M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2640 Press / ~~Mis.~~

2,4-75

Dated 17 12 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 274. Read the following letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) to Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, Punjab, Oudh, Central Provinces, Burmah, Mysore and Coorg, Hyderabad, Ajmere, and Central India, dated Simla, 12th September 1871, No. 473 I :—

I AM directed to enclose, for general information, translation of an article extracted from the *Journal de St. Petersbourg*, and received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, respecting measures adopted for the irrigation of the Province of Tashkend, situated on the river Sir Daria, 60 miles south-east of Turkistan.

COPY of the report forwarded also to Home Department for publication in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

CERTAIN Irrigation Works of great importance to the population of the country have this spring been undertaken in the environs of Tashkend, under the superintendence of Colonel Kolzakow, Chief of the District of Konramme.

At the present time both the construction of new "Aryks" or Canals for irrigation, and the maintenance of existing ones are being carried on under the direction of this Officer-in-Chief.

By the beginning of April the works on the Laak Aryk, one of the most important streams in the environs of Tashkend, had already been put into working order.

The Laak Aryk rises at Tchirtchik, has a course of 85 versts,* and gives out several other large "Aryks" as well as a multitude of small streams, which fertilize the land far and wide.

*1 verst = 1,067 metres = 3,500 British feet.

For a long time the cultivators in the environs of Tashkend have complained of a want of water; and endless quarrels and litigation have constantly taken place for participation in the water of the Laak Aryk. It is for this reason that it was decided to take the canal in hand this spring, and to extend it several versts until it reached the River Keles.

In the upper part of its course the Laak Aryk with a breadth of 11 "sagenes"† and depth of 5 "tchetverts" carries 3,000 "vedros" per second; the mean velocity of the current is 5 feet per second. The necessary earthworks have been made very difficult at many places by the rocky nature of the soil, but the practice of mutual assistance which has from all times existed in Central Asia, has greatly assisted in surmounting the obstacles, and has secured the rapid execution of the works. The inhabitants of Tashkend volunteered to take part in executing the works, and they furnished 11,000 labourers, by whose help it was finished in nine days.

† 1 Sagene = $\frac{1}{500}$ verst = 7 feet.
1 Foot (pied) Russian = 1 foot British.
1 Vedro = 12·289 litres = 2·70358 gallons.

The Governor-General thought it his duty to reward the zealous and earnest assistance given by the population to a work undertaken by the Russian Administration by feeding the labourers at the expense of the State.

On the 10th April the canal was ready to be opened, and His Excellency General Kaupman visited the works.

The community who reap the benefits which the Laak Aryk, thus restored and extended, conferred on the country, presented to the Governor-General on the occasion an address of thanks and of gratitude to the Emperor, and to Russia, couched in the language of Eastern imagery.

NOTE.—The "Tchetvert" (="quarter") is usually called a measure of cubic capacity for dry substances = 209·74 litres, but in this letter it is used as a measure of length. On the data given, the depth of the canal is calculated to be 3 3792 feet: its width, 77 feet: mean velocity, 5 feet per second: discharge, 1,297 feet a second: and length of main channel, 56 miles.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 17th October 1871.

Next year the Mollah Kouschtouk Aryk, and the Schatlanbek Aryk will be put in order and extended. This enterprise will require considerable labour.

No. 275. ORDER THEREON, 17th October 1871, No. 2,640.

IRRIGATION, No. 15. ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. F. OAKES, Captain, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

F. W. 1871 Sept.
No 4470

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION.

To

MADRAS, BOMBAY, BENGAL, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, PUNJAB, OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES, BURMAH, MYSORE AND COORG, HYDERABAD, AJMERE AND CENTRAL INDIA.

No 473 I.

Dated Simla, 12th September 1871.

Received 21 September/71

Enclosures and

Ordered to be recorded.

Forwarding [illegible]
[illegible] articles extracted from
Journal de St Petersbo
respecting measures ado
for the irrigation of the [illegible]
of Southland.
No 2640-17 Oct/71

C- No. 4478.

Govt. of [1871] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Rec'd. No.

G. O. 17 October 1871, No. 2640

Nos. 274 & 275

Irrigation of the Province of Tashkend — Recording circular from the Council of India forwarding translation of an article extracted from the Journal de St-Petersbourg respecting measures adopted for the irrigation of the Province of Tashkend —