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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REV DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2074	Press
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Dated	2.9.1876	196

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2074

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th August 1876. No. 2,040.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 180. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department,
dated 24th July 1876, No. 1,754.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th July 1873, No. 1,433.
From J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to J. GROSE,
Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Gudalur, 20th June 1873
No. 125.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 5th February last, No. 682, I have the honor to submit copy of the Assistant Collector Mr. Moore's report on the subject, from which it would appear that the ryots are unwilling to agree to any proposal that would make it profitable to Government to drain the lands at a cost of Rupees 8,000 according to the rough calculation of the District Engineer.

2. I have, however, to observe that when these lands are relinquished they are not likely to be taken up for cultivation, till something is done for draining the water which floods the whole extent during the freshes in the Cauvery; and the petitioners, who have already paid Rupees 6,182 as assessment on the chance of getting the land reclaimed, have clearly the best claim to it whenever the project is taken up. I will call upon petitioners to resign the land, in consideration of having the amount paid by them remitted on receipt of final orders from the Board.

From L. MOORE, Esq., Assistant Collector, Trichinopoly, to J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq.,
Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 3rd May 1873, No. 96.

In reply to your letter, No. 276, of the 4th March last, I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from the Tahsildar of the Trichinopoly taluq, from which it appears that the ryots holding the piece of land called "Adappampallam" are not willing to have the rate of assessment on the whole piece raised, so that the total additional assessment may be equal to 12 per cent. on Rupees 8,000, the estimated amount necessary to be expended on the drainage of the land to render it fit for cultivation.

2. The largest sum that they seem to be willing to give for that purpose is interest, at the rate of 12 per cent., on the difference between Rupees 8,000 and the amount (Rupees 6,182) that they have already paid as assessment on the land, i.e., Rupees 1,818, or Rupees 216 per annum. They also offer to pay Rupees 8,000 in twenty-five yearly instalments without interest, or an increased assessment of 1 Rupee per acre on the land, over and above the present rate, for twenty-five years, i.e., Rupees 357 a-year, as the extent of the land is that number of acres.

3. It is, however, evident that on none of these terms would it be profitable to Government to drain the land.

Before passing orders on the point which forms the subject of the above letter, the Board desire further information. They request the Collector to obtain and submit to the Board a report from the District Engineer, showing how far these lands are under the influence of floods, and how he proposes to remedy the evil.

2. The Collector will also furnish more in detail the extent of these lands and their rate of assessment, and will explain how it arises that, although entirely unproductive, these lands are still bought and sold, and revenue has been paid on them for six or seven years.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th August 1876. No. 2,040.*

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th July 1876, No. 1,721.

From H. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th June 1876, No. 154.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 29th July 1873, No. 1,433, I have the honor to submit herewith a report from the District Engineer, which reached me only lately.

2. The whole piece that goes by the name of Adappampallam consists of 357.3 acres of *wet land*. Of this extent 9.25 are classed as 6th taram and assessed at Rupees 27-12-0 at Rupees 3 an acre, while the rest, 347.78 acres, are classed as 7th taram and assessed at Rupees 869-15-0 at Rupees 2.8-0 per acre.

3. The whole piece was taken up by the villagers, as a wealthy neighboring villager competed for it. The lands were made over in 1866, and, according to the cultivation accounts now on record, it is only the extents shown in the margin that were over-cultivated. After the lands were made over to the headmen of the village in 1866, they had it proportionately divided among all the ryots, and when the ryots found it not worth the trouble of cultivating, each of them sold his portion to the villagers in the vicinity, to whom the prospect of securing wet lands at so low a rate as Rupees 15 and

Faali.	Taram.	Extent cultivated.	Assessment.
1281...	6	1.84	Rs. 5 9 0
	7	4.87	12 3 0
	...	6.71	17 12 0
1282...	6	.66	2 0 0
	7	36.20	90 8 0
	...	36.86	92 8 0

Rupees 20 was too tempting. It was that the lands were sold and bought.

From Major J. VERTUE, R.E., District Engineer, Trichinopoly, to H. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 6th April 1876, No. 25.

I HAVE the honor to furnish the information, called for in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,433, of 29th July 1873, regarding the drainage of the Adappampallam in Trichinopoly taluq.

2. The foregoing is a natural hollow, to drain which a channel was many years ago cut by (then) Captain Lawford. How far this channel fulfilled its purpose I cannot say, but at all events it is now throughout silted up almost to ground level, and is, therefore, utterly useless. To restore the channel to a state of efficiency a heavy cutting (9½ maximum) is required, and the cost for earthwork alone will be Rupees 3,500.

3. The flooding is due partly to natural drainage and partly to the backwater of the Vennar in high floods. The latter can be almost entirely kept out by the provision of self-acting shutters to a surplus sluice in the Vennar embankment, which, while they will admit of a partial discharge from the flooded lands when the Vennar is low, will at the same time prevent the ingress of water from it when in flood. I may mention that these shutters are being now provided.

4. To effectually drain the land the forssaid channel must however be cut, two aqueducts for the passage of irrigation channels must be rebuilt, and aqueducts for the passage of eleven small jungle streams must be provided. Putting it at the very lowest figure, the cost of this will not be less than Rupees 5,000. I must leave you to say whether Government will be sufficiently remunerated for such an outlay.

5. I would only remark in conclusion that the channel is one that has silted up with great rapidity. This will no doubt be partly obviated by the construction of masonry works for the

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7th August 1876. No. 2,040.*

passage of the many jungle streams intercepted by the channel; but, under any circumstance, it is one that will be costly to maintain; and, even supposing the outlay forementioned will permit of the realization of a fair profit, I would not be disposed to recommend the carrying out of the scheme unless those interested agree to pay a certain proportion of the cost of keeping the channel clear. I cannot ascertain whether the channel was ever cleared after its completion, but to me it seems as though it were found to silt up so rapidly as to render the cost of keeping it clear unremunerative.

THE foregoing papers relate to a claim for remission of assessment put in by certain ryots holding a plot of land known as "Adappampallam" in the Trichinopoly taluq, the ground upon which the claim is based being that the land is not cultivable owing to excess of water.

2. It appears that the petitioner's statement is true, and that the lands, which bear a "wet" assessment of Rupees 2-8-0 and Rupees 3 an acre, are practically worthless. The total annual revenue derived from the plot amounts to Rupees 869-15-0. The District Engineer appears to have no doubt as to the possibility of rendering the land valuable by drainage, but says the work would be costly in execution, and that when completed further expense of a permanent nature would be entailed in keeping the drainage channel clear.

3. If Major Vertue's rough estimate of Rupees 5,000 is at all correct, it is evident that the work would be remunerative, returning, even at the present low rate of assessment, about seventeen per cent. upon the outlay. Whereas, if the work be not carried out, the lands will necessarily be waste from year to year and remission will be claimable.

4. In these circumstances, the Board are of opinion that the land should be drained, and resolve to submit the matter to Government with their recommendation that orders be issued in the Public Works Department for the preparation of estimates for opening out the drainage channel and subsidiary works and of the probable annual cost of maintenance. When this last item is known, a muchilka might be taken from the ryots interested to contribute kudi-maramut or a portion of the cost of annual clearance.

5. Meanwhile the puttadars are entitled to remission upon such portions of the land as remain waste owing to excess of water which they cannot control.

(True Copies and Extracts.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th February 1873, Miscellaneous No. 652.

From J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kodialum, 16th January 1873, No. 6.

WITH reference to the endorsement on Board's petition No. 2,521 of 1872, I have the honor to submit the following report.

2. The lands referred to by the petitioner were made over to the Arasangudi villagers in the Trichinopoly taluq in 1866 on durkhast. They were taken up on no conditions whatever either expressed or implied, and the assessment of the whole piece

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was collected from the villagers year after year although no portion of it ever appears to have been cultivated.

3. Mr. Banbury, the then Collector, made over the whole piece which goes by the name of Adappampallam, and which consists of 357.31 acres assessed at Rupees 896-2-0 to four headmen who represented all the ryots of the villages on their executing a muchilka binding themselves to pay the wet assessment. There is no mention made about providing a drain for the water that finds its way into the land during the freshes in the Cauvery.

4. The villagers paid the assessment for a few years and then managed to sell the land by bits to different parties, and the petitioner, Sundrum Iyah, purchased a large portion of it. It was Sundrum Iyah that first represented the difficulty of cultivating the land, and Lieutenant Brockman, now the Acting District Engineer, to whom the matter was referred, was of opinion that the land could be drained in the manner proposed by Sundrum Iyah and others; but this can only be done at an excessive cost.

5. It is true I learn that the land generally remains flooded till the end of September and that the ryots could not cultivate it. They may try some dry cultivation, but even that is not likely to be very profitable. It may be hard to charge the petitioner with wet assessment when the land does not admit of wet cultivation from being flooded; but the ryots took up the land with their eyes open to the fact, and continued to pay the assessment till now.

6. Having paid the assessment so long, they feel it hard very naturally to be told to relinquish the land formally, particularly after the Engineer has pronounced the draining of it feasible.

The petitioners probably counted on the land being drained and so becoming cultivable, but they had no right to assume that the Government would lay out money for their benefit. The Collector should ascertain what would be the precise cost of draining the land on banking out the flood water, and whether the petitioners would agree to pay such an assessment as would render the outlay profitable to Government. If the Collector cannot come to terms with the petitioners on such a basis he is at liberty to recommend the remission of the demand on condition that the land is formally relinquished. They will be referred to the Collector.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

TRANSFERRED to the Department of Public Works for early orders..

(True Extract.)

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

No. 125 W.

NOTE BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION.

Drainage of Adappampallam.

For the proper settlement of the drainage of this land will be required:—

1. A survey of the ground.

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2. A longitudinal section of the line of the drainage channel, with cross sections at moderate intervals, from the surplus sluice into the Vennar to the further end of the land.

3. A plan and section of the surplus sluice showing Vennar maximum and ordinary fresh levels, sluice sill, level, &c.

4. Cross sections of the land from side to side about at right angles to the line of the drainage channel.

5. Particulars of the area (approximate) of ground drained by the several jungle streams referred to in the District Engineer's letter.
No. 25, 6th April 1876, paragraph 5.

6. Particulars of the source of irrigation of the land, about which nothing appears to have been said.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
31st July 1876. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

No. 181. ORDER THEREON, 7th August 1876, No. 2,040.

IRRIGATION, No. 17.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, Trichinopoly, who will arrange for obtaining the information mentioned by necessary, and then report to this officer the instructions regarding the works to be designed the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to be necessary, and then report to this officer the general arrangements proposed, when instructions regarding the works to be designed and estimated for will be furnished to him.

(True Extract.)

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

To the District Engineer, Trichinopoly.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. O. Shunker.

Spare Copies

N. 3607
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Govt. of Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
TRICHINOPOLY.
&c. &c. &c.

Dated August 7th.

Issued

Recd. *Sept 2?* Encl.

G. O., 7th August 1876, No. 2040.

AUGUST.
Nos. 180-181.

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2074

Drainage of Adappampallam, Trichinopoly
District.—Note by the Chief Engineer for
Irrigation detailing the necessary informa-
tion for the proper settlement of the
communicated to the District Engineer with
certain instructions.

Sh 2074
Communicated to the
Chief

23 Sept 1876

Dated

196

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