

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1261	(2)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
241-242			
Dated	11-5-1874		195.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

10

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th May 1874.*

No. 241. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 9th April 1874, No. 75 :—

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of G. O. of the 25th February 1874, No. 481, and with reference to paragraph 2, beg to express my regret the Government should express so much dissatisfaction with the progress of works in the Eastern Delta, and to solicit that I be allowed to submit the following explanations.

2. The principal work sanctioned for this delta was the Cocanada Canal, and this has been completed; three main lines of drainages were sanctioned, viz., the Biccavole, Tholiabaga and Takee, of these the two former have been cut out and are in good working order, the latter was postponed whilst the others were in progress as it was absolutely necessary to utilize the labour on works more emergently necessary, and, in the case of the Takee main drain, the country did not require such works to be executed so soon as in the flatter portions of the delta, and from what I had done to it eighteen years ago I knew it acted very fairly; the only lock required to make the Mundapetta Canal thoroughly efficient has been put in and opened for traffic, and that canal head properly cut out.

3. The estimates for the Bank Canal were ordered to be postponed in 1870, as it was alleged some great improvements would be provided for in these; on examination these were found to be of no use or value, and in July 1872 the Government ordered the estimates to be revised according to my original proposals; this was accordingly done, and after submission to the Inspector-General of Irrigation on his tour, sent up early in March 1873 and only sanctioned in March 1874; there were only a few minor works to be done in this portion of the Eastern Delta, and when I saw what fearful delay was being made in getting these estimates sanctioned, I urged on Mr. Walch to put as many works as he possibly could in hand, giving him the use of the whole of our available floating plant, and leaving the works in the Eastern Delta *pro tem*, as those we could put in hand were of no great importance.

4. I would, therefore, very respectfully deprecate the Government taking such an unfavourable view of our arrangements. Eighteen months ago Colonel Rundall recommended a very large increase to our floating plant, and nothing has been done towards it, and if sanctioned to-morrow it will take four or five years perhaps to get this into proper working order; and to give some idea of the enormous losses the Government and country are suffering by the system now adopted, of minute details and attention to the most ordinary elementary principles, I will just mention that out of the 65,000 acres of land increase of cultivation we expected to get in 1870 in the Eastern Delta upwards of 40,000 acres belonged to the Coringa and Bank Canals—the works which were postponed for some improvements to be suggested, and which were of no value; and it is now admitted my original proposals will be a very great improvement and afford every facility for regulating properly the flow of water throughout the delta; now the water-rate is 4 Rupees per acre, so that we stood to increase the revenue by Rupees 1,60,000, and the value of property by Rupees 6,40,000 a year, all which has had to be

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th May 1874.*

postponed for four years, and will take three or four years yet to recover, for, we cannot make more progress than we are doing in the deltas with our floating plant in its present condition. All officers, Sir A. Cotton, Colonel Orr, and Colonel Rundall, who have had a knowledge and experience of these works, have supported my views in this matter, but yet up to this time nothing whatever has been done except calling for more returns. Colonel Rundall, after a personal inspection of the plant, recommended an immediate increase, but this has been set aside for more returns, because it was expected we might get half a ton more on our existing boats, and a little more work out of lazy, ignorant lascars.

5. I have repeatedly brought this matter to the notice of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, but he has given us no assistance whatever; the delay and losses incurring by the Government and the district are not, I respectfully submit, due to want of proper arrangements here. I have detailed fully to Sir A. Cotton what I am striving to do for his great project, and he has most cordially and entirely approved of all I had suggested to him. Colonel Rundall, the late Inspector-General of Irrigation, has borne similar favourable testimony. I trust, then, the Government will be pleased to relieve us of the censure contained in the Government Order under reply, as we are really not to blame in the matter. So long ago as July 1872, the Government ordered the estimates of the Central Delta to be revised, and these were prepared and sent up in August 1873, but up to this time nothing whatever has been heard of them, and yet in the report accompanying I detailed in full the progress made in the district by the project, a matter of the greatest importance and interest to the Government, but, as usual, it has been laid aside on the alleged ground that some petty details are necessary, and so any amount of time and money thrown away on account of a point which is never shown to be of the slightest moment whatever; how then, I would respectfully ask, can it be urged we do not make proper progress or arrangements when delays are created, for no purpose or object, in scrutinizing estimates, and we are denied the use of the only means which all officers, whose opinion is worth having, consider it is absolutely necessary for us to have from their own experience and knowledge in the matter.

6. I have shown above that the total estimated value of revenue and property is eight lakhs of rupees a year for the Coringa and Bank Canals, the expenditure required to bring up the floating plant to the standard recommended by Colonel Rundall is only two lakhs of rupees, and if the Central Delta works are put in hand something more may be required; but nothing whatever has yet been done in this most important matter, though I have so repeatedly urged its paramount importance. In the district generally we are spending eight lakhs a year chiefly on new works for its improvements from Extraordinary Provincial and Local grants, and this is far in excess of any former years, so that it can hardly in justice be said our arrangements are so very defective, particularly when so much delay has been made in getting sanction for the works required in one particular locality, and for the means absolutely necessary to carry these on with. I may also mention the frequent changes of officers in the Eastern Delta as one reason why progress has been delayed; the last four years Mr. Sage, Major Hasted, R.E., Mr. Hannan, Major Mead, R.E., and Captain Brockman, R.E., have been in charge, and these all had to learn the details of a great project. In the Western

3e
*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th May 1874.*

Delta it has been different, but there no changes have been made because of my representations, otherwise a similar state of affairs would have been brought about there.

No. 242.

ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1874, No. 1,261.

IRRIGATION, No. 19.

RECORDED with the remark that the District Engineer's explanations should have been submitted through the Chief

Engineer for Irrigation. There is nothing in Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's letter which satisfactorily or sufficiently explains the small outlay under Extraordinary in the Eastern Delta, which, it appears from the Progress Report to the 31st December, amounted only to Rupees 49,226. The change of officers no doubt had a considerable effect, but there were two Assistant Engineers in the range, and an expenditure of on the average less than Rupees 5,500 a month was far from satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,

Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer, for Irrigation.

„ District Engineer, Godavery.

„ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts

Lxd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

No 75

From

To,

Sir,

52
District Engineer's Office Godavari
Dec. (Circular) 9th April 1874
Sept 10th 1874

District Engineer Godavari

Colonel G. M. Walker R.E.

Secretary to Government P.W.D.
Madras

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt
of G.O. of the 28th February 1874 (No 181) and with reference
to para 2 beg to express my regret the Government
should express so much dissatisfaction with the progress
of works in the Eastern Delta and to solicit that I be
allowed to submit the following explanations.

2 The principal work sanctioned for this Delta
was the Cocanada Canal and this has been completed.
Three main lines of drainages were sanctioned viz. the
Bickawale, Thalatala and Talur, of these the two
former have been cut out and are in good working order,
the latter was postponed whilst the others were in
progress as it was absolutely necessary to utilize
the labor on works more emergently necessary and
in the case of the Talur main drain, the country did not
require such works to be executed so soon as in the
flatter portions of the Delta and from what I have
done to it 18 years ago I know it retails very fairly.
The only Lock required to make the Munsafello Canal
thoroughly efficient has been put in and opened
for traffic and that Canal has properly cut out.
The

3. The Estimates for the Bank Canal were ordered to be postponed in 1870 as it was alleged some great improvements would be provided for in these, in opinion. These were found to be of no use or value and in July 1872 the Government ordered the Estimates to be revised according to my original proposals. This was accordingly done and after submission to the Inspector General of Irrigation on his tour, sent up early in March 1873 and only sanctioned in March 1874. There were only a few minor works to be done in this portion of the Eastern Delta and when I saw what fearful delay was being made in getting these Estimates sanctioned I urged on Mr. Welch to put as many works as he possibly could in hand giving him the use of the whole of our available floating plant and leaving the works in the Eastern Delta to be done as those we could put in hand were of no great importance.

4 I would therefore very respectfully deprecate the Government taking such an unfavorable view of our arrangements. 18 months ago Colonel Pundall recommended a very large increase to our floating plant and nothing has been done towards it, and if sanctioned tomorrow, it will take 4 or 5 years perhaps to get this into proper working order, and to give some idea of the enormous losses the Government and Country are suffering by the system now adopted of minute details and attention to

to the most ordinary elementary principles, I will just mention that out of the 65,000 acres of land increase of cultivation we expected to get in 1870 in the Eastern Delta upwards of 40,000 acres, belonged to the Coringa and Bank Canals, the works which were postponed for some improvements to be suggested and which were of no value; and it is now admitted my original proposals will be a very great improvement and afford every facility for regulating properly the flow of water throughout the Delta. Now the water rate is 4 Rs per acre so that we stand to increase the revenue by Rs: 1,60,000 and the value of property by Rs: 1,40,000 a year all which has had to be postponed for 4 years and will take 3 or 4 years yet to recover, for we cannot make more progress than we are doing in the Deltas with our floating plant in its present condition. All officers Sir A. Cotton, Col Orr and Col Pundall, who have had a knowledge and experience of these works, have supported my views in this matter, but yet up to this time, nothing whatever has been done except calling for more returns. Colonel Pundall after a personal inspection of the plant recommended an immediate increase, but this has been set aside for more returns, because it was expected we might get $\frac{1}{2}$ ton more in our existing,

existing boats and a little more work out of logg
ignomineous lascar.

5. I have repeatedly brought this matter to the
notice of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation but he
has given us no assistance whatever, the delay and
losses incurred by the Government and the District are
not, I respectfully submit, due to want of proper arrange-
ments here, I have detailed fully to Sir A. Cotton
what I am striving to do for his great project and
he has most cordially and entirely approved of
all I have suggested to him. Colonel Punsall,
the late Inspector General of Irrigation, has borne
similar favorable testimony, I trust that the
Government will be pleased to relieve us of the censure
contained in the G.O. under reply as we are really
not to blame in the matter; so long ago as July 1872
the Government ordered the Estimates of the Central
Delta to be revised and these were prepared and sent
up in August 1873, but up to this time nothing
whatever has been heard of them and yet in the report
accompanying, I detailed in full the progress
made in the District by the project, a matter of the
greatest importance and interest to the Government,
but as usual it has been laid aside on the
alleged ground that some petty details are necessary
and so any amount of time and money thrown
away in account of a point which is never shown

to be of the slightest moment whatever, how then, I
would respectfully ask, can it be urged we do not
make proper progress or arrangements when delays
are created for no purpose or object, in scrutinizing
Estimates and we are denied the use of the only means
which all officers, whose opinion is worth having,
consider it is absolutely necessary for us to have
from their own experience and knowledge in the
matter.

I have shown above that the total estimated
value of Revenue and property is 8 lacs of Rupees
a year for the Ganga and Bank Canals, the
expenditure required to bring up the floating Plant
to the standard recommended by Col. Punsall
is only 2 lacs of Rupees, and if the Central Delta
works are put in hand, something more may be
required, but nothing whatever has yet been done
in this most important matter tho' I have so
repeatedly urged its paramount importance; in
the District generally we are spending 8 lacs a year
chiefly on new works for its improvements, from
Extraordinary Provincial and Local Grants, and
this is far in excess of any former years so
that it can hardly ⁱⁿ justice be said our arrange-
ments are so very defective, particularly when
so much delay has been made in getting sanction
for the works required in one particular locality
and

and for the means absolutely necessary to carry them
on with. I may also mention the frequent changes
of Officers in the Eastern Delta as one reason why
progress has been delayed; the last 4 years Mr
Sage, Major Hubbs R.E. Mr. Hannan, Major
Mead R.E. and Captain Brockman R.E. have been
in charge, and these all had to learn the details
of a great project; in the Western Delta, it has
been different, but there no changes have been
made because of my representations, otherwise
a similar state of affairs would have been
brought about there.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obed^t servant,

Wm. T. Tucker Lieut. Col. R.E.

(District Engineer Godavari)

1261

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the

187

Read the following:—

From the St. Eys Godwin, (Here entered by date
9 April/74)

Recorded with
the remark that the
St. Engineer's explana-
tions should have been
submitted through the
Chief Engineer for Ire-
gation, ~~and that~~ there
is nothing in Lieut. Col.
Fischer's letter which sa-
tisfactorily or suffi-
ciently explains the
small outlay under
extraordinary.

W.D.
22/4

Pub. Works 1874 Def. 10:2188.

The District Engineer

Godwin

To, the Secretary to

Government S.D.

Madras.

Recd 9 April 1874

8.75

Reports the various
circumstances which
necessarily interfered
with the progress of
works of the completion
copied in the Carbin
Rolls of the District
G.O. No: 1261, 11-5-74.

Chow

and to be kept in 1874

by extraordinary in the
Kastur Billa; which,
it appears from the
Progress Report to the
31st December, amounted
only to Rs. 49226. The
change of Officers no
doubt had a consider-
able effect, but there
were two Assistant En-
gineers in the Range,
and an expenditure
of on the average less
than Rs. 5500 a month
was far from satis-
factory. The means
at the disposal of the
Engineers dis-
posed were equal, if
not superior, to those
available

During the year 1974

To Chief Engineer for the
" S. C. Godavery
" Controller

S. Copies despatched 19/5/74

available in previous
years, and it is obser-
vable that Lieut. Col.
Fischer, with somewhat
remarkable in concis-
tency, complains that
a larger number of works
had not been sanctioned,
although he states that
the means available
were inadequate to
anything like a satis-
factory rate of progress
on those which he was
free to go on with as fast
as possible, and which
were fully sufficient
to employ more than
all the labour procur-
able.

By. 21/4/74

2188
Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

^{to} The C. Sup. Engineer

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. // 11 May 1874, No.

1261

Nos. 241-242

~~Eastern Delta - Godavery~~
Eastern Delta - Godavery

Letter from the D^r. Encl.
Godavery, reporting the
circumstances which interfere
with the progress of works
in the Eastern Delta & the
Godavery D^r, recorded
with remarks -