

(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.	1949	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	10-7-	195- CR75

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th July 1875.*

No. 286. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, Madura, dated
24th June 1875, No. 1,139 :—

ABSTRACT.—Submitting explanations in regard to the action taken in connection
with the survey of the Shanmuganady Project without sanction, referred to in G. O.,
No. 1,558, dated 23rd June 1875.

No. 287. ORDER THEREON, 10th July 1875, No. 1,949.

IRRIGATION, No. 29.

ORDERED to be recorded,

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. A. Grubert.
Spare Copies

Enclosure in a letter
from the District Commr
Madura to the Secretary
to Government P.W.D.
No. 1139, dated 24th June
1875.

Alfred

1875

R.E.

90-10 July/75

in B.N. 286

17/11/75



From

John

Dieudonné

Date 12

Desp'd 14.

Page 17

May 1875.

Concl:

Your No 123 dated 5 May/75.

See

In reference to the above, I have the honor to inform you that the Surveyor Richard Row was not under my orders at all; but he was entirely under your own. We did nothing under me; X.

ms. 7.
I have 2
1 Encl. 1 2d. J. M. Hawthornth.
Moste beeching
Count Coll. Officer in Charge of
Dist. Virginia & Appomattox.
No 2.05 & 1 Range.

From

Lieut Colonel J. Fischer R.E.
 District Engineer, Madras

20

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government of
D.P.W.

Sh

Page 1

1 Copy of letter

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of L^y O of the 3^d June 1875, No 1558, and beg to tender my respectful acknowledgments for the favor accorded to me by the Government and trust I may be permitted to submit the following explanations for further instructions as the working of the Department is much affected by the rules as existing in such matters.

2) In his note printed in

by O of the 3rd March 1873 No 614,
the Chief Engineer for Irrigation
informed the Government that
Rupees 100 had been sanctioned
for the survey of the Vyapoor
channel which as he further
observed Mr Hawksworth had
commenced on his own responsibility
without my raising any objections
but as he proposed to pay for this
himself I did not conceive I was
bound to interfere on my going
to Pilney and finding the
Vyapoor channel was only about
6 miles in length and its survey
could not occupy more than
2 or 3 days and Mr Hawksworth
was employing the man to run
lines of levels of no use whatever
and after a little prospecting
of the country I could see if

certain points could be connected
by levels a comprehensive scheme
could be put together and funds
were available to go on with the
necessary levels and get together
all the preliminary observations,
I thought it was my duty to lose
no time about the matter and
the result has fully answered
my expectations. If I had left
Mr Hawksworth to go on with
his ideas it would have resulted
as he himself describes in the
copy of his docket herewith and
refusing to pay for the survey
he had ^{himself} started on the work
and declaring the man did
no work for him during more than
half a month. The Government had
3
in by O of the 3rd October 1874 No 2805
directed my attention specially
to the neglected state of the Irrigation

in the Pulney Talook as brought
to their notice by the Sub Collector
and after I had prospected
the country and seen that a
comprehensive scheme was feasible
in all probability I took up
the whole subject of the Shumoga
muddy river in communication
with that Officer who said that
as much as 75 per cent of the
revenue demands on dry lands
in this valley had been permitted
owing to the failure of the rains
while I was convinced from
Mr Sevinge's rainfall registers
enough water must pass down
this river every year without fail
to secure the Government against
this loss at all events, and very
probably establish a work of
permanent value for the whole Talook

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation
admits in para 3 of his note in
L.O. of the 3rd March 1875 to B.H.
that "only in cases in which the
welfare and security of the popula-
tion are concerned in the carry-
ing out of such projects, does it
appear to be desirable under existing
circumstances to undertake their
investigation" and in this instance
I had the Government orders to
investigate such matters specially
sent to me yet because I took
care to do this in a comprehensive
manner it is reported to the
Government that I had no
justification for doing what
in every other part of India
is allowed to be the most
beneficial thing possible, the
permanent improvement of the
land and the food supply of the

Worse -
in the Talook
including
ments without
Sanction

people.

It is very easy to show what a valuable project this would turn out in all probability. The catchment basin is about 180 square miles of very lofty steep hilly country and the rainfall on this in any year certainly not less than 60 inches and very remarkably and evenly distributed throughout the year for the tropics. If 12 inches only of this runs off and is stored, it would suffice for the irrigation of 3,000 acres of rice land yielding a certain revenue of 1,20,000 Rupees a year and the cost of this work is not likely to be more than 5 lacs, so that this return would be 20 per cent after deducting 4 per cent for maintenance. The water being stored at 360 cubic

yards for the Rupee.

But in this District so great is the demand for irrigation that the bank lands sell for Rs 200 an acre, if of any value, and as the water supply here is so abundant we have the opportunity of creating a property in land worth about 60 lacs of Rupees so that the water is worth 30 cubic yards for the Rupee or 12 times its cost of storing and allowing interest only at 5 per cent as the net return to the people for their industry, the works would yield them 3 lacs a year, or the total annual returns would be in 4 or 5 years 4 1/4 lacs a year nearly, for a probable outlay of 5 lacs and a permanent enhanced value in the land of not less than

50 or 60 lacs. I would then respectfully ask if an officer sees such a project before him, is he not bound in duty to the Government and the country to apply his knowledge, judgment and experience to take steps to have it properly looked into at least? for the rules are now made so hard and fast. it is impossible for any officer to exercise his discretion as he knows he will be at once reported to Government for disobedience of orders and recommended for fine and censure.

In this locality we have an abundant water supply available a most effective demand ^{the products of} for irrigation, a population long accustomed to this particular

agricultural operation. roads in existence or constructing to afford facilities of access to markets for the disposal of surplus produce in the most remunerative manner, and it only remains to construct the works necessary to afford the land the great fertilizing agent, water, which in the tropics is always an absolute necessity, and we shall fulfil all the conditions required for securing permanently an enhanced rent from the land according to the best economic theories on the matter, and we may raise the population from its present squalid miserable ^{starving} condition to one of lasting prosperity and affluence yet because I see this quite clearly and take steps in the hope I may do the

the Government some little service
the only thing which can be
recommended in the matter is
that I be fined for my pains
and my proceedings declared
to be unjustifiable. yet an officer
is allowed to spend Rupees 750
on a minor new work but must
not spend a Rupee in investigating
a project likely to permanently
establish a property worth 60
lacs of Rupees.

I trust the Government
will pardon the few remarks
I have ventured to lay before
them as it is only from a sense
of duty I have taken upon
myself the responsibility of doing
so. In this District the population
is rapidly increasing and only
lately we have had the Puriyand
project after years of investigation

returned as an utter failure and
the hopes of the people again
disappointed. ^{for increasing their food supply} In looking into
these papers the very first thing
I found was that the late Major
Ayres and I agreed exactly in
regard to the water supply of the
Vaggar and its existing wasteful
distribution, yet when I first
took this up I was told I did
not understand the subject
and had better find out
what the water supply of the
Vaggar really was from some
old records kept by a native
Gomastah with nothing to
show that any responsible
officer had ever checked these
Major Ayres points out the existence
of great waste in the Vaggar
waters and regrets these cannot
be collected and distributed

more regularly, but he does not
appear to have found any site
for this purpose, which occurred
to me very soon after joining the
District; I have also pointed out
the cause of the great waste viz
that all the tanks are supplied
from the river by channels with
open heads, and surplus into
drainages which run direct
to the sea and not back into
the Tiggay. Major Ayres and I
agree entirely as to drainage areas
and available rainfall in the
basin of the Tiggay and if this
river were supplemented from the
Piriyani I have no doubt we could
distribute 2000 million cubic yards
of water every year by means of
a reservoir on the Tiggay; this
would be enough for 30,000 acres

of rice land and as these rice
irrigated lands are worth at least ^{in the market?} ~~100~~ ¹⁵⁰
Rupees 400 an acre, the permanent ^{value}
value of this improvement would ^{be}
be not less than 1200 lacs of Rupees ^{and}
and if only 5 per cent interest
is obtained from this property
the annual value for revenue
and income to the people would
be 60 lacs a year. I can see
no reason why these results
should not be secured, we have
a fairly sufficient available
local rainfall, which it is believed
can be largely supplemented
from a perennial source. The
plains of Karmad and
Shivagungha can be as easily
irrigated as the most ordinary
Delta. We have a large and
increasing agricultural population
long accustomed to irrigation
and most desirous to avail

themselves of every drop of water
which can be securely afforded
to them. There is nothing that I
am aware of to prevent navigable
canals being established between
Madura and the coast so that
the people can have the cheapest
and most efficient means of
access to the markets of the world
for the disposal of surplus irrigation
products, for which there is always
a large and increasing demand.
We can thus satisfy all the
fundamental elements for securing
an enhanced rent from the land
according to the soundest and
most scientific economic theories
yet. I dare not attempt to secure
a full water supply for these purposes
on which every thing depends as
the Government will at once be
informed that I act notoriously
in disobedience or defiance of

their orders, at the same time that
it is urged on them that the
welfare and security of the
population is a matter which
it may possibly be desirable
to attend to, though how this
is to be attained is most carefully
considered, and the rules are so
framed that Officers can only
act at his own peril. I have
been ^{also} led to make these remarks
in the hope the Government
will be pleased to allow us
to investigate this Periyar
Project, after seeing and reporting
the existence of that low gorge
on the east side of the Iralam
hill through which I maintain
the ghats could have been taken
at far less cost and ^{with} better gradients
and not finding this noted
in the papers returned to me
I am convinced one leading

feature in the project remains yet
to be determined, the time for doing
this is fast passing away and it
is only just possible to save this
working season. I would therefore
beg early instructions may be
sent to me in this matter for
otherwise I am unable, however
willing, to do anything.

I have the honor to be

Yrs

Your Most Obedt Servant

Wm. T. Tucker Secy & Secy

Dist. Engineer

1. 0 3 June 1875 No 77-78
 " 3 Dec 1874 " 110-112
 " 18 Nov 1874 " 203-304
 " 3 Dec 1874 " 36-87

P. W. 1875 Sept.
 From No: 4210
 The District Engineer
 Madras
 To
 The Secretary
 To Government
 P.W.D.
 No. 1139

Dated 24th June 1875
 Recd 28

Encls: 1

Submits explanations
 & requests instructions
 in connection with the
 Shennoooganady
 Project referred to in
 G.O. No: 1558 dated 3rd
 June 1875-

G.O. No: 1949. 10-7-75

No 286

Air - 2.7.75. P.O. 5/7/75
 24/26/28-6-75-R7-7-75

Public Works Dept.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date the 1875

Read the following letter
 from the Dist. Eng. Madras

Submitting explanations
 in regard to the action taken
 in connection with the survey
 of the Shannuganady
 Project, without sanction,
 referred to in G.O. No: 1558
 dated 23rd June 1875-

G.O. No: 1949

(G.O. No: 1139 of 24th June 1875)

G.O. No: 1949 of 10th July 1875

Recorded.

W. 2/7

S. E. Madras 5

Ch. Eng. for Madras 4

Atty

5 C. No: 23-7-75

24
2

Govt No 4210
G.O. No 11875 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The M. C. P.
Madras

Dated

Issued

Recd.

G. O. 15 July 1875. No.

1949

Nos. 265-287

Survey of the Chinnaiya
Trady Project. Madras D.
Letter from the D. S. S. S.
with explanation in regard
to the action taken in con-
nection with the - without
sanction referred to in G.O.
No 1538 d/23 June 1875,
recorded.