M.R. G. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3084 A. 3088. Press ~~Mis.~~

1534. 1538 - 154.

Dated 11th December 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th December 1868.

No. 153A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th December 1868 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Bobbili, 28th November 1868, No. 877.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 21st November, calling for a report on the condition and prospects of the district, and the probabilities as to the necessity for relief works or other special measures.

2. Since my report, dated 16th November, I have ridden over fifty miles of country in the centre of the district, and seen with my own eyes the state of the crops, and I find no reason at present to modify the opinion given by me, which was founded on information, that there is no present cause for anxiety.

3. I have seen some villages where, owing to the neglect of irrigation works, the loss has been severe. I have seen others where there is a fair average crop being reaped, and it must be remembered that almost everywhere the earlier crops of the year were more than usually remunerative.

4. In the rich Zemindary of Bobbili, where I am now encamped, the irrigation works have always received careful attention from the Zemindars, who in this respect have admirably performed their duty to their people. In the present season, in consequence, throughout this estate, the villages are thriving, and the crops generally will be little below that of an average year.

5. I regret to say that the Government Talooks in the south of the district are not so fortunate, as I have received an unfavorable report from Mr. Hutchins concerning them, which is herewith forwarded.

6. I had already stated that remissions would here be necessary, and Mr. Hutchins considers that such should also be granted in the case of withered dry crops. If the Board give authority for granting such remissions under the special circumstances reported, I shall impress on Mr. Hutchins the necessity of extended personal inspection before availing himself of the permission.

7. The remission of assessment on wet crop withered from want of water is simply justice, but dry cultivation is taken up on cheap rates with the knowledge that remissions will not be granted ; and those who have made large profits by their early crops should not be exempted from payment now, through a liberality intended to benefit only the needy cultivator.

8. If authority for granting remission on dry crops be given, I can trust fully to Mr. Hutchins' judgment to act in the spirit of the above observations, and not permit the privilege to be abused.

9. With regard to relief works, there is no present necessity for such, but in the course of two or three months such necessity may arise in the Government Talooks of the district, and in any case the poorer classes in those talooks can be found beneficial occupation in the repair of the ordinary irrigation works. An additional grant for this purpose can be most usefully expended, and the result, of what I hope will prove but temporary scarcity and distress, will be a permanent advantage.

10. With regard to Mr. Hutchins' remarks on the use of the water in the Kondakirla Ava, it is to be regretted that he should have considered his hands bound by the decision alluded to by him, so as to prevent his using the water to prevent total loss in villages not usually thus irrigated.

11. I am now in correspondence with the Proprietrix of Ankapilly on the subject of this reservoir, which will shortly be the subject of report; but I now append copy of instructions which I sent on the 26th instant to the Acting Principal Assistant, as to the principles by which he was to be guided in distributing this water, the control of which must rest solely on the judgment and responsibility of the local Officer of Government.

12. The Board are aware that it is my duty, as Agent, to make a yearly tour in the hill tracts of the district: special circumstances connected with the management of the Jeypore territory require my early presence there, and as there is no immediate cause for anxiety as to the state of the district at large, I am now proceeding into Jeypore, and shall be in the hill tracts throughout the month of December. In January I shall return to the plains, and travel through the north of the district, returning to head-quarters at the end of that month.

13. In February I purpose proceeding to the Government Talooks in the south, when, in communication with Mr. Hutchins, I can judge more accurately as to the necessity for affording work to the poorer classes of those talooks, at the time when such necessity may arise.

14. I confidently state there can be nothing approaching to a general scarcity in the course of the next two months, but while I deprecate needless anxiety, the Board may rely on my carefully watching the state of affairs, and at once reporting the necessity for any special measures.

Memorandum written on seeing Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th November 1868.

1. The pressure in my Sub-Division is no doubt very great.

2. So far back as the 23rd October, I inspected three villages in the northern part of my Sub-Division, and the wet cultivation under tanks was almost entirely gone already, and the only chance of saving twenty five per cent. or twenty was good rain within a fortnight; not one drop has fallen since then, or more than one month.

3. I was informed by my Sarvasiddhi Tahsildar, that the wet cultivation under tanks in other parts of his talook were in a similar condition. I apprehend that very extensive remissions will have to be given in the ensuing settlement of that talook, which I expect to commence early in December. The crops also under the Sharudwade are in a withered state round Dimili and Rayavaram. Things are not better in Narsipatam. In the Season Report for October the Tahsildar writes: "There is no water in tanks and channels. "There is no water to paddy crops." "Want of water is very seriously felt." "In some villages there is no water for the cattle." The crops have failed and prices are rising." "Fever is commenced."

4. I have had many applications for remission of dry crops, which have suffered severely. The Board have laid down in Rule VII of their Standing Circular No. 137, that remission on dry crops will only be granted in very exceptional years, or under very exceptional circumstances.

5. It remains for the Board and Government to decide whether the present is not such a year, and I desire instructions on this matter in the rapidly approaching Jummahbundy.

6. The proprietary estate of Ankapilly, where I have been lately residing, is green and flourishing in the neighbourhood of the Cusbah Town.

7. I will lose no opportunity, and therefore seize upon this of urging the necessity of a more clear settlement of the rights to the water of the important Kondakirla Ava; for, in this year of extreme drought, I have been urged by the Ryots of our Government villages to let them have some of this water, and have been asked by the Tahsildar recently to let off a foot so as to save some of our wet cultivation; but I am bound hand and foot by a settlement of Mr. Pano's in 1860, and cannot let off any water, as it is against the interests of the highly favored Ankapilly Ryots, until the 15th December, by which time all the crops which so much need it will have perished.

The Board may rely upon my hearty co-operation in promoting any relief work if they be determined on.

WALTAIR,
26th November 1868.

(Signed) A. R. HUTCHINS,
Ag. Principal Assistant Collector.

From the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Camp at Bobbili, 26th November 1868, No. 874.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 23rd instant, No. 184, requesting my opinion with regard to the use of the water in the Kondakirla Ava.

2. The Manager of the Ankapilly Estate objects to water being drawn off until the 15th December, after which date he would demand that it be drawn off, even though wasted, in order that the water spread of the reservoir may be cultivated.

3. Such pretensions are utterly inadmissible, the Government Officers only can regulate the time and proportion in which the water of the Ava is to be drawn off, and should pay no more attention to the objections of the Manager of the Ankapilly Estate than to those of any other parties interested in the use of the water.

4. As the local Officer of Government, the responsibility for the proper use of the water in the reservoir rests on you, and, in directing its distribution, you shall be guided by the following principles:—

1st.—The public good, as to the amount of crops that can be saved and grain produced for the public wants in a bad season.

2nd.—The rights of the individuals, including the Proprietrix of the Ankapilly Estate, who have claims to the water.

3rd.—The pecuniary interests of Government.

5. For instance, if by drawing off a foot of water at once, a few acres belonging to the Ryots of the Ankapilly Estate be withered, while much wet cultivation elsewhere be saved, it should be done forthwith. But if a large extent of crop be withered by the proceeding, while the saving of the crops in other villages be doubtful, it should not be done.

6. The question can only be decided by local knowledge of facts, and acting on such knowledge, whatever decision you arrive at, and carry out, will receive my cordial support.

7. You should act firmly, but judiciously, on the principle that petty private rights are not to stand in the way of preventing a great public injury.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board authorize the Collector to exercise his discretion in regard to remission on dry lands.

No. 153B. ORDER THEREON, 11th December 1868, No. 3,084A.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Board's Proceedings are approved.

2. Extracts from the Collector's letter and from the Principal Assistant's Memorandum will be forwarded for the information of the Government of Bengal.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

more proved temporary scarcity no distress

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
11*th December* 1868.

No. 3,085.

No. 154.
To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

SIR,

Miscellaneous.

In continuation of my letter under date 24th November 1868, No. 2,943, I am directed to forward herewith for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, extracts from a letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 28th November 1868, and of a Memorandum of the Principal Assistant Collector, on the condition and prospects of that District.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

were proved last temporary scarcity and distress

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To.

THE SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL.

Dated December, 11th.

Read.

G. O., 11th December 1868, No. 3,085.

DECISION.

No. 154.

Forwarding, for information, extracts from a letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam and of a Memorandum of the Principal Assistant Collector on the condition and prospects of that District.

shall impress on Mr. Hutchins the necessity of extended personal inspection before availing himself of the permission.

7. The remission of assessments on Wet crop withered from want of water is simply justice, but Dry cultivation is taken up on cheap rates with the knowledge that Remissions will not be granted; and those who have made large profits by their early crops, should not be exempted from payments now, through a liberality intended to benefit only the needy cultivator.

8. If authority for granting Remission on Dry crops be given, I can trust fully to Mr. Hutchins's judgments, to act in the spirit of the above observations, and not permit the privilege to be abused.

9. With regard to Relief works, there is no present necessity for such; but in the course of two or three months, such necessity may arise, in the Government Talooks of the Districts, and in any case the poorer classes in those Talooks can be found beneficial occupation in the repair of the ordinary Irrigation works. An additional grant for this purpose can be most usefully expended, and the results of what I hope will prove but temporary scarcity and distress

distress will be a permanent advantage -

10. With regard to Mr Hutchins remarks on the use of the water in the Kondakirla Cove, it is to be regretted that he should have considered his hands bound by the decision alluded to by him, so as to prevent his using the water to prevent total loss in villages not usually thus irrigated -

11. I am now in correspondence with the Proprietrise of Ankapalle on the subject of this Reservoir, which will shortly be the subject of Report, but I now append copy of instructions which I sent on the 26th instant to the Asst Principal Assistant as to the principles by which he was to be guided in distributing this water, the control of which must rest solely on the judgment and responsibility of the local Officer of Government -

12. The Board are aware that it is my duty as Agent to make a yearly tour in the Hill tracts of the District: Special circumstances connected with the Management of the Jeypore territory require my early presence there, and as there is no immediate cause for anxiety as to the state

therefore seize upon this for urging the necessity of a more clear settlement of the rights to the water of the important Kondakirla Cove; for in this year of extreme drought, I have been urged by the Ryots of our Government Villages to let them have some of this water, and have been asked by the Tahsildar recently to let off a foot so as to save some of our wet cultivation - but I am bound hand and foot by a settlement of Mr Sams in 1860, and cannot let off any water as it is against the interests of the highly favored Ankapilly Ryots. until the 15th December by which time all the crops which so much need it, will have perished.

The Board may rely upon my hearty Co-operation in promoting any relief works if they see determined on.

Waltair
November 26th
1868

[signed] A. R. Hutchins
Asst Principal Asst
Collector

True Copy
Alexander
Acting Secretary

6 R

Rev. 3823/68

Enclosure in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue to the Secretary to Govt. R. D. dated 9th December 1868 - No.

Copy of Memorandum written on sending Proc. of Madras Govt. R D 19th November 1868

16th Dec. 68

3081

From 11th Dec. 18 Ln. No. 153 A

Rec'd Dec. 18 & Ans. Dec. 19 1768

posed. of the right in waters
hopped by those who are
higher upon a stream or level
over those who are lower
down. — I know Holloway
was absent when a question
proceeding it in regard
to a suit between Col.
Erskine and Capt. Cook
in Low Harry, Lieut. Gov. at
his departure — Mr. Donell ma-
naged both sides of without
any formal submit — So
that so far as I know we
are well without a safe
guide. Those limiting actions
may cause the Question to be
finally adjusted
by Council
to decide

Letter
Fish waters
in Council

Read 30th Dec. 1768

1. The Board's proceedings are approved

2. Extracts from the Colo. letter and from the Pres. Ant's memo. must be forwarded for the information of the Govt of Bengal.

15th December 1768

16 Copies To Mr. Pownall
Dec. 16th

3 Copies Encl. p. 12

R.D 9

№ 3085

To The Secrett. to the Govt.
of Bengal

Sir.

In continuation of
my letter under date
24th Novr. 68, №. 2943,
I am directed to for-
ward herewith for
the information of His
Honor the Lieut. Govr.
of Bengal, extracts
from a letter from
the Collr. of Vizaga-
patam of 28th Novr.
68 & of a Memo.
of the Principal
Asst. Collr. on the
condition & prospects
of that district.

20
17

and of the probabilities as to the necessity for relief works or other special measures.—