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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 213 Press
Mis.

94-95.

Dated 12 — 2 — 1873.

94-95 13/14

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, 12th February 1873.

No. 94. Read the following letter from the Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madura, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madura, 4th February 1873, No. 8:—

I have the honour to submit a letter, dated 31st January 1873, No. 88, addressed to me by the Vice-President of the Dindigul Municipality, with its enclosures, and to request that a competent officer may be allowed to investigate the project for supplying Dindigul with water. It is suggested that the services of Lieutenant Greer, R.E., may be available at the season when work at the Periyar is impossible, and it is stated that the District Engineer offers no objection to this suggestion.

From the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Dindigul, to the Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Dindigul, dated Dindigul, 31st January 1873, No. 88.

During the short time Lieutenant Greer, R.E., was in charge of the Dindigul Range, at the beginning of December last, he was good enough to interest himself in the question of the feasibility of providing the town with a proper supply of water, and has since sent me a rough sketch of a scheme to this end, which I have laid before the Municipal Commissioners, and of which I now enclose a copy, together with the resolution passed thereon.

2. Every one who knows Dindigul knows well that one of the crying needs of the town is a proper water supply. It is not that there are not plenty of wells with water in them, but that, with very few exceptions, the well water is bad, that is, saltish, and not fit for drinking or cooking purposes. The inhabitants, who number altogether 12,800, depend chiefly for their drinking water upon two so-called wells—one, named Gopalsamudram, at the north-east corner of the town, and the other at the extreme west, at the foot of the rock and nearly a quarter of a mile from the nearest house. Neither of these are, however, in my opinion, properly called wells, for they tap no springs, and are in reality nothing more than reservoirs dug in the ground for the reception of the rainfall. In the one case the catchment area includes two graveyards and several hamlets and scattered houses, inhabited for the most part by pariahs and other persons of the lower classes, whose personal habits are by no means cleanly; so that, although, as the name indicates, the natives think the water especially good and sweet to drink. I have my doubts whether if it were properly examined it would not be found considerably contaminated by fœcal matter and other impurities. In the other case, the water is collected chiefly from the rock itself, which is bare and uninhabited. There must also be some percolation into it from the area of the lower Fort, where the soil is no doubt impregnated with unwholesome matter, as is commonly the case where habitations have for any length of time been situated. The water of this well is probably, however, purer than that of Gopalsamudram, and it is reputed by the natives to be quite as wholesome to drink, though, as it is filled with a minute green vegetation, it is not inviting to look at. The Municipal Commissioners take every care, of course, to keep these two important wells as clean as possible by maintaining a watchman at each to prevent their being used for washing, &c.; but, as they are so constructed (as usual in this country) that persons wishing to draw water must walk down into it, they could never be absolutely clean, even if their catchment areas were above suspicion in a sanitary point of view.

3. During the rainy months, however, and as far (generally) as the month of March, these two wells supply sufficient drinking water for the use of the people, but at the expense of great labour on account of the distances in fetching it, especially to the pariahs and other lower castes who, by immemorial custom, are not allowed to draw water from Gopalsamudram. But when the dry weather comes, or when the rains partially fail or fall otherwise than in due season, the whole population suffers great distress for want of what is the first necessary of life. It is not that there are no other drinking water wells in the town, but there are certainly not more than a dozen very small ones which furnish a most precarious supply. Most of these are

private property or belong to particular castes, and are not available for general use; so that it has often been a subject of surprise to me, since I first came to Dindigul, that the scarcity of good water has not resulted in frequent and serious outbreaks of disease. Happily we have been spared this. But the need of a good-water supply becomes more pressing every day as the population of the place increases, and as all the more immediately urgent and easily complied with sanitary requirements are being gradually supplied by municipal action.

4. That it is feasible to supply the town with good water is, I think, clear from Mr. Greer's letter. He estimates at Rupees 15,500 the cost of bringing to the point whence distribution would commence a sufficient quantity to allow each head of the population* 2½ cubic feet, or about sixteen gallons of water per diem. This allowance is, however, I am convinced greatly larger than will be found at all necessary. From inquiries I have made, I do not believe that the present rate of consumption for all purposes exceeds five gallons per head per day, so that if, with increased facility of obtaining water, its consumption should be doubled, Mr. Greer's estimate would still err on the side of liberality. I have talked the question of cost over with Colonel Roberts, R.E., the District Engineer, Captain Coningham, R.E., the Range Officer, and Mr. Nicolls, of the Railway Engineering Staff, who is also a member of the Municipality, and from what they say am led to think that Mr. Greer's rough estimate for an open main channel is much in excess of the sum for which it will be found possible to lay down pipes, which can be made on the spot sufficiently good for the purpose, and will be open to no sanitary objections. I am, therefore, on the whole sanguine that the project is not only feasible, but may be carried out at a cost exceedingly moderate as compared with the benefits which a good-water supply cannot fail to confer on every one of the inhabitants.

* Assumed at 15,000, or nearly twenty per cent more than it actually is.

5. Clearly, however, it would be most unsafe for so small and poor a place as this to commit it seemed likely to confer, unless on a far more searching examination of its cost than has yet been made, and on the passing by Government, to whom application will, of course, have to be made to lend the funds, of an estimate prepared by a competent Engineer. It is also clear that, unless Government be pleased to assist them, the Municipality cannot secure the services of and Engineer in whose design or estimates either they or the Government would probably feel disposey to place confidence. The Municipal Commissioners have, therefore, determined to solicit aid from Government in the matter by the deputation of some suitable officer to examine and report on the project, and, in the event of his entertaining a favourable opinion of it, to prepare the necessary estimates, &c.; and, in asking you to forward their request with this letter of explanation of the circumstances for favourable consideration, I venture to point out that, with the amount of other work which I know the Range Officer to have in hand, it will be impossible that he should devote to the examination of this project the care and attention it will require, and to suggest, therefore, that the duty be allotted to Lieutenant Greer, who has already kindly interested himself in the matter. Government are no doubt aware that the nature of the climate will prevent Lieutenant Greer's continuance much beyond the end of the month of February on the work (the Periyar Ghaut) on which he is now engaged; and I have the permission of the District Engineer to mention that, if they should be pleased to consider my suggestion favourably, no objection would be raised on his part.

From Lieutenant M. GREER, R.E., Assistant Engineer on Special Duty, Madura District, to the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Dindigul, dated Periyar Ghaut Camp, 4th January 1873.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, the scheme which I propose for supplying the town of Dindigul with water. I should state, however, that this is merely a rough outline of the scheme, and does not enter into the distribution part of it at all. To make proper estimates, &c., there is at least one month's work for a Surveyor, and, as regards the distribution, levels will have to be taken along all the streets and the population of each ascertained roughly.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
12th February 1873.

2. *Population of Dindigul.*—The population of Dindigul is at present about 12,800; taking into consideration that a very rapid increase to this will follow the opening of the Railway, it is considered advisable to provide water for at least 15,000 people.

3. *Amount of Water allowed to each Person.*—The amount of water it is proposed to allow for each person is as follows:—

For domestic purposes...	1½	cubic feet*	per day.
,, trades, &c.	½	,, foot	,,
,, waste, &c.	½	,, ,,	,,
Total ...	2½	,, feet	,,

It was intended to have allowed another half a cubic foot for slushing drains, watering streets, &c., but you expressed your opinion that you did not consider it necessary, so it has been omitted.

4. *Amount of Water required.*—From the above data it will be seen that 37,500 cubic feet or 1389 cubic yards are required to be distributed in Dindigul every day.

5. The above water, if delivered on a level with the surface of the ground immediately outside the Sub-Collector's house, will, it is imagined, be at a sufficient height to permit of its being distributed wherever it is required in the town; this cannot be stated positively until the necessary levels† are run. It is proposed, if the above assumption turn out to be true, to place the distribution reservoir between the Sub-Collector's house and Captain Campbell's Cigar Manufactory. With the dimensions of 140′ × 60′ at the bottom 160′ × 80′ at the top and a depth 10′, we will get ample storage for two days' supply. The reservoir is to be sunk in the ground and lined with concrete and brick on edge pointed with cement or asphalte; about Rupees 2,500 will be required for this portion of the scheme. It would be well to have a roof to the reservoir, but the cost which it would entail prohibits it.

† This has since been done, and the levels have been found quite satisfactory.—H. W. B.

6. *Quantity of Water flowing into Reservoir each day.*—The above reservoir will be kept constantly fed by 1389 cubic yards per day, or 0·41 cubic feet per second falling into it; there would, of course, be sluices at the head works for shutting off the supply in case repairs, &c., were necessary.

7. *Supply Channel.*—It is to be regretted that the cost of earthenware pipes in Madras is so great that an open channel has to be recommended instead of them for carrying the water from the storage tanks to the distributing reservoir. The dimensions of the channel proposed is 1′ × 1′ with a fall of two feet per mile; this will discharge the required amount with a depth of 6″ of water flowing through it; the channel is to be excavated in the ground and lined with concrete and brick on edge pointed with cement or asphalte. Assuming the length of this channel to be four miles (this is a very rough guess and will probably be much less) its cost will be about Rupees 11,000; cocoanut trees ought eventually to be planted along the channel to keep it in shade, and hedges to keep cattle, &c., from it. To shorten the length of the channel as much as possible earthenware pipes ought to be used in crossing ravines, roads, streams, &c.

8. *Storage Tanks.*—It is proposed to obtain the water from the following tanks:—

Name of Tank.	Waterspread.	Approximate maximum depth.	Approximate cubic contents.
1. Periyakolam	15 cawnies.	5 yards.	160,000 cubic yards.
2. Manthakolam ...	15 ,,	2 ,,	64,000 ,,
3. Senkolam	23 ,,	2½ ,,	122,000 ,,
4. Muthankolam ...	8 ,,	2 ,,	34,000 ,,
This gives a total storage of			380,000 ,,

* One cubic foot = 6·232 gallons.

by raising each of the bunds No. 1 and No. 3 Tanks one yard we will get an additional storage of at least 250,000 cubic yards, thus giving us a total storage of 630,000 cubic yards. These tanks are supplied by the three rivers which the Nattam Road crosses at about four miles from Dindigul; the drainage area is at least six square miles, and there are, to the best of my belief, no tanks or villages above the tanks named on the preceding page; the drainage basin is also but little cultivated. Of these tanks Senkolam ought always to be kept full as long as there is any water in the other tanks to supply it with. Periyakolam and Manthakolam have at present the rivers running round them; otherwise they will be silted up by degrees, and no water ought to be allowed to enter Muttukolam or Senkolam until it has been a short time in one of the other tanks. Judging from the rainfall of the last ten years, that of Fusly 1275 is the worst (see Table A); taking this year we will assume the tanks to be empty at the end of August. From the information given above and the rainfall we will get the following results:—

TABLE showing amount of Storage required.

Year.	Month.	Rainfall.	Proportion of rainfall reaching tanks off drainage.	Amount flowing into tanks.	Taken by channel to Dindigul.	Amount evaporated from storage tanks.	Excess stored.	Excess drawn off.	Total in tanks at the end of each month.
		Inches.	Area of six square miles.	Cubic yards.	Cubic yards.	Cubic yards.	Cubic yards.	Cubic yards.	Cubic yards.
Fusly 1275	September	1·36	1/10	70,212	41,670	24,533	4,009	.....	4,009
,, ,, ...	October	3·74	1/4	482,708	43,059	65,066	374,583	.....	378,592
,, ,, ...	November	3·30	1/4	357,837	41,670	65,066	251,101	.....	629,693
,, ,, ...	December	1·23	1/10	63,500	43,059	65,066	.....	44,625	585,068
,, ,, ...	January	0·31	Nil.	Nil.	43,059	65,066	.....	108,125	476,943
,, ,, ...	February	0·23	Nil.	Nil.	40,281	65,066	.....	105,347	371,596
,, ,, ...	March	0·00	Nil.	Nil.	43,059	65,066	.....	108,125	263,471
,, ,, ...	April	0·11	Nil.	Nil.	41,670	65,066	.....	106,736	156,735
,, ,, ...	May	2·64	1/6	227,157	43,059	65,066	119,032	.....	275,767
,, ,, ...	June...	0·28	Nil.	Nil.	41,670	65,066	.....	106,736	169,031
,, 1276	July	0·93	1/20	24,006	43,059	65,066	.....	84,119	84,912
,, ,, ...	August	0·97	1/20	25,039	43,059	65,066	.....	83,086	1,826

In the preceding table the loss from evaporation has been taken at 6" per month from the total waterspread of the four tanks, with the exception of September, when only one tank would have contained water; the proportion of rainfall supposed to enter the tanks is exceedingly small, and this, combined with the fact that the above table is deduced from a year with a rainfall less than half the average, it is considered that the storage provided will be ample. The cost for raising bunds, planting tanks with trees, repairing sluices, &c., will be about Rupees 2,000.

9. It will be thus seen that the total cost for delivering the required amount of water into Dindigul, exclusive of the amount to be allowed for compensation, will be as follows:—

	Rs.
Distributing reservoir	
Supply channel (about four miles)...	2,500
Storage tanks	11,000
	2,000
Total ...	15,500

10. A statement prepared by the Sub-Collector showing the amount of compensation which he considers ought to be allowed to the ryots for depriving them of the water is herewith sent.

11. It is needless, of course, for me to remark that, before any steps are taken as regards the execution of the project, the water of the stream when in flood ought to be analyzed and reported upon. It is possible, without a very expensive system of filtering, it may be unfit for drinking purposes; the filter to be used ought to be placed just before the distribution reservoir; its cost has been purposely omitted from this report as the chemical analysis of the water has not been made.

12. The only other method that water can be obtained FROM THIS SIDE of Dindigul, and which might prove cheaper, would be to have (if a suitable piece of ground can be found) the storage reservoirs quite close to Dindigul, and to take the water from the same three rivers by a large channel; as the water would flow down this channel only a few days of the year, and that during the wet months, the leakage would not be very great; judging from the map, if this were done, the best way would be to turn the three streams into the stream running parallel and south-west of the Nattam Road, and store the water in this valley just at a sufficient height to command the whole of Dindigul Town. It would be impossible to state what the cost of this scheme would be even approximately without the necessary surveys and levels being taken; the amount of storage required would be, of course, exactly the same in both schemes.

13. In conclusion, I beg to state that my stay in Dindigul being only of very short duration, I had only time to examine the eastern side of the town; and, knowing little or nothing about other sides, I cannot state whether a cheaper scheme is available on them or not. A sketch map is sent showing roughly the streams and tanks from which it is proposed to take the water; the last of the three rivers is crossed by the Nattam Road at about four miles from Dindigul; the scale of the sketch map is two miles to the inch.

TABLE A showing the Rainfall at Dindigul from Fusly 1272—81 according to the gauge kept at the Sub-Collector's Office.

Years.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	Total for each year.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Fusly 1272	1·32	0·85	2·69	12·80	5·20	5·63	0·00	0·44	3·35	6·24	4·26	3·40	44·92
,, 1273	0·35	1·90	0·30	13·40	3·58	5·71	0·00	0·00	0·00	2·60	7·88	0·70	35·25
,, 1274	Information not available.												
,, 1275	1·42	0·10	1·36	3·74	3·30	1·23	0·31	0·23	0·00	0·11	2·64	0·28	14·45
,, 1276	0·93	0·97	5·40	7·99	0·50	2·95	0·16	0·00	0·00	2·94	4·52	0·70	26·43
,, 1277	4·40	1·33	0·25	11·17	0·53	0·10	4·42	0·56	0·10	0·26	7·30	3·40	33·01
,, 1278	4·17	1·14	3·88	5·70	3·15	0·18	0·82	0·67	0·46	1·31	0·94	1·90	23·51
,, 1279	2·92	5·00	2·85	7·59	8·28	3·22	1·53	0·00	0·14	1·74	1·75	4·70	39·09
,, 1280	0·19	6·66	4·36	5·36	8·60	1·60	0·95	0·34	0·36	1·76	2·78	0·85	33·27
,, 1281	1·14	3·75	1·37	5·61	6·24	1·46	0·15	1·20	0·59	0·96	0·60	4·13	27·20
Total ...	16·48	20·89	22·46	72·29	38·39	22·08	8·34	3·44	4·91	17·92	32·67	17·27	277·14
Average ...	1·83	2·32	2·49	8·03	4·26	2·45	0·92	0·38	0·54	1·99	3·63	1·91	30·79

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
12th February 1873.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings held at the Meeting of the Dindigul Municipal Commission, dated 30th January 1873.

I. Read letter, dated 4th January 1873, from Lieutenant Greer, R. E., to the Vice-President, on the subject of the provision of a water supply to the town.

Resolved that the President be requested to lay the above before Government, and to obtain their permission for some qualified Officer of the Department of Public Works investigating the project more fully than Lieutenant Greer was able to do during the short time he was in Dindigul.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. W. BLISS,
Vice-President.

No. 95. ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1873, No. 213.

It will be considered in the Department of Public Works whether Lieutenant Greer's services can be made temporarily available for the purpose after the close of the Periyar working season, and, if not, whether some other competent officer can be spared for the purpose.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Madura.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. Wright.

Dindigul

No. 88 Municipal office

31st January 1873

From

H. W. Bliss Esquire

Vice President, Dindigul Municipality

To

W. McIntae Esquire

Ag President, Dindigul Municipality

Sir,

During the short time Lieutenant Greer R. E. was in charge of the Dindigul Range at the beginning of December last, he was good enough to interest himself in the question of the feasibility of providing the Town with a proper supply of water, and has since sent me a rough sketch of a scheme to this end which I have laid before the Municipal Commissioners and of which I now enclose a copy together with the resolution passed thereon.

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that is,

Govt. of [1873] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION, *Madura*, &c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 12th.

Read.

Read.

G. O., 12th *February* 1873, No. 213.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 94-95.

Requesting the Public Works Department to consider whether the services of Lieutenant Greer, R.E., can be made temporarily available after the close of the Periyar working season for investigating the project for supplying Dindigul with water.

that is, saltish and not fit for drinking or cooking purposes. The inhabitants, who number altogether 12,800, depend chiefly for their drinking water upon 2 so-called wells, one, named Gopalsamudram, at the North East corner of the Town and the other at the extreme West, at the foot of the rock and nearly a quarter of a mile from the nearest house. Neither of these are, however, in my opinion, properly called wells, for they tap no springs and are in reality nothing more than reservoirs dug in the ground for the reception of the rain-fall. In the one case the catchment area includes 2 grave-yards and several hamlets and scattered houses, inhabited for the most part by Pariahs and other persons of the lower classes whose personal habits are by no means cleanly; so that, although, as the name indicates, the natives think the water especially good and sweet to drink, I have my doubts whether if it were properly examined it would not be found considerably contaminated by fæcal matter and other impurities. In the other case, the water is collected chiefly from the rock itself, which is bare and uninhabited. There must also be some percolation into it from the area of the Lower Fort, where the soil is no doubt impregnated with unwholesome

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4. That it is feasible to supply the Town with good water is, I think, clear from Mr Greer's letter. He estimates at Rs 15,500 the cost of bringing to the point whence distribution would commence a sufficient quantity to allow each head of the population× 2½ cubic feet or about 16 gallons of water per diem. This allowance is, however, I am convinced, greatly larger than will be found at all necessary. From enquiries I have made

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made I do not believe that the present rate of consumption for all purposes exceeds 5 gallons per head per day, so that if, with increased facility of obtaining water, its consumption should be doubled, Mr Greer's estimate would still err on the side of liberality. I have talked the question of cost over with Col. Roberts, R. E., the District Engineer, Capt. Cunningham, R. E., the Range Officer, and Mr Nicholls of the Railway Engineering Staff, who is also a member of the Municipality, and from what they say am led to think that Mr Greer's rough estimate for an open main channel is much in excess of the sum for which it will be found possible to lay down pipes, which can be made on the spot sufficiently good for the purpose and will be open to no sanitary objections. I am, therefore, on the whole, sanguine that the project is not only feasible but may be carried out at a cost exceedingly moderate as compared with the benefits which a good water supply cannot fail to confer on every one of the inhabitants.

5. Clearly, however, it would be most unsafe for so small and poor a place as this to commit itself to the execution of such a comparatively expensive project, no matter how great the benefits it seemed likely to confer, unless on a far more searching examina-

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examination of its cost than has yet been made and on the passing by Government, to whom application will of course have to be made to lend the funds, of an estimate prepared by a competent Engineer. It is also clear that unless Government be pleased to assist them, the Municipality cannot secure the services of any Engineer in whose design or estimates either they or the Government would probably feel disposed to place confidence. The Municipal Commissioners have therefore determined to solicit aid from Government in the matter by the deputation of some suitable Officer to examine and report on the project, and in ~~fy~~ event of his entertaining ~~the~~ ction. ~~Junion~~ of it to prepare the ~~sible~~ to ~~s~~estimates &c: and, in asking you to forward their request with this letter of explanation of the circumstances for favourable consideration, I venture to point out that, with the amount of other work which I know the Range officer to have in hand, it will be impossible that he should devote to the examination of this project the care and attention it will require; and to suggest, therefore, that the duty be allotted to Lieut. Greer who has

already kindly interested himself in the matter. Government are no doubt aware that the nature of the climate will prevent Lieut. Greer's continuance much beyond the end of the month of February on the work (the Periyâr Ghât) on which he is now engaged: and I have the permission of the District Engineer to mention that if they should be pleased to consider my suggestion favourably, no objection would be raised on his part.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obed.t Serv.t

for the pres.t
a sanitary
in Coun.l

[signature]

Vice President

Mad. Jl. No 10

1873

Mun.l Dept.

From

The Vice President
Dindigul Munlty.

To

The Ag President
Dindigul Munlty.

Dated 31st January 1873
Rec.d

No 88

Encl. 2.

Requesting him to obtain the sanction of Govern= ment for the provision of a water supply to the Town of Dindigul.

No 8

President's Office
Madura
4th February 1873.

From

W. McDuhae Esquire
Acting President
Municipal Commission
Madura.

To

W. Huddleston Esquire
Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit a letter dated 31st January 1873 No 88 addressed to me by the Vice President of the Dindigul Municipality with its enclosures and to request that a competent Officer may be allowed to investigate the project for supplying Dindigul with water. It is suggested that the services of Lieut. Greer R.E. that may be available at the season when work at the Perryaur is impossible and it is stated that the District Engineer offers no objection to this suggestion.

I have the honorable

1873 Publ. Works Depart.

From
The Vice President
Municipal Commission
Madura

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Dated 4th February 1873
Recd 8th February 1873

No 8
Enc. 1
No 250

Representing that an [illegible]
officer [illegible]
[illegible] to investigate
the project for supplying
Dindigul with water

[illegible]

12th February 1873 No. 213.

It will be considered in the D.P.W. whether Dr. Green's services can be made temporarily available for the purpose after the close of the Bridges working season [illegible] and [illegible] be then some other competent officer can be spared for the [illegible]

J. D. S.

To the President Munl. Commr. Madura. 6
" Public Works Dept. 21
" Sanitary Commr. 6
55 ([illegible])

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Presdt. Munl. Commr

Madura.

Dated Feb 4/2

Rcvd.

Encl.

G O. 12 th Feb 1873. No. 213.

Nos. 94. 95.

Requesting the P. Wks. Dept. to consider whether the services of Lieut: Green R.E. can be made temporarily available after the close of the present working season for investigating the proposal for supplying Dindigul with water.