M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. Proceedings of the Press Mis.
Madras Gaz. Revenue Dept. 15-91
158-59.
Dated 5th June 19 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

but this they declined to do, and gave depositions to the effect that the channel repairs should be performed by parties on contract. The work is now accordingly performed, and the ryots do not supply the coolies required.

(Signed) BELEG HERRY ROW,
Tahsildar.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Sub-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 14.

From the Sub-Engineer, Caroor Range, to the Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, dated Errode, 23rd November 1868, No. 121.

IN answer to your Memorandum, No. 402, of 18th instant, I have the honor to inform you, with reference to your request contained therein, that I consider that the only channel which has at all benefited by the Nirganty system is the Pallapolliem, on that I am certain that all the money expended has been most judiciously laid out ; but as for the others I am sorry to state that not one-fourth of what ought to have been done was done, as for those in the Dharapoorum Talook, I think it would be a step in the right direction, if the Nirganty was abolished *at once*, or else in a very few years the channels would be so choked up, that not half the water required would be able to be forced down, and the cry would then be "We want our anicuts raised."

2. I would respectfully beg to suggest, should the Nirganty system still be kept up, that a Government Order should be sanctioned, that before any water should be let into the channels, they should be inspected and check measured by either the Range Officer or the Overseer of the talook, when if it was found correct, a certificate should be given to the Tahsildar ; it would be very easy for the Channel Monigar to keep a Pit Register, which is one of the greatest checks that could be had against him and the Contractor wasting the money. I intend next year to place a bench mark at every mile in each channel, and opposite each bench mark a rough stone in chunam wall to be built right across the bottom of the channel, the top of which will show the proper level of bed of channel, thus so



that it will be perfectly easy for any one to check the work.

IN their Order of the 16th November 1865, No. 2,810, Government sanctioned the trial of a voluntary system of Nirganty cess in the Sub-division of Coimbatore.

2. The scheme then submitted involved a total collection of 21,451 Rupees.

3. On further inquiry it appeared that the existing fees had been commuted at an unduly low rate, and a revised scale of rates, yielding in the aggregate 37,409 Rupees, was sanctioned in Government Order 26th September 1866, No. 2,592, as a temporary measure.

4. The Collector now forwards a report drawn up by the Sub-Collector on the system. Mr. Webster deserves great credit for his excellent report and the trouble he has taken to acquire a thorough acquaintance with the practical working of the system he discusses.

5. The substitution of a cess for labor on the channels of the Sub-division of Coimbatore, was believed to be generally acceptable to the people. A voluntary arrangement, which the law affords no means of enforcing or perpetuating, must, to be successful, be carried out with careful regard to the wishes and feelings of

the subscribers. The establishments maintained have evidently been excessive, both numerically and in point of expense, and the rate of cess has consequently been very heavy. The fees commuted at current rates are doubtless higher than the cess, but payment in kind is less felt by the ryots and more acceptable to them. The Board think the reductions which Mr. Webster proposes are judicious, and they recommend their being sanctioned. An allowance should certainly be made for the Cooroomboos, and where the people wish the cess to be on the acreage, their desire should be fulfilled.

6. As already stated, the law does not empower the enforcement of payment of the cess, but the Board hope that the concessions which Mr. Webster has proposed, and a judicious and conciliatory administration of the fund, will prevent its collapse.

7. A copy of all the papers has been forwarded to the Public Works Commission, and pending their report the Board would not advise any further change than that above advocated.

8. The sanction of Government is requested to the continuance of the cess for a year.

No. 129. ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1869, No. 1,591.

Miscellaneous.

THE continuance of the Cess for another year is sanctioned under the arrangements proposed by Mr. Webster.

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

No. 2,955.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st May 1869.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st December 1868, No. 335:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th July 1868, No. 5,087, paragraph 4, I have the honor to forward the report* of the Acting Sub-Collector on the working of the so-called voluntary cess for ordinary irrigation repairs and channel establishment in the talooks of Oodoomalpettah, Caroor, and Dharapooram, the trial of which was, as a temporary arrangement, sanctioned in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 16th November 1865, No. 2,810.

* With thirteen enclosures (to be returned).

2. If we refer to the original letter of the Sub-Collector, Mr. Sullivan, who proposed the introduction of the measure which was recommended on account of the success with which a similar scheme had been worked in the Poogaloor channel in the Caroor Talook, it can scarcely be said that the measure was a purely voluntary one. It had, indeed, the recommendation of the Tahsildars of the talooks into which it was proposed to introduce it; but "the principal objection put forward" by the ryots consulted was, "that it was contrary to Mamool:" enclosure 1, paragraph 3, Proceedings of Board of Revenue, 21st February 1865, No. 1,034.

3. The chief difficulty in maintaining a new system of voluntary cess is apparent in the want of means to enforce its collection from defaulters; whereas under the old system of customary labor, its execution could be compelled by recourse to Act I. of 1858.

4. From paragraph 45 of Mr. Webster's letter it appears that the new system was attempted to be supported by the issue of notices and attachment of property, which he has put a stop to; My impression is that so soon as it is found that no steps are taken to enforce collections, a general refusal to pay will be the result; and the only plan will be to recur to the former system, until a formal settlement of the general question, as to the substitution for customary labor by an irrigation cess, has been made, and a Legislative Act passed for the purpose.

5. With these general remarks I would beg to support Mr. Webster's proposal for reduction of establishments and of estimates, to accord respectively with actual requirements and ordinary expenditure in such places as the people still consent to pay the cess. I need not go into detail; for it is most probable that on learning that the cess is not enforced any where, even those who are not now against it will protest against its continuance, and the existence of even one dissident, is fatal to a voluntary system.

6. Should in any case the people consent to retain the new cess the levy of it should be according to their wishes which seem to be that it should be levied on acreage, and not on assessment.

7. I may point out, as a considerable imperfection of the present system, that adverted to by Mr. Webster, paragraphs 46 and 47, where although the ryots execute cooroomboos or sandbanks in the river-bed to divert the water into their channels at their own expense, they are nevertheless charged with repair-cess on their cultivation. The cooroomboo is as essential to channel irrigation as an anicut, from which it only differs in being of a temporary character. The cooroomboo lands are as highly assessed as those watered by anicuts which are maintained at Government cost; and it seems reasonable that the expenses of the cooroomboos should be defrayed from the cess, or else that a deduction therefrom should be made in consideration of the labor employed on the same.

8. As a means of supporting a voluntary cess in any case, where the majority of the landowners are in favor of it, I would suggest the consideration of a plan similar to that in which village schools are established. Say that the majority of the owners of land under any channel wish to pay a cess instead of contributing labor for the work, or paying grain-fees for the establishment, an Act, legalising the collection of the requisite amount, might be passed. It is obvious that no original voluntary scheme can be worked in any other way.

9. At present it seems necessary to revert to the old system where the ryots object to the new, and to discharge the servants for whom remuneration cannot be provided; and to allot a

larger amount from Imperial Funds for the channel maintenance where the voluntary system does not exist, or the former customary labor is insufficient.

10. The Board, in their observations on my Public Works Report, remarked on the inadequacy of the Imperial grant, paragraph 5, which was supplemented by voluntary cess to the amount of Rupees 23,110.

Proceedings, dated 21st October 1868, No. 7,552.

11. A revision of the nunjah assessment carries with it a provision for ordinary repairs, and till such revision be made, it would be desirable to increase the irrigation grant, which, for this district, is 45,000 Rupees, or 5½ lacs of nunjah revenue. This would doubtless suffice if all the works were in complete working order; but as this does not seem to be the case, an increased estimate for repairs would be advisable.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Dalavoypatnam, 26th November 1868, No. 416.

As requested in your letter, No. 366, of the 12th August last, I have the honor to report on the working of the irrigation-cess system in the sub-division. At the same time I will reply to your endorsements on petitions Nos. 524 and 1,024 from certain ryots against the continuance of the scheme.

2. The accompanying Statements Nos. 1, 2, and 3, show the entire collections and expenditure in the sub-division for Fusly 1277, and column 9 of the statements shows the rate per acre charged in each village. You will perceive from statement No. 3A. that the average rate per acre is—

	RS.	A.	P.
In the Caroor Talook	1	6	5
,, Dharapooram Talook	1	4	9
,, Oodoomalpettah Talook	1	6	3

The average expenditure, including establishment per mile of channel, is—

	RS.	A.	P.
In the Caroor Talook	168	6	7
,, Dharapooram Talook	159	2	9
,, Oodoomalpettah Talook	105	4	4

3. The channels in the sub-division may be divided into two classes—anicut and cooroomboo channels. The nature of the former is apparent from the name. The latter are channels from temporary dams (cooroomboo) constructed by the villagers with sand, brushwood, etc., across the bed of the stream when the water is low. They are generally washed away by a flood, and have to be re-made. These channels are all situated in the Caroor Talook.

4. From the correspondence noted below you will learn the history of the introduction of the system:—

Miscellaneous Circular of the Board of Revenue, No. 95, and Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th October 1863, No. 6,849.

Letter from Mr. Sullivan, Sub-Collector, to Collector, dated 13th June 1864, No. 167.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st February 1865, No. 1,034.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th October 1865, No. 6,560.

Proceedings of Government, dated 16th November 1865, No. 2,810.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th December 1865, No. 7,809.

Proceedings of Government, dated 26th September 1866, No. 2,592.

5. I need only remark that the original intention was to provide a fund for the payment in money of the Nirgunti establishment. Mr. Sullivan, before introducing the scheme, ascertained, from records received with the Collector's letter, dated 15th December 1863, No. 653, the amount of grain paid to the establishment by the villagers according to private arrangement among themselves. The commutation price of the grain was fixed in Fusly 1271 at the average prices of the previous five years. The charges for maramut not having been taken into account in fixing the average, Mr. Sullivan ascertained from the Tahsildars what sums would be required for the clearing out and repairs of the channels, and thus determined the amount to be paid by the villagers both for establishment and maramut.

6. His original estimate has been greatly exceeded, as you will perceive from statement No. 4. The history of this increase is as follows:—

7. Before any final orders of Government were received in regard to the sanction of the scheme proposed by Mr. Sullivan, disputes arose among the ryots of the villages under the Pullapolliem channel regarding the payment of fees and furnishing coolies for the maramut work. As they were unable to come to a satisfactory understanding under the old system, they agreed to the introduction of the present cess, and offered to pay one Rupee per acre for lands irrigated by running water, and ten Annas per acre on those irrigated by means of pacotahs.

8. This rate was approved of by the Board in their Proceedings of 7th December 1865, No. 7,809, and the Collector was requested to ascertain whether the rates proposed by Mr. Sullivan for the other channels might not be revised with reference to the increased value of grain.

9. At the time of Mr. McQuhae's letter of 3rd November 1865 paddy was selling at Rupees 3 per kalam.

10. The Tahsildars were accordingly directed to send revised estimates both for maramut and establishments if they considered an increase necessary, and to specify the rates that should be levied in each village.

These estimates were sent in, but the Tahsildars gave no reasons for the necessity of the increased estimates; and it appears to me that the establishment was largely increased by the addition of Gumastahs and Peons, simply because the commutation price of grain having been fixed at a higher rate, more funds were available; that, in fact, they first ascertained what a village should pay, and then organised an establishment to swallow up half the receipts, and left the rest for maramut.

11. I have referred to the prices of paddy for the last twenty years, as recorded in the Jummahbundy Reports, and find that the average price is nearly Rupees 1-12-0 per kalam. Paddy, however, is now selling at a higher price than in 1865, but it cannot be expected to continue at the present high rate.

12. It now appears that the increased estimate, or at least that portion relating to maramut was too high in Caroor and Oodoomalpettah and too low in Dharapooram. We have only, however, the experience of one year to go upon. Subjoined is a statement* showing the amount of estimate and expenditure on maramut works for Fusly 1277. I may mention that the increased expenditure on maramut in Dharapooram has been met from the surplus collections of the year:—

* See also statements Nos. 5, 6, and 7.

	Estimate.			Expenditure.					
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A. P.
Caroor, except the Pugalur channel, the estimate for maramut not being fixed	7,385	2	8	7,019	12	11	Excess ...	365	5 9
Pugalur	.....			1,264	2	6			
Dharapooram	4,789	4	10	5,744	0	6	Deficiency ...	954	11 8
Oodoomalpettah	3,783	6	7	2,099	5	0	Excess ...	1,684	1 7

13. The system was introduced in Fusly 1276 into all the nunjah villages of the sub-division.

14. I cannot but think that the expenditure on establishments is too high. Statement No. 8 shows the number of persons at present entertained, and the number proposed by Mr. Sullivan. You will perceive that Gumastahs and Peons have now been appointed in most cases one for each channel. It does not speak well for the present system if we are obliged to entertain a Gumastah to keep the accounts, and a Peon to watch the tannikatties, when nothing of the kind was thought necessary before.

15. The average rate of cess per acre throughout the sub-division is Rupees 1-5-10. Instead of charging the rate per acre, if it were imposed per Rupee of assessment, it would be as follows:—

Talooks.	Assessment on Ayan and Inam lands liable to irrigation cess.	Demand on account of the cess.	Average rate per Rupee of assessment.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Caroor	96,336 11 9	20.136 15 7	0 3 4
Dharapooram	71,292 0 0	10,191 11 9	0 2 4
Oodoomalpettah	40,635 13 10	6,978 2 8	0 2 9
	2,08,264 9 7	37,306 14 0	0 2 10

16. For the rate assessed on the area a separate puttah is given, and the amount is collected with the land assessment in the usual kists. The collection of arrears is not on a satisfactory footing.

17. The money thus collected forms a fund, out of which the Nirganti establishment is paid, channels cleared, petty repairs executed, and cooroomboos constructed. Petty repairs to the anicuts are also executed out of this fund. The Department of Public Works construct all sluices, execute large repairs to the channels, and keep the anicuts in order.

18. Enclosure No. 9 shows the interior economy of a channel. These rules were drawn up for the management of the Pullapolliem channel, and were submitted to the Board with Collector's letter, No. 18, dated 21st January 1868. They are now, with slight modifications, rendered necessary by the size of the different establishments applied to all the channels in the sub-division. They are very clear and drawn up with a view to ensuring an equal supply of water to all according to custom.

19. I will now proceed to notice the complaints that have been made against the continuance of the present system.

20. I thought it best, as written complaints are generally vague and inaccurate, to proceed to each talook and personally confer with the ryots on the question. I have just completed my tour, and this must account for my delay in replying to your reference.

21. If the amount of opposition to the cess is to be inferred from the number of ryots attending in obedience to my directions, I should say that the opposition is strong in Caroor, mild in Dharapooram, and feeble in Oodoomalpettah. At the same time I must state, that of the persons who attended, not two per cent. were in favor of the present system, except in some villages which I will note hereafter. In the villages where objections were made, scarcely a man raised his voice against the popular cry. If there were any considerable number of persons who were in favor of the present system, I can only say that they did not appear or make their voice heard, and their approval of the present system must be at best but lukewarm.

Caroor Talook, Cauvery Channels.

22. PUGALUR CHANNEL.—The ryots of the villages under this channel approve of the present rates and system. They wish the coolies to be paid with regularity, as otherwise they will not work and go to their villages, the landlords having to supply their places. I have issued orders to the Tahsildar directing the prompt payment of coolies in future.

23. NERUR CHANNEL.—The ryots under this channel wish the present system to be continued, but if possible a reduction of establishments to be made.

It does not appear that these ryots have ever complained against the present system, and it only remains therefore to decide as to the amount of cess really required.

It appears to me, as I have already stated, that the establishments are too large. I myself do not see the use of Peons for the niranis and tannikatties ought to do all the work themselves without help or supervision. I would, therefore, propose to abolish the Peons. One Gumastah will, I should think, be sufficient for this and the Vangal channel.

The pay at present given to the establishment is higher than Mr. Sullivan proposed.

The amount of cess at present collected is more than we require, even for the present establishment. The subjoined statement will show the reduction I propose to make in the expenditure:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Amount of cess	2,872	0	4
Miscellaneous collections	392	9	4
Total ...	3,264	9	8
Expenditure	2,314	12	6
Remainder...	949	13	2

Reduction of Establishment.

½ Gumastah, Rs. 60 / 2 Peons ,, 120 per annum	180	0	0

Reduction of wages of remaining establishment from present to Mr. Sullivan's proposed rates.

	From RS. A. P.	To RS.	Annual. RS.			
12 Tannikatties	3 8 0	2	216			
15 Cooroomboo-men	4 0 0	3	180			
				396	0	0
Total...				1,525	13	2

We have thus an excess collection of Rupees 1,500 odd a-year.

By carrying out my proposal we shall be able to reduce the rates fifty per cent.

24. VANGUL CHANNEL.—The people interested in this channel do not appear to have complained. They wish, however, the rates to be reduced if possible. This being a comparatively more expensive channel to keep up, I shall not be able to reduce the rates to such an extent as in the preceding channel. Subjoined is a statement of the reductions calculated as above, which I propose to make:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Demand	1,822	5	6
Miscellaneous	416	7	11
Total ...	2,238	13	5
Expenditure	2,022	5	8
Remainder...	216	7	9

Reduction of Establishment.

	Per mensem. RS.	Per annum. RS.			
Out of Gumastah's pay	2	24			
1 Peon	5	60			
			84	0	0

Reduction of pay to Mr. Sullivan's proposal.

	From RS. A. P.	To RS.	Per annum. RS.			
8 Tannikatties	3 8 0	2	144			
10 Cooroomboo-men.	4 0 0	3	120			
				264	0	0
Total...				564	7	9

We shall then be able to reduce the rates twenty-five per cent., and have a margin of over Rs. 100 for contingencies.

Enclosure No. 10.

25. The Caroor Tahsildar is, however, strongly against the reduction of any part of the establishment. A translation of his Arzee is forwarded for your perusal. The reductions I propose may be too sweeping, but some reductions must be made, for the cess at present bears far too

heavily on the people. During the next Jummahbundy, if I am authorised to do so, I will, in consultation with the Tahsildar and villagers, make such reductions as I consider possible. I would, however, request your opinion on the necessity for keeping up Peons and Gumastahs for each channel, as in my opinion these men cause an unnecessary expenditure.

26. The Tahsildar further objects to the reduction of the pay of the tannikatties and cooroomboo-men to the rate proposed by Mr. Sullivan, on the grounds that if such a reduction were effected the ryots would have to supplement the money payment from Circar by presents of grain, and that these men would, therefore, be completely under the control of the wealthy ryots. If a man is to be prevented from accepting presents by an increase to his salary of one Rupee per mensem, this argument might hold good; but I certainly do not think that a small addition to his pay would have that effect, and I am, therefore, inclined to adhere to my proposal to reduce their pay to the old rates.

Amravati Channel.

27. Channels which the ryots wish to continue under the present system.

PULLAPOLLIEM.—This is an anicut channel, and reference has already been made to the disputes that took place under the former system. It is clear to me on comparing the statement of wages paid to the establishments of the different channels, that the pay of individuals has been fixed with reference to the collections, not the collections to the requirements. The pay given to part of the present establishment is excessive and unnecessary. The cultivators under this channel have presented a statement of the number of persons required, and the amount of their pay. They state their willingness to contribute the amount required, and also to pay Rupees 1,200 a-year for clearing the channel, and promise to supply coolies as formerly for emergent work at the anicut. They do not agree to have the rate fixed per Rupee of assessment, and wish it to be charged on the area of each man's holding.

28. The establishment they propose is as follows:—

				RS.
25 Tannikatties, at Rupees	3	per mensem	.....	900
3 Cooroomboo-men,	,, 3	do.	.....	108
1 Gumastah,	,, 7	do.	.....	84
1 Nirani,	,, 5	do.	.....	60
1 Peon,	,, 5	do.	.....	60
Maramut.....				1,200
				2,412

29. The present establishment costs Rupees 1,830 per annum. Actually the expenditure was less last year, as owing to the supply of water partially failing the services of several of the establishment were temporarily dispensed with. Under Mr. Sullivan's proposal the establishment would have cost Rupees 1,320. The establishment now proposed by the ryots appears to me to be ample, and the sum of Rupees 1,200 is estimated to be sufficient for the annual clearing of the channel which is now in good order. If the proposal of the ryots is accepted, which course I beg to recommend, the rate would be reduced a little over thirty per cent.

Nanjah Kalakurchi Anicut Channel.

30. Like the cultivators of Pullapolliem these ryots have proposed a reduction of the present establishment. This channel only irrigates 274 acres, assessed at Rupees 1,599 odd. They propose to reduce the cost of establishment from Rupees 360 to Rupees 96 per annum. The rate at present paid by these people, if charged on the assessment, would amount to over five Annas per Rupee! The present expenditure must be reduced, and if the work cannot be carried on for the amount now proposed to be paid, the channel must be given up to the villagers. It is absurd to suppose that one Gumastah, one Peon, and one Nirani, are required for such a small extent of cultivation. The establishment proposed by the villagers, which would allow of a reduction of more than fifty per cent. in the rate, is as follows:—

	RS.
2 Tannikatties, at Rupees 3 per mensem.....	72
Share of Gumastah with Chinna Dharapooram, at Rupees 2 per mensem.	24
Maramut.....	150
Total.....	246

31. CHINNA DHARAPOORAM.—This is another anicut channel. The villagers wish the estimate of expenditure reduced from Rupees 1,541-2-6 to Rupees 870 per annum.

Their proposition is fair, practicable, and I think, should be accepted, and if so, the rate would be lowered nearly fifty per cent.

32. For comparison I subjoin a statement showing the present expenditure and establishment with that proposed by the ryots under these three channels:—

Names of channels.	PRESENT EXPENDITURE.				PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.			
	Establishment.	Per annum.	Maramut.	Total.	Establishment.	Per annum.	Maramut.	Total.
		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		RS.	RS.	RS.
Pullapolliem.	1 Gumastah..	143 0 0	.....	.....	1 Gumastah..	84	...	...
	1 Nirani. ...	72 0 0	.....	.....	1 Nirani. ...	60	...	...
	2 Peons.....	144 0 0	.....	.....	1 Peons.....	60	...	...
	3 Cooroomboo men ...	100 0 11	.....	.....	3 Cooroomboo men ...	108	...	...
	32 Tannikatties ...	921 14 2	.....	.....	25 Tannikatties.....	900	...	...
		1,380 15 1	1,982 4 2	3,363 3 3		1,212	1,200	2,412
Chinna Dharapooram.	1 Gumastah..	83 0 0	.....	.....	½ Gumastah.	60	...	...
	1 Nirani. ...	58 0 0	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...
	2 Peons.....	115 11 10	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...
	3 Cooroomboo men ...	98 14 11	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...
	10 Tannikatties ...	235 13 5	.....	.....	10 Tannikatties.....	360	...	...
		591 8 2	791 3 6	1,382 11 8		420	450	870
Nunjah Kalakurchi.	1 Gumastah..	60 0 0	.....	.....	½ Gumastah.	24	...	...
	1 Nirani. ...	60 0 0	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...
	1 Peon.....	59 12 0	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...
	2 Cooroomboo men ...	56 12 11	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...
	2 Tannikatties ...	49 0 0	.....	.....	2 Tannikatties.....	72	...	...
		285 8 11	271 11 9	557 4 8		96	150	246

33. The Tahsildar, in his Arzee above alluded to, objects to the reduction of any part of the establishment in these channels. As the contributions are voluntary we must, in a great measure, be guided by the wishes of the people, that is, if we desire to keep the channels under our management. It appears to me that no good grounds have been shown for retaining the present high rate of cess, and I would beg to suggest that the scheme proposed by the villagers be tried for at least one year. If it is found not to answer the channels should be given up to the villagers with the exception of that at Pullapolliem, the management of which it is advisable to retain. Should the proposal of

the ryots for the management of the latter channel be found inadequate, part of the increased cost should be borne by Government.

34. Channels in which the villagers wish the present system to be abolished.

TIRUMANALLUR.—This channel irrigates the nunjah lands of four villages. The inhabitants of Appipolliem, the first village on the channel, wish the present system to be continued, but the rates to be lowered. The ryots of the other villages offer to supply men to perform the usual maramut work, and to pay sosantrum to a nirani. They will also pay a Gumastah and Peon if necessary; but they want the present system of a cess abolished.

I do not see what real difference there is between this proposal and the former system, and I have, therefore, classed these villagers among those who wish the present cess system to be abolished.

Caroor.
Panchamadevi.
Koyamhully.
Puliyur.
Senappareddy.

35. These are the remaining five channels in this talook.

The opposition to the present scheme is strong.

36. The objections raised by the ryots may be summarised as follows :—

(1.) The present high rate of nunjah assessment.

(2.) That they have to pay road cess.

(3.) That as the Nirani establishment are paid by the Tahsildar, they do not obey the orders of the villagers.

(4.) That they can do the work cheaper themselves by their Pullars, who are still paid the warum, and that the present system of Circar management entails a heavy expenditure and consequent high rate of cess.

37. As regards the first point:—The average rate of assessment per acre in these villages is about Rupees 7. The average of the talook is Rupees 6-11-0. The assessment is higher in the Caroor and Senappareddy villages, averaging Rupees 8-1-0 per acre; but these are the only villages in the group in which the assessment is much above the average of the tolook. I do not moreover think that the rate of assessment has anything to do with the question as to whether the Nirgunti cess should be abolished.

38. The second objection calls for no remarks.

39. As regard the third objection:—Formerly when the work and internal management of the channels were conducted by the villagers themselves, under the supervision of the Tahsildar, complaints were constantly made regarding the unequal distribution of water, or the neglect of some of the land-lords to send their Pullars for the maramut work. The constant interference of the Tahsildar was necessary to the detriment of his other work. Moreover, his interference was only of temporary benefit, for disputes were just smoothed over, and broke out afresh the moment his back was turned. Under the present system there is no doubt that the maramut work is better done, and it is to be hoped that the distribution of water is conducted with impartiality. That the new system is not a panacea may be inferred from the fact the complaints have not altogether ceased. There is moreover a great opening for abuse in having a number of low-paid servants, who although ostensibly paid by the Circar, expect I presume, and most probably receive, douceurs from the ryots to ensure their good-will.

40. The fourth objection is, in my opinion, the strongest of all.

Almost the whole of the nunjah cultivation in this talook is carried on by a class of persons called Pullars. These people were formerly slaves, and I am told were up to 1862 transferred with the land. I have not, however, been able to come across any documentary evidence bearing on this point. There is no doubt, and I base my opinion on certain circumstances that have come to my knowledge, that the Brahmins, the principal nunjah land-holders in the talook, think they have still a sort of property in these persons.

41. These Pullars, according to the land-lords' account, cultivate the nunjah lands, and receive a warum generally twenty per cent. of the gross crop. Of this they receive ten per cent. for their work on the land, and ten per cent. for their working on the channels when required. In addition they receive a "Padi" for any private work performed by them for the land-lords. The "Padi" or batta varies in different villages. The land-lords now complain that whereas formerly the Pullars did all the maramut work for a part of the warum, and they (the land-lords) had only to pay for the establishment, which they did in grain; the Pullars now receive the same amount of warum, and they have to pay a cess for the maramut work in addition.

42. I do not take the land-lords' view that the Pullars get one-tenth of the crop for working on the channels. This is manifestly improbable. What I believe to be the case is, that the Pullars formerly cultivated the land on warum, and agreed to keep the channels in order, and that now the channels having been taken under Circar management, that part of their duties has ceased, and the land-lords have to pay a cess for the performance of work that formerly was part of the Pullar's tenure of the land.

43. As I thought it would be as well to ascertain what the Pullars themselves had to say on the matter, I sent for those at Caroor, and in answer to my question as to which system they preferred, they at once said "the old."

The fact is, that these Pullars are such a very degraded class, and so entirely subservient to their land-lords, that what was the latter's pleasure was their law. Another reason for their, to me unexpected answer may be that natives are averse to changes, that the system under which they and their forefathers have lived in contentment must be far preferable to one of the result of which they know nothing and care less.

44. This objection of the ryots resolves itself into the question as to whether the land-lord or the tenant should keep the channels in order. As we only recognise the land-lord, we must, I think, look to him for the due performance of this work, and he must make his own arrangements with his tenants. There is, however, no doubt that he is put to considerable extra expense by the present system, and has therefore good grounds for complaint.

45. Another objection has been incidentally mentioned both by the ryots in person and in the petitions, the strictness with which the cess is collected. If the instalment of cess falls into arrears, interest is at once charged. Although no coercive process can legally be resorted to in the collection of this voluntary cess, in some cases arrears have been collected by the attachment of the defaulter's property. I have stopped this practice, and am informed that the present system must in consequence fall to the ground. I am afraid moreover that even where payments are not enforced they are not made so entirely with the good-will of the payee as would be desirable. That, in fact, moral pressure is used to a great extent, and this must be the case when we have a cess without any legal mode of collecting it.

46. As in my opinion bearing on the present question I will again notice that class of irrigation works known as cooroomboos. These dams have to be constructed by the villagers themselves often at great trouble. It requires constant watching and labor to keep them in working order. While the only irrigation work constructed by Government is the channel, the lands under these cooroomboos are in reality assessed at a slightly higher average rate than lands under anicut channels.

47. Seeing, therefore, that the ryots themselves actually perform most of the work necessary to obtaining water for their lands, or what amounts to the same thing, pay a cess for that purpose. I would beg to request your especial consideration whether Government should not defray either the entire cost of the cooroomboos and their channels, or at least a moiety, leaving the usual emergent work to be performed by the villagers.

48. Another cause for the opposition to the present system is, I think, the objection of natives generally to cesses of any kind. As far as my experience goes they would far rather pay a lump sum down, and have done with the matter, than have the yearly payment of a cess hanging over their heads.

49. I have now, I think, noticed all the points calling for any remark in the Nirganti system of the Caroor Talook. It only remains for me to suggest what should be done:—

(1.) In those channels in which the parties interested wish the present system to be continued, a great reduction of establishments should be made, and the estimate for maramut work should be based on the actual expenditure. If it is found that an unexpected increase of

expenditure is necessary in any one year it should be paid out of the Budget-Estimate for Imperial irrigation works. I do not anticipate that calls would frequently be made on Imperial revenue, and if made, would not exceed a few hundred Rupees a-year.

(2.) That as the present system was established on the voluntary principle, the channels in which the people wish it abolished be given up to the villagers on the former system; but that Government should have the legal power of imposing a cess* and taking the channels under their own superintendence, if from disputes and mismanagement such a course should be found necessary. The villagers would then be on their good behaviour, and I believe that the work would be well performed. I only recommend this course in the event of its not being considered advisable to give a Government grant for the cooroomboos and the channels. The villages in which the opposition is strong are all irrigated by cooroomboo channels, and although the villagers now state that they will not have the cess at any price, I think they will not object to its continuance if my proposal be adopted. This point can, however, only be settled when the proposition has been made to them, and I have not felt justified in mooting the subject hitherto.

* If we are to manage the channels and the distribution of water as we do at present, a far higher rate of cess than that proposed in paragraph 23 of Proceedings Board of Revenue, 4th October 1867, No. 6,334, will, I think, be necessary.

(3.) The sluices in all the channels should be constructed on a standard plan with openings proportionate to the quantity of land to be irrigated from each. This would, in a great measure, regulate the supply of water without having Gumastahs, Peons, and Niranies, for that purpose. Any mischief to the sluices by enlarging the openings, etc., is punishable under the Penal Code, and the village Monigars should be held personally responsible for neglecting to report such cases at once.

50. As regards the manner of the imposition of the rate in those villages where it is to be continued. The opinions of the villagers vary; but I think the majority wish the rate to be imposed on the area and not on the assessment. This certainly appears to me to be the fairer principle, for bad lands take quite as much water, if not more, than good, and as lands are not classed with reference to their position alone. If lands were so classed the rate might be fixed on the assessment, on the grounds that the lands situated at the extremity of the irrigation do not always get as much water as land situated higher up, and that, therefore, the latter should pay more; but even to this arrangement there is the objection that the lands near the source of irrigation would be paying an undue share of the cost of keeping in order parts of the channels in which they have no interest.

51. With reference to the manner in which the cess is to be collected in the above villages. It will always happen that even if a large majority wish a cess to be imposed, there will be some few persons who are averse to its introduction. These men will, as a rule, not pay voluntarily, and others may fall into arrears. We have no legal mode of enforcing payment. Act IV. of 1864 (Madras) might be extended to this district, and we should then have a legal power of enforcing payment of the cess for the salary of the Nirganti alone. Nothing short of a fresh law will give us the necessary power with regard to the collection of the greater part of the cess.

52. The other two talooks of the sub-division can be reported on together, as their circumstances are very similar.

53. Before the introduction of the cess the old sytem worked smoothly enough, and I do not really think that any more trouble was entailed on the Revenue authorities than at present. Be this as it may, the ryots, I am informed, did not agree to the new system being introduced; indeed Mr. Sullivan notices the fact that they objected, and that their objections were based on the new system being contrary to Mamool.

54. A change was necessary in some villages of the Caroor Talook, but there is nothing to show that it was needed either in Dharapooram or Oodoomalpettah. Mr. Sullivan appears to have considered that if the channels and distribution of water were under Circar management, the former would be kept in better order, and the latter be conducted more equitably.

55. Mr. Sullivan's estimate provided for what was then considered a sufficient number of hands on the establishment, and for the annual repairs to the channels. As stated in paragraph 10, this estimate was increased, but no reason appears to have been given by the Tahsildars for the necessity of the extra officials on the establishment.

56. You will perceive from statement No. 4 the difference in the two estimates. It will suffice here if I give a short abstract of the result:—

	Mr. Sullivan's estimate.			Mr. McQuhae's estimate.			Present expenditure.		
	Establishment.	Maramut.	Total.	Establishment.	Maramut.	Total.	Establishment.	Maramut.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Dharapooram	1,542	3,575	5,117	5,454	4,789	10,243	2,970	5,744	8,714
Oodoomalpettah	1,416	1,950	3,366	3,192	3,783	6,975	2,848	2,099	4,947
Total...	2,958	5,525	8,483	8,646	8,572	17,218	5,818	7,843	13,661

The estimate for establishment, you will perceive, is more than that for maramut. The actual expenditure, however, is considerably less than the estimate, owing to the non-entertainment of cooroomboo-men

57. Statement No. 8 will shew you the number of extra hands employed under the revised estimate.

58. Although taking the number of nunjah cultivators into consideration, a comparatively few attended during my recent visit to their talooks. I think that if it is shown that the present system is generally distasteful, it must be abandoned.

59. Of their complaints some are frivolous, and some contradicted by the facts. The only valid objections seem to be—

1*st*,—That their farm servants (engaged by the year) are now unemployed during the slack season; whereas formerly they used to make them work on the channel at that time, and that they have to pay the same rate of wages as before, while their servants will not work on the channels; and,

2*ndly*,—Against the number of the establishment entertained. The rest of their cry is entirely "We won't have the present system." "We don't want a cess." "Give us the old Mamool!"

60. I am here alluding to those who attended before me. As they were an inconsiderable portion of the cultivators, I ordered the Tahsildars to submit a return of the number in favor of the present system and of those against it. The following is the result;—

	Total number of Puttahdars.	Number for old system.	Number for new system.	Not voted.
Dharapooram	1,363	1,306	15	42
Oodoomalpettah	1,217	1,025	...	192

I must state, however, that I received no complaints against the present system, until I asked the people at Jummahbundy how they liked the change. The Tahsildar of Dharapooram told me before I asked them that they would be sure to express their disapproval, and the event showed that he was a true prophet.

61. As, therefore, the majority of the nunjah ryots in these talooks wish the present system abolished, it must be given up. As recommended in paragraph 50, proper sluices should be constructed, and Government should have the power of taking the channels under their management at any time.

62. I would, however, recommend that the Kallapuram channel be exceptionally treated. Owing to its position in a feverish part of the country, the cultivators are non-residents, and it would be next to impossible for them to clear out the channel without Government help. Formerly there was an annual grant for this channel, averaging about Rupees 635, and the Nir Sibbandies were supported by maniem lands, assessed at Rupees 75-5-0, and by grain fees paid by the ryots, averaging Rupees 63-7-0 per annum. This Government grant has ceased since the introduction of the present system, and I beg to recommend that it be again allowed, and the establishment placed on its former footing. This village being at the head of the Amravati irrigation, the only abuse to guard against is waste of water; and should the villagers persist in taking more water than is necessary, Act IV. of 1864 (Madras) can be put in force, and a well-paid Nirganti appointed.

63. Finding that the rates levied in the villages under the Sundakoypolliem and Nunjah Talayur channels were greatly in excess of the requirements, I have taken it on myself to direct the reduction of the rates twenty-five per cent. all round from the commencement of this Fusly.

64. I beg to enclose a translation* of a Memorandum from the Tahsildar of Dharapooram, Enclosure No. 11. pointing out the advantages of the present system. Even if it were proved to be every thing that could be wished, its not being voluntary is fatal to its continuance.

65. That the system is not, however, so perfect as the Tahsildar would make out, appears Enclosure No. 12 from a letter from the Executive Officer of the Range herein enclosed.†

66. The Petition No. 674 you sent me for report is more against the general Revenue Administration of the country than against the nirganti-cess system in particular; and as I do not think it calls for my particular notice, I have the honor to return it, but will, if desired, submit a particular report on the subject therein noticed.

Enclosure No. 2.—Statement showing amount of irrigation cess collected and expended in Fusly 1277 in the Caroor Talook.

Enclosure No. 3.— Do. do. Dharapooram Talook.

Enclosure No. 4.— Do. do. Oodoomalpettah Talook.

Enclosure No. 5.—Statement showing average rate per acre and average expenditure per mile in the Caroor, Dharapooram, and Oodoomalpettah Talooks.

Enclosure No. 6.—Statement showing estimates proposed by Messrs. Sullivan and McQuhae.

Enclosure No. 7.—Statement showing amount of estimate and expenditure on maramut works for Fusly 1277 in the Caroor Talook.

Enclosure No. 8.— Do. do. Dharapooram Talook.

Enclosure No. 9.— Do. do. Oodoomalpettah Talook.

Enclosure No. 10.—Statement showing extra hands employed under the revised estimate.

Enclosure No. 11.

Rules for the management of the Pallapolliem Channel.

For the present the following permanent establishment will be entertained monthly:—

1 Gumastah on Rupees 12.
1 Nirani.
2 Peons.
3 Cooroomboo-men.
32 Tannikatties.

2. The nirani and cooroomboo-men are to take charge of the channel from the anicut to the place where irrigation commences; closing up any breaches that may occur, and causing the Tahsildar to be informed whenever extra labor is necessary to bring a sufficient quantity of water from the Amravati.

3. Every day the nirani will write down upon a stamped cadjan, issued from the Talook Cutcherry, the depth of water in feet and inches at the place where irrigation commences. The Peon stationed at this place will sign this cadjan and carry it to the Peon stationed at the boundary of Andancovil who will carry it in the evening to the Tahsildar. If the Peon be absent, the nirani will cause the cadjan to be sent to the Tahsildar reporting the absence of the Peon.

4. Between seasons of cultivation the nirani will superintend the tannikatties and other laborers employed in clearing out and repairing the channel.

Duties of Peons.

5. The Peon stationed at Pallapolliem will receive the cadjan from the nirani every morning, and will affix his signature to it. He will then pass along the channel-bank, seeing that the tannikatties are at work, and will deliver to the Peon at the boundary of Andancovil the same depth of water as he received from the nirani, taking his receipt for the same in the cadjan. The Peon at Andancovil boundary will pass along his portion of the channel, seeing that the tannikatties are at work, and will deliver the cadjan at the Talook Cutcherry in the evening.

6. The Peons will remain always on the channel. They will warn the cultivation Monigars when extra labor is required for the channels. If any ryot opens or alters sluices, or interferes in any way with the distribution of water, the Peon will report the circumstance to the Tahsildar with full particulars.

Duties of Tannikatties.

7. The tannikatties will distribute the water according to custom, and will report to the Peons any ryot who opens, alters, or in any way interferes with a sluice. When water is scarce they will strictly obey the Tahsildar's orders regarding its distribution. Between the cultivating seasons they will be employed in clearing out and repairing the channel.

Duties of Cultivation Monigars.

8. The Monigars on being warned that labor is required, will supply coolies according to the following scale, and will see that they go to work. A caray shall consist of sixteen cawnies. Each caray is bound to supply two coolies during the clearing of the main channel, and one cooly at other times when required. The land irrigated by pacottas not being divided into carays, each pacotta shall supply one cooly when required. The Monigar will keep an account of the number of coolies furnished, and will see that they are paid by the Gumastah, affixing their signatures to his pay "Chitta."

9. In case of breaches or other emergencies the Monigars will supply labor, at once calling upon the Monigars of other villages for assistance, if necessary, under the provisions of Sections 1 and 5 of Act I. of 1858.

Duties of Gumastah.

10. The Gumastah will take charge of all correspondence, and keep all accounts connected with the channel fund. He will pay the permanent establishment and all other persons employed on the channel in the presence of the Monigars. He should inspect the whole channel as often as possible, and report upon it to the Tahsildar.

GENERAL RULES.

11. The surplus channel of Visvanathapuri and Andancovil will be repaired and cleared annually out of the channel fund. With this exception all branch channels must be cleared out and repaired by the ryots at their own expense.

12. Until channel sluices are built of brick-in-chunam, the ryots shall make turf sluices of a size and shape to be prescribed by the Tahsildar.

13. On both sides of the channel a space of six yards shall be left for the passage of men, horses, etc.

14. The owners of any caray failing to supply the customary amount of labor shall be liable to pay a sum equal to double the value of the labor they are bound to supply.

15. When there is an insufficient supply of water in the channel, the Tahsildar will cause the fields to be irrigated in time, and will arrange for the distribution of the water as equitably as possible. Any ryot complaining of shavy must go himself and make his complaint to the Tahsildar.

16. The water-cess will be collected in three instalments by the Iyen Monigar in the same manner as land revenue.

17. No changes in the mode of management are to be introduced without the sanction of the Sub-Collector.

CAROOR,
14th November 1865.

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Acting Sub-Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Sub-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No 12

Translation of the Caroor Tahsildar's Urzee, No. 383, *of* 14*th November* 1868.

I RECEIVED Order No. 292 of 4th instant, calling on me to submit my suggestions on the subject of reducing the Nirganti establishment, and the pay of the officials.

It is stated in the Order that the services of some of the establishment on the Nirur channel may be dispensed with, and that the pay of some others reduced. The work could not at all be satisfactorily carried on if either part of the establishment were done away with, or their pay reduced. The amount first estimated for the establishment of the channel was Rupees 1,524, and that for maramut, Rupees 1,710,* making in all Rupees 3,234. Though the maramut expenditure of the channel for Fusly 1277 amounted to only Rupees 786, yet as this is a channel from the Cauvery, as its mud banks are often washed away by freshes, and as when the water is low in the river, the cooroomboos (manal voykal) have to be constructed at a greater distance from the commencement of the channel than usual, and as the main channel has to be cleared of silt twice in the year, the maramut works of the channel will generally require a heavy expenditure. The present pay of the tannikatties and cooroomboo-men cannot be reduced. The villagers say that they will procure persons to serve as tannikatties and cooroomboo-men on wages lower than the present rates. It appears that in so saying, they intend to pay the officials some grain in addition to their low wages, as they used to do under the former system. Accordingly, if these servants receive anything from the ryots, they will by all means endeavour to gain the good-will of the ryots, and care little for the due performance of their respective duties. This course will give rise to numerous complaints. Under these circumstances, therefore, the present pay of the tannikatties and cooroomboo-men should not be reduced. There are two channels for this village: one on a high, and the other on a low level, whence the necessity for the services of two Peons, in order to let the village have a fair supply of water. The services of none of the establishment, therefore, could be dispensed with.

* Wrong, only Rupees 1,387-6-0,

The income headed miscellaneous consists of two items—namely the sale proceeds of nanul grass, and fines paid by ryots failing to supply coolies. This income is uncertain. The Nirganticess of the village amounts to Rupees 2,872. Estimating Rupees 1,000 out of this, and any income under the head Miscellaneous, for the maramut repairs of the channel, and Rupees 1,524 for the establishment, Rupees 348 may, in my opinion, be reduced from the whole amount of the present cess.

For similar reasons the pay of tannikatties and cooroomboo-men in the establishment of the Vangal channel cannot be reduced. The services of the Peon is indispensably necessary for having every work properly done. The demand on account of the cess of this channel is Rupees 1,822, excluding income under the head "Miscellaneous" which is uncertain. The expenditure on account of the establishment and maramut for Fusly 1277 has been Rupees 2,022, which sum exceeds the cess realised. As the constructing of the manul voykal often becomes necessary in the dry season, the cess now collected is itself in sufficient to cover the necessary expenditure of the channel, and so no reduction can be made in the present rates of the cess.

In each of the above two channels, breaches have to be closed in the head of the channels when there are freshes in the Cauvery; and manul voykals have to be constructed when the water is low in the river. The main channels also have to be cleared. For the purpose of superintending these works, of keeping the channel accounts, and of disbursing to the coolies their wages, it becomes necessary to appoint Gumastahs one for each channel. The services of one Gumastah for both the channels would not do; and their pay, too, should not be reduced.

In regard to the Pullapolliem channel, reduction of part of the establishment and reduction of pay of some servants are suggested in the statement that accompanied the Huzoor Order under reply. The villagers have also deposed to that effect; but neither can a part of the establishment be dispensed with, nor can the pay of some servants be reduced for the above reasons. A fair supply of water could not moreover be provided if the reduction suggested be made. The nirani has to be maintained for performing the anicut works and for turning the course of water into the channel. The receipts on account of this channel under the miscellaneous head are very low. Of the entire demand of cess of Rupees 3,552 on account of the channel, Rupees 1,830 being required for the establishment, and Rupees 1,000* being the amount deemed sufficient for all maramut works, making in all Rupees 2,830 a reduction of Rupees 722 may be made in the demand of the cess. The services of the tannikatties and cooroomboo-men are dispensed with for two or three months in the year, when there is no water in the river; the amount of stoppages of their salaries for those months, and the receipts on account of the channel under the head miscellaneous, added to the 1,000 Rupees above alluded to, will, it is deemed, suffice for the clearing of the main and surplus channels, for closing breaches and other maramut repairs. And so Rupees 1,000 out of the demand would be enough for maramut.

* The villagers now agree to give Rupees 1,200 for maramut

A. McC. W.

Chinna Dharapooram Channel.—No part of the establishment could be dispensed with, nor their pay reduced. The entire collections amount to Rupees 1,604. Of this Rupees 600 being required for the clearing of the channel, for closing breaches and other maramut repairs, and Rupees 750 for the establishment, the expenditure amounting in all to Rupees 1,350; the sum of Rupees 254 may be reduced from the entire demand.

Nanja Kalakurchi Channel.—Neither the establishment nor their pay could be reduced. They should continue in their present pay. The pay of the establishment, as it stands at present, is Rupees 312, and the sanctioned maramut expenditure Rupees 250,† amounting in all to Rupees 562. But the entire demand is only Rupees 537. This excess of expenditure over receipts is made up by sums realised under the miscellaneous head of receipts. As the present collection itself falls short of the expenditure, no reduction can be made in the present rates of the cess.

† Wrong, sanctioned Rupees 175-2-3.

For both the above channels the services of niranis and cooroomboo-men for turning the course of water into the channels, and the services of Peons for a due distribution of the supply, are absolutely necessary. In the statement furnished by the ryots of these villages it is stated that they will have the works performed by coolies employed by them. This could never be done.

When the water is low in the river its course has to be turned into the channel by making a ditch in the sandy bed of the channel. At other times when there are freshes in the river breaches have to be closed. This cannot be effected by the villagers according to any private arrangement among themselves. This would give rise to deficiency of water in the channels and to numerous complaints. The villagers have made their proposal simply to have the rates reduced. The reasons ascribed for the employment of separate Gumastahs for the Nirur and Vangal channels equally apply to these two channels. The pay of the Gumastahs ought also to remain as at present and without any reduction.

Rather than reducing the establishment or their pay in respect of the above three channels under the Amravati, and thus giving rise to numerous complaints for deficiency of the supply of water, it is advisable to give over the channels to the management of the villagers.

If the current prices of the different kinds of grain fall the pay of the channel establishments may be reduced. If, on the other hand, their pay be now reduced, and the servants be appointed by the villagers, the latter will then have to pay some grain in addition to the low wages. These servants will, in this case, pay more regard to the directions of the villagers than to those of the Circar, and the consequence will be deficiency of the supply and endless complaints on the part of the ryots. I enclose herein five memoranda prepared by me on the subject, one statement of the ryots of Pullapolliem, and two lists that accompanied the Huzoor Order under reply.

In the Huzoor Order it is stated that the distribution of wages to coolies employed in the repairs of the Pugalur channel is delayed. I have directed the Gumastah to distribute the wages in future without delay.

The three above channels under the Cauvery and the Pullapolliem channel under the Amravati have been brought under Government management, owing to the repeated deficiencies of water in them, and to repeated complaints on the part of the villagers. The replacing of these channels under the villagers' management will again give room to the deficiency of water and to endless complaints.

The remaining channels under the Amravati may, without inconvenience, be placed under the management of the villagers.

(Signed) M. R. VENKATRAMANIAH,
Tahsildar.

In the Huzoor Order it is stated that no Gumastah and Peons were provided for the Nirur channel according to Mr Sullivan's proposal. The channel having then been under the management of the villagers, it has been deemed that the rest of the establishment will suffice. Now that the channel has been brought under Circar management, I see from my own knowledge of the channel affairs, that the services of the Gumastahs and Peons are indispensably necessary.

(Signed) M. R VENKATRAMANIAH,
Tahsildar.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Sub-Collector.

Enclosure No. 13.

Translation of a Memorandum from the Dharapooram Tahsildar.

The evils of the old system contrasted with the advantages of the new.

At the time of clearing the channels the wealthier ryots, the Iyan, and Nirani Monigars, never used to supply the proportionate number of coolies due from their holdings, nor were the fines imposed for such default ever collected, owing to the partiality of the village servants, while they were strictly levied from poorer ryots. Under this system the wealthier ryots were the gainers.

2. When breaches occurred in the Calingulahs and anicuts, rich ryots with a show of justice and impartiality sent their proper number of coolies, and thereby induced the poor ryots to supply their coolies, but when the coolies were collected those sent by the rich people went away to their usual work, and all the maramut work was performed by coolies supplied by the poorer ryots.

3. On certain occasions it was usual to collect from each ryot one or two coolies each but only to make such as were supplied by the poorer ryots work, and thus save the labor of the rest.

4. Breaches were seldom closed immediately.

5. As the Monigars were joined with the richer ryots in perpetrating these irregularities, they never brought them to the notice of the authorities. The poorer ryots, of course, were afraid to prefer complaints, and even if they did prefer them, they could with difficulty be proved.

6. When the supply of water in the channal decreased, the wealthier and more talkative ryots used to take all the water to their own fields, while no supply whatever was allowed to the fields of the poorer and ignorant ryots.

7. As the channel establishments were paid by the ryots themselves, the Tannikatties and others of the establishment gave themselves no concern about watering the fields of the poorer ryots; but were particularly careful to see that the fields of the wealthier and the more influential ryots who gave them more grain were properly irrigated.

8. Under the old system, the poorer ryots had to bear with patience the unfair dealings of the Monigars and abler classes, and had to obtain their supply of water only after preferring complaints in the talook.

9. Under the present arrangement the servants of the Nirganti establishments distribute the supply to all parties alike even when water is low in the channels.

10. The villagers of Colinjivadi, Virachimangalam, Nilambur, Nunjah Talayur, and Sundakoypolliem under the present system, supply their own coolies proportionately to their holdings, for clearing channels and closing breaches and for repairs of the calingulahs. The coolies pay the wages received from the Circar to their respective masters, and therefore the latter are not put to loss by the new system. The villagers of Dharapuram, Alanghiam, and Dalavoypatnam, having stated their reluctance to furnish coolies, the channel repairs are performed by coolies hired by Government for that purpose.

11. Those who have a considerable extent of nunjah lands have, under the present arrangement, to pay a considerable amount of cess, and with a view that they may be relieved from the payment of such large sums, they request the re-introduction of the old system. The other ryots afraid of the consequences that may result in case of their opposing the richer ryots, ignorantly concur with them in their proposal. The ryots are unable to state their reasons either for the abolition of the present system, or for the re-introduction of the former.

12. All ryots, rich and poor, and all Monigars being equally taxed on account of the present Nirganty cess, there is no room for any irregularities or injustice being practised by any one.

13. As grains sell for high prices during these days of scarcity the present Nirganty cess is not heavy; but will press heavily when the prices fall. It is then that the rates of the cess must be somewhat reduced.

14. Under the old system, the silt taken out from the channel was generally thrown on the inside slope of the channel bank, and when rain fell was washed back into the bed of the channel.

15. Under the present system the mud dug from the bed of the channel is taken in baskets and thrown on the outside of the channel banks, so this mud does not fill the channel and impede the flow of water.

16. The Monigars were, under the old system, often fined for delay caused in closing breaches and calingulahs, etc., which delay was owing to neglect on the part of ryots to furnish coolies. Such fines have not been levied since the introduction of the present system.

17. The present system was introduced on account of repeated complaints from ryots every year, and the affairs are now being regularly conducted.

18. The ryots of the three villages of Dharapuram, Alanghiam, and Dalavoypatnam, say that their coolies receive from them wages for the whole year without having any work to do during three months. They were asked to furnish coolies during those three months for channel repairs; but this they declined to do, and gave depositions to the effect that the channel repairs should be performed by parties on contract. The work is now accordingly performed, and the ryots do not supply the coolies required.

(Signed) BELEG HERRY ROW,
Tahsildar.

(True Translation.)

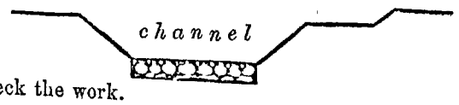
(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Sub-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 14.

From G. S. WIFFEN, Esq., Sub-Engineer, Caroor Range, to the Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, dated Errode, 23rd November 1868, No. 121.

IN answer to your Memorandum, No. 402, of 18th instant, I have the honor to inform you with reference to your request contained therein, that I consider that the only channel which has at all benefitted by the Nirganty system is the Pullapolliam, on that I am certain that all the money expended has been most judiciously laid out but as for the others I am sorry to state that not one-fourth of what ought to have been done was done as for those in the Dharapoorum Talook, I think it would be a step in the right direction if the Nirganty was abolished *at once*, or else in a very few years the channels would be so choked up, that not half the water required would be able to be forced down, and the cry would then be "We want our anicuts raised."

2. I would respectfully beg to suggest, should the Nirganty system still be kept up, that a Government Order should be sanctioned, that before any water should be let into the channels, they should be inspected and check measured by either the Range Officer or the Overseer of the Talook, when if it was found correct, a certificate should be given to the Tahsildar; it would be very easy for the Channel Monigar to keep a Pit Register, which is one of the greatest checks that could be had against him and the Contractor wasting the money. I intend next year to place bench mark at every mile in each channel, and opposite each bench mark a rough stone in chunam wall to be built right across the bottom of the channel, the top of which will show the proper level of bed of channel thus



so that it will be perfectly easy for any one to check the work.

IN their Order of the 16th November 1865, No. 2,810, Government sanctioned the trial of a voluntary system of Nirgunta cess in the Sub-division of Coimbatore.

2. The scheme then submitted involved a total collection of 21,451 Rupees.

3. On further inquiry it appeared that the existing fees had been commuted at an unduly low rate, and a revised scale of rates, yielding in the aggregate 37,409 Rupees, was sanctioned in Government Order, 26th September 1866, No. 2,592, as a temporary measure.

4. The Collector now forwards a report drawn up by the Sub-Collector on the system. Mr. Webster deserves great credit for his excellent report and the trouble he has taken to acquire a thorough acquaintance with the practical working of the system he discusses.

5. The substitution of a cess for labor on the channels of the Sub-division of Coimbatore was believed to be generally acceptable to the people. A voluntary arrangement, which the law affords no means of enforcing or perpetuating, must, to be successful, be carried out with careful regard to the wishes and feelings of the subscribers. The establishments maintained have evidently been excessive, both numerically and in point of expense, and the rate of cess has consequently been very heavy. The fees commuted at current rates are doubtless higher than the cess, but payment in kind is less felt by the ryots and more acceptable to them. The Board think the reductions which Mr. Webster proposes are judicious, and they recommend their being sanctioned. An allowance should certainly be made for the Corumboos, and where the people wish the cess to be on the acreage, their desire should be fulfilled.

6. As already stated the law does not empower the enforcement of payment of the cess, but the Board hope that the concessions which Mr. Webster has proposed, and a judicious and conciliatory administration of the fund, will prevent its collapse.

7. A copy of all the papers has been forwarded to the Public Works Commission, and pending their report the Board would not advise any further change than that above advocated.

8. The sanction of Government is requested to the continuance of the cess for a year.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with nine enclosures.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.
,, to the President, Public Works Commission.

Rev. Dept.

Proceedings of the Board of Government
Madras dated the 5th May 1869.
Read the following Report
the Board of Revenue.
(M.E. 1st May 1869, No. 2955)

The Institution
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circumstances brought
to the Madras.

Extract from
Board's Proceedings"

Oct. 63 No 174-175
Sept. 65 — 152/53
Nov. 65 — 281-282
Sept. 66 — 108-109
January 68 — 116-117
Dec. 68 — 97-98
January 69 — 133-134

Rev. 1869. Dept.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Ft. 1462.

PROCEEDINGS, 1ST *May* 1869, No. 2,955.

Dept. 4th
Received 5th

Encl 9
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MAY.
No. 2,955.

Irrigation Fee Cess—in Sub-Division of Coimbatore District,—Letter from Collector, forwarding Acting Sub-Collector's report on working of, submitted to Government, with recommendation to sanction proposed reduction of Establishments maintained for execution of repairs to channels, from proceeds of cess, and continuance of cess for a year.

40. Fee 1891 75 Annes

128.-

Rec'd May 69. R. 3 June