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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 236,237	1116	Press Mis.
Dated	11.2.	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th February 1873.*

No. 236. Read the following letter from the Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Railway,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, (Railway,) dated Fort William, 20th January 1873, No. 103 S. R.:-

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 29, dated 6th January 1873, forwarding correspondence relative to the erection of rolling stock and the receipt and despatch of stores for the projected State Railway from Mysore to Bangalore.

2. In reply I am to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 4-R., dated 11th January 1872, stating that as there are not sufficient funds available for both Railway and Irrigation works in Mysore, he is of opinion that the latter should have the preference. The Government of India have therefore decided that the Railway project shall be held in abeyance until such time as funds are available.

Despatch from the Secretary of State, (Railway,) to the Government of India, dated India Office, London, 11th January 1872, No. 4.

SINCE receipt of your Excellency's despatch, No. 95 of 22nd September last, I have carefully considered in Council the scheme for railway extension in Mysore which is there brought forward.

2. From the particulars furnished by you, it appears that the finances of Mysore are in a sound condition, insomuch that in the course of the twelve years which have still to elapse before the Rajah attains his majority, and during which the State will remain under British administration, a sum of 600,000*l.*, consisting in about equal moieties of surplus revenue actually in hand, and of future annual savings, is expected to be available for extraordinary public works of all kinds, and of this total amount your Excellency desires to apply five sixths, or 500,000*l.*, to the construction of a railway from the town of Bangalore to that of Mysore.

3. Of the right, nay, of the duty, of the British Government to expend the surplus revenues of Mysore in whatever manner it may deem best for the benefit of the country, I am perfectly satisfied, and I admit that advantage would accrue from devoting a portion of the money, likely to be for some years to come available, to railway construction. But useful as the suggested railway could not fail to prove, there are grounds for believing that there are other public improvements which are yet more needed, but which must be long delayed if the construction of any considerable extent of railway be immediately undertaken. I have been particularly impressed by the perusal of your despatch in the Public Works Department, No. 122, of 2nd October last, and its enclosures. I there find it confidently stated by the highest local authorities that, in order to put the present irrigation system of Mysore into a stable condition, by merely "restoring" existing tanks without apparently constructing any new ones, not less than 480,000*l.* must be spent upon it during the next twelve years; that not only, if this be done, may a considerable increase of annual revenue be fairly expected, but that, so long as it is neglected, there must needs be a continuance of the destructive action which at present occurs year after year, breaching tank after tank in their several chains, and thereby causing most disastrous loss both to the ryots and to the State.

4. It thus appears that the effective prosecution of either the railway or the irrigation works urgently required in Mysore would absorb nearly the entire amount contemplated as available for both. The practical question would, therefore, seem to be which of these great local requirements

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th February 1873.*

shall take precedence of the other. My own opinion, based upon the data with which your Excellency's communications have supplied me, is in favour of irrigation works, and after fully considering the nature and wants of the country and the comparative claims to preference of the two very desirable kinds of works,—railways and irrigation,—I have come to the conclusion that our first choice ought to fall upon irrigation rather than upon railways, and that, so much as may be necessary of the funds at our present and prospective disposal, should be devoted to the improvement and re-establishment of the ancient system of irrigation, before any outlay is applied to the construction of a railway.

No. 237. ORDER THEREON, 11th February 1873, No. 446.

RAILWAY, No. 29.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways in continuation of No. 28 of 6th January 1873.

(True Extract.)

India Office,
London, 11th January 1872.

Railway,
No. 1.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor General of India in Council.

MY LORD,

Para. 1. Since receipt of your Excellency's Despatch, No. 95, of 22nd September last, I have carefully considered in Council the scheme for railway extension in Mysore which is there brought forward.

2. From the particulars furnished by you, it appears that the finances of Mysore are in a sound condition, insomuch that in the course of the 12 years which have still to elapse before the Rajah attains his majority, and during which the State will remain under British administration, a sum of 600,000*l.*, consisting in about equal moieties of surplus revenue actually in hand, and of future annual savings, is expected to be available for extraordinary public works of all kinds, and of this total amount your Excellency desires to apply five sixths, or 500,000*l.*, to the construction of a railway from the town of Bangalore to that of Mysore.

3. Of the right, nay, of the duty, of the British Government to expend the surplus revenues of Mysore in whatever manner it may deem best for the benefit of the country, I am perfectly satisfied, and I admit that advantage would accrue from devoting a portion of the money, likely to be for some years to come available, to railway construction. But useful as the suggested railway could not fail to prove, there are grounds for believing that there are other public improvements which are yet more needed, but which must be long delayed if the construction of any considerable extent of railway be immediately undertaken. I have been particularly impressed by the perusal of your Despatch in the Public Works Department, No. 122, of 2nd October last, and its enclosures. I there find it confidently stated by the highest local authorities that, in order to put the present irrigation system of Mysore into a stable condition, by merely "restoring" existing tanks, without apparently constructing any new ones, not less than 480,000*l.* must be spent upon it during the next 12 years; that not only, if this be done, may a considerable increase of annual revenue be fairly expected, but that, so long as it is neglected, there must needs be a continuance of the destructive action which at present occurs year after year, breaching tank after tank in their several chains, and thereby causing most disastrous loss both to the ryots and to the State.

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ments shall take precedence of the other. My own opinion, based upon the data with which your Excellency's communications have supplied me, is in favour of irrigation works, and, after fully considering the nature and wants of the country and the comparative claims to preference of the two very desirable kinds of works,—railways and irrigation,—I have come to the conclusion that our first choice ought to fall upon irrigation rather than upon railways, and that, so much as may be necessary of the funds at our present and prospective disposal, should be devoted to the improvement and re-establishment of the ancient system of irrigation, before any outlay is applied to the construction of a railway.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) ARGYLL.

All communications
should be addressed to
the Secretary.

No. 103 S. R.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Railways

The Secretary to the Govt. of
Madras
Public Works Department
(Railway)

Fort William, 20th Jan'y/73.

Sir,
I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 29 dated 5th January 1873, forwarding correspondence relative to the erection of rolling stock, and the receipt and despatch of stores for the projected State Railway from Mysore to Bangalore -

In reply, I am to forward for the information of the Government of Madras, copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 4 R. dated 11th January 1873, stating that as there are not sufficient funds available

available for both Railway and Irrigation
works in Mysore, he is of opinion
that the latter should have the
preference - The Government of India
have therefore decided that the Rail-
way project shall be held in abey-
ance until such time as funds
are available -

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. Drummond Col. R.E.

Offg. Deputy Secretary

24/2/1903

for Mysore

re 86

For Railways in continuation of No. 28 of 6th Jan'y 1893.
Commissioner of Mysore District
Mysore

24/2/1903

From

The Government of India

Secy to Govt.

Dated 20th Feb.

Mysore

Encl: 100

Submittal

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project is, Mysore

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Respectfully,
J. Drummond

C/12598

Govt. of 1873 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Consulting Engineer
for Railways

Dated

Recd.

Encl. /

G. O. 11 Febry 1873. 446.

Nos. 236 - 237
Railway in Mysore.

Letter from the prob-
ind is intimating that
the Railway project
in Mysore will be
held in abeyance
till funds are available
for the work, Com- The Consulting