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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con. 7-4-57

G.O. No.	141	Press Mis.
93-14 Dated	7-4-	1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 93. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 7th March 1857, No. 10777.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to invite the favorable consideration of Government to a very interesting report with appendices (to be obligingly returned) from the Superintending Engineer Central Circle of Public Works now on Circuit, respecting the irrigable capabilities of the Southern talooks of the Bellary District, which I persuade myself that the Government will peruse with considerable pleasure and satisfaction.

2. The papers now sent compose the second of a series of reports on projects which Captain Collyer, from personal inspection and general professional investigation, considers deserving of the future support of Government; but there being numerous discrepancies in the cultivable areas assigned by the Engineer and reported by the Revenue authorities of the Province, the first report has been returned to Captain Collyer for correction or further explanation, and when received, it also will be placed before Government.

3. It perhaps is an unavoidable attendant upon the necessarily hasty and imperfect examination of a Superintending Engineer whilst on a tour of inspection, that his reports shall be wanting in the minute detail, and accurate precision that are indispensable for projects recommended for practical execution.

4. But whatever character of vagueness or speculation the Government may attach to Captain Collyer's able and zealous labours, when viewed as supplying undertakings for entry in the annual Budgets, it will be admitted, I think, that a great deal has been accomplished even in those confessedly imperfect examinations, a portion of which is now forwarded for the information of Government.

5. The hydraulic posture of Bellary is shewn to be, in fact, more embarrassing from the ample but undeveloped facilities which it actually possesses for being placed almost beyond the reach of the fearful scarcities and famines that have marked the past and recent history of that fine Province, than difficult of improvement by the niggardliness of its natural advantages.

6. I apprehend therefore that the chief practical difficulty will be that of selection, especially at a political conjuncture, when it might be too sanguine to expect that large assignments of funds can be set apart for works of internal improvement, however greatly required, or however promising in results.

7. In this belief, I would venture to suggest, that accompanied by whatever instructions the Government may think proper to issue, all Captain Collyer's reports should be relegated to the Collector of Bellary for his own careful consideration, and above all for his ascertainment of cultivable areas and population, and agricultural stock to utilize the abundant supplies of water which it is represented can be so easily turned upon the ground.

8. A very few weeks might enable Mr. Pelly to decide to what set of works preference should be first given, and this point once settled on authentic data, guaranteed by the Revenue Authorities, it would then be the duty of the District Engineer of whom Captain Collyer has frequently reported very highly, to take the general views of the Superintending Engineer for his guidance, and by his own investigations or those of his subordinates, to complete the projects in detail, and to prepare them in so satisfactory a manner, as may admit of their entry in the Budget of the year.

9. But abounding as Bellary even now is in means of extensive internal improvement, it is not too much to expect, that on the approaching visit of Colonel A. Cotton, his affluent professional resources will strike out yet other and perhaps even more comprehensive measures last as are those now suggested) for placing Bellary beyond the reach of future devastation by famine, as he is understood to still cling to his first belief that the Soondoor range of hills can be pierced or turned by a first class navigable canal from the Toombudra.

10. I will close such general observations as have been called forth by the papers now forwarded, by bringing to the notice of Government, how not only desirable but indispensable

it is, that the proceedings and intentions of the Department Public Works in Mysore should be made known to the local officers in Bellary. All Captain Collyer's computations of his catchment basins, and of his surfaces drained by the various affluents of the Toombuddra and the Huggry comprize the space in Mysore, which for what we have any official means of knowing to the contrary, may have been appropriated already for hydraulic works which the Mysore Department may have projected for construction. As an apparent case in point, the Executive Engineer (of Chittildroog I believe) but who resides at Toomcoor, Mr. Addis, assured me a few days ago that a gigantic reservoir was about to be formed only a few miles to the south of the Bellary frontier, at a cost eventually of six lacs of Rupees, and from the position Mr. Addis shewed me on the map, the main feeder of this extensive lake is the Chinna Huggry one of the very affluents entering into Captain Collyer's and Lieutenant Fisher's calculations. If it be questionable whether the restoration of the old dam across the Cauvery at Nerinjeepett sixteen miles above Bhowany can be permitted, without compromising vested interests in Trichinopoly and Tanjore, still more must it be doubtful whether any such gigantic work as that described by Mr. Addis can be constructed in the Toomcoor District, without prejudice to the province of Bellary. But however this may be, operations on the same stream surely ought not to be prosecuted simultaneously by different administrations in ignorance of each others proceedings, when the one set may possibly vitiate, or modify that of the other, and I trust that the Madras Government will adopt such measures as may be thought sufficient to prevent miscalculations or virtual interference with the schemes now in contemplation for the improvement of Bellary.

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, No. 641 ; dated 7th April 1857.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to forward the foregoing letter and its enclosures to Colonel A. Cotton, with a request that he will, during his approaching visit to Bellary, report on the projects referred to by Captain Collyer, after communication with the Collector, to whom a copy of the papers will also be furnished for consideration.

2. In para. 10 of his letter, Colonel Faber refers to a "gigantic reservoir" about to be formed in Mysore, the main feeder of which is the Chinna Huggry, one of the affluents entering into Captain Collyer's calculations; and adverting to the case of the Nerinjeepett anicut across the Cauvery, he questions the propriety of the Mysore authorities undertaking a work which must affect the interests of the Bellary District. The Government are unable to view this matter in the same light as Colonel Faber. They observe that the Nerinjeepett anicut does not appear to be at all a case in point, in the question as to whether the Mysore authorities are justified in appropriating the water of the Chinna Huggry on its passage through that country. In the Nerinjeepett case, there were very large vested interests at stake; while in that of the Chinna Huggry, there are none at all. While therefore the Government might well hesitate before they consented that the waters of the Cauvery should be diverted from Trichinopoly and Tanjore which had been supplied for centuries, they do not see on what sufficient grounds a protest could be made against the use of water passing through Mysore, of which this Government had hitherto made no use. Apart from this question however, it is not sufficiently obvious that the proposed work in Mysore, will materially affect the schemes in contemplation in Bellary, as the catchment basins are distinct, and there is therefore no reason to apprehend, that, under good management, enough water may not be secured both for Bellary and the Mysore country.

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

P.W.D. No 10777 3d.
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P.S. Dec 10/11

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No 641. 7th P.W.D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 7th April, 1857.

Read the following
letter from the Chief Engineer

/Here enter 7th March 1857. No 1077/

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Copies to the Chief Engr.
with 4 Original Enclos
Copies 8

1 — Col. Colton
with Copies of the Papers.

1 — Coll. of Bellary
with 8 — D:

Public Works 1857 Dep.tt
Cons: 7th April.

(9) No. 641.

Copy in a Letter to England
D/ 4th August 1859 No. 31

Extract Mins of Cons.
D/ 7th April 57.

From the Chief Engr & Surveyor
& Ord. 9th Mins Cons. 15 June

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No. 9 3 94.