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(2) Date of repair _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1299	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	7-5-	1875	
		195	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th May 1875.*

No. 159. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 22nd April 1875, No. 398 :—

From Colonel C. V. WILKIESON, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 14th April 1875, No. 9.

In reply to G. O., dated 11th March 1875, No. 694, I have the honor to forward

1 Copy of Collector's Report, No. 83, dated 2nd April 1875, to the Secretary, Board of Revenue. a copy of a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue on the subject of the Caniem-polliem Anicut, which hardly meets the

question of the transference of the lands from wet to dry, though I have no doubt if it is considered unadvisable to make repairs to the anicut that it will not change into dry cultivation, but into dense jungle.

2. The amounts expended on the anicut and channel in—

	RS.
1871-72	1,577
1872-73	3,837
1873-74	3,631
1874-75	1,565

whilst the revenue for these years are—

1870-71	947
1871-72	158
1872-73	1,157
1873-74	1,114

and the anicut is again breached.

3. The Collector recommends that the repairs be put into the hands of the Revenue authorities, with what success this may meet with of course it is not for me to express an opinion on.

4. I have in anticipation of orders from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation ordered that a small amount be expended in clearing the head of channel, when I have no doubt that the cultivators will receive enough of water for at all events a kar or three months' crop, if not for the ayen or five months' crop, as the river is in full flood from June to October, and it is only later in the season for second crops when the river becomes low that the anicut is of any use. In paragraph 4 of the Collector's letter, he says that water was going down in October in spite of the present breach.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 2nd April 1875, No. 83.

I HAVE the honor to report on Colonel Wilkieson's suggestion to abandon the Caniem-polliem Anicut as a source of revenue, and to transfer the lands to the head of dry.

2. Before carrying out this suggestion, I would propose that the executive repairs be handed over to the Revenue Department for next official year; this year's* repair season is of course lost.

* 1874-75.

3. Notwithstanding the undoubtedly feverish locality in which this work is situated, I have made frequent inspections of it, and am of opinion that with a better clamping of the upper stones breaches may be avoided.

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4. When half the river runs through a breach of course the channel cannot be very effective, but in spite of this some water was passing into the channel in October last, and there was good rice cultivation at Danaickankottah.

5. It is very true that the *embouchure* of a considerable jungle stream is situated just at the head of the supply-channel and tends to silt the same up, but I found on my first visit in 1871 an excellent sand sluice about a quarter of a mile down the channel, which, if it had not been blocked up with branches, mud, &c., would have effectively scoured the head. I got it put in order.

6. Moreover, the channel banks are high and apt to wash in, and covered with thorny scrub, and the place is a very den of tigers, but if the average clearance amount be allotted, and an estimate for repair handed over for execution to the Revenue Department, I would hold out good hopes of success.

7. It would, I think, be very retrograde policy to allow this valuable land to relapse into thick jungle, which undoubtedly it will do if the water-supply is not kept up. It would never pay to cultivate dry produce in such a place.

8. If a proposal were for the first time submitted to make an anicut at Caniempolliem it would be for consideration whether it were advisable, but the work being extant I would not counsel its abandonment, but a change of management.

9. It is on far too great a scale to be left to individual native enterprise like small tanks, which, not being worth repair, have been so handed over.

10. I entertain great doubts whether the irrigation is at all connected with the existence of fever, which is just as bad in the totally dry other tracts under the Neilgherry and other mountain ranges.

11. The rice cultivation is in fact a clearance, and allows of the perflation of air.

12. I would therefore counsel that the repair for this once be sanctioned and entrusted to Revenue agency for three years, as also the annual channel clearance.

13. I may mention a case in point, where if, from failure of former repairs, a work had been abandoned great and unnecessary loss would have ensued.

When I was Collector of Bellary I found a repair of the Upper Toongaboodra native anicut at Bellahoomsi going on, in March 1867; only a month or six weeks then remained of safe working season. This work had been sanctioned for repair, and repairs had been made in the previous year, but not being completed before the freshes the whole repair and more was swept away, and a larger (*i. e.*, double, I think Rupees 14,000) allotment required. It was an anicut very like the Caniempolliem one, a rough native work, depending for stability on large blocks of stone clamped together.

I asked the Overseer in charge whether he hoped to get the work secure before the beginning of May; he informed me it was utterly impossible, as he had insufficient number of wudders, and these often absented themselves. I then sent orders to the Tahsildars to send every wudder they could get in their taluqs, and by dint of incessant work the last stone was clamped a day before the freshes came in the beginning of May; for this interference I was rebuked officially, as I ought to have in the first instance written to the Superintending Engineer (who was then 200 miles away and could have given no help), and not myself had personal communication on the subject with the Overseer, though I fully and at once explained the cause of my interference to the Superintending Engineer.

14. Now, on close inspection I did not think that the Caniempolliem work had been well executed, and being in a feverish locality perhaps it did not get that degree of supervision from the Range Officer which was due.

15. If the breach be not repaired it will have a tendency to enlarge, and the result will be instead of cultivated rice fields a dense malarious jungle and loss of property to cultivators, who have invested their labor and capital thereon.

16. It is not the mere profit and loss account that should only be taken into consideration, there may be special circumstances, and I referred to the Bellary episode only to show that losses

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might occur from inefficient repair that should not be chargeable against the value of a work, the return from which would be also affected thereby.

17. As regards the Dhallipolliem anicut, which is in fact more of a channel head, the boulders in the stream diverting the water into the head of the channel, it is on such a small scale that the only source of astonishment to me was that its repair was ever undertaken by Department Public Works. I have no doubt that the landed proprietors under that channel would themselves do the needful; the assessment is light, about Rupees 3 an acre. I see no need of reduction; there is great competition for water; the rate is a fair seigniorage charge for this valuable Bhowany water, scarce a drop of which [is wasted in this district, and every overflow going into the Cauvery for irrigation in the district below.

18. I would leave it alone, and see whether or not revenue decreased; but as to Caniempolliem Anicut, I have shown good reason for anticipated decrease and further disadvantages if the work be not repaired; an inspection of the returns of the Caniempolliem channel for the past ten years shows that the full annual revenue collected was Rupees 1,250. When the work was breached it fell to Rupees 110, while the other irrigation showed no variation.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to G. Os., No. 2,127, of the 3rd August 1874, and 694, of the 11th March 1875.

The Collector's proposal to undertake the executive management of the Caniempolliem Anicut may, it is thought, be accepted with advantage, but it will be desirable that he should take charge of it for a longer period than three years. Perhaps in five or six years a comparison of the expenditure upon it and of the revenue derived from it may enable the question of the retention or abandonment of the anicut to be decided.

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

No. 160.

ORDER THEREON, 7th May 1875, No. 1,299.

IRRIGATION, No. 14.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department with reference to G. O., No. 694, of the 11th March 1875.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Revenue Department.

„ Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

No 3981

Submitted for consideration

as Government with reference to the
of the 3rd August 1874, and of
the 11th of March 1875.

Enclosure
Two.

2. The Committee of Management of the
of the 11th of March 1875, may it is to
be accepted with advantage, but it is
in the interest of the Government to be changed
as it is now, for a period of 3 years.
The Committee of 5 or 6 years a complete
of the 11th of March 1875, and of the
of the 11th of March 1875, may it be made
the question of the 11th of March 1875, is a matter
which the Government to be decided.

St Louis
Chief of the Mission

To
The Secretary to Government
P. W. Dept.

G. C. 11. March 1875 No 303 & 304
" 3rd August 1874 No 63 & 65.

Mr 1875 Sept
No. 2803

From Mr. Hughes for
Gifts

By 22 { Applg
By 29 {

No. 398

Ex: 2.

Submitting letter
from the Supergr.
Cannabre, regarding
the Cause in pollium
Ancient.

G. C. No. 1299. 7-5-75

No 154

1229-11-75 R. 4-5-75

From

The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation } (H. E. No 398 of 22nd July 75)
G. C. No. 1299 of 7th May 75

Communicated to
the Revenue Department
with reference to G. C. No.
1299 of the 7th May 75.

G. M. T.

52
4

21 Revenue Dept. ✓
7 Supergr. Cannabre ✓
5 Chief Engineer ✓
5-2-10-5-75

2803 ✓

Govt. of 1875: Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Revenue Dept.

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. No. 1299

Page 159-160

Canimpotham Anicut, Coimbatore

The letter of the Superintending
Engineer regarding
the —, communicated
to the Revenue Department
with reference to G. O. No.
694 of the 11th March 1875.