

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th March 1871.*

No. 453. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1871, No. 763:—

Read the following letter from J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 6th January 1871, No. 2.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, No. 411, of 29th November 1870.*

2. In making my report, the incompleteness of which is remarked on in the Proceedings just quoted, I beg to state that I based my opinion on no figured statements of any sort. I merely alluded to the insufficiency of water for navigation in the river and canals, and in this I was guided both by personal inspection of the river and channels and what every one says of them.

3. There is ample water in the river now for all ordinary cultivation as it at present exists, and I believe the channels led from the anicut can hold a sufficiency of water to supply all the land ever likely to be brought under cultivation within their influence. I should call Dalwa extraordinary cultivation, but it is not in much favour with the ryots in this district, and, I think, should not be encouraged, as it scourges the land too much.

4. The supply of water at present afforded is, as the engineers will testify, more than sufficient for what is wanted of it; and therefore sugarcane cultivation might no doubt be much extended with our present supply.

5. I have just had an opportunity of hearing from Colonel Keating, the Acting Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, on his way through Cocanada to Calcutta, a great deal about the proposed opening up of the Godavery for navigation. A part of the scheme, I believe, is the formation of reservoirs to store water in for admission into the river during the months when it is most shallow, or from middle of February to middle of June; but, I believe, the sites of none of these have been yet definitely fixed on. But the whole scheme will, if sanctioned, cost such an enormous sum of money that any increase of the cultivation or navigation in this district, which would be the result of an increased supply of water in the river, would be a mere nothing in return for the necessary outlay. The traffic, which the connection of the Central Provinces with the Godavery District and coast might, it is hoped, cause to spring up, is at present utterly non-existent, and must be of very slow growth even after it has commenced, owing to the desolate nature of the country through which that traffic will have to pass. It is, therefore, now absolutely impossible even to guess at what its amount may be. I do not believe that the additional quantity of water required for cultivation in this district could be procured at anything like a reasonable outlay of money.

This letter will be submitted to Government with reference to Government Order, dated 29th November 1870, No. 1,878.

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2. The Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, reported, in the letters recorded with Government Order, 7th January 1870, No. 76 (Irrigation), that storage of water in reservoirs on the Upper Godavery was important for navigation, for sugarcane and garden cultivation, and for the earlier preparation of seed-beds for the great rice-crop of the delta, but not for the Dalwa crop.

3. The Secretary of State desired that the views of the Revenue authorities on the subject should be ascertained (Government Order, 2nd June 1870, No. 1,374).

4. In a letter, dated the 18th July 1870, No. 209, the Collector reported briefly that an increased volume of water would be beneficial in the dry months. He was called on to report more fully, and to forward the figured statements on which his opinion was based (Government Order, 29th November, 1870, No. 1,878).

5. This letter is his reply, but it gives very little additional information. Mr. Fraser believes that the proposed storage would not be beneficial *in proportion to its cost*, because—

- (1.) The Dalwa crop, which it would facilitate, is a crop to be discouraged.
- (2.) Sugarcane cultivation can be extended with the present supply of water.
- (3.) Traffic with the Central Provinces does not exist at present, and would only spring up very slowly.
- (4.) The existing water-supply is more than equal to the demands of the existing cultivation.

6. The Board have no information as to the probable cost of the storage scheme; but as their opinion seems to be desired as to its advantages independent of its cost, they must request the Collector, after carefully perusing the papers recorded with the Government Order, communicated to him in Board's Proceedings, 30th March 1870, No. 2,126, to report *fully* on the following points:—

Supposing that water can be stored so as to give a discharge of 250,000 cubic yards an hour and keep the channels navigable during the dry months—

- (1.) Might Dalwa cultivation be expected to increase; and, if so, to what extent, and with what effect on the revenue?
- (2.) Would sugarcane and garden cultivation increase to a greater extent than with the present supply of water; and, if so, how far, and with what effect on the revenue?
- (3.) What additional receipts might be expected from navigation, it being remembered that the cotton of Guntoor and the northern taluqs is being transported in the dry months?
- (4.) Would the increased facilities of navigation give a great impetus to cultivation by creating an increased demand for produce; and, if so, what would be the probable effect on the revenue?
- (5.) Would much be gained by the fact that seed-beds for the rice-crop could be prepared earlier?

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No. 454.

ORDER THEREON, 29th March 1871; No. 577.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Department
Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHAS. MACLEAN,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Collector of the Godavery District.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

No 4153 & 4154

18th March/70 No 95 Q.L.
8th June 1870 - 50 Q.L.
29 November 1870 - 411-412

No 648/71
No 171/71

16 Sept 1870 No 100 Dec 1870

Rev: 1871. Dec
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS. No. 648.

PROCEEDINGS, 17TH FEBRUARY 1871, No. 763.

Dep: 27 Feb/71 Encl.

Received 28th.

FEBRUARY.
No. 763.

Water in reservoirs on the Upper Godavery.—
Collector's further report on proposed storage of,
for navigation, for sugarcane and garden cultiva-
tion &c, submitted to Government.—Collector re-
quested to submit full information on certain
points connected with this subject.

No 5772
Comm: to the S.W.
L. H. S.
29th March/71