

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th January 1873.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 61. Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 29th January 1872.

Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Dowlaishweram, 18th January 1872, No. 3,183.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a letter received from Captain Beckley, Executive Engineer on special duty, Ganjam, relative to a complaint made by the ryots of Poorooshotapore regarding the non-clearance of the Heeradara channel which irrigates their lands.

2. As the question, whether the Public Works Department is to clear out silt and keep all works in which the ryots are interested in proper order, when they are only assessed at the ordinary water-rate, is one to be decided by the Revenue Department, I beg that the orders of Government in that department may be obtained.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain T. BECKLEY, R.E., Executive Engineer on Special Duty, Ganjam, to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated 27th December 1871, No. 251.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that lately when at Poorooshotapore with Mr. Harris, Executive Engineer, the Poorooshotapore ryots came and complained that the Heeradara channel that irrigates their lands had not been cleared of silt. I told them that, even when ryots paid a full water-cess, it was often usual for them to clear out silt themselves, to which they replied they were not dry land ryots but paid a water-rate; in fact, one rupee dry-rent for rich alluvial land along the river bank, and one rupee water-rate for river-channel and tank-irrigation combined, total 2 Rupees; now the question is, are we to clear out silt and keep all the works in order for ryots who would only be assessed at the ordinary rate if they got no water at all.

2. I enclose two Urzees from these people, one direct to myself, the other received by Executive Engineer through the Assistant Collector.

3. The ryots certainly expressed themselves willing to pay double their present water-rate, or whatever the Government chooses to fix, but the Executive Engineer has no guarantee whatever that if he expends money on these irrigation works, the expenditure will be in the slightest degree remunerative, nor probably can even the Collector, without orders from Government, do much towards remedying the present state of affairs.

REFERRED to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

REFERRED to the Collector for report through the Board of Revenue.

30th January 1872.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government, R.D.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th January 1873.*

No. 62. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th December 1872,
No. 2,394.

Read the following letter from W. F. GRAHAME, Esq., Acting Collector of
Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Aska, 16th
November 1872, No. 1,976:—

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Board's Proceedings of the 17th February
last, No. 318, referring for report correspondence relating to a complaint of the
ryots of Purshottampur regarding the non-clearance of the Heeradara Channel.

2. The channel in question irrigates 1,631 Acres of ryotwari and paying an
assessment of Rupees 4,074, and 348 Acres of Inam land, all belonging to ten
different villages, of which Purshottampur is the most important. The rate of
assessment paid to Government for the ryotwari land varies from Rupees 6-10-5
to Rupees 1-0-11 per acre. The average rate is Rupees 2½ per acre.

3. The ryots have never been in the habit of clearing silt in this channel.
Their customary labour seems to be confined to the clearing of the minor channels
which branch off into their fields from the main channel; and the latter appears
to have always been repaired at the cost of Government.

4. It is incorrect to say that the land under this channel pays nothing for
irrigation. It is entered in the accounts as "irrigated" either by the channel
itself or by the reservoirs, etc., fed by the channel; and this shews that the bene-
fits afforded to the land by this channel were not lost sight of in fixing the assess-
ment now paid. It is true that the assessment in most cases is very small; but
this matter will have to be set right in the general revision and settlement of the
assessment, which will probably take place before long in this district. For the
present, matters should, I think, be left as they are.

5. As for Inams the Inam Commission Department fixed the quit-rent with
reference to the assessment which the land may bear; and this assessment was
fixed with due regard to all the existing circumstances, including of course the
benefit of irrigation. It is not, therefore, reasonable to demand any water cess
from the Inamdars for existing irrigation.

6. The ryots do not seem to be willing to pay any higher assessment, though
they may have told Major Beckley they were willing to pay it. Mr. Maltby
who personally spoke to the ryots on the subject says that "they expressed
themselves in a precisely opposite manner."

7. I am informed that the supply of water by the channel in question is
precarious. The bed of the river Rushikulya which feeds the channel being
lower than that of the channel, the water of the river cannot get into the channel
except when there are high freshes. The consequence of this is that the channel
is of little use when there is a scarcity of water, when there are small freshes in the
river.

8. The mouth of the channel is also too inconveniently situated to admit
the river water freely.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to the endorsement of the Secretary
in the Revenue Department, dated the 30th January 1872, on a letter from the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th January 1873.*

Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated the 18th January 1872 No 3,183.
The lands under the Heeradara Channel are entered in the accounts as irrigated
and are therefore entitled to the same advantages as other irrigated lands. It has
never been usual to call on the owners to clear the channel of silt so they cannot
therefore be called on to do so now, nor can they be assessed with a special
Water-rate. The clearance should be effected by the Department Public Works
in common with other channels. The average rate of assessment is very low now
no doubt but they will be remedied by the introduction of the new settlement.

No. 63. ORDER THEREON, 10th January 1873, No. 29.

Irrigation, No. 2.

COMMUNICATED to the Department
Public Works with reference to the
correspondence referred to the Revenue
Department.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 3183

From

Lieut. Col. J. Fischer R.E.

Acting Superintending Engineer

1st Division

To

Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.

Secretary to Government D. P. W.

MADRAS

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter received from Captain Beekley Executive Engineer on Special duty Ganyam Kela-tine to a complaint made by the Ryots of Porroo-shotapone regarding the non-clearance of the Heerasara Channel which irrigates their lands.

As the question, whether the P. W. Dept. is to clear out silt and keep all works in which the Ryots are interested, in proper order, when they are only assessed at the ordinary water rate is one to be decided by the Revenue Department, I beg that the orders of Government in that Department may be obtained.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedt. servant

W. J. T. Fischer Lieut. Col. R.E.

Acting Superintending Engineer 1st Division

Copy of Letter
No. 3183 dated
27th December
1871.

1/12
1/12

Referred to the
Revenue R. F. B.

Handwritten J. M. P.
de 28 20 1872

to 61-63
29 Jan 72

Levee & M. P.
for 2nd & 3rd
M. P. 1872.

to 61-63
to 61-63

W. H. 337. 1872
from the 1st Division

To the Secretary
to Government, P. M.
dated 1872 January 1872
Re. 25 1872

forwarded copy of letter from
the Green's Engineer on ground
study, & various relating to the
questions whether the Report
-ment is to clear with 800
from work in which 1872
are intended and requests
order of Government in the
Revenue Department may be
obtained in the matter.

8.00.29-10/1872
The Secretary

Received 3 Jan 7-1872
Entered & Returned 2 February

J. G. Grole
Secretary

Op 337/72
Put up papers
for Secretary

21 P. M. Dept to Secy Jan 73
14. Dandy Revd

No 61-63

MAU. G. A. TUTOR.

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N^o 4081
Rev. 1872. Sept.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH DECEMBER 1872, No. 2,394.

Sept 20 Dec 72
Encl.

Received 23^d

DECEMBER.
No. 2,394.

Heeradara Channel—in Ganjam District
which irrigates lands of Purshottampur, ryots.
—Report of Collector on complaint of ryots
regarding non-clearance of — submitted to
Government with remarks. No 29

Comd to the S. P. W. interference
to be correspondence referred to be
Rev. Sept. 24. 6/3. 10 Jan 73