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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2578	Press / Mis.
Dated 30.10.1876		191 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th October 1876. *No.* 2,713.

No. 139. Read the following letter from Colonel A. S. MOBERLY, R.E., District Engineer, Cuddapah, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Wallaur, *5th September* 1876, No. 1,231 :—

With reference to your letter, No. 6 C.D., of 24th April 1876, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter with sketch from the Cuddapah Range Officer. I am at a loss to understand why any compensation should have been recommended as the surplus weir has not been raised, and consequently the waterspread of the Canavaramudrum Ratchamma tank has not been increased.

2. From the records I find that, in August 1871, Mr. Hunter, then Assistant Engineer in charge of the Cuddapah Range, submitted an emergent estimate of Rupees 440 for repairing this tank, with the following remark :—

"It is reported by the Overseer in charge of Pulivendla taluq that this work has received its full supply of water in May last, and that the whole length is stone revetment, except a few yards at the extremities of the bund, has fallen down. Also states that it is in a dangerous state, and that he has therefore prepared this emergent estimate for immediate repair. The Overseer has been directed to frame an estimate for thorough repairs; it will be submitted when received."

3. In August 1872, the Collector wrote and requested that this tank should be repaired, as it was said to be in a very dangerous state, and in November 1872 an estimate, amounting to Rupees 2,940, was sanctioned for earthwork and stone revetment; there is nothing about raising the surplus weir. I cannot learn anything of any survey or levels having been taken.

From the Officer in charge of Cuddapah Range, to the District Engineer, Cuddapah, dated 23rd August 1876, No. 283.

In accordance with instructions contained in your endorsement, dated 1st May 1876, communicating a copy of letter No. 6 C.D., dated 24th April 1876, from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, I have the honor to submit the following memorandum and report on the Canavaramudrum Ratchamma tank, and the improvements under which the sum of Rupees 1,013-0-0 has been sanctioned to Pulivendla Division and Nerpattla Range Establishment, per G.O., No. 444, dated the 30th March 1870.

2. An estimate amounting to Rupees 2,940 was prepared for this tank on the 25th November 1872, and appears to have been expended in July 1874 after Rupees 2,324-0-0 had been expended.

3. In addition to this a sum of Rupees 440 appears to have been expended on emergency repairs, the estimate for which cannot be found in the office, and there is no one now in the range that can afford any information about the work.

4. Apparently one of the sluices in the bund (the middle one) was taken between 1874 and 1876 [illegible]

6. It should also be noticed that a sum of Rupees 130 is provided in the estimate as compensation for land, but why this small sum was provided cannot now be ascertained, and it does not appear to have been expended.

7. As the escape of the tank has been neither raised nor lowered, the capacity of the tank has not been increased, and consequently any land that is now submerged when the tank is full must necessarily have been in the same condition before the bank of the tank was raised by this department.

8. The demand for compensation therefore appears inadmissible, on the grounds stated in Government Order now under report.

9. I beg to enclose a sketch of the fields for which compensation is required, taken from the village map. The fields in question are shaded red, and it is evident that they are outside the line demarcated as the boundary of the Gnanamuthoor tank-bed. The enclosed sketch is a very small portion of Bonalle fields bordering on the tank-bed, and the question naturally arises why these two fields only should be selected for compensation, and all the adjoining land which must be equally affected by the water when tanks are full allowed to remain under cultivation, for a very little difference of level in any of the fields outside the demarcation boundary. The answer I have received from the Palm-coddaie is a surprising one, and I would not feel myself justified in recording it, as I could discern only good reason for the action that has been taken, it is this.

10. That they would be equally entitled to compensation, only the holders (Tumadars and Ryots) have made no claims, as they feel they have no right to compensation, and Dassamah, the recipient of the present payment, and Nerapoothe Rama Reddy may be considered one, the latter being the adopted son of the former, and is employed as a clerk in the Collector's Cutcherry.

11. I am further informed that originally the application submitted to the Collector for compensation amounted to Rupees 2,000 and upwards, and in favor of the same party, that this statement was based on a calculation of the land being worth Rupees 100 an acre, although it is now said in the Government Order referred to to be worth only Rupees 80, and this price is somewhere still right by the Board.

12. I respectfully submit that these statements should be investigated, and the money, if already paid, should be recovered by the department or Board being authorized, and I believe the price entry if per acre is far short of what it ought to be.

13. The real reason why compensation should be paid, if any is this, I first enquired that it has been the practice of the Government here to cultivate the greater portion of the tank-bed, but in 1874 Huzoorcutcha were taken from, from prohibiting this practice in future. They have not therefore wasted the water by draining it off through the sluices. The promise from podiadhikarees under the tank-water to plant on the land around the margin longer than heretofore, and less in some parts to attend properly with the cultivation, but this could be easily remedied by the erection of a small bank, but for compensation as required further it would appear to be a revenue matter and one which does not call for funds from this department.

14. From a line of levels taken across the tank-bed it is ascertained that below Nos. 187 and 190 are from 1 to 2 feet below the crest of escape, and must, of necessity, be flooded when the tank is full and have always been in the same condition, and that the lands adjacent are right on low.

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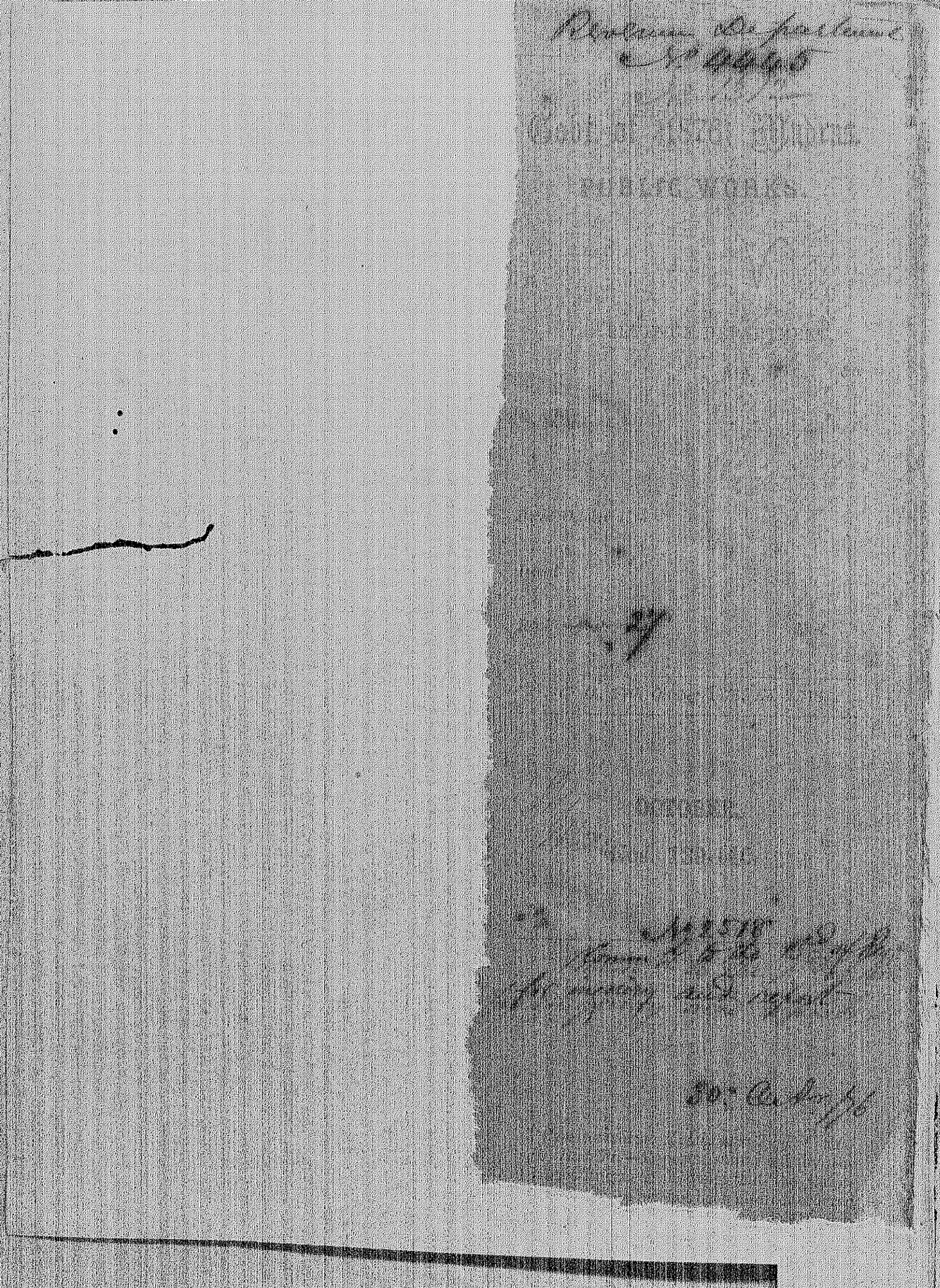
altered be communicated to the Revenue Department for consideration, with reference to the Order, No. 444, of the 30th March 1876, in that department, sanctioning the payment of compensation for lands supposed to have been submerged in consequence of the carrying out of certain repairs.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" Colonel Engineer, Coddapah.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.