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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	922	~~Press~~
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	22-4-1876	197

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th March 1876.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 495. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 28th February 1876, No. 293.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Public Works Department Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, submitting report regarding measures taken by the Collector to advance the interests of the Irrigation and Canal Company.

No. 495-A. Memorandum by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 9th March 1876.

As the Order in the Revenue Department, No. 293, of the 28th February 1876, has not gone into the subject of the representations made by the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's Officers, or examined into the grounds of the satisfaction expressed by the Board of Revenue, it is probable that no useful purpose would be served by an order on the merits in the Public Works Department. It seems, however, to be unlikely that the Company will share in the satisfaction of the Board, neither is there apparently any reason why the Government should be satisfied.

2. In the first place the Order of the 21st January 1875, No. 175, was communicated to the Collector of Cuddapah by the Board of Revenue on the 4th February following, and the Collector's reply is dated 12th January 1876.

3. Mr. Dodson, the Canal Officer then in charge of the lower half of the canal, had brought to notice a marked contrast between the means taken in the Kurnool and Cuddapah Districts respectively to make the new rules known, and to instruct the Curnums. He stated that copies of the rules, placards and a plentiful supply of application forms had been provided in Kurnool, and that these obvious requirements had been left unattended to in Cuddapah; that in Kurnool the Collector had shown a personal interest in the matter, and that the Deputy Collector had visited most of the villages and explained fully the advantages of the new rules, while in Cuddapah no such action had been taken. Mr. Dodson was an officer long conversant with the canal, who could hardly have been mistaken as to the marked difference which he observed in the two districts, and on referring to Mr. Horsley's letter, on a subject which it would seem ought to have been deemed of too much importance to have been shelved for nearly a year, it will be seen that Mr. Dodson's remarks on the absence of measures for making the new rules known to the people generally are confirmed, for it would seem that the publication of the rules was confined to the District Gazette, if indeed they were therein printed, for the Collector alludes only to the rules regarding applications, which, if taken literally, would mean Rule II only. Again, the District Press being full of work no printed forms of application were provided, and the Curnums, who have at no time shown any desire to do the work entrusted to them, were thus left with a ready excuse for doing nothing.

4. It may be supposed that by G.O. of the 21st January 1875, No. 175, it was intended that the Collector should give a *resumé* of the action taken by him on the sanction by Government of the new rules, and of the instructions he issued. It would appear to be fair to conclude that he did nothing in regard to them beyond the mere routine work which was unavoidable, and that, so far as the application forms were concerned, was very badly done.

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5. Mr. Horsley appears to think that he had nothing to do but to sit still until specific complaints were made to him by the canal officers, but it is evident that the proper time for action was before reasons for specific complaints could arise, and that this action should have had for its object, first, the dissemination of information among the subordinate revenue officers and the villagers; and, secondly, the conviction by the Tahsildars and Curnums that the Collector was determined that their part of the work should be performed thoroughly.

6. While deprecating the expression of dissatisfaction by the canal officers before they had made any specific complaints and waited to see what would come of them—a course of proceeding which experience had probably made them believe to be futile, for it must be remembered that the monthly reports have from time to time contained specific complaints of the negligence of subordinate revenue officers, and it has been made abundantly plain from the great discrepancy between the returns of applications for water and the areas actually under irrigation that the negligence was not imaginary—the Collector himself complains in a general sort of way that he has not been consulted, though about what is left to the imagination; and he makes the extraordinary statement that neither he nor his predecessor nor his predecessor's predecessor knows or knew any thing about the canal. Now, as what are sometimes called the interests of the Company are really the interests of Government; it is a very remarkable thing that successive revenue officers should not have made themselves thoroughly acquainted with the canal, what it can do, where it can do this, and what influences prevent much of the practicable from being the actual. It would not be difficult to name revenue officers who would certainly have known all about the canal; it is equally certain that the canal officers would have welcomed Mr. Horsley anywhere and everywhere along the line and have rendered all possible assistance to him in acquiring a complete knowledge. They have had to do not only their own work, but a great deal of the revenue work, which should from the first have been done by Curnums, Revenue Inspectors, and Tahsildars.

7. The results of the irrigation season of 1874-75, the year to which Mr. Dodson's remarks applied, have recently been laid before Government, and they show a small falling off in area of irrigation in Cuddapah, while in Kurnool, though the increase of area was not encouraging, it was not insignificant.

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 496.

ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1876, No. 810.

IRRIGATION, No. 48-A.

ORDERED that the Memorandum by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation be recorded with an expression of the opinion of the

Governor in Council that the important subject with which it deals has not received the attention it requires either at the hands of the Collector of Cuddapah or of the Board of Revenue.

2. The Collector's letter does not satisfy the Governor in Council that the interests of the Company and of the Government have been duly studied. The subject will now be referred back to the Board, through the Revenue Department,

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for report of the measures they deem necessary to ensure proper knowledge of rules and of the arrangements requisite to secure their being carried out.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Colonel,
Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Spare Copies

L. 1. 28 July 1876 No. 293
— 26 Jan 1875 No. 178

N^o 1565
Revenue 1876 Department
Govt. of 1876 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Vide No 2343/76.

Dated March 30th.

Issued

Recd. April 19
No. 222

Encl.

G. O., 30th March 1876, No. 510.

MARCH

Nos. 495-496

No 722

Comm. to the B. of Rec. for
submission of the Report re-
quired in para 2.

22 April 1876

Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
Passing orders on the subject of the measures
taken by the Collector of Cuddapah to
advance the interests of the

With Rec.

14 Feb. 1876 (Rec. No. 2343/76)