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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

11th July 1877, No. 153 I.

Irrigation.
Account.

Read the following paper :—

No. 53. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 2nd July 1877, No. 81 I.

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 23rd June 1877, No. 68.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith copy of my letter of yesterday to the Collectors of Cuddapah and Kurnool, asking them to hasten the settlement of sums due by Government to the Company, for your information.

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Collector of Cuddapah, dated Kurnool, 22nd June 1877, No. 21.*

I HAVE the honor to beg the favor of your attention and assistance to the hastening of the settlement of the sums due by the Government to the Canal Company for water supplied during the last season. Up to this date not even the settlement for the half-year ending 31st December last (for which the demand† was sent in to you

† On the 11th and 20th January 1877, Nos. 10 and 14, to the Collector of Kurnool. on the 8th February 1877, my No. 3,) has been made; and in some taluqs settlement has not

yet been commenced. Can any method be adopted for squaring these accounts? The Company have been ready for months.

For while I admit that there have been very urgent distractions, in some measure justifying temporary delay in settling these accounts, I nevertheless believe that none have ever existed comparable to the calls on the time of the officers of the Company which will arise on the 1st July. Canal water will then be available: the revenue of the canal and the safety of the district depend on that water being immediately utilized; which depends, again, on the ryots having every facility for irrigating. The almost complete neglect by ryots last year to sow any first crop is a warning which *must* be regarded, so loudly does it call for the removal of every hindrance out of the way of irrigation.

The rules, as at present ordered by Government, require every application to be made through a canal officer. This application can only be completed and recorded by the Curnum, and he rarely does this without the canal officer's assistance to make all the measurements. A moderate number of applications in July, say 50,000, acres, would, under this somewhat diffused system, require every available officer of the Company to give his whole time to the registration.

But, apart from registration, it seems to me that past failures make it necessary that all the Company's responsible officers be on the ground, visiting the villages, showing by their presence that ryots' needs will be seen to, and generally encouraging ryots to irrigate, *before* applications are made. I suggest, also, that it would be inexpedient to call all the village Curnums from their villages to the settlement in July. The settlement of Sirwell Taluq occupied eighteen days and other taluqs may take longer.

I have the honor to suggest the following remedial measures :—

1. That Curnums be instructed to register direct applications, as well as indirect ones made through canal officers.

* No. 44 to Collector of Kurnool.

2. That the Curnum have a deputy authorised and instructed to register applications in the Curnum's absence.
3. That a further instalment of their last year's earnings be put by you at the Company's disposal for current expenses. I have drawn every rupee in Cuddapah Treasury, and have not a month's expenses in Kurnool Treasury.

I presume it is scarcely necessary to suggest that no weary plodding through muddled accounts, no accounting, merely for the sake of accounting, no haggling over the Company's accounts prepared simultaneously with the cultivation they record by Curnums whose accounts were a clean sheet after all the cultivation was reaped, be allowed to eat off the whole of the able and well organized Revenue Department from attention to the cultivation, or to occupy and waste their time, while for want of their presence the water of the canal is also running to waste, occupied in rolling over the useless sands of the Pennair.

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government.

No remarks by the Revenue Officers on the arrangements ordered by G.O., No. 2,557, of the 30th October 1876, to be carried out, have reached this office, but the undersigned believes that without a material change of system the Collectors cannot ascertain from the taluq and village accounts whether the Company's demand statements are correct.

2. In accordance with instructions received from Government a conference was held at the Office of the Board of Revenue on the 22nd May last, to consider what measures should be recommended for adoption with a view to ensure an improved Revenue management of the canal, and it was then understood that the views of the Board of Revenue would immediately be laid before Government. Up to the present time the undersigned has not seen the Board's report.

3. From the Chief Engineer and Manager's letter now submitted, it would appear that the ordinary annual settlement has been delayed much beyond the usual time, and another irrigation season has commenced without the introduction of any improved administrative arrangements.

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

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1877, No. 153 I.

COMMUNICATED through the Revenue Department to the Board of Revenue, with a request that the report on the result of the conference may be submitted with the least possible delay.

2. Apart from the matters relating to the speedy settlement of the Company's demands on account of earnings, the Chief Engineer and Manager requests, first, that Curnums may be instructed to register direct applications for water made to them. It is observed that this arrangement is provided for in the revised rules, consideration of which was in G.O., Revenue Department, No. 790, of the 23rd February 1877, deferred for a time, and that the revised rule has been approved by the Board. The rule will accordingly be at once introduced and acted upon. Second, that an officer be authorised and instructed to register applications on behalf of the Curnum in the absence of the Curnum. It is clear that some arrangement of this kind is indispensable, and the Board will be requested to arrange at once for there being always present, in each village, a duly authorised person to register applications. The subsidiary arrangements can be settled upon the Board's report on the Revenue administrative arrangements necessary; which arrangements will include the duties of Village Curnums and make adequate provision for their performance.

3. The Chief Engineer and Manager of the Company notices that the postponement of the settlement of 1876-7 of the irrigation season of 1877-78 will drawing Curnums from their villages at a there. In paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 2,65 that to enable the terms of the contract to be requisite to have a settlement made of and 31st December respectively. The Boardments have been made for carrying out the of the Company notices that the (li 1285) until after the commencement ely to lead to inconvenience by with- when they will be greatly needed the 30th October 1876, it was directed ie Company to be carried out, it would Company's revenue up to the 30th June f Revenue should report what arrange- truction.

4. No delay ought to occur in paragraph 2 of the Government Order al in the Chief Engineer and Manager's dem the Collectors may find to be justified by t will be requested to see that measures by Collectors of the information necessary demand statements.

(True Es. et.)

W. Mullins

Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer, for Irrigation.
" and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
" Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
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