No. 294. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th June 1871, No. 2,381 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 24th April 1871, No. 102, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating Proceedings of the Public Works Department, passing orders on the Inspection Report, submitted by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, of the Godavery Delta.

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IN passing orders on a memorandum by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation relating to a recent tour made by him in the Godavery Delta, Government draw attention to certain remarks contained in paragraphs 19, 26, 41, 42, and refer them to the Board for disposal and report.

2. *Paragraph* 19.—The first part of this paragraph relates to the settlement, or rather absence of settlement, of the water-rate to be charged in the Nidadavole Zemindary. The subject has been submitted for the orders of Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 17th May 1871, No. 2,062. Major Mullins in continuation suggests the necessity of the Delta Officers being supplied with monthly returns of the area irrigated and requiring irrigation in their village, whether Government or Zemindary. This should certainly be done. The Collectors of Godavery and Kistna should cause the Range Officers in the deltas to be supplied on a given date in each month during the cultivating season with statements showing—

(1).—The extent of land under crop and requiring water, and the time which will be required to bring the crop to maturity.

(2).—The extent of land about to be irrigated and the nature of the crop, *i.e.*, how many months are required to bring it to maturity.

3. This can be easily done in Government villages and by arrangement with the Zemindars, also in Zemindary villages. At the close of the year a statement, showing the extent of land irrigated distinguishing that for which water-rate is charged from that which is free, should be furnished.

4. The Collectors, in communication with the Superintending Engineers, should submit the forms of statement they propose to adopt.

5. As regards the proposition that no remission should be granted without the concurrence of the Canal Officers, the Board do not think that a decisive rule to that effect should be passed.

6. So long as the annual settlement rests with the Revenue Officer, it must be for him to decide when remission is to be given and when not. The Range Officer should be freely consulted. Failure of crop from want of water is more often the result of imperfect arrangements on the part of the subordinate distributing officers or of actual scarcity of water itself than of neglect on the part of the ryot; and where such is the case, the distributing department ought not to have the power of stopping remission; to give that power would be to place the ryots at the mercy of the subordinates of the Department Public Works even more than they are now.

7. With regard to the last clause of paragraph 19 and to paragraph 41, the Board observe that statements which will give the required information are prescribed in their Proceedings, dated 7th June 1871, No. 2,293.

8. *Paragraph* 26.—The grass rents are credited to Local Funds, and the cost of tending canal banks, etc., is debited to the same head. It might be laid down that the first charge against grass rents should be the improvement of canal banks, including perhaps the maintenance of towing paths.

9. *Paragraph* 42.—The discrepancies alluded to in this paragraph should be explained by the Collector.

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No. 295. ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1871, No. 1,112.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
*Acting Secretary to Government.*

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

No. 1989.

Rev: 1871. Deptt.

# Board of Revenue,

## MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 13TH JUNE 1871, No. 2,381.

Deptt 21 June/71 Encl.

Received. 22 —

JUNE.

No. 2,381.

*Godavery Delta,*—Orders of Government on Report of Inspection of, submitted by Chief Engineer for Irrigation, communicated to Collectors of Godavery and Kistna Districts, and remarks made on certain points noticed by Government.—Collectors desired to furnish Range officers in Deltas with monthly returns of areas irrigated and requiring irrigation in their village.—Collector of former District requested to explain discrepancy with regard to area expected to be irrigated in central delta.

No 1112

Resolved.

Comm'd to S.P.W.

27 June/71

Entered

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No 294-295