

(1) Number of Pages..... 4
 (2) Date of repair..... 16.12.65
 (3) Initials of the Referencer..... *AK*

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PEV DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>94</i>	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<i>18. 2</i>	<i>1873</i>
		<i>-196 .</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd February 1873.*

Read the following papers:—

- No. 33. From the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
(Here enter No. 1,735, dated 7th August 1872.)
- No. 33-A. From do. do. do.
(Here enter No. 2,878, dated 11th November 1872.)
- No. 33-B. From the District Engineer, Godavery.
(Here enter No. 259, dated 21st December 1872.)

No. 15.

No. 33-C. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

IN G. O., Revenue Department, of the 9th January 1866, No. 62, Government, upon the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, sanctioned a charge of three-fourths of the usual water-rate of a district on lands not "classed as irrigated," and incapable of irrigation by flow, whenever the Collector, after satisfying himself that the safety of irrigation works would not be affected, sanctioned the use of the necessary mechanical contrivances for lifting the water.

2. The Board of Revenue thereupon issued Circular VI, of 1866, dated 6th April 1866, to Collectors. In this circular it is not specially noticed that the order allowing a charge of three-fourths, the usual water-rate, is applicable only to lands not classed as irrigated. In the Godavery District the Collector published in the *District Gazette*, dated 8th June 1872, page 140, a Revenue Circular, No. 15, laying down the course to be followed "in all cases in which a claim is put forward to a remission of one-fourth of the usual water-tax, on the ground that the land is irrigated by picottas or baling," and this order required a professional opinion as to whether the land included in the claim was irrigable or not by direct flow. Nothing is said in this order about land classed as irrigated or otherwise.

3. The result of this order appears to have been the submission of many claims to a remission, of one-fourth of the water-rate, on lands situated in the Godavery Delta, and the Range Officer in charge of the western part of the delta has brought to notice the extra work which these arrangements will throw upon him, and his inability to make the examinations, unless the claims are restricted, first, to lands which cannot be irrigated by direct flow throughout the ordinary season for irrigation, and, secondly, to reasonable areas of land.

4. The recent orders* of Government making irrigation entirely optional in the Godavery and Kistna Deltas will probably make the distinction, maintained in the Order of January 1866,

* G. O., R. D., No. 1,239, dated 21st August 1872.

between land classed as irrigated and unirrigated, inoperative; and, on this assumption, I will here advert only to the restrictions which appear to be necessary to prevent the examination of claims to remission involving a greater amount of work than either the Revenue or Public Works Department could cope with.

5. In the first place remissions do not seem to be justly claimable for crops which require to be irrigated by lift, because they have been planted either too early or too late in the season; and it would seem to be equally proper to reject

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claims for descriptions of crops for which a supply cannot ordinarily be afforded for the full time irrigation is needed. The seasons vary, but it probably will not be difficult for the Collector and District Engineer in communication to fix the date in each season for the commencement of irrigation, so far as this would affect the question of remission. Indeed, I am not at all sure that the orders of Government were ever intended to apply to lands other than those which must ordinarily and habitually be irrigated by lift, if irrigated at all; and, if this surmise be correct, it would follow that most of the claims in the Godavery Delta would be rejected at once on this ground alone.

6. In the next place it would appear to be necessary that the area on which claims to remission can be made should be restricted to entire revenue fields. That such a restriction is called for will be evident from the fact that, in a petition to the Executive Engineer No. 3 Range, certificates were asked for with respect to patches measuring but a few cents of an acre, and involving remissions of a few annas, and the Executive Engineer appears to consider that some of these appertained to threshing floors, rick stands, and slight inequalities, which might easily be levelled and then irrigated by flow.

7. Another point apparently deserving of attention is this:—The claims would seem to be passed on to the Range Officers for examination before being subjected to inquiry by the Local Revenue Officers. I think the latter should see that there is *prima facie* evidence in support of the claims before asking the Public Works Officers to verify them: or, in other words, that nothing but the level of the fields with respect to the source of water-supply should remain unascertained when the claims for remission are forwarded for a professional opinion upon them. A batch of claims in Telugu forms an enclosure to the District Engineer's letter, No. 259, dated 21st December last, and this will give some idea of the work, which their examination will involve, unless some restrictions, such as those which I have suggested above, be enforced.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
9th January 1873. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 33-D. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th January 1873,
No. 265.

From the Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 13th December 1872, No. 387.

REFERRING to the Board's Proceedings dated the 23rd August last, No. 5,863, Miscellaneous, I have the honour to report that the area irrigated in this district during the last fasli by means of mechanical contrivances is A. 1,621 C. 17 and that irrigated by wells is A. 934 C. 2. The wells have been sunk by private parties and no additional assessment is charged, as they are not situate within the prohibited distance from tanks or channels.

2. Lands irrigated throughout the irrigating season by picottals or by means of baskets are alone charged with three-fourths water-rate, while those irrigated but for a short period by such means, the rest of the time receiving water directly

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd February 1873.*

a Government supply, are fully charged. Generally, the opinion of the Department whether the lands could be irrigated by direct flow or not. I have lately made it a rule that the Department Public Works Officers is sought as to whether the lands could be irrigated by direct flow or not. I have lately made it a rule that the Department Public Works Officers should invariably be consulted in every case.

COMMUNICATED to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
For Secretary.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 3rd February 1873, No. 347.

IRRIGATION, No. 1.

ORDERED that these papers be transferred to the Revenue Department for consideration and for the issue of such orders as may be deemed necessary under the circumstances brought to notice in them. In the meantime the District Engineer, Godavery, will be informed that the professional examination of claims to remission of water-tax, under the Circular No. VI. of 1866 of the Board of Revenue, should be postponed, unless in any special cases the Collector may desire an examination to be made.

(True Extract.)

W. Mullins

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint-Secretary to Government.

the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
District Engineers, Godavery and Kistna.
Revenue Department, with Enclosures.

I. E. C. Shunker.

25-9 Jan 1872 - 120-21.
25-9 Jan 1872 - 187-88.
25-9 Jan 1872 - 102 hms.

Revenue - *W. 424*

Gobt. of 1873 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR
IRRIGATION.
Esq., Esq., Esq.

W. 94.
Referred to the Secy
Recd for their remarks

Dated February 3rd.
Recd. *a 14* Encl. *34*
Send to O. D. 14
G. O., 3rd February 1873, No. 347.

18 July 1873.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 33-34

12 Feb. O. D. 1873

No 94 18 February 1873

With order

Water-tax. - Passing orders on correspondence relative to claims for remission of water-tax in the Godavary District.