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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>2022</u>	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<u>10.4.1977</u>	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

2522

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th March 1877. No. 912.*

No. 429. Read the following endorsement of the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 6th March 1877, No. 1,229 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th February 1877.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tanjore, 10th February 1877, No. 562.

Nor long ago Tanjore was on the eve of distress. The rain which fell at Christmas just tided us over our difficulty and for the present harvest operations are occupying the people. Presuming Mr. Pogson's forecasts of the weather to be correct, we may expect that the lapse of a very few months will bring back our distress, and this time with double force because of the long period of impoverishment that has been undergone. To prepare for such distress the time before us is short indeed. Proposals other than those which I made in the former period of anxiety, there are none to be made. Of them the main part and the most desirable part were negatived, because they were irrigation projects which had not been duly investigated and sanctioned. Though every exertion has, I believe, been made to push on the investigation of irrigation projects, still the Public Works Department staff is inadequate, and unless it is materially strengthened, and that immediately, the very same difficulty must inevitably overtake us again.

2. I have therefore addressed the District Engineer, the letter of which copy is enclosed, and having since met him find that he concurs with me and will make application accordingly. I have the honor to inform the Board also, because I suppose the general responsibility for provision against famine and distress rests with the Revenue Administrative Department, and because if distress comes upon us I do not wish to be found unready, and if the means of making ready are given me both quickly and adequately, I see my way clearly to providing that distress money shall be laid out in a way that will both be remunerative to Government, and will also go far to guard against ill-effects from future famines, which it seems have a certain periodicity.

3. My scheme is roughly this. The parts of this district in which the distress is sure to come first are Pattikottai, Aranthanghi and Vallam. In the two former there are rivers of water running to waste in the sea. Large reservoirs with irrigation can be formed thereon. For Vallam, the Tanjore Water Project is being got ready by the Municipality. To secure the irrigated delta of the district, which is our granary in famine, it would be well if the project proposed in my letter No. 4,262, dated 24th November 1876, could be investigated at once.

4. In this connection I would, as reminded by Captain Brockman, advert to Colonel Oakes' proposal for a permanent Survey establishment, and urge the necessity for at once inaugurating the policy, commencing by sending to Tanjore such liberal staff as the District Engineer may advise, for the time for investigation is short and several projects should be simultaneously taken up, for it cannot be hoped that they will all prove feasible.

5. In G.O., dated 26th December 1876, No. 2,170, the Government seemed to think I had not consulted the District Engineer, though in truth we had conferred together on every point, and I had only not made mention of it because though I had availed myself of his kindly advice, still I thought the responsibility for provision against famine lay with me. That there may be no question this time, I have the

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honor to add that I have sent the District Engineer a copy of this letter. It rests with him to state in the proper quarter what the staff is that is necessary. I hope there may be the least practical delay in providing it.

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector, to the District Engineer, Tanjore, dated Vallam, 5th February 1877, No. 474.

Though the rain which fell on Christmas eve has just tided us out of immediate difficulty, still I fear distress will recur if the April and following rains fail as the Government Astronomer anticipates. I shall be greatly obliged therefore by your making every preparation by pushing on the plans and estimates for such irrigation works as you may think desirable, especially in the Pattukottai and Aranthangi and Vallam Firkas, as these are the localities likely to suffer most. If your staff is insufficient I hope you will apply for its being strengthened.

2. You will have observed that the policy of Government is to work out sanctioned irrigation estimates, with these therefore we should be prepared.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. Mr. Thomas is right in making every effort to be prepared for an emergency which may shortly arise, and if the engineering staff is insufficient to mature the projects within the district which may have to be taken up it should be strengthened. The Board observe however that in his letter recorded in G.O., 26th December 1876, No. 2,170, the Collector stated that many sanctioned estimates were ready.

3. The project referred to in paragraph 3 was referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in G.O., 9th December 1876, No. 1,977. The Board are under the impression that it has never been scientifically investigated.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Additional Secretary.

REFERRED to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for disposal.

(By order)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

No. 430.

ORDER THEREON, 17th March 1877, No. 912.

IRRIGATION, No. 36.

THE question of the advisability of taking in hand as a relief work the project referred to in paragraph 3 of the

Board's Proceedings was disposed of in G.O., No. 744—A of 19th February 1877.

(True Extract.)

Wm. Mullins
Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" District Engineer, Tanjore.
Encl. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Rev. 1877 Sept
7th 2067

Gobt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Vide N^o 3483 G. O. 25 April 77
N^o 1422 P.W.D.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 17th.

Issued

Recd. *Apr 2nd*

Encl.

G. O., 17th March 1877, No. 912.

Letter 11 4 77
MARCH

Nos. 429-430.

9 4 77
Reservoir in Tanjore District.—Intimating that the question of the advisability of taking in hand as a relief work certain —, referred to by the Collector has already been disposed of. *20 22*

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2nd March 9 4 77