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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th March 1872.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 168. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th January 1872,
No. 74.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the
Board of Revenue, dated 9th December 1871, No. 518.

THE amount subscribed by the ryots of the Tenkarai Taluq for the head sluice and channel, the construction of which immediately preceded that of the Streevyguntum anicut, was Rs. 40,000. In Proceedings of Government No. 1,848, dated 29th June 1869, this amount was ordered to be laid out as the ryots' subscription to a bridge over the anicut; the piers of this bridge are completed in part up to the level of the crown of the anicut, and have so far cost Rs. 8,000; their completion to the same level throughout will cost Rs. 2,000 more; total Rs. 10,000.

2. It now appears that the engineers are rather afraid of constructing a bridge over the work on account of the increased scour that a diminished waterway will give rise to, and it is certain, as far as through-traffic is concerned, that a bridge is not needed at all. It will, moreover, be very costly, and the Government will probably have to meet a charge at least equivalent to the amount already subscribed.

3. I was camped by the side of the work a few days ago, when the river came down in fresh and rose at the rate of a foot per hour to within three feet of the crest of the cart-tracks and foot-ways that pierce the river-bank.

4. Two years ago the river rose still higher, and immense damage was done by the breaching of the crazy embankment that is intended to keep the river within bounds. The people are very anxious to have this embankment secured throughout the whole length of the taluq, and an estimate has been prepared for this purpose, but there are no Imperial Funds available to carry it out.

5. As no work that could be undertaken would confer anything like the same benefit on the taluq generally, and the estimate is within the amount of the unspent balance of the ryots' subscriptions, I propose that this balance be withdrawn from the bridge-project, which may well stand over for future consideration, and that it be devoted to the thorough embanking of the river from the Streevyguntum anicut down to the sea.

6. The Executive Engineer in charge of the Irrigation Range and the Executive Engineer in charge of the Streevyguntum Anicut Project agree in thinking with me that the embankment is more important than the bridge. I have not consulted the Superintending Engineer, as he is away from the district, and the project, if approved by the Board, will naturally be referred for his opinion.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board approve the transfer of the balance from the proposed bridge to the embankment, as it appears to be suggested in consonance with the opinion of the subscribing ryots.

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14th March 1872.*

REFERRED for the remarks of the Superintending Engineer through the Department Public Works.

18th January 1872.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government, R.D.

No. 169. Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 23rd February 1872.

Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madura, 15th February 1872, No. 4,476.

In reference to your docket dated 22nd ultimo on the Proceedings of the Revenue Board, 10th January 1872, No. 74, referring for my report the proposition of deferring any further expenditure on the proposed bridge over the Streevyguntum anicut in favour of the embanking of the river from the anicut down to the sea, I have the honour to state that the proposition meets with my cordial approval.

2. On taking charge of this division, it came to my notice that it was proposed to take advantage of the Streevyguntum anicut to erect a bridge on its site, not that the bridge was particularly required at that spot, but simply because the anicut offered facilities for its erection.

3. As it appeared to me to be scarcely a wise thing to be introducing an element of risk, such as this bridge would occasion by the scour it would create, into a noble work like the Streevyguntum anicut, on which the food-producing powers of a large population were to be dependent, I had the matter thoroughly investigated.

4. It is calculated from the data at present at our disposal that the mean velocity of the river in flood as affected by the combined bridge and anicut would be about 11 feet per second, i.e., nearly 8 miles an hour, and I think that you will agree with me in considering that, under the circumstances above represented, there is no object in subjecting the anicut to the risk of the scour and erosion that such a velocity would entail.

5. Moreover, as the cultivation is already jeopardized in consequence of the feeble section in many places of the crazy river-embankments, it would not be wise to add to this danger by the construction of a bridge, which would cause the flood-water of the river to rise to a still higher level.

6. It is also to be considered that, whether the bridge be built or not, the strengthening and proper sectioning of the embankments in question is a vital point in connection with the successful working of the anicut scheme. This service must be carried out, and it cannot without danger be delayed; and there can be no doubt but that, as stated by Mr. Puckle, the embankment is of greater importance than the bridge.

7. Moreover, as Mr. Puckle has also pointed out, even were the whole sum of Rs. 40,000 subscribed by the ryots expended on the bridge, at least an equal sum would be required to complete it. But where are these funds to be obtained?

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8. Under these circumstances, I think that the Government may rest satisfied that the transfer of funds, as proposed by Mr. Puckle, is advisable in every point of view, and that such may safely, therefore, be sanctioned by the Government, with, of course, the modification as pointed out below.

9. Of the Rs. 40,000 already subscribed, the sum of Rs. 8,000 has been expended on building the abutments, and the greater number of the piers required for the bridge up to the level of the crown of the anicut. In the completion of the remaining piers to the same level, a further sum of Rs. 2,000 will be required, making a total of Rs. 10,000 expended on this service, and leaving a balance of Rs. 30,000 available for the river-embankment as now recommended—a balance which, I may add, will amply suffice for the service in question.

10. Although the erection of a bridge over the anicut is not a service of immediate requirement, still it would appear a thousand pities not to complete the foundations of all the piers of the bridge, while putting in the remainder of the anicut-work; because it may be safely inferred that Streevyguntum, which, at the present moment, offers to the casual visitor little beyond a variety of offensive smells, will, in all probability, in the course of a few years, from the influx of wealth poured into it by the anicut, rise to the dignity of a town, when the inconvenience of there being in its vicinity no bridge over the river will be much felt, although not now experienced; while careful observations of the site may subsequently prove that our information regarding the rise of the river and its discharge may be overstated, and that, therefore, the bridge may, without fear, be completed. It is these contingencies which have determined my now recommending that the bridge-piers should be completed throughout to the level of the crown of the anicut.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 170.

ORDER THEREON, 14th March 1872, No. 449.

Irrigation.

THE Government observe from the Collector's letter of 2nd June 1869, printed in Proceedings of 14th June 1869, No. 1,926, Public Works Department, that the amount contributed by the people towards the anicut-project was unconditionally subscribed, but that its appropriation for the bridge-work, which was not a necessary part of the anicut-scheme, the whole cost of which was provided from State Funds, was devised as a method of employing the subscription, which could afford no grounds on which the subscribers could base a claim to be exempted from charge for water, on the score that they had paid for the irrigation works themselves.

2. The present proposal is to complete the piers of the proposed bridge up to the level of the crown of the anicut, which will absorb a total amount of Rs. 10,000 out of the subscribed fund, and leaving the completion of the bridge to a future date, when the risk involved in its construction may be more accurately

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estimated, to apply the balance of the subscribed fund, or Rs. 30,000, to the thorough repair and improvement of the river-embankment from the anicut to the sea, than which Mr. Puckle affirms, no more useful work could possibly be undertaken for the benefit of the whole taluq.

3. As it appears that the bridge-project is of questionable expediency and utility, while the funds in hand would certainly require to be supplemented by an equal amount for its completion, and that the improvement of the embankment is urgently required, and can be thoroughly completed with the balance of the subscribed fund, while no other funds are available for the work, the Government sanction the proposal to devote Rs. 10,000 to the bridge-work, and the remaining Rs. 30,000 to the repair of the embankment from the anicut to the sea; but as this work is evidently one which should properly be provided for from the Agricultural Extraordinary Grant, arrangements will be made in the Department Public Works for replacing the sum eventually at the disposal of the Collector, so that it may be held available for the completion of the bridge, should this be decided on, or for such other appropriate purpose as may be devised by the Collector and approved by Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

4617
P. H.
1872. *Dep't*
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 10TH JANUARY 1872, No. 74.

28
17 Jan 1872

Received. 1872

Encl. *Ob*

26 Jan 1872
Sd/- 1119-1112 March 1872

P. H. 913/72

Rw 660 of 1872

JANUARY.
No. 74.

Bridge over Streeryguntum Anicut—in Tinnevely District—Letter from Collector proposing that unexpended balance of subscriptions raised for construction of, be laid out in repairing the embankment, submitted for orders of Government.

Approved

all

23 Jan 1872
Secretary to Govt

18 Jan 1872
W. H. Hudleston
16/68

No 449.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 15th ^{March} February 1872.

Read the following letter
from the Supt. Engineer & District

H.E. 15th February 1872. No 4476.

Recommends that of the
Rs. 40000 already subscribed, Rs.
30000 be laid out in repairing
the River embankments and Rs.
10000 in completing the piers of the
Bridge over the Sreevignanam Anicut.

Gobt. of 1872 Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Ac., Ac., &c.

Dated March 14th.

Recd.

Bail.

G. O., 14th March 1872, No. 449.

MARCH

Nos. 168--170.

Bridge over Sreevignanam Anicut.-
Letter from Superintending Engineer recommend-
ing that the unexpended balance of subscriptions
raised for its construction be laid out in repairing
the embankments, with orders thereon.

I concur in the
proposed use thereof
of utilizing the
balance of Rs. 30000.
but it seems to be
me that the work
is really a charge
on the Agricultural
Budget and should
be repaid eventually.

The Government observe
from the Collector's letter of
2nd June 1869 printed in
Proceedings of 11 June 1869
No 1926. P.M.D. that the
Amount contributed by the
people towards the Anicut
project was unconditionally
subscribed but that
its appropriation for the
bridge work which was
not a necessary part of
the Anicut scheme
the

the whole cost of which was provided from State funds, was devised as a method of employing the subscription which could afford no grounds on which the subscribers could base a claim to be exempted from charge for water on the score that they had paid for the irrigation works themselves.

The present proposal is to complete the pier of the proposed bridge up to the level of the crown of the Anicut which will absorb a total amount of Rs 10000 out of the subscribed fund, and leaving the completion of the bridge to a future date when the risk involved in its construction may be more accurately estimated, to apply

out of Local funds.

The repair of the embankment is really 'agricultural'. I would rather devote the people's subscription to some thing else - eventually.

L. D. S.

I concur in the appropriations proposed. Unless the appropriation to strengthening the embankment is held to give any inconvenience claim to the subscribers for exemption from charge for water, I would not be in a hurry to repay it. The subscriptions were given to the amount of this diversion is such to be worked for by the subscribers.

W.H.

It must be understood that the strengthening of the embankment cannot

be regarded as more than an Agricultural subscribed fund or work. I therefore

A. P.

Rs 30000 to the thorough repair and improvement of the river embankment from the Anicut to the sea, than which Mr. Puckle affirms, no more useful work could possibly be undertaken for the benefit of the whole taluk.

As it appears that the bridge project is of questionable expediency and utility ^{Rich} and that the funds in hand would certainly require to be supplemented by an equal amount for its completion ^{and that} while the improvement of the embankment is urgently required and can be thoroughly completed with the balance of the subscribed fund while

while no other funds
are available ^{for the work} the
Government sanction
the proposal to devote
Rs 10000 to the Bridge
work and the remaining
Rs 30000 to the repair
of the embankment from
the Anikut to the sea.

but as this ^{work}
is evidently more ^{work}

It properly be provided for
from the Agricultural
& Irrigation Grant
arrangement. It
be made in the S.D.W.
for replacing the sum
eventually at the
disposal of the Govt.
so that it may be
held available for
the completion
of the bridge should

This be decided a.
or for such other
appropriate purpose
as may be devised
by the Govt. & approved
by Govt. S.D.

14. To the Board of Revenue Dec 15 1900
21. To the Public Works Dept
b. To the Accountant General