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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th November 1875.*

No 213 Read the following letter from A WEDDERBURN, Esq, Collector of Coimbatore, to Major-General G W. WALKER, R E, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 16th October 1875, No 79 —

I HAVE the honor to submit certain correspondence relative to the advisability of filling up a stagnant ditch on the west of the railway, formed by excavation for the embankment

- 1 Copy of correspondence
- 1 Application from Gnanabaranum Pillay, dated 8th July 1875
- 1 Letter from the Resident Engineer, dated 7th August 1875, No 604
- 1 Sketch
- 1 Letter from the Consulting Engineer for Railways, No 1,389, of 11th October 1875, (the last four to be returned)

2 The Railway department are of opinion that it is convenient to retain this ditch, from which to extract earth when the tank is full, but as then the ditch is also full of water such reason cannot be advanced

3 If this ditch were filled up, it would improve and bring to one level the tank reclamation on the west of the embankment.

4 If any earth is wanted for the embankment it will be more advantageous to obtain it from the bed of the tank, dry for more than half the year, whereby the capacity of the tank will be increased, than by digging holes under the embankment and increasing the tendency of the embankment to slide

5 A plan of the spot is enclosed.

From M GNANABARANUM PILLAY, to A WEDDERBURN, Esq, Collector of Coimbatore, dated 8th July 1875

IN the bed of the Valankolam Tank, to the west of the railway line and adjoining to my land, which I purchased and now enjoy, a plot of ground temporarily used by the Railway Department (Class B) for excavation of earth was kindly granted to me by your honor, and I have included it with my land and intend to fill up the pit with town sweepings, &c, with your permission. The Railway Department, perhaps ignorant of the grant of the land to me, still enter upon it for the purpose of digging earth, alleging that they have not actually made over charge of it. They did so on one occasion after the land was granted to me. The Railway Department could well dig up earth from the bed of the tank on the eastern side of the line. This would not only allow me to make use of the land at once, but it would also fulfil the intention that the bed of the tank should be deepened, and the pit in the land in question will then be soon filled up by which means a source of discomfort to the public (because the stagnant water there especially when the tank receives a supply of water is likely to produce an effluvia) would be removed.

2 I therefore request that your honor will arrange with the Railway Department that they may in future make use of the bed of the tank to the east of the line for excavation purposes, and that they may not enter upon the land in question, as it has been granted to me, and as the use they make of that prevents me from improving it

From F B HANNA, Esq, Resident Engineer, 4th Division, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq, Collector of Coimbatore, dated Pothenore, 7th August 1875, No A/86,704

IN reply to your letter, No 25, of 23rd ultimo, I have the honor to state that I have no authority to allow persons to cultivate Class B. land held by the Company, and that therefore I am unable to comply with the request made in Gnanabaranum Pillay's letter, which is herewith returned.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th November 1875.

2 After examination of the ground to I am of opinion that it would be inconvenient for the Company to give up the piece of B land in question, as it is the most suitable place, particularly when the tank is full as at present, from which to obtain earth for making up the embankment across the tank, which has not yet become consolidated and which sinks several inches after heavy rain

From Major C J SMITH, R.E., Officiating Consulting Engineer for Railways, to A WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Madras, 11th October 1875, No 1,389

In reply to your letter, dated 24th August 1875, No 28, I have the honor to inform you that the question of the restoration of the portion of Class B land therein referred to having been fully investigated, I am of opinion that the Railway Company cannot at present be called up on to relinquish the same, as it is the most convenient place from which to obtain earth for the up-keep of the embankment through the tank. Looked at in a financial point of view the extra cost involved in bringing earth for making up the embankment from any other site would greatly exceed the revenue which would be derived from the land in question

2 In reply to my suggestion that a large portion of the Class B lands on the Nilgiri branch might now be handed back to Government, the Agent states that the Chief Engineer considers that the whole of such land on the west side, with the exception of the piece lying immediately south of the Coimbatore station, can at once be restored, and arrangements will be made for doing this. It is considered advisable to retain for the present the land on the east side, as the embankment is not entirely consolidated, and occasionally requires making up from the side cuttings.

- 1 Application from Gnanabharanuni Pillai
- 1 Letter from the Resident Engineer
- 1 Sketch

3 The enclosures received with your letter are herewith returned

No 214

ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1875, No 3,198

ESTABLISHMENT, No 17

His Excellency the Governor in Council is not disposed to insist on the relinquishment by the Railway Company of the portion of Class B land in question, of which they desire to retain possession for a time.

(True Extract)

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

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways
" Collector of Coimbatore

Exd S T Austin
Spare Copies

P.W. Dept. 32

Letter from the Collector of Coimbatore,
No 79 dated 16th October 1875.

Circulated for
orders.

I do not think that the
Railway Company can be
made to give up the strip
of land in question - which
is useful to them in strengthening
their embankments.
Major Genl R.E.
Secy: to Govt: P.W. D.
Mr. Wedderburn first tried
to get this place filled up
on tankary grounds - but
on the report of the Consulting
Engineer. This was refused
by the Govt. He now seeks
to obtain the land, as having
been applied for, for purposes
of reclamation by an in-
dividual who says it has
been granted to him - which
is unreasonable - and that
the strip of land must be
left to the Co. so long as
their embankment requires
consolidation P.W.
I concur with
27/10 I quite concur
[Signature]

No 129.

Coimbatore Range Office
Coimbatore 1st September 1871.
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To,
The President,
Municipal Commission,
Coimbatore.

Sir,

As the excavation of the
Railway banks has now commenced
on the bed of the Valancolum Tank,
I have the honor to suggest that
you will communicate with the Rail-
way authorities with the view of
inducing them to take all the earth
required from the deeper bed of the
Tank where it is not proposed to
reclaim the land, no earth should
be taken from the northern side as
far as the line of the former small
bank

bank running parallel to the road,
as every cubic yard of material now
removed by them from this part will
add to the work to be hereafter done
in reclaiming a part of the bed, while
on the other hand the earth removed
from the other side will improve and
increase the capacity of the tank.

The estimate for the reclamation
scheme will be shortly submitted -

I have &c -

(Signed) H. A. Roberts
Executive Engineer

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. H. M. A. Secretary

Chore & Co.

No 33. Madras Railway Company ⁷²
Kilgherry Branch Resident Engineer's
Office Coimbatore 14th September 1871.

From,
Peter Scott Esqre,
Resident Engineer,
Kilgherry Branch -

To,
A. Wedderburn Esqre,
Collector of Coimbatore -

Sir,
With reference to the Executive
Engineer's letter No 129 dated 1st
September 1871, a copy of which you
sent to me, I have the honor to inform
you that were I to take the earth
required for the Railway Embankment
through the Valancolum tank, from
the deeper bed of the tank as proposed,
it would increase the cost of the
work by at least Rs 5,000, an expenditure

I could not incur without obtaining
Government sanction.

I have &c -
Signed / Peter Scott -
Resident Engineer -
Kilgherry Branch

Copy. Forwarded to Mr. Roberts
for information, with reference to his
letter of 1st September 1871, No. 129 -

Signed / A. Wedderburn -
Collector -

No. 143.

Coimbatore -
September 18th 1875 -

From,
H. J. Roberts Esq.,
Executive Engineer, Municipal
Commission -

To,
A. Wedderburn Esq.,
Collector -

Sir,
With reference to your

Endorsement on a letter No. 33 of 8th 9a
Instant from Mr. Scott, Resident
Engineer, I have the honor to point
out that if it will cost the Railway
Company Rupees 5000 to remove the
earth from the deep bed of the
Tank to form their bank, it will cost
the same amount for the Municipality
hereafter to carry the material
from the deep bed to fill up the hole
made by them, and that the cuttings
on each side of the Railway bank will
fill with water and on drying will
cause a nuisance -

But I think Mr. Scott has
mistaken what is required and
which I estimate will cost very

CO-8 Novanda/75
with No 213

1906/58/95

Copy of Correspondence

Two letters from the
Collector of Coimbatore to
the Secretary to Government
D.P.W. dated 16th October
1875 & 7th 79

No 79 Coimbatore folly office
16th October 1875-132

From,
A. Wedderburn Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore
To,
Major General Walker,
Secretary to Government, D.P.W.
Coimbatore -

Sir,
I have the honor to submit
certain correspondence relative
to the advisability of filling up
a stagnant ditch on the west
of the railway, formed by excava-
tion for the embankment.

Enclosures 5.
1 Copy of Correspondence
1 Application from
Snanabaranam
Pillay dated 5/11/75.
1 Letter from the
Resident Engineer
dated 1st 12/75
1 Sketch.
1 Letter from the Consulting
Engineer for Railways
dated 13th of 11th October 1875 -
the last 4 to be returned.

2 - The Railway department
are of opinion that it is con-
venient to retain this ditch, in
from which to extract earth, when
the tank is full - but as then the
ditch is also full of water, such
reason

reason cannot be advanced -

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3- If this ditch were filled up, it would improve and bring to one level, the tank reclamation on the west of the embankment -

4- If any earth is wanted for the embankment, it will be more advantageous to obtain it from the bed of the tank - dry for more than half the year, whereby the capacity of the tank will be increased; than by digging holes under the embankment, & increasing the tendency of the embankment to slide -

5- A plan of the spot is enclosed -

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most obedient Servant -

McLachlan
Collector -

100

50
100

213-214

1911