

1118
(1) Number of Pages 6
(2) Date of repair 13.5.69
(3) Initials of the Referencer 22.5.68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1118
~~B.P. No.~~

Press
~~Mis.~~

~~Dated~~ 17. 8. 1966 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

lies

1118

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1876.*

No. 172. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd July 1876 No. 1,882 :—

Read again the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 14th October 1873, No. 1,107, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Mylapore and Nungumbaukum Tanks in the Chingleput District.*— Approving the proposal to transfer those portions of the beds of the — to the district of Madras, and requesting the submission of the necessary Notification at an early date. Desiring to be furnished with a history of all the Madras tanks, in view to the proposal to charge for second crop being considered, and sanctioning the entertainment of two clerks for the preparation of Irrigation Registers, as well as a carriage allowance of Rupees 3 per diem to the Board's Acting Sheristadar while employed on this duty.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 17th December 1873, No. 1,450, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Mylapore and Nungumbaukum Tanks in Chingleput District.*— Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting Collector's letter regarding transfer of lands in beds of — to Madras District.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th May 1875, No. 1,426.

ABSTRACT.—*Cultivation*—in tank beds in Madras District.—Further report on the subject of prevention of — and the cost of the measure, awaited, and Collector directed to expedite the marking out of contour lines of these tanks. Attention of Collector of Chingleput District also called to the matter.

MISCELLANEOUS No. 6,837.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th July 1875.

From G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 12th July 1875, No. 200.

With reference to paragraph 5 of my letter recorded in the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,426, dated 26th May 1875,

	Pay per Mensm.	Annual Cost.
	rs.	rs.
1 Inspector or Surveyor ...	40	480
2 Lascars	14	168
1 Clerk to compile Registers.	25	300
1 Do. to attend correspondence	20	240
Total...	99	1,188

I have the honor to report that the Deputy Collector is prepared to undertake the completion of the Irrigation Registers ordered to be compiled in G.O., No. 777, dated 24th July 1873, if a temporary establishment of the strength marginally noted is sanctioned for one year.

2. The Deputy Collector thinks that batta should be allowed to these men on the scale allowed to Collector's Establishment, as the duties entrusted to them

will keep them on the move constantly. I agree with him and accordingly recommend his proposal for the favorable consideration of the Board.

3. The small amount of work turned out by R. Ragoonath Row, and a reference to paragraph 2 of the present Deputy Collector's letter embodied in the Board's Proceedings quoted in paragraph 1 *supra*, will show the Board of the necessity of this extra establishment.

THE Collector is requested to explain the necessity of a Surveyor and Lascars. It seems to the Board that a Conicopoly on Rupees 20 per mensem would be able to measure portions of fields with sufficient accuracy, and that a Correspondence Clerk is unnecessary.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Madras.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 22nd November 1875, No. 3,342,
Public Works Department.

ABSTRACT.—Tanks, Presidency District.—Estimates, amounting to Rs. 2,220,
for repairing certain —, sanctioned.

Read also the following letter from R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 23rd June 1876, No. 210:—

WITH reference to G.O., No. 1,107, dated 14th October 1873, I have the honor to report on the tanks in the Madras District.

2. There is nothing on record either in this office or in that of the Collectorate of Chingleput as to the history of the tanks under reference; there is, however, no doubt that these tanks were irrigation reservoirs belonging to the villages, which from time to time came to be included in the Town of Madras. At first Madras consisted only of Fort St. George and Chennapatnam or Black Town. Subsequently, in A.D. 1690, Egmore and Pursetankam were granted to the Company. Twenty years later Veyasurpaudy and Nungumbankum were acquired in the same manner. In 1742 a Sanad was obtained from the reigning Nawab for Perambore and the neighbouring villages. When granted, all these were paddy-growing villages, and the tanks supplied water for irrigating their lands. As the Town of Madras extended, these villages came to be included within its limits.

3. There is nothing, as far as can be discovered, to justify the opinion that the extent of land now cultivated under the tanks is greater than in former times; on the contrary, there is every reason to suppose that it is much less. The extension of the town has everywhere diminished the extent of land available for cultivation, and lands formerly cultivated are taken up for compounds.

4. Most of the lands now under cultivation pay a uniform quit-rent of Rupees 5-4-0 a cawny, though in some few instances the quit-rent is higher and

in some lower than that rate. The soil is, as a rule, poor, and were it classified and assessed according to productiveness of soil it is not likely that there would be any increase of revenue. Some of the land bears a second crop, but wherever this is the case the means of irrigation supplied by the tank is supplemented by private wells.

5. With a view of ascertaining the extent of land newly brought under cultivation and irrigated by the tanks under reference, the preparation of Irrigation Registers was ordered, and a small establishment sanctioned for the purpose. The amount of labor involved in the preparation of these records seems to have been much under-estimated. The former Deputy Collector calculated to get the work completed in two months; at the end of a year and a half he was only able to make a rough register for a portion of the lands under the Mylapore tank. On the transfer of the Deputy Collector to Indore, the work was undertaken by the ordinary Revenue Establishment, and now, after the lapse of nearly a year, the Deputy Collector is able to forward a register, not entirely trustworthy, of the land under the Veyasurpaudy tank. The difficulties experienced do not appear to have been foreseen when the time which would be taken up in the preparation of the registers was estimated. There are no adungal accounts, there is no village establishment, there are no field marks on the ground, and consequently it is difficult to identify the survey numbers. Under these circumstances, if the work is to be done at all in any reasonable time it is absolutely necessary that the additional establishment recommended by Mr. Hunter-Blair should be entertained.

Vide letter recorded in the Board's Proceedings, No. 6,837, of 29th July 1875.

6. From previous correspondence on this subject it appears that it is intended to impose water-rate on all lands brought under cultivation subsequent to the preparation of the Irrigation Register. The revenue derived from this source will be infinitesimal, if any, and unless it be the intention to tax all irrigated lands, to do which, I believe, special legislation will be necessary, it is worthy of consideration whether the cost involved in making these registers is justifiable. Much of the irrigated lands, besides the quit-rent, pays a tax to the Municipality, and it is doubtful whether it would bear a water-rate in addition.

7. In their Proceedings, No. 223, dated 26th January 1876, the Board called on the Collector of Madras to suggest any means by which money for the repair of the tanks under report could be raised. The Deputy Collector is of opinion that as the tanks are of use in a sanitary point of view to the inhabitants of this town the Municipality might justly be called upon to contribute to their conservation, more especially as they at present impose a tax on cocoanut gardens, and the proposed Act, will have the power of taxing all cultivated lands. I agree in thinking that the Municipality might justly be asked to pay half the cost of the up-keep of the tanks. As to the other half, I would observe that, if the quit-rent, the rate charged on cultivated lands is equal to what would be assessed including water-rate were the land classified and assessed, the Government undertake the repairs of tanks in other districts, there seems why a special rate for repair of tanks should be levied from ryots' lands within the Madras District.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1876.*

8. A report on the cultivation of land within the beds of the tanks under report, together with the amount of compensation payable to holders of such lands will be submitted on the receipt of the information required from the Chingleput Collectorate.

In their Order of the 14th October 1873, No. 1,107, the Government approved the proposal to transfer to the district of Madras those portions of the beds of the Mylapore and Nungumbankum tanks which are now within the limits of the Chingleput District; called for a report on the history of the Madras tanks from the earliest times with a view to the decision of the question whether water taken for a second crop should be charged for, and sanctioned the entertainment of a small temporary establishment for the preparation of Irrigation Registers.

2. The Collector of Madras now reports that there is nothing on record relating to the history of the tanks in question, but that there is every reason to believe that they were irrigation reservoirs, that there is nothing to justify the opinion that the extent of land cultivated under the tanks has increased, and that most of the lands under cultivation pay a uniform quit-rent of Rupees 5-4-0 a cawny, which is as high a rate as the quality of the soil warrants. It appears that but little progress has been made towards the completion of the Irrigation Registers owing to pressure of current work, and that the entertainment of the special establishment proposed by Mr. Hunter-Blair at an annual cost of Rupees 1,188, is absolutely necessary, if the work is to be finished within a reasonable time. Mr. Melville does not consider that the small amount of revenue which is to be looked for from the imposition of a water-rate in cases of extension of cultivation warrants the expenditure involved in the preparation of the registers, and proposes, with reference to the recent order in the Department of Public Works calling for suggestions as to the means by which money for the up-keep of the tanks might be raised, that the Municipality should be required to contribute towards their conservancy, more especially as a portion of the Municipal revenues is derived from cultivation.

3. The Board concur with the Collector in thinking that the circumstances of the case do not warrant the imposition of a special water-rate and the expenditure of a considerable sum in the preparation of Irrigation Registers which is a necessary preliminary. The work has proved more difficult and tedious than was originally anticipated, and when it is completed it is doubtful whether any return, commensurate with the labor and expenditure involved, may be expected, and whether a water-rate can be imposed without recourse to special legislation. The cost of maintenance and conservancy must therefore be a charge on the revenue, but a contribution from the Municipality might fairly be demanded.

4. As regards cultivation in the tank-beds and the amount of compensation payable to the holders, a report is promised on receipt of certain information from the Chingleput Collectorate. The attention of the Collector of Chingleput was called to the matter in the Board's Proceedings, dated 26th May 1875, No. 1,426, and Mr. Barlow will now state what progress has been made in the inquiry, and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1876.*

when the draft Notification of transfer of portions of the Mylapore and Nungumbankum tanks is likely to be submitted.

(True Copies and Extract.)
(Signed)

C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 173.

ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1876, No. 1,118.

Irrigation, No. 2.

THE issue of a Notification transferring portions of the Mylapore and Nungumbankum tanks to the Madras District

should no longer be deferred, as also the submission of information regarding cultivation in the tank-beds, and the amount of compensation which will, if expedient to suppress it, be payable for the same. It is presumed that the Nirgunti Establishment, sanctioned in G.O., 24th July 1873, No. 777, attend to the regulation and distribution of water, and that the work is now satisfactorily performed.

2. As it now appears that the tanks, though originally irrigation reservoirs, are of but little importance as works of irrigation, the cultivation under them having received little or no extension and the lands themselves paying a uniform quit-rent, which is of the nature of tax levied on building-sites and different from an assessment determined on a fixed share of the produce, and as they are doubtless of great public convenience in a thickly-populated city, the question raised by the Board that a contribution might fairly be demanded from the Municipality for the maintenance and conservancy will be referred to the Financial Department for consideration.

3. The imposition of a general water-rate is, under the circumstances stated, quite out of the question; but the desirability of charging a fee for water supplied to the gardens of private persons on application may be considered, as the surplus water thus utilised may yield a small income towards recouping Government for the cost of the Nirgunti Establishment.

4. The task of preparing Irrigation Registers must, for the reasons stated, be given up. The Government cannot but feel surprise at the difficulties in the way of carrying out the undertaking not having been foreseen by experienced Revenue Officers.

5. The Government observe with displeasure that two years and eight months have been allowed to elapse between the issue of their order in 1873 and the date of the Board's Proceedings under acknowledgment.

[Signature]
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Grubert.

1000. - 4-30