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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1243	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	3 - 5 -	195
		1875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd May 1875.*

No. 54. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 10th April 1875, No. 18 :—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 2nd April 1875, No. 45.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 13, of 5th March, on *contour and ridge systems*.

2. I am very glad to be corrected. I reply without having looked into the correspondence and inspection reports; for to wait till that were possible would delay my answer some months.

3. My impression has been that, as the termination of the contract time drew near a close, and the 6th section survey for distribution had to be conducted, the advisers of Government had used such expressions to the effect that the contour system was the proper one, that to have prepared any other at that time would have involved me in a risk, and might have rendered it impossible to complete the contract in time.

4. The contour system was the one originally contemplated; and my own opinion only turned against it when I had seen it fail in the 4th section, not so far as I could see from any inherent defect in the system, but from the failure of the Assistant Engineers to understand and of the Divisional Engineers to explain and after to understand the requirements and mode of construction of all the petty works required. The permission of Government to extend the time for completion of the contour channels was of great value, for their construction was reduced to a minimum until further trial.

5. After a season's trial, by the end of 1872, it was evident that the ridge system can be carried out with far less expensive supervision, owing to the uniformity and simplicity of the works; that such errors as a Native Surveyor or Overseer are likely to make are seldom dangerous to crops or property; that the soil is not so porous as to allow the soakage from the ridge channels to do any harm; and that, in this steep district, the natural watercourses, if left to themselves, are sufficient drains. Lastly, the ridge channels may be made just large enough for requirements, and increased as desirable if only the road bridges are made ample from the first; but to enlarge a contour is an expensive business, and it has to be made its full final size from the first as a rule. The only failure of ridge channels that I have seen has been in Mr. Dodson's division. At Maidkur some had cut five or six feet into the ground, and threaten to cost heavy sums for frequent masonry falls in bad deep soil.

6. I much regret that I can only give so imperfect a reply to your letter.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government, in connection with the papers recorded in Proceedings, Madras Government, 14th April 1874, No. 966.

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd May 1875.*

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 3rd May 1875, No. 1,243.

IRRIGATION, No. 5.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" " " and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Spare Copies.

5:18

L. Chiffignier and Manager
M.S. & C. No. 13.

From so so No. 45.

Submitted for the in-
formation of Government, in
connection with the papers recorded
in P.M. & 14th April 1874, No. 966.

L. Chiffignier
10th April 1875 } for Chief Eng. for Irrigation
D. C. C. K. E.

To the Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

40 14th April / 74 No 129-131
 " 25th do / 73 " 447-448
 " 23rd Feb / 74 " 434-435
 " 10 Dec / 66 " 3894
 " 10th Sept / 68 " 2882

17. 1845 Sept
 No 18 No 2593.

From
 The Chief Eng for
 Irrigation
 To
 The Secretary to Govt.
 P.W.D.

Dated 10th April 1875
 Received 21st

Encls. 2 1/2
 H.C. No. 1263 3-5-75.
 Submits for informa-
 tion papers on the
 subject of the Contours
 and ridge systems
 proposed by the Chief
 Eng. & Manager M.S.
 & C. Co.

No 521

1/22.4.75

P. H. d. J. J.

Pro of the Madras Govt.

Read the following:-

From the Chief Eng for
 Irrigation { H.C. No 18 of 10 April 75

G.O. no. 1243 of 3rd May 75-

Ordered to be
recorded

mm

The Chief Eng for Irrigation with one enclosure
 " " " Manager of the Madras Mr. Haniel Co.

Desd 12-5-75

2593

Govt. of (1875) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Chief Engineer
Irrigation

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. No. 1243

Nos. 54-55

Madras Irrigation and Canal
Company - Papers on the subject
of the contour and ridge system,
proposed by the Chief Engineer
and Manager, ordered to be
recorded.