M.R.O. 1—77,066—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3360 Press
A 98— Mis.

Dated 20—10— 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 498. From the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 29th September 1866, No. 783.

1. I have the honor to reply to G. O. No. 595, dated 20th February, relative to the improvement of the Weyacondan channel.

2. There is no doubt that the greater length of the channel from the head to the head sluice, than the distance between the head and the fourth sandpoke by the river, tends to cause accumulations in the channel head, but this can in a great measure be remedied by straightening and improving the head, and the powerful under-sluices proposed by Colonel Greenaway were intended to form a sufficient scour to obviate this defect.

3. The cause of the present deplorable condition of the head is due to the fact that, instead of confining themselves to the proper head of the channel through which to draw their supply, the Merassidars have been permitted to take advantage of the set at any point below the channel mouth to open a second or even a third head; the result of which has been, first, that the set of the stream has been drawn away from the proper head to a point lower down the river, and accumulations have been formed in front of the proper head or mouth; and second, that the water after entering the channel at a point between the mouth and the head sluice has formed a back-water between the new and proper mouths, in which silt and sand has been deposited so as almost to block up that portion of the channel.

4. There is, no doubt, very great difficulty in regulating the set of the current in a large river like the Cauvery, and after every heavy fresh there is some little change in the set of the current, and this often from no apparent cause, and if, when provided with a large open mouth, it has not been found practicable to obtain sufficient draught during floods to maintain the set of the stream on the head of the channel, when the draught is materially decreased by the construction of a head sluice with one-twentieth of the water-way, it will be still less possible to command the set of the current, and it is on this account alone that I think the construction of a new head sluice at the mouth of the channel objectionable.

5. Were a head sluice constructed at the mouth of the channel, it would still be necessary to provide a surplus of some sort at the site of the old calingulah, to carry off the drainage brought down by the Nunga Voikal, which drains about eight square miles. The surplus here, however, would take the form of sluices, for the construction of a surplus similar to that proposed by Colonel Greenaway, would not prevent the backing up of the waters of the Cauvery through the fourth sandpoke, and this it would be necessary to prevent.

The works required and their probable cost would be—

Head sluice	...Rs. 5,000
Surplus sluice	,, 5,000
Embanking, clearing, and planting nanal between head sluices	,, 3,000

The cost of the under-sluices proposed by Colonel Greenaway and the clearing of the head would probably be—

Under-sluices	...Rs. 16,500
Clearing channel bed	... ,, 2,000
Closing sandpokes	... ,, 500

6. If the latter scheme is adopted, a very stringent order must be issued that the second and third sandpokes are on no account or under any circumstances to be opened; that if the current sets somewhat below the proper mouth, it must be coaxed back to the mouth by cutting a channel through the sand from the mouth to the deep stream of the river, and by forming a corumboo across the deep stream when the water is low, so as to divert the water on to the head.

7. Colonel Greenaway has suggested the formation of a rough stone corumboo at the head of the channel, as such a work has proved very effective at the head of the Nellore tank supply channel, "the anticipated result being "that a large body of water being forced through the supply channel, and finding "its escape at the low level of the under-sluices the said channel will be necessarily "scoured out," and he estimates the cost at Rupees 4,000. I do not, however, adopt Colonel Greenaway's views on this subject, and am of opinion that the construction of a rough stone corumboo is objectionable for the following reasons: First, it would be very costly, constantly requiring renewal or repair; second, unless provided with sandpokes, it would tend to raise the bed of the river and eventually to divert the set of the current to the north side of the river, leaving a shoal at the head of the Weyacondan channel; and third, if sandpokes were provided, it would probably be difficult to close them, as an earthen or paddle bank would not stand on a rough stone base through which water was percolating.

8. Something must be done to this head during the approaching working season, and I would therefore solicit early orders on the subject. Though it may not be possible actually to commence operations in 1866-67, materials in large quantities must be prepared before the 31st March, and I would request that at least Rupees 5,000 may be placed at my disposal for the preparation of materials in 1866-67.

9. From the section it will be observed that the floor of the head sluice is six feet three inches below the level of the deep bed of the Cauvery at the mouth of the channel, nearly two miles above the head sluice, this accounts in a great measure for the silting up of the channel bed below the head sluice, and leads to erroneous ideas of the state of the channel, thus Mr. Vans Agnew, in his letter to the Revenue Board, while expatiating on the defects of the channel, states that though the water stood at eight feet on the gauge at the head sluice, it was not up to the middle of a man standing in the channel bed below the sluice. The statement, as it stands, is very startling, and doubtless the Board has addressed Government on the subject, but when the levels are considered, and it is borne in mind that the sill of the sluice is six feet three inches below the level of the river bed, and that eight feet above the sill represents one foot nine inches or two feet in the deep bed of the river, it is not surprising that Mr. Comyn's man was not drowned.

Paragraph 6, No. 196, dated 22nd September.

10. As Mr. Vans Agnew's statements are founded upon a misconception, and he has had the experience of some ten or fifteen days in the District, I deem it unnecessary to follow him through his letter, but think it sufficient to state, first, that with one foot nine inches or two feet of water at the channel head, water cannot be expected to reach Trichinopoly unless the intermediate sluices are closed, and the supply to the various lands is regulated by turns; second, that the lands at the tail of the channel depend upon tanks supplied two or three times when the rivers are in flood; third, that if the head is improved between the mouth and the present head sluice, and about Rupees 2,000 is spent in clearing the channel east of the point to which the clearing executed this season extended, the channel will be in very good order, and if the works constructed for the regulation of the channel are used instead of being neglected, or even abused, the channel will remain in good order; but if it is supposed that any regulating works at the head will admit of the channel receiving a large and permanent supply of water when the rivers are low, without the formation of a corumboo, such an idea must at once be abandoned, and it must be borne in mind that a corumboo in such a locality must be formed in one or two days, by the employment of 2,000 coolies at a time, and that it is simply useless trying to form a corumboo with two or three hundred men, and that when the necessity for forming a corumboo arises it must be constructed promptly, while the necessity for its formation is no criterion of the defective condition of the channel.

No. 499. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th September 1866.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trichinopoly, 22nd September 1866 No. 196.

1. I have the honor to direct the serious attention of the Board to the Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, dated the 20th February last, No. 595, and to the few following remarks upon the subject thereof, which, notwithstanding my temporary connection with this District, I feel it to be my duty to submit.

2. In their Order which closed the above Proceedings, Government declined to sanction an estimate for Rupees 16,500 submitted and recommended by the Board for immediate execution, for constructing an under-sluice in the Weyacondan channel.

3. In paragraph 1 Government stated that there were no funds available for the work during the "current year;" meaning, I presume, the official year that closed with last March, and that, therefore, a re-consideration of the subject would cause no additional delay. In paragraph 3 the Superintending Engineer was directed to re-consider the question.

4. I hardly think I shall be going too far if I opine that practically the effect of this Order is the indefinite postponement of a pressingly important matter.

5. At this moment, with upwards of a lac of Rupees revenue at stake, the condition of this channel is so defective, that there is every probability of an immediate loss to the Government in the shape of obligatory remissions of, according to the best information I have been able to collect, fully half that sum, and until some effectual step is taken, Government must be prepared to face the pro-

bability of some such heavy annual loss. In fact the channel is silting up so rapidly, that if nothing is done, there will soon be no flow at all through it, and the whole revenue will be lost.

6. In a note just received from the spot from Mr. Comyn, he says, "the "whole place is silted up;" again "near the head sluice the silt is very high. The "water has reached the height of eight feet as per the wall measurement close to the "sluice. I sent a fellow down to see the actual depth, and the water was not up to "his middle even." Not in the highest fresh this season has any water reached further than seven miles below the town of Trichinopoly, while villages for twenty miles are dependent upon it. For the seven miles the supply has been quite insufficient. From the first hour of my arrival I have been beseiged by the despairing Ryots. For two weeks past, since the freshes began to fall, every exertion has been made in throwing out a large corumboo. The operation is like making bricks without straw, for, from the Padoogays not having been flooded this season, there is scarcely any growth upon them, and consequently materials are wanting, and are only obtainable from a distance and with great difficulty.

7. My Head Assistant is on the spot risking his health by constant exposure to the sun in this hot weather, and to the detriment of his ordinary duties. The Tahsildar's whole time is occupied in superintending the work, all but the routine duties of his office being left in abeyance, and, after all, the result of these exertions is quite inadequate to the requirements of the cultivation above Trichinopoly. Mr. Comyn writes triumphantly at having raised the water in the channel yesterday eight inches higher than the day before. It did not reach to within two miles of this town, and the man I despatched some hours ago to ascertain how far it did actually come has not yet returned, so I presume he has had a considerable distance to travel to find it. Then I have the satisfaction of being assured, that the pressure of a very little more water would destroy the whole corumboo, and leave us to re-construct it without materials.

8. We are now close upon October, the working season begins in December. There is no project. There is therefore every prospect of the approaching working season being lost, and Government thus losing another lac or half a lac of Rupees *next* Fusly. I do not think the money requisite to carry out any project that may be determined upon need be a difficulty. The Merassidars interested would be only too glad to have the opportunity of advancing it, on promise of re-payment whenever the allotment might be made in due course.

9. I think I have given sufficient reasons to justify the Board in again pressing Government to take immediate action in this matter.

10. It is a serious matter in these hard times to allow the highly productive power of a large tract of country to be seriously impaired, where the provision of the comparatively trifling necessary funds to restore the same need be no obstacle, and where nothing is wanting but a project, and permission to execute it.

Ordered to be submitted for the immediate consideration of Government as an emergent matter.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

2*nd October* 1866.

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

No. 500. ORDER THEREON, 20th October 1866, No. 3,360.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 97.

1. With his letter of the 27th November 1865, No. 257, the Collector of Trichinopoly forwarded to the Board of Revenue reports from the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division and the Executive Engineer in charge of the Trichinopoly Range on the unsatisfactory state of the Weyacondan channel owing to its great tendency to silt, and at the same time submitted estimates amounting to Rupees 16,500, prepared by the latter Officer, for the remedial measures which he considered would most readily and certainly effect an improvement. These consisted in the substitution of powerful under-sluices for the calingulah immediately adjoining the head sluice, and the closing, when that work is completed, of the two westerly sandpokes.

2. The Government did not feel satisfied that the proposed under-sluices would have sufficient power, situated as they would be at a point where the level of the water in the channel with the head sluice open, would not be higher than that in the river, and as no funds were at the time available, the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division was requested to re-consider whether it would not be better to move the head sluice to a position near the present mouth of the channel.

3. Captain Oakes now replies to this proposal, and, though agreeing that the greater length of the channel from its head to the site of its head sluice than the distance by the river between its head and the calingulah which it is proposed to convert into a scouring sluice would neutralize the action of the latter, he considers that this defect may in a great measure be remedied by straightening and improving the head. This the Government still think questionable, but they have no doubt that a sluice will be a great improvement upon the present dilapidated calingulah, and they accordingly sanction the estimate of Rupees 16,500 for the proposed conversion.

4. It is very difficult to keep clear of silt any channel which, taken off from a river on the same level as its bed, follows a tortuous course on a diminished slope and receives into it numerous drainages. The utmost that can be done is by a judicious and well-timed management of the various means which have been provided for creating a scour, and carrying off deposit, to prevent as much as possible the accumulation of the latter; but, from Colonel Greenaway's and the Superintending Engineer's letters, it would appear that instead of the various calingulahs and under-sluices being worked in such a manner as to produce the best results, they have been left entirely to the management of the Merassidars who, without any intelligent acquaintance with the uses of those works, have been permitted to open or close them at their pleasure. The attention of the Revenue authorities should be given to this subject.

5. Dependent as the Weyacondan channel is, from its construction, entirely on the freshes of the Cauvery in the absence of local rain, a short supply to it was clearly unavoidable in a year like the present when the rains totally failed for so many months, and the freshes in the river, though pretty continuous, have been of moderate height. In attributing then solely to neglect the cause of the inefficiency of the channel to provide water this season to as large an area of cultivation under it

as in ordinary years, the Acting Collector ignores the peculiar circumstances of the channel, and seems to have been led, by a misconception of the relative level of its bed and the sill of its head sluice, into imagining that the cause of the short supply was solely owing to accumulations of deposit. This the Superintending Engineer clearly shows to be an error, and the Government trust that with the measures that will now be taken for improving the work, its usefulness will be maintained and perhaps increased.

6. The Government quite agree with the Superintending Engineer in his remarks regarding corumboos, and though it is impossible that the channel can receive a proper supply of water when the river is low without the construction of a corumboo, that work must be of a temporary character and not of such substantial form as permanently to act upon the stream of the river and cause changes which might lead to the most dangerous results.

7. Measures may be at once taken for collecting such materials as may be required to prepare for carrying out the estimate now sanctioned early next year, if the Superintending Engineer can provide the funds from savings on any of his current allotments.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.
,, Accountant General.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 783 — Duty Engr Office 6th Divn
Dated 29th September 1866

From
Capt R. F. Oakes R. E.
Duty Engr 6th Divn

To
Colonel C. A. Orr R. E.
Secy to Govt P. W. D.
Fort Saint George

Sir

I have the honor to reply to Govt No. 595, dated 25th July, relative to the improvement of the Nyacondah Channel.

2. There is no doubt that the greater length of the Channel from the head to the head sluice than the distance between the head & the 4th Sand pit by the river, tends to cause accumulations in the Channel head but this can in a great measure be remedied by straightening and improving the head & the river sluices, provided by Col. Green are intended to form a sufficient screen to obviate this defect.

3. The cause of the present deplorable condition of the head

is due to the fact that, instead of confining themselves to the proper head of the Channel thro' which to draw their supply, the cherukdars have been permitted to take advantage of the set at any point below the channel mouth, to open a head or even a third head, the result of which has been 1st that the set of the stream has been drawn away from the proper head to a point lower down the river & accumulations have been formed in front of the proper head or mouth & 2d that the water after entering the Channel at a point between the mouth & the head sluice has formed a backwater between the new & proper mouths in which silt & sand has been deposited so as almost to block up that portion of the channel.

4th There is, no doubt, very great difficulty in regulating the set of the current in a large river like the Cavery & after every heavy freshet there is some little change in the set of the current & this often from an obstacle once & for, when provided into a large open mouth, it has not been found practicable to obtain sufficient draught during floods to maintain the set of the stream in the head of the channel, when the draught is materially decreased by the construction of a head sluice with 20 of the waterway it will be still less possible to command the set of the current & it is on this account above that a stricture of a new head sluice at the mouth of the channel objectionable.

5th Were a head sluice constructed at the mouth of the Channel it would still be necessary to provide a surplus of some sort at the site of the old Calingulah to carry off the drainage brought down by the Nuniga Vaikal which drains about 8 square miles. The surplus here however would take the form of sluices for the construction of a surplus similar to that proposed by Col: Greathead would prevent the backing up of the waters of the Cavery thro' the 4th and this it would be necessary to prevent.—

The works required & their probable cost would be

Head Sluice	Rs 5000
Scouring Sluice	5000
Embankment Cleaning & planting Canal between Head Sluices	3000

The cost of the under Sluices proposed by Col. Greenway & the clearing of the head would probably be

Under Sluices	Rs 16500
Clearing Channel bed	2000
Closing Sand Spurs	500

If the latter scheme is adopted a very short order must be given that the 2d & 3d Sand Spurs are on no account on any circumstances to be opened, that if the current sets towards below the Spurs it must be drawn back towards it by cutting a channel thro the sand from the mouth to the deep stream of the river & by forming a Corumbao across the deep stream when the water is low so as to divert the water on to the head

Colonel Greenway has suggested the formation of a rough stone Corumbao at the head of the Channel as such a work has proved very effective at the head of the Kalee Sand supply channel the antecedent result being that a large body of water being forced thro the supply Channel & finding at escape at the low level of the under Sluices the said Channel will be necessarily scoured out & he estimates the cost at Rs 40000 I do not however adopt Colonel Greenways views on this subject & am of opinion that the construction of a rough stone Corumbao is objectionable for the following reasons 1st It would be very costly constantly requiring renewal or repair 2d unless provided with sand spurs it would tend to raise the bed of the river & eventually to divert the rest of the current to the North side of the river leaving a shoal at the head of the Nyacondan Channel & 3d if sand spurs were provided it would probably be difficult to close them as any earthen or puddle bank would not

stand on a rough stone base
thro' which water was percolating -

8 Something must be
done to the Head during the
approaching working season
& I would therefore solicit
early orders on the subject -
tho' it may not be possible
actually to commence operations
in 1866/67 materials in large
quantities must be prepared
before the 31st March & I would
request that at least Rs 5000
may be placed at my disposal
for the preparation of materials
in 1866/67 -

From the section it
will be observed that the
flow of the Head Sluice is
6'-3" below the level of the desk
bed of the Canal at the mouth
of the channel nearly 2 miles
above the Head Sluice this
accounts in a great measure
for the silting up of the chan-
nel bed below the Head Sluice
& leads to erroneous ideas of
the state of the channel thus
Mr Vans Agnew in his letter to the Revenue Board while
expatiating on the defects of the
channel states that tho' the
water stood at 6' on the gauge

Para 4
No 1966 dd
22nd Sept

at the Head Sluice it was but
2 ft up to the middle of a
man standing in the chan-
nel bed below the Sluice -
The statement as it stands is
very startling & doubtless the
Board has addressed Govt
on the subject but when the
levels are considered it is
borne in mind that the sill
of the Sluice is 6'-3" below the
level of the river bed &
that 8' above the sill represents
1'-9" or 2' in the deep bed of the
river it is not surprising
that Mr Cowgill was not
drowned -

10 As Mr Vans Agnew's
statements are founded upon
a mis-conception & he has had
the experience of some 10 or 15
days in the District I deem
it unnecessary to follow him
thro his letter but think it
sufficient to state that
with 1'-9" or 2' of water at the
Channel head water cannot
be expected to reach Inchinpoh
unless the intermediate sluices
are closed & the supply to the
various lands is regulated by
turns - 2d That the lands at
the tail of the Channel depend

upon Banks exhibited 2 or 3 times
when the rivers are in flood—
3rd. That if the Head is main-
-proved between the mouth &
the present Head Sluices and
about Rs. 2000 is spent in clear-
-ing the Channel Each of the points
to which the Channel extended
this season, extended the Channel
will be in very good order &
if the works constructed for
the regulation of the Channel
are used instead of being
neglected or even abused the
Channel will remain in good
order, but if it is supposed
that any regulating works at
the Head will admit of the Channel
receiving a large & permanent
supply of water when the rivers
are low without the formation
of a Cornumboo such an idea
must at once be abandoned
& it must be borne in mind
that a Cornumboo in such a
locality must be formed in
1 or 2 days by the employment
of 2000 Coolies at a time and is
that it is simply useless
trying to form a Cornumboo
with 2 or 300 men & that
when the necessity for forming
a Cornumboo arises it must

be constructed promptly, &
while the keeping for its formation
is no criterion of the defective
condition of the Channel—

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obdt Servant

H. T. Dalton Capt R.E.
Superintendent Sup.d Chl.

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secy to Govt.
P.W.D.
Fort Saint George

Revenue Department

No. 9

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 26th September 1866.

Read the following

No. 196.

From, G. Vans Agnew Esqre
Acting Collector of Trichinopoly.

To, W. Huddleston Esqre
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

Para 1. I have the honor to direct the serious attention of the Board to the Proceedings of Government Public Works Department dated the 20th February last No. 595. and to the few following remarks upon the subject thereof, which, notwithstanding my temporary connection with this District, I feel it to be my duty to submit.

2. In their order which closed the above Proceedings, Government declined to sanction an Estimate for Rupees 16,500 submitted and recommended by the Board for

Rec'd 20th February 1866. 443.

Copy of Letter from G. Vans Agnew Esq. Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 17th February 1866.

To the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Sir,

Referring to the Letter from the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly, dated 12th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith a Petition addressed to the Board of Revenue by the Inhabitants of Woraiyur, praying that the Road from the Cauvery to Woraiyur may be repaired.

2. The Executive Engineer estimates the cost of repairing the Road at Rupees 33,600. I am of opinion that the Petitioners should be informed that the Road cannot be repaired from the Funds at the disposal of the Board of Revenue.

I have &c.
(Signed) G. Vans Agnew
Acting Collector.

for immediate execution for constructing an under Sluice in the Wyaconelan Channel-

3. In Para 1 Government state that there were no funds available for the work during the "Current year"- Meaning I presume the Official year that closed with last March- And that therefore a reconsideration of the subject would cause no additional delay - In Para 3 the Superintending Engineer was directed to reconsider the question-

4. I hardly think I shall be going too far if I opine that practically the effect of this Order is the indefinite postponement of a pressingly important matter-

5. At this moment- with upwards of a lac of rupees revenue at stake- the condition of this Channel is so defective that there is every probability of an immediate loss to the Government in the shape of obligatory remissions of- according to the best information I have been able to collect- fully half that sum- and, until some effectual step is taken, Government must be prepared to face the probability of some such heavy Annual loss- In fact the

Channel is silting up so rapidly that if on nothing is done there will soon be no flow at all through it, and the whole revenue will be lost-

6. In a note just received from the spot from Mr. Conyn he says "The whole place is silted up" Again "near the Head Sluice the silt is very high- The water has reached the height of 8 feet as per the wall measurement close to the Sluice- I sent a fellow down to see the actual depth on and the water was not up to his middle - even." Not in the highest fresh this Season has any water reached further than 7 Miles below the town of Trichenopoly, while Villages for 20 miles are dependant upon it- For the 7 miles the supply has been quite insufficient- From the first hour of my arrival I have been besieged by the despairing ryots- For two weeks past, since the freshes began to fall, every exertion has been made in throwing out a large Coramboo- The operation is like making bricks without straw, for, from the padoo-gays not having been flooded this Season, there

there is scarcely any growth upon them, and consequently materials are wanting and are only obtainable from a distance and with great difficulty.

7. My Head Assistant is on the spot resting his health by constant exposure to the Sun in this hot weather and to the detriment of his ordinary duties. The Tahsildars whole time is occupied in Superintending the work, all but the routine duties of his Office being left in abeyance and, after all, the result of these exertions is quite inadequate to the requirements of the Cultivation above Trichinopoly. Mr. Conyn writes triumphantly at having raised the water in the Channel yesterday 8 inches higher than the day before - It did not reach to within two miles of this town, and the Peon I despatched some hours ago to ascertain how far it did actually come has not yet returned, so I presume he has had a considerable distance to travel to find it. Then I have the satisfaction of being assured, that the pressure of a very little more water would destroy the whole Coramboo and leave us to reconstruct it without materials -

8. We are now close upon October - the working Season begins in December - There is no project - There is therefore every prospect of the approaching working season being lost, and Government thus losing another lac or half a lac of rupees unexpectedly - I do not think the money requisite to carry out any project that may be determined upon need be a difficulty - The Merasidars interested, would be only too glad to have the opportunity of advancing it on promise of repayment whenever the allotment might be made in due course.

9. I think I have given sufficient reasons to justify the Board in again pressing Government to take immediate action in this matter.

It is a serious matter in these hard times to allow the highly productive power of a large tract of Country to be seriously impaired where the provision of the comparatively trifling necessary funds to restore the same need be no obstacle

obstacle and where nothing is wanting but a project and permission to execute it.

Trichinopoly,
Collr's Office,
22d. Septr. 1866.

Shaws & Co.

(Signed) G. Vaux Agnew
Acting Collector.

Ordered to be submitted as for the immediate consideration of Government as an emergent matter.

(True Copy & Esctract.)

Secretary.

To, The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Capt. Bernaubauer

17

16

Public Works Department.

No 3360

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 20th Octr 1866.

From the Supdg Engr of the 6th Divn (U. O. No 783 d/29th Sept 1866) Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Here enter No dated 26th Septr 1866.)

With his letter of the 27th November 1865, No 257, the Collector of Trichinopoly forwarded to the Board of Revenue reports from the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Dn and the Executive Engineer in charge of the Trichinopoly Range on the unsatisfactory state of the Vayacondan Channel owing to its great tendency to silt, and at the same time submitted Estimates amounting to Rs. 16,500, prepared by the latter Officer, for the

Read W. 20th Oct 1866 No 4429 to Do 13th Dec 1866 No 5802

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 26th Septr 1866. Read 29th Oct 1866.

Transmitted to the Public Works Department

By Order of the Board of Revenue

Dated 26th Septr 1866. Read 20th Octr 1866.

Submitting for sanction estimate connected therewith

From the Collector of Trichinopoly bringing to notice urgent necessity for construction of Pro[illegible] under Sluice in Ulyaeur: Channel

Dated 29th Septr 1866 Read 6th Octr 1866

Mr Hall

Col Bernauhauze

remedial measures which he considered would most speedily and certainly effect an improvement. These consisted in the substitution of powerful under-sluices for the Codingulah immediately adjoining the head sluice, and the closing, when that work is completed, of the two westerly sand-spokes.

The Govt. did not feel satisfied that the proposed under sluices would have sufficient power, situated as they would be at a point where the level of the water

Col. Bernauthauze

water in the channel with the head sluices open, would not be higher than that in the river, and as no funds were at the time available, the Superintending Engr. of the 6th Div. was requested to reconsider whether it would not be better to move the head sluices to a position near the present mouth of the channel.

Captain Cakes now replies to this proposal, and, though agreeing that the greater length of the channel from its head to the site of its head sluice than the distance, between its by the river

head and the Calingulah which it is proposed to convert into a scouring sluice would neutralize the action of the latter, he considers that this defect may in a great measure be remedied by straightening & improving the head. This the Government still think questionable, but they have no doubt that a sluice will be a great improvement upon the present dilapidated Calingulah, and they accordingly sanction the Estimate of Rs. 16,500 for

Col. Bernauhauze

for the proposed conversion. 15

It is very difficult to keep clear of silt any channel which, taken off from a river on the same level as its bed, follows a tortuous course on a diminished slope and receives into it numerous drainages. The utmost that can be done is by a judicious and well timed management of the various means which have been provided for creating a scour and carrying off deposit to prevent as much as possible the accumulation of the latter; but from Coll. Gremaways and the Chief Engineers letters it would appear

that instead of the various Calingulahs and under-sluices being worked in such a manner as to produce the best results, they have been left entirely to the management of the Merassidars who, without any intelligent acquaintance with the uses of those works, have been permitted to open or close them at their pleasure - The attention of the Revenue Authorities should be given to this subject -

Dependent as the Veyacondan channel is, from its construction, entirely on the freshes of the Cauvery in the absence of local rain, a short supply to it was clearly unavoidable in a year like the present when the rains totally failed for so many months and the freshes in the river, though pretty common, have been of moderate height - In attributing them, the cause of the inefficiency of the channel to provide water this season to as large an area of cultivation under it as in ordinary years, the Acting Collector ignores the peculiar circumstances of the channel and seems to

to have been led by a
misconception of the
relative level of its bed
and the sill of its
head sluice into min-
-gining that the cause
of the short supply was
solely owing to accumu
lations of deposit_ This
the Superintending Engineer
clearly shows to be an
error, and the Govt trust
that with the measures
that will now be taken
for improving the work,
its usefulness will be
maintained and perhaps
increased_

The

17/13

The Government
quite agree with the Su
perintending Engineer
in his remarks regard
ing Coomboos, and
tho' it is impossible that
the channel can receive
a proper supply of water
when the river is low with
out the construction of a
Coomboo, that work must
be of a temporary cha
racter and not of such
substantial form as
permanently to act upon
the stream of the river
and cause changes which
might lead to the most
dangerous results_

Measures

Measures may be at once taken for collecting such materials as may be required to prepare for carrying out the Estimate (now sanctioned) early next year, if the Superintending Engineer can provide the funds from savings on any of his Current allotments -

Rs
6 The S. Engr 6th Div
3 " Accts Offd
4 " Contractor
8 " Bs of Rev
8 " Rev Depts

Despd 22d October
39
6

Pro: of Tools for Octr

£ 3362.

Pro: of the Madras Govt

Dy 20 October 16.

Estimate amounting to Rs 16,500 for the substitution of under sluices Vizt for the Caliyanlah immediately adjoining the head sluice of Wyacondam Channel in the Trichinopoly District, sanctioned with certain observations

£ 1900 @ 5-00