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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 510. *Under date the 23rd May* 1874, *No.* 1,396.

IRRIGATION, No. 51.

THE Government having had under ...sideration the subject of the naviga tion of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal, on which a large sum, which has been estimated by Colonel Rundall, Inspector-General of Irrigation, on information furnished by the Company's Chief Engineer, at nearly £370,000, has been spent on this account, are of opinion that the time has fully come for taking up in earnest a matter of no little importance, whether viewed as bearing upon the utilization of the capital invested, or in connection with the provision of facilities of transport for the produce of the country through which the canal runs. Hitherto, although the canal has for some years, during the season of the freshes in the Toombadra, or from June to December, carried water for purposes of irigation throughout its entire length, no attempt has been made to start its navigaion, and it is evident from the circumstances of the country that even were the water to be maintained at a sufficient depth for navigation, and were the locks, et., in complete working order, it seems very doubtful whether the people of the country entirely unaccustomed as they are to the use of boats, and unacquainted with the economical advantages obtainable from the conveyance of goods and produce by water instead of land, would do anything towards providing means of navigation in the shape of boats, or enter into any enterprise connected with canal traffic.

2. It follows therefore that, at any ...r a time from the first introduction of navigation, the Company will in ...obability have to provide floating plant, and be themselves the carriers of ...s and produce at tariff rates, under arrangements similar to those on whic...s are worked.

3. The Company have, it is und... ...ecently been considering what can be done in connection with the nav... ...f the canal, and the Government think that a settlement of the questio... the more easily arrived at if it be once clearly understood—

1*st*.—What expenditure will ... to render the canal itself fully efficient in all respects fo... ...n purposes, so long as the water-supply in the river at Soo... sufficient.

2*ndly*.—During what period i... expected that a sufficient depth of water can, without reserv... maintained, taking the information furnished by the water-re... at Soonkasala, and the discharge of the canal at a minimu... y, 4 feet as a guide.

3*rdly*.—What outlay on floatir... be required to enable the navigation to be started on... ble to the present requirements of the country traversed...

4*thly*.—What additional esta... l be necessary for the management of the navigation,... ted cost.

5*thly*.—What tariff it may b... irable to introduce in the first instance, and what max... e transport of produce, goods, and materials will be... y in the Act required under the contract.

6thly.—What are the estimated gross and net receipts which may be anticipated, as soon as the arrangements shall have been brought into fair working order.

4. On all the above points His Excellency the Governor in Council is desirous of receiving, at as early a date as may be conveniently practicable, the opinion and report of the Chief Engineer and Manager of the Company, accompanied by detailed estimates of the expenditure on the canal, floating plant, and establishments which may be deemed requisite; and, with regard to returns from navigation, it will be desirable that the Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah should afford Mr. Latham all the information in their power as to the produce grown for export from the taluqs of their districts affected by the canal, and as to the imports of commodities foreign to these taluqs, which are needed by the people, whether as necessaries or otherwise. The estimates of returns will no doubt, however carefully prepared, be liable to material modification, but it is nevertheless possible, in connection with the population, cultivated area, and other statistics of the tract of country which the canal would serve, to form an opinion of value as to the traffic which may be anticipated.

5. His Excellency is further desirous that the views of the Board of Directors of the Company on this important question should be elicited by the Chief Engineer and Manager: something more than their concurrence in proposals initiated in India will be necessary in order to the successful solution of the problem, and the Government trust that the subject will receive at their hands such a full consideration, especially as regards ways and means, as will lead to an early and satisfactory decision as to the course to be followed.

(Extract.)

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

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Agent and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
„ District Engineer, Kurnool.
„ „ Cuddapah.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
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PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER for IRRIGATION,

&c., &c., &c.

Rec'd May 20th.

Read June 5th

Encl.

G. O., 23rd May, 1874, No. 1,3[illegible]

MAP.

No. 510

75 Rs.

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Madras Irrigation and Canal Co.
Upper Coleroon Anicut—Missing rubble on the up
part of the navigation of the anicut.

Report to the Board
Revenue with reference
Paragraph 4 of the
Proceedings