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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

533

Press
Mis.

Dated 22. 4. 1976 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 152. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th April 1876, No. 913:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to H. W. BLISS, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 3rd March 1876, No. 4,428.

I HAVE the honor to report, for your information, that on the 1st and 2nd instant I inspected the Pulney tank and the improvements to its supply channel, and am glad to state that, though the latter is still incomplete and has been much damaged by a most extraordinary heavy fresh in October last, and to repair which a supplemental estimate is required, the results obtained are highly satisfactory and clearly confirm the opinion I had formed of constructing large reservoirs in the subsidiary valleys of the Shunmooganuddee to store the waters drained off its excessively steep catchment basin.

2. There was, as you are aware, a great failure of the rains in this district up to September last, but in October an abundant fall occurred, and most of the tanks were filled to overflowing; but there was little or no rain in November, December, January, or February, and the consequences are visible all over the district owing to the shallowness of all these reservoirs; the supply of water contained in them is insufficient to mature the crops unless supplemented by rains in these latter months, and the ryots will, I fear, suffer very great losses indeed; but the Pulney tank was not only filled, but its calingulah was discharging for fifteen days afterwards, a very heavy crop has been raised and fully matured under its action, and on the 1st March this tank still had three months supply of water in it; and, should this be supplemented by any heavy mango showers in this month, I see no reason why a good second crop should not be obtained.

3. It is thus abundantly clear that in this district means exist which, if properly managed, will save the ryots from almost all their losses, and sites have been selected on all its larger drainage basins,—the Vigay, Munjalaur, and Shunmooganuddee,—in which sufficient quantities of water can be stored, not only to secure all the present irrigation, but to extend the area of this to at least six times that now existing.

4. The Vigay at present irrigates some 38,000 acres, and has a drainage area of 1,200 square miles with an available rainfall of from twelve to eighteen inches, and should therefore irrigate 200,000 acres of land and maintain a navigable canal to the coast.

5. The Munjalaur has a drainage area of 100 square miles of very steep ground and an available rainfall of not less than a yard in depth, so should irrigate 60,000 acres, and does not now irrigate 10,000 acres.

6. The Shunmooganuddee has a catchment basin of 180 square miles very similar in physical characteristics to the Munjalaur, and should irrigate therefore 100,000 acres, but does not supply 20,000 acres by the existing arrangements.

7. So that, without the Perryaur at all, this district has in itself the means of irrigating some 360,000 acres of land, a circumstance, curiously enough, entirely overlooked, whilst a lakh of rupees has been spent in attempts to obtain water for about one-sixth of this area from the Perryaur, and I have good reason to believe the lowest gorge in this water-shed has not yet been tried; and, though a large staff

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd April 1876.*

of officers and surveyors was allowed for this work and duty, it is alleged there are no means available now to look into far more important irrigation schemes which do not involve one-tenth of the labor the Perryaur must have required, but are calculated to yield at least ten times the results expected from that project at the same time that Range and Sub-divisional officers are required to be detached from their legitimate duties to attend to works of little or no importance in any economical point of view for the district generally.

8. We are constantly called upon to spend money on the existing irrigation works of the district in utter disregard of their present condition or its physical features; and as the results of this season's abundant rainfall in one month and the failure of these works generally to mature the crops under them in consequence of no rain falling subsequently clearly demonstrate the futility of such proceedings and establish the correctness of the professional opinion I had formed in this matter, I gladly avail myself of the first opportunity for bringing it forward for reconsideration with the Revenue Board.

9. The circumstances of the population in this district are most serious and precarious; it is increasing very rapidly, and it is quite apparent to any one of the most ordinary judgment and experience that, with such shallow reservoirs much silted up long ago, the means of raising their food supply or produce to trade with must be decreasing every year, so that, even in seasons of abundant rainfall like the present, the ryots must lose very heavily, and at the same time the means

possibility meet the needs of the district. In this Presidency irrigation works carried out with any tolerable judgment and management like those in the Godavery are a great success, but even these fail and fall off when neglected; it is, therefore, no argument that, because no results have yet been obtained from the Kurnool and Kistna works, all other districts shall be starved of all new works; on the contrary I respectfully submit the causes of failure in those districts should be inquired into to see if these are not due to mismanagement, want of judgment, professional knowledge, and experience or neglect before all the other districts of the Presidency are left to chance to afford the means of support to their rapidly-increasing populations; and, now that a good case has been established, I trust the Revenue Board will recommend the subject again to the Government for further orders and instructions.

No. 106.

FORWARDED for the information of the Board of Revenue in continuation of the Acting Collector's letter, No. 47, dated the 3rd February 1876.

SHEMBAGANUR,
11th March 1876.

(Signed) H. W. BLISS,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 11th March 1876, No. 693.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd April 1876.*

No. 153.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd April 1876, No. 533.

Irrigation, No. 4.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works
Department in continuation of G.O., 24th
March 1876, No. 416.

2. The Government note that the report promised by the Collector, in his letter recorded in the G.O. above quoted, has not yet been submitted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

233
3

No. 913.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th April 1876.

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2. There was, as you are aware, a great failure of the rains in this district up to September last, but in October an abundant fall occurred, and most of the tanks were filled to overflowing; but there was little or no rain in November, December, January, or February, and the consequences are visible all over the district owing to the shallowness of all these reservoirs; the supply of water contained in them is insufficient to mature the crops unless supplemented by rains in these latter months, and the ryots will, I fear, suffer very great losses indeed; but the Pulney tank was not only filled, but its calingulah was discharging for fifteen days afterwards; a very heavy crop has been raised and fully matured under it, and on the 1st March this tank still had three months supply of water in it; and, should this be supplemented by any heavy mango showers in this month, I see no reason why a good second crop should not be obtained.

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Bot. of 1876
 REVENUE.
 THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
 Dated April, 23rd.
 Recd.
 G.O., 23rd April 1876, No. 533.
 APRIL.
 Nos. 152-153.
 Irrigation Requirements of the Madras District.—Communicating to the Public Works Department Proceedings of the Board of Revenue relating to a suggestion for constructing of reservoirs to meet the —.

7. So that, without the Perryaur at all, this district has in itself the means of irrigating some 360,000 acres of land, a circumstance, curiously enough, entirely overlooked, whilst a lakh of rupees has been spent in attempts to obtain water for about one-sixth of this area from the Perryaur, and I have good reason to believe the lowest gorge in this water-shed has not yet been tried; and, though a large staff of officers and surveyors was allowed for this work and duty, it is alleged there are no means available now to look into far more important irrigation schemes which do not involve one-tenth of the labor the Perryaur must have required, but are calculated to yield at least ten times the results expected from that project at the same time that Range and Sub-divisional officers are required to be detached from their legitimate duties to attend to works of little or no importance in any economical point of view for the district generally.

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9. The circumstances of the population in this district are most serious and precarious; it is increasing very rapidly, and it is quite apparent to any one of the most ordinary judgment and experience that, with such shallow reservoirs much silted up long ago, the means of raising their food supply or produce to trade with must be decreasing every year, so that, even in seasons of abundant rainfall like the present, the ryots must lose very heavily, and at the same time the means supplied by the Government are ordered to be spent on works which can by no possibility meet the needs of the district. In this Presidency irrigation works carried out with any tolerable judgment and management like those in the Godavary are a great success, but even these fail and fall off when neglected; it is, therefore, no argument that, because no results have yet been obtained from the Kurnool and Kistna works, all other districts shall be starved of all new works; on the contrary I respectfully submit the causes of failure in those districts should be inquired into to see if these are not due to mismanagement, want of judgment, professional knowledge, and experience or neglect before all the other districts of the Presidency are left to chance to afford the means of support to their rapidly-increasing populations; and, now that a good case has been established, I trust the Revenue Board will recommend the subject again to the Government for further orders and instructions.

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SHEMBAGANUR,
11th March 1876.

(Signed) H. W. BLISS,
Acting Collector.

532/4
SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 11th March 1876, No. 693.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

W. H. C.
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Acting Collector of Madura.

Copy to the Acting Collector of Madura.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

No 533

Communicated to the P. W. Department
in continuation of G.O. 24: March 1876 N. 416.

The Government note that the report promised
by the Collector, in his letter recorded in the G.O. above
quoted, has not yet been submitted.

21 To the P. W. Dept Des, Madras
14 The Boarding Des

21-4-76

22^d April 1876

No 1465
April 1876. *de pte*
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 4TH APRIL 1876, NO. 913.

De pte

Encl.

Received

W. Chav

APRIL.
No. 913.

Irrigational requirements—of Madura Dis-
trict.—Submitting, for information of Govern-
ment, letter from District Engineer suggesting
construction of certain reservoirs to meet the

No 533-22^d April 1876

With order