M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1489 Press ~~Mis.~~

629-630

Dated 27th May ~~19~~ 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1489 W/O

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th May 1869.

No. 629. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Letter from the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division, reporting on the state of certain tanks in the Godavery District, recorded. } (Here enter 11th May 1869, No. 1,539.)

No. 630. ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1869, No. 1,489.

Irrigation, No. 17. COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 1,539.

Exd. E. C. Shunker,

No. 226. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 10th April 1869, No. 113 :—

1. I have the honour to report on the tanks named in Mr. Horsfall's letter, recorded in Proceedings of Government dated 4th March 1869.

1 Extract from Mr. Andrews' letter No. 380, dated 29th March 1869.
1 Copy of Notice from "Godavery District Gazette," dated 28th April 1865, page 189.

2. I have delayed this report, intending to inspect each of the tanks named, and the irrigation works of the talook generally; but after all I have been unable to spare a week for this work, and my report will, therefore, necessarily be deficient in authority and usefulness.

3. The first tank mentioned by the Sub-Collector is the Chinna Tadapillygoodem tank. I observe that Mr. Horsfall does not say that the area under irrigation by this tank has fallen off of late years, but that a trifling improvement of the tank would make it capable of irrigating some land not hitherto included in the Ayacut. Mr. Andrews, the Executive Engineer of the Range, informs me that an estimate for this tank will shortly be submitted, and if the Revenue authorities can give an assurance that the waste land *will* be converted into Nunjah, and the amount of the estimate is not excessive compared with the promised additional area of cultivation, it may perhaps be worthwhile to carry out the suggested improvement; but this will require consideration, and I think it more than probable that full consideration of all the circumstances would lead to an adverse decision, for water can be supplied* to far larger areas of waste in the immediate neighbourhood, indeed in the same village, at lower rate of cost to the State, and with greater certainty of an ample and steady supply, than it could be stored in the tank for the waste land which the Sub-Collector proposes to convert into irrigated land.

* From the Ellore Canal.

4. My opinion of the practicability of forming a tank at Unnumalunka, the scheme noticed in the next paragraph of the Sub-Collector's letter, is more favorable than that Officer's: it is recorded in the Chief Engineer for Irrigation's letter in Proceedings of Government, dated 27th January last. One advantage of a tank established in this excellent site would be that several of the little tanks about which so much is written, and which compared with their usefulness are so costly to maintain in efficient order, could be dismantled and their beds cultivated.

5. I regret that I am unable to give any information regarding the supply channel to the Taduvoy tank. Mr. Andrews states in a report to me that he cannot furnish sufficiently precise information, as he has not been able to go over the ground yet; but this will be done without delay, and the necessary information will be submitted to Government in a supplemental report.

6. The Gunapaveram tank, mentioned in paragraph 5 of the letter under reference, is, or rather was, a very large tank. It is doubtful whether the village was deserted and the land thrown out of cultivation in consequence of the breach which is said to have occurred in 1864; it appears probable that cause and effect have been inverted, and that the tank was allowed to fall into disrepair, because the village was deserted on account of its unhealthiness, and that at last it was breached

by the floods in 1864. I have requested the Collector to furnish me with precise information as to population and area cultivated in 1850 and 1865, and with any other particulars regarding the village, which may throw light on the question. So far as the temples are an indication of prosperity, it would appear that the prosperous times of the village were antecedent to the construction of the tank, for the stones of the ruined temples were extensively used in the construction of the old bund and the sluices. Mr. Andrews roughly estimates the cost of restoring this old tank at 20,000 Rupees, and from his description of the work required I do not think that it would cost more. The largest breach is sixty to seventy feet wide, and about forty feet deep to the bottom of the scoured out hole, which is fifteen feet below the bed of the tank. The Executive Engineer will have the necessary surveys and levels taken, and the estimate of the cost of restoring the tank will be submitted to Government without delay. It is not probable that the lands immediately under the tank (in the deserted village) will be taken up for cultivation, but the supply stored could be passed on by the natural water-course for use by a village lower down the valley, and thus this old tank might again be rendered useful.

7. As regards the Byaneer Anicut, mentioned in the Sub-Collector's next paragraph, a complete report will be submitted to Government, with the plans and surveys which the Executive Engineer is now preparing. Mr. Andrews is of opinion that, with buttresses, the work may be made strong enough to bear another four or five feet of head (it is already twelve feet high), the foundation being on rock.

8. The Nagaveram tank is the next to be noticed; this tank was breached in consequence of the river from which it receives its supply having been completely closed by a bund thirty feet high, thrown across it immediately below the head of the supply channel, this occurred in 1858; and, so far as I am aware, its condition has not been brought to notice by any of the Tahsildars who have been in charge of the talook since I have been in this division. The Executive Engineer states that, according to the information furnished to him, the tank is wholly the property of a Zemindar. I have requested the Collector to furnish me with precise information on this point. The Zemindar, is I believe, commencing the repair of the tank now.

9. As regards the general state of the tanks in this talook, there is no doubt that the tanks have not for many years past been properly repaired and improved, and it appears probable that we shall not be able to do much better in future. The Engineer may prepare the estimate, and may be ready with his superintendence and the necessary money, but without men he is powerless. The people appear to be indifferent to the state of their tanks; at any rate they refuse to give the labour which is indispensable for the execution of repairs. I append an extract from a letter from the Executive Engineer, which shows that even in this year, and at this season when there is but little going on in the way of cultivation, labour cannot be got in the villages to carry out the village work.

10. I also enclose copy of a Circular Order issued by the Collector in April 1865, on my representing to him the difficulty we had in getting labour in this

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11th May 1869.

talook. I may also state that Captain Smalley used to give much of his time to this talook, preparing estimates for repairs, which he afterwards found could not be carried out. And I ought to add that, since 1865, three of our Overseers, employed on tank repairs in this talook, have died of fever in the talook. I believe that since the death of the last of the three, our native subordinates do as much as possible avoid the work in the talook, especially during cold weather, which is unhealthy season; but under Mr. Andrews I have no doubt they will be made to do their duty.

11. I am certain that the Executive Engineer now in charge of the Range will give due attention to the tanks in this Yernagudem talook, and I have no doubt that all that will be necessary to ensure proper execution of work will be that the villagers should meet in half-way, and do their share by supplying labour at the ample rates which are being (and have been) offered to them.

From W. ANDREWS, Esq., Executive Engineer, No. 4 Range, Godavery, to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated 29th March 1869, No. 380.

* * * * *

With reference to the last paragraph of your letter No. 1,478, of 14th ultimo, there appears to be an impression that, owing to great drought, an ample supply of labour may be obtained; there may have been some distress owing to failure of wet crops, but, practically, no distress is to be seen; and our only difficulty is with labour, and unless some pressure is put upon the people the labour will have to be taken up from the Delta, of course at very high rates; in some cases villagers refuse to supply labour for repairing their own tanks. Advances are frequently made to Curnums of villages for small repairs; in one case ten men were collected from a number of surrounding villages after a fortnight's search, in another case only four men could be obtained.

It seems an extraordinary thing for villagers to refuse to repair their own tanks when advances and fair rates have been offered to them; but they always ask first what rate will be paid, and for the ordinary rate of one anna per cubic yard for soft ground, they prefer to work for the Ryot, and to be paid in grain. There are many large villages in the talook, but the labour obtainable from them is ridiculously small.

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Extract from the "Godavery District Gazette," dated Cocanada, April 28th, 1866.

* * * * *

Instances having come to the knowledge of the Collector, in which serious inconvenience is felt by the Public Works Department in procuring labour for works, especially in those parts of the district where Tank-diggers (Wupperavalu) are not to be found; he directs the Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates to enjoin the heads of all villages in which earthwork has to be executed by the Engineers, that the villagers are expected to give the assistance of their own labour on payment, otherwise that the necessary works cannot be completed in due time.

In the event of the villagers not assisting in this respect, their complaints for remission of Cist or water-tax, on account of insufficiency of water or bad drainage, will never be attended to.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Collector.

COCANADA,
25th April 1865.

(Signed) J. G. RYVES, Captain, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

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

No. 227. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1869, No. 1,539.

IRRIGATION, No. 17. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Cd & the Board of Revenue

27 May/69

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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Revenue Dept.

No. 1536.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 11th.

Recd. 12th —

Encl

G. O., 11th *May* 1869, *No.* 1,539.

MAY.

Nos. 226-227

Tanks.—Letter from the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division, reporting on the state of certain tanks in the Godavery District, recorded.

No 1189. 27 May

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