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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

185

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Dated

26-1-1875 196 .

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th January 1875.

Read again Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 5th September 1874,
No. 2,526, Public Works Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Village and Field Channels in Godavery District.*—The observations of the Collector and Board of Revenue on the letter from the District Engineer on the subject of the transfer of the — to the charge of the Village Officers, awaited.

Read also copy of the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cocanada, 20th November 1874, No. 3.

ABSTRACT.—Letter No. 3, dated 20th November, to the Secretary to Government, Department of Public Works, regarding the transfer of irrigation channels, etc., to be repaired to ryots.

THE Board having seen the letter from the Collector of the Godavery District in which he replies to this order will now record their views on the subject.

2. In the Note by the Chief Engineer disposed of in G. O., dated 5th March 1873, No. 713, Public Works Department, he stated that he was under the impression that "nowhere have Range Officers attempted to keep field channels in repair, while village channels can seldom have been dealt with." Similarly in the letter submitted to Government with the Board's Proceedings disposed of in G. O., dated 29th May 1874, No. 651, the Collector of the Godavery District said that when village and field channels were made over to the ryots "the ryots and the Village Officers will have to do in future practically what they have done and what they now do, though in theory the Department of Public Works are the managers."

3. It now appears that though this is true with regard to field channels, it does not correctly represent the state of the case with regard to the village channels. These are often large and important works. The Collector doubts whether they can be safely relinquished by the Department of Public Works unless a law is passed enabling a cess for repairs to be collected, and empowering the Village Officers to enforce labor.

4. The methods and traditions of "kudimaramut" which are still of some efficacy in the Southern districts seem to be altogether wanting with regard to the village channels of the Godavery Delta, and the Board do not see how to get over the difficulties pointed out by the Collector. It seems to them that no uniform rule can be insisted on. Some village channels may be safely left to the villagers, but others must be supervised and kept in repair by the Public Works Department.

5. The Board think that legislation for levying a cess and enforcing labor would introduce evils immeasurably greater than the inconvenience now suffered.

(A true Extract.)

J. G. Mose
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

.. to the Acting Collector of the Godavery District.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

40 March 1875 - No. 48 Rev
 29 May 1874 - No. 272 - 273
 14 Sept - No. 112 Rev.

No. 240

Received 1875. *Asst. Secy*

Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH JANUARY 1875, No. 8

24th Jan 1875

Received 22^d

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JANUARY.

No. 81.

Village and Field Channels—of God District.—Views of Board on subject of tra of—to the management of villagers, su ted to Government.—Proposal of Collect favor of a legislation to levy a cess an enforce labor for the repair of the chann the Village authorities considered inexped

No. 185
 24th Jan 1875
Asst. Secy