

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No.

739

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DATED 30 August 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Reports

Govt of India reviews of the Revenue report
of Irrigation works in Sind for 1897-98
Commnd to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

for 9/18

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The Ganges India

No. 739 Lgzo. 8.28

Communicated to the
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
for information.

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SUBJECT.

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The Chief Enquirer for Surgeon

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS. Irrigation.

Simla, the 28th July 1899.

Review of the Revenue Report of Irrigation Works in Sind for 1897-98.

Read—

Letter No. W.I.—1039, dated 7th July 1899, from the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, forwarding the Revenue Report of the Irrigation Department in Sind for 1897-98, together with the Resolution of that Government reviewing the same.

CAPITAL OUTLAY.

OBSERVATIONS.—The capital expenditure incurred on works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept amounted to Rs. 17,74,692 during 1897-98. Good progress was made with the new Jamrao and Dad canals. The expenditure on the former amounted to Rs. 13,35,152 during the year and to Rs. 38,74,052 up to the end of it, while on the Dad canal Rs. 2,29,793 were expended during the year. The outlay on Minor Works amounted to Rs. 1,42,656, of which Rs. 1,40,102 were expended on the Fuleli canal.

The total capital invested in Major and Minor Works amounted at the end of the year to 180½ lakhs.

AREA IRRIGATED.

2. The total area irrigated during the year amounted to 2,806,083 acres and exceeded the area of 1896-97 by 308,727 acres and the record area of 1894-95 by 70,357 acres. This very satisfactory result is attributed partly to the favourable inundation and partly to the immunity from floods secured by the efficient maintenance of the river embankments. The area of dubari or twice cropped cultivation rose from 154,166 acres last year to 235,394 acres in the year under review, so that the total crop area irrigated amounted to 3,041,477 acres and is the highest on record. Of the total area, excluding dubari irrigation, the Major Works irrigated 753,822 acres, the Minor Works for which Capital accounts are kept 840,123 acres, and those for which only Revenue accounts are kept 1,166,454 acres.

The areas of the principal crops irrigated during the year were:—

	Acres.
Rice	888,216
Jowari	655,450
Bajri	404,709
Wheat	316,248

The rice cultivation has steadily increased since 1894-95, when the area irrigated was 671,803 acres, but this unrestricted increase is not regarded by the Commissioner in Sind as altogether satisfactory as it leads to the occupants at the tails of the canals being deprived of their fair share of water. It will, no doubt be easier to overcome this difficulty by the assumption and exercise of a greater control over the distribution than by recourse to a prohibitive enhancement of the rates on rice cultivation, a measure which in the Commissioner's opinion would be at once impossible and immoral.

The area under wheat was nearly 49 per cent. in excess of last year's cultivation though still below the area (433,752 acres) of 1894-95. The development of wheat cultivation is a satisfactory feature of the returns of the year.

WORKING EXPENSES.

3. The working expenses of works for which Capital accounts are kept were as follows:—

	Total working expenses.	Rate per acre irrigated.	Average rate per acre for previous five years.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major works	3,90,638	0.51	0.62
Minor works	4,83,188	0.58	0.78

Taking both Major and Minor Works together the working expenses were 0.55 per acre irrigated and 26.89 per cent. of the gross revenue realised. These rates compare very favourably with those of the previous year. On Minor Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept the working expenses were Rs. 9,85,597 as compared with Rs. 9,62,490 in 1896-97, while on Agricultural Works the total expenditure during the year was Rs. 4,35,305.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

4. The financial results of the Sind canals in operation during the year may be summarized as follows after excluding the revenue receipts and charges due to old irrigation:—

Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.	Capital outlay to end of year.	Gross revenue.	Working expenses.	Net revenue.	Return on capital outlay.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Per cent.
Major Works	98,79,779	13,24,138	3,81,535	9,42,603	9.54
Minor Works	38,67,927	13,01,247	2,86,946	10,14,301	26.22
Total Major and Minor	1,37,47,706	26,25,385	6,68,481	19,56,904	14.23

All the four Major Works in operation gave higher returns than in the preceding year, the Desert canal returning 6.3 per cent. on its Capital outlay against 2.9 per cent. in 1896-97, while the Begari canal gave a return of 17.78 per cent. as compared with 15.4 per cent. last year.

A still more marked improvement is recorded in the case of the Minor Works which gave a return of 26.22 per cent. against 20.83 per cent. in 1896-97.

These figures represent the results due to the outlay of Government capital. Including the old irrigation, which has not been affected by this outlay, the gross receipts amounted to Rs. 13,61,195 for Major Works and Rs. 18,88,741 for Minor Works, and the total net revenue to Rs. 9,70,557 for Major and Rs. 14,05,553 for Minor Works.

The financial results of the year for all the irrigation works in the Province were as follows:—

	Rs.
Gross revenue	60,27,803
Working expenses	22,94,728
Net revenue	37,33,075

The total net revenue exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 8,46,057.

GENERAL REMARKS.

5. The results obtained during the year are highly satisfactory. The area of irrigation, the gross revenue realised, and the net revenue, after deducting working expenses, were the highest on record, while the return on Capital outlay, yielded by those works for which Capital accounts are kept, excluding old irrigation, was no less than 14½ per cent. or 2¼ per cent. higher than the return given in 1896-97 which was the highest on record.

These very favourable results were primarily due to the unusual height and duration of the floods in the Indus, that in August 1898 being the highest ever recorded, while that in September was only five inches lower. There was thus a plentiful and well sustained supply in all the canals, which was, however, unattended by proportionate damage, and the Commissioner of Sind observes that the results of a favourable inundation however great would have fallen short of the present height but for the ability and zeal with which the different canals were managed. The Government of India concur with the Local Government in endorsing this commendation, and in expressing satisfaction with the high standard of efficiency attained by the Irrigation officers in Sind in the administration of these canals.

The report was not received by the Government of India till the 10th July, but it is hoped that the measures which have been suggested to the Government of Bombay to secure its more punctual submission will be found to be feasible, and that in future years the value of the report will not be discounted by so great a delay in its publication.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Review, with the Report and Resolution by the Government of Bombay, be forwarded to the Revenue and Agricultural Department, for information.

Ordered also, that a copy of this Review be forwarded to the Government of Bombay for information, and that copies of the Review, with the Report and Local Government's Resolution, be forwarded to the Local Governments noted on the margin in the Public Works Department, for information.

Ordered further, that this Review be published in Part I of the *Gazette of India*, and that copies of the Review be forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

J. H. Williams.

Joint Secy. to the Govt. India.

To The Secy to the Govt of Madras.
Public Works Dept.
Report sent per
Post.