Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th September 1873.

No. 169. Read the following letter from J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 15th September 1873, No. 275 :—

With reference to your official memorandum, No. 148, dated 8th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the condition of the early dry crops has since considerably improved in the taluqs of Ramalkota, Nandikotkur, Nandial, and Sirwell, and there seems no likelihood for the present of any application being made for canal-water for flooding these crops. Should, however, a drought actually occur, it is believed that a large tract of land in these taluqs, more especially in the last three, may, without difficulty, be flooded from the canal; but I am unable to give even approximately the extent of land thus situated in each taluq, and I am awaiting a report from the Special Deputy-Collector on the subject.

2. In the Koilakuntla Taluq, the south-west monsoon has been a complete failure, and only 7,843 acres have been cultivated in the whole taluq up to the end of last month, against 44,508 acres cultivated during the same period in last year. The irrigation canal, however, is not likely to be of much advantage in this taluq, as it passes through only eight or ten villages of the taluq. I have delayed this reply in hopes of being able to furnish fuller information, which, I regret, is not as yet available. Copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer of the Company is enclosed.

Enclosure No. 1.

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated 20th August 1873, No. 56.

Floodings, 1873-74.

Your No. 848 of 16th instant, enclosing official memorandum of Acting Secretary to Government of 8th instant.

I have the honour to reply to your question to the best of my present information, since I infer that such a course is desired.

2. There is no certain sign of drought in the Kurnool District; witness the monthly rain-fall in inches in Kurnool :—

	1862.	1863.	1864.	1866.	1867.	1871.	1873.
May ...	.....	0·31	3·05	1·90	0·67	0·23	3·05
June...	3·30	1·21	5·06	0·33	0·98	2·31	2 86
July ...	3·90	2·93	4·29	2·50	2·08	9·05	1·75

while it must be borne in mind that 3·05 inches fell at Soonkesala and 3·72 at Jupad in July.

3. Physically the canal could be used for flooding almost every field estimated to be commanded in the distribution schemes sanctioned by Government. Time has not been lost since your permission to make the chief necessary channels was given last month.

4. Practically, the extent of irrigation will, in case of famine, depend on the possibility of getting the necessary applications made in time. Except in Sirwell and Koilkoontla, the Curnams (of both districts) seem useless for the purpose of taking applications, quite setting aside the influence they use to dissuade ryots, if sent to the Curnams to apply, from the purpose of irrigating.

The Kullur Curnam will not attend to applications; and if applied to in cases beyond the province of a Canal Amin, he is reported to say that he cannot measure fields, and cannot assist the ryot in applying. I have only a very limited number of men to do the work of receiving applications which the 150 Curnams find too much for *them* to attend to. Of course, special measures would be taken were a crisis to occur; but as to serving out water without application in case of a scarcity, that I think would be wrong, and worse in every effect than the worst nerrick system.

5. As you are aware, scores of miles of field-channels would have to be made in order to flood all the fields; but these are all laid out in the plans of villages in the Overseer's hands in the upper sections at least, and contractors could be found able and willing to make the channels from the plans.

No. 170. ORDER THEREON, 20th September 1873, No. 1,015.

Land Revenue.

THE Governor in Council desires that any further information on the subject of the foregoing letter, which may be obtained by the Collector, may be submitted for his consideration through the Board of Revenue.

2. The remarks of the Company's Chief Engineer, regarding the laxity of the Curnums in carrying out their duties in connection with applications for water, should receive the Collector's attention.

(Signed). R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Dec 7 Clerk Instructed to

Sept 19, 1915 Dec Sept 23, 13

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of Revenue

Let from
Auditor Comm'l

The remarks of the

Copy Chief Engineer
regarding the Laxity
of the Engineers in carrying
out their duties in
connection with applic-
ations for water should
receive the Collectors
attention

1. Coll. of Kumool Decr. 25 Sept.
14. Bd of Revenue with Encl. Dec. 30.

57/3

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF KURNOOL,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 20th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 20th September 1873, No. 1,015.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 169-170.

Irrigation Canal-water likely to be required for dry Lands in the Kurnool District.—Desiring the Collector to submit, through the Board of Revenue, any further information he may obtain on the subject of —, and requesting his attention to the remark of the Chief Engineer regarding the laxity of the Curnams in carrying out their duties in connection with applications for water.