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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1612	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
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Dated	20-6	1873

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th June 1873.*

No. 285. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
dated Fort St. George, 19th April 1873, No. 244:—

Read the following papers:—

No. 286. From Lieut. Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irriga-
tion, to H. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, dated 1st
April 1873, No. 201.

Having, in accordance with the instructions conveyed in G. O. No. 2917 of
the 10th December 1872, examined the circumstances of the Verupatchi Agrahar-
am and Allapuram tanks, the breaching of which in the early part of May 1872
occasioned disastrous inundations and the loss of many lives, and having inspected
the several drainage channels by which the water-supply of these tanks and of the
adjacent country is, or can be conveyed to the Palar, I have the honour to inform
you that I am of opinion that the restoration of the tanks, in a manner which would
render them quite secure, is feasible, but as the question of their abandonment has
been raised in the Minute of the Honorable R. S. Ellis, and the settlement of this
question left for disposal in the Revenue
and Public Works Departments, I shall be glad of your opinion on this subject.

2. Particulars of the revenue involved are given in the Minute just referred
to, and it may be mentioned that, so far as I can at present judge, the cost of
securing an adequate water-supply to the irrigation under the two tanks will not
exceed a sum on which the revenue involved would yield a return just sufficient
to cover the interest on the outlay. It appears to me that it would be best to
abandon the Allapuram tank, which is a shallow reservoir without any natural
advantages of situation, and to store in the Verupatchi Agraharam tank enough
water for the whole of the cultivation under both tanks. There will be no diffi-
culty in providing for the safe discharge from the Agraharam tank of even a far
wider rainfall drainage than that due to the storm of May 1872. A waste weir
of ample dimensions can be constructed on rock at the east end of the tank; the
material for the bind is excellent, and stone for revetment is abundant close at hand,
while a moderate addition to the former depth of this reservoir would compensate
for the abandonment of the Allapuram tank.

3. The sacrifice of a small amount of revenue would be very unimportant,
were it to be considered unadvisable to risk the recurrence of the accident which
last year led to the sacrifice of so many lives, and to much suffering by many hun-
dreds of the inhabitants of a part of the town of Vellore. It should not, however, be
overlooked that the greater part of the town is on well raised ground not liable to
suffer from the breaching of any of the tanks in the neighbourhood, and that on the
other hand, the ground occupied by the Wesleyan and the Roman Catholic Church are so low that they will always be subject to inundation, whether
the tanks be restored or not, though, of course, this inundation would not be
attended with such disastrous consequences, as must result from a considerable
body of water being poured down from breached tanks as in 1872. The family
lines of the 14th Regiment were situated in a most dangerous locality, on, indeed,
ground which was the natural and direct line of outfall for a flood, and the other

family lines close to this, though not so exposed to the strong flood current, were necessarily inundated to a very considerable depth. There can, I think, be no question that this locality is unsuitable, under any circumstances, for dwellings. The drainage from the south may be confined to the eusbah nullah if this be widened and embanked, but even then the ground immediately to the eastward will in heavy rains be submerged by the drainage from the eastward, for which there will be no outfall so long as the nullah is in flood. Eusbah to the west of the nullah is on very low ground, but its drainage can pass away to the westward into the Nakel Calvah.

4. From what I have said above it will, I hope, be tolerably clear—

1st.—That there are no technical difficulties to prevent the restoration of the Veroopatchi Agraharam tank, and that the site is a favourable one for a tank. Also, that it will be better to increase its capacity so as to admit of the abandonment of the Allapuram tank without sacrificing the wet cultivation under the latter.

2nd.—That independently of the question of restoring the tanks, the re-occupation of the low ground to the east of eusbah nullah, and between the Adavanandal abandoned tank and the fort should not be permitted.

3rd.—That the village of eusbah can be protected, though its site is low and inconvenient.

5. A month or six weeks will be required to put on paper the detailed information regarding the tanks and the channels to the south of Vellore, upon which the arrangements for disposing of water on the recurrence of extraordinary falls of rain must be based. It is of importance, however, that the question of the restoration of means of irrigation should be settled, because the measures to be adopted for disposing of the drainage from the catchment basin of the Veroopatchi Agraharam tank will differ materially if this tank be restored, from those which will be proper if the main breach be left open. In either case just the same quantity of drainage will have to be provided for, and similarly just the same quantity will be diverted into the Thorapady tank and into the eusbah nullah respectively, but in one case this drainage will be carried along the breach channel, and in the other along the surplus channel of the tank.

6. The expenditure necessary for restoring the Veroopatchi Agraharam tank, and for diverting a part of the surplus into the Thorapady tank would form a charge against Agricultural Ordinary Funds, but all outlay for improving the natural lines of drainage into the Palar would be unconnected with irrigation, and it will have to be decided from what funds this charge should be met.

No. 287. From H. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to Lieutenant Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Wandiwash, 11th April 1873, No. 151.

In reply to your letter of the 1st instant, asking my opinion on the question of restoring the breached tanks above Vellore Town, I regret, in the first place, that neither Mr. Whitehead nor Mr. Kelsall, who were in the district at the time of the cyclone, are now at hand to give their opinion on the matter, which would have been of more value than mine.

2. From all I have heard of the cyclone and its effects, I must say that I should decidedly prefer to see the tanks left as they are. The loss of revenue to Government would not be very serious, probably about Rupees 230, and I do not think ought to be weighed against the safety of a large and important town like Vellore; and though you state that "there would be no difficulty in providing for the discharge of a far heavier rainfall drainage than that due to the storm of May 1872," still cyclones are uncertain, and tank bunds are liable to be breached; and if a breach should occur again the damage to Vellore would be very similar to that in last May.

3. In any case the nullahs carrying off the drainage of the basin would, as you say, require to be strengthened, and, I presume, by that means the safety of the eusbah village could be secured.

4. I quite agree with you that the site on which the lines stood should not be re-occupied.

5. I see that Mr. Kelsall, in the concluding paragraph of his letter to the Collector, No. 109, dated July 6th, 1872, suggests the possibility of, at some future time, forming a reservoir for the town in the bed of the Veripatchipuram tank. This would be a work of great importance, though I suppose it is hardly likely to be carried out yet. But I presume that leaving the tanks in their present condition would not materially interfere with such a future work. If the idea is sanctioned by Government, it would be as well to retain some portion of the bed of the tank unoccupied, and only to give out the upper part for cultivation. This would entail a further loss of revenue, but not, I imagine, of any great amount, as the reservoir would not, of course, require the full extent of the tank bed.

6. I regret the delay in replying to your letter, but have been very busy during the last week with the Jummabandy of this taluk.

SENT FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT, WITH REFERENCE TO G.O., No. 2,917, of the 10th December 1872.

2. The Acting Collector of North Arcot is, it will be seen, adverse to the restoration of the breached tanks to the south of Vellore, and, if the Government concur in the opinion expressed by Mr. Sewell, the District Engineer need not continue the investigations, which he was instructed by me to make, with a view to determine what work should be done to the Veroopatchi Agraharam tank to admit of its providing for all the irrigation under this and the Allapuram tank, and he can confine his inquiries to the diversion of a part of the supply from the drainage basin of the former tank into the Thorapady tank, which alone will

be an agricultural work; and to the improvement of the existing surplus channel from C. to A., and of the eusbah nullah and its proposed outfall at B. into the Nakel calvah. This latter work would seem to belong either to the Municipality or to Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut. Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th June 1873.

No. 288.

ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1873, No. 1,612.

IRRIGATION, No. 26.

Under the opinion expressed by
the Acting Collector of North Arcot, His
Excellency the Governor in Council

resolves that the restoration of the Verepattin Agraharam and Allapuram tanks
shall not be attempted.

2. The District Engineer will accordingly confine his inquiries to the points
specified in the latter part of Lieutenant-Colonel Mullins' note, estimating
separately for the different lengths of supply channel, surplus channel, and drain-
age channel allotted to, on receipt of such estimates the questions of incidence of
cost and provision of funds will be taken into consideration.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Department
Military

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Letter to Collector of North Arcot dated 15th April 1873.
From the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Reference is made to the order of the Government of Madras dated 15th April 1873, in relation to the consideration of the proposals of the Government of Madras for the restoration of the Verepattin Agraharam and Allapuram tanks.

The Acting Collector of North Arcot has been directed to ascertain whether it will be possible to restore the Verepattin Agraharam and Allapuram tanks to the state of the tanks and, if the Government concurs in the opinion expressed by the District Engineer, to continue the investigation, which he was instructed to do, with a view to determine what work should be done to the Verepattin Agraharam Tank to admit of its proceeding for all the irrigation areas then and the Allapuram Tank and to see whether it is possible to the diversion of a part of the water of the tank to the Verepattin Agraharam Tank.

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of the supply from the drainage
basin of the former Tank into the ^{C to Don}
Tharapiandy Tank, which alone will ^{Sketch}
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This latter work would seem to belong
either to the Municipality or to Mis-
cellaneous Public Improvements.

Fort St. George }
19th April 1873 } W. H. L. L. L.
Lieut. Col. R. L.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

To the Secretary to Government.
Public Works Department.

1612

Under the opinion
expressed by the Acting
Collector of the District
His Excellency the Governor
in Council resolves
that the restoration of
the Veropatchi Agrar-
haram, and Alapooran
Tanks shall not be
attempted.

The District Engineer
will accordingly confine
his inquiries to the points
specified in the latter
part of Lieut Colonel
Mullins' note, estimating
separately for the
different lengths of
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of incidence of cost
and provision of funds
will be taken into con-
sideration -

G.M.W.

To The DE. St. Andrew
Chairman for Engineers
~~Chief~~ Dept.
Chief Dept.

Dated 27/6/73

