

(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.	1605	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26-6	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23th June 1876. No 1,605.*

No 533 Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
dated Ootacam 19th June 1876, No 77 W.

following papers —

From Major G. V. District Engineer, Trichinopoly, to Lieutenant-Colonel
J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Trichinopoly, 16th
January 1875, No 5.

I HAVE the honor to report on the damages sustained by the Vanavanellur tank,
Udaiyarpoham taluq, which tank was last repaired in December 1874 at a cost of
Rupees 330.

2 The Sub-Engineer in charge of the Range reports that, on the 13th ultimo,
the tank filled in about two hours and reached the top of the bank. The ryots then
cut the bank at the western end in spite of which the calingulah at the north-eastern
end was carried away bodily.

3 He reports that the tank receives the drainage of nearly fifty square miles,
besides a supply from a large stream.

4 He further states that the tank has been regularly breaching for the last ten
years, and that the revenue it yields is only Rupees 414-3-0 per annum.

5 In conclusion, I have the honor to request to be informed what steps I
should take in the matter, if I should find, on further inquiry, that it would not be
advisable to rebuild the calingulah and undertake the repairs.

No 533-A. Memorandum to the District Engineer, Trichinopoly, dated 20th January
1875, No 83-A.

No. 533-B From Major J. VERTUE, R.E., District Engineer, Trichinopoly, to
Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated
9th June 1876, No. 241.

HAVING inspected the Vanavanellur tank and had some cross sections taken, I
am able to reply to your Memorandum, No. 83-A, of 20th January 1875.

2. The question, as you may remember, is, is the tank to be retained as a
reservoir, or is the bed to be given up for dry cultivation?

3 The answer is that, pending a decision as to the partial restoration of the
great Ponnary tank, the surplus of which the tank in question will receive, all hope
of making use of the tank as a reservoir need not be abandoned, but that not a single
rupee should be at present spent on the tank (which is a very poor one) for the
following reasons.

The tank when full averages $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth, contains 360,000 cubic yards
of water, and receives the drainage of fifty square miles. The length of its bund is
3 yards and of its calingulah (breached, in fact ruined) 18 feet. With a fall of
4 inches over the drainage basin (fifty square miles), and allowing twenty-four hours for
the discharge of the same, with a head of 18 inches, a calingulah about 500 feet long
would be required. Two inches over so large an area as fifty square miles may be
considered excessive, but, on the other hand, twenty-four hours in the Udaiyarpoham
taluk is a long time to allow for discharge, as there the streams come down and subside

District Engineer, Trichinopoly

with extraordinary rapidity, owing to causes on which I need not enter. However, whether or no the assumption be extravagant, it is evident that the tank should be provided with a calingulah many times the size of its present one

5 This is however not all The soil is extremely bad for making an embankment, and there is no stone revetment, nor means of providing one, except at an enormous expense The tank was well and thoroughly repaired in 1874-75 at a cost of 330 Rupees, to look at it, you would think it had not been repaired for many years Under the fore-mentioned circumstances, it can scarcely be a matter for surprise that the tank has only been repaired to be breached The expenditure during the last ten years has been Rupees 634-0-5

6. With regard to the Ponnary tank aforementioned, I am about to institute an investigation into the propriety of partially restoring it It would intercept the large jungle stream which now breaches the Vanavanellur tank, also the Thengal Oday, a still larger stream of good water, which now falls into the Vadavor, and is in no other way utilised It has an enormous bund four or five miles long, and two very large sluices, one of which I have seen The sluice is of laterite, cased throughout with well-dressed stone with a very fine cutstone floor, and is quite repairable. The land commanded by the tank is very good and very favorable for irrigation, and altogether if the restoration can be effected at a reasonable cost, I think the project likely to prove a most important one

7 The tank is said to have been constructed 80 or 100 years ago by a private individual called Ponna, but, looking to the enormous magnitude of the work, I think it far more probable that it was carried out by Kings of the Cholah Dynasty, by whom was built the splendid Pagoda of Gungakondasholapuram (two miles from the tank and commanded by it), and who are said to have made it their capital If so, there must at one time have been a large population at this place, and it is utterly inconceivable to me how they can have obtained a supply of water if this tank did not exist

8 In conclusion then I cannot recommend any expenditure on the tank I have intimated the same to the Collector, sending him at the same time a copy of this letter

SUBMITTED for the information of Government

The undersigned has been unable to find on the atlas sheet any of the names referred to in the District Engineer's later letter

2. A small tank receiving the drainage of fifty square miles, holding but 9 72 millions of cubic feet, or sufficient for 80 to 90 acres of irrigation at most, would, under any circumstances, be not worth any large outlay In this case, moreover, the soil is reported to be bad, and there is no stone available at hand for protecting the bund The small escape (18 feet) formerly existing has been swept away, and the tank has been repeatedly breached, an occurrence which must necessarily take place every time there may be a considerable fall of rain To render it safe a maximum flood discharge of about 6,500 cubic feet

$$350\sqrt[4]{(50)^3}$$

be required with M W L 2 feet above F T L The cost of such a weir would be about 7,000 Rupees, even if a convenient site or sites affording the space necessary

be available, and probably other items of work would amount to nearly 1,000 Rupees additional, so that altogether an outlay of nearly twenty years' average revenue would be necessary Consequently, the reformation of the tank appears to be out of the question

3 On the other hand, it is reported that the cost of repairs during the last ten years has been Rupees 634, and, as the revenue of the same period has been upwards of 4,000 Rupees, the tank has not been unprofitable The undersigned considers therefore that, pending a settlement of the question of the restoration of the Ponnary, it may be desirable to maintain the Vanavanellur tank temporarily, and the best plan in that case will probably be to make a long temporary escape by removing the bund at the two ends so as to afford a waterway of 700 to 800 feet over the natural soil, which may be turfed for a width of three or four yards to prevent scour The ends of the bund if revetted with turf (not merely turfed) with a foundation of a couple of feet would be fairly secure, and the work done in this way might be expected to last for five or six years As much of the soil of the removed bund as may be required may be placed on the bund to be retained

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

No. 534. ORDER THEREON, 26th June 1876, No 1,605.

IRRIGATION, No 34

THE District Engineer, Trichinopoly, will be authorized to treat the Vanavanellur tank as an exceptional case in the manner pointed out by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, should he find it feasible to carry out the arrangements suggested, and to sanction the estimate should it not exceed Rupees 1,200 The amount which would be necessary to render this tank safe and efficient would be far too large to admit of its retention permanently, and if the Ponnary tank restoration be negatived, the Vanavanellur tank can be retained only so long as there is a probability of the revenue exceeding the cost of maintenance, unless the Collector can adduce special reason for its retention

(True Extract)

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

To the District Engineer, Trichinopoly
" Collector of Trichinopoly
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts
" Revenue Department

Exd W J Lewis
Spare Copies

No
527

District Engineer's Office
Trichinopoly
15th January 1875

From The District Engineer
Trichinopoly

To The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation
Madras

Sir
I have the honor to report on the damages sustained by the Vanavarinallur Tank. Udaigar-
palamu Taluq which tank was last repaired in
December 1874 at a cost of Rupees 300-0-0.

2. The Sub Engineer in charge of the Range reports
that on the 13th ultimo the tank filled in about
two hours and reached the top of the bank. The
ryots then cut the tank at the breast end in spite
of which the Calingula at the North Eastern end
was carried away bodily.

3. He reports that the tank receives the drainage
of nearly 50 square miles besides a supply from a large
jungle stream.

4. He further states that the tank has been re-
gularly breaching for the last ten years and that the
Revenue of fields is only Rupees 414-3-0 per annum.

5. In conclusion I have the honor to request to
be informed what steps I should take in the mat-
ter if I should find on further enquiry that it would
not be advisable to rebuild the Calingula and under-
take the repairs.

I have the honor to be
Your obedient servant
George V. Law - Major
District Engineer Trichinopoly

other than there are -

Rede Letter from P. S. Lushington
79, Temple, 12th 15 S.C.

N^o 83. A

P. S. 1619/76
2

To
The District Engineer
Trichinopoly

Encl. 20 June 76
Copy 25 June 76

These instructions
are referred to the
Superior of the Island.
See done to the Va.
Mammellur Tank.

District Engineer's Office
9th June 1876.

N^o 241

From
The District Engineer
Trichinopoly

To
The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation
Madras

Sir,

Having inspected the
Vanavannellur Tank, and had some
Cross-Sections taken, I am able to
reply to your Memo. N^o 83. A of 20th
January 1875.

2. The question, as you may re-
member is — is the Tank to be re-
tained as a Reservoir, ~~or~~ ^{or} the Bed
to be given up for dry cultivation?
3. The answer is that, pending
a decision as to the partial resto-
ration of the great Ponnary Tank,
the surplus of which the Tank in
question will receive, all hope of
making use of the Tank as a reser-
voir need not be abandoned, but

that not a single (Rupee) should be
at present spent on the Tank (which
is a very poor one) for the following
reasons.

1. The Tank when full
averages $2\frac{1}{4}$ feet in depth. Contains
36000, Cubic yards of water, and re-
ceives the drainage of 50 Square Miles.
The length of its Bund is 1473 yards,
and of its Calingulah (breached-in
fact ruined) 18 feet!! With a fall of
2 inches over the Drainage Basin,
(50 Square Miles), and allowing 24
hours for the discharge of the same,
with a head of 18 inches, a Calingulah
about 500 feet long would be required.
Ditches over so large an Area as 50
Square Miles may be considered ex-
cessive, but on the other hand 24 hours
in the Udairaspaliam Taluk is a long
time to allow for discharge, as there
the streams come down and subside
with extraordinary rapidity, owing to
causes on which I need not enter. Some
say, who have no the assumption to be

extraneous, it is evident that the
Tank should be provided with a Ca-
lingulah many times the size of its
present.

5. This is, however, not all.

The soil is extremely bad for making
an Embankment, and there is no
Stone Rocaument, nor means of provid-
ing one, except at an enormous expense.
The Tank was well and thoroughly re-
paired in 1874/75 at a cost of 330 Rs;
to look at it, you would think it had
not been repaired for many years.
Under the foregoing mentioned Circum-
stances it can scarcely be a matter
for surprise that the Tank has only
been repaired to be breached. Ex-
penditure during the last 10 years
has been Rs 634. - 5.

6. With regard to the Primary
Tank afore mentioned, I am about
to introduce an investigation into
the propriety of partially restoring
it. It would intercept the large jungle
stream, which now breaches the Vana-
ravellur Tank, also the Chengal

Qday, a still larger stream of good water, which now falls into the Vadaras, and is in no other way utilized. It has an enormous Bund 1 or 2 miles long, and 2 very large sluices, one of which I have seen. The sluice is of laterite, cased throughout with well dressed stone, with a very fine cut-stone floor, and is quite repairable. The land commanded by the Tank is very good, and very favourable for irrigation, and altogether if the restoration can be effected at a reasonable cost, I think the Project will prove a most important one.

7. The Tank is said to have been constructed 80-100 years ago by a private individual called Panna, but, looking to the immensity and magnitude of the work, I think it far more probable that it was carried out by Kings of the Chohah dynasty, by whom was built the splendid Pagoda of Gunga Konda stā in, near (2 miles from

from the Tank, and commanded by it), and who are said to have made it their Capital. If so, there must ^{have been} at one time a large population at this place, and it is utterly inconceivable to me how they can have obtained a supply of water, if the Tank did not exist.

8. In conclusion then, I cannot recommend any expenditure on the Tank. I have intimated the same to the Collector sending him at the same time a copy of this letter.

I have the honor to be Sir

Yours Most Obedt Servt

James Stewart Major R.E.
District Engineer

45. 6

CHIEF OF POLICE

Q. W. 4619/76

To _____ do _____
From _____ do _____ " _____ 24th June 1876

3

The undersigned has been unable to find on the Atlas Sheet any of the names referred to in the District Engineer's letter.

2. A small tank receiving the drainage of 50 square miles, holding but 9.72 millions of cubic feet, is insufficient for 80 to 90 acres of irrigation at most, would under any circumstances be not worth any large outlay. In this case, moreover, the soil is reported to be bad, and there is no stone available at hand for protecting the bund. The small

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The Director General

Trask

The Chief Executive

for Strigodon

1891

Barclay 9:21

St. Louis, Mo.

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Latanae Herbaria

Regarding the _____

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escape (18 feet) formerly existing
has been swept away, and the
tank has been repeatedly breached,
an occurrence which must necessarily
take place every time there may
be a considerable fall of rain.
To render it safe a maximum
flood discharge of about 6,500 cubic ³⁵⁰ ⁵⁰⁰ feet a second would have to be
provided for and a surplus weir
6.85 feet ^{long} would be required with
M.W.L. 2 feet above F.T.L. The
cost of such a weir would be
about 7,000 Rupees, even if a
convenient site or sites afford-
ing the space necessary be
available, and probably other
items of work would amount
to nearly 10,000 Rupees additional,
so that altogether an outlay of
nearly 20 years' average revenue
would be necessary. Consequently
the reformation of the tank appears

to be out of the question.
3 On the other hand it is
reported that the cost of repairs
during the last 10 years has
been Rupees 634, and as the
revenue of the same period
has been upwards of 4,000
Rupees, the tank has not been
unprofitable. The undersigned
considers therefore that, pending
a settlement of the question of
the restoration of the Ponnary,
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the Vanavallur Tank temporarily,
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long temporary escape by re-
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so as to afford a waterway of
700 to 800 feet over the natural
soil, which may be turfed for
a width of 3 or 4 yards to pre-
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a bund if revetted with turf (not
merely turfed) with a foundation
of a couple of feet would be
fairly secure, and the work done
in this way might be expected
to last for 5 or 6 years. As much
of the soil of the removed bund
as may be required may be
placed in the bund to be retained.

2. 9. 1876
82-4619

Colonel
St. Colonel
Chief Engineer for
Irrigation

Oatcaunund
19th June 1876

FORMER CASES

Current No of 187

"
"
"
"

P. H. 1876 Department
M WORKS FORM No 3

Current No

H 619-

From

The Chief Eng. for Irrigation

No. 778

Dated 19th June 1876

Recd 28th

June

1876

Subject:-

Submitting letter
from the District Eng. for Irrigation
reporting on the damages done
to the Vanavanchur Tank of
the Adyar Palayam Taluk

ENCLOSURES. 3

LATER CASES.

Current No

of 187

"
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From

to

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Orders and Proceedings in file

Depart- ment	No	Date	ENDORSEMENTS		
			Depart- ment	No	Dated

No 12

N^o 1605

Public Works Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT

UNDER date the 26 June 1876

Read the following -

Endorsement by the Chief
Engineer for Irrigation -

H. C. N^o 778 27/19 June 1876

The District
Engineer, Trichinopoly,
will be authorized
to treat the Vanavanchur
Tank as an exceptional
case in the manner
pointed out by the
Chief Engineer for
Irrigation; should he
find it feasible to
carry out the arrange-
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to sanction the estimate
should it not exceed

N^o 533

Ruppes 1200. The
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can be retained only
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a probability of
the revenue exceeding
the cost of maintenance,
unless the Collector
can adduce special
reason for its re-
tention.

W. 20/6

P. E. Trichunapally ✓
Collector — do ✓
C. E. for J. ✓
Ex. P. W. B. ✓
Rev. Sept. 13

Decd 14/1/16/17

