

(1) Number of pages _____

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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3567	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.-
Dated	30-12-1951	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th December 1876. No. 3567.*

No. 631. Read the following report of J. C. JOHNSTON, Esq., Assistant Engineer on Special Duty, Cumbum Tank Works, for the week ended the 10th December 1876. —

I HAVE been engaged during the week in completing the plan of the head works for the new Nakkalagudi channel and in taking out the quantities of the estimate. I commenced also plans for road culverts and right weirs, but, as they were not satisfactory, I have rejected them. I devoted one morning with the Overseer to roughly sketching on the survey plan the several vires above the channel. The data obtained are sufficiently accurate for calculating the lengths of the several right weirs.

2. The Overseer has completed all the trial pits, but not without some difficulty, for coolies who worked one day would perhaps not appear the next day on account of some of them having died of cholera. In several cases coolies got sick in the pits and the others getting frightened would throw down their tools and run away. All the sections of the channel have been plotted both for office and for field reports, and now as the pits are completed the dimensions of the channel have been calculated. The nature of soil at the bed of the channel varies from black loam to hard rock. Sufficient space has been left between the line of channel and the town to provide for a burial-ground.

3. The Surveyor has done nothing again this week for the channel, as he has been busy with his Overseer's examination.

4. The Draughtsman has suffered slightly from fever, but the rest of the staff have enjoyed good health.

5. Neither the Range Officer nor the Deputy Collector can spare me any one to complete the Gundlurumma river channel. The building on the tank head is progressing slowly owing to cholera. The mason in charge (the tool-depot whom I was obliged to put on for want of other men, but who appears to be able to manage coolies very well) states that almost all his original coolies have died off, that he has to get fresh ones nearly every day. I knew one mason who worked till 2 p.m. and who was dead by 5 p.m.

6. It is very disagreeable when obliged to inspect work to meet with unburied cholera corpses, and to have to pass through an atmosphere reeking with unpleasant odours. But such is the fact. When cholera first commenced I passed by two corpses, lately I found one half devoured lying not far from my hut, and the effluvia arising from the burial-ground lying between this and Cumbum is not at all sweet, graves not ten days old have been reopened for fresh corpses, and the soil is so rocky that deep burial is almost impracticable. The Deputy Collector has, I heard once, closed this burial place. The usual roads to Cumbum I never attempt to take now. I proposed to the Deputy Collector that patrols to enforce burial of all corpses should be established, but apparently no steps have been taken to establish them, for it was only two or three days ago that the Doctor of Cumbum paying me a visit passed by three corpses lying quite close to the road. This morning Mr. Goodchap and I suddenly came upon one, and the Overseer the other day found one stretched out on a pile under a large tree close to the new channel.

CANALATOR,
19th December 1876.

(Signed) J. C. JOHNSTON,
Assistant Engineer.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th December 1876. No. 3,567.*

No. 632.

ORDRE THÉRON, 20th December 1876, No. 3,567.

IRRIGATION, No. 16.

The attention of Mr. Farmer will be called in the Revenue Department to the necessity of having corpses removed and buried.

2. This outbreak does not appear to have been reported.

(True District.)

Major-General, R E,
Secretary to Government.

- To the Revenue Department.
- Public Department
- District Engineer, Kurnool
- Special Assistant Engineer, Cumbum

Lat H. C. Shunk, Jr
Four Copies

[illegible]

The dimensions of the Channel have been
estimated. The nature of soil at the head of
the Channel varies from hard to cotton to
hard rock. A sufficient space has been left
between the line of channel and the town to
provide for a burial ground.

3. The Surgeon has done nothing again this
week for the Channel, as he has been busy
with his Burial Examination.

4. The Draftsman has suffered slightly from
fever, and the rest of the Staff have enjoyed
good health.

5. Neither the Range Officer nor the Deputy
Collector can spare me any one to complete
the Gunda Ganna River channel. The work
along the bank is progressing slowly,
owing to cholera. The head masonry (the soil
keeper whom I was obliged to put on account
of other men, and who appears to be able to
exchange cookies very well) states that almost
all his original cookies have died off, that
he has to get fresh gangs now & then. I
knew one mason who worked till 2 P.M.
and who was dead in 5 P.M.

6. It is very disagreeable when obliged to inspect
work done with unburied cholera corpses

and to have to pass through an atmosphere
scented with unpleasant odours. But what
is the fact. When cholera first commenced
I passed in two corpses, lately I found one
half-buried lying not far from my tent and
the effluvia arising from the burial ground
lying between this and Gumbum is not at
all. All the graves not 10 days old have been
reopened for fresh corpses, and the soil is
so rocky that deep burial is almost impracticable.
The Deputy Collector has, I heard, dis-
closed this burial place. The usual mode
to Gumbum I never attempt to take now. I
proposed to the Deputy Collector that parties
to enforce burial of all corpses, should be
established but apparently no steps have
been taken to establish them, so it was only
2 or 3 days ago that the bodies of Gumbum
paying me a visit passed by 2 corpses lying
quite close to the road. This morning Mr
Goodchap and I suddenly came upon one
and the other the other day found one other
choked out on a pile under a large tree close to the
new channel.

Candlish
10 December 1863

John Whitton

Assistant Engineer

P.W.D.

1876

0378

From

The Special Officer Cumbum

Dated 19th Nov 1876.

Refers to the design
for working on the 1st March
1876.

Recd.

Ar - 26 - 12 - 76 - Return
29 - 12 - 76

Not 567

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT. 7

Under date the 14th Dec 1876.

Read the following:—

From

The Special Officer Cumbum

The undersigned
has the honor to
acknowledge the receipt
of the letter from the
Public Works Department
dated 14th Dec 1876
and in reply to inform
that the same has been
forwarded to the
proper authorities for
their consideration.
This subject has not
yet been reported.

Ch. M.

Respectfully
Signed

The Special Officer Cumbum

✓
1873

Cobl. of 1876 Estimates.
PUBLIC WORKS.

The Revenue Department

1873
1873
1873

307 ~~12~~ 3567

Nov. 1873

Requiem, 1873,
Cork, 1873 -
Passing orders are
issued by the Special
Magistrate, 1873,
the - for the work
and 1873 to 1873/74.

1873