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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1599	Press ~~Mis.~~
476-477	
Dated 18 - 5 -	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.

18th May 1866.

No. 476. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
• Revenue Department:—

Communicating Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue on a letter from the Collector of
Coimbatore relative to the irrigation works in } (Here enter 14th May 1866, No. 1,150.)
that District.

No. 477. ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1866, No. 1,599.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 63.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 7th Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th May 1866.*

No. 257. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th April 1866:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 11th April 1866, No. 92.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd February 1866, No. 1,289, I beg to submit the following remarks.

2. The season is bad in many respects.

3. The wet crops have in several localities been short—the result, in a great measure, of want of rain during the north-east monsoon, and partly the fault of remediable causes, such as the sad condition of many of our irrigation works, which are deteriorating from day to day, as funds are not provided for their repair.

4. The dry crops, except in those parts of the District which lie within the influence of the south-west monsoon, have yielded not more than two-thirds of their usual produce. The consequence is that prices are high, and the poor suffer a good deal.

5. Fodder for cattle is so scarce that straw and cholum stalks are carried fifty and sixty miles in bullock bandies, and then sold at a profit. Grass is nowhere to be seen.

6. The gardens are in fair condition, and may, I think, be looked on as the mainstay and support of man and beast in the province; for although very many wells are dry, it is to those in which water exists that human beings and animals look for their daily supply of water. It is quite common for persons to have to go two and three miles for the water required for ordinary household purposes.

7. Plantains, betel-vines, and sugar-cane dependent on channel irrigation are in a bad way.

8. The ploughing of the lands for the early dry crops should be in active progress at this time of the year, but the want of rain up to the present date has prevented it. Two showers of rain fell last week, but they were of little use; and unless the usual rains fall soon, the condition of the country must naturally excite apprehension.

9. As to remedial measures, it is useless to talk of them, unless Government is prepared to advance money for the construction and repair of works of irrigation, which alone can supply the wants of a population increasing from year to year at a rapid rate. Why do our people emigrate yearly by thousands? Simply because we don't utilize the water which a bountiful Providence supplies us with for their maintenance. This is, I believe, the solution of the question.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The urgent needs of the Coimbatore irrigation works have been repeatedly brought by the Board to the notice of Government.

No. 258. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1866, No. 1,150.

Land Revenue.

Communicated to the Department of Public Works.

(True Extract.)

J. P. Le.
Under Secretary to Government.

To the P. W. Department.
the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Bill

MS. 1599

Commed to the
help Engineer
of the 7. Ave

W.B.

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Spaulding
18th May 1866

Chapman

J. W. 18th Dept
Pro. of Gov. for May
No. 1001.

Pro. of the Major Genl
in the Revenue Dept

Of 14" } May 18th
No 17 }

No 1150

Communicating
Pro. of the Board of Rev.
on a letter from the
Coll. of Coimbatore
relative to the ~~reg-~~
~~ulated~~ condition of
the irrigation works
in that District.

ex. 1599. 18th May 1867
With an Order

No 476. 477.