M.R.O. 1—80,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1816 Press Mis.

270-272

Dated 12 th May 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 270. From Major A. S. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 16th April 1869, No. 183.

With reference to G. O., No. 477, of 13th February 1869, I have the honor to submit the report therein called for, and at the same time beg to inform that want of rain has been the chief cause of the bad state of the Khadri Talook, in the Cuddapah District.

WORK OF IRRIGATION.

Mootial Cheroovoo Tank.—This tank has always been a source of great anxiety, and it has been repeatedly breached. At one time it used to receive a very large supply of water; the village was then of greater extent, and a good deal of wet cultivation was carried on under it. It would seem that the breach first began by a small leak which gradually increased in size, and that the bund was not carried away bodily by the shear pressure of the water against it. The last breached portion, which has been repaired, stood last year's rain which was of no very great quantity. It is exceedingly narrow at the top, and its strength so doubtful that my predecessor deemed it advisable to pull down the calingulah, and thus lowering it some feet to lessen the capacity of the tank; but even with this diminished water-supply, not a drop of water was discharged over it. Two tanks at some period or another have been built off to the right, both of which cut off the water-supply. One of them is breached in two places, and of course sanction for its repair will not be accorded: the bund of the other seems strong enough to resist anything that is likely to be brought to bear against it. This tank has been breached more than once, and each time in a different place, leading the superstitious natives to suppose that there was an especial fate against its being restored to its prestime usefulness. Last year the sluice leaked, and no sooner had the damaged portion been laid open and materials collected for its repair, than a sudden shower brought in a large supply of water. It was only with the greatest exertion possible that the repair was temporarily effected with chopped straw and mud; but this has answered very well, and no leak has appeared this year. A very great difficulty has always been experienced in obtaining earth for the repair of this tank. Hitherto it has been taken from the upper portion of the right of the bund which was very strong, but it is not advisable to remove any more. The silt might be utilised and mixed with other earth which will have to be brought from some distance, and so the bund be strengthened. As I have observed in several tanks, the breaches occurred where the surface-soil was rocky. I have, therefore, been led to think that foundations were not dug, and that by the disintegration of the rocks a small hole has been left through which the water found its way. I think to add further to the security of this tank a masonry wall might be built in front of the toe of the bund where it has been recently repaired with a good slope, and the space behind filled up with concrete masonry. In front of the tank bushes might be planted perpendicular to the course of the water-shed, with intervals of, say, 100 feet between. This ought to stop a portion of the silt which now goes into the tank. By these means these waste spots might thus be converted into fruitful fields: much in fact in the same way as nature forms the lunkahs in the Godavery. This observation applies generally to all the other tanks.

Obuldavaru Cheroovoo.—This tank has evidently been breached but not repaired to its original strength. The quantity of silt in this tank is very great, and its calingulah of very large capacity; and it has also a natural one at its western extremity. It was on a suggestion of mine to the late Acting Collector, Mr. Molony, that an advertisement was put into the Local Gazette, granting permission—in fact recommending the ryots to make use of the rich silt deposited in the various tanks as a manure for their fields; but I regret to say no one seems to avail themselves of the gift thus lavishly placed at their disposal by nature. This silt might, however, be removed, and after being mixed with sand be used to strengthen the weakest portion of the bund, and the calin-

gulah then raised at least two feet. This tank is amply provided with sluices, and the top breadth of the bund is very great. Most of the lands that lie under it are high level ones; so that unless the tank receives a full supply of water, they cannot be brought even under dry cultivation.

The quantity of water it received last year was very little, and it was distressing to see the very little cultivation that the villagers had been able to carry out under a tank that promised so well.

Putnam.—This channel leading to this tank had been repaired before I took charge. The area of the tank is very great, but, from the conformation of the ground, the mean depth is very little, and thus a very large surface is always exposed to evaporation. The anicut across the river should be raised. As it stands at present, there may only be one "freshy;" the greater portion of the rush of water would escape over it, and be thus lost to the tank. Meanwhile, an estimate is being prepared for the removal of the silt in front of the anicut and calingulahs of the feeder of the tank. This tank, if it receives a really good supply of water, can irrigate some high lands near Lacka Samoodrum.

Dannain Cheroovoo.—This tank is to that portion of the district what Chinnatippa Samoodram is to Voilpaud. If any rain falls, it is sure to receive it. At the time of my inspection, it had three months' supply of water in it, chiefly, I imagine, caused by the heavy hail-storm that fell in the neighbourhood of Sanakal. No repairs to the sluice of this tank can consequently be made this year.

Gandlapentah.—This large tank was breached some years ago, and the villagers informed me that the late Acting Sub-Collector, Mr. Roberts, had promised last year to have it repaired, but no requisition to this effect was sent to this department, neither had the Tahsildar received a petition. An estimate has now been ordered for its restoration.

Poolicoontah.—This small tank was thoroughly and effectually repaired at the request of the late Mr. Molony. The basin of the tank is small, and no attempt (for it would have been simply waste of money) was made to open out the sluice. Like all old breached tanks (this was breached some sixty years ago) that I have seen, very large accumulation of silt have taken place, far more than in sound tanks whose sluices have been kept in working order. The chief use of the tank is as a reservoir. There is a large well immediately behind it; several wells all around; the first alone would drain it dry, and all the others help. However, the water that comes into it instead of scattering itself over the face of the country, was retained and assisted in giving a good supply to those wells: the immediate result has been that whereas last year hardly a sign of vegetation was visible, now there is hardly a bare spot, and with the exception of Nul Cheroovoo I have not seen such fine crops of paddy.

Peddahully.—The scheme of repairing this tank, which was entrusted to the contractors last year on their estimate of Rupees 4,000, is in progress. There are two tanks, one in front of each other; the former of which was filled by a channel from the river, and its surplus water retained by the tank in the lower level. The former is breached in two places, and apparently this increased rush of water carried away the lower one. The lower one is the one that will be repaired; both tanks gave way where the bund rested on rocks, and both are now very small owing to vast deposits of silt. Taking advantage of a spot between the hills where the river narrows itself, an anicut has been thrown across the gap, and the recent fall of rain has been dammed up to the extent of about one-and-a-half miles higher up; the water was rushing down at a rapid velocity. I fancy the fall must be about two per mile. As soon as the channel has been dug out to its full extent—it is of some depth, and the labor expended is great,—the stream will be led into the tank, and water thus provided for tamping the earthen repairs to the bund of the tank. Those interested in the work, told me that they expected to bring 100 acres under cultivation. Before this can be done, however, all the jungle has to be cleared away.

Kokunty.—The tanks in this neighbourhood call for no particular remark. Their supply cannot be increased, they being situated well above the river. Strange to say, however, they are only now gathering in their first wet crops; first crops having been dry ones. Each side of the river and the fields on either side of the road are a sheet of green.

Bala Samoodrum.—The tanks in this neighbourhood are filled chiefly from the river, when I inspected them the channels were working well and freely, and nothing to improve them can be done. The petty repairs that these and other tanks require will be taken in hand, and estimate furnished as soon as possible.

Allumpoor.—This small tank always fills; its surplus water is caught by three successive tanks at lower levels. I expect a large supply will come into it this year, as the ditches and catch-drains prevent the water spreading over a large surface. If any waste of water does this year take place, the bund of this tank will have to be raised.

This point will be carefully watched.

Malakavemla.—From Malakavemla to Obuldavaru Cheroovoo it was mournful to see the numbers of tanks that were breached, all proving that this unhappy talook at one time did receive a copious supply. The same spirit of private enterprise that led to the formation of these tanks originally will again come forward if any gleam of probable success shows itself.

Kundakur, Peddatippa Samoodrum, and Runga Samoodrum.—The first of these tanks is the largest one in the talook, and for some years a large quantity of water was discharged over the calingulah. A proposition of utilising this surplus water was made by the late Acting Collector Mr. Molony, but it was only recently that any attempt was made to carry out the idea. It is *too late now*, and it is as well that Government has not been put to the expense, which would have been about a lac-and-a-half of Rupees, of cutting the channel connecting all these tanks together. The Mysore Government are forming a large tank which will cut off a main feeder of the Peddatippa Samoodrum. The present Acting Sub-Collector wrote to the Deputy Commissioner who admits that a large tank is being built, but will write again: here the matter rests for the present. The Tahsildar also informs me that a large tank has been built in Mysore territory, cutting off a source of supply of the Kundakur tank on whose supply of surplus water the whole success of the scheme dependod. This, if true, is sufficient to account for no water having of late years been discharged over the Kundakur calingulah. I am told that Kundakur is or rather was fed by two streams: across one years ago a tank had been formed, and more recently the second stream has been shut off. These tanks are reported to be thirty miles away, so I have not inspected them in person. But as the information given me regarding the Peddatippa Samoodrum was correct, I feel I can also depend upon this. This project does not, strictly speaking, belong to the Kadry Talook, but its success would have materially affected its well-being and prosperity; and this must be my apology for introducing it.

(Signed) G. J. F. BEGBIE, Captain,
Executive Engineer in charge
Madanapully Range.

COMMUNICATION.

Poolyvendla Road.—This road connecting the road of Bellary with Poolyvendla is a most important line of communication. Its descent down the ghaut has been commenced. Once through the ghaut it is all plain sailing. Some little delay occurred in carrying on the works, as the Tahsildar of Khadry would not pay for work done in the Poolyvendla Talook, and the Tahsildar of Poolyvendla had received no authority to spend any money. The Acting Collector, however, promptly remedied this.

Mootial Cheroovoo road.—The extra grant of Rupees 5,000 enabled this road to be made to a mile beyond Obuldavaru Cheroovoo: culverts, road-dams, and a small portion of metalling still requires to be done. If the chief object of the road is to connect the Bellary road with Hindoopoor, a better line would have been found by keeping to the right of the stream, and not going through Obuldavaru Cheroovoo. The present line unavoidably crosses several streams that in the rains come rushing down the distant hills.

Bala Samoodrum.—This is an entirely a new road starting from Poolyvendla and joining in at the 32nd mile of the Bellary road just above Bala Samoodram. This road requires side channels and catch-drains nearly its whole length. About three miles require metalling, and several road-dams and

culverts are required. Its entire length is twenty miles and five furlongs. The traffic on this road will doubtless increase now that facilities for its export are being offered.

The expenditure on this road having been made by the Revenue Department, I am unable to say what it has cost.

Royashotty Road.—The additional grant of Rupees 2,000 enabled this road to be completed to the talook boundary; this year it is proposed to carry it on to the river as a more convenient and natural boundary.

CONCLUSION.

Crowds of laborers poured in as soon as they ascertained that work was provided for them. Much more work would have been done had the tools been forthcoming in the first instance; and although the stores of Veilpaud, Madanapully, and Cuddapah were drained of all their spare tools, more had to be obtained from Madras. Clearly showing that there was distress, and that work could not be obtained in the fields. It was gratifying to see that they were quite willing to do what they could for themselves when Government were prepared to stretch forth a helping hand. Latterly as the market began to improve, the demand for field labor increased and the number of coolies diminished. The road to Bala Samoodrum brought to light; wells filled with grain which the Comities admitted to be between three and four years old; and this, with the extra labor (labor that could not be provided for out of the ordinary grants for repairs) obtained, has, it is to be hoped, given a check to monopoly, and to a certain extent has doubtless relaxed the grasp Comities have hitherto had on the unfortunate coolies. The roads now in progress, and those contemplated, when once made, will, I trust, prevent this talook being the scenes of distress witnessed last year.

(Signed) G. J. F. BEGBIE, Captain,
Executive Engineer in charge Madanapully Range.

CAMPAT CHEKATHANPULLY,
7th April 1869.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department, with reference to the Order in that Department, No. 291, of the 3rd February 1869.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

22nd April 1869.

No. 271. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th April 1869, No. 2,604:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 3rd February 1869, No. 291, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Relief works in Khadri Talook.*—Board of Revenue to submit observations on Major Moberly's remarks, and Department Public Works to supply the information called for relating to them.

THE suggestions and recommendations of the First Member in regard to the communications were made from information gained in the talook of Khadri. A thorough knowledge of the Bellary frontier and the south-eastern parts of Bangalore might suggest improvements. The merchants and grain-carriers in the Khadri Talook and Native and European Officials, cognizant with that part of the district, were consulted, as well as a Public Works Budget Map and a Map of Cuddapah. The object in view was to connect an impoverished part of the country, and one subject to constant failure of rain, and which, from almost a total absence of roads, was quite isolated, and till lately entirely cut off from richer and more favored surrounding parts able to supply its deficiencies, and so to permeate with roads as to render all parts of it accessible in seasons such as that of 1868. Hindoopoor and

Revenue Department

Pro-ceedings of the Revenue Board under date the 12th May 1869

Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, dated 3rd May 1869, submitting for sanction the plan and estimate for the construction of a causeway across the Kadalady channel in the Kolair Lake, in the Kistna District, at a cost of Rs. 18,000.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Kistna, dated 8th April 1869, submitting for sanction, an estimate for the construction of a causeway across the Kadalady channel in the Kolair Lake, at a cost of Rs. 18,000.

Read also the following letter from the Board of Revenue, dated 17th May 1869, No. 291, the Collector of Kistna having submitted an estimate for the construction of a causeway across the Kadalady channel in the Kolair Lake, at a cost of Rs. 18,000.

Major Moberly had been directed in Government Order, dated 26th August 1868, No. 2257, to report upon the Kolair Lake, and to submit a report on the proposal for the relief of the Kadalady channel, which he considered to be the best.

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Transcribed 2 pp
Numbered 4156.

Govt. of {1869} Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 12th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 12th May 1869, No. 1,316.

MAY.

Nos. 270—272.

Relief works in Khadri Talook.—Papers on this subject referred to the Public Works Department for the issue of necessary orders for their repair, etc., and for notice of the unsatisfactory manner in which Major Moberly carried out the orders of Government.

or improvement of the irrigation works of the taluk he had effected only inspected one of the chief works, and had made no general examination of the irrigation works. He was accordingly directed to obtain and supply to Govt the information which had been already called for.

2. Major Moberly now submits a Memorandum from the Range officer, from which it appears that some of the irrigation works of the locality are urgently in need of repair or improvement but on this officer's suggestions & recommendations Major Mobberly makes no comments. The information given by the Range officer as to the quantity of work completed on the [illegible] tanks which

Trace and

which were undertaken for the relief of distress is by no means complete, but the omissions are not stupified by Major Mobberly.

3. The necessary orders in regard to the repair of the irrigation works in question will now be issued in the Public Works Dept, where also the very inefficient and unsatisfactory manner in which Major Mobberly has carried out the orders of Govt will be duly noticed.

4. The second paper recorded above contains the Board's observations on the remarks made by Major Mobberly upon Mr Clarke's suggestions for the improvement of the Kadiri taluk. The Board have called for certain information from the Collector of the District, and they are

recommended that the Supdg Engineer should visit the taluk in company with the Ag Collector, in order to determine certain questions pertaining to the kinds of land and the irrigation works which should be undertaken. The necessary instructions will accordingly be issued to the Supdg Engineer through the Public Works Department.

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