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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~ 307-308 309	3261	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	18-11-1874	~~195~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

Read the following papers :—

No. 307. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 13th August 1874, No. 1,016.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th July 1874, No. 1,759.

Read the following replies of Collectors to Board's Proceedings, dated 31st March 1873, No. 482 :—

From the Collector of Ganjam, dated 10th Feb. 1874, No. 404.
„ „ of Vizagapatam, „ 21st June 1873, „ 904.
„ „ of Godavery, „ 15th Dec. „ „ 414.
recorded in Board's Procs., dated 19th Feb. 1874, No. 372.
From the Collector of Nellore, dated 10th June 1873, No. 1,318.
„ „ of Bellary, „ 26th Aug. „ „ 288.
„ „ of Cuddapah, „ 15th May „ „ 65.
„ „ of Kurnool, „ 7th Oct. „ „ 315.
„ „ of Chingleput, „ 23rd July „ „ 291.
„ „ of North Arcot, „ 22nd May „ „ 287.
„ „ of South Arcot, „ 22nd Oct. „ „ 407.
„ „ of Tanjore, „ 12th June „ „ 208.
„ „ of Trichinopoly, „ 7th Oct. „ „ 228.
„ „ of Madura, „ 28th May 1874, „ 153.
„ „ of Tinnevelly, „ 16th June 1873, „ 321.
„ „ of Coimbatore, „ 16th May „ „ 89.
„ Commissioner of Neilgherries, „ 17th „ „ „ 40.
„ Collector of Salem, „ 12th „ „ „ 135.
„ „ of South Canara, „ 6th Feb. 1874, „ 236.
recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 1,315 Mis., dated 25th Feb. 1874.
From the Collector of Malabar, dated 11th June 1873, No. 147.

These replies will be submitted to Government, with reference to G. O., dated 5th March 1873, No. 713, Public Works Department, in which the following passage occurs :—

" Instructions will accordingly be issued in the Revenue and Public Works Departments absolutely restricting the functions of the subordinate officers of the latter department to the regulation in the water supply in channels which supply the lands of more than one village, and vesting in the village officers the charge of the water supplied to single villages from the moment it quits the regulating sluice, over which, however, they will have no control."

2. The state of the case in the several districts is as follows :—

Ganjam.—The system is already in force.

Vizagapatam.—Do. do.

Godavery.—As regards this district the matter is settled in G. O., dated 29th May 1874, No. 651. The transfer is to take place from the beginning of fasli 1284. No new Neergunties are allowed, though the Collector said he might possibly want some.

Kistna.—The case of this district will be disposed of separately, as the Collector's reply involves other subjects.

Regarding

Nellore.—The system is already in force.

Bellary.—The system is already in force, except as regards the Tungabudra channels, and when the Collector wrote in July 1873 he was about to order that it should be in force in these channels also.

Cuddapah.—The village officers have charge of all distribution channels. There are no large works.

Kurnool.—The village officers have charge of all the channels, but more Neergunties are wanted, and the emoluments of those already in existence should be improved.

Chingleput.—The arrangement can be carried out, but the Neergunties must first be increased as recommended by Mr. Pelly in his letter to Government of the 25th September 1863, No. 1,620.

North Arcot.—The system is already in force.

South Arcot.—All field channels and most village channels are under the control of the villagers, but there are some long channels to tanks supplying only one village, which are kept in order by the Public Works Department, and it is desirable that this arrangement should continue.

Tanjore.—The villagers control all field and village channels, but more than this they manage the sluices at the head of the village channels, and have always done so. This practice works well, and should not be interfered with.

Trichinopoly.—The control over field and village channels is exercised by the villagers. The distribution of water in the Trichinopoly Taluq is supervised by the establishment paid out of the Irrigation Cess Fund.

Madura.—The Revenue Department supervises the distribution of water from all the channels. The best are much out of repair; sluices are wanted. There are seventeen channels irrigating more than one village. It would be useless to transfer them to the Department Public Works under existing circumstances.

Tinnevelly.—The case of field and village channels is provided for, as the new settlement is introduced.

Coimbatore.—Mr. Wedderburn introduced the same system some time ago, and finds it works well. In the sub-division all the channels are kept in repair by the ryots.

Neilgherries.—There are no such works.

Salem.—The system is already in force.

South Canara.—There are no such works.

Malabar.— Do. do.

3. It thus appears that no orders are required so far as regards Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Nellore, Bellary, Cuddapah, North Arcot, and Salem.

4. In Tinnevelly the Collector does not state whether the system approved by Government is in force in those parts of the district which have not yet been settled. He will report more fully.

5. In Godavery the matter is already settled. The case of the Kistna District will be dealt with in separate proceedings.

6. In Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore, the village officers do more and the subordinates less than they would under the system which Government wish to establish. The arrangements work well however and should certainly not be disturbed.

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

7. In South Arcot there are some long channels of considerable importance supplying the tanks of large villages. According to the letter of the Government Order, these channels ought to be kept up by the villagers, but they are of such a character that they ought to be kept under the control of the Public Works Department.

8. In Chingleput the Collector states generally that the new system can be introduced when Government allow him 534 Neergunties in addition to the 337 which he has now for 2,672 tanks. The cost would be at Rupees 30 each, Rupees 19,506 more than the present cost. In all probability the Public Works Department have never had anything to do with most of the tanks, and the Collector will report what work is done now by officers of the Department Public Works which the new system will impose on village officers, and what Neergunties are required on this account.

From the Hon. C. Pelly, to Government, dated 25th September 1863, No. 1,620.

9. The Kurnool representation that more Neergunties are wanted, etc., should be separately submitted, and the proposals should show how the necessary expenditure can be met from the Village Service Fund.

Irrigation, No. 2.

No special orders are called for on these proceedings. Paragraphs 6 and 7 will be considered in the Public Works Department. The further reports from Tinnevelly, Chingleput, and Kurnool, will be dealt with when hereafter received.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) A. DEC. SCOTT, Major, R.E.,
Under Secretary, P.W.D.,
for *Acting Secy. to Government, R.D.*

No. 563-A.

No. 308. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

I DO not concur fully with the views of the Board of Revenue as to the propriety of allowing the system of distribution of irrigation water in Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Coimbatore to continue indefinitely, but I am not prepared to advocate any general change at present, though proposals to that end in particular cases may from time to time be made. The system does not, in my opinion, either in Tanjore or in Trichinopoly work well for the general interests, and it hardly needs argument to show that such general interests cannot be secured when individuals are allowed to take as much water from the general supply available as they can divert into their channels. In Coimbatore also there is much room for improvement, complaints being very general that the water-supply at lower ends of channels is very inadequate, owing to waste higher up. Regarding Madura I have no information.

2. No changes will be proposed unless there be good reason to suppose that such changes are necessary, and unless the means of carrying out and working an improved system are available, and these remarks are now submitted to prevent

its being assumed, on what appears to be *ex parte* evidence, that the present system in certain districts is one which should not be interfered with.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
1st August 1874. *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

No. 309. ORDER THEREON, 18th November 1874, No. 3,261.

IRRIGATION, No. 32.

His Excellency the Governor in Council will not at present disturb the arrangements referred to in paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings as being in force in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore Districts in respect to the distribution of water from village and field channels. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation however affirms that the system which prevails in those districts is liable to affect prejudicially individual interests and has given rise to frequent complaints. The subject will accordingly be referred back to the Board of Revenue for a further expression of their opinion.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

C.S. No. 563 A. 1st Copies 5

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Yours obedt Servt
J. Hobler
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Potacamund
1st August 1874

To
The Secretary to Govt P.W.D.

P. W. 1874 Sept.
Agriculture for Govt.
No: 7066

From

The Chief Engr:
for Irrigation

Dated 1st August
Read 10th Novr: 1874.

No: 563 A.

Regarding the present system of distributing irrigation water in the Tanjore Trichinopoly and Coimbatore Dists.—

G. O. No: 3261. 18-11-74

No 308

S.W.C.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt. 5

No: the Bd of Rev — Read the following:—
H E No: 1759. of 10th July/74.
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
in the Rev: depart.
Note by the Chief Engr. for Irrign. (in - - 563 A/4 do.

(H-E. No 1016 of 13th Augt/74.)

3261 His Excellency the Governor in Council will at present not disturb the arrangements referred to in para 6 of the Board's Proceedings as being in force in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Coimbatore Districts in respect to the Distribution of water from village and field channels. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation however affirms that the

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Govt.

No.

The Revenue Deptt.
" Chief Engr.-for Irrn
" Dist. Engineers

signed & copies despd 22

307 - 309.

Public Works Deptt.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

Proc. of Board of Revn. (H. Ltr. 1759 dated 10 July 1874)

Chief Engr. for Irrn (H. Ltr. — dated 1 ult. 1874)

Communicated to the Revenue Department with reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue No. 1759 of the 10th July 1874.

Ult. 4/8/74

Govt.

Should Govt. orders of the nature Govt. entertain approve of the principle - that is why proceed in practice - & whether Govt. should be moved to call upon Board of Revenue & the Ch. Engr. for Irrn to report upon the Legislative - & Executive action necessary to give effect to such orders & whether such reference should be accompanied by a draft Bill to carry out the principle - & if so whether Govt. should

Encl 1

I have the honor to
be Sir
Your obedient
Servant
Lor

Lieut Colonel
Royal Engineers
Superintending Officer

Lieut 6/8/74

In the case of the Water Canals and channels that have been incidentally affirmed viz, that the water supply for the use of more than one village should be regulated by Canal or Public Works Officers or by some superior authority, and that the village officers of any particular village should not be allowed to interfere therewith.

2. The correctness of the principle involved in this latter proposition admits, the Board considers, of no doubt, but it has also

to be somewhat [illegible] but it is from the [illegible] to the [illegible] of the Province, [illegible] the village [illegible] and [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] fairly will and [illegible] consider what shall [illegible] and [illegible] for the [illegible] and [illegible]

G.O. dated 7/13 - 5th March/13
" " 651 - 29th May/14

and [illegible] by [illegible] with [illegible] under any [illegible] air [illegible] regulation [illegible] attend [illegible] dis- [illegible] pute [illegible] that the [illegible] of the [illegible] can afford - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Madura, Coimbatore
and probably Tinnevelly
are also in other dis-
tricts, so far as the
circumstances may
be similar, will
remain undisturbed
until in particular
cases the distribution
of the supply appear-
taining to more than
one village to the
several villages interested
can be undertaken
by the officers of
Government.

4.9.74

Govt.

28/10/74

by Pte. Mr. [illegible]

[illegible]

L. to L.

Memo.

I am not sure that I clearly under-
stand what principle is intended
to be referred to in the remark of the
Honorable Mr. Robinson in the draft
order of the Board of Revenue dated
10th July last. That draft is superse-
ded by the Revenue Departt. G.O.
of the 13th August 1874, but in either
disposal is now required.

The principle that village communi-
ties should have the detailed distri-
bution of the water supply of the
village in their own hands is one
which the Govt have approved in
connection with the Northern Delta.
The arrangement there is maintained
or introduced where not now in force
so that the village supply shall be
delivered by the Canal Officers at the
head of the village channels, and there
after shall be at the disposal of the
community for whose benefit it is
intended.

Sf.

1066 / 327 / 47 / 0

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Rev. Dept.

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 18 Nov 1874 No. 3261

Nos. 987-305

Village and field Channels - The subject of the distribution of water from ——— in respect to the arrangements as being in force in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura and Combatore Districts referred to the Bd of Revenue for a further expression of their opinion -

Cir 10-11-75