No. 13. Read the following Petition from K. VENKATAPATHIRAZ and others, inhabitants of Palakoder, Bhemavarum Taluq, Godavery District, dated 24th July 1871 :—

ABSTRACT.—Represent that they sent the enclosed petition direct to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State on the 6th March last, and that it was returned to them.

Pray that the Government may transmit the said Memorial to the Secretary of State with a favourable recommendation.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

The humble Petition of KOTTAPALLI VENKATAPATHIRAZ, PENUMECHAR CHINNA RAMAKRISTAMRAZ and others, ryots in the Bhemavarum Taluq, Godavery District, Madras Presidency, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, dated 6th March 1871.

SHEWETH,—

WITH profound respect and submission that your Highness' humble petitioners fully and confidently believe that their prayer would be duly attended to, and their fast declining circumstances meritedly pitied for the under-mentioned reasons. The endorsement of the Collector of the district as well as the decision of the Government, confirming the said endorsement on the subject of the petitioners, are herein enclosed for your Highness' kind and leisurely perusal. The subject is that of unreasonable additional Tirwa on their wet Jeroyti lands—unreasonable, because it was imposed on the mere imaginary ground that the petitioners enjoy a benefit from the anicut of the Godavery, while, in fact, there is no benefit derived from the above construction ; the water-supply for their lands being from the old sources of irrigation, that is, channels called Bhupaid Kalva, Viggaswarapu Kalva, Gosta Nadi Kalva, etc., which were dug at the cost of the ancient Zemindars for the purpose of rendering the said lands fit for the cultivation of wet crops, as they had before been saline and totally unfit for the cultivation of dry crops. The statement of the Collector in his endorsement that the supply from the said sources of irrigation is uncertain and precarious cannot be but incorrect ; because the neighbouring Inam, proprietary and Zemindari wet lands depending upon the same sources are all exempted from Tirwa in question. Having rendered the above unculturable lands culturable, the Zemindars abovementioned made an allowance of twenty Kunchams in each putty of grain to each labourer, and, dividing the rest into two portions, allowed one to the petitioners, the other half being charged. The said Zemindars also suffered one-fourth in each putty of land to be reserved as pasture land for the use of cattle free from cist. The whole of this system of the Zemindars was subsequently observed by the Government also for a certain period, even when the system of joint-contracts was introduced ; in short, until the construction of the anicut across the Godavery. Subsequent to this, Mr. Taylor, the then Sub-Collector of the district, charged ten per cent. on the ground that the anicut works consumed an immense deal of Government funds, and that *those* ryots were on the eve of freely irrigating their lands, *who* had been suffering from a want of irrigation prior to the time of his speaking. While this was being levied accordingly from the humble petitioners, settlement rates were fixed in Fasli 1272 at 4, 3, 2½, 1½ Rs. per acre according as the quality of the soil was ; these rates were some above and some equal to those paid according to the former joint-contract system. Besides, a tax denominated as Tirwa Jasti, at the rate of Rs. 3 per acre, was unjustly imposed and levied from Fasli 1272 up to Fasli 1275 on the pretext of supplying water from the anicut to the lands, such as your Highness' lowly

petitioners. In addition to this, another tax, at Rs. 4 per acre, was charged from Fasli 1275 upon the petitioners, the pretence here being that the produce of grain was priced by the ryots at an immoderately high rate, notwithstanding that your petitioners were taxed with 14 Pies in every Rupee under the name of Road Fund and Village Fund, and the same levied accordingly; nor this is all that they have to pay, they have indeed another to pay, *i.e.*, income-tax at Rs. 15 for a ryot cultivating an extent of land bearing a cist of Rs. 400; 19½ Rs. for ryot cultivating land paying a cist from upwards of 400 Rs. to 750; and Rs. 27½ upon land liable to pay a cist from upwards of 750 Rs. to 1,000.

On the average, taxes of these several descriptions amount to Rs. 8½ per acre, 8 per acre, 7½ per acre, and 7 per acre.

2. The produce which an acre of land yields for a ryot is at most 100 Kunchams, valued at Rs. 7, or at least 50 Kunchams, valued at Rs. 3; and this is a true account of the produce of lands. As this amount of produce can barely meet the several demands of Government as explained above, and various other calls of the cultivators' profession, a good many ryots could not possibly help running into extreme debts which often resulted in the attachment of their property, both moveable and immoveable, either by the Government for non-payment of cist, or by the creditors for the satisfaction of their debts. The difficulties compelled the ryots, in many instances, to relinquish their land and gladly take up the garb of a cooly or of a miserable beggar. And those that occupy a little higher position also are well nigh approaching to share the fate of their pitiable brethren. Being left in a position delicate as this, your Excellency's petitioners most eagerly look for a helping hand at this critical moment, since it grieves them extremely to abandon their profession of ages.

3. The petitioners, therefore, pray that this material subject, which concerns their life in fact, may be duly considered, and they be liberally exempted from paying a tax styled "Tirwa Jasti for the supply of water from the anicut;" because their lands depend upon the ancient sources of irrigation which had been introduced at the cost of the former Zemindars; but do not at all depend on the water from the anicut; and also because the neighbouring Inam, proprietary, and Zemindari wet lands are all exempted from the above tax for not deriving any substantial benefit from the anicut, as they solely depend upon ancient sources of irrigation similar to the lands of the petitioners. The petitioners, therefore, humbly and respectfully set up their claim for a similar exemption, there being no distinction between *their* wet lands and the above which were exemptedy. The tax called Taram cist, which is imposed according to the quality of the soil, has been alone levied upon the latter, whereas both Taram cist and the water-tax in question are charged upon the former, and the Government granted permanent puttas for Inams; those that are permanent being taxed with $\frac{1}{8}$th of the above Taram cist, and those subsequent with $\frac{1}{4}$th of it.

4. While such is the case, it is strange that the petitioners' claim should not meet with the above justice, which is universally intended for all the wet lands depending upon the old sources of irrigation. Looking into the case still further, the said wet lands of the petitioners are the most saline and the least productive in all the Madras Presidency, as may be shown by the several relinquishments which have hitherto been presented by a great many ryots in the neighbourhood.

5. Under all the circumstances explained above, the lowly petitioners and their families ultimately pray that their wet Jeroyti lands in question may also be released from Tirwa Jasti or water-tax, just the same as the neighbouring Inam, proprietary, and Zemindari wet lands, and for the same cause. And a certain extent of pasture land for cattle may be allowed to the petitioners as formerly, being freed from all cist.

6. Instructions to this effect may, the humble petitioners pray, be issued to the Madras Government, and a copy of your Excellency's gracious decision bestowed upon them.

7. For this act of charity the humble petitioners and their poor families shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd May 1872.

No. 14.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd May 1872, No. 713.

ORDERED that the memorial received with this petition be transmitted to the Secretary of State, and that the memorialists be informed of its despatch.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Petition Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

As directed in the Endorsements of

Government and Board dated 20th

May & 27th June 1865 respectively on the

Petitions Nos. 702, 1062 & 1920 ✱2731 of 1865

presented by the Ryots of Gundlakalva,

their complaints are decided as

follows & the following Endorsement

is passed--

Complaints	Decisions
That their Inayati lands which were entered in the accounts as Wet & cultivated as such by the former	It is true that their Wet Inayati lands were formerly cultivated with Wet crops for

sources of irrigation
from old channels
called Bhúpayya
Calwa, Góténady
Vayyéru, Erracalwa
& others, are now
unjustly charged
with water-tax at
3 Rupees an acre
for the ancient irriga-
tion, according to
the entries as such
in the Settlement
Register —

the old sources
of irrigation
viz. the Góténady
and other channels.
That irrigation
was very uncertain
& precarious, while
the present sources
of ancient irrigation
and the drainage
are certain &
perfect. All
the irrigated lands
referred to by
the Petitioners have

with reference to
the physical qualities
& productive powers
of the soil & assess-
ment day rates with
the addition of a
fixed water rate
of 3 Rupees on all
irrigated lands.
No distinction was
made between the
usual Wet lands
& Dry converted
into Wet lands.
The Settlement

the first instance
entered as such
all lands irrigated
for such crops
in any year since
the Amended Irrigation
& also full fields were
charged, if portions
were irrigated.
But under the
Board's instructions
conveyed in their Proc.
dated 6th May 1802
No. 2738, only those

lands, regularly
irrigated for more
than two years
cultivated as Injah
have been classed
as Injah & charged
accordingly from
& 1274 and whole fields
charged as such when
only a portion is
irrigated, have been
subdivided into indi-
vidual fields of such
less than two acres
each & the re interested

fields which were
irrigated for more
than two years are
classed as Peh-
The Settlement Registers
have accordingly been
corrected. The ryots
will have to pay
water taxe on such
lands as are entered
as Peh in the Settle-
ment Registers, as
long as the water
is available in the
Ancient channels
for irrigation

the fourth of the
water taxe is remitted
in every case for
Paeata & one third
for imperfect irri-
gation. So, the ryots
have no reason
to complain any
more on this point.

2nd Mr G. R. Taylor
when Subcollector
had promised to
the ryots that water
taxe would be
charged on their
ryoti lands at 10

by the Ryots for
the use of Ancient
water, but instead
of which, the higher
rate of water-tax
is collected on the
acreage —

10 per cent on the
land assessment
until the new
Survey & Settlement
was made. The
Government also
have approved of
this. The ryots have
enjoyed that benefit
until F 1271 & the
new Survey & Settle-
ment rates having
been introduced in
F 1272, the regular
rate of Rs 3 an
acre was imposed.

So,

so, the Ryots have
no just complaint
to make in this point.

3rd That the irrigated
lands have been
erroneously entered
in the Settlement
Registers as irri-
gated & water-tax
at Rs 3 an acre
is accordingly levied
from them.

4th That the new Survey
rates of assessment

3rd Erroneous entries
in the Settlement
Registers of un-
irrigated lands
as irrigated, have
been corrected by
the Board's orders
and the Petitioners
are not charged
with water-tax
for such lands.

4th The new Survey
rates of assessment
are

on their Wet grounds are not high

lands are very on the Ziraiyati

high, besides the lands in the Sunri

heavy rate of Waterlax Taluq - The ryots

feel it so, because

the Joint rent Shisto

which they apportioned

on their fields at

their own pleasure

up to F 1271 were

very light, especially

with regard to the

quantity of land in

each field which

was registered

in the Canungo's

account as one

Patty & found to

be about double

that amount by

Survey, the new

Survey assessment

is fixed on acreage

The waterlax is

also charged at

regular rates on

acreage while it

was previous to F 1272

at 10 per cent. on

the land assessment

& the rate per acre

according

according to which was estimated to be only a few annas an acre. Under the circumstances explained above, the Petitioners should not grumble that the present rates of assessment & water taxes are heavy as those rates were justly sanctioned by Government.

5th That their lands have become saline by the Ancient water while it was not the case by the former water from the old sources & that the Ancient water also kills their cattle—

5th The Board have liberally allowed that no water rate shall be levied on lands determinated by saline water (Sonar) so long as from this temporary cause, the land continues uncultivated, but that the land shall be charged if the ryot desires to retain his hold

on the land - The
Petitioners are
also at liberty to
give up any land
which they do not
like to retain in
their occupation
& when they want
it again they have
a right to apply
for it and are
entitled to get it -
Although the
Amiut waters
has spoiled a few

lands, for which
there is no proper
drainage, many
other lands are
benefited by Amiut
water & without
it, there is no
likelihood of
good crops Especially
in the Umri Taluq
& in the present
scarcity of rains
close Godavery
freshes - so, the
Petitioners should

are very liberally
dealt with in this
point. In the
Delta Talugs, no
sufficient quantity
of pasture land
is reserved by
the ryots for their
cattle. They therefore
graze on an aquatic
herb called Tuli-
kada which is
grown abundantly
in the channels &
swamps filled
with Anicut water
& attached with

a peculiar disease
called Jelaga tegulu
(disease of leeches)
& die of it.

6. That their pasture lands have been appropriated in the Settlement as Ryoti ——

6. Under the joint renting system, almost the whole of the land was at the disposal of the Ryoti, large proportion of the waste was actually in their occupation with a little or no skill; but under Settlement

all the lands held
by the Ryots and
the cultivable waste
lands have been
demarcated, Surveyed
& classified. Totally
uncultivable lands
have not been
Entered as irrigated
in the Settlement
Registers & no
water tax is imposed
The ryots generally
prefer having
some of their lands,
fallow both for
Pasture & for the

That in the Kistna
District Government
Zirayati, Inam &
Proprietary lands
have all been exempted
from water tax &
while only the Inam

improvement of the
soil & such lands,
if they have been
classed as irrigated,
are liable to the
payment of the
water tax, as long
as the means of
irrigation are available

7. In the Kistna
District, the charge
for water for Beh
Zirayati lands
is added to the
assessment every
year, but it does not

and Proprietors
Wet lands are Exempted
in the Godavery
District ——

not appear separately
under the item
of water tax-
The Petitioners
have wrongly supposed
that Wet Ziraayati lands
have been wholly
exempted from
water tax- After
the new Survey &
Settlement are intro-
duced into the Kistna
District, all Ziraayati
lands, regularly
irrigated, will be
charged with full
water rate without
any

any distinction of
Wet & Dry connected
into Wet, because
the Ziraayati lands
in that District have
been like those in
the Godavery District
appraised with dry
rates and water
tax in addition
will be collected.

8 That their ploughing
Cattle, agricultural
implements, household
furniture, cooking
Utensils & have

8 The Petitioners
ought to pay
the demand,
entered in their
Patta of or Cowl

herein attached & sold for arrears of heavy assessment & water tax which they could not pay.

and water, but on their pleading, it must be pea= ceably by attach= ment & sale of their property to the move= able & immoveable under the arrear Act No II of 1864

The Ryots have no reason to Complain of this, when they withheld payment of Revenue - If they Consider the assessment too heavy, they can relinquish their land.

Collectorate District Collector's office Cocanada 10th October 1865

I. Walter
Coll. &c.

Rec'd
No 2960 of 1865.

From Vencatroma Razu & others of Palakoderu & other villages of Pendi Taluq, Godavary.

Dated 13 Dec.
Rec'd 22 1865.

R & O 2nd May / 729 No 13
2 Enclosures 14

Submitting herewith the Collr's Endorse= ment passed on their petitions to Govt & Board of Revenue soliciting the abolition of additional Tirwa collected on their wet lands on the ground that their lands have been irrigated by the Ancient water, represent that the statement of the Collr in his endorse= ment that the old Sources of irrigation of their lands were precarious & uncertain is not right & pray that on consideration of the circumstances alluded to in their former petitions an order may be passed for the abolition of the additi= tional Tirwa collected on their lands -

herein attached & and matter, but

2

Rev-1271/72

Jud. No 1948/71

No. 2960 of 1865.

The Governor in Council approves of the order to which Petitioners refer.

Fort Saint George 7th Feby 1866.

By Order

J Krole

Actg Under Secy to Govt.

Cocanada 10th October 1873

J. Walter

J Buncombe

1948
3 Dec
2691/71





To

The Government of Madras.

Most honored Sir. The humble petition of Kottapaly Venkatapatiraz and others the inhabitants of Palakoderu in Bhemavaram Talak of Godavery District.

We sent a petition on 6th March 1871. directly to the Secretary of State for India with the Endarsments given by your Excellency and the Collector of the District which was consequently returned. But now as we despatched the said Endarsments with the petition to he Lordship.

We humbly Solicit your Excellency to send these papers to His Lordship with a favorable recomendation.

July 1871

We have the honor to be Sir
Your most obedient Servants

No. 713

Ordered that the Memorial received with this petition be transmitted to the Secretary of State, and that the Memorialists be informed of its despatch.

JH

2d May 1872

To the Petitioners Dept to Secy 7 May 1872

No: 1/1271/72

GOVERNMENT STAMP DEPARTMENT 1 JUN 1881