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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	425	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	1-2-74	~~196~~ 1874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1-R

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st April 1874.

Read the following :—

No. 41. MINUTE BY THE HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I.

THE course proposed to be followed is in strict accordance with the principles of assessment. "Wet" land is land irrigated at the expense of the State; "dry" land is land not so irrigated. The former is assessed more highly than the latter, inasmuch as Government incurs the expense of irrigation; *per contra*, it has the advantage of bearing more valuable and certain crops and of receiving remissions when they fail from want of water, the compact between Government and the ryot being that water is supplied. "Dry" land, on the other hand, has a lighter assessment, because Government does not provide water, and it does not receive remissions for ordinary failure of crops, because the assessment is regulated on the average crop of several years, which, of course, are influenced by ordinary vicissitudes of season. In years of real drought, the Government of necessity give remissions to dry as well as wet, as we are now doing in Tinnevelly. Some "dry" lands, as the "manavary" of Chingleput, are well watered naturally, others are irrigated from private wells and tanks, but neither are "wet" in our technical sense. I see no reason why these lands in Ganjam should not be treated in accordance with this principle, one result of which will be that the owners may supplement their natural supply of water by wells which they have no inducement to do while the lands are rated as "wet."

2. Mr. Thornhill is wrong in supposing, however, that this will necessarily lead to "dry" crops being substituted for "wet." In the majority of cases the owners will probably continue to grow wet crops, because, on the whole, these are most valuable; they will take their chances of a bad season as they now do. Some few may prefer the certainty of less to the precariousness of more valuable crops; but the assessment will be regulated by sound principles, and the ryots will be free to act as they think best for themselves. I do not see how the State can charge for water when it does supply any, nor how we can equitably assess the existing cultivation as "wet," but future extensions of it as "dry."

J. D. SIM.

31*st March* 1874.

No. 42. MINUTE BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT.

I AGREE with the Hon. Mr. Sim. It appears from these papers that the lands in question have been hitherto classed as "wet," that is, as lands irrigated at the cost of Government; whereas, in fact, they are lands irrigated only by natural means, *i.e.*, they are lands which our rules of assessment class as "dry." There is no reason for such an anomaly, and if only for the sake of regularity and consistency, it ought to cease. But, further, it also appears that a definite and serious evil is the result of the anomaly. The lands being classed as "wet" are accordingly assessed at a higher rate; and this places the cultivators under the necessity,—whether they will or no,—of growing "wet," that is, more valuable, crops upon them, in order to meet the higher rate of assessment; that is to say,

they are compelled,—whether they will or no,—to grow upon these lands crops which may be ruined by a dry season ; and very serious disaster appears to have been, and may again be, the result of the necessity. It is true that when the lands are, in accordance with general usage, classed as "dry," many if not most of the cultivators will very probably still continue to grow upon them precarious crops; but, at any rate, the change will give them the option, if they please, of exercising greater prudence, of which they will certainly more or less take advantage, and of which in any case we ought to do nothing to prevent their availing themselves.

HOBART.

31*st March* 1874.

No. 43. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1874, No. 425.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the foregoing Minutes be forwarded to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India in continuation of despatch, No. 5 of 1874, dated 17th March 1874.

(True Extract.)

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

3.R.

Govt. of Madras. 1874

REVENUE.

To

Dated April 1st.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 1st April 1874, No. 425.

APRIL.

Nos. 41—43.

Minutes by the President and Mr. Sim, regarding Classification of Lands as "Wet" and "Dry" in the Ganjam District.—Orders transmission of — to Secretary of State.

the advantage of bearing
some relation to the
certain
carrying remission when they
fail from want of water -
the contract between pot & the
Ryot being that water is supplied
"Dry" land on the other hand
has a liability assessment
because pot does not provide
water - & it does
not receive remissions for ordi
nary failure of crops because
the assessment is regulated on
the average crop of several years while

of course are obliged to succumb
by ordinary vicissitudes of season
in years of bad drought the pot-R
necessity for remitting to dry as
well as wet - as we are now
doing in Tinnevelly - Some "dry"
lands, on the margin of tanks
are made watered naturally -
others are irrigated from private
wells & tanks - but in all the
"wet" in our technical sense
& so in Tinnevelly these lands
should not be treated in accordance
with this principle - one of which will be that the owners may

can change when it does subtly enough
how we can equitably assess the existing
calculation as "wet" but future ones
of it as "dry". J.D. Lewis

9.R

Rev.: 1874 : Despr
No. 1032

Minute by the Hon: S. D. Sim
C.S.I.

Date
Rec. 30: } March 1874

On Board's Rep. -
- enclosing the condition
of the Ganjam District during 1873
and its prospects generally.

S.Q. No. 425 - 1st Apl 74

41.

1st Mlly 74 - R 1st Apl

Private

12. R

I agree with Mr Bourke in saying -
It appears from these papers that the
lands in question have been brought
classed as "wet" - that is, lands
irrigated at the cost of Government
whereas in fact they are lands irrigated
only by natural means, and
at the lands which our rules
i. e. the wet lands of Government class or class "1". There is
no reason per se why such lands should not
for the sake of regularity and convenience
be entered in Government class "1". But, further,
it ought to disappear. But, further,

it also appears that a definite reversion will take place in the result of the anomaly. The lands being classed as "wet", are accordingly charged at a higher rate: and this places the cultivators under the necessity, whether they will or no, of growing "wet" crops upon them, in order to meet the high rate of assessment. That is to say they are compelled, whether they will or no, to grow upon those lands crops which may be ruined by a dry season: and any serious disaster appears to have been, and

may be again expected upon the result of the unexpected. The land will probably, that, when the lands are in accordance with general usage, classed as "dry", the tenancy of next most of the cultivators will still continue to grow upon them precarious crops: but at any rate the change will put them the option, if they please, of exercising greater prudence, & submit they will enjoy better advantages and of which in any case no one ought to do nothing to prevent them availing themselves.

Herbert Hamilton 3/74

Revenue 1874 Depts

No. 1096.

Minute by the Rt. Hon: the Governor

Dated 31: March } 1874.
Recd. 1: April }

On Bds. Pros: regarding the condition of the Ganjam Dt. during 1872-73 & its prospects generally.

G. O. No. 425 - 1st April/74

42.

No. 425 Revenue Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 1st April 1874.

READ the following Minute by the Honble. J. D. Sim, C. S. I.

On Board's Pro. regarding the condition of the Ganjam Dt. during 1872-73, and its prospects generally. } H. E. 1874.

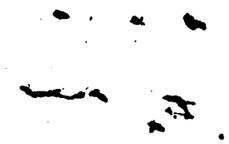
Ordered that the foregoing Minutes be forwarded to the Right Honble. the Secretary of State for India in continuation of Despatch No. 5 of 1874, dated 17: March 1874.

I should [illegible] with the accompanying Minute [illegible] Mr. Sim's [illegible] in case there is nothing irregular in sending [illegible]. It contains the reasons which I gave in Council for my opinion.

441-443









C 1st appl/74 - k 1st appl