

(1) Number of pages 9 sheets (18 pages)
(2) Date of repair 6.4.54
(3) Initials of the Referencer JSZ CS 8/11

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2988	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6-12-1878	197

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Archives I-5,806-24-2-78.

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19/8 2988
No. 2,284.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th August 1878.

Read the following papers:—

From W. J. TATE, Esq., Assistant Collector in charge of Head Assistant's Division, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery 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 Niladavolu 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 Zemindaris 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 adangals, and which have been tested with the adangals 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 adangals, the difference being 14 acres 19 cents, whereas the adangals 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 adangals, which

any member's decision

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 (Nidadavolu 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

* Apparently mistake; Rupees 10,216. 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—

	RS.
Water-rate at Rupees 4 per acre on all land in the estates not Mamul wet	70,320
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 ryot-war 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 increased 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 puttās—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.

No. 156.

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

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.						Average of five Faslis.
			Fasli 1283.	Fasli 1284.	Fasli 1285.	Fasli 1286.	Fasli 1287.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Narsapur ..	Nidadavolu.	Mukamala	ACRES. 83	ACRES. 159	ACRES. 111	ACRES. 233	ACRES. 233	ACRES. 819	ACRES. 164
		Ellore Canal	7	15	26	40	48	136	..
		Attili do.	3,062	4,024	4,647	3,357	3,921	19,051	..
		Main do.	487	486	504	525	338	2,340	..
		Nakula do.	154	164	161	148	153	785	..
		Gostanadi and Valpore Canal	1,599	1,418	1,524	1,495	1,752	7,788	..
		Narsapur and Rapaku 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.	Beharzalli	Venkaya and Veyera Canal	17,980	20,190	21,494	21,248	22,017	102,929	..
		Undi Canal	7,785	8,500	10,051	10,200	10,324	47,170	..
		Attili do.	941	770	868	843	878	4,295	..
		Ellore do.	959	1,240	1,511	1,645	1,316	6,571	..
		Total ..	27,665	31,000	33,919	33,836	34,545	169,965	32,193
Dry crops irrigated under the Amicut Canals.	Nidadavolu		86	58	62	1,478	1,481	3,165	..
	Beharzalli		4	6	3	144	106	263	..
	Total ..		90	64	65	1,622	1,587	3,428	658
	Grand Total ..		36,735	41,015	44,023	44,190	45,282	211,248	42,249

any member because

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
<i>Nidadavole Estate.</i>					
According to present accounts	ACRES. 8,897	ACRES. 9,795	ACRES. 9,928	ACRES. 8,499	ACRES. 8,917
According to irrigation registers	8,205	8,916	9,153	8,513	...
Difference ...	+ 692	+ 879	+ 775	- 14	...
<i>Baharzalli Estate.</i>					
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 Nidadavole 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 Zemindari's, 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 Nidadavole Estate, Godavery District, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., 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 Nidadavole Estate in Godavery District.

In Fasli 1283, the water-rate payable by the Zemindarnis of Nidadavole and Baharzalli for the irrigation by means of the ancient 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.

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	
	$10,889 \times 4 =$	43,556
Deduct 10 per cent. for cost of collection ...		4,355
		39,201
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 ...		4,508
Add contribution on account of maintenance of works ...		34,693
		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 ...	48,549	1,070	49,619	42,568	1,622	44,190
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.	Collector.	RS.
Area irrigated with wet crop in Fasli 1287 minus usual wet		Amount which the Government would realize if such field were charged according to Mr. Tate's calculation...	82,000
Acres 43,461 *—25,881=17,580 $\times 4 =$	70,320	Deduct 10 per cent. for collection ...	8,200
Dry crops irrigated—Acres 1,587 $\times 2 =$	3,174		
Estimated second crop charge	8,692		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total ...	82,986	Add charge for upkeep of works ...	7,800
or Rupees 80,000 in round numbers.			<hr/>
		Total ...	80,800
		or Rupees 81,000 in round numbers.	

* Exclusive of extent in Narsapur.
† Error for Rupee 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 upkeep 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 ancient water on an average; of course in such an arrangement the Government must expect to forego some portion of the amount which they might realize 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

any member because

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 upkeep of the works on which the Gudiut 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:—

Average area irrigated <i>minus</i> Gudiut	...	Acres	17,525 × 4 =	RS.
Dry crops irrigated	...	"	1,091 × 2 =	70,100
				2,182
Deduct 10 per cent. for cost of collection	...			72,282
				7,228
Deduct 11.5 per cent. for depreciating circumstances	...			65,054
				7,481
Add saving on account of repairs	...			57,573
				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.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, with four original statements to be returned.
" Collector of the Godavery District.
Endorsement to Zemindarnis.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

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any memoranda because

No. 4274

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From the Board of Revenue

Dated 16 Sept 1878

FOR ORDERS.

This paper is addressed to the P. W. Department and in ordinary course will not require any remark in the Rev Dept till it had been dealt with by the P. W. D.

The discussion to which it refers - viz - as to the water-rate which shall be paid by the Niddavole & Bahazalli Estates in the Godavari District - took its rise in a requisition made

This had better go to Mr. Rudleston. I am inclined to agree with the spirit of this note.

Inclined to think this should be taken in hand. But I have already seen the papers in P. W. D. and don't think it necessary to start on it. Better let them go.

20.22 Nov 1877 No 514 I. Having seen the papers again as circd in the P. W. D. I find that the

in the Irrigation Dept upon the Rev Board a history of the case. It does not seem that the Board prepared any memoir because

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR
IRRIGATION,

Dated August 14th

Printed 17th

Red.

Proceedings, 14th August 1878, No. 2,281.

AUGUST,
No. 2,281.

Water-rate - on lands in Niddavole and Bahazalli Estates in Godavari District - forwarding to Chief Engineer for Irrigation papers relating to levy of - in future.

Recd. 1. Oct 1878

the Chief Engineer
for irrigation sub-
sequently found
that the informa-
tion was already
on record. His com-
ments on the sub-
ject have resulted
in the report which
the Board have
now submitted.

To all previous
correspondence on
the settlement with
the Zamindars
of these two Estates
has been dealt
with in the 1st
Sept and as the chief
questions now
discussed relate
to the amount of
rent rate, the
mode of collecting
it, & the question
whether certain
remissions should be

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order has been passed
that beyond coming
to the B.D. the
D.R.

to have the pro-
duct of them at once
in the B.D. but that
the B.D. is necessary
is to appear the
suggested rate of the
of the Amami
of rent collected
of the rate from
the B.D. in lieu of
contract with the
Zamindars for
a term of years
for at least 2
or 3 years does

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to obtain some estimate
on the B.D. & under
the existing contract
perhaps if deemed
advisable. It would
be the B.D. proposals for
the temporary rate
& give effect to this
proposal

S.H.

15.11.78

allowed, it would
almost seem
as if the paper
should have been
submitted for
orders in this Dept.
Certain further
information as
to a suggested staff
of revenue in-
spectors is yet to
come

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Orders requested
whether the paper
may be lodged for
action in the
B.D.W. or what
other course
should be adopted

Y.M.

No. 547.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th September 1878.

Read again Board's Proceedings, d. 114th August 1878, No. 2281.

Read also the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to C. A. GAITHER, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort St. George, 3rd 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.

3. The papers printed in the Board of Agriculture Proceedings indicate that very great uncertainty exists as to the actual area of wheat cultivation in the estates during the period on which it is proposed that the composition for this further term should be based, viz.:—

	1285.	1286.	1287.
	ACRES	ACRES.	ACRES.
Irrigation registers	48,916	48,540	Not given.
Adungul 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 1873/76 (Fasli 1284). It is therefore almost

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.

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.

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 cultivation and irrigable under the arrangement had to be entered into the past five years as manifested by figures of the irrigation registers which years been adopted as the basis of the assumption that this incentive removed the probably not be exceeded in the immediate calculation show no unusual increase of that a normal increase should have been this entered in the calculations. Now the Adungul was acres 7,049 on acres 1285 to 1287 being 43,406 would, if acres at the end of the next five years 47,579 acres, from which deducting the acres, 21,698 acres would remain. In addition on account of maintenance of works considered right when the area charged for total area 36,770 acres. Supposing average as assumed by the Board, the If on the other hand the probable area 47,579 acres, this contribution should

6. Again the Board's calculation of the Adungul accounts produced an arrangement had to be entered into the past five years as manifested by figures of the irrigation registers which years been adopted as the basis of the assumption that this incentive removed the probably not be exceeded in the immediate calculation show no unusual increase of that a normal increase should have been this entered in the calculations. Now the Adungul was acres 7,049 on acres 1285 to 1287 being 43,406 would, if acres at the end of the next five years 47,579 acres, from which deducting the acres, 21,698 acres would remain. In addition on account of maintenance of works considered right when the area charged for total area 36,770 acres. Supposing average as assumed by the Board, the If on the other hand the probable area 47,579 acres, this contribution should

If then the Adungul accounts, under for calculation, it would seem to be necessary given in paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings:

Average area minus the Gudicut
Dry crops irrigated

Deduct 10 per cent. for cost of collection

Deduct 11½ per cent. for depreciation

Add saving on account of repairs

or a difference of nearly 15,500 Rupees by the Board is to be added to the cultivation, about which nothing is apparent it is presumed, by a reference to the

7. In granting water for the irrigation charge it has been admitted that Government liberality, and it is supposed, therefore, liable to water-rate on exceptionally

8. With regard to paragraph will suffice, pending the settlement

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

re still uncultivated, "though fit for" but without a knowledge of the areas used what area in addition to that, acres their calculations might be irrigated in acres only, or it might be nearly 10,000

used not only upon the unchecked figures at a time when it was known that a new progressive extension of irrigation during Adungul accounts has not been taken as the next five years. Perhaps had the the effect of high prices in the famine years, it might have been reasonable to the area recorded for these years would future. But the figures taken for the high prices, and it is thought, therefore, anticipated in the future and the effect of 283 to 1287 the increase according to or 19.23 per cent., and the average of for this increment, become 51,752 the average for this period would be out or lands irrigated free, viz., 25,881 at place the Board add for the contribution 7,000, the same amount as was supposed to be only 10,389 acres and the acres to be the probable total on the contribution would seem to be Rs. 8,263. area of the next five years be taken as acres 9,055.

truthy as they are, are to be taken as a basis to substitute the following for the figures given:

21,698 acres × 4 =	86,792
1,091 " × 2 =	2,182
	88,974
	8,897
	80,077
circumstances	9,208
	70,869
	9,055
	79,924

the composition of Rupees 64,500 proposed rate on the average extent of second-crop area known, and which would be ascertained, from accounts over whose accounts there is no check. of 25,881 acres in these estates free of Government treated the Zemindaries with extreme liberality, and there is no need for the supply of the land on able terms.

G.O., No. 173-I, of the 1st March 1878, 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 with returned, but with additional columns for sources of supply. The following form will do:—

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. G.	ACS. C.	ACS. 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.

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 Adungul 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 Zemindaries, 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 Zemindaries 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 Rs. 7,000, because the area to be

