1. Number of parts 1
2. Date of receipt 28
3. Initials of Referee

M.R.O. 1—32 400—22-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public (Works) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2263 Press Mis.

Dated 12 1897.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Central Office of P.W.
~~Fort Saint George~~
10th November 1857.

No. 3713.

From

The Chief Engineer.

To

The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir,

Secy's copy sent by the

I have had the honor to receive a copy of the Extract of Mins. Consultation No. 1113 in the Revenue Department of the 31st Ultimo giving cover to copy of a despatch from the Honorable Court to the Governor General of India in Council of the 9th September last, chiefly on the subject of certain proposals submitted for acceptance by a Body in England called "the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company" and the principle of which is a guaranteed interest of 5% on all paid up Capital.

2 The propositions of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, as now made known, appear to differ in some essential particulars from the several Railway Companies already established in India, and with which some sort of parallel has been drawn—

3 The most striking feature of such difference and of the intentions of the Company is that pecuniary emolument is sought to be obtained from the experience, knowledge, skill, and science of the professional servants of the Indian Government, the fruits of whose study and labour are to be appropriated by an associated body which calls is to supply the pecuniary means only of executing that, with the difficulty of registering or prosecuting which they themselves have no concern.—

4 Since the preliminary demand so to term it, seems to be that of the Govt shall gratuitously surrender the time and talents of its servants, in order to derive volumes for an Irrigation Company, to make an advantageous pecuniary investment of private capital.—

5 Now however novel or proposed may be, that an Association shall come forward in their agency or instrumentality of its own, and shall solicit in return for the use of its money to have a guaranteed interest of 5% and the moiety of all profits accruing on capital in excess of that rate, it seems quite possible that it might under

certain circumstances, be worth while for Government to consent to such terms notwithstanding the confusion, complexity, and discord latent in an arrangement seemingly wanting in many of the elements of that exactitude of computation, which is a prerequisite to success in all monetary enterprizes.—

6 But I deem it my own duty to report that however desirous and ready to encourage the views of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company the Government may be, its public establishments in this Presidency are on far too reduced a scale to admit of any of those professional investigations being undertaken by the results of which the intended association is to be guided.

7 In obedience to an imperative State necessity, the public establishment pronounced to be indispensable for the just and due development of the resources of the Madras Presidency (after so long and most laborious scrutiny into the actual requirements of the country) and which indeed were only authorized to be permanently organized in January last, has already been subjected to almost sweeping and comprehensive reduction—

8 as urgent were the financial neces-
sities of the time, that the scale of imme-
diate elimination was much more regulated
by the aggregate of retrenched expenditure
than by a careful consideration of how
the duties still remaining to be performed
were to be practically carried on throughout
the interior after so substantial an excision
should have been accomplished. The nu-
merical strength of the Department ad-
mitted to be necessary for the Madras
Presidency in January last was 1000 of
all classes, and since the 1st of September
the number has been reduced to a total
of 550, or little more than one half.

Meanwhile it is almost trite
to point out that the demands on the PW.
Establishments do not by any means vary
with pecuniary expenditure; and great
as have been the reductions in outlay
yet as they have taken place rather in
money amounts than in the number of
works, there is not a single District in
the Presidency from which well grounded
representations of inadequate subordinate
professional strength have not been received.

10 In great part the reductions directed
to be made on the current year's Budget
have been buried pateably, and the Govt
will at once observe that "repairs" which
were to have cost a thousand rupees, but
are now restricted to five hundred, or es-
timated to Rupees 100, but now limited to 50
will need in each case, that very much
the same professional agency shall be
put in movement. As regards arrangements
advances, payments and accounts, there is
very much the same machinery, the chief
observable difference being that partial
and superficial reparation has been sub-
stituted for thorough and effective repair-

11 It would be still more trite if
I were now to again repeat the frequent
allegation of the annual Revenue being
directly dependant upon the efficiency of
each work of Irrigation throughout the
Presidency, with a view to urging the want
of real economy attendant on a generally
imperfect state of repair. It is uncontestable
that works of irrigation must be maintain
ed thoroughly effectual, unless we are prepared
to forego the collection of revenue far greater
in amount than the sum of money necessary

for their repair which are withheld.

12 With this admitted truth fully recognised by the several District Engineers their onerous responsibility now that the Executive has unfortunately taken place generally, just when the professional staff has been so largely reduced, is not easily fully described; and I find it difficult to imagine what reception a demand would now meet with for the early complete investigation of those extensive Projects, which generated during a time of national tranquillity, the "Madras Irrigation and Canal Company" have now brought forward in view to ascertaining the safety and prospective value of their own pecuniary investments —

13 Shorn then of the strength which many able and experienced officers considered necessary for subverting the ancient system of labour, more or less compulsory, and under paid; and arising at a conjuncture when the District officers working with establishments reduced to a hazardous point are full of anxiety, lest in their early period of their own direct management, a reduced land revenue should shew the failure of their irrigation administration, I cannot but respectfully report for the favorable and candid consideration of Government how unfair a measure to the Presidency generally, and to the local professional officers in particular, it would be, to require that time and attention should be withdrawn from the important current duties of their Districts, in order to concentrate their skill and labour on the extensive Projects of improvement selected by certain English Capitalists as a profitable monetary speculation. —

14 I should unfeignedly regret having conveyed any impression unfavorable to the two large undertakings pitched upon by the "Madras Irrigation and Canal Company" or any opinion indeed hostile to the investment of British capital on remunerative Indian Works — I have not held out to myself any such object, desiring on the contrary, whilst assuring the Government of my own personal readiness to most heartily co-operate in any wisely planned schemes for the improvement and regeneration of the country by means of her public works, to simply state — my firm conviction to the Right Honble the Governor in Council, that it would be well nigh fatal to the credit of the Madras

D.P.W. to attempt to more carry into practical effect, the instructions contained in para. 4 of the orders of Government No. 1113 of 31st October 85; and as Head of that Department I earnestly beg that those orders may be allowed to remain in abeyance until reorganization on the permanent scale of 27th January last, shall, in more prosperous times, be again authorized.—

15 Before the foregoing paragraphs had been fair copied, or even handed over for the purpose, I received the accompanying Minute dated 5th instant from the Superintending Engineer Trichinopoly and which was drawn up by that Officer before the subject had been made the matter of personal conference. I cannot indeed claim the support of Major Lawford's identity of views with my own, but which solicits the attention of His Lordship in Council to the very forcible representation contained in the Superintending Engineers Minute. I beg leave to point out the independent opinion of that Officer in concurrence with my own, as to the utter inadequacy of the present P.W.D. for the duty of instantaneously investigating the two canals in Bellary and Coimbatore)

16 ally present despatch being already of undesirable length, I do not propose to add to its dimensions by now making any detailed examination of Major Lawford's several suggestions.— I may add however that whilst I do not differ from much that he has stated, I am very far from being prepared to support the proposal that the Commandant of the Madras Engineers on the ground of comparative freedom from official occupation shall be nominated Consulting Engineer of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company; again in considering the equal importance and difficulty of the comprehensive subject specially confided to the investigations and management of Mr. Fraser employed as the Government is aware in devising means for the storage of flood water on which the measure of India's future wealth and prosperity depends) I most anxiously protest against the professional ~~services~~ services of that gentleman being surrendered to the association whose proposals have been in the one enable of Departmental (numerical) inefficiency so opportunely brought forward. It should

seem upon the whole however that
Major Lawford considers it more feasible
to undertake early operations on whatever
conditions than has to myself seemed to be
the case.—

In conclusion I have requested
the Superintending Engineers to circulate the
orders of Government N°1113 of the 31st
Ultimo and despatch from the Honble
Court to all the Collectors and District
Engineers whose Districts are comprised
in the projected operations so that by
familiarity with the schemes generally
opinions may gradually be matured, on
many of the branches into which the
Companys proposals naturally ramify.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt St.
[signature illegible] Colonel
Chief Engineer.

Central Office of PW.
Fort St. George
10th November 1837

Minute by Major Lowndes Superin:
tending Engineer Southern Circle.

1. The Chief Engineer having re:
ferred for my observations the order of Government
in the Revenue Department No 1113 dated 31st
October 1857, submitting a Memorial
some more definite instructions are required, be:
fore the several Collectors, and District Engi:
neers can be called upon to report fully on the
subject of the proposed Irrigation, and Canals
Company Projects.

2. In the first place it should be
stated to what extent the District Engineers
are to be employed in maturing the extensive
projects indicated, and how they are to combine
the performance of that duty with the due dis:
charge of their ordinary functions.

3 Secondly, it must be shewn how
the unity of any one scheme affecting several
Districts under distinct professional manage:
ment, is to be preserved, and whether Officers
are

Cons. 3 Nov. 1857 No. 26.

Copy in a L. to C. of 15th March 1858 No. 6.

0

9

No. 57.

Public Works 1857 Sept. 4 P
Dt. to Cons. 8th Decr.
No. 2220

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secy to Govt. N.W.P.
Dated 10th Nov. 1857
Rec'd
No. 5713.

Enclosed returned.

Acknowledges receipt of Ex. Mun Con. No 1113 of 31st Oct 1857 d. assigns reasons of his respectful application that the above order of Govt. may remain in force until the reorganization in happier times of the Madras N.I.D. to the normal strength of 27 Regts Local Corps forwards original Memorandum Supt Engr of Circle on same subject with brief observations from himself.

No. Ex. No. 2263. 5th December.

are to leave their own ranges for the investigation.

4. Thirdly, the duties and responsibili= =ties of Superintending Engineers require definition.

5. Fourthly, the same process is necessary in regard to the work of the Revenue Officers, on whose Statements and opinions the financial projects of the Company will principally depend.

6. The above appear to me the princi= =pal points on which the action of Government is essentially necessary before a single step can be taken in furtherance of their instructions. But there are some important considerations which must enter into the discussion.

7. The present establishments of the P. W. D. are insufficient for the due perfor= =mance of the duties imposed on them, for the work is scattered over the whole Presidency, and accounts must be rendered with equal exactness and punctuality, for the least or the greatest public expenditure, even under its reduced scale. The Department is deprived of some very efficient members yearly, for purpo= =ses of special investigations, and yearly for the

-15-

sake of aiding the Revenue Department, in duties foreign to their legitimate employ. If then the extensive surveys on which alone "the pro= =bable cost and return" of these projects can be de= =termined, are to be undertaken by the Officers of this Department as it now stands, something at= =to must be proportionally neglected, and the Govern= =ment must be prepared for the omission.

8. Moreover it is to be recollected, that independently of the cost of Salaries of perma= =nent servants thus employed, the State will be saddled with considerable expenses connected with such surveys, and for this no provision has been made.

9 It seems to me essential to the successful accomplishment of all or any of these great projects, that their investigation= =s should be carried on under the supervision of some recognized and responsible agent of the irrigation company, and that the employment of such agent is the very first step which the company must take. If this be not done, all the time, labour and expense of the Government Officers

Officers may be thrown away with no other result, than a mass of useless papers, to lay before the Home Authorities.

10 But as no agent has been appointed, and the necessary references to England would involve so much delay as to produce disappointment, I would submit for consideration the following plan.

11 The leading proposers of the Company whom I shall call Directors, have signified their wish to be guided by the Counsels of Colonel Arthur Cotton, whose presence in India and comparative freedom from Official occupation, afford the best opportunity of rendering his advice available, and who should be recognized as Consulting Engineer to the Irigation and Canal Company; Under Colonel Cotton I would recommend the employment of W. Fraser and A.N. Dopping Esqrs C.E. as temporary Engineers to that Company for the investigation of plans, and under them should be employed such staff as they may require, but both Engineers and staff should be seconded or replaced in the Department of Public Works, which should suffer no diminution

be left for settlement till the works are completed. The interests of English shareholders ignorant of Indian Revenue systems demand the clearest elucidation of the difficulties they involve, and the relations now existing between the Government and the Railway Company fully established my position.

17 Under these Considerations I would propose that the Director of the Revenue Survey should be associated with Colonel Cotton for the discussions and settlement of a question which must be taken upon very broad if not liberal grounds or the advantages held out to the ryots will be illusory.

18 I trust that the remarks here offered will not be construed as any indication of hostility to the proposed Company, as such feeling is not entertained, but I am anxious to guard against a belief of the great facility of its establishment

blishment and reliance on the means of this Department for aiding it without prejudice to the Public Service.

Supt. Engineer's Office
Southern Circle
Fort Saint George
5th November 1851

(Signed) E. Lowe Lord Major
Superintending Engineer
Southern Circle

diminution in strength by the adoption of the plan.

12. The Government should authorize some defined scale of expenditure in the preparation of surveys of all of which as well as the Salaries a separate account should be kept and charged ultimately to the Irrigation and Canal Company.

13 Under this System I think that some safe and practicable plans may be brought forward at an early date without inflicting that injury on the general working of this Department, which must result from the duties of the Irrigation & Canal Company being superadded to the ordinary routine, while it is certain that the Company's interests must be better served.

14 In Para 8 of the letter from the Honorable Court, allusion is made to a point which involves more difficulties than any other in the formation and success of an Irrigation Company, but it is satisfactory to observe the distinct recognition of the necessity of abandoning the

Copy with L. to S. of 15th March 1850 No 6.

Enclosure in a Letter from the Chief Engr. to Govt. dated 5th Nov. 1851 No. 5113

Rect. No. 2220/51.

Draw

Pd. Supt. Engr. S.C. Date 5th Nov. 1851 Rec'd 6th Nov. 1851

Minute on the address of Govt. relative to the Irrigation & Canal Company

Irrigation & Canal Company to the Secretary to the Board, & Irrigation and Printing

Lt. Col. Lewis Smith

the present Revenue System on land watered by such means. Still as the settlement of this question must determine whether success or failure is to attend the Company, its Joint Consideration by Officers of the Revenue and Engineer Services cannot be too early entered on.

15 It is beyond all doubt essential to success, that the returns from irrigation shall be wholly distinct from the Assessment on the land, but it seems to me impossible to establish a system of water rate partially in any one District or Taluk. The people will hardly distinguish between the Officers of the Government and those of the Irrigation Company, and how the latter are to enforce payment of their dues, I cannot imagine. If the whole of the Collections are not under one management, the Company will have to maintain an army of subordinates who will absorb a large proportion of the profits.

16 Such questions cannot safely be

Public Works Dept

No. 2263

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 5th December 1857.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer.

Fort enter 10. November 1857
No. 5183

In this letter the Chief Engineer intimates his inability in the present reduced state of the Public Works Department to furnish the report required in Extract Minutes Consultation 30th October 1857

Revenue Dept

P. 1113, respecting the two projects which the "Madras Irrigation and Canal Company" propose to open out. Major Lawford, the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle, also alluded to the diminished strength of the Establishment, and recommended the employment of a special Agency for the purposes of the investigation.

The Government have already brought to the notice of the Chief Engineer, in their order of the above date, that the two projects had been partially treated

of

on of in previous correspondence, and it now occurs to them as not altogether improbable that most of the materials for his reports are to be found in his own Office; in his case, and with the fact that the Superintending Engineer of the Central Circle has lately visited the site of one of the works, the Government apprehend that the Chief Engineer will experience no difficulty in complying with their requisition. Colonel Taber is accordingly requested

requested to take the
subject in hand at
once, and, after consulting
ing such of the Superintending and other
Engineers, whose opinions
he may deem it requisite,
to obtain, as fully
to report, upon the two
projects as the materials
at his command will
admit, within three
months from the date
of this order.-

I. K. B.

I Copies to the Chief Engr
Office

Copy sent in a Letter to E. of 15th March 1858 No 6.

Public Works 1857 Deptt.
Do to Coun 8th December.

No. 2263.

Extract Minis: of Cons: —
Dy 5th December 1857.

Requesting the Ch. Engr. to report, (as the materials at his Command will admit, & within 3 Months from the date of this order) upon the six Projects which the Madras Irrigation & Canal Company" propose to open out.

No 5/852.