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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	62-710	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	12.5-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

82

P. H. D.

Note by the Honorable
Dr. Huellertau.

I think the attention of
the Acting Collector should
be called to the alleged violent
conduct of Ryots.

Signed Dr. H.

2

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th April 1877. No. 1,301.*

No. 380. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 31st March 1877, No. 171 W:—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 26th March 1877, No. 38.

Monthly Reports for February 1877.

I HAVE the honor to forward per book post Upper and Lower Division Reports, together with my own, for the month of February 1877.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

UPPER DIVISION.

Monthly Report for February 1877.

WATER in the canal at Soonkesala head sluice has fallen from 3.0 to 2.3. On the 18th of the month a telegram was received from Mr. Latham at Madras, to shut the sluices of No. 9 calingulah, and let water down the canal again. This was done immediately, but the river had fallen so low that the progress has been very slow; about one mile a day has been the rate of advance. This is owing to the fact that the tanks in the second section have to be raised to water level and the water spread in some places, as at Gardeemudgoo tank, is very extensive. At the same time the water used at Kurnool, and the absorption and leakage from the walls and under the rocks about Poodoor, have a very sensible effect in diminishing the supply.

2. The effect of the supply has been to save some acres of wet crops at Joharapoor, the village below Kurnool; and I hope now that the Ulloor paddy fields will recover if they are not already dried up.

3. I had hoped to have the total and correct returns up to date ready for this report, but I have been unable to get all the village accounts entirely settled. The enclosed statement

	ACRES.	
* Total wet crop	9,552.62	10,752.62
Second crop unrecorded	100.00	
Total dry crop	38,601.77	39,601.77
Still unrecorded	1,000.00	
		<u>50,354.39</u>

however will give actual irrigation recorded up to date with the probable amount still to come. This will be upwards of 50,000 acres* against a total of 63,251.2 acres last year.

4. During the last month there has been much sickness in the staff; nearly half has been incapacitated, by fever or other complaints, from doing work; and yet it is generally considered the most healthy time of the year. A banker died of cholera, and the telegraph signaller of small-pox. Distress seems to have been very much alleviated. In January the employes in the Nundial taluq petitioned for payment in grain. I therefore sent down rice, which was given to them at the rate of 5½ measures per rupee. They have not this month asked for grain, as it is now everywhere cheaper.

5. I feel confident that we shall be able to undertake any repairs or new work that may be wanted, as there are plenty of men ready to work at more moderate rates. This extends even to masonry works, provided they are not situated where there is no water. There are still plenty of bullocks under the canal ready for work near the villages to which they belong.

6. During the month preparations have been made for estimates and plans of the required repairs for this season, but the illness above referred to has delayed us much.

7. Several of the staff were dismissed and sent to the relief works as over-lookers, &c., but they generally refused to go to Cumbum, where men are most wanted.

The staff were paid from the 5th February to 25th February 1877.

(Signed) C. H. WILKS,
Conservancy Engineer.

Recd 12-5-77 N 270.

Rev: 2378/77

LOWER DIVISION.

Monthly Report for February 1877.

THERE has been no water in the 1st and 2nd ranges, that is between Ayaloor and Rajolly anicut this month, and in the 3rd and 4th ranges all the sluices ceased to discharge on the 15th. In the 5th range I am still irrigating about 400 acres of raggy and jonna, with the subsoil dribblets collected at the Adimayapally anicut. Although the water which has been stopped from running down the canal from 18th January until 20th February is now travelling down again as fast as it can, there is little likelihood of its reaching its last destination before the 20th March, when it will be very acceptable for drinking purposes.

* None.—J. H. L.

2. I have seen no report on the time occupied by the water in travelling from Kurnool to Bezware; such information would be a useful guide in future, if water becomes scarce.

3. No rain has fallen this month, except a small sprinkling at Beempand (Prodatur Taluq) on the 15th, although the prospects of rain for four or five days seemed promising. During the last two or three days symptoms of rain have again been showing themselves.

4. Since the canal has been dry I have thoroughly examined each lock in this division, and am glad to say that I found them in a most efficient condition; the only repairs required are the re-setting of sill stones of four locks which, originally laid in cement, were not treated to that care which masonry in cement requires.

5. Notwithstanding the long continued dry weather the banks have been kept in good condition, especially since the bankers were released from their pressing irrigation duties. These bankers, numbering about 159, are now a valuable body of men, well educated in their work, thoroughly acquainted with the canal and our system of water distribution, ready at any time to successfully cope with a dangerous leak or breach, and most of whom are acquainted with the working of the locks and the sluices. Daily or monthly coolies as a rule are lazy and indifferent workmen, and it is only by a system of great strictness these men have been moulded into useful and profitable workmen.

If after a term of service they had a reward to look forward to, of say, the accumulation of 8 or 4 Annas additional pay per month, to be given on serving the term with satisfaction to the Company, it might strengthen their efficiency.

6. Irrigation except under the Adimayapally anicut has ceased, and I fear there will be no revival of it this season, as the water will, I think, reach this division too late for the sowing of any new crops. The intelligence that water was again directed into the canal was received with great delight, and the anxiety concerning its progress down the canal is great. Besides 6,353 acres which absolutely require another flooding, had the water arrived at the beginning of this month, I have little doubt that I should have received applications for 5,000 acres. There is not the least desire to sow crops yielding food grains, the greatest anxiety is to get in indigo seeds. In some villages where I have endeavoured to obtain an acre or two for experimental purposes I have been told there is no good land available, it being the intention of the ryots to sow indigo in all their irrigable land.

7. The statement of all irrigation enclosed is not yet final, as the registration and measurements of late sown crops are not yet completed. It is unfortunate that at a time when the Curnams should lend their assistance, in return for the information concerning the irrigation they have received from the Amins, they are called upon to leave their villages and spend their time for an unknown period at the Tahsildars' Cutcheries, but it is so now and every season so soon as the requisite information for making up their accounts is obtained from the Amins.

The work entailed on the Amins is very heavy, the last duty being that of measuring shares which the ryots think it a point of honor the Company should do. In my whole experience I do not know of a single field share being marked out as described in Irrigation Rule 3. The Amins have had two alternatives before them, either to charge the shares as full acres, at a considerable loss to the ryots and advantage to the Company, or to measure and cast up the area of each little bit, the boundaries of which only the shareholders can point out. In

Chennoor (Cuddapah Taluq) for instance, although 1,000 acres of wet first crop have been sown to the full extent of each field, tickets were demanded by each owner of a portion of each field, and each expected his portion to be measured up. Such instances as a field of 4.94 acres being divided amongst six holders of unequal shares, 3.84 acres amongst six holders of unequal shares and 8.41 acres amongst 22 holders of unequal shares, are numerous in almost every village.

The proper course is for the ryot to apply to the Revenue authorities to mark out the shares with stones, but he thinks such events are impossible, and trusts to the Amins, who up to the present have performed the duties laid down by this Rule 3. I think this must be no longer continued, as the duties thus thrown on the comparatively few men we can employ are very laborious.

8. The dry crops have been generally successful, especially in the Sirwell Taluq, but in the Cuddapah and Prodatur Taluqs, where irrigation under wells is so extensive, the dry crops—except where sown in garden land—are below the average. The fault rests with the ryots, who hardly even plough their dry crop fields sufficiently—they certainly never manure them.

The wet crops, more particularly in the Cuddapah and Prodatur Taluqs, are the finest that have been reaped.

9. It has always been a matter of difficulty to arrive at the value of crops with any accuracy. Ryots as a rule cannot give any information, or if they do purposely exaggerate it; but this season the demand for fodder as well as grain have been so great that most ryots are too ready to give the market value of each other's crop, and to supply particulars concerning the petty sales of their neighbours; cholam and paddy stalks are now nearly as valuable as the grains which grow on them, and are parcelled out and priced with great exactness. The stalks from an acre of paddy are usually tied up in bundles, never weighed or measured, averaging 500 to the acre. These are now sold at Rupees 8 per 100 in the Prodatur Taluq; the grains from an average acre in this taluq amount to about 14 putties, the price of the putty being Rupees 56. Any ryot with such a crop can get Rupees 131 for his acre. A Comity of Chennoor (Cuddapah Taluq) was offered, I am told, Rupees 3,000 for his standing paddy crop of 16 acres. Cholam stalks or straw are now so valuable that Rupees 2, or more per 100 bundles can be readily obtained. One thousand of these bundles are the average yield of an acre.

10. The additional "statement of produce under the canal" I have furnished this month, shows with considerable accuracy the result of this season's irrigation. No pains have been spared to obtain the particulars, and I think with their aid it can be seen that no distress amongst ryots and cattle residing near the canal exist.

If the statistics for the Sirwell Taluq be taken, it will be seen that its population of 71,000 souls can be maintained at 1½ lbs. per head (average) for 233 days; and with the straw, according to the proportions shown in the remark column (10), 4,241 cattle can be preserved for the same period. The failures shown in column (9) represent those crops, jonna, raggy, bariga, vegetables, &c., which have recently been deprived of their necessary floodings, and although it may be assumed that the yield in grain will be almost nil, the soppa or straw will be most valuable for the cattle, and will certainly repay the outlay of the ryots two-fold.

11. Now that I may say the irrigation season has terminated, it is worthwhile to introduce the results of my efforts to endeavour to instil a more rational impression on the ryots concerning the use and abuse of the canal water.

There is nothing to be said in favor of the ryots who have so outrageously and mischievously abused the blessing the canal officers have brought to their doors—not the plea of ignorance. Ryots, who in order to get possession of the water, go to the channels armed with battle-axes and knives, as they frequently did, who violently assault the bankers, the only men who can divide the water fairly, and who pull the parapets of bridges down to make their dams, have learned to open and have opened irrigation sluices fitted with screw gears, and who are in the habit of making holes in the banks and masonry, not to obtain sufficient water, but to get it without payment, or before their neighbours who may be equally entitled with them to receive water, ought not to be leniently dealt with. The object of the prosecutions instituted this

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th April 1877. No. 1,301.

season were almost solely to check and stop the dangerous practice of ryots forcibly taking entire possession of main channels discharging about 4,000 cubic yards of water per hour, or enough for 2,000 acres. The mischief these men did cannot be described without long details. One of the Overseers, Mr. Johnston, and I did all we could to stop such disgraceful doings, but we were powerless. The trouble experienced in bringing a gang of these offenders (they were all well armed) to justice was described in a previous report,* and that is the only case I have been able

* For December 1876.

to successfully carry in the most troublesome of the five taluqs I have to deal with. I wrote to the local Magistracy, representing the condition of affairs, when there was ample time to take precautions, but without the slightest assistance being given. It would be worthwhile before these channels and their works are repaired to have them carefully inspected by a competent officer, who should give an approximate estimate of the damage done.

12. During the season in the Sirwell Taluq two serious cases have been brought before the Magistrates, in one case the offenders alluded to in a previous paragraph were punished by fines of Rupees 10 each; and the other, the Overseer informs me, was dismissed by the Sirwell Tahsildar, though no reason was given to him.

In the Prodatur Taluq six serious cases were expeditiously disposed of by the 2nd-class Magistrate, Jeeram Row, the most serious offence being the breaking open of a banker's head; for this the offenders were fined Rupees 50 each.

In the Cuddapah Taluq three cases have been disposed of by the 2nd-class Special Magistrate, the offenders being punished by fines of small amount. Before the same Magistrate eight other cases have been laid, but for some reason are deferred.

13. The health of staff has been moderately good, but cholera and small-pox are very prevalent.

The Lower Division has been paid between the 1st and 10th February 1877.

(Signed) J. O. DUNPHY,
Conservancy Engineer.

Chief Engineer's Report to accompany the Divisional Reports for February 1877.

On the 18th February the Chief Engineer for Irrigation informed me that the Toombudra water was again available for the canal. There is not much: it flows only 0.3 feet deep over the apron wall of the head sluice at Soonkasala, which is 2 feet above bed level.

Great exertions are being made to make the demand for all earnings realized before the end of February complete. I hope to have the last villages sent in to me before the 25th of March. Till then I am unable to give the exact figures.

It is much to be desired that the village Curnams should have a greater sense of their responsibility for the punctual performance of the duties laid upon them by the water-rules. To effect this the first step, a very necessary one, is to furnish them with an authorized deputy to attend to the irrigation during their absence, or while they are occupied with other duties. No doubt the certainty that their wants were being attended to would tend to allay such excitement amongst the ryots as led them last season to take unjustifiable means for securing a supply of water to their fields. Experience will do more; and lastly education, which is now being taken advantage of by a very encouraging proportion of the young Reddies, will in the course of six or eight years very much modify the temper and wisdom of the leading men, to whom notices are now a sealed book, and who have no one on whom they feel real confidence to explain them.

The following shows the result of some very careful estimates of the yield of the canal this year, in which Messrs. Wilks and Dunphy have taken great interest. None of the produce included in it could have existed except for the canal.

Kurnool,
16th March 1877.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th April 1877. No. 1,301.

Estimate of Food Grain grown under the Canal of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company
the rates of which are obtained from the "Kurnool District Gazette," dated 19th March 1877.

Taluq.	RICE.		RAGGY CORRA.		CHOLAM MAIZE.		FODDER.		Total.
	lbs.	Value, 15 lbs. a Rupee.	lbs.	Value, 15 lbs. a Rupee.	lbs.	Value, 18 lbs. a Rupee.	Biggoo.	Value 15 Rupees.	
Ramalkota ...	7,40,000	49,333	6,33,600	42,240	15,21,000	84,500	31,908	47,862	2,23,935
Nandikotkur ...	29,93,000	1,99,533	98,22,400	6,54,826	266,25,000	14,23,700	3,81,740	5,72,610	28,50,670
Nandial ...	24,98,000	1,66,533	39,36,000	2,62,400	211,44,500	11,74,700	2,94,568	4,41,882	20,45,516
Sirwell ...	20,05,941	1,33,729	38,04,500	2,53,633	199,82,000	10,60,338	2,74,874	4,12,311	18,60,012
Koilkontla ...	4,48,645	29,909	2,64,350	17,610	105,39,860	5,84,936	1,23,910	1,85,865	8,18,328
Prodatur ...	30,18,695	2,01,246	41,96,000	2,79,733	26,37,450	1,45,555	97,956	1,46,934	7,74,439
Jammalmadaga ...	1,35,280	9,018	1,01,987	6,799	10,71,779	59,870	23,190	34,885	1,02,809
Cuddapah ...	36,72,211	2,44,814	49,39,375	3,29,291	12,62,553	69,601	71,112	1,06,638	7,50,365
	165,91,773	10,33,451	276,98,062	18,46,537	828,75,047	46,04,169	12,99,278	19,48,917	94,33,074

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer and Manager.

SUBMITTED to Government.

The "biggoo" under Fodder, mentioned in the statement appended to the Chief Engineer's report, appears to be a bundle equivalent to a man's load.

2. It will be seen from these reports, as indeed has been evident from previous reports, that the canal establishments have to do much of the work which is supposed by the rules to devolve on the Village Revenue Officers. If this practice is to continue it will be essential to alter the arrangements materially, and to require the Company to show the extent of irrigation in each village in such detail only as may be readily obtained with the aid of the Revenue Survey Maps, and not by individual holdings. Only in this way can the Company prepare their demand statements within a reasonable time after the close of the period to which they refer.

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

No. 381.

ORDER THEREON, 16th April 1877, No. 1,301.

IRRIGATION, No. 33.

RECORDED and communicated to the
Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government, P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

" Chief Engineer, Irrigation Company.

" Revenue Department, with copy of Note by the Hon. W. Hudleston.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

4.6 25 July 77 No 507-508
13 Aug 77 No 4528

Vide C. No 4267/77

No 2710.

Communicated

to the Board of Revenue

who will direct the

attention of the acting

C.M. of Cuddapah

& Thurnool to the

violent conduct

of the ryots adverted

to in paras 11 &

12 of Mr. Dumphry's

report

report

report

12 May 77

12 May 77

Copy of the report of the
the undersigned in the singular
but it is presumed that the
the Revenue of Cuddapah District
the Revenue of Thurnool District
violent conduct of the ryots
occurred in the Revenue of Cuddapah
and in the Revenue of Thurnool
Cuddapah & Thurnool

Revenue Department
102378

Govt. of 1877

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The CHIEF ENGINEER for IRRIGATION,
cc. cc. cc.

Dated April 18th.

Issued

Recd. 11 May 77

Encl. 1

G. O. 13th April 1877, No. 1301.

APRIL

Nos. 380-381.

Dis 12-5-77 No 2710.

Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
The report of the — for February 1877,
recorded and communicated to the Revenue
Department.