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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3402	Press
551-552	~~Mis.~~
Dated 28-11-	1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
28th November 1864.

No. 551. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Political Department :—

Communicating letter from the Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot, furnishing the information required regarding the water supply from the Arsolaur, which disembogues at the French Settlement of Karikal. } (Here enter 11th November 1864, No. 322.)

No. 552. ORDER THEREON, 28th November 1864, No. 3,402.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, with reference to paragraph 12 of G. O. No. 2,712, dated 17th September 1864.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
11th November 1864.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 45. Proceedings of Madras Government in the Public Works Department.

Communicating for information orders passed on
a report by the Superintending Engineer on the
deficient supply of water in the Eastern Taluqs
of the Tanjore District. } (Dated 17th September 1864, No 2712)

No. 46. From C W. READE, Esq, Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot; to J. D. SIM,
Esq, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Cuddalore,
18th October 1864, No 199.

I have the honor to acknowledge the orders of Government, Political Department, under date
the 23rd July last, No 228, requesting me to state "whether my records throw any light upon the
subject in connection with the water supply from the Arselaur river, which disembogues at Karikal."

2 It may be in the recollection of Government that in 1838-39, consequent on the remon-
strances of the French Government at Pondicherry against certain works then going on connected
with the irrigation of the Tanjore District, and which works were supposed to affect the supply of
water to the Arselaur river, a Commission was appointed, composed of one French and one English
Officer, the latter being Colonel D. Sim of the Madras Engineers, and so far as my records are con-
cerned, I submit a separate statement showing the particulars of the correspondence which then
passed between the respective Governments, and between the Madras Government and its local
officers

3. The originals of all this correspondence will be easily accessible to the Government no
doubt, and a reference therefore to these papers, in the form and with the particulars I have given,
will, I think, be sufficient. Copies only are on my records as received from time to time from the
Madras Government, but I have not considered it necessary to submit these, or transcripts of them.

4. In 1861, the fears of the French authorities appear again to have been aroused, owing to
certain irrigation repairs on the river Cauvery, and which it was thought were calculated to endanger
French interests, but these fears were apparently readily allayed, and since then nothing has trans-
pired connected with the subject so far as I am aware.

5. Copies of the correspondence which passed between the Governor of Pondicherry and my
predecessor, and as well of that between the latter officer and the Collector of Tanjore, on the occa-
sion referred to, are herewith forwarded for the information of Government, and any further remarks
on the subject seem uncalled for.

From His Excellency D'UBRAYE, Governor of the French Establishments in India; to the
Collector and Special Agent, Cuddalore, dated Pondicherry, 4th August 1861.

The ryots of the French territory of Karikal are much alarmed at the news, that the
English Government are contemplating to divert the waters of the Arselaur, Vangiar, Nullar
and Natarvoikal rivers which are in the Tanjore District.

2. I am not aware whether their apprehensions are well grounded; but, however, in the
event of any such projects being determined upon by the English Government, it would doubtless
prove injurious to our ryots. I therefore request that you will be good enough to furnish me
with some information on this subject, to enable me to assure our ryots at Karikal that they
need not apprehend any undue invasion of their rights, and that they may fully rely on the
justice and liberality of the British Government.

3. I shall feel much obliged to your furnishing me with an early reply on the subject.

From H. WOOD, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, Cuddalore; to the Collector of Tanjore,
dated Cuddalore, 9th August 1861.

In transmitting the accompanying copy of a letter from His Excellency the Governor of
French Establishments in India, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to
inform me whether it be in contemplation to divert the water of the Arselaur, Vangiar, Nullar
rivers, and of the Natarvoikal to the detriment of French villages, as therein represented.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
11th November 1864.*

From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of Tanjore; to H. WOOD, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, South Arcot, dated Vallam, 29th August 1861.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 145 of the 9th instant, with its enclosure from His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India, and requesting to be informed whether it is in contemplation to divert the waters of the Arselaur, Vangiar, and Nullar rivers, and of the Natarvoikal.

2. In reply I beg to state that, of late years, and owing to the bed of the Cauvery having become silted up, the Arselaur has been taking off nearly the whole supply of water from the former river, and to rectify this some works have been undertaken and carried out by the Department of Public Works. These works have, to a certain extent, had the desired effect, but no further works are, at present, under contemplation, and at no time did any intention exist of diverting the streams of the two latter rivers. We are fully aware of the importance of the irrigation dependent on the Arselaur both in the French territories, as well as in our own, and I beg you will assure His Excellency, that no works will be undertaken to the detriment either of the inhabitants of the French territories or indeed of our own. I may add that the irrigation respectively dependent on the Arselaur and the Cauvery, at the bifurcation of the former river, is nearly equal, and His Excellency will therefore at once perceive that our object is simply to see that each stream receives its due share of water.

From H. WOOD, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, Cuddalore; to the Governor of Pondicherry, dated Cuddalore, 3rd September 1861.

With reference to your Excellency's letter of the 4th ultimo, I have the honor to forward copy of one received from the Collector of Tanjore, giving all the information required by your Excellency's Government regarding the public works lately executed in that District to clear the Cauvery river.

(True Copies)

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Collector and Special Agent.

For the more easy understanding of the correspondence in 1838, and 1839 the accompanying Memorandum from the Collector is attached to his letter.

MEMORANDUM.

In 1838 the French Government raised certain objections to the works of irrigation then going on in Tanjore, and which were supposed by them to operate injuriously on the supply of water to their own people from the Arselaur river, and their objections may be stated under three heads or points

1st.—That in consequence of a sluice constructed at the head of Arselaur and also a dam across it near a bridge called the Sacottah bridge, the French ryots at Karikal suffered greatly from want of a proper supply of water for the irrigation of their lands.

2nd.—That the navigation of the said river, by means of which supplies from the interior of the country were brought down, was also interrupted, and,

3rd.—That the port of Karikal, which was formed and entered at the mouth of Arselaur, was being much deteriorated, and in consequence that the commerce of the place was jeopardized, owing in a very great degree to the diminished depth of water at the bar, which would eventually render it impassable for boats of ordinary size to come into the said river.

2. The Madras Government at first referred the matter to the Board of Revenue for report, and after due inquiries by the local authorities on the several points mooted by the French, it was reported that the Arselaur had for years received its supply of water from the Cauvery, and that, consequent on certain changes in the state of the bed of the river, arising solely from natural causes, it had ceased to receive its usual supply from the former river, and to remedy this evil openings had been made from Cadanoorthy, a branch of the Cauvery, which carried off a greater portion of water than usual from the main river, and by this means an ample supply of water had been granted to the Arselaur for irrigating the lands of the French ryots.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
11th November 1864.*

3. The Board in forwarding the above report to Government recommended that a Committee be appointed to consist of English and French officers, in order to solve the questions raised by the French, should they still desire some other mode of settlement

4. Copies of the Board's reports, as well as of those of the local officers, were accordingly forwarded to the French Government, intimating that should they wish for a Commission special to be composed of two officers only, the Madras Government were prepared to nominate an officer on their behalf.

5. The French Government then expressed their desire for a Commission, and accordingly Lieutenant Colonel Sim, of the Corps of Engineers, was appointed on our side, and Prince D'Eckmull, the French Governor's Aide-de-Camp, was appointed on the part of the French.

6. On the 17th of May 1839 Colonel Sim, accompanied by the French Commissioner, visited the locality and eventually submitted a report very much in accordance with the views already expressed, and disproving the correctness of the fears of the French authorities as to the danger threatened to their interests. The report is dated the 17th May 1839

7. Colonel Sim's report treats of the rights of management of the water of these rivers flowing through the territories of Government, and he strongly recommended that the right should never be yielded to the French, to the injury of the interests of the English ryots. He also added, that the evil complained of by the French would cease on the completion of the works then under construction at the head of Arselaur (which has since been finished), and by which the said river would be secured in its full supply from the Cauvery as previously, and which would at once put a stop to all complaints on the part of the French cultivators.

8. The views of Colonel Sim with his final settlement of the question was duly communicated to the French Government in May 1839, and so far as the records of South Arcot go that Government seem to have approved, although their final opinion was not furnished to this office.

9. Copy of Colonel Sim's report was forwarded to the late Honorable Court of Directors by the Madras Government, and in a Despatch dated the 16th September 1840, the Court fully approved of all that had been done by the local Government in this dispute, as well as of the satisfactory manner in which the inquiry had been conducted to its settlement by Colonel Sim; and since then up to 1859 no further discussion or complaint was made so far as is known from the records of this Collectorate.

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Collector and Special Agent.

Particulars of dates of correspondence referred to at length in the foregoing Memorandum.

From the French Government, to the Madras Government, in April 1838. Forwarding a letter from the Chief of Service, and the French Engineer at Karikal, reporting the obstruction said to have been caused to the irrigation of the lands of French ryots at Karikal by the construction of a sluice at the head of the Arselaur river.

From the English Government, to the French Government, dated 10th April 1838. Informing that the loss complained of by the French ryots would be duly inquired into.

From the English Government, to the Board of Revenue. Forwarding the above letter for report

From Captain Cotton, Civil Engineer, 5th Division; to the Acting Civil Engineer, 5th Division, dated 11th May 1838. Stating that the object of the works undertaken at the head of the Arselaur was to counteract the effects of the natural causes by which the supply of the Arselaur had been diminished; further, that the value of the rivers of Tanjore, for purposes of inland navigation, was insignificant when compared with their uses for irrigation; and that should the French Government deem it of importance, there would be no objection to so much of the dam under one arch of the Sacottah bridge being removed as to allow a boat to pass.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
11th November 1864.

From Lieutenant Ditmas, Acting Civil Engineer, 5th Division, to the Principal Collector of Tanjore, dated 18th May 1838. } Forwarding the above report, in reference to his letter of the 7th May 1838.

From the Principal Collector of Tanjore to the Board of Revenue, dated 31st May 1838. } Forwarding the above report, and stating that the complaints of the French ryots were groundless, as explained by the Engineer

From the Board of Revenue, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 2nd July 1838. } Approving the views expressed by Captain Cotton, suggesting that a Commission be appointed in the event of the French Government desiring it.

Order of Government thereon, dated 17th July 1838. } Authorizing the removal of so much of the dam under one arch of the Sacottah bridge as would allow a boat to pass, as suggested by Captain Cotton.

From the Government of Madras, to the Government of Pondicherry, dated 17th July 1838. } Informing of the removal of the dam referred to, and stating willingness for a Commission should the French desire it.

From the French Government, to the Madras Government, dated 11th December 1838. } Accepting the proposal of a Commission nominating an officer on their part, and requesting the English Government to name an officer on theirs.

From the Madras Government, to the French Government, dated 22nd January 1839. } Informing that Lieutenant Colonel Sim of the Engineers had been nominated Joint Commissioner.

From Lieutenant-Colonel Sim, to the Government of Madras, dated 17th May 1839. } The purport of this report is given in the separate Memorandum accompanying the Collector's present letter.

From the late Honorable Court of Directors, to the Madras Government, in a Despatch dated the 16th September 1840. } Approving of the proceedings of the local Government, as also of the manner in which the matter had been finally settled by Colonel Sim.

SOUTH ARCOT COLLECTOR'S CUTCHERRY,
CUDDALORE, 18th October 1864.

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Collector and Special Agent.

No. 47. ORDER THEREON, 11th November 1864, No. 322.

Ordered that the letter, with its enclosures, from the Collector in charge of the Special Agency Department at Cuddalore, be communicated to the Public Works Department, in reference to the last paragraph of the Proceedings in that Department above recorded.

(True Extract)

C. J. Curran
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Talloch.

15/11/64

*P
211*

no 3402

*Communicated to the
Superintending Engineer B. Division
with reference to para 12 of
G. O. No. 2712, dated 17th
September 1864.*

*Shepard
28/10/64
To the Superintending
Engineer
B. Division*

16

27th November

PT 1864: 1 apr
* Pro: of Govt for November
No 5034

No. of Govt in the
Political Dept

Of 11 } Nov 1864
Rec. 22 }

No 322

J

Communicating

letter from the Coll & Sp. Agt
S. Asst. furnishing the in-
formation ^{required} regarding the war
supply from the Arsenal
which disembarked at the
French Settlement of the
rehab.

No 537. 532

With an order.

ex 3402 - 28 Nov 1864