

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	472	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-2	1875
		195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 434. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) dated Fort William, 5th January 1875, No. 2 I:—

Condition of the principal Irrigation Works in the Madras Presidency, and conduct of Colonel Fischer.

Read the following Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated 26th November 1874, No. 102.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter, No. 116 of the 15th of August last, forwarding copies of papers showing the results of a reference to the Madras Government of Colonel Rundall's Notes on the principal Irrigation Works in the Madras Presidency.

2. Among these papers is a Memorandum drawn up by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to the Madras Government, after a tour of inspection to the Godavery Delta Works, which I have read with interest.

3. The general conclusions to be drawn from this memorandum are, that the condition of these important works is anything but satisfactory, and that their maintenance has not been properly cared for. In some instances the efficiency of these works for irrigation purposes appears to have been interfered with by defective construction of head works and distributing sluices, owing either to error in design, or the use of inferior materials. The navigation of the canals has also been affected by similar causes, owing, apparently, to a want of proper supervision, and to a disregard to the circumstances of the traffic, and to instructions. The proper protection of the canal banks is stated to have been neglected for some time past, and the practice of allowing cattle to cross where regular crossings do not exist has, I observe, been the cause of considerable injury to the canal banks. The necessity of providing a sufficient number of cattle crossings was pointed out by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation so far back as 1870, but very little is reported to have been done towards supplying this want up to the present time.

4. Not only have the canals been thus neglected and permitted to fall into disrepair, but much of the value of the floating plant is stated to have been altogether lost from want of proper care and maintenance; whilst, from a defective system of traffic management, they have also not been kept fully employed.

5. This state of things is discreditable to the District Engineer, Colonel Fischer, whose numerous instances of disregard, not only of the instruction of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, but also of the orders of Government, appear to have been leniently dealt with by the Madras Government in merely directing his removal to another district.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Despatch be forwarded to the Government of Madras in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, for information, in continuation of Public Works Department No. 507 I, dated 15th August 1874.

(Signed) G. T. SKIPWITH, Captain, R.E.,
Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th February 1875.

No. 435. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1875, No. 472.

IRRIGATION, No. 29.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Extra Copies

472

Esqn

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,
Under date the 187 .

Read the following:—

from the Govt of India (H.E. & S.D. 5th Jan/75)

*Ordered to be
recorded.*

by 29/1/75

[Signature]

24

*To the Chief Eng^r
for Irrigation*

Dec^r 19-2-75

644
Govt. of Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Chief Engineer
Madras

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 17 Feb 1875, No. 472

Nos. 424-425

Irrigation Works

Proceedings of the Govt.
of India, communicating
copy of a despatch re-
garding the condition of the
Principal Irr. Works in
the Madras Presidency and
conduct of Col. Fischer,
ordered to be recorded.