M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1343 — Press Misc.

216. 217

Dated 14 — 6 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th June 1867.

No. 216. Read the following letter from the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 1st June 1867, No. 18 :—

1. In paragraph 4 of the despatch of the 16th April last, No. 11, which was communicated with Proceedings Madras Government of the 22nd May, No. 1,156, the Secretary of State expresses his approval of the withdrawal, by the Madras Government, of the sanction for the imposition of a double rate on lands cultivated with sugar-cane; but on referring to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Order, No. 2,989, of the 5th November last, it will be seen that the Government have not withdrawn such sanction, and if sugar-cane be fully irrigated it will have to pay the double rate, and indeed it is expressly stated that the double rate for sugar-cane is, like the single rate for rice, dependent upon the supply of the full quantity of water necessary to bring the crop to perfection, so that both rates would appear to have received equal sanction.

2. The Secretary of State attaches importance to the remarks of the Acting Collector of Kurnool, deprecating the recently sanctioned increase of water-rate for rice. Mr. Sullivan's opinion, however, even adopting his own data, will hardly bear examination, or at least those data lead to exactly the opposite conclusion at which he arrived. He says cholum was selling at $6\frac{3}{4}$ measures the Rupee, and rice at $6\frac{1}{2}$ measures; the expenses of rice cultivation he puts at double or treble those of cholum, and he supposes the ryot to say "why should I incur this heavy "outlay* when there is scarcely any "difference between the market prices "of rice and cholum." The Collector goes on to say "an acre planted with rice may yield more than an acre planted with cholum," and he seems to have been altogether unaware how great the excess of yield in the former case universally is, or what the enquiries made at the time of the revision of the Settlement in Kurnool had shewn the difference to be in the part of the country to which he was referring: $6\frac{3}{4}$ measures of cleaned or hulled cholum are equal to about $7\frac{5}{7}$ measures of the uncleaned grain; the best lands in Kurnool yield per acre, on the average 480 measures of cholum, the value of which at $7\frac{5}{7}$ measures the Rupee is Rupees 62-3-7. The expenses of cultivation are estimated at Rupees 5-3-1; the value of the out-turn, after deducting cultivation expenses, is therefore Rupees 57-0-6. One measure of rice is equal to two measures of paddy, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ of the former are the equivalent of 13 of the latter. Land similar to that selected above for cholum yields 1,200 measures of paddy, the value of which at 13 measures the Rupee is Rupees 92-4-11; similarly, the cultivation expenses are put† at Rupees 15-13-2, or rather more than three times those of the dry cultivation, and the value of the out-turn, after deducting cultivation expenses, is Rupees 76-7-9. The difference of the value of the out-turn from wet and dry cultivation, therefore, adopting the data the Collector has given from which to pay the water-rate, 6 Rupees, is Rupees 19-7-3, and though, as Mr.

* *i. e.*, for water, and perhaps it was meant to include conversion of fields.

Appendix R. 1. Kurnool Settlement Paper.

Appendix Q. 1.

Appendix R. 3.

† Appendix Q. 2.

Sullivan says, the market prices may have differed but little, this fact was only one item of several which must enter into the ryot's calculations when the question of taking water or cultivating without it is presented to him.

3. I have written the above remarks because, first, I became convinced, when examining revenue assessment records a short time ago in connection with the Upper Bellary project, that not only could the Kurnool ryots afford to pay Rupees 6 without difficulty, but that the maximum rate had not been reached when that water-rate was imposed. The above calculations will not be supposed to indicate that the maximum, even were the bazaar prices named by the Collector permanent, might be three times as much as 6 Rupees, for there are several corrections or allowances to be made; secondly, because it is, I believe, of importance that the ryots should not think or imagine that, by holding back and postponing the availing themselves of the water as the Company become able to supply it, a reduction of the rate may be brought about. It is most unlikely that circumstances will ever be such as to justify the Company in acceding to such a reduction, and the ryots will lose something certainly, and much possibly, by neglecting to convert their lands for irrigation as rapidly as their means will allow, and as the water becomes obtainable.

§ *Vide* paragraphs 103 to 109 of letter printed with Proceedings Madras Government, No. 518, 21st February last.

Referred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

4th June 1867.

No. 217. ORDER THEREON, 14th June 1867, No. 1,343.

Land Revenue.

1. Communicated to the Revenue Board.

2. The Government observe that the higher rate for cane cultivation was sanctioned on the assumption that a sugar-cane crop takes twice as much water to mature it as a rice-crop requires, and that the supply has to be distributed over twelve months or thereabouts.

2. The probable correctness of the first assumption is not disputed, and it is a matter of comparatively little importance over what period the supply is distributed, if the quantity of water consumed remains about the same, and is sufficient to mature the crop.

3. The Government see no need to modify their orders on the subject at present.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2B

W. 1343.

Comment to the Rev:

Bd. The Govt. observe that the higher rate for cane cultn. was sanctioned on the assumption that a sugar cane crop takes twice as much water to mature it as a rice crop requires. & that the supply has to be distributed over twelve months or thereabouts. The probable correctness of the first assumption is not disputed. & it is a matter of comparatively little importance over what period the supply is distributed, if the quantity of water consumed remains abt the same, & is sufficient to

x

* mature the crop. The Govt. see no need to modify their orders on the subject at present.

June 16th 1867

14 Copies Lathe Ord. of Revenue Department 20 Ord. 1867

Pro 5 Novemb 1866 A 81-2
26 Feb 1867 — 371-2
22 May — 350-1

Referred to the
Rev. Dept.

[illegible]

C.M. R.

Seg. to Gov.

4 June 67

No. 216 & 217

WB.

~~P.W.~~ 1867 Rev. Dept.
No. 18
Pas of Govt. ~~[illegible]~~ No. 1448
From

The Cons: Engr. I. & C.C.
To
The Secretary to Government
P.W.C.

Dated 1st
Rec. 2d 5th } June 1867

Conveys certain observations on the Secretary of State's despatch No. 11 of the 16 April last with regard to the approval of the withdrawal by the Madras Govt. of the sanction for the imposition of a double rate on lands cultivated with sugar cane &c &c

No. 1343 - 14 June

Referred