

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd February 1871.*

No. 262. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st January 1871, No. 475:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 9th December 1870, No. 592.

THE Government have, in their Proceedings, dated 18th September 1867, No. 2,892, sanctioned the excavation of a new river-channel to Sivaram and Sirunavalpat in Arcot Taluq. But the original plan and estimate provide for the cutting of this channel only as far as Sivaram, and the work was accordingly undertaken and executed.

2. Subsequently, on complaints made by the villagers of Sirunavalpat regarding the extension of this channel to their village, the correspondence marginally noted took place between my predecessor and the Superintending Engineer, copies whereof are herewith submitted.

Letter to Superintending Engineer, dated 29th April 1870, No. 74.
Do. from do. of 14th July 1870, No. 1,631.
Do. from Executive Engineer, Vellore Range, to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated 29th June 1870, No. 158.

3. As suggested by the Superintending Engineer and the Range Officer, I thought it advisable not to extend the channel in question to Sirunavalpat, and accordingly issued final orders for the removal of the small tank at Sivaram, thus proposed to be derived by carrying this channel to both the villages might, but with more ease, be derived from the village of Sivaram alone.

4. I therefore have the honour to request that the Board will be pleased to submit this for the approval of Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Palmanair, 29th April 1870, No. 74.

THE correspondence noted in the margin relates to the project of excavating a river-channel from the Palar to Sivaram and Sirunavalpat villages which was eventually sanctioned for execution by Government in their Order of the 18th September 1867, No. 2,892. The estimate and plan, however, provided for excavating the channel *as far as Sivaram only*, a shortcoming on the original project which somehow or other did not attract attention till the work had been carried out. As the work progressed it was found that the provision made in the estimate would not suffice for its completion, and it having become necessary to provide employment for the labouring masses in that as in other parts of the district, at the time a sum of Rupees 2,000 was allotted from Relief Funds for the prosecution of the work.

2 The villagers of Sirunavalpat subsequently submitted a petition praying that the channel might, as originally proposed, be extended to their village, but I declined to take any action in the matter until it could be ascertained whether the quantity of water conveyed by the channel would be sufficient to irrigate the lands of their village as well, and what the actual return for the expenditure already incurred on the project would be.

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3. The Acting Sub-Collector, who has since inspected the channel, recommends its extension to Sirunavalpat, and says this can be done at a very trifling outlay.
4. I have the honour, therefore, to request that you will call on the Range Officer for his professional opinion as to whether, judging from the quantity of water which comes down the channel, it is capable of irrigating besides the land in Sivaram only, and if so, how much of land in the Sirunavalpat village not already under cultivation from the tank and Hissa channel belonging to it, and what the probable cost of the extension would be.
5. The channel in question having been excavated as far as Sivaram, at a very large outlay, it remains to be ascertained, before moving further in the matter, whether besides the land it was intended originally to bring under cultivation, it is capable of irrigating the land usually cultivated under the Sivaram tank, as well as the land in the bed of the tank itself; for, if this be the case, the tank would be quite superfluous and might be advantageously struck out of the list, and the land in its bed given up for cultivation. On these points also I request you will call on the Range Officer for his opinion.
6. I beg to ask your attention to paragraphs 7 and 6 of the accompanying letters from the Acting Sub-Collector, and the Tahsildar of Arcot, which would indicate that very grave blunders involving a waste of much public money have been committed by the Department Officers entrusted with the work. It seems, therefore, desirable that some explanation should be called for from the Range Officer, and recorded in case it may hereafter be called for by Government.
7. The sketch of the new channel shewing the deviation so much complained of is herewith forwarded, to be returned when no longer required.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Superintending Engineer in charge, 4th Division, to the Acting Collector of North Arcot, dated Madras, 14th July 1870, No. 1,631.

With reference to Mr. Robinson's letter, No. 74, dated 29th April last, and your memorandum, No. 127, dated 15th June 1870, I have the honour, in continuation of my endorsement, No. 1,349, of the 27th June 1870, on a letter from Lieutenant Brockman, dated 22nd idem, to forward another letter, No. 158, of the 29th June 1870, from that officer.

2. The enclosures of your letter are herewith returned. I have received a petition from Bheema Row, requesting permission to deviate the bed of the Sivaram tank, and from the enclosed Executive Engineer's report, (as the channel passes through the tank, and the supply stored in it is insignificant,) it would appear that there is no objection to comply with his request. Lieutenant Brockman considers even that this arrangement would be a desirable one, as the surface water or local drainage would then flow into the Sirunavalpat tank. He does not recommend that the channel should be extended to the Sirunavalpat village at present, as he considers that there is sufficient land in the Sivaram village to yield a profitable return on the outlay. Your department will be able to ascertain if this is the case, and, until the actual extent of culturable land is ascertained, I would not recommend the extension of the channel, especially as aqueducts would have to be built across existing lines of irrigation. One advantage in delay would be the gain of experience as to the actual quantity of water available for cultivation, as it is very difficult for my department to gauge spring water, or to state the probable available amount in a river-channel largely supplemented from spring water.

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3. As regards the loss to the Poodoor cultivation from the alleged absorption of their water by the Sivaram channel, it would appear that the cutting of this new channel has not affected the Poodoor supply, and that the complaint is groundless.
4. I am not so satisfied with the explanation given by the Range Officer as to the deviation from the original line, as I believe much more care might have been taken in the first instance to ascertain the nature of the soil to be cut through. Lieutenant Brockman, however, points out that the abandonment of portions of the original line has not cost nearly as much as it was represented to have done, and I believe that from the appearance of the surface soil, there was no reason to expect that so much rock would be met with.
5. He also gives it as his opinion that even with the present outlay on the work, there is quite sufficient prospect of a remunerative return, and of a fair per-centage of profit on the capital expended.

From Lieutenant R. R. E. BROCKMAN, R.E., Executive Engineer, Vellore Range, to the Superintending Engineer in charge, 4th Division, dated Poodoor, 29th June 1870, No. 158.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your memoranda, Nos. 524 and 640,* former giving cover to a letter and enclosures from the Collector of North Arcot, relative to the new river-channel to Sivaram villages in the Arcot Taluq, and the latter forwarding a petition from Bheema Row, the Monigar of that village, relative to the abandonment of his village tank, and the cultivation of the lands in its bed. As both these memoranda relate to one and the same work, I purpose reporting upon the points mentioned in them in the present letter.

No. 524, into reply I have the honour to report that it is true that the original intended line of channel in the bed of the Palar was deviated from, but the cost incurred in so doing was considerably less than the amount stated by the Tahsildar in his report, being only Rs. 131. This is about 2½ per cent. on the cost of the channel,† and may be looked upon as the expenditure incurred in sinking trial shafts, etc.,

† Rs 5,620.

for which no allowance was made in the estimate. This expenditure even would not have been incurred if the Poodoor villagers had not been so determined in their opposition against the channel being allowed to approach their village river-channel. The original intended line was first proceeded with; but the rock found under the surface was found of such an inveterately hard nature that considerably more than the amount allowed for the work would have had to be expended to complete it in that direction. The line was accordingly shifted more to the southern bank of the river; but here again the difficulty of working in the rock found there necessitated my carrying the channel still more to the southward, and approaching the Poodoor channel at the disputed locality within a distance of sixty-four yards. I gauged the water carefully in the Poodoor channel, whilst water was flowing in the Sivaram channel on two successive days, and again one month after, and I did not find the slightest diminution in the depth of its flow. The opposition of the Poodoor villagers, therefore, is altogether futile on this score.

3. With regard to paragraph 2 of your memorandum No. 524, I have the honour to state that the Sivaram channel which now debouches into the tank of that name may be extended to cultivate a portion, not all, the lands of Sirunavalpat villages shown as cultivable by the channel in the Ayacut Statement furnished by the villagers to the Tahsildar. But although it was the prior intention to utilize this channel water for both the Sivaram and Sirunavalpat lands, the Sivaram Monigar Bheema Row now finds that the whole of the land of his village can be brought under cultivation by the channel alone, and in order that there may be no shortcoming in the estimated return to Government on the cost of the undertaking, is agreeable to relinquishing the use of his tank and cultivating the land in its bed, and to pay such a rate upon the land in his village cultivated under the channel as may show a return of Rs. 688 odd, the original

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estimated outturn. In this case the land lying in the Sirunavalpat limits may without loss be excluded from the land irrigable under the channel, and it would be best in any case to do so, as in the event of this channel being made to supply two villages (and would then be termed a Hissa channel), constant disputes regarding the Kudi-maramat of the channel and the clearing of silt accumulations in its bed would arise between the inhabitants of two villages, and the channel would be neglected, the crops under it turn out "shavy," and Government be at a loss every year on this account. The tank of Sivaram is an insignificant one, and owing to the restrictions placed upon the extension of its water-spread, which at full tank submerges a large amount of land cultivated by the Poodoor river-channel, is unable to hold a sufficient supply for the 40 cawnies it is supposed to cultivate. The average annual cultivation accordingly does not exceed 15 cawnies.

4. By the abolition of this tank the Sirunavalpat tank will be a considerable gainer, as the upland drainage will all now flow into the latter tank, and will compensate the villagers for the loss of the Sivaram channel water, which they looked forward to having a share of. The abolition of the Sivaram tank would also be in accordance with the principle upon which Government are now desirous of acting, viz., the abolition of all small irrigation works, and the handing them over to private persons with the lands under them at a reduced assessment. The water brought down by the Sivaram channel is ample to irrigate the bed of as well as the lands under the Sivaram tank. All these lands, moreover, lie immediately under the channel, whereas the order to supply the Sirunavalpat lands it would have to be extended a distance of 1,270 yards across four existing irrigation channels from the Sivaram tank, for which aqueducts would have to be provided. The cost of so doing I estimate at about 200 Rs. I would therefore recommend that all the lands of Sivaram village below and in the bed of its tank be solely cultivated by the channel, and such a rate fixed upon the land so brought under cultivation as would yield a return of the estimated amount, viz., Rs. 65t odd. The tank may be erased from the list of tanks, and a Mazirnama from the owner Bheema Row be taken to the effect, that no repairs on the part of Government need at any future time be carried out to the tank.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to Government Order, dated 18th September 1867, No. 2,892, Public Works Department, communicated to the Board in Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, dated 21st September 1867, No. 2,211.

No. 263. ORDER THEREON, 23rd February 1871, No. 334.

Irrigation, No. 2.

The Collector's proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

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

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. 1871
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS. No. 480.

PROCEEDINGS, 31st JANUARY 1871, No. 475.

Desp. 11 Feb 71.

Encl.

Received 13th

JANUARY.

No. 475.

No 334. 23 February 1871

Channel from Palar river to Sivaram—in North Arcot District.—Certain correspondence relating to extension of, to Sirunavalpat, submitted to Government.

Wk order

Ep 1871/1871/475
14 28/10/1871
23rd Feb 71
W. Hudleston
J. J. S.
No 334.

6-2-13

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated February 23rd

Recd.

Rev.

G. O., 23rd February 1871, No. 334.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 262-263.

*Channel from Palar river to Sivaram in
North Arcot District.—Proceedings of the Col-
lector in connection with the question of its exten-
sion, approved.*