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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

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Dated	30-11-195	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th November 1875.*

No. 637. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Royachoty, 19th November 1875, No. 47 :—

From A. J. DODSON, Esq., Manager and Acting Chief Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 13th November 1875, No. 125.

October Reports.

I HAVE the honor to forward, per book post, copies of the Upper and Lower Divisions Reports, together with my own for the month of October 1875.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

Upper Division.

Monthly Report for October 1875.

THERE was very little, and in some parts, no rain up to the 29th, when a heavy and continuous fall took place. At Kurnool, from the 29th to the 31st, upwards of 4 inches were registered; and at Ayaleer 4.6 inches.

2. For the few days before this there had been a great demand for water, and all were busily engaged in supplying the fields. Some applications had been made for watering dry crops, and there was every appearance of a large demand for canal water; the sudden downfall however occurred just in time to stop many ryots from taking tickets.

3. All the principal works of repair have been finished for this season; but the raising of the banks in a few places still continues. The culingalah No. 9 A in the 7th section has been completed. It is built with an overfall 3 feet below full water line, and will be an additional security to that part of the canal. Extra works have been required on account of the natural drainage of the country; also to accommodate the waste water from several Government tanks situated above the canal in the Nundial Taluq.

4. Little has been done to the 6th section beyond repairing and caulking the gates; the uncertainty regarding navigation renders it inexpedient to commence the heavier repairs on the locks.

5. The alteration of four foot-bridges into bridges for bandy traffic has been sanctioned by Government and the estimates passed. Certain portions of the work cannot be done till water is out of the canal, but the earthwork and teak frames will be commenced immediately. The teak has been ordered from Madras.

6. With regard to irrigation generally there is little to report. Tickets have not yet been issued to all the ryots. It is probable that the second crops will be increased considerably this year, and should the rains cease now, as is usually the case, there may still be a good area of dry crops requiring water.

7. The season seems to be favorable to all kinds of crops. The rice-fields especially appear to be very fine, and all the ryots I have spoken with report them so. The general failure in last year's crops has had a bad effect on the prospects for this season. Add to that the uncertainty in the minds of many ryots and the novelty of the rules, as well as the hope which has been cherished (and supported, I believe, by some of the officials), that the rates will be again reduced, it will not be matter for much wonder that the large increase expected has not been attained. In my division, I hope, the estimate for the first crops will be exceeded.

8. During the last twelve months many canal crossings have been improved. In consequence of the fixed headway under the bridges necessary for first-class canal navigation, the road approaches are heavy works. All roads are difficult to keep in order in this country; but the approaches to a bridge are continually in want of repairs. When first the approaches were made small banks were placed on each side to prevent cattle and bundles from straying off the

9. The health of the staff has been good. A few cases of fever occurred.

Lower Division

The eastern monsoon may be considered now as over; it has been very light compared with that of last year, the only heavy fall having been on the 23rd.

2. The Pennair was in fresh towards the end of the month; but never rose more than 6½ feet over the crest of its ancient. The injuries done during October 1874, which were repaired last hot weather, have stood well, and only a few feet of the coping to another part of the toe wall have been removed, a trifling injury one day's labor will repair.

3. During this month I have in company with Mr. Dunphy passed nearly the whole length of the lower division in his boat, passing through all the locks without any difficulty, except lock No. 16, at Rajoly, which we could not fill owing to some one or more of the stones of the lower sill having been removed; as soon as the canal is again dry this can be repaired without any difficulty, and I found during my inspection of the 94 miles which are included in this division no injury done to any of the banks, locks, or other masonry works by the rains of the past monsoons, the whole of the main canal works (with the trifling exceptions mentioned above) being in a sound condition, fully capable of carrying out the work for which they were constructed.

4. The distribution works are also in a good condition, though some heavy local showers caused a few breaches in some of the larger channels, but not such as to cause any injury to the crops under irrigation. The aqueduct over a backwater of the Pennair, which forms part of the new Goorumpaud channel, is now completed, and I hope it will be in time to secure some second crops; next season I expect over 200 acres under it.

5. *Irrigation*.—It is impossible yet to say more on the prospects for this season's irrigation than I said in my last report. Many applications are yet unrecorded; but I still hope to attain the averages in each taluq I gave last month; but it is very dangerous to trust in any promises made by ryots as to the amount of acres they intend to cultivate, their idea of numbers being as uncertain as their regard for truth is slight.

6. *General.*—During my progress down the lower division I stayed three days at Dhoor, and did my best to get the irrigation settlement for 1874-75 settled up; but the delays in the office of the Cuddapah Deputy Collector seem endless. I have therefore given orders for our Statement to be completed at once without any more comparisons with, or by, Curnums, whose accounts seem hopelessly inaccurate and confused. Cholera still lingers among some villages near the canal, but none of the Company's servants have been attacked during this month, and we may hope that with the approaching cold season the disease will disappear.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th November 1875.*

THE reports of the Conservancy Engineers of the Upper and Lower Divisions prove the state of the works of the Main Canal and distribution works to be very satisfactory, which I am able to confirm by my personal observations, having during the month inspected the whole Main Canal from Soonkesala to Cuddapah.

2. It is not, I think, advisable for me to enter into any more speculations on the subject of this season's spread of irrigation, but I may say that in the Kurnool District, where we are ably assisted by the Revenue authorities, I do not doubt that the estimated amount of irrigation given in my report for September will be obtained. In the Cuddapah District I am not so sanguine of an increase, as we have many difficulties to contend with, and the loss of so many hundred acres of paddy due to floods of October 1874 has prevented many ryots from sowing paddy this season, especially in villages near the Pennair river. All who have not sown on that account, seeing the good crops their neighbours have obtained, now greatly regret their timidity, and many will, I hope, try for an early second crop.

3. At the Kurnool workshops Mr. Crawford has, at my request, been fixing up in the new machine shed several of the many valuable tools which belong to the Company, including a vertical and a circular saw-table for timber, two lathes, screw-cutting machine, drill and slotting machine, &c., and he has succeeded in getting them all into good working order, so that if navigation should be determined on, barges can be constructed by the Company in their own workshops by the side of the canal.

4. The river Toombuddra has not risen more than 1·3 feet above the ancient crest during this month, and by the 31st it had fallen to 0·3 above, but none of the undersluices have been closed.

5. At the end of October 1874, 3' 2" was running over the crest, but that was after an exceptionally wet season. I hope we may be able to retain water in the canal for irrigation purposes up to the end of March next year, so as to secure the second crops sown, which I expect will be very extensive.

6. The usual table of rainfall accompanies this report.

KUENGL,
12th November 1875.

(Signed) A. J. DODSON,
Acting Chief Engineer

[illegible]

11-11-11

1144 *Staph. obs.* 1876

2. It will be noticed in the report of the lower division that Mr. Dodson has taken a boat through nearly the whole of this division, and that all the locks, except No. 16, were passed without difficulty.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 688. Chief Engineer
ORDER THEREON, 30th November 1875, No. 3,402.
IRRIGATION &

IRRIGATION, No. 61.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
" " for Irrigation.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

It will be noticed in the report of the Lower Division that our Dredge has taken a boat through nearly the whole of this Division, and that all the locks, except the Washington, were passed with difficulty.

Camp at
Royactoty
2^d November 1875

Wendell Phillips Little Rock
Chicago for England

To,
The Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

No 3402 Rmd

Proceedings of the Madras Fort
Under date the 30 Nov/75
Read the following

From the Chief Surg for R.G. No 470/19 Nov/75
Migration

Ordered to be recorded.

by 19/11

To The Chief Surg & Manager
M. J. & Co.

do for Migration

Drop - 10 - 12 - 75

P. M. 1895

No 7514

From

The Chief Surg.
for Migration

Dated 19 Nov 1895.
Recd. 21 Nov 1895.

E. H. No 47

Submits Reports
on the works of the
Mysore & Lower
Sons of the P. & L.
Co. for October 1895.

No. No 3402. 30-11-75.

7514

COPIES OF 1874 BIDDING
PUBLIC WORKS.

Chief Eng^r &
Manager, Madras
P.W. Co.

30 Nov 1874

Dec 6 1874

Copies on the books of the
Upper & Lower sections of the
M. & C. Co. for return 1875
Endorsement of the Chief Eng^r
in signature submission with
marked the —, Records.

12 637/3

Cin 26-11-75