

No. 87. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 17th January 1872, No. 224 :—

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Government, that I have in company with Mr. Bell, Assistant Engineer in charge of No. 3 Range, South Arcot, recently made a very interesting excursion into the south-eastern portion of the hills known on the Ordnance Map as the Culroyen Hills. The part visited is portion of the Peria Culroyen, and is known locally as the Sadeiya Gounden, (சடையகவுண்டன்.)

2. Our object was mainly connected with the great Paragum Reservoir project, first mooted by Mr. Bell, and seemingly well worthy of investigation; of it more hereafter.

3. Our ascent was made about three miles south-west of the village of Katcheroypaliam, which is eight miles from Kallakurichi, the cusbah of the taluq of the same name, in the South Arcot District.

The ascent of about 1,900 feet (2,400 above the sea) is steep and rugged, but might at no great expense be very much improved and made quite passable by horses; at present it might be passed by bullocks, but not without difficulty in some places.

4. Several of the peaks which we visited are 2,700 feet, or thereabouts, above the sea, but to the north and north-west are hills much higher, probably 3,500 feet or more. From one of the former, on which stands the Tripatty Pagoda, there is one of the finest views I have seen in Southern India. This pagoda is a place of much resort, both by the hill people and those of the plains in the vicinity.

5. From the top of this hill (which overhangs the plain country) north and north-west, as far as the eye can reach, and embracing a very large area, is said to belong to a Poligar, called Anadthana Litchmana Gounden. The country seems well watered and the soil good, the crops reared being the various dry grains and oil seeds cultivated in similar localities; the lower slopes are densely covered with the bamboo, higher the usual jungle and jungle trees grow, among which I remarked the Vengay. Near all the villages are numerous splendid jack trees, evidence of good deep soil and very considerable moisture.

6. It appears to me these hills are worthy the attention of the Forest Department; it is true they are said to be private property, but whether this is so, and to the extent afore alluded to, seems by no means certain, and at any rate looking to the great importance of preserving large tracts of forest and jungle, I cannot but think it would be well for the Forest Department to keep an eye on the felling of timber and bamboos. The only limit to it appears to be the want or the difficulty of the paths, for I am given to understand that on payment of a fixed sum (said to be 17 Rupees per bill-hook) a man can cut as much as he pleases. Similarly for Rupees 2 per plough any amount of land can be cultivated.

7. I have said that our visit had reference mainly to a great reservoir to be formed. Three considerable streams unite to form the Gomucka Naddi, the principal tributary of the Manimootta Naddi, which is again the principal affluent of the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1872.*

Vellaur. A little below the point of junction of the three streams a low range of hills runs nearly across the valley, narrowing its width from three or four miles to less than one mile, and affording a very favourable site for the construction of the bund of the reservoir, while two low saddles in the foresaid range might be very advantageously utilized as *escapes*.

8. The area of the tank thus formed might be 10—15 square miles, and with an average depth of six yards would require seven or eight days to fill, the river running in full flood. From appearances seen the river seems to run in flood about fifteen feet deep, and, as it drains a very large area, it must bring down a very great volume of water; even on the average supposition that the river on its rise would find the tank half full, more than three days would be required to fill it.

9. These figures are of course very wide approximations, but they may serve to convey an idea of the magnitude of the project, which, I think, promises to be very valuable, not only from an irrigation point of view, but also from the fact that it involves the impounding of the flood waters, which are apt to cause such serious disasters in the low country.

10. Some preliminary investigations are now being made with regard to the area that can be enclosed; the discharge of the river, etc., all of which will be communicated in due course. My reason for now bringing forward the matter is to solicit the grant of a small sum from the commencement of next official year, so that observations may be made of the rainfall on these hills; for this purpose I have selected a suitable site whereon to erect a hut as a residence for the person charged with this duty. He should be furnished with an ordinary rain gauge, and also with one of Crossley's patent self-registering rain gauges, and he might also be supplied with instruments for recording temperature, etc. These experiments should extend over at least nine months of the year. There will, of course, be a difficulty in procuring a person to live in the hills for nine months, natives being so terribly afraid of fever; but that is a difficulty that might be overcome, and the Range Officer could himself visit the locality once a month.

11. Application must be made through the Collector for the use of a piece of ground for building a hut, and for such other slight assistance as he can easily render, and this, if so made, will no doubt be granted by the Poligar.

12. I would name 300 Rupees as about the sum likely to be required, and I cannot think that, even should the project be ultimately not entertained, the expenditure would be altogether thrown away, if it were to afford a series of observations with regard to hills which are extremely little known.

13. As it is probable that Colonel Foord may return in March and relieve me of the charge of this division, and as the reputed feverish character of the country might render him unwilling to visit it till much later in the season, I think it well to now lay these facts before Government, considering that the observations to be made should begin with the official year.

14. I may here mention that the Kallakurichi Taluq seems by no means hitherto to have received the attention due to its resources in water, soil, and otherwise. There cannot be said to be more than two roads in it, the Salem frontier road, which passes through the south of the taluq and through the cusbah town, and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1872.*

a road from the latter to Katcheroyepaliem, only eight miles in length; three-fourths of the taluq may be said to be quite destitute of road.

15. I should, however, mention that 5,000 Rupees have been granted in the coming official year by the Local Board for a road from Kallakoorichi to Sankarapuram, and that a project has been started by Mr. Bell for the irrigation of a large tract of land in the Kullakurichi and Trikaloor Taluqs by throwing an anicut across the Manimootta Naddi, a stream which will bear a great deal more tapping.

No. 88. ORDER THEREON, 5th February 1872, No. 345.

IRRIGATION, No. 7.

THE foregoing report will be communicated to the Revenue Department and to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

2. The suggestion in paragraph 6 will receive consideration in the Revenue Department. Application for the funds required for ascertaining the rainfall on the Culroyen Hills should be submitted after 1st April next, and meanwhile application for the use of the piece of ground referred to in paragraph 11 will be made by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

- „ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
- „ Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 224.

Suplgy. Engrs. Office, 5th Dr.
Cuddalore 17th January 1892

From Captain J. Tertue R. E.,
Acting Suplgy. Engrs, 5th Dr.

To Colonel J. Carpenter R. E.,
Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

Sir I have the honor to report, for
the information of Government, that I have
in company with Mr. Bell, Assistant En-
gineer in charge of No. 3 Range, South
Arcot, recently made a very interesting
excursion into the South Eastern portion of
the Hills known on the Ordnance Map as the
Culroyer Hills. The part visited is portion of
the Peria Culroyer, and is known locally as the
Sadiya Goundu / Sadiya Goundu /

2. Our object was mainly connected with
the great Paragum Reservoir Project first

mooted by Mr. Ball, and seemingly well worthy of investigation, of it more hereafter.

3 Our ascent was made about 3 miles South West of the village of Katcherypalam which is 8 miles from Kallakurich. the Crustak of the Taluk of the same name in the South Arcot District.

The ascent of about 1900/2400 above the sea is steep and rugged, but might at no great expense be very much improved, and made quite passable by Horses, at present it might be passed by Bullocks, but not without difficulty in some places.

4 Several of the peaks which we visited are 2700 feet or thereabouts above the sea, but to the North and North West are hills much higher, probably 3500 feet or more. From one of the former on which stands the Tripatty Pagoda, there is one of the finest views I have seen in Southern India. This Pagoda is a place of much resort both by the Hill people and those of the Plains in the vicinity.

5 From the top of this Hill which overhangs the Plain country North and North West, as far as the eye can reach, and embracing a very large area, is said to belong to a Polygar called Anadthana Lutchmana Gounder. The country seems well watered and the soil good, the crops raised being the various dry grains and all seeds cultivated in similar localities, the lower slopes are densely covered with the Bamboo, higher the usual Jungle, and Jungle Trees grow, among which I remarked the Vrugay. Near all the villages are numerous splendid Jack Trees, evidence of good deep soil, and very considerable moisture.

6 It appears to me these Hills are worthy the attention of the Forest Department, it is true they are said to be private property, but whether this is so, and to the extent afore alluded to, seems by no means certain, and at any rate looking to the great importance of preserving large tracts of Forest and Jungle, I cannot but think it would be well for the Forest

Department to keep an eye on the felling
of Timber and Bamboos.

The only limit to it appears to be the
want, or the difficulty of the paths, for I am
given to understand that on payment
of a fixed sum, said to be 17 Rupees per
Bith. hook, a man can cut as much as he
pleases. Similarly for Rupees 2... for...
any amount of land can be cut down.

I have said that our work had
reference mainly to a great Reservoir to
be formed.

Three considerable streams unite to
form the Gomucka Naddi, the principal
tributary of the Manivella Naddi, which
is again the principal affluent of the Vellur.
A little below the point of Junction of the
3 Streams, a low range of Hills runs nearly
across the valley, narrowing its width from
3 or 4 miles to less than 1 mile, and affording
a very favorable site for the construction
of the Band of the Reservoir, while I too

3
saddles in the foreaid Range might be very
advantageously utilized as escapes. 9

8. The area of the Tank thus
formed might be 10-15 square miles, and
with an average depth of 6 yards would
require 7 or 8 days to fill the River run-
ning in full flood. From appearances
seen the River seems to run in flood about
15 feet deep, and as it drains a very large
area, it must bring down a very great
volume of water, even on the average sup-
position that the River on its rise would
find the Tank half full more than 3 days
would be required to fill it.

9. These figures are of course
very wide approximations, but they may
serve to convey an idea of the magnitude
of the Project which I think promises to
be very valuable, not only from an Iri-
gation point of view, but also from the fact
that it involves the impounding of the flood
waters which are apt to cause such serious
disasters in the low country.

10. Some preliminary investigations
are now being made with regard to the

area that can be enclosed, the discharge of the river, &c., all of which will be communicated in due course. My reason for now bringing forward the matter is to solicit the grant of a small sum from the commencement of next official year, so that observations may be made of the rainfall in these Hills; for this purpose I have selected a suitable site whereon to erect a hut as a residence for the person charged with this duty. He should be furnished with an Ordinary Rain Gauge, and also with one of Croft's Patent Self Registering Rain Gauges, and he might also be supplied with instruments for recording Temperature, &c. These experiments should extend over at least 9 months of the year. There will of course be a difficulty in procuring a person to live in the Hills for 9 months, natives being so terribly afraid of fever, but that is a difficulty that might be overcome, and the Range Officer could himself visit

the locality once a month.

11 Application must be made through the Collector for the use of a piece of ground for building a Hut, and for such other slight assistance as he can easily render, and this, if so made, will no doubt be granted by the Pelly.

12 I would name 300 Rupees as about the sum likely to be required, and I cannot think that even should the Project be ultimately not entertained, the expenditure would be altogether thrown away, if it were to afford a series of observations with regard to Hills which are extremely little known.

13 As it is probable that Colonel Good may return in March, and relieve me of the charge of this Division, and as the reputed feverish character of the country might render him unwilling to visit it till much later in the season, I think it well to now lay these facts before Government, considering that the observations to be made

should begin with the official year.

14 I may here mention that the Kallakurich Talook seems by no means hitherto to have received the attention due to its resources in water, soil and otherwise. There cannot be said to be more than two roads in it, the Salem Frontier Road, which passes through the South of the Talook, and through the Cusshah Town, and a road from the latter to Katcherypalim only 8 miles in length, three fourths of the Talook may be said to be quite destitute of Road.

15 I should however mention that 5000 Rupees have been granted in the coming Official year by the Local Board for a road from Kallakurichi to Sankarapuram and that a Project has been started by Mr. Bell for the irrigation of a large tract of land in the Kallakurichi and Trichaloor Talooks, by throwing an

18

Summit across the Mannimetta Maddy
a stream which will bear a great deal
more shipping. It should be known to the

General Agent at the
Salem Frontier Road

James of the
Salem Frontier Road

James of the
Salem Frontier Road



Public Works Department
 No. 345
 Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

From
 The Ag. Supy. Engrs. (H.C. No. 224 of 11 Jan'y/72)

Public Works Department
 Office of the Secy.
 From No. 282
 The Acting Supy. Engr.
 3rd Division

To
 The Secy. to Government
 P. W. D.

Dated 17th January 1872
 Recd 19th
 No. 224.

Reporting an interesting
 excursion made into the west-
 ern portion of the Coleroon
 for Sadanga Spawning Mills
 with the object of making
 certain observations and com-
 munication with the Paragum
 Reservoir project marked by
 the Assistant Engr. Mr. S. H. S.
 Length Acre and abt. 1/2
 No. 345-5th Feb'y/72.

for a grant of about 300 Rs
 for making observations of
 the fall of water on the hills

Asy
 625 Jan'y 72 A. 291

The foregoing report will
 be communicated to the
 Revenue Department and to
 the Chief Engineer for Irriga-
 tion.

The suggestions in
 Para 6 will receive consideration
 in the Revenue Department.
 Applications for the funds
 required for ascertaining
 the rainfall on the Coleroon
 hills should be submitted
 after 1st April next, &
 meanwhile application for
 the use of the price of grain

referred to in Para 11 will
be made by the Collector.

11

46

7. Rev Dept
Charges for Irrigation
Drugs & Dr
Recd 6/2/72

Cr 282
Govt. of 1872: Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Revenue Department

Dated

Incl.

Recd.

G. O. 5th Feb 1872, No. 345.

Nos. 87 & 88

Coleroon Hills. Letter from the
Mysore & Co. 5th Feb. Submitting
the results of his recent excursion
into the South Eastern portion
of the Coleroon Hills ~~and~~
and ^{certain} ~~the~~ ^{recreations}, ~~and~~
the Rev. Dept. & the Chief
Gent for Mysore with remarks.