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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd August 1876. No. 1,971.*

No. 51. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 19th May 1876, No. 646.

ABSTRACT.—*Striviguntum Anicut in the Tinnevelly District.*—Communicating to the Public Works Department, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue furnishing the information required by Government regarding the —, and awaiting the further report called for by the Board on certain points connected with the subject.

No. 51-A. From J. D. GRANT, Esq., Officiating District Engineer, Tinnevelly, to Lieut.-Colonel. J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Palamecottah, 14th June 1876, No. 46.

REFERRING to paragraph 2 of my letter, No. 23, of 26th April 1876, I have the honor to forward the statement of irrigation under the Striviguntum anicut corrected with reference to fasli and year.

No. 100-W.

No. 51-B. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

IN Proceedings of the Madras Government, 1st October 1875, orders were passed on certain information regarding the cost of, and the returns from the Striviguntum anicut project, which had been asked for by the Government of India, and in the 5th paragraph of the note submitted by this office it was mentioned that in Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, No. 1,085, of the 19th July 1875, it was shown that the recent settlement made in connection with that project gave as the actual results an increase of revenue under the south main channel of Rupees 45,784. With the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,014, of the 19th July 1875, were transmitted to this office channel registers which were forwarded to the District Engineer, Tinnevelly, for the purpose of division into suitable and permanent subsections, with a view to the exhibition of the revenue information for successive years in the same manner so that the general features of the irrigation and revenue of different subsections might be compared from time to time.

2. Owing to a misapprehension a mistake was made by the District Engineer as to the fasli corresponding to the date, the beginning of 1870-71, from which the anicut was to be considered to come into operation. Fasli 1281 instead of Fasli 1280 being taken, and the statement abstracted by the District Engineer had therefore to be revised so as to include Fasli 1280 in the period since the works come into operation, instead of in that prior to that event.

The results shown by him were as follow :—

		Fasli 1274 to Succeeding to	
		Fasli 1280.	Years. *
* Faslis 1281 and 1282.	Average cultivation, Acres...	19,542	19,206
	„ Revenue, Rupees...	1,18,852	1,17,576

and these results differing widely from those before given and submitted to the Government of India, the Board of Revenue were addressed before laying the papers before Government, and in their Proceedings, No. 734, of the 14th March 1876, explanation is given of the difference between the increase of Rupees 45,784 above referred to, and the decrease of Rupees 2,416 brought out by the District Engineer from the channel registers furnished by the Board. It appears necessary to consider

that the information given in Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, No. 1,085, of the 19th July 1875, should be taken as showing the increase of revenue of Fasli 1284 above that of Fasli 1279, and as this latter year is only one of several years from which the standard revenue has to be determined, this increase is a fact of little importance in considering the results of the works.

3. The subsections, which take the place of canals in the Northern Deltas, chosen by the District Engineer, appear to be appropriate except that No. 9, Tuticorin water-supply channel, on the northern side should not come into the revenue statements, the receipts being credited under a different head.

4. The Board of Revenue have in their Proceedings, No. 733, of the 14th March 1876, reviewed a report by the Acting Collector of Tinnevely, submitting revenue statements for the Striviguntum anicut. The result shown having been abstracted with Fasli 1280 included in the period prior to the anicut coming into operation require to be somewhat modified, and the abstract given in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings will then become—

Periods.	North side.	South side.	Total gross Revenue.
Average of 14 years up to Fasli 1279 (1869-70)	RS.	RS.	RS.
" 7 do. do. do.	...	...	1,17,179
Revenue of Fasli 1280 (1870-71)...	...	...	1,19,834
" " " 1281 (1871-72)...	...	...	1,14,245
" " " 1282 (1872-73)...	58,263	75,070	1,33,333
" " " 1283 (1873-74)...	42,126	59,598	1,01,724
" " " 1284 (1874-75)...	63,029	91,602	1,54,631

Taking the standard of gross revenue derived from the longer period, which for a river liable to great fluctuations appears to be none too long, the results for the five years will be as follows :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
	RS.	RS.
1870-71	...	2,934
1871-72	16,154	...
1872-73	...	15,455
1873-74	22,987	...
1874-75	37,452	...
	76,593	18,389
Increase of five years	58,204	...
Average yearly	11,641	...

It does not appear to be of use to compare gross revenue with expenditure.

5. The District Engineer has since forwarded a revised abstract statement of the channel registers, showing the revenue from 1274 to 1279 inclusive and in subsequent years as follows :—

1864-65 to 1869-70.

	FASLIS 1274 TO 1279.		FASLIS 1280 TO 1282.	
	Acres.	Revenue.	Acres.	Revenue.
North side	7,810	RS. 49,962	7,437	RS. 48,114
South side	11,923	69,658	11,605	68,319
	19,733	1,19,620	19,042	1,16,433

showing a decrease in the later period of—

Acres	691
Rupees	3,187

above (paragraph 2) when the later period commenced one year later the decrease was—

Acres	336
Rupees	1,276

* Vide paragraph 4 above.

Again, if the average of fourteen* years up to Fasli 1279 be taken the results are—

	Average of 14 years to 1279.	Average 1280 to 1282.	Decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Revenue... ..	1,17,179	1,16,433	746

Vide paragraph 4 above.

and if the average of seven years to Fasli 1279 be the standard

	Average of 7 years to 1279.	Average 1280 to 1282.	Decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Revenue... ..	1,19,834	1,16,433	3,401

while the Sheristadar's statement shows an increase up to 1282 of Rupees 994, which does not agree with any of the above results.

6. It appears to be necessary—

1st, that the period from which the standard revenue for comparison is to be fixed should be definitively settled, and it will be noticed that Fasli 1279 and not Fasli 1280, as in the Sheristadar's statement, will be the last year of the period prior to the anicut works coming into operation.

2ndly, that measures should be taken for preparing a correct channel register under the several subsections given in the accompanying statement, but omitting the Tuticorin town supply channel, from Fasli 1280 inclusive. The totals for each year will be the amounts to be included in the Capital and Revenue Accounts as gross revenue.

7. It may be mentioned here that the ascertainment of net revenue will be attended with some practical difficulties. It has recently come to notice that some of the tanks which have been brought into connection with the Striviguntum anicut system were in a very dilapidated state in Fasli 1280, and that a large expenditure will have to be incurred to render them efficient. It is, the undersigned thinks, evident that if the cost of repair of dilapidations which had occurred prior to 1280

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be made a charge against the system an erroneous account of the results of the expenditure on the works will be obtained. Work needing to be done before the anicut system came into operation ought properly to form a deduction from the standard gross revenue, and not from the revenue of the anicut system, and it will be seen that every Rupee so spent, if charged to the latter, will decrease the net returns, from 1280 inclusive, by two Rupees. The undersigned has instructed the District Engineer, in submitting a revised estimate for the Aramugamungalum tank, to afford such information as will enable Government to pass orders on the subject, and the decision in that case will determine how all similar cases should be dealt with.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
15th July 1876. *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*
To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

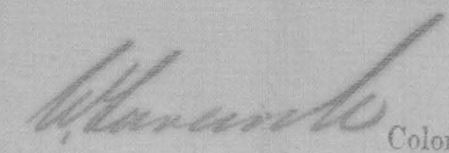
No. 52. ORDER THEREON, 2nd August 1876, No. 1,971.

IRRIGATION, No. 8.

THESE Proceedings will be communicated to the Revenue Department in order that the period from which the standard revenue for comparison with the revenue obtained under the Striviguntum anicut may be authoritatively settled, and that correct channel registers for Fasli 1280 and subsequent Faslis may be prepared.

2. Orders will be passed on the question raised in paragraph 7 of the Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, when the particulars of a specific case are laid before Government.

(True Extract.)


Colonel,
Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department. ✓
„ District Engineer, Tinnevely.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. W. H. French.

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