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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	959	Press
B.P. No.		Mis. ☒
Dated	26.4.1976	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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No. 576. Read the following letter from Lieut.-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 15th March 1876, No. 4,680 :—

IN forwarding, for the information of the Government, the accompanying copy of a report just received from Major Law, I have the honor to state that, under the authority contained in G.O. of the 21st February 1876, No. 467, I have instructed the Range Officer, Dindigul Range, to place Rupees 1,000 at Major Law's disposal from any savings from Local Funds in his hands, as it is too late in the year to obtain Imperial Funds.

2. I take this opportunity also to report, for the information of the Government, that great distress may prevail in this district this season: the rains of October last were most abundant, as already reported to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, every tank almost received a full supply, but little or no rain has fallen since; the tanks of the district, as so often brought to notice, are so shallow that they do not hold water enough to mature a crop with, and if no rain falls to replenish them, as has just occurred, the crops are lost, and from the immense numbers of the population in the district now, very great distress, if not famine, may take place.

3. The value of securing the water from the larger rivers of the district to tanks is well illustrated just now, whilst every tank has lost more or less of the crop under it; the Pulni tank has supplied water for a full crop and had three months' water left in it on the first instant afterwards, having had its supply-channel well cleared out lately. Very heavy freshes occurred in the Shunmooganuddy river this year so that if the works I had projected for this valley had been put in hand and ready, there is no reason why the great loss which the people and the Government may have to suffer should not have been entirely averted; but under existing orders and instructions half a lakh of Rupees a-year or more are being spent on the irrigation works of this district which it is quite evident are not worth preserving, and every endeavour to secure better means for the fertilization of the soil rejected, without any thought or consideration of the altered circumstances of the country and the people or the physical features or phenomena of the district in which we are engineering.

From Major G. V. LAW, Special Executive Engineer, Pulni Hills, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, dated Pulni Hills, 13th March 1876, No. 109.

I HAVE the honor to report that, owing to the want of rain and great drought in the Peracolum taluq, coolies have flocked to my works, and the allotments for the year have been fully spent much earlier than I could have anticipated.

2. I am obliged to pay once a fortnight, and on settling accounts last Saturday, 11th March, I had, in addition to the balance of the allotments, to advance Rupees 144 of private funds to settle all demands.

3. I have little doubt that I can spend 1,000 Rupees more in current month unless heavy rain falls, and if no funds can be transferred from Imperial or Local Funds, will carry on the work with advances from private funds.

4. If Imperial Funds can be transferred, I can settle in current year for widening from Kodikanel to Neutral Saddle, and if Local Funds for bridle path from Neutral Saddle towards Pulni, both of which works are now being worked out.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

31st March 1876, Public Works Department,

1876.

5. Regarding the latter work I may remark that the District Local Fund Board in Proceedings No. 4 of 1876, vide 2nd Supplement, Madras, 4th March 1876, have requested you to state from what source funds can be transferred if you require an allotment.

No. 577.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1876, No. 850.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 42.

The District Engineer has apparently misapprehended the order which he quotes, which only relates to excesses of 5 per cent. over sanctioned estimates.

2. The Rupees 1,000 required by Major Law have been already allotted from Provincial Funds by transfer.

3. Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's remarks in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of his letter will be communicated to the Revenue Department and to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, for such notice as they may require.

(True Extract.)


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

To the District Engineer, Madras.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Ed. T. O'Connor.

20 Spare Copies sent to Madras Office

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Nov 16 24

George W. E. E. E.
President of the
Board of Trustees

Nov 22 } April 1976
Nov 26 }

1896-1897-1898-1899

Subcommittee for
the construction of the
new building of the
University of the
South. The committee
has the honor to
inform you that the
building of the
University of the
South is now
under way.