

(1) Number of pages 4(2) Date of repair 13.7.1965(3) Initials of the Referencer JS

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

65

B.P. No.

~~Press~~

Mis.

Dated

9 - 2 - 1872 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1872.*

No. 87. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 17th January 1872, No. 224:—

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Government, that I have in company with Mr. Bell, Assistant Engineer in charge of No. 3 Range, South Arcot, recently made a very interesting excursion into the south-eastern portion of the hills known on the Ordnance Map as the Culroyen Hills. The part visited is portion of the Peria Culroyen, and is known locally as the Sadeiya Gounden, (சடையகவுண்டன்.)

2. Our object was mainly connected with the great Paragum Reservoir project, first mooted by Mr. Bell, and seemingly well worthy of investigation; of it more hereafter.

3. Our ascent was made about three miles south-west of the village of Katcherypaliam, which is eight miles from Kurichi, the cusbah of the taluq of the same name, in the South Arcot District.

The ascent of about 1,900 feet (2,400 above the sea) is steep and rugged, but might at no great expense be very much improved and made quite passable by horses; at present it might be passed by bullocks, not without difficulty in some places.

4. Several of the peaks which we visited are 2,700 feet, or thereabouts, above the sea, but to the north and north-west the hills much higher, probably 3,500 feet or more. From one of the former, on which stands the Tripatty Pagoda, there is one of the finest views I have seen in Southern India. This pagoda is a place of much resort, both by the hill people and of the plains in the vicinity.

5. From the top of this hill (which changes the plain country) north and north-west, as far as the eye can reach, embracing a very large area, is said to belong to a Poligar, called Anadthana Lamma Gounden. The country seems well watered and the soil good, the crops being the various dry grains and oil seeds cultivated in similar localities; the lower slopes are densely covered with the bamboo, higher the usual jungle and jungle trees grow, among which I remarked the Vengay. Near all the villages are numerous splendid jack trees, evidence of good deep soil and very considerable moisture.

6. It appears to me these hills are worthy the attention of the Forest Department; it is true they are said to be private property, but whether this is so, and to the extent afore alluded to, seems by means certain, and at any rate looking to the great importance of preserving large tracts of forest and jungle, I cannot but think it would be well for the Forest Department to keep an eye on the felling of timber and bamboos. The only limit to it appears to be the want or the difficulty of the paths, for I am given to understand that on payment of a fixed sum (said to be 17 Rupees per bill-hook) a man can cut as much as he pleases. Similarly for Rupees 2 per plough any amount of land can be cultivated.

7. I have said that our visit had reference mainly to a great reservoir to be formed. Three considerable streams unite to form the Gomucka Naddi, the principal tributary of the Manimootta Naddi, which is again the principal affluent of the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1872.*

Vellaur. A little below the point of junction of the three streams a low range of hills runs nearly across the valley, narrowing its width from three or four miles to less than one mile, and affording a very favourable site for the construction of the bund of the reservoir, while two low saddles in the foresaid range might be very advantageously utilized as escapes.

8. The area of the tank thus formed might be 10—15 square miles, and with an average depth of six yards would require seven or eight days to fill, the river running in full flood. From appearances seen the river seems to run in flood about fifteen feet deep, and, as it drains a very large area, it must bring down a very great volume of water; even on the average supposition that the river on its rise would find the tank half full, more than three days would be required to fill it.

9. These figures are of course very wide approximations, but they may serve to convey an idea of the magnitude of the project, which, I think, promises to be very valuable, not only from an irrigation point of view, but also from the fact that it involves the impounding of the flood waters, which are apt to cause such serious disasters in the low country.

10. Some preliminary investigation of the area that can be enclosed; the details of which will be communicated in due course. Mr. Ross has solicited the grant of a small sum from the Government for that observations may be made of the hills. I have selected a suitable site where he is charged with this duty. He should also be supplied with instruments, and also with one of Crossley's patents, and experiments should extend over at least a course, be a difficulty in procuring natives being so terribly afraid of fever, and the Range Officer could be

11. Application must be made for a piece of ground for building a hut, and for a grant of land, and this, if so made, will not be a difficulty.

12. I would name 300 Rupees as the sum likely to be required, and I cannot think that, even should the project be ultimately not entertained, the expenditure would be altogether thrown away, if it were to afford a series of observations with regard to hills which are now being made with regard to the

13. As it is probable that Colonel Ross may return in March and relieve the reputed feverish character of the country might render him unwilling to visit it till much later in the season, I think it well to now lay these facts before Government, considering that the observations to be made should begin in the official year.

14. I may here mention that the hills hitherto to have received the attention of the Government. There cannot be said to be any road, which passes through the south of

are now being made with regard to the hills, etc., all of which will be now bringing forward the matter is to commence of next official year, so as to fall on these hills; for this purpose I erect a hut as a residence for the person furnished with an ordinary rain gauge, registering rain gauges, and he might record temperature, etc. These are the months of the year. There will, of course, be a difficulty in procuring natives to live in the hills for nine months, but that is a difficulty that might be overcome by the Range Officer could be

11. Application must be made for a piece of ground for building a hut, and for a grant of land, and this, if so made, will not be a difficulty.

12. I would name 300 Rupees as the sum likely to be required, and I cannot think that, even should the project be ultimately not entertained, the expenditure would be altogether thrown away, if it were to afford a series of observations with regard to hills which are now being made with regard to the

13. As it is probable that Colonel Ross may return in March and relieve the reputed feverish character of the country might render him unwilling to visit it till much later in the season, I think it well to now lay these facts before Government, considering that the observations to be made should begin in the official year.

14. I may here mention that the hills hitherto to have received the attention of the Government. There cannot be said to be any road, which passes through the south of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1872.*

a road from the latter to Katcheroyepuram, only eight miles in length; three-fourths of the taluq may be said to be quite destitute of road.

15. I should, however, mention that 5,000 Rupees have been granted in the coming official year by the Local Board for a road from Kallakoorichi to Sankarapuram, and that a project has been started by Mr. Bell for the irrigation of a large tract of land in the Kullakurichi and Trikaloor Taluqs by throwing an anicut across the Manimoota Naddi, a stream which will bear a great deal more tapping.

No. 88. ORDER THEREON, 5th February 1872, No. 345.

IRRIGATION, No. 7.

The foregoing report will be communicated to the Revenue Department and to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

2. The suggestion in paragraph 6 will receive consideration in the Revenue Department. Application for the funds required for ascertaining the rainfall on the Culroyen Hills should be submitted after 1st April next, and meanwhile application for the use of the piece of ground referred to in paragraph 11 will be made by the Collector.

(True)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

.. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

.. Superintending Engineer, 5th Division

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

1 to the Secretary of the Revenue Department
by the Secretary of the Revenue Department

Revenue Department
No. 460

Govt. of 1872 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dated February 5th.

Recd. a 6c. Encl.

G. O., 5th February 1872, No. 343.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 87-88

No 65.9 February 1872

Cutroyen Hills.—Letter from the
Superintending Engineer of the 5th Divi-
sion submitting the results of his recent
excursion into the south-eastern portion of
the Cutroyen Hills and offering certain
observations, communicated to the
Revenue Department and to the Chief
Engineer for Irrigation with remarks.

With order

9th Feb 1872

101
No 65
Letter to the Secy. of the
Govt. of Madras.
The Secy. of the Revenue
Department is to be
informed that the
Superintending Engineer
of the 5th Division has
submitted a letter
to the Secy. of the
Revenue Department
and to the Chief
Engineer for Irrigation
with remarks.
The Secy. of the
Revenue Department
is to be informed
that the letter is
dated 5th Feb 1872
and is signed by
the Superintending
Engineer of the 5th
Division.