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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd April 1873.*

No. 16. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1872, No. 2,239 :—

Read the following letters :—

From G. BANBURY, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 19th October 1872, No. 1,921-66 :—

WHEN submitting to Government the Settlement proposals for the Guntoor portion of the Kistna District, the Board, in paragraph 18 of their Proceedings,*

* Dated 9th March 1870.
differed from the proposition made by Mr. Master that the lands watered by springs found in the sand ridges and hitherto classed and assessed as wet should be brought to dry, and further pointed out that if the principle then advocated were adopted it must be extended "to all the land under spring channels (Kasham kalva) throughout the country," thereby sacrificing revenue to an enormous extent.

Vide paragraph 17 of Government Proceedings dated 14th May 1872.

In passing orders upon the Board's Proceedings the Government did not concur with the Board but agreed with Messrs. Wilson and Master that these lands should be classed as dry. As I have since received a full further report upon this subject, and as the importance of the question at issue in a revenue point of view should be brought prominently forward, I have the honour to request that the Board will, should they concur with me, ask the Government to reconsider their present determination.

2. It would appear that the grounds for recommending that these spring lands should be classed as dry were that the sources of supply should be regarded as private wells sunk at the ryots' expense, but the cases are not analogous.

* Springs in the sand ridges. These "Sonalu"* were opened generations back, are kept in repair by a moderate exercise of ordinary "kudimaramut," are situated in Government waste lands and water fields which have always been classed as "wet" and always been under "wet" crops, so that the conditions between the two are widely different, to say nothing of the irrigation from wells being by lift and that from the "Sonalu" by direct service or "Nadanir."

3. But the main point to be considered is the principle involved. If Government thus leniently treat these rivulets, the sources of which are only from 10 to 200 yards distant from the lands they supply, and which cost next to nothing to keep in order, much more must this indulgence be shown to the numerous spring channels in other districts which are led away for miles and miles at an enormous outlay of the ryots' time and labour, and which yield lakhs upon lakhs of "wet land" revenue. The loss in North and South Arcot alone would be something alarming, as I remember in the Villapuram Taluq of the latter district there were villages, such as Valavanoor, yielding Rupees 10,000 per annum from these sources; in fact, after Mr. Wilson had served some time in North Arcot, subsequent to the submission of his report, he saw, I believe, reason to modify the views he had expressed as to these springs in Guntoor.

4. It may be urged that many of the channels I have alluded to are taken from springs in the river-bed and thus clearly flow from a Government source; but, unless these river springs and the channels leading therefrom were annually cleared out and utilized "by improvements effected at the ryots' own cost and in which the Government have no share," the supply would remain comparatively unremunerative. Again, it is rather difficult to say why springs in the sandy river-beds which have to be cleared out each dry weather should be looked upon as State property, while the "Sonalu" on the sandy ridges should be deemed to belong to private individuals although situated on Government waste land.

5. Although the financial result in the present instance, as regards the "Sonalu" lands in Guntur, is a very small matter when compared with the principle involved, I proceed to show briefly how the future revenue will stand under the system now advocated of classing these lands under the head of "wet." The former rates paid by the holders of these lands ranged from 15 to 5 Rupees per acre and were twenty-six in number. It appears, however, that in Fasli 1268 the rates were reduced to 8, and ranged from 12 to 6 Rupees. The present amount realized from these tracts comes to Rupees 16,903 or Rupees 7-6-3 per acre, and must be deemed high when the assessment of the tank and channel lands throughout this division is considered.

6. Under the present Settlement procedure now sanctioned these "Sonalu" lands, if classed as "irrigated" as now advocated, would come under the consolidated wet rates applicable to second group villages; but, taking into consideration that these ryots undergo some outlay in repairs beyond that undergone by the cultivators under tanks and anicut channels, I would support the Acting Uncovenanted Assistant's proposal that the assessment be consequently lowered to that applicable to the third group villages. The accompanying statement shows the present wet assessment, that which would result from the imposition of the second group rates, that now proposed by taking the third group rates, and that which would be derived by demanding only dry assessment:—

Items.	Assessment.
	RS.
1. As per Revenue Accounts of Fasli 1281 ...	16,903
2. Do. second group consolidated wet rates ...	13,729
3. Do. third do. do. do. ...	11,443
4. Do. dry rates sanctioned by Government ...	2,288
5. Difference between 1 and 2 ...	3,174
6. Do. do. 1 and 3 ...	5,460
7. Do. do. 1 and 4 ...	14,615

It will be observed that if these lands are ordered to be entered as dry there will be a falling off in revenue of Rupees 14,615, but that if wet third group rates are sanctioned the diminution will be only Rupees 5,460.

7. I may finally state that the course now recommended is acquiesced in by the Acting Collector, by the Tahsildars, and by the cultivators concerned.

From G. BANBURY, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 30th October 1872, No. 2,028-70.

In continuation of my letter of the 19th current, No. 1,921-66, I have the honour, herewith, to forward a copy of the Acting Collector's letter, in which No. 2,564, dated 22nd October 1872.

Mr. Leman states his views regarding the treatment of the spring (Sonalu) lands of Bapatla. I request that the Board will be pleased to obtain the orders of Government on this subject as early as practicable because it has been arranged to introduce the new settlement during the current fasli.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna District, to the Director of Revenue Settlement, Madras, dated Masulipatam, 22nd October 1872, No. 2,564.

At your Acting Uncovenanted Assistant's request I have the honour to forward the enclosed from him to you.

2. I have carefully considered all the reasons he brings forward in favour of charging the cultivators of lands under the Sonalu of Bapatla with a wet rate, and I quite agree with him that it should be done.

3. In regard to the Vada Sonalu the labour entailed on the ryot to keep his channel open is no greater than that which falls to the lot of any cultivator of wet land under a tank or anicut channel in keeping his field channel open.

4. Lakhmikantha Row's remark that the land cannot be properly assessed as dry, as dry crops will not grow on it, seems a very pertinent one, and his statement, that this method of irrigation cannot be compared to well-irrigation, inasmuch as the expense is far less and the water is taken not from the ryot's own field but from Government waste, is a most true one. Well-irrigation also requires constant baling, while the spring-irrigation requires nothing of the kind. When the channel is clear the water flows through the fields.

5. The keeping open of the Kunderu Sonalu entails more labour on the cultivators, for they are dug, for the most part, at a greater distance from the fields; but I do not think that any special remission is necessary for them.

6. I think it is also worthy of consideration that very much discontent will be caused among the other ryots when they discover that the kist of lands, which up to now have easily paid more than their own lands have paid, is suddenly reduced to a nominal rate, while their own is increased.

7. It is admitted that the Sonalu land is some of the most fertile of the wet lands in the Bapatla Taluq.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. BANBURY,
Director of Revenue Settlement.

In their Order of the 14th May 1872, No. 793-F., Government ruled that the "Sonalu" lands in Kistna must be treated like private well lands and classed as "dry" in accordance with the principle "that ryots are not to be charged with additional tax for improvements effected at their own cost and in which the Government have had no share."

2. The Director of Revenue Settlement and the Collector of the district urge a reconsideration of this Order, and their representations are so clear and cogent that the Board think it unnecessary to go over the same ground.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd April 1873.*

3. It may be observed, however, that the principle enunciated by Government is subject, like other principles, to exceptions, and that it could not be universally insisted on without a great and unnecessary sacrifice of revenue. Many, perhaps most, of the smaller tanks in all parts of the Presidency have been made and maintained by the ryots and not by Government, and in the Southern Districts large tracts of land are irrigated from channels made entirely by the ryots.

4. If it is argued that in such cases as these there is an exceptional circumstance which justifies a departure from the principle, the answer is that the same exceptional circumstance is present in the case of the "Sonalu" lands. The reservoir of water afforded by the sand ridges from which they are irrigated is as much the property of the State as a river-bed and the supply of water is much more certain than that derived from a tank.

5. The contract between the circumstances of these "Sonalu" lands and of well lands is as strong as it can be. A well is dug at great expense in the ryot's own land and the water is obtained from it by the laborious process of baling. The "Sonalu" channels are cheaply made, take water from a reservoir belonging to Government, and irrigate without the intervention of any mechanical contrivance.

No. 17.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd April 1873, No. 385.

Miscellaneous.

THE first description given of these lands led to the impression that the springs were situated in the ryots' lands, which differed from ordinary "dry" lands only in possessing the advantage of having water close to the surface. It now appears that the springs are on Government land, and are consequently State property. This being the case, the Government sanction Mr. Banbury's present proposal for the assessment of the lands as wet, in accordance with prescriptive usage and the nature of the crops ordinarily grown.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 3828.

From

Board of Revenue

Dated 21st November 1872.

FOR ORDERS.

Govt. of 1873 Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 3rd.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 3rd April 1873, No. 385.

APRIL.

Nos. 16-17.

Lands watered by springs in Kistna District.—Mr. Banbury's proposal for the assessment of the lands as wet in accordance with prescriptive usage and the nature of the crops ordinarily grown, sanctioned.



The first description given of these lands led to the impression that the springs were situated in the dry lands - which is quite different from ordinary "dry" lands only in possessing the advantage of having water close to the surface. It now appears that the springs are on wet land & are consequently State

property. This being
the case I should I am sure
Mr. Van Buren's protest
be held for their assent.
Went - in accordance
with the prescription above &
the nature of the case or.
Dissatisfied person.

S. D. L. 5712

R. E.

W.

There box containing them & other
papers has by some mistake
remained with the minister
with me. I regret this delay
has occurred

FOR ORDERS

*Lands watered by Springs
in Kistna District -*

Revenue Department.

No. 385

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 3^d of April 1873.

Read the following Proceedings of
the Board of Revenue

*Submitting letters from Collector
of the Kistna D. and Dir. of Rev.
Settlement urging reconsideration
of ruling of Govt. that lands
watered by springs should be
treated like private well lands
& classed as dry.*

H. E. 21 Nov. 1872, No. 2234

*The first description
given of these lands led to
the impression that the springs
were situated in the peyoti
lands, which differed from
ordinary "dry" lands only
in possessing the advantage
of having water close to
the surface. It now
appears that the springs
are*

*Copy Mr. Linn note
realtine as a S.O.*

Done

are on Govt land and
are consequently State
property. This being the
case the Govt sanction Mr.
Bambury's present proposal
for ^{the} ~~their~~ ^{of the lands} apportionment as well
in accordance with prescriptive
usage and the nature of
the crops ordinarily grown.

JWS

Letter from Mr. ...

14 Board of Health Des 4 April 73
13 Dir: of Health Lett. N

5-173
S. H. ...

Land, water & top
Springs in Pictorial
District.



See page