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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2031	Press
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

86

2031

No. 1,426.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th May 1875.

Read the following letters :—

From J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 4th May 1875, No. 105.

With reference to paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, dated 9th September 1873, No. 1,778, and paragraph 3 of G. O., dated 14th October 1873, No. 1,107, Letter from Deputy Collector, dated 19th January 1874, No. 34. I have the honor to state that I consider it is absolutely necessary that cultivation should be stopped in the beds of all the Madras tanks.

2. I am not able at present to report what will be the probable cost to Government, if all the private lands in the beds are to be purchased. Much of the land is situated in Chingleput District, and the Collector of that district reports in his letters marginally noted, that it is useless to attempt to prepare an estimate until the contour lines of the water-spread of the tanks are marked out in a durable manner by the District Engineer.

3. On this subject I have addressed the District Engineer. I may add here that some of the other tanks besides Mylapore and Nungambakam have a portion of their beds in the Chingleput District.

4. There are no papers in my office, or in that of the Deputy Collector, from which to prepare the report called for in paragraph 2 of G. O., dated 14th October 1873, No. 1,107. It is believed there are some papers in the office of the Collector of Chingleput, and I shall submit a report on this head when reporting on the results of the investigation of the rights to water directed by Government in paragraph 4 of their order, dated 24th July 1873, No. 777. The question as to whether a water-rate should be charged whenever a second crop is irrigated can be considered at the same time.

5. Ragoonatha Row, the late Deputy Collector, to whom the work of investigating the rights to water and their registry was entrusted, does not appear to have made much progress with the work, and I am in correspondence with his successor about it. I have also written to the Collector of Chingleput to furnish me with all the papers in his record likely to throw light on the history of the Madras tanks.

From the same officer, dated 6th May 1875, No. 107

In continuation of my letter, dated 4th May 1875, No. 105, I have the honor to submit copy of letter from the Acting Deputy Collector of Madras, dated 1st May 1875, No. 163, received since my letter was sent.

2. I have also received a letter from the District Engineer, dated 4th instant No. 596, in which he states that the contour stones for all the tanks in the Presidency district have been fixed in position.

3. I am writing to the Deputy Collector about the further prosecution of the work entrusted to the late Deputy Collector, and will report the result to the Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. CUNDASAWMY, MOODELIAR, Acting Deputy Collector, Madras, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated 1st May 1875, No. 168.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in your Official Memorandum, No. 341 of 29th instant. In their Order, No. 1,107, of 14th October 1873, on the subject of tanks in the Madras District, Government required information on the following points:—

(1.) A history of all the Madras tanks from the earliest times as far as it can be ascertained.

(2.) Cultivation in tank beds.

(3.) Preparation of irrigation registers.

2. I have referred to the papers in office and find that my predecessor undertook the preparation of irrigation registers himself, and commenced with the southern division of Mylapore, and the work does not seem to have extended beyond that division. I herewith forward the register he prepared for the southern division of Mylapore. I understood that he prepared this after inspecting all the fields himself, accompanied by one gumastah, whom he entertained on Rupees 15 out of the two temporary hands sanctioned for this special work. Beyond the preparation of this register, he does not appear to have been able to effect anything, and before he left, he had mentioned to me that the pressure of work in office did not permit him to undertake the work in other parts of Madras. Looking to the elaborate nature of the register already prepared and the amount of field work required, I concur with him that the work could not be carried out without detriment to the other duties of this office, except with the assistance of a properly organized special establishment.

3. As regards cultivation in tank beds, some correspondence seems to have been kept up with you and the District Engineer for the marking out of contour lines, without which the extent of cultivation in tank beds cannot be ascertained, and the Department Public Works, to whom the work of marking out the contours was left, have not as yet finished the work.

4. There are no papers in the office to show how far the tracing of the history of tanks has progressed. There are no public records throwing light on the subject, and information could only be gained from the oldest inhabitants in the suburban villages of Madras, and after all it is doubtful whether such information, when got, would be useful and trustworthy. The best time for obtaining this is when fields and channels are inspected; and with the contour lines still unmarked, and the irrigation register for a half of one single tank still in a state of *embryo*, it was not possible to collect information on this head.

5. Such is the stage at which the work was left when my predecessor left this office, and no report was, therefore, sent by him with reference to G. O., No. 1,107, of 14th October 1873.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector.

2031/2
THE Board must await further report from the Collector on the subject of the prohibition of cultivation in the tank beds, and the cost of the measure. It is observed that the contour lines of the tanks in Madras have been marked out, and the Collector should expedite the work.

2. The attention of the Collector of Chingleput is also called to the matter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Madras.
,, the Collector of Chingleput.

Ezd. W. H. French.

Revenue Department ^{2031/23}

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 25th Sept. 1875.

Read Proceedings
of the Madras Government
Revenue Department, dated
17th August 1875 & No. 1118, passing
orders on Board's Proceedings
regarding the necessity for im-
position of a special water-
rate on lands cultivated
under tanks in Madras
District and expenditure
of a large sum in preparation
of Irrigation registers.

Communicated to the Col-
lector of Madras and Chinn-
godeput, who will, in communication

1875.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 26TH MAY 1875, No. 1,426.

Encl.

Rev 3529/76

Received

MAY.

No. 1,426.

Cultivation—in tank beds in Madras Dis-
trict.—Further report on the subject of preven-
tion of — and the cost of the measure, awaited,
and Collector directed to expedite the marking
out of contour lines of these tanks. Attention
of Collector of Chingleput District also called
to the matter.

25/8/76 2031/23

submit the draft notification
regarding the transfer
of those portions of the beds
of the Mysore and Kem-
gumbhankam tanks situ-
ated within the Chingleput
District, and of the other
tanks referred to at para.
3 of our letter to your
letter embodied in Board's
Proceedings dated 26 May
1895 & No. 1426 similarly situ-
ated, without further delay
and will furnish the infor-
mation called for regarding
cultivation in tank beds
and the amount of compensation

payable.

2. The Collector of Madras
will report whether the distri-
bution of water is now satis-
factorily performed.

True Extract

W. D. C. S. S. S. S.
Secretary

To The Collector of Madras &
Chingleput, with G. O.
True Copy

W. D. C. S. S. S.
Secretary

To The Secretary to
Government R. D.
with Copy of Board's Pro-
ceedings dated 26 May
1895 & No. 1426.

W. D. C. S. S. S.
Secretary

