

Number of pages _____

(2) Date of receipt _____

(3) Initial of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1160	Press ~~Mr.~~
231-232	
Dated 9 - 4 - 1969	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th April 1869.*

No. 231. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Revenue Department:—

Toongabuddra Channels in Bellary District.
—Passing orders on the subject of closing
them at stated periods, with the view of clear-
ing silt. } (Here enter 22nd March 1869, No. 799.)

No. 232. ORDER THEREON, 9th April 1869, No. 1,160.

IRRIGATION, No. 7.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 3rd Division.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd March 1869.*

No. 584. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd December 1868, No. 8,998 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bellary, 3rd November 1868, No. 270.

1. The channels taken off the Toongabudra river in this district require to be annually cleared of silt, and as cultivation is carried on under them almost without cessation, it requires a little arrangement to fix the time when they shall be closed for clearance, so as to interfere as little as possible with the interests of the ryots.

2. Owing to the want of a little management of this sort last Fusly, a number of ryots, under the Rampoor Channel, in the Adony Talook, were prevented from cultivating their second crop, and, in order that this might not occur again, I determined this Fusly, in consultation with the Superintending Engineer, to fix certain dates for the closing and re-opening of the channels, and have endeavoured, as the Board will see from the enclosed correspondence, to meet the wishes of that officer in every respect so far as the interests of the ryots and the safety of the public revenue would allow; but as, after a lengthened correspondence, Major Moberly has taken up a line which, if he is allowed to pursue it, must either seriously affect the second crop cultivation, or result in an unseen collision between his department and mine. I am reluctantly compelled to submit the matter for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

3. My object has been on the one hand to take away any ground of complaint from the ryots, and on the other, to afford every facility to the Officers of the Department of Public Works in carrying out the work. In order to do this, I ascertained, through the Tahsildars and Division Officers, the earliest dates on which the channels could be closed for clearance, and the utmost period for which they could remain closed without injury to the crops. A list of these dates I forwarded to the Superintending Engineer for his perusal, and such remarks as he might wish to offer; and though, with one or two exceptions, he approved of the dates fixed for the closing of the channels, and admitted that sufficient time for the work had been allowed, he declined to guarantee that it should be completed within the period specified, and at the same time refused to recognize that I had any authority to order the water to be let down, even though the crops might be perishing for want of it. To admit this, would be to place the interests of the people and the revenue of the State at the mercy of the Supervisors in charge of Ranges, whilst at the same time the head of the department washes his hands of all responsibility with reference to the consequences of delay on their part.

4. I am really unable to understand why, after a lengthened correspondence and frequent personal communication on the subject, Major Moberly has taken up this position. It must be obvious to him that irrigated crops cannot but fail if the water-supply is withheld beyond a certain time, and that if the work of clearance cannot be completed within that time, water must be let down whilst it is still incomplete; neither can I understand why, as this clearance is done every year, he should have any difficulty in determining how long each channel ought to take;

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd March 1869.*

nor again can I consider the arguments advanced by him in the latter part of paragraph 2 of his letter, No. 2,704, of the 27th October, against the admission of water into the channels whilst under clearance, as entitled to any weight, when put against the magnitude of the interests involved, if it is not admitted. It is, I have no doubt, inconvenient to have to stop in the middle of a work, but what is this compared to the failure of the greatest portion of the second crop.

5. In paragraph 3 of his letter quoted above, Major Moberly expresses a wish to make over the clearance of these channels to the Revenue Department. But I have far too much work of my own to be able to take up that which legitimately belongs to the department over which he presides, and which, so far as professional skill is concerned, his subordinates can execute far better than mine. I have no wish to interfere with them departmentally, any more than as a Magistrate I do with the Police, but where public interests are concerned, I, as the Chief Administrative Officer, do claim to have a controlling voice.

6. With reference to the concluding part of paragraph 3 of Major Moberly's letter referred to, where he asserts that a transfer of the channels from his department "would be directly contrary to the wishes of the villagers dependent thereon," I would ask the Board's attention to the following extract from Mr. Kelsall's Report on the Public Works, in the Division over which he formerly presided: he says, "Paragraph 6. With reference to the Tootalambadi channels on which so much of the cultivation of the Hospett Taluk depends, 'I have only to remark on the length of time they are kept dry while being cleaned in the early part of the year. This year they were dry for six weeks, and there were many complaints. The Public Works Department complained they could not get a sufficiency of coolies, but this was not likely, for I understand they only offered 3 Annas per day, while any able-bodied cooly could earn Annas 6, per day. Major Palmer, to whom I pointed this out, informs me that the grant for the clearance of the channels is a fixed sum (I think Rupees 16,000), and that if he pays higher rates, the number of coolies he will be able to entertain will be insufficient. If the grant is now, owing to the increase in the rates of labor, insufficient, application should be made for an increase. I would also suggest that, if fewer coolies than are required are forthcoming, only two or three of the channels should be cleaned at a time. The present course is to cut off the supply of water from all, and do more or less work according to the number of coolies available. It would surely be a better plan to do one thoroughly and go on to the next, than to do bits to each, and so keep the channels dry for an indefinite period. The attitude at present assumed by the Department Public Works is something like this. They shut off the water, and then inform the village heads and ryots: (We want a sufficient number of coolies to clean them, it is true, we only can afford half of what the men could get elsewhere; but we must have the men, and it is your interest to provide them, for till the channels are cleaned, no water will be let in.) The village heads and influential people manage somehow or other to provide people; but I fear not a little 'moral pressure,' not to say oppression, is needed. It is very well to point out that it is for the benefit of the ryots that the channels should be soon

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd March 1869.*

"open, but it is not so for the benefit of the coolies who have to do a day's work for half a day's hire. If the coolies do not do this, the village heads and ryots must pay them, and it will be better to collect the money in a regular way. But I do not think this at all likely; I think it far more probable that as many coolies as can be pressed, are sent to labor for whatever the Department Public Works will give them."

7. I have to apologize for this somewhat lengthy letter, but I wished to lay the matter in detail before the Board, having unfortunately failed in my endeavours to put it on a satisfactory footing without reference to them.

ENCLOSURE No. 1—Correspondence.

The Board resolved to lay this correspondence before Government, and urge very strongly that, as proposed by the Collector, a limited and stated period should be prescribed for the closing of the channels. The periods proposed by the Collector are admitted to be sufficient. If this course be not adopted, loss to the State in the way of remissions, and still greater loss to the ryots, must ensue, and in a district like Bellary, it is of the utmost importance that the productive powers of the small existing area of irrigated land should not be diminished. It is unnecessary to observe, that if the proposal by Major Moberly is conceded, a very undesirable opening is afforded to the subordinate officers of the department to extract money by threatening to keep the channels closed.

2. The Government levy a high assessment for water, and are bound to fulfil their part of the contract with the ryots.

3. If the present rates of hire are insufficient, the Board cannot suppose that Government will object to raising them, or would approve of Major Moberly's method of practically forcing labor which, as the Collector points out, really falls on the coolies.

No. 585.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1869, No. 799.

Irrigation, No. 14.

1. The Government concur in the views expressed by the Board of Revenue, and resolve to direct that limited

and stated periods shall be prescribed for closing the channels under reference.

2. The details of the arrangement must be settled by the Collector and Superintending Engineer in concert with each other, and the Right Honorable the Governor in Council must impress upon these officers, that if the public service is to be efficiently conducted, it is essential that the two Departments over which they respectively preside shall work in perfect harmony with each other. Major Moberly will understand that it is for Mr. Sullivan, as the administrative revenue officer of the district, to determine at what periods the water, upon which the revenue for which he is responsible so largely depends, can with the least inconvenience be dispensed with, and Mr. Sullivan will, no doubt, bear in mind that

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd March 1869.*

unless on a pressing emergency it is not his province to make requisitions on the Superintendent Engineer's subordinates, without the previous consent of that officer.

3. The matter must be carefully arranged and clearly determined beforehand by the Collector and Superintendent Engineer, and the subordinate officers of both departments must be held strictly responsible that the orders which may be issued are exactly carried out.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
the Public Works Department.

Esq. G. A. Tutton.

[Signature]

*12/4/69
Transmitted to the Supd
Engineer of the 3rd Division*

[Signature]

The Supd Engineer

[Signature]

1869 Sept
Govt. of India
1869
REVENUE.

To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE
Do. Do. Do.

Date March 1869
Paid a Bill
G. O. Paid March 1869 No. 799

MARCH
Nos. 584-595.

No. 1160-9-1869

Thongroon Channel in Bellary District.
—Passing orders on the subject of clearing them at
stated periods with the view of clearing silt.

With an order

Acc 1206
Govt. of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Superintending Engrs.
3rd Division

Dated

For

11th April 1869 No 1160

No. 231-232

Longfordra Channels

Pass. River Dept. relative
to the Longfordra chan-
nels being annually
cleared of silt - cover
when the same are -