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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3190

Press
Mis

328-237

Dated 15-10-1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 288. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th September 1867, No. 6,195.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th August 1867, No. 165:—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government and of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th August 1867, requesting me to state generally my opinion of the condition of the Public Works in this district, the progress in their improvement, and the further needs of the district, I have the honor to state that I have already reported that I considered that the principal irrigation works in this district, which I have inspected, were generally in a satisfactory state. I consider also that the roads in general are in fair order. I am not aware of there being any serious obstacles to traffic in any part of the district. There are, it is true, unbridged rivers and nullahs, but owing to the scanty rain-fall, these are seldom in flood, or delay for any important time the passage of traffic. Taking the town of Bellary as a starting point, a traveller can proceed in a bullock transit, within the limits of the Bellary District, by a fair road to Bangalore, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Dharwar, and Sholapoor; a practicable road connects almost every cusbah town with its neighbouring talook cusbah.

2. Considering the vast extent of the district, and the funds available for roadwork, I consider the Bellary Province by no means in a backward state as regards communication. It is obvious that bridges over such rivers as the Huggry, Pennair, and Chittravarty, extending, with their approaches, from a quarter to a mile and more in length, cannot be constructed with funds which merely suffice to keep a vast extent of road in repair. But this is of less consequence, as the rivers, except the Toongabadra, which has a basket-boat ferry by which traffic slowly passes, are seldom in flood. The Railway will obviate the inconveniences now experienced, as it will bridge all these rivers. Another bridge over the Pennair would be, however, required at Pamidi. The expenditure of funds is devoted to keeping open the general communications, by repairing the worst parts. The future export trade of the district will be provided by the Railway.

3. As regards the further needs of the district, the building of improved accommodation for Tahsildars is one of the most prominent. Plans and estimates have been made for Cutcheries at Adoni and Hurpunchully, which are now in abeyance, pending a decision as to the prison accommodation they are to contain.

4. In addition to these projected buildings, new Cutcheries are required at Madaksira, Hindupoor, and Pencondah, whose present old structures are in the midst of native towns, surrounded by houses, unprovided with proper ventilation or light, and are unimprovable.

5. A new Civil and Sessions Court House is much wanted in Bellary, the present one being quite unsuitable, as regards accommodation, for the Judge and his establishment.

6. The District Munsiffs are not properly accommodated. The Purghee Munsiff had nothing but a native house to hold his Court in; the Cullindrug Munsiff had to be moved into the Sub-Collector's Cutcherry at Anantapoor; the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th October 1867.*

Narraindaverkerry Munsiff's Court is in a close confined portion of the fort of that village.

7. As regards the future prosperity of the district, which has the smallest and worst distributed rain-fall of any in the Presidency, an extension of irrigation is the most requisite want.

8. It is very doubtful, however, whether more tanks, if sites could be found for them—a fact which in 1807 Sir Thomas Munro, when Collector of the Ceded Districts and well acquainted with them, doubted—would meet the want, or could be constructed, in the present day, so as to return an interest on the expenditure. Earthwork and masonry are now executed at rates far above those ruling at the time when the original irrigation works were constructed, if indeed, at that time, they were paid for in money. Besides which, the source of local supply is very precarious.

9. The utilization of the rivers, with the exception of the Toongabadra, in the last particular, is liable to the same drawbacks; great expense, in proportion to the water supply, which, again, as regards the Huggry, Pennair, and Chittravarty within this district, is fitful. The Chittra, the main branch of the Chittravarty, is already utilized, and intercepts most of the supply.

10. Some parts of the district, more than others, appear to suffer from a defective rain-fall, especially during the south-west monsoon. For instance, a line of rain-fall appears to be drawn along the Ramanmullay Range, through Hospett, and along the right bank of the Toongabadra. Last year the talooks to the west of the Ramanmullay Range had a rain-fall in August, Bellary talook had none till the last day of September. This year, they had it in June and July, and the early crops are looking well in that direction, whereas there is scarcely any green to be seen within a radius of ten miles of Bellary, up to the 27th of August: either the ground is not ploughed, or the crop does not come up for want of moisture.

11. The prejudicial effect of a transverse chain of hills in arresting the rain-fall is seen in other districts. I may advert to Tinnevely, where the south-west rain does not extend eastward more than five miles from the base of the chain of the ghauts. But whatever the cause, the fact is evident that the Bellary talook gets least, and latest rain-fall, and if it could be supplied by a canal from the Toongabadra during the time of its flood, it would secure a crop over a large tract of good soil during the part of the year from June to September.

12. When there is no local rain-fall a resource lies in wells, but those in this locality are dug and worked with much labor and expense, and the quality of water is by no means to be depended on. In fact the working expenses eat up the profits in such a locality. The cost of such works in detail amounts to at least Rupees 200 per acre, and I am, therefore, of opinion that river-irrigation, obtained at a similar cost, would have the advantage of securing land so cultivated, from the deterrent expense of well cultivation.

13. Whether eventually, it will be considered proper to incur so vast an expense, as is entailed in the excavation of a canal for forty miles before it can be availed of, will be for the decision of Government; other project irrigation works appear, proportionately, nearly as expensive, their supply more precarious, and the possible profits not much greater. Of this scheme, it may be said to command

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most arid tract of very valuable land, which, with its present rain-fall produces only one precarious annual crop. I have no doubt that its irrigation would increase twenty-fold the value of the land, and that an increased population would arise in its vicinity.

1. Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to their Proceedings, dated 10th August 1867, No. 1,863.

2. The attention of Government is requested to paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of the Collector's letter, and Mr. Wedderburn's remarks as to the difficulty of extending the general irrigation works of his district shew the paramount necessity of taking full and early advantage of the Toongabadra scheme.

No. 289.

ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1867, No. 3,190.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 37.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.

„ Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 6,195.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th September 1867.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th August 1867, No. 165:—

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

.. the Secretary to Government, Department of Public Works.

Copy to the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. J. Wright.

Submitting for information of Government further report of Collector of Bellary on the condition and progress of Public Works in district, and drawing attention of Government paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report.

No. 6,195.

Dated 26th September 1867.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

1867.

Department.

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