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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	106.	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated 23. Jan.		~~196~~ 1874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd January 1874.

No. 201. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th January 1874, No. 31 :—

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trichendur, 30th December 1873, No. 742 :—

I HAVE now commenced the settlement of the Tenkarei Taluq, beginning with the villages under the Strivaiguntam Anicut. These, as the Board are aware, contain large tracts of salt marsh, blown sand, old tank-beds, and other descriptions of Government waste. The population is very scanty, and for many miles together the only cultivation to be seen is thorn jungle and palmyras. The land thus occupied is held at the nominal rates of 1 or 2 Annas an acre, and each ryot has a far larger extent of land in his putta than he can possibly bring under tillage with the aid of the anicut water; hence his first object now must be to endeavour to sell part of his holding, and it is vain to expect that the ryots who cannot cultivate what they have now got will be able to take up the waste lands, which are all ready for cultivation if people can be found to cultivate them.

2. As it happens, there are applications for these waste lands from other parts of the district. Men of some substance are willing to take allotments and to pay a small fee for the privilege, and, as I find, on arrival here, that the Engineer Officers have built an anicut and constructed channels, tanks, main sluices, and main delivery channels from the sluices, but have there stopped, and do not contemplate laying out the net-work of field channels and drainage channels and building the small sluices, regulating dams, and calingulahs, which must be constructed before the water can be delivered systematically to the fields, I think, if the Board will permit me to carry out the following proposed arrangement, that I can turn the present opportunity of making the settlement here to the very great advantage of both Government and the ryots. If some authority does not intervene, and if some relaxation of the existing durkhast rules is not permitted, the few and ignorant cultivators of a tract of country now being flooded by the anicut water will continue, as at present, perfectly passive, and will take no steps whatever to use water that is not actually brought to their fields. Conflicting interests, want of capital, extreme ignorance, and the apathy that may be expected from people who have hitherto made their living by tree-climbing and cutting firewood, and who are not quite prepared all at once to take up a new mode of livelihood, will occasion a real loss to the country and a great diminution of the receipts so confidently expected from this really magnificent work.

3. If the present chance, too, is lost I may not be able to visit this taluq again, and the one great opportunity that I now have of exercising the double authority of Collector and Settlement Officer for the benefit of the people here, and of making a settlement in every respect of a vast tract of country most peculiarly situated, will be gone and lost for ever. I have from the first taken a great interest in the success of this scheme. It was on my representation that it was revived from obscurity and eventually sanctioned by Government. I went over every village, every existing channel and tank, and almost every field with Lieutenant Shepherd when working up data for his estimate, and I repeated this

tour of inspection while the work was in course of progress. I am now here again to go over the ground a third time and, once and for all to fix the assessment that each field will have to pay. The District Engineer and the officer in charge of the project will accompany me, and we shall be able to determine on the spot the course that every field channel should take and the exact site for every sluice. In this village alone I have already seen the necessity for what must cost several thousand Rupees, but where is the money to come from? The estimate does not provide for what it was always supposed would be done by the ryots themselves, and this supposition would be correct in almost any other part of the country, but here unfortunately it does not at all apply; and, if the Engineer and Collector conjointly do not now lay out these minor works and superintend their construction, I have no hesitation in saying that the Government will lose a lakh of Rupees in revenue and the people will lose the chance that they never will have again.

4. I propose, therefore, to raise a Fund for conducting the water to the fields by the sale of the right of occupancy of the salt marsh, abandoned tank-beds, and other such like waste in each village as I move slowly along through the country, and dividing such waste into convenient blocks of, say, one acre each, to put up the right of occupying the same on payment of the taram assessment to auction, after offering the villagers the prior choice, at a small upset price. In this village I have laid out in this manner 150 Acres, and there are many inquirers for these lands at 30 Rupees an acre.

5. I hope I have explained myself sufficiently clearly to show that I propose to invade no right, and to alienate no item of revenue, but merely to sell the right of occupying such lands as cannot be cultivated by the ryots of any particular village to strangers who are ready to cultivate, the money to be spent in every case in the village in which it is raised.

6. This matter is of such great importance, and orders are so urgently needed, that I shall be obliged if the Board will favour me with their instructions at the earliest possible date.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Srivaiguntam Anicut has brought water within the reach of enormous tracts of land which are either unoccupied or assessed at nominal rates. Before the water can be distributed, however, it is necessary that distribution works should be executed at considerable cost. These works form no part of the sanctioned anicut project, and the Engineers who have carried out that project have left them to be undertaken by the villagers.

3. Each of these villagers is said to have a far larger extent of land in his putta than he can possibly bring under tillage; it follows that they cannot themselves command labour or capital for cultivating the land now unoccupied, and that they will take little interest in completing the distribution works.

4. There is, however, a great demand for these waste lands, now that they have become irrigable, on the part of men from a distance who have the energy and means to cultivate the lands, and who are prepared to pay sums for the right of occupancy which will defray the cost of a complete net-work of distribution channels, etc.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd January 1874.

5. As this demand exists, it can scarcely be doubted that if the ordinary durkhast rules remain in force the villagers will apply for, and obtain, waste which they do not want for agricultural purposes, in order that they may sell it to outsiders. The result will be that the waste will go to outsiders just as much as it would if the durkhast rules are suspended, while a profit arising entirely in consequence of the anicut works will be monopolized by men who have had nothing to do either with projecting the anicut or paying for it.

6. Under these circumstances, the Board are decidedly of opinion that the "very exceptional circumstances" exist which justify the sale of unoccupied waste subject to assessment instead of the grant of it under the durkhast rules, and, if Government approve, they are prepared to allow Mr. Puckle to do as he proposes, viz., "to sell the right of occupancy of the salt marsh, abandoned tank-beds, and other such like waste in each village," but only after the claims of the resident villagers have been duly considered. All the land which they are really prepared to cultivate must be given to them free of charge, the claims of the resident villagers being preferentially considered.

Standing Order, No. 150.

7. In order that this measure may be divested of any appearance of harshness it is necessary that the proceeds of the sales should be formed into Village Funds and spent on distribution works within the village where it is raised.

8. The Second Member, who is not altogether a party to these Proceedings, has recorded a separate Minute on the subject.

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1874, No. 106.

Land Revenue, No. 6.

From Secretary of State, Revenue, No. 22, dated 23rd March 1861, in G. O., 30th April 1861, No. 971.

THE Government have carefully considered these papers. They are clearly of opinion that this is one of those exceptional cases mentioned in the despatch marginally noted, where the sale by auction, with reservation of the public assessment, of the waste lands of a village has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State; the third instance given by Sir Charles Wood being "where irrigation has been supplied to the lands of an uninhabited village or of a village in excess of the quantity required for the occupation of the resident ryots."

2. In this particular case, to secure the preferential rights of the villagers, and, at the same time, to provide and utilize a sufficient fund for carrying out what still remains to be done before the anicut-water can be applied to the land, viz., "the net work of field-channels and drainage channels and building the small sluices and the regulating dams and calingulahs," nothing more is required than that the Collector and District Engineer should estimate the amount necessary for the establishment of these minor works in each village, and that the former should then impose the same rateably over the village waste; after this, notification will be made that *durkhasts* will be received for the occupancy of the several blocks, subject to the payment of the rateable premium above mentioned, the

Paragraph 2, Collector's letter.

resident villagers being allowed the opportunity of taking all they want on these terms before applications from strangers are entertained. Finally, the execution of the works out of the proceeds of the foregoing premia will be left entirely in the hands of Mr. Puckle, of whose success in administering such matters the Government have received such numerous proofs.

(True Extract.)

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

Revd. & Encl. Sub. Dt. 24th April 1874 Nos.

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January 23rd.

1874.

Rec'd.

Read & Pon. 4-4-74 No. 2 vol. Circ. 6th 10th Sept.

7/11/28 II

Ry-1-90

R. O., 23rd January 1874, No. 106.

JANUARY.

Nos. 201-202.

Settlement of the Tenkarai Taluq, Tinnevelly District.—Passing orders on Board's Proceedings regarding the Collector's proposals connected with the—

Tricheudur

Tinnevelly Collector's Circuit Cutcherry

30th December 1873.

No. 742

From,

R. H. Puckle Esqre,

Collector

To,

J. Grose Esqre,

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Madras

Sir

I have now commenced the Settlement of the Tenkarai taluq beginning with the villages under the Srivaigundam anicut these as the Board are aware, contain large tracts of salt marsh, blown sand, old tank beds and other descriptions of Government waste. The population is very scanty and for many miles together the only cultivation to be seen is thorn jungle and palmyras. The land thus occupied is held at the nominal rates of one or two annas an acre, and each

Compare 4 Para 11

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each ryot has a far larger extent of land in his puttah than he can possi-
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2. As it happens there are appli-
-cations for these waste lands from other parts of the district. Men of some sub-
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very great advantage of both Govern-
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perfectly passive, and will take no
steps whatever to use water that
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Conflicting interests, want of capital,
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1

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

606/9

instructions at the earliest possible date.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. K. Puckle

Collector

(A true copy)

J. Grote

Secretary

Board of Revenue.

Dr Ramsay

Genl & Stadtuke

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 10th January 1874, No 30

Read letter from the Collector
of Tinnevelly dated 30th December
1873 No 742 forwarding for the sanc-
-tion of the Board of Revenue cer-
-tain proposals to be carried
out in the Settlement of the Tan-
-kai Taluq.

Submitted for the
orders of Government.

The Srivaigundam Anicut
has brought water within the
reach of enormous tracts of land
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or assessed at nominal rates.

Before

29-1-95

Enclosure in the
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue to the Secre
to Government Rev. Depart
dated 10th January 1874.

Rev 70/1874

Subject

Copy of letter from Coll
of Tinnevelly dated 30th Dec. 73
No. 142. forwarding for the
Board's sanction certain
proposals to be carried
out in the Settlement
of the Tenkarai Taluq.

No 106. 23d January 74.

Before the water can be distri-
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a distance who have the energy
and means to cultivate the lands,
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-tribution channels ~~&c~~.

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Standing Order 7/50

(80/12) Rules, and if Government approve they are prepared to allow Mr. Buckle to do as he proposes viz "to sell the right of occupancy of the salt marsh, abandoned tank beds and other such like waste in each village but only after the claims of the Resident Villagers have been duly considered. All the land which they are really prepared to cultivate must be given to them free of charge.

In order that this measure may be divested of any appearance of harshness it is necessary that the proceeds of the sales should be formed into village funds and spent on distribution

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village where it is raised.

The second Member who
is not altogether a party to these
Proceedings has recorded a
a separate minute on the subject

/True Extract/

J Grote
Secretary

To,
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with copy of Collector's letter

Refunds &c Log Lumber
Act 4 Jan 1874 Minn.

Dated 10th January 1874

Rec'd 12th "

Subject thereof

Prayer for order
of Governor directing
Proper officers
of Kanabec County
to settle with

Rec'd H.S. Dec 17th 1873
C 12th Jany/74 R 12th

Rev: 1874 : 24th
No. 70

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 10th January 1874

Rec'd 12th "

eng

J.O. 106-23 Jany/74

Subject thereof

Prayer for order
of Governor directing
Proper officers
of Kanabec County
to settle with

Kanabec County

Rec'd H.S. Dec 17th 1873
C 12th Jany/74 R 12th

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 70

From Pro: Board of Revenue

Dated 10 January 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

Refunds - Should these appear after
appropriation orders are issued &
funds be decided 1871 1867

See my note

Jan 6/74

FOR ORDERS.

Proposals of Collector of Limerick in regard to Settlement of Jew Karaite Tabernacle

70/74

Sent to H.E. the Gov. 17th
& 12th January 1870 17.

1870/16 No 5

I do not concur in the Revd Mr Puckle & the Board that I think the Petitioners may justly be exempted the Expenses of these subsidiary channels by requiring a certain payment for the occupancy of the waste - so far as it is villow waste - which will have a real value - owing

6

to the construction of the aq-
-ueduct - and pay the ex-
dent Rights or Interests
the Inhabitants are Strangers
according to Custom - The
Select Employ will have no
difficulty in duly deter-
-ming the amount to be paid
in each Village - and the
rateably distributed on the
Villages must will be forth-
the charge for the occasion

to the construction of the aq-
-uicut - and giving the Inci-
dent Rights or interest does
the Preference due strangers
according to custom - The
Chiefs & Emps will have no
difficulty in readily deter-
-ming the amount to be paid
in each village - and the
rateably distributed on the
villages in vain will be found
the charge for the occasion

12 January 1817.

Mr Buckle declares that
the Rights already held here
and the way they can title,
and their existing crops -
canes will really except to
by the channels - which
cannot otherwise be con-
structed - The Courts - funded
by Law alone - would, & ac-
knowledged upheld Mr Buckle's
asserted right to take the ne-