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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***Revenue* DEPARTMENTG.O. No.
B.P. No.

132

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Dated

23. 3. 1874 196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th March 1874.*

No. 249. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 24th January 1874, No. 4,400:—

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Lieutenant Greer, R.E., has brought to my notice the circumstances mentioned in the enclosed letter, No. 62, dated 16th instant, on the subject of

1 Copy of letter.
1 Statement.

turning the river Mooliapunjan into the Cumbum valley.

2. It is a curious fact that, although the Travancore country would be sensibly benefited by the reduction of the quantity of water flowing down the Perryaur river, as would be effected in the manner proposed, yet obstacles have been thrown by the Travancore Authorities to the Goodaloor people carrying out this most desirable object.

3. I may mention that the channel under notice is that referred to in paragraph 9 of my Report on the Goodaloor Ghaut, under date the 16th instant, No. 4,255.

4. I would most strongly urge that this Government should arrange to construct the wall required to divert the whole of the water under reference into the Cumbum valley.

5. At the present moment the apex of this usually most fertile valley is in a disastrous state. For want of rain the whole of the punjah crops have failed, in fact they have been scorched up by the sun. About one-half of the punjah has also failed, and what is saved is due, as stated by Lieutenant Greer, to the utilization of the water of the Mooliapunjan river; and had the whole of the water been turned into the valley instead of running waste to the sea, a very perceptible amount of the distress which now prevails would have been avoided.

6. I think it right to mention here that I was recently informed, on the spot, that never in the memory of living man has such a season been known in the Cumbum valley. Water even for household purposes is scarce, and has to be fetched from long distance, in the case of both the villages of Goodaloor and Cumbum.

From Lieutenant M. GREER, R.E., Executive Engineer on special duty, Madura District, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, dated Camp at Combai Tavalum, 6th January 1874, No. 630.

I HAVE the honour to state, for your information, that many years ago the ryots of Goodaloor went to considerable expense to turn the river Mooliapunjan into the Cumbum valley.

2. This river has its source in longitude $77^{\circ} 14'$ and latitude $9^{\circ} 33\frac{1}{2}'$, and is turned through the water-shed at the top of the present new Goodaloor Ghaut at longitude $77^{\circ} 15'$ and latitude $9^{\circ} 36\frac{1}{2}'$. It has a drainage area of about 8 square miles, and the Acting Chief Engineer of Travancore informed me the other day that he was most anxious to reduce the quantity of water flowing down the Perryaur river.

3. Originally the ryots had the whole river turned, but I understand the Travancore Authorities pulled down a portion of the work, so that now half the water goes to the Perryaur and half to Madura; a masonry wall about 50 feet long and 4 feet high would be sufficient to turn the whole of the water to the Cumbum side.

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4. I would suggest therefore that permission be obtained from the Travancore Authorities to construct the above wall as it will benefit both Governments.

A table showing approximately the discharge of the river for the past five years is herewith enclosed, and I ought to remark that if it had not been for the water of this river, the whole of the cultivation of the Goodaloor ryots would have been lost during this last monsoon.

showing approximately the discharge of the Mooliapunjan River referred to in my letter No. 63 of the 16th January 1874.

Year.	DISCHARGE DURING THE MONTH OF							
	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.
1869-70 ...	C. yds. 2,989,066	C. yds. 3,402,200	C. yds. 2,247,466	C. yds. 2,360,966	C. yds. 16,546,533	C. yds. 3,338,666	C. yds. 1,872,800	C. yds. 852,200
1870-71 ...					4,066,033	1,523,433	3,328,700	926,133
1871-72 ...	8,202,466	2,380,966	2,167,933	2,592,900	4,054,266	1,900,666	920,633	802,466
1872-73 ...		3,294,300	3,378,700	1,605,433	4,639,200	3,488,433	941,300	1,200,666
1873-74 ...	7,290,933	3,393,666	2,926,600	2,345,000	2,400,133	1,155,866		
Average...	6,160,822	3,119,093	2,680,175	2,226,075	6,357,233	2,288,413	1,765,858	945,356

CAMP, COOMOOLEE TAVALUM,
16th January 1874.

(Signed) M. GREER, Lieutenant, R.E.,
Ex. Engr. on special duty, Madura District.

No. 250. ORDER THEREON, 11th March 1874, No. 647.

IRRIGATION, No. 26.

ORDERED that the Resident of Travancore be instructed to obtain permission for the diversion of the water of the small stream in question, without detriment to the claims of the Travancore Government as regards the water proposed to be stored by the great Perryaur Dam; it being understood that the Travancore Chief Engineer considers the abstraction of the water beneficial and not detrimental to Travancore interests.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Resident of Travancore.
Political Department.

Enl. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Order

Order in the Political Dept. 18 March 1874

Communicated to the Revenue
(True Extract)

St. James
As Chief Secy

To the Revenue Department.

St. James

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20: March 1874
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