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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Revenue*
DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

102

Press
Mis.

Dated

18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th January 1864.*

No. 210. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Approving of the proposal to sink four more wells in the Cantonment of Bellary, and stating that the subject of the construction of a canal from the Toongabudra river will be considered in the Public Works Department, with reference to its Proceedings No. 1,388 of 1862. (Here enter 7th January 1864, No. 53.)

No. 211. ORDER THEREON, 12th January 1864, No. 102.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, with a request that an Estimate may be at once submitted of the cost of the four additional wells referred to in paragraph 2 of the Quarter Master General's letter recorded. The work may in the meantime be proceeded with.

2. Copy of the Order marginally noted will be furnished to the Military Department with reference to paragraph 2 of the Proceedings recorded above.

No. 3,621, 8th December 1863.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.
„ Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts.
„ Military Department with G. O. No. 3,621 of 1863.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

3

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 23rd December 1863, No. 10,056; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor, by order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to forward for the information of Government, an original letter and enclosure from the Officer Commanding the Ceded Districts, relative to the want of water in the Cantonment of Bellary.

2. Government is aware that this is no new difficulty; that it has been represented in former years and has been met by some temporary palliative, which has sufficed to meet the emergency. His Excellency trusts that the sinking of four more Wells may meet with the approval of Government as suggested by Major General Armstrong, and that such other remedial measures, as are found effective, may be resorted to immediately.

3. At the same time His Excellency urges upon Government the grave importance of making this water supply a matter of certainty by ordering the construction of the long contemplated Canal from the Toongabudra River.

From the Officer Commanding Ceded Districts, Head Quarters, Bellary, 10th December 1863, No. 111; to the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to submit the following important subject for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

There has been an entire failure of the monsoon at Bellary, the cloudy appearance and closeness for some days past promised rain, but this has passed away, and I fear that all prospect of a good fall of rain is at an end for this season. I therefore beg to forward the accompanying Memorandum from Captain Fischer, Royal Engineers, on the subject of the water supply for this Cantonment for the information of His Excellency. At present the various public Wells yield a tolerable supply, but they cannot be depended on during the next hot weather, should rain not fall in the interim, and indeed there is not a sufficiency of Wells about the Cantonment and Bazaars to ensure a proper supply, should all other sources fail; and I would solicit sanction for the Engineer Department being permitted to sink four more large Wells* in various parts of the Cantonment, which will at least assist the supply of water.

* The probable cost about 500 Rupees each.

During the last year, the large Tank between the Cantonment and Bruce Pettah was never dry, but some months ago it became so, and long remained in this state, when it partially filled; but as stated by Captain Fischer, in a few days it will again become quite dry.

I believe that the great Darogee Tank, distant about 18½ miles, has never yet been known to dry up, but Captain Fischer appears to think that it will shortly become so, should no rain fall. Mr. St. Clair, the Assistant Collector, whom I have just seen and who has recently returned from the Western Talooks, tells me the Tanks are all very low.

Under all circumstances, I apprehend that very great difficulty will be experienced in obtaining a plentiful supply of water for this Cantonment during the ensuing hot weather, should the next few days yet remaining of the monsoon season, not produce a good fall of rain; and this, added to the high prices of all kinds of grain in these Districts, will add greatly to the privations the Native Troops and other classes are already suffering from this latter cause.

In the event of the necessity accruing, the Native Cavalry might be moved to the River Toongabudra, but such a proceeding as regards European Artillery would be very trying at that season of the year, when the heat in these Districts, with all the appliances of a good Barrack, is very great, and in Tents would be almost intolerable. It would be far better to incur any temporary expense in the way of obtaining water, than subject European Troops unnecessarily to living in Tents during the hot season of the year, when scarcity will probably engender disease in the country.

In conversation with the Right Honorable the Governor, when His Excellency was at Bellary some months ago, I understood that a project was under consideration or in contemplation, for bringing from a distance an unfailing supply of water to Bellary, and adjacent District, and if this is to be continued a large Military Station, it is imperatively requisite to secure a permanent supply of water, as the monsoon can never be depended on, and even in the best years, the average fall of rain, compared with other places, is very small.

Although beyond my province, I trust I may be permitted to express an opinion that in a pecuniary point of view, an ample supply of water would turn this comparatively desert soil into fruitful fields and probably well re-pay the outlay it would entail.

Should we providentially have a fall of rain during the next few days, I will at once intimate by telegraph. I am informed that in the Chittledroog District the monsoon has been far below the usual supply, and grain of all kinds very dear.

No. 52.

MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned has the honor to bring to the notice of the Major General Commanding the Division, the alarming failure of the rain in this Cantonment and in almost every part of the District, and begs to point out that from the present condition of all the Tanks and Wells there will probably be a great deficiency of water during the ensuing hot weather.

2. The rain-fall as registered up to date from both monsoons, is about one-third of the average of ordinary seasons: the large Tank has never filled at all this year and will be dry in a few days: the Fort ditch has a very scanty supply of water in it, and the Coontah in the Native Lines has had little or no supply of water in it during the monsoons and is now quite dry: the Wells yield now a small supply, but experience has shewn that only few of them can be relied on in the hot weather; in this month the weather has been cloudy but no rain has fallen, and under these circumstances it is respectfully submitted the Government should be warned of the existing state of affairs here, so they may be prepared to take the necessary measures to relieve the population in the impending famine.

3. Should no rain fall till the setting in of the next South-west monsoon, the Toongabudra will alone supply any quantity of water for the use of a large Force; so bad has the season been, the Darogee Tank has very little water in it and will be quite dry in a month, a thing quite unknown before.

4. The Cavalry and the Horses of the Artillery could be sent out to Wallabapoor, Kumply and Sirgoopah; in these places or near them there is a good deal of irrigation going on, food is cheaper, forage can be more easily procured and the river will afford a sufficient quantity of water for them; the Wells in the Cantonment relieved of this demand on them will have to be carefully guarded to prevent waste as much as possible, to afford the necessary supply for those who have to remain in it.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
BELLARY, 30th November 1863.

(Signed) J. F. FISCHER, Capt., R. E.,
Executive Engineer, 1st Class.

ORDER, No. 53, 7th January 1864.

The Governor in Council approves of the measure proposed in paragraph 2 of the foregoing letter, which will be communicated to the Department Public Works.

2. The subject of paragraph 3 will be considered in the above Department, with reference to Proceedings in that Department, No. 1338, dated 19th June 1862.

(True Extract.)

M. S. S. S.
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

„ Public Works Department.

Exd.R. Stephenson.

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Commenced to the
Superintendent, Engineer and Dr.

with a request that an estimate
may be at once submitted of

the end of the parabolic curve

His General's letter concerns the

would may as the maintenance we possess
with
marginally notes will do provide
to the Military Department with
reference to para 9 of the Army
records above.

To the Supr. Aug 23^d 70
Confidential Secretary of War to the Secy.
Aug 28th - Privy Seal Draft No 61-31621 of 70
Sept 13th