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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
 B.P. No.

1373

Press
 Mis.

Dated

17.9.1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1373

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th September 1875.*

Read the following :—

No. 145. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th June 1875,
No. 1,610 :—

Read the following replies of Collectors to Board's Proceedings, dated 6th
October 1874, No. 2,898, and 13th February 1875, Mis. No. 1,090 :—

From the Collector of Ganjam, dated 16th April 1875, No.				887.
Do.	of	"	19th "	894.
Do.	of Vizagapatam,	"	18th May "	860.
Do.	of	"	28th "	939.
Do.	of Godavery,	"	19th April "	141.
Do.	of	"	19th May "	204.
Do.	of Kistna District,	"	14th "	651.
Do.	of	"	27th "	714.
Do.	of Nellore,	"	17th "	1,331.
Do.	of	"	27th "	1,446.
Do.	of Bellary,	"	27th "	181.
Do.	of	"	28th "	184.
Do.	of Cuddapah,	"	25th "	119.
Do.	of Kurnool,	"	26th "	181.
From the Collector of Madras, dated 13th Nov. 1874, No.				274,
recorded in Board's Procs., 8th Dec. "				3,518.
Do.	of Madras,	"	27th May 1875, "	131.
Do.	of Chingleput,	"	10th "	245.
Do.	of	"	26th "	281.
Do.	of North Arcot,	"	15th April "	—.
Do.	of	"	27th May "	273.
Do.	of South Arcot,	"	3rd "	187.
Do.	of	"	4th June "	236.
Do.	of Tanjore,	"	28th April "	167.
Do.	of	"	27th May "	193.
Do.	of Trichinopoly,	"	26th "	139.
Do.	of	"	31st "	152.
Do.	of Madura,	"	19th "	212.
Do.	of	"	2nd June "	232.
Do.	of Tinnevely,	"	14th May "	257.
Do.	of	"	29th "	279.
Do.	of Coimbatore,	"	26th April "	—.
Do.	of	"	28th "	120.
From the Commisr.	of Nilgiris,	"	21st May "	45.
Do.	of	"	25th "	48.
From the Collector	of South Canara,	"	26th "	913.
Do.	of Malabar,	"	28th "	175.
Do.	of	"	4th June "	183.

THESE reports on the working of the Land Improvement Act during the
past official year will be submitted to Government with reference to G. O., 9th
November 1874, No. 1,413, and 23rd January 1875, No. 126.

2. They show that every effort has been made by publishing the rules and
special Circulars in the District Gazettes, and in most districts by the distributions

of Circulars in the villages, and by explanation of the advantages of the Act to the assembled ryots at the Jamabandi, to bring the Act into operation; but the Board regret to report that it has not been at all appreciated. No money whatever was paid in advance during the year 1874-75, and in only one case, in Ganjam, was an advance sanctioned. It was for Rupees 500 for the construction of an irrigation channel, and was to be disbursed after the close of the year, the inquiry not having been completed in time to admit of its being paid within it.

3. The special measures for making the Act more widely known were undertaken in pursuance of Board's Proceedings, 6th October 1874, No. 2,898, or after the cultivation season in most districts had well begun; and therefore it could not have been expected that its provisions would be extensively availed of within the official year. There were, however, hopeful signs in some districts,

Ganjam.—Sixteen applications, eight rejected as informal.

Kistna.—A few under inquiry.

Cuddapah.—Two applications under inquiry.

Bellary.—Seventy do. do.

Kurnool.—Upwards of thirty.

South Arcot.—Two applications.

Trichinopoly.—Six applications, one of which rejected as the work would interfere with Government irrigation.

Tinnevely.—Two applications, informal.

Malabar.—A few.

applications having been received as noted in the margin. The necessary inquiries were being made in these cases.

4. It is generally reported that the rate of interest demanded is not too high nor the fees and expenses under the rules too heavy. One Tahsildar suggests the reduction of the rate of interest to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the remission of the stamp

on application and of the registration and other fees. The rate of interest charged by native bankers varies, according to the amount and the security, from so little as $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the Sub-division of Nellore to 30 per cent. per annum. The general rate seems to be about 12 per cent. It is very generally reported that ryots do not borrow for agricultural improvements, though they may to replace or purchase ploughing cattle, &c.

5. The causes assigned for the failure of the Act are as follow:—

(a.) The pettiness of the holdings, the poverty of the great majority of the ryots, and the ignorance, timidity, or want of enterprise which prevents them from coming forward.

It is suggested from several districts that the minimum advance allowable be reduced from Rupees 100 to Rupees 50.

(b.) Distrust of the revenue administration is stated to be the cause by the Collector of Nellore, who says that the people are most suspicious when the Government seems most liberal.

(c.) Though the Government terms are liberal, the complex and tedious procedure; the numerous and precise requirements of the rules; the dancing attendance upon various Cutcherries; the publicity attending inquiry into the security offered, and the fact of the applicant's indebtedness becoming known; the long delay before the matter is disposed of; and the great probability that all these disagreeables may in the end prove to have been incurred in vain, are sufficient to deter applicants from coming forward. On the other hand the loan from a Soucar can be obtained, privately, on a simple mortgage or other bond, and within a few days; and though the rate of interest paid to him is higher, yet the

full accumulation is not always exacted in the settlement of accounts. Further, he will accept interest and even principal in grain or produce or commodities, a mode of payment often more convenient to the ryot.

(d.) The ryots dread the coercive provisions for the recovery of the debt, or instalments of it, as arrears of land revenue, and fear the consequences of even slight unpunctuality; whereas they know that the Soucar will never sell them up and will tolerate unpunctuality to any extent.

(e.) In Tanjore, and in the Chellambaram Taluq of South Arcot, no irrigation or drainage works, such as the ryots could construct for themselves, are said to be needed; and the Collector of Vizagapatam reports that the Zemindars are in the habit of making Tuccavi advances.

6. Except that assigned by the Collector of Nellore, which the Board hope is non-existent, the causes above stated for the Act having remained so far comparatively inoperative, are probably well founded. But it is not easy to see how any of the precautions prescribed could be relaxed with safety; and considering that, up to November last, the Act was scarcely known to the people, the Board think that the experience of another year should be awaited before considerable alterations are made. They would, however, recommend the reduction of the minimum advance to Rupees 50, which would bring the advantages of the Act within the reach of a vastly greater number of cultivators under the ryotwary system in this Presidency.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 146. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th June 1875,
No. 1,746:—

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 9th June 1875, No. 1,045:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th October 1874, No. 2,898, I have the honor to report that wide publication has been given to the provisions of the Land Improvement Act XXVI. of 1871, and the rules framed with reference thereto. They were published in the District Gazette, and notices in the vernacular were also printed and distributed among the heads of villages and promulgated in each village. During the Jamabundi of the current Fasli, the divisional officers and I explained to the land-holders that attended the object of the law and the advantages afforded by it.

2. I do not think that any of the provisions of the Act prevent its being availed of; but the rule fixing the minimum limit of advance at Rupees 1,000 will, I think, have the effect of deterring applicants from coming forward. There is no necessity in this district for large irrigation works, and any improvements to lands generally take the form of lowering the more highly-situated rice fields, and improving the irrigation channels leading from the hills to the valleys, and such works in the case of by far the greater number of the wargs in this district

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th September 1875.*

do not require such a large sum as Rupees 1,000 to carry out. I think, therefore, it would be advisable to lower the limit to Rupees 500, so as to allow more people to avail themselves of the provisions of the Act.

3. Loans are raised by the ryots for the improvement of their lands on the mortgage of immoveable property. The rate of interest paid on such loans varies from 6 to 12 per cent. per annum, with reference to the urgency of the loans and the security offered. The low rate of interest asked (6 per cent.) is to be accounted for by the value of land, estates sometimes selling at from thirty-two to fifty years' purchase.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 14th June 1875, No. 1,610.

2. The Board observe that the minimum advance allowed is Rupees 100, not Rupees 1,100 as twice stated in this letter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 147. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1875, No. 1,373.

Land Revenue, No. 4.

From these Proceedings it is observed that the Land Improvement Act has not yet been taken advantage of owing to various causes.

The Governor in Council, however, trusts that every endeavour will be made to secure for the policy aimed at by the Act that appreciation which its beneficial character deserves.

2. It is more especially in regard to works of irrigation that the Act is likely to admit of successful application in this Presidency, and His Excellency in Council must urge officers of the Revenue and Public Works Department to work in concert with a view to inducing those interested to undertake by means of this Act schemes of repair and improvement to the private irrigation works of the country.

3. In view of the slight experience yet obtained Government are not prepared to suggest a reduction of the minimum.

4. Ordered that the following be addressed to the Government of India:—

(Here enter No. 1,374, dated 17th September 1875).

(True Extract.)

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Hrd. J. Tulloch.

1373
4

No. 1,610.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th June 1875.
Read the following replies of Collectors to Board's Proceedings, dated 6th October 1874, No. 2,898, and 13th February 1875, Mis. No. 1,090:—

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Do. of "	" 19th "	" 894.
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Do. of "	" 28th "	" 939.
Do. of Godavery,	" 19th April "	" 141.
Do. of "	" 19th May "	" 204.
Do. of Kistna District,	" 14th "	" 651.
Do. of "	" 27th "	" 714.
Do. of Nellore,	" 17th "	" 1,331.
Do. of "	" 27th "	" 1,446.
Do. of Bellary,	" 27th "	" 181.
Do. of "	" 28th "	" 184.
Do. of Cuddapah,	" 25th "	" 119.
Do. of Kurnool,	" 26th "	" 181.
Do. of Madras,	" 13th Nov. 1874, "	" 274.
	recorded in Board's Procs., 8th Dec. "	" 3,518.
Do. of Madras,	" 27th May 1875, "	" 131.
Do. of Chingleput,	" 10th "	" 245.
Do. of "	" 26th "	" 281.
Do. of North Arcot,	" 15th April "	" —.
Do. of "	" 27th May "	" 273.
Do. of South Arcot,	" 3rd "	" 187.
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Do. of Tanjore,	" 28th April "	" 167.
Do. of "	" 27th May "	" 193.
Do. of Trichinopoly,	" 26th "	" 139.
Do. of "	" 31st "	" 152.
Do. of Madura,	" 19th "	" 212.
Do. of "	" 2nd June "	" 232.
Do. of Tinnevely,	" 14th May "	" 257.
Do. of "	" 29th "	" 279.
Do. of Coimbatore,	" 26th April "	" —.
Do. of "	" 28th "	" 120.
From the Commisr. of Nilgiris,	" 21st May "	" 45.
Do. of "	" 25th "	" 48.
From the Collector of South Canara,	" 26th "	" 913.
Do. of Malabar,	" 28th "	" 175.
Do. of "	" 4th June "	" 183.

THESE reports on the working of the Land Improvement Act during the past official year will be submitted to Government with reference to G. O., 9th November 1874, No. 1,413, and 23rd January 1875, No. 126.

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REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September, 17th.

Recd.

G.O., 17th September 1875, No. 1,373.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 145-147.

Land Improvement Act.—Observing that the — has not yet been taken advantage of owing to various causes; expressing hope that every endeavour will be made to secure for the policy aimed at by the Act that appreciation which its beneficial character deserves; urging on officers of the Revenue and Public Works Department to work in concert with a view to inducing those interested to undertake by means of this Act schemes of repair and improvement to the private irrigation works of the country.



2. They show that every effort has been made by publishing the rules and special Circulars in the District Gazettes, and in most districts by the distributions of Circulars in the villages, and by explanation of the advantages of the Act to the assembled ryots at the Jamabandi, to bring the Act into operation; but the Board regret to report that it has not been at all appreciated. No money whatever was paid in advance during the year 1874-75, and in only one case, in Ganjam, was an advance sanctioned. It was for Rupees 500 for the construction of an irrigation channel, and was to be disbursed after the close of the year, the inquiry not having been completed in time to admit of its being paid within it.

3. The special measures for making the Act more widely known were undertaken in pursuance of Board's Proceedings, 6th October 1874, No. 2,898, or after the cultivation season in most districts had well begun; and therefore it could not have been expected that its provisions would be extensively availed of within the official year. There were, however, hopeful signs in some districts,

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on application and of the registration and other fees. The rate of interest charged by native bankers varies, according to the amount and the security, from so little as 4½ per cent. in the Sub-division of Nellore to 30 per cent. per annum. The general rate seems to be about 12 per cent. It is very generally reported that ryots do not borrow for agricultural improvements, though they may to replace or purchase ploughing cattle, &c.

5. The causes assigned for the failure of the Act are as follow:—

(a.) The pettiness of the holdings, the poverty of the great majority of the ryots, and the ignorance, timidity, or want of enterprise which prevents them from coming forward.

It is suggested from several districts that the minimum advance allowable be reduced from Rupees 100 to Rupees 50.

(b.) Distrust of the revenue administration is stated to be the cause by the Collector of Nellore, who says that the people are most suspicious when the Government seems most liberal.

(c.) Though the Government terms are liberal, the complex and tedious procedure; the numerous and precise requirements of the rules; the dancing attendance upon various Cutcheries; the publicity attending inquiry into the security offered, and the fact of the applicant's indebtedness becoming known; the long delay before the matter is disposed of; and the great probability that all these disagreeables may in the end prove to have been incurred in vain; are

sufficient to deter applicants from coming forward. On the other hand the loan from a Soucar can be obtained, privately, on a simple mortgage or other bond, and within a few days; and though the rate of interest paid to him is higher, yet the full accumulation is not always exacted in the settlement of accounts. Further, he will accept interest and even principal in grain or produce or commodities, a mode of payment often more convenient to the ryot.

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(A true Extract.)

H. S. G. S.

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with original reports of Collectors and copies of Board's Proceedings,
dated 5th December 1874, No. 3,518, and 19th May 1875, Mis. No. 4,411.
.. all Collectors.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No. 1,746.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th June 1875.

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 9th June 1875, No. 1,045:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th October 1874, No. 2,898, I have the honor to report that wide publication has been given to the provisions of the Land Improvement Act XXVI. of 1871, and the rules framed with reference thereto. They were published in the District Gazette, and notices in the vernacular were also printed and distributed among the heads of villages and promulgated in each village. During the Jamabundi of the current Fasli, the divisional officers and I explained to the land-holders that attended the object of the law and the advantages afforded by it.

2. I do not think that any of the provisions of the Act prevent its being availed of; but the rule fixing the minimum limit of advance at Rupees 1,000 will, I think, have the effect of deterring applicants from coming forward. There is no necessity in this district for large irrigation works, and any improvements to lands generally take the form of lowering the more highly-situated rice fields, and improving the irrigation channels leading from the hills to the valleys, and such works in the case of by far the greater number of the wargs in this district do not require such a large sum as Rupees 1,000 to carry out. I think, therefore, it would be advisable to lower the limit to Rupees 500, so as to allow more people to avail themselves of the provisions of the Act.

3. Loans are raised by the ryots for the improvement of their lands on the mortgage of immoveable property. The rate of interest paid on such loans varies from 6 to 12 per cent. per annum, with reference to the urgency of the loans and the security offered. The low rate of interest asked (6 per cent.) is to be accounted for by the value of land, estates sometimes selling at from thirty-two to fifty years' purchase.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 14th June 1875, No. 1,610.

2. The Board observe that the minimum advance allowed is Rupees 100, not Rupees 1,000 as twice stated in this letter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Collector of South Canara.

Exd. W. H. French.

BOARD of REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 14TH JUNE 1875, No. 1,610.

24th June 1875

Received

JUNE.
No. 1,610.

Land Improvement Act.—Reports of Collectors on the working of—during past official year, submitted to Government with remarks. Opinion expressed that experience of another year must be awaited before any considerable alterations are made in the Act, and reduction of minimum advance to Rupees 50 recommended.

It is here observed in regard to the Act in this District that the Act is likely to be of great benefit to the ryots in the District. The Board observe that the minimum advance allowed is Rupees 100, not Rupees 1,000 as twice stated in this letter. (A true Copy and Extract.)

1. To the Board of Revenue, Madras.
1. The Board of Revenue, Madras.
1. The Board of Revenue, Madras.

21st July 1875 No. 12 of 1875
21st July 1875 No. 12 of 1875

1373
7

No. 3,518.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th December 1874.
Read the following letter from J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras,
to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th
November 1874, No. 274:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 6th October 1874, No. 2,898,
I have the honor to state that the Land Improvement Act (XXVI. of 1871) is not
applicable to the lands in the Madras District, which pay only quit-rent without
respect to the agricultural purposes to which they may be put.

The Board observe that the Act is applicable to the whole of British India,
and they can imagine cases in which it might be made use of in the Madras
District.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Madras.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

209-11-24 2061-62

Rev: 1875: Delt
42566 2554

1875.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24th JUNE 1876, No. 1,746.

Orig 1876/15
Encl.

Dec. 1873 - 17th September 1875

Received
S: July.

JUNE.
No. 1,746.

Land Improvement Act XXVI. of 1871.—
Letter from Collector of South Canara, reporting
what publicity has been given to the provisions
of — and how loans are raised by ryots for
improving their lands and at what rate of
interest, and suggesting certain reduction in the
minimum limit of advance, submitted to Govern-
ment with remarks.

015 1875/15 1875 1875/15
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20 1875/15 1875 1875/15

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1373/8

No. 2553 & 2554.

Dated 14 & 24 June 1874.

From B^d of Rev.

ORDERS.

The report made to
G.O. in the report of this
letter of 10 Apr. 74 (G.O.
23 June)

I don't know whether
the minimum of Rs. 100
(G.O. 11 June 73) has
been fixed by G.O. or this
G.O. as G.O. or letter
of 20 Nov. 72 is not

In this Pro: 10 Sept. 1874. S. D. S. O. reporting in the
of 100 Rs. in the
of 100 Rs. in the
of 100 Rs. in the

For the purpose of the
of the Board of Revenue
of the Board of Revenue
of the Board of Revenue

BOARD OF REVENUE.

MADRAS.

1874.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH DECEMBER 1874, No. 3,518.

Encl.

Received

No 37
2553/75

DECEMBER.

No. 3,518.

Land Improvement Act XXVI. of 1871
—as applicable to Madras District.—Board
observe that this Act is applicable to whole of
British India, and that they can imagine cases
in which it might be made use of in the district.

observe that this Act is applicable to whole of British India, and that they can imagine cases in which it might be made use of in the district.

put up. If this Govt
is to propose a smaller
minimum - the purpose
is of the demand.

Otherwise I do not
myself be disposed
to go lower than Rs. 100.

The Govt is collecting
such small loans in
trust. By instalment
spending over 7 years.
If keeping the
accounts will be only
expended by the absurd
formalities in settling
them under the rules.

Not to reduce
10/7. MR

I think the minimum
of 100 Rs. should not
be reduced - It is a
very small sum for
the objects contemplated
There has not been time
enough to form any opinion
of the ~~merits~~ ^{merits}
14.1.9

L.D.

1373/9

Submt B.P. & J. of L.
with concurrence.
Anticipate great
benefit from such under-
standing - as will soon be
the case - and in the mean-
time the operation of the Bank-
will affect the Soncar's rate of
interest.

The proper persons
to publish the currency
the ad are D.P. to officers -
three out of the 4 of the
act - are such as fall the only
under their observation, & the
old point-out there a demand
will run or can be repaired
or improved & induce those

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 19th May, 1875

Read the following

No: 95

Official Memorandum.

The undersigned has the honor to request the Board of Revenue to expedite transmission of the reply to the Orders noted in the margin.

Government Order 23 April/74

No: 490

do

9 November

(sd) D. F. Caouchet

No 1413.

Calling for a full report on the action taken under the Land Improvement Act ~~1871~~ of 1871 from its introduction to the close of the year 1874-75.

Offl Chief Secretary
to Government

For Land Range }
13 May 1875 }

To

The Board of Revenue.

Communicated to the Collectors of
the

FOR ORDERS:

Working of Land
Improvement Act

interests & take up loan
a part D.R. & Collⁿ
with modest
work his act would
advantageous & get through
minor work done of the
people under it -
The attention of
Officers & the Secy to
the matter is specially
in question & signed
19/5/75

in which it might be made use of in the district.

the districts noted in the
margin with reference to
Board's Proceedings 6th October
1891. No. 2898, and Official
Memorandum 8th May 1895
No. 680 with the request
that they will submit the required
report as soon as possible.

Vizagapatam, Nellore
Bellary, Buddapah
Tumkur, North Arcot
Tanjore, Trichinopoly
Madurai, Nilgiris
Salem, South Canara
and Malabar,

(True Copy & Back)
To (Sd) C. A. Gallon
Ag. Sub. Secretary
The Collector of
Vizagapatam &c.
(True Copy)

H. W. S. S.
Ag. Secretary.

W. H. S. S.
Ag. Secretary.

Inclosure in
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue dated
14th June 1895 No: 1610
to the Secretary to the
Government, Revenue
Department.

Recd 59/95
No 38
2553/95
Secretary

Copy of Board's Proceedings
19th May 1895 No: 1044