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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th August 1873.

No. 114. Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 5th July 1873, No. 1,206 :—

Read again Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 20th September 1872, No. 1,875.

Read also the following letter from C. G. MASTON, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Chetterpore, 8th May 1873, No. 966 :—

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a letter from the Acting Principal Assistant Collector, dated 21st April 1873, No. 116, submitting the explanation called for by the Court of Wards in paragraphs 10, 11, 17, and 18 of their Proceedings, dated 20th September 1872, No. 1,875.

2. The works on which the Court called for further information were—

(1.) Restoration and construction of Goddur Ramasagaram Tank (paragraph 10).

(2.) Aqueduct across the Nagarikatakam Channel (paragraph 11).

(3.) Palem and Tembur Road (paragraph 17).

(4.) Clearing of the road traces in the hills (paragraph 18).

3. As to the first, the Court will observe that the proposal was not well considered and should never have been brought forward. The Principal Assistant Collector proposes in lieu to have certain minor tanks repaired before the next rains set in. This he will be requested to do, duly forwarding the estimates for sanction.

4. The second project was also ill-considered, an aqueduct having been proposed instead of a tunnel. A fresh estimate for the construction of such tunnel, together with the plan, sketch, and the Overseer's explanation, are herewith submitted for the Court's sanction.

5. As to the third, the explanation of Tai Ramayya Nayadu, late Supervisor, is herewith submitted. It is not satisfactory.

6. The Court's Proceedings, dated 11th March 1873, No. 352, on my letter, dated 8th February 1873, No. 273, have disposed of the fourth point. The additional trace from Gooma to Kolakota (a Police Station) was omitted by oversight in the first report and should certainly be attended to equally with the others.

7. I must express my regret that schemes should have been submitted for the Court's sanction on information which has proved so defective as well as erroneous. The only remedy seems to me to place the Public Works administration of the taluq under a man who can be trusted.

8. I am forwarding copies of Mr. Grahame's letter and enclosures to the District Engineer under whom Tai Ramayya is now serving in the Gumsur Taluq, in order that any explanation which the late Supervisor can furnish in regard to the transactions now reported upon may be submitted for the satisfaction of his departmental superiors and ultimate submission to Government should they think fit.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. F. GRAHAME, Esq., Acting Principal Assistant Collector, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, dated Chicacole, 21st April 1873.—No. 116.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Proceedings of the Court of Wards, No. 1,875, dated 20th September 1872, calling for certain information with respect to the under-mentioned works in the Parla Kimedy Estate:—

(*a.*) Restoration and construction of the Goddur Ramasagaram Tank (paragraph 10).
(*b.*) Aqueduct across the Nagarikatakam Channel (paragraph 11).
(*c.*) The Palem and Tembur Road (paragraph 17).
(*d.*) Clearing certain road traces through jungles (paragraph 18).

2. (*a.*) *Restoration and construction of the Goddur Ramasagaram Tank.*—Before giving the information asked for by the Court of Wards with respect to this tank, I have to state that I think it will be of little use as an irrigation work, and regret that I ever recommended its execution. In entering it in my budget I depended entirely on the information given to me at the time by Tai Ramayya, late Supervisor in charge of the Kimedy Department of Public Works, and it was not until February 1872, when settling the estate, that I came to know all about the tank. The villagers of Goddur informed me at the settlement of their village that there was formerly no tank, or anything deserving the name of a tank, which could be developed into a large tank, as proposed by Ramayya, but that there was a small shallow place, perhaps once a tank, apparently not made use of for a considerable length of time and now almost effaced; that this shallow place has no name like "Ramasagaram" but that Supervisor Ramayya, wishing to have the honour of calling it after his own name if the work were executed (as the Manager and the villagers informed me), called it "Ramasagaram" in the budget he sent to me. Ramayya knew well that if he did not call this really new project a "*restoration* and construction of the Goddur Ramasagaram Tank" it would not be undertaken at all, and, if undertaken, it would not be called after his own name. So far as my present inquiries go I cannot say that Ramayya had any dishonest motives in recommending this project, or that his own lands are likely to benefit by the work. I specially mention this here because there were numerous complaints against Ramayya that he constructed certain irrigation works in the estate more with a view to benefit his own lands than in the interests of the estate.

3. As to the merits of this project the Manager of the estate thinks that it is not worth undertaking at all, and that it will not pay, as anticipated by the Supervisor. The Supervisor gave me evidently false information in saying that the ryots who hold land in the bed of the tank would willingly surrender it without asking for compensation. He did not, however, send me any written agreement from the ryots. At the settlement the ryots told me that they would not give up the land on any terms, and that they never expressed any willingness to surrender the land to Ramayya. The assessment of this land, viz., Rupees 189-12-10, will be lost, and compensation will have to be given to the ryots if the work be executed.

4. Now as to the information called for by the Court of Wards with respect to this work. The present rates of assessment of the wet land, which, it is said, will be benefitted by this new tank, range between Rupees 2 and Rupees 7. The ryots have agreed to pay Rupees 4-8-0 an acre on the existing wet land as they now, in some cases, pay only Rupees 3, and to pay Rupees 4½ and Rupees 3 an acre, according to the nature of the soil, for any dry land which may be converted into wet, and to pay a uniform wet rate of Rupees 3 an acre for all Bunjar land which may be brought under wet cultivation. The Manager considers that no water can be supplied to the land from which the Supervisor expected an increase of revenue, and says that the additional revenue promised can be realized only in case a supply of water from this tank be guaranteed. He thinks that the proposed site of the tank is low and the fields which the tank is intended to irrigate are high; that the supply-channel which will have to be dug to these fields from the tank will pass through rocky land; and that its construction is consequently next to impossible. He doubts whether a great deal of the Bunjar land said to be irrigated can ever be irrigated by means of the project under contemplation, and says that the ryots of two villages holding only 146 acres out of the 212 acres of dry land mentioned in the Court's Proceedings have agreed to convert it into wet, and that the holders of the remaining dry land, viz., sixty-six acres in extent, have refused to utilize the water even if it be available.

5. Under these circumstances, it is highly improbable that the expected increase of revenue, viz., Rupees 840, will ever be realized from this work; but one thing is certain, we shall, as I have already remarked, lose the revenue of nearly Rupees 190 payable on the land to be submerged in the bed of the tank, and we shall have to pay at least Rupees 1,000 compensation for the land. The increase of revenue will not be eight per cent. as anticipated by the Court, but a mere trifle, perhaps three per cent. at the outside even if the Bunjar land be irrigated and brought under cultivation.

6. The water which this tank is expected to store will enable the ryots concerned to raise second-crop cultivation on the existing wet land; hence the expected increase of assessment on such land as mentioned above. Were it not for the abundant supply of water which we now promise, we could not expect any increase of revenue on the existing wet land.

7. The object of the Supervisor in recommending this work was chiefly to remove the want of water felt by the ryots of China Pudmapooram and Maliahputte. This object can best be attained, as the Manager proposes, by repairing, at a moderate cost, the small tanks already existing in these two villages, and I, therefore, propose to have them restored to order after hearing from you. This will have to be done before the next rains. It must be remembered, however, that no increase of revenue will accrue by repairing them, but that they will supply water for agricultural purposes, which is now very deficient in quantity.

8. (*b.*) *Aqueduct across Nagarikatakam Main Channel.*—The object of this work is, as the Court of Wards have correctly understood, to drain surplus water off the lands of Lakshmipooram. This water cannot be drained off into the Nagarikatakam Main Channel itself as the Court remarked, because the channel is high while the land to be drained is low. It is proposed to remove the drainage water by constructing a subterraneous passage below the Nagarikatakam Channel and carrying it to the other side of the channel, whence it can easily discharge itself into the Vumsadhara River if a small channel be dug. The enclosed copy of the Overseer's letter on the subject, together with the sketch and plan therewith received, give all necessary information. The Supervisor Ramayya was wrong in estimating for an "aqueduct over the channel" instead of an "under-tunnel" as the Overseer calls it, and his doing so is another proof of his ignorance of engineering work. The Overseer has sent a revised estimate (herein enclosed), amounting to Rupees 805, for the under-tunnel and the channel to the Vumsadhara River. The Supervisor's estimate for the aqueduct, at a cost of Rupees 1,223, will have to be cancelled.

9. (*c.*) *Palem and Tembur Road.*—Supervisor Ramayya informed me that Rupees 550 were originally sanctioned by the Court of Wards for the upkeep of this road in Fasli 1278 on the understanding that its length was seven miles instead of nine miles, and that he received that amount (Rupees 550) for Faslis 1278, 1279, and 1280, and spent the whole of it without reference to the length of the road. He says that the work was done under his *own* supervision but not on contract. His explanation in the matter is enclosed.* I consider it very unsatisfactory, and think that Ramayya should be made personally responsible for the excess expenditure of Rupees 300 incurred by him in Faslis 1278, 1279, and 1280, for he clearly shows that he knew the allotment was meant to be at Rupees 50 per mile.

* Letters Nos. 553 and 8, dated 21st December 1872 and 4th January 1873, respectively.

10. (*d.*) *Hill Roads.*—These roads were begun in January 1869 and were finished in March 1871. The work was supervised by a Special Overseer under the orders of the Manager, and not of the Supervisor, as you observed in your letter to the Court of Wards, dated 11th March 1873. This individual was then paid Rupees 30 a month. I told the Overseer to employ the same man if possible as he knows all about the old traces, and as he very recently inspected them at the request of the Manager. I have not yet heard from the Overseer on this subject. After hearing from him I shall answer your letter, No. 275, dated 8th February 1873.

11. The Manager has lately reported to me on the condition of the seven roads named in the margin of paragraph 18 of the Court of Wards' Proceedings. His report agrees with your

remarks, contained in your letter to the Court, dated 11th March 1873, as regards the first five roads mentioned, and shows that these five roads, as also the two other roads which you did not inspect, will have to be done over again. The jungles in all these seven roads were originally rooted up, and not merely cut as the Court observed. They have to be looked after every year, and the jungle will have to be cleared off regularly. An annual maintenance grant will be required for this purpose. I shall let you know hereafter what money will be required for this, and will have it entered in the next year's budget.

12. The Manager informs me of the trace of a road not mentioned in your report. It is from Gooma to Kolakota. The jungle on this trace was not rooted up but was merely cut, and has, therefore, now grown up again. This line also requires to be cleared this year with the other lines. I shall tell the Overseer to attend to this work if any money can be spared out of the Rupees 5,000 grant now available, but not otherwise.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.—Letter from T. Ramayya, dated 21st December 1872, No. 553.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.—Letter from T. Ramayya, dated 4th January 1873, No. 8.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.—Letter from C. V. Mullasalingam, Overseer in charge of Kimedy Range, dated 12th March 1873, No. 77.

Enclosure No. 2.—Estimate.

Enclosures Nos. 3 and 4.—Plan and Map.

The Court have now before them the explanations called for in paragraphs 10, 11, 17, and 18 of their Proceedings,* dated 20th September 1872, No. 1,875, as given by the Acting Principal Assistant Collector in Ganjam.

* On the budget for Purla Kimedy and other estates, Fasli 1282.

2. The facts now reported are so condemnatory of the conduct of Tai Ramayya, the Supervisor in charge of the estate, lately removed from Purla Kimedy and placed in charge of a Government range, that the Court resolve to lay those facts before Government.

3. The Principal Assistant Collector points out (paragraph 2 *et. seq.*, of his letter) that he was induced to recommend the construction or reconstruction of a work which the Supervisor called the Goddur Ramasagaram Tank by a series of misrepresentations. The Manager of the estate reports that "the proposed site of the tank is low and the fields it is intended to irrigate are high," and "its construction is next to impossible." The ryots told the Principal Assistant Collector that they would not give up the lands required for the bed on any terms. The prospects held out of an increase of revenue were entirely delusive.

4. The Supervisor's estimate for an aqueduct across Nagarikatakam Main Channel was an absurdity ignoring the levels and the requirements of the work. A tunnel was required for which another estimate is now submitted.

5. The Supervisor is proved to have drawn maintenance allowance for eleven miles of road between Palem and Tembu for three years at Rupees 50 per mile. The distance, as he must have known, is nine miles. His explanation is not held to be satisfactory by the Collector or by the Court.

6. The Supervisor in charge of the estate was specially exempted from any departmental control, with the exception of rare visits from the Executive Engineer of Northern Ganjam, and the Court are of opinion that the Principal Assistant

Collector should have watched over the interests of the estate and have exercised a general control over the Supervisor's conduct. This he failed to do, and the Court cannot acquit him of blame in the matter.

7. The hill roads mentioned in paragraph 18 of the Court's Proceedings were, it is now reported, properly cleared in the first instance, *i. e.*, the jungle was stubbed up and not merely cut down. A maintenance allowance will be necessary for these roads.

8. The Court desire that the Collector will take measures for opening up a ghaut for bandy traffic from the low country into the Maliahs. It should lead to Gooma and on to Kolakota and be continued in a north-easterly direction to the frontier so as to communicate with the roads already made in the Chinna Kimedy Maliahs. The charge would be one which might fairly be laid on the funds of the estate, and facilities for disposing of their produce and importing the goods which they require would do much for the civilization of the Sowrahs. Ensign Lever is now in charge of the range, and his experience in Gumsur will enable him to indicate a good trace.

No. 115. Order thereon, 15th August 1873, No. 855.

Miscellaneous.

In the above papers the moral and professional conduct of Supervisor Tai Ramayya is seriously impugned. The Collector appears to have brought the subject to the notice of the District Engineer, under whom this Supervisor is now serving, and that officer will doubtless report on the matter through his own department to which these papers will be transmitted.

2. The Government agree with the Court that the Principal Assistant Collector is very much to blame, inasmuch as he, without inquiry, unhesitatingly accepted and submitted for sanction two schemes, of one of which, involving an outlay of upwards of 10,000 Rupees, he now writes that he thinks it will be of little use, while the other is characterized as [illegible]ard by the Court. The information on which he now condemns the more costly project should certainly have been sought ere it was recommended, and it would have been more satisfactory now if it had been stated that his opinion had been formed after a personal inspection of the locality.

3. The Court will inform Mr. Grahame that the Government regard his conduct, in neglecting, so far as was possible, to satisfy himself as to the real character of works which he submitted for sanction, with grave disapproval.

(True extract.)

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

To the Court of Wards.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department.

No. 855

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 15th August 1873

Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards

Bringing to the notice of Govt the improper conduct of the Supervisor in charge of the Peria Komaty Estate, in connection with certain public works in the Estate, &c.

R.C. 5 July 1873 No. 1.206

In the above papers the moral and professional conduct of Supervisor Jai Ramayya is seriously impugned. The Collector appears to have brought the subject to the notice of the District Engineer under whom this Supervisor is now serving and that officer will doubtless report on the matter.

Forwarded

G.O.

Conduct of the Superinte
in charge of the Porta Ri
-mady Estate in connec
with certain public works
in the Estate.

Dept.

Ltr 114-115