

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1871.*

No. 140. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st July 1871, No. 3,190:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madanapally, 19th June 1871, No. 132.

In paragraph 4 of Government Order, 8th August 1870, No. 1,191, Revenue Department (recorded in Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, 23rd idem, No. 537,) it was directed that resumed Dasabandum wells should be sold by auction, the purchasers being left to make their own terms with the holders of the lands under the wells.

2. In several cases applications have been made for lands of this description, and when the wells have been put up no purchaser has offered. The fact is that the wells are seldom worth buying.

3. In such cases there can be no objection to giving away the lands, reserving the right of Government to the well; but as this involves the separate demarcation of the well and its entry in the accounts as a sub-number; and as the Government gain no real advantage from the possession of a ruined well; I would propose that in cases where the well is really valueless, it should be given to the person whose application may have been accepted for the field in which the well is situated.

4. In cases where the well has any value it will of course be sold.

5. I beg to point out that no general auction of these wells has been held. It was thought more desirable that sales should take place only when the lands adjacent were applied for, for cultivation. If this procedure is not in accordance with the intentions of Government, I request that I may be instructed accordingly.

6. There is another matter connected with the final orders of Government on this subject which requires to be laid before the Board.

7. I quote the Sub-Collector's remarks, and as my opinion is in accordance with his, I trust that the Board may feel justified in leaving undisturbed the rates of assessment, which; in the cases referred to, have been in force for more than two years:—

“(1.) According to instructions conveyed in the supplement to the District Gazette of December 4th, 1869, the assessment on lands under resumed Dasabandum wells was reduced to the highest dry rate of the village in all cases where puttalis had been granted for the lands.

“(2.) These instructions were based on Government Order No. 1,836 of 29th June 1869, and were issued on the grounds that the lands under the resumed Dasabandum wells having become incorporated with Government lands, they were entitled to a reduction of assessment in the same way as other Government lands.

“(3.) A question subsequently arose whether the resumed Dasabandum lands which were lying waste were entitled to any reduction. This point was discussed and decided in Proceedings of Government of 8th August 1870, Revenue Department, and an Order was passed (No. 1,191), allowing of the action of the assessment on such lands on the grounds that they were lying waste owing to the heavy assessment on them.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1871.*

"(4.) It appears to me that the reduction directed in 1869 on the resumed Dasabandum wells held on puttah is contrary to the tenor of the Government order on the subject, inasmuch as the reduction granted on the waste resumed lands was given solely on the grounds that such lands were unoccupied and kept out of cultivation, owing to their heavy assessment, and not because they were entitled to such reduction. It may be fairly presumed that those lands which had been applied for on puttah at the old rates subsequent to their resumption were not exorbitantly assessed, and no reduction could be claimed by the holders as a right, as it could in the case of those under so-called Government wells. The reduction of assessment on these latter was granted as a measure of justice to the ryots who had dug the wells, but the reduction on the waste resumed lands was granted with a view to induce their occupation.

"(6.) As a matter of fact, however, the assessment has now been reduced for the past two years, and it would, I think, be an impolitic measure again to impose the old assessment, and would tend to shake the confidence of the people in our revised assessment. The amount of revenue involved is not large, and I would advocate that the puttahs remain undisturbed."

WORTHLESS Dasabandum wells for which no purchasers can be found may be given up to the owners of the fields in which they are situated.

2. Pending the new settlement the rates of assessment referred to in paragraph 7 should not be disturbed.

3. These proceedings will be submitted to Government.

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1871, No. 1,394.

Land Revenue.

APPROVED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev 1871. Sep.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.
No 2556.

PROCEEDINGS, 31st JULY 1871, No. 3,190.

Received. Dup. 9 Aug 71
Encl. Aug

JULY.

No. 3,190.

Dusbundum wells.—Collector of Cuddapah informed that worthless Dusbundum wells for which no purchasers can be found may be given up to owners of fields in which they are situated, and that pending new settlement, rates of assessment on lands held on puttah under resumed Dusbundum wells should not be disturbed.—These Proceedings submitted to Government.

No 1394

Approved
17 Aug 71

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Obtained 17/1 R. 17