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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	260	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	1-2-1876	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

See

No. 3,190.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd November 1875.

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOCKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th October 1875, No. 409 :—

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, Miscellaneous No. 6,715, dated the 26th July last, asking for an expression of my opinion as to the apparent advantages of carrying out the Toombadra project, I have the honor to state that I find a difficulty in answering the question.

2. The subject has been so fully discussed by some of the most skilful officers of Government in the Public Works Department that any observations of mine would appear to be superfluous.

3. In 1866 in G.O., Public Works Department, No. 2,606, dated the 20th August, the Government, with reference to then existing famine, remarked that "the present state of Bellary, however, shows that no more time can, with safety to the district, be lost in carrying out some extensive scheme for the improvement of the irrigation; and, as the only one likely to be successful is that of the Toombadra Canal from Wallabhapooram, an appeal will at once be made to the Secretary of State to call upon the Company (Irrigation) to begin that part of their enterprise which consists of the conveyance of water for irrigation from the Toombadra to Bellary by means of a canal from Wallabhapooram, or, upon their inability so to do at once, to authorize the canal being undertaken by this Government."

4. Since that time the district happily has not been visited with famine, but the necessity for the work still exists. For the very reason that nine years have passed since the last famine occurred, we ought to be prepared for another, for experience shows that they have been felt periodically ever since the commencement of British rule (*vide* Bellary Manual, page 77).

5. Colonel Rundall, in his memorandum embodied in the Government Order communicated with the Board's Proceedings, "assumes" that the Bellary project will, sooner or later, have to be undertaken by the Government.

6. Colonel Mullins, in his memorandum embodied in the Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, No. 2,549, dated the 18th October 1873, which, as it does not appear to have been communicated to the Board, I herewith enclose (to be returned), remarks that "little more, if indeed anything material, can be added to the information on this point (the Toombadra Canal Project), and, so far as engineering considerations are concerned, the data for a decision for or against any such project are fairly complete."

7. The direct returns from water-rates likely to be obtainable have already been calculated in the papers embodied in the Government Orders on the subject. The remissions of assessment which would be avoided cannot well be calculated, because the area to be traversed by the canal consists mostly of dry lands, which would by its means be newly irrigated.

8. The saving of expenditure on the relief of the population from periodical scarcity can be imagined when in one year, 1854, the loss to the State in providing work for the poor, after deducting the value of road-work done, amounted in this single district to 19 lakhs of rupees. The existence of a canal would not, of

course, at the bare end of a famine in other distant parts of the district, but still the fact of bringing 150,000 or 200,000 acres under wet irrigation would provide employment for thousands of the population, and the amount of grain permanently in store in the district, or capable of being produced, would be immensely greater than it is now.

9. The existence of the railway no doubt would enable grain supplies to be thrown in with facility, but the railway only skirts one part of the district, and there are many parts of Bellary from 80 to 100 miles distant from any railway.

The Government in G.O., dated 9th June 1875, No. 1,629, call for a comprehensive report upon the financial aspect of the Toombadra project in all its bearings. The Collector, to whom this order was referred, states that the direct returns from water-rate, &c., have already been calculated in papers before Government.

2. If the information now in the possession of Government had been deemed sufficient, the call for further report would not have been made, and in any case, eight years having elapsed since the discussion referred to took place, much has occurred to modify the estimates and opinions then framed and placed on record.

3. The Collector is accordingly requested to take up the matter again and examine it in detail. He should carefully inquire as to the extent of land which is likely to be irrigated as compared with that said to be commanded, and endeavor to frame an estimate of the probable rate at which irrigation would extend. The character of the soils and their suitability for irrigation; the sufficiency of the population, in the tracts affected, for carrying on wet cultivation, which requires many more hands than dry; the probable inclination of the people to take water if supplied, and whether much outlay on their part would be required to fit their land for the cultivation of rice; the capacity of the lands to bear the proposed water-rate of Rupees 6 at the present time; and the present revenue and cultivation of the tract are all important points which must be considered, and on which guidance must be looked for from those on the spot and thoroughly acquainted with the locality.

4. The results of the construction of the somewhat similar works in the adjoining districts of Kurnool and Cuddapah under the auspices of the Madras Irrigation Company are not encouraging, but may be of some use to the Collector, and a file of papers on the subject will be collected and sent to him.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. W. Fischer

Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary, with G.O., dated 18th October 1873,
No. 2,449, returned, and a file of papers.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

20. 20 Aug 1875 L. 395. 400 000
18 Oct 1875 305. 307. 40.
24 Aug 75. 1336 L. R. S.
31 Aug 75. 1612 L. R. S.

4-10-54
Bonds Nov 8 3.77 17.3420
None

28-10-1875

1. To the Board of the S. S. Feb

10/4/76

Res. 1875. 20/10

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD NOVEMBER 1875, No 3,190.

20/10 20/11/75
End

Received 11. Dec 75

NOVEMBER.
No 3,190

Canal—from the Toombadra, for the irriga-
tion of a part of Bellary District—Requesting
Collector to take up and examine in detail
certain points in connection with the proposed
project for—, and forwarding to him a file of
papers on subject of similar works undertaken
by the Irrigation and Canal Company in Kurnool
and Cuddapah Districts

20/11/75
Received

20/11/75

11/11/75