

Revenue (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1932

From The Board of Revenue,
Rev. Sett. L.R. & Agri.,
Madras.

Order Mis. 1225 of 24th March 1899.

Transferred to Mr P. N. D.

16
23/3/99

No. 1428 Mis.

Dated 15th March 1899.

Received 17/3/99

Registered 18/3/99

Enclosures 45 and 1 book containing 15
Spare copies pleuro.

3 P. N. D. (with notes in origl)
Copy to the Bd R & L R & A
Q & O

The Secretary has approved.
to notes put up with the P. N. D.
pleuro to that Report
Considered.

22/3/99

SUBJECT,

Submitting to Govern-
ment, Revenue Department, with remarks,
reports from the Collector of Madras
re: the injurious effects of the Junc-
tion canal on certain lands in Myla-
pore by the side of it.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri:)

Dated the 15th March '99

¹⁴²⁸
No. 1248. Mls.

Read again Board's Proceedings, No. 3480 dated 4th June 1898.

Read again also - do 3779 21st June 1898.

- do - - do - 6884 28th Nov. 1898.

- do - - do - 388 15th Feb. 1899.

Read also the following letter from J.M. Atkinson Esqre, Collr. of Madras, Rel. No. 860/ G&B dated 10th Feby: 1899:-

In reply to Board's Proceedings No. 388 Routine, of the 15th instant, I have the honour to state that all the enclosures received with Board's Proceedings No. 6884, Mls, of the 28th Novr. last were returned with my endorsement Rel. on No. 860/G&B dated 10th February 1899.

Resolution:-

The Collector's reports will be submitted to Govt. Revenue Department, with reference to its endorsement No. 3196 Mls, dated 20th May 1898 on G.O. 1063 W, dated 27th April 1898.

2. Enquiries regarding the alleged ~~the~~ deterioration of the lands in Mylapore by the side of the junction Canal were made by the Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar of Madras. A circular was, in the first instance, sent to the memorialists by the Deputy Collector requesting them to send up a statement in a prescribed form showing the incomes derived during 1874 to 76, immediately preceding the construction of the canal, and those derived during 1895 to 97, and to state what evidence they ~~have~~ had in support of their figures. Replies were received from the owners of only 57 out of the 74 holdings mentioned in the memorial and the results as tabulated by the Deputy Collector, will ^{be} found in the statement annexed ~~as~~ Appendix I to these Proceedings. It will be seen that in most cases, the figures reported to the Deputy Collector differ from those given in Appendix A to the memorial, the differ-

both banks

ences

water from

crops which require irrigation cannot be

the total leaf creepers and

difference being large in some cases. It is worthy of note that in several cases noted in the margin in which no Serial Nos. 15, 16 & 17, 33, 49, 50, 57, 62, 66, 67, 68, 71, 75 and 32. entries had been made under the head "amount of rent now realised" in Appendix A to the memorial, the statements furnished to the Deputy Collector showed that rents were being realised in recent years.

3. Of the memorialists, who sent replies, the owners of only 37 holdings stated that they had accounts or other documents in support of their figures. The Collector was requested to direct the Deputy Collector to examine those records. The Deputy Collector reports that only in seventeen cases the owners produced their accounts and agreements when called upon to do so and that these were examined by the Tahsildar. The results of the examination are shown in the statement in Appendix II. It will be seen therefrom that even in some of these cases, no records were forthcoming either to show the former income or to show the present income. In some cases, the records produced to show former income relate not to a period preceding the construction of the canal, but to ~~some~~ ^{some} years immediately following it. The documents produced do not generally support the figures in the memorial. In case No. ² for example the present income is stated in the memorial to be only Rs. 100/- but an examination of the accounts has shown that the average rent during the three years ended 1896-97, was nearly thrice as much. In case No. 48, no rent is derived now according to the memorial, but the accounts show that Rs. 341 were obtained on an average during the three years mentioned above. There are similar discrepancies in respect of ^{several other} ~~similar~~ cases. In cases Nos. 3, 4, 56, and 65, no income was stated to be derived at present, but local inspection has shown that the lands contain cocoanut trees and that paddy, ground-nut, cholam or other crops had been raised. With statistics such as these, it is impossible to arrive at any safe conclusion.

4. So far as these figures go, however, it would appear that the rents now realized are less than those obtained formerly, though it seems probable that the decrease has been over-estimated. The Tahsildar who made local enquiries, reports that the water in the wells adjoining the canal has turned brackish, that the sub-soil

affected and that the crops raised do not therefore thrive. The Collector sent "samples of water of some typical wells" to the Chemical Examiner, who has analysed them and reported that none of the water is fit for drinking purposes and that two of the samples contain a large amount of common salt and other saline substances, indicating probable contamination through filtration from the canal.

5. The Dy. Director of Agriculture has inspected the locality and submitted the following note:-

"I went through the gardens from Barber's Bridge to Luz Church Road and it is no doubt a complaint that the available water in the wells grows brackish during the dry weather: but notwithstanding assertions to that effect, I am not at all convinced that this is a new thing. The bunding of the drainage channel east of Barber's Bridge might be suggested as a cause for increased salinity of the soil, as it must interrupt drainage ^{during} the rains, but on the other hand it keeps out a certain amount of salt-water."

"The portions which seem in the worst condition are not those where this would be expected, if the canal were, in the way locally suggested, the cause: these should be those fields between which the channel crossed at Barber's Bridge runs inland."

"I am inclined to think that if the canal has any connection with the existing state of things, it is more probably in the way of interrupting drainage, and so causing an accumulation of salts than by infiltration."

^{he is not convinced that}
The result is that the alleged brackish condition of the water in the wells in hot weather is a new thing.

6. A personal inspection by the Commissioner and enquiry among persons met casually near the canal ^{in Mylapur} has led him to the conclusion that there is probably some truth in the allegations that the quality of water in the

both banks of the canal has suffered in recent years owing to water from the canal through the sub-soil, crops which require irrigation cannot be

the hotel-leaf creeper and

but do not flourish now. There does not appear to be deterioration in the growth and yield of cocoanut trees which grow freely in this locality and thrive, when irrigated by brackish water: and the Commissioner believes that if all the lands alleged to be affected were planted ^{with} ~~with~~ cocoanut trees, - a very profitable crop - the owners would not find that the presence of brackish water in their wells would cause ^{them} ~~the~~ any real loss.

7. The Board would observe in conclusion that it has not been absolutely proved that the presence of brackish water in the wells is due to the digging of the canal, and that it is somewhat remarkable that individuals who allege that they have suffered loss by the digging of the canal near their lands have taken twenty years to summon up courage to make their grievance known.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R.V. Srinivasiah,

S e c r e t a r y .

To the Secretary to Govt: Rev: Dept: with the memorial, Appendices

I and II and other enclosures, copies of B.P.S.

3779, d/21-6-98. ~~3779, d/21-6-98~~ 6884, d/

28th Nov: '98 and 388, d/15th Feb: '99.

though it seems

estimated. The Tahsildar who