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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue . DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1546	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29. 10. 1875-196	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1546
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No. 195. Read the following letter from A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Land-revenue and Settlements,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 29th September 1875, No. 752:—

WITH reference to the despatch addressed by the Government of Madras to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 14 (Miscellaneous), dated the 21st May last, proposing to change the nomenclature of the different descriptions of land in Madras, which, for purposes of revenue, have hitherto been classified as "Wet" and "Dry" into "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated," including under the former land irrigated at the expense of the State, and under the latter all land not so irrigated, I am directed to communicate the following observations.

2. The nomenclature proposed is doubtless convenient for revenue purposes, inasmuch as it makes a broad and readily intelligible distinction between land which is subjected to a special rate of assessment, on the ground that it is supplied with water at the expense of the State, and land which, as a rule, bears a lower rate of assessment, depending for its water-supply either on the rain-fall or on natural sources of irrigation or on irrigation works constructed at the expense of the land-holder.

3. It is, however, open to the objection that one of the terms used does not accurately represent the actual facts—land being classed as "Unirrigated" which actually receives water from an artificial source of irrigation. And as it is also productive of inconvenience in connection with the preparation of agricultural statistics for India, I am to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the Government of India may be informed whether there would be any objection to adopt the following or some similar sub-division of the two classes proposed, viz:—

I.—Unirrigated—

- (1.)—Ordinary dry lands being, as a point of fact, dry and producing ordinary crops.
- (2.)—Dry lands of any special character, such as the rice-lands in the Ganjam District, which from any cause are specially productive.
- (3.)—Lands that are, from their position or other natural cause, moist, and derive a materially increased fertility from that cause.

II.—Irrigated—

- (a.)—From Government works.
- (b.)—From private works.
- (c.)—From natural sources, such as lakes or wheels, or directly from streams.

4. Such a classification would, I am to add, allow of appropriate rates being settled for each class, and give a true and intelligible statement of the distribution of the land according to its nature and advantages.

No. 196. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1875, No. 1,546.

Land Revenue, No. 10.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue
for report.

(True Ext)

(Sig

L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 752.

FROM

A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Department of Revenue,
Agriculture, and Commerce.

Land Revenue and Settlements.

SIMLA, the 29th September 1875.

SIR,

WITH reference to the despatch addressed by the Government of Madras to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 14 (Miscellaneous), dated the 21st May last, proposing to change the nomenclature of the different descriptions of land in Madras, which for purposes of revenue have hitherto been classified as "wet" and "dry" into "irrigated" and "unirrigated," including under the former land irrigated at the expense of the State, and under the latter all land not so irrigated, I am directed to communicate the following observations.

2. The nomenclature proposed is doubtless convenient for revenue purposes, inasmuch as it makes a broad and readily intelligible distinction between land which is subjected to a special rate of assessment, on the ground that it is supplied with water at the expense of the State, and land which, as a rule, bears a lower rate of assessment, depending for its water-supply either on the rainfall or on natural sources of irrigation, or on irrigation works constructed at the expense of the landholder.

3. It is, however, open to the objection that one of the terms used does not accurately represent the actual facts—land being classed as "unirrigated" which actually receives water from an artificial source of irrigation. And as it is also productive of inconvenience in connection with the preparation of agricultural statistics for India, I am to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the Government of India may be informed whether there would be any objection to adopt the following or some similar sub-division of the two classes proposed, viz.:—

I.—Unirrigated—

- (1).—Ordinary dry lands, being in point of fact dry and producing ordinary crops.
- (2).—Dry lands of any special class, such as the rice lands in the Ganjam District, which from any cause are specially productive.
- (3).—Lands that are from their position or other natural cause moist, and derive a materially increased fertility from that cause.

II.—Irrigated—

- (a).—From Government works.
- (b).—From private works.
- (c).—From natural sources, such as lakes or jheels or directly from streams.

Cont. of 1875

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Direct Order, 29th.

Board.

G. L. S. No. 1316.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 195-196.

Classification of Land into "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated."—Referring to the Board of Revenue for report letter from the Government of India suggesting a sub-division of the terms "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated."

ACR 29/9/75

4. Such a classification would, I am to add, allow of appropriate rates being settled for each class, and give a true and intelligible statement of the distribution of the land according to its nature and advantages.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Robertson

Secretary to the Government of India.

1875.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

LAND REVENUE AND SETTLEMENTS.

To

THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

No. 752.

Dated Simla, the 29th September 1875.

Recd 11th Oct 75

14 L. & L. P. D. 200-205 Recd 29th 1875

SUBJECT.

CLASSIFICATION and assessment of lands in the
Madras Presidency.

No. 1376

Order

*Referred to the
Board of Revenue
for report*

29th October 1875