

(1) Number of pages 4  
(2) Date of repair 17-7-86  
(3) Initials of the Referencer lews

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

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| G.O. No. | 2425      | Press. |
| B.P. No. |           | Mis.   |
| Dated    | 30-4-1877 | 197.   |

*R.R.*  
Not to be folded or roughly handled

2425  
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
4th April 1877. No. 1,136.*

No. 75. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 26th March 1877, No. 162-W :—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 20th March 1877, No. 32.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O. No. 915 of 3rd instant. It is to the effect that "the Collector's explanation is satisfactory."

2. I am unable to see to what explanation the order refers. There seems to be no explanation of the matters which I brought to your notice in my letter, embodied in G.O., No. 2,888, of 28th October 1876. I will just re-state these with the dates.

30th September 1876.—On this date Mr. Foster wrote to me that he had sent instructions to the Deputy Collector of Nandial. In the terms used by the Board of Revenue (27th September 1876) it was stated that water-rate would be collected on irrigated dry crop only if the yield be "fair."

3rd October.—Deputy Collector writes back to Acting Collector (Mr. Foster) to ask the meaning of "fair."

5th October.—Deputy Collector informs me at Nandial that he cannot be sure what the Board of Revenue mean by "fair;" but that he has translated it as usual "half" in his Telugu circular just despatched to Tahsildars.

Same day.—On my arguing that the Government certainly, and the Board presumably, meant a crop better than "half," for that it had been the past practice to remit on crops not reaching the standard of "half," we agreed that in *speaking* to the people a "three-fourths" crop should be spoken of. But in his official instructions he could not alter the usual translation "half" without authority.

6th October.—I write my letter No. 101 to you, begging (paragraph 2) the Government to give an authoritative order that irrigated dry crops of under three-fourths will have remission.

8th October.—The Tahsildar of Kailashnagar holds an assembly in my tent, and there reads the Telugu circular received by him from the Deputy Collector, in which the remission is promised to irrigated dry crops of under "half" a full crop.

Date not stated, but before Christmasday. Mr. Foster decided that "where the yield is three-fourths or more of a full crop realized during ordinary years, it (*sic*) may be said to have yielded a fair crop."

3. It is curious that throughout Mr. Davidson's letter, the Board's statement, and the Government Order under review, this decision of Mr. Foster seems to be taken as if it decided something in dispute. For my part I do not see the object of quoting this decision of Mr. Foster. It seems to me simply to say that a yield of three-fourths or more of a full crop is above half and is to be charged. It reads like the phrase of a man who intends in the future settlement to take a lenient view of the conditions laid down by the Revenue Board to regulate the water-rate, and wished to convey that impression, but who was unable to speak out plainly in defiance of the instructions from the Board. It was for authority to enable him to speak plainly that I had written to you on the 6th October.

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4. Mr. Davidson's paragraph 4 seems written under a mistake. The most liberal possible definition of "fair" somewhere towards Christmas could not have been foreseen by the ryots on the 8th October. Probably when Mr. Foster's decision reached the taluqs all the ryots were already wildly eager for water.

5. It was in the first week of October, before the ryots had wholly given up hopes of rain, that the liberal concession would have been of real service in inducing the ryots to make sure of dry crops by using canal water to sow or mature them, and so encouraging a brisk demand for water before the failure of the Toombudra began to curtail the supply.

6. Thus, turning to enclosure No. 2 under reply, the facts complained of by me on 6th October, described in paragraph 2 of the enclosure, remain true enough. In paragraph 3 the first item was never cause of complaint. The second also is not to the point, and can hardly be admitted without qualification. The last item is incorrect, inasmuch as the distinct explanation did not accompany the publicity first given to the notification, but followed at some subsequent time.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to G.O., No. 173, 14th March 1877.

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

No. 76.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1877, No. 1,136.

|                    |
|--------------------|
| IRRIGATION, No. 6. |
| Account.           |

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department, with reference to the Order in that Department, No. 915, of the 3rd March 1877.

(True Extract.)

*Wm Mullins*

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,  
Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

" " and Manager, Irrigation Company.  
" Revenue Department. ✓

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

20 Spare Copies

Revenue Department

2425 No 2286

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated April 26th,

Issued

Recd.

26<sup>th</sup> April 77

Encl.

G. O., 4th April 1877, No. 1,134.

Do. Miss

APRIL

Nos. 75-76.

Water-rate in Kurnool District.—Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation submitting letter from the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, regarding payment of —, communicated to the Revenue Department.

No 2425  
Comd. to the  
Board of Rev

30 April 77

14.5.77 to 16.5.77 of Revenue 1-5-77