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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	25	Press
B.P. No.		Mis. ☒
Dated	5. 12. 1874	1967.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th July 1874.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 677. Read again Proceeding of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, No. 212, dated 20th May 1874, and No. 1,170, dated February 1874.

No. 677A. From J. H. LATHAM, Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Coonoor, 19th May 1874.

THE Order of the Madras Government, No. 1,170, of 2nd instant, on the subject of the current year's Budget Estimate, has just reached me. On it I will have the honor to make the reply which the order seems to demand.

2. My Budget Estimate was made under difficulties. The estimate of expenditure is necessarily made a month or two before I can get the Engineer's regular estimates of the repairs needed: that is a minor difficulty. In this particular case the experimental field channels were actually under trial, and the success or failure of these would involve a difference of several thousand rupees expenditure on works and several hundred on land. The maintenance of the water-supply for the first time until May—instead of, as hitherto, cutting it off on the 1st January—was another experiment still to be made, and the result of that experiment would necessarily affect expenditure; but still more it would affect revenue.

3. Under such circumstances, my Budget was carefully made with the object of showing how much money it was reasonable to set apart for the possible requirements of the canal, leaving, however, extraordinary seasons or events out of the question.

4. In reference to Colonel C. H. Dickens' letter to Colonel G. W. Walker, paragraph 3, the explanation, as desired, will be furnished as each application for land is made.

Paragraph 4.—I enclose a statement, marked A, showing the way the Rupees 16,000 for General Management chargeable to Loan was arrived at.

Paragraphs 5 and 6.—So far as the experience of last year's experiments above described may be relied on, the "Budget Estimates" of receipts for 1873-74 and 1874-75 may both be increased. Indeed, the deficit of 1874-75 may be written as *nil* if we suppose the new rules, now under consideration of the Madras Government, to have the least success.

Paragraph 7.—I beg to add that, in my opinion, the apparent extravagance hitherto allowed by the Madras Government by which alone the Company have been able to keep the canal and works under the immediate supervision of Engineers thoroughly acquainted with the canal and its capabilities, men who have for years taken keen interest in the success of the canal, for much of which they have been personally responsible during construction, who have studied the modes in which the water can be made most useful to the ryots, and who are well known and have been much trusted by the ryots and by officers of Government, this expense will prove true economy, and will, I trust, be continued until the canal has been a full year passed beyond the experimental stage. The reduction of the staff engaged on construction, so soon as a canal or reservoir has been completed, and before the means of distribution are complete, much less proved, is no doubt desirable; but not so the complete dispersion. The expediency of lowering the

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class as well as the numbers of such a staff cannot be established on the ground that, while it requires great talent to build a canal or reservoir, it has always proved easy to get a satisfactory revenue fully developed under such a work. Until the rules drawn up in print, or established by custom, have had time to be fully fixed and understood, the ryot's use of the canal must depend much on his personal confidence in the officers of the Government or of the Company with whom circumstances have made him previously acquainted.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR YEAR 1874-75.

Statement showing in detail the manner in which the item for "Agency and Engineering Establishment" is arrived at, as desired in G. O., No. 1,170 of 2nd May 1874, paragraph 4.

Numbers.		Rate of Salary.	1874-75.		
			Per mensem.	Per annum.	Total.
	<i>General Management.</i>	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1	Chief Engineer and Manager ...	2,500	2,500	30,000	30,000
1	Chief Accountant ...	800	800	9,600	9,600
15	Clerks from Rupees 12 to Rupees 140 ...	...	840	10,080	10,080
3	Draughtsmen from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 ...	...	74	888	888
52	Moochy and other office servants ...	...	206	2,472	2,472
	<i>Travelling Allowances.</i>				
	Chief Engineer and Manager ...	...	200	2,400	2,400
	Other allowances ...	...	30	360	360
	Contingencies ...	...	100	1,200	1,200
	Total cost of all Establishments...	...	...	...	57,000
	Estimated Proportion of Revenue general Management charges for year 1874-75 ...	...	...	...	*41,000
	Do. do. Capital "Agency and Engineering Establishment" ...	...	...	...	16,000

* This amount varies in proportion to the expenditure on Revenue and Capital Outlay.

KURNOOL,
13th May 1874.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer and Manager.
(Signed) W. F. CRAWFORD,
Ag. Chief Acctt. and General Storekeeper.

No. 6.

No. Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

THE accompanying letter of the 19th May 1874, with its enclosed statement, from the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, is submitted for the information of Government, with reference to the orders as per margin.
G. O., No. 512, dated 27th Feb. 1874.
" " 1,170, " 2nd May "

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2. As yet the opinions of the Revenue Officers on the subject of the rate of increase of revenue which may be expected from the Company's Canal have not been received, and no orders having been made up to the present time, passed on the revised rules and regulations for the management of the canal, and for modifying the water-rates, which were agreed to by a Committee in January last, and submitted to Government on the 4th February 1874; no opportunity has yet been afforded of ascertaining what effect changes in the administration of the canal are likely to have upon the extension of irrigation. Consequently it is not easy to afford any better information as to probable increase of revenue than that which may be deduced from the statement given in paragraph 2 of this office memorandum, No. 57, printed in Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 512, of the 27th February last.

3. With regard to working expenses, especially under the head General Management, there is no doubt whatever that these are much in excess, as pointed out by the Government of India (letter paragraph 7, Proceedings of the Madras Government, 2nd May 1874, No. 1,170,) of what would be allowed on a Government canal under similar circumstances, but it is not easy to suggest a way of materially decreasing them. The present representative of the Company has been in their employ for some fifteen years, and it is improbable that he would accept a reduction of salary which would make any great difference in the annual charges; and it is, moreover, doubtful whether much advantage would be derived by replacing him by a younger and less highly paid officer, seeing that his knowledge of the circumstances of the canal, and his local experience, must be of very considerable value. It is however quite open to the Government to intimate to the Board of Directors that should Mr. Latham vacate his appointment, the salary of his successor must, at least so long as the maintenance of the canal may be provided for from advances of public money, be restricted to Rupees 1,200 as a maximum. Similarly, with regard to the Chief Accountant, it is tolerably evident that an official on Rupees 800 a month is no longer required, the yearly outlay on works and stores being very small, and the salary of any future incumbent should be limited to Rupees 250 as a maximum, while the appointment of Head Accountant and Head Clerk of the Chief Engineer's office may very well be combined. It may be added that this appointment may properly be filled up in this country rather than by sending out a gentleman from England.

4. The other points on which the Government of India desire information are referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter communicated with G. O. of the 2nd May 1874—

1st.—As regards the provision for land. The land will be almost entirely required for distribution channels and the disbursement on its account will be made in the usual manner, after land plans have been duly passed, and the registers and bills submitted to Government.

2nd.—Explanation has been asked for as to the precise manner in which the sum entered in the Budget for General Management, chargeable to Capital, has been arrived at. The statement submitted by the Chief Engineer and Manager shows that the total estimated charge is Rupees 57,000, of which, as far as could be determined when the Budget

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was prepared, Rupees 41,000 will be debitable to Revenue and Rupees 16,000 to Capital. This distribution is in accordance with the arrangement hitherto in force, under which such charges have been divided in proportion to the expenditure upon Construction and Maintenance respectively, but there has lately been correspondence between this Office, the Chief Engineer and Manager, and the Examiner of Accounts, with a view to bring the practice into agreement with that prescribed in the case of the Guaranteed Railways, and propositions will shortly be submitted to this end for the approval of Government. If they be sanctioned, the whole charge for establishments will, in the first instance, be debited to Revenue, which will afterwards receive credit to the extent of about one-third of the expenditure on Capital account, that having been ascertained to be approximately the proper charge for establishments debitable to Construction; and this third will be divided in a fixed proportion between General Management and Executive Establishment.

Ootacamund,
6th June 1874.

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

No. 678. ORDER THEREON, 30th July 1874, No. 2,063.

IRRIGATION, No. 61.

The subject of paragraph 6 of the orders on the Budget Estimate of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company for 1874-75 has already been disposed of in the Proceedings and letter as per margin, and the remaining points on which the Government of India desire information will now be considered.

2. The explanation required regarding the Budget provision for land taken up is given in paragraph 4 of the Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and in the same place will be found information as to the way in which the amount debitable to Capital on account of Agency and Engineering Establishment has been arrived at.

3. With regard to Establishment charges, much as a reduction, especially in the charges for General Management, is to be desired, His Excellency considers that, without hampering the Board of Directors, and possibly running a risk of less satisfactory net results than those which may be hoped for from the present administrative staff, no immediate reduction can be insisted upon; but the Government approve of the suggestion made by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, that on the occurrence of vacancies in the appointments of Chief Engineer and Manager and of Chief Accountant, the salary of the former should be restricted to Rupees 1,500 and of the latter to Rupees 300 per mensem. Mr. Latham will accordingly be requested to advise the Board of Directors that Government will not be prepared in the case of future appointments to sanction higher salaries

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than those named, at any rate until the revenue shall have so far increased as very materially exceed the working expenses, and until all advances on the account shall have been repaid.

Ordered that the following letter be sent:—

(Here enter No. 2,064, dated 30th July 1874.)

(True Extract.)

John Mullins

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint-Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

- „ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.
- „ Chief Engineer and Manager.
- „ Revenue Department.

N^o 2599.

Revenue Department
Govt. of 1874 Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 30th.

Recd. 5 August 74

Encl.

G. O., 30th July 1874, No. 2,063.

JULY

Nos. 677-678

578.

Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.—Passing orders on Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation submitting the reply of the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to G. O., No. 1,170, of the 2nd May 1874, on the Budget Estimate of 1874-75.

N^o 25

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue—

5 August 1874.

With order.

To B. P. Munro 7/10/81