

(1) Number of pages 8.
 (2) Date of repair 9.5.1981.
 (3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	10047. REV	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19.7.1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

N.W. 10

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Read the following:

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

25th June 1877, No. 2,095.

Read the following papers:—

No. 517. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd May 1876.

Read the following letter from C. RUNDALL, Esq., Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 6th May 1876, No. 1,018-43.

In his report on the principal division of the Chingleput District, Mr. Banbury, at paragraph 125, explained that arrangements had been made for raising the

No. —, dated 13th April 1874. groups, and consequently the wet assessment, of certain villages of the Sydapet Taluq likely to be hereafter brought respectively under the Red Hills, Cholaveram, and Chembrambaukam Tank irrigation as extended. He specified the several villages, and proposed that the wet assessment should be raised to the second group appertaining to the above irrigation, when the more certain water-supply might be furnished. Major Stuart now inquires whether, with a view to pursuing this course, a stipulation should be inserted in the Settlement rough puttass that the wet assessment will be liable to be raised to the second group upon the improved supply of irrigation being extended to the villages in question. He remarks that some of the villages referred appears to have been included in the 69 villages settled by Mr. Puckle, and that he is not aware whether any such explanation has been entered in the puttass then issued.

2. I find that no such intimation was afforded by the puttass Mr. Puckle issued, as he seemingly contemplated adopting an entirely different course, viz., that half of the ordinary water-rate, or Rs. 2 per acre, should be charged upon the more assured irrigation being supplied (*vide* paragraph 22 of his report, No. 1,099-A—31-A, of 9th June 1875). It was, however, explained verbally to the villagers and ryots that they would be liable to an enhanced assessment when they obtained such irrigation.

3. Of the 38 villages specified by Mr. Banbury, I find that 23 form part of the 69 villages Mr. Puckle settled. The effect of adopting the different proposals in respect to these 23 villages is explained below:—

	Water Assessment.			Average per Acre.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
By Revenue Accounts ...	16,474	0	0	2	14	8
By Settlement 3 and 4 wet groups ...	17,447	0	0	2	12	8
If raised to 2nd group as proposed by Mr. Banbury ...	20,875	0	0	3	5	5
If charged with Rs. 2 per acre as recommended by Mr. Puckle ...	29,944	0	0	4	12	8

4. The course thus advocated by Mr. Puckle would result in the villages being relatively much more highly rated than the bulk of the villages already settled and assessed under those projects; for an equivalent average would amount

only to Rs. 3-5-5 per acre, whilst Mr. Puckle's system would raise the average to Rs. 4-12-8, supposing the irrigation to be extended to the whole of the wet area of each village.

5. Neither proposal would seem to have attracted the special attention of the Board or Government, or have been commented on in the orders referred to marginally; and, under these circumstances, I have the honor, therefore, to solicit instructions as to the course to be pursued. That advocated by Board's Proceedings, No. 2,880, of 5th October 1874, and G.O., No. 295, of 24th Feb. 1875. Board's Proceedings, No. 2,168, of 4th August 1875, and G.O., No. 221, of 15th February 1876.

Mr. Banbury would modify the rates uniformly with those already sanctioned and applied to the existing irrigation under the foregoing sources of irrigation, and undoubtedly is the more equitable proceeding, and, in my opinion, it should be carried out.

6. Any way, whatever course is adopted, I hold it to be essential that the occupants of land should be now informed, during the course of the introduction of the revised assessment, that Government reserve to themselves the right to modify the assessment upon improved irrigation being supplied to their villages, and that a note to this effect should be added to all settlement rough puttass appertaining to the villages in question.

7. Unless this is done, I foresee that complications may, and probably will, arise, should efforts be hereafter made to raise the rates of assessment as intended by Mr. Banbury, or to charge a water-rate of Rs. 2 per acre in addition to the wet assessment now to be imposed as advocated by Mr. Puckle.

8. Mr. Banbury evidently intended that the right should be explicitly reserved to Government, as was done in the case of the villages it is proposed to irrigate from the Sungum Project in Nellore.

9. Of course, in the case of dry land, the Government are at liberty to impose any water-rate they may see fit to order; but I consider they would not be justified in levying a water-rate hereafter for any improved irrigation upon land that may already have been assessed as wet and settled for a term of 30 years, unless at the Settlement a reservation to this effect is declared and recorded, or unless the landholders concerned are prepared to acquiesce in the charge in order to secure a more sure supply of irrigation.

10. It is explained to the villagers and ryots, and generally understood,* that the revised rates of assessment when newly put in force will hold good for a period of 30 years, or throughout the currency of the settlement, and it would be impolitic to permit any doubt in this respect to arise.

11. The question has been discussed to some extent before in the correspondence marginally detailed. Board's Proceedings, No. 1,837, of 16th July 1874.

12. Should the views thus expressed be endorsed by the Board, I would suggest that it be declared to be the duty of the Settlement Department to reserve to Government the right of modifying, subsequent to settlement, the wet rates of assessment then imposed; in all cases where there may be any likelihood of the irrigation being largely extended and so greatly improved as to necessitate and justify an addition to the wet rates of assessment. The duty, though it was exercised in Nellore, and was intended by Mr. Banbury to be extended to Chingleput also, has never been formally imposed upon the department. The question, of course, should be prominently noticed in the Settlement Report of each district, and the reservation made in the puttass should be recorded in the descriptive memoir of each village concerned. The matter then might be said to be placed beyond doubt in the future.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Acting Director of Revenue Settlement brings to notice that a decision is required in regard to the assessment to be imposed in certain villages of the Sydapet Taluq in Chingleput, the lands of which are likely to be hereafter brought under the benefits of the extended irrigation of the Red Hills, Cholaveram, and Chembrambaukam Tanks.

The villages are thirty-eight in number, and in his report, dated 13th April 1874, Mr. Banbury proposed that when the service of water was complete the wet assessment of these villages should be raised to the second group appertaining to the above irrigation projects. This with other proposals were accepted by Government in G.O., dated 24th February 1875, No. 295, and it is, of course, necessary that the parties interested should be duly advised of their liability to an enhanced assessment as the irrigation projects are matured. But it now appears that of the thirty-eight villages above referred to, twenty-three are included amongst the sixty-nine settled by Mr. Puckle, — vide G.O., 15th February 1876, No. 221, and his proposal was to levy Rs. 2 per acre all round in addition to the present revised assessment. It appears that Mr. Puckle verbally explained to the ryots that they would have to pay an enhanced assessment as soon as the irrigation reached their lands.

3. The Board consider it most important that there should be no room for doubt in this matter, and are therefore of opinion that in all villages likely to be affected by these projects, the rough puttass for which have not yet been issued, a note to the effect that an enhanced assessment for improved means of irrigation would be leviable, the thirty years' term of the settlement notwithstanding should be inserted, and the Acting Director should call in those puttass which have been issued by Mr. Puckle in view to their being amended to this extent. Mr. Randall's proposal that the reservation of the rights of Government to modify subsequent to settlement the wet rates of assessment where there is any probability of considerable improvement in the means of irrigation should be imposed as a duty on the Settlement Department, commends itself strongly to the Board.

4. The question remaining for disposal is, whether when the water reaches these villages the proposals of Mr. Banbury or of Mr. Puckle as to the rate of additional assessment are to be adopted. The following statement shows the effect of each:—

	Water Assessment.	Average per Acre.
	RS.	RS. A. P.
By Revenue Accounts	16,474	2 14 8
By Settlement, 3 and 4 wet groups	17,447	2 12 8
If raised to 2nd group as proposed by Mr. Banbury	20,875	3 5 5
If charged with Rs. 2 per acre as recommended by Mr. Puckle	29,944	4 12 8

5. It will be seen from this statement that if Mr. Banbury's proposals are accepted, the assessment to be imposed on the completion of the irrigation projects will form an additional charge on the villages affected of Rs. 3,428, whereas the enhancement involved in the adoption of Mr. Puckle's scheme will amount to Rs. 12,497. Mr. Randall points out that in the latter case these villages will be relatively more highly rated than the bulk of the villages already settled and assessed under these works, the average per acre being only Rs. 3-5-5, whereas under Mr. Puckle's scheme it would amount to Rs. 4-12-8. This being the case, the Board would recommend the adoption of Mr. Banbury's proposals which would modify the rates uniformly with those already sanctioned and applied to the existing

irrigation. The reference has become necessary, inasmuch as though Mr. Banbury's scheme was accepted by Government, Mr. Puckle's subsequent proposals have not been negatived.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 518. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th June 1876.

Read the following letter from C. RUNDALL, Esq., Acting Director of Revenue Settlement, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 2nd June 1877, No. 2,275-53.

ADVERTING to my letter, No. 1,018-43, of 6th ultimo, submitted for the orders of Government with Board's Proceedings, No. 1,340, of 22nd idem, I have the honor to state that I should have said in the first paragraph that Mr. Banbury specified the several villages likely to hereafter come under the Red Hill, &c., irrigation, and proposed that when the more certain supply might be furnished, the wet rates of assessment should be raised a group to accord with the villages now settled under the above irrigation, and not to the second group as detailed in my letter; for all the villages now irrigated under the Red Hills tank are not, I find, second group by settlement, but second and third groups.

2. The result of Mr. Banbury's proposal is correctly given in the statement at paragraph 3; but instead of "if raised to second group," the heading should have been rendered if raised to second and third groups.

3. I regret that I should have stated Mr. Banbury's intentions incorrectly in this respect, but it does not alter the state of the case or affect the question materially.

4. With reference to the Board's remarks at paragraph 3 of the Proceedings quoted, as the recall of the tickets issued at this late date would, I fear, be impracticable, and as the Collector is about to distribute for this year the regular puttass of the villages in question, I have requested him to await the printing of a note which I will have struck off, and request him to attach to each putta appertaining to the twenty-three villages under consideration. In this way, the rights of Government will be duly reserved, as the puttass now to be given are the first containing the new assessment as introduced last year.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd May 1876, No. 1,340.

2. The Acting Director brings to notice that in his letter submitted to Government with the Proceedings above quoted, he inadvertently stated that Mr. Banbury had proposed to raise those villages, to which a more certain supply of water would be ensured by improved means of irrigation, to the second group as soon as the system was extended to them, whereas he should have said "a group." It appears, however, that the calculation having been made according to Mr. Banbury's proposals, the results, as shown in paragraph 3 of Mr. Rundall's first letter, are not affected, and only a slight modification of the heading of the statement is necessary.

3. The measures adopted by the Acting Director to secure the prospective rights of Government detailed in paragraph 4 are approved.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 519.

ORDER THEREON, 25th June 1877, No. 2,095.

Land Revenue, No. 10.

The question submitted for the decision of Government in the above papers is the assessment to be imposed on lands in some villages of the Sydapet Taluq, Chingleput District, which are likely to be hereafter brought under the benefits of the extended irrigation of the Red Hills, Cholaveram, and Chembrambaukam Tanks. The rates proposed are (1) by Mr. Banbury, those imposed on second and third groups under the Red Hills Tank, as explained in the later of the two Proceedings above recorded, which gives an average of Rs. 3-5-5 per acre; and (2) by Mr. Puckle, a uniform rate of 2 Rs. per acre all round in addition to the present revised assessment.

2. The adoption of the former is advocated both by the Board of Revenue and Mr. Rundall in preference to the latter, apparently, because the former is the more moderate of the two, and better suited to the nature of the lands to be assessed. The Government sanction the Board's recommendation under the presumption that the arrangement will place the lands referred to on the same footing as others similarly situated in the neighbourhood and already settled.

3. The proposal to assign to the Settlement Department the duty of reserving the rights of Government to modify subsequent to settlement the wet rates of assessment, where there is any probability of considerable improvement in the means of irrigation, is approved, and it should be explained to the ryots generally that the thirty years' limit does not apply to lands whose means of irrigation are considerably improved subsequent to settlement; whether such improvement was in contemplation at the time of the settlement or not.

4. This reservation of the State rights to revise the thirty years' settlement in the event of means of irrigation being materially extended or improved at the public cost should be carefully announced everywhere.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
" the Director of Revenue Settlement.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman

Cost of 1877 ~~33~~ 33 1/2

REVENUE.

100 000 000

100 000 000

100 000 000

100 000 000

No. 617-619

Louis bought under contract for 1000 of the Bull Hills and other lands. — Carrying the Board's recommendation in connection with the... under the presumption that the arrangement will place the lands reserved to on the same footing as others similarly situated in the neighborhood.

Order thereon 17 July 1877 N^o 189

Communicated to the Chief En-

-gineer for Irrigation.

2.

The Board of Revenue will be request-
ed through the Revenue Department to show as soon as
possible the financial results of this order.

(True Extract)

[Signature]

As Under Secy to Govt. P. W. D.
Irrigation Branch.

[Signature]

To The Revenue Department.

1879

✓
Rev: 1877: Dep^{ty}

N^o 3320

Pro: of Govt. P. L. D.

Dated 17th
Rec^d 18th } July

N^o 18 J.

Comm^d to the
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Revenue G.O. Sanctioning
Board's recommendation in
connection with the lands
brought under extended
Irrigation of the Red Hills
& other Tanks &c.

N^o 4047
Comm^d to the
Board of Revenue
who will furnish the
desired information.

19 July 77

QUL

130 N^o 12 of Revenue 24-7-77