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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st September 1875.*

No. 6. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 25th August 1875, No. 37:—

From A. J. DODSON, Esq., Manager and Acting Chief Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 17th August 1875, No. 92.

July 1

I HAVE the honor to forward, per post, copies of the Upper and Lower Divisions reports, together with my own, for the month of July 1875.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

UPPER DIVISION.

Monthly Report for July 1875.

WATER reached Lockinsula on the 15th, and was let into the Jutoor head sluices on the 17th. It reached the 111th mile, the end of the portion of canal in my charge, on the 20th.

2. Rain during the month has been scanty, but sufficient for the dry crops. On the 1st I started along the line and reached Bandyatcoor on the 8th; here I was caught by the rain and unable to stir for three days, after which I arrived at Ayaloor and took over charge of the canal, from Jutoor to the end of the Nundial Taluq, reaching Kurnool again on the 15th.

3. The arches of Ulloor bridge have been keyed in and the parapets will be finished this month, so that the villagers will have no difficulty in getting to their fields. The approaches would have been equally advanced but for the interference of the reddy, a rich ryot, who has made much money by lending to the Contractors engaged on the canal. When tenders were lately asked of the Contractors and Wuddahs for the earthwork they all demanded exorbitant rates, and I am led to believe that they were induced to do so by this man.

I mention this to show the sort of opposition which is met with even in constructing a work manifestly for the welfare of the villagers.

4. A great many applications have been made already for water owing to the dryness of the season.

5. In Ramulkotta Taluq very little can be expected in the way of increase. The Curnums and Tahsildar seem to take more interest just now in producing elaborate reports on the necessity for bridges, and do not trouble themselves much about irrigation.

6. It is satisfactory to know that one rule seems to have been carefully studied. The Tahsildar of Ramalkottah has sent in a claim for the remuneration to Curnums at the rate of 6 Pie per Rupee on the gross demand including remissions, overmeasurements, &c., stating that if this payment is made certain Curnums will be able to pay their assessments to Government.

7. Unfortunately no clause was entered to the effect that such Curnums as do not do their duty in connection with the irrigation in their villages should not receive the reward.

8. In Nundicooteor Taluq there will probably be an increase in the lower part, but not in the upper villages. Various causes have occurred to prevent irrigation. Bad management, last year's heavy rains, and consequent poverty of the individuals, &c., all concur to frighten the unfortunate ryot and prevent him from persevering in wet cultivation.

9. In Nundial Taluq there are signs of considerable increase, and I hope the area will be double that of last year, but it is of course too early to form any estimate of the total areas.

10. One very great drawback to this year's increase will be the very irregular manner of collecting the water-rate. Some villagers have not yet paid the tax for the season before last. The difficulty which a ryot finds in getting fair treatment from the Curnums is thus greatly increased. This comes to my knowledge not only through the Overseer, but the ryots themselves affirm the same. They still ask me occasionally at what rate they will be charged, and will scarcely credit the new rates until they have paid up the amount due. No doubt there may be good reason for the delay, but the effect on the prospects of the canal is very injurious.

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11. It is very probable that the Government Tanks in Nundial will require water; early preparation will be made to supply the demand should it arise.

12. The health of the staff has been good.

The staff were paid from 3rd to 19th July 1875.

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

LOWER DIVISION.

Report for the month of July 1875.

THE Toombudra water was admitted into the canal at Jutoor on the 17th instant, and was passed carefully down the 7th and 8th Section by the 24th.

On the 19th the head sluices at Rajoly were opened to allow the water from the Koondaur to enter the 9th Section, the demand for water by the ryots in the Prodatoor Taluq rendering it unadvisable to wait for the supply from the upper sections. On the 20th instant the head sluices at Adimapully were opened, and the waters of the Pennair quickly flowed down to the terminus at Cuddapah, and by the 25th of July over 2 feet of water was in the canal from Jutoor to the end of the Lower Division; all the main irrigation channels were full, and ryots busy turning it on to their fields. I am happy to be able to add that no accident of any kind has occurred to stop the successful progress of the water throughout the 94 miles of the Lower Division.

The masonry works in hand are nearly all completed. No. 9-A. Calingulah is up to crest level, allowing of 3 feet of water in the canal; the repairs of all the locks have been carefully executed, and Beempaud Bridge will soon be ready to pass the village traffic. Near Cuddapah some masonry works, and earthworks connected with new distribution channels have been much delayed by the prevalence of cholera having frightened the work-people away, and one of our contractors died after four hours' illness.

Irrigation Prospects.—These are good throughout the Nundial, Sirwell and Koilcoontla Taluqs. Applications are coming in freely, and some villages which hitherto have refused to take canal water are now applying for from 40 to 50 acres each. In the Cuddapah Taluq the ryots are always much later in making their applications for water, but I feel sure that Prodatoor Taluq will again show a considerable increase on last season acreage of wet crops, and I hope the same may be the case in the Cuddapah Taluq, but as yet applications from thence have not commenced.

General.—I regret having to report that no time is yet fixed for commencing the settlement of last season's irrigation in the Cuddapah District. The Prodatoor Taluq, the management of which was left almost entirely to the Company's Overseers, is ready for settlement, and has been so for two months; but in Cuddapah Taluq, where the Tahsildar requested me to leave all to his Curnums the irrigation returns are still, I fear, in confusion, though my Ameens have now for over six weeks been spending much of their time helping the Curnums and higher Revenue Authorities in trying to make up the arrears of their work, and, I think, the fact that so late as the middle of July last I received a bundle of 141 tickets only just issued to the ryots for water they received in May last, shows clearly the total failure of the Revenue Authorities in that taluq to carry out the intentions of Rule II. as it was originally framed, and I hope that the season now commencing will show that the Company's Officers are more capable of meeting the requirements of the ryots in that taluq.

The rainfall has been below the average of the month only 2.21 inches fell at Dhoor against 10.51 inches last year, and the ryots in many places are fearing for their dry crops should the rain keep off much longer.

Unfortunately cholera has broken out in Cuddapah and many of the villages south of the Pennair, and at Chintacoonta and Beempaud near Dhoor some fatal cases have occurred; as yet none of the Company's servants have been attacked, and as they are better fed and clothed than most of the ryots are I hope they may escape, but the panic caused in the neighbourhood of these villages greatly interferes with our command of labor.

KURNOOL,
9th August 1875.

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st September 1875.*

Acting Chief Engineer's Report to accompany the Divisional Reports for July 1875.

WITH the exception of a few inconsiderable leaks in the 1st and 2nd Sections which were stopped in a few hours, the canal has this season been filled sufficiently for the purposes of irrigation from Soonkasala to Cuddapah without any accident or serious delay. No doubt the dryness of the season has contributed to this success, but much credit remains due to the Conservancy Engineer of the Upper Division, and to Mr. Dunphy, Assistant Conservancy Engineer on the Lower Division. The necessary redivision of work among the reduced staff of Engineers has been carried out, and will, I am sure, prove advantageous.

2. The prospects for an increase of irrigation during this season are, I think, very good, and if the ryots could only be sure of the rate they have to pay for the water they require no doubt the increase will be a continuous one; but of the Village Curnums so systematically neglect the irrigation work, and so many cases occur of unnecessary delay in the collection of the water-rates, that I fear there may be some truth in the many complaints I have heard of ryots being overcharged by Curnums, who by refusing to give proper receipts for the money they receive can effectually deceive the ignorant ryot without danger of detection; even the possibility of such an overcharge being made has without doubt a most injurious effect on the prospects of the Company by causing the ryots to fear to apply for canal water.

I append a table of rainfall in July.

KURNOOL,
10th August 1875.

(Signed) A. J. DODSON,
Manager and Acting Chief Engineer.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

*Register of Rainfall in inches and decimals of the following Stations during the Month of July 1875,
at 6 A.M. daily.*

Month and Date.	Soonka- sala.	Kurnool.	Jupaud.	Veelapa- noor.	Juacor.	Ayaloor.	Chinta- coonta.	Rajoly.	Dhoor.	Adimapully.
1st July 1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.58	...	...	0.20
2nd "	...	...	...	...	0.10	...	0.20	...	...	0.23
3rd "	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.11	1.05	...	...
4th "	...	0.08	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6th "	...	0.07	...	...	...	0.75	0.08	0.75	...	...
7th "	...	0.03	...	...	...	...	0.08	...	...	0.50
8th "	...	0.05	0.10	...	0.30	2.91	0.20	...	0.50	0.60
9th "	...	1.40	1.30	2.00	3.60	0.41	0.20	...	...	...
10th "	...	1.30	0.55	0.20	0.80	0.26	1.23	0.15	1.65	...
11th "	...	1.60	2.35	2.00	0.40	...	2.78	...	...	...
12th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.20	...	...
13th "	...	0.15	...	0.25	...	0.23	...	...	...	...
14th "	...	0.40	1.00	0.25	0.25	0.22	...	0.25	...	...
15th "	0.30	1.00	0.60	0.20	0.18	0.23	...	0.10	...	...
16th "	...	0.14	0.10	...	0.15	...	...	...	...	...
17th "	...	0.14	0.20	...	...	...	0.01	...	...	0.44
18th "	...	0.15	0.40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19th "	...	0.04	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20th "	...	0.15	1.86	0.70	1.20	0.46	...	...	...	...
21st "	...	1.90	1.70	0.90	1.30	...	...	...	...	...
22nd "	...	...	0.10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23rd "	...	...	...	...	...	0.45	...	...	...	...
24th "	...	0.04	...	0.10	...	...	...	...	...	...
25th "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26th "	0.30	0.40	0.80	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.43
27th "	...	0.40	...	0.10	0.20	0.08	...	...	...	...
28th "	...	0.39	0.15	0.65	0.17	...	...	...	...	...
29th "	...	...	0.40	0.25	0.35	...	0.23	...	0.06	...
30th "	...	0.02	...	...	0.15	0.10	...	...	...	...
31st "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	7.15	12.16	9.65	7.75	8.06	7.07	4.34	2.50	2.21	2.30

KURNOOL,
17th August 1875.

(Signed) A. J. DODSON,
Manager and Acting Chief Engineer.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st September 1875.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

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

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, 1st September 1875, No. 2,489.

IRRIGATION, No. 1.

RECORDED, with the remark that there are several matters touched upon in these reports which appear to need the attention of the Collectors of Kurnool and Cuddapah, and that the delay in the settlement of the demands for irrigation under the canal for the past year in the latter district requires explanation.

(Tr Extract.)

C. M. Mullins
Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
" Revenue Department.
" Collector of Kurnool.
" " of Cuddapah.
" Examiner of Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

20 Spare Copies *will follow*

29 Sep 6735

14 Took Sunday Rev. D. and W. for