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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	181	Press
		Mis.
Dated	27 / 1	1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

RK

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th January 1871.*

No. 373. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th October 1870, No. 6,048:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 13th August 1870, No. 324.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter addressed to me by the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, containing a proposal to restrict the irrigable area under each tank to its known capacity, and to state that Mr. Banbury's views on this subject have my full concurrence.

2. The great advantage resulting from the adoption of the proposed change will be, that the large remissions which are annually granted on account of nunjah waste on the plea of an insufficient supply of water in the tanks will be avoided.

3. I do not see much force in the objections raised by the Supervisor. If dry crops cannot be grown on the lands (which I much doubt), they can be cultivated with vadasamba or the coarse paddy, which is raised on all manavari nunjah lands without artificial irrigation.

4. If Mr. Banbury's proposal meets with the approval of the Board, I would suggest that it be carried out throughout the district simultaneously with the new settlement.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Acting Collector of Chingleput, dated Madras, 23rd July 1870, No. 1,103-122.

In the Nellore District, Mr. C. G. Master and Mr. Rundall have, during the progress of the settlement, made arrangements by which the wet ayacut of the tanks is restricted to the extent they can really respectively irrigate, and the remaining surplus lands are recorded as dry. This plan answers well apparently, and it strikes me that this arrangement is quite as much needed in your district where the tanks have demands made upon them which cannot be met, and thus the large annual remissions under Dittum Bonger.

2. If the ayacut is curtailed to its proper dimensions as regards the capabilities of the supply which can be furnished and the excess lands be entered as dry, the owners of these latter fields can raise any punjah produce they think proper under light assessment, and the annual loss and worry from the remissions would be obviated.

3. I spoke to the Supervisor about this arrangement, and you will see from the enclosed copy of a report from him that, according to his views, these are the following objections:—

- 1st.—That the land is not, as a rule, fit for dry culture;
- 2nd.—That if low nunjah rates are retained, they can cultivate anything they like;
- 3rd.—That they will be so afraid of water-rate charge that practically they will cultivate nothing.

I somewhat demur to the first of these objections. As regards the second, we still keep up the Dittum Bonger remissions, and, if we put a very low cess, it might throw out of cultivation the lands under higher rates; the water which had hitherto gone to the higher assessed lands being diverted to those more lowly taxed. Perhaps there is something in the last objection, as the Curnum or Revenue-officer might find the registered dry lands moist from percolation from the neighbouring wet fields, and then charge the owner water-rate although he had never really taken any tank-water at all. This might possibly create some apprehension in the ryots' minds.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th January 1871.*

4. I have, therefore, the honour to request that you will kindly let me know your views on the matter, also whether any previous correspondence has passed thereon. I may add that I remember, when Acting Collector of your district, the Deputy-Collector, Runga Charlu, now in Mysore, strongly advocated the adoption, in the Madras District, of the measure now under discussion.

WITH this letter the Acting Collector of Chingleput submits a letter from the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, from which it appears that the Collector and Settlement Officers of Nellore have taken the opportunity, afforded by the settlement in progress, to revise the irrigable area (ayacut) of each tank and minor source of irrigation, and to adjust the area of wet land assessed at consolidated wet rates under each to the real capacity of the work to supply water.

2. The Acting Director of Revenue Settlement approves of this measure, and urges the Acting Collector of Chingleput to adopt it with respect to the works of his district.

3. In the opinion of the Board the expedience of the course proposed is obvious.

4. It is a fact, from whatever cause it arises, that in almost all districts the registered irrigable area never is, and, as a rule, cannot be, fully watered by the work under which it lies. Cultivation, therefore, falls far short of the nominal

irrigable area, and large permanent or frequently recurring remissions are inevitable. The condition of the districts of Cuddapah and Madura in this respect has recently* been brought to the notice of Government.

5. It has been frequently noticed of late that, notwithstanding the stimulus of high prices, the registered area is nowhere fully occupied. Further, it appears that Collectors frequently accept darkhasts for lands rated as "wet," although the irrigation work on which they depend is already over-taxed.

6. The effect of this state of things is disastrous. A heavy wet assessment lies on land that cannot, as a rule, be cultivated with rice, and prevents its being utilized for dry crops. Attempts to enforce a right to water for land beyond the reach of an ordinary supply, while they can do no good, injuriously affect the supply to land, for which there might be enough if the cultivation were restricted to an area proportionate to the actual capacity of the work.

7. The Board are, therefore, of opinion that the course adopted in Nellore should be made a recognized part of the operation of re-settling every district.

8. They would further suggest the advisability of revising the ayacut of all important tanks once in ten years, when it might be increased or decreased according as the capacity of the work may have in the meantime been enlarged by improvement or diminished by deterioration.

No. 374.

ORDER THEREON, 27th January 1871, No. 181.

Land Revenue.

THE Government concur in opinion with the Board that it is eminently desirable to revise and adjust the registered "ayacut" under tanks and minor sources of irrigation, as experience proves it to be very frequently now recorded as extending far beyond the capabili-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th January 1871.*

ties of the works concerned. If previously unperformed, the operation should certainly form part of every general revision of the assessment of a district; but the Government see no necessity to defer it till this date, when the necessity for re-adjustment clearly exists at the present time; and they accordingly authorize the Board to instruct all Collectors that they are hereby to submit for the sanction and confirmation of the Board any revision of the registered "ayacut" of any tank for which they can show good cause.

2. The causes must, of course, be such as are likely to prove permanent; and the officers of the Department of Public Works will, so far as they are able, afford the Collectors such assistance as they may require for estimating the correct ayacut with reasonable accuracy. The Tahsildars should be made to understand that they will be held personally responsible for the correctness of any representations which they may submit in individual cases, and should be required to inspect the localities themselves when they advocate reduction of ayacut. In all cases of extensive revision, the tank and its ayacut should also be inspected by the divisional officer or by one of the Collector's Assistants.

3. The Government trust that practical effect will be given to these orders at once, so that as much as possible of the unirrigable miscalled "nunjah ayacut" now lying waste may be rendered available for cultivation without risk of serious loss to the cultivator at an early date.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Department Public Works.
.. the Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th October 1870.

Read the following letter from W. T. BLAIR, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 13th August 1870.
No. 524:—

I have the honour to forward copy of a letter addressed to me by the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement containing a proposal to restrict the irrigable area under each tank to its known capacity, and to state that Mr. Banbury's views on this subject have my full concurrence.

2. The great advantage resulting from the adoption of the proposed change will be that the large remissions which are annually granted on account of nunjah waste on the plea of an insufficient supply of water in the tanks will be avoided.

3. I do not see much force in the objections raised by the Supervisor. If dry crops cannot be grown on the lands, (which I much doubt,) they can be cultivated with vadasamba or the coarse Paddy which is raised on all manavari-nunjah lands without artificial irrigation.

4. If Mr. Danbury's proposal meets with the approval of the Board, I would suggest that it be carried out throughout the district simultaneously with the new settlement.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From O. DANBURY, Esq., Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Acting Collector of
Chingleput, dated Madras, 23rd July 1870, Nos 1,103-122.

In the Nellore District, Mr. C. G. Master and Mr. Rundall have during the progress of the settlement made arrangements by which the wet ayacut of the tanks is restricted to the extent they can really respectively irrigate, and the remaining surplus lands are recorded as dry. This plan answers well apparently, and it strikes me that this arrangement is quite as much needed in your district, where the tanks have demands made upon them which cannot be met and thus the large annual remissions under Dittum Banger.

2. If the system is curtailed to its proper dimensions as regards the capabilities of the supply which can be furnished and the excess lands be entered as dry, the owners of these latter fields can raise any Punjab produce they think proper under light assessment, and the annual loss and worry from the remissions would be obviated.

3. I spoke to the Superintendent about this arrangement, and you will see from the enclosed copy of a report from him that according to his views these are the following objections:—

1st.—That the land is not, as a rule, fit for dry culture.

2nd.—That, if low parish rates are retained, they can cultivate anything they like.

2nd.—That, if low water rates are retained, they can cultivate anything they like.

I somewhat demur to the first of these objections. As regards the second; we still keep up the Dittam Burger remissions, and, if we put a very low cess, it might throw out of cultivation the lands under higher rates, the water which had hitherto gone to the higher assessed lands being diverted to those more lowly taxed. Perhaps there is something in the last objection, as the Carnum or Revenue officer might find the registered dry lands moist from percolation from the neighbouring wet fields and then charge the owner water-rate although he had never really taken any tank-water at all. This might possibly create some apprehension in the ryots' minds.

4. I have, therefore, the honor to request that you will kindly let me know your views on the matter, also whether any previous correspondence has passed thereon. I may add that I remember, when Acting Collector of your district, the Deputy Collector, Runga Chariu, now in Mysore, strongly advocated the objection to the Maliras District of the measure now under discussion.

(True Copy.)

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

W. T. BLAIR,

Acting Collector.

Memorandum for Orders on No. 3183.

In these Proceedings

the Board recommends that part of the duty of the Settlement Department when undertaking the revision of the assessment of any District shall invariably be a revision of the registered Ayacut, or area of irrigable land, under each tank and minor source of irrigation, and they suggest that a similar inquiry shall be undertaken in regard to all important tanks once in ten years when the registered Ayacut might be increased or decreased according

as the capacity of the work

I would accept the 14th proposal the D.M. being instructed to submit to the Settlement Officer any addition or addition he may see fit. The revision of the Ayacut shall be done by the District Officer & not delegated to subordinates

I present the

With this letter the Acting Collector of Chingleput submits a letter from the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement from which it appears that the Collector and Settlement Officer of Nellore have taken the opportunity afforded by the settlement in progress to revise the irrigable area (ayacut) of each tank and minor source of irrigation and to adjust the area of wet land assessed at consolidated wet rates under each to the real capacity of the work to supply water.

2. The Acting Director of Revenue Settlement approves of this measure, and urges the Acting Collector of Chingleput to adopt it with respect to the works of his district.

3. In the opinion of the Board the expediency of the course proposed is obvious.

4. It is a fact, from whatever cause it arises, that in almost all districts the registered irrigable area never is, and, as a rule, cannot be, fully watered by the work under which it lies. Cultivation, therefore, falls far short of the nominal irrigable area, and large permanent or frequently recurring deficiencies are inevitable. The condition of the districts of Chingleput and Malabar in this respect has recently been brought to the notice of Government.

*Board's Proceedings, 20th April 1877, No. 2,544.
Do. 20th August 1879, No. 2,612.

5. It has been frequently noticed of late that, notwithstanding the stimulus of high prices, the registered area is nowhere fully occupied. Further it appears that Collectors frequently accept drawbacks for land rated as "wet" although the irrigation work on which they depend is already over-taxed.

6. The effect of this state of things is disastrous. A heavy wet assessment lies on land that cannot, as a rule, be cultivated with rice, and prevents its being utilized for dry crops. Attempts to enforce a right to water for land beyond the reach of an ordinary supply, while they may do good, injuriously affect the supply to land, for which there might be enough if the cultivation were restricted to an area proportionate to the actual capacity of the work.

7. The Board are, therefore, of opinion that the course adopted in Nellore should be made a recognized part of the operation of re-settling every district.

8. They would further suggest the advisability of making the ayacut of all important tanks once in ten years, when it might be increased or decreased according as the capacity of the work may have in the meantime been enlarged by improvement or diminished by deterioration.

(True Copies and Extracts.)

[Signature]
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
.. the Acting Collector of Chingleput.
.. the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement.

Edw. A. S. Rodgers.

Irrigable area under each tank, from Collector of Chingleput, forwarded from Director of Revenue Settlement, for a proposal for restriction of, to have city of tank, submitted to Government.

OCTOBER
No. 6015

[Signature]

Received 14th

20/10/75

RECEIVED, 10th OCTOBER 1879, No. 6015

MADRAS.

Recd. 1870. Office

Board of Settlement.

work may have been enlarged by improvement or diminished by deterioration.

2. The Board enlarge upon the ill effects of the present system under which much land is left uncultivated to its bearing a rate of assessment, though, in fact, it rarely receives a supply of water, and quote the cases of the Sub-Divisions of Buddah and the Mithur and Dindigul taluks of Madras in which they have already made special recommendations to a similar effect as their present proposal.

3. The Board's proposals in regard to Buddah have already been sanctioned, and those for the Mithur and Dindigul taluks are now before Government. There

are any amount of proposals by the Acting District Officer - I am sure that they can only be carried out with a lower assessment than since the close of the last year. The assessment is intended to provide for ordinary cultivation.

J. P. S.
R. R.
I agree with the Board in their proposal to carry out the proposed system.

out without great difficulty in the classification of land and a permanent enforcement of the arrangement. The enforcement of a uniform rate irrespective of the actual amount of water supplied and the condition of the crop is contrary to the traditions and interests of the people who probably still regard the actual amount produced as the basis of assessment. It has been suggested that it is easy to carry out the principle of an understanding agreement on dry land - much of the land in the district is under

There is undoubtedly much force in their remarks, and a general order of the nature desired may, it is submitted, well be issued. Having in view, however, the very great advantages which would be gained by the discontinuance of remissions as a recognised part of our revenue system, it seems worthy of consideration whether it

it would not be, as goods
arrangement for the
Settlement Department
to go even further than
the Board's proposal -
to divide all land under

irrigation works into
three classes as regards
its probable supply
of water - 1. Land with
a certain supply in
all seasons - 2. Land
with a certain supply
in all average seasons -

3. Land with an un-
certain supply - The
land in classes one and
two might then be
assessed at wet rates
which under no ordinary
circumstances would
be entitled to remission,
as the rates placed upon
those in class II might
be so fixed as to allow
for an occasional de-
fective supply of water.
The land in class III
would

he did this with
doubtful ~~was~~ & un-
certain 2^d as to in-
crease in supply - but
the deduction we had
to make, to induce
the system to be superior in
the long run.

3. Land with an un-
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for an occasional de-
fective supply of water.
The land in class III
would

would be assessed at
dry rates, which under
existing rules are never
remitted except under
extraordinary circum-
stances, and would be
charged with a water
rate in such years as
they obtained a supply
of water.

Under such a system
the remission now claim-
able under rule II of
the Remission rules would
disappear, and, as each
district is re-assessed

that claimable under
Rule III would also go. In
fact, the rule would be that
all land taken up would
be paid for except under
such exceptional circum-
stances as are provided
for in Rules IV and VI which
would be then equally ap-
plicable to 'wet' or 'dry' land.

The original object of
making at the best
as large as possible the
partly as a security
against fraud. When
land is registered as
"wet" the right must be
his title to remission to
one water payment - whereas
if it is registered "dry" he
yet gets water, he has
to pay one title to the rate.

It must be remembered
also, on the right side that it
cannot be a right to air
put in an available form

b. The labour of
inspecting officers (which
from an inconsiderable part
of our regulatory system) would
then be reduced, in ordinary
years, to observing that no
land was cultivated except
what was duly paid for,
and to examining that small
proportion of land - which,
though

Though registered as dry,
might occasionally re-
ceive a supply of
water for which an
extra charge would have
to be made.

1. The first part of the paper is a list of names of the members of the committee, which is headed by the name of the committee, "The Committee on the Administration of the Government". The names are listed in alphabetical order, and the list is followed by a list of the names of the members of the committee, which is headed by the name of the committee, "The Committee on the Administration of the Government".

*For
Enrollment
under Act No. 11*

Revenue Department

1871-

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 17th Aug 1871

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Submitting letter from
Collector of Chingleput forwarding
one from District of Revenue
Settlement containing a proposal
for restriction of *Adangal* area
under each tank to known capacity
of tank

(H. O. 10th Oct 1870. N^o 6942)

L. H.

The Government
concurred in opinion with
the Board that it is
eminently desirable to
revise and adjust the
registered *"ayacut"* under
tanks and *Minors* some

of irrigation, as experience
proves it to be very frequent.
It is now recorded as
extending far beyond
the capabilities of the
works concerned. If,
previously unperformed,
the operations should
certainly form part of,
every general revision
of the assessment of a
District. But the Govt.
see no necessity to defer
it till this date when the
necessity for readjustment
clearly exists at the present
time, and they accordingly
authorise the Board to
instruct all Collectors
that they are authorized
to submit for their
consideration

14
sanction and confir-
mation of the Board.
any revision of the
registered "ayacut" of
any tank, for which
they can show good
cause.

2 The causes must
of course be such as
are likely to prove in-
permanent and the
officers of the D. P. W.
will, so far as they are
able, afford the Collector
such assistance as they
may require for estimating
the correct ayacut with
reasonable accuracy. The
Tahsildars should be
made to understand that
they will be held personally
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responsible for the correctness
 of any representations
 which they may submit
 in individual cases,
 and should be required
 to inspect the localities
 themselves when they
 advocate reduction of
 ayacut. In all cases
 of extensive revision
 the tank and its ayacut
 should also be inspected
 by the Divisional offi-
 cer or by one of the
 Collector's assistants.

The Government
 think that practical
 effect will be given to
 these orders at once
 so that as much as may
 be possible

The work of the present is to be done by the Divisional Officer and the Collector's assistants. The work of the present is to be done by the Divisional Officer and the Collector's assistants. The work of the present is to be done by the Divisional Officer and the Collector's assistants.

of the Government of India

possible of the un-irri-
 gable mis-called "Ninjat
 ayacut" now lying waste
 may be rendered available
 for cultivation without
 risk of serious loss to
 the cultivators at an
 early date.

YR

*14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20.
 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27.
 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34.*

YR

Director of the
Bureau of the
United States

1/1/11