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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1913

Press
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Dated 12-12-1876 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th December 1876.*

No. 80. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, dated 28th October 1876, No. 2,888:—

ABSTRACT.—*Payment of Water-rate by Ryots for dry crop, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.*—Passing orders on endorsement of Chief Engineer for Irrigation submitting letter from Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, anent the —.

No. 81. ORDER THEREON, 4th December 1876, No. 1,913.

Irrigation, No. 1.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue, whose particular attention is called to paragraph 4 of Mr. Latham's

letter in which it is observed that sufficiently definite instructions have not been issued by the Board on the subject of G.O., dated 23rd September 1876, No. 1,823. It is desirable that any misconception should be speedily removed and every facility afforded for utilizing the canal water. The Board will report on paragraphs 7 and 8 of Mr. Latham's letter.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
the Public Works Department.

Edw. A. B. Rodgers

No. 458. And the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
Chennai, 18th Octo. 1876, No. 225 W:—

From: C. E. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation
and Canal Company, to Lieutenant Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engi-
neer for Irrigation, dated 2nd Octo., 18th October 1876, No. 191.

Sir,

I HAVE the honor to say that I have received copies of your letter,* of 10th instant, to Government, proposing that Government should become respon-
sible for water-rate on an extent of dry crop which the people can be induced to
irrigate; and that ryots be told that they will not be charged water-rate unless the
crop be successful; and that the Government should aim to secure the water supply
which the Company has furnished and provided at the disposal of Government.

Now the proposal is feasible (1) to induce ryots to try what is to them an
experiment by irrigating dry crops. We now have portions 5,000 or 6,000 irrigated
which we ought to have 1,00,000 or 2,00,000. To persuade them most effectually
(and it is of no use to unnecessarily hazard failure in a case of this kind) Government
must endeavour to put the ryots in a position in which they, depending of success,
will feel that they cannot lose by the experiment. For no water rate should be levied
unless the crop will pay for dry assessment and water-rate and labour and seed, &c.,
which is, in fact, unless the crop be successful. Nothing less than a 12 Anna
crop should be charged, and that should be estimated liberally for the ryot. Four
ryots on poor land paying 8 Annas dry assessment cannot have such a crop, and they
would feel perfectly secure if they knew that more than a 4 crop would pay
Rupees 2 and. Many ryots also, it is found, will not make up their minds to run the
risk of irrigating their crop until it is seriously injured, and not likely to pay them
their expenses of cultivation (e.g. Pannalar and Chinnivandi, visited this week by
the Deputy Collector). I therefore urge that it be distinctly promised that nothing
under a 12 Anna crop will pay any water-rate in dry years.

The second proposal is that Government should not in some way so as to
utilize the canal water. There is only one way so far as I can see. Government cannot
pour water into fields after they are sown without the ryot's consent. But now that
rain is hopeless, Government may order the canal officers to pour water and spread
it over unown fields. I have heard the estimates being sent in to the Collector
of the proportion of sown land to unown; and, as he says in his report of 18th
August, given in the newspapers, they seem very trustworthy. They should
be made much of the crop sown has simply perished. Even then allowance
must be made for the want of Canals and Ryots to make out as much land as
possible sown, fearing that they should be asked to sow again. The canal officers
are wretched in judgment and the irrigation should be successful, and are well

familiar with the known tracts most accessible to water, and of the best soil. It is quite probable that if these fields were fenced the ryots would cultivate. The ryots frequently say and tell they know that the field can be irrigated they will not deny. I am prepared to undertake the cost of distributing water over the whole of any unown field, so far as the ground admits, and to the full extent of which my staff is capable. I should require a strong contract, or piece work, so to speak, and would employ men accustomed with such work.

4. Through to the P.O. No. 114 of 23rd June 1901, the Revenue Board finally settles the case. The Board also publishes a statement that water-rights on dry crops will not be given unless there is a "fair" crop is realized, and the word "fair" is as a fact translated in the Tehsildar notice as "half" (one-fourth). Now, it is already customary to grant remission to crops which fail to the extent of half, owing to the land being bad or other reason beyond the ryots' control; and the existing rules provide for this. The Board pass no order regarding the utilizing of the canal water in any way, so that in fact, things remain much as they were. It is quite possible that their remission their diminished the canal revenue collected into more than 10% and the fact that for any crop, the Government officers will not be bound to collect the water-rate paid by Government to the ryots, but are likely to continue the practice of liberal treatment and deduct there 10% more for the Government and their rent-statement fixed, that they estimate to be.

5. The highway collection in Verdun has already resulted in a great deal of trouble without any success. Second a promissory bill containing the same bill was sent out. The bill has become worthless and can be changed to a cash or transfer. We are in fact the same days to take the bills over. It are necessary to be taken to prove it and thinking that those who apply in the northern and way, through the usual system, will be in any respect in a worse position than others. 2,000 or 3,000 are expected and probably be required the month, under a false excuse for being asked in any manner by a representative of the population.

[illegible]

7. The remark in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, since it is not made to me, and only in a document which the emergency of the circumstances has brought into my hands, needs no remark from me except that the Government may restfully assured that, so far as I know, such opinion as it expresses must be based on a personal knowledge of the part actually taken by the Company's officers and their own. It was the Revenue officers who used to delay the trab's applications two or three months before giving notice to the Company that they had applied. It was the Revenue officers who, if freely trusted to use and give account of water, applied so iniquely delinquent and utterly confused and untrustworthy accounts for some time, as at Chauray or Bihawalpura, compels to necessitate an expensive machinery to prevent oppression of the trab's and burden on the Government. You have printed with G.O. No. 1661, of 25th June 1873, an account of a petition in which, in spite of the Rules, the Company's officer accepted every and any remission which the Revenue officers desired, with only one condition, that the reason for it should be stated in writing and applied to all similar cases without fail. It is a different matter when the question was one, not of expediency, but of fact; then the usual officers could not yield as they could to matters of opinion.

4. I wish however to ask your attention to the irrigators' water-tanks. The Company, it seems to me, made a liberal use of it was a charitable concession. For crops grown under tanks paying by tank water paid yearly by canal water the full water rate is for Government 4 Rupees and for the Company 5 Rupees. The Company however permitted or accepted the payment rate by which in such cases they receive only Rupees 1½ a month for irrigating tanks under tanks when the tank is dry, and only Rupees 1 per 1,000 cubic yards (enough supply to irrigate a quarter of an acre from good rain) to harvest of water supplied to refill a tank. I find that the conditions on which the Revenue officers have allowed canal irrigation to the ryots under Ismand and Ismandia tanks are altogether 50% less for tanks filled by the canal in which case the Revenue officers would collect from them (besides dry assessment) full Governmental water rate and full canal rate, making a total water rate of Rupees 10; or that the ryots might take direct irrigation from the canal on their own application, in which case, if the tank filled from rain, however partially, they would have to pay the full Government rate also.

In this case, then, the Marquess offered the ryots that they should, under certain conditions, 1/3 of the ryots assigned for sugar cultivation, collect from them on account of canal water supplied them a greater sum, viz., 10 annas a mow, than Government would pay the Company for it, viz., 8 annas 1 per 1 mow (under ryots); and this seems to me opposed to the terms of the contract between the Government and the Company, as it did prevent the ryots having their tanks filled from the canal. The mode of collection of the canal water rate from the ryots deserves, I think, in general, consideration and improvement both in form and punctuality.

CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM

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On 11/11/1997, the following was received:

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th October 1876. No. 2835.*

No. 459. *Qanun ammari, 28th October 1876, No. 2835.*

IRRIGATION, No. 58

Communication to the Revenue Department for consideration with reference to the Order in that Department, No. 1,326, dated 23rd September 1875.

(Trans. Extract.)

[Signature]
Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company,
Revenue Department.

[Signature]
Major-General

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7-14-44/54 1329

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With notes