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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1063 Press / Mis.

Dated 15-7- 1872.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 108. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th June 1872, No. 1,088:—

Read the following letter from C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th April 1872, No. 92:—

WITH reference to paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings of the 10th August last, No. 3,369, I have the honour to report on the Cauvery Channels and their establishments.

2. CHANNELS.—The channels are three in number, and are known as (1) the Paramathy Rajah Channel, 21½ miles in length, (2) Comarapolliem Channel, 8 miles, and (3) the Mooganoor Channel, 16 miles. The first and the last are fed by koramboos.* The principal koramboo is at Jaderpolliem and this supplies the Paramathy Rajah Channel. This koramboo extends over two miles in the bed of the river. The head of the Mooganoor Channel was formerly at Veloor; but the site not being suitable, and the koramboo having fallen to pieces, I had a fresh one constructed at a better site near Koodoothorai. The Comarapolliem Channel has no koramboo of its own, but is supplied at its source from a swamp called Shori Madai, and also receives the surplus the fields of the Paramathy Rajah Channel, to which it runs parallel for upwards of four miles.

* Dams made of nanul grass, branches of trees placed diagonally at the river to divert the water into the channel.

Vide Sketch enclosed.

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3. The three channels, which were in existence at our acquisition of the country, have been very much improved. The Paramathy Rajah Channel is the best of the three, and yields the largest amount of revenue. It is twenty-four feet in width, and the depth of water is never less than two feet, though during the freshes it is as much as five or six feet. The Comarapolliem Channel is also of the same width and depth, and is equally well supplied. The Mooganoor Channel, though possessing all the advantages which the Paramathy Rajah possesses, has, of late years, suffered much from the utter inability on the part of the Department of Public Works to keep it up owing to a misunderstanding between the ryots and the department. The koramboo had disappeared, the channel silted up, and the cultivation was coming to a stand-still, when, last January, in consultation with the Executive Engineer of the Range, it was agreed that I should take charge of this channel. I so at once, and put in hand immediately the construction of the koramboo, which has now been completed, and there is a supply of water of upwards of two feet running down the channel, and all the remissions granted during the last few years will in future be saved.

4. KARAIS.—The lands in the different villages under the channels are subdivided for the purpose of kudimaramut (customary labour) into what are called karais, so as to allow the incidence of the grain-tax or labour payment to fall pretty equally on all the landholders. On an average, the karai consists of 8 acres, and the number of Puttadars in each karai varies according to the extent of land held by each Puttadar. The head of the karai is the Karadar to whom demands are made for customary labour.

5. The holders of the different karais are bound, not only to contribute grain-fees for the maintenance of the *Superintending* establishment charged with the distribution of water, looking after the koramboo channel banks, &c., but have also to contribute the customary labour for the repair of the channels and the banks. This labour is divided into three classes—

(1st.) Nija Korambáls, whose duty is to remain always at the koramboo and to keep the same in repair.

(2nd.) The Rettipáls, which, as the term implies, are called out, when the number of Nija Korambáls prove insufficient, which often happens at the time of the freshes.

(3rd.) The Nálu Rettipáls or four times the ordinary number of labourers. These are called out for the periodical clearance of the channels and on occasions of extraordinary emergency, such as the washing away, wholly or in part, of the koramboo, breaches of channel or river banks, &c., &c.

6. Of the karais under each channel, a certain number called mafi karais are set apart for the payment of the fees to the superintending establishment which consists of Koramboo Monigars, Neerkutties, and Bank Peons, &c.—*vide* Statement No. II.—while the remaining karais only contribute Nija Korambáls and Rettipáls. All the karais, however, are bound to contribute *Nálu* Rettipáls. The better to illustrate my meaning I will take the Rajah Channel; there are under it 220 karais; of these, 69 are mafi karais or karais set apart for the payment of the superintending establishment. The remaining 151 karais have to contribute Nija Korambáls and Rettipáls. The ryots are bound by custom to furnish one working cooly for every two of these karais. Excluding, therefore, the mafi karais, the proper number to be contributed is seventy-five men, and these are accordingly the number of Nija Korambáls permanently maintained at the head of the channel. When, on emergency, this number proves insufficient, the Rettipáls are called out, making 75+75=150 men, which number, in point of fact, is always kept up by the ryots at the rate of one man for each karai: these men are ordinarily employed one half their time in the ryots' field, and the other half at the channel head as Korambáls, the two sets of labourers exchanging places once in a fortnight. When on extraordinary emergencies the 154 men (Nija Korambáls and Rettipáls) prove insufficient, the Nálu Rettipáls are turned out, *i. e.*, the 150 men *plus* 220 men at the rate of one man for each of the 220 karais under the channel or altogether 370 men, which is the maximum the ryots are bound to furnish for the periodical clearance of the channels, as well as for extraordinary emergencies such as those above described. The Nálu Rettipáls are called out on an average twelve times a year.

7. In case of any Karadar failing to send the prescribed number of labourers he is bound to contribute, he is liable to a penalty of 4 Annas per diem for every labourer for the number of days their labour may be required.

8. NATURE OF FEES LEVIED.—The channel fees levied in the Cauvery villages are of two kinds—

1*st*—Koramboo fees.

2*nd*—Sotantram fees.

The former consists with little variation of a grain contribution of 3 Pudies =72 Madras marcals for each karai of land cultivated under the Paramutty Channel, whilst in the case of the other two channels it varies from 18 to 40 marcals per karai. This allowance is for the payment of both the superintending establishment as well as the Nija Korambáls and Rettipáls. The sotantram fee is also paid in grain, and varies from 1 to 7 Madras measures for each chai* of land under cultivation, and is intended for the special remuneration of the superintending establishment.

*Equal to A. 1 G. 12 A. 2

9. The value of the grain-fees, as well as the labour which the ryots are liable to contribute annually, may be set down for each of the three channels as follows:—

Names of Channels.	Value of the grain fees contributed for the superintending establishment as well as for the Nija Korambáls.			Value of the labour contributed in the shape of Rettipáls and Nálu Rettipáls.			Total.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	6,254	0	4	6,180	0	0	12,434	0	4
2. The Comarapolliem Channel	761	0	6	1,822	8	0	2,583	8	6
3. The Mooganoor Channel...	795	4	0	1,200	0	0	1,995	4	0
Total ..	7,810	4	10	9,202	8	0	17,012	12	10

10. Such then is the system in force sanctioned by immemorial custom, and such the obligation recognized by the ryots incidental to the possession of land under the river channels; but the question now arises how far the system has been found to answer the purposes for which it was intended?

11. MANAGEMENT OF THE CHANNELS.—Up to the transfer of the management of the channels to the Department of Public Works,* and so long as it remained under the Revenue Department, it worked well. The grain-fees were punctually collected and the required labour promptly enforced. The transfer of the charge to the Department of Public Works took place in 1858, and Mr. Brett, the Collector, who recommended the transfer, was himself only two years afterwards (or in 1860) of opinion that the change was a mistake, and that a re-transfer to the Revenue Department was advisable. He visited the channels early in 1861, and took written statements from the ryots under the channels, a precis of which was forwarded to the Board with Mr. Arbuthnott's letter of the 16th June 1862, No. 135. Subsequent Collectors, Messrs. Arbuthnott and Pochin, were decidedly of opinion that the channels should be under the management of the Revenue Department as is the case in the opposite bank of the Cauvery (Coimbatore District). All the Revenue Officers who had anything to do with the Namkul Division were of the same opinion. On the face of all these recorded opinions, and the strong

*In 1858.

feelings evinced by the ryots against a system which has proved adverse to their interest, I am surprised that a management acknowledged to be defective should have continued so long. Not only were the Collectors, the Board of Revenue, and Government, repeatedly addressed by the ryots on the subject, but the ryots under one of the channels sent a deputation to meet Lord Napier when he came to Salem in 1869 in reference to this matter. When I took charge of the district in October 1870, I found that the petition presented to the Governor had been referred to the Collector for disposal, and in consequence I visited the channels and spent more than a month in the different Cauvery villages. I have been over the whole length of every channel as well as the river bank: I have never seen a worse state of things. The Mooganoor Koramboo, as I mentioned above, was entirely gone, and the cultivation under that channel was coming to a standstill. The banks of all the channels were encroached upon, and the ryots were permitted to cut holes in the bund, and sometimes each field has as many as two pot sluices from which water flows without any check whatever, and the waste is deplorable. The channels (especially the Mooganoor one) were silted up, and the sluices and other masonry works are in a state of great disrepair. The banks of the channels were so much neglected that in some places they were entirely blocked up with the overgrowth of prickly-pear. The padoogays on the river bank had been encroached upon and, in several places, entirely destroyed. Altogether the state of things showed an utter neglect and want of care on the part of those who had the care and management of the channels. The Public Works Department having no power to enforce the payment of the grain fees, large arrears accumulated, and, as the establishments had not received their emoluments regularly, the consequence has been inefficiency and a great falling off in their strength. On one channel (Mooganoor) the establishment collapsed entirely.

12. Transfer of the Management to Revenue Department.—I trust I have shown that the present system cannot any longer continue without seriously affecting the interests of both the Government and the ryots, and it is therefore of primary importance that the management of the channels should be transferred to the Revenue Department. As stated above, I took charge of the Mooganoor Channel; Mr. Lawford, the Range Officer, expressed his inability to work this channel owing to the collapse of the establishment. Subsequently I received a letter from the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, in which he requested me to take charge of all the channels. This I have done, and I trust that the step will meet with the Board's approbation.

13. In the neighbouring district of Coimbatore the channels are under the Revenue Department. In this district they were once transferred to the Department of Public Works; but were resumed by the Revenue Department two or three years afterwards, finding that the Public Works Department had signally failed to work them. Both the Superintending and the Executive Engineers acknowledge the inconsistency of their department undertaking administrative duties, and are sensible that their staff is not only insufficient for the control of the channels, but also incompetent to enforce either the customary labour or the payment of the grain-fees, upon which depends mainly, if not altogether, the efficient working of the channels and their establishments.

14. Proposed measures for better Management.—The foremost change in the present system, which was absolutely and urgently called for, viz., the transfer of the charge to the Revenue Department, having taken place, it now remains for me to lay before the Board proposals (1) for the re-modelling of the establishments, and (2) for providing better means for realizing the grain-fees, and for enforcing the customary labour. I will first deal with the latter upon which the success of the former depends.

15. Collection of Grain-fees and the enforcement of Customary Labour.—It will be impossible to effect this without a legislative enactment. Threats such as stopping the supply of water for cultivation or withholding remissions have proved abortive; experience has shown such to be empty threats. Not only in this district, but in Coimbatore, the want of a legislative enactment has been much and long felt, and I understand that the late Collector, Mr. Sullivan, urged on the Board the necessity of an Act. It is true that Act I. of 1858 arms the Collectors with power to enforce customary labour; but although the provisions of that Act answer well enough for obtaining labour on emergency, it is powerless to enforce payment of customary fees, or to compel the contribution of labour required for the Cauvery Channels. If, on the other hand, the grain-fees are commuted into money-payment and entered in the puttas, the collection will be easy enough; but this cannot be done unless the procedure is recognized by legislative enactment. I have ventured, therefore, to draw up the draft of an Act commuting the grain-fees to a money-payment, and to otherwise provide for the better management of the Cauvery Channels, and I beg to submit the same for the Board's favourable consideration.

16. Proposed Cauvery Channels' Act.—The main features of the proposed Act, are first, to give up the present grain contributions under the different channels, and to substitute for the same a money-cess; and, secondly, to provide for the prompt recovery of the cess, and for the enforcement of the customary labour. The grain contributions vary in different villages under the channels, as already shown, and their collection is, therefore, very tedious and perplexing. Again, there is a constant cry on the part of the labourers that they are not properly paid. The payment of the wages to the superintending as well as the labouring establishments should be in the hands of Government, and not the ryots. The labouring establishment will then look to Government instead of the ryots for their wages; and regularity and efficiency is at once secured. This object can only be attained by commuting the obligation of the ryots to contribute fees to the superintending establishment, and labour known as Nija Korambáls, Rettipáls, and Nálu Rettipáls into a money-payment; and for this, Sections 3 and 4 of the Draft Act provide. Though the payment of the working establishment (labourers) will be in the hands of Government, still it is important that the required number of labourers, according to the karai system, should be provided by the land-holders; and that Government pay the labourers out of the cess, which will be formed into a fund. This is exactly the system followed under two channels in the Coimbatore District; and I have in person ascertained these conditions to be acceptable to the Salem ryots. Sections 7, 8, and 9 are introduced to provide for this.

17. Privileged Exceptions.—It should be mentioned that the obligation to contribute labour and grain-fees does not extend to the holders of land, which has

been brought under cultivation *subsequent to the Pymash*, or to the holders of land in certain muta and agraharam villages. These lands are not included in any of the karais, and are, therefore, free from contributing cess or labour. This distinction is evidently most unfair and invidious, seeing that all holders of land under the channels participate equally in the benefits derivable from them. They ought, therefore, all to bear equally the cost of maintenance. Section 2 of the draft, the words "held on whatsoever tenure" will legalize the imposition of the tax on such land-holders.

18. The rates of cess proposed are 2 Rupees for every acre of land receiving direct irrigation and 1 Rupee for every acre of land irrigated by baling. It is obvious that this distinction, which is maintained even when assessing the land revenue, is necessary. I do not consider the proposed rates at all high. The Board will see from the enclosed Statement No. I. (column 31,) that the incidence of the present contributions is at Rupees 6-0-11, 3-14-6, and 2-3-9 per acre, respectively, under the three channels; but it must be borne in mind that, as stated in paragraph 17, the holders of certain lands are exempted from payment. But, if the whole extent of land under each channel is taken into account, as now proposed, the rates will fall equally on *all*, and prove burdensome to none.

19. Revision of the Channel Establishments.—I now come to the question of establishments. The enclosed Statement No. II. shows the number and description of servants employed under the existing permanent or superintending establishments, their emoluments, and the nature of the duties performed by them. This statement does not include the Rettipáls and Nálu Rettipáls, who are only called out temporarily and on special occasions.

Name of the Channels.	Number of Servants.	Cost.
		RS.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	111	2,832
2. Comarapolliem do.	21	564
3. Mooganoor do.	27	536
Total ...	159	3,932

20. The assets at present available for the payment of the permanent establishment are stated below:—

Name of the Channels.	Deductions made in the Government Beriz or Revenue.	Value of Inam lands.	Value of Sotantram fees.	Value of Koramboo fees.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	120 0 0	... ...	479 12 10	5,774 3 6	6,374 0 4
2. Comarapolliem Channel	84 0 0	... ...	175 0 0	586 0 6	845 0 6
3. Mooganoor Channel.	24 8 0	2 8 7	168 10 8	626 9 4	822 4 7
Total ...	228 8 0	2 8 7	823 7 6	6,986 13 4	8,041 5 5

It will be seen that it has always been usual to deduct Rupees 228-8-0 from Government Land Revenue Collections for the payment of the channel servants named in the margin; the amount being included in the 1,20,000 Rupees sanctioned in the Government Proceedings of the 9th January last, No. 47, as the unvarying contribution to the Salem Village Service Fund; this Rupees 228-8-0 will be deducted annually from this Fund and credited to the Channel Service Fund. The Inam, viz., Rupees 2-8-7, is enjoyed by one of the Moopens or Neerkutties under the Mooganoor Channel. Like other Village Service Inams in the district, this will be enfranchised and the proceeds credited to the Channel Service Fund. The value of the Sotantram and Koramboo fees contributed by the ryots for the permanent establishment, as shown above, has been commuted into money-value at the average selling prices of the last ten years.

Monegars.
Neeranis.

21. The proceeds of the money cess at the rates I propose on the entire cultivation under each channel will be as follows:—

Name of the Channels.	Proceeds of Money Cess.	Add Government Contribution and the Inam.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	6,694 10 0	120 0 0	6,814 10 0
2. Comarapolliem do.	1,267 1 0	84 0 0	1,351 1 0
3. Mooganoor do.	2,183 5 3	27 0 7	2,210 5 10
Total ...	10,145 0 3	231 0 7	10,376 0 10

These will be the assets available under the proposed change for the payment of the permanent establishment as well as the extra* hands called out on emergencies.

* Rettipáls and Nálu Rettipáls.

It will be seen that these fall short of the amount of the present grain contributions shown in paragraph 9. It must be remembered that the amount entered in paragraph 9 is the *gross amount of grain-fees, which*, according to immemorial custom, the ryots are liable to contribute, and not what is actually realized. It has already been shown that the recovery of the grain-fees is attended with much difficulty, and that there is a constant complaint on the part of the establishment of unpunctual payment, and that the Department of Public Works had, from inability to enforce payment, allowed large arrears of fees to accumulate. It may, therefore, fairly be calculated that hardly half the amount shown in paragraph 9 was realized during the last ten years. It should also be remembered that the value of the grain-fees shown in paragraph 9 was reckoned at the average selling prices of the last ten years, during which period the grain price has risen considerably. The amount therefore in paragraph 9 must be considered as nominal. On the other hand the proceeds, as proposed under the Act, will be regularly and punctually realized to the full extent, and the amount will, I consider, be sufficient to cover the cost of the whole establishment.

22. From Statement No. II. it will be seen that, in the present list of establishments, there are certain classes of servants which, I consider, it is unnecessary to maintain for channel purposes, such as Kóndivotties, Palogans, &c., and that the general pay of the establishment is, I consider, too low and unequal. In consultation with the principal land-holders under the channels, I have drawn up a fresh scale of establishment for each channel, which is shown in Statement No. III. The scale has been fixed with reference to the actual requirements of each channel, and with a view to secure the greatest amount of efficiency.

23. The cost of the proposed establishments and the balance remaining after deducting the same from the available assets, are as follows:—

Name of the Channels.	Available Assets.	Cost of the Establishment.	Balance.
	RS. A. P.	RS.	RS. A. P.
Paramathy Rajah Channel...	6,694 10 0	2,628	4,066 10 0
Comarapolliem do.	1,267 1 0	504	763 1 0
Mooganoor do.	2,183 5 3	1,044	1,139 5 3

The balance above shown will be reserved for paying the temporary* emergent establishments, whenever they are called out, and for meeting the cost of materials, &c., required for the construction of koramboos and for closing breaches, &c., in the channel banks, petty repairs to sluices, &c.

*Rettipáls.
Nálu Rettipáls.

24. Statement No. I. shows in detail the cultivation under each channel, together with other particulars. An abstract of the statement is shown below:—

Name of the Channels.	Nadaneer or Direct Irrigation.		Erappoo or Baling.		Total.	
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.
	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	2,839	40,438	1,016	6,789	3,855	47,227
2. Comarapolliem Channel	599	5,156	68	415	668	5,571
3. Mooganoor Channel ...	851	10,811	482	3,458	1,332	14,269
Total ...	4,289	56,405	1,566	10,662	5,855	67,067

25. Concluding Remarks.—In conclusion, a few words as to the state of the river and channel banks may not be out of place. These have greatly deteriorated during the last twelve years, and the masonry works connected with the channels are very much in want of repair. I have requested the Officer of the Department of Public Works to frame the necessary estimates for putting these masonry works in order, and where encroachments have taken place on channel banks they are, under my orders, being restored to their former condition.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th July 1872.

26. In regard to the river bank, it has been encroached upon to such an extent by the river that a breach in the bank near a village called Teroomalanamasamoodram, during the last freshes, was nearly washing away the village and the whole cultivation for upwards of a mile. Several groynes are now under construction at the locality where the breach took place, but there is still very much to be done for the protection of the river banks and for preserving the padoogays which, as I have already said, have been considerably damaged. The ryots have, within the last 15 years, been allowed to encroach largely upon padoogays and to cultivate the same on putta, which they had obtained through the connivance of the village officers. I have had all these encroachments measured, and have taken steps to restore them for the purpose for which they were originally set apart. In cases where the ryots may be unwilling to give up the lands by conciliatory means they must be obtained under the Land Acquisition Act. I propose addressing the Board at length on this subject on the completion of the Jamabundy of Namkul Taluq in which I am now engaged.

Enclosure No. 1.—Sketch.

Enclosure No. 2.—Draft of an Act.

Enclosures Nos. 3 to 5.—Statements.

The Board approve of the Collector's action in taking charge of the channels which have not been successfully managed by the Public Works Department, and resolve to request Government to sanction this arrangement.

2. The proposed changes in establishment seem all to be judicious, and may be introduced.

3. The question whether a special law shall be enacted to meet the case of these channels will be considered soon in connection with the general subject of reviving and enforcing customary labour.

No. 109. Order thereon, 15th July 1872, No. 1,063.

Irrigation, No. 1.

Communicated to the Department of Public Works.

2. The Collector's Proceedings are fully approved and sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

25.7.06
6.7.07
22.7.05

28.8.37

Orig. under

Govt. of [1872] Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

&c., &c.,

Dated July 15th.

Read

Ent.

G. O. 5th July 1872. No. 1,088.

JULY.

Nos. 108-109.

Cauvery Channels in Salem District.—Proceedings Board of Revenue, requesting sanction to the Collector's action in having taken charge of them, approved and sanctioned, and the Proceedings communicated to Public Works Department.

No. 1,088.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th June 1872.

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* Dams made of nanul grass, branches of trees placed diagonally at the river to divert the water into the channel.

Vide Sketch enclosed.

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5. The holders of the different karais are bound, not only to contribute grain-fees for the maintenance of the *Superintending* establishment charged with the distribution of water, looking after the koramboo channel banks, &c., but have also to contribute the customary labour for the repair of the channels and the banks. This labour is divided into three classes—

(1st.) Nija Korambáls, whose duty is to remain always at the koramboo and to keep the same in repair.

(2nd.) The Rettipáls, which, as the term implies, are called out, when the number of Nija Korambáls prove insufficient, which often happens at the time of the freshes.

(3rd.) The Nálu Rettipáls or four times the ordinary number of labourers. These are called out for the periodical clearance of the channels and on occasions of extraordinary emergency, such as the washing away, wholly or in part, of the koramboo, breaches of channel or river banks, &c., &c.

6. Of the karais under each channel, a certain number called mafi karais are set apart for the payment of the fees to the superintending establishment which consists of Koramboo Monigars, Neerkutties, and Bank Peons, &c.—*vide* Statement No. II.—while the remaining karais only contribute Nija Korambáls and Rettipáls. All the karais, however, are bound to contribute *Nálu* Rettipáls. The better to illustrate my meaning I will take the Rajah Channel; there are under it 220 karais; of these, 69 are mafi karais or karais set apart for the payment of the superintending establishment. The remaining 151 karais have to contribute Nija Korambáls and Rettipáls. The ryots are bound by custom to furnish one working cooly for every two of these karais. Excluding, therefore, the mafi karais, the proper number to be contributed is seventy-five men, and these are accordingly the number of Nija Korambáls permanently maintained at the head of the channel. When, on emergency, this number proves insufficient, the Rettipáls are called out, making 75+75=150 men, which number, in point of fact, is always kept up by the ryots at the rate of one man for each karai: these men are ordinarily employed one half their time in the ryots' field, and the other half at the channel head as Korambáls, the two sets of labourers exchanging places once in a fortnight. When on extraordinary emergencies the 154 men (Nija Korambáls and Rettipáls) prove insufficient, the Nálu Rettipáls are turned out, *i. e.*, the 150 men *plus* 220 men at the rate of one man for each of the 220 karais under the channel or altogether 370 men, which is the maximum the ryots are bound to furnish for the periodical clearance of the channels, as well as for extraordinary emergencies such as those above described. The Nálu Rettipáls are called out on an average twelve times a year.

7. In case of any Karadar failing to send the prescribed number of labourers he is bound to contribute, he is liable to a penalty of 4 Annas per diem for every labourer for the number of days their labour may be required.

8. NATURE OF FEES LEVIED.—The channel fees levied in the Cauvery villages are of two kinds—

1*st*—Koramboo fees.
2*nd*—Sotantram fees.

The former consists with little variation of a grain contribution of 3 Pudies =72 Madras marcals for each karai of land cultivated under the Paramutty Channel, whilst in the case of the other two channels it varies from 18 to 40 marcals per karai. This allowance is for the payment of both the superintending establishment as well as the Nija Korambáls and Rettipáls. The sotantram fee is also paid in grain, and varies from 1 to 7 Madras measures for each chai* of land under cultivation, and is intended for the special remuneration of the superintending establishment.

	A.	G.	A.
*Equal to	1	12	2

9. The value of the grain-fees, as well as the labour which the ryots are liable to contribute annually, may be set down for each of the three channels as follows:—

Names of Channels.	Value of the grain fees contributed for the superintending establishment as well as for the Nija Korambáls.			Value of the labour contributed in the shape of Rettipáls and Nálu Rettipáls.			Total.		
	RS.	A,	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	6,254	0	4	6,180	0	0	12,434	0	4
2. The Comarapolliem Channel	761	0	6	1,822	8	0	2,583	8	6
3. The Mooganoor Channel...	795	4	0	1,200	0	0	1,995	4	0
Total ..	7,810	4	10	9,202	8	0	17,012	12	10

10. Such then is the system in force sanctioned by immemorial custom, and such the obligation recognized by the ryots incidental to the possession of land under the river channels; but the question now arises how far the system has been found to answer the purposes for which it was intended?

11. MANAGEMENT OF THE CHANNELS.—Up to the transfer of the management of the channels to the Department of Public Works,* and so long as it remained under the Revenue Department, it worked well. The grain-fees were punctually collected and the required labour promptly enforced. The transfer of the charge to the Department of Public Works took place in 1858, and Mr. Brett, the Collector, who recommended the transfer, was himself only two years afterwards (or in 1860) of opinion that the change was a mistake, and that a re-transfer to the Revenue Department was advisable. He visited the channels early in 1861, and took written statements from the ryots under the channels, a precis of which was forwarded to the Board with Mr. Arbuthnott's letter of the 16th June 1862, No. 135. Subsequent Collectors, Messrs. Arbuthnott and Pochin, were decidedly of opinion that the channels should be under the management of the Revenue Department as is the case in the opposite bank of the Cauvery (Coimbatore District). All the Revenue Officers who had anything to do with the Namkul Division were of the same opinion. On the face of all these recorded opinions, and the strong feelings evinced by the ryots against a system which has proved adverse to their interest, I am surprised that a management acknowledged to be defective should have continued so long. Not only were the Collectors, the Board of Revenue, and Government, repeatedly addressed by the ryots on the subject, but

*In 1858.

the ryots under one of the channels sent a deputation to meet Lord Napier when he came to Salem in 1869 in reference to this matter. When I took charge of the district in October 1870, I found that the petition presented to the Governor had been referred to the Collector for disposal, and in consequence I visited the channels and spent more than a month in the different Cauvery villages. I have been over the whole length of every channel as well as the river bank: I have never seen a worse state of things. The Mooganoor Koramboo, as I mentioned above, was entirely gone, and the cultivation under that channel was coming to a standstill. The banks of all the channels were encroached upon, and the ryots were permitted to cut holes in the bund, and sometimes each field has as many as two pot sluices from which water flows without any check whatever, and the waste is deplorable. The channels (especially the Mooganoor one) were silted up, and the sluices and other masonry works are in a state of great disrepair. The banks of the channels were so much neglected that in some places they were entirely blocked up with the overgrowth of prickly-pear. The padoogays on the river bank had been encroached upon and, in several places, entirely destroyed. Altogether the state of things showed an utter neglect and want of care on the part of those who had the care and management of the channels. The Public Works Department having no power to enforce the payment of the grain fees, large arrears accumulated, and, as the establishments had not received their emoluments regularly, the consequence has been inefficiency and a great falling off in their strength. On one channel (Mooganoor) the establishment collapsed entirely.

12. Transfer of the Management to Revenue Department.—I trust I have shown that the present system cannot any longer continue without seriously affecting the interests of both the Government and the ryots, and it is therefore of primary importance that the management of the channels should be transferred to the Revenue Department. As stated above, I took charge of the Mooganoor Channel; Mr. Lawford, the Range Officer, expressed his inability to work this channel owing to the collapse of the establishment. Subsequently I received a letter from the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, in which he requested me to take charge of all the channels. This I have done, and I trust that the step will meet with the Board's approbation.

13. In the neighbouring district of Coimbatore the channels are under the Revenue Department. In this district they were once transferred to the Department of Public Works; but were resumed by the Revenue Department two or three years afterwards, finding that the Public Works Department had signally failed to work them. Both the Superintending and the Executive Engineers acknowledge the inconsistency of their department undertaking administrative duties, and are sensible that their staff is not only insufficient for the control of the channels, but also incompetent to enforce either the customary labour or the payment of the grain-fees, upon which depends mainly, if not altogether, the efficient working of the channels and their establishments.

14. Proposed measures for better Management.—The foremost change in the present system, which was absolutely and urgently called for, viz., the transfer of the charge to the Revenue Department, having taken place, it now remains for me to lay before the Board proposals (1) for the re-modelling of the establishments, and (2) for providing better means for realizing the grain-fees, and for enforcing the customary labour. I will first deal with the latter upon which the success of the former depends.

15. Collection of Grain-fees and the enforcement of Customary Labour.—It will be impossible to effect this without a legislative enactment. Threats such as stopping the supply of water for cultivation or withholding remissions have proved abortive; experience has shown such to be empty threats. Not only in this district, but in Coimbatore, the want of a legislative enactment has been much and long felt, and I understand that the late Collector, Mr. Sullivan, urged on the Board the necessity of an Act. It is true that Act I. of 1858 arms the Collectors with power to enforce customary labour; but although the provisions of that Act answer well enough for obtaining labour on emergency, it is powerless to enforce payment of customary fees, or to compel the contribution of labour required for the Cauvery Channels. If, on the other hand, the grain-fees are commuted into money-payment and entered in the puttas, the collection will be easy enough; but this cannot be done unless the procedure is recognized by legislative enactment. I have ventured, therefore, to draw up the draft of an Act commuting the grain-fees to a money-payment, and to otherwise provide for the better management of the Cauvery Channels, and I beg to submit the same for the Board's favourable consideration.

16. Proposed Cauvery Channels' Act.—The main features of the proposed Act, are first, to give up the present grain contributions under the different channels, and to substitute for the same a money-cess; and, secondly, to provide for the prompt recovery of the cess, and for the enforcement of the customary labour. The grain contributions vary in different villages under the channels, as already shown, and their collection is, therefore, very tedious and perplexing. Again, there is a constant cry on the part of the labourers that they are not properly paid. The payment of the wages to the superintending as well as the labouring establishments should be in the hands of Government, and not the ryots. The labouring establishment will then look to Government instead of the ryots for their wages; and regularity and efficiency is at once secured. This object can only be attained by commuting the obligation of the ryots to contribute fees to the superintending establishment, and labour known as Nija Korambáls, Rettipáls, and Nálu Rettipáls into a money-payment; and for this, Sections 3 and 4 of the Draft Act provide. Though the payment of the working establishment (labourers) will be in the hands of Government, still it is important that the required number of labourers, according to the karai system, should be provided by the land-holders; and that Government pay the labourers out of the cess, which will be formed into a fund. This is exactly the system followed under two channels in the Coimbatore District; and I have in person ascertained these conditions to be acceptable to the Salem ryots. Sections 7, 8, and 9 are introduced to provide for this.

17. Privileged Exceptions.—It should be mentioned that the obligation to contribute labour and grain-fees does not extend to the holders of land, which has been brought under cultivation *subsequent to the Pymash*, or to the holders of land in certain muta and agraharam villages. These lands are not included in any of the karais, and are, therefore, free from contributing cess or labour. This distinc-

tion is evidently most unfair and invidious, seeing that all holders of land under the channels participate equally in the benefits derivable from them. They ought, therefore, all to bear equally the cost of maintenance. Section 2 of the draft, the words "held on whatsoever tenure" will legalize the imposition of the tax on such land-holders.

18. The rates of cess proposed are 2 Rupees for every acre of land receiving direct irrigation and 1 Rupee for every acre of land irrigated by baling. It is obvious that this distinction, which is maintained even when assessing the land revenue, is necessary. I do not consider the proposed rates at all high. The Board will see from the enclosed Statement No. I. (column 31,) that the incidence of the present contributions is at Rupees 6-0-11, 3-14-6, and 2-3-9 per acre, respectively, under the three channels; but it must be borne in mind that, as stated in paragraph 17, the holders of certain lands are exempted from payment. But, if the whole extent of land under each channel is taken into account, as now proposed, the rates will fall equally on *all*, and prove burdensome to none.

19. Revision of the Channel Establishments.—I now come to the question of establishments. The enclosed Statement No. II. shows the number and description of servants employed under the existing permanent or superintending establishments, their emoluments, and the nature of the duties performed by them. This statement does not include the Rettipáls and Nálu Rettipáls, who are only called out temporarily and on special occasions.

Name of the Channels.	Number of Servants.	Cost.
		RS.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	111	2,832
2. Comarapolliem do.	21	564
3. Mooganoor do.	27	536
Total ...	159	3,932

20. The assets at present available for the payment of the permanent establishment are stated below:—

Name of the Channels.	Deductions made in the Government Beriz or *Revenue.	Value of Inam lands.	Value of Sotantram fees.	Value of Koramboo fees.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	120 0 0	... ...	479 12 10	5,774 3 6	6,374 0 4
2. Comarapolliem Channel	84 0 0	... ...	175 0 0	586 0 6	845 0 6
3. Mooganoor Channel.	24 8 0	2 8 7	168 10 8	626 9 4	822 4 7
Total ...	228 8 0	2 8 7	823 7 6	6,986 13 4	8,041 5 5

It will be seen that it has always been usual to deduct Rupees 228-8-0 from Government Land Revenue Collections for the payment of the channel servants named in the margin; the amount being included in the 1,20,000 Rupees sanctioned in the Government Proceedings of the 9th January last, No. 47, as the unvarying contribution to the Salem Village Service Fund; this Rupees 228-8-0 will be deducted annually from this Fund and credited to the Channel Service Fund. The Inam, viz., Rupees 2-8-7, is enjoyed by one of the Moopens or Neerkutties under the Mooganoor Channel. Like other Village Service Inams in the district, this will be enfranchised and the proceeds credited to the Channel Service Fund. The value of the Sotantram and Koramboo fees contributed by the ryots for the permanent establishment, as shown above, has been commuted into money-value at the average selling prices of the last ten years.

Monegars.
Neeranis.

21. The proceeds of the money cess at the rates I propose on the entire cultivation under each channel will be as follows:—

Name of the Channels.	Proceeds of Money Cess.	Add Government Contribution and the Inam.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A P.	RS. A. P.
1. Faramathy Rajah Channel	6,694 10 0	120 0 0	6,814 10 0
2. Comarapolliem do.	1,267 1 0	84 0 0	1,351 1 0
3. Mooganoor do.	2,183 5 3	27 0 7	2,210 5 10
Total ...	10,145 0 3	231 0 7	10,376 0 10

These will be the assets available under the proposed change for the payment of the permanent establishment as well as the extra* hands called out on emergencies.

* Rettipáls and Nálu Rettipáls.

It will be seen that these fall short of the amount of the present grain contributions shown in paragraph 9. It must be remembered that the amount entered in paragraph 9 is the *gross amount of grain-fees, which*, according to immemorial custom, the ryots are liable to contribute, and not what is actually realized. It has already been shown that the recovery of the grain-fees is attended with much difficulty, and that there is a constant complaint on the part of the establishment of unpunctual payment, and that the Department of Public Works had, from inability to enforce payment, allowed large arrears of fees to accumulate. It may, therefore, fairly be calculated that hardly half the amount shown in paragraph 9 was realized during the last ten years. It should also be remembered that the value of the grain-fees shown in paragraph 9 was reckoned at the average selling prices of the last ten years, during which period the grain price has risen considerably. The amount therefore in paragraph 9 must be considered as nominal. On the other hand the proceeds, as proposed under the Act, will be regularly and punctually realized to the full extent, and the amount will, I consider, be sufficient to cover the cost of the whole establishment.

22. From Statement No. II. it will be seen that, in the present list of establishments, there are certain classes of servants which, I consider, it is unnecessary to maintain for channel purposes, such as Kóndivotties, Palogans, &c., and that the general pay of the establishment is, I consider, too low and unequal. In consultation with the principal land-holders under the channels, I have drawn up a fresh scale of establishment for each channel, which is shown in Statement No. III. The scale has been fixed with reference to the actual requirements of each channel, and with a view to secure the greatest amount of efficiency.

23. The cost of the proposed establishments and the balance remaining after deducting the same from the available assets, are as follows:—

Name of the Channels.	Available Assets.	Cost of the Establishment.	Balance.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.
Paramathy Rajah Channel...	6,694 10 0	2,628	4,066 10 0
Comarapolliem do.	1,267 1 0	504	763 1 0
Mooganoor do.	2,183 5 3	1,044	1,139 5 3

The balance above shown will be reserved for paying the temporary† emergent establishments, whenever they are called out, and for meeting the cost of materials, &c., required for the construction of koramboos and for closing breaches, &c., in the channel banks, petty repairs to sluices, &c.

†Rettipáls.
Nálu Rettipáls.

24. Statement No. I. shows in detail the cultivation under each channel, together with other particulars. An abstract of the statement is shown below:—

Name of the Channels.	Nadaneer or Direct Irrigation.		Erappoo or Baling.		Total.	
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.
	Acres	Rs.	—	Rs.	—	Rs.
1. Paramathy Rajah Channel	2,839	40,438	1,016	6,789	3,855	47,227
2. Comarapolliem Channel	599	5,156	68	415	668	5,571
3. Mooganoor Channel ...	851	10,811	482	3,458	1,332	14,269
Total ...	4,289	56,405	1,566	10,662	5,855	67,067

25. Concluding Remarks.—In conclusion, a few words as to the state of the river and channel banks may not be out of place. These have greatly deteriorated during the last twelve years, and the masonry works connected with the channels are very much in want of repair. I have requested the Officer of the Department of Public Works to frame the necessary estimates for putting these masonry works in order, and where encroachments have taken place on channel banks they are, under my orders, being restored to their former condition.

26. In regard to the river bank, it has been encroached upon to such an extent by the river that a breach in the bank near a village called Teroomalanamasamoodram, during the last freshes, was nearly washing away the village and the whole cultivation for upwards of a mile. Several groynes are now under construction at the locality where the breach took place, but there is still very much to be done for the protection of the river banks and for preserving the padoogays which, as I have already said, have been considerably damaged. The ryots have, within the last 15 years, been allowed to encroach largely upon padoogays and to cultivate the same on putta, which they had obtained through the connivance of the village officers. I have had all these encroachments measured, and have taken steps to restore them for the purpose for which they were originally set apart. In cases where the ryots may be unwilling to give up the lands by conciliatory means, they must be obtained under the Land Acquisition Act. I propose addressing the Board at length on this subject on the completion of the Jamabundy of Namkul Taluq in which I am now engaged.

Enclosure No. 1.—Sketch.

Enclosure No. 2.—Draft of an Act.

Enclosures Nos. 3 to 5.—Statements.

The Board approve of the Collector's action in taking charge of the channels which have not been successfully managed by the Public Works Department, and resolve to request Government to sanction this arrangement.

2. The proposed changes in establishment seem all to be judicious, and may be introduced.

3. The question whether a special law shall be enacted to meet the case of these channels will be considered soon in connection with the general subject of reviving and enforcing customary labour.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J Grote
Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, R. D., with five enclosures.

Copy to the Collector of Salem.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

No 2281

Revenue 1872. Sept

Board of Revenue

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH JUNE 1872, No. 1,088.

Dept 5 July 72

Encl.
G. 12,
Salem

Received 10th July 72

Plan with Letter
by Murphy

JUNE.

No. 1,088.

Cauvery Channels—in Salem District.—Action of Collector in taking charge of—, approved, and Government requested to sanction this arrangement. Proposed changes in establishment may be introduced. No 1063

Cond to the S. P. W. Shefford

Proceedings July approved

21 To the Public Works Secretary 5 July 72
14 " Board of Revenue "

No 108-109