

(1) Number of Pages..... 6
(2) Date of repair..... 22. 12. 65
(3) Initials of the Referencer..... *MB*

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

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DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

48

Press
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Dated

11-3-1873 1873
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Government, the particulars of the addition of districts, in which the irrigation works are to be done, heavy. The management should be such that the Public Works Department should be on the sill of every head-sluice or in to this requirement as the quantity of water from the head of the main channel would be broken and no one could know, however, the village sluice, the village community, with the duty of the to keeping a sufficient depth of water in the superior channels will allow.

5. Neither in the Kistna nor in any other district is there, as yet, anything like a perfect system of regulation; the completion estimates sanctioned for the Godavery and those under preparation, or just prepared for the Kistna, aim at, among other things, such completeness will enable a Range Officer to carry enough water in his main canals, whenever the level of the feeding river is suitable for a certain maximum area of cultivation, and to sub-divide the supply according to the area of each section, subsection, and finally village. When these improvements have been carried out it will be practicable for the Range Officers to give to every village sluice the full supply, or the proportionate supply, to which it may be entitled. The duty and authority could not, I think, be better placed, if indeed they could be otherwise located. No one else can deal with all the circumstances to be taken account of; and an officer possessing the requisite experience and local knowledge, however far he may fall short of giving full satisfaction to all the villages concerned, has, in my opinion, the power to do more for them than can be done under any other arrangement and he will, moreover, always be able to show clearly what he has done or may be doing, and why nothing more is, for the moment at any rate, practicable.

6. In connection with the subject the improper use of influence which subordinate establishments of this, in common with all, departments will exercise, so long as the opportunity is afforded them, I would invite attention to the remarks contained in the letter* from a late Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division, printed in G. O., 13th May 1868, N. 525. Properly speaking, the delta establishments should simply carry out the definite orders of the Range Officer, and there should be no room for the exercise of improper influence by them. As the delta works approach nearer and nearer to completion, the supersession of discretionary power by systematic order should be steadily carried out. The degree of success attained will depend upon the character of individual officers, but it is, of course, essential that each Range Officer should have a sufficient number of assistants to ensure, with diligence and attention on their part, the proper execution of his orders. At present the staff of the delta is unequal to its duties, and it will be my duty, at the earliest possible moment, to lay before

* Para. 4.—At present we have three Delta Superintendents on 70 Rupees and eight Navigation Superintendents on 50, besides the fifty-eight Channel Superintendents and 1000 I propose twenty-seven Delta Superintendents on pay varying from 70 to 80 Rupees per mensem, (the term of office of a Superintendent should be discontinued) with forty-nine lascars on 5 Rupees.

Their principal duties to be, to watch the river banks, to prevent damage by weather or water action, to see that the Range Officer's orders are not tampered with or injured by riots or others, to see that the Range Officer's orders are properly executed, to keep the proper depths to be maintained at the several locks and regulating canals, to see that the navigation bye-laws are not infringed by the Range Officer informed of the condition of the navigation, to prepare estimates for the execution of clearances and bank repairs, to see that the navigation bye-laws are not infringed by the Range Officer informed of the condition of the navigation, to prepare estimates for the execution of clearances and bank repairs, to see that the navigation bye-laws are not infringed by the Range Officer informed of the condition of the navigation, to prepare estimates for the execution of clearances and bank repairs.

No. 118. Read the following
Rev
Irrigation works in Kistna Dist.
Mr. C. G. Master's report on this
reviewed.

Read a contrary practice should anywhere
be issued in the Revenue and Public
functions of the subordinate officers
the water-supply in channels (No. 1,239, dated 21st August 1872.)

No. 119. Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

In paragraph 23 of the Order of Government, Revenue Department, dated 21st August 1872, No. 1,239, the consideration in the Public Works Department of the question "whether the transfer of the deltas of the charge of village and field channels to the ryots themselves, and the distribution of the water among the ryots to the Revenue Department, is expedient" is directed.

2. I have read paragraph 290 of Mr. G. Master's report on the Kistna Delta, the opinion expressed in the late Mr. Bosill's letter, paragraph 9, forming Appendix X of the report, and paragraph 34 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reviewing the report, and I do not feel certain whether the practice in the Kistna Delta differs from that in the Godavery, whether rather it may not be a want of information on the part of the ryots as to what the Public Works Department undertakes to do which may have led to the idea that a change of arrangements is desirable.

3. Exactly what the present practice is nowhere stated, but I am under the impression that nowhere have Range Officers attempted to keep field channels in repair, while village channels can hardly have been dealt with. Circumstances differ in the Northern Deltas, Nellore, Tanjore, and the south, and a precisely similar rule is not, therefore, applicable to each. In the Kistna the inadequacy of the labour supply must have rendered it impracticable generally to attend to village channels, even if such a degree has in any degree been recognized in principle, and here and in most other districts Agricultural repairs funds could not at any time have sufficed for such work.

4. It appears to me that the duty of Public Works Officers is, or should be, confined really to regulation, which is, of course, distribution in bulk, if I may so term it, but not distribution in detail. The regulation of the water-supply in the Kistna, the Godavery, and systems of irrigation in which any such regulation at all is practicable, shown to the sluices which supply the lands of one village only, be vested in the Public Works Officers. It appears to be essential that such should be the case so that an independent authority is required to manage the supply until it is put into the hands of the village community. If a channel supply two villages would not do to let each village manage the sluice at the head of its channel otherwise the other village might, and probably would, suffer. And as I do not see that any Revenue Officers have contemplated, or would desire the transfer of the entire regulation to that department, it follows that the Range Officers should retain the management. Moreover,

to be matter of surprise and doubt how they have obtained. Instructions will accordingly be issued to the Public Works Departments absolutely rest on the ryots to the regulation of the water supply to the ryots. Deltas to take water for irrigation, or on I think, after the lapse of a few years necessary for the Collector to keep the District village, or under each village channel, Range Officers may know for what areas a for water would need to be communicated to the taluq.

ing papers:—
s of the Madras Government:—
and
their lands with dry crops, will now, sh extra work, but it will be necessary to be informed of the area in each irrigated in each year, so that the have to provide. Later applications direct to the Range Officer from the

8. The free option given to the ryots to relinquish irrigation on giving due notice will, I should suppose, secure to the Government concurrently the option of ceasing temporarily or permanently, to irrigate, on similar conditions. It might be very inconvenient and expensive to continue to irrigate a few hundred acres from a channel designed for several thousand; and again it might be advantageous to close a channel for a season during the carrying out of extensive improvements. No doubt rules will be issued in connection with this important decision, and perhaps it will be considered advisable to specify the terms on which, after irrigation for any year may have been relinquished, a supply may subsequently be obtained if available.

9. Referring to paragraph 25 of the order quoted at the beginning of this note, I may remark that in G. O. of the 17th June last, No. 1,489, the subject of the extension of the East Coast Canal to meet the Kistna Delta canals and through the Godavery Delta and river navigation was ordered to lie over. It may be well not to lose sight of the particulars of the cost of transporting delta rice to Madras by coasting vessels, as given in the late Colonel Anderson's memorandum dated 1st October 1868, printed in G. O., 21st November 1868, No. 3,652. I observe that with the exception of a short length of about 6 miles the surveys for the extension which were made in 1855 are all forthcoming, and they would probably afford sufficient information for the preparation of an approximate estimate if none was prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel Chambers. I would, therefore, suggest that the general dimensions of the Canal bed level, etc, should be fixed, and that the papers should then be transferred to the District Engineer of Nellore, who with the aid of one or two Surveyors would probably be able without much difficulty to make out an estimate based on current rates of the cost of supplying this important link in the chain of navigable communication.

Fort St. George, (Signed) C. J. SMITH, Captain, R.E.,
6th January 1873. for Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 120. ORDER THEREON, 5th March 1873, No. 713.

IRRIGATION, No. 8.

THE suggestion in paragraph 290 of Mr. Master's report on irrigation in the Kistna District, that village and field channels be left to the ryot themselves to repair and manage, is quite in consonance with the opinion of all experienced Public Works officers, with whom it appears

authority must manage all such rewards, otherwise the necessary old fully responsible for result of the latter. Depa'd. be in the hand supply the lands of more than of the charge of the water supplied regulating sluice, over which how report, after consulting the Collector, effect, and whether any increase measure is requisite.

2. The subject of the extension has been lost sight of. In the *Gazette* of Mr. Welch should relieve Mr. Harington

Paragraph XXII. of Lord Napier's Minute, recorded with G. O., 2,396, dated 20th September 1871.

communication with Nizampatnam. It was then laid down, but the extension G. O., No. 274 of 28th January 1873, 1873-74. And the Nellore District Engineer as he may need for planning and estimating the extension north of Kistnapatnam on the same scale as laid down for the southern portion.

3. The Government will be prepared to receive with favour any propositions that may be laid before them by the Local Fund Boards for perfecting the communication by road between Bezawada and Hyderabad. The more so, as it would appear that communication by rail between Hyderabad and the Eastern Coast, can better be made in conjunction with a line opening the new coal fields south of the Godavery River. It has been projected to run to Chandah, round by Warangul; a short branch from which latter place to the third or lowest Barrier on the Godavery would not only traverse a promising coal field, but join that river at a place from which cheap water communication would be available to Cocanada, a much more desirable port than Masulipatan.

4. The subjects mooted in paragraphs 7 and 8 of Lieutenant-Colonel Mullins' note will doubtless commend themselves to the attention of the Revenue Board, who will issue such instructions and regulations regarding them as may be found necessary.

(True Extract.)

 Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineers, Nellore and Kistna.
" District Engineer, Godavery.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.
" Financial "

Exd. S. T. Austin.

stance required in this and other at importance and the work under

its in the Kistna in which, and vesting in the village officers villages from the moment it quits the will have no control. The Board will a what date this arrangement shall take number of Neergunties or any other

East Coast Canal northwards has not the 9th August 1872, it was arranged that of the East Coast Canal Range, on account of the latter gentleman's state of health; and be employed in executing the extension from Doogoorazpatam to Kistnapatam, and planning for completing

has not been possible to work out the proposition south of Kistnapatam was sanctioned in and will be provided for in the Budget of Engineer will apply for such extra establishment estimating the extension north of Kistnapatam on the southern portion.

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Revenue *Ofc*
670
Sob. of 11873 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr 48
11-3-73

THE DISTRICT ENGINEERS, NELLORE
&c. &c. &c.

Dated March 5th.

Recd. *of* Encl.

G. O., 5th March 1873, No. 713.

MARCH.
Nos. 118-120

11-3-1873

Channels.—Passing orders on papers on the subject of the transfer of the work of repair and management of village and field channels in the Kistna District to Ryots, and the distribution of water to the Revenue Department.

48
Comm^d to the
Board of Revenue,
whose attention will be
drawn to paras 1 & 4 of the
Order
11th March 1873

File B. 2. 10. 10. 15 July 74.

10 L. 2. 10. 10. 15 July 74

24/6/74

11-3-74