No. 141. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th January 1872, No. 85 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th December 1871, No. 232.

As directed in Board's Proceedings, No. 6,650, dated 14th November 1870, I have the honour to report on paragraph 10 of the Order of Government, No. 1,737, dated 9th November 1870.

2. I approve of the proposal of Mr. Storr in paragraph 46 of his letter, published in the Proceedings of Government under reply, to reduce the rate of assessment on lands under ruined tanks to Rs. 1-8-0 per acre. The ryots in the Sub-division are, as a class, very poor, and are unable to take any work in hand except on very favourable terms. To such men a rate of Rs. 3 per acre on land under a ruined tank would be no inducement to repair the tank. In many cases it would amount to a prohibitive assessment, and the tanks and the lands under them would remain as they are now. Rs. 1-8-0 would not be too low an assessment for these lands.

3. At present (Fasaljasti) second crop water-rate is levied at half the assessment of the land. Mr. Storr proposes a maximum rate at Rs. 4 per acre. At this rate in the highest class of wet lands, assessed now at Rs. 12 per acre, the second crop water-rate would be one-third of the assessment. This is not, I think, a sufficient reduction to benefit the ryots materially, and I would levy the rate at one-fourth of the assessment. This is not too low when the trouble and expense which the ryot usually incurs before he can get the water are considered. There is seldom sufficient water in a tank to afford a second supply, and the ryot is entirely dependent on a well dug at great expense by himself. No doubt springs from the tank assist the supply in the well, but this need not be noticed.

4. I do not think it would be advisable to sell ruined tanks, as private interests would be constantly clashing.

5. I cannot recommend that land should be granted upon any condition except that of paying assessment. If, as Mr. Storr suggests, the beds of ruined tanks be given out for cultivation on annual leases it will always be difficult to dispossess the tenant. It would be much better to allow the water-spread to lie waste because the tank may possibly be required at some future time, or to say once for all that a tank cannot be repaired, and give out the land in its bed on putta at a dry rate.

6. I enclose a copy of Mr. Storr's letter.

Enclosure No. 1.

From E. STORR, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Cuddapah, dated Nallacheruvoo, 19th December 1870, No. 461.

In reply to your foot-note, No. 525 of 24th November 1870, on Board's Proceedings, No. 6,650, of 14th November 1870, requesting a report on paragraph 10 of Government Order, No. 1,737, of 9th November 1870, I have the honour to refer you to paragraph 46 of my letter in the Proceedings referred to, in which I have already given my reasons for considering that the rate of Rs. 3 per acre for lands under ruined tanks is, as a rule, too high for this district.

2. As regards the second point alluded to, namely, a reduction of the usual water charge when a second crop is raised partly by water from private wells, I am of opinion that some modification of the present rules in force is decidedly advisable. The system now obtaining is that half the assessment of the land is charged for a second crop raised on it, whether the ryot receives water or not from a Government source. Even if the tank under which the land lies is quite empty, and the crop raised entirely by well water, Fasaljasti is chargeable. It is true that in many cases, perhaps in most, the wells have been dug near the tank bund or within the limits of the wet land, but to charge the same rate for water that has to be raised at great expense and labour from wells, as for water taken through a sluice from a tank or channel, is certainly not an equitable arrangement.

3. By the late order of Government, reducing the assessment of wet lands under tanks to a maximum of Rs. 12, some alteration will be given in the worst cases, as Rs. 6 will be the outside charge for a second crop. Taking, however, into consideration the expense of cultivation by means of water raised from wells, and the fact that, were it not for these wells dug at the ryot's expense, no second crop at all would be raised, I would propose that a maximum Fasaljasti rate of Rs. 4 be fixed as the assessment for a second crop raised wholly or partially by well water on land which has already been assessed for one crop. This rule would be easy of application, and I think equitable. Any variable rate to be fixed at the discretion of the Settlement Officer according to the proportion of well and tank water would lead to endless disputes and complications, and would be very difficult to apportion.

4. I observe that a case occurring in North Arcot similar to the above was under the consideration of the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings, No. 5,678 of 10th September 1870.

5. The sale of the ruined tank as suggested by Government is not, I am afraid, feasible. A good proportion of the lands under them, and in many cases the tank-beds, have already been given on putta, and such tanks could not, of course, be sold without interfering with what have now become private rights.

The waste lands under these tanks will now be classed as dry, under the instructions conveyed in paragraph 8 of the Government Order, as being not usually supplied with water; and I would further recommend that the tank-beds themselves be also classed as dry and given over on annual leases, reserving the right of Government to repair the tanks at any future period.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. D. HORSLEY,
Acting Collector.

With reference to paragraph 10 of the Government Order, No. 1,737, dated 9th November 1870, the Government will observe that the present Acting Collector of Cuddapah, who has had long experience of the district, proposes the same rate, viz., Rs. 1-8-0 per acre, as the Board were led to propose, on lands under ruined tanks. Secondly, Mr. Horsley suggests one-fourth of the highest rate of assessment for wet lands in any village as the charge when a second crop is raised partly by irrigation from private wells. All rates for wet lands in excess of Rs. 12 having been reduced to that amount in paragraph 8 of the Government order already quoted, the charge suggested would in no case exceed Rs. 3.

2. The Board are of opinion that the Collector's recommendations should be adopted. They concur with him that it is inexpedient to sell the ruined tanks outright; nor would they be willing to give them on lease or putta. As communal property they might be planted and used for grazing.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1872, No. 928.

Land Revenue.

THE Board's proposals are sanctioned as a temporary arrangement, pending the introduction of the revised settlement now in progress.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Revenue 1872. Oct. 25

Board of Revenue.

MADRAS. P. 259.

PROCEEDINGS, 11TH JANUARY 1872, No. 85.

Rep. 22 Jan. 72

Encl.

Received. 23

JANUARY.
No. 85.

Assessment on lands under ruined tanks—in Cuddapah District,—Letter from Acting Collector, approving proposal of Acting Sub-Collector Mr Starr to reduce rate of, to Rupees 1-8-0 per acre; suggesting that one-fourth of highest rate of assessment for wet lands should be charged when a second crop is raised partly by irrigation from private wells; and objecting to sale of ruined tanks outright, submitted to Government with remarks.

85