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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

1913

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Dated 12-12-1876 196

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*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. 1,529. 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. G. Rogers.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
23rd October 1876. No. 2,333.

No. 458. And the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,  
Madras, 18th October 1876, No. 223 W:—

From J. 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 Bangalore, 18th October 1876, No. 101.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE the honor to say that I have received copies of your letter,\* of 9th  
October, to Government, proposing  
\* Of this nature, that Government should become respon-  
sible for water-rate on any 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 is 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 double (1) to induce ryots to try sown in such an  
experiment by irrigating dry crops. We now have perhaps 5,000 or 6,000 irrigated  
where we ought to have 1,00,000 or 2,00,000. To persuade them most effectively  
(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 do not fear of success,  
will feel that they cannot lose by the experiment, i.e. 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 tract. Poor  
ryots on poor land paying 5 Annas dry assessment cannot have such a crop, and they  
would feel perfectly secure if they knew that some loss than a 2 crop would pay  
Rupees 2 rate. Many ryots also, it is found, will not make up their minds to run the  
risk of irrigating their crop until it is certainly insured, and not likely to pay them  
their expenses of cultivation (2/7. Pambur and Chennur, stated this week by  
the Deputy Collector). Therefore urge that it be distinctly pointed out that nothing  
under a 12 Anna crop will pay any water-rate or dry crops.

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 see. Government cannot  
pour water into fields after they are sown without the ryots' consent. But now that  
rain is hopeless, Government may order the canal officers to pour water and spread  
it over unsown fields. I have heard the estimates being sent in to the Collector  
of the proportion of sown land to unsown, and as he says in his report of 30th  
August, given in the newspapers, they seem very trustworthy. They should  
show much of the crop sown has simply perished. Even then allowance  
must be made for the desire of Government and ryots to make out as much land as  
possible sown, but they should be called on to sow more. The canal officers  
are anxious to irrigate, anxious that the irrigation should be successful, and are well

familiarized with the unsown tracts most accessible to water, and of the best soil. It is quite probable that if these fields were flooded the ryots would cultivate. The ryots frequently say that till they know that the field can be irrigated they will not apply. I am prepared to undertake the cost of distributing water over the whole of any unsown field, so far as the ground owner, and to the full extent of which my staff is capable. I should estimate some central or piece work, at so much an acre, employing men accustomed with such work.

4. In reply to the C.O. No. 1159 of 22nd June 1902, the Revenue Board finally settles the case. They issue the publication of a statement that water-rates on dry crops will not be paid unless a "fair" crop is realized, and the word "fair" is, as a fact, translated in the Telugu notice as "half" (one-half). Now, it is already customary to grant remission to crops which fail to the extent of half, owing to the land being dry, or other reason beyond the ryots' control; and the existing rules prevail for this. The Board pass no order regarding the delivery of the canal water, nor decide why, so that in this thing, remain much as they were. The ryots are satisfied that their remission is fact, & establish the same revenue officers into more action; and the fact that for any other, the Government officers will not be bound to cancel the water rate paid by Government to the Company, will be likely to maintain the ryots of a liberal treatment, and render them less overburdened and more contented than they ordinarily are.

[illegible][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 rest fully assured that, so far as I know, such opinion as it expresses must be based on a full and true knowledge of the part actually taken by the Company's officers and their agent. It was the Revenue officers who used to delay the ryots' 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 me and give account of water, supplied so irregularly deficient and utterly confused and untrustworthy accounts for sometimes, as at Chavtur or Bolemandur, forcing to necessitate an expensive machinery to prevent oppression of the ryots and fraud on the Government. You have printed with G.O. No. 1,661, of 25th June 1873, an account of a settlement in which, in spite of the Rules, the Company's officer accepted every and any remission which the Revenue officer desired, with only one objection, that the reason for it should be stated in writing and apply to all similar cases without fail. It is a defective matter when the question was one of necessity, but of fact, than the usual officers could not yield as they could to matters of opinion.

8. I wish however to ask your attention to the irrigation water-tanks. The ordinary rate seems to me much too liberal, as it was a double concession. For crops grown under such partly artificial water and partly by canal water the full water rate is the Government 4 Rupees and for the Camanah 5 Rupees. The Company has no pretence or authority the present rates for which in such cases they receive only 1 Rupee in a month for irrigating fields under tanks where the tank is dry, and only Rupee 2 per 1000 cubic yards (enough simply to purchase a quantity of an acre from the tank) to be given of water supplied to refill a tank. I find that the conditions on which the Revenue officers have entered canal irrigation to the rivets under Bandul and Kandla tanks are altogether, viz. to have the tanks filled by the canal, in which case the Revenue officers would collect from them (besides dry assessment) full Government 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 collection, in which case, if the tank filled from canal, however partially, they would have to pay the full Government rate also.

In this case, then, the Mercantile officers said the ryots that they might under certain conditions, say, if the ryots accepted the former information, collect from the Government an account of sand water supplied during a greater sum (viz., 100000) and more the Government would pay the Company for it viz., 100000 per 1,000 (muic yards) and this seems to be 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 sand water rate from the ryots deserves, I think, in general, consideration and improvement both in form and punctuality.

## CHINESE-SPANISH DICTIONARY

(105-4) JOHN WILLIAM LINDLEY, JR.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
28th October 1876. No. 2838.*

No. 499. Order annexed, 28th October 1876, No. 2838.

IRREGULATION No. 50

Communication to the Revenue Department for consideration with reference to the Order in that Department, No. 1,229, dated 23rd September 1873.

(True Extract.)

*W. H. R. S.*  
Major-General, R.E.,  
Secretary to Government.

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

By Order of the Government,  
Secretary to Government.

