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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	184	Press
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Dated	11.2.1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1876.*

No. 101. Read the following proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th January 1876, No. 94:—

Read the following letters:—

From W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddayah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Karabapally, 15th October 1875, No. 211.

I HAVE the honor to report on the subject of G.O., Public Works Department, No. 1,430, dated 23rd May 1875, as directed in the footnote of the Board, Miscellaneous No. 5,491, dated 18th June 1875.

2. No harm can be done by allowing the ryots to compound for a water-supply at a lower rate than that now paid, but I am not at all sure that the terms will be generally accepted.

3. Perpetually modifying rules is, I think, a mistake. If canal water is not taken by the ryots to the extent that it might be taken, it is quite clear that the main fault lies in the price the ryots have to pay for it. I believe that the water-rate is too high, and, while this is the case, modifications in small matters will have no effect on the revenue.

4. I enclose a copy of a letter* from the Deputy Collector in charge of canal affairs in this district. He mentions directions to the Commissioner for

that they are, however, ryots have to depend upon inferior servants of the company for their water-supply; and, finally, that the canal water contains salt; and, finally, that the supply of water after December is doubtful.

5. The first objection must exist so long as an independent company exists. The villagers cannot arrange among themselves for their water-supply as they do when they take water from purely Government works of irrigation. I have heard of the complaint of salt in the canal water, but I cannot say what truth there is in it. The salt is said to be brought down by the Kunder River.

6. These objections do not bear upon the particular subject of compounding, but, if they exist, something more than modification of rules and a compounding for rates will be necessary before the ryots will be induced to irrigate their lands more freely.

Enclosure No. 1.

From A. KRISHNA ROW, Acting Deputy Collector, to W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddayah, dated Madanapally, 8th October 1875, No. 42.

Reference to your footnote, No. 312, dated to the G.O. of the 23rd May last, No. 1,430, calling upon my predecessor to give an early report with reference to paragraph 3 and 4 of the said order, I beg to state that the limited experience I have acquired of the canal irrigation agriculture during my short stay in this division goes against my competency to form an independent opinion on the subject mooted therein. But I venture, however, to offer a few suggestions based upon the information collected by my personal inquiry during the late canal irrigation settlement.

2. During the inquiry some wealthy ryots seemed to appreciate fully the proposed encouragement of giving the intending ryots an option of compounding for their water-supply, but at the same time they expressed their unwillingness to take advantage of the contemplated system without some additional facilities being afforded to them. At present they complain that they

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11th February 1876.

are left at the mercy of the ill-paid bankers, and that their crops really suffer at times from want of water. They further state that, when they find their crops to be in sore need of irrigation, they cannot get the timely supply without a banker's permission, and that the present system of obtaining canal water for irrigating their standing crops in the presence, and with the consent, of the bankers entails delay and forces a fearful restraint upon them for using freely (as they do under Government irrigation works) the Company's canal water, and, in case of refusal at such times, it becomes an unpleasant task to go and complain before their superiors, located at some distance. To avoid all such difficulties or such ill-feeling, I think the free use of water by the ryots themselves may be allowed from the distribution channel without any intervention of the bankers, or some other remedial measures may be adopted to remove the grievance of the ryots.

2. Secondly, a great majority of the ryots are under the impression that the Kundair River water spoils the productive power of their lands and makes them unprofitable. There may be some large or small in their argument, and I think it would be advisable not to allow in the main channel the Kundair River water after carefully testing, by scientific means, its intrinsic and unproductive quality.

3. Thirdly, they say that the quantity of water-supply after 31st December also discourages them to raise paddy crops. Paddy crops require irrigation for full six months in this division, and any diminution of water tends to yield less produce and sometimes to total failure, which eventually results in a loss to the ryot. The cultivation of paddy-crop in this division is, it appears, generally commenced in the "Pongal" and "Makar" seasons, or, in other words, in the months of August, and it therefore, requires continuous supply till February. Under the new Rule V, the Company do not guarantee to supply water beyond the 31st December, and I think, therefore, that modification of the rule by prolongation of this period is also an important subject to be taken into consideration.

4. As regards the remission rates, the Talukdars of Proddatur and Cuddapah state that three-fourths of the present full charge may be allowed for all classes when applications are made for compounding, but I think the reduction of one-fourth and one-half water-rate as given below only for the first and second classes would be advisable. The terms of years for which the remission should be allowed may be fixed first starting from three to five, as I fear any longer period would not give us a ready notion of the practical working of this system:—

	PONGAL RATE		SHARDA RATE		MONTHLY RATE	
	Present Full	Proposed Compounding	Present Full	Proposed Compounding	Present Full	Proposed Compounding
First Class	RS. 12	RS. 8 0 0	RS. 4	RS. 3 0 0	RS. 1 8 0	RS. 1 2 0
Second Class	RS. 10	RS. 7 0 0	RS. 3	RS. 2 0 0	RS. 1 5 0	RS. 1 0 0
For one Crop	RS. 10	RS. 7 0 0	RS. 3	RS. 2 0 0	RS. 1 5 0	RS. 1 0 0
For a Series	RS. 10	RS. 7 0 0	RS. 3	RS. 2 0 0	RS. 1 5 0	RS. 1 0 0

5. With regard to paragraph 4 of the Government Order, I beg to state that the suggestions offered in the above paragraph 3, and which apply to this view of the matter. Further, I learn from the recent addition of the Rule II, regarding the submission of applications to canal officers, that it has only a partial effect in removing the inconvenience of the ryots. Though an application is made to the canal officer, or the first instance, he cannot readily comply with the ryots' request in granting the ticket in the absence of any means to know the number and extent of the land for the reclamation of which canal water is applied, and thus leaves the ryot in obscurity, and sends him afterwards to the bankers to ascertain from him the necessary information required to fill up the form of application. It is not uncommon that the curman frequently absent himself from the village on different matters, and leaving the curman jamaabandi his absence will amount to nothing. His curman officer being placed in a difficulty to procure the attendance of the curman, he will in his anxiety for the supply of information, sometimes be misled, and

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11th February 1876.

the consequent delay in the preparation of accounts is eventually brought to the notice of Government repeatedly as has been done in the last year. Even during the presence of the curman in his village a ready co-operation cannot, I think, be expected for some time more owing to a great fuss or misunderstanding which lately occurred regarding the receipt of applications under Rule II. I think, therefore, that the ryot should be relieved of his responsibility by the simple surrender of an application ticket showing the name of field and the approximate number of acreage he wants to irrigate, leaving the other adjustment of numbers and correct extent thereof to be entered afterwards by the canal officer and the curman jointly. I beg at the same time to suggest whether it would not be desirable to appoint specially one of the curmans attached to each village to carry on the duties connected with the canal department. In the absence of a second curman a ghiremissaldar may be entertained for this special work as he would already be in the enjoyment of a portion of a curman's income. Where such an arrangement cannot be made (which will not be the case in many instances), the present misal curman only should be made responsible for all work.

7. Again, I observe that a great laxity is shown in timely examination of crops damaged or otherwise affected by some malady. The extraordinary delay that has taken place in several cases has rendered the late inspection most futile. I would, therefore, think it advisable to entertain for this district one special Inspector under the Divisional Officer to conduct then and there these multifarious duties of examination of fields, to assist canal officers in procuring the necessary information and aid which they may be in need of, and to explain to the ryots occasionally (while moving about through the villages) the rules and other orders affecting their agricultural operations. I dare say his services will also be most beneficial in making speedy measurements of lands required for both the Canal and Railway Companies and in facilitating the prompt disposal of claims of pattadars and inamholders whose lands have been, or will be, taken occasionally

years, without settlement.

8. Moreover, I have to bring to your notice a hard case I had to deal with during the last settlement. A holding a betel garden on Nos. 1 and 2, each measuring, for instance, 2 acres, applied for canal water to irrigate only one garden, No. 1. While thus irrigating his garden, he unconsciously takes water for a few cents (say five or ten) of the adjoining garden land. On examination, this turns out to be *surripitious irrigation*. As is mentioned in the G.O. of the 26th August 1875, No. 1,238, as to the *surripitious irrigation* of double crops,

* Read with G.O. dated 11th February 1876, No. 134.

I think, under the new rules, the above five or ten additional cents have to be charged for full rate, which will amount as follows:—

	Double Crops		
	Rs.	A.	P.
Charge for full acre	12	0	0
Fine for the first time, at 8 annas per acre	0	8	0
Total	12	8	0

This charge upon a poor ryot will certainly be a heavy burden. I think, therefore, that some lenient provision should be introduced in the rules in dealing such cases.

9. Lastly, I think it is very desirable (as I suggested in last year) to issue yearly settlement tickets to all ryots who have to pay the water rates as we cannot leave them entirely to the tender mercies of the curman for ascertaining the exact amount thereof. The receipt for the payment of the amount therein specified may be given to them on the reverse side as a safeguard against the undue treatment from the curman's hands.

(Type Cont.)

(Signed) W. D. BOWLEY,
Collector.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1876.*

From J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th November 1875,
No. 456.

With reference to G.O. in the Public Works Department, dated 25th May
1875, No. 1,430, I have the honor to submit, for the approval of the Board, draft
rules drawn up by myself and the Chief Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal
Company, in consultation with the Conservancy Engineers of the Company and the
Special Deputy Collector.

1. The proposed rules (if approved) will be applicable to all ryots now paying
Rupces 6 per acre. It is understood that ryots taking up new lands for cultivation
under the canal will have the benefit of the progressive rates (Rupces 3, 4, and 5)
until the fourth year of cultivation, when they will have the option of compounding.

2. The Board will observe that the concession has been confined to the first
class of crops falling under Rule VI, Clauses 1 and 2. We have not thought it
advisable to extend it to crops falling under Clauses 3, 4, and 5.

3. I am to state that the Chief Engineer's concurrence in the rules is subject
to the confirmation of his Directors.

Enclosure No. 1.

Draft Rules for Compounding Water-rate.

1. Ryots offering to compound their water-rate shall be entitled to the following rates:

For ryots compounding the rates for first class crops, viz. rice, &c.,
Rupces 5 per acre per year instead of Rupces 6.

2. The ryots must guarantee to pay the reduced rate year by year whether they cultivate or
not, provided there is water in the canal.

3. As regards remission, Rule XI. will not be applicable to compounders except in case of
failure from excessive rains and floods.

(Signed) J. HOPE
Acting Collector.

Submitted to Government with reference to G.O., dated 5th June 1875,
Madras No. 1,201.

2. The Collector of Kurnool, after consultation with the Chief Engineer of
the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, forwards draft rules for the composition
of water-rates, which have been approved by Mr. Latham subject to the consent of
the Directors.

3. The period of composition proposed is ten years and Rupces 5 per acre
instead of Rupces 6 to be the single crop rate. It is proposed to confine the
composition to crops charged with the six rupee rate (Rule VI, Clauses 1 and 2),
and the reduced rate of Rupces 5 is to involve the forfeiture of all claims to
remission except in case of failure from excessive rains or floods.

4. The Collector of Chittoor thinks that composition can do no harm,
but proposes no specific rate or conditions. He objects to constant change, and is
of opinion that with a water-rate fixed so high as Rupces 6 per acre, something
more than composition in small matters is required.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1876.*

5. It seems to the Board that the forfeiture of claims to remission is not
compensated by the reduction in the rate proposed in the scheme submitted from
Kurnool, and that the period of composition is too long. They think that the
proposed rules will be a dead letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 11th February 1876, No. 184.

Irrigation, No. 2.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works
Department with reference to paragraph
3 of the Order in that Department, dated
25th May 1875, No. 1,430.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Wd. J. W. Fisher.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th January 1876.

Read the following letters :—

From W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kurabapally, 15th October 1875, No. 211.

I HAVE the honor to report on the subject of G.O., Public Works Department, No. 1,430, dated 25th May 1875, as directed in the footnote of the Board, Miscellaneous No. 5,491, dated 18th June 1875.

2. No harm can be done by allowing the ryots to compound for a water-supply at a lower rate than that now paid, but I am not at all sure that the terms will be generally accepted.

3. Perpetually modifying rules is, I think, a mistake. If canal water is not taken by the ryots to the extent that it might be taken, it is quite clear that the main fault lies in the price the ryots have to pay for it. I believe that the water-rate is too high, and, while this is the case, modifications in small matters will have no effect on the revenue.

4. I enclose a copy of a letter* from the Deputy Collector in charge of canal affairs in this district. He mentions three objections to the composition for

water becoming popular. They are, 1st, that the ryots have to depend upon inferior servants of the company for their water-supply; 2ndly, that the canal water contains salt; and, 3rdly, that the supply of water after December is doubtful.

The first objection must not be long as an independent company exists. The villagers cannot arrange among themselves for their water-supply as they do when they take water from purely Government works of irrigation. I have heard of the complaint of salt in the canal water, but I cannot say what truth there is in it. The salt is said to be brought down by the Kunder River.

6. These objections do not bear upon the particular subject of composition, but, if they exist, something more than modification of rules and a compounding for rates will be necessary before the ryots will be induced to irrigate their lands more freely.

Enclosure No. 1.

From A. KRISHNA ROW, Acting Deputy Collector, to W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapally, 8th October 1875, No. 42.

ANSWERING to your footnote, No. 312, alluded to the G.O. of the 23rd May last, No. 1,430, calling upon my predecessor to give an early report with reference to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the said order, I beg to state that the limited experience I have acquired of the canal irrigation system during my short stay in this division goes against my competency to form an independent opinion on the subject mooted therein, but I venture, however, to offer a few suggestions based upon the information collected on my personal inquiry during the late canal irrigation settlement.

2. During the inquiry some wealthy ryots seemed to appreciate fully the proposed encouraging plan of giving the intending ryots an option of compounding for their water-supply, but at the same time they expressed their unwillingness to take advantage of the contemplated system without some additional facilities being afforded to them. At present they complain that they

are left at the mercy of the ill-paid bankers, and that their crops really suffer at times from want of water. They further state that, when they find their crops to be in sore need of irrigation, they cannot get the timely supply without a banker's permission, and that the present system of obtaining canal water for irrigating their standing crops in the presence, and with the consent, of the bankers entails delay and forms a fearful restraint upon them for using freely (as they do under Government irrigation works) the Company's canal water, and, in case of refusal at such crisis, it becomes an unpleasant task to go and complain before their superiors located at some distance. To avoid all such difficulties or such ill-feeling, I think the free use of water by the ryots themselves may be allowed from the distribution channel without any intervention of the bankers, or some other remedial measure may be adopted to remove the grievance of the ryots.

3. Secondly, a great majority of the ryots are under the impression that the Kundair River water spoils the productive power of their lands and makes them unprofitable. There may be some force or truth in their argument, and I think it would be advisable not to allow in the main channel the Kundair River water after carefully testing, by scientific means, its intrinsic and unproductive quality.

4. Thirdly, they say that the uncertainty of water supply after 31st December also discourages them to raise paddy crops. These two crops require irrigation for full six months in this division, and any diminution of water renders yield less produce and sometimes to total failure, which eventually results as a loss to the ryots. The cultivation of paddy crop in this division is, it appears, generally commenced in the "Asar" and "Maha" seasons, or, in other words, in the middle of August, and it, therefore, requires continuous supply till February. Under the new Rule V, the company do not guarantee for water supply beyond the 31st December, and I think, therefore, that modification of the rule by prolongation of this period is also an important subject to be taken into consideration.

5. As regards the composition rates, the Tahsildars of Proddatur and Caddapah state that three-fourths of the present full charge may be allowed for all classes when applications are made for compensation, but I think the reduction of one-fourth and one-half water rate as given below only for the first and second seasons would be equitable. The term of years for which compensation should be allowed may be fixed at first starting from three to five, as I have seen, in some cases, that a period would not give us a ready notion of the practical working of this system.

	DOUBLE RATE.				SIMPLE RATE.				MONTHLY RATE.			
	Present Full.	Proposed Composition.	Present Full.	Proposed Composition.	Present Full.	Proposed Composition.	Present Full.	Proposed Composition.	Present Full.	Proposed Composition.	Present Full.	Proposed Composition.
First Class	Rs. 12	Rs. 9 0 0	Rs. 8	Rs. 6 0 0	Rs. 1 8 0	Rs. 1 2 0	Rs. 1 8 0	Rs. 1 2 0	Rs. 1 8 0	Rs. 1 2 0	Rs. 1 8 0	Rs. 1 2 0
Second Class												
Various Crops												
For 1st season												

6. With regard to paragraph 4 of the Government Order, I beg to state that the suggestions given in the above paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 also apply to this view of the matter. Further, I learn that the recent modification of the Rule II concerning the submission of applications to small officers has not only a partial effect in relieving the inconvenience of the ryots. Though an application is made to the canal officer in the first instance, he cannot readily comply with the ryot's request to granting the ticket in the absence of any means to know the number and extent of the field for the irrigation of which canal water is applied, and thus leaves the ryot in obscurity, and events the attendance of the curman to ascertain from him the necessary information required to be in the form of application. It is not uncommon that the curman frequently absents himself from the village on different matters, and leaving the revenue jamaabandi his absence will no doubt be longer. The small officer being placed in difficulty to procure the attendance

of the curman, reports to his superiors the non-supply of information at the time he wanted, and the consequent delay in the preparation of accounts is eventually brought to the notice of Government repeatedly as has been done in the last year. Even during the presence of the curman in his village a ready co-operation cannot, I think, be expected for some time more owing to a great fuss or misunderstanding which lately occurred regarding the receipt of applications under Rule II. I think, therefore, that the ryot should be relieved of his responsibility by the simple surrender of an application ticket showing the name of field and the approximate number of acreage he wants to irrigate, leaving the other adjustment of numbers and correct extent thereof to be entered afterwards by the canal officer and the curman jointly. I beg at the same time to suggest whether it would not be desirable to appoint specially one of the curmans attached to each village to carry on the duties connected with the canal department. In the absence of a second curman a ghiremissaldar may be entertained for this special work as he would already be in the enjoyment of a portion of a curman inam. Where such an arrangement cannot be made (which will not be the case in many instances), the present misal curman only should be made responsible for all work.

7. Again, I observe that a great laxity is shown in timely examination of crops damaged or otherwise affected by some malady. The extraordinary delay that has taken place in several cases has rendered the late inspection most futile. I would, therefore, think it advisable to entertain for this district one special Inspector under the Divisional Officer to conduct then and there these multifarious duties of examination of fields, to assist canal officers in procuring the necessary information and aid which they may be in need of, and to explain to the ryots occasionally (while moving about through the villages) the rules and other orders affecting their agricultural operations. I dare say his services will also be most beneficial in making speedy measurements of lands required for both the Canal and Railway Companies and in facilitating the prompt disposal of claims of pattadars and inamdars whose lands have been, or will be, taken occasionally in anticipation of sanction, and whose claims in many cases are still pending, for the last several years, without settlement.

8. Moreover, I have to bring to your notice a hard case I had to deal with during the last settlement. A, holding a bural garden on Nos. 1 and 2, each measuring, for instance, 2 acres, applied for canal water to irrigate only one garden, No. 1. While thus irrigating his garden, he unconsciously takes water for a few cents (say five or ten) of the adjoining garden land. On examination, this turns out to be the surreptitious irrigation. As no mention is made in the G.O. of the 26th August 1873, No. 1,289, as to the surreptitious irrigation of double crops, I think, under the new rules, the above five or ten additional cents have to be charged for full acre, which will amount as follows:—

* Read with G.O. dated 2nd February 1878, No. 134.

		Double Rate.		
		Rs.	A.	P.
Charge for full acre		12	0	0
Fine for the first time, at 8 annas per acre		0	8	0
Total		12	8	0

This charge upon a poor ryot will certainly be a heavy burden. I think, therefore, that some lenient provision should be introduced in the rules in dealing such cases.

9. Lastly, I think it is very desirable (as I suggested in last year) to issue yearly settlement tickets to all ryots who have to pay the water rates and to leave them entirely to the tender mercies of the curman for ascertaining the exact amount thereof. The receipt for the payment of the amount therein specified may be given to them on the reverse side as a safeguard against the unfair treatment from the village heads.

(Over file)

Signed W. D. BORSLEY,
Collector.

From J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th November 1875,
No. 455.

With reference to G.O. in the Public Works Department, dated 25th May 1875, No. 1,430, I have the honor to submit, for the approval of the Board, draft rules drawn up by myself and the Chief Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, in consultation with the Conservancy Engineers of the Company and the Special Deputy Collector.

2. The proposed rules (if approved) will be applicable to all ryots now paying Rupees 6 per acre. It is understood that ryots taking up new lands for cultivation under the canal will have the benefit of the progressive rates (Rupees 3, 4, and 5) until the fourth year of cultivation, when they will have the option of compounding.

3. The Board will observe that the concession has been confined to the first class of crops falling under Rule VI, Clauses 1 and 2. We have not thought it advisable to extend it to crops falling under Clauses 3, 4, and 6.

4. I am to state that the Chief Engineer's concurrence in the rules is subject to the confirmation of his Directors.

Enclosure No. 1.

Draft Rules for Compounding Water-rate.

1. Ryots intending to irrigate a field for several years will be allowed to compound for ten years.
2. For ryots compounding the rates for first class crop (Rule VI, Clauses 1 and 2) will be Rupees 5 per acre per crop instead of Rupees 6.
3. The ryot must guarantee to pay the reduced rate year by year whether the crop fails or not, provided there is water in the canal.
4. As regards remission, Rule X will not be applicable to compounders except in case of failure from excessive rains and floods.

(Signed) J. HOPE,
Acting Collector.

Submitted to Government with reference to G.O., dated 5th June 1875, Miscellaneous No. 1,201.

2. The Collector of Kurnool, after consultation with the Chief Engineer of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, forwards draft rules for the composition of water-rate, which have been approved by Mr. Latham subject to the consent of the Directors.

3. The period of composition proposed is ten years, and Rupees 5 per acre instead of Rupees 6 is to be the single-crop rate. It is proposed to confine the composition to crops charged with the six-rupee rate (Rule VI, Clauses 1 and 2), and the reduced rate of Rupees 5 is to involve the forfeiture of all claims to remission, except in case of failure from excessive rains or floods.

4. The Collector of Cuddapah thinks that composition can do no harm, but proposes no specific rate or conditions. He objects to constant change, and is of opinion that, with a water-rate fixed so high as Rupees 6 per acre, something more than modifications in small matters is required.

5. It seems to the Board that the forfeiture of claims to remission is not compensated by the reduction in the rate proposed in the scheme submitted from Kurnool, and that the period of composition is too long. They think that the proposed rules will be a dead letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Cuddapah.
to the Acting Collector of Kurnool.

End. J. W. Fischer.

N^o 1814

Communicated to the Public
work department with reference
to the 25th April 1876

Received from the
Public Department
25th April 1876

25th April 1876
By the Public Department

18th Feb 1876

Rev. 1876. Apr
J. 616

1876.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, LXXV. JANUARY 1876, No. 91.

Copy to the Public

Received 18th Feb

JANUARY
No. 91

Notes for supply of water from
Madras Corporation, Madras. Submitting to the
Board of Supervisors, from the Board of
and Madras Corporation, Madras.

Copy to the Public