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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st July 1875.*

No. 524. Read the following endorsement of the Officiating Chief Engineer, dated Ootacamund, 26th July 1875, No. 31:—

From A. J. DODSON, Esq., Acting Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., Officiating Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 16th June 1875, No. 72.

I HAVE the honor to forward* copies of the Upper and Lower Divisions, together with Chief Engineer's Report for the month of May 1875.

* Per Book Post.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

UPPER DIVISION.

Monthly Report for May 1875.

DURING this month the whole work of the staff has been directed to the urgent repairs of the canal, particularly such as can only be done when the water is out.

2. The repairs to the head sluice apron (which were only partially done last year owing to very early freshes in the river) have been successfully completed.

3. The anicut has been pointed, and some slight masonry done. The holes below were baled out, and all will be finished in a day or two.

4. The most important work in hand is the removal of silt from the canal.

5. It has only been thought advisable to clear the first seven miles this year. From the sections taken under Mr. Crawford's direction, the following amounts have to be removed, of which about two-fifths or more has been completed:—

In the 1st mile	...	...	...	Cubic Yards	7,948
" 2nd "	...	...	...	"	5,571
" 3rd "	...	...	...	"	7,587
" 4th "	...	...	...	"	12,236
" 5th "	...	...	...	"	23,102
" 6th "	...	...	...	"	10,857
" 7th "	...	...	...	"	8,809

Total ... 76,110

6. The increase of this deposit during the last season is remarkable. With the exception of the 6th mile which was cleared last year, no silt has been taken out of these miles since 1869. I attribute the increase to (1) the rapid growth of rushes which gradually narrow the channel, filling it up to about one-third of the normal width in some places; (2) the weeds which grow in the current, choking it up and decreasing the velocity; (3) the heavy land floods which poured into the tanks, carrying with them large quantities of mud from the unusually heavy rains of last season.

7. Mr. Crawford returned from leave on the 3rd May 1875 and took charge of the canal from Soonkesala to Kurnool; but he is still in charge of the Chief Accountant's Office, &c.

8. The Hindry aqueduct wing wall protection works have been completed, with the exception of a little earthwork.

9. Ulloor bridge is built up to one foot over the top water level of canal, i.e., 9 feet above bed. The centrings will* be sent down immediately.

* They are already sent.

10. The heavy repairs in the 6th section have been taken in hand. Between Lockinsula and Toorcherla much puddle work has to be done. All the repairs to cills were done, except the lower one at No. 12, which had been covered with water owing to a fresh in the Caulee. This is the last lock from which boats will have to cross that river. Any repairs to the lower cill are, therefore, very difficult, unless the river is very low. On the 29th I saw the work commenced,

It has been completed.

and believe by this time that it must be finished.

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11. There are a number of minor repairs being made, both masonry and earthwork, and the whole of the staff are fully occupied.
12. The settlement of Ramaleotta Taluk place in the middle of the month. Mr. Glenny, the Acting Collector, himself presided. The new rules impose very heavy work on the small staff of Conservancy Writers in the way of preparation for the settlement. Added to this, the Curnums failed miserably in many cases to produce clear and correct accounts. There are a few slight alterations and additions to the rules necessary to render the work easier for all parties. Speaking generally, I may say that scarcely one Curnum complied with the rules. Although some have, no doubt, done their best, some were utterly careless about them. They failed to send applications in many cases till months after water was taken. They failed to report damage to crops. Some few returns were so full of errors in measurement that it was clear no measurement had been taken. One Curnum was so blind that he could not read his own writing.
13. The system of sending Revenue Inspectors to certify as to damage of crop, &c., has worked very well wherever it has been tried, especially if a Company's Officer is also present.
14. On the whole I consider the rules successful in this that Overseers and Amins are no longer left to use their own judgment, or refer constantly to their superiors; exceptional cases only need inquiry or reference.
15. In my last report the Company's water was still being supplied to Kurnool. It ceased on the 21st May, but a heavy storm of rain on the night of the 24th again raised water, so that the supply is still available.
16. Water was never so plentiful in the canal during the hot weather before this year. It was found necessary to open all the available waste sluices, thirteen in number, to reduce the water in Tongadancha Tank. This was done on the 28th April, but on the 7th May water was still running through Jupand bridge.
17. The health of the staff was fair; the weather at times excessively hot, especially in camp. The payments took place from 5th to the 15th of May 1875.

(Signed) C. H. WILKS,
Conservancy Engineer.

*LOWER DIVISION.
Report for the month of May 1875.*

- THE head sluices at Jutoor and Rajoly were all closed on the 1st of the month, and the supply of water for irrigation purposes ceased throughout the 7th, 8th, and 9th sections by the 3rd instant.
2. The repairs to Main Canal were commenced as soon as the water had dried up, and many of the locks are now having their gates tarred and caulked, and injuries done to the masonry repaired. I hope that all will be completed before the end of this month. Rajoly anicut has been pointed afresh, and some of the crest slab-stones replaced by large ones. The accumulations of silt in the 9th section are being removed as far as the money at my disposal will allow, and some large side drains are being cleared out and widened to prevent the formation of tanks above the canal banks.
 3. In the 10th section all the repairs of the Pennair anicut are completed; they have cost much more than I expected, owing to the difficulty of clearing the foundations from silt and water and of conveying the heavy slabs and other materials across the river bed, which has never been free from water, but I am sure that the repairs have been done in a solid manner with good materials, so that floods even higher than that of October last will not injure the new work.
 4. The accumulation of silt in the first three miles of the 10th section has been removed 6 yards in width down to bed level, so as to leave in all a free passage of 36 feet in width for the water; 15,265 cubic yards have been taken out and thrown over the spoil banks. The gap formed by the floods of October just behind Admapully bungalow has been closed with silt from the canal, well rammed down.

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5. The work of repairs to distribution channels and additional road bridges over them is rapidly going on throughout my division, and I anticipate a very considerable addition to the amount of irrigation under these channels during the coming season.
6. From the 5th to the 15th of May I was at Ayaloor working at the Irrigation Settlement of the taluqs in the Kurnool District; the amount of remissions agreed to were very small, and the ryots on the whole seemed well contented with the returns they have obtained from their wet cultivation.
7. The general health of employes has been much better, but few cases of fever having occurred.

The total amount of rainfall during the month is as follows:—

Jutoor ...	...	...	...	0.70
Ayaloor ...	...	...	...	1.00
Chintacoonta ...	...	...	...	2.30
Dhoor ...	...	...	...	3.37

DHOOR,
5th June 1875.

(Signed) A. J. DODSON,
Conservancy Engineer.

Chief Engineer's Report to accompany the Divisional Report for May 1875.

- THE Divisional Reports contain a full account of the repairs in progress during the month.
2. The season has been unfavorable for the spread of irrigation; but, in spite of this, the settlement just over shows an increase of wet cultivation of 50 per cent., i.e., of 3,000 acres. This is to an insignificant extent due to garden crops, which in previous years to some extent took water as dry crops by flooding; but two-thirds of the total increase is in Cuddapah District in rice only on sandy soil.
 3. I am glad to say that no cases of neglect of due attention, asking for bribes, nor intentional false entries have been proved against the Company's servants. One case of accusation, as it were by round robin, was vaguely made by the ryots of one village in Cuddapah. The whole of the petitioners, however, on reference being made to them, denied their signatures, or rather denied that they authorized their names being attached, and all knowledge of the petition or of guilt in the Overseer.
 4. In reference to an interesting question of the origin of the adoption of the present system of ridge distribution, to which some allusion was made in one of my reports, and which has been apparently misunderstood, I think I should explain the facts. Up to within a fortnight of the termination of the supplemental contract time agreed to between the Company and the Secretary of State, (viz., 31st July 1875) the present ridge system was not only unrecommended by Government Officers, but was opposed to the orders of Government and to the advice of the Government Officers so far as I know. Previous to that date, contours only had been approved by Madras Government, and ridge channels with low inclination (and consequently with frequent masonry falls to overcome the fall of the ground) had been recommended by the Government Officers. This recommendation was impracticable within the limits of the contract money and time (1) on account of the expense of a reticulation of hundreds of branches, each provided with numerous masonry works (sometimes ten or twelve to the mile) led up to with high and broad banks (G. O., No. 1,647, of 19th June 1871, end), and (2) from the difficulty of accurately levelling out and supervising such scattered masonry works. In their Order, No. 1,647, of 19th June 1871, the Madras Government for the first time, so far as I know, withdrew the condition that distributing channels must never have a calculated velocity of over 2,000 yards an hour; and so first rendered it possible for the Company to spend a rupee of either capital or loan on the existing ridge channel system.

5. The usual table of rainfall accompany this report.

KURNOOL,
15th June 1875.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer.

Rev: 1875: 04
#2532

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND MANAGER,

MADRAS I. & C. Co.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 21st.

Issued

Recd.

27th

Encl.

G. O., 21st July 1875, No. 2,076.

W. M. S.

JULY.

Nos. 524-525

Reports on the works of the Madras
Irrigation and Canal Company for the month
of May 1875.—Endorsement of the Official
ing Chief Engineer submitting letter from
the Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras
Irrigation and Canal Company, forwarding
—, ordered to be recorded.

N. 1601

*Comm. to the
Board of Revenue*

30 July/75

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14. To the Board of Revenue, 7 August