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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1928 Press Mis.

Dated 28th Nov. 1878.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

28th November 1878, No. 1,928.

Read the following paper :—

No. 374. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, dated 14th October 1878, No. 810-I.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the District Engineer, Godavari, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue relative to the levy of water-rate on lands in Nidadavol and Baharzalli Estates, Godavari District.

No. 375. ORDER THEREON, 28th November 1878, No. 1,928.

Irrigation, No. 3.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council approves the substitution of the Amáni method of direct collection of water-rate from the ryots, in lieu of contract with the Zemindarnis for at least two or three years, so as to obtain some reliable data on which to base a fresh contract hereafter if such should then be deemed advisable.

2. The temporary establishment needed for the purpose has already been sanctioned (G.O., 2nd November 1878, No 1,766, Revenue Department).

3. With reference to the concluding sentence of the Board's Proceedings, dated 16th September 1878, No. 2,547, recorded in the paper read above, the Government see no reason to forego the contribution hitherto paid for the maintenance of the works on which the supply of irrigation to the *Gudicut area* recognized as "Mamul wet" is dependent.

4. This is a charge which in ordinary course under the Permanent Settlement has to be borne by the Zemindar, and the Government see no reason to forego it when the work itself is, by the necessities of the case forced on the Irrigation Department. It is of course not liable to be enhanced with reference to the *additional area* irrigated at an acreage rate which includes all charges.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

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Govt. of {1878} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 28th.
Printed December 4th.
Encl.

Encl.

G.O., 28th November 1878, No. 1,928.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 374-375.

Collection of Water-rate from the Ryots of the Nidadavol and Baharzalli Estates in the Godavari District.—Approving the substitution of the Ameni method of direct—, in lieu of contract with the Zemindarnis, so as to obtain reliable data to base a fresh contract hereafter if deemed advisable; and intimating that there is no reason to forego the contribution hitherto paid for the maintenance of the work on which the supply of irrigation to the Gudivad area recognized as "Mamul wet" is dependant.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

14th October 1878, No. 810 I.

General.
Account.

Read the following paper:—

No. 79. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th August 1878, No. 2,281.

Read the following papers:—

From W. J. TATE, Esq., Assistant Collector in charge of Head Assistant's Division, to the Collector of the Godavari District, dated Vadapally, 15th June 1878, No. 104.

With reference to your letter, No. 40, of 4th February 1878, I have the honor to submit herewith my proposals for the future levying of water-tax on the Nidadavol and Baharzalli Estates, at present charged under contract.

2. I send herewith two statements, A and B, showing canalwar as requested in your letter, No. 88, of 29th March, the area on which anicut water has been taken in the two estates for the last five faslis. I think that the information furnished therein will be sufficient for the determining of the question whether the contract with the Zemindarnis is to be renewed and, if so, on what terms.

3. The Board of Revenue in their Proceedings, No. 282, of 2nd February, only require information for Faslis 1283, 1284, and 1286, as they say the requisite information for Fasli 1285 is procurable from the irrigation registers. You also give a similar reason in your letter of 29th March quoted above for not requiring information for Fasli 1286. Now, I have long suspected that the irrigation registers (at least as far as the area watered in Zemindari villages is concerned) are grossly, and perhaps even intentionally, incorrect. I now beg to submit two statements, marked A (1) and A (2), which wholly confirm this suspicion. The first statement is an abstract of the larger statement A prepared in a form sent from this office and showing the acreage watered for each of the Faslis 1283 to 1287, both inclusive. It has been prepared independently of the irrigation registers from statements furnished by the several Curnams from the Adungals, and which have been tested with the Adungals in the case of ten villages in the Taluk Office and in the case of some few other villages in my own office also. No. 2 is a statement in the same form entered up with figures taken from the irrigation registers. You will see that not a single figure agrees, and that there is a surprising difference between each; these differences telling in every instance but one to the disadvantage of the irrigation register. Thus in Fasli 1283, statement A (1) shows under wet crops watered acres 8,896·85 as against acres 8,204·68 in the irrigation registers—a difference of 692 acres 17 cents. In Fasli 1284 there is a similar difference of 878 acres 35 cents, and in Fasli 1285 a difference of 774 acres 36 cents. In these faslis the cultivation of dry crops by anicut water appears to have been small and therefore, though the figures under this head do not correspond, the difference between the two statements is not very glaring. But in Fasli 1286 we come to a curious phenomenon. Here the irrigation registers show a larger area watered for wet crops than appears in the statement based on the Adungals, the difference being 14 acres 1[illegible] cents, whereas the Adungals give under dry crops watered an excess of acres 407·97 over the irrigation registers. This is only in

Tanuku Taluk, but I have little doubt that if the statement B, which I send for the Baharzalli Estate in Bhimavaram Taluk, were also compared with the irrigation register, the latter would be again found wanting. My first proposal is that the area as estimated from the irrigation registers be altogether discarded as untrustworthy, and I have accordingly submitted statements A and B based on the Adungals, which are probably more trustworthy, the area entered as watered being larger, though I cannot vouch for their complete accuracy, and have grave doubts whether the area entered as cultivated by wet crops under the canals in Tanuku Taluk is not far too small for Fasli 1287. According to the Tahsildar's statement it is less than the area so cultivated in Faslis 1284 and 1285, although these were not years of high prices (and hence greatly extended cultivation) like the present. This may, however, be partly explained by the greatly increased area in Faslis 1286-1287 of dry crops watered. The area of wet cultivation in Bhimavaram may be taken as approximately correct, as it has been steadily increasing.

4. Even from the irrigation registers it is manifest that Government have been grievous losers by the contract just terminating, and this is brought out still more by the accounts now submitted. For instance, in Fasli 1283, acres 27,665·51 in Bhimavaram (Baharzalli Estate) and 8,896 acres 85 cents in Tanuku (Nidadavol Estate) were watered under the canals for wet crops—a total of 36,562 acres 36 cents. The total "Mamul" wet allowed in the two estates is 25,881 (*vide* Board's Proceedings above quoted). The difference is 10,681 acres 36 cents. Add to the water-tax on this 5 per cent. on the whole estate (I think a low estimate) for charges on second crop as well as the water-rate on the area cultivated with dry crops and we get a total water-tax of Rupees 17,580* lost to Government in that fasli alone owing to the contract. A similar calculation for Fasli 1287 gives—

*Apparently mistake; Rupees 10,216.—W.S.F.

| | | Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| Water-rate at Rupees 4 per acre on all land in the estates not Mamul wet ... ... .. ... ... ... | | 70,320 |
| †Apparently should be Rs. 3,144.—W.S.F. | Water-rate at Rupees 2 per acre on dry crops watered ... | †3,974 |
| Water-rate at Rupees 4 per acre on estimated area of 2nd crop ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | | 8,692 |
| | | 82,986 |
| Deduct paid by Zemindarnis under the contract ... ... | | 40,000 |
| Loss to Government ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | | 42,986 |

So the loss in Fasli 1284 is Rupees 27,976, in Fasli 1285 Rupees 40,760, and in Fasli 1286 Rupees 38,174. The total loss to Government, owing to the contract for the five faslis, I estimate at Rupees 1,67,476, or over one and a half lakh. This gives an average annual loss to Government of Rupees 33,495. The average annual loss on the area cultivated with wet crops alone is Rupees 30,075 exclusive of estimated charge on second crop. It is noticeable here that there is a steady increase in the area cultivated from year to year and consequently in gain to the Zemindarnis, calculating their gain at the Government rates. The slight drop in the figures above given at Fasli 1286 is only owing to the change of a large quantity of land in the Tanuku Taluk from wet crop to dry crop land. The area cultivated was actually greater than in the preceding fasli.

5. It must be remembered that the Zemindarnis gain on the above more than Government loses, because they give no remission and charge on whole fields when only small portions are cultivated.

6. Allowing on the average annual loss as above represented, *plus* the present contract sum (Rupees 40,000) which would have to be collected in detail if the ryotwar system were adopted, 10 per cent. as expenses of cultivation (which would be ample to provide for the additional Revenue Inspectors, &c., required), Government would gain under the ryotwar system of collection an annual average of Rupees 26,146 or over quarter lakh.

7. I do not think that the contract system has to any very great extent operated in increasing the area under cultivation. That this area has increased there is no



doubt, but I do not think it has increase in a greater proportion than the area of similar delta land taken up by Government ryots. I have noticed that when ryots of this estate appear as plaintiffs in Revenue Summary Suits to sue for puttas—and these ryots are not old tenants—they have entered on their land only in the last two years, *i.e.*, the time of the present high prices. But I do not think that much, if any, land will be thrown out of cultivation when the prices fall again; the ryots find that the land in this estate yields too well to care to relinquish it lightly; and I find from the two Tahsildars mentioned that 700 acres in Tanuku and no less than 3,654 acres in Bhimavaram belonging to this Zemindari are still remaining uncultivated though fit for cultivation and irrigable under the canals.

8. On the whole, therefore, I recommend that no further contract be entered into with the Zemindarnis, but the collection of the water-tax be taken under our own management and charge made on the area yearly cultivated. If, however, the Board prefer to renew the contract on other terms, I should not recommend its renewal for a less sum than Rupees 80,000, inasmuch as in the last fasli we have seen that water-tax charged fieldwar by Government would have brought in a sum of Rupees 82,000 odd. I have no other proposals.

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No. 156.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proceedings, dated 18th March 1878, Miscellaneous No. 2,663.

A—Statement showing the area irrigated in the Nidadavol Estate.
B—Statement showing the area irrigated in the Baharzalli Estate.
A (1)—Abstract of Statement A.
A (2)—Abstract prepared from the irrigation registers of the Nidadavol Estate.

2. The statements as per margin, which accompanied the Head Assistant Collector's letter, are also forwarded for information.

3. The following is an abstract of the area irrigated under each canal from Fasli 1283 to Fasli 1287 according to the statements marked A and B now prepared by the Curnams of the Zemindarnis from Adungal accounts:—

| Name of the Taluk. | Name of the Estate. | Name of the Canal. | Area actually irrigated. Fasli 1283. | Fasli 1284. | Fasli 1285. | Fasli 1286. | Fasli 1287. | Total. | Average of five Faslis. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Narsapur .. | Nidadavol. | Mukamala .. .. | ACRES. 83 | ACRES. 159 | ACRES. 111 | ACRES. 233 | ACRES. 233 | ACRES. 819 | ACRES. 164 |
| Tanuku .. | Do. .. | Ellore Canal .. .. | 7 | 15 | 26 | 40 | 48 | 136 | .. |
| | | Attili do. .. .. | 3,002 | 4,024 | 4,047 | 3,357 | 3,621 | 18,051 | .. |
| | | Main do. .. .. | 487 | 486 | 504 | 525 | 338 | 2,340 | .. |
| | | Nakala do. .. .. | 154 | 164 | 161 | 148 | 158 | 785 | .. |
| | | Gostanadi and Valpore Canal .. .. | 1,599 | 1,418 | 1,524 | 1,495 | 1,752 | 7,788 | .. |
| | | Narsapur and Rapaka Canal .. .. | 3,648 | 3,688 | 3,666 | 2,934 | 3,000 | 16,936 | .. |
| | | Total .. | 8,897 | 9,795 | 9,928 | 8,499 | 8,917 | 46,036 | 9,207 |
| Bhimavaram. | Baharzalli | Venkaya and Veyera Canal .. .. | 17,980 | 20,190 | 21,494 | 21,248 | 22,017 | 102,929 | .. |
| | | Undi Canal .. .. | 7,785 | 8,800 | 10,051 | 10,200 | 10,334 | 47,170 | .. |
| | | Attili do. .. .. | 941 | 770 | 863 | 843 | 878 | 4,295 | .. |
| | | Ellore do. .. .. | 959 | 1,240 | 1,511 | 1,545 | 1,316 | 6,571 | .. |
| | | Total .. | 27,665 | 31,000 | 33,919 | 33,836 | 34,545 | 160,965 | 32,193 |
| Dry crops irrigated under the Anicut Canals. | | Nidadavol .. .. | 86 | 58 | 62 | 1,478 | 1,481 | 3,165 | .. |
| | | Baharzalli .. .. | 4 | 6 | 3 | 144 | 106 | 263 | .. |
| | | Total .. | 90 | 64 | 65 | 1,622 | 1,587 | 3,428 | 685 |
| | | Grand Total .. | 36,735 | 41,018 | 44,023 | 44,190 | 45,282 | 211,248 | 42,249 |

4. The Head Assistant Collector points out that the irrigated area as entered in the irrigation registers differs as shown below from that entered in the accompanying statements, on which he relies:—

| Items. | Fasli 1283. | Fasli 1284. | Fasli 1285. | Fasli 1286. | Fasli 1287. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| *Nidadavol Estate.* | ACRES. | ACRES. | ACRES. | ACRES. | ACRES. |
| According to present accounts ... ... ... | 8,897 | 9,795 | 9,928 | 8,499 | 8,917 |
| According to irrigation registers ... ... | 8,205 | 8,916 | 9,153 | 8,513 | ... |
| Difference ... | + 692 | + 879 | + 775 | — 14 | ... |
| *Baharzalli Estate.* | | | | | |
| According to present accounts ... ... ... | 27,665 | 31,000 | 33,919 | 33,836 | 34,545 |
| According to irrigation registers ... ... | 27,917 | 31,137 | 39,763 | 40,027 | ... |
| Difference ... | — 252 | — 137 | — 5,844 | — 6,191 | ... |

5. The Head Assistant Collector thinks that the irrigation registers should be wholly discarded as untrustworthy, but I do not feel inclined to agree with him. I think one set of accounts is as reliable as the other, for they both came from the same source, *i.e.*, the Curnams. These Curnams are, as a rule, entirely careless and indifferent, and still they are the only source from which we must obtain information. Their accounts differ, as they were apparently written at their pleasure, but we cannot but go by them. They think it their interest to under-rate the area irrigated, because they are the dependants of the Zemindarnis, at whose disposal they are entirely placed. So it is not to be expected that their accounts would be intended to injure the Zemindarnis, and therefore I adopted them. The foregoing abstract will show that the differences to which Mr. Tate refers are after all small in the Nidadavol Estate, as there is only a difference of a few hundred acres in areas scattered over a number of villages. In the Baharzalli Estate, however, the differences are striking in Faslis 1285 and 1286, because the irrigation registers show a much larger area as irrigated than the present accounts, which are in the Zemindarnis' favor for this estate and are relied on by Mr. Tate. I accordingly base my proposals on them.

6. Mr. Tate has shown sufficiently that there is an annual loss of Rupees 33,000 to Government by the contract system, and he recommends that if a contract cannot be avoided the amount of contract be fixed at Rupees 80,000. He calculates also on second crop cultivation, which does not appear in the accounts.

7. I am not in favor of any further composition. The system entails loss of revenue to Government. We cannot get correct registers of land irrigated, as we do not under that system employ any special establishment to measure the lands. The irrigation is steadily increasing, and there is no reason whatever why the Government should forego their rightful dues of tax on water which they have secured at an enormous expense. Mr. Tate's calculation of the profits to the Zemindarnis on second crop cultivation is not well founded. The Amani system of collecting water-tax can do no harm to the Zemindarnis in any case. I therefore suggest that water-tax be collected by ourselves direct from ryots at least for the present. Should we find it necessary by experience that the contract system be renewed, it may be taken into consideration hereafter.

8. If, however, the Board should decide on a renewal of the contract, Mr. Tate proposes to fix it at Rupees 80,000 as Government would get Rupees 82,000 and odd if they charge each field. I would make an allowance of 10 per cent. for the collection of tax, or Rupees 8,200, and then fix the amount of contract at Rupees 74,000 a year in round figures. If, however, as before we add Rupees 7,000 for the repair of irrigation works, we should raise the water-rate to Rupees 81,000.



9. I regret the delay which has occurred in submitting this report. This is owing to the delay on the part of Curnams in furnishing the required information. The Tahsildar of Tanuku Taluk also, who died lately, has been very dilatory in paying attention to this important matter.

10. I must mention that it would, I think, be well to spend something in the collection of the water-tax. We can either pay the Zemindari Curnams a percentage on the collections, or we can keep a small establishment for the purpose, say one man of the standing of Revenue Inspector, one Gumastah under him, and two Peons.

11. Something of this kind should be done in the other Zemindaries, but I make no proposal yet: awaiting the opinion of the Board in this instance.

COCANADA,
25th June 1878.

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 4.—Statements.

Telegram from STREE RAJAH PAUPUMMA ROW and STREE RAJAH CHINNUMMA ROW BAHADER, Zemindarnis of Nidadavol Estate, Godavari District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th July 1878.

Two senders. The term of contract we made for five years for water-cess on our estate was over up to last fasli, and a fresh settlement must be made from current fasli. Hearing the Collector sent you a report, whose contents are unknown, we regret he has not taken our opinion. Your Board can judge his report, without doing so is detrimental to us. Pray your Board will be pleased to grant us a copy of Collector's report to take into your consideration such explanation as we may submit to send higher authorities a favorable and liberal recommendation and to support us. Address of senders, Zemindar of Nidadavol Estate in Gadavari District.

IN Fasli 1283 the water-rate payable by the Zemindarnis of Nidadavol and Baharzalli for the irrigation by means of the anicut works of all lands in those estates in excess of a certain fixed* area entitled to irrigation free of charge was compounded for a sum of Rupees 40,000 per annum. The composition was for five years, and that term having expired on the 30th June 1878, it has become necessary to determine what arrangements should be made for the future. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation in the memorandum recorded in G.O., dated 1st March 1878, No. 173 I, pointed out that the agreement made with the Zemindarnis was defective in several respects, and the Government considered it desirable that the Chief Engineer should be informed of the terms proposed for the future before final settlement is arrived at, and that he should confer with the Board on the subject of the information to be made available in connection with the regulation of the supply. The foregoing letter contains the views of the Collector and of his Head Assistant, in whose division the estates are situated as to modification of the terms of the contract which has just expired. The Board will proceed to consider them, and will then forward a copy of the papers to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation who will thus be in a position to say whether a personal conference is necessary, and, if so, to indicate the points requiring discussion.

* 25,881 acres.

2. The cultivation of Fasli 1277 was taken as the basis of the composition effected in Fasli 1283 and the sum fixed was arrived at as follows:—

| | ACRES. | Amount of water-rate. RS. |
|---|---|---|
| Area irrigated in Fasli 1277, first crop ... ... | 36,770 | |
| Deduct mamul wet entitled to irrigation free of charge ... ... ... ... ... ... | 25,881 | |
| | 10,889 × 4 = | 43,556 |
| Deduct 10 per cent. for cost of collection ... ... ... ... | | 4,355 |
| | | 39,201 |

| | Amount of water-rate. |
|---|---|
| Further deduction of 11·5 per cent. on account of certain depreciating circumstances—*vide* paragraph 38, Board's Proceedings in G.O., dated 13th May 1872, No. 764 ... ... ... ... ... | RS. 4,508 |
| | 34,693 |
| Add contribution on account of maintenance of works ... ... | 7,000 |
| Total ... | 41,693 |

or Rupees 40,000 in round numbers.

The area under second crop (1,221 acres) was left out of consideration because it was considered precarious. During the last five years the area under irrigation has considerably increased, but accurate figures as to areas are apparently not obtainable as the irrigation registers differ very materially from statements furnished by the Curnams from the Adungal accounts; the following are the figures:—

| | According to Irrigation Registers. | | | According to Adungal Accounts. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Wet. | Dry Irrigated. | Total. | Wet. | Dry Irrigated. | Total. |
| | ACRES. | ACRES. | ACRES. | ACRES. | ACRES. | ACRES. |
| Fasli 1283 ... ... | 36,122 | ... | 36,122 | 36,645 | 90 | 36,735 |
| Do. 1284 ... ... | 40,053 | 9 | 40,062 | 40,953 | 64 | 41,017 |
| Do. 1285 ... ... | 48,916 | 170 | 49,086 | 43,958 | 65 | 44,023 |
| Do. 1286 ... ... | 48,540 | 1,070 | 49,610 | 42,568 | 1,622 | 44,193 |
| Do. 1287 ... ... | ... | Not given | | 43,694 | 1,587 | 45,281 |
| Average Acres ... | ... | ... | ... | 41,564 | 685 | 42,249 |
| Deduct mamul wet ... | ... | ... | ... | 25,881 | ... | ... |
| Area chargeable ... | ... | ... | ... | 15,683 | ... | ... |

The figures according to the Adungal accounts include a small area (164 acres) in Narsapur omitted from the figures according to the irrigation registers, but this will not affect the comparison materially. The difference is attributed to the carelessness and indifference of the Curnams in rendering returns to Government, and the Collector has adopted the Adungal accounts as the more trustworthy; this is in favor of the Zemindarnis.

3. Both the Head Assistant and the Collector are opposed to any further composition as correct returns of the area actually irrigated are not procurable and the measure involves a sacrifice of revenue. If, however, it be determined to renew the contract, the Head Assistant Collector would fix the amount at Rupees 80,000 and the Collector at Rupees 81,000; their calculations are shown below:—

*Head Assistant Collector.*

| | RS. |
|---|---|
| Area irrigated with wet crop in fasli 1287 *minus* usual wet. | |
| Acres 43,461*—25,881 = 17,580 × 4 = | 70,320 |
| Dry crops irrigated—acres 1,587 × 2 = | †3,974 |
| Estimated second crop charge ... ... | 8,692 |
| Total ... | 82,986 |

or Rupees 80,000 in round numbers.

*Collector.*

| | RS. |
|---|---|
| Amount which the Government would realise if such field were charged according to Mr. Tate's calculation. | 82,000 |
| Deduct 10 per cent. for collection ... | 8,200 |
| | 73,800 |
| Add charge for up-keep of works ... | 7,000 |
| Total ... | 80,800 |

or Rupees 81,000 in round numbers.

* Exclusive of extent in Narsapur.

† Error for Rupees 3,174.



It is observed that the Head Assistant Collector has based his calculations on the area irrigated in one fasli only (1287) according to the Curnam's Adungal accounts; he has added Rupees 8,692 for second crop, which is stated not to appear in the accounts; the estimate is considered by the Collector not well founded; he has nevertheless adopted the total arrived at by Mr. Tate, and merely deducted 10 per cent. for collection and added the same contribution towards up-keep of the works as was settled before. He has omitted the allowance of 11·5 per cent. for depreciating circumstances.

4. The questions for consideration are—

(1) Whether composition should be allowed for the future;

(2) If so, what should be the basis of calculation as regards the returns of areas irrigated and the series of years to be adopted?

(3) Whether any charge is to be made for second crop and the allowance for depreciating circumstances continued.

As regards the first question the Board are in favor of composition for a further definite period, say five years, provided the Zemindarnis consent to such an enhancement of the charge as will fairly approximate to the usual water-rate on the area actually cultivated with wet crops by means of anicut water on an average; of course in such an arrangement the Government must expect to forego some portion of the amount which they might realise by direct levy from the ryots in consideration of the certainty secured, the saving of trouble and expense, security from risk of fraud, &c., in collection. On these grounds the Board would renew the contract if terms can be arranged. On the second point the Adungal accounts are probably more trustworthy than the Irrigation registers; they ought to tally, as the latter are supposed to be compiled from the former, and the Board do not understand the cause of the large discrepancies between the two, which appear to be most marked in faslis 1285 and 1286, and to relate chiefly to the Baharzalli Estate. The Board would adopt the areas according to the Adungal accounts, and think that the average of the last three years of the term of the contract which has just expired should be taken instead of the average for the whole period or any single year. There has been a steady and considerable increase since fasli 1283, and the average of the last three years of the series will more closely approximate to the actuals at the present time and probable state of things in the immediate future. The Head Assistant in paragraph 7 of his letter attributes the extension of cultivation in the last two years to the prevalence of high prices, but does not consider that much, if any, land is likely to be relinquished when prices fall. On the whole, therefore, the average of the last three years appears reasonable and fair to both parties. This will give an extent of 17,525 acres of wet and 1,091 of dry irrigated as chargeable, or 44,497 acres including the area entitled to irrigation free, a total very slightly in excess of that actually irrigated in faslis 1285 and 1286. On the third point it seems that no charge was made for second crop under the late contract because the item was not considered of much importance, but the Head Assistant Collector now estimates it at Rupees 8,700. Mr. Foster considers the estimate erroneous because no such cultivation appears in the accounts. This point must be considered in connection with the liberal allowance of 11·5 per cent. for "depreciating circumstances" as they are termed in G.O., dated 13th May 1872, No. 764. A lump reduction was allowed with reference to certain considerations adduced by the Zemindarnis in a petition as appears from paragraph 38, Board's Proceedings, in G.O., dated 13th May 1872, but there is nothing to show how the sum was fixed; it was probably purely arbitrary. The Board see no reason why the area cultivated with second crop should be excluded from the calculation in addition to the grant of a large deduction for depreciating circumstances generally; the Collector will therefore ascertain and report with as little delay as possible the area cultivated with second crop during the period of the contract which has just expired; the information can doubtless be furnished by the Curnams. The charge for saving owing to the up-keep of the works on which the Gudicut is dependent devolving on Government was fixed at 7 per cent. on the estimated rental of the area; this is undoubtedly a fair charge and the same sum, Rupees 7,000, may be taken into account.

5. On the basis indicated above the calculation will be as follows :—

| | AREA. | RS. |
|---|---|---|
| Average area irrigated *minus* Gudicut ... ... | 17,525 × 4 = | 70,100 |
| Dry crops irrigated ... ... ... ... ... | 1,091 × 2 = | 2,182 |
| | | 72,282 |
| Deduct 10 per cent. for cost of collection ... ... ... ... | | 7,228 |
| | | 65,054 |
| Deduct 11·5 per cent. for depreciating circumstances ... ... | | 7,481 |
| | | 57,573 |
| Add saving on account of repairs ... ... ... ... ... | | 7,000 |
| Net ... | | 64,573 |

The Board would offer to compound with the Zemindarnis for a further term of five years on payment of the annual sum of Rupees 64,500 *plus* the water-rate on the average extent of second crop cultivation. This presupposes however that a sufficient supply of water to provide for all ordinary requirements during the whole period is likely to be available; if this is not the case a maximum limit must be fixed and some modification of the terms may be necessary. This is a point however which can only be determined in the Irrigation Department. It is not noticed by the Collector, and he does not state what action has been taken or what requires to be done with reference to the subjects of the discussion at the conference held at the beginning of the year.

6. With these remarks the Board resolve to forward the papers to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for early consideration as the term of the contract has expired: the orders of Government must be obtained before fresh negotiation with the Zemindarnis can be entered upon. They will be informed with reference to their telegram that the Board are unable to comply with their request that they may be furnished with a copy of the Collector's report, and that as soon as a decision has been arrived at regarding the terms on which composition will be allowed an offer will be communicated to them in due course.

7. As regards the advisability of sanctioning some expenditure for the collection of the water-rate adverted to at the close of the Collector's letter, he should submit more definite proposals in a separate communication.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

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No. 79-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1878, No. 2,547.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 14th August 1878, No. 2,281.

Read also the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort St. George, 23rd August 1878, No. 150-M :—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings, No. 2,281, of the 14th instant, of the Board of Revenue on the subject of the charges to be made in future for water supplied from the Godavari Delta Canals to the Nidadavol and Baharzalli Estates.

2. The Board propose a composition of Rupees 64,500 for a term of five years, beginning with the fasli which has just commenced, and this composition is based on the average wet cultivation, according to the Adungal accounts, for faslis 1285 to 1287 (1875-76 to 1877-78).

3. The papers printed in the Board's Proceedings indicate that very great uncertainty exists as to the actual area of wet cultivation in the estates during the



period on which it is proposed that the composition for this further term should be based, viz. :—

| | 1285. ACRES. | 1286. ACRES. | 1287. ACRES. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Irrigation registers ... ... ... ... | 48,916 | 48,540 | Not given. |
| Adungal accounts ... ... ... ... | 43,958 | 42,568 | 43,694 |

The source whence these figures have been obtained is stated to be in both cases the Curnams of the estates, and Government have at present confessedly no independent means of checking the figures. *Prima facie* evidence is against the correctness of the figures given in the Adungal accounts, because it is clear from the irrigation returns of the Delta generally that a very great stimulus has been given to irrigation by the high prices which have prevailed since 1875-76 (fasli 1284). It is therefore almost incredible that in faslis 1286 and 1287 the area irrigated in these estates should have been less than in fasli 1285, and very improbable that the increase of area in fasli 1285 over 1284 should have been only 3,005 against an increase of 4,308 acres in fasli 1284 over 1283, when there was no such incentive to production. Under these circumstances it would, I think, be likely to prove prejudicial to the public interests to base a composition on figures which are certainly not trustworthy, for the result would probably be abandonment of a considerable amount of revenue which is fairly claimable from the Zemindaries.

See also the figures in the abstract printed at page 3 of the Proceedings. In the Tanuku taluk the extension of irrigation, concurrent with high prices, was less than 5 per cent.; in Bhimavaram it was 25 per cent.

4. The first thing necessary appears to be more accurate information as to the total area available for irrigation and commanded by the canals in these estates, and as to the areas actually irrigated. It is not for me to say how this knowledge is to be acquired, but it is, I think, essential to obtain it as a preliminary to any arrangement of the nature of a composition or lump sum charge for irrigation. The District Revenue Officers are in favor of the levy of water-rate on the area actually irrigated instead of the renewal of a composition, and the former, or Amani system, should, I think, be adopted if only as a means of arriving at least approximately at a knowledge of the facts. When such information has been gained a composition may probably be conveniently arranged with advantage both to the Zemindaries and the Government.

5. The facts of the last five years show very clearly how erroneous were the data on which the last composition was made, and how great has been the loss to Government therefrom resulting. The necessity for better data is consequently fully established. Mr. Tate in paragraph 7 of his letter mentions that 700 acres in Tanuku and 3,654 acres in Bhimavaram are still uncultivated, "though fit for cultivation and irrigable under the canals;" but without a knowledge of the areas irrigated in the past it cannot be even guessed what area in addition to that, acres 43,406, taken by the Board as the basis of their calculations might be irrigated in the next term of years. It might be 4,354 acres only, or it might be nearly 10,000 acres.

6. Again the Board's calculations are based not only upon the unchecked figures of the Adungal accounts produced apparently at a time when it was known that a new arrangement had to be entered into, but the progressive extension of irrigation during the past five years as manifested even in the Adungal accounts has not been taken as a guide to the probable extent of irrigation in the next five years. Perhaps had the figures of the irrigation registers which indicate the effect of high prices in the famine years been adopted as the basis of the calculations, it might have been reasonable to assume that this incentive removed the greatest area recorded for these years would probably not be exceeded in the immediate future. But the figures taken for the calculation show no unusual increase due to high prices, and it is thought, therefore, that a normal increase should have been anticipated in the future and the effect of this entered in the calculations. Now from 1283 to 1287 the increase according to the Adungal was acres 7,049 on acres 36,645, or 19·23 per cent., and the average of 1285 to 1287 being 43,406 would, if corrected for this increment, become 51,752 acres at the end of the next five years, and the average for this period would be

47,579 acres, from which deducting the Gudicut or lands irrigated free, viz., 25,881 acres, 21,698 acres would remain. In the next place the Board add for the contribution on account of maintenance of works Rupees 7,000, the same amount as was considered right when the area charged for was supposed to be only 10,889 acres and the total area 36,770 acres. Supposing 43,406 acres to be the probable total on the average as assumed by the Board, the proper contribution would seem to be Rs. 8,263. If on the other hand the probable average area of the next five years be taken as 47,579 acres, this contribution should be Rupees 9,055.

If then the Adungal accounts, untrustworthy as they are, are to be taken as a basis for calculation, it would seem to be necessary to substitute the following for the figures given in paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Average area *minus* the Gudicut ... ... ... | 21,698 acres × 4 = | 86,792 |
| Dry crops irrigated ... .. ... ... ... ... | 1,091 „ × 2 = | 2,182 |
| | | 88,974 |
| Deduct 10 per cent. for cost of collection ... ... ... ... ... | | 8,897 |
| | | 80,077 |
| Deduct 11½ per cent. for depreciating circumstances ... ... ... | | 9,208 |
| | | 70,869 |
| Add saving on account of repairs ... ... ... ... ... ... | | 9,055 |
| | | 79,924 |

or a difference of nearly Rupees 15,500. To the composition of Rupees 64,500 proposed by the Board is to be added the water-rate on the average extent of second-crop cultivation, about which nothing is apparently known, and which would be ascertained, it is presumed, by a reference to the Curnams, over whose accounts there is no check.

7. In granting water for the irrigation of 25,881 acres in these estates free of charge it has been admitted that Government treated the Zemindarnis with extreme liberality, and it is supposed, therefore, that there is no need for the supply of the land liable to water-rate on exceptionally favorable terms.

8. With regard to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 173-I, of the 1st March 1878, it will suffice, pending the settlement of the general distribution of the irrigation in connection with the instructions given to the Superintending Engineer, if for the Nidadavol and Baharzalli estates the area to be irrigated in fasli 1288 be shown in the same manner as in the statements sent for perusal with the Board's Proceedings and herewith returned, but with additional columns for sources of supply. The following form will do:—

No. 17 GD, 28th January 1878, in Procs., Madras Govt., No. 173-I, 1st March 1878.

| Village Nos. | Names of Villages. | Area irrigated in Fasli 1287. | Area to be irrigated Fasli 1288. | | | Sources of Supply. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Free 1st Crop. | Charged 1st Crop. | Total 1st Crop. | Name of Channel. | Name of Canal. |
| | | Acs. C. | Acs. C. | Ac. C. | Acs. C. | | |



The Gudicut or free area has first to be provided for. Probably there will be no difficulty in supplying also fully the area liable to water-rate unless there should be any marked increase in villages under canals which had no water to spare this last year. In Bhimavaram a considerable extension might be desired and in villages under the Venkiah and Weyeru Canal might be arranged for without difficulty, but under the Undi Canal water might not be available.

9. There are no other points which appear to need a conference with the Board with a view to a settlement, and I am, under instructions from Government, to leave Madras for Dowlaishvaram by the steamer expected to sail on the 25th instant.

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SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 1st March 1878, No. 173-I.

2. On reconsideration the Board are inclined to agree with Colonel Mullins in thinking that as the Adungal accounts on which the calculations in the Proceedings above read were based are avowedly untrustworthy, it would be advisable, before entering into a fresh arrangement for compounding the water-rate, to charge by the acre for two or three years in view to obtaining reliable data; the experience gained will enable a decision to be arrived at as to the terms which would be fair to both parties. The Board prefer the employment of a separate establishment for the collection of the water-rate to the payment of a percentage on the collections of the Zemindari Curnams; they will never be induced by the payment of a trifling sum to serve Government in preference to the Zemindarnis, who pay them permanently and have the power of dismissing them; consequently the information furnished will be as untrustworthy as it is now. The only way of arriving at the real facts is to have the cultivation recorded and collection of water-rate made by Government agency; there should be well-paid Inspectors, whose ranges should be changed from time to time, to supervise those engaged in collection. The Collector will report the staff required and the cost.

3. The Collector will obtain from the Zemindarnis annually a statement in the form given in paragraph 8 of the Chief Engineer's letter showing the area for which irrigation is required and forward the same to the District Engineer in view to the necessary arrangements being made for the supply of water.

4. The Chief Engineer is in error in supposing that the contribution for the maintenance of works should be more than Rupees 7,000, because the area to be irrigated in fasli 1288 is much larger that it was in fasli 1277, the cultivation of which year was taken as the basis of the composition effected in fasli 1283. The charge is for the cost of maintenance of works for irrigating the *Gudicut area* saved to the Zemindarnis by the introduction of anicut irrigation, and the area irrigated subject to payment of water-rate has no connection whatever with this charge. Strictly speaking the sum of Rupees 7,000 should be paid by the Zemindarnis whether the water-rate is charged by the acre or composition is effected, but as it is doubtful whether it could be collected as a separate charge under Act II of 1864, the Board are prepared to recommend Government to forego the amount.

Paragraph 13, G.O., 13th May 1872, No. 764.

Paragraph 10, Board's Proceedings in G.O., 20th December 1873, No. 1,473.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 80. ORDER THEREON, 14th October 1878, No. 810 I.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, Godavari.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Ag. Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

(True copy)

Hasted
Ag Chief Secretary.
for Secretary to Govt. P.W. Dept.

To the District Engineer, Godavari.
" " " Kistna.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Dept.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

Revenue 1878 Departt
№4845.

IRRIGATION.

# Govt. of (1878) Madras.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
GODAVARI,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 14th.

Issued

Recd. 4 November. Encl.

G. O., 14th October 1878, No. 810 I.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 79-80.

R.O. No 1928 - 28 November 1878

*Water-rate on lands in Nidadavol and Baharzalli Estates, Godavari District.*—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue relative to the levy of ——— communicated to the District Engineer, Godavari.

C. 20: Nos 58. R. 26: Nos 58
C. 14: Nos 58. R. 16: Nos 58/58.

R.D.

№ 1928

Proceedings of the Madras Government

under date the 28 Nov 1878

Read G.O. Public Works Department dated 14th October 1878 №810 I, communicating to the Dist. Engineer Godavari, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue relative to the levy of water rate on lands in Nidadavol and Baharzalli Estates Godavari District

His Grace the Governor in Council approves the substitution of the Amani method of direct collection of water-rate from the Ryots, in lieu of contract with the Zemindaris for

for at least two or three years, so as to obtain some reliable data on which to base a fresh contract hereafter if such ~~is~~ deemed advisable

2. The temporary Establishment needed for the purpose has already been sanctioned (G.O. 2nd November 1875 No 1766 R.D).

3 With reference to the concluding sentence of the Board's Proceedings dated 16th September 1875 No 2547 recorded in the paper read above, the Government see no reason to forego the contribution hitherto paid for the maintenance of

For consideration. This point was not referred to in Mr Hobler's letters. C.M.L.

the works ~~by payment should~~ be insisted on ~~in consideration of~~ which the supply of irrigation to the Godrient area recognised as "channel dependent wet". If the Zemindars refuse payment they cannot expect to receive a fair supply of water. The Board are correct in considering that the sum of Rs 900 already fixed on this account is not liable to be raised with reference to present irrigation, as supposed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

C.M.L.

His is charge Rs in ordinary cases under the Rummut Settlement but the owner of the Zemindari and the Ryots in common pay the Irrigation Dept. This is correct & ought to be enhanced to the Rate of the adv. area irrigated at an average rate which includes all charges.

21 Forks Old Dept Dry Deer
14 the Board Dept Revenue
6 the Accountant General

Ed. Stitch

15

G.O.

Water out on Bar
Inazable
Advisable Estate
in Gordanier Dist