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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

B.P. No.

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1875

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th October 1875.*

No. 406. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department (Civil Works — Irrigation,) dated Simla, 27th September 1875, No. 335—49 I.:—

Revenue Report of Irrigation Works in Bengal for the year 1873-74.

Read—

Letter from the Government of Bengal, in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, No. 112 I—A, dated 13th February 1875, forwarding a copy of the Revenue Report of Irrigation Works in Bengal for the year 1873-74, and of the Resolution of that Government reviewing the same.

OBSERVATIONS.—This report has been received three months after the time fixed for its submission; but it is understood that the delay has been occasioned by the Chief Engineer's absence in Orissa on duty.

2. The operations of the year having been reviewed in detail by the Local Government, only the general results and a few points requiring attention will be noticed here.

3. From the abstracts (annexed) of the general financial results of the canals in the Province—none of which are as yet complete—it is observed—

	£	£
I.—That the Capital outlay on all the Irrigation Works under the Government of Bengal to end of 1873-74, including the Damoodah project, which has been suspended, has amounted to...	...	3,151,898
II.—Of this sum, the amount expended on the Soane scheme which had not been brought into operation till after the close of the year under review, has been ...	986,583	
And on the Damoodah scheme which has been suspended	15,832	
		1,002,415
III.—Leaving as the expenditure on the Orissa project	...	2,149,483
IV.—The gross direct receipts from this project during 1873-74 have amounted to	...	14,708
V.—And the working expenses to	...	29,098
VI.—Leaving a deficit in the operations of the year of	...	14,328

equivalent to a loss of 0·7 per cent. in the operations of the year, exclusive of £31,753 for simple interest on the Capital outlay. If the net returns are based on the assessments of the year, the receipts will amount to £19,484, the expenses to £29,098, and the net deficit to £9,612. This, though unsatisfactory, is still a considerable improvement on the results of the previous year, when the loss was as high as £25,073. The anticipations of improvement in the returns from irrigation, expressed in the review of the previous year's operations, have been more than justified by the results of 1873-74. The report shows that there are some grounds for expecting that the development of irrigation will be greater than has lately been considered possible.

4. Fourteen miles of new canal and 37 miles of distributaries have been opened during the year under review. The irrigated area has risen from 18,159 acres to

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th October 1875.*

48,920 acres, and the earnings (assessments) have increased from Rupees 470 per mile of canal and Rupees 110 per mile of distributary to Rupees 994 and Rupees 239 respectively. There has also been marked improvement in the navigation receipts, the collections having been Rupees 80,659 against Rupees 45,492 in the year previous.

5. The most marked improvement occurred in the Midnapoor series, where the demand for water in the month of October much exceeded the available supply. This deficiency at a critical period occurring so early in the history of the canal, points to the advisability of supplementing the available volume by storage reservoirs, if they can be constructed at a reasonable cost, and this point might be inquired into at the first favorable opportunity.

6. The irrigation in Orissa shows about the same ratio of increase as that in Midnapoor, though the aggregate result is still insignificant compared with the capacity of the canals. The income from navigation is nearly double that of the previous year; and although this large increase is in part attributable to the demand for grain required for the famine-stricken districts in Upper Bengal, there appears to be little doubt that as the navigable communications with the trading marts in Orissa, and arrangements for loading and unloading vessels at the sea-board are perfected, this item of revenue will be largely increased.

7. The income from the Tidal Canal, which is solely a navigable line, was double that of the previous year, owing partly, as in Orissa, to the exceptional demand for grain for other districts in Bengal, but also to the completion of the terminal locks by which the communication with tide water is now practicable at all times.

8. In outlay on repairs there has been in the Orissa series a decrease. On the Midnapoor and Tidal Canals there has been a considerable increase due in both instances to exceptional circumstances which are detailed in the reports.

9. The reports of the Revenue Officers show that the system of management in revenue matters on both the Orissa and Midnapoor series is improving and becoming more efficient, though there are still some grave difficulties to be overcome. Surreptitious irrigation is reported to be still rife in spite of every effort on the part of the officers to prevent it. This and other matters alluded to in the reports will doubtless be considered by the Local Government, by whom a bill to regulate Canal administration has lately been introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council.

10. The calculations of the value of the crops saved in Behar by the Soane Canal irrigation given in the report appear to be a moderate estimate of the benefit of these works to the country in years of drought. The Soane Canal, though incomplete, was yet sufficiently advanced to admit of a large supply of water being conveyed to lands on which the crops must have otherwise perished. The area thus irrigated is estimated at 152,470 acres, and the value of the crops as £177,500. This is a prominent instance of the indirect benefits which such works confer on the State. Similarly the value of the crops saved on the Midnapoor Canal is estimated at £52,960.

11. In conclusion, it may be observed that this report is satisfactory in the sense that what was before discouraging is now not only much less so but is even hopeful as to the future.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th October 1875.*

ORDER.—Ordered, that copies of this Resolution and of the Report be forwarded to the Secretary of State, and the Financial and Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce Departments for information, and that the attention of the latter department be drawn to paragraphs 29—32 of Mr. Wylly's Report on Model Farms.

Ordered also, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Government of Bengal, and the several other Local Governments and Administrations, in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, for information.

Ordered further that this Resolution, the Resolution of the Local Government, and the Chief Engineer's Report, be forwarded to the Home Department for publication in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

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

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
27th October 1875.

	CAPITAL ACCOUNT.		REVENUE ACCOUNT, 1873-74.				Charges for Interest, 1873-74.	PER-CENTAGE OF NET REVENUE OR CAPITAL, 1873-74.		
	Outlay during 1873-74.	Total to end of 1873-74.	Direct Revenue Assessed.	Working Expenses.	Net direct Revenue.	Add indirect.	Total net direct and indirect.	Direct.	Indirect.	Total.
Works under Construction.										
Orissa Project ...	169,759	1,391,336	4,457	12,919	—8,462	...	—8,462	—60	...	—60
Midnapoor Series ...	47,630	579,793	11,906	12,056	—150	...	—150	—02	...	—02
Tidal Canal ...	14,705	178,354	3,121	4,221	—1,000	...	—1,000	—56	...	—56
Soane Scheme ...	293,200	986,583	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	525,294	3,136,066	19,484	29,096	—9,612	...	—9,612	—30	...	—30
Damoodah Project (suspended)	—2,653	15,832	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	522,641	3,151,898	19,484	29,096	—9,612	...	—9,612	...	...	...

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th October 1875.

Financial Results of Irrigation Works in Bengal based on the actual Cash Receipts for and up to the end of the year 1873-74.

to the Department		WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.					WORKS SUSPENDED.	Grand Total.
		Orissa Project.	Midnapoor Series.	Tidal Canal	Soane Scheme.	Total.		
1	CAPITAL.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	(WITHOUT INTEREST.)							
1	Ordinary ...	10,642	—577	332	...	10,397	—2,653	7,744
1	Extraordinary ...	156,829	43,207	14,373	293,200	512,609	...	512,609
1	Contributions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Capitalization of land-revenue ...	2,288	...	...	...	2,288	...	2,288
1	Total ...	169,759	47,630	14,705	293,200	525,294	—2,653	522,641
1	YEAR { Ordinary ...	32,487	27,440	9,256	8,864	78,047	15,832	93,879
1	Extraordinary ...	1,356,561	552,853	169,098	977,719	3,055,731	...	3,055,731
1	Contributions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Capitalization of land-revenue ...	2,288	...	...	...	2,288	...	2,288
1	Total ...	1,391,336	579,793	178,354	986,583	3,136,066	15,832	3,151,898
1	REVENUE ACCOUNT.							
1	GROSS REVENUE.							
1	Direct ...	4,383	7,264	3,121	...	14,768	...	14,768
1	Indirect ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Total ...	4,383	7,264	3,121	...	14,768	...	14,768
1	YEAR { Direct ...	19,867	22,287	7,811	...	48,965	...	48,965
1	Indirect ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Total ...	19,867	22,287	7,811	...	48,965	...	48,965
1	WORKING EXPENSES.							
1	...	12,919	12,056	4,121	...	29,096	...	29,096
1	...	70,757	33,985	9,625	...	114,367	...	114,367
1	REVENUE.							
1	Direct ...	—8,536	—4,792	—1,000	...	—14,328	...	—14,328
1	Indirect ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Total ...	—8,536	—4,792	—1,000	...	—14,328	...	—14,328
1	YEAR { Direct ...	—51,890	—11,697	—1,815	...	—65,402	...	—65,402
1	Indirect ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Total ...	—51,890	—11,697	—1,815	...	—65,402	...	—65,402
1	WITHOUT INTEREST.							
1	WORKING INTEREST WHILE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.							
1	...	58,906	25,051	7,796	37,438	129,191	811	130,002
1	...	226,797	97,516	28,375	89,498	443,186	3,991	446,777
1	BETWEEN NET REVENUE AND FOR INTEREST.							
1	Direct ...	—67,442	—29,843	—8,796	—37,438	—143,519	—811	—144,330
1	Indirect ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Total ...	—67,442	—29,843	—8,796	—37,438	—143,519	—811	—144,330
1	YEAR { Direct ...	—278,687	—103,213	—30,190	—89,498	—507,588	—3,991	—511,579
1	Indirect ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Total ...	—278,687	—103,213	—30,190	—89,498	—507,588	—3,991	—511,579

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
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No. 407.

ORDER THEREON, 27th October 1875, No. 3,019.

IRRIGATION, No. 38-A.

COMMUNICATED to the Chief Engineer
for Irrigation and the Superintending and
District Engineers concerned.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Superintending and District Engineers concerned

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
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1875
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.

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No: 6427

To

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Nos. 335—49 I.

Dated SINLA, September 27, 1875.

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Orders on the Revenue Report, Irrigation Department, Bengal, for the year 1873-74.

No 3019. Communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and
Superintending and District Engineers concerned.

Mr. 20/10

Sept 6-11-75

No 406/7

Chief Engineer. 5
District Engineers concerned 126
14th 17

Niladri Sanyal
Bengal Engineer - 406/7

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Chief Engr. for Wg.

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G. O. 27/10/1875, No. 3019.

No. 406/-

Revenue Report, Irrigation
Department, Bengal - Review
of the work of India on the
for the year 1873-74 - Communi-
cated to the Chief Engr. for Irri-
-gation, and the Super. and
Internal Engrs. concerned -