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

G.O. No.	1259	Press Mis.
Dated	18 57	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th May 1865.*

Read the following:—

No. 190. From the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Public Works Department (Civil Works, Agricultural), dated Fort William, 13th April 1865, No. 440-43 C.

Copies of the following despatch forwarded to the Home Department, and to the Government of Punjab, in continuation of Public Works Department, Nos. 657-8 C, dated 15th August last; also to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, in continuation of Public Works Department Nos. 822-3 C, dated 17th September 1864, and with special reference to the concluding paragraph of the despatch.

(Signed) A. B. SAMPSON,

For Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 6, dated 2nd February 1865.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,

To—The Government of India.

1. I have received your Excellency's despatch No. 83 of 17th September last, forwarding copies of the Revenue Reports of Canals in the North-West Provinces for the years 1861 and 1862, and also of a Resolution of your Government, which has served both as a convenient analysis of the contents of the Reports, and as a useful commentary upon them.

2. The state of things which this document reveals, although, on the whole, unsatisfactory as to the past, is sufficiently encouraging as to the future. This is especially the case with regard to the Ganges Canal. The direct revenue derived from that work has always been comparatively considerable, but appears, in 1862, to have been reduced even below the year's expenditure, owing to stoppage of the canal caused by accidents to the falls. It is stated, however, that, while one cubic foot of discharge per second on the Ganges Canal irrigates, on an average, only 77 acres, on the two Jumna Canals it irrigates more than 220 acres; and it is calculated that, if irrigation from the former were extended in the same proportion as from the latter canals, the returns from it, even at the present low rates, would rise to something more than 4½ per cent. on the capital sunk, while, if the rates were raised to the very moderate sum of Rupees 3 per acre, the returns would probably rise to 10 per cent.

3. It is thus apparent that one of the first objects to be attended to is the extension of irrigation as far as possible, and you have desired that every effort may be made to accomplish this. More or less delay must no doubt take place, in consequence of the actual condition of the canal, but, while operations for the improvement of the main channel are being pressed forward, the construction of rajbhas and minor water-courses need not, in my opinion, be delayed, but should be carried on simultaneously and with equal vigour; so that, as soon as command of the requisite supply of water is obtained, the means of utilizing it may also be at hand. I wish the rather to invite your Excellency to re-consider this point, as a somewhat different view of it would, from the orders passed upon the Budget of the North-West Provinces, seem to have been taken of it by your Government.

4. Another measure, which I quite agree with your Excellency in thinking ought to be introduced as speedily as possible, is an enhancement of the charges for irrigation. There may have been sufficient reasons for fixing low rates of water-rent at first, but I believe that the time has now arrived for making some nearer approach to the just claims of Government, with reference, on the one hand, to the amount of capital sunk in providing irrigation, and, on the other, to the increased fertility thereby given to the soil. It is, as you point out, due to the community at large that the cultivators of the land irrigated at the public expense should pay reasonably for the water. Unless they are required to do so, the period at which the advantages afforded to them can be extended to the inhabitants of districts less favoured by nature, and having, therefore, even stronger claims upon Government, may have to be indefinitely postponed.

5. The enhanced rate which you have ordered to be adopted for the present, viz., Rupees 2-4 per acre for all crops except sugar-cane, is certainly exceedingly moderate, and can furnish no just ground for complaint to those ryots who have hitherto been fortunate enough to be supplied with water for irrigation on still easier terms. In the districts watered by the Jumna Canals, however,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th May 1865.*

it would appear that the land assessment has, in some instances, being already raised, in consequence of the land having come under irrigation. In such cases, you have justly determined that a corresponding deduction shall be made from the enhanced water-rates. Careful enquiry, before introducing the enhanced rates into the districts in question, will be requisite, equally to secure the ryots against overcharge, and to prevent Government from being imposed upon by false representations.

6. I observe with pleasure that you have taken this opportunity to abolish, with the single exception just noted, the previous practice of discriminating rates. The proper principle is obviously the one upon which you have proceeded, that namely, of charging one rate for crops which come to maturity in one season, and two rates for the crop which requires two seasons.

7. The substitution, to which you look forward, of contract charges for measurement rates of payment for water, cannot, I apprehend, take place generally on the Ganges Canal, until the head works shall have been rectified in such a way as to ensure a regular supply of water for irrigation. Whenever or wherever practicable, however, the proposed change will possess the very great recommendation of getting rid of the expense to Government, and of the annoyance to the cultivator inseparable from the practice of detailed measurements of land or crops.

8. It is stated, that on the Eastern Jumna Canal, both the original cost and the repairs of the rajbuhars and water-courses have been charged directly upon the cultivators. This expense is henceforward to be taken by Government upon itself, in the same manner as is done with the main water-courses of the Ganges Canal. This is a great improvement, and may be expected to assist in reconciling the cultivators in the neighbourhood of the Eastern Jumna Canal to the enhanced water-rates.

9. I await with interest the result of the enquiry which you have directed to be made into the expediency of constructing a permanent head dam for the Jumna Canals.

10. The Doon Canals are represented as having always been worked at an absolute loss, and it has consequently been resolved, that if the newly enhanced rates shall not suffice for the reimbursement of Government, a further enhancement must take place. There can be no doubt of the propriety of this course or of your further direction that the towns of Rajpore and Dehra, shall no longer be supplied gratuitously with drinking water from canals which do not pay their own expenses.

11. Nothing can be more just than the concluding paragraphs of the Resolution, in which you inculcate the necessity of closer attention to the financial bearing of the operations of the Irrigation Department. The paramount importance of irrigation to the tillers of the soil in every part of India is unquestionable. But, in order that it may be extended by Government as widely as is desired, it is quite essential that works designed for the purpose should, as a rule, be rendered remunerative to the State. In this sense, therefore, the officers of the Irrigation Department have been properly enjoined to regard, as their primary object, that of making the works under their charge productive of a fair pecuniary return upon their cost, and to direct their best energies to the attainment of that end.

12. The interesting character of the information contained in the returns under review, especially epitomized in the Resolution recorded upon them by your Government, makes me desiring similar particulars furnished for the whole of India. I observe that you have suggested to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, the periodical preparation, for those Presidencies, of returns similar to those relative to the canals of the North-West Provinces, and there can be no doubt of the benefit which would result from the collation of the largest and most varied experience obtainable on the important subject of Indian irrigation.

No. 191.

ORDER THEREON, 9th May 1865, No. 1,259.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 26.

Recorded, with reference to the
to the Government of India, No. 1,000,
dated 12th April 1865.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No. 410—13 C.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

Fort William, 13th April, 1865.

Civil Works.
Agricultural.

Copies of the following despatch forwarded to the Home Department, and to the Government of Punjab, in continuation of Public Works Department Nos. 657-SC, dated 15th August last; also to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, in continuation of Public Works Department Nos. 822-3C, dated 17th September 1861, and with special reference to the concluding para. of the despatch.

W. H. Campbell
for Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 6, dated 2nd February, 1865.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

I have received your Excellency's despatch No. 83 of 17th September last, forwarding copies of the Revenue Reports of Canals in the North-West Provinces for the years 1861 and 1862, and also of a Resolution of your Government, which has served both as a convenient analysis of the contents of the Reports, and as an useful commentary upon them.

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1861-1862
G. H. Jones for copy
10/11/75

Civil Works

Civil Works
Agricultural.

To

From

SECT. TO GOVT. OF INDIA,
IN THE P. W. DEPT.

No. 440-43 C.

Dated 13th April, 1865.

Received 29.

Recorded, with reference to the letter of

the Govt. of India
No 1006 dated 12th April 1865

Grant & George
9th May 1865

Forwards copy of despatch from Secretary of State, reviewing the Revenue Reports of Canals in the North Western Provinces for the years 1861 and 1862.

1861-1862

1861-1862

Williamson