M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	431	Press ~~Mis.~~
313-314 Dated	15-2-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th February 1868.

No. 313. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Resolving that Mr. J. D. Sim, Member Revenue Board, and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, be associated with Colonel Strachey for the purpose of discussing certain matters relating to irrigation. } (Here enter 12th February 1868, No. 487.)

No. 314. ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1868, No. 431.

Irrigation, No. 9. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
***12th February* 1868.**

No. 273. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) dated Fort William, 1st February 1868, No. 10 I:—

Deputation of the Inspector General of Irrigation Works to Madras to discuss certain matters relating to Irrigation.

Read again the following papers:—

Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 1,843, dated 20th June 1867.
Do. do. „ 2,359, „ 5th Aug. „
Do. to do. „ 147 I, „ 18th Sept. „
Read also letter from the Government of Madras, No. 3,475, dated 11th Nov. 1867.

1. Resolution.—The Madras Government, in June last, forwarded for sanction by the Government of India a project for the extension of the Irrigation Works supplied from the Pennair Anicut in the Nellore District. For reasons explained to the Madras Government, the Governor General in Council found himself unable to give sanction to the project until further explanations were afforded. The Government of Madras has subsequently expressed a hope that an additional report, more recently sent up, will satisfy the Government of India that the project is sound, and that the works will now be sanctioned.

2. His Excellency the Governor General in Council has observed with much satisfaction that the Government of Madras has at once cordially responded to the request that projects of the class under consideration shall henceforth be sent up for the consideration of the Government of India in a more complete form, and His Excellency in Council trusts that no delay will in future arise in dealing with proposals for the execution of new projects for irrigation works in the Madras Presidency.

3. In the present case it seems to His Excellency in Council that the best way of disposing of the questions on which further information has been desired by the Government of India will be, to depute the Inspector General of Irrigation Works to Madras to go into the project personally with the Engineers of the Madras Government, under the provisions of the Circular Resolution (No. 60, dated 2nd July 1867,) describing the powers and duties assigned to the Inspector General of Irrigation. This course would have been adopted sooner, but Colonel Strachey has been detained by other duties which he could not conveniently quit.

4. The Governor General in Council remarks that it will certainly conduce to the speedy termination of any discussions that may arise between the Government of India and Local Governments, on professional or technical subjects in relation to irrigation works, to bring them to a point by personal communication between the local professional Officers and the Inspector General of Irrigation Works. It is believed that, most frequently, all differences of opinion will thus be speedily reconciled in a manner which will be acceptable both to the Local Government and the Government of India, and the Governor General in Council would, so far as is possible, adopt such a method of settling differences for the future.

5. The visit of Colonel Strachey to Madras at the present time may, in the estimation of the Government of India, also be taken advantage of for considering, in communication with the Officers of the Madras Government, some other matters which are of much present importance in relation to the progress of irrigation in India.

6. The first of these refers to the system to be followed in framing the Revenue Accounts of Irrigation Works, so that they may exhibit results which shall be comparable for all parts of India.

7. It will be remembered that the main object of Colonel Strachey's visit to Madras and Bombay last year was to obtain data on which to make proposals for effecting the above purpose. Colonel Strachey has expressed an opinion, in which the Governor General in Council fully concurs, that it will be a more satisfactory way of proceeding, in attempting to accomplish the end in view, that he should discuss the subject personally at Madras with a few selected Revenue and Engineer Officers, who have a full knowledge of the requirements of the Madras works, and endeavour to arrange a plan which might be submitted with a joint recommendation from them all, for the approval of the Madras Government. By conducting such a discussion at Madras it would probably be possible to settle in a few days, to the satisfaction of all parties, what otherwise would require a very tedious and difficult correspondence.

8. The Governor General in Council recognizes the fact that the extent of irrigation at Madras is much greater than in other Provinces of India, and, therefore, that the requirements of its system of revenue and irrigation administration must be considered as of primary importance in any conclusions adopted. It is believed that no serious difficulty will arise in arranging a plan which shall fairly meet all the essential wants of all parts of the country, and the Government of India trusts that the present proposal will be acceptable to His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council, and will lead to an early settlement of this important question.

9. The next subject relates to the exhibition, in the Annual Accounts of the empire, of the revenue derived from irrigation works under a new separate head, distinct from Land Revenue and Public Works, under one or other of which the income is now shown, the system in different Provinces varying without much reason.

10. In adopting this change, the plan that has been accepted for the last few years in respect to the Forest Revenues might be followed, and it is thought that it would, for several reasons, be productive of sensible advantages; accompanied as it naturally would be with a corresponding separate exhibition of the charges for irrigation works, which constitute the set off against the revenues.

11. With a growing expenditure on irrigation works, it will become yearly more important to show in a distinct and tangible form, on the face of the Annual Accounts, the results of this expenditure on the revenue and charge of the year. The re-action of such a distinct perception of the true importance of this class of works, on their administrative control, would also probably prove of much valu

The large income which would be shown to be due to irrigation, (and this particularly applies to Madras,) would indicate in an unmistakable manner the necessity for making all needful grants for the maintenance of the works which secure that income.

12. The frequent complaints which have arisen in past years, as to the insufficient grants for such purposes, would almost certainly soon cease in the face of the facts which such an account would exhibit in an uncontrovertible form. At the same time the immediate juxtaposition of the charges and revenue would afford a ready and most useful check on the economical management of the Irrigation Department, and would constantly keep in view the necessity for strict rugality, and indicate where the administration was best conducted so far as financial considerations were concerned.

13. It is not to be disguised that some difficulty may be found in settling how such a plan shall be carried out. But the questions will probably be chiefly on matters of detail, and there seems no reason for doubting that such a close approximation to the true facts may be attained in the separation of the irrigation revenue and charges from those due to other sources, as shall secure the real ends in view.

14. In close connexion with these questions arises a third, viz., how it may best be possible to assist the improvement or restoration of the numerous minor irrigation works in the Madras Provinces, with due regard to financial considerations.

15. The Governor General in Council has deemed it necessary, on financial grounds, to limit closely the application of funds obtained by loan to certain classes of works. Under the rules laid down on this subject, the prosecution of such minor works as have now been referred to from money obtained by loan could only be authorized under special arrangements. It would be satisfactory to the Government of India to find that some plan of operations could be devised which should place at the command of the Madras Government for the improvement of these minor works whatever funds were really essential for the purpose, and the visit of the Inspector General of Irrigation Works to Madras might be taken advantage of to consider this point also. Colonel Strachey is fully conversant with the views which the Government of India has adopted in relation to the financial control to be exercised in the application of borrowed money to irrigation works, and it is highly probable that any plan in which he concurred, and which met the approval of the Government of Madras, would at once be accepted by the Governor General in Council.

16. If during Colonel Strachey's visit to Madras the Government of Madras should desire to ask Colonel Strachey to communicate with their officers on any other subject relating to irrigation he will be instructed to comply with any requisition so to do.

17. It is the wish of the Government of India that any discussions which may take place between the Officers of the Government of Madras and the Inspector General of Irrigation shall be entirely regulated as desired by His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council; and though the Governor General in Council hopes that the Madras Government will acquiesce in the consideration of

the subjects referred to in this Resolution in the manner suggested, yet, should any decided objection arise, it is left to the full discretion of the Government of Madras to act as it thinks best in respect to all of them.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Government of Madras.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R. A.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 274. ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1868, No. 487.

IRRIGATION, No. 13.

1. In their Proceedings above recorded, the Government of India advise this Government of the deputation to Madras of the Inspector General of Irrigation Works, for the purpose of disposing of the questions on which further information is desired regarding the project for the extension of irrigation from the Pennair Anicut, and of considering, in communication with the Officers of this Presidency, the propriety of introducing an improved system of framing the Revenue Accounts of Irrigation Works, with a view to the exhibition of that revenue in the Annual Accounts of the empire under a separate and distinct head, and of determining the mode in which it may best be possible, with due regard to financial considerations, to assist the improvement or restoration of the numerous minor agricultural works in the several districts.

2. The Government of India, recognizing the extensive scale on which irrigation is carried on in this Presidency, point to the great importance of the requirements of its system of revenue and irrigation administration being thoroughly considered in order to the arrangement of a plan which shall meet all essential wants, and be applicable to other parts of India. To give effect to the proposal for the separation of the Irrigation revenue and charges from those due to other sources in the Annual Accounts the Government of India suggest the adoption of the plan now followed in respect to the Forest Revenues, which, while conclusively demonstrating the wants of the works that secure the income exhibited in those accounts, would at the same time afford a ready and useful check on the economical management of the Irrigation Department. Finally, taking into consideration the restrictions which are imposed by existing rules on the appropriation of money obtained by loan, it is suggested that some plan should be devised, whereby this Government would have at their command whatever funds may be essential for the improvement of Minor Agricultural Works.

3. The fuller information which is required by the Government of India in connection with the Survapilly Channel project will be furnished to Colonel Strachey by the professional Officers of Government.

4. Concurring in the views expressed in paragraph 7, that the other matters specifically noticed above can best be arranged by personal communication between the Officers of this Government and the Inspector General of Irrigation Works, His Excellency in Council resolves to direct that a Member of the Board of

Revenue and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation be associated with Colonel Strachey for the purpose of discussing the points adverted to in paragraphs 6 to 15 of the orders of the Government of India. As a Member of the Board of Revenue, Mr. J. D. Sim will be requested to undertake the duty in question. On receiving the views and recommendations of these Officers, the Government will be prepared to give the subject their further consideration.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To J. D. Sim, Esq.
To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Inspector General of Irrigation Works.
" Revenue Department.
" Financial do.
" Board of Revenue.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Superintending Engineers.
To Captain Kennedy.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev = 1868 Sept.
No of Govt for Feby
No. 477
Proceedings of the
P. W. Sept.

Dated 12th Feby
Received 12th 1868.
No. 487.

12.
Resolving that Mr. J. D. Lane
Mem: Reg: Bd & the Chief
Engineer for Irrigation be
associated with Colls Trace
for the purpose of
discussing certain
matters relating to
Irrigation
No. 431.
Recorded
RECORDED.
J. A.

No. 313-314

15th Feby 68