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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 78 Press ~~Mis.~~
162-163.

Dated 10-1- 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2 3 163

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10*th January* 1867.

No. 162. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Civil Works—Agricultural), dated Fort William, 18th December 1866, No. 1,037 C:—

Deputation of Colonel R. Strachey, R. E., to report on Irrigation Works in India.

Read the following papers:—

Resolution,—By the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 7th August 1866, No. 675—8 C.

Read again:—

Public Works Department Resolution Nos. 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.

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 aggriculture, 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 this Government 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.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th January 1867.

From the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated 25th October 1866, No. 65.

1. I have received and considered in Council your Excellency's Despatch, dated August 11th (No. 126), 1866 on the subject of the deputation of an Officer to report on the Irrigation system of the Madras Presidency, and I have also been in communication with Colonel Strachey on the subject.

2. Colonel Strachey has suggested that the investigation should not be confined to Madras, but that it would be useful to extend the enquiry to all the more important localities where irrigation is practised, with a view to submitting a general method for common adoption, which should exhibit financial results, and relative economy of working and management, and at the same time be susceptible of application to local circumstances.

3. I concur with Colonel Strachey in the opinion that a wider enquiry than that suggested by your Excellency would be desirable, and have given that Officer the necessary instructions. He will leave England about the beginning of November, and land at Bombay.

4. The different local Governments should be informed of the intention to employ Colonel Strachey on this service, with a view to their giving him the facilities he may require, and it should be understood that his enquiries imply no intention of any interference with the local administrative systems.

5. You will, of course, inform me of the limit you have placed to the duration of Colonel Strachey's employment on this service, and of the arrangements you have made with respect to his pay and allowances while so employed.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor General in Council observes that it was the intention of the Government of India to depute Colonel Strachey to Madras alone, as it was thought specially desirable to obtain a report on the Irrigation system of that Presidency in order to arrive at some definite conclusion as to the causes which have conduced to make Irrigation works there so remunerative in many cases, and to ascertain whether the principles on which the works in Madras have been constructed are generally applicable to other localities.

2. Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India is, however, of opinion, that it would be useful to extend the enquiry to all important localities where irrigation is practised, and has directed Colonel Strachey to proceed, in the first instance, to Bombay.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of the papers above read be forwarded to the Government of Bombay, with a request that the Governor in Council of that Presidency will do the Government of India 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 that Presidency.

Ordered also, that a copy of the Despatch be forwarded to the Governments of Madras, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab, for information, in continuation of Public Works Department Resolution Nos. 675—8 C, dated 7th August last.

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

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th January 1867.

No. 163. ORDER THEREON, 10th January 1867, No. 78.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 38.

1. Resolved that the foregoing Proceedings of the Government of India be communicated to the Superintending Engineers, with a request that they will afford Colonel Strachey all necessary assistance in carrying out the objects of his mission.

2. Resolved also that the papers above read be communicated to the Revenue Department, with a view to the issue of similar instructions to the Board of Revenue and the Collectors of Districts.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineers.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Civil Works
No. 78 Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 10th January 1867

Read the following

From The Secretary to the Govt of India (H. No. 1037 & 7 18th Decr 1866)

Resolved that the foregoing proceedings of the Government of India be communicated to the Superintending Engineers, with a request that they will afford Colonel Strachey all necessary assistance in carrying out the objects of his mission -

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Dt 30th January 67

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Govt of India & instructed
to afford to Colonel
Strachey & C. all necessary
aid for reporting on the
irrigation works in this
Presidency and the Secre-
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to give similar instruc-
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Revenue and the Collec-
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