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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	876	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated	30.6.1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 315.

No. 876.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

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, 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 crops are raised and enhanced assessments realised: thus showing that the term is a convenient and appropriate index of the revenue 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.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Agriculture (1876) Department.

Government of Fort St. George.

Dated 30th June 1876.

No. 876.

Received

Enclosures.

5 spare copies.

D. No.

Progs.

D. No.

No.

No. 315

INTIMATING, with reference to the letter on the subject of the adoption of the terms "Irrigated" and "Unirrigated," that the use of the old terms "Wet" and "Dry" should be adhered to for the reasons adduced.



I see no objection to the terms proposed in the letter of 29 September 1875, requesting information as to whether there would be any objection to adopt certain subdivisions named of the land classed as "Irrigated" & "unirrigated". I am directed to forward copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of 17 April 1876 No 950, with which the Government fully agree & from which it will be seen that the subdivisions proposed by the Govt of India under "Unirrigated" are neither necessary nor desirable under existing

To The Secretary to the Govt of India
Dept of Agriculture
Cuttack

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$$\begin{array}{r} 873 \\ \hline 3 \end{array}$$

I would keep it irrigated
 & Unirrigated as now
 understood - I do not see
 that any of the evils con-
 templated by Sir W.R. will
 ensue. - W.H.

understood that the tenant & Unirrigated as now
of land classed in the Village understood - I do not see
accounts as "Unirrigated" that any of the evils con-
may increase its productiveness - templated by his work with
by any hydraulic contrivances ensue. -
he pleases - without paying
any additional assest. for the.

~~fact~~ - There is therefore no excuse
for molestation on the part of
the Lower Revenue Officials; but
if all 'Unmugated' fields are
henceforth to be inspected in view
of filling up the Annual Statistics -
all this will be changed - Capital would no longer be
~~laid~~ laid out by our peasant proprietors
on wells & tanks: ~~and~~ ~~molestation~~
where or where it is, they will pay handsomely
to get the fact concealed.

No 10
50/100 10/10/76

8/30 June 1876 50/100
Revenue Department

No 876

To

The Secretary to the Govt of India
Department of the Secy. and Commerce

Sir

With reference to your
letter dated 29 Sept 1875
1875 in the subject of the
adoption of the terms "Inga-
led" and "Inunugaled" 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 communi-
cated to the Secretary of
State in para 5 of Despatch
21 May 1875 No 11 (Miscel-
laneous) should be revised
and ~~that~~ the use of the old
terms "wet" and "dry" should
be adhered to for the reasons
briefly adduced below. Some

29/6 I have added
few words which
I think correct

ML
21/6

ML

(2)
The Secretary to the Govt of India
Department of the Secy. and Commerce

For Mr. [unclear]

Letter dated 29 Sept 1875
as above Dept. of R

ML
14/7

Re: [unclear]
of [unclear] and [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
29/6

I do like to discuss
this in Council -
I do not want to
disturb this interfere
with the classes you
have a [unclear] part of
[unclear] of I 25/6-1876

See separate paper
22/6 ML

R.C. 20 May R 26 May
Sent to Home Secy & Gov 28/6 R 11/6
C. 25 April/76 R 25/6

Long usage has
sanctioned the application
of the terms wet and
dry (as the equivalents of
the ancient Native terms
"Kunjah" and "Ponyah") 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,
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.

This distinction com-
mends itself with equal
force when looked at
from a revenue point of
view. In a settlement,
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bears

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of necessity or from artificial
being rendered fit for artificial
irrigation

Malabar
Canara

6 1/2
bears and should bear a
higher assessment than dry
land; and wet and dry
cultivation perfectly describes
this fundamental dif-
ference.

In the Districts, how-
ever, under the influence
of the S. W. Monsoon, agri-
culture is comparatively
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at greater length, His
Grace the Governor in Council
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sive and appropriate.

I am to add that the
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your letter under reply
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be adopted conveniently
in our Revenue accounts.
Such statistics would
entail the cost of an
increase in the Establish-
ment, and the ^{a constantly recurring} ~~very~~
scrutiny in the Villages. ^{of no importance to the Revenue}
^{collection} ~~which would~~
be a ^{very} ~~great~~ ^{inconvenience} ~~inconvenience~~
to the Ryots.

15/11

Salute of India
(the preparation of the
"Mudra" + "Mudra")

Dispute
Room

Civil

876