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தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

Original துறை

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ஆவண, அர-1-18,000-15-8-87.

A. Mani

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3RD MARCH 1885, No. 535, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

Memorials (without date) addressed to Parliament by Mr. Mathew Abraham, merchant, and others, residents of the Bellary district.

ABSTRACT.—Praying for the execution of certain works to protect the district from famine.

No. 32 I.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The comparison, made by petitioners, between the Godavari and Bellary districts would lead to the supposition that the circumstances of the two districts are similar. This is very far from being the case. In the Godavari district the portion irrigated is the delta, a nearly level tract of country of the richest soil, eminently suited for irrigation, almost the whole extent of which can be commanded by a slight raising of the water surface in the river in ordinary times, while when the river is in flood the water surface is higher than the level of the country. Bellary on the other hand is, outside the hilly portions which cannot be irrigated, a vast black cotton plain along the northern side of which the river runs at a much lower level.

2. The subject of irrigation in Bellary has been urged on the Government for many years past, and during the last 32 years the Government have considered a variety of projects for the improvement of the district, but have been unable to recommend any one of them for sanction. Irrigation channels taken off the smaller rivers which are fed by local rainfall must evidently fail at the very time they are most required; and the only source of supply which can be depended on is the Tungabhadra river, to which therefore attention has been specially directed, and the best means of providing irrigation from this source have been thoroughly investigated.

3. The following is a brief résumé of the action which has hitherto been taken:—

During the years 1857—1859 inclusive, investigations were in progress for a scheme for taking a large canal from the Tungabhadra at Wallabapoor through the Bellary district, and the matter was for some years under the consideration of the Government.

Subsequently the officers of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company investigated a new line for a canal, also taking off from the Tungabhadra at Wallabapoor, passing above the Darojee tank and terminating at Aldhully near Bellary. The company, however, made no move in the direction of execution of the work, while the hands of the Madras Government were tied in this matter, as it was held by the Secretary of State that the construction of the canal by Government would be an interference with the rights of the company. Meanwhile, further investigations into the best line for the canal were in progress, and in 1867 a complete estimate, accompanied by an exhaustive report, was submitted to Government for the canal from Wallabapoor, irrigating an area of 150,000 acres and supplying the town of Bellary with water. The scheme,

which was called the "Upper Bellary project, high level," was estimated to cost Rs. 116,70,500 exclusive of storage reservoirs, which were considered necessary to keep up a perennial supply in the canal, or if the irrigation of more than one crop per annum was to be attempted.

The Madras Irrigation and Canal Company continuing their investigations, shortly afterwards brought to notice that the great difficulty and expense involved by this high level line, such as the necessity for tunnelling through rock and extremely heavy cuttings, would be avoided by taking a low level line for the canal, starting from Hoosoor, nine miles lower down the river Tungabhadra, than Wallabapoor. This line, known as the "Upper Bellary project, low level," was for irrigation alone, and was at too low a level to supply the town of Bellary with water. It was approved by the Secretary of State, who urged the completion of the necessary investigations at an early date.

These investigations were carried out, with the result that the low level line was also found to involve very heavy expenditure. Finally, by 1876 both schemes had been thoroughly worked out with the following results:—

Upper Bellary project.		Direct charges.
		RS.
High level		116,70,500
Low level		128,00,000

The cost was so very heavy and the character of the project so unremunerative that the Government then abandoned the consideration of the scheme for some time, but latterly the Superintending Engineer has been called on to ascertain whether any modification of the project could be made which would prove feasible.

4. In all the earlier proposals for the project, it was taken for granted that the supply of water in the river was ample for the irrigation proposed, but since then the Kistna delta works, a large proportion of the supply for which is drawn from the Tungabhadra, have been extended, and the Kurnool canal has been completed, and when the river is low Bellary could not, in justice, be given water until the irrigation lower down has received a sufficient supply. Captain (now Major-General) Fischer, R.E., stated in one of his reports on the subject that from the middle of June to the middle of November there is water available for 6 to 700,000 acres, but it has often happened that in September there is an insufficient supply for the Kistna irrigation as it is, and in a report on the project, Colonel Mullins, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, has expressed great doubts as to whether the river would be able, in years of scanty rainfall, to supply the proposed canal, taking into consideration the prior claims of the Kistna and Kurnool canals.

5. This difficulty could be surmounted by the construction of reservoirs to store the flood waters of the river, and this part of the subject was investigated by the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's officers and the sites were examined by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. All idea of reservoirs, however, has had to be abandoned as the sites are in foreign territory, and if other difficulties could be surmounted, the cost of the land would probably raise the amount of the estimate to a prohibitive sum.

6. In calculating the returns to be expected from the project, it was assumed that 150,000 acres in the Bellary district would be irrigated, and even then, as stated above, the project was found to be unremunerative. We have now some years' experience of the Kurnool canal to show what may be expected, and there it is found that, owing to various causes, the chief of which are (1) the inability of the ryots to incur the outlay necessary to convert dry into wet cultivation, (2) the effect of the first waterings of black cotton soil being to bring salts to the surface and almost destroy the crop, and (3) the fact that cholam is the staple food of the country, and in a year of ordinary rainfall an abundant and remunerative crop can be raised with very little trouble, irrigation is not in favor; the only time that water has been extensively used was during last famine when the cholam crop was watered to save it, and thus the probability is that only in years of scanty rainfall when, as has been shown, it is doubtful whether the supply in the river would be adequate to meet all demands,

would the water be made use of to any considerable extent. Some wet cultivation there would no doubt be every year, but it is impossible to forecast the extent and the revenue that would be derived, and all that can be said is that, judging from experience on the Kurnool canal, one per cent. on the direct capital outlay would be a very sanguine estimate of returns to be expected.

7. It is, moreover, probable that, considering the large railway works proposed and under construction in the neighbourhood, and the general rise in prices, the estimated rates would have to be increased and the estimate would amount to at least $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions sterling.

8. From what has been said above it is evident that no irrigation work of a remunerative character can be expected in the Bellary district, and it has only to be considered whether, as a famine protective work, the project is worth carrying out. It can never enrich the district as the Godavari has been enriched, and the channel (the only one which protracted investigation has shown to be feasible) will run through only a small part of the district; but as a means of affording a good water-supply to the town and cantonments of Bellary, it would be of value far beyond any amount that could be raised by rates, and supposing it could save the cholam crop on even 50,000 acres (the Kurnool canal watered 91,000 acres in the last famine), it would confer a benefit on the country to which it is impossible to assign a money value. The question is, considering that this portion of the Bellary district is already traversed by a broad-gauge railway, and that other lines are in process of construction, also that the work could not be completed within 15 years, whether it is advisable to expend from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions sterling to obtain these results, and it appears from the late orders on the subject that the Government do not consider it is advisable.

CHEPAUK,
11th February 1885.

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Ch. Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 326 C.

MEMORANDUM.

Transferred to the Public department.

CHEPAUK,
17th February 1885.

(Signed) A. S. RUSSELL,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Public department.

ORDER—dated 3rd March 1885, No. 535, Public.

The memorial will be returned to the petitioners with the remark that the Government cannot undertake to transmit any communication addressed to Parliament. The memorialists should arrange to have it presented by a member of the House of Commons.

2. A copy of the memorandum which has been drawn up by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be furnished to Mr. Abraham and also laid on the Editors' table.

(True Extract.)

John Hunter

Chief Secretary.

To the memorialists, with memorial returned.
Public Works department.
The Editors' table.

Edw. J. Henricus.

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC.



Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 3rd March 1885, No. 535.

MARCH.

Recd. APR

Petition to Parliament.

Returning, with remarks, to Mr. M. Abraham and other residents of the Bellary district their — praying for the execution of certain works to protect the district from famine, and furnishing them with copy of a note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the subject.

Suppl. Eng. III Circle
Alf. Eng.

6TH JULY 1889, No. 583, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department (Public), under date Simla, the 20th June 1889, No. 16—1098-1114.

Read—

Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, No. 13 (Political), dated 14th March 1889.

Resolution—

A case having recently occurred in which a memorial addressed to the House of Commons was withheld under Rule XII, clause 3, of the Rules for the submission of Memorials to Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, or to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, His Lordship, while expressing the opinion that memorials addressed to Parliament cannot be withheld under the rules above referred to which do not properly apply to such memorials, has decided that if a petition against the orders of the Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared for presentation to Parliament, it should be submitted to the House of Parliament to which it is addressed through the medium of some unofficial member of the House, and not through the Secretary of State.

ORDER—

Ordered, that copy, with copy of extracts from the Journals and Standing Orders of Parliament enclosed in the Despatch from the Secretary of State read in the preamble, be forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations for information; that a copy with copy of extracts be forwarded to the several Departments of the Government of India for information; and that the Resolution and extracts be published in the Supplement to the Gazette of India for general information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

A. P. MACDONNELL,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Government of Madras.

ENCLOSURE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Every Member presenting a Petition to the House must affix his name at the beginning thereof. (*Vide Commons' Journals*, 1833, March 20; 1883, February 19.)

Every Petition must be written and not printed or lithographed. (*Vide Commons' Journals*, 1793, May 6; 1817, March 12.)

Every Petition must contain a prayer. (*Vide Commons' Journals*, 1843, July 10.)

Every Petition must be signed by at least one person on the skin or sheet on which the Petition is written. (*Vide Commons' Journals*, 1817, March 12.)

Every person signing a Petition must write his address after his signature or his signature will not be counted. (*Vide Appointment of the Select Committee on Public Petitions*, 1879, February 18.)

Every Petition must be written in the English language, or be accompanied by a translation certified by the Member who shall present it. (*Vide Commons' Journals*, 1821, March 16; March 21.)

Every Petition must be signed by the parties whose names are appended thereto by their names or marks, and by no one else except in case of incapacity by sickness. (*Vide Commons' Journals, 1675, November 8; 1689, November 14; 1774, June 2; 1826, December 13; 1836, June 28.*)

No letters, affidavits, or other documents may be attached to any Petition. (*Vide Commons' Journals 1826, February 20; November 28; 1856, March 14.*)

No erasures or interlineations may be made in any Petition. (*Vide Commons' Journals 1827, March 2; 1831, August 12.*)

No reference may be made to any Debate in Parliament. (*Vide Commons' Journals, 1822, March 28.*)

No application may be made for any grant of public money, except with the consent of the Crown. (*Vide Standing Orders.*)

No application may be made for a charge upon the revenues of India, except with the consent of the Crown. (*Vide Standing Orders.*)

All Petitions after they have been ordered to lie upon the Table, are referred to the Committee on Public Petitions, without any question being put; but if any such Petition relate to any matter or subject with respect to which the Member presenting it has given notice of a Motion, and the said Petition has not been ordered to be printed by the Committee, such Member may, after notice given, move that such Petition be printed with the Votes. (*Vide Standing Orders.*)

A member cannot present a petition from himself. It is quite competent to any Honorable Member to petition the House, but then his Petition ought to be presented by another Member. (*Vide Rules, Orders, and Forms of Proceeding of the House of Commons.*)

MEM.—Every Petition offered to be presented to the House should be addressed "To the Honorable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled."

ORDER—dated 6th July 1889, No. 583, Public.

Recorded with reference to paragraph 1 of G.O., No. 53E, Public, dated 3rd March 1885.

2. The resolution and extracts will be republished in the Fort St. George and District Gazettes.

(True Extract.)

W. H. French
for Chief Secretary.

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
„ all Heads of Departments.

Exd. W. H. French.

2074

Aug 12/7. In 26/7.