M.R.O. 1—22 400—29-11-60

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 2 16 57

G.O. No.	1642	Press Mis.
Dated	6	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

List of Reference

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 2nd June 1857.

No. 67. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 4th May 1857, No. 60.

SIR,

In submitting the accompanying report* from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, on the subject of the Proceedings of Mr. W. Fraser, Civil Engineer in prosecuting the survey of sites, for reservoirs in the valleys of the Moyaur, and Bhowany rivers, I have the honor to state, that it has my General concurrence.

*Dated 11th April 1857, No. 112.

2. As Mr. Fraser's own report on the subject of the reservoirs, was submitted to Government together with my letter No. 6502, dated 13th September 1857, and the opinions, which I have expressed were decidedly in favor of the prosecution of these works, I would take the opportunity of suggesting, that these papers be considered together, and this especially, as Government will find in the former papers a general view of all the reservoirs showing their capacities, the quantities of water, which they will be in positions, to receive from the drainages, which they will intercept, and the heights length of the bunds required &c. &c.

3. That the advantages, obtainable, from such works while readily appreciated in a general way, may be almost lost sight of with respect to particular works, the utility of which, can only be shewn, in figured statements, is so clearly exhibited by a comparison of the letter No. 89 dated 9th March 1857, from the Superintending Engineer Southern Division with the first paragraph of the letter, now forwarded that I make no apology for noticing it, as an argument in favor of these works.

4. In his lettter No. 89, dated 9th March 1857, para. 7 the Superintending Engineer states "Tanjore will never even feel the influence of any reservoir formed among the distant hills of "one of its thousand affluents" but in the first para. of his letter, now submitted, he candidly acknowledges that this opinion was formed under an imperfect recollection of the tenor of one drawn up by Mr. Fraser on the results of his examination of various sites, for reservoirs and no very distinct apprehensions, as to the extent of any one of those, proposed for construction.

5. Observing that this difficulty of bearing in mind, the importance of these reservoirs has almost led to the unqualified condemnation of them by an Officer of much experience in irrigation it naturally occurs to me, that I may have failed to lay the subject before Government, in such a manner as to obtain for it due attention, it is difficult however, to determine, which is the best way of doing so careful calculations no doubt supply the most correct means, but it may be doubted, if they suffice, when the subject is new, owing perhaps to the difficulty of recollecting both the figures, and the deductions made from them, and the consequent uncertainty as to the correctness of these deductions which arises in the mind.

6. Of the value of water for irrigation, generally I need not of course write. I cannot however avoid calling attention, to the circumstances noticed in the third para. of Major Lawford's letter, No. 112, to the effect that there are times when the Cauvery does not afford sufficient water for Tanjore, and when the want of it is consequently felt, throughout the most highly cultivated, and populated District in the Presidency.

7. I have now the honor to request that I may be informed how far Government are at present disposed to embark in these undertakings, which are as a whole necessarily costly as well as comprehensive; in order that I may decide, to what extent, Mr. Fraser should be aidedby Subordinates, including Supernumerary Assistant Executive Engineers.

8. Before applying to Government for a grant, for a workshop at Coimbatore, I purpose calling for a detailed enumeration, of the tools, and apparatus required by Mr. Fraser, to be submitted together with his estimate for the reservoirs themselves.

No. 68. ORDER THEREON, No. 1042; dated 2nd June 1857.

1. The Chief Engineer submits a letter from Major Lawford, the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle, relative to the Proceedings of Mr. Fraser in prosecuting the survey of sites for reservoirs in the vallies of the Moyaur and Bhowany, in the District of Coimbatore.

2. The importance of forming reservoirs for the storage of water, to aid the Cauvery Irrigation, was brought to the notice of Government by the late Civil Engineer of the 6th Division, consequent on a representation from the Collector of Tanjore, that the proposed restoration of the Nerinjipett annicut, for the supply of two channels to be taken off above it, in Salem and in Coimbatore, would be prejudicial to the Irrigation of the Tanjore District during the low freshes, when the water in the river is insufficient for the cultivation. It was then proposed by the Civil Engineer, and recommended by the* Board, that Mr. Fraser should be appointed to seek for sites for reservoirs in the vallies of the Bhowany and the Moyaur, in view to the more regular and ample supply of water when the freshes were low. Mr. Fraser was accordingly appointed to this duty on the 13th August 1855, and on the 13th September 1856, the Chief Engineer submitted his report on several sites which he had examined; and the Government,† on a review thereof, desired that a complete survey might be made of one of two sites indicated, (No. 7 or 31) and an estimate prepared of the cost of the dam and all the subsidiary works that would be required.

* Proceedings 30th July 1855, No. 747.

† Extract Minutes of Consultation, 21st October 1856, No. 1932.

3. In his letter now submitted by the Chief Engineer, Major Lawford adverts to his report of the 9th March last, in which he advocated the construction of reservoirs in the valley immediately above Nerinjipett on the Cauvery, at spots affording the finest sites for the storage of water that could be imagined; and states that, after personal communication with Mr. Fraser, and actual inspection of some of his work, he does not now consider the valley of the Cauvery the best site for the construction of the first reservoir. He therefore proceeds to notice Mr. Fraser's proceedings in connection with his survey of sites in the vallies of the Bhowany and its affluents, with special reference to the supply of water to Tanjore, and recommends (para. 7) that all sites affording facilities for the construction of reservoirs, should be accurately surveyed and estimated for the necessary work. He particularly adverts* to site No. 7, at Pallavoor, as likely to form the finest reservoir in India, but expresses his opinion that if this vast project is to be carried out, "the means and appliances to "be placed at Mr. Fraser's disposal must be on a very different scale from any hitherto employed "in the Southern Provinces;" and recommends, as an essential preliminary, that a good Engineering workshop should be established at Coimbatore. He also suggests (paras. 12 and 13) other measures for obviating the difficulties that may arise in the construction of these reservoirs, to which however it is not necessary here to refer.

* Para. 9.

4. Colonel Faber expresses his general concurrence in the views contained in Major Lawford's report, and requests to be informed "how far Government are at present disposed to em-"bark in these undertakings, which are as a whole necessarily costly as well as comprehensive, "in order that he may decide to what extent Mr. Fraser should be aided by Subordinates, including Supernumerary Assistant Executive Engineers."

5. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers Major Lawford's report on the proceedings of Mr. Fraser, to be very satisfactory and encouraging. His Lordship in Council has already recognized the importance of establishing reservoirs for the storage of flood water, and he is of opinion that every assistance should be afforded Mr. Fraser for completing his survey of either of the sites to which his attention has been more immediately directed, considering however the novelty of the undertaking, the uncertainty of its cost, and the difficulties to be overcome in its execution, the Governor in Council is of opinion, that it would not be prudent to undertake, in the first instance, the construction of more than one reservoir. The Chief Engineer will therefore instruct Mr. Fraser to complete the survey of one of the two sites already indicated in Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 21st October last, and to frame an estimate for the construction of the dam and its subsidiary works. When these necessary preliminaries shall have been executed, and a satisfactory report thereon furnished by the Chief Engineer, the Governor in Council will be prepared to sanction the entry of the project in the next Budget, as well as to make provision therein for the establishment of an Engineering workshop at Coimbatore, should Colonel Faber, then shew grounds for the measure.

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

RIVER

CAUVERY

Mill

Iron Works

Plan of the Camp
near Seringapatam
drawn by
Lieut. Colonel Fletcher

No 2

For Orders

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No 903

Public Works Department

From the Chief Engineer 4th May 1857.

The report of Major Lawford in my satisfactory & encouraging. The Bridge at Chobham also respecting appointment for completing the Surveys. - Subject to commencing Workshops &c. - Major L. & Lieut. Hayter to attend

that Estimates for all these
can only be included in the
next budget - or next year.
that for the Government.

Mr Fraser's Surveys of Sites for reservoirs.

P.W.D

No. 1042

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 2 June 4 1857.

Read the following
letter from the Chief Engineer

Recd enter 4 May 1857 No 60

The Chief Engineer
submits a letter from Major
Lawford, the Superintending
Engineer of the Southern
Circle, relative to the pro-
ceedings of Mr Fraser in
prosecuting the survey of sites for
reservoirs in the vallies of
the Moyaur and Bhowany
in the District of Coimbatore

2 The importance
of forming reservoirs for the
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Civil Engineer of the 1st. Division, consequent on a representation from ~~Mr. Forbes~~, the ~~Hon~~ Collector of Tanjore, that the proposed restoration of the Veranjeett Annicut, ~~across the Cauvery~~, for the supply of two Channels to be taken off above it, in Salem and in Coimbatore would be prejudicial to the irrigation of the Tanjore District during the low freshes when the water in the river is insufficient for the ~~purpose~~ of cultivation. It was then proposed by the Civil Engineer, and recommended by the* Board, that Mr. Fraser should be appointed to seek for sites for reservoirs in the vallies of the Bhowany and the Moyaur, in view to the more regular and

* Proceedings 30th July 1855 N°747.

E. M. C. 21st Octr/56 N° 1932

and ample supply of water ~~to that District~~, when the freshes were low. Mr. Fraser was accordingly appointed to this duty on the 13th August 1855, and on the 12th September 1856, the Chief Engineer submitted his ~~Fraser's~~ report on several sites which he had examined, and the Government, on review thereof, desired that a complete Survey might be made of one of ~~the two~~ sites indicated (N° 31) and an estimate prepared of the cost of the dam and all the subsidiary works that would be required.

In his letter now submitted by the ~~Chief~~ Engineer, Major Crawford adverts to his report of the 9th March last, in which he

he advocated the construction of reservoirs in the Valley immediately above Nanjipett on the Cauvery at spots affording the finest sites for the storage of water that could be irrigated, and states that after personal communication with Mr. Fraser, and actual inspection of some of his works, he does not know, in the Valley of the Cauvery, the best site for the first construction of the reservoir. He therefore proceeds to notice Mr. Fraser's proceedings in connection with his survey of sites in the Valleys of the Bhavany and its affluents, with special reference to the supply of water to Sangor, and recommends (Para 7) that all sites affording facilities for

for the construction of reservoirs, should be accurately surveyed and the necessary work estimated for, particularly adverts to site No 7. at Pallavoor, as likely to form the finest reservoir in India, but expresses his opinion that if this vast project is to be carried out, "the "means and appliances to "be placed at Mr. Fraser's "disposal must be on a "very different scale from "any hitherto employed in "the Southern Provinces," and recommends, as an essential preliminary, that a good Engineering workshop should be established at Coimbatore. He also suggests (Paras 12 & 13) other measures for obviating the difficulties

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repor-

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an engineering workshop at Coimbatore, should Col. Faber, then shew grounds for the measure.

J.D.

A.V.

A.

Copie to the Chief Engr. with 3 Recd Dispatches.

P.W. Letter to England
of 17th July 1858 No 15.

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No 67+68.

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Public Works 1857 Depart.
Cons: 2d June.

No 1042.

Extract Mins of Cons:
Dy 2d June 57.

From Chief Engr 17th July 57 6th
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5 of Rs 30

Passing orders on the prosecution of the Survey & Sites for Reservoirs in the valleys of the Noyaur and Bhowany in the District of Coimbatore.