

(1) Number of Pages.....6(2) Date of repair.....8-8-68(3) Initials of the Referencer.....29.1.68**MADRAS RECORD OFFICE****GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***Revenue* DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

B.P. No.

1544Press

Mis.

Dated

23-7-1875 196 .*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

No. 130. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 7th June 1875, No. 888 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th April 1875, No. 885.

Read the following replies to G. O., dated 25th August 1874, No. 182, Revenue Department.

From the Collector	of Ganjam,	dated 22nd October	1874, No. 2,225.
" "	of Vizagapatam,	" 16th "	" " 1,521.
" "	of Godavery,	" 19th November	" " 425.
" "	of Kistna,	" 30th "	" " 1,929.
" "	of Nellore,	" 8th December	" " 2,912.
" "	of Cuddapah,	" 6th February 1875	" " 34.
" "	of Bellary,	" 18th November 1874	" " 411.
" "	of Kurnool,	" 1st February	" " 36.
" "	of Madras,	" 7th November	" " "
" "	of Chingleput,	" 30th October	" " 610.
" "	of North Arcot,	" 29th "	" " 560.
" "	of South Arcot,	" 31st "	" " 575.
" "	of Tanjore,	" 28th January 1875	" " 58.
" "	of Trichinopoly,	" 30th September 1874	" " 249.
" "	of Madura,	" 28th January 1875	" " 35.
" "	of Tinnevely,	" 2nd November 1874	" " 554.
" "	of Coimbatore,	" 22nd September	" " 125.
" Commissioner	of Nilgiris,	" 17th October	" " 114.
" Collector	of Salem,	" 5th November	" " 418.
" "	of South Canara,	" 5th October	" " 2,065.
" "	of Malabar,	" 23rd September	" " 226.

IN G. O., Public Works Department, dated 21st August 1874, No. 2,353, Government laid down that clearances of prickly-pear on tank bunds now required should be provided for in repair estimates; and referred for general report the question as to how tanks and minor irrigation works should be kept free from prickly-pear after it has once been cleared away. The letters now submitted are the replies of Collectors.

2. It is reported that there is very little prickly-pear on irrigation works in Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavery, Kistna, and Kurnool; none in Tinnevely; and none at all in Malabar or South Canara. In Tanjore, the little that there was is reported to have been cleared away by village labor under the Tahsildars' orders without any expense to the State. The growth also appears to be very small in Madura, since the Collector estimates that only on thirty-six works will aid to the villagers to the extent of Rupees 1,544 be required.

3. The following is a summary of the replies from other districts :—

Nellore.—After it has once been cleared, the duty of preventing regrowth should be assigned to the Revenue Department, who would get the work done by unpaid village labor.

Cuddapah.—The clearance should first be made by the Public Works Department, and the growth kept down by Kudimaramut. The ryots cannot be charged for the first clearance, as Government officers are equally with them responsible for the past

neglect. The responsibility of ryots as regards supply-channels should not extend beyond a distance of two miles.

Bellary.—The Collector is of the same opinion as regards first clearance and prevention of regrowth. The villagers can be compelled to do the work under Act I. of 1858.

Chingleput.—The District Engineer and Acting Collector state that the villagers admit their liability to the work as Kudimaramut, and were the banks clear, all that is required is watchfulness and systematic enforcement of Act I. of 1858. They do not consider that Government should pay the cost of all clearances now required, but that it should be left to the Revenue authorities to decide in what cases the growth consequent on past neglect had gone beyond the power of the villagers to remove and the cost should be borne by Government.

Madras.—The Collector has arranged that the bunds shall be kept clear by the establishment recently sanctioned for the conservancy of the tanks.

North Arcot.—When the growth is not very extensive, it has from time immemorial been the custom for the villagers to clear it by Kudimaramut. The Collector and District Engineer instance the case with which the regrowth was so cleared away in the case of the large Caveripauk Tank. Though twenty villages were concerned, no difficulty was made. The Collector thinks the ryots should not be called upon when the cost is more than Rupees 25 per annum. The District Engineer suggests that as the work can be done cheaper by the Revenue Department, all clearances should be effected by that department. The Collector again instances the Caveripauk Tank. The Department Public Works estimate was Rupees 4,750, but the Tahsildar got the work done for Rupees 1,778.

South Arcot.—Mr. Garstin, concurring with the District Engineer, thinks that once clearance has been effected the villagers should be required to keep down regrowth. He considers that this is within the scope of Act I. of 1858; but submits correspondence to show how difficult it is to work the Act, owing to the want of a specific declaration of the class of works to which its provisions apply. The case in question, however, does not come under Section 6 of the Act.

Trichinopoly.—It is reported that the villagers recognize their liability to clear, and have been compelled to do so when repairs are required. The duty being generally acknowledged, it can be legally enforced under Act I. of 1858, Section 6. Grants-in-aid to villagers are unnecessary and inexpedient.

Salem.—If Kudimaramut be regularly enforced, the growth will be checked. If the cost of clearance be more than Rupees 20, it should be included in the repair estimate.

Coimbatore.—The Collector does not think the ryots can any longer be required to clear the minor works under Kudimaramut. As Government will not legislate, they must pay. The work must be done through the villagers, and they must be paid beforehand; but there is the danger of the clearance being imperfectly made with a view to recurrent payments.

4. The Collectors seem to be almost unanimous in thinking that, where prickly-pear has accumulated to a great extent, the cost of removing it should not be charged to the villagers; but, when once clearance is effected, the villagers can and may be required to keep down the growth as customary labor under Act I. of 1858. In this

opinion the Board concur, and would leave it to district officers to decide in what cases the work of first clearance is too extensive to be laid upon the villagers. In all cases, the clearances should, in the Board's opinion, be made through the officers of the Revenue Department, as suggested by the Collector and District Engineer of North Arcot, and found so successful in the case of the Cauveripauk Tank.

5. The only effectual way of destroying the plant is to bury it, and to exclude the air from the roots. It is essentially an annual plant, and when air is excluded it will not grow. When the soil is too hard or shallow to bury it, it should be dried, beaten, and burnt. Mention is made of the cochineal insect, but the Board are aware, from personal experience, that the insect will prey only on the red-flowering species and is ineffectual against the yellow-flowering kind, which is the common one in the Madras Districts.

(True Extract.)

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

Miscellaneous.

THE Government approve the Board's conclusions generally, but they desire that specific orders be issued to Collectors to deal with particular cases if brought to notice by the Public Works Department, under Section 6, Act I., 1858.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 131.

ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1875, No. 1,895.

IRRIGATION, No. 12.

COMMUNICATED to all Superintending and District Engineers for information and guidance in continuation of G. O., No. 2,353, dated 21st August 1874, their attention being called particularly to the opinion of the Board of Revenue that in all cases clearances should be made through the officers of the Revenue Department. They will consequently consult with Collectors as to the rates to be allowed in repair estimates in which provision for such work requires to be made, and they will, on the sanction of these, furnish the Revenue Officers with funds as required. It will be observed that the obligation to prevent the regrowth of prickly-pear is placed upon the villagers, and Public Works Officers will accordingly inform the Collector or Divisional Officers of all cases in which regrowth is occurring. It is considered however that in order to prevent prickly-pear from again becoming a nuisance, it will be necessary that the Taluq Revenue Officers of all grades should be required to see that the orders on the subject are attended to, and that the Revenue Inspectors particularly should be instructed to take notice of and report to the Tahsildars all instances of the re-appearance of such vegetation on tanks and channels which have once been cleared.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th 1875.

2. It will be understood that this order does not affect in any way the first description of works mentioned in paragraph 1 of the Order of the 21st August 1874, and that paragraph 2 of that order consequently will remain in full force.

(True Extract.)

J. H. Elliot

Major, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To all District and Superintending Engineer
To the Special Executive Engineer, Wynad
" Controller of Public Works Accounts,
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Revenue Department

2/2/28 II

C. No 1392 of 1876

81 To the District Engineer, Madras, 29 July

Rev: 1875-214
No 2793

Gobt. of (1875) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

ALL DISTRICT AND SUPERINTENDING
ENGINEERS,

Ac. Ac. Ac.

Dated July 5th.

Issued

Recd.

17th

Encl.

G. O., 5th July 1875, No. 1,895.

His Maj

JULY.

Nos. 130-131

23 July 75 No 1544

Removal of prickly-pear from Irrigation
Works.—Proceedings of the Revenue Depart-
ment on the subject of the —, communicated
to all Superintending and District Engineers
for information and guidance.

No 1544

Comm: to the
Board of Revenue

JM

23 July 75