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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works / DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1629-30	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	7-8-	Q75-195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th June 1875.*

No. 214. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Civil Works—Irrigation,) dated Fort William, 27th November 1874, Nos. 707—22 C. W.—I. :—

Review of the wants and prospects of India in regard to Irrigation Works.

Read again—

Public Works Department Resolution, No. 377 A.—G., dated 18th July 1873.

Read—

A memorandum of the progress of Irrigation schemes in relation to famine aspects by Colonel F. H. Rundall, R.E., Inspector-General of Irrigation Works, dated the 13th April 1874.

RESOLUTION.—When the famine in Behar was anticipated in the autumn of 1873, Colonel Rundall, who was just about to quit office on the expiration of his period of re-appointment as Inspector-General of Irrigation, was desired to review the progress and prospects of irrigation in view to the prevention or mitigation of future famines. He has sent in the memorandum just read, which contains very interesting and valuable information.

2. Colonel Rundall's paper is rather a review of the works of irrigation that appear to be desirable in different parts of India than a statement of the position of any particular works which, in his opinion, are urgently and immediately called for in view to the prevention of famine (paragraphs 80 and 84.)

3. He selects twelve projects, which he arranges in the order of the degree of urgency which he assigns to them. These projects he calculates will add £12,750,000 to the outlay of £20,325,000 which the Government of India contemplated in preparing the Forecast of 1873, and he calculates that, if the annual grant can be raised from its present amount to £2,000,000 per annum, the whole may be finished in fourteen years from the present time.

4. The projects set down by Colonel Rundall, with the sums he has placed against them as indicating, as far as present information goes, what they are likely to cost, are as follows, the works being placed in order of urgency according to Colonel Rundall's views :—

1.—The Bundelkhund Project	...	...	...	...	...	£ 750,000
2.—The Gunduck Project	...	...	...	...	...	3,000,000
3.—The Upper Sind-Sagur Doab	...	...	...	...	...	2,000,000
4.—The Damooda	...	...	...	...	...	1,000,000
5.—The Rechna Doab	...	...	...	...	...	2,000,000
6.—The Sungum Project	...	...	...	...	...	} Not separately given. }
7.—The Eastern Ganges Canal	...	...	...	...	...	
8.—The Swat Project	...	...	...	...	...	
9.—The Tanks Project in the Central Provinces	...	...	...	...	...	
10.—The Derajat Canals	...	...	...	...	...	500,000
11.—The Upper Toombuddra Project	...	...	...	...	...	1,500,000
12.—The Nuddea Canal	...	...	...	...	...	200,000
						14,588,000

Of these, the projects linked together as likely to cost £1,838,000 were included in the Forecast of 1873, and the aggregate cost of the rest is £12,750,000.

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5. It is first to be mentioned that in all these cases Colonel Rundall has set down what is expected to be the entire cost of the complete projects, and has thus given a view of the extreme outlay (subject, however, to possible increase of estimates—paragraph 87) the Government would have to adopt in carrying out to the full the entire series of projects sketched out. But even if they were all undertaken, in many cases, it would not be necessary or desirable to carry them out to their full extent.

6. Again, it is to be remarked that Colonel Rundall does not desire to disturb existing arrangements. The schemes proposed by him are recommended as additions to the series of operations now in progress, or contemplated. It is now to be considered whether any of these proposed additions are of such urgency as to require the Government to enlarge financially its scale of operations. The several projects will now be taken in order and examined in this view:—

- (1).—*The Bundelkhund Project.*—There is no doubt that the country for which these works are designed has suffered severely and frequently from drought. The projects have been many years in contemplation, and the only doubt now remaining as to the expediency of undertaking them is the sufficiency of the water-supply in time of dearth. This subject is undergoing searching inquiry, and the undertaking of the works must depend upon the result. In any case, the amount required is such as could be provided without seriously disturbing the scale of expenditure.
- (2).—*The Gunduck Project.*—Colonel Rundall takes the estimate of 1869, and both the lower project of Major Jeffreys, and the upper one of Mr. Stoney. It is doubted if the estimates would suffice now for the works as designed, and the prospects of irrigation are not so encouraging as to induce the Government to undertake more than a moderate scheme. The subject has been fully discussed, and the decision arrived at is contained in a Resolution in this Department No. 618—24, dated 8th October last. A series of small works may be sanctioned hereafter without disturbing the existing scale of outlay.
- (3).—*The upper part of the Sind-Sagur Doab.*—The estimates for these works are not yet before the Government of India. It is understood that the Punjab Government is not likely to recommend any early outlay exceeding one million sterling. But the project is only indirectly connected with the prevention of famine. Its aim is to collect in a well-watered tract to be created by the canal the sparse populations of the neighbouring almost desert tracts whose food supplies are precarious. It is evidently not a work to undertake as immediately required for the prevention of famine.
- (4).—*The Damooda Canal Project.*—This work is intended to protect a tract of country between the Damooda and the Hoogly which has suffered recently from want of water. The Government of India has already sanctioned a small experimental work, which may, if found to answer, be hereafter developed. Meanwhile, this project may stand over. The country is nowhere far from the East Indian Railway, and there can be little or no danger of a deficiency of supplies in the event of a local failure.

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- (5).—*The Rechna Doab.*—The case of this country is nearly the same as that of No. 3, the Sind-Sagur Doab.
- (6).—*The Sungum Project.*—This is a project for the extension of irrigation already existing. The country may be considered to be already protected from severe famine, and is, moreover, within reach of the importation of grain by sea. The prospects of this project are now under discussion with the Madras Government. It does not require to be undertaken as specially urgent on account of danger of famine.
- (7).—*The Eastern Ganges Canal.*—Parts of the country for which this project is designed have suffered severely from famine. Other parts have the spring level so near the surface, that it is doubtful how far irrigation is really necessary. Again, there is the doubt whether it will not be better to utilize the entire dry season supply of water in the Ganges on the right bank in the Upper and Lower Ganges Canals, where there is no doubt of the want of irrigation. These doubtful points are under discussion with the Government of the North-Western Provinces, and, pending their settlement, this project cannot be undertaken. The country is at all events near the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway at Moradabad, and can easily obtain supplies of grain in cases of severe drought. In case of its being decided not to proceed with the Eastern Ganges Canal, the smaller project from the Ramgunga will require to be considered.
- (8).—*The Swat Project.*—This small project was designed chiefly to assist in inducing settled habits on a turbulent population, and, though most desirable in itself, cannot be considered as specially required in view to the prevention of famine. It is, moreover, too small to affect financial arrangements.
- (9).—*The Tanks in the Central Provinces.*—Of these, two designs have been worked out in view to making an experiment on the value of irrigation in the Central Provinces. It still remains to consider how far it is expedient to proceed to actual construction. The work cannot be considered as urgently required.
- (10).—*The Derajat Canals.*—The local Government has a project ready, which is estimated to cost £330,000, the outlay on which will be spread over several years. It has not yet been submitted. The works will, no doubt, tend to secure the crops, but cannot be considered as urgently required for the prevention of famine. The amount of the expenditure at present contemplated is not such as to disturb existing arrangements.
- (11).—*The Upper Toombuddra Project.*—It is doubtful if this project can be carried out without interfering with the Madras Irrigation Company's works, and whether it can be carried out in any case within such limits of expense as to make it practicable. It cannot, therefore, be undertaken as an urgent work.
- (12).—*The Nuddea Project.*—This is a project designed to take its source from the Ganges at Sahibgunj to irrigate the country south of the Ganges in the Moorshedabad and Nuddea Districts. There is no record of severe

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famine in these districts since 1770, but relief works were required in 1865-66. It is doubtful if the work should be constructed at all, and it cannot be considered urgent. The country is within reach of railways and of river navigation.

7. From this review it appears that the Bundelkhand Projects can, if proved to be satisfactory, be provided for within the existing scale of operations. The same may be said of the works projected for Tirhoot under decision contained in the Government Resolution No. 618, of the 8th of October. Generally, therefore, it may be said that there is no project at present so urgently required in view to the prevention of famine as to render it necessary to extend financially the scale of operations in Irrigation Works.

8. Such projects as are now in hand may be carried forward on the scale of expenditure now in force, or as it may be modified from time to time by financial considerations; and new projects may be added as those in hand are finished off, after such new projects have been carefully examined and have been shown to be such as the Government will be financially justified in undertaking.

9. There are some other points in Colonel Rundall's memorandum beyond the immediate undertaking of projects for irrigation which may be noticed here. The first of these refers to certain proposals for surveys. In paragraph 19 the Goruckpoor District is referred to. This and the adjacent district of Oudh have been considered in the recent Resolutions of the Government of India on Irrigation and Railways in North Behar. In paragraphs 32 and 34, surveys in connection with irrigation from the Koosi, Mahanuddi, and Teesta are suggested. The possibility of using the waters of the Koosi on the Tirhoot side is one of the subjects of investigation provided for in the Resolution of the 8th October last. In the other cases it appears to the Government of India that the works are not urgently required. The Northern Bengal Railway will afford protection from severe distress. But surveys in view to small projects, such as have been contemplated for Tirhoot, may be set in hand if considered desirable by the local Government when the other more pressing work before the Irrigation Department has been completed. Meanwhile, the local district authorities should consider the question of introducing irrigation in Northern Bengal. The same course may be pursued regarding the small tank project suggested in paragraphs 36 and 41 for the Sonthal Country and Chota Nagpore.

10. In paragraphs 43 to 50, Colonel Rundall strongly urges the necessity for completing the Midnapore and Orissa series of works. Provision has been made in the Budget Estimate and the Forecast for a moderate progress to this end; and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has been consulted as to the scale on which operations should be carried on. Sir Richard Temple has arranged to visit Orissa, and will communicate his views to the Government of India.

11. The attention of the Government of the North-Western Provinces will be drawn to the remarks on the Ganges Canal Navigation in paragraph 15.

12. The question of the extension of the East Coast Canal, which is a local work, is believed to be under the consideration of the Madras Government. There is no objection to a loan being granted for that object if there are funds available

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9th June 1875.*

and the requirements of the Local Loans Act are complied with. The navigation of the Upper Godavery referred to in paragraph 54 is under discussion with the Madras Government.

13. Colonel Rundall, in paragraphs 29 and 30, refers to the advantages of making the canals in North Behar navigable; and the subject of navigation in conjunction with irrigation canals is strongly advocated in the concluding paragraphs of the memorandum. The Government of India is quite sensible of the advantages in many cases of combining navigation with irrigation, and the consideration of the subject should never be omitted in preparing and submitting Irrigation projects. But economy in the construction of irrigation canals is an object of such paramount importance, that all other considerations must give way to it, and in this view navigation can only be afforded when there is an assured prospect of a return for the outlay, or when the extra expense of supplying facilities for navigation is comparatively small.

14. The Local Governments and Administrations will be invited to report their views on the matters noted in Colonel Rundall's memorandum.

ORDER.—Ordered that the foregoing, with the papers above read, be communicated to the several Local Governments and Administrations in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, for information and guidance.

Ordered, also, that copies be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Financial Department, and the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, for information; and further, that the papers, with the Resolution, be published in the *Gazette of India*.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R.A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 215.

ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1875, No. 1,629.

IRRIGATION, No. 20.

THE works or projects referred to in Colonel Rundall's review, with which the Madras Presidency is concerned, are noticed at pages 14 to 18, and are—

1. The Rooshkoolia project in Ganjam, for which estimates have been prepared on which orders will be passed shortly.

2. The Godavery Delta scheme, for which probably nearly all the estimates which will be required have been sanctioned, and are being steadily carried out.

3. The Kistna Delta project, the completion of the estimates for which has taken much longer than was anticipated, but some of these have been passed and entered in the Budget of 1875-76, while others are ready and will now shortly be reviewed.

4. The Sungum project in Nellore, of which the estimates have been submitted to the Government of India and to the Secretary of State. The scheme has been subsequently discussed in many of its bearings, and the further information required by the Government of India will shortly be submitted.
G. O., No. 2,492, dated 3rd September 1874.

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5. The East Coast Canal, one section* of which from Dugarajapatam, its terminus for many years, to the Kistna-
* About 20 miles.
patam backwater, distant about 14 miles from Nellore, will in a few weeks be opened to traffic. Estimates for another section of 25 miles to the Pennair have been lately passed, and it is understood that for about 80 miles north of that river the line has been selected, and the estimates are under preparation. It will in due course be considered, with reference to paragraph 12 of the Resolution of the Government of India, whether a loan under the conditions of the Local Loans Act will be necessary to allow of this line of communication being proceeded with as rapidly as the labor available will admit. The importance of the canal is fully recognized, and the Government desire to see a junction effected with the Kistna system of canals as soon as may be practicable.

6. The project for a canal from the Toombuddra for the irrigation of a part of the Bellary District was fully investigated several years since by the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, and the conclusions arrived at from their examination of the country, together with that made previously by Government Officers, were that the works would necessarily be very costly and also difficult of execution. The Company appear not to be likely to be in a position to take advantage of their claim under the contract to carry out this project. The Government, however, consider that this project is one of such considerable importance in connection with the protection of the part of the Bellary District affected by it from famine, that, if it should appear that it can be carried out without any serious loss, an effort should be made to prevent its being postponed indefinitely. Consequently the estimates will be referred to the Revenue Department, with a view to a comprehensive report being drawn up of the financial aspect of the project in all its bearings. The papers already reviewed in the Public Works Department show that the cost of irrigating 212,500 acres by the low level project* would be about Rupees 125 lakhs, and it should be shown what direct returns from water rates are likely to be obtainable, what remissions of assessment will be avoided, and what saving of expenditure on the relief of the population of this part of the district from periodical scarcity will be obviated. The area of country within the influence of the project would be about 700 square miles, and the influence of the Railway which traverses part of the tract and is capable of carrying food to many points both on the Bellary and main lines will have to be duly taken into account in calculating the beneficial effects in times of famine, seeing that manifestly the Railway has, since 1866, materially altered the circumstances of the country. On the receipt of this report the Government will determine whether there are *prima facie* grounds for supposing that funds can be obtained for the scheme, and, if so, the Secretary of State will be moved to call upon the Company to state definitely whether they have any intention of making proposals in connection with it, in order that in case there should be no such intention, the project may be carried out by the State.

7. The provision of reservoirs for the benefit of the Company's existing canal from Kurnool to Cuddapah has been frequently under consideration, but until more

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9th June 1875.*

use shall have been made of the water already available, it is thought that it would not be desirable to sink more capital solely for the purpose of securing perennial navigation.

8. The extension of the Kurnool and Cuddapah Canal to the Nellore District would be a very costly work, and there are no present inducements to warrant this Government in proposing that it should be undertaken. The continuation of this line of canal through the Nellore District to the coast appears to show no special facilities for navigation, while as an irrigation work it will not be of such importance as to render it necessary to take any steps, under the present circumstances of the Company, in connection with it.

9. Ordered that a copy of these Proceedings be transmitted for the information of the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Major, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineers, Godavery, Nellore, Ganjara, Kurnool, and Cuddapah.
" Superintending Engineers, Bellary and Kistna.
" Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah.
" Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. A. Grubert.

(Spare Copy)

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a work required
essentially
company & protect
to Nellore district
from famine.

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not only to
consider the cost
but also
the cost and not
be compensated
by the ^{proceeds} ~~proceeds~~ in
famine-relief
work

appear not to be likely to
be in a position to take ad-
vantage of their claim under
the contract to carry out this
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18/3/75

[Signature]

After advantage
of prescription
life and
intention of
sufficiency
I think we ought
not to do more
than to investigate
the matter
at present
point of view.
18/3/75

To the District Engineer, Nellore
Ganjam, Furruck, Andulph
• Supt. Engrs Bellary & Kistna
• Collectors of Furruck & Bellary
• Chief Engrs & Managers in S. P. Co.
• do for Irrigation

Pub: Works Dept.

4x

13

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following

Resolution of the Govt of India (N.L. Nos 707-22 of 27 Nov 1874)

Go no. 1029 of 9th June 78

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2. The Godavery Delta scheme, for which probably nearly all the estimates which will be required have been

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Proceedings



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4 The Sanguam project in Nellore, of which the estimates have been submitted to the Government of India and to the Secretary of State. The scheme has been subsequently discussed in many of its bearings, and the further information required by the Government of India with reference to the proposed land, is further information awaited. This matter is now under consideration in the Revenue Dept.

* about 20 miles

This line has been
not disposed
R/E
1/4

G. O. No. 249 dated 3rd
September 1874

5 The East Coast Canal, one section of which from Dugurajapatam, its terminus for many years, to the Kistnapatam Backwaters, distant about 14 miles from Nellore, will in a few weeks be opened to traffic. Estimates for another section of 25 miles to the Pennair have been lately prepared, and it is understood that for about 80 miles of the line north of that river the line has been selected and the estimates are under preparation. It will in due course be considered, with reference to para 12 of the Resolution of the Government of India, whether a loan under the conditions of the Local Loans Act will be necessary to allow of this line of communication.

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conclusions arrived at from
their examination of the country,
together with that made
previously by Government
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would necessarily be very
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execution. The Company appear
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to take advantage of their claim under
the contract to carry out this project.
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considerable importance
in connection with the
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of the Bellary District
affected by it from
famine, and that if it
should appear that it
can be carried out
without any serious
loss, an effort should
be made to prevent
its being postponed
indefinitely. Consequently
the estimates will be
referred to the Revenue
Department, with a
view to a comprehensive
report being drawn
up of the financial
aspect

vide report communicated
WRD. with G.O. no 518. 21 Feb 14
No. 2549. Also P.M.G. 15 Oct. 1873
G.O. 6241 1877 no 2760

Comm
aspect of the project in all
its bearings. The papers
already reviewed in the
isful O.H.C. show that the cost
Gover of irrigating ^{by the low level project} 212,500 acres would
amount to about Rupees 128
Lakhs, and it should be
as soon shown what direct returns
from water rates are likely
be obtainable, what
remissions of assessment
will be avoided, and
what saving of expenditure
on the relief of the
population of this part
of the District from pe-
riodical scarcity will
be obtained. The area
of country within the in-
fluence of the project
would be about 100
square miles, and the
influence of the

the High level project
which presents further engineering
difficulties was expected to
irrigate 150,000 acres at a
cost of Rupees 116,70,500
vide General Note in P.W.S.
No. 100 of 1904

721
Railway which traverses
part of the tract and
is capable of carrying
food to many points
both on the Bellary
and main lines will
have the duty to bear the
into account in calcula-
lating the beneficial
effects in times of fam-
ine, seeing that man-
fully the Railway
has, since 1866, materially
altered the circumstances
of the country. On the
receipt of this report
the Govt. will determine
whether there are prima-
facie grounds for suppo-
sing that funds can
be obtained for the
scheme, and if so the
Secretary

Secretary of State will
be moved to call upon
the Company to state
definitely whether they
have any intention
of making proposals
in connection with it
in order that in case
there should be no such
intention the project
may be carried out
by the State.

4. The provision of
reservoirs for the benefit
of the Company's existing
Canal from Rurnool
to Cuddapah has been
frequently under con-
sideration but until
more use shall have
been made of the water
already available it

is

is thought that it would
not be desirable to
sink more capital
solely for the purpose
of securing perennial
navigation.

3. The extension of the
Rurnool and Cuddapah
Canal to the Bellare
District would be
a very costly work and
there are no present
inducements to warrant
the Government in
proposing that it
should be undertaken.
The continuation of this
line of Canal through
the Bellare District
to the coast appears to
show no special facilities

for navigation, while as
an irrigation work it
will not be of such im-
portance as to render
it necessary to take
any steps, under the pre-
sent circumstances
of the Company, in con-
nection with it.

7. Ordered that a copy
of these Proceedings be
transmitted for the in-
formation of the Secy
of India.

H. E. Secy 130 dated 9th
June 75
Copy of the above for-
warded to the Government
of India.

N 214-216
sc drpd
19-6-75
Recd to Secy 19-5-75

To
Mr. C. S. Reddery, Secy
Banyan, Kurnool & Bellary
Superintendent Bellary & District
Collector of Kurnool & Bellary
Chief Engr. & Manager M. S. & Co.
Chief Engr. for Bangalore
Rev. Dep. Secy 19-6-75
sc drpd to Rev. Dep. Secy
29-6-75
160

1904

Govt. of Madras.

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To

Per

Issued

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Encl

G. O. 9th June 1875, No.

1629
1030

Nos. 214-215

216

Forwarding copies of
on the subject of Colonel
Rundall's Review of the
wants and prospects of
India in regard to Irriga-
tion Works.

Colonel Rundall's Review
of the wants and prospects
of India in regard to
Irrigation Works. - Passing