

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2376

Press

~~Mis~~

202,203

Dated

9 — 10 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 202. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th September 1867, No. 6,205.

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 10th August 1867, No. 215:—

Board's Procs., dated 2nd Oct. 1866, No. 7,066.

Do. „ 13th do.
Do. „ 18th do.
Do. „ 10th July 1867.

1. I have the honor, with reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, relating to the proposition of making over the Mamandur tank to one

or other of the two applicants therein named, to state that I allowed the matter to stand over until I could take it up personally during the settlement of the talook in March last.

2. Balakistna Naidu and Viapuri Mestri were then called up to camp, and, after a long discussion, it was finally arranged that both should take up the project under the Ruined Tank Rules as a joint concern, and enter into a written engagement to that effect. Before, however, I had even left the talook, this compromise had broken down, and I was given to understand that the arrangement was impracticable. Meanwhile, many ryots had come forward during the Jummahbundy with applications to take up land of greater or less extent under the tank on such assessment as might be eventually fixed.

3. Of the two rival applicants, Balakistna Naidu is the substantial and more enterprising, but he is not a resident; whereas Viapuri Mestri has a house and present stake in the village. On the other hand Viapuri Mestri is a man of very limited means, and to my question how he proposed to carry out such costly improvements as were shewn to be necessary, he could only answer that, being a bricklayer by profession, he would work them out gradually with his own hands and some little capital which he then said he has. At the very time he was making these professions he was lying almost helpless from fever before the tent door. I therefore think that in the interests of the village itself, and of the salubrity of the narrow valley in which it lies, and which is traversed from end to end by the North-West Railway, that the project should be undertaken by Government.

4. I append a fresh statement giving particulars of the underlying cultivable ayacut, so far as these can now be shewn, and until the assessment has been fixed on the unclassified portion of the land.

5. From this statement, it will be seen, that the present beriz of the village amounts only to Rupees 197-2-2. If the whole extent entered in column 12 be brought under wet cultivation, the revenue of the village, inclusive of the assessment of the cultivated land entered in column 8, would, at an average rate of Rupees 5 per cawny, rise to some Rupees 1,500 per annum.

6. The present average Punjab rate in the village, cultivated upon the extent and assessment entered in columns 12 and 13, is Rupees 2-7-9 per cawny. If to this be added water-tax, Rupees 3-8-0 per cawny for a single wet crop, the demand per cawny of Nunjah land will average Rupees 5-15-9. Making allowance for the cost and difficulty of reclaiming land in an unhealthy and ill-populated tract, this rate would be somewhat heavier than I would recommend. I would, therefore, propose that, for all unassessed waste which may be brought under wet crop by the tank water, an average rate of Rupees 5 per cawny should be fixed. I would

further recommend that the assessed land, which at present finds place in the accounts as Punjah, should be classified as Nunjah, and registered as "Under tank irrigation."

7. I make this suggestion, because, by placing all cultivators under the tank on equal terms, any jealousy or collision between the old and new settlers respecting the distribution of water would be avoided, and the improved means of supply be turned to full advantage in bringing all the underlying land under wet crop. To stimulate enterprise, I would recommend that progressive cowles for five years in the ordinary terms should be given in the case of all land which has never been reclaimed.

8. The average rate of assessment upon Nunjah land now cultivated under the tank, if calculated upon the total extent and assessment entered in columns 7 and 8, is only Rupees 3-11-6 per cawny; but this after the tank has been restored, and its means of supply enlarged, could not be adopted as a general Nunjah rate for the lands entered in column 12, as the water-tax alone on a single wet crop is Rupees 3-8-0, and the difference is thus within a few annas of the actual assessment. As it might be hard to raise rates which have been charged for years, and the extent now held on this assessment is very small, I would not recommend any change in its case, and would apply the average rate proposed in paragraph 6 to land newly taken up in consequence of the restoration of the tank.

9. I should mention that the existing rates of assessment upon the lands in this village vary every year with the crop actually raised in them, as no permanent assessment was ever fixed upon them, and the only change in their case will be that they will have hereafter to pay the dues irrespective of crop on the general principle of a Ryotwary settlement.

10. From all this, we may reasonably anticipate that when the tank has been restored, and its means of supply improved, the large tract of unassessed waste entered in column 15 of my statement will be gradually occupied and brought under wet crop.

11. But independently of the reasons already adduced in favor of the work being executed at the cost of the State, I would urge the arrangement on the acceptance of Government on the additional consideration since raised in their Proceedings, dated the 17th May 1867, that this tank may fairly be called "a high level reservoir," and as such will find place in the list which I am there called on to submit. This might decide the question even were the work not likely to turn out reproductive; but considering the proximity of this village to the North-West Line of Railway, and the publicity which a prolonged discussion has given to the project, I can scarcely believe that the advantages anticipated from the proposed improvements can be falsified by the event.

12. The works are probably of a class which could not safely be carried out until next hot season; but if Government determine to undertake the work for the reasons now urged, the preliminary arrangements of assessing the unclassified waste, and settling all Durkhasts might be completed in the interim. The uncertainty respecting the intention of Government, and the rates which will be fixed on the land, have, as the Board may readily imagine, discouraged many from coming forward, who would do so as soon as these points have been finally settled.

13. After all the jealousy which has been manifested throughout this negotiation, I can only conclude that any arrangement which placed the project in the hands of either of these applicants would be productive of a collision of interests, which would materially retard its growth and beneficial influences on the village and neighbourhood.

Statement shewing the particulars of the cultivable Ayacut under the Namandur tank, in Chendragherry talook, of North Arcot District.

Total registered Aynut, Nunjah or Wet		Deduct Iaam.		Remaining Circar.		Deduct in 'Ryots' occupation.		Remaining unoccupied.		Punjah or dry land which can conveniently be converted into Nunjah or Wet.		Remaining unassessed waste after deducting the extent applied for cultivation.	
Extent in Cawnies.	Assessment in Rupees.	Extent in Cawnies.	Assessment in Rupees.	Extent in Cawnies.	Assessment in Rupees.	Extent in Cawnies.	Assessment in Rupees.	Extent in Cawnies.	Assessment in Rupees.	Extent in Cawnies.	Assessment in Rupees.	Extent in Cawnies.	Assessment in Rupees.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
43 1 0		27 8 8		15 8 8	57 11 9	15 8 8	57 11 9			In ryots' occupation. Unoccupied waste of twenty years... .. Unassessed waste applied for cultivation, namely, Extent already brought under plough, 13-13-0. To be brought under cultivation hereafter, 199-7-0.	56 1 0 23 15 8	139 6 5	Nunjah Punjah.
											213 4 0 292 4 8		9,166 15 8 9,166 15 8

This extent includes Porumboko also.

CHITTOOR,
12th August 1867.

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

1. In a letter, dated 17th February 1866, No. 4,202, the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, forwarded to Government a letter from the Collector of North Arcot, bringing to notice the importance of restoring the Mamandurru tank; and Government in their Order, dated 5th March 1866, No. 737, Public Works Department, declined to sanction the execution of the work, without further information.

2. The Collector was requested to report on several points, and, among others, whether the villagers, or any other persons, were willing to undertake the restoration of the tank under the conditions laid down in Government Order, No. 2,673, dated 23rd December 1862.

3. To these Proceedings the Collector replied in a letter, dated 22nd August 1866, No. 233, from which it appeared that one Vyapuri Mestri was willing to undertake the work; and the Board in submitting the letter to Government recommended that, unless Government were disposed to take the work in hand at once, that the Collector might be authorized to make over the tank to Vyapuri Mestri under the Ruined Tank Rules, on the understanding that water was to be duly supplied to the existing wet cultivation under it.

4. Government in their Order, dated 26th September 1866, No. 2,593, referred the matter to the Public Works Department, and, at the same time, called upon the Collector to submit further information as to the registered ayacut, average cultivation of the last five years, present cultivation and anticipated revenue under the tank, if made over under the Ruined Tank Rules.

5. This was communicated to the Collector in Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd October 1866, No. 7,066.

6. In their Order, under date 9th July 1867, No. 1,530, the Government observed that a provision of Rupees 4,330 for the work had been made in the Budget, and requested the Collector to expedite the submission of the information required in the Government Proceedings of 26th September 1866.

7. This Order was communicated by the Board to the Collector in their Proceedings, dated 10th July 1867, No. 4,307, and the foregoing letter is his reply.

8. The Board consider that, under all the circumstances of the case, the preferable course is for Government to repair the tank; the estimate for which, Rupees 4,330, is entered in the Budget.

9. Against this expenditure the Collector states that there are 292 cawnies of land "which can be conveniently converted into Nunjah," besides 9,166 cawnies of unassessed waste.

10. A consolidated assessment on the former area, averaging only 5 Rupees per acre, would yield nearly thirty-four per cent. on the outlay, and there can be no doubt of the work proving highly profitable; and therefore meriting early execution, even if the other considerations mentioned by the Collector did not render this course advisable.

11. Should Government decide on undertaking the work, it appears to the Board certain that applications for land will flow in from the adjoining villages, and the arrangements for assessing the land should be undertaken at once.

12. The Collector will be requested to report whether any revenue is realized for pasturage or fuel from the large extent of unassessed waste, and whether it is desirable that some of it should be reserved for fuel.

No. 203. ORDER THEREON, 9th October 1867, No. 2,376.

Irrigation, No. 7.

Referred to the Department Public Works for decision, with the opinion of Government in this Department that the tank should be repaired by Government and not made over to any individuals under the "Ruined Tank" Rules.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Pro 9 July/17 154-5
" 13th March/16 197-8
" 26 Sept/16 410-11
" 23 Aug/16 336-237

Rev- 1867. Department.
Pro of Govt for Octr

No. 2601.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 27th September 1867.

Decd 30-
Decd 1st Octr

Pro S. S. M. May 08 C. M.
1732.

No. 6,205.

Recommending that Government should under-
take the repair of the Mamandur tank in North
Arcot District and requesting Collector to report
whether any revenue is realized for pasturage or
fuel from large extent of unassessed waste adja-
cent to tank and whether it is desirable that some
of it should be reserved for fuel.

No 202-203.

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