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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1797	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
202203		
Dated	12.7.	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th July 1873.*

No. 202. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 23rd June 1873, No. 376:—

From C. DAWSON, Esq., for Chief Engineer and Manager, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 13th June 1873, No. 20.

I BEG to forward herewith copy of Chief Engineer's Report for the month of May 1873.

Chief Engineer's Report to accompany the Divisional Reports for May.

In the lower part of the canal the monsoon which burst here at the end of May was not felt. About 3 inches more rain fell between Soonkasala and Jupad on the 8th and 9th instant, and the weather is now cloudy all day, windy and fine.

2. The canal filled sufficiently for the water to run *out* at the open head sluices, but until the 10th the Toombudra was too low for any to run in.

3. Ploughing is going on extensively, but until the water arrives few applications are made. I hear of none made direct to the Curnums, and but few made through the Company's officers. It is not that the ryots doubt the waters coming down the canal, but before applying they want to see and judge of the security of the *channels* which will be made to supply their fields. These are in a wretched state, far too few to be called fairly within the reach of the cultivating public; and those few so insecure as to breach in every heavy shower.

4. My Overseers have orders to enter upon any land necessary for making channels *to supply demand*, on the strength of a Government order recently issued, indicating a wish that a regular permission to do this should be obtained from the Revenue Board. They will assure the ryots of compensation for the land so occupied. There is some risk of this leading to an appeal to law or violence, but I feel assured of all the assistance the higher English and Native Revenue Authorities can give to secure peace, and my own men are strongly cautioned.

5. Further than this it seems not only unwarrantable but impolitic to go. The least such a course could result in would be confusion. The only remaining course under existing arrangements is to give every facility for applications, and to hold out every inducement to apply. Almost the sole positive inducement is the promise to make the necessary channels thoroughly efficient upon their application, and the negative ones are that if the channels be made on the spur of the moment they will not be so secure as if made with plenty of time and the charge of double water-rate, which is imminent over those who do not apply.

6. But this last is exactly counterbalanced by another effect of applying. There is no rule to permit the *withdrawal* of an application; and experience shows ryots that it is far more certain that they will have to pay Rupees 6 per acre if, after an application and a month or more's waiting in vain for channels, or disgusted with the evident insecurity of those made, they give up irrigation and cultivate a dry crop, than it is that, if they leave a final decision till the last moment and then sow rice without application, they will have to pay Rupees 12 per acre.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
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7. In fact this attempt to compel the ryots to an early decision as to what they intend to cultivate, and the penalty to hold them to it, has a very deterrent effect on the extension of irrigation, and causes, yearly in geometrical progression, a serious loss to the Government and Company, and, of course, to the country.

8. The Acting Collector of Kurnool (Mr. James Hope) has taken great interest in this point of the double penal water-rate, which, trying to do so many things at once, misses doing any effectually. On this I will make the following remarks:—

I.—There should properly be a complete set of channels extending to every field, so that there should be *no question* of the ryots running risks and the Company losing credit by hastily constructed channels. Then, were that the case, and water became scarce on account of extensive cultivation, applicants would receive water next after old customers, and new men not applying would be worst off.

9. I may here say that where A, living in Kurnool, Madras, or Hyderabad, takes a field and puts B in as his gardener, or cultivator, with leave to keep a proportion of the profits as his pay—a very common sort of arrangement—it will often happen that from sheer inadvertence a *regular customer*, even anxious enough to keep the rules, will neglect to apply. Many residents in Kurnool had neglected to apply for their compounds, and it is only by taking particular care that I have partly remembered to do it. But I forgot the second crop.

II.—And this brings me to another point—the *excessive* penalty. Since it would never do to let fraud go unpunished, and non-applicants have put themselves on the wrong side of the rules, the latter are whipped all round by a sort of barbarous Mahomedan justice, *i. e.*, are fined *punitively*, where justice would rather require that the fine should be estimated as simple compensation for the extra trouble, staff, and expense it brought upon the Company to meet.

III.—But where fraud has to be dealt with, of course punishment must be inflicted, and since it is out of the question to prove fraud legally certain acts or omissions of a fraudulent complexion should have penalties attached to them. The only act of such a kind I will mention here is one of great importance. No one is likely to attempt to rear a crop in secret under constant irrigation; but many so lay out their field, with a border of rice perhaps along the higher side, that occasional irrigation can be secretly given to the dry crops with a very small chance of detection. This would probably be efficiently checked if floodings at 1 Rupee an acre were never given but on a ticket or application to the Overseer. As to the Curnums they are at the bottom of most of the tricks. Then, if water were found on a man's land, not being an authorized flooding, he would have to pay Rupees 6, and would be free to irrigate as much as he liked.

"Floodings" should be given to fields only, not to small plots or garden.

It is, I believe, quite possible that these objections may be removed, and irrigation made safer and more attractive before the end of the current month.

CAMP PATAKOTA, NANDIKOTAKUR,
KURNOOL,
11th June 1873.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer and Manager.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th July 1873.*

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The action taken by the Chief Engineer and Manager of the Company, as mentioned in the fourth part of paragraph 1 of this officer's report for May, appears to have reference to G. O., No. 1,218, of the 29th April 1873. It would have been better had Mr. Latham waited until the Revenue Officers had moved in the matter; it is presumed, however, that nothing will be done towards making field channels on land not made over to the Company, if the owners raise any objection to the proceeding.

3. The remarks on the subject of arrangements connected with water supply will be taken into consideration in drawing up the revised rules and regulations referred to in G. O., No. 1,508, dated 6th June 1873.

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

No. 203. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1873, No. 1,797.

IRRIGATION, No. 13.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue
Department in continuation of G. O.,
29th April 1873, No. 1,218.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies.

Camp Patākōta, Nandikōtā³

Kurnool. 11th June 1873.

Chief Engineer's Report to
accompany the Divisional reports
for May.

In the lower part of the Canal the
monsoon which burst here at the end of
May was not felt. About 3 inches more
rain fell between Sontkēśala and Jupād on
the 8 & 9th instant and the weather is now
cloudy all day, windy and fine.

2 The Canal filled sufficiently for the
water to run out at the open Head Sluice,
but until the 10th the Sombudra was too low
for any to run in.

3 Ploughing is going on extensively; but,
until the water arrives, few applications are
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Curnums; and but few made through the Co.
Officers. It is not that the rayak doubt the
waters coming down the Canal; but before
applying they want to see, and judge of the
security of the Channels which will be made
to supply their fields. These are in a wretched
state; far too few to be called fairly within
the reach of the cultivating public; and those
few so insecure as to breach in every heavy
shower.

4 My overseers have orders to enter upon
any land necessary for making Channels to
supply demand: on the strength of a Govt.
order.

order recently issued indicating a wish that a regular permission to do this should be obtained from the Revenue Board. They will assure the ryots of compensation for the land so occupied. There is some risk of this leading to an appeal to law or violence but I feel assured of all the assistance the higher English and Native Revenue authorities can give to secure peace, and my own men are strongly cautioned.

Further than this it seems not only unwarrantable, but impolitic, to go. The least such a course could result in would be confusion. The only remaining course under existing arrangements is to give every facility for applications, and to hold out every inducement to apply. Almost the sole positive inducement is the promise to make the necessary channels thoroughly efficient, upon their application and the negative ones are that if the channels be made on the spur of the moment they will not be ^{so} secure as if made with plenty of time, and the charge of double water-rate which is imminent over those who do not apply.

But this last is exactly counterbalanced by another effect of applying. There is no rule to permit the withdrawal of an application; and experience shows ryots that it is far more certain that they will have to pay Rs 6 per acre, if after an application for channel, or disgusted with the vain insecurity of those made, they give up irrigation

and cultivate a dry crop; than it is that if they leave a final decision till the last moment and then sow rice without application, they will have to pay Rs 12 per acre.

In fact this attempt to compel the ryots to an early decision as to what they intend to cultivate, and the penalty to hold them to it, has a very deterrent effect on the extension of irrigation, and causing, year by year, in geometrical progression, a serious loss to the Govt and Company, and, of course, to the Country.

The acting Collector of Kurnool (Mr. James Hope) has taken great interest in this point of the double penal water-rate, which, trying to do so many things at once, misfires doing any effectually. On this I will make the following remarks.

1. There should properly be a complete set of channels extending to every field; so that there should be no question of the ryots running risks and the Co. losing credit by hastily constructed channels. Then, were that the case, and water became scarce on account of extensive cultivation, applicants would receive water next after old customers, and new men not applying would be worst off.

I may here say that where a living in Kurnool, Madras or Hyderabad, takes a field and puts B in as his gardener or cultivator with leave to keep a proportion of the profits as his pay—a very common sort of arrangement—it will often happen that from sheer inadvertence a regular customer

Even

ever anxious enough to keep the rules, will neglect to apply. Many residents in Kurnal have neglected to apply for their compensation and it is only by taking particular care, that I have partly remembered to do it. But I forgot the 3rd crop.

2. And this brings me to another point, the excessive penalty. Since it would never do to let fraud go unpunished, and non-applicants have put themselves on the wrong side of the rules, the latter are whipped all round, by a sort of barbarous Mohammedan justice, - i.e. are fined summarily, where justice would rather require that the fine should be estimated as simple compensation for the extra trouble, staff, and expense it brought upon the company to meet.

3. But where fraud has to be dealt with, of course punishment must be inflicted; and since it is out of the question to prove fraud legally certain acts or omissions of a fraudulent complexion should have penalties attached to them. The only act of such importance No one is likely to attempt to reap a crop in secret under constant irrigation; but many so lay out their field, with a border of rice perhaps along the higher side, that occasional irrigation can be secretly given to the dry crops with a very small chance of detection. This would probably be efficiently checked if floodings at 11 P. M. were never given but on a ticket, or application to the overseers. As to the curious

they

they are at the bottom of most of the tricks. Then if water were found on a man's land, not being an authorized flooding, he would have to pay 12b, and would be free to irrigate as much as he liked. "Floodings" should be given to fields only, not to small plots or gardens.

It is I believe, quite possible that these objections may be removed and irrigation made safer and more attractive, before the end of the current month.

Signed / J. H. Latham
Chief Engineer & Manager.
(True Copy)

C. Denison
Head Clerk.

No 20 Madras Irr. and C.C.
Chief Engineers Office.
Kurnool 13th June 1873.

To. Lieut Colonel J. Mullins R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Madras.

Sir I beg to forward herewith the Copy
of Chief Engineers Report for the Month
of May 1873.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servt.

C. Denolon

For Chief Engineer & Manager
Absent in Camp.

1 Enclosure.

RM. 24. 1873.
1/14/73.
C

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The action taken by the Chief Engineer and Manager of the Company, as mentioned in the 4th part of para

2. The remarks on the subject of arrangements connected with water supply will be taken into consideration in drawing up the revised rule, and regulations referred to in G.O. dated 6 June 1873.

2-1886
 Lt Col W. H. ...
 2nd Regt ...
 Secretary ...

ms. A. 2. 20.

2d July. East

James W. Cook

Chief Engineer Report.

out with 1/6 m. seal

for May 1/23.

14/12 July/1953

11/1/201

Pr. 22.03/73.

Q. 381/173.

154
Mr. W. L. Ince

1797
Proc. of the Madras Govt.
Read the following:-
From the Secy for Rights (Here enter No. 376/23 June/73)

Communicated
to the Revenue
Department in con-
tinuation of G.O. 29th
April 1873 N-1218.

Wm. 24/6/73

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To the Chf Secy for Irrigation
Chf Secy to the Govt
Rev Secy
Dated 15/7/73

C. N. 1873 Madras
Chf Secy for Irrigation
Chf Secy to the Govt
Rev Secy
Dated 23rd June 1873

Chf Secy for Irrigation
Chf Secy to the Govt
Rev Secy
Dated 23rd June 1873

Chf Secy for Irrigation
Chf Secy to the Govt
Rev Secy
Dated 23rd June 1873

Chf Secy for Irrigation
Chf Secy to the Govt
Rev Secy
Dated 23rd June 1873

D 30 June 73

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Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Chief Engr for
Irrigation

Date

Recd.

Encl. 2

12th July 1797.

Nos. 202 & 203

Mr. S. S. Jos Zanal.

Report, submitted by the
Chief Engr. for Irrig.,
from the Chief
Engr. of the M. S. S. Co.
in the Canal for May/73.
Comd. to the Revenue.

N^o 202-203
11/11/1873
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