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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

109

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st April 1873.*

No. 335. Read the following Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 10th March 1873, No. 85:—

From the Acting Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Madras, 21st February 1873, No. 35.

I HAVE the honour to hand you the Chief Engineer's Report for the month of January 1873.

Chief Engineer's Report to accompany the Divisional Reports for January.

THE following table I. shows the applications received from the Revenue Officers for water to ordinary irrigation, and received by me in Kurnool in time for me to supply the water necessary for four months' rice:—

Nature of the Application according to present Rules.	FROM THE COLLECTOR OF KURNOOL.		FROM THE COLLECTOR OF CUDDAPAH.		TOTAL.	
	Ordinary.	Flooding.	Ordinary.	Flooding.	Ordinary.	Flooding.
Applications, 1st May 1872 ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Additional applications in May 1872.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Do. do. in June ..	Nil.	Nil.	760.40	Nil.	760.40	Nil.
Do. do. in July ..	Nil.	Nil.	39.12	Nil.	39.12	Nil.
Do. do. in Aug. ..	985.79	0.53	105.67	0.66	1,091.46	1.19
Total...	985.79	0.53	905.19	0.66	1,890.98	1.19

Since August more applications have been received, though too late to be of the slightest service for wet crop. Up to the 5th instant, the applications received were—

Ordinary, 6,359.29 acres at Rupees 6, or Rupees 38,155½

Floodings, 412.79 at ,, 1, or ,, 412½

For Government Tanks.

Canala ...	28 acres.	} var.
P. Chintakunta ...	90 ,,	
Nundial ...	940.74 ,,	

2. Of the tanks the last could not be supplied, since the application did not arrive until the supply of water had failed in the canal.

3. Of the 6,359.29 acres for which water was demanded by the ryots, I cannot give an analysis for the upper division; but for the lower it was found, when the Engineers received the applications, that 49.70 acres were inaccessible, and that 870.26 were sown with dry crops, the ryots having given up any idea they may have had of irrigating them.

4. The actual irrigation, so far as is known, is—

	RS.
Ordinary, 7,664 acres at Rupees 6 ...	45,984
Flooding, 1,364 ,, at ,, 1 ...	1,364
Tanks, uncertain.	
Add Kurnool supply ...	4,000
Total...	51,348

a miserable result. In it I include only 600 acres for second crop, instead of 900 as hitherto estimated.

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5. Such a result might justify some speculation as to the wisdom of lowering the water-rate, even so as to supply water at a loss, and to give the cultivators an unfair proportion of the profits due to irrigation. Such speculation is met at the outset by the probability that the cultivator already feels the risk of his rent being raised if he cultivate with rice, since such a rise has occurred. But the failure of the hopes of getting a revenue from the Orissa works by the gradual reduction of the water-rate from Rupees 5 to (in 1870) 1 Rupee per acre, with the result of a revenue of £6, gives a more practical caution. Let the water-rate be fixed so as to give a fair division of profits; if necessary, different for every kind of soil, but let there be no bidding manœuvring, for the natives will come off best if any tricks are tried.

6. There seems to me to be ample reason for, but a slow increase of wet cultivation in the, to the ryot incomprehensible and apparently suspicious, way in which applications are made. I have shown that no applications were received by the Company till August for any irrigation in Kurnool District. The dates of issue of these applications from the Collector's Office to the Company were—

	Acres.
27th August	756-22
28th „	229-57
Total...	985-79

These documents, consisting of thirty-seven pages foolscap, could not be copied and reach the Engineers till September; and it may be said that the Company received no single application from Government for supply of ordinary irrigation to a single crop in the whole Kurnool District, until the season for sowing any but the most inferior rice was over; and certainly too late for making the subsidiary channels for supplying demand, which Government had desired should be postponed until the demand was made. When the Engineers came to the fields included in these applications, they found 150 acres already sown with dry crop in despair. Engineers when asked to make channels frequently tell the ryots to "apply," but the ryots find that even "applying" is useless, while it lets them in by the rules for certain liabilities.

7. A far more serious aspect of the affair is this; judging from our experience of the first full year of irrigation (1872) the demand for channels will not suffice to produce enough to place the country out of danger of famine. A loss of crops, far and wide, would occur, within a week of the time ryots would make up their minds to apply for flooding in a famine season; such an application, even if sent direct to the Engineers, would be too late. He could not meet a hundredth part of the demands he would receive. I have therefore, turned my attention to the immediate completion of field channels, or, as it is some times called, to a thorough reticulation of all the villages under the canal. Immediately after Christmas the necessary plans were commenced; but they have been delayed by the changes of staff; however they are complete for the 6th Section over the area surveyed by Messrs. Ridley, Sutherland, Shaw, etc. The land plans for 130 miles of channels in seven villages have been submitted to the Deputy Collector, with a request for the immediate permission to begin work, and three more villages are nearly copied. The total length of channel will be, giving the breadth of the land required for each—

5 links broad	155 miles 20 chains.
10 „ „	14 „ 64 „
15 „ „	2 „ 44 „
30 „ „	3 „ 15 „
40 „ „	2 „ 51½ „
Total...	178 „ 14½ „

On Friday morning a working party able to do five miles a week will await the Deputy Collector's permission to begin in Karimadula. The three first classes of channel are subsidiaries within the province of bankets; the large channels are ridge channels made to replace contours, as being cheaper than endeavouring to maintain the existing contour channels, and to provide them with works for the large drainage now required to be accounted for.

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8. I regret the hurried nature of this report, which I write under constant interruption. This evening I start for Cuddapah to meet there Colonels Rundall and Mullins and Mr. Dodson. I hope to accompany the two former over the whole canal. Mr. Crawford leaves for England to-day, and I take charge of the upper division.

KURNOOL,
11th February 1873.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. Paragraphs 1 to 4 and 6 of the Report of the Chief Engineer of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company are of interest in connection with the subject of the revision of the rules which has already been brought* before Government.

* G. O. No. 2,993, dated 17th December 1872.
„ „ 415, „ 7th February 1873.

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 336.

ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1873, No. 1,145.

IRRIGATION, No. 100.

ORDERED that these papers be communicated to the Revenue Department, in continuation of G. O. No. 415, dated 7th February 1873.

(True Extract.)

W. H. Mullins
Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Recd. 1875 Sep
1879
Gobt. of 1873 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

cc. cc.

Dated April 21st.

Recd. ... *28th*

Encl.

G. O., 21st April 1873, No. 1,145.

APRIL

Nos. 335-336

No 109.
30 April 1873
Do 109. 30 April 1873

Madras Irrigation and Canal Company
Chief Engineer's Report for January
communicated to the Revenue Department.

With order

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.