

(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.	836-37	(9)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	31. 3.	1876.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1876.*

No. 547. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Bangoomarpett, 15th March 1876, No. 10 :—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 3rd March 1876, No. 20.

In reference to G.O., No. 481, of 22nd ultimo, I have the honor to report that since the Regular Estimates of the Canal for the year 1876-77 under review were drawn up, the expenditure in salaries of the superior appointments has been reduced by the loss of two 1st-class Engineers, Messrs. Dodson and Crawford, whereby a total annual saving, including Chainmen, of Rupees 23,112 has been effected. This brings the covenanted staff down to Rupees 4,200 a-month, and the "General Management and Executive Establishment, exclusive of Bankers," to, I suppose, Rupees 6,111 a-month, which I hope is near enough to your suggestion in your letter attached to the Government Order to satisfy the Government until the reply of the Board of Directors can be obtained.

2. I have telegraphed to the Board to the effect that Government order reductions; meanwhile present staff suffices; and have called the Secretary's attention to the order, and enclosed a memorandum on the subject, copy of which I enclose.

Expense of Maintenance of Canal.

Memorandum on the G.O., No. 481, of 22nd February 1876.

1. THE Government of Madras, in this order upon my Regular Estimates for 1876-77, approve "the programme" of expenditure on works for the maintenance of the canal between 1st April 1876 and 31st March 1877, but wish the Board to take measures for a radical reduction of the cost of establishments especially the superior appointments; which they consider, as shown in the estimates, for it is an estimate rather than a programme which is under review, is out of proportion to either the work or revenue to be looked after.

2. Since the estimates were framed the Staff of Engineers has been reduced, partly by the fatal effects of the climate, and partly by voluntary transfer to the more busy Colony of Natal, to the extent of Rupees 22,440 per annum. Further reduction will scarcely be made by the Board without some distinct understanding as to the consequences. In order to facilitate a thorough consideration of this very important subject, the following remarks seem to me pertinent.

3. The case of the canal is a peculiar one, which needs a few words of explanation. The work to be maintained is a canal 190 miles long, of which a length of 75 miles is liable to be filled any year to a depth of 8 or 9 feet, and does, in fact, in many years get so filled in some part or other. Above one-third of the length of the canal is open to all the large streams of the country. Nearly a third is for navigation only, and is out of use, but contains forty-eight lock chambers 120 feet long, 20 feet broad, and 5 feet draft on the cills. The cost of the canal for irrigation only, is estimated at £1,232,000; and the navigation required £363,000 additional. This canal is being maintained in good order, including the channels bringing the water within reach of every field in an area of 250,000 acres of arable land during the whole season, together with many hundreds of road bridges and other works, by the expenditure of 1 per cent. per annum. The canal has been severely tested by extraordinary falls of rain, and proved to be as secure as such a work can be desired to be. The locks are in working order, except one chain of locks in which, though the gates are entirely of teak in good order, the balance beams were made of

wood from the neighbouring Nalla Malla Hills, and are being replaced by teak, and are expected to be completed in the next official year, within the estimate under review.

4. The regular estimates for each official year are made in time for the sanction of the Madras Government before the year begins, and they define the limit of expenditure. So far as they apply to salaries of field and office staff, they are framed with sufficient margin to prevent difficulties from transfers, promotions, and appointments, and are in excess of the actual expenditure; so far as they apply to works, the Engineers are desired to spend all, except a sufficient margin to cover transfers and percentages charged against them by the accounting department. The following analysis will show the probable actual annual expenditure as things are at present:—

Chief Engineer and Manager (Rupees 2,700 a-month) and two	Rs.
Resident Engineers of Divisions (Rupees 1,500) per annum ...	50,400
Chief Engineer's Office (Rupees 200); Chief Accountant's Office (Rupees 593); Medical Staff (Rupees 728); Contingencies (Rupees 240)	22,932
Working Staff, monthly paid... ..	37,536
Contract works, as per estimate under review, as near as may be to.	31,100
Total ...	1,41,968

5. Until the canal fences are complete, up to which time none but nearly worthless thorn trees can be profitably grown on the banks and bermes of the canal, and until the small masonry works desirable at almost every junction of channels, in order to enable the Company absolutely to prohibit the interference of villagers with the channels, are complete, I prefer an estimate of Rupees 1,75,000 a-year with a probable actual expenditure of Rupees 1,60,000 or 1,65,000, to the present estimate of Rupees 1,55,000, with the above probable actual expenditure.

6. It will be seen that the amount of revenue has no place in determining the above estimate. The physical work is done by a staff of Overseers, Bankers, Tindals, Sluicemen, and Signallers (corresponding to the Overseers, Platelayers, Pointsmen, &c., on a Railway) costing Rupees 37,536 a-year; and by contractors or merchants who supply such material and labor as is best got by the piece, to the amount of Rupees 31,100. The heaviest item of expenditure in offices is in the Engineers' Offices. By these is done the office work of administration and of the collection of revenue from the Madras Government for every field irrigated. The Chief Accountant's Office includes the Storekeepers and Store Accountants. Its cost would probably be little altered by any contemplated changes. Were an active professional man at its head, the simplifications possible might nearly save his salary. We then come to, perhaps, the hardest worked part of the staff, the Engineers; and here again in considering whether cheaper men, working as hard, would suffice for requirements, it is the requirements of the costly works that entirely overshadow all those of revenue. Necessary as it is that the Engineers exercise constant and active personal supervision, in order to secure both the comfortable use of water to all applicants, and the due payment to the Company for all the water used for irrigation, yet the pinch lies in the maintenance of the works. Any Engineer who can maintain the works may be expected to see after the revenue, while the converse proposition would not hold. The work to be looked after is £1,600,000 worth; the Revenue is £6,000 a-year, which may be capitalized at £150,000).

7. Two more observations may be useful. If it be asked why the canal needs maintenance, as if for irrigating 250,000 acres, the reply is that all the important maintenance is (1) for open canal, into which millions of cubic yards of drainage are poured on every heavy fall of rain, and in which the breach of a bank stops the canal altogether; (2) for aqueducts and culverts, many of them in unsatisfactory soil, which are frequently exposed to great heads of water. Thus, last year but one, the water forced through the Company's aqueduct at Dhoor carried before it all the culverts, and the causeway, in the main road crossing the valley about half a mile below.

Great judgment and professional skill is required in the yearly examination of, and constant attention to, the floors and foundation of these works. But again it may be asked, why it is necessary to maintain the 59 miles of canal unnecessary for irrigation, and useful only for navigation, with its locks, gates, English valve-gears, &c. If it be determined to discontinue the maintenance of this, and of the towpath of the canal, it will be well to haul up the gates, and lay them carefully down near each lock, with the valve-gear and winches, until they can be disposed of to a canal expected to pay more, or to a district more in need of communications than this, and to a Company involved in fewer legal complications. To let them stand and go to pieces for want of tar, paint, and repair of seating, &c., is neither scientific nor economical.

8. Lastly, it requires to be remembered that a single season of drought must have great, and may have immense, results, as affecting the permanent revenue of the canal. Drought has indeed been the one thing absolutely relied upon to ensure the canals being brought into play, notwithstanding local prejudice. To cease to ensure the canals being in good repair, and all its channels being constantly efficient, is to throw up this certainty of ultimate, and, perhaps, permanent, success. If, on the other hand, the canal should break down under sudden demand, and the ryots, already paying the guarantee, have also to endure a famine, the exhibition of English financial operations would be very sad and discouraging. Such a failure must be of course avoided at any cost.

9. It seems desirable that the Board should state what percentage they consider it prudent to spend upon the canal annually, in order to make it secure, and should obtain the general approval of the Madras Government as to how that percentage should be divided between staff of one kind or another and works; I consider that nothing but calamity could result from the interference of the Government upon merely hypothetical grounds, and while the works are satisfactorily maintained and improved. Inspection of the works, and not the study of the revenue sheet, must be the basis of radical reformations, until the revenue shall have grown to much more than its present importance.

(Signed) JOHN H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer.

Original sent to the Secretary, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, London, with letter of 3rd May 1876.

SUBMITTED to Government.

The Government having taken no exception in their Orders, Nos. 479 and 481 of the 22nd February last, to the cost of maintenance of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal under "Works," the part of the Memorandum of the Chief Engineer and Manager relating to the estimates for Works needs no remark.

2. The objection of Government is to the great cost of establishments in proportion to works outlay, and especially to the number and scale of salaries of the superior appointments.

3. The Chief Engineer and Manager intimates in his letter that by the death of one 1st-class Engineer and the resignation of another, the annual cost of establishment has been reduced by Rupees 23,112; and that the scale, as it now stands, amounts to about Rupees 6,111 a-month which he hopes will satisfy the Government until a reply from the Board of Directors can be obtained.

4. With reference to paragraph 9 of Mr. Latham's Memorandum, it seems necessary to observe that so long as Government have to find money for meeting the greater part of the working expenses of the canal, it is only reasonable that they should be able to exercise a real control over expenditure. It will certainly not do for the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1876.*

Government to agree to expenditure being limited to a certain percentage, and to leave it to the Company to settle what parts of the sum so fixed should be devoted to establishment and works respectively. The Government of course need not care whether the work to be done is carried out by monthly paid labor or by other means, and that part of the establishment which under the name of Bankers is really labor may be treated as *works* expenditure, but it appears to be essential that the Government should exercise a direct control over the cost of the supervising establishment, and approve or otherwise not only the total amount, but the details of the principal appointments proposed. The expenditure on works will be liable to variation, and as there has never been any question as to the propriety of maintaining the canal in an efficient state, the money necessary for this purpose will have to be found. Were the percentage suggested by Mr. Latham to be fixed, and the Company left to determine the proportion to be allotted to establishment, the amount reserved for works might prove insufficient, and would so prove in seasons of heavy rainfall and floods. Then the provision for works would have to be supplemented, and the fixed percentage would prove to be a delusion.

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

No. 548 & 549. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1876, No. 836.

IRRIGATION, No. 55-A.

Establishment.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council learns from the foregoing papers that unanticipated circumstances have led to a considerable reduction in the cost of the establishments of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, and have afforded an opportunity, which His Excellency is glad to observe has been taken advantage of by the Company's representative, of carrying into effect to a great extent the wishes of Government.

2. It is sufficiently clear from the orders that have been passed on the subject that it is not the desire of Government to reduce expenditure on the actual maintenance of the canal below the sum from time to time found to be necessary to safety and efficiency. Establishments on the other hand have, from a hope that in each successive year the circumstances of the canal would show such a marked improvement as would obviate the necessity for radical reduction, been hitherto maintained on a scale out of all proportion to the requirements of the canal as indicated by the works outlay on maintenance and by the revenue.

3. The views of the Board will now be awaited, and to prevent misunderstanding the Government consider it necessary to add—

1st.—That the reduction of cost already secured is insufficient.

2nd.—That a scale of establishment in detail will have to be submitted and approved; that no scale will be approved which does not provide for a reduction of the salary of the Chief Engineer and Manager to an amount approximating to the limit

Vide also G.O., 29th April 1875, No. 1,189. named in G.O., No. 2,063, dated 30th July 1874.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1876.*

3rd.—That the arrangements should be settled before the Budget Estimates for 1877-78 become due, and that if this be not done the provision for establishment will be limited to Rupees 60,000, and the allotment of State Funds to supplement canal revenue will be determined accordingly. It will be noticed that the subject was specially commended to the notice of the Board of Directors in Proceedings, Madras Government, of the 29th April 1875, No. 1,189, but up to the present time no action has been taken by the Company.

4. Ordered also that a copy of these Proceedings, and of those of the 22nd February, Nos. 479 and 481, be transmitted for the information of the Government of India, and that the Home Government be likewise addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 550.

(DOCKET, No. 837, dated 31st March 1876.)

Copy of the above forwarded to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,

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

Exd. T. O Connor.
Spare Copies

My Lord
The Rt Hon. the Secy.
of State

My Lord Marquis
We have the
honour to forward
copies of our pro-
ceedings under date
the 20th April, 1876.
no 987 containing
a report from the
Superintendent of the
Harbour Works, and
our ^{remarks} orders thereon;
and to beg of
your Lordship that
they report may be
communicated to Mr
Parker with the request
that

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it may be as possible
it is about indistinct
and about indistinct
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is also about the same
the time of the
and about the same
the time of the*

that he will afford
answers to the questions
raised in para 3 of
the proceedings under
question.

Forwarding copies of Pro:
containing a report from the
Supt. Harbor Works on the
Kharacka Harbor Works and
requesting that they may be
sent to Mr. Parks with a re-
quest that he will afford
answers to the questions raised
in para 3 of the Proceedings.



Madras Irr. & Canal Co.
Chief Engineer & Manager's Office
No. 20. Kurnool 3rd March 1876.

To,
The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation
Fort St. George
Madras.

Sir,
In reference to G. O. No. 481,
of 22nd ultimo I have the honor
to report that since the Regular
Estimates of the Canal for the year
1876-7, under review, were drawn
up, the expenditure in salaries of
the Superior appointments has been
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stant Staff down to Rs. 4,200 a
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your letter attached to the G. O. to
satisfy the Government until the
reply of the Board of Directors can
be obtained.

112-73-332

2. I have telegraphed to the Board to the effect that Government order reductions: meanwhile present staff suffices; and have called the Secretary's attention to the order, and enclosed a Memo on the subject, copy of which I enclose.

Cle's No 79
Rgr



PM 20/5
2/76

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

J. M. Latham

Chief Engineer & Manager.

P. 31 March 1876 547



SR
Expense of maintenance of Canal.

Memo on the G. O. No. 481 of 22nd
February 1876.

1. The Government of Madras, in this order upon my regular estimates for 1876-7, approve "the programme" of expenditure on works No for the maintenance of the Canal between 1st April 1876 and 31st March 1877, but wish the Board to take measures for a radical reduction of the cost of establishments especially the superior appointments; which they consider, as shown in the estimates, for it is an estimate rather than a programme which is under review, is out of proportion to either the works revenue to be looked after.

2. Since the estimates were framed, the staff of Engineers has been reduced, partly by the fatal effects of the climate, and partly by voluntary transfer to the more busy Colony of Natal, to the extent of Rs 22,400, per annum. Further reduction will scarcely be made by the Board without some distinct understanding as to the consequences. In order to facilitate a thorough consideration of this very important subject the following remarks seem to me pertinent.

3. The Case of the Canal is a peculiar one,
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which needs a few words of explanation. The work to be maintained is a Canal 190 miles long, of which a length of 75 miles is liable to be filled any year to a depth of 3 or 9 feet, & does, in fact, in many years get so filled in some part or other. Above $\frac{2}{3}$ of the length of the Canal is open to all the large streams of the Country. Nearly a third is for navigation only, and is out of use, but contains 48 lock Chambers 120 feet long, 20 feet broad and 5 feet draft on the Cills. The cost of the Canal for irrigation only, is estimated at £7,232,000, and the navigation required £368,000 additional. This Canal is being maintained in good order, including the channels bringing the water within reach of every field in an area of 250,000 acres of arable land during the whole season, together with many hundreds of road bridges and other works, by the expenditure of 1 per cent per annum. The Canal has been severely tested by extraordinary falls of rain, and proved to be as secure as such a work can be desired to be. The locks are in working order, except one chain of locks, in which, though the gates are entirely of teak in good order, the balance beams were made of wood from the neighbouring Balla Balla hills, and are being replaced by teak, and are expected to be completed in the next official year, (within

within the estimate under review. 4. The regular estimates for each official year, are made in time for the sanction of the Madras Government before the year begins, and they define the limits of expenditure. So far as they apply to salaries of field and office staff, they are framed with sufficient margin to prevent difficulties from transfers, promotions, and appointments, and are in excess of the actual expenditure. So far as they apply to works, the Engineers are desired to spend all, except a sufficient margin to cover transfers and percentages charged against them by the accounting department. The following analysis will shew the probable actual annual expenditure, as things are at present.

Chief Engineer & Manager	
(Rs 2,700 a month) & 2 Resident Engineers of Divisions (Rs 1,500) per annum	Rs 50,400
Chief Engineer's Office (Rs 200)	
Chief Accountant's Office (Rs 500)	
Medical staff (Rs 720) Contingencies	
Rs 240	Rs 22,932
Working staff Monthly paid	37,536
Contract works, as per estimate under review, as near as may be to	31,100
	Rs 114,968

5. Until the Canal fences are complete, (up to

upto which time none but nearly worth-
less trees can be profitably grown
on the banks and berms of the Canal,
and until the small masonry works
desirable at almost every junction
of Channels, in order to enable the Co.
absolutely to prohibit the interference
of Villagers with the Channels, are com-
plete, I prefer an estimate of Rs. 175,000 a
year, with a probable actual expenditure
of Rs. 180,000 or 165,000; to the present
estimate of Rs. 155,000; with the above
probable actual expenditure.

6. It will be seen that the amount
of revenue has no place in determining
the above estimate. The physical work
is done by a staff of Overseers, Bankers,
Sindals, Sluicemen & Signallers (Correspon-
ding to the Overseers, platelayers points-
men &c. on a railway). Costing Rs. 37,536
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7. Two more observations may be useful.
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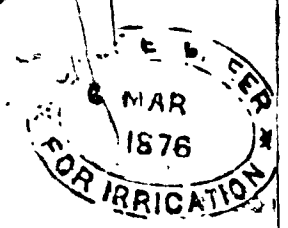
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Until the revenue shall have grown
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portance.

Am. Hathorn
Original sent to the Secy. of the Govt. with
letter of May 1876.

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By 31 March 76 BV 547



Dec 79/76

M 2015/76

Encls. 2

Submitted to Government.

The Government having taken
no exception in their orders No 479 and
481 of the 22nd February last to the
cost of maintenance of the Madras
Irrigation and Canal Company's canal
under "Works", the part of the memo.
of the Chief Engineer and Manager
relating to the estimates for works
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4. With reference to para 9 of Mr. Latham's Memo. it seems necessary to observe that so long as Government have to find money for meeting the greater part of the working expenses of the canal, it is only reasonable that they should be able to exercise a real control over expenditure. It will certainly not do for the Government to agree to expenditure being limited to a certain percentage, and to leave it to the Company to settle what parts of

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123
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prove to be a delusion.

Camp at
Bangoorapett
15 March 1876

Whitcomb's Lieut. Col. R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To
The Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

By 31 March 76 PW 547

FORMER CASES.

Current No.

of 187

M. WORKS FORM No. 3.

Current No. 2015

From

The Chief Engrs
for Irrig.

No.

Dated

Recd.

10
15
18 } March 1876

Subject:-

Submitting to Govt
remarks relative to the
Expenditure on maintenance
of the Madras Irrig. & Canal
Company

ENCLOSURES. 2

From

to
to
to
to
to

Orders and Proceedings in file.

Depart- ment.	No.	Date.	ENDORSEMENTS.		
			Depart- ment	No.	Dated.
P.W.D.	475	22/2/76			
"	1,81	- do -			
"	1170	2/5/74			
"	2063	30/7/74			
"	1189	24/4/75			
"	475	18/2/75			
Gr. to Home	1213	28/2/76			

LATER CASES.

Current No.

of 187

"

"

"

No. 836 S.H.B. Irrigation
Pro: of the Madras Engrs
Under date the 31 March/76
Read the following.

From

The Chief Engineers } (H.E. Engrs 10/7/15 March/76)
for Irrigation }

His Grace the Governor
in Council learns from
the fore-going papers
that unanticipated cir-
cumstances have led
to a considerable reduc-
tion in the cost of the

M
20/3

M

The reductions include one,
of about the Divisional Regn. Madras Irrigation and
I should like to know how their
work is being provided for. Canal Company, and have
afforded an opportunity
which His Excellency is
glad to observe has been
taken

taken advantage of by
the Company's representative
to a great extent
of carrying into effect the
wishes of Government.

2 It is sufficiently
clear from the orders
that have been passed
on the subject that it
is not the desire of
Government to reduce
expenditure on the actual
maintenance of the canal
below the sum from
time to time found to
be necessary to safety
and efficiency. Estab-
lishments on the other
hand have, from a
hope that in each suc-
cessive year the circum-
stances of the canal would
show such a marked
improvement

27/10
improvement as would
obviate the necessity for
radical reduction, been
hitherto maintained on
a scale out of all pro-
portion to the require-
ments of the canal as
indicated by the works
outlay on maintenance
and by the revenue.
3 The views of the
Board will now be
awaited, and to prevent
misunderstanding the
Government consider it
necessary to add,
1st that the reduction of
cost already secured is
insufficient,
2^d that a scale of
establishment in detail
will have to be sub-
mitted and approved
that no scale will be
approved

approved which does not
provide for a reduction of
the salary of the Chief
Engineer and Manager
to an amount approxi-
- mating to the limit
named in G. O. No. 2063
dated 30th July 1874.

vide also G. O. 29th
April 1875 - No. 1189.

3rd that the arrange-
- ments should be settled
before the Budget esti-
- mates for 1877-78 become
due, and that if this be
not done the provision
for establishment will
be limited to Rupees
60,000, and the allotment
of State funds to supplement
canal revenue will be
determined accordingly.
It will be noticed that
the subject was specially
commended

commended to the notice
of the Board of Directors
in Pros. Madras Govt. of
the 29th April 1875 No. 1189,
but up to the present
time no action has been
taken by the Company.
4 Ordered also that a
copy of these Proceedings,
and of those of the 22nd
February No. 479 and 481
be transmitted for the
information of the Govern-
- ment of India, and
that the Home Govern-
- ment be likewise ad-
- dressed.

Wm. 16/3

M.R.

58
5

Docket No. 837 of 31 March 76

To The Chief Engineer & Manager
of the
} Examined by the
} Govt.
} Rev. Dept.

Copy of the above
for mailed to the
} Govt. of India.
} 6/8

Decr 1-5-76.

P. W. Dept. 12
P. Mest
the At Home the Secretary
of State

An 21-3-96

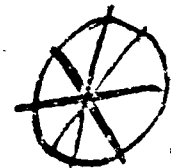
were transmitted to your
 Lordship with our despatch
 No 13 of the 28th February
 1876 and we hope that
 the views expressed by
 us in the Proceedings
 now transmitted will
 receive the support of
 your Lordship in
 Council.

Yr 7/4

[Signature]

Received by
 the Secretary
 to the
 Council
 1876

2015



Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Chief Eng^r & Survey^r

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G. O. ²⁷ March 1876, No. 836
837

Nos. 547-549
550

Madras Irrigation & Land
Company Passing orders
in note by the Chief Eng^r
for ~~submission~~ submitting report from the
Chief Eng^r & manager of the
Co. ~~con~~ regarding the
reduction of the Establish-
ment of the ~~Co.~~

Requesting support to
Proceedings on the subject of
the reduction of the Establish-
ment of the M. Eng^r & Canal
Co.