

(1) Number of pages 1

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1855	Press
460	Mis.
Dated 21-6-1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

14
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21st June 1867.

No. 1,855.

No. 460.

To

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

SIR,

IRRIGATION, No. 24.

17th May 1867, Nos. 401, 402.

1. In compliance with the requisition in paragraph 2 of your letter of the 2nd March 1867, No. 28I, I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of India the accompanying papers which will explain the action taken by this Government upon the representation of the Sanitary Commissioner, that many plans of irrigation works were to be found on record, which, if carried out, would not only have been very remunerative, but have made the serious failure of the usual early rains last year result in only a partial, instead of a total loss of crops.

2. You will observe that Mr. Ellis was hasty in his statements on this subject, for the plans referred to by him do not exist in the archives of the Revenue Board or of the Department Public Works, and on being referred to, he did not specify more than three projects of the character alluded to. Of these, one has been held in abeyance. The other two would appear neither to have been perfected nor submitted to Government, and from the nature of them it is apparent that, had they been carried out, they would have had no more influence on cultivation than the many other existing works of irrigation in North Arcot, which, though very beneficial in ordinary years, being dependent on local rains, were inoperative last year while those rains held off.

3. To prevent an erroneous impression of the state of irrigation in North Arcot, I am directed to mention that the area of land under wet cultivation in that district has extended from 140,041 acres in 1845-46, to 196,389 acres in 1865-66, or rather more than forty per cent. in twenty years; and this though a great extent of land under wells classed at the former period as wet is now rated as dry. It is, however, recognized that in the district of North Arcot, as in other districts in this Presidency, much remains to be done in regard to irrigation both by the repair and development of old works and the construction of new ones. Such works would increase the area of wet cultivation, the revenue, and the food supply in ordinary years; but, depending as they would for the most part on the local rain-fall, and being rarely capable of affording a two years' supply of water, they would not protect the country from a failure of crops in seasons of unusual drought.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 1855

1855

To

The Secretary to the
Government of India

Sir,

For compliance with the
requisition in Para 2 of your
letter of the 2^d March 1857, to 28th,
I am directed to forward, for the
information of the Government
of India, the accompanying
papers, which will explain the
action taken by this Govern-
ment upon the representation
of the Sanitary Commissioner
that many plans of irrigation
works were to be found on
record, which if carried out,
would not only have been
very remunerative, but have
made the serious failure of
the usual early rains last year
result in only a partial, instead

17 May 1857 - 401 - 402

W. J. C.

of a total loss of crops.

You will observe that Mr Ellis ~~was mistaken in his~~ statements, ~~for no such plans are to be found in and existing referred to, he was able to mention only three projects of~~ ^{for good reasons,} ~~there one has been held in a begance~~ and the other two would appear ~~must~~ to have been perfected nor submitted to Government, and from the nature of them it is ~~clear~~ ^{apparent} that had they been carried out, they ~~could~~ ^{would} have had no more influence on Cultivation than the many other existing works of irrigation in North Arcot, which, tho' very beneficial in ordinary years, being dependent on local rains, were (totally) inoperative last year when those rains held off.

To prevent a false an erroneous impression of the state of irrigation

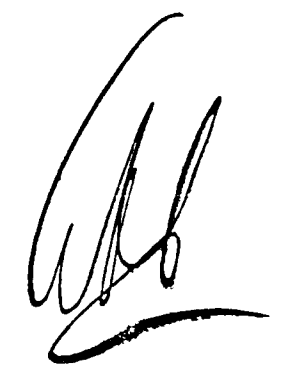
was lasty in his statement on this subject for the plans referred to by him don't exist in the archives of the Revenue board of the D.G.W. and as being referred to he did not specify more than three projects of the character alluded to.

omit N.

Is it quite 40?

in North Arcot (being formed from the vague general statements made in the papers of the condition of its irrigation works.) I am directed to mention that the area of land under wet cultivation in that District has extended from 140041 Acres in 1846/6 to 196389 Acres in 1856/6, - or rather more than 40 per Cent in 20 years, and this shows a great extent of land under wells elapsed at the former period as well is now rated as dry. - It is however recognized that in the

District of North Arcot as the other Districts in this Presidency much remains to be done in regard to irrigation both by the repair and development of old works and the construction of new ones such works would increase the



the area of web
cultivation, the revenue
as the food supply
in ordinary years
but depending on the
wind for the most
part on the local
Rain falls and being
rarely capable of
affording a two years
supply if water they
will not protect
the country from
failure of crops in
seasons of unusual
drought. - N.

Fort St. George
21st June 1867

Recd 22nd June 1867 with copy
of letters 401-402 287-288/67

453
Pub. Works 1867 Dep't.

Pro: of Govt. for Sme

No 1855

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

21st June 1867

Forwarding the
Govt. of India with a copy
of the papers regarding the
action taken by this Govt. to
discover the plans of the
irrigation projects in the
North Arcot and Salem
Districts, alluded to in the
Sanitary Commissioner's
Report of the 13th September
last.

No. 460