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*Q***MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.****Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.***Cerno 10-11-1859*G.O. No. *2570* Press
Mis.*8-9*
Dated *1-11-1859***Not to be folded or roughly handled**

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of November 1859.*

No. 8. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 15th October 1859, No. 6168.

1. With reference to the orders of Government, No. 2240, 25th October 1858, on the subject of the Nírgantís of the Tumbaddra channels being placed under the charge of the District Engineer, Bellary; and the substitution of money payments for the ináms at present enjoyed by the establishment, I have the honor to submit the letters as per margin.

4 Original letters with 5 enclosures.
1 Draft letter.
1 Letter from District Engineer, dated 6th Dec. 1858, No. 279.
1 Do. from Collector, dated 26th February 1859, No. 5.
1 Do. from District Engr., dated 18th April 1859, No. 451.
1 Do. to do dated 4th May 1859, No. 105.
1 Do. from do dated 14th Sept. 1859, No. 206.

2. Mr. Pelly, in his letter,* states that the money payment of Rupees four a month to each Nírgantí, as suggested by the District Engineer, would be more than double the value of their present emoluments. If, however, the Nírgantís are placed entirely under the Department of Public Works, he would advocate their payment in cash: but, "he is opposed to the transfer of all Nírgantís to the Department Public Works. He thinks the duty of distributing the water, immediately to the fields, had better be left to those men under the control of the village authorities, but he would recommend that all Nírgantís; required for the management of head and other sluices in principal channels and for all channel work merely, should be given up entirely to the Department Public Works† and be paid by that department." He states, there are at present 128 Nírgantís drawing a net income of Rupees 2,600, and he is of opinion, that probably it would not be requisite to employ so many or pay them so high as four Rupees a month each.

3. Captain Fisher in his letter,‡ submits a statement exhibiting 116 Nírgantís required by him to attend to sluices and the distribution of water in the channels. He is of opinion, that owing to local circumstances, those men should not be paid less than four Rupees a month each; this would make the cost of the establishment Rupees 5,538, against which he sets off their present emoluments, amounting to Rupees 2,600, leaving the net extra cost Rupees 2,938, but as the sum of Rupees 2,600 is the income of the existing 128 Nírgantís, and the establishment he applies for, is 116, the extra cost would be somewhat greater.

4. The new Collector, Mr. Hathaway, concurs with the District Engineer as to the number|| of Nírgantís required for the Tumbaddra channels; but adds: "I am unable to recommend the abolition of the ináms in favor of money payments."

"The ináms were granted to them under the former Government, and being still considered hereditary, the disposal of them lies with the inám Commissioner."

5. I hold the opinion entertained by the Collector, that it would be desirable (provided the ináms can be resumed and money payments substituted,) that those Nírgantís, required for the management of head and other sluices on the main channels, should be under the charge of the District Engineer, while those attached to sluices which regulate the immediate distribution of the water to the villages, should remain under the revenue authorities.

6. There seems to be no reason, to judge from Mr. Hathaway's letter, why immediate arrangements should not be made, if the Government approve, for the substitution of money payments for the ináms, and I recommend that the arrangements may be in conformity with the District Engineer's plan above mentioned.

No. 9. ORDER THEREON, 1st November 1859, No. 2570.

The Government agree with the Chief Engineer and the late Collector of Bellary that it is desirable that the Nírgantís employed to manage the sluices of the main channels from the Tumbaddra should be under the District Engineer, but not those employed in distributing the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of November 1859.

water of the branch channels. The latter should continue to be at the disposal of the village authorities, who will be responsible for the proper performance of their work.

2. It is a part of the duty connected with village establishments, on which Mr. Pelly is now engaged, to revise the numbers and emoluments of the Nírgantís; and he will be requested to give his particular and early attention to those connected with the Tumbaddra channels, in view to carrying into effect the arrangement approved above. Mr. Pelly will be much aided in this task by his intimate knowledge of the localities. It appears to Government that the present number of the village Nírgantís is much larger than can be really required for the work to be done; and where this is found to be the case the number should be reduced.

3. Nírgantís placed under the District Engineer for the charge of the main sluices must be provided with suitable emoluments; and, if practicable, it is desirable that they should have no concern with the actual holding of inám land.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Central Office of Works
Fort Saint George
15 October 1859.

No 6168
From, Mr. J. D. Pelly
The Chief Engineer
To, The Secretary to Government
Public Works Dept.

Sir,
Para 1. With reference to the orders of Government No 2240, 25th October 1858, on the subject of the Nírgantís of the Tunga-burra Channels being placed under the charge of the District Engineer Bellary, and the substitution of money payments for the Enams at present enjoyed by the Establishment, I have the honor to submit the letters as margin.

2. Mr. Pelly, in his letter, states that the money payment of Rupees 4 a month to each Nírganthry, as suggested by the District Engineer, would be more than double the value of their present emoluments who

Encl. 1
4 Arrol letters with
5 Encl. letters
1 Draft letter
Letter from D. Engr. of 6th Dec 1858 No 270
1 D. from Col. of 26 Febry 1859 No 5
1 D. from D. Engr. of 18 April 1859 No 451
1 D. to D. of 4 May 1859 No 105
1 D. from D. of 14 Sept 1859 No 206

emoluments. If however the Virgunties are placed entirely under the Department of D.M. he would advocate their payment in Cash. but "He is opposed to the transfer of all Virgunties to D.M. He thinks the duty of distributing the water, immediately to the Fields, had better be left to those men under the control of the village authorities but he would recommend that all Virgunties, required for the management of Road and other sluices in principal channels and for all channel work merely, should be given up entirely to D.M. and be paid by that Department." He states there are

© This is the estimate at 116 Virgunties in Comply talook and 6 on the Rajacalrah.

at present 128 Virgunties drawing a net income of Rupees 2600 and he is of opinion that probably it would not be requisite to employ so many or pay them so high as 4 Rupees a month each.

3. Captain Fisher in his letter submits a statement exhibiting 116 Virgunties required by him to attend to sluices and the distribution of water in the channels. He is of opinion that owing to local

18th April 59

local circumstances these men should not be paid less than 4 Rupees a month each, this would make the cost of the Establishment Rupees 5560. against which he sets off their present emoluments amounting to Rupees 2600, leaving the net ^{extra} cost Rupees 2960, but as the sum of Rupees 2600 is the income of the existing 128 Virgunties and the Establishment he applies for is 116 the extra cost would be somewhat greater.

4. The new collector Mr. Hathaway concurs with the District Engineer as to number of Virgunties required for the Tongabudra channels, but adds, "I am unable to recommend the abolition of the Enams in favor of money payments."

"The Enams were granted to them under the former Government and being still considered hereditary the disposal of them lies with the Enam Commissioner."

5. Should the opinion entertained by the collector, that it would be desirable provided the Enams can be resumed.

and

who

and money payments substituted) that those Virginites, required for the management of Road and other sluices on the Main Channels, should be under the charge of the District Engineer while those attached to sluices which regulate the immediate distribution of the water to the Villages should remain under the Revenue authorities.

6. There seems to be no reason, to judge from Mr. Hathaway's letter, why immediate arrangements should not be made, if the Government approve, for the substitution of money payments for the Enams, and I recommend that the arrangements may be in conformity with the District Engineer's plan above mentioned.

Central Office of Mr. I have the honor to be,
Fort St. George } Sir
15 Oct. 1859. } Your Most Obedt. Servt.

Yr. Capt. H.
Asst. Chief Engr. for
S. P. Wingate
H. H. H.

H. H. H. Lieut. Colonel
Chief Engineer

No 2370

9

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 1st October 1859

Read the following
letter from the Chief
Engineer.

Report on the subject of
the Virgants of the Tungabhadra
channels being placed under
the charge of the District Engr
Bellary & the substitution of
money payments for the inams
at present enjoyed by the
Establishment.

Here enters 15th October 1859
No 61087

The Govt agree with
the chief Engr and the
late collector of Bellary
that it is desirable that
the Virgants employed
to manage the sluices
of the main channels
from the Tumbaddra
should be under the
District Engr, but not
those employed in dis-
tributing the water of
the branch channels. The
latter should continue
to be at the disposal of
the village authorities
who

[Signature]
[Signature]

Mr 29th October 1859
No 2411

Report on the subject of
the Virgants of the Tungabhadra
channels being placed under
the charge of the District Engr
Bellary & the substitution of
money payments for the inams
at present enjoyed by the
Establishment.

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secy to Govt
Dated 15th
Dec 14th 1859

Encls 12. Returned 10-11-59.
No 2411

Report on the subject of
the Virgants of the Tungabhadra
channels being placed under
the charge of the District Engr
Bellary & the substitution of
money payments for the inams
at present enjoyed by the
Establishment.

No 8-

226 October 1831

No 2570. 1st Nov 1859

who will be responsible
for the proper performance
of their work.

2 It is a part of the
duty connected with
village establishments,
on which Mr. Pelly is
now engaged, to revise
the number and emolu-
ments of the Niganties;
and he will be request-
ed to give his particular
and early attention to
those connected with
the Tumbaddra channels
in view to carrying into
effect the arrangement
approved above. Mr. Pelly
will be much aided
in this task by his in-
timate knowledge of the
localities. It appears to
Govt. that the present
number of the village
Niganties is much larger
than can be really re-
quired for the work to
be done, and where this
is found to be the case the
number
should be reduced.

Niganties

113
Niganties placed
under the District
Engineer for the charge
of the main sluices
must be provided
with suitable emolu-
ments; and, if practi-
cable, it is desirable
that they should have
no concern with the
actual holding of
inam land.

10 Copies.
To the Chief Eng^r. Dip^r 2^d.
6 " Doanb of Revenue "
1 " L. C. Pelly Esq^r.

Com^r to Niganties

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Public Works 1859-1860
of Govt 10th Nov 1859

No 2572.

of the Madras Govt
of 11th November 1859.

From Pelly 26.02.1860
Cm 1038. d. 10.12.1859
From Pelly Govt 27.12.1860
Cm 1212. d.

Magistrate employed
for the main channel
from the Tumbukina
to be under the charge of
the District Engineer of
Belgaum and the 20 from
the main channel under
the Magistrate in the district.

1889.