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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

142

Press
Mis.

Dated 21-1-1875 ~196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following:—

No. 327.

No. 1,036.

MEMORANDUM.

THE following information, though not as complete as would be desirable, is submitted for the information of Government, with reference to G. O., No. 3,133, of the 4th November 1874.

2. The makeshift head sluices for the Divi inundation channels were not intended to resist such a flood as that of September last, and it is very improbable that any of them remained after the flood. Had even permanent sluices of a sufficient height been constructed, without complete embankments, they would have been but of little use in such a flood. The progress report shows that up to September Rupees 6,686, out of the estimate amount of Rupees 62,000, had been expended.

3. The statement that the estimate for the Kistna Eastern Delta Bank Canal, with the Divi branch, would be ready in September 1871, was made after consulting the then Superintending Engineer. The requirements in connection with these large estimates have been constantly on the increase, and all the work in connection with them, except the surveying and levelling, has had to be done by the Range Officers in addition to their current duties, which latter are alone sufficient to occupy their time very fully. It is perhaps some consolation to know that had the arrangements originally proposed been carried out, this canal would probably have suffered great damage in the recent floods. The subject of the proper levels was gone into carefully in November and December last, and even now the final arrangements have not been settled, there being difficulties of considerable magnitude to be encountered whether the Puligadda aqueduct be built on a high or on a low level. The delay which has occurred is to be regretted, though even had the estimates been ready in September 1871, and the work commenced in 1872, Divi would have been no better off probably in September 1874 than was actually the case. The amount of work involved in preparing the delta estimates is very great, as also is the determining how the several sections shall be irrigated and drained so as to secure the desired results at a cost which is likely to be sanctioned. The officers engaged upon this work, at any rate in recent years, have done their utmost, and it is believed that, taking all the circumstances into account, there has been no avoidable delay.

4. With regard to the question, what can be done for the protection of Divi until all the contemplated improvements, whereby it will be rendered as secure as its situation will allow, have been carried out, it is by no means easy to make a suggestion of practical value. Divi can be secured if it will give up irrigation and consent to be embanked all round, but it is not at all likely that Government would find the money that would be required to embank it, and also provide all the inundation channels with the large head sluices they require, and it is thought that people who live on an island, the surface of which is below flood level, and much below maximum flood level, must necessarily incur some risk, which however, from the fact that they are accustomed to inundations, does not appear to be practically very considerable. It is understood that but very few lives were lost

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th January 1875.*

during the recent extraordinary floods. The temporary head regulators may be reconstructed, and they will answer in freshes of ordinary height, but the risk from extraordinary freshes cannot, it is thought, be materially lessened until the bank canal works and the aqueduct across the Puligadda branch of the Kistna shall have been completed.

CAMP, CHINNAKISTNAPURAM, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
12th December 1874. *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

No. 328.

ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1875, No. 157.

IRRIGATION, No. 37.

ORDERED to be recorded. It is evident that the anticipations of 1871 were sanguine in the extreme, and based

on very defective information. But His Excellency the Governor in Council is satisfied that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Officers working under his instructions in the Kistna District have done and are doing their best, with the men and means available, to perfect the delta estimates. And that when these shall have been matured and sanctioned, it will be a mere question of sufficient provision of funds and establishments, by what date the works shall be carried out to completion. Pending this completion it would seem that next to nothing can be done to assist the people of this low-lying district.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council relies on the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to expedite the planning of these works by every means in his power.

(True Extract.)

 Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Superintending Engineer, Kistna.
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

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N^o 205
Revenue Department
Gt. of 1875 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION,

do. do. do.

Dated January 19th.

Recd. — a — 20th

Encl.

G. O., 19th January 1875, No. 157.

JANUARY.

Nos. 327-328

Head Sluices in the Divi Division,
Kistna District—Memorandum by the
Chief Engineer for Irrigation furnishing
information in connection with the sluices,
also what is necessary for the better
protection of the people, recorded with
remarks.

N^o 142
Comm^d to the
Board of Revenue
21 Jan'y/75

14. Ld. Board of Rev. D. 20 Jan'y