



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper:—

From the Special Agent, South Arcot, No 320, dated 3rd July 1896:—

I have the honour to request the favour of the orders of Government in re the Pambear Channel convention entered into with the French Government.

2. To make the position clear, a brief resume of the previous history of the case seems necessary.

3. A proposal for the excavation of a channel from the the Pambear for the irrigation of the French aldees in the District of Pondicherry was first made by the French Government in the year 1867. The proposal then made was to excavate the channel at the common cost of the two Governments. It was declined, as experience of the working of a channel dug under similar conditions viz:— the Vikravandi channel, had not been encouraging.

The subject was reopened in 1882 by the French Government but the Government of Madras negatived the proposal on the ground that the character of the water-supply available in the Pambear for the English ryots who had a prescriptive right to it did not justify any interference for the purpose of a channel project.

In 1885 the French Government again returned to the subject by moving the Home Government, with the result that the Chief Engineer to the Madras Government was ordered to visit the locality, confer with the French Authorities and submit a report on the subject.

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On the report of the Chief Engineer, the Special Agent, South Arcot was directed to draw up a convention in conference with the French authorities. This was done after much trouble and correspondence and a convention was executed on 8th August 1888.

4. The main heads of the convention may be briefly summarised as follows:-

(a) The French Government was to be allowed to dig a channel from the Pambear, provision being made in the dam (to be constructed by them) for the irrigation of English lands on both banks of the river below the dam.

(b) The English Government was to be allowed to dig at its own cost a branch channel from the French Channel to supply the tanks of Chinna Papa Samudram and Peria Papa Samudram villages in Villupuram Taluk.

(c) On condition of this branch channel being allowed, the English Government was to relinquish the project of supplying the above-mentioned tanks by a channel from the Pambear directly above the dam to be constructed by the French Government, and was not to construct any dam in the Pambear between the existing dam of Melpadi and the projected dam about 4 miles further down.

(d) If, after the lapse of 4 years from the execution of the convention, the French Government had not seriously undertaken the excavation of the projected channel, the English Government was to be at liberty to take up again the question of supplying the tanks of Peria and Chinna Papa Samudram by the Sellangalodai or by the Pambear.

5. The convention having been executed on the 8th August 1888, the period allowed under the last article above-mentioned expired on the 8th August 1892: but neither before that date nor subsequently does the French Government appear to have taken any steps towards complying with the terms of the convention. It was reminded of the matter first ^{September} on 17th 1892, again on 22nd June 1894 and for the third time on 6th May 1896. The last reminder (copy of which is submitted) has elicited reply No 122 dated 11th ultimo from His Excellency Monsieur L. Girod, the present Governor of the French Establishments in India, a translation of which is submitted for perusal. It is to the effect that before giving us any decisive answer, the General Council of Pondicherry has to be convened

convened and consulted as to the disposal to be given to the convention. His Excellency therefore asks that the decision may be suspended till January next.

It is for Government to decide whether this request should be acceded to or whether the French Government should not be held to be bound by the terms of the convention already entered into.

6. The ryots of Chinna Papa Samudram village, one of the villages to be served by the branch channel intended to be constructed by the British authorities from the proposed French channel, are pressing for the early construction of a channel to supply their tank. As their case deserves consideration, the favour of early orders is solicited.

O R D E R :- No 456, dated 22nd July 1896.

The Special Agent should inform the authorities at Pondicherry that, in view of their delay in dealing with the matter, he proposes to recommend to the Madras Government that it should take immediate action under article X of the Convention.

(True Extract)

W. D. Hill

for Chief Secretary.

To

The Public Works Department (Irrigation) ✓
--- Special Agent, South Arcot.

Madras.

To

The Public Works Dept
(Irrigation Branch)

Aug: 30.7.96
recd 28/7

Proceedings, dated 22nd July 1896
No. 456.

Subject.

Requesting the special agent South
Co. to inform the authorities
Pondicherry that in view of the
lay in complying with the terms
the Panchajanya Channel
mention of 1000, he proposes
recommended to the Madras Govt
it should take immediate
action under Art. I of the
Convention.

No 709 Ld 19 August 1896

B/ 28/7/96
Communicated to the Supy
Engineer Fifth Circle for in-
formation.

28/7/96
Recd 2/8/96

To
The Chief Engineer
Irrigation
" Supy Engineer
Fifth Circle.

30/7/96
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28/8/96