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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

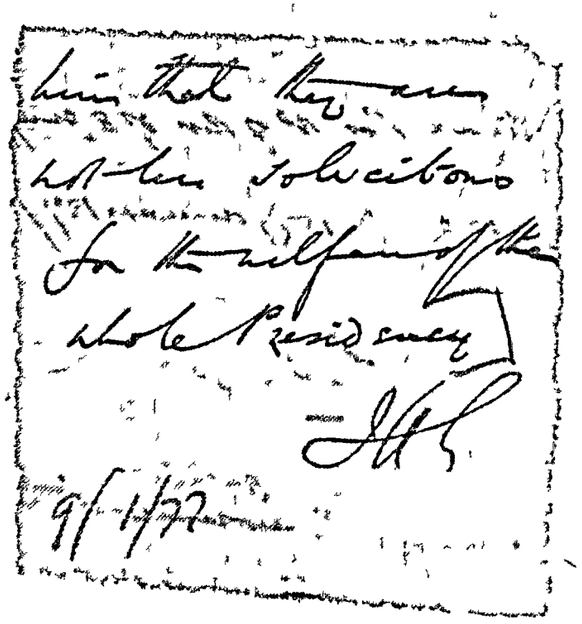
G O No / ~~B P No~~	140	~~Press~~ / ~~Mis.~~
Dated 15-1-1877		196

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No 309 Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th January 1877 —

Read the following letter from A WEDDERBURN, Esq, Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E STOKES, Esq, Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd December 1876, No 263

I HAVE the honor to make the following remarks regarding the state and prospects of the season and suggestions which beg may be transmitted at an early date to Government

2 If the railways can stand the strain that will be put on them in a month or two hence, starvation from want of food when local stocks are consumed may be averted, but the provision of water is the difficulty to be met

3 When excavations can be made in tank and river beds and rock blasting is not required, the work is not so great, but in the great majority of cases in an inland district such favored localities are few. It is a question of boring and blasting

4 Although but a drop in the ocean, the services of the Military Sappers might be distributed over districts for deepening public reservoirs

5 I should be glad if even a small party could be spared for this district, the working ability of the Madras Sappers was exhibited to great advantage last year in this district, when a small party was detached for the purpose of clearing a path to the Upper Anamallay Ranges on account of the expected visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales

6 Every possible encouragement should be given to the sinking of wells by private enterprise

7 By present revenue rules a man may sink his well on his dry assessed land without being subject to increased assessment, provided he does not drain a Government reservoir or source of supply I would extend this rule more liberally than it has been construed In parts of the country cultivators who raise water by lifts from rivers or even their sandy beds which are not utilised are charged three fourth part of the wet assessment, though they interfere with no Government source This is done in Kurnool and Nellore Districts along the banks of the Gundlacamma river,—a drainage channel far below the surface that never can be utilised for Government irrigation

8 This unjust tax should not be retained. I have brought this injustice several times to notice since I first observed it when Sub Collector of Cuddapah in 1851—1856

9 In 1855 when I brought the matter before Lord Harris, I was told that some seigniorage was due to Government for raising water from anything called a river, but this cannot be called a river The Revenue Settlement Department declined to go into details of such nature. There was one general reduction for lift and no distinction could be made When I brought the matter up some ten or eleven years later, and last of all in a third or fourth, pointing out the injustice I was referred to some former Proceedings, utilising jungle streams by diverting them is not charged for, although these are often the sources of river irrigation, whereas the case I noticed is a useless waste channel,—the surplus drainage of the Cumbum tank

10 I would exempt from taxation wells sunk in natural river beds, and wate raised therefrom by lifts, a "lift" cannot exhaust a river No expenditure by Government is made on a natural river till by amcut or other means its water is collected, diverted, and stored for irrigation When Government has expended capital in promoting irrigation, it has a right to a profit on the same, even larger than is charged in some districts, but when Government has not done so, it is unfair to tax the ryot's industry in supplying himself from a natural source

11 Another remission I would advocate is the deduction from the putta of the land occupied by a well sunk in dry land, together with the space occupied by the machinery for raising the water

12 If anything can save the country at present, it is wells The nourish the only green thing visible over miles of horizon It is on them that, as a last resource, the lives of man and beast must depend

13 It is but a small remission, but it is something, and one that will be appreciated more than loans and security which the ryots are shy of taking from an inexorable creditor like Government

14 I am glad to report that, as regards this district, unfavorable seasons have been the means of developing industry Capital is continuously sunk in new wells and in deepening old wells, there is no cessation to this labor and expenditure, it may not avail every where, but as I pointed out in my letters of the 7th October 1876, No. 206, and 6th November 1876, No 224, advocating advances of money to substantial ryots, who would adopt the economic water lift I have successfully introduced into this district, the well-cultivation is the mainstay of the district, and far exceeds that from all the rivers, and most valuable rivers they are, and tanks put together

15 I have been lately inspecting the working of wells of our jungle conservancy plantations as well as private wells by ryots' bullocks, the cruelty to animals was exhibited by the huge weals on the bullocks' necks, by the unequal pressure of the yoke in running down hill when working a well on the native system, whereas in the ten or twelve wells I have fitted up with the new apparatus, the bullocks are in perfect condition and uninjured by the draft

16 This is not an unimportant question when it concerns in this district alone upwards of 200,000 working cattle

17 It rests with Government to decide, as to whether encouragement is to be given to ryots to adopt an improvement what every engineer and intelligent person who has seen the working of these wells has unanimously approved, or to allow matters to remain in a state, which, if it existed in England, would have been brought prominently into public notice, and have been long since prohibited or prosecuted on account of its cruelty

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SUBMITTED for the orders of Government

2 In the foregoing letter the Collector of Coimbatore asks for the services of a small party of Sappers to assist in developing the supply of water from wells in localities where the nature of the soil requires the operation of blasting to penetrate to the water bearing strata The Board fear that the services of this useful body of workmen are in too great demand at present to admit of this

requisition being complied with. Moreover and practised by the well sinkers of the Co

3. In paragraphs 6—10 Mr Wedder encouraging private enterprise in the direct suggests certain modifications of existing recently been prominently brought to no District, to which Mr Wedderburn refers of its customs and requirements, and it is and Government. As in view to arriving Collectors have been requested in Board's No 24, to submit their opinions in regar Board will defer passing any remarks on discussed

4 In regard to advances to ryot

G O, 23rd December 1876, No 2,150

noted, under which, during the present ad complying with applications for loans has

5 With reference to the substitu brought to notice in paragraph 11 *et seq* that it rests entirely with the ryots of consider expedient It is impossible for interfere in the matter or to make, as Collector, its adoption a condition of a loa

(A true Copy and Extract)

(Signed) H E STOKES,
Acting Secretary

No 310 ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1877, No 140.

Miscellaneous

THE Government gather that at the time Mr Wedderburn wrote his letter recorded in the above Proceedings he had not received the Proceedings of Governme nt of the 23rd December 1876, No 2,150, as he has since submitted an application* for the extension to Coimbatore of the concession allowed in the above Government Order to certain other districts in which distress is prevalent

2 They entirely concur in the views expressed by the Board.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J H GARSTIN,
Acting Secretary to Government

To the Board of Revenue
,, the Financial Department

Exd F R Bantleman

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, 8th January 1877,

blasting rock is perfectly understood
nbatore District
urn strongly urges the expedience of
on of sinking wells, and in view to this
rules The subject is one which has
ee in connection with the Cuddapah
ith the authority of long experience
w engaging the attention of the Board,
at a correct judgment on the point,
Proceedings, dated 4th January 1877,
d to certain relaxations proposed, the
the subject until it has been maturely

under the Land Improvement Act
Mr Wedderburn is referred to the
Proceedings of Government marginally
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been simplified as much as possible
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would seem to be suggested by the
n under the Act

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated the 8th January 1877

Read the following

No 263

From

A. Maclachlan Esqre

Collector of Coimbatore

To

H. E. Stokes Esqre

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Madras

Sir

I have the honor to make the following remarks regarding the state and prospects of the season and the operations which may be undertaken at an early date by Government.

2nd Of the Cauliagum cum Cholams the Motta-cum-Nadu will be put on them on a bottom or low ground, Maravalum from which many of the cultivators are anxious to take their seed. Should however the present weather continue for a fortnight longer the crops will be safe.

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c, &c, &c.

dated January, 15th

and Encl

G O, 15th January 1877, No 140

JANUARY

Nos 309-310

State and Prospect of Season in Coimbatore Dis-
—Concurring entirely in the views expressed
the Board of Revenue on the suggestions of
Collector in connection with the—

of water is the difficulty to be met.—

3. When excavations can be made in tank and river beds, and rock blasting is not required, the work is not so great — but in the great majority of cases, on an inland district such favoured localities are few.— It is a question of boring and blasting.—

4 Although but a drop in the ocean, the services of the Military Sappers might be distributed over districts for deepening public reservoirs.—

5. I should be glad of even a small party could be spared for this district, the working ability of the Madras Sappers was exhibited to great advantage last year in this district; when a small party was detached for the purpose of clearing a path to the upper Anamallay ranges on account of the expected visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.—

6. Every possible encouragement should be given

given to the sinking of wells by private enterprise.—

7 By present Revenue rules, a man may sink his well on his dry assessed land without being subject to increased assessment, provided he does not draw a Government reservoir or source of supply.— I would extend this rule more liberally than it has been construed.— In parts of the Country, Cultivators, who raise water by lifts from rivers or even their sandy beds which are not utilized, are charged 3/4 th part of the wet assessment, though they interfere with no Government source.— This is done in Kurnool and Nellore Districts, along the banks of the Gundlacamma river— a drainage Channel far below the surface that never can be utilized for Government irrigation.—

8— This unjust tax should not be retained. I have brought this injustice several times to notice since I first observed it, when Sub Collector of Cuddapah in 1851—6.—

Sd

9 In 1853 when I brought the matter before Lord Harris, I was told that some Segniorage was due to Government for raising water from anything called a river, but this cannot be called a River. The Revenue Settlement Department declined to go into details of such nature. There was one general reduction for left and no distinction could be made. When I brought the matter up some 10 or 11 years later and last of all in a third or fourth pounding out of the injustice I was referred to some former proceedings whereby jungle streams by diverting them is not charged for, although these are often the sources of river irrigation, whereas the case I have cited is a useless waste channel the surplus drainage of the Cumbum Tank.—

10— I would exempt from taxation wells sunk in natural river beds, and water raised therefrom by lifts—a "lift" cannot exhaust a river—no expenditure by Government is made on a natural river—till by anicut or other means its water is collected, diverted, and stored, for irrigation—when Government has expended Capital in promoting irrigation, it has a right to a profit on the same; even larger than is charged in some districts—but when Government has not done so, it is unfair to tax the private industry in supplying himself from a natural source.—

11 Another remission I would advocate, is the deduction from the patta of the land occupied by a well, sunk in dry land, together with the space occupied by the machinary for raising the water.—

12 If anything can save the Country at present, it is wells.— They nourish the only green thing visible over miles of horizon— It is on them that, as a last resource, the lives of man and beast must depend.—

13 It is but a small remission but it

it is something, and one that will be appreciated more than loans on security which the ryots are shy of taking from an imporable creditor, like Government.—

14. I am glad to report that as regards this distnct, unfavourable seasons have been the means of developing industry— Capital is Continuously sunk in new wells and in deepening old ~~—~~ wells— there is no Cessation to this labor and expenditure— it may not avail every where, but as I point out in my letters of the 7th October 1876 No. 206, and 6th November 1876 No. 124 advocating advances of money to Substantial ryots, who would adopt the Economic water lift, I have successfully introduced into this distnct, the well cultivation is the mainstay of the distnct, and far exceeds that from all the rivers, and most valuable rivers they are, and tanks, put together.—

15. I have been lately inspecting the working of wells of our jungle Conservancy plantations as well as private wells by ryots' bullocks— the cruelty to animals was exhibited by the huge sores on the bullocks necks, by the unequal pressure of the yoke in running down hill when working a well on the native system— whereas on the 10 or 12 wells I have fitted up with the new apparatus, the bullocks are in perfect Condition, and unmoved by the draft.—

16. This is not an unimportant question, when it Concerns in this distnct alone upwards of 2,00,000 working Cattle.—

17. It rests with Government to decide, as to whether encouragement is to be given to ryots to adopt an improvement what every Engineer, and intelligent person who has seen the working of these wells, has unanimously approved— or to allow matters to remain in a state, which if it existed in England would have been brought prominently into public notice, and have been long since prohibited or prosecuted on account of its cruelty

Coimbatore Collector's Office 23d December 1876

I have &c
(Signed) A Martindale
for Collector.

Submitted for the orders of Government

In the foregoing letter the Collector of Coimbatore asks for the services of a small party of Sappers to assist in developing the supply of water from wells in localities where the nature of the soil requires the operation of blasting to penetrate to the water bearing strata. The Board fear that the services of this useful body of workmen are in too great demand at present to admit of this requisition being complied with. Moreover blasting rock is perfectly understood and practised by the well sinkers of the Coimbatore District.

In paras 6—10 Mr Wedderburn strongly urges the expediency of encouraging private Enterprise in the direction of sinking wells &c in view to this suggests certain modifications of existing practice. The subject is one which has recently been prominently brought to notice in connection with the Cuddapah District to which Mr Wedderburn refers with the authority of long experience of its customs and requirements & is now engaging the attention of the Board of Government: as in view to arriving at a correct judgment on the point Collectors have been requested in Board's Proceedings dated 4th January 1877 - No. 24. to submit their opinions in regard to certain relaxations proposed. The Board will defer passing any remarks on the subject until it has been maturely discussed

In regard to advances to ryots under the Land Improvement Act Mr Wedderburn is referred to the Proceedings of Government marginally noted* under which during the present adverse season the Proceedure in respect to complying with applications for loans

* G O 23d December 1876 No 2150

loans has been simplified as much as possible.

With reference to the Subsidisation of the Economic water left again brought to notice in para 14 of Sec Mr Widderburn must be well aware that it rests entirely with the opts of his district to adopt or not as they Consider expedient. It is impossible for either the Board or the Government to interfere in the matter or to make, as would seem to be suggested by the Collector, the adoption a Condition of a loan under the Act.

(True Copy and Extract)

G. Stokes

Ag Secretary.

To

The Secretary to
Government R.D.

Rev. 1877 Dept
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
No 266

Dated. 8th Jany 1877.

Dup 8 —
Rec 10 —

D.O. No 140. 15 January 1877.

Submitting for orders, with remarks, letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, reporting certain remarks regarding the state and prospects of the cotton and suggestions to be transmitted to Government.

No 309

C 12-1-77 — R 13 Jan