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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

No. 207. 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 Vallam, 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 over-supply 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-rail-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 anicut 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 filled, so that no expensive masonry calingulah 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.

11. I think I could point out another like site or two, 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 pair of monster reservoirs near Kistnagherry which I proposed 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.E., 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. 107,93.

The 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. OUTER THERMON, 9th December 1876, No. 1,977.

Irrigation, No. 2.

RECORD. The Collector's proposal regarding the channel referred to in paragraphs 7 to 9 will be referred 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,
" the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" the Financial Department.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 5382

From [illegible]

Dated 30th June 1854

FOR ORDERS

[illegible]

FOR ORDERS