

(1) Number of pages 20

(2) Date of repair 18. 11. 70

(3) Initials of the Referencer 21/11/70

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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

140

Press
Mis.

Dated 15-1-1877 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Back-6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read Pres. No. 2 of Rev. of 8 Jan 1877

No 140 of 15 January 1877

G.O. ~~affair~~

The Gov. ^{gather} ~~stems~~ that
at the time Mr.
W.D. Dabney wrote his
letter under in the
above Pres. Le Lake

had rec'd the ~~Board~~
Pres. of the 23rd Dec/26
No. 2450. as he has

since submitted an
application for the
extension to Combustion
of the increasing amount
in the above ^{G.O.} Dis.
to certain other Dis.
in which Dabney is
prevalent, ~~by the~~
~~above G.O.~~

They entirely agree in
the views expressed by the
Board, and while
appreciating Mr.
W.D. Dabney's anxiety to
develop the resources
of his Dis. would much

X. Vide Board's Res. 8 January 1877
No. 2450 under in G.O. of
18th Jan 1877 No. 2450

MO. 13/1

W.D.

Mr. Capt. Co. the O. Do. 2000 Dec 16 day
to the Financial Dept. 15 Feb

100/6

140
2

him that they are
not less solicitous
for the welfare of the
whole Presidency.

JH

9/1/77

No. 309. Read the following Proceeding of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th January 1877:—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd December 1876. No. 263.

I HAVE the honor to make the following remarks regarding the state and prospects of the season and suggestions which may be transmitted at an early date to Government.

2. If the railways can stand the strain that will be put on them in a month or two hence, starvation from want of food when local stocks are consumed may be averted, but the provision of water is the difficulty to be met.

3. When excavations can be made in tank and river-beds and rock-blasting is not required, the work is not so great; but in the great majority of cases in an inland district such favored localities are few. It is a question of boring and blasting.

4. Although but a drop in the ocean, the services of the Military Sappers might be distributed over districts for deepening public reservoirs.

5. I should be glad if even a small party could be spared for this district; the working ability of the Madras Sappers was exhibited to great advantage last year in this district, when a small party was detached for the purpose of clearing a path to the Upper Anamallay Ranges on account of the expected visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

6. Every possible encouragement should be given to the sinking of wells by private enterprise.

7. By present revenue rules a man may sink his well on his dry assessed land without being subject to increased assessment, provided he does not drain a Government reservoir or source of supply. I would extend this rule more liberally than it has been construed. In parts of the country cultivators who raise water by lifts from rivers or even their sandy beds which are not utilised are charged three-fourth part of the wet assessment, though they interfere with no Government source. This is done in Kurnool and Nellore Districts along the banks of the Gundlacamma river,—a drainage channel far below the surface that never can be utilised for Government irrigation.

8. This unjust tax should not be retained. I have brought this injustice several times to notice since I first observed it when Sub-Collector of Cuddapah in 1851—1856.

9. In 1855 when I brought the matter before Lord Harris, I was told that some seigniorage was due to Government for raising water from anything called a river; but this cannot be called a river. The Revenue Settlement Department declined to go into details of such nature. There was one general reduction for lift and no distinction could be made. When I brought the matter up some ten or eleven years later, and last of all in a third or fourth, pointing out the injustice I was referred to some former Proceedings; utilising jungle-streams by diverting them is not charged for, although these are often the sources of river-irrigation, whereas the case I noticed is a useless waste channel,—the surplus drainage of the Cumbum tank.

10. I would exempt from taxation wells sunk in natural river-beds, and water raised therefrom by lifts; a "lift" cannot exhaust a river. No expenditure by Government is made on a natural river till by anicut or other means its water is collected, diverted, and stored for irrigation. When Government has expended capital in promoting irrigation, it has a right to a profit in the same, even larger than is charged in some districts; but when Government has not done so, it is unfair to tax the ryot's industry in supplying himself from a natural source.

11. Another remission I would advocate is the deduction from the putta of the land occupied by a well sunk in dry land, together with the space occupied by the machinery for raising the water.

12. If anything can save the country at present, it is wells. They nourish the only green thing visible over miles of horizon. It is on them that, as a last resource, the lives of man and beast must depend.

13. It is but a small remission, but it is something, and one that will be appreciated more than loans and security which the ryots are shy of taking from an inexorable creditor like Government.

14. I am glad to report that, as regards this district, unfavorable seasons have been the means of developing industry. Capital is continuously sunk in new wells and in deepening old wells; there is no cessation to this labor and expenditure; it may not avail every where, but as I pointed out in my letters of the 7th October 1876, No. 206, and 6th November 1876, No. 224, advocating advances of money to substantial ryots, who would adopt the economic water-lift I have successfully introduced into this district, the well-cultivation is the mainstay of the district, and far exceeds that from all the rivers, and most valuable rivers they are, and tanks put together.

15. I have been lately inspecting the working of wells of our jungle conservancy plantations as well as private wells by ryots' bullocks; the cruelty to animals was exhibited by the huge wens on the bullocks' necks, by the unequal pressure of the yoke in running down hill when working a well on the native system; whereas in the ten or twelve wells I have fitted up with the new apparatus, the bullocks are in perfect condition and uninjured by the draft.

16. This is not an unimportant question when it concerns in this district alone upwards of 200,000 working cattle.

17. It rests with Government to decide, as to whether encouragement is to be given to ryots to adopt an improvement what every engineer and intelligent person who has seen the working of these wells has unanimously approved; or to allow matters to remain in a state, which, if it existed in England, would have been brought prominently into public notice, and have been long since prohibited or prosecuted on account of its cruelty.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In the foregoing letter the Collector of Coimbatore asks for the services of a small party of Sappers to assist in developing the supply of water from wells in localities where the nature of the soil requires the operation of blasting to penetrate to the water bearing strata. The Board fear that the services of this useful body of workmen are in too great demand at present to admit of this

requisition being complied with. Moreover, blasting-rock is perfectly understood and practised by the well-sinkers of the Coimbatore District.

3. In paragraphs 6—10 Mr. Wedderburn strongly urges the expediency of encouraging private enterprise in the direction of sinking wells, and in view to this suggests certain modifications of existing rules. The subject is one which has recently been prominently brought to notice in connection with the Cuddapah District, to which Mr. Wedderburn refers with the authority of long experience of its customs and requirements, and it is now engaging the attention of the Board and Government. As in view to arriving at a correct judgment on the point, Collectors have been requested in Board's Proceedings, dated 4th January 1877, No. 24, to submit their opinions in regard to certain relaxations proposed, the Board will defer passing any remarks on the subject until it has been maturely discussed.

4. In regard to advances to ryots under the Land Improvement Act Mr. Wedderburn is referred to the G.O., 23rd December 1876, No. 2,150. Proceedings of Government marginally

noted, under which, during the present adverse season, the procedure in respect to complying with applications for loans has been simplified as much as possible.

5. With reference to the substitution of the economic water-lift again brought to notice in paragraph 14 *et seq.*, Mr. Wedderburn must be well aware that it rests entirely with the ryots of this district to adopt it or not as they consider expedient. It is impossible for either the Board or the Government to interfere in the matter or to make, as would seem to be suggested by the Collector, its adoption a condition of a loan under the Act.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 310. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1877, No. 140.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government gather that at the time Mr. Wedderburn wrote his letter recorded in the above Proceedings he had not received the Proceedings of Government of the 23rd December 1876, No. 2,150, as he has since submitted an application*

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, 8th January 1877, for the extension to Coimbatore of the concession allowed in the above Government Order to certain other districts in which distress is prevalent.

2. They entirely concur in the views expressed by the Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 8th January 1877.

Read the following

No. 263.

From,

A. Waddenburn Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore

To

A. E. Stokes Esquire
Ag Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir

I have the honor to make the following remarks regarding the state and prospects of the season and suggestions which I beg may be transmitted at an early date to Government. —

2. If the Railways can stand the strain that will be put on them in a month or two hence, starvation, from want of food when local stocks are consumed, may be averted — but the provision of

Bobt. of 1877 Madras

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy, Secy, Secy

1st January, 1877.

Encl.

G.O., 15th January 1877, No. 140.

JANUARY.

Nos. 309-310.

State and Prospect of Season in Coimbatore District. — Concurring entirely in the views expressed by the Board of Revenue on the suggestions of the Collector in connection with the —

of water is the difficulty to be met. —

3. When excavations can be made in tank and river beds, and rock blasting is not required, the work is not so great — but in the great majority of cases, in an inland district such favoured localities are few. — It is a question of boring and blasting. —

4. Although but a drop in the ocean, the services of the military sappers might be distributed over districts for deepening public reservoirs. —

5. I should be glad if even a small party could be spared for this district, the working ability of the Madras sappers was exhibited to great advantage last year in this district, when a small party was detached for the purpose of clearing a path to the upper Anamallay ranges on account of the expected visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. —

6. Every possible encouragement should be given

given to the sinking of wells by private enterprise. —

7. By present revenue rules, a man may sink his well on his dry assessed land without being subject to increased assessment, provided he does not drain a Government reservoir or source of supply. —

I would extend this rule more liberally than it has been construed. — In parts of the Country, Cultivators, who raise water by lifts from rivers or even their sandy beds which are not utilized, are charged $3\frac{1}{4}\%$ part of the wet assessment, though they interfere with no Government source. — This is done in Karnool and Koller Districts, along the banks of the Gundlacamma river — a drainage channel far below the surface that never can be utilized for Government irrigation. —

8. This unjust tax should not be retained. I have brought this injustice several times to notice since I first observed it, when Sub Collector of Cuddalore in 1851-6. —

SW

9 In 1855 when I brought the matter before Lord Harris, I was told that some Sighmorage was due to Government for raising water from anything called a river; but this cannot be called a river. The Revenue Settlement Department declined to go into details of such nature. There was one general reduction for lift and no distinction could be made - when I brought the matter up some 10 or 11 years later and last of all in a third or fourth pointing out of the injustice I was referred to some former proceedings utilizing jungle streams by diverting them is not charged for, although these are often the sources of river irrigation, whereas the case I mentioned is a useless waste channel. the surplus drainage of the Cumbum Tank.

10. I would exempt from taxation, wells sunk in natural river beds, and water raised therefrom by lifts - a "lift" cannot exhaust a river -

the expenditure by Government is made on a natural river - till by ancient or other means its water is collected, diverted, and stored, for irrigation - when Government has expended Capital in promoting irrigation, it has a right to a profit on the same; even larger than is charged in some districts - but when Government has not done so, it is unfair to tax the ryot's industry in supplying himself from a natural source.

11. Another permission I would advocate, is the deduction from the pottah of the land occupied by a well, sunk in dry land, together with the space occupied by the machinery for raising the water.

12. If anything can save the Country at present, it is wells. - They nourish the only green thing visible over miles of horizon - It is on them that, as a last resource, the lives of man and beast must depend.

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it is something, and one that will be appreciated more than loans on security which the ryots are shy of taking from an inexorable creditor, like Government.

14. I am glad to report that as regards this district, unfavourable seasons have been the means of developing industry. Capital is continuously sunk in new wells and in deepening old ~~min~~ wells. There is no cessation to this labor and expenditure - it may not avail every where, but as I pointed out in my letters of the 7th October 1876 No. 206, and 6th November 1876 No. 124 advocating advances of money to substantial ryots, who would adopt the economic water lift, I have successfully introduced into this district, the well cultivation is the mainstay of the district, and far exceeds that from all the rivers, and most valuable rivers they are, and tanks, put together. -

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as private wells by ryots' bullocks - the cruelty to animals was exhibited by the huge wuns on the bullocks' necks, by the unequal pressure of the yoke in running down hill when working a well on the native system - whereas in the 10 or 12 wells I have fitted up with the new apparatus, the bullocks are in perfect condition, and uninjured by the draft. -

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17. It rests with Government to decide, as to whether encouragement is to be given to ryots to adopt an improvement what every Engineer, and intelligent person who has seen the working of these wells, has unanimously approved - or to allow matters to remain in a state, which if it existed in England would have been brought prominently into public notice, and have been long since prohibited or prosecuted on account of its cruelty.

Coimbatore Collectors' Office
23rd December 1876. } I have &c
(Signed) A. Martindale
Deputy Collector.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

In the foregoing letter the Collector of Coimbatore asks for the services of a small party of Sappers to assist in developing the supply of water from wells in localities where the nature of the soil requires the operation of blasting to penetrate to the water bearing strata. The Board fear that the services of this useful body of workmen are in too great demand at present to admit of this requisition being complied with. Moreover blasting rock is perfectly understood and practised by the well sinkers of the Coimbatore District.

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1876
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x G.O. 23rd Dec 1876 No. 2150

Loans has been simplified as much
as possible.

With reference to the substitution of the Economic water lift again brought to notice in para 14 at seq. Mr Widderburn must be well aware that it rests entirely with the ryots of his district to adopt ^{it} or not as they consider expedient. It is impossible for either the Board or the Government to interfere in the matter or to make, as would seem to be suggested by the Collector, its adoption a condition of a loan under the Act.

(True copy and Extract)

W. St. John

Ag. Secretary

To

The Secretary to
Government. R.D.

280 266.

8th Jan. 1879.

20.

10. 15 June 1879

nothing for
with remarks
from the Col-
of Louisiana.
I am certain
regarding
to and dis-
the season
agreements to
and the
account.

№ 309

12-1-77 ~ 12-13/Jan