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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	5211	Press. / Mis.
Dated	7.9.1877.	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

FORM.

STATEMENT of Lands irrigated under the Madras Irrigation Company's Canal, and the Demand, Collection, and Balance on account thereof in the District of for the Month of Fasli 1287.

Name of the Taluq.	LANDS IRRIGATED AT CROP RATES.							LANDS IRRIGATED AT MONTHLY RATES.						WATER SUPPLIED TO GOVT. TANKS.		Total demand of Columns 8, 14, and 16.	Amount of the instalments due up to the month out of the amount shown in Column 17.	Collections up to the month.	Balance up to the month, i.e., difference Columns 18 and 19.
	Area Irrigated.		Demand at the prescribed rates.		Deduct Remissions up to the month.	Add Penalties, &c., up to the month.	Net demand up to the month.	Number of months for which the area has been irrigated up to the month.	Area Irrigated.	Demand up to the month.	Deduct Remissions up to the month if any.	Additions on account of Penalties, &c., up to the month.	Net demand up to the month.	Cubic yards.	Demand.				
	In this month.	Up to this month.	In this month.	Up to this month.															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	ACRES	ACRES	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.		ACRES	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Nundial...	100	200	600	1,200	...	...	1,200	1	200	200	...	...	200	...	...	2,100	1,050	800	250
								2	300	300	...	...	300	...	...				
								3	400	400	...	...	400	...	...				

NOTE.—This statement does not include the water supplied to Government tanks on the application of Government Officers. In such cases the amount payable by Government to the Company is settled with reference to the quantity of water received, and the Government receive their dues from the ryots.

I had no intention of making any complaint against individual Revenue Officers when I wrote my paragraph 7. Except the words in brackets, which express my own belief that 45·8 inches total depth of water on a rice field is sufficient, gradually supplied, to mature rice crop, the first part of that paragraph is the view officially expressed to me by a Revenue Officer in special charge of irrigation under the canal—a view with which I agree. The latter part expressing the term on which the ryots under Nundial and Kanalla tanks were offered to have their tanks filled with canal water where what I understood as given me by the Deputy Collector at an official interview, as they had, he said, been described by him to the Collector, in order to account for the ryots preferring to take direct irrigation from the canal rather than have their tank filled from the canal. The Collector himself afterwards informed me that should rain have fallen and partly filled the tanks before the crops in the tank ayacut had been completely matured by direct irrigation from the canal, he should *hope* to get the remission of the full Government rate, which would be then due in addition to the canal rate; but this the ryots could not have known when they commenced irrigation.

My interviews with the Deputy Collector and Tahsildar of Sirwell above referred to were in the presence of the Divisional Engineer but not those with the Acting Collector. I have no complaint to make against the Revenue Officers; on the contrary I owe them, on the part of the Company, thanks for their invariable courtesy. But I find that the Board of Revenue, to whom I suppose the Madras Government look to guarantee the observance by the Revenue Department of the sanctioned water rules*—rules intended to enable the Revenue Department both to secure the ryots the power of using the canal and to secure Government the power of collecting the canal revenue—the Board of Revenue issued instructions which (I have not a doubt unintentionally) resulted in an almost total disregard of the water rules by their subordinate officers and a defeat of both the objects aimed at by Government. To me the official instructions I have seen (I enclose a translation of the circular of the Sirwell Tahsildar to his village Curnums) seem only ambiguous and not to account for the impression so prevalent with ryots that Rule II requiring application was suspended, and with the Curnums that Rule XII requiring Curnums to register applications promptly, and Rule XVII requiring Curnums to inspect fortnightly the irrigation going on in their villages and to record its extent were both suspended.

* G.O., No. 830, of 3rd July 1874; No. 1,327, of 8th May 1875, &c.

It is desirable, if it be the fact, of which I have not the slightest doubt, that it should be known clearly that immediate measures are required different from any hitherto used in order to secure the fulfilment of the rules in ordinary years, and that otherwise in seasons of famine, when the observance of these rules, so as to facilitate and record the irrigation, rises to be a matter of State importance, they will, as in the season just past, entirely collapse.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Office of the Tahsildar of Sirwell Taluq, to the Village authorities of the following villages under irrigation.

You are hereby instructed, in accordance with the Deputy Collector's order, No. 248, that—

You are to explain distinctly to all the ryots to cultivate all the dry lands in these villages by means of irrigation (canal) water and must make them cultivate accordingly. No separate written applications need be taken,* but it is sufficient to keep a register similar to the form herewith sent. As all the people are now suffering for want of food from failure of rains they must cultivate, and though the crops may fail yet there will result an abundant quantity of fodder for cattle. The Government have ordered that if the crops grow ripe and good by this water a rate of Rupees 2 per acre would be realised, and if the crops were to fail the water-rate would be remitted fully. The fact of remitting water-rate in case the crop fail should be clearly explained to the ryots. I will visit every village regarding this cultivation, and you are to understand that any person neglects this matter will be severely punished.

* Literally you have no business with taking any separate applications.

Taluq.	Village.	Names of Ryots.	No. of field.	Area.	Rate.	Crop.	Applicant's Signature.

Further, it is to be known that these rules will be applied only to the crops sown subsequent to this, and the rate for lands already cultivated will be realised according to former rules; and that the village officers are to see the state of the crops hereafter sown and report the same.

No. 181 W.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to G.O., Revenue Department, No. 537, dated 6th February 1877, and G.O., Public Works Department, No. 431, dated 28th February 1877.

There is much in the letter of the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, which indicates the necessity for the issue of such orders in the Revenue Department as will ensure the speedy introduction of more efficient Revenue administration. The undersigned believes that the greatly needed reforms will not be secured until a Covenanted Revenue Officer of some standing is deputed to ascertain what measures are necessary to secure the punctual and correct ascertainment of the areas under irrigation in each village, and what improvement in or strengthening of the village machinery is required, and thereafter to superintend for a time the working of the arrangements which may be sanctioned.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
10th April 1877.

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

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 11th July 1877, No. 153 I, Public Works Department.

Abstract.—Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.—Passing orders on Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation regarding the delay in the settlement of sums due to the—for water supplied during the last irrigation season.

THE Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company having addressed the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the subject of the difficulties experienced in ascertaining the extent of irrigation by means of the canal, and the delay in obtaining a settlement of the Company's demand for water supplied under existing arrangements, the latter was instructed to confer with the Board regarding the measures to be adopted for securing more efficient Revenue administration. The Board regret the delay which has occurred in submitting the results of the conference and which is due to the pressure of other work.

2. The complaints of the canal officers appear to be two-fold, namely, neglect on the part of the Curnums to record the irrigation owing to apathy and constant absence from their villages, and delay on the part of the superior Revenue Officers in scrutinizing the Company's claims and affording credit for the amount due, arising apparently from the incompleteness of the village and taluq accounts.

3. How far the inconveniences complained of are due to negligence on the part of village and taluq officers the Board are unable to say, but that inconvenience is felt is undoubted, and the Board fear that nothing short of the appointment of a special officer will suffice to put the affairs of the Company in their relations with the Madras Government on a right footing. Under ordinary circumstances, *i.e.*, if the canal were the property of Government, it would be maintained and worked by the ordinary engineering establishment of the district and the dues would be collected by the ordinary Revenue establishment as is already done successfully in the Godavery and Kistna Districts, but the relationship between the Company and the Government is so peculiar that it has been found impossible to conduct their joint affairs without extra establishments. A Deputy Collector has been for some time engaged almost entirely on canal business, but matters are still unsettled. Curnums no doubt require to be instructed in and made to perform their duty but what is wanted is information as to the points wherein the present system fails, what the real difficulties are, and how they can best be remedied; to accomplish this successfully an officer of intelligence and standing is required.

4. The Board, therefore, support Colonel Mullins' proposal and recommend that an officer of Sub-Collector's standing be appointed as soon as one can be spared. He should have charge of the villages irrigated by the canal, so far as questions connected with irrigation therefrom are concerned, and conduct his duties under the orders of the Collectors of Cuddapah and Kurnool; he should supervise the working

of the Curnums, investigate complaints and try cases connected with irrigation, encourage the ryots to avail themselves of the water stored for their use, and generally endeavour to ascertain what practical hindrances and difficulties exist, how they can best be removed, and in what respects the rules require amendment. He should also conduct the settlement which must be made half-yearly, instead of annually as hitherto, if the instructions contained in G.O., dated 3rd October 1876, No. 2,657, Department Public Works, regarding the adjustment of the Company's demands are to be complied with. He would probably be able to set things straight in a couple of years or so.

5. The Board also resolve to recommend that to remedy the inconvenience arising from the absence of Curnums from their villages Assistant Curnums should be appointed wherever the area irrigable from the canal is of sufficient extent to necessitate their constant attendance; the Board have not the requisite information to enable them to draw up a scheme and estimate the cost, but from a statement appended to a note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation embodied in G.O., dated 25th May 1875, No. 1,432, it appears that the total area now irrigable in both districts is 196,227 acres distributed over 223 villages, of which only 14,763 acres were actually irrigated according to the report for 1875-76 embodied in G.O., dated 16th November 1876, No. 3,070, Department Public Works. Without details for villages it is impossible to say where aid is now required or likely to be rendered necessary by future extension of cultivation. The Board think that the best plan will be to require each Curnum to nominate some one, a member of his family or relative if he pleases, to act for him in matters connected with the Company's business during his absence or employment on other duty; such substitute should be duly registered so that it may be known who is to perform the duties during the Curnum's absence, but should look to the Curnum for his remuneration, the latter being held responsible for any default on the part of the former and made to understand that he will be liable to fine or removal from office for any failure on the part of his substitute to perform his duties. As regards remuneration the Board think that the system of payment by a percentage on the gross demand for the village now in operation under Rule XXI is preferable to the grant of fixed salaries because it gives the Curnums a direct interest in securing the best results, and a payment of one Anna in the Rupee or even less, as the area under irrigation increases, would probably afford ample remuneration for the Curnum and his substitute, who should be left to settle the division between themselves. From the Budget Estimate of canal receipts for 1877-78 (G.O., dated 29th June 1877, No. 118 I, Department Public Works), it appears that a percentage of one Anna in the Rupee would give about Rupees 7,800 as remuneration to Curnums. This extra charge should fall on the Company, but it is for Government to decide whether any portion of the salary of the special officer who may be employed should be debited to the canal.

6. As regards the measures of reform which are immediately necessary, the Collectors of Cuddapah and Kurnool will at once give effect to the modification of Rule II approved in Board's Proceedings, dated 30th August 1876, No. 2,226, and they will lose no time in making such arrangements as will secure the registration of applications for water during the absence of the Curnums. This may be done either by the appointment of Assistant Curnums wherever necessary on fixed salaries or by requiring the Curnums to nominate substitutes to act for them on their own responsibility, their emoluments being increased by the grant of a higher percentage under Rule XXI. The Board prefer the latter plan, as already stated, but they have not sufficient information to enable them to judge which will be the more convenient arrangement and what will be the relative cost. The Collectors concerned will report on the subject without delay and furnish a statement showing the area at present irrigated in each village, the water rate realised, and the number of assistants required with the salaries proposed; it would also be well to show approximately the irrigable area, as the possibility of future extensions which are likely to be stimulated by improved arrangements must be taken into account in estimating the assistance required. Pending final orders such temporary arrangements as will obviate any delay in registration must be made and their nature reported for the information of the Board.

7. As regards the delay in adjusting the Company's demands the cause appears to be the want of sufficient information in the Collector's office to check the accounts rendered by the Company's Officers, but the Board are not aware what the particular difficulties are or why the delay should have been so protracted. G.O., 3rd October 1876, appears to have contemplated a regular Jammahbundy with a view to an accurate adjustment of the demand half-yearly; the Board understood the order as requiring merely that the amounts claimed in the monthly and half-yearly statements should be passed to the credit of the Company, after verification of the demand, subject to such adjustment as might be found to be necessary when the annual settlement was made. This seems to be the course approved in a recent G.O., dated 5th July 1877, No. 133 I, and till a special officer is appointed the Board doubt whether a half yearly settlement is feasible; the Collectors concerned will report how the matter can be expedited. At present the Board are not in a position to exercise any supervision as they receive no returns of cultivation under the canal separately, and they resolve to direct that in future a monthly cultivation and D. C. B. statement in the accompanying form be obtained from the taluqs and a copy forwarded to the Board before the end of the month following that to which the statement relates; the return should be procured from the commencement of the current fasli. The demand should be computed on the supposition that the whole area irrigated will pay the full charge prescribed by the rules, the columns for remissions and penalties being left blank till the completion of the Jammahbundy. By means of this statement the Company's demand up to any date can be arrived at approximately, and there should be no delay in passing to their credit such sums as are shown to be due, subject to adjustment on account of remissions, &c., subsequently.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, with a form.
„ the Collector of Cuddapah, with a form and copies of G.O., dated 11th July 1877, No. 153 I.
„ the Collector of Kurnool with a form and copies of G.O., dated 11th July 1877, No. 153 I.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with a form.

Exd. C. Howarth.

Revenue Department.
No. 3,654.
1877.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Proceedings, 4th August 1877, No. 3,654.

Encl.

Received 27 Aug.

AUGUST.
No. 3,654.

Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal.—Submitting Board's views regarding measures necessary for ensuring the ascertainment of the areas irrigated under the — and of the revenue due for water used, and issuing instructions to Collectors of Cuddapah and Kurnool in connection therewith.

R. 521

No. 3,654.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th August 1877.

Read the following papers:—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Fort St. George, dated Kurnool, 13th March 1877, No. 29.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O., No. 537, of 6th February (ultimo), Revenue Department, on No. 431, of 28th ultimo, Public Works Department.

In reference to the minute of the Board of Revenue, printed therewith, referring, I suppose, to my letter to you, No. 101, of 6th October last, some explanation may prove useful.

The Board's Paragraph 3.—The Board say that if I objected to the Telugu notices issued by the Deputy Collector to the Tahsildars, which seemed to instruct them that applications for irrigation of dry crop were no longer to be made either through canal officers or to Curnums, but only to Tahsildars, it would have saved time had I addressed the Collectors on the subject, &c. Now I had addressed Mr. Foster on this subject. With his No. 116, of 30th September, he sent me a description of his English instructions to the Deputy Collector; and this letter, so far as regards this subject, contained the same instructions afterwards forwarded in Telugu to the Tahsildars. I accordingly wrote to him (No. 49) on the *2nd October* "You would seem to restrict canal officers this year from supplying water except on the *Tahsildar's** application to them, &c.," for which I stated I saw no reason; and I enclosed a copy of my instructions to Engineers to the effect that, so far as the canal officers were concerned, they would take any applications, if tendered, as usual. Fearing that this would be too late, for the Collector's original had gone off to the Deputy Collector before I received the copy on the 1st October, and fancying at an interview I had on the subject with Mr. Foster that he seemed unwilling to pledge himself to recognize any irrigation of dry crop except on the personal responsibility of the Tahsildars, I started next day with Mr. Wilks to Ayalur, and there explained my views to the Deputy Collector who had just issued the Telugu letters to Tahsildars. He made no immediate official alterations in his instructions, having, I suppose, no authority to do so;† but he went himself to Nundicotkur and Ramalacota, and I to Konkuntla, and in these taluqs the canal officers had no extraordinary difficulties from this cause. But as to Sirwell Taluq, which neither I nor the Deputy Collector visited on the *25th October* (No. 50), I wrote to Mr. Foster that not a single application had come in from the ryots nor from the Tahsildars; that the ryots would not apply to canal officers as usual, even when their crops were perishing, in the neighborhood of channels, for want of subsidiary channels. I added that I had received three letters from villagers in that taluq complaining of want of water. On the *7th November* (No. 63) I sent Mr. Foster a letter of Mr. Dumphy's of the 3rd, in which he reported that in Koilkunta Taluq village officers were dissuading ryots from applying. On the *9th November* I sent Mr. Foster a copy of Mr. Dumphy's letter of the 7th stating the difficulty he found from "the prevailing idea that water may be taken when and where wanted" and that "the ryots *will not* take the usual ticket, and everywhere are taking water; and it depends on the Amins alone to discover the numerous cases of water having been taken without application. He adds "I have myself come across several fields *already* supplied and neatly raked over; and the only persons who knew water had been taken were the owners and the bankers. If rain were to fall nearly all the people who had not affixed their names to the application list" (which a certain number of ryots were induced to sign, *after* being caught irrigating) "would deny having taken water." When it is remembered that the bankers are poor laborers who live amongst the landed proprietors it will be seen that nothing could in that case be expected from the evidence of bankers. This I sent to the Collector, No. 64, for his "information and that he might take such action as will best secure the canal revenue." With my No. 67 of *13th November* I sent Mr. Foster Mr. Dumphy's No. 655 of 9th November stating that Mr. Dumphy had been working in Kamianipully, Sirwell Taluq, but no Curnum appeared, and he was told that he lived in another village. He found the ryots using the water without application. The Head Reddi, who was present, knew nothing about the extent of irrigation. In Dibagunta, close by, of 250 acres being irrigated sixty only were recorded in the Curnum's Register (Rule XII of the sanctioned water rules). I remarked "No work can well be more important than that of flooding dry crops now, but this should not be done at the expense of the Company's shareholders who are maintaining the means of effecting it."

The challenge of the Board of Revenue, made of course in ignorance of these remonstrances, renders it necessary to continue. I will try to be brief. My No. 70 of *18th November* enclosed Mr. Dumphy's complaint that in Lingundiani, Sirwell Taluq, the Reddi and Curnum were taking no care to record the irrigation.

* Italics in original.

† It is possible that the Deputy Collector received afterwards, on his way to Kurnool, further instructions from the Acting Collector. The latter in his letter to me of 5th October (No. 127) is not clear in his meaning, but seems to propose no change in his instructions about applications.

In his No. 650 of 7th November Mr. Dumphy reported that the people of Mallappa Chintagunta, Sirwell Taluq, applied to the Deputy Collector for water on the 1st November, who advised them to go to the Tahsildar. As nothing resulted the ryots came to Mr. Dumphy. No application was forwarded by the Tahsildar to the canal officers. In this case I asked Mr. Foster, to whom I sent a copy on the 21st November, No. 72, to be so good as to inquire into the case, and if true to take such steps as are most likely to prevent recurrence for that the alleged grievance was not that the ryots were invited to apply to the Tahsildar nor that the Tahsildar would not attend to their applications, but the combination of the two events.

Mr. Foster had informed me* that Curnums were always present in villages, or in their absence a quasi-Curnum to do his duties, and that he should like any failure to be reported. Without any hope that a new era was drawing, but simply to give him a case, I sent him that of Govindapully, the village adjacent to Sirwell village itself, with my No. 73 of 21*st November*. There Mr. Dumphy on the 8th and 9th found no Curnum nor quasi-Curnum, and no information but irrigation going on without notice. He was told the Curnum did not live in the village at all.

* In reply to my general complaint.

I backed this with my No. 79 of 29*th November* enclosing a complaint of Mr. Dumphy's that the Curnum of Yallur and his substitute were absent on the 20th and 21st, on both which days Mr. Dumphy sent for him to meet him to scrutinize his irrigation accounts, and that he believes he is always absent. There were reported to be 3,000 or 4,000 acres receiving water in this village.

On the 16th December, No. 86, I reported to Mr. Foster the case of Nunapully, adjacent to Nandial, the seat of the Deputy Collector and Tahsildar. The Curnum had left unregistered thirty-eight field numbers of over 400 acres which have been irrigated.

For aught I know these letters are pigeon-holed. I received no answers. I have perceived no difference produced by any of them. The Board of Revenue, too, know nothing of anything being wrong—of complaint being made. They prove that their intentions are good (their paragraph 1), that they are not responsible for the instructions under which their officers act (paragraph 3). They do not (13th January) know how their instructions work, but will inquire. This the Madras Government on the 6th February think "quite sufficient." It is enough to make the officers of the Canal Company despair, and in fact does do so.

On the 29*th November* I met the Sirwell Tahsildar at Mallimala. He said to the effect that he had just let all the irrigation "slide." He had no records and had not begun to make any; he had ordered that all ryots should take water as they liked. He said he was just going to send his Revenue Inspectors round, and that they would easily find out what fields had been irrigated by pulling up the stubbles by the roots! He acknowledged that had there been a shower in the north-east monsoon he could not have distinguished irrigated crop from that which had received rain only. So much for securing the fair collection of canal revenue.

On the 29*th January*, sixteen days after the Board of Revenue had promised that the Collectors should report what had taken place, I met Ramachendra Row, the Special Deputy Collector in charge of all irrigation in the Kurnool District, at Ayalur. He said he had not then the means of checking the canal officers' returns for a single village. He had not a single return from any village in the taluqs under his charge. No such return existed in a single village nor could be got even were he allowed a week in which to obtain one.

It will be seen then that I objected to the error of the Telugu notices from the first day they came into existence, and fought their evil effects foot by foot all through till the stubbles were rooted up; and that the Collector has not informed me of his having acceded to any of my remonstrances and (the Board say) has sought no further instructions from them. Up to this time, until they receive this letter through you, the Board may barely decline responsibility for the failure of the Revenue Department utterly in one taluq and to the extent of about two-thirds in all others to register punctually the use made of canal water, or to aid the canal officers in doing their (the Revenue Officers') work of recording and filling in the revenue details of every field irrigated (Rule II).

In reference to the principle that ryots should be forced to take water whether they like it or not it is always dangerous to subscribe principles. Certainly neither this nor its converse could be prudently subscribed.

I have never advocated more than that the ryots who actually receive benefit from the canal should be required to pay a fair and liberal amount for the benefit actually conferred. However, there was nothing about this intended in my paragraph 3 of my letter referred to. The way the Government might have utilized canal water actively, instead of passively, would have been by asking me to irrigate the unsown fields in selected villages, and then taking their chance of the ryots cultivating the land and growing crops in consequence.

In their paragraph 4 the Board say "It is unnecessary for the Board to enter upon the indefinite complaints against Revenue Officers now preferred by Mr. Latham" in my paragraph 7.