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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2353	Press
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		18/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st August 1874.*

No. 510. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 13th June 1874, No. 412:—

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Bramadesam, 4th June 1874, No. 144.

ON receipt of your memorandum on prickly-pear, dated 27th February last, which reached me only on the 16th March, I sent copies of it to my Divisional Officers, and asked their opinions on the points touched on by you, which are virtually two:—

First.—To what extent the cost of exterminating prickly-pear, at present existing on tank bunds and channel banks, can be thrown on the ryots interested in the works affected.

Second.—How best to exterminate the pear from roadsides, pathways, and tracts of land, more particularly in the taluq of Kallakurchi and part of Trikalore.

2. The Acting Sub-Collector, Mr. Lister, thinks that the cost of clearing tank bunds and channels should be borne equally by the Government and the ryots interested in the works cleared. He thinks there would be no difficulty in carrying out this arrangement.

Mr. Kough, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, does not see how the ryots can be compelled to bear a portion of the cost of removing the pear or keeping it down in future, unless special legislation is made by law to meet the occasion.

Deputy Collector Stri Baliah thinks that the whole cost of the removal of the *cactus* should be borne by Government, but that once cleared away there would be no difficulty in requiring the village officers to keep it down in future.

3. I am myself disposed to think that the evil can only be really grasped and disposed of effectually by means of a legislative enactment empowering the Collector to levy, from any village in which the District Engineer may consider the tank bunds or channels require clearing of vegetation, the cost of clearing them, if, within ten days of notice having been given to the Monegar to clear them, they remain uncleared. The cost to be levied by a ratable addition to the demand of the village.

4. In the first instance, however, I think the whole cost of clearing should be borne equally by the Irrigation Department and Local Fund Boards.

5. With respect to the suppression of the *cactus* on lands and in village limits and on roadways, there is a plan now before the Board of Revenue of giving all such lands out on Cowle, free of assessment, for a certain number of years, to induce people to come forward and clear away the noxious growth, while the Local Fund Boards are always ready to make grants for clearing it away within village limits and by roadsides, and annual grants for that purpose are even now actually made for each taluq.

SUBMITTED for the information and orders of Government.

The subject of the means to be taken for the entire removal and extermination of prickly-pear from tank bunds and their supply channels is one of much importance, not only in the South Arcot District, but in many other districts. In Chingleput and North Arcot especially the irrigation works are much overrun with this vegetation, and elsewhere it is to a greater or less extent a nuisance, the removal of which will need very persistent efforts.

2. On all irrigation works on which annual or frequent expenditure for maintenance is needed, the Public Works Department should be entirely responsible that no prickly-pear whatever is allowed to grow, and this responsibility will be strictly enforced.

3. In the case of tanks and their supply channels, with the exception of the few on which there are conservancy establishments, it is of course absolutely impracticable for the Irrigation Department to deal with the nuisance. Funds can be provided to any extent, or proportion of the required cost, which Government may deem proper for the removal of prickly-pear, but none but the villagers can prevent its re-growth; and, as has been pointed out in the letter addressed to the Collector of South Arcot, it would be waste of money to make such a clearance unless effectual measures be taken to ensure the prevention of the re-growth. Generally tanks cannot be repaired oftener than once in ten years, and in less than half that time probably the prickly-pear, if left to itself after a complete clearance, would be more extensive than ever.

4. At the present time there are many hundreds of irrigation works which have not been repaired for years, which need repair very much, but for which even estimates cannot be made because they are inaccessible.

5. On the specific proposals of Mr. Garstin, that in his district, in the first instance, the cost of making the clearance should be borne by Agricultural Repair and Local Funds in equal proportions, and that a legislative enactment should be passed empowering the Collector, when necessary, to levy from the villagers the cost of subsequent clearances, it is only needful to remark that, in my opinion, it is essential that some part of the cost of the first clearance should be imposed on the villagers, in order that the duty of preventing re-growth may be fully impressed upon them. I do not look upon it as a question only of money, and I would not require a greater extent of clearing without payment than the village labor could probably manage without any actual expense, but if Government do all that is requisite now, some years hence they will have to do it again. If the evil is to be effectually dealt with, the ryots must, I think, understand how that their duty in the matter will be enforced, and that as at present their responsibility cannot be entirely got rid of, so in the future it will require to be fully acted up to.

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

No. 511.

ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1874, No. 2,353.

IRRIGATION, No. 46.

His Excellency the Governor in Council observes that the irrigation works from which prickly-pear has to be removed and on which in future it must not be allowed to grow, are of two kinds, 1st, those, such as anicuts and head works, canals, and a few of the more important tanks on which conservancy establishments are maintained, and expenditure on repairs incurred either annually or frequently; secondly, those, such as the great majority of tanks, with their supply channels when fed by rivers or streams, on which repairs are executed periodically and at intervals of perhaps not less in many cases than ten years.

2. Works coming under the former class should and must be kept in complete order in all respects by the Public Works Department, and neither

prickly-pear nor any other noxious vegetation must be allowed to grow upon them, or within the boundaries of the land appertaining to them.

3. With regard to the works which can be attended to only at very considerable intervals, it appears to be certain that were prickly-pear entirely cleared off these, it would grow again and be just as extensive or, perhaps, more so by the time the next periodical repairs were to be executed. The Government however consider that the clearances now required must be provided for in the repair estimates of the Department Public Works, and that no part of the cost of effecting the removal of the prickly-pear can be imposed upon the villagers. Probably the best way of arranging for the carrying out of such clearances will be by means of grants-in-aid to the villagers; and it is thought that in this manner, if time be allowed so that the labor available in the non-cultivation season may be employed upon this work, the villagers will very gladly undertake it. The arrangements to be made for such partial clearances as may be requisite to the preparation of estimates must be determined locally, and in most cases it will be practicable in all probability to get the villagers to do what is necessary on a promise of payment when the estimates shall have been sanctioned. If this cannot be managed advances must be made to enable the tanks or other irrigation works to be so partially cleared, and these advances will be adjusted on sanction for the estimates being obtained.

4. It must be noticed that in no case could Local Funds be applied at all to defraying the cost of the extermination of prickly-pear on Government irrigation works.

5. The question as to the way in which tanks and the minor irrigation works of the country generally should be kept free from prickly-pear, after this shall have been once effectually cleared away, is one however of very considerable importance. It seems probable that, in many localities, were its re-growth left unprevented the practical effect would be about to double the cost of maintenance of a vast number of small tanks and channels, and some measures must, therefore, be adopted to prevent the necessity for what could not be deemed other than a very unprofitable and wasteful outlay. The subject is one which affects so many districts that the Government think it will be advisable to call upon the Board of Revenue to report, after such references to Collectors as may be necessary, what arrangements will be likely to prove efficacious, and consultation between the latter officers and District Engineers will be desirable, in order that the measures which may be recommended may be such as can be practically carried out should the agency of the Public Works Department be proposed to be employed.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" District Engineers.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

MINUTES BY THE HONORABLE W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

THE prickly-pear question is undoubtedly a very serious one everywhere, and I fear that the only way to deal with it as regards agricultural land is to grant special Cowles for its eradication.

2. Possibly its eradication on Gramanattam or village sites might be a fair charge on the Local Funds under the head of Sanitation. I should, however, deprecate anything like an adequate appropriation to this purpose in any district on the simple ground that there are very many more important objects, such as village roads, village education, etc., for which the funds are urgently needed. Certainly, Local Board funds could not be applied under any circumstances save as respects village sites; and I fear we never could again resort to the severe tax for compulsory labor, which was put upon the people of several districts some years ago in order to remove at once the neglect of many years in this respect.

3. The question here is the clearance of the bunds of Government tanks, and it is easier to say what cannot be done than to devise a practical remedy. The old statute labor (*Kudimarāmut*)—which no doubt included this kind of maintenance—cannot now be enforced without legislation, either for the entire or joint eradication of the nuisance, or in order to keep up the clearance when once effected, say, at Government expense. This clearly resulted from the inquiry made by the Public Works Commission some years back. I deprecate the fitful, irregular, and inequitable operation of pressed village labor, but have always been in favor of legalized *Kudimarāmut*, and believe that sooner or later it must be resorted to in some form or other.

4. The Law does not admit of Local Board funds being applied to the repairs or conservancy of Government tanks. It should be forbidden.

22nd June 1874.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

I SUBMIT that this draft does not sufficiently assert the obligation of Statute labor. Whether we be willing to enforce it or not, the customary obligation exists (specially in respect to the object under consideration) and belongs to the most ancient institutions of the country. The obligations of Statute labor should, as is done in other countries, be maintained until the circumstances of the population clearly indicate that the time has come for changing the form in which it is exacted: and I hold that a serious injustice has been done to the country by the neglect with which this matter has been treated of late; and by the extravagant substitution of a costly Engineer organization for *Kudimarāmut* (tenant's repair) in respect to the repairs and maintenance of such agricultural works.

2. Already a draft Law has been prepared for the regulation of *Kudimarāmut*, and I believe that either regulation or commutation, is one of the wants of the country which should no longer be neglected. In an order, therefore, of this kind I submit that the obligation should be fairly asserted, though perhaps not insisted on in practice for the present.

11th July 1874.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

SOUTH ARCOT.

No.

144

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

Camp Bramadavam
4 June 1876.

From

J. H. Gervais Esquire

Collector of South Arcot.

To

Lieut. Colonel John Mullins R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Sir,

On receipt of your Memo on
prickly pear dated 27th February
last which reached me only on the
16th March, I sent copies of it to my
Divisional Officers and asked their
opinion on the points touched on
by you which are virtually two.

First: To what extent the cost of
exterminating prickly pear at pre-
sent existing on Tank bunds and
channel banks can be thrown on
the spots interested in the work.

Recd

Despatched 3/6

SOUTH ARCOT.

No.

144

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

Camp Bramadesam
4 June 1876.

From

J. H. Gurney Esquire

Collector of South Arcot.

To

Lieut. Colonel John Mullins R. E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

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Red

Despatched 5/6

SOUTH ARCOT.

No.

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J. H. Gouster Esquire

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Red

Despatched 3/16/76

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Mr. Hough, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, does not see how the ryots can be compelled to bear a portion of the cost of removing the pear or keeping it down in future, unless special legislation

legislation is made by law to meet the occasion. ¹² 9

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I have the honor to be
Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

J. H. Gaister
Collector

U.S.

Submitted for the information & orders of Government.

The subject of the means to be taken for the entire removal and extermination of prickly pear from Tank bunds and their supply channels is one of much importance, not only in the South Arcot District, but in many other Districts. In Chingleput & North Arcot especially the irrigation works are much overrun with this vegetation, and elsewhere it is to a greater or less extent a nuisance, the removal of which will need very persistent efforts.

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there are Conservancy establish-
ments, it is of course absolutely
impracticable for the Irrigation
Department to deal with the
nuisance. Funds can be provided
to any extent, or proportion of the
required cost, which Government
may deem proper for the remo-
val of prickly pear, but none
but the villagers can prevent
its regrowth; and, as has been
pointed out in the letter ad-
dressed to the Collector of South
Acreet, it would be waste of
money to make such a clear-
ance unless effectual mea-
sures be taken to ensure
the ^{prevention of the} regrowth. Generally tanks
cannot be repaired oftener than
once in ten years, and in less
than half that time. Probably
the prickly pear, if left to it-
self after a complete clearance,
would be more extensive than
ever.

4. At the present time there
are many hundreds of irrigation
works which have not been re-
paired for years, which need
repair very much, but for which

even estimates cannot be made
because they are inacceptable-15
5. On the specific proposals
of Mr Garstin that in his
District, in the first instance,
the cost of making the
clearance should be borne by
Agricultural repair and Local
Funds in equal proportions,
and that a legislative en-
actment should be passed
empowering the Collector when
necessary to levy from the
villagers the cost of subse-
quent clearances, it is only
needful to remark that
in my opinion it is essential
that some part of the
cost of the first clearance
should be imposed on the
villagers, in order that the
duty of preventing regrowth
may be fully impressed upon
them. I do not look upon
it as a question only of money,
and I would not require
a greater extent of clearing
without

without payment than the vil-
lage labour could probably
manage without any actual
expense, but if Government do
all that is requisite now,
some years hence they will
have to do it again. If the
evil is to be effectually dealt
with, the ryots must I think
understand now that their
duty in the matter will be
enforced, and that as at
present their responsibility
cannot be entirely got rid
of, so in the future it
will require to be fully
acted up to.

Respectfully
13 June 1874
Voluntarily
Chief Insp. for Irrigation
St. John's
To
The Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

Public Works Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following
from the Collector

at South Arcot (H. B. No. 144-8) - 4 June
1874
VI
14.07.

19

very the
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ancient and head works
canals, and a few of the
important tanks,
which are in
Conservancy
relabouring

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P. W. 1874 Sept:
No. 4957

The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

The Secretary
to Govt. P.W.D.

Noted 13 June 1874
Received 7 August -
E. 17

G.O. No: 2353. 21-8-74.

Submits letter from
the collector of both
districts on the subject
of the means to be taken
for the entire removal
of prickly pear from
the various other
supply channels

Obtained 21-8-74
13 June

The Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

Public Works Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government
From the Collector

of South Arcot (H. B. No 144-7-4 June
do Chief Eng for Irr. (H. B. No 412 13 June 1874)

2353 19

would (perhaps) be far
the more recommended
and if better is not
in supposing that the
villagers will gladly do
the work, sufficiently
effectual. It seems
better therefore to adopt
this method (gravel on wh.
and) at least until
in season 1875 the work
is done.

His Excellency the
Governor in Council ob-
serves that the Irrigation
works from which prickly
pear has to be removed
and in future must not
be allowed to grow, are of

2 kinds, 1st. Those such as
ancient and head works
canals, and a few of the
important tanks,
which are Conservancy
establishments

13. 7

Seen 5/7
Mr. J. H. ...
minutes ...
Conservancy
establishments

Establishments are main-
tained, and expenditure
on repairs incurred either
annually or frequently;

2^{ndly} Those, such as the great
majority of tanks, with
their supply channels
when fed by rivers or
streams, on which repairs
are executed periodically,
and at intervals of per-
haps not less in many
cases than 10 years.

3^{rdly} Works coming under
the former class should
and must be kept in
complete

U
complete order in all res-
pects by the P. N. Dept.,
and neither prickly pear
nor any other noxious ve-
getation must be allowed
to grow upon them or with-
in the boundaries of the
land appertaining to them.

3. With regard to the
works which can be attain-
ed to only at very con-
siderable intervals, it ap-
pears to be certain that
were prickly pear entirely
cleared off these it would
grow again and be just
as

as extensive or perhaps
more so by the time the tree - but we need
not be idle in the
next periodical repairs interval! So

were to be executed. The

Govt. considers that the
clearances now required

must be provided for

in the repair estimates

and that no part of the

cost of effecting the re-

moval of the prickly

pear can be imposed upon

the villagers. Also that

such partial clearances

as may be necessary to

the preparation of repair
estimates

Submit that this
draft does not sufficiently
assess the obligation of Statute
labor - whether we be willing
to enforce it or not. The Custom
obligation exists (especially
in respect to the object under
consideration) and belongs to
the most ancient institutions
of the Country. The obligation
of Statute labor - as is done
in other countries - should
be maintained until the
circumstances of the
population clearly indicate
that the time has come for
changing the form in which
it is exacted - and I hold
that a serious injustice has
been done to the Country by
the "partial" neglect with
which this matter has been
treated by the Government

Revised draft of part of para 8 of the
order on prickly pear clearances.

approved
✓

periodical repairs
were to be executed. The
Govt. however considers
that the clearances
now required must
be provided for in
the repair estimates
of the S.D. & that
no part of the cost of
effecting the removal
of the prickly pear
can be imposed upon
the villagers. Probab-
ly the best way of
arranging for the
carrying out of such
clearances will be by
means of grants-in-aid
to

to the villagers; and it is
thought that in this
manner, if time be
allowed so that the
labour available
in the non-cultivation
season may be em-
ployed upon this
work, the villagers
will very gladly
undertake it. The
arrangements to be
made for such par-
tial clearances as
may be requisite to
the preparation of
estimates must be
determined locally, and
in most cases it will
be practicable in all
probability to get the
villagers

25
villagers to do what is
necessary on a promise
of payment when the
estimates shall have
been sanctioned. If
this cannot be man-
aged advances
must be made to
enable the San Rs
or other irrigation
works to be so par-
tially cleared, and
these advances will
be adjusted on sanction
for the estimates being
obtained.

G. W. W.

to the villagers; and it is
thought that in this
manner, if time be
allowed so that the
labour available
in the new cultivation
season may be em-
ployed upon this
work, the villagers
will very gladly
undertake it. The
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may be requisite to
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enable the San Rs
or other irrigation
works to be so par-
tially cleared, and
these advances will
be adjusted on sanction,
for the estimates being
obtained.

G. W. M.

Substitution of cost of
Engineering organization for
Rudimentary (tenant repair)
in respect to the repairs and
maintenance of such
Agricultural works.

Already a draft
law has been prepared
for the regulation of ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{ordinances}
and I believe that either
regulation or commutation
is one of the wants of the
country which should
not longer be neglected.
In an order therefore
of this kind I submit
that the obligation should
be firmly presented though
perhaps it may be difficult.

an in practice for the
present. 10/7 - Robinson

estimates must be carried out either by inducing the villagers to do what may be requisite, with or without payment, by Contractors, or Departmentally upon advances, which can be adjusted as soon as the estimates may be sanctioned.

4. It must be noticed
that in no case could local
funds be applied at all
to defraying the cost of
the extermination of pri-
vate on Government
Irrigation

about to double the cost of
maintenance of a vast
number of small tanks
and channels, and some
measures must therefore
be adopted to prevent the
necessity for what could
not be deemed other than
a very unprofitable and
wasteful outlay. The subject
is one which affects so
many Districts that the
Government think it would
be advisable to call upon
the Board of Revenue to
report, after such references
to Collectors as may be ne-
cessary.

best advantage of
water - to have the
main source in the
river - the vil-
lages in the
vicinity of the
river - if they
are only left to
the river in
the river - when
the water is avail-
able.

I entirely agree with
you in regard to
confiscating village
land. I must have

Irrigation works.

5. The question as to
the way in which tanks
and the minor irrigation
works of the country ge-
nerally should be kept
free from prickly pear
after this shall have been
once effectually cleared
away, is one however of
very considerable im-
portance. It seems pro-

cannot be
regulated - it may
be estimated if care
be taken and simply
adding to taxation -
But in this case it
may be felt very
much in the
clearance of prickly
pear comes in the
the description of work
to which it could
be applied.

S. D. S.

bable that in many lo-
calities, were its growth
left unprevented the prac-
tical effect would be
about
little regard to
if the Government
would only suggest
that in the
the Government
I am sure that in

necessary, what arrange-
ments will be likely
to prove efficacious, and
consultation between the
latter officers and St
Engineers will be decidedly
in order that the measures
which may be recommend-
ed may be such as can
be practically carried
out, should the agency of
the P. M. Dept. be proposed
to be employed.

I have been thinking of
 writing at all to do with it
 either ~~actually~~ directly
 a 'commutation', which
 means increased taxation.
 With the Governor —
 for approval of the
 Revised plan.

Amo

possibly to Examine
or examine them or Village
sites might be a fair
charge on the Local Fund
under the head of
Sanitation. I should
however deprecate anything
like an adequate
appropriation of the

sitting at all to do with
 either ~~actually~~ directly
 a 'enumeration', which

Engineer

which is

-rd m

Mr. Fra

mit cher

The P. M. Dept. be prepared
to be employed.

except in the case of
'need partial repairs
' &c. I do not see the
need of this distinction
and would do the whole
within by the D. P. W.,
or by "grants-in-aid
to the villagers.. The latter

510-511.

Amr

To the Revenue Dept

Chief Clerk for Dr. W. W.

1. District Engineers ✓
" Insurance Co. ✓

Financial Dept ✓
Sign & C. 1/1/18

Sign. L. Capins desd. 27/8/77.

Excepting Kansas

Büch/14

Concepting Name alone
1. Canada & Sulphur

The prickly pear
question is undoubtedly
a very serious one
everywhere and I fear
that the only way to deal
with it as regards agric-
ultural land is to
grant special Crole
for its eradication.

Possibly the Expenditure
on Franchises or Village
sites might be a fair
charge on the Local Fund
under the head of
Sanitation. I should
however deprecate anything
like an Adequate
Appropriation of the

purpose in any District
on the simple ground
that there are very
many more important
objects such as Village
Roads, Village Education
for which the funds
are urgently needed.
Certainly Local Board Funds
could not be applied
under any ~~other~~
circumstances. Same
as respects Village Sites.
And I fear we never
could again resort
to the levies tax for
Compulsory labor which
was put upon the people
of several Districts
some years ago in order
to remove at once the
neglect of several

The question here
is the character of
the

the bonds of jointment
Links and it is easier
to say what cannot be
done than to devise
a practical remedy.
The old statute labor
(Kudismarâmm) - which
possibly (?) included
this kind of maintenance
cannot now be enforced
without ~~Legislation~~ either
for the entire or joint
eradication of the nuisance
or in order to keep up
the clearance when
once effected say at
Joint Expenses. This
clearly resulted from
the inquiry made by
the Public Works Commission
some years back. I
deprecate the pitiful
irregular higgledy
operation of ~~proposed~~
Slave labor, but

Memo from the Chief Engineer for Briga-
- tion dated 13th June 1874

Submitted for
orders-

Wm. M. Colver Col. R.
Secretary to Govt.

have always been
in favor of legalized
Kudimurak and
believe that sooner
or later it must be
reported there is
some form or other.
The Law does not
admit of Local Board
funds being applied
to the repairs or
improvement of Government
Docks. It should
be forbidden.

We cannot give
Counsel the right to
clear or aid in clearing
away Cacti - but kind
may be done to induce
them to join - by sending
money to assist. With other
sites the West India House has
been long in case for. The
disturbance is becoming so large
that it would ask the Govt
to take the matter into its
hands.

As regards finally - fear
1. The herpetia only
"as much as needed" the
"expensive" is needed. The
British Water Board for the
London and South
Windsor.
2. The proposed Tanks
and Supply Channels
generally - Col. M. up
the Villagers and to keep
them clear of finally fear -
because, referring to the
to do it, in 5 years it would
have grown again. But at
all events, during the 5
years it was a less clear
w. or more a less clear
finally - fear. What the
w. the work cost, if not
done by the P.W.D. & if the
cost is not excessive, I think
as Col. M's own showing it
should be done by the P.W.D.
June 27/74

90000

4957 1045 Chief Engineer's
Subt. of (1874) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.



Public Works Dept.

S. Aug. 21/74

ated

ed.

Excl. /

G. O. 21 Aug 1874, No. 2353

No. 510-511.

Prickly pear

Passing orders on
the subject of the
removal of prickly pear
in Irrigation Works

16/74

Ch. Engr. 16/74