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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1639	Press
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Dated	13 - 11 - 196	1876

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1639

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th November 1876.*

No. 168. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, dated 17th October 1876, No. 2,779:—

ABSTRACT.—*Tank Ayacuts, Cuddap and Kurnool Districts.*—Passing orders on endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation submitting letter from the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, suggesting arrangements for promoting cultivation of —.

No. 169. ORDER THEREON, 13th November 1876, No. 1,639.

Irrigation, No. 2.

THE proposal commends itself to Government. The relaxation of the existing rule regarding the charge on lands irrigated by tanks supplied partly by canal-water will accordingly be sanctioned as a temporary measure. The Board will issue the necessary instructions to the Collectors without delay.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Erd. F. R. Bantleman.

No 252. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
dated Ootacamund, 9th October 1876, No. 217 W :—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and
Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer
for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 29 September 1876, No. 98.

Uncultivated Ayacuts, Cuddapah District.

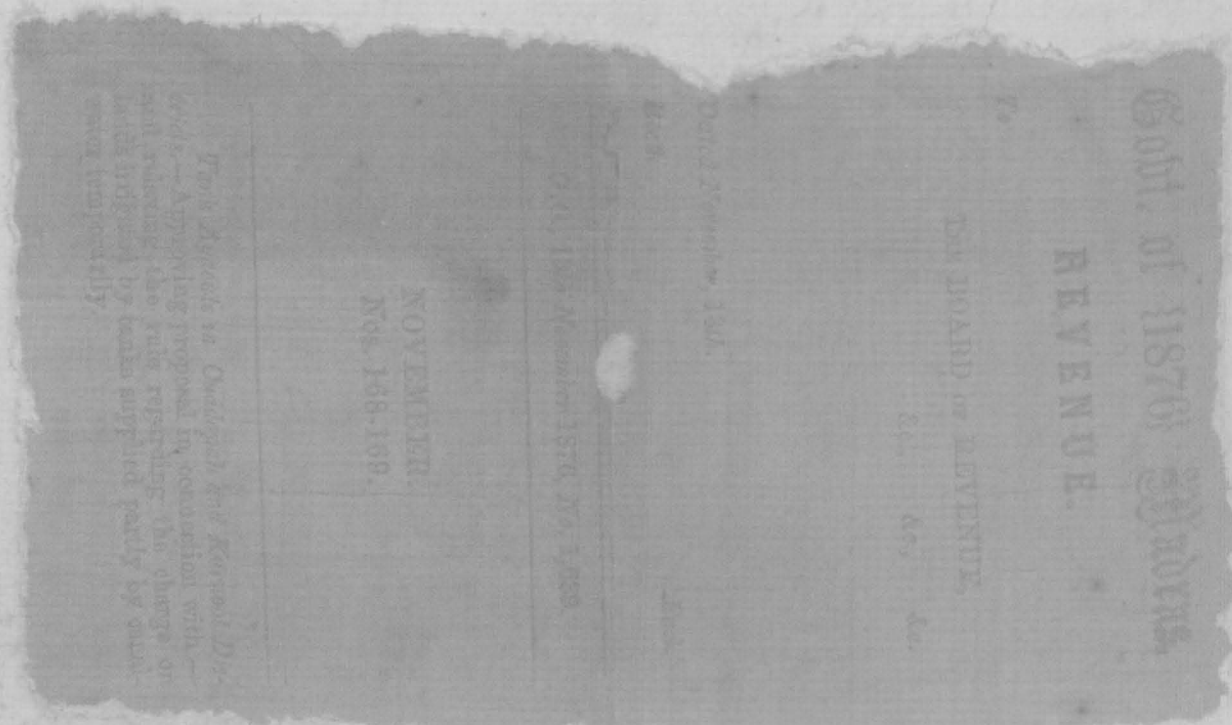
I HAVE the honor to ask you whether you think that anything can be done to
promote the cultivation of tank ayacuts this year, and, if so, to bring the subject to
the notice of Government.

2. I have received news to-day, as you will see below, which determines me to
write at once on the subject; though I must write now without a full knowledge of the
subject, and may be in error on some points. But since I only suppose that a little
discretionary power granted to the Collectors is necessary, any errors will be thoroughly
corrected by them. The fact that thousands of acres of the best rice land under the
canal are lying waste, which may be cultivated if immediate steps be taken, seems to
me to justify me in laying my imperfect information before you.

3. On the 9th August, owing to a remarkably dry July, all the tanks were still
empty, and only about half the dry crops sown. I then asked Mr. Daniels' attention to a
dozen tanks in the Cuddapah District, the whole or part of whose ayacut (and in some
cases the tanks themselves) are commanded by the canal. He caused inquiries to be made;
but informed me on the 31st August that, so far as he could learn, none of the
ayacut holders could agree to ask for canal supply; Mr. Daniels then himself visited
the localities, I believe with a like want of result.

So far as I am informed, matters now lie in the following position :—The latest
customary time for paddy sowing in the Cuddapah District is over, and the usual
time for raggy sowing under tanks has arrived. These times, I must explain, have
been fixed long before the canal existed, and are based on experience of the seasons,
and there is no sound reason for adhering to them now. Perhaps even now ryots
could be persuaded to sow paddy; but so conservative are ryots, it should be con-
sidered improbable. The ryots, if I understand aright, if they sow either paddy or
raggy on an ayacut by direct irrigation will have to pay full canal rate, viz., Rupees 6
or 4 an acre, or at least the rate under Rule VI, Clause 8, respectively, and also the
full consolidated assessment, just as if the water were supplied from their tank; if they
have the tank filled by canal water, then they will have to pay only two-thirds of the
full canal rate under Rule VI, Clause 9, and also the full consolidated assessment as
before. They decline either alternative, because they say the payment required is
excessive. This seems reasonable, for the Board of Revenue have expressed an
opinion that the canal rates are high, many too high; and since the consolidated
assessment exceeds, and is often double, the canal rate, the ryots may have to pay
two or three times the canal rate, if they cultivate.

My impression is that the conditions fixed by Government for levying the com-
bined rate from the ryots were so fixed to suit cases where the tank only partly fails;
and the water given to supplement the tank would be small in quantity, and only
need a small payment. This year the failure of tank supply has been total, and I



have heard of no cultivation of any ayacut except under natural springs, and in Nandial and Bayah Gudon (Kurnool District) under direct irrigation from the canal. It appears that if any water should run into a tank in the Cuddapah District, after cultivation has commenced under direct irrigation from the canal, then the ryots get no remission.

I suggest the following order to be issued, to apply to the current season, and until permanent rules be made.

Kurnool District.—That cultivation under direct irrigation from the canal be allowed at canal rates, Rule VI, Clause 8, of Rupees $1\frac{1}{2}$ a-month for 1st-class and Rupee 1 a-month for 2nd-class, but the total rate never to exceed a maximum of Rupees 6 and 4 respectively. That if the tank fill from rain, then the tank supply be used as far as it will go instead of that from the canal.

In this district the ayacuts pay land dry assessment and also a water-rate. If the tank be never filled by rain water, the water-rate should be remitted entirely for all land which the tank cannot irrigate at all. If it be filled enough to complete the irrigation of any portion of the ayacut, then that portion only should be so completed by the tank; the canal water-rate on that portion would cease from the date the tank supply began, and Government would levy the full Government water-rate only from it. Government would be recouped for the canal rate chargeable on this portion by the dry and water assessments it would pay.

Cuddapah District.—The rule for this district would be similar, except that for the "Government water-rate" or "water assessment" would be read "the difference between the consolidated assessment and dry assessment."

It is possible that the Collectors, in communication with Government, have already adopted the above, or some better, plan; but, up to the 27th instant, I am informed of no tank ayacut being cultivated in Cuddapah District, except under springs, and one betel garden supplied by direct irrigation from the canal.

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government.

Under the peculiar circumstances of the present season in Kurnool and Cuddapah, it appears to be desirable that the Government tanks should be supplied with water from the canal under arrangements which will make the ryots willing to make use of the water.

2. Rule VI, Clauses 8, 9, and 13, refer to such supplies, and probably the most effectual arrangement would be to instruct the Collectors to apply for water at once to fill or partially fill the tanks as may seem expedient, and to inform the ryots that they will have to pay only the consolidated or wet assessment of their lands. The canal might receive credit at the rate of 1 Rupee for every 1,440 cubic yards supplied; this rate being that settled in modification of Clause 9 by G.O., No. 1,430, dated 25th May 1875. Practically the Government would lose little or nothing by the arrangement, and substantial relief would be afforded to the ryots.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 253. ORDER THEREON, 17th October 1876, No. 2,779.

IRRIGATION, No. 32-A.

These papers will be communicated to the Revenue Department for the issue of such orders as may be considered desirable.

2. The Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, will be requested to arrange for the immediate supply of water to Government tanks on receiving an intimation from the Collector that water is required, and it will facilitate arrangements if Mr. Latham will be good enough to send to the Collectors at once lists of the tanks he is prepared to apply with a rough estimate of their capacity, and the Collectors will then be the better able to state what quantity of water is to be thrown into each from the canal in the first instance, while a request for further supplies conditional on the state of the weather might be made by the Revenue Officers at the same time.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

Exd. E. C. Shanker.
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6-05 June/75 A^o 1201. M.

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13 January 76

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