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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

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175

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th June 1875.*

No. 406. Read the following endorsement of the Officiating Chief Engineer, dated 9th June 1875:—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., Officiating Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 1st June 1875, No. 59.

I HAVE the honor to forward* copies of the Upper and Lower Divisions, together with my report for the month of April 1875.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

UPPER DIVISION.

Monthly Report for April 1875.

THE supply of water during the close of this season has been remarkably plentiful. It is true it ran short for a few days in the upper part of the Lower Division, but it was not on account of failure of water; it was not known in time that more was wanted. On the 15th it was intended that the canal should have been closed, but as the weather had been unusually hot, and the President of the Municipality represented that it would be a great relief to the people of Kurnool if water could be kept up a little longer, and as some crops would be saved by so doing, I delayed closing the head sluices at Soonesala till the 20th, when the under sluices were opened and water fell at once.

2. A small dam was made opposite the Hindry Office at the expense of the Municipality; it will retain water for the Kurnool for a few days in May, but will in no way interfere with the repairs in the canal above or below.

One plea brought forward for securing water as long as possible for Kurnool by the Municipality is the fact that the stream of the Toombudra this year has been diverted to the opposite side, and consequently for the greater part of the town the distance that water has to be brought across the sands is very great. It appears to me that by a little timely expense in February or March a stream could have been brought to the town side.

3. The water in Tongadancha tank was 2·3 above bed on the 28th, when I was obliged to open the scouring sluices of calingulabs Nos. 1, 3 and 4, discharging the water into the Kistna. Water has been supplied to the fields requiring it up to the 30th April.

4. *Repairs.*—As soon as the mud in the canal was dry enough cross sections and measurements of the silt deposited in the first three miles were made, and on the 1st May work was commenced with upwards of 200 coolies, since which they are daily increasing in numbers. There is much silt in places which, together with weeds and rushes, have caused the water to stand so high in the first few miles.

5. At Hindry Aqueduct protection walls have been commenced to prevent the earth slopes at the wings from being washed away by unusually high floods, such as occurred during the past monsoon. This will, it is hoped, be completed by the end of May.

6. Raising of Kadrabagh high banks is going on steadily, and preparations are made for puddling the upper side north of the aqueduct where it has not already been so treated. Last year this bank gave some trouble.

7. Ulloor Bridge excavation has been commenced, and the founds will be put on early in May.

Three ribs of a 32 feet span centring and three of a 30 feet span have been completed at the Hindry Workshop.

The timbers for a 15 feet arch are ready, and will be constructed at once.

8. Kumbalapully Bridge over the scouring sluice outlet will be fit for traffic by the end of May.

9. In the 6th Section the repairs are very heavy, as nothing of importance had been done there since 1871. The navigable canal from Toorcherla to Jutoor may be said to have been in disuse for four years. Water has been run through once or twice, but not for any length of time;

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so that the banks cannot be in the same consolidated state as in the other portions of the canal. The puddling of the banks in the 91st mile has been nearly completed.

10. Stones have been brought for all the lock sills which required alteration, in number 21, and more than half have been built. I feel confident now that all will be done before the monsoon sets in.

There are a multitude of minor works to be done, for which I am preparing as well as I can.

11. The settlement of Nundicoteoor and eleven villages of Nundial Taluq commenced on the 26th at Velapanoor and occupied six days.

The first day was spent in preliminaries, and the following five in the actual settlement, which was unusually heavy work, occupying us on an average 6½ hours a day. The new rules have added considerably to the work of the settlement officers.

The Deputy Collector of Nundial was appointed to act for the Collector on this occasion, and entered on the work with his usual interest and energy.

A separate report will be sent in on this subject.

12. By the end of May I may be able to give the actual acreage and amounts for the past season.

13. I suffered much from fever during the first part of the month; the heat was very great, and even the native Overseers suffered considerably. Towards the end of the month it was not quite so hot, and there are signs of an early monsoon. Mr. Crawford arrived on the 2nd May. He has been ordered to assist me in looking after the emergent repairs, which can only be done when the canal is dry, i.e., during May.

14. The health of the staff has not been very good.

15. The payments took place from 8th to the 17th of April 1875.

(Signed) C. H. WILKS,
Conservancy Engineer.

LOWER DIVISION.

Report for the Month of April 1875.

The supply of water from the Upper Division continued so plentiful throughout the month that we have been able to keep a full supply of water in the canal and channels of the 7th, 8th, and 9th Sections until the end of April, and could have sustained it much longer but for the necessity of emptying the Main Canal for repairs. About 8 acres of betel gardens near Nundial will still continue to receive water by the Bandyatmacoor channel.

2. The irrigation in the Nundial, Sirwell, and Koileuntla Taluqs has on the whole turned out very good, both first and second crops; very few claims for remission on account of failure of crops will, I believe, be brought forward at the approaching settlement. As regards the Cuddapah Taluqs I cannot speak with any certainty yet, as it is only about ten days back that 160 applications were sent in by Curnums for fields whose matured crops had been cut in February last, and more have yet to come in to complete the amount of the fields actually sown.

3. The Main Canal repairs will now be commenced according to the G. O., No. 828, of 24th March 1875. Many of the locks will require considerable repairs to their sills and floors, but on the average I believe the cost will be less than the amount sanctioned.

4. No. 9-A Calingulah in the 97th mile is commenced, and is in the hands of a good Contractor; plenty of materials have been collected, and I expect it will be completed before the monsoons can interfere with its progress.

5. The Jutoor Anicut and head sluices are in good condition, and need only very slight repairs done to them. The Rajoly Anicut has a few of its crest slabs removed, but they are being replaced with more solid ones; several pipe drains are being put in to prevent the accumulation of water in hollows above the canal, which in three cases last season caused breaches into the canal. I expect these pipe drains will now allow the rain water to flow into the canal as it falls, preventing any dangerous accumulation.

6. The repairs of Pennair Anicut are nearly completed; the southern hole is finished, and a few days' work will close the northern one. There will still remain about fifteen yards of the 5 feet coping to be replaced at the south end, much delay being caused by the difficulty of handling

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such heavy stones without the aid of a tramway, but I am anxious to make the repairs complete, and have, therefore, throughout used larger pitching stones and coping stones, and built more solid masonry than the original work. The south stop bank earthwork repairs are done. The north stop bank repairs are half done; and now that the water is out of the canal we shall be able to get soil and silt from its bed to complete the work.

7. The silt is being rapidly removed out of the first three miles of the 10th Section; about one-third of the amount I have proposed removing this season was out by the 30th, and all will be out by the end of this month.

The thick growth of bulrushes in these miles has been cut down partly by ryots without remuneration beyond the rushes which they use to thatch their huts, but as far as I could afford it this year I have had them dug out.

8. The banks and tow-path of the 10th Section have been all repaired, and the former raised where necessary.

9. *Distribution.*—Now the channels will be dry the preparations made for many road bridges will come into action; silt will be removed and general repairs commenced; for all of which the amount sanctioned in the last Government Order will be fully sufficient.

10. As the Curnums' tickets for irrigation completed in the Cuddapah District are still coming in, I cannot yet attempt to frame a final statement of the amounts irrigated in my division; but as I have reason to believe that the Revenue authorities in that district are at last becoming aware that they have not fulfilled their part of the new rules, I have some hopes that by the end of this month they may have sent in their "application tickets" for water given between July 1874 and February 1875.

11. The health of my staff during the month has not been good; fever has been very prevalent, many being down with it three or four times during the month. Mr. Dunphy, though often suffering from the effects of previous attacks of fever, continues to work on in spite of the great heat, but he ought to have some weeks of rest in a cooler climate.

12. Rain has fallen during several days, chiefly during thunder storms. The table is forwarded herewith.

DHOOR,
8th May 1875.

(Signed) A. J. DODSON,
Conservancy Engineer.

Chief Engineer's Report for April 1875 to accompany the Divisional Monthly Reports.

The canal was closed for repairs on the 20th of April. It had been advertised for the 15th, but some of the crops were still on the ground at that time, and the merciful policy of a short postponement was again adopted as in preceding years.

2. In the Upper Division the only new work of any importance is the Ulloor bridge, which is fairly started. The clearing of silt from the first seven miles is the heaviest work of maintenance; 1,000 men are now engaged on it, and more are being collected. The calculations based on cross sections are not complete; but Mr. Wilks fears it will cost Rupees 5,000 or 6,000; so much do the bulrushes promote the deposit of silt. It must be remembered that, except in the 6th mile, this is the accumulation of four years.

3. In the Lower Division there are two new works of importance:—The No. 9-A Calingulah in the 7th Section, near Bandyatkoor, and the Beempaud bridge. The chief repairs are the Pennair Anicut, nearly complete, and the clearing of the 10th Section of silt for a length of about three miles.

4. The settlement of the amount due for water supplied last year (1874-75) is virtually completed, and I hope shortly to forward the results. The season has been a hot one, and Messrs. Wilks and Dunphy, Overseer Kassim (2nd Section), and others have suffered from fever or boils.

OOTACAMUND,
20th May 1875.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th June 1875.*

*Registers of Rainfall in inches and decimals of the following Stations during the Month of April 1875
at 6 A.M. daily.*

Month and Date.	Soankesal.	Kurnool	Jupaud.	Veelapa- noor.	Jutoor.	Ayaloor.	Chinta- goonta.	Dho r.	Admapally
1st April 1875 ...	0.05	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2nd do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3rd do. ...	...	...	...	...	0.30	...	...	...	...
4th do. ...	...	0.10	0.10	...	0.03	0.30	...	...	...
5th do. ...	...	...	...	...	0.03	0.18	...	...	1.16
6th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21st do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22nd do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
23rd do. ...	...	...	...	...	0.05	...	...	0.13	...
24th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.30	...
25th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.07	...	...
29th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.09	...	...
30th do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.10	...	...
Total ...	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.00	1.21	0.50	0.17	0.43	1.17

KURNOOL,
18th May 1875.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer and Manager.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government. It will be wise to extirpate bulrushes from all parts of the canal. Experience elsewhere has demonstrated the advantage of so doing.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Officiating Chief Engineer.

No. 407.

ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1875, No. 1,722.

IRRIGATION, No. 36.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ Chief Engineer and Manager of the Irrigation and Canal Company.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Dep. Secy. of the Interior
No. 179

From: No. 3358

The Chief Eng.

& Manager

Mo. 1886

No. 59

Recd 2 June 1875

Recd 5 June 75

Recd. 16 June 75

GB-18 June 75 No. 1722

Forwards Monthly

Reports of the Upper

& Lower Sections of

to Mr. 1886 works

for April 75

with order

Submitted in the morning (no. 1722) - it will be sent to

interior & forwarded for the Chief Eng. & Manager

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39587

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Chief Engineer
Irrigation

Dated

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Encl.

G. O. 18 June No. 1722

No. 406-407

Madras Irrigation and Canal
Company - Chief Engineer
and Manager's Report for
April 1875. - Passing order
on the _____.