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Read the following papers :-

No. 278. Endorsement of the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, Kistna, dated Camp at Duggirala, 20th November 1874, No. 111.
From Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, Kistna, to G. D. LEMANA Esq., Collector of Kistna District, dated Camp at Bezvada, 18th November 1874 No. 146.

With reference to your endorsement Nos. 1,688 and 1,689, dated 14th October 1874, on letters forwarded by you to the Board of Revenue, recommending that the Zemindars of Nuzeed and Devaracota shall be allowed to compound the water-tax of their estates for ten and five years respectively, I have the honor to offer the following remarks.

2. The water-tax paid by the Zemindar of Nuzeed during the last five years has varied from Rupees 21,525-2-2 to Rupees 15,129 after deducting remissions; the amount he offers to compound for is Rupees 19,100, the average of these five years. This arrangement would appear to be a fair one, but it must be remembered that improvements are now being carried out under which the supply of water to the main canals will be better than it has hitherto been, and the Zemindar will get the advantage of an improved supply without any charge.

3. The water-tax paid by the Zemindar of Devaracota during the last five years has varied from Rupees 22,205-7-0 to Rupees 11,583-4-10, after deducting remissions.

The average of the five years is Rupees 15,610-1-10, the Zemindar offers to compound for Rupees 14,000. The highest year of the five was Fasli 1278, the lowest Fasli 1281. The wet cultivation appears therefore to have been falling off of late years, though you have mentioned that a great excess of water has been already taken in anticipation of the composition being sanctioned. This means that the Zemindar is willing to take water if he has not to pay for it, and he attempts further to improve matters by offering a sum of Rupees 1,600 less than the least he has yet been called on to pay. In this Zemindari, arrangements are being made for improving the supply, and also for the better drainage of the land; if these works are even partially carried out in the next five years the Zemindar will reap the advantage, and no return will be made to Government for the expenditure.

4. Were there nothing else to be said against the arrangement I should object to it, but there are several reasons, I think, why it is not advisable to make such concessions to Zemindars.

5. We will suppose that one of the Zemindars, whose cultivation in last year has been 5,000 acres, on the strength of having compounded his water-tax, applies for water for 10,000 acres this year. It will depend under which channels the land is situated, but it is very probable I shall not be able to increase the supply to the extent required; if I can, he may only cultivate 6,000 acres, and, in a time of scarcity, be receiving a more than ample supply of water, while the crops of Government villagers, who pay their full water-tax, are being starved.

6. In the present incomplete state of the channels there is great difficulty in supplying even the existing cultivation fully when the season is dry and the river low; there are many applications made for extension of cultivation near the

and of the channels by Government villagers who are willing to pay the full amount of water-tax, and they should be attended to in preference to Zemindars who do not propose to pay full water-tax.

7. The distribution of water to Zemindari lands is always a matter of difficulty, as the exact extent of wet cultivation is not known, and there is every reason to believe that a great deal of water is wasted in Zemindari villages, while complaints are continually being made that the supply is insufficient. Without some check on the actual distribution of water to the fields, this evil would be increased by extending the cultivation on contract.

8. The object in giving the Zemindars a contract of this kind is, I presume, to induce them to extend wet cultivation. Hitherto Zemindari villagers have been backward in applying for water, and it has been supposed that there is consequently a decided objection among the ryots to use the Kistna water for irrigation, the principal cause assigned being the old complaint of 'soudu.' I am convinced that there is no such general objection to irrigation; that 'soudu' is a cry and nothing else; that Government villagers nearly everywhere will take water for irrigation if it can be supplied to them steadily, and that the reason Zemindari villagers are backward is that the Zemindars have assessed wet cultivation beyond the ryot's endurance. I consider the increase of cultivation of late years, most satisfactory, and I feel assured that as the channels are extended, and the supply of water improved, there will be no difficulty in getting land taken up. Under these circumstances I do not consider it advisable to supply water to Zemindari lands without charging the full amount of water-tax.

FORWARDED to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for information.

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Major, R.E.,
Supp. Engr., 1st Division, Kistna.

No. 1,061.

No. 278-A. Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The subject discussed in the letter of the Superintending Engineer, Kistna, to the Collector, is a very important one, and, whatever the ultimate decision of Government may be, the arrangements sanctioned and their effect will require to be very clearly set forth in connection with the delta completion estimates.

2. It appears to be proposed by the Collector to allow certain Zemindars to compound for an unlimited supply of water by a fixed payment, which apparently is to be based upon the average payments made for water during recent years. It apparently is anticipated that, should this composition be sanctioned, irrigation in the Zemindaries will be considerably extended, and, if so, the Government will obtain no direct return whatever from the additional area irrigated. This might be a matter of little consequence were there always water to spare, but there is no water to spare at present, and there are Government lands in several directions the irrigation of which must be postponed until the supply has been increased.

3. Additional water can be obtained only by the outlay proposed in the completion estimates, and, if these are to be sanctioned at all, it will be necessary to show that there will be fair return upon the outlay.

4. If water for Zemindaries be not specially provided in the estimates, it is clear that it cannot be supplied, as what may be carried by the canals will be intended for, and will have to go to, other sub-sections of the delta. What every canal and every principal distributary will supply has to be decided in preparing the project, and thereafter, without such modifications as the particular circumstances may require, no material alteration of the distribution can be made.

5. So far it has been assumed upon the facts of the delta irrigation hitherto, that comparatively small area within the limits of Zemindaries will be irrigated, and consequently it has not been proposed to carry much water on their account. The question as to what are the prospects of irrigation in these Zemindaries has

recently been remitted to the Revenue G. O., No. 2,844, dated 7th October 1874. Department for consideration, and upon

the information which will thus be obtained the canals affected by this question will be finally designed and arranged. If a large increase of area, without a corresponding increase of the revenue in the shape of water-rates, be shown to be the probable direction which extension of Zemindary irrigation would take, it is not difficult to predict that the water for such extension is not likely to be forthcoming.

6. If in order to avoid the difficulties attending the determination yearly of actual areas irrigated in Zemindaries, a composition for water-rate is considered desirable; this composition should, I think, be based on actual quantities supplied. The canals are designed to carry two cubic yards per acre per hour, and it would be perfectly simple to determine on this basis the charge for the water-supply of any tract of country. It would have also the collateral advantage of leading to a careful use of the water taken.

7. Lastly, it may be noticed that, as it cannot be desirable to promise what it may be impracticable to perform, it would seem to be necessary before any arrangements are concluded with the Zemindars, that the effect of those, which may be proposed by the Revenue Officers, on the estimates and on the direct returns from outlay, should be duly considered.

CAMP, GUNGUVOLLY, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
16th December 1874. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 279. ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1875, No. 393.

IRRIGATION, No. 17.

The foregoing papers will be communicated to the Revenue Department for early consideration with reference

to the important observation of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

(True Extract.)

Chas. Haller Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
Revenue Department.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

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14. To the Board of Directors