

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 218

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

27-1-1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th January 1868.*

No. 438. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th December 1867, No. 8,216.

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Punrooty, 31st October 1867, No. 188 :—

1. Referring to my letter of the 22nd August last, No. 218, recorded in the Board's Proceedings of the 12th September, No. 5,861, I have the honor to state that the meeting, appointed to take place as therein reported, was duly held at the village of Dadapuram, within the limits of which the Vicravandy channel has its head; but in the absence of Colonel Foord, it was found impossible to arrive at any final result on the questions of difference which have arisen in connection with the recent works of improvement carried out by the French Government on plans and estimates approved and sanctioned by the Government of Madras, at the instance of the Superintending Engineer of the division.

2. I do not propose here to enter into any elaborate discussion of the points in issue between the Engineers of the respective Governments; they involve so entirely questions of engineering science, that it is neither in my power, nor within my province, to pronounce an opinion towards their solution, which, I conceive, must be left to Colonel Foord in communication with the French Engineers, who projected and carried out the works in strict conformity, it is contended, with the plans and designs approved of on our side.

3. There is not the least desire, on the part of the French Government, to over-reach us, or to take permanent advantage of any immediate results beneficial to themselves, and they make no claims, and assert no pretensions, to aught else, than their originally conceded and recognized rights.

4. The Vicravandy channel was constructed in 1854-55, at the instance of the English Government, and for the benefit of the agricultural interests of both territories, and it was agreed upon

Extract Minutes Consultation, *vide* No. 978,
dated 19th August 1854.

by the two Governments, that the cost should be borne in the proportion of two-thirds English, and one-third French, the like proportion of water being the allotted share to be enjoyed by our respective ryots. The plan and construction of the work was left entirely to us, and the French never interfered, expressing their perfect confidence that their rights and claims would be faithfully enforced.

5. But almost ever since the completion of the works in 1855, the supply of water to the French tanks down the main channel, has not been what it was anticipated, or what the French considered they were entitled to; and the disappointment has been the subject of frequent complaint for many consecutive years, during which, the French Government have frequently urged their claims in view to remedy, and at length, under the authority of Government, (*vide* Proceedings, 26th October 1865, No. 3,230,) their proposals for altering the level of the channel, and for other improvements, were finally accepted and approved by the Superintending Engineer, who submitted the same, with all the plans and estimates, together with his report; and these several papers will be found recorded in the Government Proceedings, Public Works Department, under date the 6th August 1866, with the Orders of the same date, No. 2,464.

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6. From the above papers, and from the Minutes of Consultation, No. 975 under date 19th August 1854, already quoted in paragraph 4, Government will be sufficiently in possession of the history of this channel, and of the French and English rights in connection with it; and I have thought it better to leave to the Superintending Engineer to explain the circumstances under which there has resulted an apparent damage to English interests, by the recent works projected and carried out on plans approved by Colonel Foord himself, and which, though primarily to benefit French interests, were, of course, never intended to injure our own.

7. There is nothing, I believe, which may not be settled after Colonel Foord's arrival, though possibly not without some difficulty and discussion. The French desire that we should await the result of the present monsoon; but, of late years, seasons have so varied, that a single season might not, after all, afford any certain test of the effect of the new works on our interests, that is, on the cultivation which is dependent on English tanks fed by the Vicravandy channel; and, therefore, it is, I think, desirable that there should be no delay in coming to some definite decision on the points of difference which are mainly two; namely, how far, or to what extent, the works completed are really prejudicial to English interests; and, secondly, what is to be the remedy. When these two points are determined, there will then remain the question of the distribution of water. The proportion of that distribution is not in dispute, having from the first been agreed upon; but how to regulate or apportion it is the difficulty; and thus, until further conference between the Engineers on the spot, nothing can be done to place matters on a permanent and satisfactory footing.

8. I have had several discussions with His Excellency the Governor, and with the French Engineers, and have gone over the whole question with maps and plans, &c.; but I found it impossible to accept any of their propositions in solution of the differences, in the absence of Colonel Foord, with whom it must rest to come to an amicable understanding, both as to the cause of the supposed damage resulting to us by the new works, and as to the proper remedy; and, of course, if our respective Engineers fail to agree on these points, even after mutual concessions, there will be no alternative than for the two Governments to nominate a sort of Commission, or Convention, for its final settlement, and likewise for the settlement of the question of the distribution of water; and the decision of such Commission, should, I presume, be accepted as binding on both Governments.

9. I have purposely abstained from entering on the merits of the points of difference existing between the Engineers, because I have felt it better that they should be laid before Government, if necessary, by the Superintending Engineer himself; but I am, of course, acquainted with the question in all its bearings, and though *prima facie* simple enough, and confined within a small compass, its consideration really involves many points of engineering difficulty, and delicacy, on which my opinion will be little worth, and to which scientific calculations and knowledge must be brought; and I am still sanguine that the Engineer Officers of the two Governments may be able, in formal conference, (aided if they please by myself,) to arrive at an amicable and satisfactory settlement.

10. I enclose, for the information of the Board and Government, copy of my last letter to the Governor of Pondicherry, with translation of His Excellency's

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reply, and the matter at present stands, as therein disclosed, pending the arrival of Colonel Foord, when I trust that a recourse to any formal Commission may be avoided. Colonel Foord is now on his way to South Arcot, and I will duly report the result of any further steps that may be taken in the matter, should the Board and Government desire my further interference after Colonel Foord's arrival.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Special Agent, to His Excellency the Acting Governor of the French Establishments in India, dated Camp at Pondicherry, 7th October 1867, No. 175.

1. Your Excellency will have heard, from the French Engineers, of the barren result of the conference in the matter of the Vicravandy channel, regarding which so much correspondence has passed between us.

2. In the absence of the English Chief Engineer, Colonel Foord, who conceded the construction of the new works by the French Government, and who is, consequently, *au fait* with all details, and had approved of the plan of operations designed by Mr. Lamaisse, it is impossible to come to any definite settlement of the difficulties that have presented themselves since the completion of the new works.

3. At present, there would seem no reason to doubt that the project of improving the main channel has been carried out in strict conformity with the details laid down and improved by Colonel Foord; but the actual results appear to differ considerably from those anticipated, and while the object of the French Government has been fully attained, English interests, it is believed, have suffered damage.

4. Your Excellency is so well acquainted with the whole question connected with the Vicravandy channel, that it is unnecessary for me here to take any retrospect of its past history, or of the steps anterior to the recent works projected for its improvement. It would appear only requisite now to place beyond doubt the exact position of affairs in regard to these works, because, assuming that both Governments have acted in perfect good faith, and that the French have merely aimed to secure to themselves such proportionate results as they were entitled to, and which the English Government was as anxious to concede agreeably to the original arrangement when the channel was first undertaken, it is clear that if through any oversight on our part, or misapprehension of the detailed estimates, there has resulted any undue advantage to the French, to the prejudice of the English, your Excellency's Government would be the first to correct the error, so that, while the French remained gainers, the English should not be sufferers by concessions granted in the interest of French subjects.

5. I submit to your Excellency the accompanying paper, containing, in a concise form, certain articles which, in my belief, embody the only real points requiring final settlement, in order to put an end to all hereafter disputes between our respective people. These points are two, and both equally important; first, supposing from whatever cause that English interests have suffered by the recent works, what is the best means of correcting or remedying such injury? and, secondly, in what way is the water flowing down the main channel to be distributed in the proportion of two-thirds English, and one-third French?

6. The proportion of water to be enjoyed by each Government is not a disputed point, but the mode of regulating that proportion is the question for settlement; and your Excellency will probably agree with me, that only in some way such as I have suggested in the enclosed paper, can either or both of these two points receive any satisfactory solution; and, therefore, it is that, setting aside the past and confining our inquiry to the ascertainment of actual results, I propose that our Governments deal only with the results themselves, so as to place the question of the future distribution of the water-supply to our respective ryots, on a permanent and satisfactory basis for all time to come.

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Memorandum.

My proposals are—

1st.—That the recent works of the French Engineers in the Viceravandy main channel should be scientifically tested in presence of the Engineers of both Governments, in view to ascertain whether they are, or are not, constructed in strict conformity with the plans and estimates submitted by Monsieur Lamairesse to Colonel Foord, and subsequently approved by the latter Officer in 1866, and finally sanctioned by the Madras Government.

2ndly.—That a Memorandum be drawn up, after such examination, to be signed by the Engineers, both English and French, shewing wherein in any particular the works completed differ from the works projected, and if no such difference exists, the memorandum to certify to that effect.

NOTE.—The main points for observation will be, the present level of the main channel and its slope, as compared with the level and slope agreed upon between Colonel Foord and Monsieur Lamairesse, agreeably to the plans and estimates prepared and submitted by the latter Officer.

3rdly.—That, if there be found any departure or deviation from the plans and estimates as agreed to by Colonel Foord, and their nature and extent to be minutely particularized with their consequent effect, and that such departures or deviations be explained, and the same be remedied wholly at the cost of the French Government.

4thly.—Supposing the works to have been executed in strict conformity with the plans and estimates assented to by Colonel Foord, although detrimental to English interests, the French Government to be exonerated from all responsibility for the results, and any such responsibility to rest entirely with the English authorities, and the cost of effecting the needed corrections in the works to be borne by the English Government.

5thly.—That, from whatever cause arising, if, on examination and scientific testing of the works, the results are found to be injurious to English interests by reducing the supply of water to which the English tanks are entitled, then the Engineers of the two Governments to devise and agree upon such means as shall adequately provide against the continuance of any such injury, in view to fully secure hereafter to the English ryots all the water they are entitled to agreeably to the original agreement. In the event of failure on the part of the Engineers to come to a definite settlement on this point, then a third Officer, Civil or Engineer, to be mutually agreed upon by both Governments to be appointed to determine the question. The majority to decide.

6thly.—That, in the absence of any previous written instrument, or agreement, defining the precise mode of distributing the water, that this important question be at once definitely fixed and determined, either by mutual agreement of the Engineers of both Governments, or by a special Committee to consist of one or not more than two Officers on either side, with a President, to be mutually nominated. The majority to decide.

7thly.—That, the tanks to be supplied with water from the main channel through branch channels, whether English or French, be no others than those originally contemplated and included when the project of constructing the main channel was first undertaken.

1 Overseer, at 35 Rupees.
4 Vettians, at 5 Rupees each.
1 Peon, at 6 Rupees.

8thly.—That an establishment, as noted marginally, or any other to be fixed by the Engineers of the two Governments, be entertained, throughout the year, for the due care of the channel and works, and for seeing that there is no deviation from the rules mutually to be agreed upon for the distribution of water. Such establishment to be paid by the respective Governments in the proportion of two-thirds English, and one-third French, or in any other way that may be determined on.

9thly.—That in the event of their being any difficulty in carrying out any of the foregoing articles by the local officers of the respective Governments as therein provided for, then that a special Committee of Officers be appointed, to consist of not less than five persons, two to be nominated by each Government, and the fifth or President to be mutually agreed upon.

10thly.—That the two Governments bind themselves to accept and abide by the decision of the majority appointed under the foregoing article.

PONDICHERRY,
7th October 1867.

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Collector and Special Agent.

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From the Acting Governor of Pondicherry, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated 15th October 1867.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, relative to the works executed at the Viceravandy channel.

2. I can easily conceive the desire manifested by you, to submit, for the inspection of Colonel Foord, the recent works executed by the agents of my Government, in conformity with the project approved by the English Engineers, and which had been since sanctioned by the Madras Government. But if the examination now suggested shews any deviation from the project, I am quite willing to remedy any defect in the said works; and it would be impossible for me, as I had the honor to tell you personally, to cause the interference of our Engineers in the proposed conference with Colonel Foord, for reasons that a Commission, in concurrence with Mr. Harrington, have already duly examined and attested that the works were executed in perfect conformity with the plans and estimate; excepting a remark made by Mr. Harrington that an error has been committed in the translation of the estimate, regarding the dimension of the dams. If, however, Colonel Foord desires to have any information, while inspecting the works in question, I shall be glad to depute the agent who was in charge of the execution of the works, and who will be able to afford every information required by Colonel Foord; and I shall be obliged by your informing me of the arrival of Mr. Foord, so that I may direct the said agent to proceed to the spot.

3. If Mr. Foord, on his way to Viceravandy, desires to see Mr. Carriol, he shall be happy to meet him at Pondicherry.

4. When Colonel Foord shall have examined the works, I agree to your proposal that the Engineers of our respective Governments, devise and agree upon such means regarding the proper distribution of water, and also for the entertainment of an establishment for the due care of the channel, and if there is any difficulty to arrive to a proper settlement on any of these points, then a special Commission can be appointed for a definite solution of the question. I can, of course, assure you that it is not our intention to take advantage of any undue share of water; we shall make every concession to assure the two-thirds of water which the English ryots are entitled to.

5. The spirit of the project of Mr. Lamairesse, consisted to manage, during the small freshes, the access of water into the French and English tanks situated down the main channel, and he has succeeded in this by his system of flood-gates fixed on a level between the main channel and the branch channels of the four English tanks, so that, not a drop of water will flow into the main channel, when the height of the shutters is attained, and no water will run over the dams. It is just that each tank should absorb a certain quantity of water, and this has actually occurred, as you might have seen, during the freshes in September last, and, in maintaining this system, we can secure the proper share of water to the English ryots.

If it be shewn that the English tanks do not receive a sufficient supply of water, the shutters can be raised, but there must be an opening to let the water flow to the tanks situated below the dams.

The method to be adopted should be as follows:—

1st.—To repair the calingulah, which now discharges a large quantity of water to the benefit of the English ryots, this alteration will secure all the water flowing to the main channel during the small freshes.

2nd.—The clearing of the English branch channels, so as to facilitate the flow of water into the tanks.

3rd.—The construction of sluices, if necessary, to retain water in the English channels. These preliminary works, which are intended to determine the quantity of water absorbed by the English channels being terminated, it would then be easy to measure by the help of some repeated experiment—

1st.—What is the quantity of water coming into the main channel?

2nd.—What is the quantity running over the second dam?

3rd.—What is then the quantity remaining in the four English tanks?

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4th.—What is the quantity to be supplied to the English channels below the dam in securing one-third of our share to be supplied to the six tanks admitted in the first project, (two tanks at Coonichanpet, one at Yircanoor, one at Chettypet, one at Kykalapet, and one at Codatoor.) It would be very easy to determine upon these several points after some experiment made in concurrence by our respective agents.

Supposing, for instance, that the main channel receives M. 4 C. 500 of water per second to a determined height, and that M. 2 run down to the second dam, so the difference retained by the English tanks will be M. 2, C. 500.

As we are entitled to one-third out of M. 4, C. 500, we will have to give a 500 to the English tanks below the channel, and the remaining portion belongs to us.

The English branch channels will be supplied as follows:—

Tanks en amount...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	500
Do. en aval ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	500

Equal to two-thirds of M. 4, C. 500 ... 3 000

As stated above, if the tanks on the upper part do not receive a sufficient quantity of water, then the dams should be raised. It would be necessary that the entrance of each tank be constructed in masonry work, so that the ryots may not attempt to enlarge or deepen the channels. Within a few months, perhaps, the result will prove to be satisfactory on every point, whereas we have been prevented from getting our proper share of water for the last ten or twelve years, for want of proper improvement to the channel. A more prolonged experiment will, no doubt, prove that the main channel now receives a sufficient quantity of water so as to fill up, at the same time, both the English and French tanks, when the freshes are abundant.

If your Government agree with what I have stated above, it would be very easy for our Engineers to come to a definite settlement, on their proposed conference, otherwise a special Commission must be appointed, as proposed by you, to come to a definite settlement.

1. Submitted to Government, with reference to their Order, under date 7th August 1867, No. 1,826.

2. Mr. Reade's further report will be forwarded, with the Board's remarks, when received.

No. 439. ORDER THEREON, 27th January 1868, No. 218.

Irrigation, No. 11.

Communicated to the Department
of Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proy. Aug. 1867 No. 141-142
16 Sept. 290-291
21-12-74

Madras
Secretary.
8-218.
Comment 27th Sept 1868.
27-12-68

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ the Collector of South Arcot.
Exd. J. Wright.
No. 1387439
Collect paper

21 Copies to the Mr. Reade Despatch
14
20 of Rev. S.

Rev. 1868.
1867.
Pro. of Govt. for South Arcot
No. 96

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 20th December 1867.
Despatch 11 Jan. 1868.
Rev. 13
Pro. of the Board of Revenue
28 Sept 1868 No. 216

No. 8,216.

Submitting to Government letter from Collector of South Arcot reporting result of meeting with Chief Engineer of Pondicherry for settlement of the question relating to alterations to Vicravaudy anicut and channels.
218. 27 Jan