M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 22.

(2) Date of repair 1-3-67

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1360.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	23-10-1874 1896.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 279. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1874, 2,647 :—

Read the following letter from J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th August 1874, No. 306 :—

I HAVE the honor to reply to G. O., No. 830, dated 3rd July 1874, as directed in Board's Proceedings,* dated 24th July 1874.

* Enclosures returned.

2. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of G. O.—Before the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, I had forms of application printed in the District Press, in diglott, with an additional column to show the kind of irrigation, and distributed them to the Curnams, with vernacular instructions† as to the mode of preparing them. As the cultivation season had already commenced, when the draft rules were finally passed by Government, and it was impossible to delay registering the applications for water, then being made, I thought it necessary to take immediate action, and did not therefore wait for the Board's form. I now beg to enclose copy of the form already printed, and suggest that any modifications the Board may think fit to make, may be inserted when printing it next year. The form sent by the Board is not in diglott, as ordered by Government.

† Will appear in this week's Gazette.

3. Paragraph 7 of G. O.—The Government observe that, "it does not appear what arrangement is to be made for recording instances of breach of Rule III." Presuming that the remark is intended to refer to cultivation below the minimum limit, I beg to state that no applications will be received in such cases, and the cultivation will be shown at the end of Statement B., as provided in the latter part of Rule XIII.

4. I do not quite understand the force of the distinction introduced into Rule III, between Revenue fields and Survey fields. The term Revenue fields is usually applied to old Paimaish fields; which do not necessarily form *sub-numbers* in *Survey* fields. The boundaries of the Paimaish fields, which have been clubbed together in the Survey, are not generally traceable on the ground, and in the villages through which the Irrigation Canal passes, these fields have been demarcated for purposes of dry cultivation, and have not been sub-divided, as supposed by the Board. After wet cultivation was commenced under the Canal, an attempt was made in 1866 to sub-divide the Survey fields, into 2 acre blocks, in Ramalkota and Nandikotkur Taluqs, but it was subsequently abandoned in accordance with Board's Proceedings, No. 321, dated 21st January 1871. It has therefore been the practice to receive applications for *portions* of *Survey* fields, measuring more than 1 acre in extent, whether or not these portions actually formed "*recorded sub-numbers of the Survey fields.*" I think the same course should be pursued until irrigation becomes settled, and the fields beyond a certain limit regularly sub-divided according to actual cultivation.

5. Paragraphs 10 to 14 of G. O.—The crops mentioned in the marginal note to Clauses 1, to 4 of Rule VI., were simply intended as examples of crops that would generally fall under the different heads of (1) continuous Irrigation; (2) frequent floodings; and (3) occasional floodings for dry crops. Hence the word "etcetera" was added in the list. It was never intended to classify "products for purposes of taxation to (1) Canal, and (2) Canal tank." The insertion of the words 'Canal tank' in parenthesis, in clause 2, was merely intended to denote that water for 2nd crop could usually be supplied throughout the season only in villages where there is a tank,

as provided in Rule V. As, however, the expression has been misunderstood, I have omitted it in the Rules printed in the Supplement to the District Gazette, dated 25th July 1874. I now request the Board will allow me to include the crops specified in the margin in the list already sanctioned by Government. As the list now stands, with the word "etcetera" omitted—, it is open to be misunderstood, and I therefore beg the Board will obtain early orders on the subject.

Clauses 1 and 2	Saffron (double.) Fruit trees. (Various) (do.)
Do. 3	Maize. Garden Korra. Indigo. Brinjals.
Do. 4	Field Korra. " Tobacco. " Chillies. Cotton. Gram (various). Oil-Seeds (do.)

6. Paragraph 16 of G. O.—Government consider that the charge proposed in Clause 9 of Rule VI. for water supplied to tanks, for purposes of irrigation, "is a heavy one, and may often prove prohibitive, because the loss by evaporation, leakage, etc., will fall on the State." I find that the question was fully discussed in 1872-73 by Major Oakes and the Board of Revenue, in the papers recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 43, dated 14th January 1873, and No. 1,157, dated 2nd July 1873, and finally disposed of by Government, in G. O., No. 954, dated 13th September 1873. Major Oakes recommended (and the Board agreed) that the Company should be paid at the rate of 1 Rupee for 1,440 cubic yards of water supplied, but Government saw "reason to consider Major Oakes' proposed rate somewhat unfavorable to the Company," and accordingly substituted " for it the rate of 1 Rupee per 1,000 cubic yards." Probably, the G. O., was overlooked when Government passed their Proceedings of the 3rd ultimo, and I beg to be informed if the question is again to be reopened.

7. Paragraph 24 of G. O.—I enclose a copy of the form prescribed under Rule XV. As stated in paragraph 4, the fields in all the villages under the canal have been demarcated and surveyed, " for purposes of dry cultivation, and are generally too large to be taken up for wet cultivation. Most of the lands taken up will therefore necessarily form *portions* of Survey numbers, and, as these portions will have no distinct boundaries, until the fields are regularly sub-divided, the necessity for annual measurements cannot be obviated. I, therefore, beg the Board will reconsider their order in the last paragraph of their Proceedings of the 24th ultimo, and permit me to retain the measurement book, which I venture to submit is really very useful, both to the Revenue Inspectors and the Company's Surveyors, in checking the actual extent of cultivation, waste, etc. Of course, the detail measurements will be entered only where portions of Survey numbers, not sub-divided, are taken up for irrigation, (which appears to be the rule and not the exception), and where whole fields (numbers) are taken up, only the total extent as given in the Survey Registers, will be shown in Statement C, as explained in the note appended to the revised form, sent by the Board. In the latter part of this note, the Board direct that, " if the whole extent of the field is *not* applied for, the area irrigated should be measured, and the extent recorded," in the Statement C. To ascertain this extent in each case, the Curnam must make a note of the detail measurements, on a separate paper. But if the proposal, above mentioned, is approved, the measurements will be entered in a printed Register, which will always be available for check, when the Revenue Inspector or the Company's Surveyor goes to examine the fields.

Register of measurements of portions of

Taluq.	Village.	Name of the applicant.	Numb the fi
1	2	3	4

KURNOOL,
10th August 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

RULE XV.

lds for which application is made for Irrigation under the Canal for the month of *Fasli* *Searo*

of	Extent.	Measurement of land applied for.					Waste if any.	Remarks.
		East.	West.	North.	South.	Total.		
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

(Signed) J. HOPE,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

A.—*Revised classification of crops under Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Rule VI.*

Class.	Clauses.	Crops.
1st Class requiring continuous irrigation.	1 and 2.	Rice. Sugar-cane (double.) Betel (do.) Cocoanuts (do.) Plantains (do.) *Saffron* (do.). Fruit trees (*various*) (do.)
2nd Class requiring frequent floodings.	3.	*Maize.* Garden Raggy. ,, *Korra.* ,, Chillies. ,, Tobacco. *Indigo.* Sweet potatoes. Onions. *Brinjals.*
Dry Crops requiring occasional floodings.	4.	Cholum. Field Raggy. ,, *Korra.* ,, *Chillies.* ,, *Tobacco.* *Cotton.* *Gram* (various.) *Oil-seeds* (do.)

Note.—Crops newly added are underlined for the sake of reference. Crops which fall both under Clauses 3 and 4 are usually distinguished by the terms "garden" and "field."

KURNOOL,
7th August 1874.

(Signed) J. HOPE,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., dated 3rd July 1874, No. 830.

2. The Collector was right in issuing a Form in anticipation of instructions. Next year the Form should contain the following columns:—

Form A.—Applications under Rule II.

1. Taluq and Village.
2. Number or "Letter" of field.
3. Area of the field or "Letter" according to the Survey.
4. Extent for which irrigation is required.
5. Crop.
6. Kind of irrigation.
7. Water-rate per acre.
8. Amount.
9. Remarks.

The Form must be in diglott.

3. Government inquire how breaches of Rule III. (Record of applications for water) are to be recorded. If Government mean to ask how applications to cultivate less than the minimum will be dealt with, the answer is, as the Collector points out that such applications will be refused, and that if cultivation takes place in cases where applications have been refused, or have not been made, it will be shown at the foot of the Register of Cultivation (Rule XIII). If Government mean to ask how irrigated cultivation undertaken without an application for water is to be detected, the answer must be that it can be detected in no other way than by the inspections of the Curnams, Revenue Inspectors and Canal Officers.

G. O., paragraph 7.
Collector's letter, paragraph 8.

4. By "Revenue fields," the expression used in Rule III, the Board meant, not the old and forgotten Paimaish fields, but fields corresponding [illegible] in puttas, whether survey fields or "Lettered" sub-divisions of Survey fields. [illegible] applications are

Collector's letter, paragraph 4, Rule III.

to be received only for whole fields, but they are to be received for areas not less than one acre in all cases, and for areas less than one acre when a whole field or "Letter" is comprised in that area.

G. O., paragraphs 10 and 14.
Collector's letter, paragraph 5, Rule VI.

5. The Collector proposes to add the following crops to those charged under the several clauses of Rule VI.:—

Clause 1 and 2	... Saffron (double.)	Clause 4	... Field Korra.
,, ,,	... Various (do.)	,, ,,	... Do. Tobacco.
,, ,,	... Fruit trees.	,, ,,	... Do. Chillies.
Clause 3	... Maize.	,, ,,	... Cotton.
,, ,,	... Garden Korra.	,, ,,	... Gram (various.)
,, ,,	... Indigo.	,, ,,	... Oil-seeds (various.)
,, ,,	... Brinjals.		

The Board are inclined to think that fruit trees with the exception of Cocoanut and Plantain trees which are specially mentioned in the Rule should be placed under Clause 3 as requiring only frequent floodings. Similarly it is a question whether Brinjals should not be under Clause 4. Nevertheless the Collector, knowing the circumstances of the district is most likely to be right. It must be pointed out, however, that in the sanctioned rules Government have entered Raggy under Clause 4 though it was entered by the framers of the Rules under Clause 3 and has been allowed to remain there by Government. The Collector now proposes to place Garden Raggy under Clause 3, and Field Raggy under Clause 4 and the Board think he is right.

6. The Collector points out that the charge of Rupee 1 per 1,000 yards for water supplied to tanks for irrigation has been fixed by Government, who over-ruled a proposal by the Board that the charge should be somewhat less. He asks whether the question is to be re-opened now. The Board think it will be better to wait until the fairness of the charge has been tested by two or three years experience.

G. O., paragraph 16.
Collector's letter, paragraph 6.

7. The Board still doubt the necessity of the book prescribed by Rule XV., but they see no objection to the Collector's trying it. The Form devised by him seems to be less convenient than that originally submitted to the Board with the Rules.

G. O., paragraph 24.
Collector's letter, paragraph 7.

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 280. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th October 1874, No. 2,909:—

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 25th August 1874, No. 1,079.

ABSTRACT.—Cancelling Rule XV. for distribution of water from the Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal, and directing that form A. be printed in diglott.

COMMUNICATED to the Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah.

2. In their Proceedings of the 16th September, No. 2,647, the Board have recommended that Rule XV. should be tried for a time at all events.

To the Secretary to Government, [illegible]partment.

No. 281. ORDER THEREON, 23rd Octo[illegible]874, No. 1,360.

Irrigation, No. 5.

[illegible]HE Governor in Council observes reference to paragraph 3 of the proceedings recorded above that the clause of Rule XIII. sufficiently provides registering instances of cultivation without application.

2. The revised classification of crops under clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Rule VI. (enclosure 3 to the Collector's letter) is approved. The Collector has rightly interpreted the intention of Government in entering crops under Clause 4 as well as under Clause 3.

3. The correspondence adverted to in para 6 of the Collector's letter was duly considered before paragraph 16, G. O., 3[illegible]y last, No. 830, was passed. The Government are inclined to adopt the rate of [illegible]ee for 1,440 cubic yards as originally proposed by the Board, but desire in that instance to have before them the opinions of Colonel Mullins and Mr. Latha[illegible].

4. Adverting to the last paragraphs of [illegible]pers under consideration, the Government resolve to cancel paragraph 1, G[illegible] August 1874, No. 1,079, and leave Rule XV. intact, pending trial.

5. The Board can amend the form prop[illegible]e Collector.

(True Ext[illegible]

C. G. MASTER,
[illegible]ng Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No. 2,647.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1874.

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* Enclosures returned.

2. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of G. O.—Before the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, I had forms of application printed in the District Press, in diglott, with an additional column to show the kind of irrigation, and distributed them to the Curnams, with vernacular instructions† as to the mode of preparing them. As the cultivation season had already commenced, when the draft rules were finally passed by Government, and it was impossible to delay registering the applications for water, then being made, I thought it necessary to take immediate action, and did not therefore wait for the Board's form. I now beg to enclose copy of the form already printed, and suggest that any modifications the Board may think fit to make, may be inserted when printing it next year. The form sent by the Board is not in diglott, as ordered by Government.

† Will appear in this week's Gazette.

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4. I do not quite understand the force of the distinction introduced into Rule III, between Revenue fields and Survey fields. The term Revenue fields is usually applied to old Paimaish fields; which do not necessarily form *sub-numbers* in *Survey* fields. The boundaries of the Paimaish fields, which have been clubbed together in the Survey, are not generally traceable on the ground, and in the villages through which the Irrigation Canal passes, these fields have been demarcated for purposes of dry cultivation, and have not been sub-divided, as supposed by the Board. After wet cultivation was commenced under the Canal, an attempt was made in 1866 to sub-divide the Survey fields, into 2 acre blocks, in Ramalkota and Nandikotkur Taluqs, but it was subsequently abandoned in accordance with Board's Proceedings, No. 321, dated 21st January 1871. It has therefore been the practice to receive applications for *portions of Survey* fields, measuring more than 1 acre in extent, whether or not these portions actually formed "*recorded sub-numbers of the Survey fields.*" I think the same course should be pursued until irrigation becomes settled, and the fields beyond a certain limit regularly sub-divided according to actual cultivation.

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" (Various) (do.)
Do. 3 Maize.
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" Indigo.
" Brinjals.
Do. 4 Field Korra.
" Tobacco.
" Chillies.
" Cotton.
" Gram (various).
" Oil-Seeds (do.)

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FORM A.

No. (1.) APPLICATION.
Date. దరఖాస్తు.
Taluq. తాలూకా.
Village. గ్రామము.
Ryot's Name. రయితు పేరు.
1st or 2nd Crop. మొదటి లేక రెండో కారు.

No. of field. పేరు నంబరు.	Area. మొత్తాలు.	Kind of Irrigation. విధకరణంద నిర్ణయించది.	Rate. రేటు.	Amount. మొత్తము.	Remarks. షరా.

సాగులు. నైతుపేర్లు.

No. (2.) APPLICATION.
Date. దరఖాస్తు.
Taluq. తాలూకా.
Village. గ్రామము.
Ryot's Name. రయితు పేరు.
1st or 2nd Crop. మొదటి లేక రెండో కారు.

No. of field. పేరు నంబరు.	Area. మొత్తాలు.	Kind of Irrigation. విధకరణంద నిర్ణయించది.	Rate. రేటు.	Amount. మొత్తము.	Remarks. షరా.

నంబరు. నైతుపేర్లు.

No. (3.) APPLICATION.
Date. దరఖాస్తు.
Taluq. తాలూకా.
Village. గ్రామము.
Ryot's Name. రయితు పేరు.
1st or 2nd Crop. మొదటి లేక రెండో కారు.

No. of field. పేరు నంబరు.	Area. మొత్తాలు.	Kind of Irrigation. విధకరణంద నిర్ణయించది.	Rate. రేటు.	Amount. మొత్తము.	Re

సాగులు. నైతుపేర్లు

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

RULE XV.

Register of measurements of portions of fields for which application is made for Irrigation under the Ca
Fasli

Taluq.	Village.	Name of the applicant.	Number of the field.	Extent.	Measurement of land applied for.			
					East.	West.	North.	South.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KURNOOL,
10th August 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

RULE XV.

Register of measurements of portions of fields for which application is made for Irrigation under the Ca
Fasli

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KURNOOL,
10th August 1874.

for the month of *Season*

Total.	Waste if any.	Remarks.
10	11	12

(Signed) J. HOPE,
Acting Collector.

7/1360

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

A.—*Revised classification of crops under Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Rule VI.*

Class.	Clauses.	Crops.
1st Class requiring continuous irrigation.	1 and 2.	Rice. Sugar-cane (double.) Betel (do.) Cocoanuts (do.) Plantains (do.) *Saffron* (do.) Fruit trees (*various*) (do.)
2nd Class requiring frequent floodings.	3.	*Muize.* Garden Raggy. " *Korra.* " Chillies. " Tobacco. *Indigo.* Sweet potatoes. Onions. *Brinjals.*
Dry Crops requiring occasional floodings.	4.	Cholum. Field Raggy. " *Korra.* " *Chillies.* " *Tobacco.* *Cotton.* *Gram* (various.) *Oil-seeds* (do.)

Note.—Crops newly added are underlined for the sake of reference. Crops which fall both under Clauses 3 and 4 are usually distinguished by the terms "garden" and "field."

KURNOOL, (Signed) J. HOPE,
7th August 1874. Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., dated 3rd July 1874, No. 830.

2. The Collector was right in issuing a Form in anticipation of instructions. Next year the Form should contain the following columns:—

Form A.—Applications under Rule II.

1. Taluq and Village.
2. Number or "Letter" of field.
3. Area of the field or "Letter" according to the Survey.
4. Extent for which irrigation is required.
5. Crop.
6. Kind of irrigation.
7. Water-rate per acre.
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The Form must be in diglott.

3. Government inquire how breaches of Rule III. (Record of applications for water) are to be recorded. If Government mean to ask how applications to cultivate less than the minimum will be dealt with, the answer is, as the Collector points out that such applications will be refused, and that if cultivation takes place in cases where applications have been refused, or have not been made, it will be shown at the foot of the Register of Cultivation (Rule XIII). If Government mean to ask how irrigated cultivation undertaken without an application for water is to be detected, the answer must be that it can be detected in no other way than by the inspections of the Curnams, Revenue Inspectors and Canal Officers.

G. O., paragraph 7.
Collector's letter, paragraph 3.

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Collector's letter, paragraph 4, Rule III.

To the Secretary to Government Revenue Dep.

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Collector's letter, paragraph 5, Rule VI.

5. The Collector proposes to add the following crops to those charged under the several clauses of Rule VI.:—

Clause 1 and 2 ...	Saffron (double.)	Clause 4	Field Korra.
,, ,, ...	Various (do.)	,, ,, ...	Do. Tobacco.
,, ,, ...	Fruit trees.	,, ,, ...	Do. Chillies.
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,, ,, ...	Garden Korra.	,, ,, ...	Gram (various.)
,, ,, ...	Indigo.	,, ,, ...	Oil-seeds (various.)
,, ,, ...	Brinjals.		

The Board are inclined to think that fruit trees with the exception of Cocoanut and Plantain trees which are specially mentioned in the Rule should be placed under Clause 3 as requiring only frequent floodings. Similarly it is a question whether Brinjals should not be under Clause 4. Nevertheless the Collector, knowing the circumstances of the district is most likely to be right. It must be pointed out, however, that in the sanctioned rules Government have entered Raggy under Clause 4 though it was entered by the framers of the Rules under Clause 3 and has been allowed to remain there by Government. The Collector now proposes to place Garden Raggy under Clause 3, and Field Raggy under Clause 4 and the Board think he is right.

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G. O., paragraph 24.
Collector's letter, paragraph 7.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J. Grose
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Acting Collector of Kurnool.
Copy to the Collector of Cuddapah.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

2719

Revised Rules for distribution of water from Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal.—Report from Collector of Kurnool on subject of — submitted to Government with remarks.

SEPTEMBER.
No. 2,647.

Received 3 —

Despd 26 Oct 1874.
Encl.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH SEPTEMBER 1874, No. 2,647.

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

1874.

4-Ors' Proceedings, pp 104-105
3 Aug 74 — 22-23
25 Aug 74 — 239-40

No 1463
No 1458

4
8/1360

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 6th October 1874, No 2719

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government Revenue Department, dated 25th August 1874, No 1079, cancelling Rule XV for distribution of water from the Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal; and directing that Form A be printed in diglott.

Communicated to the Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah.

In their Proceedings of the 16th September, No 2647, the Board have recommended that Rule XV should be tried for a time at all events.

(True Extract)
(Sd) J. Grose
Secretary

To the Collectors of Kurnool & Cuddapah.

(True Copy)

J Grose
Secretary

To the Secretary to Government Revenue Dep

9/1360.

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G.O. 25 Aug / 74 No. 229-40.
6 No. 1438/24.

280

No. 3535.
Revenue Depart.
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 6 October 1874.
Recd 7 " " "

Conveying to the [illegible]

Sd. No. 1060. 23 October 1874

Revenue Department.

No. 360.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the [illegible] October 1874.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submitting report from Collr. of Kurnool on subject of revised Rules for distribution of water from Irrigation + Canal Co's Canal. — R.L. 16 Sept. 1874, No. 2647.

Commng. to Collrs. of Kurnool + Cuddapah G.O. cancelling Rule 15, — " 6 October 1874, No.

The Governor in Council observes with reference to paragraph 3 of the first Proceedings recorded above that the last clause of Rule XIII sufficiently provides for registering instances of cultivation without application.

2. The revised classification of crops under clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Rule VI

(Enclosure

[illegible]
16/10

(Enclosure 2 to the Collectors letter) is approved. The Collector has rightly interpreted the intention of Government in entering Raggy under Clause 4 as well as under Clause 3.

3. The correspondence adverted to in paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter was duly considered before paragraph 16, G. O. 3d July last No 830 was framed. The Govt are inclined to adopt the rate of 1 Rupee pr 1440 cubic yards as originally proposed by the Board but desire in the first instance to take the opinions of Colonel Cullins & Mr Latham.

4. Adverting to the last paragraphs of the two

Note. Para 3 altered in Council 23/10/94 GHL

be assessed at the fixed Rs rate — Colonel Cullen and — in G. O. 13 Feb 94 — consider Raggie / and value at a year ago / Rs 1440 / but I suppose the full charge / will be levied / Received in the meantime the matter will engage the attention of the Board Rev & Ct. Dept for Engr 17/10 JRL

two papers under consideration the Govt resolve to cancel para 1, G. O. 25 August 1894, No 1079 and leave Rule XV intact pending trial. The Board can amend the form proposed by the Collector.

GHL

14 To the Board of Rev & Ag
21 The Public Works Dept

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[illegible] it was left decided entirely at that very moderate — upon the Spot — there is Raggie and value that there was proceeding [illegible] and I do not see why we should not — I am inclined to adopt the Board's proposal Rec Rs (Rs 30 Rs 1/2) a Rs pr 1440 c yards

No. 8.

On report from Collect
of Revenue on the subject
of revised rates for obtai
-tion of water from the D
Company's Canal