

MAO. 1-12-1938-11-10

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated

18-5-38

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 26th January 1858.

No. 33. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated the 24th December 1857, No. 6230.

Read the following papers.

Letter from Lieutenant J. G. RYVES, District Engineer, Trichinopoly; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Sirthcoor Tope, 16th December 1857, No. 1101.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward for your information copy of a correspondence* which

* Collector's letter No. 306, 2nd December 1857, and its enclosure Tamil report has passed between Mr. Bird, and myself
District Engineer's letter No. 1049, 4th December 1857. relative to the state of irrigation by the
Collector's letter " 310, 7th " " new Ponairry Channels.
Do. do. " 166, 5th " "

2. I should have written on this subject, were this were it not that I have been waiting for a full report of the state of the Channel during the month of November called for by me from Mr. Ricketts. This report not having been received yet, I think it advisable not to delay any longer in submitting the correspondence above alluded to.

3. I am given to understand by Mr. Ricketts that his report when it is submitted will in some important particulars contradict the Tahsildar's report inclosed in the Collector's letter No. 306, of 2nd Instant.

4. This however is comparatively unimportant, the object of this communication is to renew my application for sanction for the construction of the under tunnel across the Murthayaur, this work was stopped with other new works on the 1st August under the orders communicated in your Circular No. LXVI. 1857-58, and was subsequently altogether countermanded by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2013, 27th October under date.

5. Mr. Bird states truly the inevitable result of not immediately sanctioning this work, viz., that the whole sum already expended will become a clear loss to the State, the Channel will be left unused and uncared for during the year or two that sanction is withheld and when sanction is obtained it will be found a mere ruin requiring re-excavation from end to end, the lands already cleared will again be overgrown with jungle and the Darghasdars have again to expend capital on the preparation of ground which is now ready for water.

6. Every season which is allowed to pass, will increase the sum ultimately to be sanctioned in a geometrical ratio.

7. The monsoon just passed has choked the Channel with deposit which would not have lodged in it had the under Tunnel at the head been constructed, and the sum now required will be at least double what was stated in August last.

8. The absence of the under tunnel also rendered necessary, a very heavy outlay for removal of accumulation and deposits and construction of Corumboo both across the Murthayaur and at the head from the Coleroon, the former being washed away after every heavy shower of rain and the latter being of twice the height and consequently 8 times the cost of the Corumboo which would have sufficed had the under tunnel been constructed, this height being necessary to force the water over the mass of Ooze deposited by the Murthayaur.

9. All these contingencies were foreseen and were the grounds on which the construction of the under tunnel was recommended for sanction.

10. It is my opinion that if the Ponairry Channel project is to be carried out, I should have authority to commence work on the under tunnel before the middle of January next.

11. A large sum will also have to be expended in clearing out the Channel after the close of the present irrigating season and the embankment of the Coleroon has to be completed to

protect part of the Nunjah lands from inundation. The latter work will cost about Rupees 3,500, of the former the amount cannot be estimated until immediately before the work is to be executed as it is increasing every week.

Letter from J. BIRD, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly; to Lieutenant J. G. RYVES, District Engineer of Trichinopoly, dated 2nd December 1857, No. 306.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to furnish you with copy of a report from the Tahsildar of Woodiarpollum, on the present state of the Ponairy channel.

2. From the tenor of this report it must be admitted that the irrigation from the channel is deficient and that there are many difficulties now existing to secure a sufficient supply of water for the lands laid down and planted with paddy crop.

3. I do not transmit this report or make this statement to you with any intention to find fault with the arrangements of your Department or to under-rate the enormous difficulties you have to contend with at the Ponairy. But simply to shew you the reported condition of the channel, and the lands dependent thereon.

Translation of an Urzee from GOOLAMHOOSANE SAIB, Tahsildar of Oodiarpolliem Talook; to J. BIRD, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly.

States with reference to the Sunnud No. 80 of the 26th November, which reached him on the 28th Idem, calling upon him to explain on the state of the Voykal, which he represented in his Urzee to the Collector dated 22nd November, as having been dried up and consequently the cultivation under it has been scorched; and as to the cause of his having been to Cusbah without attending to the orders No. 796, directing him to remain for the space of 15 days near the Voykal for the purpose of removing the obstacles and dams thrown across the branch channels, which, as the District Engineer stated, held sufficient water for irrigation, but prevented by the impediments in their way; that he has taken charge of the Talook on the 30th October last, and in his weekly Reports of the 1st and 8th November as well as in his Urzees of Nos. 749 and 757 he had, in accordance to the correct and true statements received, stated that there was no water at all in the Voykal and therefore the crops have failed.

In his Report No. 760 of the 14th November he has stated that there being a dam across the Murthear, the branch channels had, on the 9th Idem, received from it a very inadequate supply of water and the Inhabitants with much dispute between them appropriated it for their cultivation, and that the channels of Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 6 as well as the main channels &c., are now completely dried up.

On the 17th November he reported that on the 15th the water in the channels was completely absorbed; but however, consequent on the little fall of rain on the 16th the Oroomorley Voykal &c., have been partially supplied, but inadequate for irrigation, and in his subsequent Report No. 777 he stated that there was no water at all in the channels &c.

On his having witnessed himself the state and capacities of the tank, channel and Voykals, he made the afore-cited report on them correctly and truly.

The Ryots who were eagerly expecting some supply of water to their cultivation from the Murthear, even much elated to see so little water in it and began to dispute and throw dams across it, to divert the course of the water to their respective fields, and he ordered them not to obstruct the passage of water, to meet their interested motives, but to leave it to take its own course. The Channel No. 2 received not the least supply from the tank.

It may be supposed that the Civil Engineer, believing that there should be sufficient water in the Channels, while the Ryots disputed regarding its disposal, made such reports to the Collector.

If the Channels &c., alluded to were truly in such good state, the Ryots who had taken pains to till and sow seeds, would have gladly availed themselves of the supply and he, the Tahsildar, also lent every assistance in his power; but he had no business to mis-represent the real state and capacities of them.

If some of the Circar Servants be directed to ascertain the state of the Voykal and Channels &c., and that of the cultivation under them, the truth and correctness of his reports would be verified.

As the time for Eroosal (remittance of the Collections into the Treasury) approached, he was obliged to send out some of his Subordinates and to proceed himself to Cusbah on the 23rd and to remain there until the 27th for the purpose of taking into Custody the Eroosal, and thence he repaired to Sathumpaady village, where the Coleroon breached in some places, and the people were engaged in collecting the necessary things as materials to repair it.

As Murthear was in some places obstructed, there was no chance of its flowing into the Voykals and main channels &c., and the Coleroon, in which there was a foot of water, could receive its supply.

There is no water at all in the main Channels and Voykals, but if the people repair the breaches in the Coleroon and excavate the Voykals and Channels, so as to enable them to receive the supply from the tank, they may prove beneficial to the Ryots but not otherwise.

In writing to the superior authority on any subject, he would take care to see his statements correctly represented.

He had seen Sub Overseer Kistnapah Naidoo and spoke to him about the water, who told him that if measures be adopted to place Murthear in a position to lend its supply to its dependants and to remove the obstacles thrown in its way there will be water in the channels.

While the channels are in such bad state the Overseers write to the Civil Engineer that there is sufficient water in them for irrigation and the Civil Engineer on such authority might have given such report to the Collector.

He is diligently adopting every measure that would enable Ponairy Voykal to irrigate the lands for cultivation. He is sparing no exertions towards the completion of these objects and undertakings.

Translated by

B. STREENAWADOO,

of the General Department.

Letter from Lieutenant J. G. RYVES, District Engineer, Trichinopoly; to J. BIRD, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, dated Sirthcoor Tope, 4th December 1857, No. 1049.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 306, dated 2nd Instant with its enclosure, a complete report on the Ponairy channel irrigation for the period between 1st and 28th November.

2. From this report it is evident that from the 15th to 26th ultimo, there was no water turned down the channel, two water reports which have been since received by me also tend to shew this.

3. That the supply was bad in the first half of the month though on the occasion of my visit to the channel viz. the 11th and 12th there was a sufficient quantity of water flowing down.

4. And that finally there is but little prospect according to the Tahsildar's views and the information he is in possession of, of securing a proper supply in the channel under its present conditions.

5. This failure (which as far as the information I am in possession of, must be considered as proved) is to be attributed without doubt to the effect anticipated by me and fully brought to the notice of Government with an application for sanction of a plan for obviating it of the large accumulation of mud and ooze deposited by the Murthayaur after every local fall of rain—and this deposit has been this year larger than usual owing to the heavy north-east monsoon.

6. Under these circumstances it is my opinion that no attempt at cultivation should be made next year unless the plan above referred to be carried out and completed before the end of May next.

7. I am however still of opinion that had the removal of accumulation and maintenance of Corumboo been properly and vigorously performed, a supply of water sufficient for the irrigation of the 650 Cawnies taken up for cultivation this season could have been maintained, this I assert in justification of my repeated statements independence on which the Ryots were induced to cultivate to the extent they have.

8. I shall be obliged by your informing me what result may be expected on the Revenue and on the Ryots, personal venture in cultivating new Nunjah. Every effort to continue such supply of water as can be maintained shall be made and I will address you again on the point after communicating with Mr. Ricketts the Assistant Executive Engineer of the range in which the channel lies.

A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle.

Letter from J. BIRD, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly; to Lieutenant J. G. RYVES, District Engineer of Trichinopoly, dated 7th December 1857, No. 310.

SIR,

1. Referring to your letter No. 1049 of date the 4th Instant, I have the honor to furnish you with copy of a letter addressed by me to the Board of Revenue on the subject.

2. It is not possible for me at this period of the season to say what result may be expected on the Revenue. The Ryots have obtained the lands on Progressive Nunjah Cowles and it will be a question at the settlement whether the demand should be enforced according to the tenor of the Cowle, in the event of the crops being lost by draught.

3. Under such a contingency the Ryot's personal venture must be serious from loss of Capital and stock and seed.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th December 1857, No. 4590.

Read the following letter from J. BIRD, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort St. George, dated 5th December 1857, No. 166.

SIR,

* To the District Engineer No. 306 dated 2nd Decr. 1857.
From Do No. 1049 dated 4th December 1857.

Para. 1. I consider it my duty to put the Board of Revenue in possession of the letters noted marginally* in view to their being

informed of the state of irrigation under Ponairy channel.

2. I entirely concur in the opinion expressed by the District Engineer in the 5th and 6th paras. of his letter.

3. Unless a Tunnel be constructed to convey the water of the Coleroon river under the Marthayar stream, and so prevent the great deposit and silt from finding its way into the channel, it is useless to cultivate the lands, or to expect the Ryots can by any means abide by their agreements.

4. The State has been put to an enormous expense in opening out this means of Irrigation. And it seems to me not only bad policy but false economy, for the sake of five thousand, nine hundred, and twenty-eight Rupees, to run the risk of losing the Project altogether. Every days neglect only adds to the accumulation of fresh deposit, and the ruin of the channel, jeopardizing also an expenditure of over 54,000 Rupees.

1. The Board resolve to communicate the above letter to the Chief Engineer.

2. From the concurrent testimony of the Collector and District Engineer the non-execution of the Tunnel proposed by the latter Officer is likely to prove very injurious and independent

dent of the loss which Government may thus experience, the Board would remind the Chief Engineer that the Ryots have been repeatedly urged to extend their cultivation and prepare waste lands for wet crops and that they will have just cause of complaint if a sufficiency of water cannot be supplied to them.

(A true Extract and Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

Minute by the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; on the Ponairy Channel in Trichinopoly District.

In submitting to Government the report of Lieutenant Ryves on the present condition of the Ponairy Channel and the necessity for proceeding with the construction of an under tunnel across the Murdayaur, I think it necessary to observe that when I concurred in that Officer's proposal to extend the head of the Channel above the confluence of the torrent with the Coleroon, I considered the tunnel as a sine qua non to success, and that I regard it now as absolutely indispensable.

2. If my original plans had been strictly carried out, the difficulties now complained of would not have been felt, because the Murdayaur would have discharged itself into the Coleroon above the Channel head, but the first deviation having been made by Lieutenant Tyrrell, and the line taken on a higher level than mine, the improvement suggested by Lieutenant Ryves became very important if not necessary and there is no doubt that the ultimate effect will be to irrigate a larger extent of land.

3. I think Lieutenant Ryves has acted hastily in recording para. 6 of his letter to the Collector dated 4th December "that no attempt at cultivation should be made next year unless the plan above referred to be carried out and completed before the end of May next" as such advice is opposed to his previously expressed opinions, although the Tahsildar's report is partially contradicted by Mr. Ricketts. But I am not less sensible than he is of the urgent necessity for completing the tunnel for which the materials are partly ready, and I believe that further delay will greatly shake the confidence of the ryots not merely in this particular project but in the sincerity of the authorities in undertaking it avowedly for the public good, for to leave a remunerative work like this unfinished argues more than a want of funds for its completion, and the same principle might lead to general neglect of repairs.

4. Land has been purchased and capital expended on the faith of the sanction of Government to an undertaking which is on the verge of completion and which if once abandoned will not be restored except at great disadvantage, but this is not the only work in such a predicament and the popular inference I knew to be highly prejudicial to the Government.

5. I do not understand the reference to an embankment of the Coleroon to cost 3,500 Rupees for my estimate provided for all that appeared necessary, nor is it shewn how the channel can have silted up below the head sluice.

Superintending Engineer's Office,
Southern Circle,
Fort Saint George,
22nd December 1857.

(Signed) E. LAWFORD,
Suptg. Eng. Southern Circle.

The Chief Engineer resolves to submit the papers recorded above for the early favorable consideration of Government with his strong recommendation that the construction of the under tunnel across the Murdayaur at a cost of Rupees nine thousand, referred to in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2013, dated 27th October 1857, be sanctioned under the circumstances now set forth without delay, and with a record of his respectful opinion that under the strong support of the Board of Revenue, the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle P. W. and the Collector and District Engineer of Trichinopoly, he would be remiss in discharging the functions of his own office were he not to earnestly press upon Government the existing necessity of re-con-

sidering their previous decision which not alone practically nullifies the outlay of public funds to the amount of about Rupees (54,000) fifty-four thousand, but inflicts on the land proprietors, a heavy loss, consequent on arrangements and purchases they were not only encouraged but pressed to make on the faith of Government carrying out to completion the project of improvement they had already commenced.

2. The Chief Engineer is neither unaware of the present value of public money, nor of the marked reluctance of the Government of India to make any exception to the general interdict on any further prosecution of works of improvements; but he is under the impression that in special cases like the present where the good faith of the administration is implicated and where the suffering parties do not hesitate to publicly allege a breach of good faith, the present application for sanction of Rupees (7,018) seven thousand and forty-eight is not only justifiable, but an act of duty which he is not at liberty to omit.

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

No. 34. Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

From H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; to Captain H. YULE, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, D. P. W., dated 22nd January 1858, No 117.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward copy of a communication, and of its enclosures, from the Chief Engineer, dated 24th December last, No. 6230, relative to the Ponairy channel in the District of Trichinopoly, the execution of which, at the estimated cost of Rupees 52,952, was sanctioned, among other projects included in the Budget of 1854-55, in Mr. Beadon's letter of the 26th January 1855, No. 98.

2. On the 19th September last, the Chief Engineer reported the successful opening of this channel on the 28th July preceding, and stated that the actual expenditure on the work up to the date of report, was Rupees 54,072, or Rupees 1,120 above the sanctioned amount. He also reported that a further sum of Rupees 5,928 would be required for the full completion of the work, being Rupees 7,048 in all, or 13½ per cent. above the estimated expenditure.

3. The excess in the expenditure already incurred was attributed by the District Engineer to several causes, but chiefly to the extension of the head of the channel to a point a mile above the spot first selected; and the further sum applied for was stated to be required for the construction of a proposed tunnel, to convey the water of the Coleroon into the channel, under the Marthayar, which brings down salt water and considerable quantities of deposit. It was roughly estimated that these improvements, in the necessity for which the Superintending Engineer entirely concurred, would not have exceeded 5 per cent. of the sanctioned expenditure, and materials were in consequence collected and prepared for the construction of the tunnel. But on actual computation of the cost, it was found to be in excess of the rough estimate; and hence application was made for the additional amount required.

4. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council considered the extension of the channel, and the proposed construction of the under-tunnel, to be decided improvements; but as the additional amount applied for, was in excess of the sum which this Government could authorize under No. II of the Rules transmitted with Colonel Baker's letter of the 1st August 1856, and

as the Government of India had, in two similar cases previously submitted to them, declined* even to authorize the entry of the supplemental estimates in the Budget, the Governor in Council had no alternative but to direct the Chief Engineer to re-submit the application, when the existing restriction on expenditure should have been removed.

* From Government of India 4th September 1857, No. 1503.
do do 25th " " 4696.

5. In his Proceedings now transmitted, the Chief Engineer has renewed his application for the sum of Rupees 7,048, and has submitted communications from the District Engineer, the Collector, the Superintending Engineer of the Circle, and the Board of Revenue, urging, both on grounds of economy, and justice to the Ryots, the necessity of proceeding with the construction of the under-tunnel without delay. In these communications, it is represented that the proposed work is absolutely necessary to preserve the channel from being choked up with silt and deposit, which will soon render it useless as a means of irrigation; that further delay in the construction of the tunnel, will inevitably result in the loss of the large sum already expended on the channel, and that, as the Ryots have not only been encouraged but pressed to extend their cultivation, and to prepare lands hitherto waste for the reception of wet crops, they will have just cause of complaint if means are not taken to provide a sufficiency of water.

6. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is fully sensible of the necessity, in the present state of public affairs, of restricting expenditure as much as possible; but the propriety, and indeed necessity of immediately commencing the proposed work, are affirmed on such strong grounds that his Lordship in Council desires me to submit the Supplemental application for Rupees 7,048 for the sanction of the Government of India.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer
in the Department of Public Works.

Under date the 24th December 1857

- Recd the following Papers
From the District Engineer of Pichincha
/P.P. No 1107 of 16th Dec/57/
— 1^o — Board of Revenue
/P.P. No 1590 of 19th Dec/57/
— 2^o — Superintending Engineer S^o Crib
/P.P. No 22^o Dec/57/

The Chief Engineer
resolved to submit the papers recorded
above for the early favorable considera-
tion of Government with his strong
recommendation that the construction
of the Under tunnel across the Muroya
at a cost of Rupees nine thousand
be referred to Mr. Mac. Cose. No 2013
dated 27th October 1857 be sanctioned
under the circumstances now set forth
without delay, and with a Record
of his respectful opinion that
under the strong support of the
Board of Revenue, the Superin-
tending Engineer of the Southern Creek

[illegible]

2. ⁶ Sir John Phipps is rather
aware of the present value of
public money and the marked
reluctance of the Government of
India to make any exception to the
general interdiction on any further
prosecution of works of improve-
ments, but he is under the impression
that in special cases like the
present where the good faith of
the

The administration is implicated and where the suffering parties do not hesitate to publicly allege a breach of good faith, the present application for sanction of Papers / 9048 / Seven thousand and eight hundred and eighty eight is no mere insolence but an act of insolence which no man or liberty is entitled to.

Price Extract

Mr. J. B. O'Connell
Chief Clerk

vi The Secretary to
(General R. B. C.)

Compte H

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N^o 117.
Captain H. Yule
Officiating Secretary to the Govt of India
D.P.H.

Sir,
I am directed by the
Right Honorable the Governor
in Council to forward copy
of a communication, and of
its enclosures, from the Chief
Engineer, dated 24th December
last N^o 6230, relative to the
Ponnary channel in the Dis-
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cost of Rupees 52,932, was sanc-
tioned, among other projects
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1854/55, in Mr Beadon's letter
of the 26th January 1855 N^o 98.

On the 19th September
last, the Chief Engineer re-
ported the successful opening

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of this channel on the 28th July preceding, and stated that the actual expenditure on the work up to the date of report, was Rupees 57,072, or Rupees 1120 above the sanctioned amount. He also reported that a further sum of Rupees 5928 would be required for the full completion of the work, being Rupees 7048 in all, or 13 1/4 per cent, above the estimated expenditures.

The excess in the expenditure already incurred was attributed by the District Engineer to several causes, but chiefly to the extension of the head of the channel to a point a mile above the spot first selected; and the further sum applied for was stated to be required for the construction of a proposed tunnel, to

to convey the water of the Coleroon into the channel, under the Marthandya, which brings down salt water and considerable quantities of deposit. It was roughly estimated that these improvements, in ^{the necessity for} which the Superintending Engineer ~~exten-~~ly concurred, would not have exceeded 5 per cent of the sanctioned expenditure, and materials were in consequence collected and prepared for the construction of the tunnel. But on actual computation of the cost, it was found to be ~~considerably~~ in excess of the rough estimate, and hence application was made for the additional amount required.

The Right Honorable the

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of India had, in two similar
cases previously submitted to
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the entry of the supplemental
estimates in the Budget, the
Governor in Council had no
alternative but to direct
the Chief Engineer to resubmit
the application, when the
existing restriction on expen-
-diture should have been re-
-moved.

⁺ From Govt of India 4 Sept 1857 No. 1503.
Do. — No. 25 — 1856.

In

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his Lordship in Council
desires me to submit the
supplemental

supplemental application
for Rupees 7048 for the
sanction of the Government
of India
R. S.

John P. George }
22^d January 1858 }

In the Month of 1858
 To the 26th of Aug.

No. 117.

To the Office Secretary to the
 Govt of India. D. S. P.

Of 22nd of January 1858.
 Amount of 15th of January 1858
 in the 12th of January 1858.
 From the Office of 10th of 1858
 11:350 in the 12th of January 1858
 1858.

In the month of Jan-
 uary for the month of 1858.
 The amount of 15th of Jan-
 uary 1858 for the month of 1858
 to the 12th of January 1858
 in the 12th of January 1858.
 From the Office of 10th of 1858
 11:350 in the 12th of January 1858
 1858.

No 33534.

11 Aug