M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1165 Press Nis.
618-619
Dated 29 April 1929

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 29th April 1869.

No. 618. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting to Government report of the Collector of Kurnool on the wants of district in regard to Irrigation Works. } (Here enter 3[illegible]pril 1869, No. 2,211.)

No. 619. ORDER THEREON, 29th April 1869, No. 1,165.

Irrigation, No. 17.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Received April 29th.
Read,

G. O., 29th April 1869, No. 1,165.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

REVENUE.

Copy of a letter dated 3rd April 1869 from the Collector of Kurnool, with enclosures, on the subject of the Irrigation works in that District.

Ordered, That the Collector's report on the works of the Cumbum tank be printed.

Ordered, That 611-616.

No. 2,211.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd April 1869.

Read the following letter from T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kurnool, 14th November 1868, No. 393:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the following report on existing irrigation works of ruined tanks and new projects, as called by the Board in Proceedings, No. 7,514, dated 18th November 1867.

2. This district is divided into eight talooks, and geographically into three divisions by the ranges of hills, the Yerramallas and the Nallamallas. These divisions comprise: (1), those talooks west of the Yerramallas, Pattikonda, and Ramalakota; (2), those between the Yerramallas and the Nallamallas, namely, Nandikotkur, Nandial, Sirwell, and Koilkuntla; and (3), those west of the Nallamallas, namely, Cumbum and Markapur. Each has distinct features and natural sources of irrigation. Division No. 1 is a poor division, the soil particularly to the south being black, mixed with chowdu. It is generally watered by the Hindry: one branch of which traverses the Pattikonda and Ramalakota Talooks, running from west to east; and the other running almost due north through the Ramalakota Talook, and emptying itself in the Tungabhadra, east of Kurnool. Nearly all the southern portion is watered by hill-streams. Division No. 2, between the Nallamalla and Yerramalla hills, is watered by the Bavanasi, which runs north into the Kistna, and by the Kunder and the Vakkaler, which unite four miles south of Chagulamarri in the Cuddapah District. Division No. 3 is watered by several hill-streams and by the excess water from the Cumbum tank, which runs on as a river, and has acquired the name of the Gundla Kama.

3. In the district there are 709 tanks, with an irrigable area of 58,611 acres. For the repairs of these tanks the annual allotment has been as follows:—

	Proposed by Collector.	Budget grant.	Per-centage on assessment including Inams.	Amount spent by Department Public Works.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1864-65...	...	19,068	4	...
1865-66...	30,000	20,068	4	14,932
1866-67...	35,000	20,500	4	17,475

These small grants have been quite inadequate to keep the tanks in efficient repairs; for all the tanks in the district are in a very bad condition, with the exception of some few in Pattikonda which was transferred from the Bellary District in 1858. During the wet season several tanks have breached, and many more have threatened to breach, and caused great consternation to the villagers. Only a few tanks are strong enough to hold sufficient water for a single crop.

To put them into proper repair, I would strongly recommend an allotment of 1,00,000 Rupees, or fifty per cent. of their revenue, and in future an annual allowance of ten per cent. for ordinary repairs.

4. As regards new works or restoration of old ruined tanks, I would not make any recommendation for Division No. 2, because the Irrigation and Canal Company are constructing their canal through the Nandikotkur, Nandial, and Sirwell Talooks, and that project, if it succeeds, will supply probably as much water as those talooks can require. The canal will also pass through a portion of the Koilkuntla Talook, but so completely to the east that it will be necessary to provide some other project for other parts of the talook.

5. *In Koilkuntla Talook.*—I recommend that the old tank at Kalavatala be reconstructed. The repairs will probably cost 37,000 Rupees; but, as the probable area, which it will irrigate, will be about 2,000 acres, the future returns will soon repay the cost; and another tank at Talamcheruvu, called the Dogala, the probable cost will be about Rupees 3,750, the area of irrigation will be 216 acres.

In Koilkuntla Talook.

This being the only provisions, I think, necessary for the second geographical division, it remains for me to explain what I would recommend for the first and third divisions; that is, the extreme west and east of the district beyond the Yrramalla and the Nallamalla hills. In the first division, on west of the Yerramallas, I would recommend the restoration, in the Pattikonda Talook, of the Kakalavaram tank in the village of Mettupalli. The cost would probably be 12,000 Rupees; the area brought under cultivation 200 acres. The extra assessment, at 4 Rupees an acre, would therefore be 800, or rather more than a per cent. on the outlay.

6. *Pattikonda Talook.*—I also strongly recommend the construction of a new tank at Jaladurgam; at a cost of Rs. 16,000 the site between the hills is peculiarly well adapted for it, and the poverty of the soil and the inhabitants call for some assistance at the hands of Government. There would probably be an irrigated area of 436 acres which would yield, at 4 Rupees an acre, 1,744 Rupees, or rather more than ten per cent.; and a second new tank I would have constructed at Garladinne, a hamlet of Madhavaram, at an outlay of Rupees 20,000; the probable irrigable area would be 470 acres, which would yield 1,880 Rupees, or a profit of rather more than nine per cent.

Pattikonda Talook.

7. In the Ramalakota Talook a general scheme for the construction of a large tank proposes itself at Dhone, which has attracted the notice of Captain Hunter, the Range Officer. It is simply to throw up a large bund with sufficient sluices and water escape between the hills behind the village. I hope this project may be soon put in hand, because, when it was reported that the Kocheruvu tank had burst this year, it was proposed to relinquish it, and, in its stead, construct this tank at Dhone. The cost is entered at 15,000 Rupees and the ayacut at 500 acres, on which the water-rate would be 2,000, or something in excess of fourteen per cent.

8. There is also another new tank I would recommend in the Ramalakota Talook at Tekur, very similar in its nature to the Dhone tank, a bund across a stream between hills. The outlay might be 15,000 Rupees; the ayacut 400 acres; the returns 1,600 Rupees, or ten per cent. profit. The north of the Ramalakota receives water from the Irrigation Canal which starts from the south end of the anicut at Sunkesala.

9. In the third division of the district, that is, the talooks east of the Nallamallas, Cumbum, and Markapur, a great deal is necessary.

In Cumbum, at Alinagur, an old tank, if repaired at a cost of about 1,000 Rupees, might yield a profit of 858 Rupees, or more than eighty-five per cent. Here the people are poor and the country almost hilly, and a tank would be greatly appreciated by them.

At Cumbum is the finest tank in the district; it waters seven villages.

10. The greatest expenditure will be necessary in the Markapur Talook—the poorest as regards land and inhabitants in the district. Its features are peculiarly well adapted for new projects; for there are numberless hill-streams and hills near enough to each other to admit of bunds being thrown across the streams from hill to hill, and so store water for the cultivation of wet crops. The land though poor is fertile when irrigated, and the talook requires immediate attention. I would strongly recommend the following projects:—

1. The Gundla Kama.
2. The Duvali.
3. Gondichervu tank.
4. Mantralama tank.
5. Dorenal tank.
6. Chinna Gadu large tank, at Gudivipad.
7. Badvid tank.
8. Tilapad tank.

11. *Gundla Kama, No.* 1—An anicut of rough stone should be constructed across the Gundla Kama about ten miles south of the Markapur tank. A canal of aboutthree miles in length should be cut from this anicut to the Markapur tank supply channel, and the bund of the tank should be strengthened. Much land is available for wet cultivation, and the present supply is precarious, (Board's Proceedings, dated 28th April 1865).

Duvali, No. 2.—This is a scheme to put a small anicut at the site of an old ruined one across a stream at Duvali, a hamlet of Viswanadhapuram, and from it to cut a canal about three or four feet deep to supply the Dupad tank with water, and to strengthen the bund of the Dupad tank.

Vide Proceedings of Board, No. 2,154, dated 28th April 1865.

Ghandamcharla, No. 3.—A large tank is in ruins at Ghandamcharla, a hamlet of Kalanutala, which is said formerly to have irrigated lands for a distance of six miles. It requires simply the closing of a breach, through which now all the water escapes.

Mantralama, No. 4.—This tank is situated in the forests at the foot of the Nallamalla hills; it is of great extent, and may prove useful as a reservoir for the supply of other tanks, and is the only tank in that neighbourhood, and only requires a sluice. There is, however, no cultivation under it, and no village within a distance of four miles.

Dorenal, No. 5, *and Gudivipad, No.* 6.—Are small tanks which should be repaired, because of the poverty of the ryots and the advantage which the Government will derive. The Chinna Gudipad tank would have been taken up by a ryot at the rate of 3 Rupees an acre, had objections not been raised by the holders of the Badvid tank.

Badvid, No. 7.—But if the tank at Badvid were put into proper order, I do not see what objections could exist to the Chinna Gudipad being put into repairs.

The bund of the Badvid tank is so weak that only one-eighth of the water it is intended for, is allowed to enter it, the remainder being allowed to run off into the Gundla Kama.

The Tigeler has had an anicut constructed to allow of this tank receiving water. It only requires to have the tank-bund now greatly strengthened.

Tilapad Tank, No. 8.—This is in the village of Gannepalle. Nothing more is wanted than to close a breach, for the bunds are apparently good otherwise.

I have no doubt these schemes would turn out profitable, and change the condition of the whole talook. Its appearance is wretched in the extreme; villages badly built; a very little land cultivated; and all the ryots present, an appearance of great poverty.

Gopalkistnama Chetty, the present Acting Treasury Deputy Collector, who was formerly Tahsildar of the Markapur Talook, informs me that attempts have been made to repair small tanks in that talook, but opposition has been raised by ryots who cultivate the land in the beds of the tanks. The ryots, who hold land under the tank, fearing that the person who undertakes the repairs would raise the rents, or demand a division of the crop, and the applicant for making the repairs being unwilling to make the repairs on condition imposed by the ryots.

12. Throughout the district there are many ruined tanks, the repairs of which might be left to private enterprise. The question was brought before the Board by Mr. Minchin, and recorded in Proceedings, No. 2,904, dated 16th May 1863, in which a uniform rate of 3 Rupees an acre was fixed on all land irrigated under these ruined tanks as in the case of ayacut tanks abandoned for five years.

This rate I consider too high as regards these old ruined tanks, and think it should be lowered to the present rates of dry assessment. If this reduction were made there is a probability that many of these old ruined tanks would be taken up by speculators and repaired.

13. An obstacle regarding repairs of old tanks gives rise to a most important question. Some of the tank-beds have been given over to ryots for cultivation, and those beds have been demarcated; the assessment paid; and puttahs granted to the present holders. When, therefore,

t hose tanks are repaired, these lands are submerged, and the holders suffer a loss. The question is whether the Government, having a proprietary right, can make these repairs without the consent of the cultivators of the beds of the tanks.

14 It is a narrow-minded policy to allow the holders of a small portion of land in a tank to hold out against the repairs of the tank which might so store water that a far larger area below the tank might be irrigated than the whole area of the tank-bed itself.

15. If the Government have not this right to make repairs without the consent of holders, on a tacit understanding that the tank-beds should be cultivated only as long as the tank is out of repair, it is very necessary that, in all cases in future, when tank-beds are allowed to be cultivated, because of the tanks being out of repairs, engagements should be entered into between the cultivators and Government, reserving the right of repairs to the latter at any time it may become necessary to exercise it; and, again, if the Government do not possess the right of repairing tanks without the consent of the cultivators of the tank-beds in all such cases, the right will have to be purchased by Government when repairs are necessary.

16. The other items, either the repairs of old works or new projects entered in the statement, though not mentioned above, I also recommend to be carried out. I have not described them in the body of this report, because I consider all the information entered in the statement sufficient to show generally what I deem necessary regarding them.

17. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings under report, I have to state that no new irrigation work of any description was made in this district, since its assumption by the British Government.

Enclosures Nos. 1 to 9.—Statements.

In the above letter, Mr. Chase responds to the Proceedings of Board, dated 18th November 1867, No. 7,514, requiring him to report on the irrigation wants of the district of Kurnool.

2. He reports that no new irrigation work of any description has been constructed in the district since the commencement of the British rule. The guaranteed works of the Irrigation Company are, of course, excepted.

3. The condition of the district in respect to tank and channel irrigation is shown in the following statement:—

Tanks, etc.	Number of tanks.	Registered Ayacut.		Cultivation at the average of three years last past.	
		Acres, (Circar and Inam.)	Assessment, (Circar.)	Acres, (Circar and Inam.)	Assessment, (Circar.)
		Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Under 10 Acres	257	2,136	5,590	2,280	6,124
20 and above 10 Acres...	100	3,195	10,567	2,873	9,401
30 and above 20 Acres...	72	3,008	11,141	2,743	11,667
50 and above 30 Acres...	88	5,760	18,499	5,713	22,525
100 and above 50 Acres...	114	10,733	45,303	9,154	36,578
500 and above 100 Acres...	121	14,547	60,324	12,253	65,890
Above 500 Acres...	6	9,813	47,017	7,701	56,590
Total...	758	49,192	1,98,441	42,717	2,08,775

4. A large portion of the tanks, as returned, are small tanks, watering less than 20 Acres. Of the total Ayacut (Acres 49,192) 42,717 Acres, or about 86 per cent., are under cultivation. The revenue derived slightly exceeds the registered demand. The Collector should report how the Ayacut was ascertained, and whether it fairly represent the capacity of the tank to which it is registered.

5. There are 758 tanks of all sizes in the district, from which 42,717 acres are watered, yielding a revenue of Rupees 2,08,775; and he states generally that all the tanks in the district are in very bad repair, (a few in the Pattikonda Talook, transferred in 1858 from Bellary, excepted); that several have breached; that many more are in a precarious condition; and few are strong enough to retain sufficient water for a single crop. The probable state of the case is, that the Government received these works from an ill-constituted Native Government in a dilapidated condition, and little has been since done to restore or maintain them.

	Collector's proposal.	Budget grant.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1864-65.....	.....	19,068	.....
1865-66	30,000	20,068	14,932
1866-67	35,000	20,500	17,475
Total...	65,000	59,636	32,407

6. The allotment and expenditure during the past three years are shown marginally. Of a Budget allotment of Rupees 60,000, only Rupees 33,000, or fifty-five per cent., have been expended. No reasons are shown for this result.

7. The Collector estimates generally that one lac of Rupees are required to place the tanks of his district in efficient repair, and that an annual allowance, equal to ten per cent. of the revenue derived from land under them, will be needed to maintain them.

8. The district of Kurnool naturally divides itself into three divisions by the Yerramalla and Nallamalla ranges.

I.—Central Division, comprising the talooks of Nandikotkur, Nandial, Sirwell, and Koilkuntla.

II.—The Western, comprising the talooks of Pattikonda and Ramalakota.

III.—The Eastern, comprising the talooks of Markapur and Cumbum.

I.—*Central Division.*—The conditions in respect to irrigation of the central division are shown in the marginal statement, as taken from the full return of all tanks which is now submitted. There are 236 tanks and hill-streams, irrigating an ayacut of 20,035 acres which are assessed in the old account at Rupees 78,746. The average (three years last past) agriculture now is acres 18,680, from which a revenue of Rupees 87,788 was realised. The central division is watered by the Bavanasi, Kunder, and Vakkaler rivers.

Talooks	No. of Tanks, etc.	Ayacut.		Cultivation at the average of three years, 1274 to 76.	
		Area including Inam.	Assessment (Circar.)	Area.	Assessment.
		Acres	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Nandikotkur	33	5,335	14,511	5,423	16,505
Nandial	81	4,857	26,258	5,230	32,003
Sirwell	36	3,584	14,163	3,586	15,363
Koilkuntla ...	86	6,259	23,814	4,436	23,917
Total...	236	20,035	78,746	18,680	87,788

The Collector makes no recommendations in respect to the restoration of old, or the construction of new works, for the greater portion of this division; as the projected works of the Irrigation Company will sufficiently provide for its rice cultivation. In the extreme west of the Koilkuntla Talook, which will not be touched by this scheme, he recommends that—

(1.) *The Kalavatala tank* (Koilkuntla Talook) be reconstructed at a cost of Rupees 37,000. It will prove, he thinks, a remunerative work. The computed area capable of irrigation being 2,000 acres; also,

(2.) The *Talamcheruvu* tank (Koilkuntla Talook) at a cost of Rupees 7,350 to irrigate 216 acres.

II.—*The Western Division.*—The western talooks are irrigated by the Hindry and its affluents and hill-streams, and contains the talooks of Pattikonda and Ramalakota.

Talooks.	No. of Tanks, etc	Ayacut.		Cultivation at the average of three years, 1274 to 79.	
		Area (including Inam)	Assessment. (Circar)	Area	Assessment.
		Acres.	Rs	Acres	Rs
Patticonda ...	192	5,878	18,218	4,688	16,034
Ramalakota..	168	4,207	11 686	3,362	13,522
Total...	360	10,085	29,934	8,050	29,556

9. The number of tanks, etc., are shown marginally. There are 360 tanks under which lie 10,085 acres of wet cultivation, according to the old ayacut accounts, and assessed at Rupees 29,934. Acres 8,050 are actually under cultivation, and yielded during the past three years a revenue of Rupees 29,556. The cultivation is thus 79 per cent. of the ayacut, and an apparent deficit of revenue of 1·2 per cent. is shown.

The Collector recommends for this division—

(1.) The reconstruction of the *Pattikonda tank* (Pattikonda Talook) at a cost of Rupees 12,000; and he believes that the work would pay six per cent. on the outlay; also,

(2.) The construction of a new *tank at Jaladurgam* (*Pattikonda Talook*) at a cost of Rupees 16,000, from which 436 acres would be watered, and pay ten per cent. on the outlay; also,

(3.) A new tank at *Jarladuree* (*Pattikonda Talook*) at a cost of Rupees 20,000, to water 470 acres, and pay nine per cent. on the outlay; also

(4.) The construction of a new *tank at Dhone* (Ramalakota Talook) at a cost of Rs. 15,000, which will water 500 acres, and pay fourteen per cent. on the outlay. This work has already engaged the attention of the Officers of the Department of Public Works.

(5.) The construction of a new *tank at Tekur* (Ramalakota Talook) at a cost of Rs. 15,000, to water 400 acres, and pay ten per cent. on the original outlay.

III.—Eastern Division.—The tract lying east of the Nallamallas comprises the two talooks of Cumbum and Markapur.

The condition of this division in respect to tank irrigation is shown marginally. From this it appears that while between one-fifth and one-sixth of the Ayacut is waste, the full revenue is realised, probably from the assessment on the second crop. This should be explained. In Cumbum Talook the revenue likewise exceeds the registered demand by about 20 per cent., although the difference between the Ayacut area and that under cultivation is considerable. In Markapur the revenue realised is little more than three-fourths of the demand and nearly one-fourth of the Ayacut is waste, which indicate an exceedingly backward condition in every respect.

Talook.	No of Tanks.	Ayacut.		Cultivation	
		Area (Circar and Inam.)	Assessment, (Circar.)	(Area (Circar and Inam)	Assessment, (Circar)
		Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs
Cumbum....	85	12,519	57,121	10,993	67,974
Markapur ...	77	6,553	32,640	4,989	23,457
Total...	162	19,072	89,761	15,982	91,431

To Secretary to Govt., No. 2,057, dated 24th April 1865.

10. In 1865 the Board informed Government that "the Markapur Talook is in a most poverty-stricken condition, and that of Cumbum is far behind the other talooks of the district in material prosperity." Little, if anything, has been done since. The Collector now reports that "a great deal is "necessary" which "requires immediate attention", the chief expenditure being required in the Markapur Talook. Of the Markapur Talook he affirms: "Its appearance is wretched in the "extreme; villages badly built; very little land cultivated; and all the ryots present an appearance "of great poverty". He recommends—

1*st.*—The repair of the *Alinagur* tank (Cumbum Talook) at a cost of Rupees 1,000; and he anticipates a return of eighty-five per cent; also,

2*nd.*—The construction of the *Gundla Kama* anicut (Markapur Talook) to supply the Markapur tank, etc.; also,

3*rd.*—The restoration of an old anicut at Dorenal (Markapur Talook) to supply the Dupad tank, etc.; also,

4*th.*—The restoration of the ruined tank at *Ghandamcherla*, (Markapur Talook), the breach of which requires to be repaired; also,

5*th.*—The construction of a tank at *Mantralama* (Markapur Talook); but as there is no habitation or cultivation in the neighbourhood, this forest project may lie over; also,

6*th.*—The repair of two small tanks (Markapur Talook) at *Dorenal* and *Gudivipad*. In respect to these there are local difficulties which, however, are capable of adjustment; also,

7*th.*—Repair of the *Badvid* (Markapur Talook) tank which cannot, in its present condition, contain more than one-eighth of the water it is calculated to hold; and,

8*th.*—The restoration of the *Gannapully* tank (Markapur Talook.)

The Collector considers that all these projects would be profitable as well as highly beneficial.

11. The Collector incidentally reports that the beds of many ruined tanks in his district have become cultivated—a condition which might prove a hindrance to their entire restoration. This clearly must not be. Adequate compensation will have to be made in consideration of the length of occupation; but these rights must not be allowed to interfere with the restoration or construction of beneficial works. The Collector will report, should any of these works be undertaken, what arrangement he proposes in each case, for sanction. The Board recommend that the attention of the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, be drawn to the subject of improving the Irrigation of the Kurnool District, especially of the Markapur Talook.

12. The point noticed in paragraph 12 belong to a distinct subject, and should be brought forward by special report with full details as soon as possible.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works,
with nine enclosures.

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

Exd. T. Cartledge.

3 May/65 No 24/5

11 September/65 — 142-143

Revenue 1869. Postal

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

R. 1290.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD APRIL 1869, No. 2,211.

Encl.

Dep. 20 Dec 65 No 1165

Received 22 9

APRIL.

No. 2,211.

Irrigation Works—in Kurnool District.—Collector's report on wants of district in regard to —, submitted to Government with recommendation that attention of Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, be drawn to subject of improving irrigation of district, especially of Rapur Talook. Collector requested to state what arrangement he proposes in regard to compensation to cultivators of beds of ruined tanks, should restoration of any of tanks be undertaken by Government; how ayacut under each tank was ascertained, and whether it fairly represents its capacity. Subject of making over certain ruined tanks to private enterprise for repairs, to be brought forward by a special report.

11 Effects Tittle Bye Laws Dept 1830