

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2502	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
189-190.		
Dated	13. 10.	195 1873

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th October 1873.*

Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Pollachy, 23rd August 1873, No. 137-A :—
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, 7th August 1873, No. 1,482.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of G. O. of the 2nd July 1873, No. 1,862, and beg to express my regret and surprise the Government should consider "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, etc.;" but I trust the following explanations will show the Government that there has been no such culpable remissness on my part as they have been led to suppose, premising that if there had been delay in completing certain necessary portions of the survey these could not have been destroyed by fire, also as the surveys for the Eastern and Western Deltas had been completed as well as those for the Central Delta as admitted in the same paragraph of the above Government Order and connected in many places with the opposite banks before they were destroyed by fire, it is difficult to apprehend on what grounds the complaint of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is based.

2. In the first place I would urge that "all requisite assistance" has not been afforded me; the mere fact of sanctioning so many rupees for a survey establishment will not supply competent surveyors in India, and neither the Chief Engineer for Irrigation nor the Principal of the Civil Engineering College have been able to give me any aid in obtaining fit men; on the contrary the Government have refused to allow me to have a permanent establishment of this kind and training men for the purpose on the recommendation of the former; and when the establishment employed under Major Beckley, R.E., for the Rooshkoolia River Project was about to be discharged, I was not permitted to secure the services of these trained men, and I have been obliged to get this work, on which so much stress is laid and to which so much importance is attached, done by picking up men as well as I could at the very time men trained in this Presidency have been obliged to seek *permanent* employment in Bengal, where Colonel Haig took good care these kind of men should be well provided for.

3. Again, in his notes printed with G. O. of the 26th July 1872, No. 1,786, the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation says, in paragraphs 28 and 29, "steps have been taken to preserve these banks from further encroachment, and these have been to a great extent effective. Nothing but the greatest neglect for a considerable period could have brought the river into the condition in which it now is. The present Superintending Engineer and Executive Officers are, however, keenly alive to the urgency of the case, and the works already carried out by them have proved to be beneficial, so much so that

There is now, I trust, no occasion whatever to make this diversion.

J. F. F.

it seems unnecessary at present to divert the Western Bank Channel of

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the Central Delta near Ramachendrapooram as the Superintending Engineer had proposed." Now, as the Government Order in which this note occurs is referred to in paragraph 3 of the Chief Engineer's note printed in the Government Order under reply, it does appear strange that the conclusion should have been arrived at "that no action towards the carrying out of the desired improvements has as yet been possible, and that the matter had received so little attention at my hands." After writing all particulars about the river to Sir Arthur Cotton, I have had the gratification of receiving a very different testimony from that Officer, and he is generally supposed to have some practical knowledge and experience in such matters.

4. Again, it has been assumed that I have attached some very great importance to these surveys, I respectfully beg to observe that this idea is incorrect; I have endeavoured with the wholly insufficient and inadequate assistance given to me to get the surveys done because ordered by Government and as well as I was able; but beyond having these surveys at hand to note each year's operations for the several deltas separately, I do not consider them of any value or importance, and utterly useless as regards regulating the river. I trust I am not presumptuous enough to imagine that the little work we can do for the protection of any of the banks at threatened points will have any effect in controlling the general flow of a river three-quarters of a mile wide and 30 feet deep, and I beg to ignore altogether all such pretensions, and am only thankful to find such measures as I had adopted since my return here have been so far useful and beneficial.

5. In all places, as far as I am able to judge at present, the river banks are in a satisfactory state, except near the head of the Bank Canal in the Eastern Delta where a large breach occurred last year and several others threatened to happen; a project for improving this was submitted with the scheme for the Eastern Delta in 1870 and disallowed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. Major Hasted, then, took up the project for revision, but he soon found he had to allow for as much water for irrigation as I had originally intended to supply, but he never finished the estimates and the whole question was again taken up by Major Oakes when Acting Chief Engineer, and is detailed in paragraphs 32-36 of his note printed with G. O. of the 26th July 1872, No. 1,786; the project, as therein approved of by Government, after having been submitted to the Inspector-General of Irrigation on his late tour, was sent in on the 10th March last, but up to this date no orders have been passed thereon, and one of the most dangerous places in the whole river remains as it was notwithstanding that three years ago detailed estimates were submitted for its rectification. This project is estimated to cost Rupees 2,30,100 and to irrigate some 40,000 acres of new lands; the water-rate for this would be Rupees 1,60,000 or 70 per cent. per annum on the outlay, and in a statement sent up with the report on the scheme I had shown that without any proper works having yet been carried out one-third of the actual increase which has already taken place in the Eastern Delta belonged to this Bank Canal, yet it is allowed to remain with its head in the same dangerous state, and its works as incomplete as ever, and I am taxed with indifference and laxity in the management of the delta and its works, because a fire had destroyed some surveys, and the others were supposed not to have been done as ordered, whilst no consideration is given to the frequent changes of officers here or the representations of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

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that wholly insufficient establishments allowed for such a delta to the fact that competent surveyors cannot be found at any moment to execute surveys of a very difficult nature, and which after all are likely to be of little or no use for any practical purposes; had the river not been allowed to get into the miserable neglected state I found it in it could have been very soon and easily dealt with, but now nothing can be done except to remedy, as fast as possible, the defects which have occurred and to check others as fast as these appear; there is no time to carry out more experiments, in the hope something may come of these I have already reported that many of the attempts made to establish works here similar to those in Tanjore had resulted in utter and complete failure as I had all along expected, and a whole season's work was swept away by the river in one night, and for this loss I beg to deprecate being held responsible, or for the delay in rectifying the defects.

6. Even if the Delta proper had been surveyed in the most complete manner, the most dangerous part of the river could not have been included in it, and has never once been referred to by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. The part I allude to is that between Vejaishweram and Polaram where if a breach occurred the whole of the works in the Western Delta would be ruined, and if nothing but the greatest neglect could have brought the river below the anicut to its present state, I do not know what can be said about the bank hereabouts; but as measures had been adopted by me to remedy this evil without bringing the names of others before the Government for censure, I think I might have been spared the very general and sweeping condemnation passed on me in total disregard of the reports made to the Government by officers who had seen these works.

7. In conclusion, I have only to observe that in order that Major Hasted should be able to prepare the surveys called for by the Government for passing the flood waters of the Toomalair across the Ellore Canal, I had to give him the services of the draughtsman belonging to the Ellore Range to get the field-work done as he could not find a surveyor; this man had been trained here for the last three years, and this may convince the Government of the difficulty of getting competent surveyors, and that all requisite assistance has not been afforded me beyond the mere supply of funds; I request therefore you will be good enough to submit this letter for their further consideration.

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government.

2. Colonel Fischer's letter does not appear to need much in the way of comment from me. Some of the remarks contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of that letter indicate that the District Engineer attached but little importance to the surveys or charts of the rivers, and this probably is the real reason why they were not pushed forward as they ought to have been.

3. Colonel Fischer alludes to the success of measures which he has taken to prevent erosion, but it must be noticed that in February 1871 it was ordered that such measures, when going beyond repairs or trifling works, were to be carried out in a systematic manner on estimates which were to be regularly sanctioned after review in this office, and his proceedings, though successful, would therefore appear to be in direct contravention of the orders he had received.

4. Much of the District Engineer's letter has nothing to do with the subject of the order with reference to which it has been written, and the state of the right

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bank of the river. Above the anicut, which is alluded to in paragraph 5, has been reported more precisely, and the report should be accompanied by the requisite surveys. The subject has recently been brought before Government by the Revenue Board in connection with the measures to be adopted to put a stop to injurious Nanul planting by Zemindars; but otherwise, so far as I am aware, no report has been submitted.

5. The District Engineer says (paragraph 5) that he has been taxed with indifference and idleness in the management of the delta and its works, etc. It is a pity that an assertion of this kind, for which there is no foundation, should have been made. The Government expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which Colonel Fischer had dealt with an important matter—the preparation of charts of the rivers—regarding which he had received very definite instructions, and the pertinent part of his reply is that he does not consider these charts of much value or importance. His opinions, so long as they do not influence his conduct, are immaterial; but when these opinions, though entirely opposed to the views of Government, are so unnecessarily and freely advanced in a letter intended to show that he has done all that could be done to carry out the wishes of Government, it is difficult to avoid the inference that the work, for the performance of which funds were provided in 1871, was postponed in favour of other matters which the District Engineer himself considered to be of greater importance.

6. The revised estimates for the Bank Canal, Eastern Delta, to which the District Engineer refers in paragraph 5 as having been submitted in March last for sanction, I have not been able from press of other work to dispose of. If, however, the danger referred to is from the river, there appears to be no need to wait for the sanction of those estimates before taking such action as may be necessary; and what it may be proposed to do should be explained by means of the survey which has been completed. Demi-officially Colonel Fischer has urged the early sanction of the Bank Canal estimates, as he wished to go on with the work, but no allusion was made to dangers which it would be desirable to obviate as soon as practicable, and I accordingly said that, as he had already very large sanctions for expenditure in the delta, while the Bank Canal estimates would be taken up as soon as possible, a little delay could not be of much moment.

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

No. 190. ORDER THEREON, 13th October 1873, No. 2,502.

IRRIGATION, No. 14.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. F. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies.

In this letter
Colonel Fischer submits
his explanation of the
~~services~~ shortcomings
on his part, noticed
in G.O. dated 22nd July
1873 No. 1862.

Colonel Fischer states
that the surveys &c. which
were ordered by G.O.
dated 7th February 1871—
to be done—were delayed by
great delays and obstacles
caused by the exceeding
difficulty, which he
explains, in procuring
competent surveyors
in an advanced condition
when a portion of the
materials were lost
by

by fire - that he
has lost no time in
endeavouring to repair
the harm so done and
that he expects shortly
to submit the required
Quies Charts in a
complete form.

I think that the
Government must accept
this explanation - together
with Colonel Fischer's
assurance that he
has endeavoured so far
as any adverse circum-
stances allowed him,
to carry out the instructions
he has received, not-
withstanding his personal
views as to the practical
utility of these Charts
- which he has expressed
with an undue confidence
that

717
that the Government
do not share.

And I would add
that the Government is
confidently relying on Colonel
Fischer's loyal fulfilment
of this assurance and
hearty execution of all
instructions conveyed
thence as the result of the
deliberations of Government.

Colonel Fischer has
mistaken the scope for
the observations of Govern-
ment in the G. O. under
reply; the animadversion
was directed to a specific
shortcoming and was not
intended to impugn his
general management
of the Delta & its work.
And I would add that
the Government are glad
to have Colonel Fischer's
assurance that the measure
adopted by him from

And

7/9

WAL

I do suggest that a G.O. in the
 spirit of the above be sent - The
 G.O. copy may have been dis-
 covered - But the Draft cannot
 think is fair after the po-
 sition of the G.O.

The matter of running
between the S. & the leads
the dog has determined not
to allow to enter the
Paw of the - and the dog
crossing the lead.

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I have again received
this as before. I will
now attempt it -
Now I am convinced
my little knowledge
of the true history
of this State. I will
certainly have a
whole lot to write
to-day. Discharge the
responsibility in his
distinctive feeling
and the object of
the instructions of
the Congress of the
United States of the
American, will result
in a volume from
the District on the
next occasion of
complaint.

[Handwritten signature]

The Governor in Council sees no reason to modify the order of the 22nd July last, 1862. Much of the letter from the District Engineer at Godavery above recorded is irrelevant to the subject of that order, while the portions which are relevant so far from satisfying the Government that Colonel Fischer did all that was possible to carry out the orders of the 7 February 1871, with

regard to the survey
of the rivers in the
Delta, rather seem
to indicate that
he allowed his own
differing views of
the necessity for those
surveys to influence
him. However this
may be it will be
improper to remark
here that the Dis-
trict Engineer should,
for the future, abstain
from expressing opinions
directly opposed to the
views of the Government,
with reference to matters,
such as this, in which
there could be no pos-
sible necessity for such
an expression.

Mr. J. D. Smith (Secy.)

17-3-73

Ordered to be
recorded - by me

that has occurred - Head
of the Godavari
the many
the many

Important views of
The Dist Engr Godavari
- Chief Engr for
Govt - as a whole - This is
in the case of the

by 26/8/73
L.M.M.
In must take care
to express all differences
in the most correct
manner
17/9

NO - Ends: healthy
No 1482
District Engineer's Office Godavari
Dowlaswarani 7 Aug 73

From,
Lieutenant Col. J. P. Fischer R.E.
District Engineer Godavari
Lieutenant Col. L. Mullins R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
& Joint Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

Madras

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receipt of G. O. of the 22nd July 1873 No 1862
and beg to express my regret and to propose
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1315
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15th 2
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had received so little attention at my hands: after writing all particulars about the river to Sir Arthur Cotton, I have had the gratification of receiving a very different testimony from that Officer and he is generally supposed to have some practical knowledge and experience in such matters.

Again it has been assumed that I have attached some very great importance to these surveys, I respectfully beg to observe that this idea is incorrect; I have endeavoured with the wholly insufficient and inadequate assistance given to me to get the surveys done because ordered by Government and as well as I was able; but beyond having these surveys at hand to note each year's operations for the several Deltas

171
Deltas separately, I do not consider them of any value or importance and utterly useless as regards regulating the river. I trust I am not presumptuous enough to imagine that the little works we can do for the protection of any of the banks at threatened points will have any effect in controlling the general flow of a river $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile wide and 30 feet deep and I beg to ignore altogether all such pretensions, and am ever thankful to find such measures as I had adopted since my return here, have been so far useful and beneficial.

5. In all places as far as I am able to judge at present, the river banks are in a satisfactory state except near the head of the Bank Canal in the Eastern Delta where a large breach occurred last year and several others

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printed with G.O. of the 26th July 1872
No. 1786 the project as therein approved
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on the 10th March last but up to this
date

The D.E. report
on the estimate
for the irrigation
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was not yet
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Government
for approval
of the Canal

1914
date no orders have been passed thereon
and one of the most dangerous places
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It is true
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He does not say
so or admit any
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sideration.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt

Wm. L. Litchman Junr

District Engineer Goddard

#537A. 27770

Submitted for the consideration of Government.

2. Colonel Fischer's letter does not appear to need much in the way of comment from me. Some of the remarks contained in paras 4 & 5 of that letter indicate that the District Engineer attached but little importance to the surveys or charts of the rivers, and this probably is the real reason why they were not pushed forward as they ought to have been.

3. Colonel Fischer alludes to the success of measures which he has taken to prevent erosion but it must be noticed that in February 1871 it was ordered that such measures, when going beyond repairs or trifling works, were to be carried out in a systematic manner on estimates which were to be regularly submitted.

1873-74
The District Engineer
No 1301

To the Chief Engineer
for Navigation and
Joint River Commission
B.M.S.
Karnal

Colony
No 1402
August 1873

Submitted for the consideration of Government regarding the delay in completing the surveys No. 4 of the River
Case No. 4877/73
P.M. 4877/73
No. 2502-18 District
No 5

Office Secretary, Government
with the subject of
the above case not sent.

after review in this office, and his proceedings, though successful, would therefore appear to be in direct contravention of the orders he had received.

4. Much of the District Engineer's letter has nothing to do with the subject of the order with reference to which it has been written, and the state of the right bank of the river above the ancient, which is alluded to in paragraph 6, should be reported on more precisely, and the report should be accompanied by the requisite survey. The subject has recently been brought before Govt by the Revenue Board in connection with the measures to be adopted to put a stop to injurious navel planting by Zemindars, but otherwise, so far as I am aware, no report has been submitted.

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wishes of Government, it is dif-
ficult to avoid the inference that
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which funds were provided in 18
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The last four
 had been
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Camp Poollachy, Vundulim, St. John's
23rd August 1875. Chief Engr for Irrigation

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

4817



Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Recd.

Encl. /

G. O. 13th Act. 1873. 2802.

Nos. 189490

Turney's. Note by the

Ch. Secy for Dist.

in letter from the S. Secy.

reg. padanery, S. Secy.

Nothing explanation

regarding the delay in

the letter by Turney's & padanery S. Secy &

the debts, recorded.