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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

509.

Press
Mis.

Dated *15-3-1875* *196* .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 303. Read the following letter from Colonel C. V. WILKIESON, R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore, to Lieut.-Colonel J. MULLINS,
R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 13th February 1875,
No. 145 :—

IN reply to G. O., dated 3rd August 1874, No. 2,127, I have the honor to inform you that I have visited twice both the Caniempolliem and Dhullipolliem anicuts, and consider that the best plan would be for this year and the next to let the works remain as they are, and see if the revenue will decrease any more, as I am of opinion that there will be no difference. The principal crop grown here is the "kar" or three-months' crop, which is put down directly the river comes down in flood, and, as it remains in full flood for at least four months, the ryots will have time to get in their crops without trusting to dry months when the supply of water is scanty, and the channel then requires to be cleared to secure proper supply.

2. The Caniempolliem channel is taken off the Bhowanee river, and there is an old fashioned rough stone anicut, which anicut has required continual repairs, one year's flood usually destroying the work done during the dry season before; in fact, this year all the repairs that were carried out in 1873 have been destroyed, in my opinion having been done on a wrong system. The channel clearing is required from two causes, viz., jungle streams crossing the bed at a level which bring down sand and debris, and from the soil being of a sandy friable nature in the dry months the strong winds make a great deal of drift sand, and not from silt brought down with the Bhowanee water. In an ancient anicut and channel like this, with doubtful advantages as an irrigation work, it would never pay to make complete new works, and the necessary arrangements to prevent the up-to-date annual excessive outlay.

3. The rates for work done seem high, but are not really so when you consider the extremely unhealthy feverish country in which this work is situated, and that the nearest dwelling is five miles off on the opposite side of the river, and the only time repairs or clearing can be executed is in the dry or most feverish weather. Every one who has gone down the Bhowanee Valley this year since the rains has had fever, and just below the anicut you come on the formerly large town of Danayakan Cottah, which is now a deserted ruin, caused by this portion of the district having of late become feverish.

4. The Dhullipolliem anicut with channel is over the Gandapullam, a stream that comes from the Kotagherry Valley of Neilgherry Hills. It represents the same features as the Caniempolliem, and has the same causes for failure as an irrigation work, and the excessive high rates are the same in both works.

5. In 1870 Mr. Gaynor was employed in making levels to the right bank of the River Bhowanee for a channel from the Caniempolliem anicut, and there are some documents in this office which might be made the foundation of further inquiry; but I would not recommend it, as the very feverish state of this part of the country makes it very unlikely that ryots will come forward to make a permanent settlement in this neighbourhood.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th March 1875.*

No. 304.

ORDER THEREON, 11th March 1875, No. 694.

IRRIGATION, No. 21.

THE particulars given in the foregoing letter tend to confirm the opinion expressed in paragraph 2 of the Order of the 3rd August last, No. 2,127, that it is improbable that the revenue derived from the Caniempolliem channel will cover the cost of its maintenance. The Superintending Engineer has not apparently consulted the Collector on the subject of the transference of the lands under it to dry or punjah, and as this question must be settled before the anicut and channel are allowed to become unserviceable, these Proceedings together with those of the 3rd August last will be communicated to the Revenue Department with a view to an early decision being arrived at.

(True Extract.)

C. Walker Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

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*Further to 1275/75 of 12th July 75 No 713
Further to 1636/75
581/76*

14. L. O. Board of Revenue, Coimbatore

No 895
Revenue Department
Govt. of Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

COIMBATORE,
&c., &c., &c.

Ans

Dated March 11th.

Recd. *12* Encl.

G. O., 11th March 1875, No. 694.

*Enc-1
Peral la O. O.
of O. O.*

MARCH.
Nos. 303-304

Canjempolliem Channel, Coimbatore District.—Observing that the revenue derived from the — will not cover the cost of its maintenance, and communicating the Proceedings to the Revenue Department with a view to an early decision of the question of the transference of the lands under the channel to dry or punjah.

No 509
Refund to the D. of the
for early report -
15 March 75