

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1594	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5 - 6 -	28 25
		195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 151. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Guindy, 13th May 1875, No. 530:—

IN reply to G. O., No. 768-B, dated 18th March 1875, I have the honor to observe that the principal part of the unexpended amounts on the Chembrumbaukam and Madras Water Works Projects is due (1) for compensation for land, (2) for raising the weirs and providing other means of discharging surplus, and (3) for distributing channels under the Red Hills and Cholaveram Lakes.

2. I had every reason to expect that any amount which we could not spend would be absorbed in payment of compensation; the measurements for calculating which were, I understood from the Collector in his No. 270, of 31st July 1874, taken. These measurements should have been made, I respectfully suggest, before the estimate was prepared, and payment made long since, as the loss to the people of their land and money must be very serious.

3. So far as irrigation was concerned, all the tanks were in good order; before I joined the district, they could be nearly filled; and, as we have had abundant rain during each season that I have been in Chingleput, all, or nearly all, the irrigable area was cultivated.

4. My difficulties have all arisen from superabundance of water. In the preliminary reports every endeavour was made to prove that the rivers would supply water sufficient for the proposed objects. I cannot find in the very meagre statements which are on my records that any attempt was made to provide for the heavy falls of rain which, though not common, have occurred several times even in my memory. There is nothing to show that the floods of 1872 and 1874 were greater than those of 1846, 1847, and 1857, the latter being, I believe, some inches higher near the coast at any rate.

5. The flood of 1872 showed that the anicuts at Kasaveram, Koratur, and Tamarapak were insufficient to pass the floods, and that the weirs by which the Katankal and Boosykal waters were carried across the supply channel were some feet below the flood level of the Corteliar into which they discharged.

6. The Tamarapak anicut was lengthened, but all my other proposals were refused. The works had been executed in a most costly manner, and the expected return was very small. I was fearful, therefore, of pressing my views which would cause additional unremunerative outlay, until at least all could be well considered; meanwhile, the tanks were tolerably safe, safer than if the weirs were finished as proposed, and as I said before I expected that payment, in compensation for land occupied, would absorb all money not expended by us.

7. Ably supported as I thought by Captain Smith's arguments in his letter, No. 2,105, of 4th November 1874, I re-opened the question of more waterway. I do not know of the instructions which

See G. O., No. 284, dated 22nd February 1875. you report were given on the 6th January. If they were verbal, I respectfully submit that they bear no authority, and that I should have laid myself open to censure if I had acted on them. But in any case I did not hear them, and even now I do not know what length they would have admitted of my building in continuation of Rooshy weir.

8. From your Nos. 451 and 452, dated 1st instant, I am glad to find myself authorized to carry out the extensions of the Rooshy, Katankal, and Boosykal to

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th June 1875.*

lengths which, I believe, will enable us fairly to manage the large quantities of water we have to deal with.

9. My request, refused in 1872, to insert sluices in the Red Hill weir, has been also granted lately. There has been delay in preparing the estimate produced by the necessity for my frequent and continued absence on inspection duty from headquarters.

Since obtained.

F. J. M.

10. I have not had the papers with me, and even now cannot find the plans on which your remarks were made.

11. Our proposals, made after actual experience of floods and their effects, were not favorably recorded; we have had to collect data as to catchment basins, &c., which, I submit, should have been prepared by the officer who framed the design. He and his executive successors had a considerable establishment assigned to them. Just before I took up my office as Superintending Engineer, the Officer in charge of Chembrumbaukam was removed, and his duty added to that of the Mount Range Officer, who a few months after again had to take up in addition a large part of the Sydapet Taluq and the Madras Water Works.

12. If special establishments, each under an officer, were necessary to carry out works already planned, I respectfully urge that they were still more necessary when we had to repair great damages in a very limited period of time, and to discover the causes of such damage, having also more than our usual work in consequence of injury from the same rain and floods to the tanks, channels, and roads.

13. So far from receiving any assistance, I have during the two years lost nine months' services of one of my Executive Officers. I was obliged to forward Mr. Harrington's formal application for leave as he was very unwell; and the Government desired me personally to undertake the charge of the range as well as of my district. Last year I forwarded Mr. Goodchap's application for leave for three months. The Government granted it, removed him to another district on his return, and gave his successor three months' leave without consulting me.

14. On me has fallen all the consequent additional labor. The Government are aware how critical was the state of matters at the Red Hills and Cholaveram Lakes. They have not, I believe, appreciated the magnitude of the injury further from Madras, and the risk of revenue which was imminent on our failing to get the anicuts and channels again into working order.

15. Our efforts were so far successful that we maintained the supply to the tanks, and with much hard labor made the banks retain the supply. The revenue has been secured each year, but the hard-worked members of the department have not received a word of recognition.

16. All my available leisure I spent in examining the country from which our supplies are drawn to procure data in support of my proposals for increased means of discharging our surplus water, and here I would observe how the new requirements hamper us. Before a survey establishment can be sanctioned, we are called upon to submit elaborate statements, which it requires considerable topographical knowledge to give.

17. I was anxious to get some clue to the junctions and diversions of the Kambakal at its head, of the Katankal and Boosykal. These streams very seriously influence the railways, and the revenue of the large tract of country, ending in the Madras Water Works and in Chembrumbaukam Lake. I have some information as to their general

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18. Mr. Bowyer-Smyth and a Surveyor were assigned to me for the examination of the direct catchment basin of Chembrumbaukam Lake. I was ordered to instruct him as to his work; with one small exception, my sketch might be substituted for his survey; the only mistake which I made was in overlooking the fact that water from one short range of ground was prevented from flowing into the Cooum by an irrigation channel which intercepts it.

19. I submit that a little more liberty of action might be given to officers at least of my standing in the service.

20. There remains now to mention the non-execution of the distributing channels under the Red Hills and Cholaveram Lakes. I beg that your remark in paragraph 3 may be properly applied, "unless the preliminary work (of surveying) had been got through before cultivation commenced; it was unlikely that any of the channels could have been cut." I have never seen the country free from cultivation. I submit that this preliminary survey should have been made before the plans were laid before Government originally, or at least before the whole area was laid under water from the completion and the constant retention of water in the lakes.

Note, dated 22nd February 1875, No. 224.
G. O., No. 768-B, dated 18th March 1875.

21. A very considerable sum of money was spent in contouring a number of lines, from which I learn that a large area, including the town of Madras, is below the level of the Red Hills water. With very much other work on my hands I called repeatedly, but in vain, for the plans; when I got them I found them utterly valueless, but according to instructions.

22. The worst was that precious time was gone; and, with the possession of abundance of water, the cultivators were perpetually irrigating; fields here and there were in turns left for a while, but it was impossible to make a continuous survey such as we need, the most important being the surplus channel which is now obstructed and diverted so frequently that its natural line can only be found by an instrument.

23. As an instance of the small consideration to details in the original project, I would here point out that the northern sluice which must irrigate several thousand acres is built with its tail into the surplus channel. The papers do not show how the water was to have reached the high level country.

24. Another point on which much depends has not been considered that I know of. The area to be irrigated has been calculated with reference to the contents of the lakes, but the Madras delivery sluice floor is nearly 10 feet above that of our irrigation sluices, and 2 feet of water must be kept on it to procure a flow. The President of the Municipal Commission claims that Madras is to be supplied first.

25. If this be so, I cannot count on the use of 23 millions of yards of water which lie below their means of using, and must deduct 2,877 acres from my cultivable area.

26. A Surveyor is now endeavouring to level over this ground. Beside his ordinary work, Captain Smith has to restore the very serious damage done at Kasaveram, to lengthen the anicuts at Koratur, the Rooshy, Katankal, and Boosykal weirs, and the sluices in the Red Hills Tanks. He has also a work of much anxiety at Tamarapak; the foundations of the anicut have been washed away in a most extraordinary manner; the concrete (if concrete was used) inside the wells cannot be traced; the wells themselves have fallen to pieces; they were apparently put together in lengths, not joined to one another. A detailed report will be sent shortly.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th June 1875.

27. Captain Smith is also nominated for the special duty of estimating Ordnance works at Arady (see G. O., No. —, of 31st July 1874). I have prepared the approximate estimates myself, and have also drawn the plans for new barracks, family quarters, and hospital at Poonamallee, under G. O., No. 959, of 13th June 1874.

28. I believe there would be no difficulty in showing that during the past three years more work than usual has been turned out of my office; that in spite of unusual rains Irrigation works are in such order that very little revenue has been lost; that communications are generally good, and the general fruits of my management above the average.

29. I can conscientiously say that I have not had harder work or more anxiety during my twenty-eight years of departmental service than I have had in the last three years.

30. As regards irrigation repairs, I beg to point out that, owing to the position of the district near the sea level, we could not begin work so soon after the cyclone as districts with a better outfall; but the amount actually paid for was Rupees 85,375, and work to the value of Rupees 16,583 was also measured.

31. Only Rupees 3,212 were paid on Minor New Works, but Rupees 750 more could have been spent if contractors had not been very remiss in attending for their money.

No. 152.

ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1875, No. 1,594.

IRRIGATION, No. 12.

IN G. O., No. 768-B, of the 18th March last, it was remarked that the almost entire absence of progress in the Madras Water

Works Project was considered most unsatisfactory, and in the letter now recorded the Superintending Engineer has afforded explanations, which, for the most part, are not to the point, because he has not shown either what work remained to be done under this project, or what items of that remainder could or could not have been carried out prior to the close of 1874-75. Had he taken up these items successively, and stated the circumstances which made the postponement of their completion necessary or desirable, it is possible that an outlay of Rupees 1,270 in the year, against an original allotment of Rupees 30,000, which must be taken as the Superintending Engineer's estimate of work requiring to be carried out during the year, or as his estimate of possible and probable progress, might have been shown to be satisfactory. As it is the opinion of the Honorable the Governor in Council, as to improvement in the administration in the Chingleput District being needed, remains unaltered.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Major, R.E.,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Spare Copies

N 530

Supg. Engrs Office Chingleput
Gumdy 13th May 1875. 6C

From
The Superintending Engineer
Chingleput.

To
The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

Sir
In reply to G. O. No. 768B dated 18th March 1875, I have the honor to observe that the principal part of the unexpended amounts on the Chembrambakam, and Madras Water Works projects, is due (1) for compensation for land, (2) for raising the weirs and providing other means of discharging surplus, and (3) for distributing Channels under the Red Hill and Cholameram lakes.

2. I had every reason to expect that any amount which we could not spend would be absorbed in payment of compensation. The measurements for calculating, which were, I understood from the Collector in his No. 27 of 31st July 1874, taken. These measurements should have been made, I respectfully suggest, before the estimate was prepared. and payment

made long since, as the loss to the people of their land and money must be very serious.

3. So far as irrigation was concerned, all the tanks were in good order; before I joined the district, they could be nearly filled, and as we have had abundant rain during each season that I have been in Chingleput, all or nearly all the irrigable area was cultivated.

4. My difficulties have all arisen from superabundance of water. In the preliminary reports every endeavour was made to prove that the rivers would supply water sufficient for the proposed objects. I cannot find in the very meagre statements which are on my records, that any attempt was made to provide for the heavy falls of rain which, though not common, have occurred several times even in my memory. There is nothing to show that the floods of 1872 and 1874 were greater than those of 1846, 47 and 57. The latter being, I believe, some inches higher, near the coast at any rate.

5. The flood of 1872 showed that the Avenues at Kasaveram, Koratur and

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Tamrapakam were insufficient to pass the floods, and that the weirs by which the Koratur and Kasaveram weirs were carried across the supply channels, were some feet below the flood level of the Coratlar into which they discharged.

What was to be done? 6. The Tamrapakam Avenues was lengthened, but all my other proposals were refused. The works had been executed in a most costly manner, and the expected return was very small. I was fearful, therefore, of pressing my views which would cause additional unremunerative outlay, until at least all could be well considered. Meanwhile, the tanks were tolerably safe, safer than if the weirs were finished as proposed, and as I said before, I expected that payment, in compensation for land occupied, would absorb all money not expended by us.

7. Slightly supported as I thought by Captain Smith's arguments in his letter No. 2105 of 4th November 1874. I proposed the question of more masonry. I do not know by the instructions which your report were given on the 6th January. If they were verbal I respectfully submit that they bear no authority, and that I should have laid myself

See G.O. No 284
of 22nd February
1875

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open to censure if I had acted on them. But in any case I did not hear them, and even now I do not know what lengths they would have admitted of my building in continuation of Roashi. m'ir.

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9. My request, refused in 1872, to insert sluices in the Red Hill weir, has been also granted lately. There has been delay in preparing the estimate produced by the necessity for my frequent and continued absence on inspection duty from Head Quarters.

10. I have not had the papers with me, and even now cannot find the plans on which your remarks were made.

11. Our proposals made after actual experience of floods and their effects, were not favourable.

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the author to the reader, dated 1891. It is a personal letter, and the author is writing to the reader about the book.

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Jan 25 1912

Staff Colonel Lewis,
 Staff Sergeant Brown
 Sergeant Smith
 Sergeant Jones
 The undersigned
 District Clerk
 think that under
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 Staff would be
 more efficient
 than at present.

12 If special establishments, each under an officer, were necessary to carry out works already planned, I respectfully urge that they were still more necessary, when we had to repair great damages, in a very limited period of time, and to discover the causes of such damage, having also more than our usual work in consequence of injury from the same rain and floods to the tanks channels and roads.

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the examination of the direct catchment basin of Chembrambakam lake.

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not under-stand

British work
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Ag. 22nd
February 1875
No 224
G.O. No 768 of 1875
March 1875

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two small lakes
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consideration to details in the original project I would here point out that the Northern sluice which must irrigate several thousand acres is built with its tail into the surplus channel. The papers do not show how the water was to have reached the high level country.

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the sluices in the Red Hill tanks. It has also a work of much anxiety at Jamrapak. the foundations of the ancient harbeen washed away, in a most extraordinary manner. the concrete (if concrete was used) inside the wells cannot be traced, the wells themselves have fallen to pieces. they were apparently put together in lengths, not joined to one another. a detailed report will be sent shortly.

27. Captain Smith is also nominated for the special duty of estimating Ordnance works at Brady. (see G.O. No. - of 31st July 1874) I have prepared the approximate estimates myself and have also drawn the plans for new barrack, family quarters, and hospital at Poona - moollee; under G.O. No. 159 of 13th June 1874.

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revenue

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-nications are generally good and 114,783 out of 1,099,820
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I beg to point out that owing to the position
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A great part of
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subject to sufficient
supervision

31. Only Rs 3,212 were paid on Minor
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been spent if contractors had
not been very remiss in attending
for their money.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
J. Gordon Colonel R.E.
Supp Engrs. Chingleput

12

which

insurance has been lost. that comm. 1873-74 - 6

9.0. 13 June /74 71st 1874
" 31 July /74 - 742A - 742B
" 2nd Feb /75 - 43 - 44
" 18th Mar - 477C - 477E

N. X. 1875 Dept
From
The Supg. Engineer
Chief DE

To,
The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

Dated 13th May 1875
Recd. 15th June 75.
Recd. No 530
D. No 1594 5-6-75

Reports on the
unexpended amounts
of grants of Chembrun
- ban Kinn and Mad.
- ras Water Works
projects during 1874/75
will generally on
short expenditure
on other Agricultural
works -

157

10. 27. 5. 75 1875
D. No 18.

Public Works Dept.
19C

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 1875.
Read the following:-

From,
The Supg. Engineer } (H.C. No 530 of 13th May 1875)
Chingleput
D. No 1594 a/s 4 June 75.

Mr
Mr

Mr

In G.O. No 758B
of the 18th March last
it was remarked that
the almost entire absence
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Water Works Project
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the letter now recorded
the Superintending Engineer
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which

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point, because he has
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work remained to be
done under this project,
or what items of that
remainder could or could
not have been carried
out prior to the close
of 1874-75. Had he
taken up these items
succesfully, and stated
the circumstances which
made the postponement
of their completion
necessary or desirable,
it is possible that an
outlay of Rupees 1270
in the year, against an
original

9
original allotment
of 30,000 Rupees, which
must be taken as the
Superintending Engineer's
estimate of work re-
quiring to be carried
out during the year,
or as his estimate of
possible and probable
progress, might have
been shown to be satis-
factory. As it is, the
opinion of the Honble
the Governor in Council,
as to ~~two~~ ^{in the} improvement
administration in the
Chingleput District
being greatly needed,
remains unaltered.

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& Asst Sup Chingleput
of Sup Div.

Attch

S C. Brad - 19-6-78

3622

Govt. of 1875 Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Engineer
Chingleput

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 1875, No. 1574

Nos. 151-152

Chembambakum and
Madras Water Works

Project. - Passing orders
on the letter of the Superin-
tending Engineer, Chingleput,
reporting on the unexpended
amounts of grants for
during 1874

N 157-152