

Gobt. of {1871} Mysore.

To  REVENUE. S.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated August 9th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 9th August 1871, No. 1,345.

AUGUST.

Nos. 43-44.

Backwater swamp-land, Malabar District.—
Revenue Board's Proceedings respecting disposal
of certain — by public auction, recorded.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th August 1871.*

No. 43. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th July 1871, No. 3,121 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 26th June 1871, No. 148.

IN continuation of the subject of my letter of the 11th November 1870, No. 382, printed in Board's Proceedings of the 29th November 1870, No. 6,879, I have the honour to inform you that I have lately visited the backwater which Mr. Thomas attempted to reclaim.

2. I am of opinion that the place is quite unsuited for the experiment of the silting process. There is, as explained by Mr. Thomas, no permanent supply of water for a silting stream, and the falling rain has to be alone depended on.

3. The distance from the backwater to the water-shed of the hills is not more than a few hundred yards, so that it is only when rain is actually falling that water is available.

4. Although when I visited the spot there had been heavy rain recently, and 40 or 50 inches within the space of the preceding three weeks the silting channels were perfectly dry.

5. The soil is occupied by cultivation, and the people by no means relish the idea of having the earth all removed, and nothing but the stones left to them.

6. Colonel Farewell was unable to visit the place, and I am myself but imperfectly qualified to pronounce an opinion on the subject. I have, however, several times seen Mr. McIvor engaged on his silting process, and my impression is that the marvellous results are mainly due to the continuous character of the flow of the stream of earth.

7. It is obvious, however, that if the process depends on the falling rain, the action must be spasmodic. On the other hand, the pay of the establishment, however small, must be a continuous charge, as they must be on the spot ready to take advantage of every shower.

8. I regard the experiment as hopeless, and recommend that the land, together with the rows of stakes, may be disposed of to the highest bidder.

9. Parties will be prepared to purchase for the purpose of reclaiming in the ordinary method, by which an enormous area of backwater swamp has already been utilized in this district.

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THE Collector's proposition is approved.

2. The Board fear that the silting process is unsuited to the reclamation of Malabar backwaters.

3. The Collector will submit an abstract of the accounts showing what money has been spent, and how.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th August 1871.*

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, 9th August 1871, No. 1,345.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. DEC. SCOTT, Captain, R.E.,
Under-Secy., P.W.D.,
for Secy. to Govt.

Rev 1871. Sep
Board of Revenue,
25/14
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 26TH JULY 1871, No. 3,121.

Dep. Secy. 1/1
Received. *8 Aug.* Encl.

JULY.
No. 3,121.

No. 1345
Submitted
9 Aug. 1871
MS L

Backwater swamp land in Malabar District.—
Proposal of Collector to dispose of certain, by
public auction, approved.—An abstract of
accounts showing expenditure incurred in at-
tempting to reclaim this land, called for.

No. 43-44