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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	128	Press
254-155		Mis.
Dated	14-1-	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th January 1873.*

No. 254. . Read the following letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, (Irrigation Branch,) dated Fort William, 29th November 1872, No. 1,023-1:—

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,509 of the 19th ultimo, and accompaniments, relative to the reservoirs which the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company contemplate constructing on tributaries of the River Toombuddra in connection with their works.

2. Of the three schemes mentioned it is recommended by the Government of Madras that two—the Toonga and Choardy or Masoor projects—should, for reasons given, be abandoned, and the third only, that is the reservoir on the Budra above Luckwully, carried out as likely to prove successful and remunerative.

3. The only detailed information as yet before the Government of India regarding these reservoirs is contained in the Proceedings of the Madras Government marginally noted. From the reports of Colonel Mullins reviewed

therein, it appears that the site at “Luckwully” affords great facilities for constructing a reservoir economically.

4. Of the Toonga reservoir complete information was not at the time available, but Colonel Mullins observes, “a dam across this part of the Toonga will form such a large reservoir at so reasonable a proportionate outlay that it will be advisable to ascertain exhaustively what natural facilities for its construction exist,” and he adds, “should it be found impracticable to obtain a suitable site for a detached weir near this part of the river, there is another site for a dam some miles higher up which will probably do for a reservoir of large, though not of such large dimensions as could be obtained by making a dam at one of the lower sites. This place is at the end of the hill running north north-west from Mailagapett, a village on the south side of the river.” As no further detailed information regarding this site has yet been laid before this Government, or whether the alternative site has yet been examined, it seems to the Governor-General in Council inexpedient to wholly abandon the idea of constructing a reservoir on the Toonga, as possibly the upper site alluded to by Colonel Mullins may not involve such interference with existing interests as the Madras Government describes is connected with the lower site.

5. With regard to the site at Masoor on the River Choardy, which the Madras Government also considers exceptionable, if constructed on the scale contemplated by the Irrigation Company, the Governor-General observes that Colonel Mullins reports as follows:—

“The Masoor Reservoir project is from its comparatively moderate dimensions, and estimated cost, better fitted than any other which has thus far been brought under notice for a first experiment.

As regards the interest of the Bombay Government in the supply of water from the Choardy, there would seem to be no difficulty in providing by arrangement for its security to the fullest possible extent. The Bombay irrigation could not possibly be injured by the construction of the reservoir.”

As the site is not within the limits of the Bombay Presidency, the Government of India considers there can scarcely be any insuperable interference with the interests of that Government; while as regards the other evils complained of, it

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14th January 1873.

seems from Colonel Mullins' report to be more than probable that the old reservoir, as originally constructed, submerged, if not all, at least a very large proportion of the land at present cultivated. Moreover, it seems possible that a reservoir of smaller dimensions could be made, and while profitable for the purposes required, would at the same time avoid some of the principal objections to which, on its present scale, it appears to be open.

6. The storage of water in connection with the Toombuddra project is evidently of vital importance, whether as regards the country affected by it, or the interests of the State which is now burdened with the payment of the guaranteed interest thereon. The construction of reservoirs has already been approved by Her Majesty's Government, and the Governor-General in Council in view of the necessity that exists for placing this project in a position to become remunerative at the earliest possible period, considers that, in the absence of more detailed information, the Government of India will not be justified in abandoning the construction of the proposed works, until it has been more clearly shown that they are impracticable either from disproportionate costliness, or the impossibility of providing adequate compensation for the injury of existing interests. This latter point seems rather to have been assumed than demonstrated in the papers now reviewed.

7. It is observed that Colonel Mullins is about returning to India, and as his report contains the only information regarding these works as yet laid before this Government, His Excellency in Council would suggest to the Government of Madras the desirability of calling for a further expression of that officer's opinion in the light of such additional information as may have been acquired since the former reports above quoted from were written, and further that as the Inspector-General of Irrigation Works is about to visit the Madras Provinces, advantage may be taken of his presence to have all the points connected with these reservoirs thoroughly discussed between himself and the Chief Engineer of Irrigation.

8. Meanwhile, the Government of India will defer passing any definite orders regarding the abandonment or otherwise of the two sites referred to in your letter under reply.

No. 255.

ORDER THEREON, 14th January 1873, No. 123.

IRRIGATION, No. 25.

ORDERED to be communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, who will, after examination of all the information

regarding reservoir sites available up to the present time and communication with the Chief Engineer and Agent of the Madras Irrigation Company, submit a memorandum explaining clearly the circumstances of the sites on the Toonga and Choardy.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Exd. S. T. Austin.

Public Works Department
No. 128

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

From The Govt. of India / A.E. No. 10231. of 29th Nov/72

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Govt. of 1872³ Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Chief Eng^r for Irrigation

Enter

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G. O 14¹⁸⁷² No. 128-

Nos. 252 & 255

Reservoirs. Letter from

the pub^l India paper
orders on the subject

of the proposed Reservoirs
to be constructed on the

tribaries of the Cooum
and in connection

with the Madras P.
Co's Works, Com^d to

The Chief Eng^r for Irrigation