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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

992 (2)

~~Press~~
~~Mis.~~*Mis.*

Dated

27-3

1877

Not to be folded or roughly handled

N^o 103.

Madras Irrigation & Canal Company
Chief Engineer & Manager's Office
Annul 17th October 1876

To

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Fort St George
Madras

Sir,

September Reports.

I have the honour to forward
per Book Post, copies of the Upper and
Lower Division Engineers Reports
together with my own for the month
of September 1876.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your most obed^t Servant

John Hatheram
Chief Engineer & Manager

3 Enclosures

upper Dⁿ will follow
by next post -

Madras Irrigation & Canal Company:-

Upper Division.

Monthly Report for September 1876.

Water. 1. The water has been kept up to 5 feet at Looankerala in the Canal, at Kunnool about $4\frac{1}{2}$ and at Supand about $4\frac{1}{4}$. This is very fair, in former years we have not been able to obtain such a steady level throughout.

Owing to the entire absence of rain in the Poondam and Camlee Rivers the whole of the water was being sent down to the Lower Division is taken from the Poombudra. It is upwards of 150,000 Cub yds, an hour.

Rain. 2. The rain has again been almost nil and more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the dry crops sown under the Canal have withered, the remainder being generally very poor. I believe elsewhere in the District the failure is much worse.

On account of this scarcity of rain high prices have set in, so that the common food of the people "Cholum" or "Lonna" is now three times the price it was a few months back. This is very hard on the Coolies who live from hand to mouth, and great distress is spreading among the people. To add to their troubles, whether there is grain, or not, it is very difficult to get Cornatier and Ryot to sell any. The bair is crowded; for there they are well off. Grain robbers have been constantly occurring; a large amount of intimidation

has been used, I believe with good effect, in the richer villages. It is reported that large bodies of men go to the villages and beg; if they do not get what they want, they afterwards take it.

Estimate of Irrigation. 3. As may be supposed there is a confusion of feeling with regard to the Canal. We are being overwhelmed with applications to give water; sometimes to villages very remote and far beyond our reach.

With regard to the total irrigation I estimate as follows for my Division

Up to 30 th September	}	0,260 acres @ 3/6.	Rs 20930
including 3 rd class crops			
Under Tanks	1,500	@ 6/6	9,000
			37,930
add for say 5,000 acres of dry crops @ 2/6.			10,000
			<u>Rs 47,930</u>

The estimate of dry crops is very uncertain

Government Tanks } 4. The whole of Nandial
Agacuta supplied } Tank Agacuta land with
the exception of 91 acres is supplied directly
from the Canal through the Tank bed and
sluices. Upwards of 900 acres are thus
saved from entire destruction. To this
must be added the whole Agacuta of Canalle
and Agawankodur Tanks and part of Bymp
Goodur making in all upwards of 1500 acres.
Should water suffice we may be called upon
to fill the tanks for second crops, but it is
not likely that the river will keep up long
in such a year as this

(Special

Special orders on dry
crop irrigation.

5. The late order issued to the Government authorities with regard to irrigating dry crops will, it is hoped, increase the amount of this kind of irrigation for although, according to the order and the actual practice, the remissions are exceeding by liberal, the people may be more inclined to listen to the Tahsildars who are generally in favour of all kinds of remission at the water rate settlement and who will have an opportunity of dealing with the ryots, with the liberality, they are naturally inclined to use at all times on their behalf.

To late for many
crops.

6. Beyond the active exertions of the Revenue authorities, I think, the new arrangement is too late to effect much good. The ryots have had the idea of flooding dry crops in their minds for the last 3 months and if they had been advised of the new arrangement a month or two before many fields would have been sowed and many arrangements made for spreading the supply.

The mode on which
dry fields are supplied.

7. Everything depends on the manner in which the ryots use the water. They are inclined to take too much on all occasions, whether for flooding or regular rice crops. They naturally like to have the most they can for their money. This fact is much to be regretted, as they spoil their lands and lay the fault on irrigation.

(Prospects

It is a pity the Government
have not done something
for the service of the
ryots.

Prospects. 8. The dry crops already irrigated have turned out very well; and several freely under the Canal which are liable to dampness from leakage are above the average. Those villages, in which floodings have formerly been tried, were the first to take water again. For Chulm, Corra, &c; applications have already been received from the Tahildar of Mundial for two important villages lying on the banks of the Flood, and I am hastening to the spot myself in order to see the work carried out promptly. I am assured by my Overseer that, eventually, not less than 200 acres per village will require water according to the statements of the ryots themselves in the Mundial Kalak, provided there be no rain. The amount to be irrigated may perhaps be limited to the area which we shall be able to supply in the short time during which the demand will last. It is unfortunate that we have not had more to spend on the annual repairs and improvements to irrigation schemes. If the system of making channels in every village sufficiently to carry water to every portion separated from others by Dagoos, wade, wade, villages &c had been carried out, the work we have in hand, could have been done with much greater effect.

Advantages. 9. On the other hand the demand will cause channels to be made into village lands where the most determined opposition to irrigation has arisen. It may be that after this year's wet cultivation (will

will rapidly improve and the prejudice against it give way.

10. All the most necessary repairs to the main Canal were completed during the month, as well as those on Capital account. The only exception being the 6th section Locks. Altogether 70 balance beams have arrived and 30 have been put in place. The remainder are on their way from Kurnool to the Locks. The raising gear has been entirely remounted on teak supports.

11. The health of the staff has been fair, a few cases of fever occurred. The absence of rain has made the season unusually hot.

12. The staff were paid from 6th to 21st Sept: 78. It will be necessary in future to send a guard with the salaries as the people are afraid to carry money into the District, in the present state of the Country. It is also very difficult to travel about with servants, unless supplies of grain are carried for their use, as the ryots in villages will not sell anything.

(Signed) C. H. Wilkes
Conservancy Engineer

True copy
C. Dawson }
Chief Clerk }

Mo. & Co. Company
Lower Division

Abstract Statement of Irrigations up to end of September, 1876

<i>Range</i>	<i>Crops</i>	<i>Acres</i>
<i>1st Range</i>	<i>Paddy, Chillies & Corro</i>	<i>1201 acres</i>
<i>2d do</i>	<i>Paddy & Chillies</i>	<i>600 do</i>
<i>3d do</i>	<i>Paddy & Chillies</i>	<i>386 do</i>
<i>4th do</i>	<i>Paddy, Chillies, Indigo, Corro</i>	<i>1445 do</i>
<i>5th do</i>	<i>Paddy, Indigo, Corro & Betel</i>	<i>2845 do</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>6475 acres</i>

(Signed) J. A. Dampf
Acting Conservancy Engineer

True Copy
C. Dawson
Chief Clerk

Mr. Jacob C. C.
Sewer Division

Register of Rainfall during the month of September 1876

Date	Gallon	Chunta Cuntah	Rajoly	Thon	Adina hally	Remarks
1st	.	.	.	.	.	1876
2nd	.	.	.	.	.	1876
3rd	.	.	.	.	.	1876
4th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
5th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
6th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
7th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
8th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
9th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
10th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
11th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
12th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
13th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
14th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
15th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
16th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
17th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
18th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
19th	1-20	.	.	.	.	1876
20th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
21st	.	.	.	.	.	1876
22nd	.	.	.	.	.	1876
23rd	.	.	.	.	.	1876
24th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
25th	00-40	.	.	.	.	1876
26th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
27th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
28th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
29th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
30th	.	.	.	.	.	1876
Total	1. 60			00 19		

(Signed) W. D. Dunsen
Acting Conservancy Engineer

True copy
C. W. W. W.
Chief Clerk

Conservancy Engineer's Office
Lower Division
Thon 2d October 1876

Rainfall at Thon from
1st January to the end
of September

Mr. J. C. C. L. D.

Conservancy Engineer's Office
Camp Gordon 4th October 1876

Report for the month of September 1876

- The work continues in a state of efficiency. During the month a much larger quantity of water than usual has been discharged into the Lower Division in consequence of the drought and the extended irrigation.
- According to my instructions I have raised the water; and during my tour up the Canal I shall adjust it to the full water level. Nowhere, except in the 10th Section; and as one or two Socho where the water is purposely kept low to prevent leakage, or to flood fields for which no application for water has been made is the water at a less depth than $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Since there is no more danger with the Depth than with 3 feet. The greater depth seems to have checked the cracking of the Banks which the unusually hot weather promotes.
- I am managing to keep the Canal free from weeds and I hope to prevent as large an accumulation of silt as I had to remove last Season. Since the 10th Section has been reopened; 3 months; a deposit of 2 inches of silt has been made at the Head Sluice. It can therefore be assumed that at the end of the season its removal will be a very light and cheap job; enabling me to keep this part of the Canal open at least a month later, which will be a great

great boon to the Indigo Planters.

4. Irrigation. - I enclose an abstract Return of the ordinary actual Irrigation in each Range, up to the end of the month it shows only wet crops. Saw not irrigating dry crops yet.

5. Ploughing and sowing under the Canal is still going on briskly in the Coudolapah Talug. and the southern villages of the Podatam Talug. which will considerably add to the 1st Crop while in addition I have yet to receive applications for the usual later floodings in other Talugs. Saw therefore not in a position to give the extent of 1st crop yet; and unfortunately have not the records in camp with me, enabling me to show the increase on the area irrigated in the same month last year. But the increase is much greater than I expected.

6. Nearly all the Tanks are quite empty or contain a few pools of water, & with one or two exceptions - water only a few days ago the land under them has been left waste; the ordinary season for sowing paddy having long expired.

7. The owners of the land were quite willing and anxious to take the Canal water; but they run the risk of paying a double water rate; if on their own responsibility they asked for and received Canal water.

If they used the Canal water, and it so happened that their Tank remained empty throughout the Season, Government grants a remission of a proportion of the total assessment

assessment but I do not know whether equal to the Company's rate.

8. If on their individual applications they receive water from the Canal and after using it for say one or two months, their Tanks fill; they get no remission from Government and will therefore pay a water rate both to Government and the Company. This may not be quite correct but it is what every Ryot believes and says.

9. If the Tanks be filled by the Canal at the request of the Collector, the Ryots have to pay one water rate in full, and a portion $\frac{2}{3}$ of the other. I believe.

10. The fear of this infliction has been the cause of the loss of the Paddy crop under several Tanks. But the Ryots now seem alive to their position, and have run the risk of taking Pickets from the Company for an inferior crop - Paddy which they are now sowing under nearly all the Tanks the Canal commands.

11. Of course by this act the dry assessment is secured to Government if the Tank remains dry; but there is a possibility of rain falling and filling the Tanks, in the event of which they cannot in the regular course escape the infliction of the double water rate.

12. The exceptions previously referred to were the Shanlands, the owners of which pay neither dry nor wet assessment to Government; and the Agents of Chinamachepally Tank. In these cases Paddy was sown at the usual period.

13. In seasons when the rains are backward or scanty, it would be easy to arrange for the Ryotts to sow their crops at the usual time by means of Canab water; which water could be relinquished so soon as the Banks receive a supply from rainfall.

The abandonment of fields could not then take place and no claims for total remission on account of there being no water would occur. The Company could be paid out of the total amount at the monthly rate for the time water was supplied, and the Ryotts need only pay the usual amount.

14. I believe it is not generally known that one of the chief reasons why wet cultivation is not carried on so extensively as was first anticipated is the want of manure; Paddy requires rich manure and plenty of it. But many of the fields under the Canab get nothing more than the leaves and boughs of trees; some fields are manured with the Bushes which grow on the Canab Banks (purchased by the Ryotts) while several fields get no manure at all.

15. I have not been asked to irrigate a single acre of Cotton, Cholera or other dry crops, notwithstanding the failure of the rains. In many villages no dry crops at all are sown and the Villagers having nothing else to do employ themselves and their Bullocks in taking the ground until the expected rain should come. They tell me that flooding the fields with Canab water will be a good substitute, but they do not avail themselves of it. I believe they do mean to apply

applied, but their procrastinating nature prevents them from acting with judgment. & decision some say nothing can be done except in unison with the whole Village.

16. In those Villages where the dry crops have been sown, they have either perished, or are perishing. The Ryotts say, it is too late to take water, they cannot afford the rate will still wait for rain, and give other reason for not flooding their fields. Many Ryotts seem positively indifferent about their crops.

17. A few acres of fields Corra and Ragga have been irrigated, but not more than last year, - they are usually flooded by the Canab.

18. In the Cuddalore District the collections of last season's water rate were made before the present year's crops were sown. The considerable increase this Season plainly shows that the Ryotts are satisfied with their outlay and its return.

19. I enclose my monthly rain Return. The drought of this season is almost unprecedented not a drop of rain has fallen at this Station (Adamagallu) from the 27th of August up to the 5th of October, and there are no signs of any although this should be the wettest time of the year.

The Country is greatly parched up, and the suffering amongst the poor labouring class is great. It is not so noticeable in the Villages in which the Peeldies and Burnams reside, but in the little hamlets which are mostly inhabited by people who depend upon

upon their daily labour for their food.

20. I am now in a position to give the total Irrigation, and Water Rate amount in the Lower Division for last Season.

District	Acres	Amount		
Kurnool	2128	7440	0	0
Quolapah	5949	19220	0	0
Total	8177	26660	0	0
Unsettled Claims Add } Kurnool District 309		1218	0	0
Grand Total	8486	27878	0	0

21. I have been delayed in the preparation of the accounts for the Kurnool District, owing to the protracted sickness of the Clerk who has charge of these accounts, and other causes over which I have no control.

There is no reason why the accounts should not be corrected (if necessary), & examined within a week after the last day of the Settlement.

22. Concerning the Unsettled Claims, I have prepared a Statement in detail showing the extent irrigated with particulars as to how the water was obtained.

There will now therefore be no occasion for a long and vexatious examination, and Cross Examination of the Amins.

23. The 309 acres do not represent so many cases, but almost twice the number

as there are only portions of an acre irrigated in many instances. Among them there are no subsid cases, these have been carefully separated and recorded in another form.

24. In the early part of the month the Collector of Quolapah, Mr. Daniel, paid several of the Canab Villages a visit. The interest he showed in the Irrigation has already proved of some benefit.

25. Cholera & Fever seems disappearing. there is little sickness about.

My Accountants & Irrigation Clerk who unfortunately have been laid up nearly the whole of the month seem the only sufferers amongst the whole of my Staff.

(Sig'd) J. O. Dunsford
Ag. Conservancy Engineer

True copy
C. Benson
Chief Clerk

Chief Engineer's Report

To accompany the Divisional Reports
for September 1876.

The estimated area actually under
irrigation on the 30th September 1876, and the
revenue due for it, is as follows:-

Wet and garden crops 14743 acres @ Rs 4 ⁰⁰ ..	Rs 58972
Wet crops under tanks 1500 .. @ .. 6 ..	9000
Dry crops .. 5500 .. @ .. 2 ..	11,000
Total ..	Rs 78972

If the Tominbudra supply hold out, there
will be a second crop under the Tanks, and
probably altogether a revenue of Rs 100,000 will
be reached. That supply is unusually low,
though not lower than last year; and if the
usual fresh come down when the N. E. monsoon
reaches the Western Ghats, it will be very
acceptable.

The weather has been generally hot. On
the many bright mornings, the sun has cast
a peculiarly black shadow, reminding one of
moonlight - so much so, that when driving
suddenly into the shade of an avenue, it was
impossible to see whether the road was clear
or not. One fifth of an inch of rain fell in
Kannool. Dew is unknown. Some localities
have been favoured by showers; and I suppose
that on half the arable land, crop has grown

above

P.W.D.

8/10/76

7674

perpetual
miserable
black land

L.O. 21st March/77 S.O. No. 580

above ground, and if this last perhaps a quarter will bear fruit.

The ryots have been holding out in hopes of rain, and persisting in their notion that Canal water is not suitable for dry crops and black soil, until this month. Then their supposition just broke down; and such as had any crops left worth irrigating began to take water; yet the majority only gave a conditional promise; that they would apply for Canal water if the customary 3 or 4 inches failed them early in October. It has failed; only a local shower of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch fell near Kandial. I believe that there are few in the Kurnool District who have not given up all hopes.

All the signs of famine at once set in. There is now no market open: but the villagers, even the village police, have to wander from village to village 3 or 4 miles, with money in their hands, and then perhaps then cannot get a full rupee worth at a time. Cholum is sold in Kurnool at 21 lbs, at Kandial (2 days ago) at 30 lbs the rupee: but not in any quantity you like; and a private servant may lose 3 hours and half his clothes in the struggle to get his master rice for his day's curry, in the bazaar. Groups of 40 or 50 sturdy knaves, armed with heavy sticks, and even with swords and firearms, visit the villagers, and extort food from the soncars; two or three men have been killed; and torture of a soncar's wife by making cotton wicks on her fingers is

(reported

reported. Coolies decline long journeys, farther than they can go and return without food. Carters, on their owners learning that you will carry a few bags of grain with you, decline your service. The Collector has to make his arrangements for carting and keeping grain, to pay his work people on the relief works, as if the grain were gold, and the country hostile.

Yet the movement of grain is out of the District. Large quantities are being carried from Kurnool to Gooty, possibly because relief work in Bellary, paid for in money, has raised the price there. The Nizam has for a month since posted police round his territory, and stopped all export of grain from there.

What a difference would there have been had the Canal been navigable! It would then have been impossible that Madras should have overlooked this district, and left it to be desolated under the prejudices of country riots, for the sake of saving two rupees an acre water rate. It would be impossible for the landowners and soncars to close their stores and raise grain to an artificial price, if the Canal were navigable: for rice could not then be, as at present it is, 15 lbs a rupee at Kurnool and 33 lbs a rupee at Madras. Moreover the Collector, by simply showing a store of grain at Cuddapah, and threatening to pay relief works with it, would lower prices all over the district, whereas now he must have many stores scattered in every Taluk village.

At the end of the month I received the news that the Madras Government would release the Company from payment of remission on

(dry

dry crops failing from causes beyond the Company's control, and would themselves remit ^{to ryots} the full water rate on dry crops, unless a successful crop were got. The Revenue authorities assented; at the same time prognosticating that it would not answer, and intimating that failure was readily attributable to the Canal officers; and it seemed at first as if these opinions would meet with a ready echo from their subordinates. However the Deputy Collector was set to work with a will, and apparently with some hope, already realized by his success in many cases, where he was encouraged ryots, by explaining the new terms, to make up their minds and irrigate while their crop is still worth irrigating. Much cannot be expected from the Talukdars: indeed it is lucky if they understand the Government Order aright, busy as they are with the work now thrown on their hands; but the Revenue Inspectors and the Canal officers will make every effort to induce ryots to utilize the boon put in their way.

I enclose a statement showing that the present rules for supplying Canal water, and the rates, do not in all cases seem to be the cause of ryots not taking the water. The Tanks under the Canal have been particularly favoured by the rules. They are filled, if the ryots wish it, by Canal water at a rate equivalent to Rs 4 an acre for wet crops; instead of Rs 6, the general rate; and in this case are entirely removed from Canal management. If the ryots request the Collector to fill the tank, he applies for water for them; and the measurement of their lands, the remissions, and, in fact, the whole

(settlement

settlement, is then removed from the Company's co-operation entirely, and is conducted only by Revenue officers. But the ryots, if they like, can when the nature of the ground admits, come direct to the Company's officers, and take water directly from the Canal at the general rate without going to the Collector; but, if they do so, they remain liable to the tank rate in addition to those of the Canal, just as if they had not taken Canal water, but depended only on the tank. The statement includes all the tanks all, or any part, of whose aqueduct (or irrigable land) is under the Canal, except those which are obstructed, or interfered with, by the Canal, which come under other special conditions. It shows a total of

	acres
Tank aqueduct irrigable by Canal water	3,003.20
Ditto irrigable whose ryots applied to the Collector for water from the Canal at 1440 cubic yards the acre	Nil
Ditto Ditto whose ryots come directly to the Canal officers for water at general rate	2370.00
Irrigated from the tanks natural supply	100.00
Unirrigated	533.20

On the 4th instant, I started from Kurnool for Angaloor, 49 miles from Kurnool by the road. From the outskirts of the village of Kalloor, in which Kurnool lies, to the Roundabout River, a distance of 45 miles, the country was a remarkable picture of desolation. For a breadth of 5 miles on either side Kurnool some local showers seemed to have been energetically made the most of. Hal-

dozen fields of regular ^{1st} crop were ripe; and in
more a comparatively recent sowing still possessed
life and vigor. In other places the fine black plain,
usually at this time of year covered 6 or 8 feet thick
with crops, showed no green thing smaller than
shrub or tree; except where artificial irrigation,
in the neighbourhood of springs, kept a few fields
flourishing. Near Panenm, for 6 or 7 miles, a
good deal of land ^{had} been recently sown and the
seeds have since come up. On passing the
Kondam I came into a district nearly covered
with young crops, interspersed with fields of rice
flourishing under the Company's channels. Of
the former some of the fields are already being
grazed off by their owners, hopeless of getting any
crop.

On the 5th, I and Mr. Wilke had a con-
ference with the Deputy Collector at Ayaloor.
He had received the Government Order suspending
the water-rate for dry crop irrigation, N^o 1329 of 23rd
ultimo, and the Board of Revenue's proceedings
thereon; and had issued to Tahsildars the
following instructions: The Tahsildar was to
take applications from Ryots for dry crops: the
Company's officers as hitherto
those for wet and garden crops. The Tahsildar
would apply to the Canal Officers and Amins
to supply the water for dry crops. He also issued
instructions to the Tahsildars to visit all villages
under the Canal and to receive the applications
of Ryots for Canal water for the irrigation or
sowing of dry crops, taking applications on a
register to be signed by each applicant. The restriction
(of

14
of applications to entire fields, or to at least one acre
if the field were larger than an acre, was not to be
enforced. Where no made channels exist, the Company
would have to excavate them at the shortest
possible notice. No channels however were
to be unnecessarily made, and the Tahsildars
would see that the ryots used them when made.
The Channels would be led by the Company to the
chief points in the village, and from thence the
ryots would take the water to their fields. Ryots
who should raise a fair crop will have to pay Rs 2
an acre besides land assessment, and the
settlement will be made by Government officers
alone, on very liberal terms.

I was very glad to find the instructions
of the Revenue Board of 27th ultimo para 2 so
forcibly interpreted and laid before the Tah-
sildars; to whom also the full proceedings
were sent which (in para 3) instruct the
Collector to take steps to supply seed grain,
if required.

I was also glad of the opportunity
of stating what action the Company would
take in the matter, and of giving a caution
likely to save much waste of time. I
informed the Deputy Collector that the settlement
(as called in the sanctioned rules, and there
is no other name for it, though it is I presume
not the settlement referred to in the Board of
Revenue's resolution) between the Company
and the Government would be conducted in
the same way, and on similar record of the
irrigation

demanded by the Government and supplied by the Company, as usual: and that the Company desired to be as liberal in allowing the Government remission in respect of failure of supply of water, as ever; though the Government in their Order No. 1329 of 23rd ultimo assign blame of remission merely due to failure of dry crops. That the Canal Officers would continue to take applications to the Curnams, as the rules require. That the Company would make any requisite channels, not only to salient points in the villages within their system, but would complete all but the smallest field channels - at least as much as their staff under perhaps an extensive and instantaneous demand could do - and were also willing to accept tenders made by Curnams of a village, or any of the respectable inhabitants, for the completion of such channels at a liberal rate per cubic yard of work, and that such tenders should be accepted at the recommendation of a Tahsildar. I also gave him an important caution. All the villages fully commanded by the Canal have been again and again canvassed to get the ryots to apply; and it is but natural that, when this further canvas is to be made, Tahsildars will first open new ground, and go to villages on the ~~outside~~ outskirts of the irrigable area; where they will be most successful in getting applications. This tendency appeared in the Deputy Collector's own report on nearly a dozen villages he had just visited, without any present success. This report read as if the channels

* No. 125 of 4th Oct: dozen villages he had just visited, without any present success. This report read as if the channels

of canal were as a rule conspicuous by their absence in the irrigated district. He had canvassed Pussulur, a village most of which is on a gentle eminence cut off from the Canal, lying between the Boondaw river and a byewash imperfectly shown in the taluk maps. The village becomes an island in high floods. Next he took Chaperavula, a village consisting of lumpy and most difficult ground much intersected by deep water courses; Nundhal in which almost all except the tank land is inaccessible, and so on. I recommended that the Tahsildars should first canvas the ryots owning the 150,000 acres of land thoroughly supplied with a complete system of channels, at most needing more field channels. The Deputy Collector also pointed out that by the Board's resolution every field yielding "fair" crop, which in revenue parlance means a half crop, was to pay Rs. 2 water rate an acre. This he said was not a "successful" crop, and would not as a rule pay the ryot for enhanced cost of cultivation, land assessment, and water rate. He wished he could promise remission of the Rs. 2 for all crops below a $\frac{3}{4}$ crop. I told him, on reflection, that I had no scruple on the subject, because para 1 of the Board's Resolution satisfies the conditions required in the Government Order, so far as I am concerned; and that I should therefore be justified in considering it established that no crop less than "successful" - of which I accepted his estimate of $\frac{3}{4}$ a full crop, should pay the water rate. Moreover I do not know that the Board in using the word "fair," used it in the technical meaning of "half". Of course my interpretation

(would

would carry no official weight, and could in no way embarrass the action of the Revenue authorities.

On the 7th, I pitched Camp in Campammalla, Koilkoontla Taluk, in the Kurnool District, opposite the 125th mile of Canal and about 5 miles distant, on the banks of the Koundarn. On entering the Taluk, 5 miles short of the village, on my road from Ayaloor, every trace of vegetation ceased, except on the very few trees; and here and there on greenish grey patches of squintah, the farmer's plot here as in England. Beautiful lakes of mirage, and a very hot sun, made these extensive black plains look most desertlike. I may mention that the bazaar at Nundial had closed for Cholumi before I left Ayaloor; and the Tahildar was commencing daily sales of small quantities to support the inhabitants.

I sent to the Tahildar of Koilkoontla (whose village lay about 6 miles from my Camp) to come over next day and commence his canvas for applications. He readily consented to come, having just received the letter of instructions from the Deputy Collector, to the effect I have described above.

As word as to why I selected the Taluk of Koilkoontla & these villages of Campammalla and its close neighbour Nundipand, for my visit. I have an impression that the people thereabouts are amongst the most well

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to do and most educated (though they be illiterate) in the District, and have the most energy and individual character. The amount of these talents they misapply in law proceedings is striking.

Years ago, I happened to pass through Koilkoontla shortly after there had been an urgent call for the Company's apothecary at Ayaloor to attend some one in the neighbourhood. An influential deputation from some man of consequence had come to Ayaloor to ask his immediate attendance, and finding him out in Camp had at once gone after him and obtained his attendance, and then I mentioned to the then Tahildar, with some expression to the effect that the Company were desirous that their Medical Officers, when free from their own calls, should render assistance to all who needed it. He smiled, and said it was a hard quarrel between two influential men, in the course of which one, in expelling the other from a field, had hit him over the shin with a stick; and the latter was in search of medical evidence for an action for assault with intent. He added that it was the most litigious Taluk he had been in, and that men would spend thousands of rupees in contesting a mere foot of ground. The high assessment, viz., Rs. 4 an acre, results in high farming, which is an education in itself. The Tahildars, called locally by the more dignified title of Amildars, seem to

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credit for administrative vigour and intelligence which descends from one to the other, or is contracted from the character of the neighbourhood; which applies both to knowledge of agricultural interests, and to management of public plantations, avenues, and markets, superior, I raise thought, to average Tahsildars.

But the point of most importance is that these wealthy villagers, though directed by a channel, then full of canal water, commanding half of their land, and that of the best friable deep coloured soil, have petitioned for relief works. They have wanted no money in attempting to get any crops; they have not irrigated an acre, and they actually refuse to sell their own public grain; so that their labouring class have, when their own stores are exhausted, to go 6 miles to Koilkoonla to buy grain at a bazaar kept open by the Tahsildar. That Magistrate has, by the best means we can use, to compel (if I may use this term) the villages around to contribute a couple of loads of Cholum grain a day, in turn; for which a Koilkoonla bullock, by an arrangement with the Tahsildar, pays full market price, and which he sells in small quantities daily to the poor of these neighbouring villages, whose wealthy neighbours otherwise refuse to supply them.

The same evening I went into Kristipand, ascertained that the ryots had next to no hopes of rain, - recommended them to apply for water all together, - told

them that Government had arranged for their having water free, without water-rate; only that where really good crops were got, say $\frac{3}{4}$ of a full crop or more, then Rs 2 per acre would be collected on those crops only, in addition to the land tax. I took care that the labourers as well as the landholders got a very sufficient notion of the proposal; was to secure their importunity on my side - searched out an enterprising man, Cooba Reddy, who had been an earthwork contractor for the Company, and was one of the most influential men, and engaged to give him all the channel work required to irrigate the villages which I indicated would be extensive and require a great many men, and enlisted him heartily on my side, and left matters in as hopeful a form as I could.

Next day the Tahsildar came, and read to all the people of Gumpamalla and Kristipand, assembled at my tent, the letter of instructions he had received. I may say that he recommended beginning with Garin, a neighbouring village on high ground, barely touched by our channels; but I explained this to him, and said that while I was willing personally to guarantee that the Company would flood the whole of the 2000 acres in Kristipand and Gumpamalla below the channel, in a fortnight I must leave the hundred acres or so irrigable in Garinwaram to my overseers. This was merely the old tale. - At Ayaloor, I was besieged with applications from villagers above (the

the Canal level - they seem always ready to
yield. After the reaching, the labourers, who
sat in an outer ring and heard the whole,
said "only give us seed, and we are ready to
take the water and sow." These men had no
land. They meant that they were willing to
take seed from the landholders, in the usual
way, probably in consideration of paying half the
crop to the landowner, or of selling him the
whole at a fixed rate of about half its real
value - and themselves pay the water-rate.
Everything depended on the landowners giving
way. The Tahsildar then left me, and held an
assembly in the village Chavadi (or Court
house) till evening. Next morning he
returned early, and continued the assembly
till 2 p.m., the labourers standing round
and adding their entreaties. At 3 p.m. he
came to me and said it was of no use. He
thought that the landowners relied on getting
remission of land tax, if they left their fields
waste; as this tax had been remitted in a
recent year in the neighbouring Taluk near
Pyāpully; though he explained to them that
Government, after bringing them Canal water
at a great expense, and thus depriving them
of all excuse for not cultivating, since there
was water enough and to spare, would not
be likely to remit their land tax of 4 rupees
an acre. As he left me, a knot of about 150
half-starved labourers, who had followed him
and had squatted at a respectful distance
under a tree, rose and gave one despairing
cry, and returned with a most despairing

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and wretched aspect, to their village. Before them
and their families, old and young, they know what
a year of pain and waiting and death now lies.
Unprotected by any poor law, unable to buy, or to
borrow even on a pledge of servitude; they have no
resource; and the action of a foreign Government
is their only hope.

It was a sad scene; and full as sad
was the thought of the night that seemed to
exist in the hearts of the landowners in the
vicinity of whose houses their poor fellow villagers
were to suffer from day to day. Sooba Diddy
alone of them voted for irrigation; but, as he
said, one man could not irrigate alone; for
his crop could not be defended, and would
be certainly cut and carried by some gang of
robbers; - and that some time enough; for in
Delapamoor, and elsewhere, where an isolated
crop is improving, the owners say they would
gladly give half to be secure of the other half;
and gangs of 40 or 50 armed men are wand-
-ering about the country, with their faces
blackened, "begging."

On my return to Bangalore yesterday
(10th) I found that the Deputy Collector had
made progress right through the centre of the
irrigable villages in the 6th section, and with
considerable success. One result apparently
was that a panic seized several villagers, but
the water should run short; they divided so
much water that some of the channels at the
lower end of the section had stopped running (20

So Mr. Wilke has gone to the spot this morning (11th) to try to introduce order, and he hopes to get the assistance of the Tahildar. It is quite worthy of consideration whether some powers should not be given to Canal officers, similar to those granted to Railways, to prevent interference with water supply. This interference is causing Mr. Murphy a great waste of time, if it have not caused loss of crops, in the Cuddalore Taluk.

The Government are about to start relief works in various parts of the District, where any able to crawl to them will be given sustenance. I am very glad to be able to report that payments at these works will be made in grain, imported from a distance, and not in money. It is to relief works paid in money in past years that the "famine", so far as can be learnt, is due. Doubtless the aristocracy of these Kailkoontla Villages are embarking in a commercial contest, at an expense of the suffering of their vassals, with all the eagerness and as little remorse as rival barons of old engaged in quarrels. They wish to retain a grain store till their neighbours or smaller villages are exhausted, and are pleased if they can by driving away population, or by deceiving the Tahildars or the bands of beggars, cause their neighbours to be forced to diminish their stores. Their villages are well stocked with fodder.

The Company's staff are already put to great inconvenience to get food. It is of no use having money when village owners are refusing food even to those of their own village who offer money for it. Had it not been for the prospect of grain being brought in by the Government - I should need to have obtained a supply for distribution.

John Hathorn

Chief Engineer & Manager

(The

State of the Government Tanks wholly or partly commanded by the Canal on 30th September 1876.

Name of Tank	Taluk	District	How many days supply of water from natural sources are in the tank.	Whether the Canal commands and can fill the tank	Area of tank agent irrigable by Canal water	Whether the collector has for the tank to be filled	How much water is being irrigated by the tank	Tank agent being now irrigated by the Canal	At whose request	Remarks
Byrappa Endur	Kandrial	Kurnool	None	No	120 acres according to Kurnool	No	None	120 acres	Tahsildar and Ryots	
Byrappa Kodur	do	do	None	Yes	270 acres	No	None	270 acres	Ryots	
Kandrial	do	do	For about 900 acres none For about 100 acres supply from Mahanadhy stream and Canal leakage	Yes	The whole agent is commanded it is 1000 acres	No	About 100 acres	900 acres	Ryots	
Bilalpuram (This is part of Kandrial tank)	do	do	None	Yes	The agent is 25 acres and commanded by the tank but only 20 acres by direct irrigation from our channels.	No	None	20 acres	Ryots	
Kanaka	do	do	None	Yes	263-20 acres	No	None	240 acres	Tahsildar and Ryots	x at present 240 but all will be lost if the canal is not kept
Chuntakunta	Linnell	do	None	Yes	35 acres	No	"	Water stolen	Ryots	
Shoor	Indatur	Cuddapah	2 or 3 days	No	300 acres	No	"	40 acres	Ryots	
Chaypand	do	do	None	Yes	150 acres	No	"	60 acres	Ryots	
Pitchapand	do	do	None	Yes	40 acres	No	"	40 acres	Ryots	
Maidkur	do	do	2 or 3 days	No	110 acres	No	}	110 acres	Ryots	
do private	do	do	1 month	Yes	50 acres	No		Abandoned	Ryots	
Livapuram	do	do	None	Yes	160 acres	No		160 acres	Ryots	
Lunkkala	Cuddapah	do	None	Yes	40 acres	No		Abandoned	Ryots	
Appalapully	do	do	None	Yes	15 acres	No		15 acres	Ryots	
Jogampully	do	do	None	Yes	50 acres	No		50 acres	Ryots	
Annampully	do	do	None	Yes	120 acres	No		120 acres	Ryots	
do Tonna Coorta	do	do	None	Yes	30 acres	No		30 acres	Ryots	
do Peddy do	do	do	None	Yes	10 acres	No		10 acres	Ryots	
Patchampully	do	do	None	Yes	25 acres	No		25	Ryots	
Kalamully	do	do	None	Yes	40 acres	No	}	40	Ryots	
do Tonna Coorta	do	do	None	Yes	50 acres	No		50	Ryots	
do Paggi do	do	do	None	Yes	70 acres	No		70	Ryots	
Shoor or Kalamully	do	do	None	No	30 acres	No		not started yet	Ryots	

Chief Engineer & Manager's Office
Kurnool 13th October 1876

John Hatherly
Chief Engineer & Manager

Encls. 6

Submitted to Government
The information given in
these Reports will be of value
in affording an understanding
of the state of the parts of the
Kurnool and Cuddapah Districts
in the neighbourhood of the Canal.
2. The labouring population
wants work in order to obtain
food; and work for which it
will obtain payment in grain
not money, for the latter is not
under existing circumstances
readily convertible into food.
It seems to be a question at the
present time what would be the
best kind of work to give the
labourers who can get no em-
ployment from the ryots holding
land. Looking to the scarcity
over a very wide area of country
it would seem that grain must
be not only dear but also hard

actual; production; to the utmost
extent which the water available
will allow, is of the highest
importance, and those who
ordinarily might be expected
to use the water are for the
most part omitting to do so.
Every drop should it is thought
be utilized in some way.

Columbiana St. Colmell
Chief Engineer for Design.

Ostacumund
23rd Oct. 1876

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18/6/1906 D.
250076
From
The Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
To
The Secretary to Government
P. H. D.

Dated 23rd }
Recd 25th } Oct 5 1906.

Encls. 6 ✓
No. 234-W.

M. J. & C. Co's Monthly Reports
— submit — for September 1906,
and suggests that measures be
adopted for giving employment
to labourers on relief works in
cultivation.

L.O. 21st March/77 J.B.L. 580

25-10-76. Dec 1906

Bellamy. Sunday

My dear Sirs.
I return the bundle
of papers you gave me to send
to Foshi with his letter which
I received yesterday. I do
not expect much good can be
done. Nor do I anticipate any
good from the Irrigation Com-
mission's Canal so long as it
remains under its present sys-
tem of management. The work
Government can never do better.

Forster has been in great
shorts for grain & I am very
glad David Robertson to try
up to help him. Forster has
been to the Bellamy on behalf
of Robertson & at the time
& I placed Forster in communica-
tion with him. No doubt
he will now receive supplies.
Matters are progressing as favor-
ably as can be expected here
after all hope of rain has
passed & we have to look to
8 months if necessary.

Price is getting the farms into
order. Some Bellamy. They are
working on the roads changing
from Bellamy as a centre of
working outwards as they are, will
increase their distance from
the town. ^{They are now from 2 to 5 miles out,} many camp
out. Some go very night to their
villages. Baggage are being arranged that
all on the road. I fear they will
not follow. There will yet be some
to further the cause of the middle
class of labourers to Bellamy. It was
not any success account of the fact
they are not so bad as that at all.

there are no famine a starvation
signs at all. I believe there is
a strong sense of carriage in Bellary
which will always be available
even if outside bullocks disappear.
I suppose the woodmen hold on to this.
There will always be a demand for carriage
and sufficient to induce owners to
keep their bullocks going at any cost
as long as the Rail lasts. They can
get fodder by that means. They
are doing so now. Large quantities
of "Kirlee" comes in by rail regularly.
I shall make some enquiries. Specially
in Hospet & the best. We leave

tomorrow night starting at
Hospet having gone to Hospet.
I have five carefully men. The
starting of the March with train
will be about 10. We will be back before
the 30th of course. The journey
could be cut ^{of absolutely necessary} short. But while
I am out it will be a pity not
to see the country. I thought as that
is the point where distress is
most. I hope therefore the Government
will be thinking of a relief.
Bellary before the end of the month.
I hope. When once we get
beyond the Sundon Hills we cannot

get back in a hurry. I
to come back without completing
the circuit which spoils the business
entirely. Grain is flowing into
Bologna by train in great quantities
& yesterday 300 barrels with grain
left the town chiefly for the west.
The trade is all along the interests
it has been chiefly in native hands
but Hudson & Haring are now
pouring into it, nothing but foreign
interference can check it. I will
however carefully supervise into all
the points we named as we go along
& will ascertain how far the Western

people are able & willing to carry
for themselves. There are several
large trade centres such as
Christiansburg, Houndcroft & others
to which the people around them
I shall be & look into those as
far as I can. It is a great
pleasure to find that grain is
coming into market in such large
quantities. The question arises
whether the same ^{is} ^{as} ^{was} ^{had} ^{been} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{past} ^{years} ^{have}
happened in Calcutta, without the
intervention of Govt. & whether
3/4 th of the crop might not have
been raised by the sowing of a

yes.
I
very
idea
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thought
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of grain
into
ion

a little reticence in the writing
there is no over. I would probably
have been more prof. to have
hugged with trouble than to
have been a Barrow. In his
house in that little future
I am writing to stories & shall
uply. Officially to the instructions
in the G.O. in his last report.

It is cloudy & close today but
I am not 4 weeks away.

Yours sincerely
M. W. Threlkeld

25
My dear Mr. Threlkeld
I received your letter of
Oct 31st 1876.

My dear Mr. Threlkeld, I received your letter of
yesterday, which contained the papers which I
now return. I will do my best to carry
out Colonel Mullins' suggestion. An idea
of the sort had struck me before, but I had
given it up as from what I heard I thought
it would be too difficult to carry out.
I believe there is still a good deal of grain
in the district beyond the actual wants
of the owners of that grain: this opinion

is strengthened by what Mr Latham
has written of what took place in Kodikunthi,
and also by the enclosed rough translation of
an arzi I have received from a Reddi whom
amongst others, I had asked to buy me some
grain for the working people. If I am right
in my conjecture, the rich people in the
village who are waiting to get a higher price
still for their grain, will not only give no as-
sistance in trying to increase the store for
sale, but will most probably try to prevent
any such work. If those people choose that
such work shall not go on, it will be almost

impossible for me to carry them out. I
suppose you do not wish me now to take
any notice of Mr Latham's criticisms of
my proceedings in the matter of filling the
tanks. I will reply to that when the report
may be sent to me in the usual way for
explanation. I shall be very glad to
see you here. The great difficulty I have
is in getting grain. I do not know where
to go for it. I saw in the paper yesterday,
that the merchants in Bellary did not
want all they had ordered from Madras.
I have written to the Collector to ask him
if it is true, and to let me know what

* Merchants I could write to about it, if it is true. We live here in continual fear of a loot: there was very nearly being one on Saturday, but the Police were too quick, and things passed off quietly: two men were arrested.

I remain
Yours very truly,
William J. Foster

* Why no article about it in the paper? I would like to see a certain number of papers off. WJF

To

W. J. Foster

Collector of Customs

From Immigrants' Village Committee of
Brahaman at Kothur, Andhra Pradesh

Your order dated 28th Oct about grain
reached ~~me~~ this evening at 6 P.M.

I asked the people who have grain in
my village for arms: they say they want
it for their own use and would not find.

These people have grain and want
they require for their use. I asked
them personally for grain on payment.

But they say they will not find.

If the I could do my Taluk I will
come to our village and give the people
about 2 putthi of grain can be got
for price

quantities which goes out on Friday
 & Saturday - none of the private merchants
 send grain out to the taluqs for sale, but
 wait for the taluq merchants to come in
 for it - it is not the wish to the grain in
 transit so much as the difficulty in
 getting their money that prevents their
 sending out grain - about 40 or 50 cart-
 loads of cholera have been taken out
 to the west during the last day or two.
 Animals of grain by rail are at the
 rate of 50 or 60 waggons a day - of
 which about 20 (containing 100 bags each)
 being rice - the remainder chiefly
 cholera from Subulpoore & the Nizam's
 country - Having received instructions
 from the Government to sell at the best
 rate possible 700 Bags of rice, I have

just concluded a bargain with a retail
 merchant at 9 Rs the bag for arrival -
 The wholesale merchants are anxious to
 decrease their stocks & want to buy for arrival
 & are selling direct to a retail merchant
 instead of letting the grain pass through
 the hands of two or three speculators with
 have a good effect - The retail merchant
 has been generally paying 2 Rupees a bag
 (or one Rupee more to the rupee) above the
 price paid by the wholesale merchant,
 & besides that he has to make his profit.
 so it will be a great point to deal as
 closely as we can with the retail sellers
 & enable them to sell cheaper - instead
 of adding to the hands of the speculators.
 There is a large mass of the necessity
 of a committee to watch over the relief
 works, as there is a strong feeling that

much more might be made of the
 labour at command. The labourers seem
 to be idling about half the day, and
 tho' their wages does not represent more
 than half a meal, they give very little
 in return for it. If the collector wd.
 buy grain from the at a reasonable rate
 & give them their wages worth, it wd
 be a great boon to them.
 All signs of rain have disappeared.
 In affect
 Very respectfully

20/4
 Duly returned with the file by the
 H.M. R.A. S.M. but only one for Foster's letter is
 connected with the subject

Lm. 16/3

S.O.S.
 from
 Thomhill.
 Gough.
 Foster.
 from this
 Ar 17. 3.77

Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrig.
 No 234. D. of 23rd Oct 1876.

FOR ORDERS.

Voluntarily M. B. Hall
 Joint Secretary to Govt.
 P. W. D.

I declare that any
 that any thing can be done
 now with the three. I left
 I bring a record with
 up to the f. l. at the
 dry crops from the
 Canal. 5th 1876.

FOR ORDERS.

Obt. of 1877 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To *the Chief Eng^r for Dept.*

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. *27 March* 1877, No. 992.

Nos. 580-581

*In. Is Cts - Note by the
insuperior for Engineer
submitting monthly Report
September 1876 of the
- Recorded.*

Wm. W. Hamilton

16/3

*No 992 of 21 March 77
Recorded with reference
to 13 of the 14
October 1876/77.*

14. 20/3

*OK for J. J.
C. & M. in 1877
Rev. Seph
13. 4. 77
Office 17*

*in 25-10-76
in 25-10-76.*