

- (1) Number of pages 4
(2) Date of repair 14.3.70
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2198	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	22.9.1876	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st August 1876. No. 2,313.*

No. 694. Read the following letter from Captain L. CONWAY-GORDON, R.E., Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 19th August 1876, No. 181-W.:—

I LOSE no time in submitting the following statement with reference to the delay in the disposal of claims for land compensation referred to in Proceedings of Government, No. 190, dated 31st July 1876, (Revenue Department, No. 1,003, dated 26th July) which reached me yesterday.

2. The Collector of Godavery mentions three specific instances of unreasonable delay in the Examiner's Office, viz., the case of the Chettipetta Divisional Office, (paragraph 2) and two claims in connection with the Velpur Canal (paragraphs 3 and 4). In the other cases referred to by the Collector, the bills have not yet left the Revenue Officers.

3. I subjoin a statement showing the dates on which the bills referred to were received in this office and the dates on which they were disposed of:—

Claims.	Received in Controller's Office.	Audited.	Time taken in Audit.
Velpur Canal (para. 3.)	7th Dec. 1875.	11th Dec. 1875.	4 days.
Do. do. (para. 4.)	4th " "	20th " "	7 days, 3 Sundays & 6 days holiday for H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.
Chettipetta Divisional Office.	27th Jan. 1876.	5th Feb. 1876.	8 days and 1 Sunday.
			63 days (average).

And I think it must be admitted that there is not any very unreasonable delay in this office, especially when it is remembered that office-work was much interrupted by holidays in the early part of December 1875 on account of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, holidays which extended from the 13th to the 18th of December.

4. The haste in which the Collector's remarks were written sufficiently accounts for his quite forgetting that in each case the bills were sent by him to the District Engineer, and not to this office.

5. The excessive delay in the disposal of these claims is, in my opinion, entirely due to the circuitous procedure prescribed, which hedges these transactions about with an amount of formality altogether out of proportion to the importance of the interests concerned. On this subject I hope shortly to be able to address Government at length, and to suggest remedies for, at any rate, some part of the present evils. My present object, however, is simply to point out that this office is in no way to blame for the particular instances of delay referred to, and should be obliged by Government being good enough to have this pointed out to the Collector of Godavery.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st August 1876. No. 2,313.*

No. 695.

ORDER THEREON, 31st August 1876, No. 2,313.

IRRIGATION, No. 72.

Account.

RECORDED, and communicated to the
Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Revenue Department. ✓

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

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