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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1237 (2)	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	8-5-	4874-195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1874.*

No. 195. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 27th December 1873 :—

From Surgeon-General E. BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, dated Fort St. George, 19th December 1873, No. 491.

In paragraph 4 of the Order of Government No. 1,267, dated 10th instant, the sum of one lakh of rupees is ordered to be annually assigned in the Agricultural Public Works Budget for works of drainage in the Godavery Delta, to relieve the conditions, which, in my letter No. 115, dated 15th April 1872, I mentioned had been the result of recent changes in the district.

2. I have the honour to submit to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council that in any effort that may be made to drain that district, the information which has been acquired by the officers of the Geological Survey Department may be found useful. A peculiarity in the river system of British India is that from near their source to the sea the rivers run in low-lying beds, so that in damming them their waters are backed up for great distances. When the dam across the Godavery was completed, it was mentioned to me that in villages distant from the river, wells which up to the completion of the works had become dry in February, after the dam was built, had a supply of water in them all the year round. In those parts of the river basin where the sandstone and other rocks are stratified, I think that the advice of a Geologist as to the best manner of draining the country would be of great value to the Public Works Department. In the lower parts of the delta, where the river runs through recent deposits, the shifting of the villages to higher sites would perhaps be the easiest and most economical process to adopt. In such localities in further Asia the Burmese people and Malays raise all their river bank houses high on poles; indeed, most of the houses occupied by Europeans in Burmah are so built, and I have seen the natives fishing from the floors of their dwellings. With the increased wealth that has been accumulated amongst the people of the Godavery Delta, and with the great attachment to their native soil that the Teling races have, it would not, I think, be difficult to persuade most of them to shift their villages to higher sites in their neighbourhood, and the well-to-do amongst them could perhaps be induced to build their houses of two stories.

3. It is proper to mention that I have merely seen the Godavery at its mouth, though on the west parts of the Hyderabad territories I have crossed and recrossed it repeatedly.

TRANSFERRED to the Department Public Works for consideration.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 196. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1874, No. 1,237.

IRRIGATION, No. 17.

RECORDED with reference to G. O.,
No. 980, dated 15th April 1874.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" District Engineer, Godavery.
Esd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

1237 2d Lvs

Recorded with reference to G.O.
No. 980 of 15 April 1874

gmm

Public Dept ✓
Ch Insp for Ins ✓
DR Goddard ✓
A. C. Piers to all 16/5/74.

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1873 Dept
No 7002
1873. Dept

From
^{Surgeon} Inspector-General E. BALFOUR,
^{Surgeon} Inspector-General of Hospitals,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George,

To
The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort St. George

Dated 19 December.

Despatched *do*

Received 26 *No 1763*

No. 491-

Subject.

Remarks on the drainage
of the Godavery Delta.

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Fort St. George

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Sanitation.

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Inspector
Chaplain

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Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Pub. Dept.

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 8 May

1874, No. 1237

Nos. 195-196

Goolarry Delta

Letter from Surgeon Genl.
Indian Medical Dept.
offering remarks on the
drainage of the Goolarry
Delta, percolated —

Madras