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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1036 17-18	Press Mis.
Dated ~~17~~ 4 - 4 - 18 66.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1866.*

No. 17. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th March 1866, No. 1,966.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd March 1866, No. 85 :—

1. I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board, copy of a letter from Captain Payne to the Superintending Engineer of this District, on the subject of turning the waters of the Perriyaur into this District, from which the Board will learn with pleasure that the scheme is practicable.

2. The Perriyaur is fed by the rains of the south-west monsoon, and is in flood from the end of May, or certainly from the beginning of June to September and October, and is affected by falls of rain from thunder storms in the months of April and May ; so that, if its waters or part of them were turned into this District, they would provide the District with an almost unfailing first or carr crop, in the same way as Tinnevely is watered by the Tambrapoorny river which would make this a second-crop District, probably doubling the rice crop of the District along the river.

3. During the months above mentioned the river Viga, the great river of this District, is invariably dry ; the importance and value of the project to the Government as a source of revenue, and to the people as affording a further and certain supply of food and wealth, is manifest ; and I beg the Board will urge on Government the advisability of the project being at once thoroughly investigated, and that a determination be come to as to how best and most economically turn over the water into this District which now goes waste to the sea through the Cochin river.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board observe that Captain Payne's investigation of the project was undertaken by order of Government, and they doubt not that it will be prosecuted to completion with the speed that its importance demands.

Transferred to the Department Public Works.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1866, No. 1,036.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 3.

Recorded, with reference to G. O.
No. 921, dated 22nd March 1866.

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

„ Board of Revenue.

„ Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1,966.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 20th March 1866.

Read the following letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd March 1866, No. 85 :—

1. I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board, copy of a letter from Captain Payne to the Superintending Engineer of this District, on the subject of turning the waters of the Perriyaur into this District, from which the Board will learn with pleasure that the scheme is practicable.

2. The Perriyaur is fed by the rains of the south-west monsoon, and is in flood from the end of May, or certainly from the beginning of June to September and October, and is affected by falls of rain from thunder storms in the months of April and May; so that, if its waters or part of them were turned into this District, they would provide the District with an almost unfailling first or carr crop, in the same way as Tinnevely is watered by the Tambrapoorney river which would make this a second-crop District, probably doubling the rice crop of the District along the river.

3. During the months above mentioned the river Viga, the great river of this District, is invariably dry; the importance and value of the project to the Government as a source of revenue, and to the people as affording a further and certain supply of food and wealth, is manifest; and I beg the Board will urge on Government the advisability of the project being at once thoroughly investigated, and that a determination be come to as to how best and most economically turn over the water into this District which now goes waste to the sea through the Cochin river.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain G. M. PAYNE, Executive Engineer on special duty, Eighth Division, to Captain H. L. PRENDERGAST, R. E., Superintending Engineer, Eighth Division, dated Madura, 19th February 1866, No. 7.

1. With reference to Government Orders as per margin, I have the honor to inform you that from the 15th to 25th of last month I was in camp at the Mulyaur Tavalam, and engaged in taking a series of levels from the Perriyaur river to the lowest point of the water shed dividing the Madura District from the Province of Travancore.

G. O., No 1,337, 17th May 1865.
G. O., No 3,596, 28th November 1865.

2. The north-east monsoon having been almost a failure, I anticipated but little difficulty about burning the grass, which at this season usually attains its greatest length and thickness. But in this I was disappointed, for I found it still too green to burn.

3. I had taken a spirit and water level with me, and seeing that it would be almost impossible, owing to the density of the grass and jungle, to work with the former, I determined to take the section with the water level, an instrument well adapted for the purpose, owing to the short sights obtainable, and to the rough nature of the country to be traversed.

4. The accompanying section shows the result of the levels, viz., first a rise of 23.20 feet from the bed of the Perriyaur to the bed of the Chinna Mulyaur close to its junction with the Perriya Mulyaur; secondly, a rise of 131.55 from the bed of the Perriyaur, to the bed of the Chinna Mulyaur at the site of Colonel Faber's anicut; and a total difference of level from the bed of the Perriyaur to the crest of the water-shed of 186.05 feet, the distance between the two points being about 3½ miles.

Vide Professional Papers, Madras Engineers, Vol. —, page 23.

5. In consequence of the long drought the Perriyaur had but a small quantity of water passing down it (by calculation about 17,280 cubic yards per hour). The Perriya Mulyaur stream contributed some 1,760 cubic yards more, giving a total discharge per hour of 19,010 cubic yards.

In the month of May 1864, the discharge of the Perriyaur below its junction with the Perriya Mulyaur was observed to be 22,503 cubic yards per hour.

6. The scarcity of water and general appearance of the jungle indicating the near approach of the unhealthy season, and the long grass preventing any proper survey of the country being taken, I considered it useless to remain longer on the hills than was necessary to enable me to determine the difference of level, on which point the question of prosecuting or abandoning the project of turning the Perriyaur water into the Madura District appears to rest.

7. And as the result shows that the water-shed is only 186 feet above the bed of the Perriyaur, Captain Ryves's scheme of diverting the water appears quite practicable, although how that diversion can be most economically effected, is still a question that cannot be decided hastily, and before the whole of the country about has been thoroughly reconnoitred and contoured.

8. From the knowledge I have gained so far of the country, it would seem that perhaps the simplest way of carrying out the scheme would be by damming up the Perriyaur entirely forming an extensive lake, and draining the upper portion of the latter by a cutting through the ridge which at its deepest point could not, I consider, be carried economically below forty feet. My levels were taken (with an exception here and there) up the beds of the Chinna Muliyaur and Sairayalaur streams where the water had cut its way down to the hard rock, so that it is pretty certain that a deep cutting would entail an immense amount of labour and expense in blasting through solid rock.

9. This plan would probably be subject to modification when the volume of the Perriyaur when in full flood has been correctly ascertained, that is to say, it would not apparently be prudent to turn the whole of the river into the Madura District; otherwise the results might be disastrous; for judging from marks on trees, &c., on its banks, the river when in flood rises some twenty-five feet, and comes down like a mountain torrent.

Estimated by Captain Ryves at from 100 to 120,000 cubic yards per hour.

10. The ordinary stream, therefore, when the river is under the influence of the monsoons, is all that it would seem desirable to divert for irrigational purposes. An examination of the country may show that the surplus can be turned over a masonry dam constructed on one of the spurs of the hills to the north or south of the river.

11. I would propose that the further investigation of the project be taken up about the beginning of next June, from which date the south-west monsoon usually sets in, and the hills are considered free from fever. Meanwhile the long grass will have been burnt, and the work of levelling and surveying thus rendered less difficult.

(Signed) H. L. PRENDERGAST, Captain, R. E.,
Officiating Superintending Engineer, Eighth Division.
(True Copy.)

(Signed) SESHAGIRI ROW,
Deputy Collector.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board observe that Captain Payne's investigation of the project was undertaken by order of Government, and they doubt not that it will be prosecuted to completion with the speed that its importance demands.

(True Copies and Extract.)

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Madura.

Exd. J. Wright.

Secretary.

Transferred to
D. P. W.

S. O. S.

List

no 1036

Recorded, with
reference to G.O. no
921 of 22 March/86

To Rev. Dept.
To H. of Rev.
To S. E. & D.
To S. & D.

Start St. George
1st April 1886