M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1628 Press ~~Mis.~~

253. 256

Dated 15-7-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th July 1865.

No. 255. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Authorizing the acceptance of the offer of the villagers of Puliencolum, in Tinnevelly District, for constructing a cross bank and channel to their tank, and desiring the Collector of the District to state what will be a fair amount of interest for the money expended by the villagers.	(Here enter 10th July 1865, No. 1,937.)

No. 256. ORDER THEREON, 15th July 1865, No. 1,628.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings of Public Works Department, No. 1,937.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Read the following :—

No. 219. Petition from Aghilandum Pillay, Mirasidar of the village of Pulien-colum, in the Táluq of Nangnary, in the Tinnevelly District.

Remonstrates against the objection taken by the Collector to the estimate prepared by the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, for the construction of a cross bank and channel for the purpose of securing sufficient water for the Ayacut of his village. } (Here enter 6th January 1864.)

No. 220. Petition from Thavooammall, widow of the late P. Chethambaranada Pillay, residing in the village of Shangalacoorchee, in the Tinnevelly District.

States that the works named above may be carried out should they fulfil the conditions specified by her. } (Here enter 11th April 1864.)

No. 221. Petition from the said Aghilandum Pillay.

Adverting to his Petition of the 6th January 1864, states that in the event of the works therein alluded to being sanctioned, he will be prepared to bear their cost on certain conditions. } (Here enter 11th April 1864.)

No. 222. From G. DANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Tenkasy, 23rd June 1865, No. 253.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to reply to the Government Endorsement dated 17th February 1864, and to forward the Engineer's report upon the matter at issue.

2. For many years past disputes had taken place between the villagers of Puliencolum and Pensondravalli, the latter affirming that their lands were unfairly swamped by the former, who had extended their tank bund, and raised their calingulah in an unauthorized manner. Finally, Captain Horsley and Mr. Bird came to the unanimous decision that the bund and calingulah should be reduced to their wonted dimensions, and that three seed cottahs odd of Pensondravalli should be alone submerged according to the long existing usage. This decision was duly carried into effect and worked well, as far as it went. The three seed cottahs and odd were not really injured, as they were cultivated immediately the water receded. After a time the Puliencolum villagers complained that they had not sufficient water for their Ayacut owing to the removal of the bund and calingulah as above narrated, and begged that a cross bank might be erected to increase their supply within the authorized area. To this proposition the Pensondravalli villagers strongly objected, affirming that their drainage would suffer, and that they would live in terror of the cross bank breaching. The matter was then referred to the District Engineer, who forwarded an estimate for the solicited work. Mr. Silver declined approval of the estimate, on the grounds that the matter had already been settled by Captain Horsley and Mr. Bird, and that he was not authorized by the circumstances of the case to advocate so large an outlay as Rupees 1,900, on the part of Government, when so many works of far greater necessity required funds and attention. Against this decision of the late Collector, Petitioners now address Government.

3. I should have been inclined to stand by the late Collector's decisions had not the matter now assumed a new and different phase. The disputants have come to an amicable arrangement, to the following effect : that the cross bank and channel may be constructed as advocated by Colonel Moberly, and that the cost thereof

shall be defrayed by the Puliencolum villagers, to be repaid to them by Gover ment from the assessment on the excess cultivation in their Ayacut caused by th improvement to their reservoir. This seems a fair and sensible proposition, t Ayacut under Puliencolum tank is seed cottahs 62, whereas the highest year's cu vation only touched 54 seed cottahs. This year's cultivation was only 44 se cottahs. The Puliencolum Petitioners however say they will, after the contemplat improvements, cultivate all the remaining Nunjah and also a portion of availa Poonjah, these two items then yielding annually Rupees 400 to the State. Th Petitioners will be reimbursed in five years.

4. Moreover, Colonel Moberly's plan of increasing the capacity of these rese voirs without extending their superficial area, seems not only so natural, but wi also prove so useful in numerous instances where similar disputes exist, that I would strongly advocate the measure being carried out, if it were even only as an experiment. I presume there would be some difficulty in procuring the requisite funds, as no provision has been any where made for this work, so that should Government think proper the offer made by the Puliencolum tank villagers might be accepted, and interest allowed them for the sums they have thus advanced; it must not be excessive or they would be content therewith, and not care about increasing their Ayacut tillage and thereby redeeming their principal.

5. I regret the delay which has occurred, but the matter only came before m on the 1st instant, several references, some of them apparently fruitless, to various Departments caused the delay in this Office before I took charge.

Herewith returned.

6. With regard to Thavooammal's Petition No. 1,082* of 1864, I have only to say that the litigants have come to an amicable arrangement regarding the family affairs which form the subject of this address.

Report on Petition from Aghilandum Pillay, son of Ramasoobramania Pillay, Mirasidar of Puliencolum, received with Endorsement from Government, No. 183, dated 17th February 1864, No. 2,044.

1 Endorsement with 3 enclosures.
1 Copy of letter.
1 Plan.

1. It appears that the people of Puliencolum have been in the custom of submerging a considerable surface of land belonging to Covilammapoorum; this is a very common proceeding in the Tinnevelly District, where the slope of the ground is very slight, but it is a fruitful cause of quarrel as a very little rise in the water beyond the proper height floods a considerable area; and it is very difficult to discover the rise

2. It appears that the Puliencolum people lengthened their tank bund in 1850, and thereby submerged 13 cottahs of land. Captain Horsley, the Civil Engineer *(whose letter I enclose copy of) settled that this bank must be removed, as the Puliencolum people had a right to submerge only three cottahs.*

3. In the course of time it appears to have occurred to some Officer of the Department (I regret that I cannot find to whom the credit is due) that by careful embanking and draining, people might be allowed to fill their tanks to their utmost capacity, without swamping a yard of th neighbour's land, and several works of this nature have been executed, *e. g.*, at Ellandragoonda Streevilipoothoor Táluq.

4. The accompanying plan will show how simply this is effected in the case in question; Puliencolum people have given up a portion of their land to allow for a bank, the earth for w is to be excavated from a continuous line of pits at the extreme upper end of their ground which the paddy fields of Covilammapoorum will be drained round the tank, and its calingulah the surplus channel below the latter work.

5. I found the plans, &c., prepared before I joined the Division, and completely concur with Major Paxton in the advisability of thus settling a very old standing quarrel by a work w would remunerate Government as well as the Ryots I forwarded the plans, &c., to the Collector whom the subject had been in December 1862, referred to this Department for settlement.

6. The Collector declined to countersign the estimates on the grounds that the matter been finally decided in 1855 by his predecessor Mr. Bird, and Captain Horsley, and that he not consider it as important as other works.

7. I have not been favored by Mr. Silver with any report as to these works, but under the circumstances did not consider it my duty to take any further steps in the matter.

8. If the work be not executed, there will be always ground for dispute as to the area of land flooded, valuable water will be allowed to run to waste, and the cultivation of Puliencolum will be diminished.

9. I cannot suppose that the Government would wish to bind their Officers by such a paper as Captain Horsley's letter of 1854, which attempts no engineering remedy to an acknowledged evil.

(Signed) F. J. MOBERLY, Captain, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

MADURA,
4th March 1864.

Kulpatty bridge.

97. MALABAR.—Kulpatty bridge.

No. 223. ORDER THEREON, 10th July 1865, No. 1,937.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 30.

1. This letter contains a narrative of a dispute which has for some years past been waged between the villagers of Pensondravalli and Puliencolum in the Tinnevelly District, the latter having complained of their lands having been swamped by the former by an unauthorized extension of their tank bund and the raising of their calingulah. The matter was duly investigated by Captain Horsley, when Civil Engineer of the 8th Division, and Mr. Bird, then Collector, who decided that the height of the bund and calingulah should be reduced. This arrangement was carried into effect, and the Puliencolum villagers have since reiterated their complaints of the insufficiency of the water for the crops, and have requested that a cross-bank and channel such as that advocated by Captain Moberly in a report, dated 4th March 1864, might be sanctioned. This proposal was at first objected to by the Pensondravalli villagers, but as they have since withdrawn their demurrer, the Collector in his letter above recorded suggests that the proposed works, which it is observed are estimated to cost Rs. 1,900, may be carried out, the cost being defrayed by the Puliencolum villagers and reimbursed to them, with a moderate interest, from the assessment on the exess cultivation which is expected from the improvement of their means of storing water.

2. The Government authorize the acceptance of the offer of the Puliencolum villagers on the terms proposed, and the Acting Collector will state what he considers to be a fair amount of interest for the money expended by the villagers.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" Acting Collector of Tinnevelly.
" Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

24-4-94

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Pro: of Govt for July.
Nr. 1882.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in
the P. W. Dept.

P. Bd of Rev dy 20 July 65
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Dated 10th July
Received 11th July 1865.

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for the money so furnish
by the villagers-

No. 255 & 256

No 1698 15th July

With an order