

1325

Memorandum.

3300

Para 3 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue to which the attention of the undersigned has been directed in G. O. No. 2838 dated 1st Oct 1875 refers to the unsatisfactory state of irrigation works in the Madurai District, as noticed by the Collector and Sub Collector in their reports on the progress of Public Works during 1874-75.

2. The Collector states that the wants of the District have not been met; he mentions that the District Engineer thinks the old tanks incapable of improvement, their capacity being diminished by gradual silting up; also it is stated that all the channels require masonry work and other improvements, but he sees no prospect of getting these works carried out. The undersigned is unaware of a reason why much should not be done.

done annually towards providing the
channels referred to with such masonry
works as they may be found to require.
The grant for minor new works may
not have been large, but the Govt.
have shown every desire to find
funds for such purposes, and a con-
siderable increase of expenditure
on such works has already taken
place in some districts; if the money
already given for Madurai be utilized,
and if its further requirements be
brought to notice in a manner
admitting of the necessity for in-
creased grants being clearly under-
stood, no doubt the means of the
District Engineer for carrying out
improvements will be correspondingly
augmented. As it is the District
Engineer has stated that he cannot
have the current year's grant for
new works on such works, and
applied for the transfer of Rs 1000,

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out of Rupees 2,000 which could not be
utilized, to investigations of projects,
an arrangement which could not be
sanctioned, and as money is required
in other districts, notably North Arcot
where the wishes of Govt. as regards the
improvement of the condition of irri-
gation works have been understood
and acted upon, the sum surrendered
will be utilized elsewhere.

3- The wants of the Madurai District
in connection with irrigation works
are doubtless very numerous. Such is
the case in a very great many other
districts also indeed it would be dif-
ficult to name a district in which
old irrigation works are numerous,
of which the same may not be said, and
evidence of this will have been
noticed in the notes of inspection from
time to time submitted from this office.
That these wants may not be capable
of being met very rapidly in the present
state of the Public Works Department

may be very true, but the undersigned
is of opinion - an opinion based upon
what has been found practicable
elsewhere - that a very great deal may
be done, first in ascertaining what
the real wants are, and then in pro-
-viding for them.

4. The Sub Collector Mr. Bliss is to
some extent mistaken in his views
of what Govt. require before the inves-
-tigation of new projects is undertaken.
Certainly nothing impracticable is
required, and it would clearly be im-
-practicable to repair tanks which
have silted up considerably so as to
enable them to irrigate their full
area. What is required is that
leaving general assertions as which
no action can be taken, the actual
conditions of existing irrigation works
should be ascertained and what can or
cannot be done with them determined.
In so doing every assistance requisite
can be afforded to the District Engineer

3.
by the undersigned on conditions which
have been clearly laid down and
which are essential; and such assist-
-ance is being rendered to other Dis-
-trict Engineers from time to time
on similar conditions. Money for
the purpose is provided in the an-
-nual Budget, and those who take
the necessary steps and furnish the
requisite information on which
alone the undersigned can sanction
expenditure for investigations in
connection with the improvement
of irrigation works, obtain the means
necessary to such investigations.

5. The undersigned has on many
occasions stated his opinion that
the Engineering Establishment of the
Public Works Department is inadequate
to the duties it has to perform, and
that much advantage would be found
in increasing it so that officers
of education and intelligence might

be available for the work to be done -
work which cannot generally be carried
out satisfactorily by subordinates even
of considerable executive experience. The De-
partment is however still under-
officered, and while officiating for Major
General Walker the undersigned had
practical experience of the great dif-
ficulty which exists of finding officers
to fill vacancies and take charge of
Districts and Ranges. For extras with
such as the investigation of projects
it is believed that not one can be
made available without direct preju-
dice to work which cannot be postponed.
For such work as the improvement of the
irrigation works of Madurai the services
of 2 or 3 Assistant Engineers would be
of great value, and similar remarks
would be equally applicable to at any
rate Tinnevely, Trichinopoly, Salem, North
Arcot, Chingleput, Cuddalore and
Muzerol. Cuddalore it may be added
has strong claims and has been sadly
neglected. its staff has for a series of

years been anything but efficient, and
yet it is a District in which an
adequate establishment of the proper
staff would do excellent service and
repay its cost manifold.

6. The Sub Collector of Madurai ad-
mits that the ordinary Public Works
establishment of the District cannot
do what he desires to see done viz
the investigation of the resources of the
subdivision generally which are
available for the improvement and
extension of irrigation, and it may
be assumed that he does not wish
the existing irrigation works to be still
more neglected in order that new
projects may be taken up. If the latter
are to be undertaken concurrently
with increased attention to the former,
it follows that additional officers
must be made available and that
they may be so at some future time,
for nothing can make them so

immediately, it will be requisite to ar-
range for the increase of the Engi-
neering Establishment generally, and to
organize it on a scale which will
admit of the work which the Govt
may desire to see carried out being
undertaken. A few years back it
was too much the practice to divert
time and money from existing works
to new projects, which were urged
on the attention of Govt with more
or less prima facie evidence in their
favor. After much discussion it was
decided that existing works of irri-
gation and the interests connected
with them had the first claim on
such means as the Govt had at their
disposal. These means were and are
confessedly inadequate to the irri-
gation of new schemes as well as the
maintenance and ordinary improve-
ment of old works, and so the former
have been postponed and increased attention

has been devoted to the latter, a course
or policy which will certainly bear
good fruit in the long run. En-
gineers are sometimes credited with
a desire to postpone such ordinary
work as the proper maintenance
of old tanks and channels to
schemes likely to effect more no-
ticeable results, so that in advo-
cating attention to what is essen-
tial to the security of very exten-
sive interests both public and
private it may be assumed that
there must be a very strong con-
viction of the urgent need of this
attention based upon a considera-
bly extensive knowledge of the
actual conditions of existing works.

~~Continued~~
15th November 1873

Wm. L. Leadall Esq.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
To the Secretary to Government
B.H.

901st Oct 12/75 to 31-32.

Q. W. 1895 Deph.
No: 7306

No 3300

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the

Read the following:—

From

The Chief Engr. for
Irrigation

From

The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

Dated 15th. Nov. 1895.
Recd 15th. — 31895.
No. 1325.

Regarding the unsatisfactory state of irrigation works in the Madura dist. as noticed by the Colbr. & Sub Colbr. in their reports on the progress of Public Works during 1894-95.

Communicated
to the Revenue Department
with G. O. No. 2838 of 7th
October. Also to the
District Engineer
Madurai who is di-
rected to attend strictly
to the instructions of
the Chief Engineer for
Irrigation without
further casual re-
ference to Government
the

The full strength
of the Establishment
of the Madurai Dis-

trict will shortly
be made up by trans-
fer, on the arrival
of the Assistant En-
gineers ^{expected} from Cooper's
Hill; which will per-
mit of the perma-
nent posting to
districts of those
who arrived last
year. And in another
year their own ser-
vices will be per-
manently availa-
ble for Sub Division

or Range charges; and
the sanctioned Public
Works Establishment
be for the first time
complete.

L.M.W.

Distt Engr. Madurai
Chief Engr. for S.W.

Rev. Sept:

Office

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Depd - 27-11-75

7306
Govt. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

J. E. Madras

22/11/22

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl

G. O. 19/10/22 1875, No. 3300

Nos. 478-479

Inspection Works, Madras
Sd/-
Memorandum of the Chief
Engineer for Inspection, afford-
ing explanation in the report
of the unsatisfactory condition
of —