(1) Number of pages 8.

(2) Date of repair 28. 4. 1947

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1061 Press / Mis.

Dated 22nd August 1874.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd August 1874.

Read the following papers :—

No. 201. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th July 1874, No. 1,850.

Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 22nd May 1874, No. 1,285 :—

With reference to Board's Proceedings noted in the margin, I have the honor to submit the accompanying statement containing the information directed to be furnished. I have not sent the villagewar statements, as they would be of no use to the Board.

No. 7,098, dated 13th Dec. 1870.
„ 2,356, „ 9th „ 1872.

2. Subsequent to the orders of Government and the Board on the subject being received, Major Beckley sent to this office (on the 14th June 1872) another proposal to extend the Rhooskulya Canal as far as Itchapore, and I have, therefore, prepared the statistics for the tract of land to be irrigated by the whole canal, including the extension in question.

3. The canal will irrigate a large portion of the Government Taluq of Berhampore, a comparatively small portion of Gumsur, as well as portions of the Zemindaries of Dharakota, Sergada, Chinnakimidi, Peddakimidi, and Chekati.

4. In regard to the Government Taluqs of Berhampore and Gumsur, all the information required by the Board has been tabulated, but I have dispensed with details in regard to the Zemindari Taluqs, as well as Inam lands both in Government and Zemindari Taluqs, owing to the difficulty that has been experienced in attempting to obtain the information, and I have merely shown what has been returned as the extent of land that will be irrigated with Rhooskulya Canal water. Even this cannot be said to be absolutely accurate or complete, but it is the result attained after an immensity of trouble taken to procure it.

5. The latest year up to which the statistics have been gathered is Fasli 1279, when they began to be collected.

6. In the Government Taluqs of Gumsur and Berhampore, the area of the Government land already irrigated in the tract which will be affected by the Rhooskulya Project, calculated on an average of ten years from 1270 to 1279, is 42,962 acres, paying assessment at 158 different rates, varying from Rupee 0-6-8 to Rupees 9-8-0 per acre. The average total assessment of the said land for the same period amounts to Rupees 1,17,827.

7. The average remissions on the same land during the twenty years from Fasli 1260 to 1279 amount to Rupees 6,582.

8. The area of Government land, which will be irrigated when the works are completed, is as follows :—

Taluqs.	Cultivated.		Wet Irrigated.	Unoccupied Waste.	Total.
	Dry.	Rain-fed Paddy Land.			
	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.
Berhampore ...	27,013	15,832	41,991	7,876	92,712
Gumsur	10	368	1,402	22	1,802
Total ...	27,023	16,200	43,393	7,898	94,514

9. Of this area, the dry land now pays assessment at ninety-nine different rates, varying from Rupee 0-6-4 to Rupees 6, the wet land (both rain-fed paddy land and the irrigated wet) at 245 different rates, varying from Rupee 0-7-6 to Rupees 9-8-0 per acre. The unoccupied waste land is all unassessed.

10. For canal irrigation purposes, we may, I think, fairly treat the rain-fed paddy land and the unoccupied waste land in the same light as "dry land." The rain-fed paddy land now pays, it is true, a higher rate of assessment than ordinary dry land, in consequence of its being now irregularly treated as wet, but the Settlement Department may be expected soon to reduce it to its proper level, viz., the dry rate of assessment. With regard to unoccupied waste land, the canal irrigation advantages will doubtless offer inducements to ryots to enter upon its cultivation more readily than they are disposed to do at present. At the same time, the fact must not be lost sight of, that, even now, a considerable extent of waste land is being brought under the plough without any new source of irrigation being provided; but such land under existing arrangements would only be classed as "dry."

11. The extent of the Zemindari and Inam land, which will be irrigated by the canal, appears from the returns received to be as follows :—

Taluqs, whether Zemindari or Inam.	Cultivated.		Irrigated Wet.	Unoccupied Waste.	Total.
	Dry.	Rain-fed Paddy Land.			
	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.
Dharakota Zemindari	37	107	...	5	149
Sergada do.	15	367	...	...	382
Chinnakimidi do.	...	47	...	...	47
Peddakimidi do.	...	...	38	...	38
Chekati do.	165	1,360	...	850	2,375
Total ...	217	1,881	38	855	2,991
Government Taluqs, Inam	7,765	...	9,907	474	18,146
Zemindari do. do.	64	...	464	84	612
Total ...	7,829	...	10,371	558	18,758
Grand Total ...	8,046	1,881	10,409	1,413	21,749

12. I do not see any particular objection to adopting the same rates of water charge in the case of Zemindari and Inam land as in that of Government land, and I would, therefore, recommend the same rates for all those lands.

13. We may assume that by means of canal irrigation, the whole extent of land of the above-mentioned three descriptions, viz., dry, rain-fed paddy, and unoccupied waste, comprising an area of 62,461 acres as shown below, will be converted into wet, and that a portion of it, say, a half (31,230 acres) will be cultivated with two wet crops a year :—

——	Government.	Zemindari and Inam.	Total.
	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.
Dry	27,023	8,046	35,069
Rain-fed paddy ...	16,200	1,881	18,081
Waste	7,898	1,413	9,311
Total ...	51,121	11,340	62,461

14. In the rules for the levy of water rate in this district, sanctioned by the Board in their Proceedings of the 9th December 1873, No. 2,509, a rate of Rupees 2½ per acre was fixed for a single wet crop raised on dry land, and an additional rate of Rupees 1¼ for a second wet crop raised on the same land.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd August 1874.

15. Taking these rates for our calculation, the financial effect of the canal irrigation may be thus estimated :—

	Rs.
Water charge on 62,461 acres of dry, rain-fed paddy, and unoccupied waste land, which will be converted into irrigated wet, at Rupees 2½ per acre	1,56,152
Do. for the second crop on 31,230 ($\frac{62461}{2}$) acres of the same land, at Rupees 1¼ per acre	39,037
Total ...	1,95,189

16. With regard to the irrigated wet land, we may assume, I think, that the present irrigation supply is generally sufficient to admit of one paddy crop and one green-gram crop being raised annually on the same land, whereas by means of the canal irrigation works, two paddy crops could be more profitably raised on the same land. We may, therefore, I think, expect to levy on, rupee per acre as a water charge on this description of land on account of the improved irrigation to be provided by the canal. The extent of the irrigated wet land, which will be affected by the canal, is 53,802* acres, so that the revenue, which may be expected thereon on account of water charge, at the rate of one rupee per acre, will be Rupees 53,802.

	Rs.
* Government land	43,393
Zemindari and Inam land	10,409
Total ...	53,802

17. Thus the total increase of revenue, which may be expected to accrue from the supply of canal irrigation water, will be as follows :—

	Rs.
Amount expected on land which is now either dry, rain-fed paddy, or unoccupied waste (*vide* paragraph 15)	1,95,189
Do. on land which is already irrigated (*vide* paragraph 16) ...	53,802
Total ...	2,48,991

18. To this sum might be added the average annual amount of remissions, viz., Rupees 6,582, given in paragraph 7 (as remission would no longer be necessary when an abundant and never-failing supply of water was secured). The total increase of revenue to be expected from the canal irrigation project may, therefore, be estimated at Rupees 2,55,573, or 2½ lakhs in round numbers.

19. The above proposals have been made on the assumption that the water charge will be levied separately from the assessment on the land. It would certainly be a good thing in many ways to consolidate the water charge with the land assessment, but the question will doubtless receive due consideration when the settlement operations come to be discussed. If the water charge were consolidated without reference to the number of crops raised, the following rates might, I think, be fairly charged for water in addition to the land asssessment, viz. :—

	Rs.
For land which is now either dry, rain-fed paddy, or unoccupied waste.	3
For land which is already irrigated wet	¾

The financial effect would then be as follows :—

Increase of revenue on 62,461 acres of land, which is now either dry, rain-fed paddy, or unoccupied waste, at Rupees 3 per acre.	1,87,388
Do. on 53,802 acres of wet land, which is already irrigated, at Rupee ¾ per acre	40,351
Total ...	2,27,739
Add saving on account of remissions	6,582
	2,34,321

or 2½ lakhs in round numbers.

20. The amounts shown above may be fairly taken to represent the revenue likely to be derived from the Rhooskulya Canal Irrigation Project quite irrespective of the assessment of the land. The land assessment is of unequal incidence in Government Taluqs, but the Settlement Department will shortly rectify this inconvenience. In the case of the Zemindari and Inam lands, the lands assessment is often collected in kind, which renders it difficult to ascertain the existing rates of assessment with any great degree of accuracy, owing to the fluctuations in the ever-varying harvests.

21. The above calculations have been made with reference to the existing area in the accounts, as the area according to the survey has not yet been introduced.

22. I annex a statement which I have obtained from the District Engineer's Office, showing the area which will be taken up for the canal.

23. I have only now to add an expression of my opinion to those which have already been given by the Revenue and Engineer Officers of the district.

24. The project has my unqualified support. Financially, I anticipate most satisfactory results from it, while the boon that would be conferred on the hard-working thrifty inhabitants of this district by its adoption would be incalculable, and a vast relief would be afforded by the confident expectation that the district would be secured against the recurrence of a famine similar to that which visited it in 1866, and from the effects of which it is only now recovering.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Abstract of Land required for Rhooskulya Canal.

Particulars.	Acres.	Square Yards.	Add 10 per cent. for Unforeseen Items.		Total.		Rate of Compensation.	Amount of Compensation.
			Acres.	Square Yards.	Acres.	Square Yards.		
GOVERNMENT LAND.							RS.	RS. A. P.
Rice	310	2856·6	31	7734	341	3630	40	13,670 0 0
Dry...	558	1374·7	55	2255·3	613	3630	35	21,481 4 0
Waste	560	284·7	56	17·8	616	302·5	10	6,160 10 0
Total Government land.	1,428	4516	142	30465	1,570	27225	...	41,311 14 0
ZEMINDARI LAND.								
Rice	479	4688·4	48	151·6	528	...	60	31,680 0 0
Dry...	125	4382·5	12	2877·5	138	2420	50	6,925 0 0
Waste	379	4739·1	38	100·9	418	...	20	8,360 0 0
Total Zemindari land.	985	4130	98	3130	1,084	2420	...	46,965 0 0
Grand Total.	2,414	3806	241	1336·5	2,656	302·5	...	88,276 14 0

CHETTERPORE,
22nd May 1874.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Statement showing particulars of land which will be irrigated by the Rhooskulya Project.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd August 1874.

THIS report will be submitted to Governm[illegible]th reference to G. O., 10th November 1870, No. 46.

2. The land irrigable under the Mahanaddy and Rhooskulya Irrigation Project will be—

	Dry.		Wet.		Waste.
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	
	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.
Government land	27,023	36,815	59,593	1,57,270	7,898
Zemindari and Inam land ...	8,046	.....	12,290	.....	1,413

3. The Collector calculates the revenue due to the project, first, on the supposition that a water rate will be charged for the use of the water, that the whole of the land described above will be cultivated, and that half of it will produce two crops, and that an extra charge can be made on Zemindari and Inam wet land, as well as Government wet land. It seems to the Board obvious that these suppositions are too sanguine. It is one of the greatest difficulties of Revenue Administration in Ganjam that the ryots place too much confidence in the rainfall, growing paddy which may fail, in which case there will be a famine, instead of dry crops which are almost sure to succeed. If the water-rate system of the Godavery and Kistna Districts is introduced, so that the ryots may take or refuse water as they will, very few of them will take it and pay for it. Moreover, the expectation that the whole of the land will be cultivated, and that half of it will bear two crops, seems to the Board to be too sanguine. Again, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to collect anything on Zemindari and Inam *wet*.

4. The Board are so strongly of opinion that not only the financial success of the project, but the welfare of this part of Ganjam, depend upon introducing a consolidated assessment for the lands irrigated by the project, that they think it needless to discuss what might be the result of assessing the land as dry, and imposing a separate water rate.

5. The Collector calculates that, if a consolidated cess is imposed without reference to the number of crops raised, there will be a gain of Rupees 3 an acre on dry, rain-fed paddy, and waste land, and of three-quarters of a rupee on wet land.

6. It appears to the Board wrong in principle to expect the same increase in the case of Zemindari and Inam land, which is expected in the case of Government land. All that can be reckoned on is a water rate on the dry, rain-fed, and waste land, and the rate may be taken as in paragraph 13 of the letter, at Rupees 2-8-0 an acre. The amount gained in this way will be (supposing that water is taken for all the land)—

	ACRES.	RS.
Dry	8,046, at	20,115
Rain-fed	1,881, at	4,702½
Waste	1,413, at	3,532½
Total ...	11,340	28,350

7. Considering the facts that water will certainly be refused for a great deal of this land, and that a small portion of the wet (acres 12,290) may take water for a second crop, the Board think this part of the profit may be estimated at Rupees 25,000.

8. The Collector's estimate of Rupees 3 an acre seems fair, so far as regards Government land. The amount will be—

	ACRES.	RS.
Dry	27,023, at	81,069
Rain-fed	16,200, at	48,600
Waste	7,898, at	23,694
Total ...	51,121	1,53,363

9. In the case of wet land already irrigated, the Collector estimates the gain at three-quarters of a rupee per acre. Considering that the rates will be fixed in higher groups, because of the project at the approaching settlement, the Board think this estimate may be safely raised to one rupee an acre, and the amount will be Rupees 59,593.

10. The average annual remissions on the wet land already irrigated, which will be within the area affected by the works, is Rupees 6,582, and the Collector calculates that the whole will be saved. The Board doubt this. As was forcibly pointed out by the Director of Revenue Settlement in paragraph 15 of his letter disposed of in Board's Proceedings, 8th March 1872, No. 431, (Financial results of the Chembrambakum Tank Project), remissions will not altogether cease even when the works are completed. It will probably be sufficient to calculate on a profit in this respect of Rupees 4,000.

11. Thus, according to the Board's estimate, the profit which may be expected from the undertaking is—

	Rs.
Inam and Zemindari land	25,000
Government land	2,13,000
Saving in remissions	4,000
Total ...	2,42,000

12. But it must be remembered that this estimate is framed on very untrustworthy data. Settlement work is probably far enough advanced for the Deputy Director in Ganjam to be able to state roughly what rates are likely to be imposed on the Government land which will be irrigated by the works, and the Director will accordingly be requested to endeavour to frame an estimate of the revenue which will be obtained from it under the new settlement.

13. In paragraph 5 of G. O., 15th November 1872, No. 2,686, Government state the probable cost of the work as between 22 and 25 lakhs of rupees, and observe that Major Beckley estimates the probable returns at 4 lakhs, or 16 per cent. on 25 lakhs, but that the estimates are deficient in accurate information as to the amount to be paid in compensation for land taken up in the works, etc. The enclosure to the Collector's letter shows that it is now calculated that the extent of land taken up will be acres 2,656 square yards 302·5, and that the sum which will have to be paid as compensation is Rupees 88,277. Assuming that this information will not affect the rough estimate of the total cost of the work, and that this will be 25 lakhs, the Board's estimate of the profit, which though very rough is probably within the mark, is 9·7, or nearly 10 per cent. The Board have no means of estimating the cost of up-keep; but even when this is taken into consideration, the percentage will, no doubt, be considered fair.

14. The Board cannot urge the importance of the project too strongly. They believe that it is thoroughly sound both in an Engineering point of view, and with reference to its financial results. The construction of so extensive a work, and the money which it will cause to circulate, will be of incalculable benefit to Ganjam, and, if the district is afterwards affected with a famine, it will be no longer possible for what are famine prices in the district to be too low to attract grain from other parts of the Presidency.

No. 201A. Minute by the Hon. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

(Here enter 10th August 1874.)

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 22nd August 1874, No. 1,061.

Irrigation, No. 4.

THE foregoing Proceedings will be communicated to the Public Works Department, in order that early action may be taken in regard to the proposed works of irrigation in Ganjam.

2. There seems reason to believe that the project will result in a fair increase to the revenue, but, even if the Board's moderate estimate of financial results should prove too sanguine, there remains the great saving of public money, which may otherwise have to be disbursed periodically in the way of famine relief.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council agrees generally in the Board's views, and is of opinion that, under the special circumstances of the district, a consolidated assessment on the irrigated lands is expedient in lieu of a water rate. The adoption of the latter system would apparently greatly diminish the usefulness of the work.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. Grubert.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August 22nd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 22nd August 1874, *No.* 1,061.

AUGUST.

Nos. 201-20[illegible]

Mahanuddy and Rhooskulya Irrigation Project, Ganjam District.—Communicating to the Public Works Department Revenue Board's Proceedings regarding the — for early action being taken, and remarking that a consolidated assessment on the irrigated lands is expedient in lieu of a water rate.

☆