M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 14

(2) Date of repair 10-8-43

(3) Initials of the Referencer

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA
AND INDIAN STATES.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2382 Press / Mis.

4534&454

Dated 25-11- 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 25th November 1862.

No. 453. Read the following letter from L. BOWRING, Esq., Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Bangalore, 6th November 1862, No. 41:—

SIR,

1. Adverting to the request contained in Colonel Birdwood's letter No. 2,497, dated 20th ultimo, I have the honor to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, copy of a letter* from the Chief Engineer in Mysore, offering certain observations upon the correspondence relative to the Mauri Cunvai project, received with Colonel Birdwood's letter above quoted.

* No. 1,707, dated 30th October 1862.

2. With reference to the request embodied in the 7th paragraph of the enclosed letter, I do not doubt that the Madras Government will readily assent to Colonel Cotton's statistics being forwarded for the inspection of Colonel Lawford, inasmuch as it is only by a careful examination of these data that the Chief Engineer of Mysore can form a reliable opinion of their correctness.

From Colonel E. LAWFORD, Chief Engineer in Mysore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Rajah of Mysore, dated the 30th October 1862, No. 1,707:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your docket No. 361 of the 28th instant, communicating certain correspondence relative to the Mauri Cunvai project, on which I am directed to report.

2. In the letter from Mr. Secretary Sim, No. 1,424, dated 31st July 1861, the Mysore Government was asked "whether the Irrigation Company could obtain an assurance that there would be no obstacle to the formation of a Reservoir at Luckwalli" if the site of the Mauri Cunvai were not available, and as in my reply to that reference I distinctly stated the intention of this Department to prosecute the works at the latter site, but not to initiate any undertaking at the former, I am at a loss to understand why the Chief Engineer of the Company should again endeavour to obtain possession of a site, on which the Mysore Government had commenced operations long before the Irrigation Company was formed, when there is one scarcely inferior in his opinion at his command.

No. 1,536.

3. I am under the impression that the construction of a Reservoir at the Mauri Cunvai did not form any distinct portion of the project submitted to the Madras Government by Sir Arthur Cotton in 1859 for the operations of the Irrigation Company, but that the intention then was to construct an Anicut across the river Kistna, from which it was expected that such an abundant supply of water would be obtained that the storeage of only 2,000 millions of cubic yards was proposed though without any indication of the site of the Reservoir, and it was on discovering afterwards that the above project was impracticable, and that the Tumbaddra must be the main feeder of the Company's Canals, that it became necessary to seek for other sites for storage purposes, one having been selected on the river Hindry a little to the south-west of Kurnool, which as being much nearer the principal field of irrigation must be more advantageous than a locality 200 miles distant.

4. The first question, then, which the Mysore authorities are entitled to ask is, what are the reasons which compel the Irrigation Company to seek to disturb operations already in progress, and enter a foreign territory for the fulfilment of plans of improvement in which Mysore has no interest, but which the Madras Government, it is presumed, had fully before them before they sanctioned such an outlay as one million sterling? If, as Colonel Cotton seems to admit, the Mauri Cunvai is not the only suitable site for a Reservoir for the Company's Canals, but merely the one where water can be most cheaply stored, what right can that Company have to expect the Mysore Government to sacrifice any thing for their benefit? And why may not a Reservoir be constructed in Bellary, which shall store not only all the surplus water of the great Mysore Tank, but also the combined affluent streams below that gorge, the aggregate flood

sections of which actually measure one-fourth more than that of the main Huggry? For supposing it true that the Mauri Cunvai Reservoir could be constructed as proposed by Colonel Cotton, it must be remembered that not only will a much larger area of land be submerged, but if the Company's works are to commence there, the Channels for 60 miles through Mysore must be greatly increased in capacity to carry the enormous body of water on which the Company depend for the irrigation under their control.

5. I cannot at all admit the justice of the principle contended for at paragraph 8 of Colonel Cotton's Memorandum, that because there exists a remarkably *good site for a Reservoir in Mysore*, therefore the Districts of Bellary, Kurnool and Nellore, have a natural right to occupy it. A right which most certainly would not be acknowledged by independent States, but even otherwise, the Madras Government might fairly be asked to sanction preferentially the formation of Reservoirs in the Pennár, in the gorges of the Cuddapah hills, at sites which I believe may be found equally favorable with the Mauri Cunvai.

6. If, as asserted by Colonel Cotton, the Mauri Cunvai Tank can be made to serve for much more than 50,000 acres, there is no reason why Mysore should be restricted to that extent of irrigation, and so long as a sufficient supply of water is allowed to pass down the river for the present wet cultivation in Bellary the undoubted right of storing as much water as possible rests with the State through which the Huggry flows from its source, a principle I conceive to be of the very highest importance as well as strictest equity, for otherwise the lower Provinces might always assert their claim to interfere in improvements of hydraulic works in Mysore, the drainage of which everywhere flows into British Territory. Such claim indeed was asserted by the Collector of Tanjore in the early part of this century, but on the explanations furnished by Major M. Wilks then Officiating Resident of Mysore and by Captain Mackenzie of the Engineers, late Surveyor General of India, the matter was dropped.

7. The scope of the foregoing remarks is to point out the propriety if not necessity of the Mysore Government being put in possession of more definite information regarding the Company's views and projects than has been hitherto afforded, before the proposals of their Chief Engineer can be considered, for as it is certain that the fullest information will be required by the Government of India, I shall not attempt to follow Colonel Cotton in his cursory criticism of Major Sankey's project, but would solicit the favor of being allowed to see the plans, estimates, calculations, and levels on which that of the Irrigation Company is based, and I shall then be better able to offer an opinion on a subject of such vast importance to the Mysore State, a request which cannot be considered unreasonable, when Colonel Cotton has had the same advantage in regard to the Mysore works.

8. I have already requested the Chief Engineer of Madras to furnish me with an account of the irrigation now depending on the Huggry River in the Madras territories.

(True Copy.)

(Signed.) L. BOWRING, *Commissioner.*

No. 454. ORDER THEREON, 25th November 1862, No. 2,828.

Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company with reference to his letter dated 10th September 1862, No. 57, and with a request that the statistics applied for may be submitted for transmission to the Commissioner of Mysore.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

32.

№ 1707.

Mysore Public Works Department.
Central Office.

From

Colonel C. Lawford
Chief Engineer in Mysore.

To

The Secretary to the Commissioner
for the Government of the Territories
of His Highness the Rajah of Mysore.

Dated the 30th October 1862.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your docket № 361 of the 28th instant, communicating certain correspondence relative to the Mauri Cunvai Project, on which I am directed to report.

2. In the letter from Mr. Secretary Sim № 1424 dated 31st July 1861, the Mysore Government was asked "whether the Irrigation Company could obtain an assurance that there would be no obstacle to the formation of a reservoir at Cuchumullee" if the site of the Mauri Cunvai were not available, and as in my reply to that reference I distinctly stated the intention of this Department to prosecute the works at-

№ 1536

at the latter site, but not to initiate any under-taking at the former. I am at a loss to understand why the Chief Engineer of the Company should again endeavour to obtain possession of a site, on which the Mysore Government had commenced operations long before the Irrigation Company was formed, when there is one scarcely inferior in his opinion at his command.

3. I am under the impression that the construction of a reservoir at the Mauri Cunvai did not form any distinct portion of the project submitted to the Madras Government by Sir Arthur Cotton in 1859 for the operations of the Irrigation Company, but that the intention then was to construct an Annicut across the River Kistna, from which it was expected that such an abundant supply of water would be obtained that the storage of only 2000 millions of Cubic Yards was proposed though without any indication of the site of the reservoir, and it was on discovering afterwards that the above project was impracticable, and that the Toombuddra must be the main feeder of the Company's Canals, that it became necessary to seek for other

sites

sites for storage purposes, one having been selected on the River Hindry a little to the South West of Kurnool, which as being much nearer the principal field of irrigation must be more advantageous than a locality 200 Miles distant.

4. The first question then which the Mysore Authorities are entitled to ask is, what are the reasons which compel the Irrigation Company to seek to disturb operations already in progress, and enter a foreign Territory for the fulfilment of plans of improvement in which Mysore has no interest, but which the Madras Government it is presumed had fully before them before they sanctioned such an outlay as one Million Sterling? If as Colonel Cotton seems to admit, the Mauri Cunvai is not the only suitable site for a reservoir for the Company's Canals, but merely the one where water can be most cheaply stored, what right can that Company have to expect the Mysore Government to sacrifice any thing for their benefit? And why may not a reservoir be constructed in Bellary which shall store not only all the surplus water of the great Mysore

Tank,

Sank but also the combined affluent streams below that gorge, the aggregate flood sections of which actually measure one fourth more than that of the main Huggry?

5. Supposing it true that the Mauri Cunnai reservoir could be constructed as proposed by Colonel Cotton, it must be remembered that not only will a much larger area of land be submerged, but if the Company's works are to commence there, the channels for 60 miles through Mysore must be greatly increased in capacity to carry the enormous body of water on which the Company depend for the irrigation under their control.

I cannot at all admit the justice of the principle contended for at Para 8 of Colonel Cotton's Memo, that because there exists a remarkably good site for a reservoir in Mysore, therefore the Districts of Bellary, Kurnool and Nellore have a natural right to occupy it. A right which most certainly would not be acknowledged by independent States, but even otherwise, the Madras Government might fairly be asked to sanction preferentially the formation of reservoirs in the Pennair in the gorges of the Cuddapah hills, at sites which I believe may be found equally

favorable

favorable with the Mauri Cunnai.

6. If, as asserted by Colonel Cotton, the Mauri Cunnai Tank can be made to serve for much more than 50,000 acres, there is no reason why Mysore should be restricted to that extent of irrigation, and so long as a sufficient supply of water is allowed to pass down the river for the present wet cultivation in Bellary the undoubted right of storing as much water as possible rests with the State through which the Huggry flows from its source. a principle I conceive to be of the very highest importance as well as strictest equity, for otherwise the lower Provinces might always assert their claim to interfere in improvements of hydraulic works in Mysore, the drainage of which every where flows into British Territory. Such claim indeed was asserted by the Collector of Sanjore in the early part of this century, but on the explanations furnished by Major M. Wills then Officiating Resident of Mysore and by Captain Mackenzie of the Engineers, late Surveyor General of India, the matter was dropped.

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