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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	48-(3)	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Misc.~~
100-101		
Dated	10 1 1874	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th January 1874.*

No. 100. Read the following letter from Captain J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., District Engineer, North Arcot, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Vellore, 1st November 1873, No. 2,434:—

With reference to paragraph 7 of your Memorandum, No. 585-A., of 3rd September last, printed with G. O., No. 2,436, of 4th ultimo, I have the honour to forward a copy of letter received from Mr. O'Shaughnessy through the District Engineer of Tanjore, on the subject of the restoration of Græme's and Sadarkhan's Tanks.

From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., Executive Engineer, Tranquebar, to Captain H. E. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, Tanjore, dated Tranquebar, 21st October 1873, No. 316.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Memorandum, dated the 15th instant, No. 550, enclosing copy of paragraph 7 of G. O., dated 11th August 1869, No. 2,643, G. O., dated 4th October 1873, No. 2,436, and letter from the District Engineer, North Arcot, dated 13th October 1873, No. 2,253, calling upon me to state the grounds upon which I reported the restoration of the Græme's and Sadarkhan Tanks in the North Arcot District to be impracticable.

2. It is about five years since I reported upon these works, and I am not sure that I recollect now all the circumstances connected with them and upon which my report was made, but I believe the following account of them will not be far wrong.

3. The Græme's Tank (so called after the name of a Collector who had it formed) is at the foot of the western slope of the range of hills along which the railway runs between the Vellore and Gooriattum Stations, and about three miles from the town of Gooriattum; it is formed by a dam about 500 feet in length thrown across a ravine which separated a small detached hill from a spur of the principal range.

4. The dam appears to have been built on the loose sandy soil of the ravine, and the water percolated under it almost as fast as it was collected; the tank could at no time hold more water than would be required for perhaps twenty acres of land, but its capacity was so much reduced by the large quantity of deposit washed downpour the neighbouring hills, that at the time of inspection it could not supply more than about ten acres, and this only if the bank was watertight.

5. I do not recollect how the term "restoration" could have been applied to this work, but it was probably used by the Revenue Department in bringing the state of the work to notice. The bank was, it may be said, in as good order as ever it was, and unless the removal of the acres of deposit from the bed was thought of, the term "restoration" was misapplied.

6. There were two ways by which the work could be improved; the first would be to construct a new dam with a puddle wall, which should be in one place at least thirty feet high; this would prevent leakage and secure the present supply for use as required, but the capacity of the tank was so small, and the certainty that it would every day become smaller and smaller, the supply of water it would secure would not be anything like worth the cost of securing it.

7. The second way would be to enlarge the capacity of the tank by raising the proposed new dam six feet above the level of the old one, and constructing a new dam about 1,000 feet in length north of the detached hill (the ground here being about the same level as the old bank, the extension to higher ground would be necessary in order to utilize the increased height of the new dam); the objection to this was that a good deal of valuable land would be submerged, and that the extra storage would not be worth the cost; it was, I believe, shown also, that the land under the tank was not sufficient to justify any large expenditure in storing more water for it.

8. The Sadarkhan Tank is on the same slope of the same range of hills and a little south of the Græme's Tank; it is formed by a dam which connects two spurs of the main range of hills;

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10th January 1874.

it is high up the gorge, its watershed is very limited; and its capacity cannot be increased except at very great cost; it is worthwhile perhaps to keep the work in repair, but nothing further can be done with it.

No. 101. ORDER THEREON, 10th January 1874, No. 48.

IRRIGATION, No. 9.

ORDERED to be recorded with reference to G. O., 4th October 1873, No. 2,436. The Government consider

that the restoration or improvement of Grame's and Sadarkhan's Tanks, in the North Arcot District, is not likely to be advantageous, and paragraph 7 of G. O., No. 2,643, of the 11th August 1869, may be considered to be disposed of.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 48 P. W. Dept.
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following

From the Dist. Engr. (H.E. No. 2434 of 1st Nov. 1873)
North Arcot.

Ordered to be recorded with reference to Government Order 4th October 1873, No. 2436. The Government consider that the restoration or improvement of Grame's and Sadarkhan's Tanks, in the North Arcot District, is not likely to be advantageous, and para 7 of Government Order No. 2643 of the 11th August 1869 may be considered to be disposed of.

Md
8/12

by 17/11/73

The District Engineer North Arcot.
Revenue Department.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Disposal - 12/1/74

Ch 579
Govt. of 1873: Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the District Commr.
North Arcot

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 1

G. O. No. 12 "Langt" No. 48.

Nos. 100 & 101

Groene's & Sadarkhan's
Sanks, North Arcot St.

Letter from the St. Secy.
forwarding a report on
the subject of the restora-
tion of the Sanks, re-
corded.