1. Number of pages. 12.
2. Date of repair. 6.7.37
3. Details of Reference.

M.R.O. 1—52,400—28-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Ex. 6.5.7.

G.O. No. 1069 Press Mis.

Dated 4—6— 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following.

No. 28. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 12th May 1857, No. 248.

Read again the report on the Chetwye Dam by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle P. W.

(Here enter No. 129, of the 4th May 1857.)

Resolved that as the rule is absolute for the stoppage of all important Public Works, being brought to the immediate knowledge of Government, a copy of the foregoing despatch reporting that the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, has ordered the discontinuance of all work on the Chetwye Dam in the District of Malabar, be at once submitted for the early information of Government.

2. The Chief Engineer does not fail to perceive how entirely unsatisfactory the report now submitted is in its present state, and that the transmission of appendices now sent up in original has been so far premature on the part of Major Lawford that in the further investigations already ordered, they will probably be indispensable both for the full verification of Major Selby's Account Current closed to 30th June last, amounting to Rupees (21,107-12) twenty one thousand, one hundred and seven, annas twelve, which is at present unsupported either by day Books, or the receipts and vouchers from contractors; and also for discovering the cause of the difference of Rupees (8,108-7-5) eight thousand, one hundred and eight, annas seven, and pice five, between the Collectors expenditure of Rupees (36,600) thirty-six thousand, six hundred, and Major Selby's above stated outlay of Rupees (21,107-12) twenty one thousand, one hundred and seven, and annas twelve.

3. Nevertheless the Chief Engineer has no option of with-holding the present important paper, albeit there is much requiring the observations of the Head of the D. P. W., which he is not now in a position to offer.

4. Resolved however that copies of the letters* already forwarded to Lieutenant Colonel Cotton, to the Collector and to the District Engineer of Malabar (dates as per margin) be submitted for the information of Government.

* To Lieutenant Colonel F. Cotton, dated 11th May 1857, No. 219.
" Collector of Malabar dated 11th May 1857, No. 218.
" District Engineer Malabar dated 11th May 1857, No. 217.

5. It is requested that the accompaniments to Major Lawford's report, sent in original may be returned as soon as they can be spared; and the Chief Engineer ventures to respectfully solicit the attention of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to the corroboration of his own opinions respecting the professional conduct of Major Selby, (overruled by the Government in Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 383, of the 28th February last) now afforded by the official report of the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, of Public Works.

No. 29. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 22nd May 1857, No. 555.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant J. BEAN, District Engineer Malabar; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Malabar, 9th May 1857, No. 993.

SIR,

Agreeably to the orders contained in your Extract of Proceedings No. 11446, dated 1st April 1857, I have the honor to inform you that I inspected the Chetwye Dam in Chowgat Talook on the 1st Instant and that I am prepared as soon as the accounts are received to furnish you with a report on the work.

2. You are aware however that Major Lawford, on inspection of the Dam on the 27th Ultimo, stopped all further work and has on the 2nd Instant forwarded to you a report on the project. As the Superintending Engineer however has represented the state and recorded his opinion of the work it may be unnecessary for me to do so, but as the only accounts and plans are enclosed in his letter, I must request a copy or inspection of them to enable me to make out the expenditure to the present date, before I frame in accordance with your orders a correct report on the Dam.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 9th June 1857.

Resolved to forward a copy of the foregoing letter from the District Engineer in Malabar No. 993, of the 9th May 1857, to Government, and with reference to the Chief Engineer's remarks in Extract Proceedings No. 248, of the 12th Instant as to Major Lawford having been premature in forwarding original papers regarding the Chetwye Dam out of the District instead of transcripts only (no copies apparently having been kept for reference) to solicit the Government to allow copies to be made either in the Government or the Central office for the information of Lieutenant Bean.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 30. ORDER, THEREON, No. 1069; dated 4th June 1857.

The Chief Engineer is requested to submit a complete report on the Chetwye Dam on receipt of the replies of the Officers whom he has addressed on the subject.

2. Ordered that the original papers received with the Proceedings of the 12th Ultimo, above recorded, be returned to the Chief Engineer.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Memo on letter No. 960 from the Chief Engr., forwarding a report from the Supt. Engr. of the Southern Circle on the Chetwye Dam in Malabar.

The Chetwye Dam was built in lieu of the one which failed at Jennamattal. 37

The latter was a very ancient native work constructed at a cost, it is supposed, of about Rupees 20,000. It was built across a main branch of the Backwater, which runs into the Chetwye river near Trichoor, and which, during the fair season, was said to be affected high up by the tides. The Dam was chiefly intended to prevent the influx of the ~~salt~~ tide into an extensive piece of fresh water by which a large tract of very rich low land was irrigated. The work was destroyed in 1802 by Mr. Drummond an Assistant under the Principal Collector of Malabar, under an erroneous expectation that the lands belonging to the Honorable Company, as well as to the Cochin Circar, would benefit by the measure. This appears to have been done in opposition to the protest of the Cochin State. In consequence of the removal of the Dam, the influx of the salt water with the tide into the backwater was productive of much injury to the Cultivation carried on in the Cochin Territories.

2 Several attempts were from time to time

time made to reconstruct the Dam, but they all terminated in failure.

In 850, Colonel Lawes then Chief Engineer, inspected the Dam at the request of Govt and in the report submitted by him dated 27th May and 9th July of that year, that Officer attributed the failure to certain original defects in the plan. Great Reserve being reported favorably on a proposition made by Colonel (then Major) F. Cotton, for constructing a new Dam at Chetwye in preference to restoring the ruined one at Yennamadal. The comparative advantages of the two sites will be found detailed in Colonel Lawes Reports above referred to. After some correspondence with the Resident and the Board of Public Works, who expressed themselves satisfied with Major Cotton's proposition, the Government forwarded to the Honorable Court the Estimate submitted by the Board, amounting to Rupees 36,216, for the erection of the proposed Dam at Chetwye, and in their Despatch of 15th December 1852, that authority sanctioned the execution of the work. Subsequently, or on the 19th August 1854, this Government sanctioned a further sum of Rupees 9,900, stated to be required in consequence of the lowness of rates in the first Estimate; the total sum authorized for the new Dam having thus been raised

raised to Rs 46,116.

4

4 The Chief Engineer now sends up a report from the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle on tour of inspection, reporting great negligence in the Keeping of the accounts of the Dam, faultings in the Plan, which is stated to differ essentially from the original design of Lieutenant Colonel F. Cotton, and lastly unskilful construction. For these reasons, the Superintending Engineer has ordered the stoppage of work. "The result of my inspection of these works" Major Lawford observes "is a decided conviction "of the utter unsuitableness of the Plan, and complete "inefficiency of the work executed, to the objects for "which the Dam is intended, and that if it is still "to be built at Chetwye, the whole structure "must be raised on new foundations." For the reasons stated in para 13 of his report, Major Lawford prefers Yennamadal, the original site, "but before any further decision can be "safely formed respecting the construction "of the Dam at Chetwye, or the renewal of that "at Yennamadal", he is of opinion that "the "entire question as to the Revenue objects of "these works requires the careful scrutiny of the "Collector, in order that it may be clearly understood

"understood whether any further outlay can be q
"recommended or not" Major Lawford further
states that the Dam could not be properly
built on its present site (Chetwye) for
less than 20,000 Rs in addition to the sum
of Rupees 66,116 already sanctioned.

5 In respect to the accounts, that q
Officer recommends that they should be q
scrutinized by the District Engineer, aided by
an Accountant from the Collector's Establish-
-ment.

6 As the Project for constructing the
Dam at Chetwye originated from Lieutenant
Colonel H. Cotton, the Chief Engineer has
called for the opinion of that Officer in respect
to Major Lawford's present proposition.

7 Colonel Faber has also addressed
the District Engineer and Collector on the
subject of the accounts, and he has also desired
the latter Officer, to report on Major Lawford's
suggestion in respect to the work itself.

8 No orders are now required,
but I have thought that you would
wish to be in possession of the facts of
the case.

27-5-57

postponed until
further report is
received.

PWD

No. 1069

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 4th June 1857.

Read the follow-
Extracts from the Proceed-
ings of the Chief Engineer-

Here enter 12 and 22 May/57
No. 2485 & 555

The Chief Engineer
is requested to submit a com-
plete report on the chut-
-wyd Dam on receipt of
the replies of the Officers
whom he has addressed
on the subject.

2. Ordered that
the original papers re-
-ceived ~~with~~ this ~~date~~ 30th
& the 12 Minutes recorded
Proceedings be returned
to the Chief Engineer.

2 Copies to the Chief Engr. with 10 Drafts. Disp: 6.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 4th June 1857.

Read the following Extracts from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer

Here enter 12th and 22nd May/57
No. 2485 & 555

The Chief Engineer is requested to submit a complete report on the Chutwyd Dam on receipt of the replies of the Officers whom he has addressed on the subject.

2. Ordered that the original papers received this 30th & the 12 Minutes recorded Proceedings be returned to the Chief Engineer.

2 Copies to the Chief Engr. with 10 Drafts. Disp: 6.

Copy sent as Letter to Engr
of 30th November 1857 No. 22.

Public Works 1857 Dept. R
Do to Govt 9th June.

No. 1069.

Extract Mins of Govt.
Dd 4th June 57.
L. R. C. 17 June 57.
R 1174.

From the Chief Engineer d/15
Sept. 57 C No. 1841 in 17 Rec'd
R 13814.

Requesting to submit a complete report on the Chetwyn Dam on the receipt of the replies of the Officers whom the Chief Engr has addressed on the subject.

No 28 at 30.