No. 55. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th July 1872, No. 1,444 :—

Read the following letter from W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th June 1872, No. 95 :—

I BEG that the Board will re-consider their Order in Proceedings, No. 746, dated 10th May 1872, paragraph 10, that a rough revision of tank ayacuts must at once be undertaken in this district by the Collector.

2. The Board state, as a reason, that immediate relief is here necessary. I hope to be able to show that to be a reason why the district authorities should not undertake the work.

3. In the sub-division comprising four taluqs there are 4,979 works of irrigation. This includes channels and dasbandam tanks, the revision of the ayacuts under which is as much called for as in the case of ordinary Government tanks. About 84,000 acres of wet land scattered over an area of about 4,000 square miles will have to be inspected by four Tahsildars.

4. The Sub-Collector estimates that the work will occupy Tahsildars for seven years. To complete the work in that time I believe to be impossible. I need scarcely remind the Board how much the work of Tahsildars has increased of late years. The establishments they have in this district to assist them are inadequate, both as to quality and quantity, and in addition, the Board now wish them to undertake extra travelling, to prepare additional accounts, and to draw numerous plans.

5. The Tahsildar of Sidhout, an active and intelligent man, and well up to his duties, says he can manage on an average a tank a month. At this rate the work will occupy him between seven and eight years. The irrigation works in the Pullampett Taluq will occupy a still greater length of time. In the other taluqs work ofthe revision is not so urgently required.

6. The Board say that the work is to be only roughly performed by the Revenue Department. However, there must be some approach to accuracy, and to obtain this, very little less time than that I have mentioned will be requisite. It will be simply pressing the district authorities unduly to do imperfectly what at any rate must be done by the Settlement, and will be done by them perfectly.

7. On the other hand the Settlement Department is working in the district. It has men trained to the work. It can commence the revision at once and complete it accurately in much less time than it would occupy the Revenue authorities in the district to finish it inaccurately.

8. I can assure the Board, the difficulties attending the work when performed by men whose hands are already too full of their ordinary duties are enormous.

Mr. Rundall has had experience in revising ayacuts, and he lays much stress upon the importance of the work if it is to be of any use at all being carried through by his department. A great deal of the necessary information is already with the Settlement Officers, who are on the spot ready to act upon it at once.

9. I trust the Board will see how necessary it is that the revision of ayacuts in this district should be undertaken by the Settlement Department, and in the meanwhile I recommend that land now classed wet and dry should so remain, but that ryots should be permitted to raise dry crops on all lands which cannot be watered either in consequence of adversity of season or because the level of the land will not admit of its being watered. The assessment to be collected in such cases should be the highest dry rate in the village. This arrangement if sanctioned now might be put into force during next Fasli, and would give immediate relief in all cases where relief is much required.

Mr. Horsley over-rates the difficulty of carrying out the Board's orders.

2. Much of the work has been done already if Government Order, dated 9th November 1870, No. 1,737, has been carried out.

3. The instructions now objected to were elicited by a Circular in the *Cuddapah Gazette* of April 1871, in which the Collector prescribes rules for revising ayacuts to a far greater extent than the Board think necessary. He proposed to transfer from wet to dry all land whether Government or Inam which had not had water for four years out of the last ten. The Board have directed transfers in the case only of Government land not irrigated for the last five years.

4. The simple statement that there are so many acres of *wet* land scattered over so many square miles and dependent on so many works of irrigation affords no means of judging whether the investigation of cases in which land has not been irrigated for the last five years is beyond the powers of the Revenue establishments or not. Fuller data are contained in the papers printed in Board's Proceedings, 20th April 1870, No. 2,568.

5. Much of the information wanted must be already in existence if Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors are properly acquainted with the tanks within the limits of their charges.

6. The Director of Revenue Settlement will be requested to direct special attention to this subject, and inform the Board whether he can expedite the part of the Settlement work which consists in revising the classification of land into *wet* and *dry*, and when it is likely to be completed in the taluqs of the subdivision; but in the meantime the Collector must make such progress as he can, dealing with the worst cases first.

7. The proposal in paragraph 9 that ryots raising *dry* crops in *wet* lands which cannot be irrigated should be charged the highest *dry* rate of the village instead of the registered *wet* assessment is good in the abstract, and the Board have expressed an opinion to that effect in their Proceedings of the 11th August 1871, No. 3,403, paragraph 12, on which orders have not yet been passed by Government, but it is obvious that the relief thus afforded will be insufficient in many cases.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th August 1872.

No. 56. Order thereon, 8th August 1872, No. 1,172.

Land Revenue. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rc 2594
Rev. 1872. Sept

Further Cr 3674/72

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH JULY 1872, No. 1,444.

Dept. 3 Augt 1872
Encl.

Received 6th August 1872

JULY.

No. 1,444.

Tank Ayacuts—of Cuddapah District.—Remarks passed on objections raised by Collector to revision of — being undertaken by his department. Director of Revenue Settlement requested to report whether he can expedite the part of the Settlement work in district which consists in revising classification of land into wet and dry, and when it is likely to be completed in sub-division. Board's Proceedings, submitted to Government.

No 1172
Received
8 Augt 1872

14 Augt 1872 Board of Revenue

No 55-56