425

M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

.....DEPARTMENT

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

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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.

REVENUE.

To

Dated April 1st.

Read.

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 and "Dry" in the Ganjam District.—Orders transmission of—to Secretary of State.

-42. Minute

2

G.R.

4

Whether the words "Wet" and "Dry" as applied to the lands described in the Circular Orders dated 8th March 1873 followed 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 much more highly than the latter - since much as per cent since the expense of irrigation - per contra - it has

the advantage of bearing
some relation to certain acres of land
carrying remittance when they
fail from want of water -
the contrast between pot & the
dry tract being that water is distributed
by a "ditch" on the other hand
has a little lighter assessment
because pot does not provide
assessment water - & it does
not receive remittance for ordi
nary failure of crops because
the assessment is regulated on
the average crop of several years while

of course are subjected to removal
by ordinary vicissitudes of water
in years of real drought the pot &
necessity for remitting to dry as
well as wet - as we are now
doing in Pinemilly - Some "dry"
lands - or the remunerary of [illegible]
are well watered naturally -
others are irrigated from springs
wells & tanks - but neither are
"wet" in any technical sense
I see no reason why these lands
should not be treated in accordance
with this principle - one result of
which will be that the owners may

can change when it does suddenly and how
how we can equitably assess the existing
entitlements as "net" but future entitlements
of it as "dry". J.D. Levin

9.R

Rev: 1874 : Depn
No. 1032

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

Date
Rec. 30: } March 1874

On Board's Report
- enclosing reporting the condition
of the Ganjam District during 1872
and its prospects generally.

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

41

1st Apl/74 - R 1st Apl.

Minute

12. R

I agree with the Andra Collector
It appears from these papers that the
land in question have been hitherto
classed as "wet" - that is the lands
irrigated at the cost of Government
whereas in fact they are lands irrigated
at the only by natural means, and
C. S. they are lands which our rules
of assessment class as "dry". There is
no reason why such an anomaly should if only
for the sake of regularity and consistency
it ought to disappear. But, further,

it also appears that a definite
version will prevail in the result of
this anomaly. The lands being classed
as "wet", are accordingly charged at
a higher rate: and thus place the
cultivators under the necessity, whether
they will or no, of growing "wet" crops
more valuable
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 their
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
the result of this inspection. It will then
probable that, when the lands are
in accordance with general usage,
classed as "dry", the many instances
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 enable them to
take advantage of which in any case no
right to do nothing to prevent
them availing themselves.

Herbert Ramsay 3/74

15.19

Revenue 1874 Depte

№ 1096.

Minute by the Rt Hon: the Governor

Date 31: March
Recd 1: April - } 1874.

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

S. G. № 425 - 1st Apl 74

42.

3 1874

No. 425 *Revenue Department.*

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 1st April 1874.

READ the following Minute by the Hon'ble J. D. Sim. C. S. I.

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

I should like with the accompanying Minute to have also that part of Sir Wm Denison's letter of 17th Feby 1873 which relates to the Ganjam Agency, in case there is any irregularity in sending it.

It contains the reasons which led to the Council's opinion

Ordered that the foregoing Minute be forwarded to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India in continuation of Despatch № 5 of 1874. dated 17: March 1874.

411-443

(22) R

Sherwood

Corr Dr Sec

c 1st appl 74 ~ k 1st appl