

1. Number of pages 16
2. Date of repair 16-6-32
3. Initials of Referencer.

M.R.O. 1-32 400-95-11-30

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 24.3.1857

G.O. No.	<i>495</i>	Press
		Mis.
Dated	<i>18-3-</i>	<i>1857</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 24th March 1857.

No. 2. Read the following letter from Captain C. C. JOHNSTON, Acting Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, in charge of the Central office of Public Works; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 28th February 1857, No. 10559.

SIR,

1. Adverting to para. 11, of Lieutenant Colonel Baker's letter, No. 3173, dated 11th July 1856, Communicated in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1405, dated 12th August 1856, I have the honor to forward, with a Survey, and series of sections taken by Major Birdwood, copy of a letter No. 141, dated 11th Instant, from Lieutenant Harington, Executive Engineer in charge of the Ganjam District, containing a report on the river Mahanuddy embankments.

2. Lieutenant Harington notices in para. 2, that the river Rooshkoolia when in flood, slightly overtops its banks near Aska, and that to prevent the flood water finding its way to the rear of the right embankment of the river Mahanuddy, it was necessary to extend that embankment from the confluence of the two rivers, for a distance of about one mile up the left bank of the former.

3. In September last, the flood "water from the Rooshkoolia, finding its way into the Mahanuddy at the unfinished" Neerallo Sluice, occasioned a breach in its right embankment, at the point of confluence, as shewn in the sketch. In this breach, Lieutenant Harington does not consider it necessary to build a sluice, but proposes to leave it open for the escape of the water, in the event of the recurrence of any unusual floods; observing, though the flood water would extend so short a distance for a day or two, that no harm need be apprehended or guarded against; that nevertheless, if the ryots required it, a surplus Calingulah might be constructed to regulate the overflow.

4. The drainage of the Tripasoor Nullah, a stream which passes near the Aska Factory, is provided for by a sluice (No. 1) of 3 vents, each of 4 feet span, and at the line of cross Section G. II., the lands in the limits of the village of Poorgapilly are protected by the embankment.

5. At the Section E. F. will be seen, how these works protect the buildings of the Aska Factory from the reach of the flood water, which would otherwise, as in former years, attain a height of between 3 and 4 feet on the compound walls.

6. Sections A. B. and C. D. show the protection afforded by the embankment for a distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Aska, and Russelcondah road, and to the Villages of Kopernowga, Nowgaum, Nowapilly, and Reechipaud, with about 5 square miles of rich Paddy, and Sugar-cane cultivation.

7. At Neeraloo, is shewn the spot where the flood water from the Rooshkoolia entered the Mahanuddy on the 11th September last, and Lieutenant Harington expresses a hope, that the Sluice will be completed this month.

8. At a site a little below the village of Kopernowga where the embankments were nearly breached last year, owing to the insufficient water way afforded by the existing sluice, of one vent of 4 feet span, an additional sluice, to consist of 3 vents of 4 feet is proposed to be constructed.

As shewn in the sketch, the Dykes* on the right bank of the river hitherto treated of, terminate on a hill near Guntapadoo.

* About 7 miles in length.

9. The left embankments of the Mahanuddy, which are in length some 2 miles less than the right, have also been connected with high ground, and afford protection to the villages of Alipoor, Koratholy, Moundapoor, and Borigaum, the first and last of which; have hitherto suffered much from floods, the Inhabitants having been obliged to leave their houses; and take refuge in the neighbouring rocky hills.

10. In para. 3, Lieutenant Harington states, that the embankments are of good section, well turfed, and in excellent order, and trusts to being able to keep them in repair with the annual grant of Rupees (600) six hundred, sanctioned in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 71, dated 12th January 1857.

11. From the estimate for these embankments, Rupees 64,840, which formed item No. 1, in statement No. 1, of the Budget for 1856-57, of the sum of Rupees 20,000, twenty thousand,

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 24th March 1857.

† Extract Minutes Consultation No. 842.

sanctioned on the 2nd June 1856, about Rupees 18,000, have been expended, Rupees 1,000, or 1,500, more being probably required for the masonry works remaining to be built.

12. The benefit to the country in being protected from floods, has already been great but no return is to be expected from the outlay, the whole of the lands being the property of a Malekdar, and the Zemindar of Daracotta.

13. In para. 5, Lieutenant Harington observes, that the embankments having been formed and there sections found to be sufficient to retain the flood waters of last year, he has not considered it necessary to give any calculations of the area of floodway, or volume of water discharged by the river in floods, but has merely shown the positions of the embankments, and the extent of their influence.

14. Lieutenant Harington does not treat of the extended operations to be undertaken on further funds becoming available, but his report of what has been done, is concise and satisfactory, and will I trust be found to contain all the information required by the Government of India.

No. 3. ORDER THEREON, No. 495; dated 18th March 1857.

In Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1405, dated 12th August 1856, the Government communicated to the Chief Engineer, an Extract from a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, conveying the refusal of that Government to sanction an estimate of Rupees 64,810 proposed, in the Budget submitted for 1856-57, to be expended on embanking the Mahanuddy. The grounds of objection were that information had not been afforded as to the relative levels of the river banks and the adjacent country, that the site of the embankments had not been given, nor the area of the floodway they would enclose, that the volume of water discharged by the river in high floods was not specified, nor the extent to which the embankments would limit the spread of water. On these points it was held by the Government of India, that the sufficiency of the floodway and stability of the embankments depended, and sanction for the proposed work, it was said, would be withheld, until full information was afforded.

2. In paragraph 13 of his present letter, the Acting Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle observes that, as the embankments already formed were found sufficient to retain the flood water of last year, the Executive Engineer has not considered it necessary to give information as to the area of floodway, or volume of water discharged, and in the next paragraph he expresses his hope that all the information required by the Government of India, will be found in Lieutenant Harington's Report.

3. The Government of India having declined to sanction the embankments without certain specific information, the Governor in Council must express his surprise and regret that the Acting Superintending Engineer should support the Executive Engineer in the expression of his opinion that the information was not necessary.

4. The estimate in question having been entered in the Budget for 1856-57, is necessarily again entered in that for 1857-58, and a remark has been appended that the information required by the Government of India is in course of collection. The information requested was called for in August last, and the letter from the Central office now under reply was received in the current month, so that after an interval of six months, the enquiry has still to be commenced.

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

District Engineer's Office Tanjore
Campal Aska 11 February 1857
From Lieutenant C. H. Harington
Executive Engineer in Charge
Tanjore District
Colonel C. E. Faber
Chief Engineer D. R. W.
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to Extract from your Proceedings
No. 8060. 13th November 1856, subject as per Margin.

Reports hitherto received on the Mahanuddy Embankments are insufficient in professional detail and not satisfactory to Government. The relative levels of the Banks and adjacent country are required. The area of floodway should be shown and volume of water discharged by River in highest floods or it should be proved to what extent the embankments limit the present spread of the water.

have the honor to forward a sketch showing the position of the Mahanuddy Embankments with reference to the River, and a sheet of cross sections showing the relative levels of the Banks of the river and the adjacent country.

The Survey and levels have been taken, as indicated, by Major Birdwood when he was at Aska, on the 22nd last month.

2. The following description of the Embankment will, I hope, satisfy Govt. that they are of great benefit to the Country as far as they have been constructed.

Right Bank. At the confluence of the Mahanuddy and Roachkooler Rivers, it was necessary to continue the Embankment for some distance about a mile up the left Bank of the Roachkooler River to prevent any flood from the Roachkooler

(which

(which slightly overtops its banks near Ashai) getting
 in rear of the Embankments. At the junction as
 shown in the sketch, is the place where the Embank-
 ment breached last September, owing to the river
 water finding an inlet at the unfinished Neeraboo
 Sluice. I do not think it necessary to build a
 Sluice at the Breach. Should the river water
 ever again find an entry from above, there will be
 an open outlet here, and when the River is full, and
 overflowing at this point, the flood water would
 extend so short a distance for a day or two, that
 no harm need be apprehended or guarded against.
 If the Ryots require it, a surplus Calingutta to
 keep out the flood water might be constructed.
 Otherwise all that is necessary is to slope off
 turf and re-set the sides of the open portion in the
 Embankment, where the water forced a passage.
 No 1 is a Sluice of 3 Weirs of 4 feet span for drainage
 of the Tripasoor Nullah, a stream which passes near
 the Ashai Factory, and drains a large extent of
 Country. Near this place, the fields of Pongapilly
 Village are protected by the Embankments, and
 crop line B. H. at the line of protection C. F. it
 will be seen how these works now keep the Factory
 from the reach of the flood water, which would
 attain a height of between 3 and 4 feet on the com-
 pound walls, and in many years has deluged the
 whole building, exposing it to the danger of the
 foundations being undermined, and of injury to the
 valuable Machinery. At this site also, and indeed
 all the way for 4 1/2 miles as per Sections A-B-C...
 the Ashai and Rupselondah Road quite depends
 on the Embankments. Till they were constructed
 it

Factory

Road

Villages

Cultivation

Villages

it would have been useless attempting a Road. The
 Villages of Kopernowga, Nowgam, Nowapilly, and
 Reeshipand, on right bank, all come under the
 influence of the Embankments, with about 5 square
 miles of rich cultivation. Paddy and Sugar Cane. At
 Neeraboo, I have marked the spot where the water
 came in, on 1st September last year. I hope the Sluice
 will be completed this month. There is also a dangerous
 place a little below it near Kopernowga, where the
 Embankment very nearly went last year, owing
 to there being only a small single Weir of 4 ft span
 to discharge a considerable quantity of land drainage.
 Major Birdwood has been at the place with me,
 and advised me to build another and I propose con-
 structing one of 3 Weirs of 4 feet, which will I think
 render it quite safe. It will be seen, that the Right
 Bank Dykes terminate at a Hill near Cuntapandor.
 Left Bank. The Embankments are not of
 such length, being some 3 miles shorter. They have
 been connected with high ground. On the left
 bank are protected the Villages of Alipoor,
 Korathol, Moundapoor, and Porigam. Of these,
 Alipoor, and Porigam used to suffer much
 from floods. In both Villages, the inhabitants have
 been obliged to leave their houses, and go for re-
 fuge to neighbouring rocky hills.
 3. The Embankments are as I have before
 reported of good section, well turfed, and in
 excellent order. I trust the Annual repair al-
 lowance of 600 Rupees will keep them secure.
 Of the sum sanctioned by the Madras Govt. 20,000
 about 18,000 have been expended, and I do not
 think the remaining two or three necessary
 masonry

Masonry Works will cost above 1000 or 1500 Rupees
Beyond the benefits to the country which
I have mentioned, and of which there can be no doubt
Government cannot expect any return from these
works, as the lands are all the property of a Mahomedan
and the Zemindar of Darashtal.

I have not added any calculations re-
garding the area or passage of the water, such
as might have been useful in determining the prac-
ticability or Sections of Embankments proposed,
but as these are made, and during last year's
floods have been proved able to retain the water,
I have shewn nothing more than their position,
and extent of their influence.

The Plans referred to are sent by this
day's Banghy.

I have the
Hon. J. H. Harrington Secy to
Camp Ashta
11 February 1837.
Executive Engineer in charge
Banjain District

True Copy /
Upminster Captains
H. Sup. Engr. in Charge
in ch. of the Central Office of A. S.

Public Works Dept.

No 495
Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 18th March 1857.

Read the following
letter from the Acting
Superintending Engineer
Northern Circle in charge
of the Central Office of
D. 10.

Received 28th February 1857
No 10559

In Extract Min-
utes Consultation No
1405, dated 12th August
1856, the Government
communicated to the Chief
Engineer an Extract
from

Copy in a letter to the
Chief Engineer dated 18th March 1857

1857 Dec 11th

Enclosure in a letter from the
Chief Engineer to the
Chief of the Public Works Dept.

1857 Dec 11th
No 2

1857 Dec 11th
No 408/57
Copy of letter from the
Superintending Engineer in charge
of the Public Works Dept. to the
Chief Engineer and the Chief
of the Public Works Dept.

from a letter from the
Secretary to the Govt of
India conveying the re-
-sponse of that Govt to
sanction an Estimate of
Expend 64,840, proposed,
in the budget submitted
for 1856/7, to be expended
on embanking the Ma-
-hannidly. The grounds
of objection were that in-
-formation had not been
afforded as to ^{the} relative
levels of the river banks
and ^{to} the adjacent Country,
that the site of the em-
-bankments had not
been given, nor the area
of floodway they would
enclose, that the volume
of water discharged by
the

the river in high floods
was not specified, nor
the extent to which the
embankments would
hinder the ^{spread} speed of
water. On these points
it was ~~told~~ ^{held} by the
Govt of India that
the sufficiency of the
floodway and stability
of the embankments
depended, and sanction
for the proposed work
it was said, would be
withheld, until full
information was
afforded.

In paragraph
13 of his present letter
the Acting Superintending
Engineer Northern Circle
observes

observed that, as the embankments already formed were found sufficient to retain the flood water of last year, the Executive Engineer has not considered it necessary to give information as to the area of flood way, or volume of water discharged, and in the next Paragraph he expresses his hope that all the information required by the Govt of India will be found in Lieutenant Harrington's report.

The Govt of India having declined to sanction the Embankments without

without certain specific information, the Governor in Council much expresses his surprise & regret that the ^{acting} Chief Engineer should support the Executive Engineer in the expression of his opinion that the information was not necessary.

The Estimates in question having been entered in the budget for 1856/7, is necessarily again entered in that for 1857/8, and a remark ^{has} ~~must~~ been appended that the information required by the Govt of India

will

will be given as soon as in course of
as it is received from collection.

the Chief Engineer.

The information re-
quested was called
for in August last,
and the letter from
the Central Office now
under reply was received
in the current month,
so that after an in-
terval of six months,
the enquiry has still
to be commenced.

R. S.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr.
with 1 Orig. Survey
1 Sketch —
Dispt. 19th

Copy in a - John A. King's
M 119 a. Aug 1855 - 1862

Public Works 1857 - 1862
2915 a. - 24 1/2. March

M 495

Ordnance Office of Gen.

1855 - March 1857.

7 June: 31 March 1857

Explanatory - and in the
report that the state department
of Congress. Southern Circle,

who will support the Executive

and in charge of the Congress

Division of the Department of the

opinion that the information as

to the relative level of the

banks of the Alabama 1857 1862

beginning by the South of Louisiana

was not necessary.

No 243.