

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3334

DATED 2nd July 97.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording P&P reviewing the progress reports
from the Special Dy. Coll^r Peninsular India for
the quarters ending 31st Dec. 1896 & 31st Mar. 1897

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.



Recd.

Enclosures

1897.

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The Hon^{ble} Mr J. Grose C.I.E.
Not circulated to the Hon^{ble}
Sir Henry Bliss with
ref. to his recent O.O.

Proceedings, 25th May 1897, No. 400.

G.O. Misc no. 3334 of 22nd July 97
20/6/97
Recorded.
Adm
25/6/97

MAY.

To the Board (R.G.) No. 6-7-97

Me
24/6.

Periyár Irrigation.—Reviewing [the progress reports from the Special Deputy Collector—
for the quarters ending 31st December 1896 and 31st March 1897.

22/6/97

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from M.R.Ry. M. THIRUMALAI PILLAI Avargal, B.A.,
Special Deputy Collector, Madura, to the Collector of Madura, dated 30th
January 1897, Dis. No. 58:—

I have the honour to submit herewith my report on the progress made in connection with the special work entrusted to me for the quarter ending 31st December 1896.

2. *Disposal of darkhasts.*—Of the 133 ryotwari villages at present affected by the Periyár project, darkhasts of 97 villages were disposed of previous to the quarter darkhasts were disposed of during the quarter under report was 23. There were still thirteen villages in which darkhasts had to be disposed of and they are since taken up and disposed of.

3. *Disposal of applications for loans.*—Six hundred and four applications involving an amount of Rs. 72,190 were received up to the quarter under report, of which 44 applications involving an amount of Rs. 7,010 were rejected for various reasons and case of applications accepted, a sum of Rs. 3,575 was advanced during the quarter as first instalment, and the total number of applications on which advances have been made and the amount advanced up to the quarter were 54 and 4,570 respectively. I am trying my best to induce the ryots to apply for loans directly and also through the regular Divisional establishments, but for the various reasons reported in my Dis. No. 23 of the 13th instant and previous letters I hope to actually utilize only Rupees 50,000 before the end of the official year.

4. *Laying out of distributaries.*—Besides the 74 distributaries already reported in my first progress report for the period ending 30th September 1896, applications for lands required for distributaries under the 6th and 9th branch channels and for the Periyár 12th branch channel and for some other minor works were received during the quarter under report. An extent of about 80 acres of land required for the 12th branch channel was measured by the three Special Revenue Inspectors during the quarter and draft declaration and schedule have been submitted to you for publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. The lands applied for for distributaries under the 2nd, 4th and 9th branch channel (Kunnathur off-take) were handed over to the Public Works Department within the quarter under report. Compensation was settled for nineteen distributaries under the 9th branch channel during the quarter and the amount disbursed to parties within the quarter including the old cases was about Rupees 3,200. Compensation for the remaining distributaries and for the 12th branch channel and other minor works will also be settled and paid before the end of March next.

5. *Extension of cultivation and distribution of Periyár water.*—During the quarter under review, myself, the Special Tahsildar and one of the Special Revenue Inspectors had much special work to do under this head in addition to the usual co-operation with the Public Works Department generally required in the distribution of water. The north-east monsoon threatened to be a failure in September and October and many villages in Mélúr taluk had the greatest apprehension. Excepting the 10th branch

channel which supplied a few villages in the taluk many villages had no water, the main channel having ended at Pulippatti, 5 miles from Mélúr. The villages of Sennagarampatti, Thumbapatti, Melavalavu, Attapatti and Malampatti, having a total wet ayacut of about 5,500 acres, applied for permission to dig their own channels and take Periyár water from Pulippatti. This, as you know, was with some difficulty and delay first arranged before the end of October.

6. The 12th branch channel was designed to benefit many villages, but by the end of October the major portion of it was not even marked. But twelve villages having a total wet ayacut of about 9,300 acres became very anxious on account of the state of the season and undertook to dig a temporary channel of their own of 9 feet width along the line. But the Special Executive Engineer was unable to do this for the first 5 miles as many masonry works had to be constructed and therefore advised a diversion up to the 5th and to take the line up to the 11th mile from Mélúr. The diversion channel up to Mélúr has been completed and Periyár water is running. As for the temporary channel to be taken along the line from the 5th mile at Mélúr, various difficulties cropped up. The lands required for the channel were just being marked and lockspitted and there were standing crops thereon. The ryots were so anxious for water that they permitted the removal of the standing crops without any compensation and immediate entry. The Special Executive Engineer therefore arranged to dig the branch channel to the full width immediately and it is hoped that water will be supplied to the villages in the beginning of next month, February.

7. Owing to the abundance of north-east monsoon in the latter part and the delay in carrying out the project, only a small extent may get water for the present standing crops, but short second crop may be raised. Whatever may be the financial effect of our work for these villages for the standing crops, it may be satisfactory to note that the ryots will have the 12th branch channel $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles in workable order for immediate second crop and first crop in June next before even the lands required for the channel are notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

8. *Immediate second crop before south-west monsoon.*—It is notified in the District Gazette that the Periyár main sluice will be closed on the 1st March. But, as it is said to be not workable at present, it is doubtful if it can be closed on the fixed day if there happen to be any rains on the hills. At any rate we can be sure of getting water till the beginning of March. The harvest of the standing crops has commenced and will be finished by the end of next month. If the tanks be therefore filled now, the lands under the big ones at least can be cultivated with a short crop before the south-west monsoon. I have accordingly issued notices to all villages to raise second crop as far as possible according to the capacity of the tanks.

9. *Whole inam and zemin tanks.*—In addition to the 27 tanks that applied for Periyár water up to the previous quarter five tanks applied during the quarter making a total of 4,982 acres of wet. Had it not been for the open hostility of some of the proprietors and the abundance of the north-east monsoon later on, more applications might have been received. On this and other matters connected with this item, I have submitted a special report in my Dis. No. 348, dated 30th December 1896.

10. *General remarks.*—Two hundred and twenty applications for Periyár water for 343 acres of dry lands have been received up to the end of the quarter and as the digging of the distributaries makes good progress, extension of irrigation is likely to increase. The people have now good confidence in the project and I have requested orders for the sale of waste lands that are available after disposal of darkhasts.

Endorsement by J. TWIGG, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 9th February 1897, Dis. No. 511.

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, Madras.

2. The Special Deputy Collector will be doing well if he disburses 50,000 within the official year; but as distributaries are being rapidly pushed on there will no doubt be a large loan disbursement early next year. It is of course useless to pay over the money except in places where distributaries have at least been aligned, even if ryots would make applications.

4 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 25TH MAY 1897, No. 400.

3. The work spoken of in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7, which was carried through with much trouble and persistence, was robbed of most of its immediate usefulness by the heavy monsoon which arrived after its advent had been almost despaired of, and the benefit to first crop was very little. It was under contemplation to continue the channel so as to carry water to the distressed part of Sivaganga zamindari, and if the monsoon had failed the work would have been of enormous value, and brought in large sums to Government. As it is there will be but a modest increase of revenue, but the work of distribution will have been advanced very considerably.

4. There should be a large amount of second crop under the various tanks, according to their respective capacity, which will be left full when the Periyár supply is shut off.

5. The report called for in paragraph 2 of B.P., dated 22nd September 1896, Mis. No. 4609, Settlement, regarding the supply to inam tanks will be submitted shortly. The reports of both Special Engineer and Special Deputy Collector have been received, but require some reconciliation and explanation.

6. The Special Deputy Collector is very anxious to sell all the waste land at once, village by village; but the existing orders are that such lands must be applied for and then sold as under the Waste Land rules. The disadvantage of the latter plan is that it will tend to confine disposal of land to inhabitants of the village who have probably as much dry land already as they can conveniently convert into wet, and to discourage outside competition. It will take a long time, however, to prepare complete lists of available waste lands for all the villages, eliminating all land which is not commanded and is not required for road or other poramboke. I have ordered the preparation of these lists to be pushed on as quickly as possible taking the villages in the order in which the distributaries are likely to be finished, and meantime applications to be invited for waste lands. A good deal will depend on how the applications come in, and the Board will be addressed in due course. It is full early yet to sell lands and especially to sell them *en masse*.

Transferred to the Settlement Department.

17th February 1897.

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

Copy of Communication, Dis. No. 276 of 1897, dated 4th May 1897, from the Deputy Collector on Special Duty, Madura, to the Collector of Madura.

I have the honour to submit my report on the progress made in connection with the special work entrusted to me for the quarter ending 31st March 1897.

2. *Disposal of darkhasts.*—There were thirteen villages in which darkhasts had to be disposed of, as reported in my report for the previous quarter, and the number twelve, leaving a balance of one village, viz., Tallakulam, in the Madura taluk, which is pending the disposal of Periyár angami pattas and some other reasons. In all, the total number of villages in which lands were assigned on darkhast was 132, out of total extent assigned was about 95½ acres in the Madura taluk and 754 acres in the Melúr taluk. In addition to the above 133 villages, the villages of Ambalakaranpatti, Urangampatti and Kurchipatti in the Melúr taluk, which had been classed as likely to be affected by the Periyár, have now been declared to be Periyár affected, and I have been authorized to dispose of the darkhast applications received in these villages. They will also be disposed of shortly on receipt of the necessary memorandum from the taluk office.

3. *Disposal of applications for loans.*—During the quarter under report, 659 applications involving an amount of Rs. 80,515 were received and the total number of applications received up to the quarter was 1,263, involving an amount of Rupees 1,52,705. Of these 1,263 applications, 118 applications involving an amount of Rs. 14,070 were rejected up to the quarter for various reasons, and 565 applications

involving an amount of Rs. 62,601 accepted up to the quarter under report, leaving a balance of 580 applications. In the case of applications accepted, a sum of Rupees 40,791 was advanced including the second instalment during the quarter, and the

Taluk.	Land Improve- ment Loans.	Agricul- turists' Loans.	Total.
Madura	Rs. 37,380	Rs. 1,605	Rs. 38,985
Melúr	6,110	266	6,376
Total	43,490	1,871	45,361

total amount advanced up to the quarter including the second instalment was Rs. 45,361 as noted in the margin out of the allotment of Rs. 50,000 placed at my disposal, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,600 in round figure. In some of the cases, the Public Works Department refused to grant permission to convert dry lands into wet, and in the cases of more than Rs. 100, only half the amount was advanced as first instalment, to ensure

proper utilization of the amount. Hence, a small balance in the allotment was left unutilized.

4. *Laying out of distributaries.*—Applications from the Public Works Department for lands required for twelve distributaries under the Thandalai off-take 4th branch channel and for some distributaries under the 6th and 9th branch channel (Chittampatti off-take) and for the Periyár 12th branch channel in Urangampatti and Vellalore villages in the Melúr taluk, were received during the quarter under report. An extent of about 38 acres was measured by the three Special Revenue Inspectors during the quarter, and draft declarations and schedule for the acquisition of lands required for the distributaries under the Thandalai off-take and for the 12th branch channel in Vellalore village were submitted and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* during the quarter under report. The lands required for distributaries under the 2nd, 4th and 9th branch channels and for some other minor works and applied for previous to the quarter under report, have already been handed over to the Public Works Department. Compensation for the lands taken up for all the distributaries including the 12th branch channel was settled during the quarter, with the exception of four minor works, and the total amount of compensation disbursed to the parties up to the quarter under report was Rs. 10,600 in round figures against an allotment of Rs. 10,000 placed at my disposal for the whole year, including the sum spent for the project by the Madura Division Deputy Collector before the formation of the special department.

5. *Immediate second crop before south-west monsoon.*—The Periyár main sluice was closed on the 20th March 1897, and before that, arrangements were made to fill in all the Government tanks as much as possible to enable the ryots to raise a short crop. Necessary notices were also issued to the villagers to raise second crop as far as possible according to the capacity of the tanks, but the ryots only in some of the villages seem to have taken advantage of the supply, as they are not confident of the capacity of their tanks to hold water for a crop, and the fertility of their lands to raise two crops. I have applied to you to let me know when the head sluice would be opened and have also suggested the advisability of letting down some water in May to enable the ryots to raise seedlings. On receipt of your reply, I mean to issue notices advising the ryots to immediately raise a short crop.

6. *Whole inam and zemin tanks.*—Two inam and zemin villages of Thanichiam and Jarikannanandal applied for water for second crop, but the Public Works Department were not able to supply these tanks in time. In this connection, I have already submitted a special report in my letter, Dis. No. 348, dated 30th December 1896, and final orders are solicited.

7. *Prospects of extension of wet cultivation and the attitude of the ryots.*—Six hundred and ten applications for Periyár water for 1,078 acres of dry land have been received up to the end of the quarter, and as the excavation of the 12th branch channel and the distributaries under the remaining branch channels make good progress, there is every prospect of extension of wet cultivation. The people have now good confidence in the project.

8. *Sale of waste lands.*—The notices issued to the villages regarding the sale of the waste lands are just being returned, duly published, by the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. Application for the sale of waste lands available are now coming in. Lists of waste lands with boundaries have been called for from the village officers and they have been received for some villages. As soon as the rest are received, and the report of the Public Works Department as to the irrigability of the lands is received for some of them, I shall report the matter to you for orders.

9. *General remarks.*—As the quarter under report was the close of the official year, and as a large amount had to be utilized under the Loans Acts and on account of land compensation, my Special Revenue Inspectors and my office and the Special Tahsildar had very heavy work to do during the quarter.

Endorsement by J. TWIGG, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Botlagundu, 13th May 1897, Dis. No. 1813.

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras.

2. *Paragraph 1.*—The question of permanent assignment of lands held on angami (temporary) pattas will be very shortly referred for the orders of the Board.

3. *Paragraphs 3 and 4.*—Good work has been done by the special establishment in these directions.

4. *Paragraph 5.*—The small extent to which the ryots have availed themselves of the Periyár supply to raise second crop is disappointing. Even the prevailing high contrary, he is disposed to grumble at the ryot from his accustomed groove. On the his fields moist, when according to him they ought to be dry.

Though I have not yet heard officially from the Executive Engineer, I understand that the sluices have not been renewed, so that there will be no more control to its full capacity till the lake is exhausted. Till proper control is obtained, it will not be safe to substitute channel for tank irrigation. Last year, the experiment of a short crop first and long crop afterwards was so successful where it was tried that I hope the example will be followed largely in the coming season.

5. *Paragraph 6.*—The subject was reported on in this office letter, Dis. No. 678, dated 20th February 1897.

RESOLUTION—dated 25th May 1897, No. 400.

With the endorsements read above, the Collector of Madura submits the progress reports of the Special Deputy Collector, Periyár Irrigation, for the quarters ending 31st December 1896 and 31st March 1897.

2. During the quarters under review, darkhast applications relating to 35 villages were disposed of out of the 36 villages that remained at the end of the quarter ending 30th September 1896, raising the total number of villages in which lands were assigned on darkhast to 132 out of 133 villages affected by the Periyár project in the Madura and Melúr taluks. The applications relating to the balance of one village that remained at the end of the last quarter are reported by the Special Deputy Collector to be pending the disposal of Periyár angami (temporary) pattas. The Collector reports that the question of permanent assignment of lands held on these pattas will be very shortly referred for the orders of the Board. The total extent assigned was about 953 acres in the former taluk and 754 acres in the latter. The Special Deputy Collector reports in his review for the quarter ending 31st March 1897 that, in addition to applications relating to some three villages in the Melúr taluk which have recently been classed as likely to be affected by the Periyár.

3. Out of 1,263 applications for loans for Rs. 1,52,705 received up to the end of the quarter, 118 applications were rejected and 565 applications for Rs. 62,601 accepted, leaving a balance of 580 applications. A sum of Rs. 45,361—Rs. 43,490 under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Rs. 1,871 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act—was advanced up to the quarter, including second instalments. It will be observed that the bulk of the amount, viz., Rs. 40,791, or nearly 90 per cent., was advanced during the last quarter of the year. It is stated that the small balance of Rs. 4,600, in round numbers, left unutilized out of the allotment of Rs. 50,000 placed at the disposal of the Special Deputy Collector, would have also been utilized but for the fact that in some cases the Public Works Department refused to grant permission to convert dry lands into wet, and that, in the case of accepted applications for more than Rs. 100, only half the amount was advanced to ensure proper utilization of the loan. It is satisfactory to observe that the Deputy Collector is trying his best to encourage the ryots to apply for loans freely.

4. Applications for lands required for twelve distributaries under the Thandalai off-take 4th branch channel and for some distributaries under the 6th and 9th branch channels and for the Periyár 12th branch channel in some villages in the Melúr taluk and for some other minor works, were received during the quarters. An extent of about 118 acres was measured by the three Special Revenue Inspectors and draft declaration and schedule for the acquisition of lands required for the 12th branch channel and for the distributaries under the Thandalai off-take were submitted and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. Compensation for the lands taken up for all the distributaries including the 12th branch channel, was settled during the quarters with the exception of four minor works. The total amount of compensation disbursed up to the quarter ending 31st March was Rs. 10,600 against an allotment of Rs. 10,000 placed at the disposal of the Special Deputy Collector.

5. Considerable progress was made in the work of distribution of Periyár water, in the apprehension that the north-east monsoon might prove a failure; but the monsoon, though late in setting in, gave abundant rainfall, and the result was that the new works were robbed of much of their immediate usefulness so far as the first crop was concerned. The Collector however expected that there should be a large amount of second crop under the various tanks; but in the progress report for the quarter ending 31st March 1897, the Special Deputy Collector states that the Periyár main sluice was closed on the 20th March 1897, that before closing the sluice, arrangements were made to fill in all the Government tanks as much as possible to enable the ryots to raise a short crop; that the necessary notices were also issued to the villagers to raise a second crop as far as possible, according to the capacity of the tanks; but that the ryots of only some of the villages seem to have taken advantage of the supply, as they are not confident of the capacity of their tanks to hold water for a crop, and the fertility of their lands to raise two crops. He reports further that he applied to the Collector to let him know when the head sluice would be opened and that he has also suggested to him the advisability of letting down some water in May to enable the ryots to raise seedlings. The Collector remarks that the small extent on which second crop was raised is disappointing, that even the prevailing high prices have not been sufficient to move the ryot from his accustomed groove and that, on the contrary, the ryot is disposed to grumble at the presence of water which keeps his fields moist. He reports also that the sluices not having been opened, there will be no more control than last year over the water, and that until proper control is obtained it will not be safe to substitute channel for tank irrigation. The Chief Engineer's attention will be invited to this matter.

6. Applications for Periyár water were received in respect of five whole inam and zemin tanks during the quarter ending 31st December 1896, and in respect of two inam and zemin villages of Thanichiam and Jari Kannanandal for raising second crop during the subsequent quarter. The total number for which applications were received up to the end of the former quarter was 32 and the extent of wet lands involved 4,982 acres. The Special Deputy Collector states, in his first report read above, that more applications might have been received, had it not been for the open hostility of

some of the proprietors and the abundance of the north-east monsoon later on. The special report on the subject referred to in the concluding sentence of paragraph 9 of the Deputy Collector's letter has been received, and will be dealt with in separate proceedings.

7. Six hundred and ten applications for Periyár water for 1,078 acres of dry lands have been received up to the end of the quarter ending 31st March 1897.

8. The instructions issued by the Collector regarding the disposal of waste lands are approved. In his report for the quarter ending 31st March 1897, the Special Deputy Collector states that applications for the sale of waste lands available are coming in, that the lists of waste lands with boundaries called for from the village officers have been received from some villages, and that as soon as the rest are received and the Public Works Department has also reported as to the irrigability of the lands, he would report the matter for orders.

(True Copies and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" Collector of Madura.

" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Copy to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

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189.

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