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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

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Dated 29-9-1875 196 .

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1996

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th August 1875.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 416. From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., Officiating Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Guindy, 9th August 1875. No. 1,802.

I HAVE the honor to observe that if No. 1,831, dated 1st ultimo, were in

1 Circular.

should have very little difficulty. The order in accordance with the views enunciated in
before the usual setting in of periodical rains. No. 799, dated 28th ultimo, we
i. e., 1st October. desires clearing of calingulahs a fortnight

2. This affords no security against monsoon rain falls in May, from which our
tanks have principally suffered, nor does it afford us time to see that the calingulahs
are cleared; when a tank is breached the villagers generally remove all the stuffing to
prevent discovery of their neglect, so that we can only by accident bring home the
matter to them.

3. The order rather weakens our efforts, which would have been really efficacious if the Circular agreed to by the Revenue Officers, and published in the *District Gazette*, had been really enforced.

4. Weirs are being built in lieu of calingulahs, and escapes of a temporary form have been cut in hard ground to many tanks till permanent weirs can be built, but villagers dam even these up and leave no outlet whatever.

5. I enclose a copy of the Circular abovementioned, and would ask that its provisions, or such amendment of them as may be considered advisable, be put in force by an order of Government.

6. The law under the head of mischief, I thought, would have reached the persons who infringe these rules published by the Collector as competent authority, but I am told that I am mistaken.

Extract from "*Chingleput District Gazette*," dated 7th February 1874, Page 41.

NOTICE.

REFERRING to the recent order of Government regarding the clearance of the spaces between the upright stones of calingulahs, and correspondence which has since passed between the District Engineer and the Collector on the subject, it is hereby notified, for the information of all Revenue Officers and the public, that the spaces between the upright stones of the calingulahs may be kept closed only from 1st December to 31st March, both days inclusive.

2. These banks should however be limited in thickness and made of turf sods, which might be faced with clay to make them watertight, 6 inches thickness above full tank level, and 1 foot thick for the uppermost foot of height, 1½ feet for the second foot, and 2 feet for the third, so that the 6 inches stratum would give way immediately if the tank water rose above its proper level and the passage of the stream would soon cut downwards.

3. Tahsildars are directed to see that this is duly attended to by all village officials, and to bring promptly to the notice of the Collector, or Sub-Collector, all cases of disobedience.

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,

Collector.

(Signed) F. J. MOBERLY, Colonel, R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.

No. 930.

No. 416-A.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

This Office Memorandum, No. 799

No. 1,483, 16th July.

ment, together with Colonel F. J. M. memorandum, it is considered, which quoted, if it be remembered that the whereas the correspondence with the S with the known circumstances of the C

2. There is evidently nothing in before May, in which month the Super that much damage has resulted from su distinctly states that a clearance shou setting in of the periodical rains, and in clearance is evidently necessary.

3. Any case in which temporary bunded should be reported to the Collec

4. If it be the fact that villagers who transgress the rules sanctioned by competent authority for the preservation of works of irrigation from injury, and who commit acts resulting or likely to result in damage to the works cannot be punished for mischief, it would seem to be necessary that this defect in the law should in some way be remedied, or that District Officers should be informed authoritatively how such cases should be dealt with.

5. With regard to the contents of the notice which was published under the Collector's signature in the *Chingleput District Gazette* of the 7th February 1874, page 41, it may be remarked that the important points are the entire clearing of calingulahs before the rains set in, and the method of closing them partially or fully thereafter. To prohibit such closing before the 1st December is a rule which, it is thought, cannot properly be enforced, for in some years hardly any rain falls after that date, and many tanks have the calingulah crests 1 to 4 feet below full tank level, consequently the rule would render the filling of the tank in such years impracticable. Calingulahs are regulating works, and to be of use must be regulated according to circumstances. If cleared before the rains, or, better still, as soon as the stuffing is no longer required, the heavy bursts of rain which frequently distinguish the setting in of either monsoon will find the tank escapes ready for the duty they have to perform, but thereafter the extent of closing to be allowed, the time when the closing and re-opening should take place, and the details of regulation must, where there is no conservancy establishment, be left to the villagers. The hard and fast rule in the Chingleput District may properly be that all calingulahs must be perfectly clear of stuffing on and after the 31st March until the May storms are over, again from the 15th September until the north-east monsoon has set in and the heavy burst at its commencement is over; and that the stuffing must not be higher than 6 inches above full tank level, nor more than 1 foot in thickness at

of the 21st ultimo, and the Superintending Engineer's letter to which it is a reply, are submitted for the information of Government's later letter. There is nothing in the in accord with the order of Government is an instruction to all District Officers, attending Engineer was intended to deal put District.

der to prevent calingulahs being cleared ding Engineer points out very properly terms. Indeed, paragraph 2 of the order effected at least a fortnight before the ts in which such rain occurs in May the

upplemental escapes may be found to be

the top. So long as tanks dispose of surplus supply required is dependent upon the regular stones, a good deal must be left to the discretion rules should be confined to essential requirements, the propriety of the enforcement of which can admit of no doubt.

OOTACAMUND,
17th August 1875.

(Signed)

J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 417.

ORDER THEREON, 25th

st 1875, No. 2,433.

IRRIGATION, No. 27.

of the 1st July last, did not prescribe the detail and on a reference from the Superintending Engineer for Irrigation appears to have supplemented the circumstances of the district referred to.

2. The Government concur generally with the latter officer in the views enunciated in paragraph 5 of the foregoing note, and these Proceedings will be communicated to all District Engineers for information.

3. The Board of Revenue will be requested to report at an early date on the way in which sanctioned rules regarding the management of tank calingulahs are to be enforced, and what will be the effect of measures proposed. No doubt must be left on this important subject, and the villagers must clearly understand their responsibilities together with the consequences of neglect of these.

(True Extra

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To all Superintending and District Engineers.
To the Executive Engineer, Wynad.
" Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

2 Spare Copies

with file

G.O. 24 July/75 N 1556 Mo

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G.O. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

ALL SUPERINTENDING AND DISTRICT

ENGINEERS.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated August 25th.

Issued

Recd.

Sept 8th

Encl.

G. O., 25th August 1875, No. 2433.

AUGUST.

Nos. 416-417

A. M. S.

22/9

Cleaning of Culiculahs before the setting
in of the periodical rains.—Passing orders
on the N. by the Chief Engineer for Irriga-
tion in letter of the Superintending
Engineer, Bangalore, relative to the

Referred to the

Board of Revenue for report on
para. 3

29 Sept/75

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