

(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.

267 (IV)

Press

Mis.

Dated

18-8-1877

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
• PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

18th June 1877, No 267 W.

Buildings and Roads
Civil Works

Read the following paper —

No 175 Endorsement of the District Engineer, Nellore, dated 6th June 1877,
No 779.

From Lieutenant C B HENDERSON, R E, Executive Officer, Iskapully Division,
to J O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq, District Engineer, Nellore, dated 12th April
1877

I HAVE the honor to report on the progress made with the East Coast Canal in the
Iskapully Division up to date

2 RAMATHURTHAM SUB-DIVISION — The division is about 45 miles in length,
and ground was broken at the south end on the left bank of the Pennair river on the
28th of November last. The number of coolies increased rapidly under the manage-
ment of Mr H. B Hutchings, Assistant Engineer, until from 7,000 to 8,000 were
employed over a length of about five miles. This section has the heaviest cutting in
the length of 25 miles north of the Pennair, the depth being from 15 to 16 feet.
The whole of this cutting has been completed to full section. Immediately north of
the Pennair great difficulties have been encountered in keeping down the water,
and the excavation has therefore been much delayed. On this section a large number
of Cuddapah and Bellary coolies have been employed since December. I beg to draw
your attention to the excellent service rendered by Anicut Superintendent S Ramiah,
Acting Overseer.

3 ISKAPULLY SUB-DIVISION — The next sub-division has been in charge of
Lieutenant Digby, R E, the Officer in Command of the Company of Sappers. Cholera
prevailed at Iskapully for some weeks and the work languished. Since the disease
has left about three miles of canal have been completed and a portion through the
Pyderu backwater, which was expected to give much trouble, has been easily com-
pleted.

4 RAMAPATAM SUB-DIVISION — North of the Chippaleru the heaviest cutting,
some five miles in length and from 10 to 12 feet deep, has been nearly completed by
Mr A S Russell, Assistant Engineer. A very large amount of earthwork has been
done in this sub-division. The coolies employed all belonged to the Nellore District,
and they worked steadily and well.

5 KARFUDU SUB-DIVISION — North of Ramapatam about two miles of ground in
the Karedu Sub-Division have been opened by Mr Supervisor Smith with about
5,000 coolies. The work is all in sand and the upper two yards are easily taken
out, below spring level I anticipate meeting with considerable difficulty in continuing
the excavation.

6 The system of working I have introduced has answered well. The rates for
earthwork are below the estimate and compare favorably with what would be given
to a contractor in ordinary years. Each family has a separate task marked out, the

Copy of the letter from Lieutenant L B Henderson
to the Executive Officer of the Madras Division to the
District Engineer Madras dated 12 April 1877

Sir,

I have the honor to report on the progress
made with the East Coast Canal in the
Madras Division up to date.

1 The Division is about 115 miles in length
and ground was broken at the south end on the
left bank of the Ponnai River on the 28th of
January last. Since that time the number of coolies increased
and the work is now rapidly under the management of Mr. H. B. H. H. H.
District Engineer until from seven to eight
thousand men employed over a length of about
5 miles. This section has the heaviest cutting
in the length of 25 miles north of the Ponnai
the depth lies up from 15 to 16 feet; the whole
of this cutting has been completed to full
section. Immediately north of the Ponnai
great difficulties have been encountered in keeping
down the water and the excavation has therefore
been much delayed. On this section a large
number of Cooldapah and Bellary coolies

have been employed since December. They
draw your attention to the excellent service
rendered by Canal Superintendent S. Russell
acting over us.

2 The next Sub Division has been in charge of Lieutenant Dugby R. E., the Officer in command of the Company of Sappers. Cholera prevailed at Ekapully for some weeks and the work languished, since the disease has left, about three miles of canal have been completed and a portion through the Pyduru Backwaters, which was expected to give much trouble has been easily completed.

3 North of the Chippaluru the heaviest cutting some five miles in length and from 10 to 15 feet deep has been nearly completed by Mr. A. S. Russell Assistant Engineer, a very large amount of earthwork has been done in this Sub Division, the coolies employed all belonged to the Kottur District and they worked steadily and well.

4 North of Ramapatnam about two miles of ground in the Haredu Sub Division have been opened by Mr. Supervisor Smith with

75
about 5000 coolies, the work is all in hand and the upper two yards are easily taken out, below spring level I anticipate meeting with considerable difficulty in continuing the excavation.

5 The system of working I have introduced has answered well, the rates for the work are below the estimate and compare favourably with what would be given to a contractor in ordinary years. Each family has a separate task marked out the size of the task depending on the number of diggers in the family and it is arranged to occupy them from 16 to 24 working hours, as soon as the task is excavated to one yard in depth it is measured and paid for. The Kottur coolies are well satisfied and on moonlight nights they may be found hard at work.

6 When the number of coolies in a Sub Division increases beyond the powers of the staff, contractors are appointed, they take up a few chains length of the canal at a time and they are obliged to treat their coolies fairly to prevent them from deserting to the adjacent free work, a good overseer can manage from 2,500 to 3,000 coolies on piece work unfortunately but a few of the

overseers can read or know any native language.
7 The sappers have been very useful in setting
out work and in getting superintendence they are
perhaps too careful and anxious to make the
slopes look neat.

8 Cooly camps have been established along the
line at intervals of 10 or 5 miles, when Cholera
was about the camps were not popular, they
are now fully occupied.

9 At the south end of the line supplies
failed and grain payments were made,
elsewhere, the local markets have been
sufficient and only cash has been paid.

10 The Cuddapah coolies sent to the
canal have not proved of much use they
are most difficult to manage and as
soon as they get paid they run away, few
of them belong to the labouring classes and
they have an invincible dislike to working in
water. Bellary coolies do better but they are
very quarrelsome, the Cuddapah coolies
seldom earn the value of the subsistence
allowance issued to them. Some of the
Immigrants have taken to new work
and have earned good wages, the majority
do as little as they possibly can.

11 I have much pleasure in bringing to your
notice the work done by Messrs. Hortchings
and Russell Assistant Engineers, these
two officers have never spared themselves and
by their personal example they have effected
a great deal considering the amount of
Cholera, Small pox and other diseases
and the privations the canal officers must
necessarily undergo. I think that services
of these two officers deserve the highest
commendation.

I have the
(Signed) J. B. Henderson
Lieut. R. E.

No. 749 (True Copy)
Submitted, for the information of Government,
to the Chief Engineer P. W. Department

This memorandum was written on the
occasion of Lieutenant Henderson giving
charge of the Adhampally Division to Mr.
Brooks, Executive Engineer of the Bengal
Public Works Department.

The District Engineer fully concurs in
Lieutenant Henderson's commendation of

Messrs. Hutchings and Russell, these young officers have worked not only better than was expected from their inexperience, they have worked uncommonly well, they have day and night in sickness and health faced and fairly overcome serious difficulties with patience, courage and perseverance which deserves the highest credit.

Arment's superintendent Pannell's services have been favorably noticed by

Government on a previous occasion (vide G.O. dated 22^d November 1875 to 3331) - he has been

temporarily employed on the canal from the beginning and his assistance in starting the work was invaluable, he wishes to be taking over for which he is practically well qualified, but he has not passed the required college test, if he can be exempted from this test he will deserve the concession.

There have been difficulties, disappointments and troubles in connection with the progress of the canal, but on the whole the progress so far, will it is hoped be considered satisfactory, 36 out of the 45 miles which compose the Ashapuli Division are likely to be opened throughout for traffic before the end

of this month and there is a large hole in the remaining 9 miles, there is therefore some ground for claiming a certain amount of success in carrying on the work, and whatever success is admitted in this respect is entirely owing to Mr. Henderson's untiring labor and exertions in its management and the District Engineer requests that Mr. Henderson's services may be brought to the favorable notice of His Grace the Governor in Council.

District Engineer's Office
Holloway
6th June 1877

W. H. H.
J. H. H.

W. H. H.
District Engineer

20 March 1877 No 958.
11 Decr 1876. 3365.
22 Nov 1875. 3331

P.W.D.
General 9 JUN 77
No 5534
From,
The District Engineer
of Bellare
To
The Chief Engineer
P.W.D. Depto
Fort St George

No 779
Dated 6th June 1877.
Recd,

East Coast Canal
Submits for information
of Government the
progress made in the
Khapally Division
of — upto 12th April 1877
& brings to the favorable
notice of His Grace the
Governor in Council the
labor & exertions in
its management by the
Labor Amateurs employed
on the work.

4 @ 18th June 77 J.B.A. 175

Cir 11-6-77.

Public Works Department
No 2674
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 18 June 77
Read the following

From
The Dist: Engr: Nellore (M.E. No 779 of 6 June 1877)

Recorded

2 The Government
notice with satisfaction
the exertions of Lieut:
Henderson, Mr. Hutchings
and Mr. Russell

E.A.F.
9/6/77

Dist: Engr: Nellore ✓ Has Copy Distd - 18-6-77
Revenue Department ✓ Recd - 7-7-77
Chief Engr: for Irrigation ✓

H. Attg
M.P.

Building, Roads,
Civil works
No 57111
Ct. of 1877

PUBLIC WORKS

To

Dated

Issued

Per

Encl

G. O. 18th June 1877, No 26710

Nos. 175-176

Post Office Canal — The
short progress made in
1872-73 in the S. & C. Co.
River of the — Recd.
the Treasurers of St. W. & Co.
H. K. & Co. and M.
Presell, no need with
satisfaction

Entered in Register

returned to
29/6/77