M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3318	Press ~~Mis.~~
103-104	
Dated 10-12— 1866.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

G.O. No. 3318

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
***10th December* 1866.**

No. 103. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Communicating letter from Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, reporting that it is too late in the season to try the experiment to ascertain the quantity of water required to mature a rice crop. } (Here enter 4th December 1866, No. 3,847.)

No. 104. ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1866, No. 3,318.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 3,847.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 52. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 27th November 1866, No. 1,029 :—

1. With reference to G. O. No. 3,526, of the 5th November, I have the honor to inform you that it is too late in the season to try the experiment to ascertain the quantity of water required to mature a rice crop.

2. I explained in letter No. 967, dated 5th September 1865, the difficulties which would attend the experiment in a district watered as Tanjore is, and proposed that Captain Hasted should undertake the experiment in his own compound. He has since given up the house he then occupied, and as I am convinced that the experiment cannot be undertaken in this division with a shadow of a chance of obtaining correct data, it would be inexpedient to make any outlay in the attempt.

G. O. No. 2,697, dated 14th September.

3. In connexion with the experiment relative to the quantity of water required to bring a rice crop to maturity, the two following points appear to me to be worthy of consideration:—

First.—That in cases in which large areas are irrigated, as in the Delta districts, where it is impossible to supply manure artificially for the lands, the out-turn of the crops is due, in a great degree, to the alluvium deposited on the lands. When the rivers are in flood, water, rich with deposit, is allowed to flow on to the irrigated lands, and is confined by the field banks till the deposit has settled, when the clear water is allowed to flow off by the surplus, and a fresh supply of river water is admitted, this is done perhaps eight or ten times during a season. Were the quantity of water actually required to bring a crop to maturity only permitted to pass into the fields, they would be in a great measure deprived of the natural manure they now receive, and the out-turn would be far inferior to what it now is. As a rule, in cases of artificial irrigation, the natural manure would be reduced to a minimum if the water in the channels were maintained at a fixed level or head, and the sluices were capable of discharging only the quantity of water actually required to bring the crops to maturity. In such cases artificial manuring would be absolutely necessary, or the land would soon become impoverished, and the out-turn would be very small. Where large tracts, therefore, are to be irrigated, and where artificial manuring is impossible at times at which the supply of water is abundant, means should be devised to allow as large a quantity of water as possible to pass into the fields. And

Second.—This would probably obviate the effects of allowing small quantities of water to stagnate, and to become absorbed by the soil over large areas. There is little doubt that the unhealthiness of the plains of Lombardy, where rice is grown, is due to the stagnation of the water in the fields, while the healthiness of the Delta districts is probably due to the fact that water is flowing over the country, and is in constant motion. The restriction, therefore, of the water supply to the actual requirements of the rice crops over large areas of country is, I am of opinion, fraught with danger.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 4th December 1866.

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, 4th December 1866, No. 3,847.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 10.

Communicated to the Revenue Department, with reference to the Orders in that Department No. 2,945, under date the 31st October 1866.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.
" Consulting Engineer Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

Pro 31 Oct 66 No 717 718
14 Nov " " 321 322

Revenue 1866 Oct part
Pro of Govt for December
No. 4360.

Proceedings in the
P. W. Oct part —

Dated 4th } Decemr
Received 6th } 1866.

No. 3847.

No. 3318.

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue.

[illegible]
10th Decemr /66.

Communicating
letter from Supt Engr 6th
divn reporting that it
is too late in the sea-
son to try the Experi-
ment to ascertain the
quantity of water re-
quired to mature a
rice crop. —

No. 3318. 10 Decr

With an order

14 Copies Lathe Bd of Revl with Pro Pr @ No 3847 Despd 10 Decr

A. 103 & 104