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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1862	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
367-367A		
367 B-368		
Dated	22. 7.	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

M.R.O. 1-4 007-14 9-48.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd July 1873.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 367. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 22nd April 1873, No. 248.

WITH reference to your memorandum of the 5th instant, No. 214, I have the honour to inform you that the surveys of margins of the river in the Eastern and Western Deltas have been completed and can be sent in if required; but as permanent bench-marks are to be fixed along all these embankments, and the work has been ordered for execution, I think it more advisable to let them remain here.

2. I regret to inform you the whole of the surveys for the Central Delta have been destroyed by fire on the night of the 15th instant, and, in reporting this to Government, I have applied for sanction to do them over again.

3. As regards the proposals for confining the river between its banks, I am afraid for some years we can work on no systematic plan, but be ready to do what is necessary at any point where danger threatens. All short groynes perpendicular to the bank have been found utterly useless, in fact most mischievous in such a river as the Godavery; most of the appliances taken from Tanjore experience have failed as completely, and this I had all along expected, as Sir A. Cotton long ago had observed how totally different the circumstances of the two rivers were.

4. I may say generally that the banks, except at Kakarapurroo, are in a much more satisfactory state than they were at the time of your last visit here. I have very little doubt now about being able to hold our own against the river at Ramachendrapuram; at Sidhantum everything looks well, at Koolla the groynes acted well last year, and all about the anicut and head works we have got, I think, complete control over the river; of course a great deal yet remains to be done, and it can only be done in the course of four or five years more, after twelve or fifteen years of entire neglect; but I am thankful to say that, during the last three years, the measures adopted have been far more successful than were hoped for, and now promise, if properly carried out, to bring the river into complete control.

No. 367A. From the same Officer, dated Dowlaishweram, 2nd June 1873, No. 655.

WITH reference to paragraph 3 of your memorandum of the 30th April 1873, I have the honour to inform you that paragraph 2 of my letter alluded to by you, does literally mean that the whole of the surveys for the Central Delta river banks have been destroyed by fire. These surveys are now being vigorously prepared afresh, and every care will be taken to have the banks of the deltas connected so as to form a chart.

2. I beg to add that as it will be of no purpose to you to have the surveys of river margins in the Eastern and Western Deltas without those in the Central Delta, I have, therefore, detained them in my office pending the completion of the survey now in hand, on receipt of which the whole of the surveys will be sent in as complete as possible, accompanied by proposals for the rectification of the river bed.

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22nd July 1873.*

No. 388 B.

No. 367 B. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

In G. O. of the 7th February 1871, No. 377, Government sanctioned an establishment for the survey of the branches of the Godavery within the delta; with a view to the preparation of charts which should enable the requisite defensive works to be carried out in a systematic manner on estimates to be regularly sanctioned after review in this office. Four Surveyors were to be employed, one for each bank of the two principal branches, and the surveys of the banks were to be connected so as to form complete surveys of the rivers.

2. In G. O., 14th October 1872, Colonel Fischer having reported that he had deferred the survey of the east bank of the Central Delta, and that the west bank had been completed, the Government expressed their disappointment that the charts had not been finished, and sanction was given for an establishment to complete them.

3. On the 5th April* last, the District Engineer's attention was called to paragraph 4 of G. O., No. 1,786, of the 26th July 1872, requiring the submission with the least possible delay of the surveys of the rivers, together with proposals for the rectification of their beds, and to this, on the 22nd April, the District Engineer replied that the surveys of the rivers in the Eastern and Western Deltas had been completed, but that "as permanent bench-marks are to be fixed along all these embankments, and the work has been ordered for execution," he thought it more advisable to keep the surveys. He at the same time reported the destruction by fire of the whole of the surveys of the Central Delta.

4. Replying to this communication it was mentioned that it was necessary that the surveys of the delta rivers should be sent to this office, in order that I might see what changes had occurred between the time of the Revenue Survey and the recent surveys; what had been done since 1870 to improve their condition, with the results; and what was intended to be done in the coming and following years, so far as measures could be sketched out beforehand. It was pointed out also that it was not clear why the fixing of permanent bench-marks should be any reason for further delay in transmitting the surveys and report. It was further noticed that the west bank of the Central Delta had been surveyed many months before, and should have been plotted on to the surveys of the east bank of the Western Delta forthwith, and each section of the delta should have been furnished with a complete copy; that similarly, the moment the eastern bank of the Central Delta had been surveyed it should have been connected with the western bank of the Eastern Delta.

5. In the last letter from the District Engineer on this subject, now submitted, the entire destruction of the surveys of the river banks in the Central Delta is confirmed, and it is reported that they are being re-done. It will be observed that Colonel Fischer recognizes the necessity of connecting the several surveys, and that he is aware that without such connection no use can be made of them, but this fact should have been recognized and acted upon more than two years ago; it was quite sufficiently clearly indicated in the Government order

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22nd July 1873.*

sanctioning the surveys, and it ought to have been apparent to the District Engineer even had no such indication been made.

6. A very important subject, for the investigation of which all requisite assistance was given, has thus, it will be seen, received much less attention than it deserved, and, now after the lapse of a period which should far more than have sufficed, not only for the preparation of complete charts, but for deciding on the measures to be adopted to check erosion of the banks, to otherwise improve the rivers, and as a consequence to render the delta more secure, there is still nothing ready, and, through inattention to instructions, the loss of an integral portion of the surveys has taken place, for which loss the District Engineer is therefore directly responsible.

OOTACAMUND,
25th June 1873.

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

No. 368. ORDER THEREON, 22nd July 1873, No. 1,862.

IRRIGATION, No. 18.

THE Government have learnt with great regret that measures, which were considered essential to the security of the Godavery Delta, and in connection with which, so far back as February 1871, the employment of a survey establishment was sanctioned, have received so little attention at the hands of the District Engineer that no action towards the carrying out of the desired improvements has as yet been possible, while delay in completing certain necessary portions of the surveys, and the altogether unaccountable omission to connect the surveys of the two banks of each branch of the Godavery, and so to make up the charts which were to be the foundation of those improvements, have resulted in the loss by fire of the parts of the surveys in the Central Delta which had been completed, and which ought long since to have been in the hands of the Officers in charge of the eastern and western sections of the delta, thus occasioning still further delay and expense.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council is constrained to express very grave dissatisfaction with the way in which so important a matter, as this was clearly shown to be in the Proceedings of the 7th February 1871, has been dealt with. Charts of the greater portion at least of each branch of the Godavery, from the anicut downwards, ought to have been completed before the freshes of 1871, and doubtless upon the information thus made available a commencement of the radical improvements required might have been possible. The freshes, moreover, need not have interfered with the continuance of the survey work, except to the limited extent of postponing the taking of cross-sections of the rivers, and the laying down of important shoals and sand banks, and at latest all the work of this kind should have been completed before the freshes of 1872. His Excellency trusts that the Government will not again have to notice a want of prompt attention to orders issued for Colonel Fischer's guidance. Negligence and procrastination of this nature, often repeated, would be fatal to the due administration of the Department of Public Works in this Presidency. Colonel Fischer might with justice be called upon to bear the expense of the re-survey of the river banks

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In the Central Delta, and in refraining from requiring this, His Excellency is influenced by the hope that he will for the future recognize his responsibilities in a proper manner, and will endeavour to carry out the wishes of Government fully, and according to their obvious intention.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,

Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, District Engineer, Godavery.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

*No. 655-248 from the W & C.
Godavery govern
d/22 July/73 MEMORANDUM. to Mr. Hawkins
20 June/73 Respective - on memo: 4/*
REQUESTED for reference the under-mentioned papers

*All G. O. and letters from and to
the D. E. Godavery & submitted with
letter No 388 B of 25 June/73 from the
Ch. Engr for Irrig. - vide G.O. 1862-22 July/73.*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
ENGR. FOR IRRIGATION,
P. W. Department,
13 - 8 - 1873.)
To

D. M. Hawkins
Head Clerk.
The Registrar of the *W & C.*

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

In G.O. of the 7th February 1871 N^o 377 Government sanctioned an establishment for the Survey of the branches of the Godavari within the Delta, with a view to the preparation of charts which should enable the requisite defensive works to be carried out in a systematic manner on estimates to be regularly sanctioned after review in this office. Four surveyors were to be employed, one for each bank of the two principal branches, and the surveys of the banks were to be connected, so as to form complete surveys of the rivers.

2. In G.O. 14 October 1872 Colonel Fischer having reported that he had deferred the survey of the East bank of the Central Delta, & that the West bank had been completed, the Government expressed their disappointment that the charts had not been finished, and sanction was given for an

an establishment to complete them

3. On the 5th April last the Dist. ^{N^o 214} District Engineer's attention was called to para 4 of L.O. N^o 1786 of the 26th July 1872, requiring the submission with the least possible delay of the surveys of the rivers, together with proposals for the rectification of their beds, and to this, on the 22nd April, the District En- ^{N^o 248} gineer replied that the surveys of the rivers in the Eastern & Western Deltas had been completed, but that "as permanent bench marks are to be fixed along all these embankments and the work has been ordered for execution" he thought it more advisable to keep the surveys. He at the same time reported the destruction by fire of the whole of the surveys of the Central Delta.

4. Replying to this communication it was mentioned that it was

was necessary that the ^{9th} survey of the Delta rivers should be sent to this office, in order that I might see what changes had occurred between the time of the Revenue survey and the recent surveys, what had been done since 1870 to improve their condition with the results, and what was intended to be done in the coming & following years, so far as measures could be sketched out before hand. It was pointed out also that it was not clear why the fixing of permanent bench marks should be any reason for further delay in transmitting the surveys & report. It was further noticed that the West bank of the Central Delta had been surveyed many months before, and should have been plotted on to the surveys of the East bank of the Western Delta forthwith, and each section of

of the Delta should have been furnished with a complete copy: that similarly the moment the Eastern bank of the Central Del. had been surveyed, it should have been connected with the Western bank of the Eastern Delta.

5. In the last letter from the District Engineer on this subject, now submitted, the entire destruction of the surveys of the river banks in the Central Delta is confirmed, and it is reported that they are being redone. It will be observed that Colonel Fischer recognizes the necessity of connecting the several surveys, and that he is aware that without such connection no use can be made of them, but this fact should have been recognized and acted upon more than 2 years ago - it was quite sufficiently clearly indicated in the

the G.O. sanctioning the surveys, and it ought to have been apparent to the District Engineer even had no such indications been made.

6. A very important subject, for the investigation of which all requisite assistance was given has thus, it will be seen, received much less attention than it deserved, and, now after the lapse of a period which it should far more than have sufficed, not only for the preparation of complete charts, but for deciding on the measures to be adopted to check erosion of the banks, to otherwise improve the rivers, and as a consequence to render the Delta more secure, there is still nothing ready, and, through

inattention to instructions, the
loss of an integral portion of
the survey has taken place,
for which loss the District En-
gineer is therefore directly re-
sponsible.

W. C. M. and J. W. M. St. Col. R.E.
25 June 1873.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To
The Secretary to Govt. P.H.D.

P. W. 1873 Department.
Office of the Secretary -

From No 3976.

The Chief Engineer for
Irrigation

To The Secretary of the
P. W. D.

No 388-B.

Dated 25 June 1873.

Recd 15 July 1873.

Encl 2.

Note in connection
with the survey of the
branches of the Goda-
vary within the Delta.

No 1862-22 July 73.

No 1862 P. W. D.

Pro of the undersigned.

Read the following:

From the Ch. Eng for Irrigation (P. W. D. No 388 B of 25 June 73)

The Government
have learnt with
regret that measures,
which were considered
essential to the se-
curity of the Goda-
vary Delta, and in
connection with which,
so far back as
February 1871, the

This is a very
desirable
case: and
the measure is sufficiently
well known
was sanctioned, have
received

received so little at-
tention at the hands
of the District En-
gineers that no ac-
tion towards the car-
rying out of the
desired improvements
has as yet been
possible, while de-
lay in completing
certain necessary
portions of the sur-
veys, and the al-
together unaccount-
able omission to
connect the surveys
of the two banks
of each branch of
the Godavary, and
so

so to make up
the charts which
were to be the foun-
dation of those im-
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sulted in the loss
by fire of the parts
of the surveys in
the central Delta
which had been
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Eastern & Western
sections of the
Delta, thus occasioning
still

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& expense.

2. His Excellency
the Governor in Council is constrained
to express marked
dissatisfaction with
the way in which
so important a
matter, as this
was clearly shown
to be in the Pro-
ceedings of the
7th February 1874,
has been dealt
with. Charts of the
greater portion at
least of each branch
of the Godavary, from
the

1874 11
the ancient ~~downward~~
might to have been
completed before the
fishes of 1871, and
doubtless upon the
information thus
made available
a commencement
of the radical im-
provements required
might have been pos-
sible. The fishes
however need not
have interfered with
the continuance of
the survey work, ex-
cept to the limited
extent of postponing
the taking of cross
sections of the rivers,
and the laying down
of important shoals
and

and sand banks, &
 at latest all the
 work of this kind
 should have been com-
 pleted before the
 freshes of 1872. His
 Excellency trusts that
 this will be the last
 time that the Govt
 will have to notice
 a want of prompt
 attention to orders
 issued for Colonel
 Fisher's guidance.
 His officers might
 with notice be called
 upon to bear the ex-
 pense of the recovery
 of the river banks
 in the Central Del-
 ta, and in requiring
 from requiring this
 His

Ch. Fisher

Excellency is
 influenced by the
 hope that the Govt
 Engineers will for
 the future recog-
 nize his responsi-
 bilities in a proper
 manner, and will
 endeavour to carry
 out the wishes of
 Govt fully, and ac-
 cording to their
 chosen intention.

May 28/73

G.M.W.

To the Ch. Secy. for Ind. & Ag.
 Govt. Secy. for Ind. & Ag.
 Dated 18/73

C/23976

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Chief Engineer

Dated

Recd.

Incl. 2

G. O. 22 Aug 1862.

Received

for the sum of Rs. 100/-

for the sum of Rs. 100/-
by the Chief Engineer
in connection with
the survey of the delta.