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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	671	Press.
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Dated	14-3-1878.	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1st March 1878, No. 173 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following paper:—

No. 25 I.

No. 5.

MEMORANDUM.

IN G.O., No. 514 I, of the 22nd November 1877, the Board of Revenue were requested to draw up a memorandum showing clearly what the arrangements are under which the Nidadavole and Baharzally Estates are irrigated by the delta canals. The Collector, Godavari, has given the undersigned for perusal the Proceedings, Madras Government, Revenue Department, in which the arrangements as now in force were made, and as there are several points which need attention, while the time for a new settlement as regards lands liable to water-rate is now not far distant, the arrangements will be detailed and what is required to be done pointed out.

2. The area on which the present water-rate of Rupees 40,000 was settled was Acres 10,889, thus arrived at:—

	Baharzally.	Nidadavole.
	ACRES.	ACRES.
First crop.	28,273	9,335
Deduct whole fields waste ...	376	1,253
	27,897	8,082
	35,979	
Add subsequent Inam ...	791	
	36,770	
Exempted Gudicut or land to be irrigated free of charge for ever ...	25,881	
	10,889	

Second crop in Baharzally amounting to Acres 1,093 and 128 Acres in Nidadavole was left out of account as being "very precarious." These figures appear for the most part to have been derived from the cultivation accounts of (1867-68) Fasli 1277.

It is noticed in the Proceedings that for ten years prior to the anicut works coming into operation the cultivation accounts showed the irrigated area of these estates to be Acres 8,896; so not only was a much less precarious supply secured for this area, but $25,881 - 8,896 = 16,985$ Acres additional were admitted to receive irrigation free of charge. The Board of Revenue refer to these terms as unprecedentedly liberal.

3. The settlement as regards water-rate to be paid on lands other than the exempted Gudicut was made for five years, and the first year in which the water-rate of Rupees 40,000 was paid was Fasli 1233, consequently the present Fasli 1237 is the last of the five.

4. The statements furnished by the Board of Revenue for Fasli 1285 (1875-76) show the area of irrigation in these estates to have been in that year 49,198 Acres; there has consequently been an extension of irrigation of 12,428 Acres, representing a water-rate of about Rupees 44,000, on which nothing under the settlement could be demanded. That fasli having been the first for which the actual area has been given, it is not known what the areas have been from Fasli 1283 inclusive.

5. In the statements for Fasli 1285 the whole area of irrigation in these estates is entered in the columns Zemindary, &c., lands charged for; but this is incorrect, as the 25,881 Acres should be exhibited in distinguishing type under Zemindary, &c., lands irrigated free of charge.

6. The agreement made with the proprietors appears to be defective in several respects—

1stly.—There is nothing, it would seem, to make it obligatory on the Zemindars to pay during the next term of years a water-rate corresponding to the actual irrigation of the current term. They may, so far as can be seen, elect to pay during the next term on actual irrigation, with as a result a gain in the meantime of water-rate on the whole area in excess of 36,770 Acres which may have been irrigated.

2ndly.—There is no limitation as to the area which may be irrigated for the stipulated payment, and although the terms on which the area included in the exempted Gudem was fixed are shown to have been unprecedentedly liberal, in 1875-76 12,428 Acres additional were irrigated without liability to water-rate.

3rdly.—The capacity for irrigation of the canals has been altogether left out of account, and until a few months back the canal officers knew nothing as to the area irrigated in these estates, and consequently as to the areas under particular canals. The non-communication to the Irrigation Department of the Revenue Order of 1873 was probably an oversight, but it was unfortunate that arrangements so intimately connected with the efficient management of the canals should have been determined on without any previous ascertainment of their bearing on the subject of water-supply. The unknown and indeed unexpected appropriation of water for lands, regarding which the canal officers possessed no information, explains some of the difficulties which have been experienced in maintaining a sufficient supply of water in certain localities, and such arrangements are obviously fatal to efficient canal administration, and are unfair to the officers who are responsible for that administration. The undersigned has taken steps,* after consultation with the Collector, to provide for the possession by the Revenue and Canal Officers

* Memorandum to Superintending Engineer, Godavery, No. 17 GD, dated 28th Jan. 1878, appended.

alike of a knowledge of the distribution of areas to be irrigated by each canal with the water-supply provided. The Collector can, within the limits which the canal supply at different points prescribes, determine the areas to be irrigated in each village, and thereafter the variations which may be made should be so effected as to provide for increases in one place only when there are corresponding decreases elsewhere. A great system of irrigation cannot be properly managed, and the interests of Government and of the ryots alike provided for, without adequate knowledge on the part of both Revenue and Canal Officers of the position and extent of lands to be supplied.

† Early in the season.

The Collector has never possessed such information at the time† when required for the effective treatment of distribution arrangements, and he has been unable to furnish it therefore to the officers who stood in daily need of it.

7. With regard to irrigation in the Baharzally and Nidadavole Estates of course it is necessary that every season it should be stated for what lands water will be required, and there will be—

1st.—the lands exempted from water-rate which must be supplied;

2nd.—the lands liable to water-rate, the maximum area of which must evidently be limited to the water-supply available.

These particulars require to be given for each village and distributary or source of supply, and may conveniently perhaps be shown as areas irrigated in the preceding season and variations therefrom. The Canal Officers should then limit the supply to what is necessary for the areas communicated to them by the Collector, until they may receive intimation from him of changes in the direction of either increase or decrease.

8. While water was superabundant in most canals the irregular appropriation was of comparatively slight importance, though, in order to avoid difficulty in introducing strict, after a long course of lax, management, it would have been much better had such practices been prohibited from the first. Now, however, the necessity for improved administration is urgent, for in the Western Delta, in which these estates are situated, the irrigation of the season just concluded has, according to the irrigation accounts compiled by the Canal Officers, exceeded the ultimate anticipated area of 296,000 Acres for which water was provided by the completion estimates; and further demands for water can be complied with only to such extent as experience may demonstrate to be practicable, which will depend upon a given quantity of water being found to be capable of irrigating a larger acreage than was assumed to be probable. It is not improbable that, taking into account the smaller demands made by low-lying and retentive lands, the area which may be efficiently irrigated will reach to 320,000 Acres; but, to allow of this, good management and arrangements admitting of such management will be needed, and it must be shown where such lands are and under what canals and distributaries there may be allowed a tentative extension of irrigated area. When the acceptance of water for holders of land the undersigned suggested*

* Proceedings of Madras Government, Public Works Department, No. 713, dated 5th March 1873.

† G.O., Revenue Department, No. 651, dated 29th May 1874.

that the rules should provide for the supply of water being made optional on the part of Government, but this proposal was negatived.† It appears now to be probable that the need of some such provision will be felt, at least until the system of restricting areas in each locality to the extent which can be supplied has been brought into working order.

CAMP AT GODAVERY,
Eastern Delta,
28th January 1878.

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

To the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

No. 17 GD.

MEMORANDUM.

THE question of the limitation of the areas to be irrigated under the several Delta Canals, and under the several parts of those canals, is becoming of considerable importance in certain parts of the delta, both as regards the efficient irrigation of the lands and the maintenance of the water levels on which are dependent—

1st.—the sufficiency of distribution arrangements;

2nd.—the convenience of the navigation.

2. At a conference with the Collector, held at the house of the Superintending Engineer, this was one of the subjects discussed, and Mr. Foster expressed his willingness to restrict irrigation as might be shown to be necessary, and to dispose of applications for permission to irrigate with reference to the water-supply shown to be available.

Revenue Depart^t

No 1116
IRRIGATION.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
GODAVERY.
&c. &c. &c.

Vide encl. 4274/78.

Dated March 1st.

Issued

Recd. 12 March 1878.

G. O., 1st March 1878, No. 173 J.

MARCH

Nos. 5-6.

Irrigation in the Baharagally and Nidadavole
Zemindaries, Godavery District.—The
Chief Engineer for Irrigation to confer
with the Board of Revenue on the subject
of the information to be made available
regarding—

42671
Ldged.

14. Mar 78