

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

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	932	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	24-4-1876	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1207

No. 536. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Cuddalore, 6th March 1876, No. 5 W. :—

From Major J. BEATTY, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Samulcottah, 15th February 1876, No. 3,343.

I HAVE the honor to request you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government to the stoppage of all further progress on the preparation of estimates under the village drainage scheme, on the ground that it is now clear these works, if executed, must be carried out in opposition to the wishes of the inhabitants of the delta, and are therefore certain to be neglected if not damaged by them, and to prove useless for any purpose.

2. On joining the district I found that the investigation of the best means of relieving village sites of drainage had been ordered, and as officers were made available I endeavoured to carry out the intentions of Government so far as I understood them.

3. Surveys were undertaken and estimates prepared and submitted for three sub-sections—one in the Central Delta, and two in the Eastern Delta. Some works were also sanctioned for execution, but only a portion of the work in one village has yet been carried out, because the inhabitants in all cases object, and petitions have been received requesting that the works may be stopped.

4. The work consisted of sectioning the streets to enable drainage to flow off them into branch drains outside the village, which branch drains were intended to serve the double purpose of receiving the drainage of the interior of the village as well as that of the ground surrounding the village.

5. The villagers object to have the surface of their streets improved or interfered with in any way, and they also object to the drainage of the land about the village, as they prefer keeping pits and ponds for their cattle and other purposes, and it is also their custom, where they can, to carry the cultivation up to the very walls of their houses.

6. It was thought by the originators of the scheme that such drainage works would put a stop to or reduce the amount of fever in the delta, very exaggerated accounts of which appear to have been prevalent some years ago. I believe that the deltas are very healthy, and that the amount of fever there is very trifling compared with that in such upland, hilly, jungly, tracts as Yernagudem and Rumpah.

7. The preparation of estimates for the improvement of the branch drains of the delta, with a view to connecting all swampy lands and low-lying tracts with the main drains, is a totally distinct work, the necessity for which has been fully recognized and is now being gradually attended to by the Range Officers as part of the ordinary work of their ranges. I believe that the improvement of the main and branch drains of the delta will do all that is necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing possible causes of fever.

8. I request therefore to be favored with instructions whether I am to proceed with the works already sanctioned in opposition to the wishes of the people; and, if not, that I may be permitted to stop all further progress with the preparation of estimates for such works.

9. Meantime, I have suspended all survey operations, and until further orders shall employ the two Assistant Engineers who have most recently joined the district

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1876.*

in supervising some of the more important works in progress in the Eastern and Western Deltas. Mr. Burlton, in the Paleole section of the eastern sub-division, Western Delta, will, besides much other work, have the advantage of seeing lock and weir foundations put in in difficult soil; and Mr. Taylor, at Chintapilly, a central point of the northern sub-division, Eastern Delta, will assist the Range Officer in the general supervision of works in that sub-division; care will be taken that both these officers are given sufficient time for the study of Telugu.

Submitted for the consideration of Government.

In the opinion of the undersigned the further investigation of village drainage requirements in the Godavery Delta should be postponed, pending the settlement of G.O., No. 2,779, 29th September 1875. the question of provision of funds, vide G.O., No. 2,826, of the 30th September 1875, except in the case of villages, like Gollahamandala and Oolapilly, the drainage of which has been injuriously affected by irrigation works. They should be attended to directly their circumstances have been ascertained.

2. It appears to be necessary also, if the drainage of villages of which the requirements have been ascertained is to be carried out, whether the villagers desire the improvements or not, that such work should be executed under the immediate superintendence of some one deputed by the Collector to see, first, that no obstruction is offered to the work, and secondly, that what is done is not rendered useless by the carelessness or interference of the villagers.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 537.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1876, No. 820.

IRRIGATION, No. 54.

THE District Engineer's letter will be referred, through the Board of Revenue, to the Collector of Godavery, for careful

investigation and prompt report on the feelings of the villagers on the subject of village drainage.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Edw. T. O'Connor.

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Rev. 1876 - 24th
1557
Govt. of 1876 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c, &c, &c.

TO THE SECRETARY,

GOVT.

Recd April 21/76

Encl.

G. O., 31st March 1876, No. 839.

MARCH.

Nos. 536-537

1876, For Madras, Godavery. — Letter from
the District Engineer of Godavery on the
subject of —, referred, through the Board of
Godavery, to the Collector of Godavery for
enquiry, investigation and prompt report on
the subject of the villagers.

No 932
Lodged
24 April 1876