† of which is appended, that it is the intention of Government to fix the demand once for all with regard not only to the present condition of the Zemindary, but also with regard to the benefit likely to accrue to the Zemindarnis from the extension of wet cultivation under the anicut works.

† F.

20. Appended is a list of papers forwarded in connection with this report.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 6.—Statements.

ENCLOSURE No. 7.

ABSTRACT.—List of correspondence referred to in paragraph 19 of the Sub-Collector's report, dated 27th November 1868.

ENCLOSURE No. 8.—List of papers forwarded.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 9 to 17.—Petitions.

IT appears that the accounts submitted with this report and the proposals of the Collector have not been placed before the Zemindarni, nor has she or any of her servants been present while they have been prepared.

2. It will save time and future complications to have all she can say in regard to the accounts in which the averages of the Sub-Collector have been taken. The Collector is therefore requested to furnish the Zemindarni with a copy of the Sub-Collector's accounts and of his proposals on them, and request the Zemindarni to submit as early as practicable, in a concise form, any objections she may have to offer on the accounts or the proposals based on them.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of the Godavery District.

Lxd. T. Cartledge.

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No. 2,092.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 31st March 1869.

Read the following letter from J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ramachendrapur, 8th March 1869, No. 42:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 624, dated 29th January last, I have the honor to state that I have, as therein directed, forwarded to the Zemindarnis of the Baharzhulli and Nidadole Estates copies of the statements and report received from the Acting Sub-Collector, regarding the charge of water-tax on their estates. Their explanation will be submitted to the Board on my receiving it.

2. I beg at the same time to state that, as the Board may observe from what Mr. Horsfall mentions in his report, the old accounts received from Masulipatam were made use of, indeed, all reliable accounts that could be got.

3. The Zemindarnis themselves, though often invited to attend through a duly accredited Agent, persistently neglected to do so, with the sole intent, I believe, of delaying the final settlement of the question, which they were well aware must result in a large increase to their present payment on account of water-rate.

ORDERED to be recorded.
(A true Copy and Extract.)
(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of the Godavery District.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Fr: 1726

Proceedings of the Madras Government Under date the 17th June 69

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.—

Submitting letter from the Collector of Godavery District reporting that he has already submitted proposals for settlement of Peichcush of Bahar: palli and Nidadavole Estates. (R. & 25th May 1869. No 3657.)

Before acting upon the proposals which the Collector has already submitted for the settlement of the Baharapalli

Revenue

1869.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS 31ST MARCH 1869, No. 2,092.

Encl.

Received

MARCH.

No. 2,092.

Water-tax to be charged on Estates—of Nidadol and Baharzhulli, in Godavery District,—Letter from Collector stating that he has forwarded to Zemindarnis copies of Acting Sub-Collector's statements and report regarding, recorded.

Baherzalli and
Nidadavole estates,
the Govt. desire to
learn the result
of his communication
with the Zemindarnis.



To the Bd of Revl Dec: 17

M.E.C. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

ICE.

