No. 42. Read the following Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 15th January 1873.

Read the following letter from the Acting Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 6th January 1873, No. 1:—

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying Report of the Chief Engineer for the month of November 1872.

Chief Engineer's Report, to accompany the Reports of the Conservancy Engineers, for November 1872.

Mr. Wilks' report gives promise of a total of 5,000 acres of ordinary irrigation: an area which will pretty certainly be exceeded by the reality.* Of flooding there has been scarcely any, owing to the dampness of the season. He discusses two difficulties, both relating to the getting of water to the fields, assuming the ryots anxious to irrigate. One difficulty is the insufficiency of the time *after* a ryot's application for obtaining the necessary land for subsidiary channels required to supply his fields, and the insecure and unsatisfactory result of making such channels *before* the land for them has been procured by the Company. This difficulty must be met by applying beforehand for the land necessary for all subsidiaries. The other difficulty is that a ryot anxious to irrigate, frequently gives up the notion because he foresees or fears that there will be difficulty in the way of procuring a channel to his field. This will be met by the same remedy as the other.

* On Upper Sections.

2. Both Mr. Wilks and Mr. Knorpp report the satisfactory condition of the works generally throughout the past month.

3. In the reports of both I notice an absence of correct data as to the area under irrigation. It would be a great assistance to have this area obtainable month by month; but this is rendered impossible by the necessity for measuring every little bit of cultivation in order to find the area rateable. This the Government officials cannot do; and yet it seems a work of supererogation on the part of the Company, whose staff is adequate to supply the definite demands of Government, and to check the areas irrigated, but hardly to measure every field. I happen to have before me, for signature and transmission, a copy of the Government applications of 2nd, 9th, etc., of September. On the first page I find the following consecutive applications for water for fields in Midthoor village, Cuddapah taluq:—

In field No. 363, Irrigation for 0·11 Acres.
" 360 " 0·35 "
" 364 " 0·22 "

Over the page are twenty fields for which water is asked in Alladapally village, Proddatoor taluq, in fourteen of which the area falls below one acre. The next village is Chinna Guroovaloor where seven out of eighteen areas applied for fall below an acre. Probably in not one of these hits does the plough strike out the exact area applied for, which is entered at guess by ryots unable to measure. An area of a tenth of an acre (as in field No. 363 above) whose water-rate would be one shilling and three pence (nine annas and seven pies) is really not worth the cost of measuring and supplying with channels.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE, KURNOOL, *23rd December* 1872.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th February 1873.

No. 71.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. In their Order No. 662, 15th March 1866, the Government approved the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue in which it was determined that except where a part of a field is above the requisite level, water should be supplied only to an entire field, it being understood that the term "field" meant a "Revenue" not a "Survey" field; it is not known whether the small areas referred to by the Chief Engineer are portions of Revenue fields or not; but in the opinion of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation further orders on the subject are necessary. The area of a Revenue field is so moderate that it seems unnecessary to exempt a portion, even if above the proper level, from water-rate. The option of irrigating is complete, and the owner of the field can decide whether it is worth his while to pay the tax on the whole field or do without irrigation.

3. It is also manifestly advisable that the Company's Officers should have the option of declining to irrigate land, the area of which is less than a certain fixed limit. The definitive views of the Company's Officers on this point will, when received, be laid before Government; but the undersigned considers that the supply of areas of less than one acre should not be obligatory.

FORT ST. GEORGE, *10th January* 1873.

(Signed) C. J. SMITH, Captain, R.E.,
for *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

REFERRED to the Revenue Department, with reference to the orders in that Department, dated 15th March 1866, No. 662.

FORT ST. GEORGE, *15th January* 1873.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 43. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1873, No. 154.

Irrigation, No. 1.

THE Government are of opinion that the proper course is to charge the whole Revenue field (khet) (if in the same individual's occupancy) when it is less than an acre, and nothing less than for an acre in a field above that limit. It is not universally true that a Revenue field "is so moderate (in extent) that it seems unnecessary to exempt a portion." In the Cuddapah district many dry fields run up to 12 and 14 acres, and the average may be put at something under 5 acres.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Rec 22nd March 1866 No 66-70
Pro 15 March 1866 pages 467-469 275-276

Revenue Dept
Dy. 1873 Despatch
No 71
No 270
Dy. 118.

From
The Chief Engr. from
To The Secy to Govt
P. W. D.

Dated 10th Jan 72
Rec'd 16th

Encls: 2. Vol
Despatch
No 15 of 7 February 1873
Submits with remarks Chief
Engineers Report
for November 1872
Referred

Referred to the
Revenue Department
with reference to the
orders in that Department dated
15th March 1866. No 66.

Chief Engr. No 71.
Secy: to Govt
P. W. D.
Fort St George
15th Jany 1873
No. 42-43

Ent 23 Feb 73. Rs: 76.

Dy. 157. 7th Feby 73.

Read docket from the S. P. W.
[redacted] dated 15th Jany & 6c, referring
to this Depe Memo: No 71 of 10th idem
of Chief Engineer for Irrigation &c &
Letter from the Acting Manager, Madras
Irrigation & Canal Co dated 6th idem
No 1, with Enclosure.

The Govt are of opinion that
the proper course is to charge the
whole Revenue field (Plot) when
[redacted] it is less than an
acre, and nothing less than for an
acre in a field above that limit.
It is not generally true that a
Revenue Field" is as understood (in the
" -trict) that it means many fields
" to exempt a portion". In the Chingleput
district many dry fields run upto
12 & 14 acres, & the average may be
put at something under 5 acres.

Dy.
31/1/73.

(when in the same individual occupancy)

21 To the Public Works Dept dt 8 Feb
14 The Board of Rev

Estd. of 1873 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated Fort St. George, the

Received

G. O., No. dated 1873, No.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 42-43.

Charge for works for fifth half year from 1st April to 30th September 1873 on the Chief Engineer's Estimate on this subject this office.