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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***Revenue* DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

~~B.P. No.~~

1977

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated

9.12.1876-196-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th December 1876.*

No. 20. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th November 1876, No. 3,020:—

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Valm, 24th November 1876, No. 4,262.

It will be seen from my letter, No. 4,190, dated 21st instant, that in the earlier part of this season this district suffered severely from disastrous floods in the Cauvery which caused breaches and tore away soil and seed-beds and caused the loss also of the proper season, so that the cultivators were heavy losers from the sudden oversupply of water. Now, later on in the same season, they are still worse losers from widely-withering crops. If the excess waters of the earlier season—waters that could not even get to the sea in their violent haste—could have been stored up and given us now both evils would have been averted and all the best lands of this well-tail-tapped granary of the south would have borne full crops for the benefit of the famine-stricken districts around.

2. This can easily be done at a site which I can point out, and this seems an opportune time for the Government to take up a large famine relief work which shall at the same time be also a famine preventive work and a flood preventive work for a district in which the lands are amongst the most valuable in the Presidency.

3. The site is in about latitude 12° 9', by longitude 77° 48'. I could draw it out more or less approximately from the map if desired, or I could by a week's absence from district personally point it out exactly to any Engineer Officer, and this latter plan would perhaps be most satisfactory. I came on it when I was Sub-Collector of Salem.

4. As no levels were taken, I can only gauge roughly from the eye and the memory of some ten or twelve years ago that it would submerge about 100 square miles, may be more.

5. The land to be submerged was, as far as I saw it, poor and uncultivated.

6. The site is a natural basin hill locked on all sides but the one draining into the Cauvery. That side I would dam across and provide with a sluice for returning the water to the Cauvery when it was wanted.

7. The Cauvery there falls rapidly through rocky country, so that no expensive ancourt would be wanted, and but a very short length of channel would suffice to obtain sufficient elevation for filling the reservoir to almost any desired depth, say even 100 or 200 feet, if really necessary.

8. I would so locate the channel that only when the river is above a desired flood level would it relieve the river by drawing off the surplus, and, without returning, cease to draw off as soon as the river fell below that flood level.

9. It would be easy to arrange that the channel should also spontaneously cease to receive as soon as the reservoir was full, so that no expensive masonry calingalan would be necessary for surplusage, the supply channel itself becoming the surplusage.

10. It would also be easy to arrange that the vast embankment should be made by the silting process, as there is ample command both of hill soil and of a constant stream of water from the Cauvery.

1. I think I can point out another like site, perhaps two; but of that I am not quite so confident, for it is now many years since I was there.

12. In this connection I might also mention the pile of monster reservoirs near Kistnagherry which I projected when I was Sub-Collector of Salem, and which would also be famine preventive works, and were on that account surveyed at the instigation of the Honorable R. S. Ellis, C.B., then a Special Commissioner, and discussing famine preventive measures. The matter will be traceable by a reference to Proceedings of Government, 21st January 1865, No. 197-93.

Her Board are obliged to Mr. Thomas for his suggestions; but, as the works specified in the foregoing letter are of a nature requiring careful scientific investigation before they could be undertaken, they seem hardly suited for the present emergency.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 208. ORDER THEREON, 9th December 1876, No. 1977.

Irrigation, No. 3.

Recorded. The Collector's proposal regarding the channel referred to in paragraphs 7 to 9 will be referred

to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for report, as to whether any information exists regarding it in that department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue
as Chief Engineer for Irrigation
of the Revenue Department.

Wm. D. ...

No. 5352.

From *Ass. Bygones.*

Dated *30. Nov.*

1874

FOR ORDERS

*There is no gift of
at present in the
6/12*

*The above is a copy of
the original document
which is in the possession
of the Revenue Department
and is not to be used
for any other purpose.*

601116701

REVENUE

649. 20.

Received of the Board of Directors
 the sum of \$100.00
 for the purchase of
 the land on which the
 building is to be erected
 at the corner of
 the street and the
 river.

...single of water ...
...the same season they are still
...from widely withering
...of the ... of the
... could
... in their
... have been
... from the new belt
... have been
... of the well
... of the south
... full crops for
the benefit of the province & the
... around

2. This can easily be done
... which I can point to
... in proportion

... the permanent ...
... large ... which sank at the same time
... a ...
... a flood ...
... in which the ...
... the most valuable
in the ...

3. The site is in about ...
... by ... 77.40 ...
... at ...
... from the map of
... I could by a ...
... from my District ...
... at ...
... office and the latter plan
... perhaps the most ...

I came on it when I was about 10 ft.
height of Sulci.

As no levels were taken
I can only judge roughly from
the age and the quantity of bones
10 or 12 years ago that it would
be large about 10 square miles
may be more.

The Canal has been changed
as far as I saw it from what
it used to be.

The lake was a natural basin
with a low wall on all sides but the
one facing out to the country. That
side I could see across and
found it was a plain for a distance
of 10 miles to the country where

10 miles. I saw it
the country. The pale yellow
of the soil was very dry so that no
crops could be raised
except wheat. Very short lengths of
crops could suffice for the
support of a few people. The
seasons. I cannot say decided
whether they were 100 or 200 feet if
really necessary.

It would be to locate the chan-
nel. That only when the water
is above a decided flood level
would it release the river by
drawing it to the surface and so
that it would be drawn
down to the level of the

that flood level

It would be easy to arrange that
the channel should also serve as
a means of escape it receive as soon as

the reservoir was full; so that as
expensive machinery Colongula would
be necessary for surplussage, the sur-
plus channel itself becoming the
surplusage.

It would also be easy to ar-
range that the water in bank-
ment should be made by the
sliding process for there is con-
stant water under the hill and
out of a constant stream of water

from the Covey
I think I could find

and near the lake near it. I am not
quite so confident for it is now

many years since I have been

in this connection I might

also mention the fact of water being

I proposed when I was in the lake

also be famine preservative water

and were on that account sur-
veyed at the instigation of

the Honble R. S. Ellis C. B. that

a special Commissioner and
discussing famine prevention
measures. The matter will
be recalled by a reference

Proceedings of the Board of Trustees

January 1865 no 197

James C. [unclear] I have received
your letter of the 10th inst. [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

The Board are obliged to
Mr. Thomas for his suggestions but
as the books specified in the fore-
going letter are of a nature re-
quiring careful scientific in-
vestigation before they could be
utilized they seem hardly
suited for the present emergency

I am very respectfully
Yours
W. S. [unclear]
[unclear]

The Clerk of the Board
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

