M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

(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. / ~~B.P. No.~~ 186-187	1533 (9)	Press / Mis.
Dated	11-6-1874 ~~195~~ .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 186. 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, 7th May 1874, No. 403 :—

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of G. O., of the 27th April 1874, No. 1,068, and regret very much to find the Government consider the progress of works in the Eastern Delta for the year 1873-74 is "far from satisfactory." I have already explained in my letter of the 9th ultimo, No. 75, the circumstances connected with the masonry works of this delta and the delay made in getting on with these, for which, I respectfully submit, I am not responsible in any way, and trust I may be freed from blame for the losses thus inflicted on the State and the district.

2. As regards drainage works, I would crave to remark the crop is not cut till December in any year, and up to that date water must be supplied to the fields. Whilst it is being harvested very little or no labour can be obtained for works, and it is never properly available till after the Pongol feast, or about the 20th January ; work in the drains can then only be properly carried on during February, March, April, and May, or four months in the year, for in June the seed-beds must be supplied with water all over the deltas, and the country begins to drain again, and as soon as the transplanting commences the labour goes off to the fields.

3. As regards the alleged short expenditure on the Biccavole and Thooliabaga drains, I beg to explain that, on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, these have been only cut out to about one-third the capacity provided for in the completion project, and as they appear to answer their purposes very well, I am of opinion that very little more outlay on them will be required. I prepared the original estimates by express orders on the subject, and quite at variance with my own judgment in the matter.

4. Again, it is alleged I had not made the most I could of the existing floating plant, but as Colonel Rundall had strongly recommended an increase of this, I do not see on what grounds the allegation is made; private boats cannot carry the large stones for the works, and it is to no purpose to employ them for the works if we cannot send down the proper quality of stone required on the works, as a lock comes to a stand-still if the cill and quoin stones are not provided for it. Again, nothing is said to account for the short supply of stone now yielded by the Dowlaishweram quarries; this point was particularly referred to by Colonel Rundall, and had I not searched the whole country round and found the new quarries at Yerrumpalem, the works would have come to a stop altogether.

5. In conclusion, I beg to apologize for troubling the Government with these few explanations, but my connection with the district has been severed and no opportunity afforded me to say one word in self defence, and this I trust will be accepted as my excuse. I will arrange to give over charge in full detail to Major Beatty, so that the progress may not be retarded in any way, and I hope the Government will approve of my doing so ; and as the additional assistance I have so long and in vain applied for has at length been sanctioned, I humbly hope that, with God's blessing, the district will continue to prosper and make the same progress it has done.

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

No. 187. ORDER THEREON, 11th June 1874, No. 1,533.

IRRIGATION, No. 20.

RECORDED with the remark that the Government see no reason for altering the opinion already expressed, that the progress of work in 1873-74 under the completion estimates in the Eastern Delta of the Godavery has not been satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Godavery.
To Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Fischer, R.E.
" Chief Engr. to Govt.

P.W. 1874 Dept.

No: 2799

From

The District Engineer,

Godavery District.

To

The Secretary to Government

Department Public Works

MADRAS

Dated 7 May 1874

Received 12 " "

No. 403

Encls.

Subject.

Expresses his deep regret that the Government should consider the Progress of works in the Cocanada Delta during 1873-74 to be unsatisfactory & forwards copy of that portion of his Report for the above

Chief Engr.

Recorded with the remark that the Government are not prepared for allowing the original estimate to be exceeded & that the progress of the works under the Contractor should be carefully watched.

15 May 1874

Secretary to Government.

Rec'd 21/5/74 in 186

Sent to Desp 12 May 74 on 20/5/74

199

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The D. C. Engr.
Godavery

Encl.

G. O. # [illegible] No. 1533

Nov. 86-187.

Eastern Delta - Godavery

Letter from the Dr Engr Godavery affording explanation relative to unsatisfactory progress made with works in the Eastern Delta, recorded with the remark that the Govt see no reason for altering the opinion already expressed in GO No 1068 of 27 April 1874.