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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 883	Press
~~B.P. No.~~	Mis.
Dated 15-7-1874	~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th July 1874.

No. 124. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th July 1874, No. 1,684 :—

Read the following letter from J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th June 1874, No. 118.

AFTER receipt of the Board's Proceedings of April 29th, 1874, No. 1,006, it struck me that a mistake had been made in supposing that if the Spur Tank is filled up, Government must necessarily purchase all the wet lands now irrigated by it.

2. I consider the only claim to compensation which can be made by the owners of the irrigated lands is one for the loss of water used for cultivation, and that they are therefore only entitled to the difference of value caused by the loss thereof, viz., the value of the difference between the lands as wet or dry, which latter they would become if the tank were filled up.

3. I therefore called on the Deputy Collector to report as soon as possible on the point, and copies of correspondence on the subject are sent herewith.

4. In his report of the 10th instant, the Deputy Collector states that there is no dry land under any tank in the Madras District, and that the net annual return of one cawny of one-crop wet land is under Rupees 200. He then refers to the value of garden lands, and the cost of digging wells, regarding which I had not asked for any information. In paragraph 2, he qualifies the above valuation by a statement showing the net return of one-crop wet land to be from 105 to 170 Rupees a cawny.

5. The Board can easily ascertain the actual net returns of wet lands in the vicinity of Madras from the Chingleput Settlement Report just sent in by Mr. Banbury.

6. I also refer the Board to the valuations made by Mr. Vencatasiah of the

Deputy Collector to Collector of Chingleput, 17th October 1873, No. 77, in Board's Proceedings of 25th November 1873, No. 2,412.

wet and dry lands in the villages of Mambalum and Periyur, near the Mylapore and Nungambakam Tanks.

7. I annex a statement of Melwarum received by a private landholder for his lands under a large tank near Madras. The ryot's share is usually the same; the annual net return of these

Melwarum per cawny—23 mercals of rice equal to 184 measures, or 23 Rupees at 8 measures per Rupee.

lands is therefore from 40 to 50 Rupees per cawny.

8. I have also inquired at what rate wet land under tanks is purchaseable now. I find that some wet land is for sale under one of the Madras tanks for Rupees 165 per cawny, of which the net produce is, on an average, 36 mercals of rice, and one and a half or two bandy-loads of straw per cawny. This *purchasing* price is a little above the average valuation of *net annual return* reported by the Deputy Collector.

9. The Deputy Collector has omitted in his letter to state the value which the lands would bear for dry cultivation; he says, they would be *unfit* for dry crops

10. In this opinion I do not coincide, nor do I think the Board will. Indeed I know for a fact that wet lands at the Sydapet Farm have been turned into dry, and cultivated.

11. Another point for consideration is that if the tank is filled up, nearly the whole of the present wet cultivated land will be available for house-sites, as if there is no water in the tank, the land will be dry, and fit for house-sites.

12. By Mr. Venkatasiah's report above referred to, the Board will also observe that the average value of dry land is about half that of wet land.

13. Taking all the data above recorded into consideration, I am of opinion that a sum of 100 Rupees per cawny would be ample compensation to the owners of wet land under the Spur Tank for the loss of water for cultivating one-crop land.

14. Cawnies 2, grounds [illegible] square feet will be taken up for the line of railway absolutely: if the tank is filled up the quantity will be rather less. The quantity of wet land for which compensation will now have to be paid therefore amounts to cawnies 34, grounds 19, square feet $980\frac{7}{16}$; the amount of compensation to be paid would therefore be, under this head, about 4,000 Rupees instead of Rupees 1,06,375, as proposed by the Deputy Collector in his letter of March 9th, 1874.

See Deputy Collector's letter, 6th March 1873, No. 171, in Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, of 14th October 1873.

Board's Procs., 29th April 1874, No. 1,006.

15. As regards the further sum of 50,000 Rupees, which the Deputy Collector thinks would have to be paid to owners of property and wells near the tank, perhaps the claims of the owners of some of the wells might be taken into consideration, but I agree with Mr. Webster in thinking no one else can have any legal or equitable claim to compensation, particularly if the Municipality are allowed to make a reservoir in part of the bed of the tank.

Enclosures No. 1.

From J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector, to R. RAGOONATHA ROW, Deputy-Collector of Madras, dated 20th May 1874, No. 337.

On reconsideration of the subject of the abandonment of the Spur Tank, and the compensation payable to the owners of the land irrigated by its water, I do not see any necessity for an obligation on the Government to purchase these lands at all.

2. The owners are, I consider, simply entitled to compensation for the loss of the water used in cultivating the lands watered by the tank. I have therefore to request you will, with as little delay as possible, report the amount of compensation which Government is liable to pay on such lands.

* * *

From R. RAGOONATHA ROW, Deputy-Collector, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated 21st May 1874, No. 604.

With reference to the latter part of paragraph 2 of your letter of the 20th instant, No. 337, I beg to request that you will be pleased to instruct me on what data I should calculate the amount of compensation for the loss of water hitherto used in cultivating the lands irrigated by the tank. There are no accounts in this office to show how much water each field used to consume, what number of crops used to be raised from such irrigation, and what profits the owners of the paddy-fields used to enjoy. If the means of irrigation is denied, the land would not be fit for wet cultivation, nor will it do for dry cultivation, as the fields would be too low for it. Under these circumstances, I am compelled to trouble you with a request for instructions.

From J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector, to R. RAGOONATHA ROW, Deputy-Collector of Madras, dated 27th May 1874, No. 354.

With reference to your letter, dated 21st May 1874, No. 604, I have the honor to inform you, that compensation for the loss of the water used in cultivating the lands under the Spur Tank should be determined with reference to the difference in the annual value *for cultivating purposes* of usual wet one-crop land, and usual dry land under the tank. If there is no dry land under the Spur Tank, the annual value of dry lands under other tanks in Madras may be taken, as there can be but little difference in the market-value of dry lands under the several tanks in Madras.

2. Your report should give the annual net return from a cawny of one-crop wet land, and the same from a cawny of dry land. On this point I would refer you also to the valuations made by Mr. C. Venkatasiah in his report on the lands to be taken up in the beds of the Mylapore and Nungambakam Tanks.

Board's Proceedings, No. 2,412, of 25th November 1873.

I request you will be good enough to report on this subject as soon as possible.

From R. RAGOONATHA ROW, Deputy-Collector, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated 10th June 1874, No. 720.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, No. 354, and to state in reply that it is reported to me that there are no dry lands in the taluq of Madras; that lands are either cultivated with paddy or with garden produce; that the annual net return from a cawny of one-crop paddy-land in Egmore does not exceed 200 Rupees a cawny; that there are some lands in Egmore which yield double-crop of paddy, and the net income therefrom does not exceed 300 Rupees a year; that the net revenue from other land, viz., garden land, varies from 21 to 35 Rupees a year a cawny; that the wet land is unfit for raising dry crops; that to cultivate one cawny of land with garden produce, it is necessary to dig a large well at a cost of Rupees 350, and spend 92 Rupees for raising water from the wells; and that it is not certain that a good well can be secured in all desirable places; and that such garden lands are sold from 140 to 175 Rupees a ground. I see no reason to disbelieve these statements, although there is an apparent inconsistency, viz., that the wet land yielding more than five times the revenue of the garden land is said to be sold for 50 per cent. more than the value of the wet paddy-lands; yet these are facts, and they can be reconciled by the fact that the market-value of these lands is fixed more from their suitability for house-sites than the revenue they yield as cultivating lands.

One-crop Wet land.	Dry land.	Garden land.
A cawny.	A cawny.	A cawny.
Rupees 105.	,,	157 value of net return.
,, 170.	,,	28 of annual produce

2. The statement as per margin shows the value and the annual net return of lands in Egmore. It is prepared by striking an average of the minimum and maximum deposed to by the villagers.

* * *

(True Copies)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.—Original Correspondence.

10. In this opinion I do not coincide, nor do I think the Board will. Indeed I know for a fact that wet lands at the Sydapet Farm have been turned into dry, and cultivated.

11. Another point for consideration is that if the tank is filled up, nearly the whole of the present wet cultivated land will be available for house-sites, as if there is no water in the tank, the land will be dry, and fit for house-sites.

12. By Mr. Vencatasiah's report above referred to, the Board will also observe that the average value of dry land is about half that of wet land.

13. Taking all the data above recorded into consideration, I am of opinion that a sum of 100 Rupees per cawny would be ample compensation to the owners of wet land under the Spur Tank for the loss of water for cultivating one-crop land.

14. Cawnies 2, grounds 3, $98\frac{2}{16}$ square feet will be taken up for the line of railway absolutely: if the tank is filled up the quantity will be rather less. The quantity of wet land for which compensation will now have to be paid therefore amounts to cawnies 34, grounds 19, square feet $980\frac{7}{16}$; the amount of compensation to be paid would therefore be, under this head, about 4,000 Rupees instead of Rupees 1,06,375, as proposed by the Deputy Collector in his letter of March 9th, 1874.

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Board's Procs., 29th April 1874, No. 1,906.

15. As regards the further sum of 50,000 Rupees, which the Deputy Collector thinks would have to be paid to owners of property and wells near the tank, perhaps the claims of the owners of some of the wells might be taken into consideration, but I agree with Mr. Webster in thinking no one else can have any legal or equitable claim to compensation, particularly if the Municipality are allowed to make a reservoir in part of the bed of the tank.

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From R. RAGOONATHA ROW, Deputy-Collector, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated 10th June 1874, No. 720.

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(True Copies)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.—Original Correspondence.

883
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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th July 1874.

THIS letter will be submitted for the information of Government, though the question has been settled by G. O., dated 18th June 1874, No. 1,634.

2. The Board consider it doubtful, whether the Spur Tank could be abandoned without paying the owners of wet land irrigated from it the full value of the land; but this question, as well as others which have occurred to the Board, viz., the possibility of irrigating the land from the Town Water Supply (by arrangement with the Municipality), and the probability that a considerable sum might eventually be realized by the sale of house-sites in the bed of the abandoned tank, need not be discussed unless the whole subject is re-opened.

No. 125.

ORDER THEREON, 15th July 1874, No. 883.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.
c

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated July 15th.

Read

Ditto 15th July 1874, No. 883.

JULY

Nos. 124-125.

Compensation to be granted to owners of lands under the Spur Tank, Madras District.—Recording the Board's Proceedings reporting further on the—

No. 1,684.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th July 1874.

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5. The Board can easily ascertain the actual net returns of wet lands in the vicinity of Madras from the Chingleput Settlement Report just sent in by Mr. Banbury.

6. I also refer the Board to the valuations made by Mr. Vencatasiah of the wet and dry lands in the villages of Mambalum and Periyur, near the Mylapore and Nungambakam Tanks.

Deputy Collector to Collector of Chingleput, 17th October 1873, No. 77, in Board's Proceedings of 25th November 1873, No. 2,412.

7. I annex a statement of Melwarum received by a private landholder for his lands under a large tank near Madras. The ryot's share is usually the same; the annual net return of these lands is therefore from 40 to 50 Rupees per cawny.

Melwarum per cawny—23 mercals of rice equal to 184 measures, or 23 Rupees at 8 measures per Rupee.

8. I have also inquired at what rate wet land under tanks is purchaseable now. I find that some wet land is for sale under one of the Madras tanks for Rupees 165 per cawny, of which the net produce is, on an average, 36 mercals of rice, and one and a half or two bandy loads of straw per cawny. This *purchasing* price is a little above the average valuation of *net annual return* reported by the Deputy Collector.

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