

M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1634 (2)	Press
~~B.P. No.~~ 380-381		~~Mis.~~
Dated	18- 6-1874	195 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th June 1874.

Read the following papers :—

No. 380. Letter from Consulting Engineer for Railways, recorded with G. O., No. 721 of 16th March 1874.

Financial Department Order No. 565 of 7th April, recorded in Public Works Department G. O., No. 190, dated 23rd April 1874.

Order in the Financial Department, No. 635 of 20th April 1874.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th April 1874, No. 1,406.

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 13th April 1874, No. 57.

WITH reference to the Order of Government, No. 331 of 11th ultimo, Public Works Department, communicated by the Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, No. 1,080, of 17th idem, I have the honour to state that the owners of the lands irrigated by the Spur Tank unanimously demand compensation for the whole land in the event of the tank being abandoned, and decline to accept partial compensation for the loss of water alone. Under such circumstances the abandonment of the tank would necessitate the purchase of the whole land at a cost of Rupees 92,500, at Rupees 105 per ground, which the Deputy Collector reports to be the market value of land in that locality. The cost would be increased by 15* per cent. if it becomes necessary to take the lands under the Land Acquisition Act. Even if the land-holders were disposed to accept compensation for loss of water there would be considerable difficulty in deciding the amount payable in respect of each holding, as there is no register to show the extent of water used by each field ; the conservancy of the tanks not having hitherto been in the hands of Government. I have put down the Deputy Collector's estimate of the probable price per ground we would have to pay for the lands, but I consider the price far too high, and believe that if we resisted the demands of the land-holders, and took the cases into Court, we would not have to pay more than 70 or 80 Rupees per ground at the outside. I have only accepted the Deputy Collector's estimate to be on the safe side, for I am sure the sum he names will be the maximum we should have to pay for the land.

* Section 42 of the Act.

2. The lands, if purchased and resold as building sites, would realize, according to the opinion of the Deputy Collector, only Rupees 30 per ground against an outlay of Rupees 120 per ground, and the loss on the total area* purchased would be Rupees 70,480. The lands are reported to lie on a low level and, therefore, to be unfit for building purposes.

* 881 Grounds.

3. The Deputy Collector further points out that Government may have also to pay compensation to the owners of the neighbouring properties for their deterioration in consequence of the abandonment of the tank. He says that it is not now possible to estimate the amount of compensation, but that it is not likely to be less than Rupees 50,000. I do not agree with the Deputy Collector in considering that any compensation on this account will be necessary, and am of opinion that such claims if made should be resisted.

* No. 282 of 9th March 1874.

4. A copy of the Deputy Collector's letter* is forwarded for the Board's information.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to G. O., 14th February 1874, No. 79.

2. The Deputy Collector's valuation of the land under the Spur Tank seems to the Board to be excessive, but if it can be trusted, the project of abolishing the tank must be abandoned.

(True Copy and Extract.)
(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department, with reference to the Order in that Department, dated 11th February 1874, No. 331.
4th May 1874.
(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 381. ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1874, No. 1,634.

IRRIGATION, No. 30.

ON a full consideration of the arguments advanced in favour of abandoning the Spur Tank and of the probable cost and contingent disadvantages of the same, His Excellency the Governor in Council cannot but conclude that the latter bear a disproportionate relation to any advantages derivable from the change. Manifestly it would never have been proposed on account of the Railway alone, which was deliberately laid out with reference to the *permanent existence of the tank*; and no consideration advanced by the Municipality is of sufficient weight to counterbalance the inconvenience and hardship that would undoubtedly be caused by abolition of the tank to travellers and cattle, and to those now using it for washing and bathing, to say nothing of probable falling off of water-supply to many adjacent wells.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council sees no objection, however, to selling to the Municipality the portion of the tank required by them for the formation of a reservoir 600 feet by 500 feet; but, before finally agreeing to the proposal, desires to be furnished with the views of the Board of Revenue and of the Collector whether the remaining portion would suffice for the cultivation of the lands now supplied.

3. Care should be taken in the actual execution of the Railway embankment through the tank, so to manage the excavation of the earth required as best to compensate for the loss of capacity caused by the bank.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

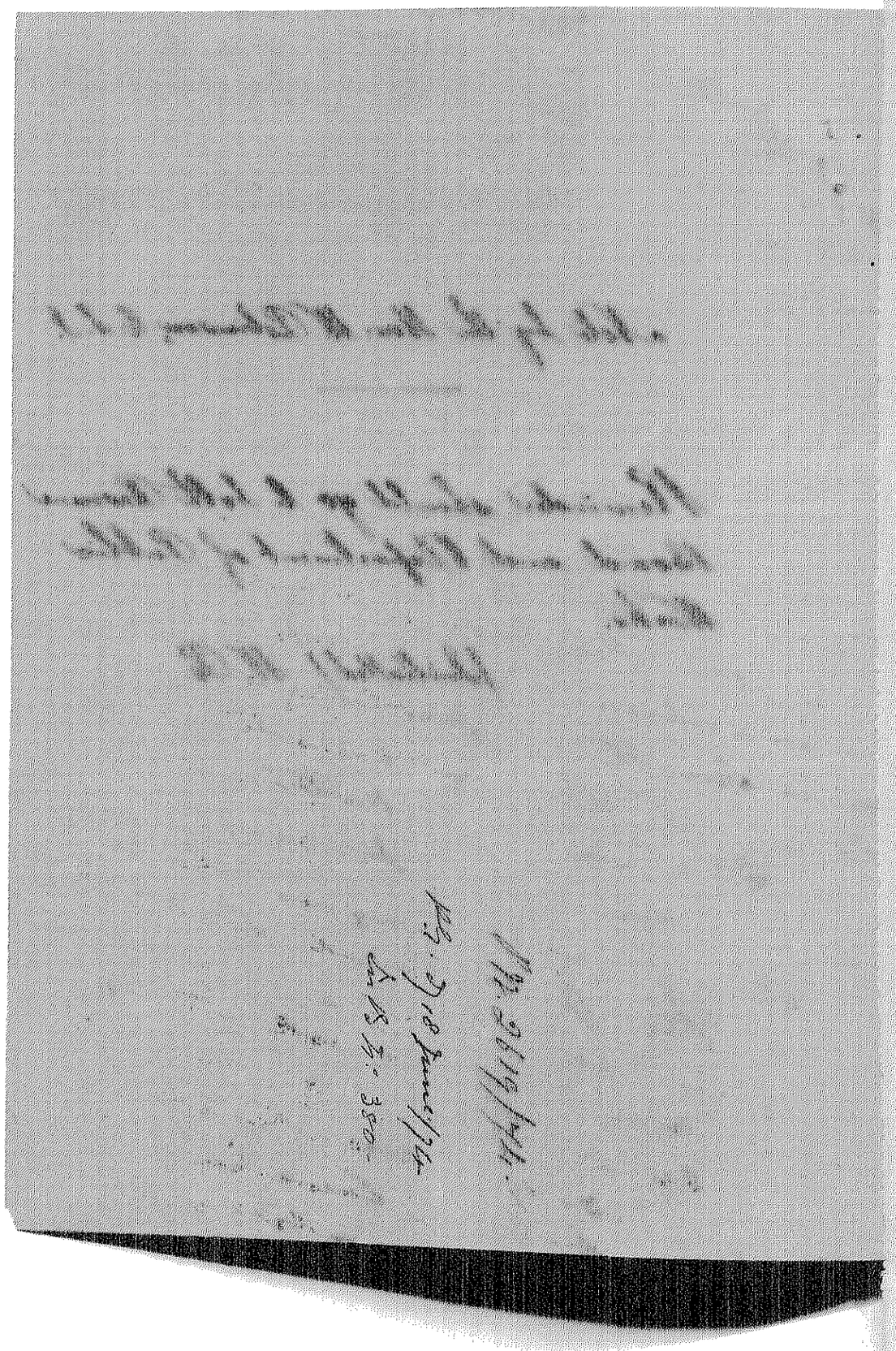
To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" President of the Municipality.
" Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department.
" Public "
Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

7

Note by the Hon. H. Robinson C.S.I.

Reminder should go to the Board and Department of Public Works.

Initialled H.R.



Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th April 1874.

No. 159. Read the following letter from J. G. COLEMAN, Esq., Officiating President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Honourable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 1st April 1874, No. 3 :—

I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to submit this letter for the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. In 1868 Colonel Denison suggested the removal of the Spur Tank bund and the opening out of roads through the ground now submerged ; but, owing to other works of more urgent nature then engaging the attention of the Commissioners, the subject was allowed to lie over for future consideration.

3. Surgeon-General Balfour also suggested the abandoning of the tank (*vide* letter, dated 18th October 1868), and the Collector of Madras reported in 1868 that the revenue realized from the lands irrigated by the tank was only Rupees 350. Since the date of the above letter a portion of the land has been taken up under G. O., No. 1380, dated 4th October 1869, for a road ; the whole of the fields near the Egmore Orphan Asylums are being taken up under G. O., No. 1380, dated 4th October 1869, and the Carnatic Railway works will considerably reduce the remaining portion of the arable land, so that the compensation to be paid to the ryots on the tank being abandoned will amount to a very small sum.

4. The Carnatic Railway line passes through the centre of the tank, and, if it is to be retained, the ground that will be required by the Railway Company must be of considerable width in order to admit of the necessary earth being excavated to form an embankment, on the average, ten feet high.

5. It therefore appears to me that this is the most favourable time for deciding as to whether the tank should be retained or not.

6. Apart from all consideration of the advantages that the Railway Company would derive from the tank being abandoned as a reservoir, I have to bring to notice that the experience we have had in the working of our water-supply scheme shows the absolute necessity for compensation reservoirs, and the Executive Engineer reports that the north-eastern corner of the Spur Tank is very favourably situated for such a purpose.

7. During heavy rains the water in the storage reservoir and delivery channel is highly discoloured. At these times the water has to be cut off, and all the districts, with the exception of Black Town (for which a supply is stored in the Trevelyan Cistern), have their supply stopped.

8. It is proposed to construct a reservoir, 600 × 500 feet, at the spot shown in the accompanying plan,* which it is calculated will store a week's supply for all the districts west of the River Cooum.

* Coloured green.

9. I have, therefore, the honour to request that His Excellency in Council may be moved to grant to the Municipality all that parcel of ground at present forming the bed of the Spur Tank and lying between the proposed line of the Carnatic Railway and the Poonamallee Road up to a line drawn towards the south in prolongation of Flower's Road.

10. The present is a most favourable time for commencing the construction of the reservoir bunds as the tank is dry.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th April 1874.

No. 160. ORDER THEREON, 20th April 1874, No. 605.

The Governor in Council is not prepared to pass any orders on this letter until the question of the abandonment of the Spur Tank, adverted to in G. O., Public Works Department, dated the 11th February 1874, No. 331, has been definitively settled.

(True Extract)

Acting Chief Secretary.

Pub. Works 1874 Dept.
No: 2619

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To
THE CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT
OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

Dated April 20th.
Recd. May 2nd 1874.

G. O. 20th April 1874, No. 605.

APRIL.
Nos. 159 160.

Madras Municipality.—Orders on the application of the Municipality for certain parcels of land forming the bed of the Spur Tank, or in Gamore, for a reservoir of the Red Hill water, deferred until the question of the abandonment of the Spur Tank has been definitively settled in the Public Works Department.

G.O. 20. 1624. 18-6-74.

380

Recd. & Copy & Desp. 4/74

dd 16 February 1874 Log 79.

P.W. 1874 Dept.
Registered
Received in Registry Branch
No. 2638 A.

Transferred to the
Public Works Dept.
with reference to the
order in that Dept. dated
11th February 1874, No. 331

Chancellor
Ag. Secy. to Govt.
4 May 1874.
380 A.

Dated 29th April 1874
Received 2nd
Registered 4th May 1874.
and Assigned

Submitting to Government
Letter from Director of
Railways reporting probable
amount of Compensation
which will have to be
paid if Spur South
is abandoned
C.O. No 1834. 18-6-74
Transferred

1834

Public Works Department

Proceedings of Railways Board

Read the following:-

Letter from Consulting Engineer
for Railways recorded with G.O. dd 29th
of 16th March.

Financial Department Order dd 565 of
7th April.

Order in the Financial Department Dd 635
of 20th April.

Proceedings of Revenue Board dd 1606
of 29th April.

Mbl
231

One of full consi-
deration of the argu-
ments advanced in
favour of abandoning
the Spur South, and of
the probable cost and
contingent disadvan-
tages of the same,
this

His Excellency the Governor in Council cannot but conclude that the latter bear disproportionate relation to any advantages derivable from the change. Manifestly it would never have been proposed on account of the Railway alone, which was deliberately laid out with reference to the permanent existence of the Bank, and no consideration advanced by the Municipality is of sufficient weight to counterbalance the inconvenience

inconvenience and hardship that would undoubtedly be caused by abolition of the Bank to travellers and cattle, and to those now using it for watering and bathing. To say nothing of probable falling off of water supply to many adjacent wells.

His Excellency the Governor in Council see no objection however to selling to the Municipality the portion of the tank required by them for the formation of a reservoir 600 ft × 500 ft, but

but before finally agreeing to the proposal desires the furnished with the views of the Board of Revenue and Police Collector whether the remaining portion would suffice for the cultivation of the lands now supplied.

Care should be taken in the actual execution of the Rail-way embankment through the tank, to manage the excavation of the earth required as best to compensate for the loss of capacity caused by the tank.

380-381 Encl

Cir 25/8/74 Rec 26/8/74

To Conservator for Ryot
President Municipality
Bd of Revenue
Rev: Departt
Pub: Departt
Capts departt all 25/8/74

Abandonment of the Shur Tank

According to the letter from the Offg Secretary Board of Revenue dated 1st April 1874 the proposal, dated 1st April 1874 was first mooted by Mr. Division in 1868 - Mr Boulger in proceedings by stated by him. It was moved in the matter also in that year, but the papers were called with G.O. No 331 of 11th Dec 1874 when it was decided that it was not necessary to publication of the proposal to fill the tank be for all the bed of the Tank between the Railway line and Poramambedu Road, as per plan drawn South in pursuance of proceedings of Board of Revenue - having in view the proposal of extending communication Road from the Tank to the Poramambedu Road -

The area of the Tank to be Commanded 134-7-45, of which Commanded 82-3-193 are stated to have lapsed & sent. Commanded 52-3-821 being Govt. Remembrance - 37 acres Commanded are neglected from the Tank, having in Assessment of Rs 317 - Plan marked outline is stated by the Collector as

Rs 92,500, subject to an Sn.
: hancement of 15 per cent
of taken up under the Act.
wh. would make Rs 106375-
ded compensation for deten:
: ention of other property
stated by him as Rs 50000.
The Collector absolutely ignore
this latter claim, & reduces
the former to two thirds, or
Rs 70917. Adg Rs 24594 The sum
realizable by sale, net
minimum cost as calculated
by the Collector Rs 44323, against
Rs ~~1,30,000~~ 1,30,000 The Collectors
calculation in detail remarks-

The advantages to be derived
by the Railway from the reclam:
: mation of the Tank, are so
set forth in Chief Secretary's
letter No 118 of 28th Dec, as
to convey in cost of say Rs 44660,
need the substitution of a dead
level instead of a gradient of
1 in 200 across a portion of
the South Station Road —

Taking the Collectors as
the expression of native opin:
: ion as the subject, which as
: deed he entirely claims to

be in his letter, recorded with
G.O. No 331 of 11th Dec, the so:
: lution of the Tank would
cause great inconvenience &
hardship to Travellers & Cattle,
used by those who now re-
sort to it for watering & bathing —
Its recovery as 65 wells would
be nearly as expensive
& it would not be replenished
by its water —

Under these circumstances
it is submitted that the Rail:
: way claims are rejected
against granting right of
compensation — Article, in:
consistent with the absence of information
to the contrary, there seems
no reason why the attri:
: bution of portion of the Tank
bed for constructing a
Reservoir 600 ft × 500 ft &
involve the total abstrac:
: tion of water from the Tank
bed if given over to the Mun:
: icipality it would be
an payment of value of the
Site; inasmuch as they
are now demanding
from Govt. payment of the
value of ground used to be ta:
: ken up by the Railway

which was carriedly given
them free of cost for build-
ing fields, but is now no longer
used by them for that pur-
pose. (See letter from Colles-
tor of Dredging No. 4
April) -

Lt. Smallhorn (ut R.E.)
Secty Sub. D.F.W.

6.5.74.

I suspect the husband
as already written. The Valu-
ation of Toland's Institution
2000 Pounds - & Insurance
guarantee but when all afford
we made all little claims a-
mounted to such a sum too
costly. I am inclined to sell
the portion of the Land as Sd
for the Building, but then
how to dispose of the Building
towers & Turrets and other
Fantastic Superfluities of the Ely-
sium - that stupid Mr Forbes
left us a Coll. Mess
910 JBS 11/5
£ 20/5

No 2619

Col
8/5/74

26195

Govt. of 1871 Claims.

PUBLIC WORKS.

☆

To

The Comp. Engr.
Dr Rys.

Dated

Acct. Rent 2—

18 Jan 1870 No 1432

No. 880-187.

...r Tank Railway

...tiby to the formation of
... of the B.P.J Reserve
...on of Meadows on the
... of the vale to the Beam:
... of a portion of the Tank
... by them for the formation
... reservoir and
...raining portion
... the cultivation
... was applied for
... regarding the
... the embankment
... known as

Oil
8/1879