

(1) Number of Pages..... 10
(2) Date of repair..... 22.3.69
(3) Initials of the Referencer..... S. u. h.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

*R*evue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
~~B.P. No.~~

875

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

30.6.1876.196

21

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 312. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th April 1876, No. 950 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 29th October 1875, No. 1,546, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Classification of Land into "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated."*—Referring to the Board of Revenue for report letter from the Government of India suggesting a sub-division of the terms "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated."

THE Board agree with the Government of India in thinking that lands irrigated from private works should not be entered under Unirrigated, although for revenue purposes they are treated as unirrigated. They may with advantage be shown under a *separate* sub-head under Irrigated. No separate heading, however, appears to be necessary for lands irrigated from natural sources, as there is hardly any land that is directly irrigated from natural sources without the aid of some artificial work or other, and the area must be so inconsiderable that it is scarcely worth while to record it separately. It may be entered under "Private works."

2. As regards unirrigated lands the Board do not think that the classification in the annual accounts proposed by the Government of India, with reference to the natural advantages of the land cultivated, is necessary at any rate for the present. It is only the area of land occupied or cultivated that is now shown in the accounts, and not its yield. Consequently the classification of land, with reference to its nature and advantages, can hardly be of any use in the periodical revisions of assessment, while it will entail much labor in the preparation of the accounts. The Board would therefore have only the following classification :—

- (1.) Unirrigated.
- (2.) Irrigated—
 - (a.) Under Government works.
 - (b.) Under private works and natural sources.

(A true Extract.)

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

No. 313. MINUTE BY THE HON. SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

I CAN but repeat my strong objection to the change of nomenclature of which this communication is the subject.

Vide Minute.

Immemorial usage has applied the only sound or really convenient distinction that can be made, *viz* :—

- (1) "Wet" or land fit for wet crops only,
- (2) "Dry" or land fit for dry crops only.

These terms define with absolute certainty the natural and agricultural condition of land under consideration at any time. The former comprises all lands permanently cultivated with rice crops and other wet crops including the agriculture of Malabar, Canara, and Ganjam, which

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th June 1876.*

is carried on under the south-west monsoon, and is "unirrigated" in the sense now attached to that term, but the term is a misnomer.

The revenual condition of land is equally conveniently conveyed by the old appropriate term. In a settlement the basis of which is a share of the crop, wet-crop land necessarily bears, and should bear, a higher assessment than dry land, and "wet" cultivation perfectly describes this fundamental difference.

And so in respect to "dry."

The terms proposed introduce, as it appears to me, confusion under every head of consideration. The term "unirrigated" must, I fancy, comprise the wet lands of Malabar, Canara, &c., and "irrigated" must comprise dry crops, such as raghee, cotton, &c., which get two or three waterings from a well.

I would revert to the old terms; and, if desirable sub-divide, into minor heads under each showing whether artificially irrigated or not.

22nd May 1876.

W. ROBINSON.

No. 314.

ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1876, No. 875.

Land Revenue, No. 9.

ORDERED that the following letter be despatched to the Government of India:—

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

No. 315. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Ootacamund, 30th June 1876, No. 876.

Land Revenue, No. 10.

SIR,—With reference to your letter, dated 29th September 1875, No. 752, on the subject of the adoption of the

terms "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated" in describing the different classes of lands in this Presidency, I am directed to state that the question has again engaged the careful consideration of this Government, and that His Grace the Governor in Council is strongly of opinion that the decision communicated to the Secretary of State in paragraph 5 of despatch, 21st May 1875, No. 14 (Miscellaneous), should be revised, and the use of the old terms "Wet" and "Dry" should be adhered to for the reasons briefly adduced below.

2. Long usage has sanctioned the application of the terms "Wet" and "Dry" (as the equivalents of the ancient Native terms "Nunjah" and "Punjah") to well-known natural and agricultural conditions of land in this Presidency, and the distinction is really sound and convenient; "Wet" denoting land fit for wet crops only, whether from natural circumstance of moisture and climate, or from being rendered fit by artificial irrigation, and comprising all lands *permanently* cultivated with rice and other valuable crops; and "Dry" land generally fit for crops which are less valuable, and require, as a rule, less water.

3. This distinction commends itself with equal force when looked at from a revenue point of view. In a settlement, the basis of which is a share of the crop,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th June 1876.*

wet-crop land necessarily bears, and should bear, a higher assessment than dry land: and "Wet" and "Dry" cultivation perfectly describes this fundamental difference.

4. In the districts directly under the influence of the south-west monsoon agriculture is comparatively independent of artificial irrigation, and yet there are vast extents of "wet" land on which wet

Malabar.
Canara.

crops are raised and enhanced assessments realised: thus showing that the term is a convenient and appropriate index of the revenual condition of the land. The terms Unirrigated and Irrigated, on the other hand, if applied to these lands will convey a very erroneous idea of their nature and character, and will not be in accordance with the Revenue Classification.

5. I am to state that, for these and other reasons which it is needless here to state at greater length, His Grace the Governor in Council is strongly opposed to the abandonment of the terms so convenient, expressive, and appropriate.

6. I am to add that the sub-divisions proposed in your letter under reply are too numerous, and too much in detail to be adopted conveniently in our Revenue Accounts. Such statistics would entail the cost of an increase in the establishments, and a constantly recurring scrutiny in the villages of no importance to the revenue collection, and which would thus become a great and unnecessary molestation to the ryots.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

87/9
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GOVT. OF INDIA
 REVENUE.
 THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
 Dated, July 30th.
 G.O. 30th June 1876, No. 873.
 JULY.
 Nos. 312-315.
 Classification of Lands into "Wet" and "Dry" types of the same, and to be deposited in the Government of India.
 1875

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GO- 30th June 1876 N. 875.

22/6 J. H. Miller

GO. 30 June 1875

No. 950.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th April 1876.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 29th October 1875, No. 1,546, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—Classification of Land into "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated."—Referring to the Board of Revenue for report letter from the Government of India suggesting a sub-division of the terms "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated."

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 - (a.) Under Government works.
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(A true Extract.)

W. C. C.
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

8029-10-7-1876-19-96

14. To the Secy. of the Govt. of Madras, 10 July 1876

No 312

R.C. 20: June A 30: June
R.C. 20: July A 26: July
R.C. 20: Aug A 28: Aug
R.C. 20: Sept A 28: Sept
R.C. 20: Oct A 28: Oct
R.C. 20: Nov A 28: Nov
R.C. 20: Dec A 28: Dec

Post 1876. Deputy
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.
No 1477

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH APRIL 1876, No. 950.

Recd 27th April 76
Encl.

Received. 13th April.

APRIL.
No. 950.

Classification of Land into "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated."—Submitting to Government Board's views regarding suggestion of Government of India for a sub-division of the terms "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated."

Order of the Board of Revenue, Madras, 13th April 1876.
The Secretary to the Government of India, Madras.
13th April 1876.