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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

1491

B.P. No.

63.64

Press

Mis.

Dated

4-6

1873

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 63.

Read the following:—

No. 251 A.

MEMORANDUM.

I HAVE given to the Order of Government of the 28th March last, No. 963, attentive consideration, but I am unable to understand what the wishes and intentions of Government are. The G. O. of the 20th January last, No. 184, which I am supposed not to have rightly apprehended, was simple enough. I was to adopt effectual measures for maintaining all tanks above lines of railway in a state of security. The Government appear to consider the details of information, tabulated in my Note No. 76, of the 11th February, needlessly elaborate. I am very sorry that such should have been the opinion formed. I mentioned in paragraph 3 of that Note that these were the particulars which must be obtained to enable the tanks to be dealt with effectually, and after a careful re-consideration of the matter I can come to no other conclusion than that the particulars of columns 2 to 21 are necessary for all tanks connected with other tanks, that is, in the same catchment basin, and that all but columns 3, 4, 7, and 8 are requisite even for isolated tanks. The question is a professional one, and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation would seem to be the proper person to decide what information is requisite to enable the purely technical details of an irrigation work to be determined. The Government in this same order refer to their instructions regarding the systematic supervision of outlay on Irrigation repairs generally, and this systematic treatment means, I should suppose, that irrigation works are to be dealt with according to their circumstances and requirements. These works cannot be systematically treated until those circumstances and requirements have been ascertained, and it seems to be one of my special duties to tell the local members of the department what information is needed in order that the end desired may be secured. I have unfortunately seen much money wasted on Irrigation works for want of knowledge, and I have had many opportunities of learning what knowledge is needful. To take a case of recent occurrence: the Vellore tanks would not have breached last year, and have caused disastrous floods and loss of life, had their circumstances and requirements been ascertained. They had been dealt with in the absence of proper information, and it was an absolute certainty that a heavy rain-storm would burst the upper one and then the fate of the lower was inevitable. I am perfectly aware that all that is desirable cannot be done at once; but if a selection of tanks is to be made, and some selection is manifestly unavoidable, it appears to me that tanks affecting the railways may properly be among the earliest to be dealt with systematically.

2. I hope I shall not be considered wrong in asking that my opinions and views on professional questions connected with irrigation may be treated with some consideration. They are the result of such experience as I have had, and of such thought as I am able to bring to bear upon them, and I hope I shall always be able to explain with tolerable clearness upon what grounds such opinions have been based, whenever the Government may think fit to ask me to do so. It would be unbecoming in me to comment on the professional opinions expressed by

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th June 1873.*

Government, and I would submit that inconvenience is not unlikely to result if technical details are determined by them, instead of by the officer who is properly responsible for such matters.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
22nd April 1873. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1873, No. 1,491.

IRRIGATION, No. 5.

THE object as stated in paragraph 2 of G. O., dated 28th March 1873, which His Excellency the Governor in Council

had in view was, in the first place, to ensure such steps being immediately taken as to render tanks in the neighbourhood of railways secure at a moderate cost, and, in the next, to guard against the officers of the Public Works Department being pressed by calls for the preparation of tabulated statements of an elaborate character at a time when the recent re-organization of the department imposed additional labour upon them. In now again conveying to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation these wishes, the Government do not in any way desire to interfere with the orders issued by that Officer to District Engineers, but with these remarks will leave the matter to his discretion.

2. The opinions and recommendations of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation invariably receive the careful consideration of Government. The Governor in Council cannot however permit the power and authority of the Government over any public department to be restricted in the manner contemplated by Lieutenant-Colonel Mullins, and must therefore reserve to the Government the right of issuing such orders as they may deem necessary and proper in the Irrigation equally with every other department.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

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5-D
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Fort St. George
22^d April 1873

Wm. D. W.

To the Secretary to Government
D. P. W.

Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Lieut. Col. R. N.

004715 Oct 26/4/73

No 1491-4" June/73.

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets to find that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation still misapprehends the intentions of Govt. in calling his special formal attention to the subject of Pacific Atlantic Railway Lines, although such were stated in para 2 of his Order No. 963 of 28th March to be the

securing prompt and thorough attention of District Engineers to his previous orders respecting such Irrigation works in particular. He expressed himself in para 1 as satisfied with the attention and outlay given to the subject in the Districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore, excepting further inquiry

into one drainage valley of the East District, but particularized the Districts of Bellary, Chikmagalur, North Arcot, Chingleput and Salem as still requiring the attention of the Chief

to be framed. In the present case we want the more urgent repairs to Tanks in the neighbourhood of Railways to be carried out without swamping the District Engineers & their subordinates with the preparation of Forms. Colonel Mullins is right in saying, that before you can make an end Tank (one at the end of a chain of tanks) ^{safe} you must secure the whole of the Tanks forming the chain.

I think we had better report to the ^{Chief} ~~superior~~ Engineer for Irrigation that the object of Govt was to render the Railway Tanks as secure as could be done immediately & at a moderate cost & to guard against the whims of the D.S. W, at a moment when there was some confusion & owing to additional labor to enforce by an order imposed upon them of Government adopting them. That officer is at being unduly pressed by calls for the preparation of Forms of an elaborate character while ^{again} conveying the fullest information to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation the wishes

11.5
Engineer for Irrigation. He specially declined to treat Tanks affecting Railways exceptionally from other Tanks; and consequently did not admit the necessity of prefacing their treatment by the preparation of the Tabulated statements, which Lieut. Col. Mullins proposed to enforce by an order of Government adopting them. That officer is at liberty to exact from all Engineers in charge of Irrigation works their power to give

regarding the sufficiency
of the measures adopted
by them for the preservation
and improvement of such works; but he is not at liberty to dictate to the Government District Engineers, that they shall not take rather a general view of the measures to be adopted in any case with reference as well to the means available as to the objects in view than the more ^{rigidly} correct technical view adopted by himself. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation is in fact required to deal with District Engineers who do not wish in any way ^{to} interfere with his directions to the District Engineers, that with these remarks they leave the matter to his discretion. I would add that the Chief Engineer may confidently rely on the fullest consideration being given to his professional opinions & views on professional questions connected with Irrigation, not reserving to themselves to issue such instructions

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Engineers more directly and personally than in general guidance through the medium of Government; who will always be glad to avail themselves of his professional experience, but reserve to themselves the right of laying down such rules for his general guidance as may appear to them to be necessary. L.W.W.

[His Excellency the Governor in Council re-
-grets to find that the
Chief Engineer for Irriga-
-tion still misapprehends
the intentions of Govern-
-ment in calling his
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-tention to the subject
of Tanks above Rail-
-way Lines, although
such were stated in
para 2 of his Order
No.

I wd. accept the
1st of June 1896
JH

J. D. S.

The object being to
~~place~~ place in a
state of readiness,
with as little delay
as possible, and at a
moderate cost, tanks

No 963 of 28th March

to be the securing prompt
and thorough attention above Railways, these
of District Engineers object was communicated
to his previous orders. Other Chief Engineer
respecting such Irrigation for Irrigation, where
works in particular. ^{I suggested} ^{business} it is (as Ch.

The object of the ^{mem.} ^{to} ^{misunderstanding} ^{determine} the means
which the Government ^{had} in view was attained. And if he
in the first place to secure such steps being ^{immediately} taken
as to render Tanks in the neighbourhood of Railways
secure. I think the ^{order} ^{may}

stand in the draft,
leaving out the first
Paragraph.

I do not omit the last
Paragraph altogether.
Ch. Mullins of course
will never dispute the
right of the Govt. to
give instructions for
less "general guidance"
and therefore there is
no need for the Govt.
to "reserve it" and
for the rest, I really think
he is right in the opinion
that he is the proper
judge of professional
details.

17.5
secured at a moderate
cost, and in the next
to guard against
the officers of the
Public Works Depart-
ment being pressed
by calls for the prepara-
tion of tabulated state-
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when the recent reorga-
nization of the Depart-
ment imposed addi-
tional labor ^{upon them} -
again conveying to the
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Irrigation these wishes,
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connected with Irriga-
tion, the Government
reserving

But this is just
putting up the whole
thing - If our order
was right, it should
be obeyed - if wrong,
it should be altered -
no Officer should be
permitted to obey
or disobey at his own
discretion.

must for
I would state all
this as a fact - ex-
cept
The opinions &
recommendations of
the Chief Eng. for Irr.
are invariably re-
-ceived the careful con-
sideration of full
The Govt cannot
however permit the
power & authority of
the Govt over any further
Dept. to be restricted

in the manner
contemplated by
Major Mullens -
and must there-
fore reserve to
the Govt the right
of issuing such
orders as they may
deem necessary
& proper in the
disruption equally
with every other
Dept.

L. D.

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reserving to themselves
the right
to issue such instruc-
-tions for his general
guidance as may
appear necessary -
G. W. N.

Major Mullens
being sent to
look it over
the Chief Engineer
who is the Govt
for the Army & Navy
for the Army & Navy

underneath it please
write down
the name of the
person who
has been
appointed

underneath it please
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person who
has been
appointed

1491

No 1491 P. M. D.

21 D

Pro. of the Madras Govt.

Read the following:-

From the Chief Secy for
India

H. No 257 A. D. 22 April 78

MM

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in para 2 of G. O. dated
28 March 1873, which
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The opinions and
recommendations of
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Irrigation invariably
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-sideration of Govt.,

The Governor in
Council cannot
however permit
the power and autho-
-rity of the Government
over any public Deptt.
to be restricted in the
manner contemplated

copy of report to
Govt. 11/11/11

by Lieut J. H. Mullins and
must therefore reserve
to the Government the
right of issuing such
orders as they may
deem necessary and
proper in the irri-
gation equally with
every other Department

GMW

h: 63-64.

Ch Eugene J. Brown
Dec 11/6/73

C/2 2579 ☆

Capt. of 1873: Madrids.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Chief Eng for
Irrigation

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 4 June 1491.

Not. 63164

Tanks above Railway
Lines. Passing orders
in Genl. by The Chief
Eng for Irrigation on
the subject of the
maintenance of ^{the} tanks
in a state of security.