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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	1339	Press. / Mis.
Dated	8-3-1977	197 .

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Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Read the following

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1877.

1339

No. 630. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1877, No. 389 :—

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd November 1876, No. 651.

In reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 733, dated 14th March 1876, I have the honor to submit comparative statements for the north and south Srivykuntham channels, showing the areas likely to be irrigated as estimated by Mr. Puckle in 1872, and those now thought probable by the Tahsildar, a very competent officer and thoroughly acquainted with his taluq. The Board will find the population of each village in the first column, and the condition of the ryots as well as explanations of variations in estimate in the last column.

2. The revision of assessment on the north side has resulted in an increase of revenue of Rupees 7,743, but this is included in the figures already given by me for Fasli 1284.

3. The remissions for Fasli 1284, amounting to Rupees 31,035, were in part the result of a deficient supply of water in the kar season, and also to a large extent were caused by the ryots having taken into holding more land than there was any prospect of cultivating for kar for a long time to come if ever. This remission to a great extent disappears in the current fasli, owing to the rule that no remission is to be granted on lands compounded for two crops when only one crop fails, the result being that the large extent of 7,246 Acres assessed at Rupees 23,015, waste and withered in kar, has been paid for by the ryots.

4. I am of opinion that this state of things is likely to be permanent, and ought to be met by granting option to the ryots of having their lands reclassed as single crop with a change of half or two-thirds single-crop assessment on a second crop if cultivated successfully. The opportunity would not be taken advantage of except when there is no probability of a second crop being permanent, and then, I think, it is only just to allow the opportunity. The ryots, there can be no doubt, had exaggerated ideas of the quantity and certainly of the supply for kar, and ought to be allowed the opportunity for at least five years to come of retracting their consent to the compounded charge.

5. I beg to enclose also a Statement No. 4, in the form of No. 3 of my letter contained in Board's Proceedings under reply, giving the information already tabulated for a number of years for the past Fasli 1285 also. It will be seen by comparison of the figures of 1285 with those of 1284, that the area of holdings on putta at wet rates has remained nearly the same, that the area cultivated for Peshanam has increased by nearly 1,000 Acres, while that cultivated for kar has diminished by more than 3,000 Acres. The kar season was unusually unfavorable, but still I cannot but regard this as confirming my low estimate of the increase to be expected in the kar season. It shows how near the ultimate limit we have come when a difference in season will reduce the area cultivated in kar, already 7,000 Acres less than that held and paid for, by as much as 3,000 Acres more.

6. As regards the statement now submitted, I beg to state that it expresses the views of the Tahsildar who is certainly very well qualified to form an opinion both by thorough knowledge of the taluq acquired in a four years' residence there, and by the

fact that he is himself a very intelligent officer. According to his estimate, 1,000 Acres under the south channel and 463 Acres under the north channel, total 1,463 Acres, may be expected to come into cultivation eventually besides the area now held on putta, and he expects the whole of this will be cultivated for both crops. This is for the Tenkarai taluq only. The total would thus be 18,801 Acres assessed at Rupees 1,97,986 for both crops together.

To this must be added for Ottapidaram taluq 241 Acres of first crop and 24 Acres of second crop cultivated this year, and about 2,000 Acres more for first crop, which in course of time will probably come into cultivation at the end of the north channel, and perhaps 200 for second crop :—

		Rs.
or 2,241 Acres first crop assessed at	... ...	11,205
224 „ second crop assessed at...	... ...	1,120
	Total ...	12,325

The grand total would thus give—

		Rs.
21,042 Acres for Peshanam first crop ... } 19,025 „ for kar second crop ... }	assessed at...	2,10,311

7. I regret that I cannot agree with the Tahsildar in the estimate of the areas likely to be ultimately irrigated, as I think the figures already given by me are much more probable. The Board have taken my safe estimate for the comparisons and observations made by them. If my probable estimates were taken they would have a fair idea of what I think may be expected ; the safe estimate is what I am sure of, the other what I believe will most probably result. This will give 31,255 Acres assessed at Rupees 1,79,631 as my estimate of what is probable, against 40,067 Acres assessed at Rupees 2,10,311 as the Tahsildar's estimate, and 55,724 Acres assessed at Rupees 2,92,793 as Mr. Puckle's estimate of 1872. I consider it most probable that some of the land now in holding on the south side will go out of wet holding for want of water supply, and that on the north side besides present holdings, there will eventually be about 2,000 Acres of land cultivated near Tuticorin for one crop only. This will probably be a good many years in coming to pass, as that part of the country is thinly populated and a good deal must be done in the way of draining and improving the lands to be cultivated.

The widest difference between my estimate and the Tahsildar's is in the extent likely to be cultivated in kar ; I do not think this will rise beyond 10,000 Acres ; he thinks 18,800 will eventually be successfully grown. The remaining difference is in Peshanam, where I think present holdings will not be fully reached on the south side, and he thinks that 1,400 Acres more than this will come into cultivation.

8. I think, as regards the Tenkarai taluq, that the ryots have from the first taken a sanguine a view of the possible irrigation. As remarked in my previous letter, any extension can only be by means of tanks already existing, and which cannot be very greatly enlarged without encroaching on the lands taken up for cultivation. Moreover, though the supply in the river is abundant, I doubt the carrying power of the main canals under present conditions to supply a larger area than that estimated. For the villages at the end of the south main channel I can see certainly that it is

nothing but the absence of a sufficient water supply which has prevented their working up to the area held by them or near it, and I do not see, under existing conditions of channels and tanks, that this state of things can be very materially improved.

9. The reasons why there is so great a difference between my estimate and the Tahsildar's or Mr. Puckle's probably is that Mr. Puckle estimated in 1872, and took into account nearly all the land which was then reported to be within command of the channels : while subsequent experience of four years shows that only such area as can be commanded by *tanks* can be expected to come into cultivation : credit was given to the channels for being able to carry all the water that was wanted, and it was thought that the only difficulty was to find land lying low enough for command. Experience shows that the channels fed by freshes of varying amount are not in their present state capable of carrying more water than suffices for a limited area, far below, in my opinion, the total of what the level of the channel commands.

Enclosures Nos. 1 to 3.—Statements.

In 1872, Mr. Puckle estimated the total area likely to be brought under irrigation under the Srivykuntham anicut at 55,724* Acres, assessed at Rs. 3,27,123†. Again, in reporting on the effects of the Revenue Settlement of the lands under the southern canal, he stated that besides the revenue brought to account up to Fasli 1284, which, exclusive of remissions, amounted to Rs. 91,602, an increase of Rupees 49,495 was expected from the lands under that channel. This together with the previously estimated revenue under the northern channel amounted to Rs. 2,95,391‡ (not Rupees 2,92,793 as entered in paragraph 8 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 14th March 1876, No. 733). Mr. Stuart, however, having reported in January 1876 that not more than 29,255§ Acres can be safely estimated as capable of being brought under irrigation, he was called upon to report more fully on the subject, and the letter above recorded is the reply.

* G.O., dated 2nd August 1872, No. 1,153.

	1st Crop. Acres.	2nd Crop. Acres.	Total. Acres.
South Canal ...	13,510	13,382	26,892
North Canal ...	14,416	14,416	28,832
	27,926	27,798	55,724

† G.O., dated 19th July 1875, No. 1,085.

	Rs.
South Canal	1,72,829
North Canal	1,54,294
	3,27,123

‡

	Rs.
North Channel	1,54,294
South Channel, Fasli 1284	91,602
Increase under South Channel ...	49,495
	2,95,391

§

	Acres.
1st Crop	17,922
2nd Crop	11,333
	29,255

2. Mr. Stuart still adheres to his former opinion, and states that while he is sure that 29,255 Acres will be brought under irrigation, it is probable that under 1st and 2nd crops 31,255 Acres assessed at Rupees [illegible]31 may be irrigated, but not more. He states that this large difference between his estimate and that of Mr. Puckle's is due to Mr. Puckle having taken into account nearly all the land which was then reported to be within the command of the channels, but that subsequent experience of

four years has shown that channels are not capable of supplying as much water as is required for so large an extent. The Tahsildar of the Tenkarai taluq, in which the lands are mostly situated, estimates the probable area to be irrigated at 37,602 Acres, assessed at Rupees 1,97,986, and adding to this the area likely to be irrigated in the Ottapidaram taluq, the total area estimated by the Tahsildar comes to 40,067* Acres, assessed at Rupees 2,10,311. Mr. Stuart, however, does not consider that the Tahsildar's estimate can be realized. He thinks that some of the lands now occupied on the south side will not be cultivated as wet for want of water supply.

	Acres.
*First crop	21,042
Second crop	19,025
Total ...	40,067

3. The extent now actually irrigated or charged as irrigated under the 1st and 2nd crops is 30,025† Acres, assessed at Rupees 1,58,672, and, according to Mr. Stuart, not more than 1,230 Acres are likely to be brought under irrigation hereafter.

† 30,019 Acres, assessed at Rupees 1,58,657, according to the channel register.

4. The original estimates prepared by Mr. Puckle were framed on the Engineer's assurance that channels would carry water sufficient for 55,724‡ Acres, but experience has shown that since the anicut has been completed water has not reached the end of the channels at all. It must be remembered, however, that the seasons have been very adverse, and the work has had no chance of showing its full capabilities. There is ample land which could be irrigated if water is available, and the whole question of the probable revenue therefore depends entirely upon the capacity of the channels to supply water, which can only be determined by Public Works Department. The Board therefore suggest that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation be requested to estimate the quantity of water available for each village commanded by the channel for 1st and 2nd crop. When this is done, a better estimate of the probable return can be made.

	Acres.
‡ First crop	27,946
Second crop	27,778
Total ...	55,724

5. The extent irrigated and the actual revenue realized ever since the completion of the anicut are shown below in comparison with the figures previous to that period:—

	Area charged as irrigated.			Revenue.
	1st Crop.	2nd Crop.	Total.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Average of 7 years previous to Fasl 1281 ...	13,033	6,7[illegible]	[illegible]7	1,[illegible]53
1281	13,607	7,615	21,22[illegible]	1,[illegible]33
1282	12,497	4,686	17,183	1,0[illegible]24
1283	16,064	6,584	22,648	1,40,166
1284	14,922	11,333	26,255	1,54,631
1285	15,948	14,071	30,019	1,58,657

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6. In reporting that the cause of large remissions in Fasli 1284 on the lands under the anicut was a deficient supply of water, Mr. Stuart again raises the question of the propriety of refusing remissions on lands compounded for two crops when only one crop fails, and observes that in Fasli 1285, 7,246 Acres of land which were either waste or in which crops withered were charged under the rules with an assessment of Rupees 23,015. He is of opinion that ryots should be allowed the option of having their lands reclassified as single crop, subject to water-rate when a second crop is raised. The question has, however, been fully considered and disposed of in Board's Proceedings noted in the margin.

Board's Proceedings, 9th Mar. 1876, No. 662.
Do. 17th Mar. „ „ 768.
Do. 13th Nov. „ „ 2,812.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 631. ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1877, No. 754.

Irrigation, No. 6.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department in continuation of G.O., 19th May 1876, No. 646, and with especial reference to paragraph 4 of the Revenue Board's Proceedings above recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

R. Bentleman.

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Govt. of {1877} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated February, 21st.

Read.

Ditto.

Ditto.

G.O. Dated February 1877, No. 134.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 630-631.

Subject.—Communicating to Public Works Department Board's Proceedings authorizing letter from the Collector regarding area likely to be brought under irrigation under — with special reference to paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings suggesting that Chief Engineer for Irrigation be requested to estimate quantity of water available for each village commanded by the channel for 1st and 3rd crop.

Order thereon 6 March 1877. No 52

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation who will ascertain how far the water supply of the lands under the Shrivigumbum Circuit can be improved and endeavour if possible to furnish the information desired by the Board of Revenue.

/True Extract/

Sd/- [illegible]

Asst Under Secy to Govt.

To the Revenue Dept

[illegible]

Rec'd. 1877 Dept

No. 1620.

Proceedings of Govt.
P. W. Dept

Dated 6
Recd 7 March

No. 52.

Letter

Requesting the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to ascertain how far the water supply of the lands under the Shirni-gunturu Anicut can be improved.

No. 1339.

Comm.r to the Board of Revenue

8 March 77.

Y. E. No. 2 of Revenue D. (1-3-77)