M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-89.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1432 Press ~~Misc.~~
575-517
Dated 21st May ~~19~~ 1889

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st May 1869.

No. 515. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st March 1869, No. 2,069.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 8th January 1869, No. 49, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Kistna Delta.*—Passing orders on the endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, submitting, with remarks, letter from the Superintending Engineer of the 2nd Division, soliciting a reconsideration of the demand made upon him for the preparation of the full scheme of irrigational improvement for the Kistna Delta.

IN the Order above recorded, the Board are called upon to consider the practical working of No. VII. of the Rules in force under Act VII. of 1865, (Madras,) "for the assessment of the water-rate in the Godavery and Kistna Deltas," and the desirability of revoking the rule experimentally, is suggested by Government.

2. From the papers which accompany the Government Order, it appears that the District Engineer in 1863 assumed that 500,000 acres of land would eventually be irrigated in the Kistna Deltas, when the projected works were all completed. In the six years, 1862-63 to 1867-68, a sum of Rupees 9,77,636 has been spent on original works in the Delta, but the area under irrigation has increased by (at the utmost) 15,000 acres, and the total irrigate area is under 150,000 acres.

3. The probable causes of this unexpected result are detailed in paragraph 5 of the Order of Government, and in addition to these the operation of the rule above referred to is mentioned by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation as likely to retard the extension of irrigation.

4. It is unnecessary here to recount the lengthy discussions and deliberations which eventuated in the rules as they now stand.

5. The particular rule under consideration, No. VII., owes its origin to the decision of the Secretary of State contained in his Despatch, dated 24th November 1863, No. 81. His words are as follows:—

"With reference to your question, 'whether the ryot should be allowed the security against an excessive charge with the option of deciding, by a stated period of each year, whether he will have water or not, will give him,' I am clearly of opinion that such option should be permitted. There is little ground for apprehension that the option would be exercised by the cultivator in the way of declining to use the means of irrigation when they are supplied to him at a moderate price, and the possession of it would in no respect limit the right which your Government, acting on your own behalf or on that of the Irrigation Company, must retain, of declining to supply any particular tract of country with water, unless the cultivators should be prepared to enter into engagements to take the water at the stipulated rate in such numbers and for such terms of years as might warrant the required outlay. Although few would probably reject the opportunity, yet no compulsion to take the water must be exercised towards the dissentients, and they must in no way be disturbed in the possession of their lands so long as they desire to hold them, and continue to pay the ordinary rate of assessment.

"4. I desire that these instructions may be considered as generally applicable, and not as confined only to the district of Kurnool."

6. The Board, who were then engaged in revising the rules, brought the matter again to the notice of Government as to its operation on the existing system, and Government then decided that the rule, as regards "lands already irrigated at considerable outlay of public money, must be considered *prospective* only." They remarked that, "as regards lands which have been fitted for irrigation by the owners, and have actually been irrigated for at least one season, it may fairly be held that such preparation and acceptance of water imply acquiescence in the usage of the country which has not required any formal agreement. As regards lands which have not been so prepared or irrigated, and in cases where irrigation has been forced on the ryots against their expressed wishes, the option must be allowed, and agreements taken from them whenever the measure may appear necessary and equitable."

Government Order, 1st October 1864, No. 1,814, Revenue Department.

7. Of the rules thereupon drafted by the Board, it is necessary here to quote Nos. 2, 3, and 8 only:

Board's letter to Government, dated 20th January 1865, No. 334.

"2. All lands now permanently supplied with the means of irrigation for a single wet crop, and which are now cultivated as nunjah, and have actually been irrigated for at least one season, shall be classed as 'irrigated,' and charged Rupees 3 per acre per annum for water in addition to their fixed land assessment. Such land shall not be transferred to punjah, unless the means of irrigation fail permanently.

"3. Land newly brought under irrigation, in accordance with the provisions of Rule VIII. shall be assessed at one-half of the above rate of Rupees 3 for the first year, and at the full rate in the subsequent years. Provided that if the land be thrown up at the end of the first year, the full rate shall be charged for it.

"8. When ryots desire to convert dry land into wet, application is to be made to the Collector either directly or through the Tahsildar on or before the 31st March, and the Collector will arrange with the Public Works Department for the supply of water.

Where the means of irrigation for such already exist, the ryot shall, as a rule, have the option of continuing or ceasing to use the water at his pleasure, provided that where water is taken for only a single season, the full rate of Rupees 3 per acre per crop shall be charged.

The Collector shall, however, be at liberty to require the ryot in exceptional cases to enter into an agreement for continuing to take the water for such period as he may deem necessary and equitable in the interests of Government or of other individual ryots, before arranging for the supply.

Where it may be necessary to execute new works at Government cost, in order to provide the required supply, such preliminary agreements for the continuance of the water-rate as may in each case appear necessary shall be taken from the land-holders for whose benefit the work is designed. And in such cases the arrangements for the supply of water will be regulated by tracts only and not by detached fields."

8. The Government directed some alterations, and, alluding to the provision in Rule III. which allowed a reduction of half the water-rate in the first year for lands newly brought under irrigation, determined that the full rate should

Government Order, 11th May 1865, No. 986.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st *May* 1869.

always be charged. They remarked—"The ryots are practical agriculturists, and know well enough on what soils irrigation will prove remunerative, and the concession of 1½ Rupees is not likely to induce them to incur the expense of preparing their lands for irrigation. • • • What a ryot may fairly claim is time for trial, and this may be conceded in Rule VIII. By this rule a ryot is to be allowed the option of taking or ceasing to take water, if the means of irrigation already exist. The Government think that this is more than can reasonably be sought; and that they may, with perfect justice, refuse to incur the great inconvenience of such a system. They would allow the ryot in such a case two years to decide finally whether he will have his land supplied with water for a term of years or not. If he finds that irrigation does not pay on his lands the supply will cease, and he will be in no worse position than before, and as his land was never previously irrigated he cannot justly complain of any hardship or breach of faith."

9. Rule VII. was then drawn and now stands as given below—

"7. When ryots desire to convert dry land into wet, application is to be made to the Collector either directly or through the Tahsildar on or before the 31st March, and the Collector will arrange with the Public Works Department for the supply of water.

Where the means of irrigation for such land already exist, the Collector will cause the ryot distinctly to understand that if water be taken for three years in succession, the land will be permanently classed as irrigated under Rule 2 above.

The Collector shall, however, be at liberty to require the ryot, in exceptional cases, to enter into an agreement for continuing to take the water for such period as he may deem necessary and equitable in the interests of Government, or of other individual ryots, before arranging for the supply.

Where it may be necessary to execute new works at Government cost, in order to provide the required supply, such preliminary agreements for the continuance of the water-rate as may in each case appear necessary shall be taken from the land-holders for whose benefit the work is designed, but the fulfilment of the agreement will depend on Government sanctioning the proposed outlay for the works."

10. It will be seen from the above recapitulation, that there has already been some curtailment of the Secretary of State's decision as to the ryot's freedom.

11. It is not quite clear whether Government now purpose revoking the whole rule, or only some part of it.

12. A simple revocation of the entire rule would lead to all lands now classed as "irrigated" continuing so, as long as the supply of water exists; while all other lands—that is, all lands which were first irrigated two years ago, and also lands which may hereafter be irrigated—would come under Rule 5, which provides for "temporary irrigation." The holders of these lands would pay the full rate whenever they took water, but would have the option of declining irrigation at the close of each season. There would also be no provision for engagements. If, therefore, the object be to prevent ryots from discontinuing irrigation, the revocation of the rule would defeat it.

13. If, on the other hand, it be intended, while conceding the option to the ryot of applying for water in the first instance, to require him, as a condition of getting it to enter into an agreement with Government to take it for a term of years, or as long as irrigation can be supplied, the present seems an inopportune

moment for making this the universal rule. The ryots are said, for various reasons, not to display so much eagerness as was anticipated for irrigation. It may, therefore, be apprehended that they will be more disposed to avail themselves of the option of giving up irrigation, which must, of course, be conceded to all who now have it, than to voluntarily enter into agreements of this nature.

14. If again it be intended to revoke the option altogether, and to require all land for which irrigation can be supplied to be at once permanently classed as "irrigated," the arrangement would be opposed to the orders of the Secretary of State, and would be very unacceptable to the people. Those who have taken water under the rules would complain with justice of such a breach of the terms on which they applied for it; while those who have never yet taken it would feel it a hardship to be obliged to take water which they did not want, the penalty being payment or ejection from their lands.

15. The Board would deprecate any alteration of Rule VII. at present. It gives the ryot the freedom he may reasonably claim in a matter of so much importance to him, within very safe limits; while it reserves to Government the means of protecting its interests whenever the time for such measures arrives.

16. Colonel Anderson supposes that irrigation is often declined in the third year, because the land is so improved by the deposit of fertilising matter during the two years when it is irrigated, that the growth of a dry crop becomes more than ordinarily profitable. The Board doubt whether this is the case to any extent. It seems to them far more likely that the ryot's object is to secure a continuance of the much coveted option. When a ryot sees lands which, without irrigation, have been producing valuable crops of cholum, rendered unproductive by irrigation, he naturally holds back from committing himself irretrievably to irrigation. His land is all that he has to depend on, and the prudence which dictates such caution is natural and commendable. And when to this apprehension are added the other reasons, the unremunerative price of paddy, etc., mentioned in the Order of Government, the ryot's reluctance to have his land permanently classed as "irrigated" is perfectly comprehensible. Even if Colonel Anderson's hypothesis be correct, it must be remembered that the act is a perfectly legitimate one; the ryot has paid for the water the full price demanded by Government, and is entitled to the full benefit of all the advantages, present and prospective, which it confers. If Government consider Colonel Anderson's supposition correct, and regard the practice as an evil of sufficient magnitude to require repressive measures, the proper remedy is to refuse to supply water again, unless the ryot enters into an agreement to take it for a term or as long as it can be supplied. In this case the period of trial ought, the Board think, to be extended. Having regard to the contingency of irrigation rendering the land "Soud," which does not appear to have been considered when the rules were framed, the Board do not think that two years' trial is sufficient. They would not, however, advocate any change at present. The cases of such abuse are, they are confident, comparatively few, and such a remedy would need to be applied with much caution and discrimination, and would afford opportunities of oppression and malpractices. It would obviously be a matter of extreme difficulty to determine whether a ryot was thus taking improper advantage of the liberality of Government, or whether he was *bond fide* exercising a natural and laudable degree of prudence.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st May 1869.

17. If, however, it is the intention of Government, by revoking the rule, to give perfect freedom to the ryot, the Board have no data whereon to estimate the probable effects of the measure; and it is obviously undesirable to moot such a question, and raise expectations on the part of the people, without explicit instructions from Government. The Board prefer freedom, however, and do not think the risk material so long as the water-rate is moderate.

18. Colonel Anderson has laid before Government two letters from the Superintending Engineer to the Collector, relating to a relaxation of the rules lately sanctioned by the Board. The facts of the case are as follow:—The Collector reported that some 4,000 acres of land in the Repally Talook, charged with a water-rate of 12,000 Rupees, had either been left waste or been cultivated with dry crops, the owners nevertheless paying the water-rate. Mr. Thornhill expressed himself in the following terms:—

"For the last three years there has been a very strong wish on the part of many of the ryots to reconvert land taken up as wet into dry; various causes have been assigned for this; in some instances the supply of water has been declared to be inadequate and uncertain; in others facilities for raising the water in past years, by means of cross bunds to channels, having been withdrawn, the water has not been supplied to the fields with the same abundance as heretofore, and crops have fallen off, in others, and these are the most numerous, the lands are said to have turned saline from repeated irrigation, (that is, the salts have all been drawn to the surface by the action of the water,) and to require tilling without irrigation for a time to distribute the salt more widely through the soil and thus to neutralise its evil effects.

"Applications have been made on all sides to the Officers of the Department of Public Works for certificates to enable the lands to be reclassed as dry, but under the Tirwajasty rules these have been, of course, refused, except where it appeared that the lands were permanently beyond the reach of irrigation.

"These lands generally bear very fine dry crops, and have, in many cases, been found to deteriorate under irrigation, and the holders are most anxious to be allowed to turn them again from wet into dry.

"It is not the case that there is any aversion to wet cultivation in the talook, as water is eagerly sought for wherever irrigation has been found really profitable, whether nearer the sea, where there is an admixture of sand in the soil, or where large tracts of salt land are lying waste, all the latter are being brought under the plough as fast as water can be given to them.

"The same cause which leads ryots to desire to reconvert irrigated lands into dry, deters them from converting a large extent of dry land which is now commanded by water from the Kollur and Vallatoor caingulahs on the western bank channel into wet, and renders these fine works of far less utility than was anticipated.

"Under these circumstances, I would respectfully submit that some modification of the Tirwajasty rules is needed.

"It cannot be to the interests of the Government, or the good of the people, to force water upon them against their will, and I believe that both in the end will be large gainers by giving greater freedom of action to the cultivators in the matter of irrigation."

"I would suggest, for the consideration of the Board, whether it would not be right to permit those who may now desire it, to reconvert their wet lands into dry by giving notice before a certain fixed date, and that, in future, all lands becoming unfit for wet cultivation, owing to the presence of salt in the soil, or owing to difficulty in procuring a full supply of water may, on similar notice being given, be also turned into dry.

"I am aware that this would lead to some present decrease in revenue, and would cause some inconvenience to the Public Works Department in the distribution of water; but I am confident that the loss would very soon be replaced by extension of irrigation in other quarters, and that the latter evil would be more than compensated by the removal of a certain want of mutual confidence which has, in places, sprung up between the members of the Department of Public Works and the ryots."

19. The Board were averse to altering rules which had been adopted after much deliberation, and were in full force in a neighbouring district, without due cause, and called for further information as to how far the rules had been really observed. It proved that a portion only of the lands came under the operation of the rules, and that the provisions of Rule VII. had not been duly regarded. The lands were supplied with water as it became available on the application of the ryots, "were measured at the close of the season for the assessment of the water-rate, and *were thenceforward entered as dry into wet.*" The option allowed by the rules had not, in fact, been conceded. Mr. Wilson, the Acting Collector, supported Mr. Thornhill's statements in the following words:— "Many acres of land, converted from dry into wet under the Kistna channels yearly, became unprofitable for wet cultivation, owing to the formation of salts: the land becomes "Soudoo," and permission to reconvert the same into dry is frequently sought. Present rules preclude such requests being acceded to, so long as water is available." Again, "The present rule, prescribing charge for water to be leviable so long as water is available, has two bad results: (1), it keeps permanently unprofitable much land thus affected; and (2), it prevents the conversion from dry into wet of much that might be easily irrigated, but which the ryots are, under the present rules, unwilling to convert, knowing that deterioration from the application of water is a very possible contingency, and that the rules prevent their adoption of the only remedy—re-conversion to dry." "The existence of the evil cannot be denied; it is forced on the attention of every Officer who settles a Delta taluk; * * * some thousands of acres classed as wet are cultivated as dry: they are useless as wet, but their assessment as such continues to be paid from the natural reluctance of the people to part with their ancestral holdings."

20. The Board directed that the option of re-converting "wet" lands into "dry" should now be allowed, and that so long as lands continued "Soud" and unculturable, no water-rate should be levied. The Board feel sure that Government will approve of the measure of simple justice thus allowed by them.

21. The circumstances above stated negative any alteration of the rules in the form of greater rigour, and also render questionable the expediency of

Note.—Colonel Anderson has instructed the Superintending Engineer to take these engagements, whereas by the rules this duty devolves, and, the Board think, properly on the Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21*st May* 1869.

at present taking engagements from the ryots for irrigation to be hereafter supplied as proposed in paragraph 12 of the Chief Engineer's endorsement. While on the subject of these engagements, the Board would point out that one disadvantage attends them, namely, that for the period of their currency, they will preclude any enhancement of the water-rate, and that if the water-rate be raised on their expiry, the renewal of them must be left optional with the ryots.

22. Although Government have not called on the Board for any observations on the other reasons assigned for the unwillingness of the people to take water, they beg to point out that two causes, which must have influenced the extension of irrigation, are not noticed. The first is, the cyclone of 1864, which caused much loss of property in the parts which it traversed. After a calamity of this kind, cultivation speedily resumes its former extent, but the inference usually drawn from this, that the people have recovered from its effects, is not always correct. The ryot must cultivate or starve, but his operations are carried on with capital borrowed at high interest, and years elapse before his losses are really retrieved. The other cause is the enhancement of the water-rate by twenty-five per cent. in 1865. The omission of all allusion to this is the more striking, as the pressure of the land assessment, and the fall in the price of Nunjah produce, are especially assigned as reasons for the non-extension of irrigation. The land assessment in the Goodewada Taluk, where the decrease in irrigation is largest, was calculated in the same way as in the rest of the district, and is not heavier than elsewhere. That it is not heavier than it should be is shown by the fact of dry crops being profitably grown on it. Its incidence in this taluk was, however, comparatively heavy at first, because the previous assessment was unduly low, a considerable extent of irrigated land under the Joint Rent System was, in fact, assessed at *consolidated* rates much below the present water-rate alone. A water-rate of 4 Rupees per acre certainly seems very moderate, but the fact that water is declined raises doubts on this point.

23. The late Superintending Engineer remarked, that "the anicut *secures* the welfare of many thousands of acres of dry cultivation, and indemnifies the owners against loss of their crops;" and he thought it not unworthy of consideration "whether an extra rate of rent should not be charged for this great security." The proposal is altogether an extraordinary one. It amounts, in fact, to making people pay for water when they do not use or require it, because it is available on payment, if they should happen to need it.

24. The Chief Engineer remarks on this that "the cholum crop is immensely benefitted by the Delta channels, for not only can the people obtain water for it in time of drought by payment of a moderate water-rate, but must get a good deal without payment;" and he considers that the Delta system should be "credited with the improvement of the revenue derived from the dry crops as well as from the wet." The rules especially provide that for water surreptitiously used a double rate shall be charged. As to the second proposal, the Board would remark that if adopted it will destroy the main argument in favor of a separate Water Cess.

25. The Board venture to submit, for the consideration of Government, that the facts now disclosed, namely, that irrigation is extending very slowly; that the people do not take water so eagerly as was anticipated; that many who have taken

it are anxious to give it up, while others, though obliged to pay for it, do not use it, merits careful investigation before Government commit themselves to further immediate expenditure on a large scale on the Kistna works.

26. That this magnificent undertaking must eventually prove highly remunerative the Board do not in the least doubt, but it does not follow that its rapid prosecution is financially advisable, and it may be that the speediest way of obtaining large returns is to devote part of the available funds to opening up the district.

27. The conditions under which the Kistna works have been carried out are peculiar.

28. The soil and climate of the Kistna District are peculiarly favorable to the growth of dry grains. These crops are very profitable, and being the staple food of the people they find a ready market on the spot. Dry-grain culture is also preferred by the ryots, who can be tempted from it only by a certain prospect of greater profits from irrigation. This being the actual state of affairs, the large expenditure on irrigation works in this and the adjoining district has led to a sudden and large increase in the production of rice. This is not yet a staple food in the Kistna District, more is grown there than the people need, and the means of export are defective. The consequence has naturally been a decline in price, which has introduced an element of uncertainty and apprehension in the ryots' calculations. The Kistna and Godavery Districts have lately had good crops, while other districts suffered from scarcity, prices consequently ruled high, and very probably the grain merchants and ryots were induced to hold large stocks in hopes of securing even higher prices. The more favorable character of the subsequent seasons in other districts of course disappointed these expectations, and no doubt the large fall in prices in the Kistna and Godavery has been in some measure owing to these stocks being thrown on the market. This of course is a temporary cause, but the direct tendency of the rapid prosecution of the irrigation works is to cause a glut of rice, and if prices are to be kept up at a remunerative standard, means of export to foreign markets must be provided simultaneously with the extension of the means of irrigation. That these means are wanting in a very serious degree is shown by the correspondence.

29. Again a considerable part of the Delta consists of black regada soil, which is apt, when brought under irrigation, to become unproductive from a saline efflorescence termed "Soud." The deterring effect of this on the spread of irrigation can easily be imagined. The effect is believed to be only temporary, but for the time being the land is absolutely worthless. A ryot, who sees a neighbour's field which, till irrigated, produced valuable crops of cholum suddenly rendered unproductive naturally hesitates before he subjects his own land to the like danger, and the Board apprehend that this natural reluctance has been increased by a too rigid application of the water-rate rules. The "Soud" does not always appear immediately; land is irrigated, and in fact the ryot may find his land permanently classed as "Irrigated" when it becomes "Soud," and it is not only rendered worthless but saddled with a charge for water. It would be desirable to ascertain whether any attempts have been made to prevent this result of irrigation by improving the drainage, preventing leakage from the channels or otherwise, and how far such attempts have been successful. It would also be desirable to ascertain, whether a public assurance that neither land assessment nor water-rate would be levied on land which became "Soud" so long as it remains unproductive, and that if desired, water would be supplied gratuitously with the view of removing the efflorescence, would remove the apprehension of the people and be advisable.

30. Another point of importance is whether the realisation of the returns of the works by a separate cess is practically so unpopular and unacceptable to the people as to be in any material degree an influencing cause in the rejection of water.

31. It would be well also to ascertain whether the present charge for water is too high or not, whether a lower charge at first would be advisable, and whether the free option of taking and declining water at any period can be safely conceded.

32. Lastly, the distribution of water is more entirely in the hands of the Department Public Works in the Kistna District than elsewhere. It may be that there are defects in the management of the supply; the channels may be closed for unduly long or for uncertain periods, water may not be available when most needed or may be withdrawn at critical times, the convenience and needs of the ryots may not be sufficiently consulted, the great power which command of the channels of supply gives the subordinates in charge of them may be abused, in a word there may be various administrative defects which have aided to render irrigation unpopular.

33. These are all questions of great importance, and can be safely and definitively settled only by careful local inquiry. The Board would strongly urge that such an inquiry be instituted by an Officer, who, while unconnected with the Kistna or Godavery District, has had considerable personal experience of a district similarly irrigated. They venture to name Mr Morris, the Collector of Tanjore, as pre-eminently fitted by ability and experience for thoroughly conducting such an inquiry and positively setting at rest the many doubtful points involved, and affording full assurance that the success of this great undertaking is not being imperiled or delayed by remediable causes.

No. 516. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1869, No. 2,539.

Read the following letter from the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd March 1869, No. 51.

AGREEABLY to paragraph 2 of the Water Tax Rules sanctioned in the Government Order, dated 31st October 1865, No. 2,665, and in accordance with the instructions contained in the Board's Proceedings of the 26th March 1867, No. 1,007, all lands which were, in Fusly 1275 actually under wet cultivation by means of anicut irrigation, and which had been irrigated for two or more seasons previously, were classed permanently as irrigated; and those lands for which these conditions were not fulfilled were entered in the accounts as dry. The dry lands which have been irrigated for three seasons in succession, namely, in Fuslies 1276, 1277, and 1278, have been, as laid down in paragraph 2 of Rule 7, classed permanently as wet at the current year's Jummabundy. But many lands which were under wet cultivation in Fuslies 1276 and 1277, and which are still supplied with the means of irrigation, have been cultivated with dry crops in the current Fusly, purposely with a view of keeping them out of the permanent classification as wet, and the permanent

charge of water-cess. The holders of may lands will likewise do so in future with the same intention. By this means their lands although irrigated for more than three years will always be dry as the wet cultivation will not be consecutive. I have therefore the honor to request that the Board will be pleased to reconsider the subject, and, if they think it proper, have the rule amended, so that lands which may be irrigated for three seasons not consecutively but at any time within five or six years, from Fusly 1276, should be classed permanently as wet, while the means of irrigation remain available.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st March 1869, No. 2,069.

2. The Board are not prepared to support Mr. Fraser's scheme which is virtually to compel the ryots to pay the water-rate on lands which they cultivate with dry grain, and is opposed to the orders of the Secretary of State, as well as impolitic.

3. The Board have, in their Proceedings of 31st March, fully discussed the question.

No. 517.

ORDER THEREON, 21st May 1869, No. 1,432.

Irrigation, No. 13A.

THE Right Honorable the Governor in Council approves of the orders issued by the Board in their Proceedings under date 5th August 1868, No. 5,679. It seems evident that the unsatisfactory state of affairs in regard to the extension of irrigation in the Kistna District must, in some measure, be owing to the district Officers having failed to act up to the Water-rate Rules.

2. His Lordship in Council is, however, disposed to think that, so far as the lands which are capable of being irrigated from existing works are concerned, it would be good policy to give the ryots still greater option as to taking or refusing water; for, as observed by the Collector, "it cannot be to the interest of Government, or the good of the people, to force water upon them against their will". In such cases, however, as it may be necessary to extend the works in the way of distribution channels, etc., in order to provide irrigation, it is only proper that, previous to incurring any expense, an agreement should be taken from the parties interested to the effect that they will accept and pay for the water for a term of years. As observed by the Board (paragraph 21) such agreements should be taken by the Revenue authorities, and not by the Officers of the Public Works Department.

3. The whole subject is a very important one, and the Government concur with the Board in considering it desirable that it should be investigated and reported upon by a special Officer deputed to the locality, before final orders are passed. Though Mr. Morris would doubtless be admirably fitted to conduct such an inquiry, the Government would be averse to disturbing him in the administration of the important district of which he is now in charge, they accordingly resolve to nominate Mr. C. G. Master to the duty.

4. Mr. Master should at once proceed to the district, and should give his special attention to the points indicated in paragraphs 29,30,31 and 32 of the Board's

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st May 1869.

Proceedings. He should communicate freely with the Officers of all departments and with the people themselves, and should visit those parts of the district where the greatest distaste has been shown to irrigation, and where lands classed and assessed as irrigated have been cultivated with dry crops. In the course of his inquiries many other matters will doubtless occur to him as deserving of investigation, and it would be well that he should ascertain whether the recent Orders of the Board, as conveyed in their Proceedings, dated 5th August 1868, No. 5,679, have had a beneficial effect.

5. The Accountant-General will be directed to pass to Mr. C. G. Master the salary and allowances of an Officiating Collector, while he is engaged on this special duty.

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

Revenue Department.

No 9

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

dated 14th April 1869

Read the following

No 51.

From

James Fraser Esqr,

Collector

To,

A. MacGregor Esqr,

Offg Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Madras.

Sir,

Agreeably to Paragraph 2 of the Standing Orders contained in the Commissioner's Order dated 31st October 1865 (No 2665, and in accordance with the instructions contained in the Board's Proceedings of the 26th March 1867 No 1907, all lands which were in Fasli 1275 actually under wet cultivation by means of Anicut irrigation, and which had been irrigated for two or more seasons previously were classed permanently as irrigated, and those lands for which those conditions were not fulfilled were entered in the accounts as Dry - These Dry lands which have been irrigated for 3 seasons in succession Viz: in Faslies 1276, 77 and 78 have been as laid down in Paragraph 2 of Rule 7, classed permanently as wet at the Current Year's Jamabandi - But many lands which were under wet cultivation in

Received 11 Aug 1869
REVENUE.
Rec. 13-8-69.

in Faslis 1276 and 77 and which are still supplied with the means of irrigation have been cultivated with dry crops in the current Fasli, purposely with a view of keeping them out of the permanent classification as wet, and the permanent charge of water cess - The holders of many lands will likewise do so in future with the same intention - By this means their lands although irrigated for more than 3 years will always be dry as the wet cultivation will not be consecutive - I have therefore the honor to request that the Board will be pleased to reconsider the subject, and if they think it proper, have the rule amended so that lands which may be irrigated for 3 seasons not consecutively, but at any time within 5 or 6 years from Fasly 76 should be classed permanently as wet, while the means of irrigation remain available -

I have &c

(Signed) J. Fraser

Collector.

Godavery District
Collector's Office
Cocanada,
22d March 1869 -

1. Submitted to Government with reference to the Board's Proceedings dated 31st March 1869 No 2369 -

2. The Board are not prepared to support Mr Fraser's scheme which is virtually to compel the ryots to pay the water rate on lands which they cultivate with dry grain and is opposed to the orders of the Secretary of State as well as impolitic -

3. The Board have in their Proceedings of 31st March fully discussed the question -

(A true Copy & Extract)

A Macfarlane
Actg Secretary

To,
The Actg Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department

No 1432

R D

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Under date the 21st May 1869.

Read the following Rep
of the Board of Revenue

Informing that Board would
not advocate any alteration
in Rule No VII of Madras Act
VII of 1865 for assessment of
water rate in Godavery & Kistna
Deltas & recommending to depute
Mr Morris to enquire into cause
which have rendered irrigation
unpopular in Godavery & Kistna
Kudna Districts -

Rep. 31st March 1869, No 209
" 14th April 1869 No 254

The Right Honble
the Governor in Council

Provisions of the orders issued
by the Board in their
Proceedings under date
5th August 1868, No 3675
It seems evident that the
unsatisfactory state of
affairs in regard to the
extension of irrigation
in the Kistna District
arises in some measure

&c

Received 8th May 1869
Read 14th "
Replied "

Copy to Board of Revenue
Dy No 1219
8th May 1869

Rule No VII of Madras Act VII of 1865 for assessment of water rate in Godavery & Kistna Deltas & recommending to depute Mr Morris to enquire into causes which have rendered irrigation unpopular in Godavery & Kistna Kudna Districts -

Received 8th May 1869
Read 14th "
Replied "

Copy to Board of Revenue
Dy No 1219
8th May 1869

(Reg. No 8/R. 21/6
Vol. No 1432. 21 May 1869
616.

be owing to the District Officers having failed to act up to the water rate rules

His Lordship in Council is however disposed to think that is far as the lands which are capable of being irrigated from existing works are concerned, it would be good policy to give the ryots still greater option as to taking or refusing water, as observed by the Rector, it cannot be the interest of Govt or the good of the people to force water upon them against their will. In such cases, however, as it may be necessary to extend the works

2

works in the way of distributive channels &c in order to provide irrigation, it is only proper that previous to incurring any expense an agreement should be taken from the parties interested to the effect that they will accept and pay for the water for a term of years. As observed by the Board (para 21) such agreements should be taken by the Revenue authorities, and not by the Officers of the Public Works Department.

3 The whole subject is a very important one and the Govt concur with the Board in considering it desirable that

that it should be investigated and reported upon by a special officer deputed to the locality before final orders are passed. Though Mr Morris would doubtless be admirably fitted to conduct such an enquiry, the Govt would be averse to disturbing him in the administration of the important District of which he is now in charge, they accordingly resolve to nominate Mr C.G. Master the duty.

Mr Master should at once proceed to the District and should give his special attention to the points indicated in paras 29, 30, 31 & 32 of the Board's Proceedings

He

He should communicate freely with the Officers of all Departments and with the people themselves, and should visit those parts of the District where the greatest distaste has been shown to irrigation and where lands classed and assessed as irrigated have been cultivated with dry crops. In the course of his enquiries many other matters will doubtless occur to him as deserving of investigation and it would be well that he should ascertain whether the recent orders of the Board as conveyed in their Proceedings dated 5th August 1868 No. 3679, have had a beneficial effect.

He

5. The Accountant General will be directed to pass to Mr C. G. Master the Salary and Allowances of an Officiating Collector while he is engaged on this special duty.

14 Copies to Mr A Rae Despt 22
6 — Accts Genl
13 — Dr of Customs
21 — Govt Despts
1 Copy — C. G. Chester Esqr Manchester

Slow progress of irrigation in the Kistna District [illegible]

[illegible]

RB 19 May/69 R 20 May.

Revenue Deptt.-

Memo: for orders - on No 1098 -

The unsatis-factory progress of irrigation in the Kis-tna District is dis-cussed in the G.O. under date 17th De-cember 1868, No 394. P.W.D. In para 11, the Board of Revenue are requested to consider whether it will not be advi-sable to revoke ex-perimentally the "Water-rate" rule which requires that after water has been taken for three years, for

for the purpose of
converting dry land
into wet, such land
shall thereafter be
permanently classed
as wet land.

2 The Board in
their Proceedings,
now submitted, enter
very fully into this
subject. They ex-
plain the circum-
stances under which
the water-cess came
were adopted, and
the grounds on which
the orders of the
Home Govt, that
absolute

(13)

absolute option
should be given
to the ryot in el-
-ection to taking
or refusing water,
could not be car-
-ried out implicitly.

3 They express
their opinion that
it would not be
advisable to alter
the rule, as any a-
-teration calculated
to render it more
stringent would be
inopportune in the
present state of
affairs

affairs in the Dis-
-trict, and the
Natives elevated
-tion would cer-
-tainly not pre-
-vent Ryots from
discontinuing cul-
-tivation, if that
be the object of
Government -

4. The Board,
in these Parts

(12

(12, 13, 11, 815) appears to have
misapprehended the reference
of Govt, which clearly could
called such a modification
of the rules as would give
Ryots greater option than
they have at present in
regard to re-converting
their land into dry land,
after having had it sup-
-plied with water for a
year or two - the Board
however, they express their
selves in favor of grant-
-ing the fullest freedom to the
Ryot as regards taking
water or refusing it, and
certainly this would seem
to be the best course.
If the Ryot finds that
he is at liberty at any
time

Should be the safest
equitable course.
NOR
Jagree N

time to go round his land to dry, he is not too likely to be afraid of trying the experiment of testing water first at the same time, the rules as at present stand, allow him three years trial. Very likely, however, this is not generally known to the vote, & it certainly has not been always acted to (see para 19).

35 See paras 28 to 33 of Mem. The Board summarize the Delegates' reasons for the slow progress of irrigation in the Deccan as follows:-

I should believe the Northern Ryots can have little or no dread of the Revenue Officials

I do not doubt the necessity for adopting a special arrangement as proposed. - but I think that Mr. Fitzthomas is not the man for the duty. His ability to do the work is unquestionable, but it is not probable that all his efforts he will obtain his labor involved in the improvement will be unavailable. - He is almost in every case, agreeable, well paid, comfortable offici and takes not the choice of his being wanted for the country above in preference to become the legal person having leave on furlough. - I should prefer sending to work a much younger man, who has had a volume knowledge, and who, with a high character for efficiency already made, would be glad of an opportunity of adding to that reputation by thoroughly efficient & energetic & economical discharge of important parts of the duties from the Executive of our delta irrigation canals. I refer to Mr C.G. Master. WDK

Coimbatore 6.

I agree, and I am glad the recommendation

District and indicate the direction which an investigation into the matter should take. They conclude by recommending that Mr Morris of Tanjore should be specially deputed to make such an enquiry and probably this would be the most satisfactory course to adopt. As regards para 32, some confidential letters were handed to the undersigned by Mr Sim, before leaving, which

will be brought before
Council as soon as
those papers have been
circulated.

I think that the
Boards proposed that
Mr S. L. Norris should
be appointed to make
the investigations sug-
gested by them and
by adopted. This of
great importance and
the investigations should
be made by an officer
who has had large
experience in a Delta
District and whose
opinion will carry
weight. Although he
nearly has found in
the Kistna District
it was thought
a very good man
and a thoroughly
good one. His position
as one of great influence
and it is very desirable
that the investigations
should be conducted
by that man who

Captain Cotton
Mr Master being
a man in the
home office, of
recognized ability
and of great
general knowledge
of revenue matters
and having consider-
some knowledge of
the District to
with calculated
to undertake the
duty referred
to. Mr Thomas
is well employed
in his own district
and I do not
think his
absence at this season
of the year
would be
desirable.

It cannot be
denied that Mr Norris
has not for some time
been on good
terms with the Board
of Revenue and
any Collector of one
District is not suitable
an enquiry into
the

a District must be

Returned [illegible]
in accordance with
instructions previously
given.

A. J. A.

[illegible]

[illegible]