M.R.O. 14 - 5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1295	Press ~~Mis.~~
L33-34 Dated	11 — 5 — 1868.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th May 1868.

No. 233. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Communicating to Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, and to Captain J. G. Ryves, R. E., Despatch from Home Government regarding the proposals for conveying the waters of the Periar river to the low lands of Madura. } (Here enter 6th May 1868, No. 1,416.)

No. 234. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1868, No. 1,295.

Irrigation, No. 7. Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 1,416.

Ex. S. T. Augustin.

No. 135. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, (Public Works,) to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 26th March 1868, No. 8 :—

1. I have received your Despatch, No. 3, of 10th January last, with the enclosed report by Captain Ryves, containing a sketch of the operations he proposes for conveying the waters of the Perriar river to the low lands of Madura.

2. The Perriar Project is one of great interest and importance, and Captain Ryves' conduct of the preliminary investigations connected with it may be accepted as a pledge of his fitness to superintend the more detailed examination, which must necessarily take place before sufficiently reliable plans and estimates can be prepared to allow of a proper judgment being formed of the merits of a scheme of such magnitude and acknowledged difficulty. You state, however, that no Engineers are available to assist in the prosecution of the necessary surveys, and you earnestly request that some efficient Royal Engineer Officers may be sent out at an early period, adding that the young Civil Engineers lately provided from this country cannot for a considerable time be qualified to undertake important survey operations.

3. The enclosure to my Despatch, No. 6, of the 19th instant, will have informed you of the difficulties with which the question of increasing the number of Royal Engineer Officers in India is surrounded, and of the efforts that are being made in this country to overcome them. You will also have learnt that no arrangements that can be adopted are likely to have much immediate effect, and it should be borne in mind that young subaltern Officers, of whom alone any augmentation of the strength of the present Indian Establishment of Royal Engineers must consist, would not, on their first arrival in India, be better qualified for field duties than the young Civil Engineers lately sent out to your Presidency.

4. As a temporary expedient, and with a view more especially to emergent survey work, recourse might perhaps be had by your Government to a plan which, at Colonel Strachey's suggestion, has lately been adopted in the Punjab. A few qualified persons might be engaged as surveyors for a limited period, preference being given to Military Officers belonging to the Staff Corps or the local service, but Civilians, possessing the requisite qualifications, being likewise eligible.

5. In the Punjab, the period of service is understood to be limited, in the first instance, to one year, selected candidates being engaged, some as Executive Engineers of the fourth class, and others as Assistants, and all being regarded as outsiders to the regular Public Works Department.

6. I conclude that you have taken measures to obtain the consent of the Travancore Government to the prosecution of the Perriar Project.

No. 136. ORDER THEREON, 6th May 1868, No. 1,416.

IRRIGATION, No. 10.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division and to Captain J. G. Ryves, R. E.

2. The Government have not lost sight of the project referred to, and they will take the earliest possible opportunity of selecting a sufficient staff of Officers

for employment under Captain Ryves' direction for the prosecution of the further investigations which are required to enable him to place the scheme in a complete and reliable form before Government, accompanied with full plans and estimates.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
To Captain J. G. Ryves, R. E.
To the Revenue Department.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue 1868 No 14
Rec. of Govt for May
No. 1532.

Proceedings of the
Govt of N.W. Provs

No 1295.

Dated 6th 23d May.
Received 8th 1868.
No. 1416.

Comm[ittee] of
Revenue

Marys 18 May
Conseny 6 Supp
Rec[eive]d 8 Do & 6 Copies
J. G. Ryves R.E
dispatch from Home
Govt. regarding the
proposals for conveying
the waters of the Sirsa
river to the lowlands
of Hissar and
Rohtuck Rides

14 Copies to the Bd of Revenue with Govt Do No 1416 Dated 12th.

No 283 & 294
233—234