

Read the following:—

No. 110-W.

No. 477.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

THE history of the Katumylur Anicut Project up to the middle of last year is recorded in the Proceedings of the Madras Government as per margin, in the later of which sanction to a supplemental estimate of Rupees 4,740 was given, of which 740 Rupees were to cover excess already incurred, and Rupees 4,000 were for work then to be done.

2. The District Engineer now reports that there will be a further excess of Rupees 1,060, making the total cost Rupees 18,460, and he shows that this increase is due to a larger quantity of rock having been met with than was expected, and to the great cost of its removal. Major Mead considers the rate at which the rock has been taken out unnecessarily high, and the undersigned fully agrees with him. Under proper supervision probably at least half the excess now reported would have been avoided. The work is only some 15 or 16 miles from the range head-quarters at Virdachellum, and Mr. O'Ratigan, if his health rendered him unable to look after his work, should have been required, directly it was found that this inability extended beyond a few days, to obtain a medical certificate, upon which the District Engineer would have been able to determine what arrangements were necessary for carrying on the range duties properly. The responsibility of District Engineers in such cases appears not to have been properly understood by Major Mead, and in Vizagapatam also recently an officer appears to have been allowed to remain in charge of a range long after he had ceased to be able to do his work properly.

OOTACAMUND,
22nd July 1876.

(Signed)

JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

From Major H. R. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, South Arcot, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp Peria Shevely, 7th July 1876, No. 64.

I REGRET to have to report that there will be a considerable excess on the work of the completion of the Katumylur channel owing to more rock being found than estimated for, and to the great cost of removing it.

1 Comparative Statement.

2. In G.O., No. 2,015, dated 15th July 1876, will be found the history of this work, and in it sanction was given for Rupees 4,000 to complete it; this estimate was prepared by Overseer Abdul Lateef. I believe he estimated the quantity of rock to be removed as well as he could, judging from the surface of the top of the excavation; there were however no trial pits dug, and even had there been, as the rock is very irregular. I do not think a really accurate estimate could have been prepared, as in many parts there are boulders.

3. The estimate, as far as I can find out, was not checked in detail by any officer. The item of excavation is the only one that calls for remark, and the excess is due to there being 822 cubic yards of rock in the place of 294 allowed for in the estimate. In the original estimate this was divided into two, and estimated at two rates, Rupees 1½ and Rupees 1 per yard; in the revised estimate it is divided into four rates—

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th July 1876. No. 1,915.

142 cubic yards executed for Rupees 3-8-11-2 or Rupees 2-8-5 per cubic yard.
71½ Do. do. „ 6-12-0 or „ 0-15-4 do.
467 cubic yards to be done at an estimated cost of Rupees 2 per cubic yard and 142 yards at 8 Annas a yard.

I regret to say that this work has not had the attention it should have had, and the circumstances were not reported to me as soon as they should have been.

4. The work was in charge of Mr. O'Ratigan, and from the Progress Report I had reason to believe that, although it was progressing slowly, it was going on satisfactorily. I was informed personally in March that more rock than anticipated was found, but that there would be but little, if any, excess in May; however, Mr. O'Ratigan reported that the 140 cubic yards of rock estimated for had been removed; that it had cost Rupees 2½ a cubic yard; and that there was much more rock than estimated for to be blasted. It appears that this was reported to him in April, but, as he was sick, he was unable to personally inspect it, and did not report it until he had done so. I regret to say, however, that he did not send me an estimate of what was required, but only made a general report regarding it.

5. I inspected the channel on the 2nd June 1876, and found the excavation completed, except where the rock had not been removed.

6. With regard to the cost of the work done, Mr. O'Ratigan, in March, sent Supervisor Serjeant Stewart to the work, and he reports that he had a portion of the work done in his presence, and the result showed the charges were fair; as, however, I find the coolies were paid so much a hole including all charges (for gunpowder, &c.), I do think with better supervision the work might have been done for less than 2½ Rupees a cubic yard, and I have therefore, in the revised estimate, entered Rupees 2 as the rate.

7. I have, and I trust Government will approve, directed the work to be carried out in anticipation of sanction. I regret that so much time has been lost, and the present Range Officer, Soobroyachariar, has of course much difficulty in procuring labor for this special work. I trust, however, he will succeed, and be able to carry out successfully this important project.

No. 478. ORDER THEREON, 27th July 1876, No. 1,915.

IRRIGATION, No. 51.

Account.

THE revised estimate of Rupees 18,460, being Rupees 1,060 in excess of the sanction given in G.O., 15th July 1875, No. 2,015, for the Katumylur Ancient Project,

work which has been in progress since July 1875 is shown to have been very unsatisfactory, and, as Mr. O'Ratigan remained in ill-health to look after his work cannot be accepted as an excuse for the mismanagement and waste of money which have resulted.

2. It is necessary that District Engineers and Executive Officers generally should clearly understand that they will be held responsible if they allow officers or subordinates to remain in charge of works which they are unable from ill-health to look after.

3. This sanction has been registered as No. 73-I of 1876-77, and subjoined are the usual particulars:—

Fund Ordinary—Agricultural.
Class.—Original Works.
Name of Work—Katumylur Ancient Project.
Amount of Estimate—Rupees 18,460.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th July 1876. No. 1,915.

4. The expenditure of the current year will be met from the District grant for Minor New Works.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,
Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To District Engineers.
To the Collector of South Arcot.
„ Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

20 Spare Copies

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1-3317-
Revenue 1876 Report
Govt. of 1876 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

DISTRICT ENGINEERS,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 27th.

Issued

Recd. Aug 5/32

Encl.

G. O., 27th July 1876, No. 1915.

JULY.

Nos. 477-478.

14 to the Boarding Office
Katunglur Ancient Project, South Arcot District—The revised estimate for the sanctioned; and the District Engineers and Executive Officers informed that they will be held responsible if they allow officers or subordinates to remain in charge of works which they are unable from ill health to look after.

1938

communicated to the D. E. of the

16 August 1876

New No. Sectt. I (i)-1—Old No. M.R.O. 1—10,006—10-6-63.

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