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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 16th September 1875.

No. 366. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th August 1875, No. 2,221 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 29th May 1875, No. 247.

I HAVE the honor to reply to the Board's Proceedings of the 2nd December last, No. 3,493, communicating G. O., dated 13th November 1874, on the subject of variations between the irrigation registers of faslis 1281 and 1282, noticed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

2. Of the two registers with which the Chief Engineer had compared, the one of fasli 1281 was prepared in the form prescribed in Board's Proceedings of the 7th June 1871, No. 2,293, and the other in accordance with the revised form circulated with Board's Proceedings of the 15th July 1873. The principle on which the forms were prescribed differed, and the entries in the accounts differed naturally. The one was intended to show the actual area irrigated, while the other gives the area charged as irrigated whether actually irrigated or not. The Inam lands on which neither quit-rent nor water-cess was paid were alone shown in one under the area irrigated free of charge, whereas all Inams, whether they paid quit-rent or not, were shown in the register of fasli 1281 under that head if they paid no water-cess.

3. The Board will therefore observe that a comparison between these two registers could not give any proper idea.

4. The enclosed statement has been prepared to show the comparison between the registers of faslis 1281 and 1282, prepared according to the Board's revised form sent with their Proceedings of the 16th July 1873, No. 1,305.

5. The total area charged as irrigated in fasli 1282 was Acres 516,683* with a water-cess of Rupees 14,84,284, against Acres 493,459 with a water-cess of Rupees 14,79,121 in the previous year. There is, therefore, an increase of Acres 23,224 and a water-cess of Rupees 5,163, resulting from a decrease in the Eastern Delta and an increase in the Central and Western Deltas, as particularized in the margin.

	Extent. Acres.	Water-cess Rs.
Increase.		
Central Delta	9,562	7,476
Western „	20,245	24,046
	29,807	31,522
Deduct decrease.		
Eastern Delta	6,583	26,359
	23,224	5,163

6. Fasli 1281 had a very unfavorable season, and a large extent of Government land was relinquished; but in the following season, and a large extent of Government wet lands were taken up, owing to sufficient rains at the commencement of the year. This accounts for the increase in the Central and Western Deltas. The increase in the water-cess is not quite proportionate to the extent, as remissions had to be given in fasli 1282 on account of loss of crop by heavy rains. The decrease in the Eastern Delta may chiefly be attributed to the closing of the Cocanada Canal and with it the Mundapetta Canal were closed on the 1st of 1871, and were not opened till after

* Excluding Kistna Canal belonging to Kistna Delta and the water-cess paid by the Zemindaries of Nidadole, &c., in a lump.

the 21st July 1872. The closing of the canals for a longer period than usual interfered with the irrigation to a large extent. In some cases the ryots had to cultivate their lands under rains.

7. The canals of the Western Delta were only closed on the 15th March 1872, and were again opened on the 15th of the following month.

8. The remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation may be thus explained:—

1*st*.—The decrease in the irrigation of the Eastern Delta in fasli 1282.

As stated above, the decrease is to be attributed to the closing of the canals for a longer period than usual, and to the sufficient rains during the year, which avoided the necessity of some landholders using the anicut water.

As already stated, the area of usual wet Inams has not been shown under this head if they paid a quit-rent. The difference, according to the enclosed revised statement, is only 3,786.

According to the enclosed statement, the average rates on the total areas irrigated are as follow:—

	Fasli 1281.			Fasli 1282.			Decrease.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Government land ...	3	15	7	3	14	2	0	1	5
Inam and Zamindari lands ...	2	6	4	2	2	11	0	3	5

This decrease, which is small, is owing to the large remissions having been granted in fasli 1282, and here it is to be remembered that the water-tax exclusive of remissions is shown in the accounts in question, though the full area irrigated is given under extent.

2*nd*.—The remarkable difference of Acres 54,234 in the areas of Zemindari and Inam lands (not Zemindari alone) irrigated free of charge.

3*rd*.—The difference in the average rates of water-cess of Government and Inam and Zemindari lands charged for, and the non-inclusion in the registers of area irrigated in the Nidadole and Baharuelli Estates.

The rates of Government lands in the detail, however, vary from above Rupees 4 to about Rupees $3\frac{1}{2}$; as under some canals (Samalcotta, &c.,) the sugarcane charged at Rupees 8 is cultivated, and in some (Yanam, &c.,) dry crops chargeable at only Rupees 2 are generally irrigated to a large extent. These reasons partly account for similar variations in the rates of the Zemindari lands under different canals, though the inclusion of usual wet Inam lands paying only a quit-rent and not water-cess under the head of "charged for water" chiefly accounts for the large variations from Rupees 4 to Annas 3 an acre. Further, the large variations from Rupees 4 is under some canals are generally usual wet and pay no water-cess, which so in the Bhimavaram taluq. The area irrigated in the Nidadole and Baha- tates was not excluded from the registers as was supposed by the Chief Eng- ragraph 4 of his note. These lands are shown under the different canals in- they were irrigated; but, as the water- cess is paid in a lump, the total amou separately at the foot of the statement. This also accounts to a great extent luced rate of water-cess of Annas $4\frac{1}{2}$ an acre noticed in clause 3 of paragraph chief Engineer's note.

9. In conclusion, I beg to sta revised irrigation register of fasli 1281 was again returned for revision with d's Proceedings of the 17th November

1874, No. 1,875, as it included the lands irrigated in fasli 1281, though they were charged after the fasli. The figures in the enclosed statement have been entered with reference to this register. Revised registers for faslis 1281 and 1282 will be sent when the necessary information is received from the tāluqs, but I do not think that this report should be delayed till they are ready, and therefore send it on.

10. The revision will simply consist in deducting the extent irrigated in fasli 1281, and charged for after the fasli from the statement of fasli 1281, and adding it to the statement of fasli 1282, making a similar deduction of lands irrigated in fasli 1282, and charged for thereafter, but this does not affect the questions raised.

Abstract showing the Area brought under the Godavery and Kistna Canals and the Water-tax thereon.

Name of the Canal, Channels, &c.	1871-72.		1872-73.		1873-74.		Total.	
	Area.	Water-tax.	Area.	Water-tax.	Area.	Water-tax.	Area.	Water-tax.
	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Godavery Canals.								
Dowleshweram Canal	6,705	47,959	6,107	47,959	16,067	1,17,016	29,877	1,17,016
Cattack ...	7,872	2,849	6,464	2,849	6,464	64,333	20,321	64,333
Tolleroo ...	1,647	14,716	1,332	14,716	25,778	85,435	28,969	84,435
Bank Canal ...	253	21,701	240	21,701	18,991	47,209	19,844	47,209
Mandapetta ...	805	20,637	805	20,637	20,716	20,383	22,326	20,383
Tatipaka ...	60	47,142	60	47,142	20,783	1,14,857	20,843	1,62,173
Pandaroding ...	71	240	174	1,00,148	245	811	490	940
	17,397	1,00,148	16,020	1,00,148	1,07,738	6,07,830	1,40,655	4,41,127
Kistna Canals.								
Commercolle ...	6,040	54,019	6,107	54,019	33,583	1,37,765	41,124	1,91,460
Chinnaboddia ...	6,864	2,849	6,464	2,849	21,758	64,359	31,026	67,063
Cheruku ...	1,952	24,745	1,332	24,745	17,007	63,354	20,597	88,199
Tadepalle ...	6,008	21,701	240	21,701	4,727	17,667	4,767	17,667
Mundapetta ...	1,316	20,637	805	20,637	9,386	60,887	10,469	81,524
Pandaroding ...	1,093	47,142	60	47,142	4	...	4	...
	17,273	1,71,093	15,008	1,71,093	86,465	3,46,032	1,18,746	5,17,125
Western Delta.								
Mukkamala ...	15,911	88,166	15,911	88,166	49,279	1,38,983	57,468	1,84,606
Ainapur ...	2,000	24,745	1,332	24,745	14,297	55,822	13,998	55,968
Nakkala ...	19,000	15,000	19,000	15,000	82,652	96,514	80,886	1,04,607
Bada ...	3,361	3,361	3,361	3,361	50,546	67,899	56,768	60,564
Regadi ...	4,750	4,750	4,750	4,750	47,082	70,203	51,832	75,498
Chintalamedi ...	16,650	61,050	16,650	61,050	26,286	88,731	26,850	75,407
	61,661	2,97,072	61,004	2,97,072	3,70,344	1,03,647	41,515	1,77,589
Eastern Delta.								
Main Canals, Channels, Sluices, &c. ...	46,845	1,66,026	46,845	1,66,026	7,865	29,568	7,568	20,077
Godavari and Vainteru ...	5,948	23,053	5,948	23,053	8,014	11,474	2,868	10,647
Vainteru and Gautami ...	38,238	22,741	38,238	22,741	1,619	2,167	1,767	2,891
Coast ...	11,171	45,650	12,701	45,650	4,559	13,851	...	...
Attili ...	12,701	61,388	12,701	61,388	490	1,589	...	...
Bhima ...	15,752	12,979	15,752	12,979				
Nakka ...	84,366	26,271	84,366	26,271				
Kaluva ...	9,711	4,761	9,711	4,761				
Regadi ...	1,195	904	1,195	904				
Chintalamedi ...	2,866	257	2,866	257				
	8,869	1,450	8,869	1,450				
	1,89,130	4,79,864	1,89,130	4,79,864	22,547	68,649	12,203	33,615

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