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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2820	Press
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st October 1876.

Read the following papers :—

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Owk, 19th September 1876,
No. 423 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward copy of a letter, No. 348, of the 8th instant, from the Head Assistant Collector forwarding a draft of a Takeed to the Cumbum Tahsildar, and recommending that sanction may be obtained for certain concessions proposed therein.

2. To carry out certain sanitary arrangements at Cumbum, Government ordered the Seekrail Anicut there to be breached; the consequence of this has been to reduce the quantity of water in the Katwa Kalwa, and though he has made as good arrangements as could be made for supplying this channel with water there will be a considerable deficiency. This deficiency is partly due to the want of rain.

3. If the ryots sow dry crops remission to a certain extent could be given under the rules, and this certainly will be done. But if they sow wet crops, which do not require so much water as rice, no remission is allowed under the rules.

4. The Head Assistant proposes that, as most of the lands under this channel were charged with garden rates before the head "garden" disappeared from the accounts, the old garden rates should be charged for this year on such lands as it would be unsafe to risk a rice crop on. In the case of lands never hitherto classed as garden, he proposes that the highest dry rate of the village should be charged with an addition of one rupee an acre for the water used.

5. However, the concession may be carried out; it ought to appear in the accounts and reports as a form of remission, and not a reduction of assessment. The term "garden" has been ordered to be removed from the accounts, and I am averse to going back to a procedure, even in a partial degree, that has been condemned. I would, therefore, prefer that instead of adopting the garden rates we should be authorized to grant a certain remission. The assessment of the land under this tank is very high, and I am unable to say what part of the assessment is supposed to be due for land and what for water. The charge for water might be put down at Rupees 6 per acre as in the case of the land under the Irrigation Company's Canal, or it might be taken at a certain proportion of the assessment, say one-half, that being the rate of fasaljasti.

6. I would propose that we be authorized to tell the ryots that, if they use water for rice and such other crops as form Class I under the Irrigation Company's rules; but that if they take water for other crops, they will obtain a remission not exceeding half the assessment on the land, but that the amount payable will not be reduced beyond the highest dry rate of the village *plus* a charge of one rupee per acre for water. For the second crop I would charge one-fourth the assessment.

7. The Head Assistant Collector also in his letter, No. 347, of the 8th instant, recommends, with a view to economize the water as much as possible, the appointment of eight extra Nirkatties and three Water Overseers on 12 Rupees each. Under the present circumstances, I have thought this so necessary that I have allowed their entertainment in anticipation of sanction. Government when sanctioning the Nirkatti establishment for the district directed that the present establishment should have a

trial, but I have not exceeded the number of Nirkatties proposed at first. These people will not work carefully unless they have some supervision; hence the necessity of the Water Overseers. I request that this establishment may be sanctioned.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. R. FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Cumbum, 8th September 1876, No. 348.

In submitting an English draft of a Takeed to the Cumbum Tahsildar, I have the honor to recommend, under the circumstances detailed therein, that the sanction of the authorities be obtained for making concessions as proposed therein to the ryots under the Katwa Kalwa for whose lands, owing to the breaching of the anicut, a supply of water sufficient to mature a rice crop is not available.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Order on Cumbum Tahsildar's Arzi, No. 351, dated 5th September 1876.

THIS arzi relates to the arrangements proposed to be adopted in order to utilize to the fullest possible extent the water in the Katwa Channel, the usual supply to which has been cut off by breaching the Seekrail Anicut. The supply now derived from the Pedda Cumbum Channel is necessarily short, and will have to be most carefully economized, unless we are willing to let the land remain waste for want of water, and thus give the people grounds for claiming remission of the assessment under Rule I of the Remission Rules (Board's Standing Circular, No. 20 of 1872).

2. It must be frankly admitted that we are unable, with the present want of rain and poor prospects, to guarantee to all the ryots cultivating under the Katwa Channel a supply of water sufficient to bring to maturity at the end of four months the crop of rice which should now have been transplanted from the seed-beds.

3. In the present unfavorable season, the great thing to be avoided is allowing any land which can possibly be cultivated to lie waste.

4. The question then arises whether, in case the ryots do not see their way to sowing a crop requiring so much water as rice, we could not hold out inducements to them to cultivate some other crop, either requiring less water or no water besides the rain.

5. In Rule II of the Remission Rules, it is provided that, when on account of deficiency of water dry crops are cultivated on wet lands which must otherwise have remained waste, only the highest dry rate of the village should be charged. There is therefore no difficulty in the case of any dry crops which may be cultivated on account of deficiency of water on wet land which must otherwise have remained waste under the Katwa Kalwa. The assessment will be reduced to the highest dry rate of the village. The Tahsildar should proclaim in the villages concerned what the highest dry rate in the village is.

6. Then remains the case of ryots who wish instead of growing dry crops to grow garden crops which require about one-fourth of the quantity of water which a rice crop requires. It happens that most of these lands were charged with garden rates before; under the orders noted in the margin, the head "garden" disappeared from the accounts, and all land was classed as wet or dry, and assessed accordingly. This "garden rate" includes, besides the assessment for dry land, an additional charge for water sufficient to mature crops, such as raggi, usually grown in garden lands, as the lands under wells are usually called.

Revenue Board's Circular Memorandum, No. 787, of 14th August 1866.

In case therefore we are unable to give more water than is sufficient to mature a garden crop, it would be fair and desirable to charge for the present year the old garden rates on such lands as it would be unsafe to risk a rice crop on. The crops grown on garden lands are the staple food grains of the mass of the population here. No opportunity should be lost by which the prospect of a supply at this somewhat critical time would be diminished. I therefore recommend strongly that garden rates only be charged for those lands previously classed as garden, and for which water enough for a garden crop only can be supplied. The Tahsildar recommends the highest garden rate of the village. I recommend the garden rate previously charged on the land in question.

7. With regard to the case where garden crops only can be raised on land never hitherto classed as garden, I recommend that the highest dry rate of the village be charged, and in addition that a charge be made of one rupee per acre for the water used. This is the charge made in Kurnool for water used for land classed as dry when a dry crop is watered from a first-class source of irrigation (Rule II of Water Rate Rules, Board's Standing Order, No. 20 of 1874). If the garden crops (which, as stated before, only require a fourth of quantity of the water required for wet crops) are to be considered as "wet" crops then the charge per acre will be Rupees 4, which I consider would be too much, both with reference to the quantity of water which we are likely to be able to supply as well as to the quantity of water required for a garden crop.

8. From the Tahsildar's arzi it would appear that the concession he proposes will only entail a diminution of Rupees 533-0-8 on the wet assessment. This is only about the extra amount gained this year (Rupees 603-3-1) by the extra land taken up after the channel was cleared. I recommend that the proposal to charge one rupee over the highest dry rate of the village when garden crops are grown on wet land, which would otherwise have remained waste for want of water, be approved, and the ryots definitely informed that the wet rates acknowledged by the Settlement Department to be too high, under any circumstances, will not be collected in such cases this year (Fasli 1286).

9. The Tahsildar does not approve of the proposal to allow the villages lower down the channels to have the water during the night and the villages higher up during the day, and proposes to regulate each case as necessity arises and justice dictates. He further proposes to allow the erection of seventy-nine temporary dams in the bed of the Katwa Channel. The proposal to fix times when the water should be available for different villages seemed to me to be one which would tend to remove causes for disputes about water; and which would simplify matters, which require simplification, when our water-distributing staff is so weak. At the same time I had not seen the Tahsildar much about the channel except when specially ordered there.

As however the Tahsildar has a right to be heard with regard to the best arrangements for distributing water, I sanction his proposals, both as regards temporary dams (when unavoidable), and also as regards not adopting a division of time during which the different villages are entitled to the exclusive use of the water. Having adopted the Tahsildar's recommendations, I have no hesitation in holding him responsible that I discover no cases where water is being lost when this could have been avoided by his more frequent presence near the channels or by the adoption of a simpler plan than the one which he is in favor of. The Tahsildar in his Arzi, No. 358, dated 8th instant, requests sanction to close a breach in the Uyyala channel, reports what arrangements he has made for supply of water to the lands, already cultivated, of Avurangabada, Nadimpally, and Kandalapuram, and suggests that the 1st-class Revenue Inspector of Markapur may, as a temporary measure, be placed in charge of the Cumbum Firka, as one fit to supervise and attend to the conservancy of the channels at a time like the present. I sanction the work proposed to the Uyyala channel, and approve of the Tahsildar's arrangements for the supply of water to the lands of Avurangabada and other villages; and I direct that the two 1st-class Revenue Inspectors of Cumbum and Markapur exchange with each other for four months as a temporary measure.

Read also Tahsildar's Arzi, No. 360, dated 8th instant, in which he solicits that sanction be accorded for executing the requisite repairs to some minor channels at an aggregate cost of

Rupees 477. As, under the circumstances detailed by the Tahsildar in the arzi, the execution of the repairs proposed seems desirable, I authorize him to get the work done for Rupees 400, which will probably be found sufficient.

(Signed) H. R. FARMER,
Acting Head Assistant Collector.

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nangunery, 20th
September 1876, No. 3,389-98.

IN reply to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,260, dated 2nd September 1876, I have the honor to inform you that a scheme for the settlement of the Cumbum and Markapur Taluqs of Kurnool is now in the Press and will be submitted to the Board immediately. If I am favored with early orders on this scheme, I will proceed to Cumbum and see how far the settlement can be made beneficial to that locality.

THE Collector's proposals in paragraph 6 of his letter for regulating the assessment of the lands referred to, the supply of which has been decreased by the action of Government, are approved, as a temporary measure, for the current fasli. As to the settlement of the rates in future years, the Board observe that the question was referred to the Director of Revenue Settlement in Board's Proceedings, 2nd September 1876, No. 2,260. In the letter above recorded, Mr. Puckle states that the settlement scheme for Cumbum and Markapur will shortly be submitted, and that after orders are passed thereon he proposes to visit the place. The irrigation under the Cumbum tank is no doubt specially treated of in the report, which the Board will await.

2. It is observed that some words are wanting in paragraph 6 of the Collector's present letter. The Board presume that after "irrigation Company's rules" in the first sentence, the words "they will be charged full assessment" should be supplied.

3. In paragraph 7 the Collector reports that to meet the present difficulties as to water distribution and prevention of waste he has entertained, in anticipation of sanction, eight extra Nirkatties and three Water Overseers on Rupees 12 each. The sanctioned scheme provided for forty-eight Nirkatties for the Cumbum tank, costing Rupees 5,796 (G.Os., 31st March 1876, No. 453, and 25th August 1876, No. 1,164), but it was ordered that for the present only thirty-four men in all should be employed subject to report at the end of a year. The Collector does not state the cost of the Nirkatties who are now to be employed, nor whether the cost can be provided from the sanctioned sum. Apparently this is not the case. The saving on account of fourteen Nirkatties is Rupees 42, but the eight Nirkatties and three Overseers will cost Rupees 60.

4. The excess however is small, and the sanction of Government will be requested to the Collector's action as a temporary measure, subject to report at the end of the year originally allowed for the trial of the experimental scale.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Acting Collector of Kurnool.
,, the Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Revenue Department

Mis: n^o 10339

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 24th November 1876

Read the following

N^o 535

From, The H. Collector,
Kurnool

To, The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

With reference to para 2 of
Board's Proceedings, N^o 2623 dated
21st October, I have the honor to state
that the Board are right in
presuming that the words omitted
in para 6 of my letter embodied
therein, should be 'they will be
charged full assessment.'

Kurnool Collr's Office
11th November 1876

I have on
22nd W. L. Foster
H. Collector

1876.

Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST OCTOBER 1876, No. 2,623.

Received

Encl.

OCTOBER.

No. 2,623.

Assessment—on lands a sufficient supply of
water to which is not available owing to the
breaching of Seekrall Ament, in Kurnool
District.—Approving Collector's proposals for
regulating —, as a temporary measure, for cur-
rent fish, and requesting sanction of Govern-
ment for entertainment of certain Nirkatties
and Water Overseers subject to report at the
end of the year.

Recorded.

(True copy & Extract)

(Signed) H. E. Stokes

As. Secretary

To,
The Collector of Kurnool

(True copy)

Witness

Acting Secretary

To,
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

5
2820

By H. E. Stokes
C. M. V.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Pro: 1896. 24th

N^o 5-182 ✓

Proceeding of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 24th Nov/96

Decr 24-11-"

Decr 25-11-"

N^o 2820

Copy to

27th Nov/96

Recording the Mr. J. M.

Collector of the Revenue

reg. the words omitted

in para 6 of the letter am-

-ended in 13th Pro: N^o 2820

27th Nov/96.

Mr. J. M. J. M. J. M.