

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 737 I

DATED 9th August 1907

[Despatch Abstract.]

Amalgamation project: Transferring to the Revenue
Dept. Note by the Chief Engineer for Amalgamation
relating to the Krishnaperi New work project
and the Vanniar project in the Salem Dist.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public Works (1897) Department

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
IRRIGATION BRANCH.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

READ the following

*Note by the Chief Engr for Irrig.
giving opinion as regards
Krishnagiri Reservoir and
Varma Project asked for by the
Rev. Dept.*

*Proceedings of Madras Govt
Revenue Department.* (H. No. 465. Rev. of 17. 6. 97)

WH

25.7.97

No 148 I of 17 July 1897.

*Note by the Chief
Engr for Irrig.*

*I from the effect of this G.O. will be to shelve
these projects indefinitely. It is of course
necessary to investigate a project before
taking it up, and it is of course the case that
with the D. P. W. concentrated in the famine
districts, there are no men available
to carry out such an investigation now.
But, directly men can be spared from
Famine duty, they should be concentrated
on this particular duty of investigating
projects, so that they may be ready to be
taken up, when funds are available.
I think Mr. Hughes has this in his
mind's eye, but he should see this Note.*

A. S. H.

27.7.97

Noted.

25.7.97 WH

*Further consideration
of the Krishnagiri Reservoir
Project has been postponed
in accordance with G.O.
No. 309. I. dated 22 March
1897.*

*2. Instructions are being
sent to the Supg. Engineer,
4 Circle, for some further
enquiry regarding the
Varma Project. There
appears to be no
room for doubt
that the water supply*

has

*Cols
attached.*

has been much over
estimated -

— No 737 29 Aug 97
order thereon

Transferred to the
Revenue Department
with reference to para
2 of G.O. in that Dept
No 465. Rev. of 17. 6. 97.

HL
17.7.97 W.H.
97. I
2. The further investigation
of the projects referred to
will be undertaken directly
the requisite establishment
can be spared from
Famine duty.

Issue

W.H.

29.7.97

to the Rev. Dept.
to Mr. Chief Engr. for Durgam
Supt. Engr. IV Circle
25/7/97

20/8/97

465 7-6 97

Government { 1897 } of Madras.

REVENUE.

Current Number: 6A

Recd. 2. 7. } 1897.
Regd. 2. 7. }

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 465, 17th June 1897.

JUNE.

To D.D.
The annual report
of the Public Works Department
of 22/3/97 is the last report
on the Madras Project. The
investigation of the Ponnai
river basin has not yet been
completed. 10/6/97

Recording with remarks, the joint report of the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue on Famine Relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c., in the Salem District.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Hon'ble Colonel D. M. CAMPBELL, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Third Member, Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Madras, dated Camp Chittoor, 7th June 1897, No. C.

In continuation of our letter B, dated June 5th, 1897, we have the honor to submit the following report regarding the Salem District.

1. *General condition of the District.*—Mr. Mounsey, the Acting Collector has been in the District since November 1895, excepting two intervals of two months each. He is acquainted with all parts of the District.

As in Coimbatore so in this District, we find the general prospects to be decidedly good.

Rainfall.—The following statement shows the rainfall from April 1st up to May 31st, as compared with 25 years' average ending 1894:—

Stations.	Rainfall from April 1st to May 31st.		Average.	REMARKS,
	Inches.	Inches.		
Vaniyambady	3.76	4.36	— 0.60	
Tiruppattur	3.81	5.49	— 1.68	
Krishnagiri	2.72	4.85	— 2.13	
Hosur	3.51	5.91	— 2.40	
Denkanikotta	3.51	5.58	— 2.07	
Pennagaram	7.95	5.59	+ 2.36	
Dharmapuri	5.91	5.58	+ 0.33	
Uttengarai	4.30	4.11	+ 0.19	
Harur	4.86	3.43	+ 1.43	
Atur	2.94	5.21	— 2.27	
Salem	6.15	6.78	— 0.63	
Rasipuram	4.97	5.24	— 0.27	
Omalur	6.71	4.57	+ 2.14	
Senkeridrug	8.32	5.35	+ 2.97	
Tiruchengodu	4.74	4.40	+ 0.34	
Namakkal	5.25	5.59	— 0.34	
Paramati	2.59	5.42	— 2.83	
District average	4.82	5.18	— 0.36	
Shevaroy Hills	9.80	8.71	+ 1.09	

The pre-monsoon showers show a District average of nearly five inches.

The northern taluks, where the rainfall was short, have received copious showers within the last few days.

Paramati in the extreme south, where the deficiency is considerable, is chiefly under irrigation from the Cauvery channels, in which there is a good supply.

Although the rain at Atur Cusbah was deficient, the Taluk has a good water supply and the cultivation, both wet and dry, is over the average.

Cultivation.—The cultivation up to date is 16 per cent. over the average for 'dry,' and is also well over the average for 'wet.' So far as agricultural prospects are concerned, there is no part of the District which at present furnishes any cause for anxiety.

2. *Prices.*—The following statement shows the District average prices at the end of May as compared with the normal, warning and scarcity rates:—

Names of Grains.	Prices per rupee in seers of 80 tolas.			
	At the end of May.	Normal.	Warning rates.	Scarcity rates.
Rice	11.3	13.6	10.9	8.2
Ragi	20.1	31.0	23.0	15.5
Cholam	18.9	26.0	19.5	13.0
Cumbu	17.5	27.0	20.0	13.5

Rice is everywhere well below the warning rate, except in Hosur, where it is not a staple grain.

The staple in Hosur is ragi which has not reached the warning rate. On the average of the District, ragi is only 3 seers per rupee dearer than the warning rate—cholam is less than one seer per rupee dearer than the warning rate. In Tiruppattur and Uttengarai taluks where cumbu is largely consumed, its price is four seers per rupee dearer than the warning rate; and ragi, which is the other staple food, is somewhat dearer in these taluks than elsewhere. It is noticeable that wages are always remarkably high in these taluks. In Salem District, at this time, the extent of crops under wells, fit for or nearing harvest, is inconsiderable. The first crop under wells (chiefly cholam) has been just reaped.

3. *Exports.*—Exports of grain by rail have been, and continue to be considerable, but there is no reason to apprehend that the District is being unduly drained. In April 43,000 maunds and in May 41,000 maunds, were exported against a total of 13,000 maunds imported.

4. To sum up, the pre-monsoon rains have been very favourable: cultivation is in active progress; and prices do not warrant the apprehension that they will anywhere reach scarcity rates in the immediate future.

5. *Weavers.*—May and June being marriage months, there has been recently a good demand for cloths for wedding purposes, and the condition of the weavers is reported at present to be satisfactory.

6. *Famine Programme.*—The Famine Programme of this District was reviewed by the Board, and submitted to Government, with Boards Proceedings (Revenue Settlement Land Records and Agriculture) No. 349, dated 8th May 1897. The works entered in the Programme are calculated to afford employment for a period of three months to 455,529 persons or 23 per cent. of the total population of the District, and the proportion of the population for whom provision is

made in each taluk for three months is more than 20 per cent. From the Programme, the large new work (making ghaut road to Yercaud) for which an estimate amounting to 3.32 lakhs has been prepared, must be struck out as a new trace has been found necessary.

7. The total amount of estimates laid before us, which have been duly sanctioned and are available for immediate execution, is as follows:—

Road works sanctioned by District Board	...	Rs. 15,55,800
Ordinary irrigation works under D. P. W.	...	10,425
Tank Restoration works under D. P. W.	...	67,395
Minor irrigation works under the Revenue Department	...	7,806
Forest fencing	...	28,881

Total Rs. 16,70,301

These works would give employment to about 11.2 per cent. of the population for three months, and though this does not fully comply with the requirements of the Code, section 8, we consider that the provision is more than ample to meet any distress which is at all likely to occur in the current year.

Estimates to the amount of about half a lakh, mostly for works not requiring professional agency, were said to be in the taluk offices, and were not laid before us.

8. The sum of Rs. 77,820 sanctioned for ordinary and tank restoration works under the D. P. W., is the total of estimates for 153 different works, each of small amounts averaging less than Rs. 1,000, and these works would require a large amount of supervision.

9. There are two large works costing over 1 lakh of rupees that have been under investigation for some years past, viz.,

The Krishnagiri Reservoir Project,
The Vaniar Project.

but it is not thought advisable that either of these should be taken up as a relief work, as in both cases the quantity of water available seems to have been over-estimated, and further investigation is necessary. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation might be asked for his opinion regarding these works.

10. The opinion of the Collector, with which, as shown above, we agree, is that there will be no serious distress in this District, unless there is a failure of the North-East Monsoon, and that the estimate sanctioned will far more than suffice for all relief works that may be required before next November, even should there be failure of the South-West Monsoon.

11. Tools.—The famine tools in store at Salem and Tiruppattur have been personally counted by the Executive Engineer and found to agree with the number ordered to be kept in stock in G. O. No. 3116-W, dated 2nd December 1893, with the exception of 500 Mamooties and 6,000 stone breaking hammers issued to the famine Districts. The tools in the Hosur and Barur stores will be personally counted by the Executive Engineer in a few days. The number of famine tools in store is as follows:—

Divisions.	Axes, felling.	Bill hooks.	Crow bars.	Hammers, stone breaking.	Mamoo- ties.	Pick axes.	Ram- mers.
Salem	487	426	893	3,503	15,490	4,889	241

We examined the tools in the Salem stores on the 5th instant, and are of opinion that, though a few of them are old, they are all serviceable. The population of the Salem District being nearly the same as that of the Coimbatore District, viz., 2,000,000 in round numbers, we recommend that, with the slight variations shown in the margin, the number of tools be brought up to the same strength as we stated to be necessary for the latter District in our report dated June 5th, and our general remarks about tools given in that report apply equally to the Salem District.

The number of instruments for clearing prickly pear has been reduced, and the number of stone-breaking hammers increased with reference to the circumstances of the District.

12. The sanctioned strength of the D. P. W. Superior Staff for Salem is—
- 1 Executive Engineer.
 - 1 Sub-Engineer.
 - 1 Supervisor.
 - 5 Overseers.

The five Overseers have already been transferred for famine duty in the distressed Districts, and the Sub-Engineer and Supervisor have been warned to hold themselves in readiness for transfer.

In case famine-relief works had to be opened on a large scale, the great practical difficulty would be to find a sufficient number of men qualified to act as overseers. If ten per cent. of the population, i.e., 200,000 persons were employed as relief-workers, at least 40 overseers would be required, to say nothing of the Special Establishment which the Collector would have to entertain under section 40 of the Famine Code.

We regard it as unnecessary to attempt to grapple with this difficulty in Salem, whilst the contingency of having to start relief-works remains so remote. In the event of a serious failure of the South-West Monsoon, the want of Establishments in other Districts nearer the famine Zone will almost certainly demand prior consideration.

ORDER—No. 465, DATED 17TH JUNE 1897.

Recorded.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to favour Government with his opinion as regards the two projects referred to in paragraph 9.

(True Extract.)

W. Marjoribanks
for Ag. Secretary to Government. 25-6-97

To the Famine Commissioner.

" Public Works Department.

" Public Works Departments. (Irrigation Branch.)

CHIEF ENGINEER
FOR IRRIGATION.
16 22 67
10 APR. 1897

IRRIGATION.

Government {1897} of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 309 I., 22nd March 1897.

MARCH.

Krishnagiri Project

Stating that consideration of the — will not be finally abandoned, but will be taken up again when the Tank Restoration Scheme investigation of the Penniar minor basin is completed.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following papers:—

From H. H. O'CONNELL, Esq., Executive Engineer, Salem Division, to the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated 28th July 1896, No. 273 S.E.

In continuation of my No. 232 S.E., dated 2nd July 1896, asking for a surveyor to continue the investigation of the Krishnagiri project, I have the honour to state that I have since gone further into the matter and consider that the project is hopeless and would recommend that it be dropped.

2. I enclose abstract of discharges over the Nedungal anicut for the last five years, from which it will be seen that nothing like the amount of water calculated on by Major Romilly is available. He calculated that 15,428 millions of cubic feet were available, but the discharges over the anicut, which is 10 miles below the site of proposed dam, show that nothing like this amount is available. I find that of the stations at which rainfall registers were kept on which he based his calculations, only two are in the catchment basin, viz., Hosūr and Krishnagiri. He has included the Shevaroy Hills in his catchment basin, but they lie a long way below the site of proposed dam. I think, therefore, that his average rainfall on which he based his calculations is all wrong.

3. I am quite sure there is not enough water to warrant the execution of this project, and an inspection of the country round showed that, if the dam were built, it would be very costly to distribute the water from it.

4. I therefore request that this reference may be omitted in future from the unanswered reference list.

ENCLOSURE.

ABSTRACT of the calculation of discharges of water passed over the anicut and through sand sluices at Nedungal for the last five official years in millions of cubic feet.

Month.	1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.		1894-95.		1895-96.	
	Discharge over the anicut.	Discharge through sand sluice.	Discharge over the anicut.	Discharge through sand sluice.	Discharge over the anicut.	Discharge through sand sluice.	Discharge over the anicut.	Discharge through sand sluice.	Discharge over the anicut.	Discharge through sand sluice.
April	..	..	..	..	37.93	..	..	..	..	..
May	..	..	216.03	..	252.33	..	126.91	..	90.89	..
June	246.73	..	420.78	..	686.02	..	327.51	..	..	..
July	..	..	267.58	..	816.42	..	11.81	44.67	..	..
August	..	..	1,998.20	..	..	..	1,150.92	..	..	..
September ..	..	..	..	..	610.07	..	11.81	..	525.57	326.62
October	235.92	..	580.68	..	4,613.74	..	164.01	433.85	5,718.22	419.01
November ..	..	..	61.27	..	2,554.43	..	..	..	1,977.23	164.14
December ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
January	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
February ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
March	..	..	11.81	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	482.65	..	3,556.35	..	9,570.94	..	1,792.97	478.52	8,311.91	909.77
Grand Total ..	482.65	..	3,556.35	..	9,570.94	..	2,271.49	..	9,221.68	..

No. 150/I.

Copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation with the information that the undersigned concurs with Mr. O'Connell and with a request that this reference may now be excluded from the unanswered reference list.

(Signed) J. HANNAN,
Supg. Engineer, IV Circle.

3rd August 1896.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 5881, dated 21st November 1896.

Read—again Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 4557, dated 17th September 1896.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding to the Collector of Salem for report Government Order, Revenue Department, Mis. No. 3481, dated 28th August 1896, regarding the abandonment of the Krishnagiri reservoir project, Salem district.

Read—also the following letter from the Collector of Salem, dated 8th October 1896, No. 5466:—

I have the honour to return the enclosures received with Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement), Mis. No. 4557, dated 17th September last, and to report as follows.

2. The resolution refers to the proposed Krishnagiri reservoir project. This appears to have been originally recommended upon the ground that there was an available surplus in the Penniar river of about 15,500,000,000 cubic feet, whereas the present Executive Engineer calculates that the maximum available surplus at a spot 10 miles below the proposed anicut during the last five years is about 9,500,000,000 cubic feet. It is pointed out to me that these years may not be a good guide in the matter owing to bad seasons prevailing. The district average rainfall is about 31.5 inches, which is almost the same as that for the taluks of Hosūr and Krishnagiri, which is 32.12. The actuals for the two recording stations in the basin of the Penniar above the site of the proposed dam, omitting 1890 (which was a little below the average) as the Executive Engineer gives no figures for that year, are—

	Hosūr.	Krishnagiri.	Discharge in millions of cubic feet.	Official year.
Average—				
1870 to 1889	32.86	31.39	482.65	1891-92
1891	22.56	23.55	3,556.35	1892-93
1892	27.47	36.02	9,570.94	1893-94
1893	30.43	38.30	2,271.49	1894-95
1894	31.57	33.39	9,221.68	1895-96
1895	32.51	31.88		

The figures for 1894 do not seem easily reconcilable with those for 1893 and 1895, but I notice that it is stated in 1884 by the Chief Engineer that it is very difficult to gauge the discharge at Nedungal. As surmised by the Board, the last five years have been below the average at Hosūr, but, strange to say, four of these have been above the average at Krishnagiri. This, however, can have had little effect upon the surplus, as the portion of the river basin in Krishnagiri taluk is, I roughly calculate from a map, perhaps about one-eighth of the part in Hosūr taluk, to say nothing of the catchment area in Mysore. Admitting this, the figures supplied do seem to prove that a surplus of 15,500 millions of cubic feet is not available. If that be so, the question arises whether the surplus that is available may not be put to use. I regret I can give no opinion upon this subject.

3. In view of the remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that there would be a possible failure "on the grounds of want of agricultural population and capital, as has been found to be the case under the Barur project," it may be thought that

nothing should be done even if some use could be found for available water. But I beg to point out that having recently spent some days at Barur, I am by no means sure that that project has a hopeless future before it. I have not the figures before me.—expecting a detailed report—but since the Barur project has been completed, I think 3,000 acres of dry lands have been taken up and are now cultivated as dry. When definite orders are passed as to the grouping of the irrigation sources, main supply channel, tanks and channels from the tank, as to which I made detailed enquiries, I would not be surprised if most, if not all, of the above 3,000 acres which are commanded by the scheme, be not converted into wet. From this year forward the supply of water will be on a much more sound basis. Hitherto all the sluices were of one size—2 feet square, no matter what the extent of cultivation was under them, leading to much waste. Now their size is regulated by the amount of cultivation they have to irrigate. In short the Barur project has attracted both population and cultivation. There is a steady increase in the population of the district, and this is accompanied by a slackening of the ties that originally kept surplus population from moving where labour was more in demand. The number of labourers that go to and from various coffee estates, the fortunes that can be made by a little steady work at the Kolar gold fields have strongly tended in this direction. In Krishnagiri especially, there are cases of Pariahs even who have acquired much land out of their savings at the gold fields. Krishnagiri taluk in 1891 had not nearly recovered the loss of its population caused by the famine of 1876–77; and where there is more scope for expansion, the quicker the expansion will be. Krishnagiri lost 29 per cent. of its population between 1871 and 1881, increased by 26 per cent. between 1881 and 1891, and even this was $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below its population in 1871.

4. Whether the reservation of forests will permanently increase the rainfall in the catchment basin of the Penniar river is another question that might be considered before it be finally decided to abandon for ever a project which, if successful, would be of great benefit indirectly and directly to the district and so to the Presidency.

Resolution—Mis. No. 5881, dated 21st November 1896.

The Collector's letter read above will be submitted to Government with reference to its order No. 3481, dated 28th August 1896.

2. In its order No. 696 I., dated 30th July 1884, the Government considered "that the investigations made by Captain Romilly, R.E., sufficiently proved that an extensive reservoir might be formed at Krishnagiri at a cost which would be remunerative," and accordingly authorized "the preparation of detailed plans and estimates," remarking at the same time that "there can be no doubt that the work would prove of immense benefit to a part of the country which has suffered greatly in times of scarcity." The project was based on the assumption that there would be a total quantity of 15,428 millions of cubic feet of water available from the Penniar for storage in the proposed reservoir, and that this quantity would suffice to irrigate, in years of ordinary rainfall, an area of 500,000 acres, in addition to the extent already irrigated, and in a famine year, probably, for half that extent.

3. The papers received with the Government order under reply show that Major Romilly over-estimated the quantity of water available in the river, and that this was due to his having taken into account the rainfall at some stations which are outside the catchment basin. It is further stated that the discharges of the river, as recorded at the Nedungal anicut, which is 10 miles below the site of the proposed reservoir, during the last five years, give the total quantity available there at only 9,500 millions of cubic feet and that the nature of the country round is such that if a dam were built it would be very costly to distribute the water from it.

4. The condemnation of the project is thus mainly based on the calculation of the discharges of the river during the past five years, but unfortunately those years were more or less exceptionally unfavourable to cultivation and cannot be taken as a safe guide in the matter. The average rainfall at Hosur and Krishnagiri, which are the only rain-recording stations in the catchment basin of the reservoir, is 32.86 and 31.39 inches, respectively. The fall at Hosur was more or less below the average

* This should be 50,000
vide 2339C of 5-5-97 (K 2649/77)

during each of the five years 1891 to 1895. At Krishnagiri, however, the fall was more or less above the average in four of the five years; but the portion of the river basin in the Krishnagiri taluk is estimated by the Collector to be only about one-eighth of that in Hosur. A part of the catchment basin also lies in the Mysore territory. Even if the total available quantity is not likely to be 15,500 millions of cubic feet, it may be large enough to justify the project being carried out. This question, however, cannot be answered without fresh investigation and estimates, especially as the Executive Engineer is of opinion that even if a dam were constructed, the distribution of water would be very costly.

5. With regard to the Chief Engineer's opinion formed on the experience of the Barur project that this project may fail for want of agricultural population and capital, the Collector points out that the case of the Barur project is not so hopeless as the Chief Engineer seems to think. The Collector has reason to believe that the Barur project has attracted both population and cultivation (capital) and thinks that in this respect the Krishnagiri project is likely to be attended with a larger measure of success. This project was the offspring of Mr. H. S. Thomas, one of the very ablest Revenue officers in the service. The Board knows from personal experience that the tract in question is one which largely requires additional irrigational facilities and is confident that population will follow irrigation. The value of such a work is by no means to be solely judged by the percentage which it pays on cost of construction. The Periyar project would hardly stand such a test.

The Board concurs in the Collector's view that the project should not be finally condemned without some further investigations.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASAR,
Secretary.

G.O., Mis. No. 23, Revenue, dated 4th January 1897.

Read—again G.O., Mis. No. 3481, dated 28th August 1896.

ABSTRACT.—Referring to the Board of Revenue for report as to whether it concurs with the proposal to abandon the Krishnagiri reservoir project (endorsement of the Public Works Department, dated 19th August 1896).

Read—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 21st November 1896, Mis. No. 5881.

Order—Mis. No. 23, Revenue, dated 4th January 1897.

Transferred to the Public Works Department with an expression of concurrence in the Board's remarks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

No. 45 I.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Captain F. J. Romilly, R.E., worked out data for the Krishnagiri project in the Salem district, which was for the formation of a reservoir by a masonry dam across the Penniar in 1884, and in G.O., No. 696 I., dated 30th July 1884, detailed plans and estimates were called for.

2. The general idea was for a reservoir to irrigate 50,000 acres to cost about 40 lakhs. It was then estimated that 15,428 millions cubic feet of water would be available for storage.

(M. P. S. S.) 11-2-97 11-2-97 11-2-97

3. The Executive Engineer, Salem division, reported on the project in July last and was supported by the Superintending Engineer in considering that the investigations should be dropped as the water in the river was insufficient.

4. In Proceedings of Madras Government, Revenue Department, Mis. No. 23, dated 4th January 1897, the Collector gives his reasons for desiring further investigation, and in this is supported by the Revenue Board and Government in the Revenue Department.

5. It is considered that the project need not, under the circumstances, be finally abandoned, but nothing effective can be done in investigating it until the Tank Restoration Scheme investigation of the whole Penniar minor basin is completed.

24th February 1897.

(Signed) W. HUGHES,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

ORDER—No. 309 I., dated 22nd March 1897.

Consideration of the Krishnagiri project will not be finally abandoned, but will be taken up again when the Tank Restoration Scheme investigation of the Penniar minor basin is completed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUGHES,
Joint Secy. to Government,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation, T.R.S.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Government { 1897 } of Madras.

REVENUE.

7378
9-8-97

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Enclosures

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} 1897.

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16
6w 6447(97)

G.O., No. 465, 17th June 1897.

JUNE.

Recording with remarks, the joint report of the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue on Famine Relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c., in the Salem District.

Original not recd
1008 4/7/97
To Works Office.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Hon'ble Colonel D. M. CAMPBELL, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Third Member, Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Madras, dated Camp Chittoor, 7th June 1897, No. C.

In continuation of our letter B, dated June 5th, 1897, we have the honor to submit the following report regarding the Salem District.

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Government { 1897 } of Madras.
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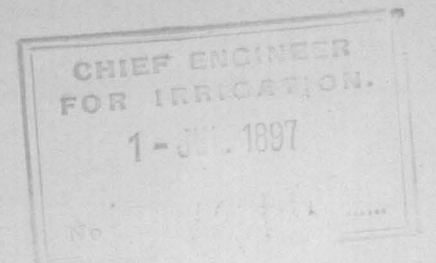
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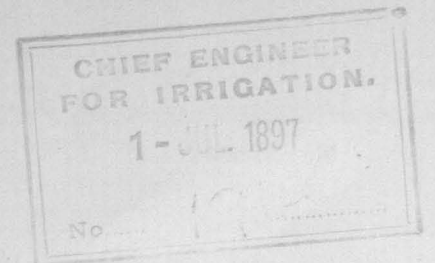
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Government { 1897 } of Madras.

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Recd.

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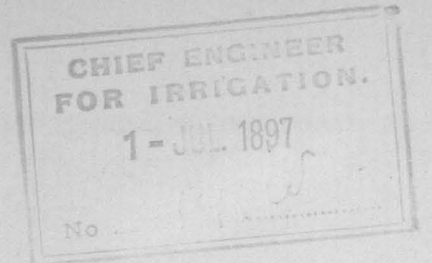
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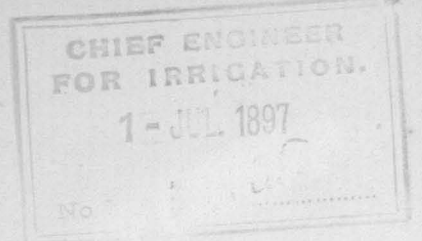
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Ordinary irrigation works under D. P. W.	10,425
Tank Restoration works under D. P. W.	67,395
Minor irrigation works under the Revenue Department	7,800
Forest fencing	28,881
Total	Rs. 16,70,301

These works would give employment to about 11.2 per cent. of the population for three months, and though this does not fully comply with the requirements of the Code, section 8, we consider that the provision is more than ample to meet any distress which is at all likely to occur in the current year.

Estimates to the amount of about half a lakh, mostly for works not requiring professional agency, were said to be in the taluk offices, and were not laid before us.

8. The sum of Rs. 77,820 sanctioned for ordinary and tank restoration works under the D. P. W., is the total of estimates for 153 different works, each of small amounts averaging less than Rs. 1,000, and these works would require a large amount of supervision.

9. There are two large works costing over 1 lakh of rupees that have been under investigation for some years past, viz.,

The Krishnagiri Reservoir Project,
The Vaniar Project,

but it is not thought advisable that either of these should be taken up as a relief work, as in both cases the quantity of water available seems to have been over-estimated, and further investigation is necessary. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation might be asked for his opinion regarding these works.

10. The opinion of the Collector, with which, as shown above, we agree, is that there will be no serious distress in this District, unless there is a failure of the North-East Monsoon, and that the estimate sanctioned will far more than suffice for all relief works that may be required before next November, even should there be failure of the South-West Monsoon.

11. Tools.—The famine tools in store at Salem and Tiruppattur have been personally counted by the Executive Engineer and found to agree with the number ordered to be kept in stock in G. O. No. 3116-W, dated 2nd December 1893, with the exception of 500 Mamooties and 6,000 stone breaking hammers issued to the famine Districts. The tools in the Hosur and Barur stores will be personally counted by the Executive Engineer in a few days. The number of famine tools in store is as follows:—

Divisions.	Axes, felling.	Bill hooks.	Crow bars.	Hammers, stone breaking.	Mamoo- ties.	Pick axes.	Ram- mers.
Salem	487	426	893	3,503	15,490	4,889	241

We examined the tools in the Salem stores on the 5th instant, and are of opinion that, though a few of them are old, they are all serviceable. The population of the Salem District being nearly the same as that of the Coimbatore District, viz., 2,000,000 in round numbers, we recommend that, with the slight variations shown in the margin, the number of tools be brought up to the same strength as we stated to be necessary for the latter District in our report dated June 5th, and our general remarks about tools given in that report apply equally to the Salem District.

The number of instruments for clearing prickly pear has been reduced, and the number of stone-breaking hammers increased with reference to the circumstances of the District.

12. The sanctioned strength of the D. P. W. Superior Staff for Salem is—

- 1 Executive Engineer.
- 1 Sub-Engineer.
- 1 Supervisor.
- 5 Overseers.

The five Overseers have already been transferred for famine duty in the distressed Districts, and the Sub-Engineer and Supervisor have been warned to hold themselves in readiness for transfer.

In case famine-relief works had to be opened on a large scale, the great practical difficulty would be to find a sufficient number of men qualified to act as overseers. If ten per cent. of the population, i.e., 200,000 persons were employed as relief-workers, at least 40 overseers would be required, to say nothing of the Special Establishment which the Collector would have to entertain under section 40 of the Famine Code.

We regard it as unnecessary to attempt to grapple with this difficulty in Salem, whilst the contingency of having to start relief-works remains so remote. In the event of a serious failure of the South-West Monsoon, the want of Establishments in other Districts nearer the famine Zone will almost certainly demand prior consideration.

ORDER—No. 465, DATED 17TH JUNE 1897.

Recorded.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to favour Government with his opinion as regards the two projects referred to in paragraph 9.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.

" Public Works Department.

" Public Works Departments. (Irrigation Branch.)