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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2716-17 Press Mis.

304-26

Dated 2 2 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th September 1866.

No. 314. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Civil Works—Agricultural), dated Simla, 7th August 1866, No. 675 C:—

Irrigation systems of Northern and Southern India.

Read again—

Public Works Department Resolution No. 204-10 C, dated 24th February 1866.

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, in the Public Works Department, No. 1,008, dated 27th March 1866.

Letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, No. 264 I., dated 26th April 1866.

Read also—

Letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, No. 252, dated 4th July 1866.

1. Observations.—In Public Works Department Resolution convening a Committee to report on matters connected with the Ganges Canal, the Governor General in Council remarked that the degree of success attainable in the construction of canals and other irrigation works was due in a great measure to matters unconnected with engineering, depending on climate, soil, the system of agriculture and the habits of the people, and observed that as these, as well as engineering practice, differed materially in Northern and Southern India, it would conduce much to clearing up doubts and differences on the subject of irrigation works if officers familiar with the system in Northern India were deputed from the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab to report on the works in the Madras Presidency, and similarly, if Officers from the South were sent from Madras to inspect and report upon the works in Northern India.

2. The Governments of Madras, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab were called upon for reports on the above suggestion. The Madras Government did not concur in the opinion that the success of canals and other irrigation works was due to other than engineering questions, and saw no advantage in establishing the system of inspection and cross reporting suggested, being of opinion that the probable result would be criticisms and discussions which would occupy much time and lead to no practical good.

3. The Government of the North-Western Provinces also did not expect that any advantage would be gained by deputing an Officer from those Provinces to report on the Madras system of irrigation, and suggested that the reason why there was so little information as to the details of Madras irrigation, was the absence in that Presidency of an Irrigation Department in which the statistics of irrigation could be collected, arranged, collated, and interpreted.

4. The Punjab Government, without offering any opinion as to the advantage or otherwise of establishing the system of inspection and cross report, states that not a single Officer of sufficient experience is available for deputation to Madras at present.

5. Notwithstanding these adverse opinions, the Governor General in Council is still of opinion that much advantage would be gained by the system of reporting indicated, and that it is especially desirable in regard to the irrigation system of the Madras Presidency, if a report could be had which would enable the Government of India to arrive at more definite conclusions as to the causes which have conduced to make irrigation works there so remunerative in many cases.

6. The want of an Officer of sufficient experience to undertake the necessary investigation might often be the main obstacle to the carrying out of this object. An opportunity, however, now offers for deputing an Officer, perhaps above all others qualified for such a duty, in the return of Colonel R. Strachey, R. E., to India, which is expected in November or December next, and the Governor General in Council is of opinion that advantage should be taken of the opportunity to obtain reports on the irrigation works of the Madras Presidency, regarding which more complete information would be most valuable.

7. Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Anderson, R. E., of the Madras Public Works Establishment, has, as a member of the Ganges Canal Committee, recorded a valuable Memorandum on the subject of the income derived from irrigation works in Southern India, compared with the return from similar works in the North-Western Provinces. But this important subject still requires further investigation, and the Governor General in Council is of opinion that it is very desirable to devote to it, for a time, the services of an Officer of Colonel Strachey's experience and ability.

8. It has accordingly been decided by the Governor General in Council, that instructions shall be issued to Colonel Strachey to report his arrival in India to the Government of Madras; and the Government of India will request the Governor in Council of Madras to do them the favor to afford Colonel Strachey every facility for examining and reporting upon all matters connected with the irrigation works, and system of managing them, in the Madras Presidency.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to the Government of Madras, with a request that the necessary orders may be issued as above indicated.

Ordered also that copies be forwarded to the Governments of the North-Western Provinces and Punjab for information, with reference to the communications from those Governments above read.

Ordered also that a copy be forwarded to the Military Department, with a request that Colonel Strachey's services may be made available for the purpose indicated.

Ordered further that a report be made to Her Majesty's Government, with a request that orders may be given to Colonel Strachey as indicated.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Lieut.-Colonel, R. A.,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12*th September* 1866.

No. 305. ORDER THEREON, 12th September 1866, No. 2,916.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 59.

Ordered to lie over till the arrival of Colonel Strachey, when orders will be issued to afford him all necessary assistance in carrying out the objects of his mission.

Ordered also that the following letter be sent:—

(Here enter No. 2,917, dated 12th September 1866.)

(True Extract.)

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

To the Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
12*th September* 1866.

No. 2,917.

No. 306.
To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

CIVIL WORKS, No. 60.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 675 C, dated the 7th August 1866, and to state for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General, that the visit of Colonel Strachey to this Presidency will be received with satisfaction by this Government, and that every facility will be accorded to him for the prosecution of his enquiries.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

4 Nov

No. 675C

Government of India
Public Works Department
Civil Works
Agricultural.

Simla, 7th August 1866

Irrigation Systems of Northern and Southern India.

Read again:—

Public Works Department Resolution No. 204/10C dated 24th February 1866.

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of Fort St George in the Public Works Department, No. 1008 dated 27th March 1866.

Letter from the Under Secretary to the Govt of the North Western Provinces in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, No. 264I dated 26th April 1866.

Read also:-

Letter from the Under Secretary to the Govt of the Punjab in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, No. 252 dated 4th July 1866. —

In

In Public Works Department Observations

Resolution convening a Committee to report on matters connected with the Ganges Canal, the Governor General in Council remarked that the degree of success attainable in the construction of Canals and other Irrigation works was due in a great measure to matters unconnected with engineering depending on climate, soil, the system of agriculture and the habits of the people, and observed that as these, as well as engineering practice, differed materially in Northern and Southern India, it would conduce much to clearing up doubts and differences on the subject of irrigation works if Officers familiar with the system in Northern India were deputed from the North Western Provinces and the Punjab to report on the works in the Madras Presidency, and similarly if Officers from the South were sent from Madras to inspect and report upon the works in Northern India.

2. The Governments of Madras, the North Western Provinces and the Punjab were called upon for reports on the above suggestion.

The Madras Government did not concur in the opinion that the success of Canals and other irrigation works was due to other than engineering questions, and saw no advantage in establishing the system of inspection and Cross reporting suggested, being of opinion that the probable result would be criticisms and discussions which would occupy much time and lead to no practical good.—

3 The Government of the North Western Provinces also did not expect that any advantage would be gained by deputing an Officer from those Provinces to report on the Madras system of irrigation, and suggested that the reason why there was so little information as to the details of Madras irrigation was the absence in that Presidency of an Irrigation Department in which the statistics of irrigation could be collected, arranged, collated and interpreted.

4. The Punjab Government, without offering any opinion as to the advantage or otherwise of establishing the system of inspection and Cross report, states that not a single

single officer of sufficient experience is avail-
-able for deputation to Madras at present.

5. Notwithstanding these adverse opinions the Governor General in Council is still of opinion that much advantage would be gained by the system of reporting indicated, and that it is especially desirable in regard to the irrigation system of the Madras Presidency, if a report could be had which would enable the Government of India to arrive at more definite conclusions as to the causes which have conduced to make Irrigation works there so remunerative in many cases.

6. The want of an officer of sufficient experience to undertake the necessary investi-
-gation might often be the main obstacle to the carrying out of this object. An opportunity, however, now offers for deputing an officer, per-
-haps above all others qualified for such a duty, in the return of Colonel R. Strachey R.E. to India, which is expected in November or De-
-cember next, and the Governor General in Council is of opinion that advantage should be taken of the opportunity to obtain reports on

on the Irrigation works of the Madras Presidency regarding which more complete information would be most valuable.

7. Lieutenant Colonel J. C. Anderson, R.E. of the Madras Public Works Establish-
-ment, has, as a member of the Ganges Canal Committee, recorded a valuable Memorandum on the subject of the income derived from Irriga-
-tion works in Southern India compared with the return from similar works in the North Western Provinces. But this important subject still requires further investigation and the Governor General in Council is of opinion that it is very desirable to devote to it for a time the services of an officer of Colonel Strachey's experience and ability.

8. It has accordingly been decided by the Governor General in Council that in-
-structions shall be issued to Coll. Strachey to report his arrival in India to the Govt. of Madras; and the Government of India will request the Governor in Council of Madras to do them the favor to afford Coll. Strachey every facility for examining and reporting upon

upon all matters connected with the Irri=
=gation Works and system of managing them
in the Madras Presidency.

Ordered that a Copy of the foregoing Order.
Resolution be forwarded to the Govt of Madras
with a request that the necessary orders may be
issued as above indicated.

Ordered also that Copies be forwarded
to the Governments of the North Western Provinces
and Punjab for information, with reference to the
Communication from those Governments above
read.

Ordered also that a Copy be forward=
=ed to the Military Department with a re=
=quest that Colonel Strachey's services may
be made available for the purpose indicated.

Ordered further that a report be
made to Her Majesty's Government with a
request that orders may be given to Colt Strachey
as indicated.

W Rivers Lieut Colt R.A.
Secretary to the Govt of India

To The Secretary to the Govt of Madras
in the Public Works Department

W1

Your Letter No 675 C dated the 7th August 1866, and to state for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in General, that the visit of Colonel Strachey & his Brothers will be received with satisfaction by this Govt, and that every facility will be accorded to him for the prosecution of his enquiries—

I have &c

Grant Lt Governor
12th Septr 1866

No 304 @ 306
5 Aug 1866

Jr. H. 1866 Dec.

Pro: of Govt for Septr.

Nos 2916 & 2917.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

Dt 12th September 66.

Passing orders on Proceedings of the Government of India on the subject of Irrigation Systems of Northern and Southern India and requesting that facilities may be afforded to Colonel Strachey for reporting, &c. on matters connected with the Irrigation work of this Presidency.

No 304 @ 305.