

(1) Number of pages 6(2) Date of repair 7-1-37

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 367

Press
~~Mis.~~

126-27

Dated

7

2

1872.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th February 1872.*

No. 126. Read the following docket from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) dated Fort William, 10th January 1872, No. 29-I.—

COPIES of the following forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, and the Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, for information.

(By order,)

(Signed) F. H. RUNDALL, Colonel, R.E.,
Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sindh on the papers forwarded under endorsement of the Deputy Secretary to Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 19th August 1871, No. 392—406-I.

The land called "oosur" in the North-West Provinces is styled "kullur" in Sindh, and is very largely met with throughout the Province. Salts are present more or less throughout the soil, and in some places to such an excess that vegetation cannot exist. These are, of course, easily distinguishable, and are generally of a deep brown colour, and after rain become greasily slippery, quite impassable for camels and difficult for horses.

2. In other places there is no perceptible sign, but on the first use of fresh-water saline effervescence follows injuring attempted crops. This was, I believe, the case on land first watered by the Jumna Canal, and caused great alarm amongst the landholders.

3. All of this kind of soil is, however, found capable of reclamation. The time, trouble and expense being only in proportion to the extent and quality of the salt prevailing.

4. When the salt is not excessive, the process is both speedy and simple. A crop is sown in spite of the saline appearance. It of course is only poor, but whatever is produced, excepting any heads of grain, which are cut off, is left on the ground, ploughed afterwards and allowed to decompose. With the next rise of the river Indus the water-spread over the ground gives a film of good soil, which is also ploughed in, and improvement is markedly manifest; the second crop being very much superior to the first, and so on until the soil is fit for any crop.

5. Observing this, a similar process was tried in proposed garden ground, where clear well water was used, and gave good results. Plain stalks of jowaree were chopped up, and a top dressing of good soil added. These having been ploughed, the plot was watered, and then afterwards re-ploughed, where before little or nothing would grow, cereals, vegetables and flowers flourished excellently.

6. Vegetable manure would assist well in this process, but care should be taken how manure obtained from towns or villages is used, as in that case the very substance desired to be removed or neutralised may be added to.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th February 1872.*

Endorsed by Commissioner in Sindh, dated 13th December 1871, No. 3,788.

THE above memorandum is forwarded to Colonel Rundall, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, as offering suggestions gained from observation and experience in Sindh.

No. 127.

ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1872, No. 367.

IRRIGATION, No. 11.

COMMUNICATED to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and to Superintending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Public Works 1872 Ref.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION. *8-275*

To

No. 29- I.

Dated January 10th 1872.

Received *18*

150/10
Charges for irrigation
Rs 100/12

Comm to the charges for irrigation & to keep copy

Forwards for information copy of a memorandum by the Commissioner in Sindh on the cultivation of Oosur or Kullur land in that Province.

P. W. D. Press-10-1-72-104.

Rs 100-7th Feb 1872.
with an order

325-1872 R. 295

Ck 275

Govt. of 1872 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Chief Eng^r for Irrigation

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 7th July 1872, No. 367.

No. 1261/27

Opur or Kullur land. Docket

From the Govt. of India
Copy of a Memo. by the Commissioner
in South on the Cultivation of
Opur or Kullur land in
that Province, Com^d to the
Chief Eng^r for Irrigation.