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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th August 1872.*

No. 468. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 29th July 1872, No. 1,804 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the sanction of Government, seven estimates for repairing damages sustained by the undermentioned tanks in the North Arcot District during the cyclone of May last, their amounts being more than four times the revenue. The Collector has countersigned them as they are, in his opinion, works that should be repaired :—

<i>Vellore Taluk.</i>		rs.
1. Closing breaches in the Chittary tank bund	...	3,950
2. Do. do. and strengthening the weakest parts of Sin-ganary tank	...	1,600
3. Do. do. in the Catnapootoor tank bund	...	1,850
4. Do. do. and strengthening the weakest parts of Pootoor large tank	...	2,087
5. Do. do. and strengthening do. of Thorapadi tank	...	7,400
<i>Arcot Taluk.</i>		
6. Do. do. in the Moeranum small tank	...	150
7. Emergent repairs to Vellam tank	...	1,380

No. 146.

Note by the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

WITH his letter No. 1,804 of 29th July the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division submits seven estimates for repairs to tanks in the North Arcot District on account of breaches or injuries occasioned during the cyclone of May last. The estimates are submitted for the sanction of Government because they exceed four times the revenue derived from the tanks.

2. The estimates are submitted in detail, but they are so prepared that it is impossible to check them in any way, and it cannot be ascertained from them what section of bank it is proposed to give the tanks; hardly two consecutive tanks would give the same section. In restoring breached banks irregular pits have sometimes to be filled in, and it is often advisable to give an extra berm to a bank in the portion below the average level of the country; in such cases the provision necessary for the lower section of a bank may be such as not to represent a complete section for the bank to be superimposed; but after provision has been made for the filling in of the irregular hollows and for the formation of a level base for the bund to stand upon, the uniform section to be given to the bank should be discernable from the entries in the estimate.

3. The section to be given to any tank or channel bank should always be stated at the head of an estimate as follows:— top yards broad and yards above high-water mark, slopes to 1; if a tank bank is wider in the centre than at the sides, this fact should be noted, and if the portion of the front slope is unnecessary owing to the provision of a revetment which stands almost vertically,

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it would be well to provide in the body of the estimate for the complete bank and to deduct for the triangular portion of the front slope, which is not required, in a separate item.

4. The widening and raising of earthen banks should be shown separately in the estimates, and if the level of the high-water be given, it is possible from the estimate to discover, when the work has been executed, whether the estimate itself was correctly prepared.

5. The estimates submitted by the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, should be returned for revision, and attention should be paid to the following observations:—

The estimate provides for extending the barrel of a sluice for a length of 13 feet, a general foundation and side walls are provided, but no covering is provided for the vent of the extended portion of the sluice.

All the new stone for revetments provided in the estimate appears to have been struck out in the Superintending Engineer's Office; these revetments are for the protection of new embankments, it is doubtful whether the latter could safely be left unprotected.

6. It is not clear what is included under the word "Ayacut" at the heads of the estimates; if, as in the South, it represents the whole irrigable area under a tank, it should be explained how, with the Ayacut of 34 Cawnies and an assessment of Rupees 220, it is possible that an increase of revenue of Rupees 251 may be expected from the Chittay tank, if the tank is repaired, when the average revenue of the last five years has been Rupees 329, or equal to the full amount of the assessment.

Explanation is also required relative to the sum of Rupees 150 which, it is stated, is the increase of revenue which may be expected from the Footoor large tank when the average revenue of five years has been Rupees 338-5-7, the assessment being Rupees 418-10-0 and the Ayacut Cawnies 59-15-12.

The anticipated increase of Rupees 50 in the revenue from the Thorapudi tank should also be explained, as such an increase would raise the revenue above the assessment.

The rates for earthwork in the estimates generally are high; in that for the Thorapudi tank the rate is $2\frac{1}{2}$ Annas per cubic yard; the cause of so high a rate being required should be explained. Every tank of this estimate appears to provide for a bank of a different section. The tank is said to have yielded an average revenue of Rupees 5 during the last five years, and no increase of revenue appears to be expected though the assessment is Rupees 63. Under the circumstances it would appear to be a matter of doubtful expediency to repair this tank at all at the cost of Government if the tank cannot be repaired under Rupees 150.

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The Vellum tank appears to have been repaired at a cost of Rupees 920 only in 1871-72. The cause of the breach should be explained.

In putting these tanks in thorough order, as now proposed, care should be taken to provide them with surplus weirs of sufficient capacity. No information relative to the existing weirs is afforded; their extension, if necessary, would be undertaken as minor new works, and hence would not be included in the emergent estimates; but the provision of ample waterway in the weirs should not be lost sight of.

Ootacamund,
August 1872.

(Signed) R. F. OAKES, Captain, R.E.,
Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 469.

ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1872, No. 2,051.

IRRIGATION, No. 19.

The attention of the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division is called to the remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation with reference to which he will re-submit the estimates for irrigation repairs submitted with his letter No. 1,804 of 29th July, meanwhile carrying out all emergent works necessary, which, it is noted, have already been taken in hand.

2. It would appear from the remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that the Range Officers and Overseers of the North Arcot District have got into a slovenly way of preparing these estimates, which should be checked, and a systematic method of making them out introduced. The attention of Assistant Engineer Soobroyachariar will be called specially to this point.

3. And it appears to His Excellency the Governor in Council that, when the Government are appealed to for special sanction of works, they should be informed by what officers the correctness of the papers submitted is guaranteed. The seven estimates in question have been prepared by Taluk Overseers, but it is not stated whether they have been checked on the spot by the Range Officer, or whether the Collector, Sub-Divisional Officer, or Superintending Engineer who countersigned them have been able to satisfy themselves by actual observation or particular inquiry as to these exceptional cases. It is not expected in all such cases, but is desirable in some; and in paragraph 4 of G. O. No. 1,635 of 6th July, thorough investigation and scrutiny by these officers was insisted on.

(True Extract.)

[Signature] Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
.. Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
.. Revenue Department.
.. Controller of Public Works Accounts.
Edw. S. T. Austin.

Revenue 1872
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Govt. of 1872
PUBLIC WORKS.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

CHIEF ENGINEER

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AUGUST

Aug. 1872-1873

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