MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1378 Press Mis

404-405

Dated 18 th May 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 404. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, in the Public Works Department :—

Requesting the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division to, submit his views on the subject of the storage and distribution of water for irrigation purposes in the Malabar District. } (Here enter 11th May 1869, No. 1,513.)

No. 405. ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1869, No. 1,378.

Irrigation, No. 10.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

Dated May, 18th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O, 18th May 1869, No. 1,378.

MAY.

Nos. 404-405.

Water for irrigation purposes in Malabar.—Order requesting the Superintending Engineer to report on the subject of its storage and distribution, recorded.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 11th May 1869.

No. 235. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd April 1869, No. 2,759 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 23rd March 1869, No. 85B:—

1. Adverting to the Board's Proceedings noted, I have the honour to observe that, as the Board are aware, there are no public irrigation works in Malabar, and indeed few private ones on any considerable scale.

18th November 1867, No. 7,514.

2. I am not in a position to submit any definite scheme for consideration, but I am strongly of opinion that many localities would be found in Malabar where storage of portions of the enormous water-supply that now runs off unemployed to the sea during the monsoon might be most advantageously made. The undulating nature of the country whilst in some places it may tend to render storage easy, certainly tends greatly to increase the difficulty of economical and profitable distribution. The porous nature of the laterite soils must also be considered, and the land tenure has its bearing on the question.

3. However, I believe that in the Palghaut talook especially, and indeed throughout Malabar, a qualified Engineer would have no difficulty in selecting sites where water might be stored and distributing channels constructed to the extreme benefit of the country. Terms might easily be arranged with the landlords, who would purchase water gladly.

4. I have spoken to several Range Officers on the subject of storage and distribution of water at times, but their hands have been and are well occupied with the communications. None that I have met with have had any practical experience of irrigation in similar localities, and I think the general (though surely mistaken) idea is that irrigation is not wanted in Malabar.

5. There is no doubt that any scheme of the sort in such a country would require very careful consideration and execution ; but with these conditions I believe it would be beneficial and remunerative.

I would suggest that the opinion of the Department Public Works be taken on the matter.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government. The Board agree with the Collector in thinking that it should not be taken for granted that irrigation is entirely uncalled for in Malabar ; the subject is one which merits the careful attention of Engineers.

2. Rice is almost exclusively the food of the people, and the district is dependant on imports for a large portion of its consumption of this grain.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
30*th April* 1869.

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

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 11th May 1869.

No. 236. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1869, No. 1,543.

IRRIGATION, No. 18.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, who will submit his views on the subject of the storage and distribution of water for irrigation purposes in the Malabar District.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Dept.
No. 1537.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

7TH DIVISION.

&c. &c.

Dated May, 11th.

Recd. 13th

G. O., 11*th May* 1869, *No.* 1,543.

MAY.

Nos. 235-236

Water for irrigation purposes.—The Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division requested to submit his views on the subject of the storage and distribution of water for irrigation purposes in the Malabar District.

No 1378

RECORDED.

18 May 69