MER. O. 1—30,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 780 Press ~~Mis.~~

587-567A

Dated 22nd March 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd March 1869.

No. 567. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Board's remarks on the report relative to state of Irrigation Works of certain talooks in Vizagapatam District. (Here enter 15th February 1869, No. 988.)

No. 567 A. ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1869, No. 790.

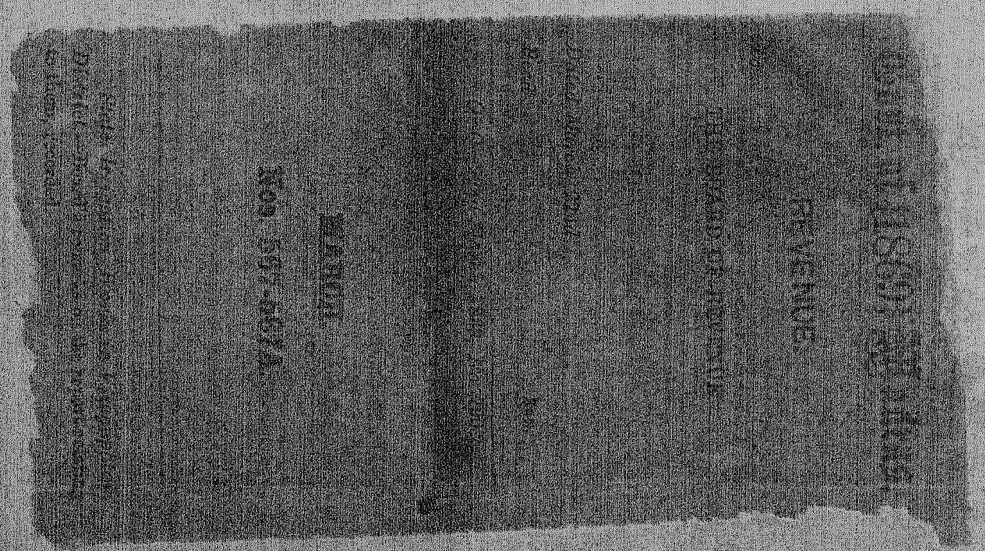
Irrigation, No. 13. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.



No. 988.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th February 1869.

Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp Bobbili, 24th November 1868, No. 868:—

I HAVE the honor to forward a Statement and Report from the Principal Assistant Collector on the Irrigation Works of the two Government Talooks of the District within his charge, in reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 18th November 1867, No. 7,514.

2. An account of these works will be found in the Board's Proceedings, dated 8th October 1866, No. 7,216, which should be considered in connection with the present Report. In the papers there reviewed, the then Collector of the District, Mr. Carmichael, recommended that the Ryotwary system should be abandoned, and the Talooks sold to the highest bidders, apparently as the easiest means of absolving the Government from any further responsibility with regard to works represented to have fallen into such a neglected condition.

3. The Board did not concur in the proposed remedy; directed that greater efforts should be made to compel the ryots to carry out ordinary repairs, and at the same time did their best to obtain an enhanced grant in order that the works might once for all be put in proper repair.

4. In consequence of these efforts, the considerable grant of Rupees 41,000 was allotted to these talooks for the year 1867-68, and the execution was transferred to the hands of the Revenue authorities. In a very short period, however, the work was re-transferred to the Department Public Works, and on the recommendation of the Superintending Engineer, Rupees 21,000 was transferred to other districts, which the Department were unable to spend efficiently. In fact, Rupees 13,342 only was spent, in place of the handsome grant obtained by the previous representations as to the necessity of thorough repair.

5. The transaction is fully gone into in Board's Proceedings, dated 7th December 1867, No. 7,920, and accounts for the figures in the Statement given in paragraph 5 of Mr. Hutchins's report not being correct as regards the allotment for each year, the real allotment for 1867-68 having been Rupees 41,000, while the expenditure was so greatly reduced below that sum.

6. With reference to the Board's instructions that the local Officers should adopt the partial remedy in their hands, by enforcing the ryots' customary labor, Mr. Hutchins's report shows that no undue leniency has been extended towards them. In fact, under the name of customary labor, the ryots have executed gratis a portion of the earthworks required for all repairs, and the practice has doubtless been beneficial, while it shows the docility of the people.

7. From the Statement now forwarded it appears that an allotment of Rupees 18,492 for one year will now place the existing works of Irrigation in efficient repair, while a future annual allowance of Rupees 10,000 should then suffice.

8. Although this is not the place to enter into any argument as to the relative advantages of the Ryotwar and Zemindar Settlement, I must state my total dissent to the views of Messrs. Carmichael and Boswell, that the introduction of the Zemindary system is the proper remedy for our previous neglect of the Irrigation Works in the Government Talooks of this District.

9. The repair of the works in that case would be a happy accident, dependant on the personality of the Zemindar, and would be a most improbable contingency. It is true that in seasons when through failure of water there must be a failure of crops, there would be no remission, but I fail to see how the withdrawal of what has been called this "demoralizing" liberality, which to me seems simple justice, could result in the improvement of the works of Irrigation, or do anything except cripple the resources of the ryots, and lower the condition of the agricultural classes.

10. In this Zemindary District, in some localities the Irrigation Works have been properly maintained, in others entirely neglected. In the current season, where there has been ample rain throughout the year, but a failure in the last month, the effects of such neglect are most marked. I have seen the standing crops of one village withered in the ear, where the slightest attention to the sources of Irrigation would have ensured the one additional flooding which would have changed wide-spread loss into universal plenty. Here the ryots will get no remission, if by any means they

and the water level will be restored to its old height of six inches above the foundation of the bench-mark, the upper structure of which has long been removed or washed away.)

9. Mr. Laskey proposes to meet the above difficulty by raising a bund through the lake, to divide it into two portions, so that the water on the Proprietrix of Anakapilly's land may be let off by its own Calingulah on the 15th December as agreed on, while the rest of the Ava water is retained for irrigation as long as it may be required. At present the surplus water is conducted by a channel to the Saradanadi (river) and so carried off to the sea. This channel and its branches require clearing out, and the tanks which these feed are also in need of repair. Mr. Laskey's design is to have in the bund separating the Government from the Proprietrix's portion of the Ava, a sluice of six vents, each one yard square with iron water-tight shutters to work in wooden slides. He proposes that this sluice should remain open until the water has attained the Calingulah's height, when the shutters will be dropped and those of another sluice of the same number of vents built in line with the Calingulah, and on the bench-mark level will be opened, for the escape of all water above the level until the 15th December, when the water on the Propretrix's portion of the Ava is to be drained off by means of a low level sluice with a single opening. Mr. Laskey also provides a low level sluice with openings $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ feet in the Government Section to carry out water for irrigation, and he estimates further that two embankments will be required to protect the low lying lands in the north of the lake and to the east of the village, and also two Calingulahs 30 yards wide, to carry off the surplus drainage falling into the Ava. The area of this lake is above five square miles. Mr. Laskey's estimate for the Kondakerla Ava scheme amounted to Rupees 26,000; but on finding that the whole spread of the Ava was opened to Government for improvement, the matter was again considered by Messrs. Bliss and Laskey, and the estimate reduced. Nothing has been heard on the subject of these two schemes of Mr. Laskey, which were presented as works promising to be remunerative, as well as tending to establish and increase our existing revenue.

10. Komaravole Ava.—The Komaravole Ava is in the north-west of the Golgondah Talook. The amount of water at present stored in this natural reservoir is small. Mr. Laskey proposes, at a cost of about Rupees 10,000, to supply an anicut 20 yards in length, and raise by one yard the amount of water stored. He would also deepen and widen the supply channel and raise embankments on both sides to protect the low lands in the north of the Ava. This would secure the present revenue, and bring new land into cultivation on the east of the lake.

11. Kristnadevipeta Anicut.—A late Supervisor, M. Rangaya Naidu, informed Mr. Boswell that he had a scheme for constructing an anicut in the Kristnadevipeta river which rises in the Golgondah hills and falls into the sea at Pentacottah. I hear he took the levels and satisfied himself of the practicability of the scheme, but he left the district before he had time to submit it. I can only say that if there is, as he represented, a large amount of water running to waste in that direction, there is abundant waste land that might be benefitted in the neighbourhood, and it would be very desirable to open up that wild part of the country. The river is rapid, and in the floods it is 15 feet deep and would give an ample supply of water for any work that might be constructed. I intend to visit this part of the country in the course of a few months, when I will personally ascertain whether the proposed scheme would be beneficial; and if found favorable, I will take measures to survey the area and prepare an estimate for its cost.

12. Across the Saradanadi there is a work which demands attention. I allude to an anicut at Cassimcottah. Plans and Estimates, I understand, are in preparation in the Department of Public Works. The present work is a loose stone dam subject to injury at even high flood, and thereby endangering the revenue. The nature of the present work is quite unsuited to the case of a stream coming down with great force. A more substantial work is recommended by the Range Officer. The Government will have to bear half the cost, and the Proprietrix of Cassimcottah meets the other half. She is quite willing to do so. I would consequently urge this matter for early attention.

13. In going along the Trunk Road from Cassimcottah to Yellamunchelli you will observe to the west a chain of hills almost parallel to the course of the road, and at a distance of from one to three miles. In this chain, there are one or two passes, but, as far as I know, only one gorge of sufficient depth to carry off the drainage of the adjacent parts of the talooks of Veravilli and Golgondah. This gorge is at the point where the road from Tallapallem to Narsipatam pierces the hills. There is a tradition in the neighbourhood of the construction of a great tank at this place by one of the old Rajahs, and of its bursting almost immediately after it was made. The construction of this old ruined tank is, I am informed, in contemplation in the Department of Public Works. The place in which this ruined tank is, belongs to His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagram. To restore the tank to its proper state, a Calingulah and Sluices must be built. Mr. Laskey considers that the cost would be about 60,000 Rupees besides compensation for giving up the site.

14. The annexed table shows the new irrigation works and cost of the construction and repair in each year:—

Statement showing the cost of the construction and the repair in each year of the following works.

Names of works.	Estimate. Amount.	Estimate. Date of Government Order.	1859-60.	1860-61.	1861-62.	1862-63.	1863-64.	1865-66.	1866-67.	1867-68.	1868-69.
Palagaru do.	2,050	Government Order, No. 3,728, dated 17th October 1863.	......	......	476 0 0	5 0 0	402 11 3	......	56 15 4	......	......
Murripalem do.	unknown.	...	......	......	......	......	......	467 0 0	......	......	......
Godari do.	Do.	...	......	......	......	......	......	......	196 2 4	258 1 5	......
Gubbada do.	14,300	Government Order, No. 1,472, dated 6th August 1861.	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
Dimby do.	3,018	Government Order, unknown. Sanction communicated to this Office in late District Engineer's Memorandum, No. 1,014, dated 12th November 1862.	......	......	......	......	......	......	27 2 11	......	......
Katnhole do.	unknown.	...	......	......	191 0 0	......	......	......	255 11 3	......	......
Kummarapilli do.	Do.	...	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......

15. The records of my Office do not furnish information about the above works, but I obtained it from the Golgondah Range Office; but even there nothing can be traced of works executed prior to 1860.

16. The annexed Statement shows the revenue derived from the construction of the above works. The figures are entered for those years for which accounts are available. In this district the villages are frequently burnt down, and consequently the Village accounts destroyed with them; so that for many years no accounts are forthcoming.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. I. MINCHIN,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.

Abstract.—Statement showing the collections from Fusly 1273 to 1277, on account of anicuts in Survasidhi and Golgondah Talooks of the Vizagapatam District.

Enclosure No. 3.

Abstract.—Statement showing the area of the Ayacut and of the cultivation of each work for the last three years, and the amount proposed to be expended on them.

In replying to Board's Proceedings, dated 18th November 1867, No. 7,514, the Collector of Vizagapatam forwards a report by the Principal Assistant on the Irrigation works of the two Government Talooks of the district, and refers to the correspondence contained in Proceedings of Board, dated 8th October 1866, No. 7,216, relating to the very bad condition in which the minor works of irrigation in the district then were.

24th November 1868, No. 868.

2. Mr. Hutchins now submits a detailed list of all tanks and river channels in the two talooks, with the registered Ayacut, Ryotwary and Inam, under each; and he shows also the actual cultivation and collections under each for three years. In the following abstract Statement the facts so furnished are classified and analysed:—

Tanks.		Total registered Ayacut.			Cultivation on average of three years last past.	
			Acres	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.
Under 10 Acres	... ...	13	883	4,652	990	4,687
20 and above 10 Acres...	... ...	102	1,581	7,063	1,533	7,259
30 ,, 20	... ...	51	1,772	5,950	1,357	6,243
50 ,, 30	... ...	52	2,055	8,676	1,895	8,603
100 ,, 50	... ...	50	2,614	15,576	3,672	16,706
500 ,, 100	... ...	43	8,064	40,651	9,169	48,100
Above 500	... ...	3	1,814	10,854	2,249	10,836
		459	18,207	93,625	21,865	1,08,425
River and other Channels.						
Under 10 Acres	... ...	8	926	4,898	1,035	4,928
20 and above 10 Acres...	... ...	5	1,050	7,410	1,398	7,565
30 ,, 20	... ...	3	1,337	6,312	1,401	6,432
50 ,, 30	... ...	10	2,462	10,508	2,131	9,710
100 ,, 50	... ...	34	6,283	29,453	6,073	29,733
500 ,, 100	... ...	34	15,249	77,144	17,780	91,983
Above 500	... ...	5	6,330	39,191	8,948	50,589
	Total...	99	33,237	1,74,900	38,966	2,00,740
	Grand Total...	582	51,504	2,68,531	60,831	3,09,165

3. From this Statement it appears that there are 583 tanks and channels in the two talooks, of which 297 irrigate less than 21 Acres. The registered Ayacut under these tanks and channels is 51,504 Acres, bearing a revenue demand of Rupees 2,68,531. The actual cultivation during the last three years has on the average been Acres 60,831, yielding a revenue of Rupees 3,09,165. Thus the area brought under irrigation from these sources has increased 18·1 per cent., and the income derived 15·1 per cent., facts which show that eager advantage is taken of these sources of irrigation, and that they are well worth keeping up and improving.

4. Mr. Hutchins has noted the works which are out of repair, and roughly estimates that Rupees 18,492* are required at once to place them in efficient repair; after which he considers that a future annual allowance of Rupees 10,000 should suffice to maintain them all in an efficient condition. The allotments† for minor irrigation works in these talooks for the last three years is shown marginally with the actual expenditure incurred.

	Rs.
* In Golgondah Taluk	3,297
In Sarvasidhi do.	15,285
Total...	18,492

†

	Allotment.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1865-66	5,558	5,613
1866-67	6,209	6,068
1867-68 (a)	20,000	13,343

(a) N. B.—In this year 31,000 Rupees were allotted on the earnest representation of the Board of Revenue, but 21,000 were transferred to other districts under advice of the Local Engineer alone.

† Vide Principal Assistant to Superintending Engineer, dated 14th May 1866, No. 82.
Board's Proceedings, October 1866, No. 7,216.

5. Mr. Hutchins reports on the—

I. *Gubbada Anicut.*—It appears from the correspondence, that this work was constructed in 1862-63, at a cost of Rs. 17,630,‡ (up to May 1866), with a view to irrigate 4,028 Acres of land in sixteen villages, the revenue from which was estimated at Rupees 10,142. The original design has not been fully carried out; still, up to 1275, Acres 797, assessed at Rupees 2,757, had been taken up. A failure of rain necessitated considerable remissions in that year, but the collections§ have now risen to about Rupees 2,500 a year, or upwards of 14 per cent., on the public money invested. Differences of opinion as to the plans for the prosecution of this work have led to its completion being held in abeyance; but Mr. Minchin states that he will give the matter his immediate attention and make a further report on this project; as also on the *Konda Kirla Ava* improvement project, noticed by Mr. Hutchins as No. II. Mr. Hutchins alludes to this latter project as a work which promises "to be remunerative as well as tending to establish and increase our revenues;" but he fails to give the information necessary to form an opinion.

‡ Vide Principal Assistant to Superintending Engineer, dated 14th May 1866, No. 82.
Board's Proceedings, October 1866, No. 7,216.

	Rs.
§ Collections in 1273	1,294
,, in 1276	2,517
,, in 1277	3,523

6. Mr. Hutchins further notices—

III. The *Komaravole Ava.*

IV. The *Krishnamadavipeta* anicut.

V. The *Gosthacottah* anicut; and,

VI. The restoration of an ancient tank on the hills near the Tallapallem and Narsipatam road. In respect to all of these projects some steps seem already to have been taken by the Officers of the Department of Public Works. Mr. Hutchins also names—

VII. Anicut which he proposes should be constructed across the Tandavandi at Chemmechinta, in Golgondah Taluk. He roughly estimates the original cost of this latter work at Rupees 20,000, whereby irrigation will be conveyed to seven villages with an increase of revenue of Rupees 3,000 or 15 per cent. on the assumed cost.

7. The Collector has not noticed these works in detail; but he proposes to submit the schemes for improvements and new works for the consideration of the Superintending Engineer; and the Board express a hope that he will be able early soon to report, in communication with the Engineer, on the feasibility and probable value of each project.

Name of Anicut.	Cost of works up to date.	Average revenue collection under each work during five years last past.
Sarbandhu Taluck.	Rs.	Rs
1. Dimili Anicut	3,504	4,960
2. Kammarapally Anicut ...	Unknown.	2,070
3. Kalliboli do. ...	do.	2,410
4. Pole ,,arti do. ..	2,959	8,760
5. Murrapalem do. ...	Unknown.	3,866
6. Gedam do. ...	do.	11,917
Golgonda Taluck.		
7. Gubbada	17,630	1,090
Total ...	...	34,625

8. Mr. Hutchins exhibits in paragraph 13 of his letter and Appendix, some information respecting the seven new anicuts of his division, under which it appears cultivation is carried on which yields Rupees 55,573 per annum. The Department of Public Works are unable to state what outlay of public money has taken place on several works, and Mr. Hutchins has not shown the average area of cultivation and the revenue under each, as compared with that of a series of years prior to the execution of each of these works. Endeavours should be made to supply both omissions.

9. The Collector reports with reference to the Board's instructions that the customary labor of the ryots is now enforced throughout the talooks, and that no "undue leniency is extended towards "them." It appears from Mr. Hutchins's report that Mr. Bliss laid it down "as an invariable "and stringent rule for Tahsildars, that in all cases, no matter what the amount of repair, the "ryots should be made to do their 25 to 30 or 40 Rupees worth of earth work (according to their "number and capability) without pay from the Department of Public Works. This will teach," he adds, "the ryots what they certainly require to learn."

10. In fact, under the name of customary labor, the ryots are refused payment for a certain portion of all works of repair executed by their on estimates passed in the Department of Public Works. The course adopted by Mr. Bliss is altogether opposed to the instructions of Government and the intention of the Law. The labour that is "customary" in each locality must be carefully ascertained and enforced as the Law (Act I of 1858, Section 6) prescribes. Mr. Bliss was not justified in issuing such an order, and the Board are surprised that it escaped the notice of the Collector.

11. The Board trust that the amounts referred to in paragraph 4 of these Proceedings as the estimated requirements for immediate expenditure and for maintenance will be duly provided.

12. The Board have, in their Proceedings, dated 8th September 1868, No. 6,369, set forth very fully their views on the relative merits of Zemindary and Ryotwarry Settlements. They do not deem it necessary to enter into a discussion here of the subject, as raised in paragraphs 8 to 11 of Mr. Minchin's letter, further than to state their concurrence in that gentleman's views, and to support his opinion that in Zemindary Districts it is more than ordinarily incumbent on Government to set an example in their own talooks of adequate irrigation expenditure.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works.
,, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Revenue Dept
No. 329.

BOARD OF REVENUE, MADRAS.

1869.

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH FEBRUARY 1869, No. 988.

Encl.

Received 19th

FEBRUARY.

No. 988.

Irrigation Works—of certain Taluks in Vizagapatam District.—Board's remarks on report relative to state of,

No 790

RECORDED.

22nd January 69