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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 453
B.P. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated 31- 3. 1876 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1876.

No. 316. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th February 1876, No. 568 :—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 10th July 1874, No. 1,759, and Board's Proceedings, dated 10th December 1875, No. 3,334, communicating G. O., 11th November 1875, No. 1,619.

Read also letter from J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th November 1875, No. 449.

I HAVE the honor to submit my report on the revision of the Nirgunti establishment in the district, called for in paragraph 9 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,759, dated 10th July 1874.

2. In my letter, No. 315, dated 7th October 1873, recorded in that Proceedings, I referred only to Nirkattees employed under tanks irrigating more than one village. I now beg to forward a statement showing the existing establishment under all the irrigation works, large and small, and the number proposed to be entertained under the salary system, which has been carried out as regards the other village servants in the district.

3. The Board will observe that in some villages I have proposed Nirkattees for tanks and channels which have none at present, and that in others again I have recommended the abolition of the existing staffs as unnecessary. In making these recommendations I have been guided by the importance of the works generally, and by the amount of funds likely to be available for the purpose. I have adopted the scale proposed for Bellary with a few modifications, *viz.*, one Nirkattee for tanks irrigating between 65 and 150 acres, two for tanks irrigating between 150 and 350 acres, three for tanks irrigating between 350 and 600 acres, and four for those irrigating more than 600 acres. Two tanks, Cumbum and Owk, are specially provided for.

4. The result of these proposals is abstracted below :—

Class.	Number of Works.	Number of Men proposed.
Special class	2	39
First Class, above 600 acres	3	12
Second Class, from 350 to 600	8	22
Third do. from 150 to 350	50	93
Fourth do. from 65 to 150	59	59
Channels	9	10
Total ...	131	235

5. For the Cumbum tank, which irrigates about 5,713 acres spread over fifteen villages, the Tahsildar recommends the employment of thirty-two Nirkattees in addition to the fourteen who are now employed. The Head Assistant Collector did not at first make any definite proposal, but in a subsequent communication, forwarded to the Board with my letter, No. 352, dated 6th October 1875, he strongly urged (without, however, adducing any reasons) that the twenty additional

men proposed by me would be insufficient to supplement the existing staffs. Mr. Minchin proposed altogether twenty Nirkattees for this tank. The number recommended by me is thirty-four. The Board can determine from the correspondence before them, whether this number is not sufficient to meet the wants of the Cumbum tank. I may add that the Nirkattees who may be sanctioned for this, and the Owk, Timmanayampet, Hanumatgundem, and Nandial tanks (all of which irrigate more than one village) will be under the supervision of the Public Works Department in accordance with G.O., No. 713, dated 5th March 1873.

6. In his letters, Nos. 18 and 1, dated 30th October 1861 and 21st March 1862, which will be found in Mr. Pelly's Volume, Part III., page 40, Mr. Minchin proposed that, except on the Cumbum tank, the Nirkattees should be employed for nine months in the year on all the other irrigation works. I consider, however, that in the case of tanks which irrigate only one crop in the year, their services might be dispensed with after six months, the period of a first crop usually varying from four to five months only. Under fourteen tanks which irrigate two crops, I think the Nirkattees should be retained for nine months at least, while under the large tank at Cumbum, where cultivation is carried on throughout the year, they should be employed permanently for the whole year. The minimum pay of these men should not be less than 3 Rupees per mensem.

7. If these proposals are adopted the entire cost of the establishment will amount to Rupees 5,229, *viz.*, Rupees 1,224 under Cumbum tank, Rupees 2,844 under 146 tanks which irrigate only one crop, and Rupees 1,161 under fourteen tanks and nine channels which irrigate two crops. The quit-rent, at 10 Annas in the Rupee, likely to be realized from enfranchising the Nirkattee Inams will not exceed 1,800 Rupees. The remaining sum, or nearly 64 per cent., must be met from the Surplus Village Service Funds.

8. In paragraph 26 of my report on the village establishments, recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 2,753, dated 25th September 1874, I stated that, after liberally providing for increased allowances to village officers and reducing the cess from 1 Anna to 9 Pies in the Rupee, there will remain a surplus of nearly 11,572 Rupees. I calculated the interest from investing the surplus at 5 per cent., but under Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 1,902, dated 9th March 1875, only 4 per cent. Promissory Notes were purchased for Rs. 6,46,500,* which would yield interest to the amount of Rupees 25,860 instead of 33,500 as estimated by me. The average annual surplus will thus be reduced from Rupees 11,572 to Rupees 3,932, which, added to the quit-rent (Rupees 1,800) likely to be realized from the Nirkattee Inams, will do little more than cover the cost of the establishment now proposed, leaving but a very small surplus of Rupees 503, a sum quite insufficient either to carry out the annual repairs to the Village Chavadies sanctioned in G.O., No. 707, dated 9th July 1873, or to raise the pay of these men above 3 Rupees a-month, —an object which (considering the pay of other inferior village servants) may be thought desirable.

9. In their Order, No. 1,180, dated 25th April 1864 (page 93 of Mr. Pelly's Volume III.), Government postponed the revision of the Nirkattee establishment, pending the receipt of orders of the Government of India on a reference made to them regarding "the transfer to the Revenue Budget of all charges connected with the employment of Nirkattees, &c., establishments." If it is now decided that the *entire* cost of the establishment should be met from the Village Service Fund, I would venture to recommend that three-eighths of the full assessment collected on the so-called "escheated Inams" be surrendered to the Village Service Fund instead of being credited to Land Revenue, as directed in Standing Order No. XIV. of 1870. At the original revision of the village establishment, these Service Inams were set apart to form a separate fund for paying the village servants. It was open to Government to have fully assessed these Inams, but in consideration of the long undisturbed possession which the then existing holders had enjoyed, the Inams were confirmed to them at a quit-rent of 10 Annas in the Rupee of the assessment, and that amount was credited to Village Service Fund. When these prescriptive rights have ceased to exist (by the death of the Inamdars and their heirs, or by relinquishment or other cause), I think Government might fairly allow the full assessment to go to the fund to which the Inams properly belong. The excess over five-eighths realized and credited to Land Revenue, Miscellaneous, in 1874-75, amounted to Rupees 4,166. In 1871-72 it was only Rupees 2,862. As pointed out in Mr. Chase's letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 4,262, dated 4th October 1871, a large extent of these service Inams are annually relinquished or sold for arrears of revenue. In many cases these lands are not taken up again for cultivation, and in many cases again, when they are taken up, the net assessment, after deducting the 2 per cent. road-cess and 6¼ per cent. village-cess which are included in the settlement assessment in the four taluqs of Kurnool Proper, is often less than the original quit-rent, and if three-eighths of this assessment is given up to Land Revenue, the Village Service Fund will, I fear, become gradually impoverished, and it will be impossible to carry out the contemplated reduction in the cess without greatly curtailing the Nirkattee establishment. The reduction in the cess is, I think, very necessary, if not as a relief to the ryots, at least to enable the Local Fund Board to raise their cess from 9 Pies to 1 Anna. In my annual report as President of the Local Fund Board, I have pointed out how insufficient the present revenue derived from the land-cess is in providing adequately for the requirements of the district in respect of roads and elementary education. To meet this want it will soon become absolutely necessary to raise the cess to the maximum of 1 Anna in the Rupee of assessment, and the only means by which this can be done without putting an additional burden on the ryots is to make a corresponding decrease in the village-cess.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

From the same Officer, dated Kurnool, 3rd December 1875, No. 461.

WITH reference to paragraph 5 of my letter No. 449, dated 25th November 1875, I have the honor to forward an extract from the District Engineer's letter, dated 29th November 1875, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation regarding the number of Nirkatties required under the Cumbum channels.

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* Rupees 21,478 were paid for commission and other charges.

2. Before sending my report, I addressed Mr. Goodchap on the subject, and he in his letter, No. 135, dated 13th September 1875, informed me that he was unable to express an opinion regarding the number of Nirkatties required. He has recently visited Cumbum, and now accepts the establishment proposed by Mr. Farmer.

3. If the Board approve of this proposal the necessary corrections will have to be made in the statement submitted with my letter and the cost of the establishment increased by Rupees 504, which is the pay of the fourteen additional men for twelve months at Rupees 3 each per mensem.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract from the District Engineer's letter, dated 29th November 1875, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

* * * *

12. I beg to submit a Tabular Statement for the entertainment of Nirkatties for the conservancy of these channels. I have entered the number required, as advocated by the Head Assistant Collector with whom I had a personal interview during my last tour through the Cumbum Range, and which is prepared in accordance with Mr. Pelly's scheme quoted in the Revenue Board's Proceedings. From all I can learn there will be about 1,000 water-courses to be managed by the Nirkatties.

* * * *

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. HOPE,
Acting Collector.

THE foregoing letters contain the Collector's proposals for the revision of the Nirgunti establishment in the Kurnool District.

2. The number of Nirgunties to be employed has been fixed with reference to the area irrigated by the tanks and channels, as originally proposed, except in the case of the Cumbum and Owk tanks which are specially treated, for the former of which the Collector at first proposed thirty-four men and for the latter five. The Head Assistant Collector, however, considers the number proposed for Cumbum insufficient, and as the District Engineer concurs in that view, and accepts the establishment proposed by the Head Assistant, *viz.*, forty-eight men, the Board think that provision must be made for the additional number, but that the Collector should be instructed to employ only thirty-four men for the present reporting, after the expiration of a year, whether the smaller number suffices to meet requirements. It is not clear why a staff so considerably in excess of that proposed by Mr. Minchin, *viz.*, twenty men, should be thought necessary now.

3. As regards remuneration the Collector considers that the minimum pay should not be less than Rupees 3 per mensem, and proposes to employ the Nirgunties for six months in the case of tanks irrigating only one crop, for nine months in the case of those under which two crops are raised, and for the whole year in the case of the Cumbum tank. The rate of pay proposed is half a Rupee higher than that generally allowed by Mr. Pelly, and though it is still low the fund cannot afford to give more at present or to employ the men all the year round.

4. The result of the proposals as now submitted is that the establishment should consist of 249 men for 131 irrigation works, the annual cost being Rs. 5,733, including the additional staff for Cumbum.

5. From the statement which accompanied the Collector's letter it would appear that the number of men at present doing duty is 211, that the number proposed by Mr. Minchin was 140, whilst the total of the column for the establishment now proposed is 238 not 235 as given in paragraph 4 of the letter. A reference to Mr. Pelly's scheme shows that the staff recommended was 218 men for 167 works. The decrease in the number of the works as now reported is probably due to grouping, but it should have been explained.

6. As regards assets the condition of the fund appears to be as follows :—

	RS.
Average collections for the three years preceding 1874 … …	3,74,878
Add interest on surplus invested, *viz.*, Rupees 6,46,500 at 4 per cent.	25,860
	4,00,738
Deduct amount to be exclusively spent in five villages … … …	381
	4,00,357
Existing Establishment … … … … … … … … … …	3,60,780
Sum available for expenditure … … … … … … … … …	39,577
Add estimated quit-rent on enfranchised Inams … … … … …	1,800
	41,377
Establishment now proposed … … … … … … … … … …	5,733
Balance Rupees…	35,644

There is, therefore, after providing for the Nirgunti establishment on the scale proposed, a surplus of Rupees 35,644 only available, whereas the surplus required to warrant a reduction in the rate of cess from 1 Anna to 9 Pies in the Rupee is Rupees 36,026.

7. To meet this difficulty, the Collector enquires whether the entire cost of the establishment must be met from the Village Service Fund, and proposes that the three-eighths of the full assessment collected on escheated and relinquished Inams which the Board have in their Circular Order No. XIV. of 1870 directed to be credited to Land Revenue as constituting the value of the escheat to Government, should be surrendered to the Village Service Fund.

8. It is clear from Proceedings of Government, dated 30th June 1865, No. 1,490, and connected papers, that the whole cost of establishments must be borne by Village Service Funds, contributions from General Revenues being continued only in the case of certain districts where they had formerly been paid in lieu of resumed Inams and fees. As regards the proposal to credit the full assessment collected on escheated and relinquished Inams, the Board see no objection should Government see fit, to relinquish their interest in the escheat. The Standing Order in question was framed in the interests of the Village Service Fund to secure attention to its claims, whenever Service Inams became liable to full assessment. In Kurnool, it appears that there is a risk of the fund becoming gradually impoverished, owing to the extent of the relinquishments and the reduction in the

assessment. The Board, therefore, support the Collector's recommendation that the full assessment *minus* the old jodi should be credited to the Village Service Fund in the case of Inams reverting to Government, a concession which appears to be only equitable unless payment of a sum, amounting to five-eighths of the assessment as fixed at the time of enfranchisement, is guaranteed. Paragraph 3 of the Order of Government, dated 15th April 1863, No. 658, appears to favor the supposition that it was intended that the proceeds of Inam lands fully assessed should be credited to the Village Service Fund.

9. It does not appear, however, that this concession, though right and desirable, is absolutely necessary in order to place the fund on such a footing as to admit of the reduction in the rate of the cess which is advocated by the Collector and is a very desirable measure. There is still apparently a considerable balance at credit at present unutilized. In paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd December 1875, No. 3,273, reviewing the Local Fund Budget Estimates of the Kurnool Circle for 1876-77, the surplus was estimated to amount to nearly a lakh of Rupees at the commencement of the ensuing fasli. The estimated balance at the commencement of the ensuing official year, according to the Special Local Funds Budget, amounts to Rupees 1,32,159. Correcting the interest on the sum invested according to paragraph 8 of the Collector's letter of the 25th November, and allowing for the transfer of Rupees 12,000 to Local Funds as sanctioned in G.O., dated 11th January 1876, No. 44, there is still a surplus of more than Rupees 80,000, which, if invested, would yield sufficient to give the fund a balance to meet the cost of annual repairs to Village Chavadies, &c., notwithstanding the reduction in the rate of the cess.

10. The Board therefore resolve to submit the scheme for the orders of Government, with their recommendation that the Nirgunti establishment be organized as proposed at a cost of Rupees 5,733.

2nd. That the surplus available be invested in Government Securities.

3rd. That the reduction in the rate of the Village Service Cess from 1 Anna to 9 Pies be effected from the ensuing fasli.

11. The Board await the Collector's proposals for utilizing locally the surplus of Rupees 381 in the five villages referred to in paragraph 6 above.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 317. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1876, No. 453.

Irrigation, No. 8.

IN these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit the proposals of the Collector of Kurnool for the revision of the Nirkatti establishment, and the reduction of the village cess from 1 Anna to 9 Pies in the Rupee.

2. The results of the revision are (1) to raise the total number of Nirkatties from 211 to 252,* (2) to fix the minimum pay of each at Rs. 3 per mensem, (3) to retain their services for six, nine or twelve months in the year according as the tanks, to regulate the irrigation from which they are engaged, supply water for one crop only, or for two crops, or for cultivation throughout the year, as in the case of the large tank at Cumbum, and (4) to raise the annual cost under these arrangements to Rs. 5,733.

	RS.
1 Cumbum Tank	1,728
146 tanks which irrigate only one crop.	2,844
14 tanks irrigating two crops	1,161
Total ...	5,733

3. It is observed that, for the Cumbum Tank, only fourteen men are now entertained; that the Collector proposed to add twenty more, but the Head Assistant and the District Engineer would prefer thirty-four more or forty-eight in all, against twenty proposed by Mr. Minchin. In the absence of satisfactory explanation for this large excess proposed, the Board have directed the Collector to employ only thirty-four men for the present subject to report at the end of a year; the provision for the larger number proposed being meanwhile retained.

4. In arriving at the number of Nirkatties required for each tank, the Collector has been guided by the extent† of the area irrigated. It would have been well, had the revenue dependant on the tanks, for which Nirkatties are proposed, been shown in the statement furnished by the Collector; but there can be no doubt that the establishment forms but a small percentage on the revenue: and the Government have no hesitation in sanctioning the Collector's proposals as supported by the Board of Revenue. They are aware that the pay proposed will have to be raised ere long; and some readjustment will doubtless be found in practice necessary, as to the period for which the men are to be paid in each year, the partial payment being inconvenient and the principle of permanent employment being likely to be extended, with a view to clearances and repairs to be maintained. The Government are therefore inclined not only to allow the provision for the whole proposed establishment to stand, but to leave a margin also for additional expenditure. For this reason and owing to the necessity for caution, the Government cannot sanction the reduction of the cess beyond 10 Pies in the Rupee, at which it will for the present stand, subject to report after two years' trial of the whole reorganization of the Kurnool Village Establishments, recently carried out.

5. As regards the surrender to the Village Cess Fund, proposed by the Collector, of three-eighths of the assessment on escheated Village Service Inams, now carried to the credit of Land Revenue under the Board's Standing Circular No. 171/2; the Government are of opinion that the equity of the measure is beyond doubt, and that the Board's circular should be withdrawn. The Inams having been granted originally for services for which remuneration is now given in the shape of monthly salaries, paid out of the proceeds of a special cess, the revenue arising from such Inams should be treated as a sort of Labor Fund belonging to the village, to which the Government can have no just claim, and which should be made use of so as to afford relief to the special cess payers. The rule under which three-eighths of the assessment is contri-

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* 238 + the extra 14 for Cumbum.

† *Vide* paragraph 4 of his letter, 25th November 1875, No. 449.

buted to the Imperial exchequer from the revenue from escheated Inams is further open to the objection, pointed out by the Collector, that the Village Service Fund is often placed under a disadvantage by the transfer of the lands from the Inamdars to Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

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

No. 568.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 25th February 1876.

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THE foregoing letters contain the Collector's proposals for the revision of the Nirgunti establishment in the Kurnool District.

2. The number of Nirgunties to be employed has been fixed with reference to the area irrigated by the tanks and channels, as originally proposed, except in the case of the Cumbum and Owk tanks which are specially treated, for the former of which the Collector at first proposed thirty-four men and for the latter five. The Head Assistant Collector, however, considers the number proposed for Cumbum insufficient, and as the District Engineer concurs in that view, and accepts the establishment proposed by the Head Assistant, *viz.*, forty-eight men, the Board think that provision must be made for the additional number, but that the Collector should be instructed to employ only thirty-four men for the present, reporting, after the expiration of a year, whether the smaller number suffices to meet requirements. It is not clear why a staff so considerably in excess of that proposed by Mr. Minchin, *viz.*, twenty men, should be thought necessary now.

3. As regards remuneration the Collector considers that the minimum pay should not be less than Rupees 3 per mensem, and proposes to employ the Nirgunties for six months in the case of tanks irrigating only one crop, for nine months in the case of those under which two crops are raised, and for the whole year in the case of the Cumbum tank. The rate of pay proposed is half a Rupee higher than that generally allowed by Mr. Pelly, and though it is still low the fund cannot afford to give more at present or to employ the men all the year round.

4. The result of the proposals as now submitted is that the establishment should consist of 249 men for 131 irrigation works, the annual cost being Rs. 5,733, including the additional staff for Cumbum.

5. From the statement which accompanied the Collector's letter it would appear that the number of men at present doing duty is 211, that the number proposed by Mr. Minchin was 140, whilst the total of the column for the establishment now proposed is 238 not 235 as given in paragraph 4 of the letter. A reference to Mr. Pelly's scheme shows that the staff recommended was 218 men for 167 works. The decrease in the number of the works as now reported is probably due to grouping, but it should have been explained.

6. As regards assets the condition of the fund appears to be as follows:—

	RS.
Average collections for the three years preceding 1874	3,74,878
Add interest on surplus invested, *viz.*, Rupees 6,46,500 at 4 per cent.	25,860
	4,00,738
Deduct amount to be exclusively spent in five villages	381
	4,00,357
Existing Establishment	3,60,780
Sum available for expenditure	39,577
Add estimated quit-rent on enfranchised Inams	1,800
	41,377
Establishment now proposed...	5,733
Balance Rupees...	35,644

There is, therefore, after providing for the Nirgunti establishment on the scale proposed, a surplus of Rupees 35,644 only available, whereas the surplus required to warrant a reduction in the rate of cess from 1 Anna to 9 Pies in the Rupee is Rupees 36,026.

7. To meet this difficulty, the Collector enquires whether the entire cost of the establishment must be met from the Village Service Fund, and proposes that the three-eighths of the full assessment collected on escheated and relinquished Inams which the Board have in their Circular Order No. XIV. of 1870 directed to be credited to Land Revenue as constituting the value of the escheat to Government, should be surrendered to the Village Service Fund.

8. It is clear from Proceedings of Government, dated 30th June 1865, No. 1,490, and connected papers, that the whole cost of establishments must be borne by Village Service Funds, contributions from General Revenues being continued only in the case of certain districts where they had formerly been paid in lieu of resumed Inams and fees. As regards the proposal to credit the full assessment collected on escheated and relinquished Inams, the Board see no objection should Government see fit, to relinquish their interest in the escheat. The Standing Order in question was framed in the interests of the Village Service Fund to secure attention to its claims, whenever Service Inams became liable to full assessment. In Kurnool, it appears that there is a risk of the fund becoming gradually impoverished, owing to the extent of the relinquishments and the reduction in the assessment. The Board, therefore, support the Collector's recommendation that the full assessment *minus* the old jodi should be credited to the Village Service Fund in the case of Inams reverting to Government, a concession which appears to

be only equitable unless payment of a sum, amounting to five-eighths of the assessment as fixed at the time of enfranchisement, is guaranteed. Paragraph 3 of the Order of Government, dated 15th April 1863, No. 658, appears to favor the supposition that it was intended that the proceeds of Inam lands fully assessed should be credited to the Village Service Fund.

9. It does not appear, however, that this concession, though right and desirable, is absolutely necessary in order to place the fund on such a footing as to admit of the reduction in the rate of the cess which is advocated by the Collector and is a very desirable measure. There is still apparently a considerable balance at credit at present unutilized. In paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd December 1875, No. 3,273, reviewing the Local Fund Budget Estimates of the Kurnool Circle for 1876-77, the surplus was estimated to amount to nearly a lakh of Rupees at the commencement of the ensuing fasli. The estimated balance at the commencement of the ensuing official year, according to the Special Local Funds Budget, amounts to Rupees 1,32,159. Correcting the interest on the sum invested according to paragraph 8 of the Collector's letter of the 25th November, and allowing for the transfer of Rupees 12,000 to Local Funds as sanctioned in G.O., dated 11th January 1876, No. 44, there is still a surplus of more than Rupees 80,000, which, if invested, would yield sufficient to give the fund a balance to meet the cost of annual repairs to Village Chavadies, &c., notwithstanding the reduction in the rate of the cess.

10. The Board therefore resolve to submit the scheme for the orders of Government, with their recommendation that the Nirgunti establishment be organized as proposed at a cost of Rupees 5,733.

2nd. That the surplus available be invested in Government Securities.

3rd. That the reduction in the rate of the Village Service Cess from 1 Anna to 9 Pies be effected from the ensuing fasli.

11. The Board await the Collector's proposals for utilizing locally the surplus of Rupees 381 in the five villages referred to in paragraph 6 above.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with one original Statement, to be returned.
" the Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. W. H. French.

1876.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 25TH FEBRUARY 1876, No. 568.

Received

Encl.

FEBRUARY.
No. 568.

Nirgunti Establishment—in Kurnool District.—Submitting for orders of Government Collector's proposals for revision of —.

No 449.

Kurnool Collector's Office
25 November 1875.

From.

The Acting Collector of
Kurnool

To The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir.

I have the honor to submit my report on the revision of the Nirganti establishment in the district, called for in para 9 of the Boards Proceedings No 1759 dated 10th July 1874.

2. In my letter No 315 dated 7th Octr 1873 recorded in that Proceedings, I referred only to Nirkattees employed under tanks irrigating more than one village. I now beg to forward a statement showing the excisting establishment under all the Irrigation works large and small and the number proposed to be

entertained under the Salary system — which has been carried out as regards the other Village servants in the District.

3. The Board will observe that in some Villages, I have proposed Nirkattees for tanks and Channels which have none at present and that in others again I have recommended the abolition of the existing staff as unnecessary — In making these recommendations I have been guided by the importance of the works generally and by the amount of funds likely to be available for the purpose — I have adopted the Scale proposed for Bellary with a few modifications viz 1 Nirkattee for tanks irrigating between 65 & 150 acres, 2 for

tank

tanks irrigating between 150 & 350 acres, 3 for tanks irrigating between 350 & 600 acres and 4 for those irrigating more than 600 acres. Two tanks Cumbum & Owk are Specially provided for.

4. The result of these proposals is abstracted below.

Class.	No. of works	No. of men proposed.
Special class.	2	39.
1st Class above 600 Acres.	3	12.
2d — do — from 350 to 600.	8	22
3d — do — from 150 to 350.	50	93.
4th — do — from 65 to 150	59	59.
Channels.	9	10.
Total		235.

5. For the Cumbum tank which irrigates about 5713 Acres spread over 15 Villages the Tahsildar recommends the employment of 32 Nirkattees in

addition to the 14 who are now employed. The Head Assistant Collector did not at first make any definite proposal but in a subsequent Communication forwarded to the Board with my letter No. 352 dated 6th October 1875, he strongly urged (without however adducing any reasons) that the 20 additional men proposed by me would be insufficient to supplement the existing staff - Mr. Minchin proposed altogether 20 Nirkattees for this tank - The number recommended by me is 34. The Board can determine from the correspondence before them, whether this number is not sufficient to meet the wants of the Cumbum tank I may add that the Nirkattees who may be Sanctioned for this, and the Ook. Timmanayanipet - Hammatgundem

and

and Nandial tanks (all of which irrigate more than one village) will be under the Supervision of the P.W.D. in accordance with G.O. No. 713 dated 5th March 1873.

6. In his letters Nos. 1841 dated 30th October 1861 & 21st March 1862 which will be found in Mr. Pelly's Volume Part III page 40, Mr. Minchin proposed that except on the Cumbum Tank, the Nirkattees should be employed for 9 months in the year on all the other Irrigation works - I consider however that in the case of tanks which irrigate only one crop in the year, their services might be dispensed with after six months, the period of a

1st Crop usually varying from 4 to 5 months only. Under 14 tanks which irrigate two crops I think the Nirkattees should be retained for 9 months at least, while under the large tank at Cumbum where cultivation is carried on throughout the year, they should be employed permanently for the whole year. The minimum pay of these men should not be less than 3 Rs per mensem.

7. If these proposals are adopted the entire cost of the establishment will amount to Rs 5229 viz Rs 1224 under Cumbum tank, Rs 2844 under 146 tanks which irrigate only one crop and Rs 1161 under 14 tanks and 9 Channels which irrigate two crops. The Quit Rent at 10 annas in the Rupee likely to be realized from enfranchising the Nirkattee Inams will not exceed 1800 Rupees. The remaining sum or nearly 64 per cent must be met from the Surplus Village Service Funds.

8. In para 26 of my report on the Village establishments recorded in Boards Proceedings No 2753 dated 25 September 1874 I stated that after liberally providing for increased allowances to Village Officers and reducing the Cess from one anna to 9 pice in the Rupee, there will remain a Surplus of nearly 1572 Rupees. I calculated the interest from investing the Surplus at 5 per cent, but under Boards Proceedings miscellaneous No 1902⊕ dated 9 March 1875, only four per cent Promissory Notes were purchased for Rs 646500× which would

⊕ Coming to Collectors of Salem & Kurnool for information & Guidance G.O 3 Mar/75 No 348.

× Rs 21478 were paid for Commission & other charges would yield interest to the amount of Rs 25860 instead of 33500 as estimated by me. The average annual surplus will thus be reduced from Rs 11572 to Rs 3932 which, added to the quit-rent (Rs 1800) likely to be realized from the Nerkattu Inams will do little more than cover the cost of the establishment now proposed, leaving but a very small surplus of Rs 503, a sum quite insufficient either to carry out the annual repairs to the Village Chavadies sanctioned in G.O. No 707 dated 9th July 1873, or to raise the pay of these men above 3 Rupees a month - an object which (considering the pay of other inferior Village Servants) may be thought desirable.

9. In their order No 1180 dated 25th April 1864 (page 93 of Mr Pelly's Volume III) Government postponed the revision of the Nerkattu establishment pending the receipt of orders of the Government of India on a reference made to them regarding "the transfer to the Revenue Budget of all charges connected with the employment of Nerkattees &c establishments" - If it is now decided that the *entire* cost of the establishment should be met from the Village Service Fund - I would venture to recommend that 3/8th of the full assessment collected on the so called "escheated Inams" be surrendered to the Village Service Fund instead of being credited to Land Revenue as directed in Standing Order No XIV of 1870. At the original revision of the Village establishment, these Service Inams

were set apart to form a separate Fund for paying the Village Servants. It was open to Government to have fully assessed these Inams, but in consideration of the long undisturbed possession which the then existing holders had enjoyed, the Inams were confirmed to them at a quit-rent of 10 annas in the Rupee of the Assessment, & that amount was credited to Village Service Fund. When these prescriptive rights have ceased to exist (by the death of the Inamdars and their heirs or by relinquishment or other cause), I think Government might fairly allow the full assessment to go to the Fund to which the Inams properly belong. The excess over 5/8th realized and credited to Land Revenue — Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous in 1874-75 amounted to Rs. 4166. In 1871-72 it was only Rs. 2862 — As pointed out in Mr. Chase's letter recorded in Board's Proceedings No. 4262 dated 4th October 1871, a large extent of these Service Inams are annually relinquished or sold for arrears of Revenue — In many cases these lands are not taken up again for cultivation and in many cases again when they are taken up the net assessment after deducting the 2 per cent road cess and 6 1/4 per cent Village cess which are included in the Settlement Assessment in the four Talugs of Kurnool Proper, is often less than the original quit-rent and if 3/8th of this assessment is given up to Land Revenue, the Village Service Fund will, I fear, become gradually impoverished and it will be impossible to carry out the contemplated reduction in the cess without greatly curtailing the Nerkattee establishment. The reduction in the Cess is, I think very necessary, if not as a relief to the ryots at least to enable the Local Fund Board to raise their Cess from 9 pice to one anna. In my annual report as President of the Local Fund Board I have pointed out how insufficient the present revenue derived from the Land Cess is in providing adequately for the requirements of the District in respect of Roads and Elementary

Elemantary Education. To meet this want it will soon become absolutely necessary to raise the cess to the maximum of one anna in the rupee of assessment, and the only means by which this can be done without putting an additional burden on the ryots is to make a corresponding decrease in the Village Cess.

I have &c.

(Signed) James Hope.

Ag. Collector.

(True Copy)

Ag. Secretary.

Extract from the District Engineer's letter dated 29th November 1875 to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

× × × ×

12. I beg to submit a Tabular statement for the entertainment of Neerkatties for the Conservancy of these Channels. I have entered the number required, as advocated by the Head Assistant Collector with whom I had a personal interview during my last tour through the Cumbum Range, and which is prepared in accordance with Mr Pelly's scheme quoted in the Revenue Board Proceedings. From all I can learn there will be about 1000 water courses to be managed by the Neerkatties.

× × × ×

(True Extract)
(Sd) I. Hope
Ag Collector.

(True copy)

Ag Secretary.

Enclosure in Boards
Proceedings dated
25th February 1876.
To The Secretary to Govt
Revenue Dept
2
Rev 858/6
Copy of Extract from
the Dt Engineer's letter
dated 29 November
1875 to the Chief
Engineer for Irrigation
enclosed in letter No 461
of 3-12-75 from the Actg
Collr of Kurnool.

17

No 461.

Kurnool Collrs Office
3d December 1875.

From.
The Acting Collector of
Kurnool.

To
The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to para 5 of my letter No 449 dated 25 November 1875, I have the honor to forward an extract from the District Engineer's letter dated 29th November 1875 to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation regarding the number of Nirkattees required under the Cumbum Channels.

2. Before sending my report, I addressed Mr Goodchap on the Subject and he in his letter No 135 dated 13th September 1875 informed me that he

was unable to express an opinion regarding the number of Nirkatties required. He has recently visited Cumbum, and now accepts the establishment proposed by Mr Farmer.

3. If the Board approve of this proposal the necessary corrections will have to be made in the statement submitted with my letter and the cost of the establishment increased by — Rs 504-0-0 which is the pay of the 14 additional men for 12 months at Rs 3-0-0 each per mensem.

I have &c.

(Signed) James Hope

Acting Collector.

(True Copy)

Ag Secretary

Enclosure in Board's
Proceedings dated
25th February 1876
to the Secretary to Govt
Revenue Deptt

Rev 856/1/76

Copy of a letter from
the Acting Collector
of Kurnool dated
3rd December 1875.
No 461.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 25th February 1876.

Read again Board's Proceedings dated 10th July 1874, No 1759 and Board's Proceedings, dated 10th December 1875, No 3334, communicating Government Order, 11th November 1875, No 1619.

Read also letter from the Acting Collector of Kurnool dated 25th November 1875, No 449, submitting report on the revision of the Nirganti Establishment in the District.

Read also letter from the Same Officer dated 3rd December 1875, No 461, forwarding an Extract from the District Engineer's letter to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation regarding the number of Nirgatties required under the Cumbum Channels.

The foregoing letters contain the Collector's proposals for the revision of the Nirgunti× Establishment in the Kurnool District.

+ the people who distribute the water for irrigation.

The

2. The number of Neerguntees to be employed has been fixed with reference to the area irrigated by the tanks and channels, as originally proposed, except in the case of the Cumbum and Owk tanks which are specially treated, for the former of which the Collector at first proposed 34 men and for the latter 5. The Head Assistant Collector however considers the number proposed for Cumbum is sufficient and as the District Engineer concurs in that view, and accepts the establishment proposed by the Head Assistant namely 48 men the Board think that provision must be made for the additional number but that the Collector should be instructed to employ only 34 men for the present reporting after the expiration of a year whether the smaller number suffices to meet the requirements. It is not clear why a staff so considerably in excess of that proposed by Mr. Minchin, namely, 20 men should be thought necessary now.

misappreciat

3. As regards remuneration, the Collector considers that the minimum pay should not be less than Rupees 3 per mensem and proposes to employ the Neerguntees for six months in the case of tanks irrigating only one crop, for nine months in the case of those under which two crops are raised and for the whole year in the case of the Cumbum tank. The rate of pay proposed is half a rupee higher than that generally allowed by Mr. Pelly and though it is still low, the fund cannot afford to give more at present or to employ the men all the year round.

The

4. The result of the proposals as now submitted is that the establishment should consist of 249 men for 131 irrigation works, the annual cost being Rupees 5733, including the additional staff for Cumbum.

5. From the statement which accompanied the Collector's letter it would appear that the number of men at present doing duty is 211 – that the number proposed by Mr. Minchin was 140, whilst the total of the column for the establishment now proposed is 238 not 235 as given in para 4 of the letter. A reference to Mr. Pelly's scheme shows that the staff recommended was 218 men for 167 works. The decrease in the number of the works as now reported is probably due to grouping, but it should have been explained.

6. As regards assets the condition of the fund appears to be as follows:–

	Rupees
Average Collections for the 3 years preceding 1874	374,878
Add interest on surplus invested, viz, Rs 646500 at 4%	25,860
	400,738
Deduct amount to be exclusively spent in 5 villages	381
	400,357
Existing Establishment	360,780
Sum available for expenditure	39,577
Add estimated quitrent on enfranchised Inams	1,800
	41,377
Establishment now proposed	5733
Balance	Rs 35,644

There is, therefore, after providing for the Neergunti Establishment on the scale proposed, a surplus of Rupees 35,644 only available, whereas the surplus required to warrant a reduction in the rate of cess from 1 anna to 9 pies in the rupee is Rupees 36,026

7. To meet this difficulty the Collector

requires whether the entire cost of the establishment must be met from the Village Service Fund; and proposes that the 3/8ths of the full assessment collected on escheated and relinquished Inams which the Board have in their Circular Order No. XIII of 1870 directed to be credited to Land Revenue as constituting the value of the escheat to Government should be surrendered to the Village Service Fund.

8. It is clear from Proceedings of Government dated 30 June 1865, No 1490, and connected papers that the whole cost of establishments must be borne by Village Service Fund, contributions from General revenues being continued only in the case of certain Districts where they had formerly been paid in lieu of

resumed

resumed Inams and fees. As regards the proposal to credit the full assessment collected on escheated and relinquished Inams the Board see no objection should Government see fit to relinquish their interest in the escheat. The Standing Order in question was framed in the interests of the village Service Fund to secure attention to its claims, whenever Service Inams become liable to full assessment. In Kurnool it appears that there is a risk of the fund becoming gradually impoverished owing to the extent of the relinquishments and the reduction in the assessment. The Board therefore support the Collector's recommendation that the full assessment minus the old jodi should be credited to the Village Service Fund in the case of Inams reverting to Government, a concession which appears to be only equitable unless payment of a sum amounting to 5/8th of the assessment as fixed at the time of enfranchisement is guaranteed. Para 3 of the Order of Government dated 15th April 1863, No. 658, appears to favor the supposition that it was intended that the proceeds of Inam lands fully assessed should be credited to the Village Service fund.

9. It does not appear, however, that this concession though right and desirable is absolutely necessary in order to place the fund on such a footing as to admit of the reduction in the rate of the cess which is advocated by the Collector and is a very desirable measure. There is still apparently a considerable balance at credit at present unutilized. In para 5 of the Board's Proceedings dated 2nd December 1875, No. 3273, reviewing the Local Fund Budget estimates of the Kurnool Circle for 1876-77 the surplus was estimated to amount to nearly a lakh of rupees at the commencement of the ensuing Fasly. The estimated balance at the commencement of the ensuing official year according to the Special Local Funds Budget amounts to Rupees 1,32,159. Correcting the interest on the sum invested according to para 8 of the Collector's letter of the 25th November, and allowing for the transfer of Rupees 12,000 to Local Funds as sanctioned in Government Order, 11th January 1876, No. 44, there is still a surplus of more than Rupees 80,000 which if invested would yield sufficient to give the fund a balance to meet the cost of annual repairs to village Chavadies &c notwithstanding the reduction in the rate of the Cess.

10. The Board therefore resolve to submit

the scheme for the orders of Government with their recommendation that the Nirganti Establishment be organized as proposed at a cost of Rupees 5733, — 2nd, that the surplus available be invested in Government securities. 3rd — that the reduction in the rate of the Village Service Cess from 1 anna to 9 pies be effected from the ensuing Fasli.

11. The Board await the Collector's proposals for utilizing locally the surplus of Rs 381 in the five villages referred to in para 6 above.

True Extract

Ag Secretary

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department with
Original Statement to be returned
and copies of Collector's letters.

fo 15 April/63 No 113 – 15
– 30 June/65 – 651
– 11 March/73 – 48 mi.
– 9 July/73 – 71 – 72
– 13 August/74 – 112 – 13
– 11 Nov/75 – 140 – 41
– 22 Jany/76 – 172 mi
– 25 do – 209 – 210
– 25 April/64 – 584 – 85 PW.
– 20 Octr/74 – 182A – 182B S.D

Revenue 1876 Depart.
No 856
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 25 February 1876
Despd. 25 – " – "
Recd 28 – " – "
enf 43

S.O. No 453 – 31 March 1876
Submitting to Govt. with
Board's recommendation
Collector's proposals for
revisions of Nirganti
Establishment in Kurnool
District.

No 316

C. with Draft 20 : March 1876 21
& 11 March/76 18th 13 March/76

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 856

From B^d. of Rev.

Dated 25 February 1876.

FOR ORDERS.

It would have been well had the revenue dependant on the tanks for which Nirganti Establishment is proposed been shown – but the Establishment is no doubt but a small percentage thereon.

The pay proposed is obviously too small and some readjustment will doubtless be found in practice necessary as to the period for which the men are to be paid in each year. The partial payment is inconvenient and with a view to clearances and repairs to be maintained, doubtless the principle of permanent Employment will have to be extended. I therefore think that the whole Establishment and Entire Estimate should be sanctioned and a margin retained.

As regards the Surrendered to the Village Cess Fund of Escheated 3/8ths of assessment I consider that the Relinquishment to this extent on Enfranchisement to Inamdars was a mistake. The whole assessment is a labour fund belonging to the Village and not to Govt.; and the Govt. had no right to be liberal at the expense of the Villages thereby enhancing the further Special Cess required under the Act. +

+ The Boards Circular Order No XIV is incorrect in principle & should be withdrawn. There is no Escheat or reversion to Govt. in the case. The case under Considera:tion should be disposed of as recommended by the Collector and now supported by the Board.

There is every probability of

reduction

96

Reduction of the cess to 9 pies in the Rupee becoming possible but we should be careful and allow another year's (or two) trial of the whole reorganization (including Potails) before sanctioning reduction beyond 10 pies in the rupee, to which I would reduce the demand subject to a report after two years' trial.

13/2

XXX

FOR ORD

C. with Draft 20: March No 21

No 453

Read Proceedings of the Bd. of Revt. dd. 25 Feby 1876 No 566.

In these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit the proposals of the Collector of Kurnool for the revision of the Neerkatti establishments, & the reduction of the Village cess from one anna to 9 pie in the Rupee—

The results of the revision are (1) to raise the total number of Neerkattis from 211 to 252, (2) to fix the minimum pay of each at Rs 3 ~~each~~ per mensem, (3) to retain their services for 6, 9 or 12 months in the year according as the tanks, to regulate the irrigation from which they are engaged, supply water for one crop only, or for two crops, or for cultivation throughout the year, as in the case of the large tank at Cumbum—

(4) to raise the annual cost under this arrangement to Rs. 5733 —

1. Cumbum tank . Rs 1728
140 Tanks which irrigate regularly one crop. } 2844
14 tanks irrigating 2 crops. } 1161
5733

It is observed that for the Cumbum tank, only 14 men are now entertained; that the Collector proposed to add 20 more, but the Asst. assistant & the Dt. Engineer would propose have 34 more, or 48 in all, against 20 proposed by the Collector. In the absence of satisfactory explanation for this large excess proposed, the Board have thought proper to direct the Collector to employ only 34 men for the present subject to report at the end of a year; the provision for the larger number proposed being meanwhile retained.

In arriving at the number of Nirkatties required for each tank, the Collector has been guided by the extent of the area irrigated. It would have been well, if had the revenue dependent on the tanks, for which Nirkatties are proposed, been shewn in the statement furnished by the Collector, but

Vide para 4 of his letter 25 Novr. 1875 [illegible]

there is can be no doubt that the establishment forms but a small percentage on the Revenue: and the Govt. have no hesitation in sanctioning the Collector's proposals as supported by the Board of Revenue. They are aware that the pay proposed will have to be raised ere long; & some re-adjustment will doubtless be found in practice to be necessary, as to the period for which the men are to be paid in each year, the partial payment being inconsistent with the principle of permanent employment being likely to be extended, with a view to clearances & repairs to be maintained. The Government are therefore inclined not only to allow the provision for the whole establishment proposed to stand but to leave a margin also for additional expenditure

For this reason & owing to the necessity for caution, the Government cannot sanction the reduction of the Cess beyond 10 pies in the Rupee, at which it will for the present stand, subject to report after two years' trial of the whole reorganization of the Kurnool village establishments recently sanctioned.

As regards the surrender proposed by the Collector to the Village Cess Fund of 7/8ths of the assessment on escheated Village Service Inams, now carried to the credit of Land revenue under the Boards' Standing Order No 171/2; the Government are clearly of opinion that the equity of the measure is beyond doubt, & that the Boards circular should be withdrawn. The inams having been granted originally for services for which remuneration is now given in the shape of monthly salaries paid out of the proceeds of a special cess, the revenue arising from such inams should be treated as a sort of ~~established~~ a separate labor fund belonging to the Village [illegible], to which the Govt. can have no just claim, & which should be made use of so as to afford relief to the special cess payers, ~~[illegible]~~ & not to add to the Imperial revenues. The rule under which 3/4ths of the assessment is contributed to the imperial exchequer from the revenue from escheated inams is further open to the objection, pointed out by the Collector, ~~[illegible]~~ that the Village Service Fund is often placed under a disadvantage by the transfer of the lands from the Inamdars to Government.

Note The Collector is right in advocating a reduction of the rate of Village cess so as to enable him to raise the Land Cess correspondingly so that on the whole the cess payers will be no better off.

14 To the Board of Revenue, 1 April
6 the Accountant General
21 the P W Dept

31st March 1876

LR. 17.7.26

[illegible]

ments in Cornwall