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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1550 Press Mis.—

Dated 11 -12- 1883.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd October 1883, No. 3182:—

Read—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chatrapur, 6th October 1883, No. 3500:—

I have the honor, with reference to Board's Proceedings of the 10th July 1883, No. 1967, communicating G.O. of the 23rd June 1883, No. 497 I., Public Works, on the subject of the excavation of shoals in river-beds, to state that I have, in accordance therewith, called upon the ryots concerned to contribute towards the cost of the work proposed to be carried out this year and estimated by the Department of Public Works to cost Rs. 1,270 for the purpose of keeping open the Wadada and Dusi main channels, and that out of the twenty-three villages dependent upon the said channels, four only signify their willingness to contribute their quota, the remaining nineteen declare their inability to do so.

2. There are some 12,000 acres of Government land irrigated under these channels, and I apprehend that considerable loss will accrue to Government if the required repairs are not carried out, but fail to see how I am to compel the ryots of the different villages, some of which are twenty miles distant from the place where the work is required, either to execute the work themselves or to contribute their just quota, should the work be carried out by the Department of Public Works.

3. I would respectfully request, however, that Government be moved to reconsider their order on the subject on the following grounds:—

(1) The distance is so great that it is impossible for the ryots to contribute the labor themselves.
(2) The place where the work has to be done lies in another district.
(3) The work is greater than ryots should ordinarily be called upon to bear.
(4) In the Kistna and Godávari works such silts above head sluices are cleared by Government.

4. Mr. Sewell in his letter of the 14th June, recorded in Board's Proceedings, 24th July 1883, No. 6264, quotes the following passage from the Sub-Engineer's report to the Superintending Engineer, when recommending the abandonment of the present heads:—

"For the last eight years the water has been brought into the channels by artificial means, viz., by opening temporary channels through sand shoals by the ryots working under the orders of the Revenue authorities. The sand shoals having been (*sic.*) increased year by year, the annual expenditure incurred by the ryots has also been increased in proportion from hundreds to thousands; notwithstanding such a large outlay, the supply has been uncertain and insufficient because a slight flood in the river would completely fill up the channels with sand."

5. It would seem, therefore, that it is owing to faulty design and construction on the part of the Department of Public Works that a heavy and increasing burden has been thrown upon the ryots, a burden which they now declare they can no longer bear.

Resolution—dated 23rd October 1883, No. 3182.

Submitted to Government with reference to G.O., dated 23rd June 1883, No. 497 I.

2. The Board cannot but think that the refusal of the ryots is partly due to the manner in which the matter was put before them by the Collector, who says he "called upon them to contribute;" and partly perhaps to the fact, inferred from paragraph 3 of his letter, that Mr. Horsfall is disposed to think that the work should not properly be imposed upon the villagers. Again, if similar work is done by Government in the Kistna and Godávari districts, that fact is probably known in Ganjam, and this would have weight with the ryots. Moreover, the Public Works department estimate was doubtless high compared with what might be done by voluntary labor, and the amount may have caused alarm.

3. As matter now stands, unless Government are prepared to execute and pay for the work, the Board can only suggest that the Collector be instructed to refuse remission in case loss of crop should ensue by reason of the work not being done.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Ganjam.

ORDER—dated 11th December 1883, No. 1550, Revenue.

Irrigation, No. 25.

The Government consider that the Collector has shown sufficient grounds for treating the shoal clearances in question as a work which should be executed at the cost of Government.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Under Secy. to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Public Works department, Irrigation Branch.

Exd. A. Aubert.

60 Copies.

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 11th December 1883, No. 1550.

DECEMBER.

Shoal Clearances

in a river-bed in Ganjam.—Considering that the — should be executed at the cost of Government.

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Ag. Under Secy. to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Public Works department, Irrigation Branch.

Exd. A. Aubert.

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Govt. of {1883} Madras.

REVENUE.

Ellis

No. 3190 dt. 20.5.1884

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 11th December 1883, No. 1550.

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