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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3608 Press / Mis.

338-339

Dated 16-12- 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 16th December 1864.

No. 338. Read the following letter from Captain J. MULLINS, R. E., Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madras, 3rd December 1864, No. 166:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to transmit, for the information of Government, a letter No. 2,037 of the 2nd instant, from the Agent and Manager, Irrigation and Canal Company with its accompaniments as per margin, shewing what had been done up to the later date towards closing the breach in the Anicut.

3 Letters.
From Chief Engineer, No. 1,092, 18th November.
Do. Deputy Collector „ „ 14th „

2. From the Deputy Collector's description of the work, I judge that it is of a temporary description, and that before next year the material will have to be removed and the Anicut re-built in masonry.

3. It will be noticed that the want of water in the Canal has affected the lands under irrigation prejudicially, and the latter part of paragraph 5 of the Deputy Collector's letter shews that some of the crops have been entirely lost for want of water.

From F. H. HENSLOWE, Esq., Agent and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Captain J. MULLINS, R. E., Consulting Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, dated Madras, 2nd December 1864, No. 2,037.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter I received from Colonel Cotton recently, and also copy of one which had been addressed to him by the Deputy Collector, in reference to the closing of the breach in the Anicut at Soonkasala.

No. 1,092 of 18th November 1864.

2. I am happy to say that the water has now been again introduced into the channel.

From Colonel H. C. COTTON, Chief Engineer, to F. H. HENSLOWE, Esq., Agent and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, dated Kurnool, 18th November 1864, No. 1,092.

SIR,

1. In order that the latest possible intelligence may reach the Board of the operation of closing the breach in the Anicut, I have the honor to report that I visited the work this morning and found the width reduced from 22 yards to 6 yards and the deepest part closed. I hope to see the water again in the channel to-morrow.

2. The labor has been very great, as the breach had opened latterly to the natural rock 22 feet below the crown of the Anicut, and, as it was necessary to undertake the closing, to keep up the supply of water in the channel. Had the usual fresh in October taken place, we should have had a reserve of water in the channel and could have awaited the further subsidence of the river, but that fresh did not take place and while the river was too low for the channel it was too high for closing the breach without diverting the stream in the river. This has been done and I think one more day's work will suffice to enable us to close the under-sluices and fill the channels.

3. The crops of course have suffered, but the Deputy Collector has made a general enquiry amongst the cultivators, and I am told that they expressed themselves satisfied with the prospect of getting the water again on the land in three or four days (from yesterday.)

4. I enclose copy of a letter* written previously by Gopaul Aya, the Deputy Collector, which is interesting as indicating his zeal in furtherance of the interests of the Company, as well as affording a clear description by an observing Native of the manner in which our works are carried on in emergent cases by the Company's Executive Engineers and their Assistants.

* No.— of 14th November 1864.

Soonkasala, 14th November 1864.

DEAR SIR,

1. I arrived here in the morning of Friday last, and was gratified to behold the persevering and energetic efforts made to close the breach of the Anicut that lets off all the water. I spent my time here almost at the Anicut witnessing the operations.

2. The river is not so high as to allow its water to flow into the canal, nor so low as to stop the current at the breach and close it at once. To check its velocity, the Engineers Mr. Smith on one side and Mr. Wilks on the other commenced erecting a temporary dam higher up the river in front of the breach to divert the main stream in the direction of the sluices of the canal. Every thing went on so promisingly well till Saturday forenoon, that we thought the two branches of the dam could be connected that evening and the canal sluices opened next morning.

3. This state of things I reported to Mr. Minchin and made him fully believe that water can be had at Kurnool on Tuesday. Unfortunately that afternoon, after the despatch of my letter to him, the treacherous silt on which Mr. Smith's branch of the dam was constructed gave way, every preparation was made since Saturday afternoon, till this morning, working incessantly, even during nights, to strengthen and preserve it against the action of the water flowing parallel in the direction of the breach and the canal sluice by sinking bags of clay and stone and using quantity of straw to retain the clay. I believe there is a good deal of filtration going on underneath, for no sooner the bund is raised the quicker it sinks down and allows water to run through and over the dam.

4. I am glad to tell you that after considerable hard fight the dam this morning was rendered steady and water-tight, and the Engineers are now able to connect the two arms of the dam to divert the main current in the direction of the canal. While this was done, not a moment was lost in pitching huge stones from the Anicut into the breach and about three yards of firm ground have been gained on each side. Though the dam was yesterday and day-before-yesterday weak and incomplete, yet it had the good effect of checking the velocity of the main current, and huge stones thrown in and boats filled in with stones sunk in, at the breach, quietly took their seat, which were before carried off head-long on the previous days. Every body is so very busy here that at the rate that the work is now going on, I think the canal sluices can be opened either day-after-to-morrow afternoon or the next morning at the latest, and we can safely calculate to have water at Kurnool on Friday next. The Engineers, unmindful of the sun during day and till very late in the evenings, are superintending the work, issuing the necessary directions on the spot.

5. Besides paying the regular cooly, Mr. Smith issues tickets to those coolies who carry more than usual load, and this inducement urges the poor beasts to carry more than the usual weight in less than the usual time to obtain a large number of these tickets, each of which secures to them a Pie in addition. This and the rewards he gives to distinguished service is capitally answering to expedite the work. There are now nearly a thousand coolies at work and the river which is every day falling by an inch or so contributes to the success of the undertaking. A fresh in the river, however slight it may be, will be enough to destroy our temporary works and drive us all into despair; but I do not anticipate any danger, since the season of freshes is all over and we can soon close the breach in the Anicut. If instead of waiting for a fresh towards the end of the last month, this work had been taken up earlier, as busily as we are engaged at present, there would have been no complaint for water, and we would have saved all the crops without loss. Our bringing in water now would relieve only those Ryots from labor and expense of baling water into their fields from the adjoining pits in and out-side, and from the tanks along the canal. Every exertion was and is made by them to save their crops, and in cases where they have entirely become parched I think it a policy to give compensation in addition to the remission of the water-rate to alleviate the fears of the Ryots and to induce them to take water without hesitation. I fear the water that we now bring in lake would not be of much use to revive or turn to

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th December 1864.

any account the almost parched cultivation. On my way to this place, I saw a few of the withering and almost withered fields, and on my return I shall inspect more carefully each field reported to have suffered and ascertain their exact condition, and not trust to reports.

6. Since writing the above I went and returned from the Anicut just now, six o'clock in the evening. Every thing is promising, the day being turned to good account. The arms of the temporary dam have been extended this afternoon, diminishing the gap, and the diverted current in the direction of the under-sluices is fast rising five yards on one side and six yards on the other, altogether a space of eleven yards or half of the breach has been filled up to the water level and the most difficult hole where no stone stood at first is said to have been blocked up. In haste.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) B. GOPAULIYA.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) G. W. NEWMAN,
Manager, Chief Engineer's Office.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) F. H. HENSLOWE,
Agent and Manager.

No. 339. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1864, No. 3,600.

Communicated to the Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Revenue Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

To Govt. No. 166 of 3 Dec.r 64
Copy rec.d with Letter to England
of 25th January No 11 of 1865.

1864

No 2037. Reg.

From The Agent and Manager
for the C.C.
To The Consulting Engineer
for the C.C.

Dated 2nd
Received 3rd December

No 0221/64

Encloses copy
of a letter received from
Col Cotton (also copy
of one from Govt addressed
to him by the Deputy
Collector in reference
to the claim of the
Wreck in the Amanat-
Aboukasala

8622-1865
1864

Consulting Engineer's Office
Irrigation and Canal Cc.
Madras 3d December 1864.

No. 166.

From,

Captain J. Mullins R.E.
Consulting Engineer I. & C. Cc.

To,

The Secretary to Government
Department of Public W.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to transmit for the information of Government a letter No. 2037 of the 2nd Instant from the Agent and Manager Irrigation and Canal Comp.y with its accompaniments as per margin.

From Chief Engineer No. 1092 - 18th Nov.r.
" Dy. Collector " 14 " "

Shewing what had been done up to the later date towards closing the breach in the Anicut.

2. From the Dy. Collector's description of the work I judge that it is of a temporary description, and that before next year the material will have to be removed, and the Anicut rebuilt in masonry.

3. At willfie portioned that the want of water in the Canal has affected the Aqueduc under irrigation prejudicially, and the latter part of para 5 of his D/d Collectors letter shews that some of the crops have been entirely lost for want of water.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obdt Servt
Colin Mallins Capt R.E.
Secretary to G.C.C.

Copy sent to Hellen to England
2/25 January Roll of 1865.

Chelsea 16th Decr 1864

Communicated to the Secretary
for information.

Fs. 338. 339

Dated 14th December 1864

Recd 15th Dec 1864 - Ds. 12th

Copy sent to Hellen to England
2/25 January Roll of 1865.

Chelsea 16th Decr 1864

Communicated to the Secretary
for information.

Fs. 338. 339

Dated 14th December 1864

Recd 15th Dec 1864 - Ds. 12th

Pol. 1864 Depth
Pls. 1663 Consn Secretary December
No. 5221
From, The Consulting for A.C.C.s
To, The Secretary to Govt
Dos. W.

Dated 3d } December 1864
Received 5th }

Encs. 2.

With an Order
Transmits for information
a letter No 2037 of the 2 instant
from the Agent with its
accompaniments shewing what
has been done up to the latest date
towards closing the breach in the
anicut

No. 3600 - 16th December 1864