M.R.O. 1—20,000—16-10-39.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

General DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 7 dated 1 Press Mrs.

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th March 1869.*

No. 489. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on papers relative to the utilization, for irrigation purposes, of the waters of the Nambyar and other streams which flow from the Western Ghauts into the sea, to the south of the Tambrapoorney, Tinnevelly District. | (Here enter 10th March 1869, No. 762.)

No. 490. ORDER THEREON, 18th March 1869, No. 751.

Irrigation, No. 11. | Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. W. WELLESLEY,
*Acting Under Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings, Public Works Department, No. 762.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No. 251. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th February 1869, No. 889:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pambali, 25th January 1869, No. 42.

1. I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of the Board and Government, copy of a scheme from the Sub-Collector for improving the water-supply from the Numbyar or Tirukarungudi river.

2. I have been all over the ground myself, and can endorse all that Mr. Pennington says regarding the great waste of water in Nanguneri.

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Enclosure No. 1.

From the Sub-Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Shermadevi, 14th January 1869, No. 13.

1. During his late tour in the south of this district, His Excellency the Governor* expressed so much interest in the schemes for irrigating a part of that desert-like country, that I am inclined to hope that a scheme for improving the water-supply from the Numbyar (or Tirukarungudi river) might possibly *now* receive the consideration it deserves.

* NOTE.—I even heard that he had ordered a preliminary survey, but fear my information must have been incorrect, for there seems to be no probability of any thing of the kind being carried out now.

2. I have made it my business, therefore, during a pretty extensive tour in the south, to inspect every irrigation work on the river, and to make inquiries as to the supply of water available, and the extent of land capable of irrigation. The result is that I am confident an immense amount of water is wasted that might easily be saved; and that, too, in a part of the country where water is more than ordinarily precious, and the waste of it more than ordinarily culpable.

3. It is impossible to say, with any certainty, what amount of land could be brought under irrigation without a preliminary survey, and, perhaps, a scientific register to find out the amount of water available; but I have no hesitation in putting it down at *thousands* of acres.

4. If any thing is to be done, the river should be dealt with *as a whole*, and *all* the existing works should first be put in such perfect order as to ensure, so far as it is possible, the required supply to all the area now under cultivation, or entered as irrigable in the accounts.

5. Of course, a preliminary survey is indispensable, but I agree with the Officer now in charge of the Range in thinking that *all* the existing anicuts should be *heightened* and the channels widened and deepened in the *first* place. The subsidiary reservoirs should also be put in thorough repair at the same time, and *then* it would be time to consider the schemes: first, for increasing the water-supply; and secondly, for increasing the area to be irrigated.

6. As to the first, I entirely approve of the Range Officer's proposal to divert a portion of the water of the streams which flow down the western slope of the ghauts, and are not urgently required in Travancore.

7. This scheme would, of course, require the concurrence of the Travancore Circar, but as they have more water than they want, and only the surplus water at a very great elevation would be diverted, I have no doubt they would willingly give their consent.

8. This alone would probably *double* the existing supply, and would make the valley of the *Numbyar* another *Tambrapoorney*. At any rate, the cultivation would be not inferior to that about Kalkad, and as far east as Nanguneri; for that country also depends on an anicut that diverts the water of a stream at a greater distance from Kalkad than Tirukarungudi is from what I imagine would be the site of the proposed anicut on the Mahendrigiri.

9. Secondly, as to the area to be newly cultivated the information is, of course, uncertain, but I think I am within bounds when I say that the ayacut under present works is double the cultivated area.

10. I have called upon the Tahsildar for a statement showing the *exact* amount, and it shall be submitted as soon as received; but I think it better to send this letter without waiting for it, for fear the subject should be lost sight of.

11. Then there are some thousands of acres of land that might be irrigated below the last anicut at Kovankolum, which is not less than *twelve miles* from the sea. Floods of fertilizing water pour over this anicut every year, and there is some drainage water in the river to the east of it almost always.

12. I append a few remarks on a copy of a Memorandum prepared for His Excellency the Governor by the Range Officer, and, trusting the subject may receive some share of attention, I have, &c.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

*Copy of Range Officer's Memorandum on the irrigation works of his Range.*

NATTAR or NUMBYAR.—This river rises from Nambimalai, and is joined near the foot of the hills by another river called Vadanar, and falls into the sea, close by Totagudi. Its distance is twenty-nine miles. There are nine anicuts down the course of the river, namely:—

1. PANANJI URATTI.—Situated quarter* of a mile above the junction of the said rivers. It is not of masonry work, but of large stones packed up occasionally by the people. The river on the upper side is not silted up, but the channel† going off the right bank is much filled up with silt and rocks projecting greatly, for removal of these an estimate has been submitted.

* 1 mile or more.
(Initialed) J. B. P.

† This consists of channels to supply Vallipur, Pandiyankulam, &c., &c., south of Tinnevelly.
(Initialed) J. B. P.

2. SENGALAKURICHI.—This stands two furlongs below the said junction, and has only a mud dam raised up. The river is clear, but the channel taken on the left side is in *very* bad order, both of its bed and the banks.

3. TENKURUSHI.—Which has an earthen embankment thrown up, stands two furlongs below the second. The river is free. The channel goes off the left bank, its bed is much silted up.

4. TALAVAIPURAM.—This is a nice anicut of masonry cut-stone work, and is in good order. Here the river is silted up. The channel partly cleared off its deposits, and partly requiring particular attention, goes off the right bank.

‡ New repairs of bad brick and inferior chunam.
(Initialed) J. B. P.

This anicut situates four miles below the third.

5. RAJAKALANGATTU.—This is a masonry work, stands two miles below the fourth. River silted, the channel taken on the left bank makes well, with the exception of some weeds in the bed; water can be met here all the year round.

6. TUNKARATTI.—Stands two and a-half miles below the fifth, and is of good masonry work in good order. Here the river is considerably silted up. The channel goes off the right bank, it was cleared off last year.

7. CAYATTAR.—This is of masonry work, and stands three-quarters of a mile below the sixth, the river is little silted up, two channels, taken one on each side of the river, are in need of deepening, whereon the anicut makes good.

8. VIZIANARAYANAM.—Nice masonry work in good order. River silted, the channel runs off the left bank, and is greatly silted.

9. KAYATTARU.—This is last and newly built anicut as in 1866, and it was lately sanctioned. The river is silted up, and the channel is opened on the left bank, and it is in good order. It stands four miles below the eighth. Since the construction of this project, the cultivation up to Urumangulam limits are now improving.

In order to be lengthened, the channel ought to be widened, and a channel ought to be taken off the right bank, (There is an old channel to Kovilpatti.)
(Initialed) J. B. P.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,*
*10th March* 1869.

These two rivers are only down when it rains on the hills. They are sometimes quite dry, allowing the cultivations under them to fail, and which you can easily perceive by a reference to agricultural accounts of past years, granting remission more or less according to circumstances; and, moreover, you can see by a reference to the same, that there are lands lying waste on account of scanty supply of water.

If funds be available I can spend upon the present existing anicuts, channels, and tanks to bring them to thorough order, so as to store up sufficient supply of water when there are freshes, and thus prevent the failure of crops. If money be sufficient I can do to Nattar or Numbyar by way of increasing its supply to have some tributaries among the large ranges running westward from the rise into Travancore, and there wasted, turned out to fall in.

This is quite a new project.

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THE Acting Collector of Tinnevelly forwards with this a letter from the Sub-Collector, proposing a trial survey should be directed of the Numbyar, a stream situated in the most southerly talook of Tinnevelly.

2. He does not furnish the details of ayacut cultivated and waste under the existing works, but promises to submit them shortly.

3. Roughly he estimates that half the ayacut is waste, and puts the land that might be brought under cultivation at thousands of acres.

4. At present the water is utilised by means of nine anicuts, the lowest of which was constructed in 1866.

5. The others are all old works, and the Budget allotments of Tinnevelly are so small that rarely more than a few hundred Rupees are available for annual expenditure on the whole series.

6. The Board are of opinion that the scheme merits every encouragement, and would strongly urge a trial survey being ordered.

7. This would be a simple matter, as the existing works are sufficient to indicate the feasibility of the project as regards levels: the works alluded to as required to turn the water from the western slopes, are the only ones, the possibility of which has to be decided; and these, though necessary to bring new lands under cultivation, are not essential to the scheme for fully irrigating the present ayacut; for, as Mr. Pennington observes, floods of water pass over the lowest anicut every year.

8. The eighth anicut supplies the Vizianarayanam tank, a reservoir sadly neglected for many years, but one admirably situated for the storage of almost any amount of water.

9. During high floods this tank receives a supply from the hills as far north as the Tambraporney, some of the southern affluents of which are diverted by a hill anicut into the Nangunori talook. For many years large annual remissions under it have been necessary.

10. The surplus water from the Vizianarayanam tank flows into the sea at points twenty miles apart.

11. If, therefore, this tank were placed in thorough repair, and a scheme matured for increasing its supply, there can be no doubt that the water stored could be profitably disposed of.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
*2nd March* 1869.

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
*Acting Secretary to Government.*

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No. 252. Minute by the Honorable the President.
(Here enter 21st February 1869.)

No. 253. Minute by the Honorable H. D. PHILLIPS.
(Here enter 21th February 1869.)

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No. 254. From the Revd. Dr. CALDWELL, to His Excellency the Right Honorable Lord NAPIER, dated Edeyengoody, Palamcottah, 21st January 1869.

1. Under permission I beg to remind your Lordship of a representation which was made to you in this place in October, ultimo, by many of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, to the effect that it was desirable that the water of the *Nambyar* river, in the extreme south of Tinnevelly, most of which is at present allowed to run to waste, should be utilized by means of an anicut and a system of channels for the extension of wet cultivation in this arid, but improvable, part of the country; to which representation your Lordship was so good as to reply that steps should immediately be taken for a professional examination of the locality, and a consideration of the plans that were suggested.

2. I now beg to state that I have matured a plan to the best of my ability, by a personal examination of all the localities referred to, for carrying the project into effect, which plan I shall be happy to submit to any officer who may be authorized to enquire into the practicability and advantages of the project; and that I shall be much obliged to your Lordship to cause an order to be issued to the proper authorities to institute such enquiry.

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No. 255. Order thereon, 10th March 1869, No. 702.

IRRIGATION, No. 14.

1. Under the circumstances set forth in the foregoing papers, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to direct that a trial survey of the Nambyar or Natar river be at once undertaken in connection with the other streams which flow from the Western Ghauts to the sea to the south of the Tambrapoorney. The desire of Government is that the development of irrigation from these streams should if possible be consolidated in a single joint work.

2. A special officer will be appointed for this duty. He will place himself under the orders of the Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division, and in correspondence with the Collector of the District, the Sub-Collector, and the Revd. Dr. Caldwell, whose local knowledge cannot fail to be of great use to him in the preliminary stage of his enquiry.

3. After the investigation of the southern rivers has been completed the Governor in Council will take into consideration the expediency of extending the survey to the Vypar river in the northern part of the district.



4. The thanks of Government are due to Mr. Pennington and the Range Officer for their intelligent exertions in bringing forward a project which promises to be of material advantage to the country concerned.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
,, Collector of Tinnevelly.
To Revd. Dr. R. Caldwell.
To the Revenue Department.

Under Office
Letter 22-783.

Commonwealth of Australia.

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER for IRRIGATION

&c. &c. &c.

Melbourne, 10th

Dear Sir,

I.O. 10th March 1908. Dec. 1908

MAROTA.

No. 251.255

Yours faithfully,

for S. R. Argument