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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 191. Read the following letter from Mr. R. SMITH, Officiating Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Kondapillay, 3rd November 1872, No 122:—

I HAVE the honour to submit a copy of Mr. Sage's report on the irrigation experiment carried out at Chebrole in 1871-72 under the orders of Captain Vibart, R.E.

- 1 Copy of Mr. Sage's letter.
- 1 „ of his tabular statement.
- 1 „ of his report.

2. As the volume of surplus discharged was not gauged, the quantity of water required to mature an acre of wet cultivation cannot be accurately stated, but it may be fairly assumed from this experiment, and from the results obtained by Lieutenant Campbell, in 1870-71,* that the maximum produce from soil similar to that experimented on would be secured by an average supply, inclusive of rainfall, of 1.9 cubic yard per acre.

3. The quantity of water used for each plot, exclusive of rainfall, is given in table D.

4. The cost of the experiment (Rupees 31-4-3) I propose charging to Minor New Works.

5. A copy of Mr. Executive Engineer Sage's letter, No. 296, dated 2nd September 1872, is also submitted for information in connection with the accompanying papers.

From the Executive Engineer in charge of Western Delta Range, Kistna District, to the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, dated Chebrole, 2nd September 1872, No. 296.

In reply to your letter, No. 638 of 21st August 1872, I have the honour to inform you the weight of both grain and straw has been shown in my report in lbs. but not the measurement in Madras seers. A candy is 640 mericals* and a merical is said to be 2 seers, whether Madras or not I do not know; therefore the yield of Government plot was 13.067 candies, or 16,725.76† seers; and of the ryots' plot 6.136 candies, or 7,854.08 seers. The quantity of seed used is shown in latter part of paragraph 1 of report. The discharge is shown in table B in cubic yards per hour per acre; please enter at foot of each column.

For No. 1	...	...	0136.125 cubic feet per second.
„ „ 2	...	...	0179.166 „ „ „ „
„ „ 3	...	...	0124.866 „ „ „ „

The head under which water was discharged to plots was 1 foot 6 inches.

Report on the Irrigation Experiment conducted at Chebrole in Western Delta Range last year (1871-72).

From all I can learn nothing was done to the ground except the repairs of banks at a cost of Rupees 31-4-3. It was in exactly the same condition as during the previous year, and therefore the quantity of water run off could not be ascertained; all the circumstances connected with the experiment were exactly the same. The experiment was under Mr. Overseer Coghlan, a Delta Gumasta, and one lascar; the water was registered three times a day. The soil is black cotton

* Of 2 seers each or 1,280 seers to the candy, weighing 2,030 lbs.—(Initialed) J. M.

† Weight of this was 27,179.36 lbs., or 1.625 lbs. to the seer.—(Initialed) J. M.

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14th May 1873.*

and classed as fourth class by Revenue Authorities. The quantity of seed used was 9 manikas or 29 lbs. 13 oz. per acre. The statement of water used does not contain the quantity used for seed-beds.

2. The water was discharged through diaphragms placed in 6" square holes in cistern wall, the orifices in which were as follow :—

No. 1—1.03' diameter, discharge 4.64 cubic yards per hour.
 „ 2—1.18 „ „ 6.163 „ „ „ „
 „ 3—1.32 „ „ 7.63 „ „ „ „

3. Owing to the dispute with the owners of the land regarding compensation they had received for previous year 1870-71, which occurred when I tried to get them to agree to carry out the experiment 1872-73, I had to measure the whole of the land in their presence to satisfy them; nothing had been omitted; in so doing I find the gross area of land occupied for the experiment is 9.75 acres (instead of 9 acres shown last year), and the net or cultivated area is 9.21 acres, the difference 0.54 acres being occupied by banks and channel.

4. The separate area of each plot (net) is as follows :—

No. 1—3.24 acres discharge of sluice = 1.432 cubic yards per hour per acre.
 „ 2—2.885 „ „ „ = 2.113 „ „ „
 „ 3—3.085 „ „ „ = 2.473 „ „ „

instead of 1½, 2, and 2½ cubic yards respectively; further for No. 3 only 1.237 is the real discharge, as the sluice was never kept open for more than twelve hours, whilst the others were opened for twenty-four hours.

5. I enclose a table A showing the daily amount of water supplied to each plot, also that supplied by rainfall; the whole reduced to cubic yards per hour per acre; from which it appears—

No. 1 received 1.815 cubic yards per hour per acre instead 1.5 cubic yards.

„ 2 „ 2.389 „ „ „ „ 2.0 „ „
 „ 3 „ 1.665 „ „ „ „ 1.25 „ „

The ploughing was commenced on 29th August, and planting completed on 14th September; the quantity of water used is shown in table B.

6. The yield is shown in table C, from which it appears that there is no compensation due to ryots, and, as stated above, the experiment has cost Rupees 31-4-3 to Government.

7. Regarding cost of cultivation, it was shown in last report to be Rupees 17-8-0 per acre, but no manure was used this year; Rupees 2-8-0 for that purpose have to be deducted, bringing cost to Rupees 15 per acre including sist.

8. We now come to results, taking grain only into account. Table C shows for the ryots' plot of 6.609 acres, the yield, with a supply of about 3 cubic yards per hour per acre, was 6.136 candies, or 12,762 lbs. = 1,931 lbs. per acre; and on the Government plot of 9.75 acres, the yield, with an average supply of 1.879 cubic yards per acre per hour (i. e. 42,984.81 cubic yards supplied for 100 days for 9.75 acres), is 13.067 candies, or 27,179 lbs. = 2,787 lbs. per acre, or as 1.566 to 1, and this is taking the gross area of plot to suit gross area of ryots' plots.

9. With reference to the Government plot alone and taking net areas, table C shows—

	lbs.	lbs.
No. 1 received a supply 1.815 C. yds. per hour and yielded 10,002.72 grain = to 3,087 per acre.		
„ 2 „ „ 2.389 „ „ „ 8,136.96 „ = to 2,820 „		
„ 3 „ „ 1.665 „ „ „ 9,039.68 „ = to 2,930 „		

thus the smallest quantity of water yielded more than the largest, but the mean (so to speak) gives the largest yield, and strangely enough very nearly corresponds with the quantity proved last year to be the best, namely, 1.9 cubic yard per hour per acre; this year it is 1.815.

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10. Regarding the quantity of water used for the cultivation at different periods, I am afraid nothing is satisfactorily determined. A reference to table A shows that from 29th August date ploughing commenced to 14th September date transplanting was finished.

Plot No. 1 used, inclusive of rain, 2.682 cubic yards per acre per hour.

„ „ 2 „ „ „ 3.223 „ „ „ „
 „ „ 3 „ „ „ 2.502 „ „ „ „

but if only the quantities used on days the ploughing and transplanting were going on are taken, it appears that—

Plot No. 1 used 2.741 cubic yards per hour per acre.

„ „ 2 „ 3.673 „ „ „ „
 „ „ 3 „ 2.185 „ „ „ „

but a closer look at the table shows that whilst the ryot of No. 2 plot pushed on his work rain or no rain and made an end of it outright, those of Nos. 1 and 3 worked on such days as suited themselves only, and avoided part of the rainfall; the quantities used by them nearly coinciding with the average of the whole period of seventeen days, and from which I believe that 2.5 cubic yards per hour are required during ploughing and transplanting, and as No. 1 plot gave the best out-turn, I believe that putting rainfall out of the question, 1.5 cubic yard per hour are required for remaining period.

CHEBROLE,
14th August 1872.

(Signed) G. S. SAGE,
Executive Engineer.

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14th May 1873.

Table showing the quantity of water used in the Irrigation Experiment at Chebrole.

1st Plot—AREA, ACRES 3.24. DIAMETER OF ORIFICE 1" 0.3.					2nd Plot—AREA, ACRES 2.885. DIAMETER OF ORIFICE 1" 1.8.					3rd Plot—AREA, ACRES 3.085. DIAMETER OF ORIFICE 1" 3.2.					
Date.	Number of Cubic yards supplied from Cistern.	Rain-fall in Cubic yards.	Total num. ber of Cu- bic yards in 24 hours.	Average number of Cubic yards per acre per hour.	Remarks.	Number of Cubic yards supplied from Cistern.	Rain-fall in Cubic yards.	Total num. ber of Cu- bic yards in 24 hours.	Average number of Cubic yards per acre per hour.	Remarks.	Number of Cubic yards supplied from Cistern.	Rain-fall in Cubic yards.	Total num. ber of Cu- bic yards in 24 hours.	Average number of Cubic yards per acre per hour.	Remarks.
1871.															
6th Nov.	107.99	.....	107.99	1.388	Wind north-easterly.	142.03	.....	142.03	2.051	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
7th "	55.68	500.78	556.46	7.156	Orifice closed 6 P. M. to N. E. 6 A. M.	73.23	426.56	499.79	7.218	Closed 6 P. M. to 6 A. M.	91.66	456.27	547.93	7.400	.....
8th "	.....	.....	.....	.....	Orifice closed N. E.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pipes closed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9th "	55.68	86.67	142.35	1.850	Orifice closed 6 P. M. to easterly 6 A. M.	73.23	77.25	150.48	2.173	Closed 6 P. M. to 6 A. M.	91.66	82.63	174.29	2.353	Pipes closed.
10th "	.....	52.21	52.21	0.671	Orifice closed easterly.	.....	46.54	46.54	0.672	Pipes closed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
11th "	.....	43.34	43.34	0.557	Do.	.....	38.63	38.63	0.527	Do.	.....	.....	41.32	0.558	Do.
12th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Wind south-easterly.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
13th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Do.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
14th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Wind southerly.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
15th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Do.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
16th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Do.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
17th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Wind easterly.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
18th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Do.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
19th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Do.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
20th "	55.68	204.45	260.13	3.345	Orifice closed 6 P. M. to easterly 6 A. M.	73.23	132.24	255.47	3.629	Pipes closed 6 P. M. to 6 A. M.	91.66	194.93	256.59	3.670	.....
21st "	.....	.....	.....	.....	Orifice closed easterly.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pipes closed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
22nd "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Wind easterly.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
23rd "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Do.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
24th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Do.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
25th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Wind north-easterly.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
26th "	111.36	.....	111.36	1.432	Do.	146.47	.....	146.47	2.115	.....	91.66	.....	91.66	1.238	.....
27th "		887.45	3,501.04	15.00		3,437.59	771.22	4,208.81	2.926		2,291.50	824.93	3,116.43	1.403	

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14th May 1873.

B.

Date.	Period.		No. 1.		No. 2.		No. 3.	
			Cubic yards of water delivered.	Cubic yards of water per acre per hour.	Cubic yards of water delivered.	Cubic yards of water per acre per hour.	Cubic yards of water delivered.	Cubic yards of water per acre per hour.
1st Dec.	111.36	.....	146.47	1.432	146.47	1.432	146.47	1.432
2nd "	111.36	.....	146.47	1.432	146.47	1.432	146.47	1.432
3rd "	111.36	.....	146.47	1.432	146.47	1.432	146.47	1.432
4th "	111.36	147.91	146.47	3.334	146.47	3.334	146.47	3.334
5th "	111.36	201.06	146.47	4.789	146.47	4.789	146.47	4.789
6th "	111.36	.....	146.47	1.432	146.47	1.432	146.47	1.432
100...	608.10	408.06	878.83	2.309	878.83	2.309	878.83	2.309
	9,433.97	4,627.70	13,446.84	1.515	13,446.84	1.515	13,446.84	1.515
28th August to 14th September	.....	.....	5,540.33	2.082	5,540.33	2.082	5,540.33	2.082
15th September to 30th do.	.....	.....	2,509.69	2.017	2,509.69	2.017	2,509.69	2.017
1st to 31st October	.....	.....	3,477.65	1.443	3,477.65	1.443	3,477.65	1.443
1st to 30th November	.....	.....	3,501.04	1.500	3,501.04	1.500	3,501.04	1.500
1st to 6th December			1,077.12	2.209	1,077.12	2.209	1,077.12	2.209
	14,111.73		14,111.73	1.815	14,111.73	1.815	14,111.73	1.815

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Number of Plot.	Acres.	Grain.	Grain per Acre.	Weight of Grain.	Weight of Grain per Acre.	Weight of Straw.	Weight of Straw per Acre.	Value of Grains.	Value of Straw.	Total Value.
1	3.24	CANDLES. 4.809	1.484	LBS. 10,002.72	LBS. 3,087	LBS. 6,720	LBS. 2,074	RS. A. P. 139 7 5	RS. A. P. 13 3 6	RS. A. P. 152 10 11
2	2.885	3.912	1.356	8,136.96	2,820	6,720	2,329	113 7 2	13 3 6	126 10 8
3	3.085	4.340	1.409	9,039.68	2,930	7,680	2,489	125 13 9	15 2 10	141 0 7
		13.067	1.416	27,179.36	2,787	21,120	2,293	378 12 4	41 9 10	420 6 2
						For experiment of 9.75 acres, per acre.		...	...	43 1 10
	6.609	6.136	0.928	12,762	1,930	14,880	2,251	177 15 1	29 6 1	207 5 2
						For ryots' fields of 6.609 acres, per acre		...	...	31 5 10

CHEBROLE,
14th August 1872.

(Signed) G. S. SAGE,
Executive Engineer, W.D. Range.

D.
Quantity of Water used in the Irrigation Experiment at Chebrole (exclusive of Rainfall).

Period.	No. 1 Plot.	No. 2 Plot.	No. 3 Plot.
29th August to 14th September ...	C. yds. of water delivered.	C. yds. of water delivered.	C. yds. of water delivered.
15th September to 30th September ...	1,754.19	2,314.08	1,411.01
1st to 31st October ...	1,109.57	1,424.31	912.48
1st to 30th November ...	3,338.46	4,391.04	2,745.76
1st to 6th December ...	2,613.59	3,437.59	2,291.50
	668.16	878.82	549.96
Total 100 days ...	9,488.97	12,445.84	7,940.71
			1,072

CAMP AT KONDAPILLY,
3rd November 1872.

(Signed) R. SMITH,
Offg. Supg. Engineer, 2nd Division.

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

No. 180.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The experiments carried out at Chebrole from August to December 1871 on the quantity of water required for rice cultivation are not as complete as they might have been, owing to the omission of any record of the quantity of water run to waste from the land experimented upon. Nevertheless the results are of considerable interest, as the arrangements were in other respects complete, and the out-turn was not only good, showing that the cultivation was successfully carried on, but it has been compared with that obtained from ordinary cultivation with very favourable results. The gross area of the land made use of was 9.75 acres, and that of the fields, exclusive of bunds and water course, 9.21 acres. It was divided into three plots and supplied with varying quantities of water; the average supply was in cubic yards per acre per hour to—

	Exclusive of Rain.	Including Rain.
No. 1 plot ...	1.219	1.8 5
" 2 " ...	1.797	2.359
" 3 " ...	1.672	1.685

2. The supply to the land under ordinary cultivation is supposed to have been greater than either of the above. The results in produce are subjoined:—

	Lbs. of Grain.	Lbs. of Straw.	Value of Produce. Average.	Value of Produce of Plot.
No. 1 plot per acre ...	3,087	2,074	43 1 10	152 10 11
" 2 " ...	2,820	2,329		
" 3 " ...	2,930	2,489		
Ryots' land ...	1,930	2,251	31 5 10	141 0 7

The plots are the same as were under experiment the year before, and then the value of the produce, G. O., 30th March 1872, No. 872-A, was—

	RS. A. P.
No. 1 plot ...	102 5 5
" 2 " ...	89 6 0
" 3 " ...	94 3 7

The weights of grain and straw in the two years were—

	1871.	1870.
	Grain.	Grain.
No. 1 plot ...	lbs. 10,003	lbs. 6,890
" 2 " ...	8,137	5,832
" 3 " ...	9,040	6,337
	Straw.	Straw.
No. 1 plot ...	lbs. 6,720	lbs. 11,250
" 2 " ...	6,720	10,750
" 3 " ...	7,680	10,550

The weight of seed grain used is reported to have been lbs. 29 oz. 13 per acre, so that the crop produced was on the average of the three plots 99 fold nearly.

3. As the experimental produce was considerably in excess of that obtained by the ryots, no compensation had to be paid and the cost of the experiment amounted to Rupees 31-4-3 only.

4. It will be noticed that in 1870 the weight of straw greatly exceeded, while that of grain fell short of, the out-turn of 1871. It seems probable that too much water would tend to increase the stalk at the expense of the ear, and, as the actual quantity of water supplied to No. 1 plot in the two years did not greatly differ, it would seem that different atmospheric conditions were present in the two seasons, or perhaps the manure applied in the earlier year and omitted in the later was not advantageous.

5. If the experimental cultivation at Chebrole for the season of 1872 has been carried on with due attention to the observations made on that of 1870, it will not be necessary to repeat the experiment again in this locality, but it will be advisable to select plots of somewhat similar area and of the same class of land under one of the delta canals, in order that the difference between the produce of tank and canal irrigation may be ascertained; it will be well also to employ the subordinate establishment, which has at Chebrole acquired considerable experience of what is required to be done to ensure success.

6. It will be seen that from the time of commencing field cultivation, apart from that occupied in growing seedlings, the water supply was required for 104 days in 1870 and 100 days in 1871. Also that for the 3-24 acres of plot 1, which in both years was evidently quite sufficiently supplied, the consumption of water was—

	1870.	1871.
Artificial supply C. yds.	9,755	9,484
Rainfall „ „	5,805	4,628

Reducing these to terms of one acre the result becomes—

Artificial supply...	3,011	2,927
Rainfall „	1,792	1,428

The actual quantity of water artificially supplied is much below what has been considered necessary; and, without supposing that it will be practicable to economize water to the extent indicated by these experiments, there can be little doubt of the advantage which in the course of time may be derived by checking waste where investigation may show that the quantity used is much in excess of that which, as here indicated, can beneficially be applied to the crops. Moreover, the artificial supply in these two years was manifestly larger than was necessary. Turning to table A of 1870, this supply might have been reduced, or perhaps discontinued on the 10th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 21st, and 22nd September, on the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 18th to 24th October, and on the 14th November; while similarly in 1871 the rainfall probably rendered the artificial supply in excess of requirements on the 30th and 31st August, the 1st to 4th, 11th, 21st September, and the 4th and 5th December, though in this latter year rainfall supplies were taken into account, and the orifice closed at several periods.

7. Measures will be taken, as opportunities occur, to ascertain the quantity of water in tanks at the beginning of the season, the quantity received during that

season, and that left at its close, and then the areas cultivated will be compared. It is believed that the discrepancies will be found to be very remarkable. The discharge from sluices will also be gauged, and some valuable data will thus be obtained. In the end probably the revenue will benefit greatly from these inquiries.

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,

20th March 1873,

Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 192.

ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1873, No. 1,337.

IRRIGATION, No. 8.

THE Government view with much interest the information which is being obtained from these experiments upon

the water-supply required for rice cultivation. Not only is such information of importance in order that the large outlay on Irrigation works may yield a proper return, but in carrying them out considerable light will be thrown upon the out-turn of produce to be obtained from different soils and upon their relative suitability to this description of cultivation. It is hoped, therefore, that much care will be taken by all officers conducting these experiments to ensure the utmost accuracy of record.

2. It is satisfactory to notice that the produce obtained from the experimental cultivation at Chebrole in 1871 contrasted very favourably with that from land close by which was entirely under the management of the owner.

3. The Government will be glad to receive information as early as it may be procurable regarding the consumption of water for irrigation under tanks. Nothing reliable is at present known on this subject, and much good may result from inquiries which will enable the irrigating power of a given quantity of water under different tanks to be compared, for without such data waste can neither be detected nor prevented.

4. All grain should be measured as well as weighed; the measure should be the Madras seer of 100 cubic inches, which is that used by the Revenue Settlement Department, and weight should be recorded in lbs. avoirdupois as has been done in the experiments at Chebrole.

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Kistna.

To all other District Engineers.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

„ Revenue Department.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

Pl 58th March / 1873 - 640

P. W. 1873 Report
Pro of 400 for May
From No 2580.

The Chief Engineer for
Irrigation
To The Secretary to Govern-
ment. P. W. D.

Dated 20th March }
Received 25th April } 1873.

No 180.

Note on the Irrigation
Experiments carried out
at Chebrole in 1871-72
Rustnah D. D.

No 191

No 1337-14th May / 73.

No 1337

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water can neither be detected
nor prevented.

It All grain should
be measured as well as
weighed - the measure should
be the Madras seer of 100
Cubic inches, which is that
used by the Revenue settle-
ment Department, and
weight should be recorded
in the avardupois, as has
been done in the experi-
ments at Chebrots.

Wm 23/4/73

To The Distt Eng. Madras
" All other Distt Engrs
" Chief Eng. for Irrigations
" Controller J. W. A. S.
" Manager M. H. C. S.
" Revenue Dept. S.

No. 2580

Govt. of (1873) Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

The District Engineer
Kistna

Date

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 14th May 1873. No 1337.

NO. 141 1872

Experiments. Passing
orders on papers relating
to the experiments made
for ascertaining
the quantity of water
required for rice cul-
tivation in the
Kistna District.