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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	419.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 2-3-1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Note by H.E. the Governor.

I would simply pass an order to the effect that the Govt will not at present disturb the arrangements referred to at para 6 of the Board's Proceedings dated 6th July 1874 as being in force in the 4 Districts there named.

The general question raised is difficult, but it need not be noticed in the Govt Order. I should myself be inclined to agree with Mr. Robinson, but it is impossible to give a positive opinion without knowing more than is before us as to how far the Tanjore Ryotwar system interferes with the interest-

interest of villagers. Upon this point Colonel Mullins and the Board of Revenue are diametrically at issue: but it is upon this that the whole question depends - Might we not ask the Board of Revenue to reconsider, with reference to Col. Mullins' statement that complaints are made?

Signed/ Hobart

23 Sept. 1874.

I think that orders should be issued that the Govt entirely approve of the principle - which is very generally in operation - and resolve that it shall be carried further and brought under regulation - by legislative action if necessary - in order to obviate such difficulties as those noticed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

I am satisfied that State action should absolutely cease in respect to ordinary farm-distribution. The people thoroughly understand it & only need to be aided in the municipal direction of their own habits and institutions

Sd/ W. Robinson

6 Augt 75.

Note by the Hon: Mr. Robinson.

There is no way whatever
to follow. The Govt have
determined that they
will not permit officials
to intermeddle with dis-
tributing water amongst
villagers in single villages -
that this will happily
leave the people to do
something on themselves.
But it is true also that
in many parts of the
country groups of villages
have been managing
their own water works
and managed them fairly
well

well; and it is this condition which I would earnestly urge Govt. to compel and strengthen and extend in any possible way, under any moderate aid in regulation and settlement of disputes which the Revenue or Public Works officers can afford.

I demur entirely to general aspersions in respect to the unfairness and selfish-ness of Ryots amongst themselves. On the whole there is as much fairness and amenability to custom as will be found anywhere, and I further believe that more is really taken out of the Ryots by the water bailiffs & the state, whom I would keep out of places where they have not now foot hold, than by any unfairness amongst themselves.

Of course there are cases where it may be desirable to intervene and these the Chief Engineer for Irrigation can bring forward.

I would not place the Chief Engineers Memo on record but merely say that the Govt. on further consider-ation concur in the views of the Board and resolve not to disturb conditions which have long subsisted useful, but that they will be prepared to con-sider any cases which may be brought to notice where change is obviously expe-dient.

It is a mistake to enunciate as principles something which is at variance with the existing practice of the country.

Sd/ W. Robinson
2 Septr 72

Note by the Honble Mr Sim

I think the principle enunciated in the draft is correct – the supply to the several villages interested is, as the rule, to be regulated by Govt officers – the distribution in the villages among the ryots to be left in the hands of the ryots themselves and the village officers.

Sd/ J. D. Sim

2 Septr 1874.

Remarks of Members of Govt. on paper in the P. W. department regarding village & field channels.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th November 1874.

Read the following papers :—

No. 307. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 13th August 1874, No. 1,016.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th July 1874, No. 1,759.

Read the following replies of Collectors to Board's Proceedings, dated 31st March 1873, No. 432 :—

From the Collector of Ganjam,	dated 10th Feb. 1874,	No.	404.
,, ,, of Vizagapatam,	,, 21st June 1873,	,,	904.
,, ,, of Godavery,	,, 15th Dec. ,,	,,	414.
recorded in Board's Proca., dated 19th Feb. 1874, No. 372.			
From the Collector of Nellore,	dated 10th June 1873,	No.	1,318.
,, ,, of Bellary,	,, 26th Aug. ,,	,,	288.
,, ,, of Cuddapah,	,, 15th May ,,	,,	65.
,, ,, of Kurnool,	,, 7th Oct. ,,	,,	315.
,, ,, of Chingleput,	,, 23rd July ,,	,,	291.
,, ,, of North Arcot,	,, 22nd May ,,	,,	287.
,, ,, of South Arcot,	,, 22nd Oct. ,,	,,	407.
,, ,, of Tanjore,	,, 12th June ,,	,,	208.
,, ,, of Trichinopoly,	,, 7th Oct. ,,	,,	228.
,, ,, of Madura,	,, 28th May 1874,	,,	153.
,, ,, of Tinnevelly,	,, 16th June 1873,	,,	321.
,, ,, of Coimbatore,	,, 16th May ,,	,,	89.
,, Commissioner of Neilgherries,	,, 17th ,, ,,	,,	40.
,, Collector of Salem,	,, 12th ,, ,,	,,	135.
,, ,, of South Canara,	,, 6th Feb. 1874,	,,	236.
recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 1,315 Mis., dated 25th Feb. 1874.			
From the Collector of Malabar, dated 11th June 1873, No. 147.			

These replies will be submitted to Government, with reference to G. O., dated 5th March 1873, No. 713, Public Works Department, in which the following passage occurs :—

"Instructions will accordingly be issued in the Revenue and Public Works Departments absolutely restricting the functions of the subordinate officers of the latter department to the regulation in the water supply in channels which supply the lands of more than one village, and vesting in the village officers the charge of the water supplied to single villages from the moment it quits the regulating sluice, over which, however, they will have no control."

2. The state of the case in the several districts is as follows :—

Ganjam.—The system is already in force.

Vizagapatam.—Do. do.

Godavery.—As regards this district the matter is settled in G. O., dated 29th May 1874, No. 651. The transfer is to take place from the beginning of fasli 1284. No new Neerguntics are allowed, though the Collector said he might possibly want some.

Kistna.—The case of this district will be disposed of separately, as the Collector's reply involves other subjects.

Nellore.—The system is already in force.

Bellary.—The system is already in force, except as regards the Tungabudra channels, and when the Collector wrote in July 1873 he was about to order that it should be in force in these channels also.

Cuddapah.—The village officers have charge of all distribution channels. There are no large works.

Kurnool.—The village officers have charge of all the channels, but more Neergunties are wanted, and the emoluments of those already in existence should be improved.

Chingleput.—The arrangement can be carried out, but the Neergunties must first be increased as recommended by Mr. Pelly in his letter to Government of the 25th September 1863, No. 1,620.

North Arcot.—The system is already in force.

South Arcot.—All field channels and most village channels are under the control of the villagers, but there are some long channels to tanks supplying only one village, which are kept in order by the Public Works Department, and it is desirable that this arrangement should continue.

Tanjore.—The villagers control all field and village channels, but more than this they manage the sluices at the head of the village channels, and have always done so. This practice works well, and should not be interfered with.

Trichinopoly.—The control over field and village channels is exercised by the villagers. The distribution of water in the Trichinopoly Taluq is supervised by the establishment paid out of the Irrigation Cess Fund.

Madura.—The Revenue Department supervises the distribution of water from all the channels. The best are much out of repair; sluices are wanted. There are seventeen channels irrigating more than one village. It would be useless to transfer them to the Department Public Works under existing circumstances.

Tinnevelly.—The case of field and village channels is provided for, as the new settlement is introduced.

Coimbatore.—Mr. Wedderburn introduced the same system some time ago, and finds it works well. In the sub-division all the channels are kept in repair by the ryots.

Nerilgherries.—There are no such works.

Salem.—The system is already in force.

South Canara.—There are no such works.

Malabar.— Do. do.

3. It thus appears that no orders are required so far as regards Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Nellore, Bellary, Cuddapah, North Arcot, and Salem.

4. In Tinnevelly the Collector does not state whether the system approved by Government is in force in those parts of the district which have not yet been settled. He will report more fully.

5. In Godavery the matter is already settled. The case of the Kistna District will be dealt with in separate proceedings.

6. In Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore, the village officers do more and the subordinates less than they would under the system which Government wish to establish. The arrangements work well, however, and should certainly not be disturbed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th November 1874.

7. In South Arcot there are some long channels of considerable importance supplying the tanks of large villages. According to the letter of the Government Order, these channels ought to be kept up by the villagers, but they are of such a character that they ought to be kept under the control of the Public Works Department.

8. In Chingleput the Collector states generally that the new system can be introduced when Government allow him 534 Neergunties in addition to the 337 which he has now for 2,672 tanks. The cost would be at Rupees 30 each, Rupees 19,506 more than the present cost. In all probability the Public Works Department have never had anything to do with most of the tanks, and the Collector will report what work is done now by officers of the Department Public Works which the new system will impose on village officers, and what Neergunties are required on this account.

From the Hon. C. Pelly, to Government, dated 25th September 1863, No. 1,620.

9. The Kurnool representation that more Neergunties are wanted, etc., should be separately submitted, and the proposals should show how the necessary expenditure can be met from the Village Service Fund.

Irrigation, No. 2.

No special orders are called for on these proceedings. Paragraphs 6 and 7 will be considered in the Public Works Department. The further reports from Tinnevelly, Chingleput, and Kurnool, will be dealt with when hereafter received.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. DEC. SCOTT, Major, R.E.,
Under Secretary, P.W.D.,
for Acting Secy. to Government, R.D.

No. 563-A.

No. 308. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

I DO not concur fully with the views of the Board of Revenue as to the propriety of allowing the system of distribution of irrigation water in Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Coimbatore to continue indefinitely, but I am not prepared to advocate any general change at present, though proposals to that end in particular cases may from time to time be made. The system does not, in my opinion, either in Tanjore or in Trichinopoly work well for the general interests, and it hardly needs argument to show that such general interests cannot be secured when individuals are allowed to take as much water from the general supply available as they can divert into their channels. 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. Regarding Madura I have no information.

2. No changes will be proposed unless there be good reason to suppose that such changes are necessary, and unless the means of carrying out and working an improved system are available, and these remarks are now submitted to prevent

its being assumed, on what appears to be *ex parte* evidence, that the present system in certain districts is one which should not be interfered with.

OOTACAMUND, *1st August* 1874. (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E., *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

No. 309. ORDER THEREON, 18th November 1874, No. 3,261.

IRRIGATION, No. 32.

HIS Excellency the Governor in Council will not at present disturb the arrangements referred to in paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings as being in force in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore Districts in respect to the distribution of water from village and field channels. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation however affirms that the system which prevails in those districts is liable to affect prejudicially individual interests and has given rise to frequent complaints. The subject will accordingly be referred back to the Board of Revenue for a further expression of their opinion.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
To District Engineers.

Ed. E. C. Shankar.
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PUBLIC WORKS.

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

—a—24:

Madras, 6, 167, November 1874. No. 3,201

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 307-309

Village and Tank Channels.—The subject of the utilization of water from [illegible] arrangements as being [illegible] in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, [illegible] Districts, referred to the Board of Revenue for a further expression of their opinion.

No. 419

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information and guidance. They will be instructed the further attention called for in the Col above recorded.

5 March 75