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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2282	Press.
B.P. No.	Mis.
Dated 21.4.1877	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

N.S.M.

2282

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No. 1,127.*

No. 58. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 22nd March 1877, No. 156 W :—

No. 58-A. From Major J. BEATTY, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, Godavery District, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 10th March 1877, No. 3,551.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith an approximate abstract of Irrigation Registers for Fasli 1286 (1876-77) as directed in G.O., No. 1,901, of 26th July 1876, together with a report on the

One Abstract. " Report No. 473 of 25th ultimo. irrigation in the Western Delta, the first part of which gives full explanation of the difficulties that Delta Range Officers now meet with in their endeavours to obtain correct information regarding the extent of cultivation. For the reasons given by Lieutenant Dorward the statements now furnished are mere approximations. It is simply impossible for this department at present to obtain a correct statement.

2. With a view to carrying out the orders of Government as laid down in the Government Order above mentioned, I arranged a meeting with the Acting Collector in the beginning of October last at Chettipett. On that occasion the utter worthlessness for any practical purpose of the returns previously furnished by the Tahsildars, and known as "monthly statements of cultivation commenced up to the month and during the month," was pointed out. It was also arranged, in order to simplify as much as possible the task of the Revenue Department, and in hopes of getting a statement of some value, that they should merely give Range Officers the areas of cultivation by villages, i.e., that the statement of cultivation to 30th November should merely give the total areas cultivated up to that date for each village. It was considered best that the Revenue officials should no longer attempt to allot the areas to canals, as they had always failed to do this correctly up to that date. The Collector issued a circular to this effect, and this is what Lieutenant Dorward refers to when he states that "the Revenue Department arranged to supply us with the irrigated area of each village up to the end of November."

3. I shall now again point out to the Collector that Government expect the officers of this department to possess at all times a complete knowledge of the state of the irrigation, that we have no means of obtaining this except from the statements furnished by the Revenue Department, and that these have hitherto been useless, being mere approximations. I shall ask him if he can undertake to have correct statements furnished to us, and send you a copy of his reply.

4. At present a knowledge of the state of the cultivation can only be obtained through the Tahsildars and Revenue Divisional Officers from the Kurnums of villages, and these Kurnums now will not, or cannot, give information of any value. Correct information, month by month, of the extent of cultivation, as Lieutenant Dorward observes, would be invaluable; but when given by guess it is useless.

5. It will be observed that the total areas obtained by the Range Officers are as follows :—

	ACRES.
Eastern Delta	127,503
Central "	81,115
Western "	270,053

The total given for the Eastern Delta shows a further decrease of 49,000, as compared with the figures previously obtained by the Range Officers; in the Central

Delta there appears to be a falling of 9,871 acres; and in the Western Delta an increase of 239 acres. In the Eastern and Central Deltas further inquiries are being made as to the cause of decrease, and it must be remembered that the figures obtained for 1876 represent only the extent of first crop; as the canals have been kept open the figures finally given by the Collector as the result of the Jummabundi will doubtless include much second crop.

6. According to the reports received up to date, the season of 1876 has been a particularly bad one, as to extent of cultivation, for two causes, (1) the very low price of paddy at the beginning of the cultivating season; and (2) because the river did not rise to full supply level until 10th July. On the other hand, the crop in the Eastern Delta was everywhere reported as having been exceptionally fine, in fact such a crop as had not been seen for many years; and the same is stated to have been the case in many parts of the Western Delta. And when paddy began to sell at famine prices and dry crops required watering to keep them alive, ryots who had cultivated dry crops on land previously wet in numerous instances expressed their great regret at the blunder they had committed. This famine will thus, I trust, prove a salutary lesson to many against giving up the certainty of a good crop where land is well commanded by the canals; that it will result in a large increase of the irrigated area in 1877 is universally expected.

From Lieutenant A. R. F. DORWARD, R.E., Assistant Engineer in charge, Western Delta Division, Godavery District, to Major J. BEATTY, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, Godavery, dated Camp, Viravaseram, 25th February 1877, No. 473.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith a statement showing the irrigated areas under canals in this range for last irrigation season.

One Statement.

I have not yet got the detailed information necessary to show the irrigated area under each distributary, but I shall be able to forward a statement by distributaries in about a week.

There has been considerable delay in forwarding this statement, but that delay has been due to circumstances over which I had no control.

As you are aware the Revenue Department arranged to supply us with the irrigated area of each village up to the end of November. We were then to portion off those areas correctly against the various distributaries, and submit to you a statement of irrigation by distributaries by the 1st of February. Had the Revenue Department done their part of the work properly there would have been no difficulty in this. What happened was as follows:—

Instead of submitting to me the statement of village areas irrigated up to the end of November by the middle of December, as arranged, I did not get the information from all taluqs till after the first week in January. On adding up the figures given I found that the total area of irrigation in the range came to 244,915 acres. I knew that no such large decrease in irrigated area as these figures would show had taken place, and on examining the statement I found that not only were the figures against several villages manifestly wrong, but that about forty villages had been missed out of the list altogether. No notice had been taken at all of the Kistna land irrigated by our canals. Under these circumstances, I had no option but to throw over the statement sent by the Revenue Department altogether as useless, and to send the Delta Superintendents to the villages to collect information from the Kurnums as was done last year. The statement now submitted has been prepared from figures so collected, and as the whole thing has been done in a hurry it can only be considered as approximate. Village Kurnums when asked to explain the difference between the figures they gave to the Delta Superintendents and to the Revenue Department, almost invariably said that the figures given to the latter were merely

guessed at. On this I wrote to the Deputy Collector on general duty, asking him if he could tell me the reason of the errors in his figures, and informing him of what the Kurnums said.

The Deputy Collector did not answer that letter, so I wrote again. He then sent me what was said to be a correct statement of village areas for the Bhimaveram Taluq, but said he could not at present furnish one for the Narsapur Taluq. He sent me letters from the Narsapur and Bhimaveram Taluq Tahsildars, stating that the figures first submitted to me were merely approximate, and that the reason of their not having given correct figures was simply that correct figures were unknown.

Under these circumstances, I would submit that it is not possible for Delta Officers to possess at all times a complete knowledge of the state and condition of irrigation in their deltas, as Government expect them to do.

What we want is accurate information showing the progress of irrigation in each village, month by month, throughout the irrigation season. Under the present system of things we cannot get such information. The monthly statements now sent by the Revenue Department are simply worthless, and, even if fairly trustworthy, are received much too late to allow them to be of use.

An arrangement which would ensure our receiving in the first week of every month a correct statement of the irrigated area in the previous month would be invaluable.

The second and third columns of the statement now submitted contain the irrigated areas as ascertained by this department. The fourth column contains the Collector's figures (sent to me by you demi-officially) for the year 1875-76. I still cannot explain the difference between the Collector's figures and my own. Part of the difference is due to the second crop irrigation between December and April, which is included in the Collector's statement, not in mine. Perhaps land in this district irrigated by the Kistna canals is included in the Collector's statement. Were this the case, and were the Kistna District land irrigated by this Range canals missed out of the Collector's statement, the difference between the two statements would be explained.

For the above reason it is not possible to satisfactorily compare the irrigated area shown by me for this year with the Collector's figures for last year, more especially as the areas under the different canals are wrongly shown by the Collector.

In the following remarks, therefore, I will refer only to the figures shown in columns 2 and 3 of the statement.

Main Canal.—There has been a small decrease of 74 acres under this canal. That amount of land was voluntarily relinquished by cultivators. It is zemindari land. There is a considerable area of second crop irrigation under this canal.

Kakaraparru Canal.—There has been a decrease of 1,200 acres under this canal. This represents land last year cultivated as wet, and this year converted into dry. Almost all the land watered by the Kakaraparru canal is well suited for the production of dry crops, and there is a general tendency among ryots, throughout the range, to grow dry crops in preference to wet on such land.

Narsapur Canal.—There has been an increase of 1,400 acres under the Narsapur canal. This I cannot at present explain. It includes about 300 acres of dry crops watered, and about 300 acres of land, in ordinary years swamp, which owing to the small rainfall of last year was cultivable.

Remission will probably be granted for about 500 acres of land on which the crop failed, owing to the complete failure of the north-east monsoon and to the generally low state of the river. During the last fortnight in October and the first week in November the crops under this canal were in a very critical position. The Peralli weir shutters were kept clear of water, and water was passed through the lock culvert valves, of course seriously interfering with navigation. Each reach in the canal was flushed in turn, and an intricate system of turns to channels and parts of channels was introduced. The difficulty was to save crops at the end of long channels, and that such crops were saved is in great part due to the energy and activity of the Overseer Mr. Mahony, who had special charge of the working of the arrangements for this canal. The want of a regulating work at or near the head of the bank canal was much felt, as during the time of the greatest scarcity of water the bank canal had more than sufficient supply.

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4th April 1877. No. 1,127

Mukkamala Canal.—There has been a decrease of 800 acres under this canal. The decrease is due to the improvement of the drainages connected with the irrigation under it; land that was in the previous year unfit for dry cultivation and cultivated wet being last year converted into dry.

Bank Canal.—The irrigated area under this canal has decreased by 200 acres. Five hundred acres of land under the Mukkamala, Pittala Vemaram and other channels were converted into dry cultivation, and an increase of 300 acres of land took place among the villages at the end of the canal. About 1,400 acres of dry cultivation, not included in the 17,400 acres shown as irrigated, were watered in December by the bank canal distributaries.

Gostanadi and Velpur Canal.—There has been an increase of 350 acres under this canal. This is due to there having been over 2,000 acres of dry crops watered by it in November. About 1,800 acres that were last year supplied by this canal were watered this year by the Attili canal. Till the beginning of August the supply to the Velpur canal was very poor. The head weir of Gostanadi was unable to pass a sufficient supply, owing to the abnormally low level of water at the head of the Kakrapurra canal, due to the low state of the water in front of the range head sluices, caused by the existence of a large shoal at Wadapilli. Last year full supply level could not be attained in the main canal till the 25th of July. The land at the end of Viravaseram west side channel did not get any water at all till the end of July.

Attili Canal.—There has been an increase of 3,500 acres under this canal; 1,100 acres of this increase represent dry crops watered, 1,800 acres formerly under the Gostanadi were irrigated by the Ralinghi channel, about 900 acres of land were newly brought under cultivation, while 300 acres were converted from wet into dry under the Duvva and Tetalli channels.

The irrigation under this canal gave very little trouble, and the crops were never in danger.

Ellore Canal.—There has been a slight increase of about 350 acres under this canal. Had the water-supply in June and July been good, there would have been an increase of over 1,000 acres.

In October, as there were no means of flashing this canal by reaches, the irrigation was in a bad way. The canal was not two feet deep at the end. Shutting the upper sluices was resorted to in order to send water down to the end, but the establishment available for the supervision of the sluices was not sufficient to prevent them being opened by ryots interested. Much of the irrigation too is supplied by temporary sluices, which it was impossible to keep closed. At the beginning of November it was evident that about 1,000 acres of land could not be saved, and part remission will probably have to be granted for about 1,500 acres more. The shoal in the canal at Bhimadole helped to prevent water being got down to the end of the canal.

Venki Canal.—There is a falling off of over 300 acres under this canal, due entirely to the voluntary relinquishments of ryots.

Wyeru Canal.—There is a large decrease of 2,600 acres shown under this canal. The canal did not get a fair supply of water till August, and the labor available in the villages at the end of the Wyera was insufficient to plant out all the land they wished to cultivate. This was principally due to the prevalence of cholera in that part of the delta.

Undi Canal.—There was a decrease of 300 acres under this canal. The state of irrigation under it was brought to notice in my No. 298 of 10th October 1876, recommending the building of an extra head sluice to the canal. I have nothing more to say now.

Yanamadurru Drain.—There were 99 acres irrigated under this drain last year. The land belonged to Komurru village. Water backing up a branch drain was taken advantage of to irrigate a low piece of ground. It was done without my knowledge, but there was no objection to it, as it did not in any way endanger the drain banks.

General Remarks.—The past season has shown us that the quantity of water usually given by us for irrigation is much in excess of that absolutely required, and probably is even detrimental to the crops. The Bhimavaram ryots state that they have never had such a fine crop of rice as this year, and the Deputy Collector on general duty told me that the Narasapur Taluq ryots had got a crop much in excess of the average.

The season was a very bad one. Full supply could not, owing to the low state of the river and the Wadapalli shoal, be got into the canals till the 25th of July, a month later than usual. I found on my return from leave in July that Lieutenant Langley and Mr. deWinton had had

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great difficulty in supplying water even for seed-beds to many channels, and on examining the daily water reports I was surprised to find that they had been able to do as much as they had done. In August and September, although the rain almost invariably fell at a time when the river was in fresh and held off when it was low, we had a fairly good supply. Not a drop of rain fell after the 5th of October and the river fell steadily. At the end of that month every one in the range had an anxious time of it.

GODAVERY DISTRICT.

Approximate Abstract of Irrigation Registers for Fashi 1286 or 1876-77.
FIRST CROP.

First Croor.

Canals.	Area of Villages.	Probable ultimate area to be irrigated.	Area irrigated in Fashi 1285 as given by the Ryots to the Delta Superintendents.	AREA IRRIGATED IN FASHI 1285 as per Collector's Statement.				Remarks.
				Area.	Assessment.	Water-tax.	Total.	
Eastern Delta.								
Cocanada Canal	279,207	39,527	38,939	35,576	..	..	..	*The area given in this column for 1285 include second crop where there was any.
Coringa "		33,222	24,067	30,261	..	..	..	
Mundapetta "		32,155	21,923	24,575	..	..	..	
Injeram "		16,597	9,297	11,922	..	..	..	
Bank "		40,599	5,333	8,050	..	..	..	
Samuelotta "		27,973	25,935	23,358	..	..	..	
Total ..	279,207	190,183	127,503	135,147	..	..	..	
Area reported by the Delta Superintendents for 1285.	..	..	127,999	..	..	..	..	
Decrease ..	..	..	406	..	..	..	..	
Central Delta.								
Nagarum Main Canal	269,896	64,766	34,968	30,757	37,175	..	..	
Bendamurunka "		31,487	10,636	9,617	10,345	..	..	
East Bank "		27,532	22,293	21,674	23,414	..	..	
Amalapur "		65,845	28,565	17,981	2,700	..	..	
Gunnaram "		18,815	6,250	1,636	..	..	..	
Ralle or Main "		11,765	939	..	..	..	..	
Total ..	269,896	192,929	81,115	96,250	..	..	..	
Area reported by the Delta Superintendents for 1285.	..	..	90,986	..	..	..	..	
Decrease ..	..	..	9,871	..	..	..	..	
Western Delta.								
Narasapur Canal	542,600	62,530	68,920	60,082	..	..	..	
Velpur "		35,200	30,664	34,763	..	..	..	
Gostanuddy "		23,800	2,050	15,264	..	..	..	
Mukkamala "		17,499	7,084	..	..	..	..	
Bank "		34,200	27,574	24,195	..	..	..	
Attili "		32,500	43,746	48,411	..	..	..	
Venki and Wyera Canal		58,900	42,007	45,183	..	..	..	
Undi High-level Canal		..	99	..	..	..	..	
Yanamadurru Drainage		48,200	46,892	47,443	..	..	..	
Eller Canal		..	805	565	..	..	..	
Main "				..	..	..		
Total ..	542,600	276,300	270,233	283,990	..	..	..	
Area reported by the Delta Superintendents for 1285.	..	..	270,014	..	..	..	..	
Increase ..	..	..	219	..	..	..	..	
Grand Total ..	1,991,613	589,412	478,871	615,287	..	..	..	
Do. Area reported by the Delta Superintendents for 1285.	..	..	498,999	..	..	..	..	
Decrease ..	..	..	10,123	..	..	..	..	

DOWLAISHIVRAM,
— March 1877.

(Signed) J. BEATTY, Major, R.E.
Offg. Superintending Engineer, Godavery.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No. 1,127.*

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., No. 1,901, of the 26th July 1876.

The approximate abstract of irrigation registers of the Godavery Delta for Fashi 1286 (1876-77) is of little value, owing, as detailed in the correspondence, to the absence of reliable information as to the areas actually irrigated. It will be seen that the District Engineer consulted with the Collector as to the way in which such information should be obtained, and as to the form in which it should be given; and it was agreed that the area in each village up to the end of each month should be furnished to the Range Officers; but the results were eminently unsatisfactory, and the areas reported manifestly too incorrect to be of use. Information was then obtained by Delta Superintendents direct from Village Kurnums and some of the causes of the incorrectness of the former information were thus ascertained.

2. It would be of little use to attempt to draw any conclusions from the figures which at present are available, and the question of practical value is this. How are Range Officers to obtain information which can be used to guide their management of the water-supply throughout the irrigation season? As the Western Delta Range Officer says, particulars of the area of irrigation of each village up to the end of each month, if received within a few days of the close of the month would be invaluable, and it is certain that without such information no proper system of regulation can be maintained. Perhaps Mr. Wilson could devise means of ensuring the compilation and regular transmission to Canal Officers of the information required. It is clear that at present the subordinate Revenue Officers are without proper information, and it is equally clear that very important public and private interests must suffer while this ignorance lasts.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
22nd March 1877.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Col. R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 59.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1877, No. 1,127.

IRRIGATION, No. 4.

THESE papers will be communicated to the Revenue Department in order that means may be devised for ensuring the record and communication to Canal Officers month by month, and by the earliest possible date in each month, of the area of irrigation in each village up to the close of the preceding month. This information will do for the present, but as soon as possible it will be necessary to show not only the area of irrigation in each village, but also that under each source of supply where the lands of a village are supplied from more than one source, and there should be no difficulty in arranging for this additional and very necessary information being given.

(True Extract)

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Godavery,
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Ex. S. T. Austin.
Spec. Copies

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Revenue 1877 Deposited
No 2202

Gobt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER.
GODAVERY.

Secy Secy Secy

2282

Dated April 4th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 4th April 1877, No. 1,127.

APRIL.

Nos. 58-59.

Area of irrigation under the Godavery D. the
Canals in each Village. The Revenue
Department requested to arrange for com-
munication of to Canal Officers at earliest
possible date in each month.

No 2282

Communicated to the Revenue
18/4/77 17 C. G. M. S.