

(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.	1885-86	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
250-252		
Dated	14-7-1894	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 250. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 10th June 1874, No. 399-C :—

From Captain J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., District Engineer, North Arcot, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Vellore, 1st June 1874, No. 623.

In continuation of my letter No. 422, of 13th ultimo, I have the honor to report that the total number of tanks said to have been breached through the heavy rain which fell in the early part of last month is as follows :—

								Aggregate Revenue. RS.
Chittoor Taluq	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	800
Gudiatum	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4,600
Vellore	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	8,300
Arcot	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	25,500
Polur	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	17,600
Wandewash	...	...	...	...	...	...	73	36,800

or 155 in all ; none are reported from the Palmanair, Chendragherry, or Wallajah Taluqs.

2. The real damage, however, is certainly not so severe as would appear from these figures ; in many instances tanks have been reported by the Village and Revenue Officers as breached, when in reality the bunds have only been more or less injured, and in other cases the breaches have occurred, not in the tanks themselves, but in the channels supplying them, a much less serious matter.

3. As far as my own observations and the information I have received, go, I should say that about one-third might be deducted from the above numbers ; but even with this deduction the damage is sufficiently serious.

4. I have inspected a large number of tanks in the Wandewash Taluq, where the greatest damage has occurred, including all the most important ones, and have given the necessary instructions for their repair, and shall shortly do the same in the Vellore and Arcot Taluqs.

5. The main causes of injury appear to be, 1st, leaky and defective sluices ; 2nd, the bunding of calingulahs by the ryots ; 3rd, insufficiency of escape provision.

6. The first cause is to be removed by the provision of proper sluices, but this is necessarily a work of time ; the numbers required being counted by hundreds, while the funds for providing them are very limited.

7. The second cause is one from which we shall never be free so long as calingulahs with dam stones are allowed to exist. I look upon these dam stones as an unmitigated evil, and take every opportunity of removing them, but it is impossible to move in this direction as fast as I should wish. Orders are regularly given in the Revenue Department for the removal of the dams at the right time, but no amount of orders will keep the ryots from closing the calingulahs if they think they can get any benefit by so doing. In one instance which has come under my notice (the Covelay tank, with a revenue of Rupees 1,800) the dams had been removed, and the ryots deliberately built them up again when they saw that rain was coming ; the tank of course breached.

W

8. The removal of the third cause is purely a matter of time and of money.
9. Damage done to bunds by cattle constantly crossing them is a fruitful source of breaches; I have already addressed the Collector on this point, and he has promised to do his best to prevent the practice, but it is evidently one with which it is very difficult to deal.
10. Many tanks are supplied by open river-channels without head sluices, and have been injured or breached by the channels bringing down an excessive supply; in one sense of course these are cases of insufficient escape, but the evil may be more satisfactorily and, in most instances, more cheaply remedied, by the construction of head sluices than by adding to the escapes.
11. You may rely upon every attention being given to the removal of the above causes of injury, and instructions have already been issued with this view, but I should deprecate the supposition that because the estimate for a particular tank does not provide for all the work required for putting it into a perfectly secure and satisfactory condition, therefore its requirements, or any portion of them, have been overlooked. If the funds at our disposal were unlimited, it would be proper to bring each work to a high degree of perfection, but unfortunately they are not unlimited, and every thing spent upon one work is taken away from some other.
12. That it is better to repair a few works thoroughly than a great many imperfectly, may be so true as to be a mere truism, or it may be altogether untrue; it all depends on the relative extent of thoroughness and imperfection contemplated, and the numbers and importance of the works that can be dealt with in each way. It is by no means certain that it may not be better to repair, say, half a dozen tanks so as to make them capable of holding water, even at the risk of their breaching again in two or three years, than to put one into perfect and complete order and let the other five remain empty. A proper opinion can be formed in the case of each separate work only by a careful consideration of the requirements of the work itself and of the district as a whole, from the grant for which the funds have to be taken; and it is for this reason that I have ventured to express the opinion that the powers of local officers are unduly restricted, believing that officers on the spot, who make it their business to obtain as intimate a knowledge as possible of the condition and requirements of all works under their charge, will, on the whole, be best able to form an opinion as to the amount of improvement which it is advisable to carry out on any given work.
13. I regret very much that it is found impossible to make any definite increase to the Budget grant for repairs, as any uncertainty as to the funds likely to be available is a great drawback to the satisfactory execution of the work; if we reckon only on the regular grant we may find at the end of the year that more money could have been obtained if arrangements had been made for expending it; on the other hand, if we reckon on an increased grant we may find ourselves during the last months of the year with a number of incomplete works on hand, which have to be stopped to the injury of the works themselves and to the lessening of the confidence of labourers and contractors in the department. Moreover, owing to the curious arrangement by which the official year terminates, on what is

probably the most inconvenient date that could be found, the months thus lost are the best working months of the whole year.

14. It will be seen from paragraphs 6, 8, and 10 of this letter that a great deal can be usefully done in the construction of Minor New Works, and as it appears from O. G., No. 1,356, of 21st May 1874, that a considerable increase has been made to the Budget grant for the Presidency under this head, I hope that some portion of that increase will be allotted to this district. The objections to uncertainty as to the amount of money available apply, of course, to Minor New Works as much as to Repairs.

15. It is undeniable that the condition of the Irrigation Works in the four southern taluqs of this district, and especially in Arcot and Wandewash, is a matter for very serious consideration. In the Arcot Taluq there are still upwards of thirty tanks, with an aggregate revenue of Rupees 25,000, which were breached in 1872, and have not yet been repaired from want of funds, and now thirty-seven more have gone; it is obvious that this process cannot go on long without producing a very serious effect upon the revenue, to say nothing of the interests of the people.

16. In the Wandewash Taluq all the tanks actually breached two years ago have been repaired, but many of them were merely patched up, and have again breached; while as to the general condition of the works, here are the remarks against the ten tanks entered in a single page taken at random in the Irrigation Register of the taluq; it contains altogether 605 works.

"Embankment requires strengthening and revetting and a new escape.

"Embankment requires earthwork repair and a new escape; a distributing sluice requires to be reconstructed.

"Embankment and two distributing sluices in good repair, a new escape and a new distributing sluice required.

"Embankment requires strengthening and revetting and a new escape; two sluices require repair.

"Embankment requires strengthening and revetting; a new escape to be built; a distributing sluice to be reconstructed.

"Earthwork repairs required to embankment, also a new escape and distributing sluice.

"Embankment in fair repair, a new escape required; also a distributing sluice to be reconstructed.

"Embankment requires earthwork repairs, also a new escape and distributing sluice.

"Embankment and distributing sluice in good repair, present escape is useless, requires blocking up and a new escape built.

"Embankment requires earthwork repairs, also new distributing sluice and escape."

In the Polur Taluq there is hardly a work, out of the 300 which it contains, which is not in need of repair or improvement.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th July 1874.*

SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of the report contained in the District Engineer's former letter.*
* No. 422, 13th May, with Note No. 333-A, 19th May 1874.

2. A few remarks on the contents of this later report may be of advantage.

PARAGRAPH 9.—1st.—Regarding damage done to tank bunds by village cattle, much may be done to prevent this by providing ramps with slopes of about 1 in 6 inside and outside the bunds at all authorized crossings. The villagers should be prohibited from driving their cattle across elsewhere, and should be punished if they neglect to attend to these orders.

PARAGRAPH 10.—2nd.—Head sluices to river channels, whereby water that is in excess of the requirements, may be shut off, are undoubtedly preferable to the provision of additional escapes for the disposal of surplus water so received.

PARAGRAPHS 11 and 12.—3rd.—That the real requirements of irrigation works have over and over again been overlooked must be sufficiently patent to Captain Pennycuik, and there is no really effective way of preventing this for the future but that of requiring all the circumstances to be ascertained, and a complete estimate framed. It does not necessarily follow that all the work estimated for will be carried out at once, but at least such portions of it must be executed as will prevent other outlay being wasted. Some work, such as revetment, turfing or grassing slopes, etc., may be desirable in the interests of economical maintenance; others, such as sufficient escapes for surplus water, the repair of sluices when necessary, the raising of low parts of the bund, etc., are essential, and the rule should be that essentials should not be postponed; if exceptions be made to this rule the reasons should be recorded.

PARAGRAPH 13.—4th.—The District Engineer has or will have as much money at his disposal as he will be able to spend advantageously during the first eight or nine months of the current year, and it is not quite clear whether, for the present, it will not be better rather that a good deal of time should be spent upon ascertaining carefully the requirements of works than in spending money upon them before they have been carefully inspected by Captain Pennycuik, or by such of his Assistants as he may deem qualified to decide what work should be provided for. However, looking to the fact that the storms of May 1872 and in the same month this year did a great deal of damage, that nearly half a lakh of rupees in excess of the grant of 1873-74 for the Presidency was expended; that for years past the outlay generally has been much below that known to be required for the maintenance of the irrigation works in a satisfactory condition; that in many districts last year the expenditure was from various causes not much more than half what it should have been, it would be well to obtain from the Government of India sanction for the increase of the current year's grant from Rupees 13,67,050 to 15 lakhs, in order that those District Engineers who really need and can make use of increased allotments may have their wants provided for.

PARAGRAPH 14.—5th.—As soon as an increased grant for Minor New Works shall have been sanctioned the allotment under this head in North Arcot will

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th July 1874.*

at any rate be doubled, and the District Engineer should be prepared to make use of these funds where most required.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 251. ORDER THEREON, 14th July 1874, No. 1,885.

IRRIGATION, No. 23.

THE further report of the District Engineer, North Arcot, on the damage sustained by irrigation works in May

last, and the observations thereupon made by him, show that a great deal will have to be done before even the more important tanks will have been rendered secure and efficient. The remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation should receive careful attention, and the course pointed out by him, as proper to be followed in the treatment and management of these works, should be adopted as far as practicable, and departure therefrom should not be permitted unless in particular cases it may be necessary to endeavour to secure the current year's crops and revenue, even at the risk of the loss of the outlay to be made for that purpose.

2. The Government consider that it will be desirable, for the reasons adduced by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to apply to the Government of India for the increase of the Agricultural repair grant from Rupees 13,67,050 to 15 lakhs, and the necessary application will at once be made.

Ordered that the following letter be sent:—

(Here enter No. 1,886, dated 14th July 1874.)

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
OOTACAMUND, 14th July 1874.

No. 252.

No. 1,886.

FROM

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. MULLINS, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Public Works Department.

IRRIGATION, No. 24.

SIR,—I am directed to bring to the notice of the Government of India that His Excellency the Governor in Council having had under consideration the reports of the District Engineers of North and South Arcot and Salem on the damage sustained by irrigation works from a storm and heavy rainfall which occurred in May last, together with the statements of expenditure on irrigation repairs in 1873-74, is of opinion that the grant for the current year under the head of Repairs Agricultural should be immediately increased to Rupees 15 lakhs, the sum entered in the Budget and passed by the Government of India being Rupees 13,67,050.

2. I am to mention that for many years past the outlay on the maintenance of irrigation works has been much below what would have been desirable, but that in 1873-74, under arrangements which have succeeded in obtaining from the officers in charge of these works due attention to the importance of their being placed in a satisfactory and efficient condition, the grant which was almost identical in amount with that of the current year was not only worked out but exceeded by Rs. 42,146, and that several weeks before the close of the year, while a considerable quantity of work, which had been executed before it was generally known that the grant had been exhausted, has had to be paid for out of the grant for this year. In Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Cuddapah and also in Tinnevely, as well as in the districts above mentioned, it is certain that additions to the allotments will be greatly needed, and utilized if made available, while in the Kistna Delta some further amount is required. In North Arcot it is reported that many tanks which were breached in the cyclone of May 1872 have from want of funds been as yet left unrepaired, so that two years' revenue under them has already been lost, others which ought to have been repaired efficiently were only patched up, and have as a consequence again breached.

tanks

3. Such being the circumstances to be dealt with, I am instructed to request that the additional sum of Rupees 1,32,950 now asked for may be placed at the disposal of this Government as early as practicable, in order that arrangements for its distribution may be made in time to admit of its being expended where most required before the north-east monsoon.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient servant,
 (Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
 Joint Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
 Spare Copies

No 623
 From,) North Arcot
 District Engineer's Office
 Vellore 1st June 1874.

The District Engineer,
 North Arcot

The Chief Engineer,
 For Irrigation
 Madras.

Sir,
 In continuation of my letter
 No 422 of 13th ultimo, I have the honour to re-
 port that the total number of tanks said
 to have been breached through the heavy
 rain which fell in the early part of last
 month is as follows:-

		Aggregate Revenue
Chittoor Talug	1	800
Gudialtum	7	4,600
Vellore	10	8,300
Arcot	37	25,500
Polur	27	17,600
Handewash	73	36,800

Or 155 in all; none are reported from
 the Palmarinar, Chendragherri or Hallajai
 Talugs.

2. The real damage however is
 certainly not so severe as would appear
 from these figures; in many instances
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tanks have been reported by the village and Revenue Officers as breached, when in reality the bunds have only been more or less injured, and in other cases the breaches have occurred, not in the tanks themselves, but in the channels supplying them, a much less serious matter.

3. As far as my own observations and the information I have received, go, I should say that about one third might be deducted from the above numbers, but even with this deduction the damage is sufficiently serious.

4. I have inspected a large number of tanks in the Handewash Talug, where the greatest damage has occurred, including all the most important ones, and have given the necessary instructions for their repair, and shall shortly do the same in the Vellore and Arcot Talugs.

5. The main causes of injury appear to be 1st leaky and defective sluices, 2nd the bunding of falingulaho by the ryots, 3rd insufficiency of escape provision.

6. The first cause is to be removed by the provision of proper sluices, but

but this is necessarily a work of time, the numbers required being counted by hundreds, while the funds for providing them are very limited.

7. The second cause is one from which we shall never be free so long as falingulaho with dam stones are allowed to exist. I look upon these dam stones as an unmitigated evil, and take every opportunity of removing them, but it is impossible to move in this direction as fast as I should wish. Orders are regularly given in the Revenue Department for the removal of the dams at the right time, but no amount of orders will keep the ryots from closing the falingulaho if they think they can get any benefit by so doing. In one instance which has come under my notice (the Coveley tank, with a revenue of Rupees 1800) the dams had been removed, and the ryots deliberately built them up again when they saw that rain was coming; the tank of course breached.

8. The removal of the third cause is purely a matter of time and of money.

9. Damage done to bunds by cattle

cattle constantly crossing them is a
fruitful source of breaches: I have already
addressed the Collector on this point, and
he has promised to do his best to prevent
the practice, but it is evidently one
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11. You may rely upon every
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12. That it is better to repair a few
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16. In the Handewash taluq all the tanks actually breached two years ago have been repaired, but many of them were merely patched up, and have again breached; while as to the general condition of the works, here are the remarks against the ten tanks entered in a single page taken at random in the Irrigation Register of the Taluq; it contains altogether 605 works.

Embankment

The very thing that Mr. Millin is trying to prove is that the works are in a bad state of repair.

Embankment requires strengthening and revetting and a new escape.

Embankment requires Earthwork repair and a new escape, a distributing sluice requires to be reconstructing.

Embankment and two distributing sluices in good repair, a new escape and a new distributing sluice required.

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provement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servant.

J. B. P. P. P. Captain R. E.

District Engineer,

North Arcot.

11/10/51

* P-422-13 May
with note #333
19 May 74.

N^o 3996
Submitted for the information
of Government in continuation
of the report contained in the
District Engineer's former letter
2. A few remarks on the con-
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surplus

From C. S. N^o 1024
Mr. J. J. J. J. J.
The District Engineer

To
The Chief Engineer
for irrigation
P. M. J. J. J.

Dated 1st 4th
Recd 4th June 1974

No 623
Enclosure

Reports further about
the tanks breached by
the heavy rain which fell
in the early part of May

last
Mr. 4042/74

Mr. 4042/74

surplus water so received

3rd That the real requirements Para 11 of
of irrigation works have over
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circumstances

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Para 13.

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quirements of works than
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them before they have been
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of

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deem qualified to decide what
work should be provided for.
However, looking to the fact
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3402 11th. Should have been (it)
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works are required.

Obaamund 3. Colundulius St. H. M. R.
10 June 1876.3 Chup. S. for Irrigation
To The Secretary Govt. P. W. D.

P. W. 1874 Sept.
Proc. of Govt. Only

No. 4042

From

The Chief Engr for
Irrigation

Do 10th June
Do 3rd July } 1874.

E. 2.

Al-ho: 1885-16-14-7-74

Note on the
further report of the
District Engineer on
the damage to the
irrigation works of
the North Acrot Dist.
by the heavy rains
of May last.

Or 260

Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Chodas Government
Read the following

From
The St. Engineer (H. C. 523. Dated
1 June 1874)
Do Chief Engr for Linn (H. C. 399. Dated 10 June
1874)

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11
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Ordered that the
following letter be
sent.

lmm. 19/4/24

To the D. Engr. & Architect
to the Chief Engr. for the D. Engr. &
S. Copies despatched to the D. Engr. 23/7/14.

250 - 252.

Public Works Department

1886

To The Secretary to the
Govt of India P.O.

Sir, I am directed
to bring to the notice
of the Govt of In-
dia that His Ex-
cellency the Governor
in Council, ^{having} had
under consideration
the reports of the
District-Engineers of
North & South Arcot
& Salem on the da-
mage sustained by
irrigation works from
a storm and heavy
rainfall which oc-
curred in May last,
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statements of expen-
diture on irrigation
repairs

lmm.

23/6

repairs in 1873-74, is
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grant for the cur-
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head of Repairs
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India being Ru-
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2. I am to men-
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13
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placed in a satis-
factory and efficient
condition, the grant,
which was almost
identical in amount
with that of the
current year was
not only worked
out but exceeded
by Rupees 7
and that several
works before the
close of the year,
while a considera-
ble quantity of
work, which had
been executed be-
fore it was gene-
rally known that
the grant had been
exhausted, has had
to

40 lakhs (estimated)
for repairs & filling
of irrigation works

to be paid for out
of the grant for this
year - In Tanjore, Trin-
chinopoly, Cuddalore
I also in Tanjore
as well as well as
in the Districts above
mentioned it is cer-
tain that additions
to the allotment
will be greatly
needed, and uti-
lized if made
available, while
in the Fort St. George
to some further
amount is required.
In North Arcot it
is reported that
many tanks which
were breached in
the cyclone of May
1842 have from
want of funds
been as yet left
unrepaired

ed.
years' Revenue
under them has al-
ready been lost: others
which ought to have
been repaired effi-
ciently were only
patched up, and
have as a conse-
quence again breach-
ed: 18

3. Such being the
circumstances to
be dealt with,
I am instructed
to request that
the additional
sum of Rupees 1,32,950
now asked for may
be placed at the
disposal of this
Government as
early as practicable
in order that
arrangements for
its distribution may be
made.

where most
before the
East monsoon

May 15/6/74
L.M.W.

Govt. of M.S. & C. P.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The District Engineer
Bengal District of India

Date
Recd.
Encl 2
G.O. 11/6/July 1885
1886

Nos. 250.252

Wages to District Works

with District
orders on Note by the Chief
for District on the further
of the District Engineer on the
age to District Works
heavy rains of May