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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1562.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	3-11-1875	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1562

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd November 1875.

No. 30. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1875, No. 2,584 :—

Read the following letters :—

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Point Calimere, 18th June 1875, No. 226.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 2,075, dated 15th March 1875, I have the honor to report that for the present I concur in the main with what my predecessor and the late Sub-Collector Mr. Stokes have stated on the subject of the control of the village and field channels in this district.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation is also not prepared with any proposal for an improved system, which would seem an additional reason for letting well alone, for it must be admitted that, considering the vast area under irrigation in this district, the complaints of unequal distribution of water are astonishingly few. The question is not so much whether the present system is perfect as whether the means of improvement are practicably within our reach.

3. If there existed in India such a thing as an incorruptible agency, and that of the requisite numerical strength as well as of an order of intelligence sufficiently high to take charge of three thousand channels, and with nice justice to distribute water to each village with due regard to its own wants as well as to those of the other villages concerned, it would be all that could be desired with respect to the regulation of irrigation; but even then not Solomon himself nor the ideal just man of Horace could escape complaints of error and corruption, and the very best man would soon be disheartened thereby.

4. On the other hand, a system under which the supply of water from a channel to the several villages dependent on it is regulated by a well-defined understanding among the several parties concerned and is regulated by the community and not by individuals in authority is preferable to one which would place a large body of landed proprietors in a position of dependence on a practically uncontrolled Taluq Overseer or Revenue Inspector. The result of individual authority could hardly be other than general discontent and demoralization.

5. As regards the present system, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is somewhat in error in thinking that "individuals are allowed to take as much water from the general supply available as they can divert into their channels," and that consequently "general interests cannot be secured," for practically such unrestrained diversion of the available supply is not possible under the system in force in Tanjore. A Tanjore mirassidar will not allow his vested rights to be invaded by his neighbour or anybody else.

6. Sluices can be, and are, in fact, closed by turns, and if the mirassidars of one village, in contravention of the established custom, throw a bund across a main stream to divert it into their branch, those of the village lower down cut it away immediately and, if necessary, lay a complaint of criminal trespass before the magistrate.

7. Thus, then, I am of opinion that, as matters now stand, there is not only no way of improving present irrigational arrangements, but much to be feared

from placing the distribution of water in village and field channels in the hands of the Public Works Department. The main channels are properly in their hands, and that is as much as they are able to attend to.

8. But these remarks have reference only to matters as they now stand, and it would seem proper to add that, under an altered revenue system, there might be room for much improvement.

9. As I have submitted years ago in detail in reports from South Canara and from Salem, our present system of taxing wet lands—

(1.) Encourages waste of water.
(2.) Consequently restricts irrigable area.
(3.) Is costly to the ryot in that he pays for more water than he really wants.
(4.) Is costly to the State in its restriction of irrigable area.
(5.) Is costly and troublesome to the State in its entailed remissions.
(6.) Is unequal in its incidence on the poor and the influential.
(7.) Prevents rotation of crop, and is therefore injurious to the soil.

10. My view is that all these objections could be surmounted by making the land assessment distinct from the water-tax and charging for the latter, not by the acre on which it is wasted, but by the cubic yard by which it is used. The consumer will then have the strongest and the most generally reliable motive for economy—to wit, self-interest.

11. There is no doubt in my mind but that every detail of this scheme could be worked out so that every imaginable objection to it—and they are neither few nor insignificant—could be met; but, having already done so to some extent without results, I hesitate to waste valuable time on doing so again until the theory is considered at least worth discussion. It may suffice to say that the distribution should not be made by personal agency, or it would be open to the objections which I have raised in paragraph 4, but by means of gauges which cannot falsify or be tampered with, so that each ryot can take, and be liable for, as much or as little matter as he likes. The thing is done in every Gas and Water Company in England, and could, I am convinced, be done in India, and the primary objection, the magnitude of the undertaking, affords, in truth, the greatest argument for its adoption—to wit, the magnitude of the gains both to the Government and the people. In this district alone a whole extra taluq, and probably much more, could be brought under irrigation from economy of water now wasted.

12. But the subject is one to be very carefully considered at leisure, and it is for this purpose only that I have thrown it out as an idea.

From H. SEWELL, Esq., Ag. Collector of Trichinopoly, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st August 1875, No. 210.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 2,075, dated 15th March last, I have the honor to submit the following full report on the management of the irrigating channels in this district, the most important of which are in the Trichinopoly Taluq. The whole system, from the original river to

the village channels, is under control of the revenue authorities. When the water is let into the village channel, it is under the control of the villagers themselves, and is regulated by custom, any disputes being settled by the Tahsildar. Each main channel has its establishment of shutter men, divers, and coolies with a monigar at its head, and the most important channels have an ameen to superintend the conservancy. When the river is full, the conservancy establishment is employed in letting into the channel just as much water as would be enough to supply all the villages without causing any damage to the banks. Each village channel has its head sluice at the main channel, and the shutters at these heads are also regulated according to the wants in each village under the superintendence of a maistry, who has the charge of the whole or half the length of the main channel according to its importance. In the case of smaller channels this work is managed by the channel monigar. Each shutter man is in charge of the regulating sluices of three or four branch channels. When the river goes down, coramboos or mud dams are raised across the river to divert the water into the channels. It is at this time that most care is required in the proper distribution of the water. The shutters of the branch channels are generally let down at this season; the water that escapes through the apertures between these shutters, or in some cases through the space of one or two of the shutters which are kept out on purpose, is sufficient for the wants of the villages; the rest of the shutters are chained and locked. The keys of these locks are generally in charge of the Tahsildar, and in those cases where chains and locks are not provided, as in small channels where there are no regulating sluices, the maistry or the monigar, as the case may be, shuts up the village channel by a mud dam and opens them according to the wants of each village and in proportion to the supply in the channel. The villagers cannot be said to be quite at the mercy of the maistries or monigars, as they can at any time represent their grievances, if any, to the Tahsildar, who attends to their wants without delay. When the supply in the main channel goes so low that the water only gets half way along its whole length, the branch channels belonging to the upper half of the main channel are shut up and the apertures between the shutters are blocked up with straw and the water is distributed from the lower end of the channel. The regulation of the supply to the village or field channels cannot, I think, be better managed as far as this district is concerned. As for wastage of water, I don't think there is more than is necessary to keep the sand sluices at work to clear the silt in the main channels during the high freshes and to let off the freshes brought in by the jungle streams which empty themselves into the channels. The channels in this district are so carefully planned that scarcely a drop of water is wasted. What may be more than necessary finds its way into the surplus channel, which in its turn irrigates several other villages. The Panguni, which is as large as any of the main channel, carries the surplus water of the fields under the Iyan channel on the south and the Peruvalai channel on the north, and this surplus channel irrigates as many villages as any of the two main channels of which it is the surplus. The Uyyakondan has its surplus channel and irrigation under it. I cannot but consider the present arrangement with reference to the distribution of water as satisfactory as could possibly be expected under the circumstances. As far as I can learn, under the

present system there are scarcely any complaints made by the ryots as regards the distribution.

I may as well add here that the whole of this conservancy is kept up by the voluntary cess fund, which is a commutation in money of the customary labor furnished by the ryots. It is only in two or three cases that monigars and shutter-men are employed from the Imperial funds.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 24th March 1875, No. 78.

I HAVE the honor to report, as requested in Miscellaneous Proceedings, No. 2,075, Board of Revenue, dated 15th March 1875, with reference to the remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in Proceedings, Madras Government, 18th November 1874, No. 3,261, Public Works Department.

The remarks are: "In Coimbatore also there is much room for improvement, complaints being very general that the water-supply at lower ends of channels is very inadequate owing to waste higher up."

2. I admit the premiss, but not the inference.

3. The supply at lower ends of channels is indeed often found to be inadequate.

4. The particular channel to which allusion is made is not stated, but I have on record a reference regarding the Kalingaroyen channel, the water at the end of which occasionally falls short.

5. On my personal inspection of this channel I found that when it had been under Public Works Department repairs a ring bund at the head had been formed, but not afterwards removed; it could be plainly seen, and was not calculated to improve the supply at the head sluice. It was thought that the current would in time wear it away, and so it had not been removed.

6. Government are aware that the mode of distributing responsibility I adopted in preference to former modes of exclusive management by either Revenue or Public Works Department (in the former case it was complained that the channels were endangered by not being under professional management; in the latter it was complained that the distribution was inefficient) was to place the head sluice and main channel under professional management, the head sluice men being under the exclusive control of the Public Works Department. That being so, I received information from my Deputy Collector that the cause of diminished supply in the lower channel arose from the head sluice men not abiding in their huts at the head sluice as before by night, but going to their village and making safe for the night by shutting off the water. This system would cause a diminution in the lower channels by the diminished flow during the night.

7. There was no need to economise the water of the Bhowany river, which fed the Kalingaroyen channel; any waste water from the fields runs into the Cauvery river just as it does over the anicut; the result is the same to the water, but not to the local cultivation. It is necessary to enter into such details to show the bearings of the case.

8. I do not know that the upper or Kodiveli anicut of the Bhowany, Arkencottah, &c., channels were inspected or referred to, but I may mention a

difficulty I contend with and meet, which is a tendency in the ryots to cultivate the six months' "shamba" crop, *i.e.*, from September to January, in preference to the "car" or three months' crop from June to August. The whole land under these channels *cannot be cultivated with two crops;* so certain channels get the early water, and others the latter supply. The early supply from the freshes of the south-west monsoon is fuller and more able to reach the lower end of the channels and branch channels, where new cultivation has been extended, while the originally-cultivated or "ayn" lands get their established long and more valuable crop. Unless rules are adhered to, one crop will be surreptitiously substituted for the other to the general damage.

9. An instance of this lately came before me when a Public Works Department subordinate recommended to the Tahsildar an extension of the time during which the "car" water was to be allowed along a certain channel belonging to the car crop. On my noticing this interference to the Superintending Engineer, he rebuked his subordinate for the same.

10. Another tendency to produce short water in the tail channels is from ryots extending cultivation of the upper channels without leave; this, of course, is only done at the expense of the lower supply.

11. I think a perusal of these remarks will show, first, that there cannot be "waste higher up," for all "surplus" water must fall into the line of drainage and be eventually utilized lower down; second, that other causes exist for short supply in the lower channels, which are removed whenever brought to notice; third, that this plan of conservancy and distribution is the best that can be devised for this district.

12. The other two systems, exclusive management by either department, have been tried with the results before noted; and, though complaints may still exist, they would not be removed, but rather aggravated, by a change to exclusive management by Public Works Department. It was contended on the revenue side that divided control would issue in failure, that no man could serve two masters; this I met by putting the head sluice men, though paid by the Revenue Department, under the exclusive power of the Public Works Department. Without such Public Works Department control, it was stated, on the other side, that the professional department might advise the closing of sluices in freshes and not be obeyed, and in such emergencies there was no time for arguments or references. The department could not be responsible for the banks of a channel unless they had the command of the head sluice.

From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tirumungalam, 8th April 1875, No. 152.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th March 1875, Miscellaneous No. 2,075, calling for a further report with reference to the remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, I have the honor to observe that I have no idea what the Chief Engineer means by "*ex-parte* evidence," or what it is that he proposes.

2. I know perfectly well what the Madura channels want most urgently. They want sluices and a law for the maintenance of channel conservancy establishments when Government does not undertake the duty. The voluntary system has failed, and Government neither clears and maintains the channels nor compels the ryots to unite together for the purpose of doing so.

3. The distribution of water, like everything else in the world, is capable of improvement. It is the ancient system which has lasted for hundreds of years, and has the advantage of being inexpensive, which is of great consequence to us, seeing that we have not money for things more urgent than improving the system of distributing water.

These letters will be submitted to Government with reference to G.O., dated 2nd March 1875, No. 419, communicating G.O., dated 18th November 1874, No. 3,261, in which the Board were ordered to furnish a further expression of opinion as to the arrangements for the distribution of water from village and field channels in Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore.

2. The system which the Government desired to see introduced was that the distribution in field channels and channels irrigating single villages should be left to the villagers, but that all larger channels and the sluices of village channels should be managed by the Public Works Department.

3. In Tanjore the departure from this system is that the village sluices are under the control of the villagers. The Collector states that the care of the main channels is as much as the Public Works Department can manage; that the arrangements for the distribution of the water into the village channels are well known and jealously watched, so that any attempted encroachment on the general supply is at once checked; and that, in his opinion, as matters now stand, the prevailing system works better than any which could be substituted for it. He apprehends that complaints, which are now singularly few, would be made of error and corruption if the sluices were put in charge of the Public Works Department.

4. In Trichinopoly the channels are all under the management of a special establishment paid from the voluntary cess fund and under the orders of the revenue officers, and the villagers have control over the water only after it passes into the village channels. It would appear from the Collector's letter that all possible pains are taken to secure fair distribution, and that there is no waste or complaints by the ryots. There seems no occasion for the interference of the Public Works Department.

5. The Collector of Coimbatore admits that there have been complaints, but not, he affirms, owing to waste near the heads of the channels. The channel establishment in charge of the head sluices are under the orders of the Public Works Department, and the Collector says that experience has proved that undivided control by either department has been a failure. The deficient supply arises from attempts to secure supply for the cultivation of the samba instead of the car crop.

6. The Board have been informed by Mr. Puckle, who recently inspected the Kalingaroyan channel, that great waste was going on in the upper sections owing to imperfectly-stopped shutters and holes in the bank, and that the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd November 1875.

excess water thus escaping passes into the Cauvery, and so fails to benefit the cultivation lower down. The remedy for this he considered to be the appointment as channel monigar of a ryot of one of the villages at the tail end of the channel. This suggestion, as well as Mr. Puckle's assertion as to waste and imperfect conservancy of the channel, should have the Collector's attention.

7. In Madura the Collector states that what is most wanted is the provision of sluices and a law for the maintenance of conservancy when Government does not undertake the duty. The voluntary cess system, which was in force in the river channels in Madura, has entirely broken down as reported to Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 30th April 1875, No. 1,089.

8. The Board then observe that they are not prepared to propose any general change in the arrangements for the distribution of water in the districts above mentioned. They consider that those in Tanjore and Trichinopoly are as efficient as present circumstances admit of their being. In Coimbatore what seems to be required has been indicated above. In Madura the provision of proper sluices appears to be urgently required, and no administrative arrangements can be efficacious until this want is supplied. If the Public Works Department are then prepared to undertake further supervision of distribution, their assistance will be gladly accepted by the Revenue Department. Meanwhile, the Collectors should enforce the provisions of Act I. of 1858 as far as possible. The general question of a law to further facilitate the enforcement of customary labor is under discussion.

G.O., dated 31st July 1875, No. 1,155.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 31. Order thereon, 3rd November 1875, No. 1,562.

Irrigation, No. 2.

The Government concur with the Board of Revenue, and see no reason for any general change in existing arrangements.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department, with copy of His Excellency's Note.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From Board of Revenue

Dated 16th Nov 1875

FOR ORDERS.

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 3rd.

Read.

Ditto.

G.O., 3rd November 1875, No. 1,562.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 30-31.

Village and Field Channels in Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore.—Concurring with the Board of Revenue that there is no reason for any general change in the existing arrangements for the distribution of water from —.

FOR ORDERS.

No. 2,584.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th September 1875.

Read the following letters:—

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3. If there existed in India such a thing as an incorruptible agency, and that of the requisite numerical strength as well as of an order of intelligence sufficiently high to take charge of three thousand channels, and with nice justice to distribute water to each village with due regard to its own wants as well as to those of the other villages concerned, it would be all that could be desired with respect to the regulation of irrigation; but even then not Solomon himself nor the ideal just man of Horace could escape complaints of error and corruption, and the very best man would soon be disheartened thereby.

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5. As regards the present system, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is somewhat in error in thinking that "individuals are allowed to take as much water from the general supply available as they can divert into their channels," and that consequently "general interests cannot be secured," for practically such unrestrained diversion of the available supply is not possible under the system in force in Tanjore. A Tanjore mirassidar will not allow his vested rights to be invaded by his neighbor or anybody else.

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7. Thus, then, I am of opinion that, as matters now stand, there is not only no way of improving present irrigational arrangements, but much to be feared

from placing the distribution of water in village and field channels in the hands of the Public Works Department. The main channels are properly in their hands, and that is as much as they are able to attend to.

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11. There is no doubt in my mind but that every detail of this scheme could be worked out so that every imaginable objection to it—and they are neither few nor insignificant—could be met; but, having already done so to some extent without results, I hesitate to waste valuable time on doing so again until the theory is considered at least worth discussion. It may suffice to say that the distribution should not be made by personal agency, or it would be open to the objections which I have raised in paragraph 4, but by means of gauges which cannot falsify or be tampered with, so that each ryot can take, and be liable for, as much or as little matter as he likes. The thing is done in every gas and water company in England and could, I am convinced, be done in India, and the primary objection, the magnitude of the undertaking, affords, in truth, the greatest argument for its adoption—to wit, the magnitude of the gains both to the Government and the people. In this district alone a whole extra taluq, and probably much more, could be brought under irrigation from economy of water now wasted.

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6. Government are aware that the mode of distributing responsibility I adopted in preference to former modes of exclusive management by either Revenue or Public Works Department (in the former case it was complained that the channels were endangered by not being under professional management; in the latter it was complained that the distribution was inefficient) was to place the head sluice and main channel under professional management, the head sluice men being under the exclusive control of the Public Works Department. That being so, I received information from my Deputy Collector that the cause of diminished supply in the lower channel arose from the head sluice men not abiding in their huts at the head sluice as before by night, but going to their village and making safe for the night by shutting off the water. This system would cause a diminution in the lower channels by the diminished flow during the night.

7. There was no need to economise the water of the Bhowany river, which fed the Calingaroyen channel; any waste water from the fields runs into the Cauvery river just as it does over the anicut; the result is the same to the water, but not to the local cultivation. It is necessary to enter into such details to show the bearings of the case.

8. I do not know that the upper or Kodiveli anicut of the Bhowany, Arkencottah, &c., channels were inspected or referred to, but I may mention a difficulty I contend with and meet, which is a tendency in the ryots to cultivate the six months' "shamba" crop, *i.e.*, from September to January, in preference to the "car" or three months' crop from June to August. The whole land under these channels *cannot be cultivated with two crops*; so certain channels get the early water, and others the latter supply. The early supply from the freshes of the south-west monsoon is fuller and more able to reach the lower end of the channels and branch channels, where new cultivation has been extended, while the originally-cultivated or "ayn" lands get their established long and more valuable crop. Unless rules are adhered to, one crop will be surreptitiously substituted for the other to the general damage.

9. An instance of this lately came before me when a Public Works Department subordinate recommended to the Tahsildar an extension of the time during which the "car" water was to be allowed along a certain channel belonging to the car crop. On my noticing this interference to the Superintending Engineer, he rebuked his subordinate for the same.

10. Another tendency to produce short water in the tail channels is from ryots extending cultivation of the upper channels without leave; this, of course, is only done at the expense of the lower supply.

11. I think a perusal of these remarks will show, first, that there cannot be "waste higher up," for all "surplus" water must fall into the line of drainage and be eventually utilized lower down; second, that other causes exist for short supply in the lower channels, which are removed whenever brought to notice; third, that this plan of conservancy and distribution is the best that can be devised for this district.

12. The other two systems, exclusive management by either department, have been tried with the results before noted; and, though complaints may still exist, they would not be removed, but rather aggravated, by a change to exclusive management by Public Works Department. It was contended on the revenue side that divided control would issue in failure, that no man could serve two masters; this I met by putting the head sluice men, though paid by the Revenue Department, under the exclusive power of the Public Works Department. Without such Public Works Department control, it was stated, on the other side, that the professional department might advise the closing of sluices in freshes and not be obeyed, and in such emergencies there was no time for arguments or references. The department could not be responsible for the banks of a channel unless they had the command of the head sluice.

From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tirumungalam, 8th April 1875, No. 152.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th March 1875, Miscellaneous No. 2,075, calling for a further report with reference to

the remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, I have the honor to observe that I have no idea what the Chief Engineer means by "*ex-parte* evidence," or what it is that he proposes.

2. I know perfectly well what the Madura channels want most urgently. They want sluices and a law for the maintenance of channel conservancy establishments when Government does not undertake the duty. The voluntary system has failed, and Government neither clears and maintains the channels nor compels the ryots to unite together for the purpose of doing so.

3. The distribution of water, like everything else in the world, is capable of improvement. It is the ancient system which has lasted for hundreds of years, and has the advantage of being inexpensive, which is of great consequence to us, seeing that we have not money for things more urgent than improving the system of distributing water.

These letters will be submitted to Government with reference to G.O., dated 2nd March 1875, No. 419, communicating G.O., dated 18th November 1874, No. 3,261, in which the Board were ordered to furnish a further expression of opinion as to the arrangements for the distribution of water from village and field channels in Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore.

2. The system which the Government desired to see introduced was that the distribution in field channels and channels irrigating single villages should be left to the villagers, but that all larger channels and the sluices of village channels should be managed by the Public Works Department.

3. In Tanjore the departure from this system is that the village sluices are under the control of the villagers. The Collector states that the care of the main channels is as much as the Public Works Department can manage; that the arrangements for the distribution of the water into the village channels are well known and jealously watched, so that any attempted encroachment on the general supply is at once checked; and that, in his opinion, as matters now stand, the prevailing system works better than any which could be substituted for it. He apprehends that complaints, which are now singularly few, would be made of error and corruption if the sluices were put in charge of the Public Works Department.

4. In Trichinopoly the channels are all under the management of a special establishment paid from the voluntary cess fund and under the orders of the revenue officers, and the villagers have control over the water only after it passes into the village channels. It would appear from the Collector's letter that all possible pains are taken to secure fair distribution, and that there is no waste or complaints by the ryots. There seems no occasion for the interference of the Public Works Department.

5. The Collector of Coimbatore admits that there have been complaints, but not, he affirms, owing to waste near the heads of the channels. The channel establishment in charge of the head sluices are under the orders of the Public Works Department, and the Collector says that experience has proved that undivided control by either department has been a failure. The deficient supply arises from attempts to secure supply for the cultivation of the samba instead of the car crop.

5. The Board have been informed by Mr. Puckle, who recently inspected the Calingaroyan channel, that great waste was going on in the upper sections owing to imperfectly-stopped shutters and holes in the bank, and that the excess water thus escaping passes into the Cauvery, and so fails to benefit the cultivation lower down. The remedy for this he considered to be the appointment as channel monigar of a ryot of one of the villages at the tail end of the channel. This suggestion, as well as Mr. Puckle's assertion as to waste and imperfect conservancy of the channel, should have the Collector's attention.

6. In Madura the Collector states that what is most wanted is the provision of sluices and a law for the maintenance of conservancy when Government does not undertake the duty. The voluntary cess system, which was in force in the river channels in Madura, has entirely broken down as reported to Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 30th April 1875, No. 1,089.

8. The Board then observe that they are not prepared to propose any general change in the arrangements for the distribution of water in the districts above mentioned. They consider that those in Tanjore and Trichinopoly are as efficient as present circumstances admit of their being. In Coimbatore what seems to be required has been indicated above. In Madura the provision of proper sluices appears to be urgently required, and no administrative arrangements can be efficacious until this want is supplied. If the Public Works Department are then prepared to undertake further supervision of distribution, their assistance will be gladly accepted by the Revenue Department. Meanwhile, the Collectors should enforce the provisions of Act I. of 1858 as far as possible. The general question of a law to further facilitate the enforcement of customary labor is under discussion.

G O., dated 31st July 1875, No. 1,155.

(True Copies and Extract.)

A Robertson

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Tanjore.
" " of Trichinopoly.
" " of Madura.
" " of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Rec'd 6/75 : Dept
No 3505

No 1386

1875.

Board of Revenue

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH SEPTEMBER 1875, No. 2,584.

Dup 1 Oct 75

Encl.

Received 9 : Oct

SEPTEMBER.

No. 2,584.

Village and Field Channels—in Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore Districts.—Reports of Collectors concerned regarding arrangements in force for distribution of water from — submitted to Government with remarks. Board are not prepared to propose any general change in the existing arrangements in these districts.

Letter Issued

No 1562 3d November 1875