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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

B.P. No.

1128

~~Press~~

Mis.

Dated

26.5.1875 196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2.4

Read the following:—

No. 221. Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

Public Works.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,

18th February 1875.

No 3.

MY LORD,—Herewith is transmitted, for your Excellency's consideration, copy of a letter* from the Madras Irrigation Company's Board on the subject of the revised

* Dated 21st January 1875, No. 1.

company's Board on the subject of the revised

rules recently sanctioned for regulating irrigation from the Company's works.

2. By Rule II. water is not to be taken "without written application to the Village Curnam, copies of which are to be forwarded by him to the Canal Officer and to the Tahsildar."

3. By Mr. Horsley, the Collector of Cuddapah, the working of this rule is thus described:—"When a ryot applies direct to the Canal Officers for water, he gets it at once. When he applies through the Revenue Department, his wants are communicated by the Village Officers to the Tahsildar; from the latter the application goes to the Division Officer, then on to the Collector, who sends it to the Chief Engineer of the Canal Company, who instructs the Conservancy Engineer, who issues orders to the Overseer, and at length the ryot gets what he wants."

4. This account is supplemented by the Company's Chief Engineer as follows:—"The Curnams *don't* record all applications; they *don't* send advices to the Overseers in time to be of use, the intervals varying from a month downwards. Many applications for parts of fields require *measurements*, which the Curnam may not have the skill, time, or inclination to make. These he must put off, telling the ryot that it is his interest to wait a bit and irrigate on the sly, or else he quietly enters the area of the whole field and lets the poor industrious ryot in for more than he bargained for, a tax of Rupees 6 an acre on the unirrigated portion, or else he omits the area. If the Overseer complains of the state of the Curnam's books, the Curnam gives the following excuses:—that he has not been enabled to measure the field, or that he does not know under which rate it comes, or that he does not understand the rules, or that he has never seen nor got instructions about any new rules (this is chiefly about Sirwell and Koilkuntla), or that he has no 'forms.'"

5. To obviate the delay thus adverted to, the Board are desirous that the Company's Canal Officers should be allowed to receive applications direct from the ryots, and to supply water to them forthwith. Previously to the passing of the new rules, this plan seems to have been partially in operation and to have materially facilitated the progress of irrigation; and the Board of Revenue, the Revenue Collectors of the districts intersected by the canal, and your Chief Engineer for Irrigation, are all represented as speaking approvingly of it. Your Government, however, consider that the new rules should have another season's trial before the question of a change in the direction indicated by the Company is entertained; and this, in ordinary circumstances, might probably be the most suitable course. But in the present position of the Irrigation Company, with earnings insufficient to cover even working expenses, it is obviously undesirable that any pretext should be furnished to them for pleading that the unsatisfactory condition of their affairs is due, in any measure, to governmental action, and I should wish to urge on your Excellency to re-examine the whole case, and

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8th May 1875.*

in view of the statements now before me, to consider whether you can safely make any modifications in the direction desired by the officers of the Irrigation Company, who appear to have in this instance the support of the Collector and of the Board of Revenue. If your determination should be of this nature, you will, of course, take measures to prevent any loss of season arising out of a change of system. At all events, I am satisfied that you will see the necessity of preventing all needless delay in the supply of water to those who require it.

6. Copy of one of the enclosures in the Board's letter, viz., a Report of their Chief Engineer, dated 16th September last, is transmitted herewith; the other enclosures are copies of documents already in the possession of your Government.

I have, &c.,
SALISBURY.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

No. 1, 1875. Home.

No. 1.

THE MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY
24, Coleman Street, London,
21st January 1875.

SIR,—Assured that it is the wish of His Lordship the Secretary of State for India that no unnecessary difficulty or obstruction should be allowed to stand in the way of the ryots obtaining irrigation from the canal works of the Company, the Directors desire most respectfully to request his kind attention to a matter of detail in connection with the supply of water, which seriously retards the spread of irrigation.

The Madras Government have recently sanctioned revised rules for regulating irrigation from the Company's works, which are, in many respects, an improvement on those previously existing, but they require that application from the ryots for water should be made, according to a prepared form, by the ryot himself to the Curnum, or Native Revenue Officer of the Government of the District, whose duty it is to forward such applications to the Company's Officers, in order that the required irrigation may be supplied. The working of this system has been found to be attended with such delays as in many cases entirely to neutralize the benefits of irrigation, and to deter the ryots from availing themselves of the water which the Company's works place within their reach.

The experience of the Company's Officers has been that, in order to secure a rapid extension of irrigation, it is essential that the ryots should be able without difficulty or delay to procure the water they require, the more especially as it is too much their habit to defer application until the last moment when finally disappointed in the rainfall, and under such circumstances the preservation of their crops depends upon an immediate artificial flooding. Accordingly, to meet their pressing wants in this respect, the local officers of the Company adopted the plan of receiving their applications, and giving immediate effect to them, at the same time forwarding the same to the Curnum for registration, and for the guidance of the Revenue authorities in collecting the water rate.

This plan has been partially in operation during the last season in the portion of the canal embraced in the Cuddapah District, but not in the portion which passes through that of Kurnool, and the effect has been to show a considerable increase of irrigation in the former Collectorate, while in the latter the irrigation, which at one time looked very promising, has been materially checked. The result of allowing Canal Officers to supply irrigation in anticipation of the official requisition reaching them through the Curnums, as compared with restricting the ryots to the inconvenience of waiting for irrigation until the Curnum has forwarded their applications to the proper quarter, which latter plan has now been made imperative, is well pointed out in a letter

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from the Collector of Cuddapah, dated 19th September last, to the Madras Board of Revenue, copy of which is enclosed for His Lordship's reference.

The Directors would add that the delays incident to the system now in operation are admitted by the Board of Revenue, who, in a Minute, No. 1,050, of date 6th May 1874 (copy herewith), recommended the adoption of a plan which would to a great extent obviate these delays. The Madras Government, however, in a Minute (copy of which is likewise enclosed), of date 21st October last, consider it expedient to give the present arrangement a further trial before sanctioning any change such as that suggested. To this there would be less objection on the part of the Directors, if the delay thus occasioned was not of critical moment to them in the interests of their shareholders, but having regard to those interests, it is most important that every reasonable facility should be given to promote irrigation, and to increase thereby the Company's revenue.

They therefore appeal with confidence to his Lordship that he will kindly authorize the Madras Government to give effect to such measures as may, without in any way affecting the rights of the Government, remedy the delays above adverted to, which at present impede the extension of irrigation, either by adopting the proposals recommended by the Board of Revenue, or in such other manner as may appear to them best calculated for the purpose, and in which the Directors will instruct their Chief Engineer to afford every co-operation.

(Signed) J. WESTWOOD,
Secretary.

The Under Secretary for State of India.

No. 2.

Chief Engineer's Report to accompany the Divisional Reports for August 1874.

THE August just passed has been the driest recorded since 1861 at Kurnool, but the heavy July rain had thoroughly wet the ground. The rainfall here was 2.77. Already in September we have had 5.39 inches. Many rice crops have not needed water from the canal yet, but have found the rain sufficient. I enclose the August rain table, collated from the Divisional Returns.

The following applications for water for irrigation have been received:—

14th September 1874, Central Office.

Division.	Taluq.	Rs. 6.	Rs. 5.	Rs. 4.	Rs. 3.	Rs. 2.	Special.	Total, 1874.	Total, 1873.	Increase	Decrease
		ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.
Upper Division.	Ramalakota ...	539.60	...	111.01	106.74	...	...	757.35	2,642.	...	625
	Nandikotkur ...	828.45	...	61.23	185.97	...	...	1,075.64			
	Nundial, Upper Division ...	...	7.15	49.27	127.71	...	...	184.13			
	Ditto Lower Division ...	50.80	...	2.25	32.34	...	...	85.39			
Lower Division.	Sirwell ...	94.24	...	...	57.17	...	...	151.41	1,791.	...	410
	Koilkuntla ...	76.44	...	0.68	21.35	...	...	98.97			
	Jammalamadagoo ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.			
	Prodatur ...	69.64	115.07	239.86	620.63	...	...	1,045.20			
	Cuddapah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.			
	Total ...	1,659.17	123.23	464.29	1,152.41	...	...	3,398.09	4,433.	...	1,035

The cause of this decrease is, no doubt, due to the prohibition laid by the Madras Government upon the attention of the Company's servants to applications of the ryots for water for their crops (G. O., No. 830, of 3rd July last.) This prohibition is based by Government upon the argument that all the proposed methods of sanctioning such attention interfere with the rights of the Secretary of State, by tending to make the application for water a transaction between the Company and the ryot, instead of between the Company and Government—a principle which was strongly approved by the Secretary of State (G. O., 26th August 1869, No. 2,427).

The first of these condemned methods was proposed by me and approved by the Collector of Kurnool. If that method had been adopted, the ryot would have applied to the Curnum for

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8th May 1875.*

water, and would have received a ticket to prove that he had applied, and the Canal Overseers were to have orders to make channels and supply the fields of every one who could show a ticket. The condemnation of this method, on the ground of interference, was specially approved, as above, by the Secretary of State.

The second of the condemned methods was proposed by a meeting of the Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Government Consulting Engineer, Executive Engineer, and the Company's Chief Engineer and Divisional Engineer, and recommended by the Revenue Board. By this a ryot

P. B. Revenue, No. 1,050, of 6th May 1874. might leave his written application to the Curnum, in a form approved, in the hands of a Canal Overseer for transmission to the Curnum, and the Overseer thereupon at once supplied him with water, and was also authorized and instructed to give the ryot a descriptive receipt for his application to protect him from overcharge for illicit irrigation. This was no more than any friend of the ryots may do for him, except a Canal Officer.

By the present rules, as sanctioned on the 3rd July, a ryot can only apply to the Village Curnum, who is instructed, at such times as his many other duties permit, to record the application, and send the ryot away without any acknowledgment or receipt. The Curnum then sends an advice to the Canal Overseer by the first convenient official means, who then supplies water. The Canal Overseer, if he visit a village, may inspect the Curnum's record.

Thus the old rotten system was re-established, with a slight improvement, in that the Curnum ought to send the Canal Overseer a direct advice, whereas before he ought only to do so to the Tahsildar. But if he used, in fact, never to do the last to his own officer, he may possibly not treat the Overseer better. Two favorable changes had taken place, viz., (1) the Government superior officers were now fully alive to the failure of this system as before tried, and to the importance of the failure, and (2) the ryots, after being accustomed for a year to receive immediate attention to their requirements from the Canal Overseers, might be expected to complain more readily if not attended to by the Curnum.

But all hopes are fast going down before the impenetrable resistance of the astute Curnums. I have no hesitation in saying that, in the Kurnool District, the new system has been worked by the Collector with a promptness, completeness, and care such as leaves nothing wanting to give it a favorable trial. Mr. Hope got the new rule, carefully translated, into the hands of the Village Curnums much quicker than I could have done it, for he issued them from his press and despatched them by the district tapals (posts) seven days after the passing of the Government Order, i.e., on the 11th of July. The Village Curnums more immediately under him were summoned, and their questions listened to and answered, and fresh notes and commentaries made, and these were communicated to the Deputy Collector, Tahsildars, and Canal Officers. For my part, I have gladly aided the Collector, to the full extent of my means, in order to get these Curnums to do their work, and to ensure the assistance of the Canal Overseers in case of any hitch or difficulty.

The result, so far, is not encouraging. The Curnums don't record all applications; they don't send advices to the Overseers in time to be of use, the intervals varying from a month downwards. Many applications for parts of fields require measurements, which the Curnum may not have the skill, time, or inclination to make. These he must put off, telling the ryot that it is his interest to wait a bit and irrigate on the sly, or else he quietly enters the area of the whole field and lets the poor industrious ryot in for more than he bargained for, a tax of Rupees 6 on the unirrigated portion, or else he omits the area. If the Overseer complain of the state of the Curnum's books, the Curnum gives the following excuses:—that he has not been enabled to measure the field, or that he does not know under which rate it comes, or that he does not understand the rules, or that he has never seen nor got instructions about any new rules (this is chiefly about Sirwell and Koilkuntla), or that he has no "form."

The above applies to the Kurnool District. The Cuddapah District is not yet brought under the new system, and so the Canal Overseers are taking applications for transmission, as last year, and, had not the Overseer been engaged most of the month with last year's settlement, so that Cuddapah Taluq has not been visited, no doubt the excess of applications in the Cuddapah District

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8th May 1875.*

would have exceeded the deficiency in Kurnool. In the latter district, in the Ramalakota Taluq, immediately under Mr. Hope's supervision, the applications up to date are for 757.35 acres, or 240 acres more than this time last year, but, in the rest of the Upper Division, the applications are for 865 acres less than this time last year.

It seems, therefore, that had we Collectors like Mr. Hope put in charge of each taluq, as he specially looks after the strip of land between the canal and river Toombuddra, above Kurnool, the old system, as now amended, might work; that Mr. Horsley's inactivity, while he is well informed of the energetic effort being made in Kurnool to work the new system, and of its result, deserves to be considered prudent and masterly; and that our busy Deputy Collector, of undoubted talent, and with the thorough knowledge of the working of irrigating districts, giving these rules of application the best trial that can ever be expected for them from the Native Revenue Staff, is found failing from inability or misfortune.

The canal and distributing channels have been maintained in efficient work throughout the month, and, where extension of channels is necessary, to meet demand for water, the necessary work has been vigorously pushed, and several considerable extensions in the 8th and 10th sections are just completed.

KURNOOL,
16th September 1874.

(Signed) JOHN H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer and Manager.

*MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.
Register of Rainfall in Inches and Decimals during the Month of August 1874, at 6 A.M. daily.*

Date.	Soonke-sula.	Kurnool.	Jupaud.	Vela pa-noor.	Juloor.	Chinta-cootna.	Dhoor.	Adima-pully.
1st	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.15	..	0.20	..	0.50
2nd	0.05	0.08	0.10	..	..	..	..	0.60
3rd	0.30	0.05	0.10	..	..	..	..	0.10
4th	..	..	..	..	..	0.13	0.19	..
5th	..	..	..	..	0.24	0.26	0.04	..
6th	..	..	..	..	..	0.25	3.44	..
7th	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.55	..	..	0.09	..
8th	1.00	1.36	0.50	0.52	0.20	0.25	0.06	..
9th	..	0.30	0.60	0.45	0.35	..	..	..
10th	..	0.33	0.10	..	0.13	..	..	..
11th	0.70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12th	..	..	..	0.10	0.10	..	..	..
13th	..	0.03	0.05	..	..	..	..	..
14th	..	0.03	0.50	..	..	..	0.14	0.10
15th	..	0.04	..	..	..	..	..	..
16th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18th	..	..	..	0.35	..	..	..	..
19th	..	0.04	0.50	..	..	..	..	..
20th	..	..	0.10	..	..	..	..	..
21st	..	0.01	..	..	..	0.10	..	..
22nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24th	..	..	0.27	..	0.13	..	..	..
25th	0.10	0.18	..	..	..	0.14	..	..
26th	..	..	0.10	..	..	..	..	..
27th	..	..	0.40	..	..	..	0.03	..
28th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
29th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
31st	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	2.70	2.77	3.37	2.12	1.15	1.33	3.99	1.30

KURNOOL,
15th September 1874.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer and Manager.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1875.*

No. 222.

ORDER THEREON, 8 May 1875, No. 1,328.

IRRIGATION, No. 24.

THE Secretary of State will be informed in reply to this despatch that the Government have upon a consideration of the facts that have come before them and especially of a report by the Collector of Cuddapah already determined to allow of applications of ryots for water from the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal being made to the Curnums through the Canal Officers, and that orders to this effect were passed in G. O., No. 1,327, dated 8th May 1875.

(True Extract.)

John A. Grubert
Major, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

- „ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
- „ Examiner, Irrigation and Canal Accounts.
- „ Controller of Public Works Accounts.
- „ District Engineer, Kurnool.
- „ „ Cuddapah.

Exd. A. Grubert.

20 Spare Copies *will be sent from Madras office*

*Rev. 1875: 24th
N. 1988*

Gobt. of [1875] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Ac. Ac. Ac.

Dated May 8th.

Issued

Recd. on 24th

Encl.

G. O., 31st May 1875, No. 1,328.

MAY.

Nos. 221-222

N^o 1128

Consent to the
Board of Revenue

26 May/75.

Applications of Ryots for water from the
Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's
Canal.—The Home Government to be inform-
ed in reply to their despatch that they
have already determined to allow of
being made to the Curuums through the
Canal Officers, and that orders to this effect
have already been passed.

14 To the Board of Revenue