

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1295	(9)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	23.5		1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 414. From Major H. R. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, South Arcot, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Cuddalore, 17th April 1876, No. 6.

With reference to G.O., No. 13, dated 1st April, directing me to report regarding the complaint made by the Deputy Collector of the mismanagement, &c., of the Public Works Officer in charge of the Pooniar anicut water regulation, I have the honor to report that the Collector in February sent me an extract of the Deputy Collector's report, and there has been a short correspondence between the Collector and myself on the subject, as he informed me he had sent my letter to Government through the Board of Revenue, I thought it right to take no further notice of the question until the correspondence had reached Government. I therefore do not now send copies of it.

2. The question is very simple, but one which calls for immediate decision, it is whether the regulation of the water after it has left the head sluices at the Pooniar anicut is under the Revenue or Public Works Department. Mr. Garstin considers that the regulation of water in all channels that irrigate more than one village is under the Department of Public Works, and rests his opinion on Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 1,580, dated 15th August 1857, and on G.O., of the 5th March 1873, No. 713, Public Works Department.

3. I do not consider that either of these are applicable to the case, or in fact to any channels in this district, as in the first (which I believe is the same order as the Board of Revenue Order of the 23rd September 1858, page 33 of the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue) it distinctly lays down that the Department of Public Works are to exercise control in the larger works of irrigation when separate establishments are allowed, but the management of the smaller works will be under the Revenue Department as hitherto. Again, the second order quoted refers only to the deltas of the Godavery, Kistna, and Nellore, where there are special establishments kept up. At the Pooniar anicut there is the following establishment :—

One Superintendent and six shuttermen, they are and have been solely employed on the head sluices and anicut.

4. As far as I can find out there has never been an attempt made by the Department of Public Works to regulate (except at the main head sluices, where there are shuttermen) the supply of water, but they have often helped the Revenue Authorities with their advice. I should much regret the subordinates being allowed to interfere, as they would be taken off their proper duties, and their interference would be, I fear, productive of much mischief; it is not likely that one man in a taluq with other work could do any good to the regulation of the many minor works that irrigate more than one village. I am much surprised at Mr. Garstin thinking that this regulation was or should have been attended to by the Department of Public Works, and this is, I believe, the first complaint he has made regarding it.

5. As is known to every officer connected with irrigation in Southern India, there is an enormous loss and waste of water from the total want of regulation; the distribution of water being left, I may say, almost entirely to the villagers themselves; this evil is, I believe, on the increase owing to the Revenue Authorities not looking on it as so important a branch of their duty as they used to do when they had the Maramut under them, and also to the fact that their duties have been of late years very much

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd May 1876.*

increased in other things: the consequence is that the water regulation is greatly neglected in this and in, I may say, most other districts.

6. In conclusion, I may point out that judging from the water returns at the Pooniar anicut, I do not think there has been much loss this year from the want of regulation. I find that in 1872, 1873, and 1874, from 1st May to 31st December, that water passed over the anicut 150, 136, and 143 days, respectively; in 1875 it passed over for only 26 days during the same period.

No. 414-A.

No. 61 W.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The Pooniar anicut was built some years ago to improve the supply of water to certain old channels, and the regulation of the water-supply by the Public Works Department has hitherto been confined to the management of the head sluices of the single channel on the north, or left bank of the four channels on the south side. It was impracticable, under existing circumstances, for the District Engineer to do more than take care that a full supply was admitted to the channels when there was water available, and that no more than a full supply was allowed to enter in floods. Before the District Engineer can undertake to distribute water to the several minor channels, should Government desire this duty to be transferred to the Public Works Officers, it will be necessary, first, formally to place the management in his hands; secondly, to provide a conservancy establishment to regulate the several minor head sluices; and thirdly, to arrange for the transmission monthly at least, direct to the Range Officer, of information as to the area of wet cultivation in each village, and as to the state of the water-supply in the several tanks.

2. So far from blame having attached to the Public Works Officers for not interfering unauthorizedly with the water distribution, it may be safely assumed that had they done so the complaints which would have been made by the villagers, who would have been deprived of water would have been much more loud and effective than those of the villagers who did not get water, because, as is clearly shown, the total supply was inadequate.

3. The subject of the arrangements under which the distribution of water in different districts should be effected has been lately under the consideration of Government, and no fixed rule has been adopted. The circumstances as regards South Arcot will be found noticed in the Proceedings of the 18th November 1874, Proc., Madras Govt., No. 130, 17th June 1874.
Do. do. " 3,260, 18th Nov. "
Do. do. " 3,261, " " "

South Arcot will be found noticed in the Proceedings of the 18th November 1874, No. 3,261.
OOTACAMUND,
25th April 1876.

(Signed)

JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 415.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1876, No. 1,295.

IRRIGATION, No. 41.

The detailed distribution of the water-supply from the channels under the Pooniar anicut appears not to have been a duty

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd May 1876.*

appertaining to the Public Works Officers, their duty being confined to the regulation of the water between the one channel on the north and the four on the south bank, by means of the head sluices; maintaining, as far as the water in the river will allow, a full supply in all these channels, and preventing more than a full supply passing in floods. The further distribution from these channels rests with the Revenue officers and with the ryots. The loss of crops from want of water is to be much regretted, but the cause is evidently the unusually short supply of water in the river; water having passed over the anicut between 1st May and 31st December for only 26 days in 1875, against 143 days in 1874.

136 „ in 1873.

150 „ in 1872.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,

Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department

„ District Engineer, South Arcot.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the

Read the following

From The District Engineer South Arcot } H.E. No. 6 of 17th April 1876

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation } H.E. No. 4 of 25th April 1876

His Grace the Governor in Council considers that before transmitting to the Board of Revenue the Deputy Collector's remarks

It appears that in early Feb^r the Coll. had placed himself in communication with the D. of the interests of the villagers cultivating under the Poomar ancient channel and drawing complaints connected with the same

attention thereto, it was incumbent on the collector to ascertain from the District Engineer the real facts of the case, more especially as the Deputy Collector himself had apparently made no inquiries, and had said that of the truth of what the people assert he had no means of knowing.

2. The detailed distribution of the water supply from the channels under the Poonias ancient ~~and~~ appeared not to

be found - this out to major head & must be done of his Poonas as it was stated

This long draft does not seem to me needed I would only state the facts shortly as ~~see~~ follows - & ~~con~~ ~~them~~ to collector for explanation in the district - B.C. 16/5

Recd
15/5

{omit all from here - substitute - }
and their duty being confined to the ~~disturbance~~ ^{regulation} of the water ~~into~~ ^{between} the 1 channel on the North and the 4 on the South bank. & means of the head sluices - ~~maintaining~~ ^{regulating} as far as the water in the river will allow a full supply in all the channels. & preventing more than a full supply

regulating in floods - ~~The distribution from these channels~~ ^{The distribution from these channels} ~~the crops~~ ^{the crops} ~~the want of water is to be much regretted but the cause is evidently unusually short supply of water in the river~~

have been a duty appertaining to the P. W. officers and if which is by no means clear, any regulation could have, in the absence of an adequate supply in 1876, saved crops which were lost, without incurring the loss of crops for which the little water available was taken that regulation could not have been carried out by the P. W. officers without due authority and without the information for the supply of which

to them at the proper time there were no arrangements in existence.

3. If in the case of the Poornam anicut or other anicut channels in the South Arcot District it is considered advisable that the distribution arrangements in detail should be placed in the hands of the P.W. Officers certain subsidiary arrangements referred to in the note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will have to be made and authority

water having passed over the anicut for only 26 days from 1st May to 31 Dec for 1875 only 143 days for 1874 only 123 days for 1873 only 150 days for 1872.

given in each case to the District Engineer to undertake the distribution and to issue the necessary detailed instructions to his Range Officers. The proper course would then be for the Collector and District Engineer to settle for what channels the supply to villages should be regulated by P.W. officers, and the several arrangements necessary for the effective performance of the duty.

4. These Proceedings will be communicated to the Revenue Depart.

ment with reference
to G.O. R. D. No. 392
of 18th March 1876
and to the District
Engineer South
Arcot for informa-
tion and guidance.

by 2/5

7/11/76

Rev Sept
D. E. S. Arcot
C. E. for J.

D. P. W.
SOUTH ARCOT.

No. 6

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

Camp Cuddalore

Dated 17th April 1876.

From

The District Engineer,

South Arcot.

To

The

Secretary to Government
D. P. W.

Enclosures.

Sir,

With reference to G.O. No 13
dated 1st April directing me to
report regarding the complaint
made by the Dy. Collector of the
mismanagement &c of the Public
Works office in charge of the Perma-
nent water regulation. I have
the honor to report that the Col-
lector in February sent me an
Extract of the Dy. Collector's re-
port and there has been a
short correspondence between the
Collector and myself on the
subject, as he informed me he
had sent my letter to Government
through the Board of Revenue.
I thought it right to take no
further

further notice of the question
until the correspondence had reached
the Government. I therefore do
not now send copies of it.

2 The question is very simple but
one which calls for immediate deci-
sion, it is whether the regulation
of the water after it has left the
head sluices at the Pomian anicut
is under the Revenue or Public
Works Department. Mr. Gasster
considers that the regulation of
water in all channels that ir-
rigate more than one village is under
the D.P.W. and his
opinion on G.O. No. 1580 dated
15th August 1887 and on G.O. of
the 5th March 1893. L. 713 D.P.W. 2.

3 I do not consider
that either of these are applicable
to the case or in fact to any
channels in this District as in

the 1st (which I believe is the
same order as the Board of Revenue
order of the 23rd September 1858 page
33 of the Standing Orders of the Board
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the D.P.W. are to exercise control
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separate establishments are allowed
but the management of the smaller
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partment as hitherto. Again the 2nd
order quoted refers only to the deltas
of the Godavari, Krishna and Nellore
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they are and have been solely em-
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I do not think there has been
much loss this year from the want
of regulation. I find that in
1872, 73 and 74 from 1st May to 31st
December that water passed over the
ancient 150, 136 and 143 days respective-
ly, in 1875 it passed over for only
26 days during the same period.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

M. M. M. Major P. E.

District Engineer

E-in-C 18-Aug-57 No 1580.
 505-branch 73 No 713.
 - 1st April 1916 - 13.
 Extract from the Standing Order of 1855
 Page 33-3

Referring to the
 the complaint made
 by the Collector
 the management
 the 1st April 1916
 Office in charge
 the District Engineer
 the District Engineer
 the District Engineer

Dated 11/4/16
 Despatched 17/4/16
 Received 19/4/16
 No. 6
 Enclosures

The Secretary to
 the District Engineer
 South Arcot

Q. 1846 McArthur
 SOUTH ARCOOT D. E. W.
 From The District Engineer
 South Arcot
 22-2-1914

10.6.11 W.

State by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

The Provisional amendment was
 built some years ago to
 improve the supply of water to
 to certain old channels, and in
 the regulation of the water
 supply by the P.W.D. has
 hitherto been confined to the
 management of the head
 sluices of the single channel
 on the north or left bank
 of the 4 channels on the
 south side. It was in-
 practicable under existing
 circumstances for the
 District Engineer to do more
 than take care that a
 full supply was admitted
 to the channels when there
 was water available, and
 that no more than a full

cu-10.5/96 Dtd 22/5/96
 West 25/6/16

supply was allowed to enter
in floods. Before the
District Engineer can under-
take to distribute water to
the several minor channels,
should Government desire
this duty to be transferred
to the P. W. officers, it will
be necessary 1st formally to
place the management in
his hands 2^{ndly} to provide
a conservancy establishment
to regulate the several minor
head slices, and 3^{rdly} to
arrange for the transmission
monthly at least, direct to
the Range Officer of information
as to the area of wet cultiva-
tion in each village, and as
to the state of the water
supply in the several tanks.
2. So far from blame
having attached to the P.W.

Officers, for not interfering
unauthorisedly with the water
distribution, it may be safely
assumed that had they done
so, the complaints which
would have been made by the
villagers who would have been
deprived of water would have
been much more loud and
effective than those of the
villagers who did not get water
because, as is clearly shown,
the total supply was inadequate.
3. The subject of the
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the distribution of water
in different Districts should
be effected has been lately
under the consideration of
Government and no fixed
rule has been adopted. The
circumstances as regards
South Arcot will be found

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt.
No. 190 dated
17th June 1874
No. 3260-18th
Nov 1874
No. 3261-18th
Nov 1874

[The page contains approximately 20 lines of extremely faint, illegible handwriting.]

[illegible]

Wep to (A-Scay) 21-4-76.

FORMER CASES.

Current No.

of 187

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"
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"

LATER CASES.

Current No.

of 187

"
"
"
"

N. 4114

No. 1295

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 23rd May 1876

READ the following:—

From

The District Engineer } (H.C. No. 6 of 17th April 1876)
South Arcot

Note by the Chief Eng^r for } (G.O. No. 61 W. of 25th April 1876)
Irrigation

The detailed dis-
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between the 1st channel on
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the

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and preventing more than a
full supply passing in
floods. The further dis-
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rests with the Revenue Officers
and with the Ryots. The
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but the cause is evidently
the unusually short supply
of water in the river, water
having passed over the
amount between 1st May
and 31st December for

only 26 days in 1875
against 143 ——— 1874
(136) ~~136~~ 136 ——— 1873
150 ——— 1872

x^o att^o

by 20/5

Revenue Dept^y ✓
Dist. Engr. S. Frost ✓
Chief Engr. for Imgr^y ✓
Dated 7/6/78

Enclosed for the
P. 1. 1875

16-5-78

N^o 414-415

1000 - 2 - 10 - 5 - 10

37705
27941

Govt. of 1876 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Wills

The Revenue Dept.

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G. O., 23rd May 1876, No. 1295

No. 214/15

Distribution of the
supply from the channels
under the Ponnaiy Aricut
& Aricut St. Passings
orders on the subject
of the details of —

*sent in 1876
4-6-76*