

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1257	Press Mis.
258256		
Dated	12-1-1864.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th January 1864.*

No. 255. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th December 1863, No. 8,041 :—

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to W. HUD-LESTON, Esq. Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tricalore, 8th December 1863, No. 323.

SIR,

1. The Anicut across the Pooneaur near the place whence I now write, and commonly called the Trevanellor Anicut, has now been finished nearly two years, and the advantages arising from this work in the preservation of existing revenue, and in bringing such waste lands as were available under cultivation have been fully realized on the southern bank of the river ; and although the work was suggested and sanctioned, I believe, principally with this object, and in furtherance of the interests of Messrs. Parry and Co., who have a large Sugar factory in the neighbourhood, and who, I understand, were the prime movers in the project ; still the main accession of Revenue to be looked for is from lands on the northern side or bank of the Pooneaur and there are interests in that direction which can be greatly promoted by this Anicut, and which I think demand immediate attention.

2. Before the construction of the Anicut, the water which is now appropriated in small freshes almost entirely to the lands on the southern side, used to supply a very important auxiliary means of irrigation to the lands on the northern bank, and found its way through a few rudely formed channels to fields and tanks on that side ; and when the work of the Anicut was first projected, opposition was raised by the Ryots on the ground that their interests would suffer by the obstruction thus offered to their customary supply. To meet this objection it was, I believe, part of the original scheme to construct eventually a main irrigation Channel on the northern bank, from the head of the Anicut with minor branch Channels where required, so as to secure from loss those hitherto accustomed to the use of the river water as above, and as well to greatly extend the cultivation of land in that direction, and thus create additional revenue ; and for this purpose an Officer from the Engineering College at Madras was specially deputed to take the levels of the country, and to mark out the main and other necessary branch Channels through which it was intended to carry the water over an extensive area of country supplying a great number of tanks, besides affording the means of irrigation to hitherto unoccupied and waste tracts. These Channels have now all been marked and mapped out in a very elaborate and scientific manner with plans and estimates of cost, but as yet, contrary to my impression, the work has not been commenced ; and although in the past year Rupees 10,000 was entered in the Budget, I understand that the item was struck out by the Government of India. It now finds a place in the Budget, for the coming official year, and my object in addressing the Board of Revenue is to press on their notice the urgency of the work, and to solicit that sanction be given at once for appropriating any probable unexpended funds from other works of less importance, to be devoted to the immediate carrying out of these irrigation Channels to which I have adverted.

3. In my Administration Report for the two past years I noticed this Anicut, and in my last I stated, as I then thought was the case, that the work had been actually begun. In this however I was mistaken, and for want of funds nothing has been done. The additional revenue to be expected on the completion of the Northern Channels may be estimated at least as equivalent to their cost, and the area of new land to be brought under cultivation may be roughly calculated at Cawnies 1,400. The preservation of existing revenue over the extensive portion of country which the Channels will traverse is likewise no unimportant consideration, apart from any anticipated increase ; and the extent of that revenue may be tolerably estimated when it is remembered that a water supply will be kept up and ensured to a large number of tanks, any of which, unaided by such source of supply, might fail to afford adequate means for the due cultivation of the lands dependant on them in seasons of a comparative scarcity of rain.

4. In a note appended to one of the plans for my information by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the Officer of the Department of Public Works, who, unassisted, has superintended the construction of the Pooneaur Anicut, and through whose exertions and able supervision, the Channels on the northern bank have all been surveyed and mapped out, it is stated. "The total length of Channel is about ten miles ; the cost, including masonry works, will be about 15,000 Rupees. "Throwing a supply of water into the Pombay river will increase the revenue immediately by about the probable cost of the work. The Channel is to be cut ten yards wide at bottom and with a fall of two feet a mile, and depth of water of three feet, which will convey to the reservoirs one million cubic yards of water daily. The Pooneaur is in fresh from 60 to 90 days in the year, but if it were in fresh only 20 days, and wastage allowed for the water conveyed by the Channel, it will leave sufficient for the tanks to irrigate over 15,000 Acres of land throughout the year."

5. I feel confident that the foregoing will satisfy the Board and Government of the urgency of these irrigation Channels ; and I would draw their attention to what is a fact, as stated by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, that the expected increase to the revenue on the completion of the Channels will be immediate, and not merely gradual and prospective ; and if, on a rough estimate, that

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th January 1864.*

increase will, in one year, cover the proposed expenditure of the work which is to produce it, it surely cannot be necessary to say more on the necessity for immediate action, or will it be required of me to urge further reasons in support of my recommendation that the requisite funds be at once furnished, either by their transfer from other works of less importance, or from works on which the entire amount sanctioned for the year will, in all probability, not be expended.

6. The last two seasons have been comparatively so favorable, and the rains and freshes so abundant, that fortunately since the completion of the Anicut, the anticipated injury to the Ryots on the northern bank of the river has not arisen, and the mouths of all have been closed as it were; but in both years the people, whose interests are somewhat jeopardized at present, have not failed at the Jummabundy to remind me of what may happen in any bad or indifferent season; and it is to guard with certainty against this contingency, and at once to place both Ryots and Revenue beyond the chance of loss, that I now desire so earnestly to press the importance of the immediate commencement of these Channels; and I do hope that I shall not have pleaded in vain, but that speedy provision will be made to carry out the work, which ought, I think, to be conducted under the superintendence of some special competent Officer.

7. A sketch Plan of the main Channel, with the levels of the surrounding country to a limited extent has been laid by me before His Excellency the Governor; but I have not deemed it necessary to re-transmit this, as it is cumbersome, and could throw no light on the matter beyond illustrating, as it does, the usefulness of the project which I have been advocating.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government with the Board's special recommendation that if available from any source, the necessary funds be at once placed at the disposal of the Superintending Engineer for this important and urgently needed work.

2. The sum required for the remainder of the current year can probably be without difficulty transferred from other works, for which excess funds have been provided.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

No. 256.

ORDER THEREON, 13th January 1864, No. 125.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, with the request that he will report, without delay, whether any portion of the current year's funds assigned for works in South Arcot and the other Districts within his range can be spared for extending the advantages of the Trevanellore Anicut to the lands on the northern bank of the Puniar.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
,, Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Public Works Dept

3

No 125

*Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 13th January 1864*

*Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.*

*Submitting letter from the
Collector of South Arcot with the
Board's recommendation, that the
necessary fund for the construction of
certain Channels be at once placed
at the disposal of the Superintending
Engineer.*

*(Here enter 19 December 1863
No 8,041)*

*Communicated
to the Supg Engr 5th Div
with the request that
he will report, with-
out delay, whether
any portion of the
current year's funds
assigned for works
in South Arcot and
the other Dist^s with-
in his range can
be spared for ex-
tending the advantage
of the Trevanellore
Anicut to the lands
on the northern bank
of the Puniar.*

*To
The Supg Engineer 5th Div
Board of Revenue -
Recd. 15th Jan^y 1864*

P. M. 1864. *Richard*
Proc. of Gen. & for Jany.

. 17-123-

Proc. of the *Chlorine*
Proc. of the *Chlorine*
£1 13⁰⁰ *Chlorine* 1864

P. 2263-256