

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1377	Press
28729		Mis.
Dated	9-6-	1872

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 23. Read the following endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated 20th May 1872:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th May 1872, No. 752.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th March 1872, No. 44.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 7514, dated 18th November 1867, requiring a report on the wants of this district as regards irrigation works, promising schemes which have been delayed for the want of funds, and old important irrigation works now in ruins, but worthy of restoration, are to be brought forward, rough estimate of cost and approximate realizable return to be given.

A Statement of existing irrigation works is annually submitted, showing the estimated repairs, an abstract of actual grants against the estimated requirements of the past three years, is found embodied in the Board's letter to Government, *vide* G. O., No. 579 of 2nd March 1872.

Letter No. 27 of 29th February 1872.

Also an attempt is made to show, by a very detailed statement, the effect of outlay on new works, which, in fact, are no new works, but improvement of old ones, the work done is new, only in name, being a sluice, calingula, or other improvement to an old work.

2. Several novel schemes of water storage were once mooted. The Bhowany valley above Metoopollicm was to be bunded up to an immense height, but no plans or estimates were ever made, so far as is known here.

3. A feeder of the Bhowany was to be diverted and turned into the sources of the Noyel, which springs from the mountain side above Bolumpetty. I understand that the junction of the water was to be effected by cutting through a hill ridge, and by a 250 feet embankment, or else by a catch water drain along the mountain side, and a former Collector adverted to benefits, which would arise if Bolumpetty valley were made a reservoir. No doubt, valleys are capable of being converted into reservoirs (this one by the way is now under cultivation) and extensive projects may be mooted, but in the absence of data of expense, I can pretend to no opinion on the subject.

4. The Bhowany, as a river, is very considerably utilized, so much so, that it scarcely irrigates all the land subject to it, and cannot irrigate that land with a double crop. It seems very doubtful to me, whether much more could be made of it than is now done—the regulation of its supply to meet all the demands, occupies a deal of anxious attention.

5. However, I examined the Caniempolliem anicut and channel between Scroomugay and Danaikencotta, now out of repair. The anicut is a rough native

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd June 1872.*

one. Some of the large coping stones have been displaced, and there is the disadvantage of a jungle stream of considerable size debouching opposite the anicut, and at the head of the channel, silting it up to a great extent.

The country through which the channel passes is most dangerous to health, frequented by tigers, and uninhabited. Danaikencotta, once a large fort, is entirely deserted, and the cultivators cross the Bhowany to their work on the left bank during the day, returning to their homes on the right bank at night.

The estimate for repairing the anicut and channel is..... Rs. 3,100

The ayacut 1,203 acres.

The revenue for the past year 1870-71, when in repair... .. 947-4-0

The original and subsequent outlays on repairs amount to Rupees 58,589, and scarcely Rupees 40,000 have been realized in forty-five years.

6. The Cauvery river is proposed to be utilized by an anicut at Nerinjipett, for the advantage of this district and Salem. I have no conception of what the cost of the work will be, so cannot guess as to its remunerative value, the prospective return was roughly guessed at Rupees 26,000* per annum in this district. The channel to be taken off was

*Letter to Captain Meade, No. 163 of 7th October 1871.

to be a single crop one, and a short crop one, so as not to interfere with the interest of the Trichinopoly and Tanjore cultivators. The possible drawback may be, the very unhealthy character of the confined banks of the Cauvery.

7. The Ambravutty is very fully utilized, it rises in the valley between the Anamallays and the Pulnys, and a limitation has to be placed on extended irrigation from it, so as not to interfere with existing interests. I know of no extension of irrigation that could be recommended.

8. Also the Noyel does not nearly suffice for the tanks dependant on it; it barely filled its upper tanks during the last south-west monsoon—its source being in the western ranges of hills above Bolumpetty. It came down in a flood last November, but that was due to an unprecedented local rain-fall, not from its source, but lower down by jungle streams, bursting tanks, and these pouring into the river. It would be utter waste of money to provide storage for a flood that occurs once in a life-time.

9. On the whole, I think that this district is well provided, as regards the utilization of the sources of irrigation, I would look for advantage, not to the construction of more, but to the improvement of the present works; building more minor irrigation or distribution sluices, extending calingulaa, levelling and revetting channel and tank banks. The records of past transactions show that the estimated repair requirements have not been met from the agricultural allotment for irrigation.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. It is obvious that the rivers Noyel, Bhowany and Ambravutty are fairly utilized for the irrigation of the district and that the anicut on the Bhowany described by Mr. Wedderburn as "now out of repair" has all along been a work

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd June 1872.*

of little value as regards Revenue returns. The anicut across the Cauvery which has been occasionally discussed appears to be a project requiring scientific consideration of a very efficient character, it is possible that grave objections would be found to exist to any further diversion of the waters off the Cauvery, seeing that by the time it reaches the sea at Caverypatam it is reduced to a mere rivulet. On the whole it does not appear that any project of real importance to the irrigation of the district is suffering from neglect.

REFERRED to the Department of Public Works.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 29.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd June 1872, No. 1,377.

IRRIGATION, No. 2.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.F.

C/2548

Govt. of 1872: Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 3rd June 1872, 1377.

Nos. 28129

Irrigation Works. No.

of the Board of Revenue
Report from the Collector
on the state of Irriga-
tion works in the prin-
cipal districts, recorded.

24th Dec 1872

20 May 72

24th May 72

P. N. Desai: 1872: Dept.
1872. *(3) 174+*
25.8.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 11TH MAY 1872, No. 752.

Dep 18 May 1872
Encl.

Received *18*
Recd *21*

MAY.
No. 752.

Irrigation works—of—Goimbatore District,
—Report from Collector on state of—submitted
to Government, with remarks.

Report to the Govt.
No 1374-1872
20 May 72
Sey to Govt.

Order to be recorded.

MM

26/5/72