M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 6 Press Mis.

10-11.

Dated 5 — 1 — 1874.

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
5th January 1874.

Read the following :—

No. 873-E.

No. 10. MEMORANDUM.

The Order of Government of the 27th November, No. 202, communicating an Order in the Financial Department, No. 1501, dated 15th October last, has just reached me, and I would submit that inconvenience is not unlikely to arise if irrigation works are dealt with indirectly in orders relating to other matters, without obtaining the opinions of those who are responsible for the state and efficiency of the former.

2. Mr. Puckle's proceedings with regard to the tank banks of Tinnevelly appear to me to be altogether objectionable. The primary object of irrigation tanks is irrigation, and there are probably plenty of places in most districts where jungle conservancy can be carried out without running the risk of destroying the irrigation works. Only last year the bank of the Cauverypauk tank, which had been allowed to become covered with jungle and undergrowth, had to be cleared at a very great expense before dangerous slips, which had taken place, could be got at, and the condition of the bund elsewhere ascertained. It may be remarked, also, that Government declined to allow this outlay to be charged to Jungle Conservancy Funds. In the same and other districts hundreds of tanks, which are in urgent need of repair, cannot be got at because the old standing orders of the department regarding the villagers keeping them clear of scrub jungle and prickly-pear have not been attended to, and a very large expenditure will, I am afraid, be requisite to make up for the neglect of many years.

G.O., No. 1671, dated 26th June 1873.

3. Not only is the actual condition of the bunds of tanks unascertainable when they are covered with jungle, but the presence of this renders them a secure harbour for vermin of all sorts, which burrow into the earthworks, and thus lead to the breaching of the tanks. The jungle on the Cauverypauk tank bund also not long ago harboured, I was informed, some leopards.

4. The planting of the interior slopes of bunds with suitable grasses to break the force of the waves, or with certain kinds of brushwood, where grasses are not available, or the soil unsuitable, is very right and necessary, but it is manifestly not requisite to plant the rest of the bunds which are not liable to the action of water.

5. The planting of trees on tank bunds is also objectionable, and has, I believe, always been held to be so. Decaying roots lead to leakage. Overturned trees tear out large masses of earth, and do much damage, even if the tank be not breached.

6. The order as it stands also appears to be supposed to apply equally to the Delta Canals. It will be better, in my opinion, to allow the Canal Officers to do their best to make these answer the purpose for which they were intended, and not to add artificial to the sufficiently numerous natural difficulties with which they have to contend. Jungle is objectionable enough on tank bunds, but it would be still more so on canal berms and banks, not only as greatly obstructing navigation, but as interfering with and rendering more costly the necessary clearances, and making inspections more difficult—an evil to be avoided at all hazards. I find it difficult enough as it is to get the orders regarding the clearing of canal banks and berms fully carried out, and though a great improvement in this respect has been effected

during the last three years, and works which were before almost impassable are now available for navigation, or capable of inspection without loss of time, yet much remains to be done. I have no hesitation, therefore, in recommending that jungle conservancy operations should be excluded entirely from the canals, and relegated to places where they will be beneficial instead of harmful. Avenue trees, where there is space available, can be planted along canals from Canal Funds, and there are many such avenues in existence. Firewood for Public Works purposes can also in some localities be grown, but such operations should be entirely subject to the main purpose of the works, and they must necessarily be under the entire control of the Canal Officers.

MASULIPATAM, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
8th December 1873. *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Referred to the Financial Department with reference to the Orders in that Department, dated 15th October 1873, No. 1501.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
16th December 1873. *Secretary to Government, P.W.D.*

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, 5th January 1874, No. 6.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, who will instruct all Collectors that their planting operations in connexion with irrigation works must be concurred in by the officers of that department before they are carried out.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

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

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The Board of Revenue,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated January 5th.

Recd.

G.O. 5th January 1874, No. 6.

JANUARY.
Nos. 10-11.

Jungle Conservancy.—Memorandum from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation objecting to the planting of tank and canal banks, communicated to the Board of Revenue in view to all Collectors being instructed that their planting operations in connexion with irrigation works must be concurred in by the officers of that department before they are carried out.

N- 873 E.

5

Memorandum

The order of Government of the 27th November No. 202, communicating an order in the Financial Department, No. 1501 dated 15th October last, has just reached me, and I would submit that inconvenience is not unlikely to arise if irrigation works are dealt with indirectly in orders relating to other matters, without obtaining the opinions of those who are responsible for the state and efficiency of the former.

2. Mr. Puckle's proceedings with regard to the Tank banks of Tinnevelly appear to me to be altogether objectionable. The primary object of irrigation tanks is irrigation, and there are probably plenty of places in most Districts where jungle Conservancy can be carried out without running the risk of destroying the irrigation works. Only last year the bank of the Cauvery pauk tank, which had been allowed to become covered with jungle and undergrowth had to be cleared at a very great expense before dangerous slips, which had taken place, could be got at, and the condition of the bund elsewhere ascertained. It may be remarked also that Government declined to allow this outlay to be charged to Jungle Conservancy funds.

recent order dated N- 73

funds. In the same and other Districts hundreds of Tanks, which are in urgent need of repair, cannot be got at because the old standing orders of the Department regarding the villagers keeping them clear of scrub jungle and prickly pear have not been attended to, and a very large expenditure will, I am afraid, be requisite to make up for the neglect of many years.

3. Not only is the actual condition of the bunds of tanks unascertainable when they are covered with jungle, but the presence of this renders them a secure harbour for vermin of all sorts, which burrow into the earthworks, and thus lead to the breaching of the tanks. The jungle on the Cauvery pauk Tank bund also not long ago harboured, I was informed, some leopards.

4. The planting of the interior slopes of bunds with suitable grasses to break the force of the waves, or with certain kinds of brushwood, where grasses are not available, or the soil unsuitable, is very right and necessary, but it is manifestly not requisite to plant the rest of the bunds which are not liable to the action of water.

5. The planting of trees on tank bunds is also objectionable and has, I believe, always been held to be so. Decaying roots lead to leakage - overturned trees tear out large masses of earth, and do much damage, even if the tank be not breached.

6. The order as it stands also appears to be supposed to apply equally to the Delta Canals. It will be better in my opinion to allow the Canal officers to do their best to make these answer the purpose for which they were intended, and not to add artificial to the sufficiently numerous natural difficulties with which they have to contend. Jungle is objectionable enough on tank bunds, but it would be still more so on Canal berms and banks, not only as greatly obstructing navigation, but as interfering with and rendering more costly the necessary clearances and making inspections more difficult, an evil to be avoided at all hazards. I find it difficult enough as it is to get the orders regarding the clearing of canal banks and berms fully carried out, and though a great improvement in this respect has been effected during the last 3 years, and works which were before almost impassable are now available for navigation, or capable of inspection without

without loss of time, yet much remains to be done. I have no hesitation therefore in re=
=commending that jungle conservancy operations should be excluded entirely from the Canals, and relegated to places where they will be beneficial instead of harmful. Avenue trees, where there is space available, can be planted along canals from canal funds, and there are many such avenues in existence. Firewood for Public Works purposes can also in some localities be grown, but such operations should be entirely subject to the main purpose of the works, and they must necessarily be under the entire control of the Canal officers.

Office of the Chief Engr for Irrigation
Masulipatam 8th Decr 73

H. Hutchinson Lieut. Col. R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To The Secretary to Govt Pub. Dept.

P.W. 1873 Depart. Fisk
No. 6776.
From The Chief Engr for Irrigation
To The Secretary to Govt Pub. Dept.
No 873. E.
Dated 8th Recd 15th Decr 1873
No. 2356.

Deprecates the system of taking up tank channel banks for jungle conservancy.

3

Referred to the Financial Departt with reference to the orders in that Department, dated 15th Octr 1873. No. 1501.

Chief Engineer R.E.
Secy to Govt

Lieut Col Hutchinson
16th Decr 1873

C 18/12
R 22
C 26/12
R 26/12
C 26/12
R 30/12

Referred with Van Order

5 Jany 74 2n 6

4

Gentn. I enclose Bd of Rev. Stowell
in chief asks that this planting
operations in connection with Irrigation
works must be concurred in by the Offrs
of that Dept. before they are carried out.

Yrs

The Board of Rev.
P.W. Depart

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Financial

To
The Board of Revenue.

Dated Jan^y 5.
Recd. Read.

G.O. 5th Jan^y 1873., No. 6.

Nos. 10 - 11.

Jungle Conservancy - Memo. from the Ch. Eng. for Irrigation objecting to the planting of tank & Canal banks, Cord. to the Board of Rev. in view all Coll^rs being instructed that their planting operations in connection with Irrigation works, must be concurred in

by the Officers of that Dept. before they are carried out.