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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
~~B.P. No.~~

450

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Dated

18.2.1876 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1876.*

No. 66. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th January 1876, No. 63:—

Read the following letter from W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th November 1875, No. 235:—

In reference to Government Order, Public Works Department, No. 2,489, dated 1st September 1875, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. The delay in the settlement of the demands for irrigation under the canal of the Madras Irrigation Company for 1874-75 was due to several causes.

The main cause was the incomplete state of the village accounts in the Cuddapah Taluq. The application tickets for the season were issued by the curnams and the Company's servants. The former complained that the latter did not keep them informed of their transactions, while the latter make a similar complaint against the curnams. This difficulty occurred chiefly in the village of Chennur, where irrigation by means of canal water is very extensive. The curnams, I believe, were as much, if not more, to blame than the Company's subordinates, and I have dismissed every curnam in the Chennur Village. I am given to understand that the Company have had some difficulty with one of their Overseers, who, I hear, has been dismissed. His accounts were not forthcoming when they were most required for reference, and this retarded work considerably. These difficulties would not have been so great if the Tahsildar of Cuddapah had been equal to his work. In my letter, No. 39, dated 17th February 1875, I reported on the inefficiency of this man to the Board. In their Proceedings, No. 942, dated 16th April 1875, the Board appear to me to have taken a mistaken view of his case, and I am now eliciting further facts to show his mismanagement of his taluq, and I will report further to the Board on the subject. There was no delay in the preparation of the accounts in the Proddatur and Jamal-madugu Taluqs, and there is not the least reason why the accounts of the Cuddapah Taluq should not have been ready in proper time. Then, again, when the accounts of Cuddapah Taluq were ready, the settlement was delayed by cholera, as village officials and ryots were unwilling to assemble in one place for fear of infection. Mr. Dodson was called away from his duties in this district to take charge of the head office, and there was some delay in obtaining the services of a canal officer at the settlement. This fact, however, and cholera are scarcely worth notice, as they would not have proved hindrances had the Cuddapah Taluq accounts been ready. The settlement ought to have been completed before cholera made its appearance.

3. I wish to draw the particular attention of the Board to the enclosed copy of a letter* from the Deputy Collector in immediate charge of duties in connection with the canal.

* Dated 26th October 1875, No. 48. Mr. Dodson says in his report printed in the Proceedings of Government that the curnams neglect irrigation work, that they delay to collect water-rates, and, therefore, he fears that there is some truth in the reports that he has heard that curnams overcharge the ryots, and thereby the prospects of the Company are injuriously affected. I do not understand this statement. I do not see that the necessary consequence of neglect and delay is overcharging the ryots. I have heard as many things vaguely stated against the Company's underlings as Mr. Dodson has apparently heard against curnams, but I have not considered it worthwhile to

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trouble Mr. Dodson with the vague rumours I have heard, far less have I considered it necessary to report such rumours to Government, because I am unable to say that these rumours are founded on facts which are capable of proof, and, secondly, because I have refrained, as much as possible, from creating a bad spirit between the officers of the villages and of the Company. I regret to say that I must gather from Mr. Dodson's remarks that he does not meet me in the same spirit. I do not, for a moment, assume, and I have repeatedly stated this in former reports, that curnams are by any means immaculate, but at the same time I do not see that curnams should form the sole object of Mr. Dodson's attacks. I believe that the curnams and the Company's servants are equally grasping and irregular in their practices. I presume that Mr. Dodson knows his own subordinates as well as I know mine, and I am surprised that he should be so ready to take such a very one-sided view of the case. He can, no doubt, say that no complaints have been brought against the Company's servants. I can say the same as regards complaints against the officials of Government, and the Board will observe that the Deputy Collector says the same thing.

4. With regard to the delay in the collection of water-rates, the Board will see from the Deputy Collector's letter what the arrears in the three taluqs under the influence of canal water are. In Jamalmadugu they amount to Rupees 20, in Proddatur the arrears are Rupees 534, and in Cuddapah they are upwards of Rupees 8,000. The arrears in the last-mentioned taluq are owing to the inability of the Tahsildar to manage so large a taluq.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From ARNI KRISHNA ROW, Acting Deputy Collector, to W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapalli, 26th October 1875, No. 48.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your footnote* to Government Order, under date the 1st September 1875, No. 2,489, calling for an explanation as to the delay in the settlement of the demand (in this district) for irrigation under the canal for Fasli 1284, and as to the confusion in the accounts, &c.

* No. 437, dated 21st September 1875.

2. On referring to the official correspondence which, on my assuming charge of this office, I was informed has taken place between my predecessor and the canal officers, I observe that the delay in conducting the canal irrigation settlement for the season 1874-75 was owing partly to the unexpected absence of Mr. Dodson from this district and partly to the non-completion of accounts belonging to Chennur Village combined with some other similar unavoidable circumstances, which will be detailed hereafter.

3. On the 13th March 1875 (i.e., soon after the closing of the canal for that season,) my predecessor duly addressed a letter to the Chief Engineer and Manager at Kurnool, intimating his desire to settle at first Cuddapah and afterwards the Proddatur and Jamalmadugu Taluqs, and requesting to issue necessary instructions to Mr. Dodson on the subject. With reference to this requisition, you were informed* by the Chief Engineer that Mr. Dodson was deputed to act for him under Rule XIX, as settlement officer, and were requested at the same time to report whom you wished to appoint on the Revenue side, as well as the date and place fixed for the same.

* Vide letter, dated 17th March 1875, No. 45.

4. Adverting to your footnote* to the above letter, my predecessor reiterated his proposal in his letter to Mr. Dodson on the 5th April 1875, and asked him to send, prior to the commencement of the jamabandi, his ameens with the necessary accounts for comparison with

* No. 155, dated 3rd April 1875.

the collection of water-rates in the taluqs of Jamalmadugu and Proddatur, and the balance of arrears up to last month shows a small figure as per margin. The demand of Fasli 1281, 1282, and 1283—

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a view to facilitate the Settlement Officer's work eventually, to which an evasive reply was given by that officer declining to comply with his request. (A copy of this letter is enclosed herein for your information).

5. Mir Ansardin Sahib, however, pointed* out to him again the necessity for prior comparison of accounts of both departments, and wished to know when it would be convenient for him to meet for conducting the settlement.

* Vide letter No. 10, dated 23rd April 1875.

6. On the 1st of May 1875, and again, in reply to a subsequent letter, on the 8th June 1875, Mr. Dodson expressed his inability to meet my predecessor at the time owing to his absence from the district or otherwise being engaged on special work in Kurnool, and wished to know* the completion of accounts of all the three taluqs to be settled at Addimmiapalle at once for all.

* Vide his letter, dated 22nd June 1875, No. 74.

7. At this stage the prevalence of cholera, the non-completion of Chennur accounts owing to the gross negligence and insubordinate conduct of the curnams in not having kept correct registers of applications and of cultivated fields, and the transfer of my predecessor, left the matters in a standstill up to the 14th August 1875, and thus an interval of five months elapsed in the above correspondence.

8. This state of things attracted my attention on taking charge of the Deputy Collector's Office from you on the abovesaid last date, and I immediately took action in the matter. In reply to my letter, Mr. Dodson informed* me that Mr. Crawford will be sent in on his behalf

* Vide letter, No. 83, dated 26th August 1875.

to meet me at Dhoor on the 6th September 1875, but this officer's arrival was again put off for a week more as reported to you in my letter, No. 39, of the 11th September 1875.

9. The settlement was, however, commenced afterwards on the 13th idem in company with Mr. Crawford, and finished by the end of the week, but a great inconvenience was felt in settling the Cuddapah Taluq owing to the absence of the Company's Overseer, Mr. Griffiths, who had kept with him the accounts of his section.

10. It is not out of place here, I think, to state that the application tickets for that season were issued indiscriminately by the curnams as well as by the Company's servants in the village of Chennur, where an extensive cultivation is carried on in this district by the ryots. The curnams complain that copies of those granted by the Company's servants were never furnished to them for registry, while the latter state that the former were not punctual in issuing and submitting the same to them. Thus the whole affair was an effusion of continued variance between them, which appears to have led to a great confusion in the accounts. Consequently they are now being duly compared with the original applications purposely sent for from the Chief Engineer's Office to test their correctness.

11. In regard to your third query, I beg to state that I have not heard of any complaint against curnams refusing to give receipts for the payments made by the ryots on account of the canal water-rates charged on their irrigated fields, nor is there any record to that effect in this office, but I think it is advisable, as already suggested to you in my letter No. 42, to issue putta tickets and to grant payment receipts thereon to the ryots. I cannot agree with Mr. Dodson in presuming that the alleged overcharge by the curnams has had "a most injurious effect on the prospects of the Company," and, on the other hand, it is my firm belief that the less popular conduct of the Company's underlings and the want of more encouraging facilities for the free use of water (such as those referred to in my abovesaid letter) are the chief causes for backwardness on the part of the ryots to apply for canal water.

12. As to your last question, I can confidently say that there has been no slackness in the collection of water-rates in the taluqs of

	Rs.	A.	P.
Proddatur	534	1	3
Jamalmadugu	20	14	3

being only been settled in last month, the collections will be made hereafter with all

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possible speed. Being ignorant of the local circumstances of the Cuddapah Taluq, I called for an explanation from the Tahsildar. As it is not likely that the information can be had

Paali	Rs.	A.	P.
1281	23	13	7
1282	277	5	10
1283	7,729	4	10
Total ...	8,030	8	3

before long, I thought it advisable to submit my report without any further delay. I can only state, from the apparent circumstances, that the balance of arrears outstanding against Cuddapah Taluq is very large as shown in the margin.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) M. RAMASAWMY,
Dy. Collector, for Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to the Government Order quoted.

2. The Board await Mr. Horsley's further report on the conduct of the Cuddapah Tahsildar.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 67.

ORDER THEREON, 5th February 1876, No. 315.

IRRIGATION, No. 6.

RECORDED and communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and to the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

2. It is of importance that a canal officer should be ready each season at the proper time to aid the Revenue Officers in making the annual settlement of canal dues.

(True Extract.)

C. Munro Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

- „ Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
- „ Government Examiner of Accounts.
- „ Revenue Department. ✓

Exd. S. T. Austin.

90 Spare Copies

Revenue Department

No 701

Colt. of 1876 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION

&c., &c., &c.

Dated February 5th.

Issued

Recd. — a — 17th

Encl.

G. O., 5th February 1876, No. 315.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 66 67

Irrigation under the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal in the Cuddapah District for 1874-75.—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue furnishing Collector's explanation of delay in the settlement of the demands for —, recorded and communicated with remarks to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Manager of Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

No 450
Comm. to the
Board of Revenue

18 Feb 76

14th Dec 1875 Board of Revenue No. 19 Feb