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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1309	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 21.9.1876 196 .

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st September 1876.*

No. 211. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th September 1876:—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd November 1875, No. 3,194.

Read also the following replies:—

From the President Local Fund Boards, Godavery District, dated 29th March 1876, No. 32, and 10th May 1876, No. 121.

From the Collector of Kistna, dated 3rd July 1876, No. 1,108.

"	"	of Nellore,	"	2nd May	"	"	1,112.
"	"	of Kurnool,	"	8th March	"	"	116.
"	"	of Tanjore,	"	12th June	"	"	2,158.
"	"	of Tinnevely,	"	6th March	"	"	149.

Read also G.O., dated 2nd September 1876, No. 2,072.

THE Government of India having inquired, with reference to the provision made in the Madras Irrigation Budget-estimate for 1875-76 for the Polaveram Island embankment, why the Inam-holders should be exempted from paying a share of the cost of the works in proportion to the protection that will be afforded to their lands; and, with reference to the provision for the investigation and construction of village drainage works in the Godavery Delta, having suggested that Local Funds should be required to defray such portion of the cost as may be due to other causes than the effects of irrigation works on the principles enunciated in a letter to the Government of the North-West Provinces regarding the adjustment of such charges, the Board were called upon to report regarding the obligation of holders of Inam lands to contribute to the Polaveram Island embankments, and to obtain the opinions of the

G.O., dated 6th November 1875, No. 2,357, Revenue Department.

Paragraph 4, G.O., dated 2nd October 1875, No. 2,840, Public Works Department.

natural and artificial causes, respectively. The consideration of the question of the provision of funds other than Imperial for the cost of such village drainage in the deltas, as has not been rendered necessary by irrigation works, was also referred to the Presidents of the Local Fund Boards, Godavery and Kistna Districts, for report, through the Board of Revenue, in G.O., dated 29th November 1875, No. 2,323, Financial Department.

2. The Board thereupon called upon certain Collectors in their Proceedings read above to report, but the majority of the officers consulted appear to have been misled by the abstract of the order of Government, and to have confined their attention to the question of the liability of Inamdars to contribute towards works of public improvement; whereas what was required was the fullest information obtainable as to the extent to which the introduction of an artificial water-supply has given rise to the necessity for drainage of the villages situated within the tracts so irrigated. Extended local inquiry was desired, but the Collectors of Nellore and Tinnevely alone have furnished any information on the subject. The former is satisfied after consulting the Tahsildars of those taluqs affected by irrigation works that there is no urgent necessity for any special action. The latter states that there are no cases of water

logging, though there are cases in which drainage is required owing to the effects of irrigation works constructed by Government, and there are others where drainage would be an advantage solely from a sanitary point of view. He considers the rules laid down by the Government of India fair, but points out that legislation would be required to enable Government to apportion the cost of works beneficial to private property, such as reclamation schemes, and to levy the share due from the owners thereof.

The other officers consulted will now be requested to submit their views after consulting those competent to give an opinion on the question referred to them, viz., the extent to which the necessity for village drainage is due to natural and artificial causes and to the incidence of the charges for such works.

3. To the reference to the Financial Department, the Godavery Boards only have replied, and they accept the principles laid down for regulating the incidence of the charges. It appears, however, from a recent letter submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd August 1876, No. 2,162, that the villagers object to the drainage works which have recently been carried out for their benefit as impeding traffic and being a source of inconvenience and danger. The Kistna Boards have not replied to the reference, and they will now be requested to do so.

4. As to whether the necessity for local drainage arises from natural or artificial causes, and whether it is due to irrigation or not, is a matter of fact to be determined by examination in the case of each village or group of villages; but a glance at the general condition of the deltas of the Godavery and Kistna before and after the construction of the anicuts will show pretty clearly the probable cause of defect in the general drainage of the country. The formation of the deltas in so far as they have resulted from the deposit of the alluvial soil brought down by the rivers has been one of gradual slope towards the sea and away from the banks of the rivers. Had there been no disturbing action at work, the slope would have been even and gradual throughout; but as the alluvium advanced into the waters of the sea, it was met by the action of the surf. Breaches were formed at intervals and lines of sand drift accumulated on the successive lines of beach; it has followed, therefore, that the gradual slope of the delta has been broken in places by ridges lying parallel to the present sea-beach; behind these ridges are hollows wherein water either from rain or overflow of the river lodges.

5. Before the construction of the anicut these hollows were filled in years of heavy rain or overflow from the river and left to dry gradually. They formed swampy tracts known then, and in many instances now also, as "Doas" and "Madugas"; they were in those days used as reservoirs for irrigation, and cultivation was carried on round their margins. As the channels advanced after the construction of the anicuts, these swamps were rendered useless as sources of irrigation. Some of them have been drained and cultivated, but others still remain, and these are among the tracts now calling for drainage. The anicuts had nothing to do with the formation of these depressions, but they are the sole cause of these tracts being kept constantly full of water. Formerly they usually dried up in the dry season, but now that they get the drainage from the paddy-fields throughout the season, they seldom, if ever, dry up, and villages on their margin suffer accordingly. Formerly, too, the population was smaller than it is now, and the effect of swamps was less felt.

6. As the continuance of these swamps is due to the water from the irrigation works, their drainage is clearly the duty of the State. Many of them, too, will be valuable for cultivation when drained, and will thus contribute to the revenue, which is another reason for drainage at State cost. A notable instance of this kind is found in the Romperu swamp, in Bapatla Taluq, in the Kistna District. If the Government undertake the duty of draining these and similar tracts, the Board think the villages may fairly be left to provide for their own requirements. The villagers are averse to the system of drainage to which villages are now being subjected, and the Board are not surprised at it. It seems that a deep ditch is dug down the middle of the main street, and is connected by cross liches with all the side streets. The streets are rendered impassable to carts, and transit of any description is difficult. Many children and old people are exposed to the constant risk of broken limbs whenever they go abroad. It is not surprising, therefore, that the people prefer the chance of fever. The Board can hardly suppose that Government intended that their orders should be thus carried out.

7. In connection with the question of village drainage, the subject of the proper incidence of the cost of drainage works undertaken in the interests of agriculture has recently been remitted for consideration (*vide* G.O., 2nd August 1876, No. 1,972, Public Works Department, paragraph 3, Section 2). The Board think it may fairly be laid down that in all deltas where irrigation has been undertaken on a large scale, — indeed in all tracts artificially irrigated, — drainage should be undertaken as part of the same work. In the first place, if drainage works should proceed *pari passu* with irrigation works, the constructor of the works of irrigation is bound to provide an escape for the surplus water flowing from such works; and, in the next place, the full benefit of irrigation cannot be felt without corresponding drainage. There always must be a large quantity of surplus or waste water, and if it has no means of exit it will swamp and destroy the usefulness of land somewhere. It would, in almost all cases, be to the interest of the Government to drain as well as to irrigate. The Government Order in question seems to contemplate the construction of drainage works in the interests of agriculture independently of irrigation works. Such works have never been undertaken by the State in this Presidency as far as the Board are aware. Imperial Funds would be properly expended on them if remunerative, not otherwise. The Board do not, however, see how any question can possibly arise regarding them. If Government irrigate, they are bound, at the same time, to provide an escape for their waste water; but if land is swamped by other causes than irrigation, neither Government nor any one else will dream of draining it in the interests of agriculture, unless it will pay to do so. It may be necessary to drain for sanitary purposes, but this is the work of Local Fund Boards aided, if necessary, by Provincial Funds.

8. As regards the obligation of Inam holders to contribute to the Polaveram embankment, the Board observe that the Government Pleader has already given an opinion in regard to the question as it affects the Guttinadivi proprietor; and it seems to the Board that Inamdars are in exactly the same position. Viewing it as an abstract question, there can be no doubt that if benefited by a work of this nature, Inamdars ought, in equity, to contribute towards the cost; but there is apparently a divided opinion as to whether the work is beneficial to them. It is stated that they

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st September 1876.*

prefer their lands being flooded occasionally on account of the fertilizing properties of the silt deposited. One thing is certain, however, that as the law stands at present, Inamdars whose lands lie within the embankment cannot be compelled to contribute, and that appears to be a sufficient answer to the inquiry of the Government of India. The Collector of Kurnool discusses the question of the principles which should guide legislation for the distribution of the cost of protective works between Government and land-holders, but this does not appear to be the subject referred for consideration.

9. The information called for at paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 2nd October 1875, No. 2,840, Public Works Department, regarding the extent of Inam lands within and without the embankment has been furnished in separate Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 212.

ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1876, No. 1,309.

Irrigation No. 3.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works
Department with reference to the orders
quoted.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Etd. F. R. Bantleman.

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in the Godavary Delta having suggested that Local Funds should be required to defray such portion of the cost as may be due to other causes than the effects of Irrigation. Works on the principles enunciated in a letter to the Government of the North West Provinces regarding the adjustment of ~~estate~~ charges, the Board were called upon to report regarding the obligation of holders of Inam lands to contribute to the Volamram Island Embankments, and to obtain the opinion of the collectors and experienced inhabitants of the Godavary and other irrigated districts in regard to the extent to which the necessity for drainage in general is due to natural and artificial causes respectively. The consideration of the question of the provision of funds other than Imperial for the cost of such village drainage in the deltas as has not been rendered necessary by irrigation works was also referred to the Presidents of the Local Fund Boards - Godavary and Krishna Districts - for report through the Board of

G.O. dated 6th Nov 1875, No. 2347. Rev. Dept.

para 4, G.O. dated 2nd Oct 1875, No. 2840. D.P.M.

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Revenue in G.O. dated 29th November 1875, No. 2323. Financial Department.

2. The Board, thereupon called upon certain Collectors in their Proceedings read above to report, but the majority of the officers consulted appear to have been misled by the abstract of the order of Government, and have confined their attention to the question of the liability of landholders to contribute towards works of public improvement, whereas what was required was the fullest information obtainable as to the extent to which the introduction of an artificial water supply has given rise to the necessity for drainage of the villages situated within the tracts so irrigated. Extended local enquiry was desired but the collectors of Bellary and Jinnevelly alone have furnished any information on the subject. The former is satisfied after consulting the

Sahaidars of those taluqs affected by irrigation works that there is no urgent necessity for any special action. The latter states that there are no cases of water logging, though there are cases in which drainage is required owing to the effects of irrigation works controlled by Government and there are others where drainage would be an advantage solely from a sanitary point of view. He considers the rules laid down by the Government of India fair but points out, that legislation would be required to enable Government to apportion the cost of works beneficial to private property ^{such} as reclamation schemes, and to levy the share due from the owners thereof.

The other officers consulted will now be requested to submit their views after consulting those competent to give

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an opinion, on the question referred to them, viz. the extent to which the necessity for village drainage is due to natural and artificial causes and to the incidence of the charges for such works.

3. As to the reference in the Financial Department, the Godavary Boards only have replied, and they accept the principles laid down for regulating the incidence of the charges. It appears however from a recent letter submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd

August 1896, No. 2162, that the villagers object to the drainage works which have recently been carried out for their benefit as impeding traffic, and being a source of inconvenience and danger. The Krishna Boards have not replied to the reference, and they will now be requested to do so.

4. As to whether the necessity for

local drainage arises from natural or artificial causes and whether it is due to irrigation or not, is a matter of fact to be determined by examination in the case of each village or group of villages; but a glance at the general condition of the Deltas of the Godavary, and Krishna before and after the construction of the alicut will shew pretty clearly the probable cause of defect in the general drainage of the country. The formation of the Deltas in so far as they have resulted from the deposit of the alluvial soil brought down by the rivers has been one of gradual slope towards the sea and away from the banks of the rivers. Had there been no disturbing action at work, the slope would have been even and gradual throughout, but

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as the alluvium advanced into the waters of the sea, it was met by the action of the surf; beaches were formed at intervals, and lines of sand drift accumulated on the successive lines of beach; it has followed, therefore, that the gradual slope of the Delta has been broken in places by ridges lying parallel to the present sea beach; behind these ridges are hollows wherein water either from rain or overflow of the river lodges.

5. Before the construction of the alicut these hollows were filled in years of heavy rain or overflow from the River, and left to dry gradually, they formed swampy tracts known then and in many instances now also, as 'Doas', and 'Madugas'; they were in those days used as reservoirs for irrigation.

and cultivation was carried on round
their margins - as the channels advanced
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these swamps were rendered useless,
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others still remain, and these are
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6. As to the continuance of these swamps
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for drainage at State cost; a notable
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Romperu swamp in Bapatla Taluq
in the Krishna District. If the Govern-
ment undertakes the duty of draining
these and similar tracts, the Board
think the villages may fairly be
left to provide for their own require-
ments. The villagers are averse to

the system of drainage to which villages are now being subjected, and the Board are not surprised at it. It seems that a deep ditch is dug down the middle of the main street and is connected by cross ditches with all the side streets. The streets are rendered impassable to carts, and transit of any description is difficult. Many children and old people are exposed to the constant risk of broken limbs whenever they go abroad. It is not surprising therefore that the people prefer the chance of fever. The Board can hardly suppose that Government intended that their orders should be thus carried out.

7 In connection with the question of

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village drainage, the subject of the proper incidence of the cost of drainage works undertaken in the interests of Agriculture has recently been permitted for consideration vide G. O. 2nd August 1876, No: 1972, D. P. H. para 3, sec 2. The Board think it may fairly be laid down that in all Deltas where irrigation has been undertaken on a large scale, indeed in all tracts artificially irrigated, drainage should be undertaken as part of the same works. In the first place, if drainage works should proceed pari passu with irrigation works, the constructor of the works of irrigation is bound to provide an escape for the surplus water flowing from such works, and in the next place, the full benefit of irrigation cannot be felt without

corresponding drainage; there always
must be a large quantity of surplus
or waste water, and if it has no
means of exit it will swamp, and
destroy the usefulness of land some-
-where. It would in almost all
cases be to the interest of the Govern-
-ment to drain as well as to irrigate.

The Government Policy in question seems
to contemplate the construction of
drainage works in the interests of
agriculture independently of irriga-
-tion works. Such works have never
been undertaken by the State in this
Presidency as far as the Board are
aware. Imperial funds would be properly
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otherwise. The Board do not however

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will dream of draining it in the
interests of agriculture unless it will
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to drain for sanitary purposes, but
this is the work of Local Fund Boards
aided, if necessary by Provincial
Funds.

8. As regards the obligation of drain
holders to contribute to the ~~Plough~~ and
Embankment, the Board observe that
the Government, ^{Phades} has already given

opinion in regard to the question, as it
affects the Cutchindian Proprietors, and
it seems to the Board that Inamdars
are in exactly the same position. Viewing
it as an abstract question there can
be no doubt that, if benefited, by a
work of this nature, Inamdars ought
in equity, to contribute towards the
cost, but there is apparently a divided
opinion as to whether the work is beneficial
to them. It is stated that they prefer
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G. O. 2nd Sept-
1875, No. 1316.

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the question of the principles which
should guide legislation for the distri-
-bution of the cost of protective works
-between Government and landholders
but this does not appear to be the
subject referred for consideration.

9. The information called for at para 2
of G. O. dated 2nd October 1875, No. 2840
D. P. W. regarding the extent of Inam
lands within and without the embank-
-ment has been furnished in separate
Proceedings.

Wm. D. B. G.
H. Stokes

Ag. Secretary
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department, with a printed
file of Colliery replies.

Wm. D. B. G.
H. Stokes

no. 3-

No 1709

communicated to the Public works
Department with reference to the
order quoted.

21 September 1876

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Proceedings of the
Board of Governors

Adapted 18th September 1965.

Republ. 15-11-11

Dec 18th -

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The
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