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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

**Government of Madras**

*Public works* DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2592

B.P. No.

384.385

Press

Mis.

Dated 23.10.1873 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
23rd October 1873.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 384. H. T. W. FRASER, Esq., C.E., District Engineer, Kurnool, to  
Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation,  
dated Camp at Nundial, 7th August 1873, No. 45.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that the re-construction of  
Calingulah No. 3 of Nundial Tank has  
been undertaken on emergency.

2. This is one of the works included in the plan and estimates sent up by  
Colonel Moberly, when Superintending Engineer, in July 1871, and returned to me  
by you with your letter No. 190, dated 27th March 1873. Mr. Vardon, the Range  
Officer, revised the design, and added considerably to its strength. The measure-  
ments for the original estimate were made in September 1870, but between that  
date and this the work has become quite shattered. The apron was cracked in all  
directions, and portions of the body wall were washed away; and there can be no  
doubt but that the whole work would have been demolished by the floods of the  
current year.

3. According to the revised plan the estimate is 5,070 Rupees, and the  
expenditure to the end of last month is 2,623 Rupees. The balance will be required  
this month, except about 120 Rupees for raising the calingulah 1.75 feet, which will  
not be done this year, nor until the tank bund is put into good order.

4. Copies of the plan and estimate are forwarded, and I trust that you will  
be good enough to sanction and allot the amount. The design is not exactly  
what I would myself prefer; but if it err at all it is on the side of possessing a  
greater mass of masonry than is absolutely necessary.

P. S.—Revised plans, including a contoured map of the tank, are in hands, and  
will, with estimate, etc., be submitted in, I hope, six weeks.

No. 672.

No. 384A. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

In July 1871, the Superintending Engineer of the late 3rd Division transmit-  
ted an estimate, amounting to Rupees 18,290, for the repair of Nundial Tank in  
the Kurnool District. It had been prepared with reference to G. O. of the 5th  
February 1868, No. 400, in which it was decided that this tank should not be  
transferred to the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company. It is not clear why this  
estimate was not disposed of at the time of its receipt; however, in March last it was  
examined and it was deemed advisable to ascertain what revision would be needed  
after the lapse of so considerable a time, and the estimate was accordingly returned  
to the present District Engineer, with  
a request that it might be revised where  
necessary; and at the same time observations were made on certain of the principal

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
23rd October 1873.*

requirements of the tank. Mr. Fraser was also authorized to prepare materials for extending No. 3, the principal surplus escape.

No. 38, dated 11th April 1873.

The District Engineer's reply showed that a complete revision of the estimate was requisite.

2. In a letter dated 7th August last, No. 455, Mr. Fraser reported that the re-construction of the No. 3 waste weir had been undertaken on emergency; that the estimate amounted to Rupees 5,070; and that up to the end of July Rs. 2,633 had been expended. The District Engineer added that the design is not exactly what he himself would prefer.

3. The District Engineer was informed that the action taken by him with regard to this work could not be approved, as the design and estimate ought to have been submitted for sanction long before. The estimate, which amounts to Rupees 4,660, was received on the 15th instant, and the plan a few days afterwards.

4. The design does not show the intended length of the crest of the weir, and there is no detailed estimate, but as both the wings are coloured to represent old work, and as their design is ancient, it would seem that the work is being rebuilt of the same length as before, whereas its original length was 116 feet and to this 240 feet were to be added.

5. It appears to me that Mr. Fraser should himself have furnished the design for the work, or have required the Range Officer to submit a rough sketch in accordance with the instructions given. A month might well have sufficed after Mr. Fraser's visit to the tank at the early part of the year to prepare a plan and estimate, and the work itself ought not to have been commenced in anticipation of sanction, the preparation of materials, which was authorized, being alone necessary to ensure the completion of the work in good time. Instead of the proper course being taken, the waste weir would seem to have been gone on with even before the District Engineer himself had seen the design, and of the latter it must be noticed that it involves a great waste of money, and that an efficient and sufficiently strong escape, with probably about half the quantity of masonry, might have been designed. The wing walls will need to be raised several feet.

6. It will be noticed that Mr. Fraser anticipated that all the work to be done at present would be completed by the end of August, and it is now therefore too late to make any alterations; but before the estimate can be submitted to Government for sanction, it appears to be requisite that the District Engineer should give full explanation of the circumstances which have led to the construction of the weir on a design which was not previously sent to him for approval, to great delay in preparing a design and estimate, and to the commencement of the work not only before it had been sanctioned, but long before the estimate was sent forward for sanction. It should further be reported whether the weir has been built with the length of crest intended, viz., 356 feet, or of that of old escape, 116 feet.

FORT ST. GEORGE,  
22nd September 1873.

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
23rd October 1873.*

No. 385. ORDER THEREON, 23rd October 1873, No. 2,592.

**IRRIGATION, Nundial.**

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that as the Chief Engineer for Irrigation has stated that

all the work proposed to have been done to the calingul of the Nundial Tank has been already carried out, and that it is too late to make any alterations, it will suffice if that officer, of his own motion, and without the intervention of a Government order, procure from the District Engineer of Kurnool all explanations necessary to enable the Government to pass orders of his own and the Range Officer's proceedings with reference to this work. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation is competent, and bound, to exercise authority in these matters without reference to Government; and it is not a satisfactory feature in the present case that not only the necessity of repairs to the Nundial Tank, brought forcibly to the notice of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in July 1871 by the submission of an estimate of Rupees 18,290, should have escaped attention for twenty months, but that instructions sent by him regarding them in March last should have been allowed to remain apparently unheeded for nearly four months, without inquiry being made as to what action was being taken on them.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

MEMORANDUM.

REQUESTED for reference the under-mentioned papers

Original <sup>+</sup>Enclosures sent with the  
Chief Engr's Note No. 672 of 22 Sept/73  
referred to in 86 No. 2592 of No.  
25 Octob/73.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF  
ENGR. FOR IRRIGATION,  
P. W. Department,  
11-5-1874

*D. W. Huntington*

Head Clerk.

To

The Registrar of the *P. W. Dept.*

+ 4 Encls. *Original* - 11-5-74



No. 672.  
Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Enclosures - 2.

No. 190 dated 27<sup>th</sup>  
March 1873.

No. 38 dated 11<sup>th</sup>  
April 1873.

In July 1871 the Superintending Engineer of the late 3<sup>d</sup> Division transmitted an estimate amounting to Rs. 18,290 for the repair of Kundial Tank in the Kurnool District. It had been prepared with reference to G. O. of the 5<sup>th</sup> February 1868, No. 400, in which it was decided that this Tank should not be transferred to the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company. It is not clear why this estimate was not disposed of at the time of its receipt: however in March last it was examined and it was deemed advisable to ascertain what revision would be needed after the lapse of so considerable a time, and the estimate was accordingly returned to the present District Engineer with a request that it might be revised where necessary and at the same time observations were made on certain of the principal requirements of the tank. Mr. Fraser was also authorized to prepare materials for extending the principal surplus escape.

The District Engineer's reply showed that a complete revision of the estimate was

was requisite.

2. In a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> August last No. 455 Mr. Fraser reported that the reconstruction of the waste weir had been undertaken on emergency; that the estimate amounted to Rupees 5070, and that up to the end of July Rupees 2633 had been expended. The District Engineer added that the design is not exactly what he himself would prefer.

3. The District Engineer was informed that the action taken by him with regard to this work could not be approved, as the design and estimate ought to have been submitted for sanction long before. The estimate, which amounts to Rupees 4660, was received on the 15<sup>th</sup> Instant and the plan a few days afterwards.

4. The design does not show the intended length of the crest of the weir, and there is no detailed estimate but as both the wings are coloured to represent old work, and as their design is ancient, it would seem that the work is being rebuilt

It is about 116 feet long  
for there are 64 c. yds.  
of dry stone apron 4 feet  
deep by 2 feet wide  
ie 128 yds for apron  
2 wings feet  
ie apron is 128 feet long  
distance  $(53 + 63) \div 2 = 128$   
of wing walls  
Length of Crest 116 ft  
A. A.

rebuilt of the same length as before, whereas its original length was 116 feet and to this 249 feet were to be added.

5. It appears to me that Mr. Fraser should himself have furnished the design for the work, or have required the Range Officer to submit a rough sketch in accordance with the instructions given. A month might well have sufficed after Mr. Fraser's visit to the Tank at the early part of the year to prepare a plan and estimate, and the work itself ought not to have been commenced in anticipation of sanction, the preparation of materials, which was authorized, being alone necessary to ensure the completion of the work in good time. Instead of the proper course being taken, the waste weir would seem to have been gone on with even before the District Engineer himself had seen the design, and of the latter it must be noticed that it involves a great waste of money, and that an efficient and sufficiently strong escape, with

with probably about half the quantity of  
masonry, might have been designed. The wing  
walls will need to be raised several feet.  
It will be noticed that Mr. Fraser  
anticipated all the work to be done  
at present would be completed by the end  
of August, and it is now therefore too late  
to make any alterations, but before the  
estimate can be submitted to Govern-  
ment for sanction, it appears to be  
 requisite that the District Engineer should  
give full explanation of the circumstances  
which have led to the construction of the  
weir on a design which was not pre-  
viously sent to him for approval, to  
great delay in preparing a design and  
estimate, and to the commencement  
of the work not only before it had been  
sanctioned, but long before the estimate  
was sent forward for sanction. It should  
further be reported whether the weir has  
been built with the length of crest  
intended viz 356 feet, or of that  
of the old escape, 116 feet.

Fort St. George  
22<sup>d</sup> September  
1873

Whitburn St. Colonel R. C.  
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To  
The Secretary to Government  
P. M. I.

P.O.D.

Pro. of the Madras Govt  
Recd. the following  
From the Ch. Engr for Tris (H.E. No 672 of 22 Sep/73

The Governor in  
Council has learnt with  
regret from the papers sub-  
mitted by the Chief En-  
ginner for Irrigation, that  
an escape weir to the  
Mundial Tank has been  
under construction for some  
time past in anticipation  
of the sanction of the Estimate,  
and that the design on  
which the work has been  
carried out not only has  
never

Sanctioned by the Govt.  
of Madras

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never received the sanction  
of competent authority, but  
was not even approved by  
the District Engineer of  
Thunod. There should  
have been no difficulty in  
submitting the plan and  
estimate months ago, and  
obtaining proper sanction  
for the work; but, even  
if there had been un-  
avoidable delay in this  
respect, it is difficult to  
understand what reason  
there could have been for  
postponing the transmis-  
sion of the design and  
estimate for a long time  
after the actual commencement

of the work. His Excellency  
will await Mr Fraser's  
explanations, and the  
doubt as to the length  
of crest given to the  
new escape should be  
cleared up.

My. 23/9/73

Dr. Eng. Thunod  
Chief Eng. for Eng.

Mundial Tank No.  
1994a.

No 2592 P.M.D. 1907

Pro: of the Madras Government

Read the following

From  
The Chief Engineer  
for Irrigation (H. E. No. 672 of 25 Sept 1907)

His Excellency the  
Governor in Council  
is of opinion that as  
the Chief Engineer for  
Irrigation has stated  
that all the work pro-  
posed have been done  
to the satisfaction of the  
Mundial Tank has  
been already carried  
out, and that it is too  
late to make any altera-  
tions, it will suffice  
if that officer, of his  
own motion, and

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Mundial Tank No.  
1994a.

without the intervention  
of a Government.  
Order, procure from  
the District Engineer  
of Phoenix all ex-  
planations necessary  
to enable the Govt to  
pass orders in his  
own and the Range  
officer's proceedings  
with reference to this  
work. The Chief Engineer  
for Irrigation is com-  
petent, and bound, to  
exercise authority in  
these matters without  
reference to Government,  
and it is not a satis-  
factory feature in the  
present case that not-  
only the necessity of  
referring to the judicial

Sank, brought forcibly  
to the notice of the Chief  
Engineer for Irrigation  
in July 1871 by the sub-  
-mission of an Es-  
-timate of Rs 18,290,  
should have escaped  
attention for 20 months  
but that instructions  
sent by him regarding  
them in March last,  
should have been al-  
-lowed to remain  
apparently unheeded  
for nearly four months  
without inquiry being  
made as to what action  
was being taken on  
them.

30  
3  
to the District Engineer -  
Ch Engineer -  
J.C. since 31/10/73

G.W.W.

No. 5300

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

*The Leasing Cys. for  
Irrigation*

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 4

G. O. 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 1873, No. 2592.

Nos. 382, 385

Mundial Tank, Kurnool

5th - Paying orders on  
papers with reference to  
the work carried out to  
the zaling ulah of the  
Tank.