

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	463	Press Mis.
Dated	16. 6.	10 1837

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 16th June 1857.

No. 41. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Public Works Department, (Revenue, Irrigation) under date the 12th June 1857.

Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 18th May 1857, No. 436.

SIR,

In Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, No. 2008, dated 30th October 1856, my attention was called to a letter from General Cullen, the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, in which is discussed a proposition made by Lieutenant Roberts that the water of a natural Reservoir called "*Oorney Cut*," and situated among the hills westward of Tinnevely should be carried, by means of a new channel, into the latter District.

2. Lieutenant Roberts was of opinion that this reservoir was situated near the source of the Perreyaar, which is the most important of the Travancore rivers, and drains a considerable area of hilly country to the westward of the Thencarray Talook of the Madura District. The reservoir itself he believed would receive the drainage of about 4 square miles of a hilly country, the rain fall upon which averaged 95 inches.

3. General Cullen questioned whether so much rain fell in that locality, he thought the reservoir was situated in the Travancore country, and that the quantity of water supply of the reservoir was but trifling.

4. The subject has since been carefully considered by Lieutenant Oakes, the Acting District Engineer, aided by Lieutenant Payne, and the report contained in the letter, No. 31, dated 26th March, from the latter Officer, shews that the hilly and wooded character of the basin emptying itself into the reservoir so completely misled Lieutenant Roberts, that he estimated its area at 84 times its actual extent, as ascertained by a survey made by Lieutenant Oakes. Lieutenant Roberts' Estimate being 4 square miles, while Lieutenant Oakes' survey has proved it to be only $\frac{1}{84}$ of a square mile.

5. This single fact was sufficient to shew that the project should be abandoned; Lieutenant Oakes has however dealt with the question in some of its other bearings. He has discussed the question raised by General Cullen as to the correctness of Lieutenant Roberts' Estimate of the rain fall, and has also considered the sufficiency of Lieutenant Roberts' Estimate for excavating the Channel through which the water was to be led into the Tinnevely District.

6. He considers that Lieutenant Roberts has somewhat over-estimated the rain fall, and that he has considerably under-estimated the cost of excavating the necessary irrigation channel.

Lieutenant Roberts' Estimate amounted to Rupees..... 6,470,
whilst that of Lieutenant Oakes reaches „ 20,000.

7. As neither Estimate provides for the construction of a dam for retaining the water in the reservoir, until the freshes of the Tinnevely rivers are over and the water is actually required for irrigation, and as the additional revenue expected is only Rupees 460 per annum, I have no hesitation in recommending that the subject be struck out of the unanswered reference list, or in expressing my regret that so much time and trouble have been expended on so fruitless an investigation.

Under the circumstances represented by the Chief Engineer, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers that no good results are likely to accrue from the Project of the *Oorney Cut* proposed by Lieutenant Roberts, and alluded to in the letter from the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, dated 3rd October 1856; and accordingly directs that the project be abandoned.

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