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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

14th May 1877, No. 24 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following paper :—

No. 46. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 4th May 1877, No. 8 I.

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 13th April 1877, No. 41.

MONTHLY REPORTS FOR MARCH 1877.

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

Chief Engineer's Report for March 1877.

THERE is little to report this month. The weather has been relieved by ten daily showers of rainy days. The Toombudra has sufficed for the irrigation down to Kurnool, and has supplied a little cultivation below, up to the end of the month. It then required to be all reserved for the town-supply of Kurnool.

Prices of grain have recently fallen pretty generally. This welcome mitigation of misery must be due partly to the conspicuous Governmental grain stores at Madras, Kurnool, and every Sahildar's town, partly to the showery look of the weather, and partly to the canal and the harvests got in in distant parts of India.

The demand of the Company for Cuddapah District is—

Up to Date.	WET AND GARDEN CROP.			DRY CROP.		
	—	Amount.		—	Amount.	
	ACRES.	RS.	A. P.	ACRES.	RS.	A. P.
31st December 1876	5,623-62	24,827	12 8	5,897-47	12,041	9 6
28th February 1877	1,709-01	4,082	12 1	1,899-03	3,826	15 2
Total ...	7,332-63	28,911	8 9	7,796-50	15,868	8 8

making a total of 15,129-13 acres and Rs. 44,780-1-5. The demand for Kurnool District for 28th February is not quite ready. The ryots are much given to increase their area of irrigation without notice, and, as a rule, no demand is made on such increase, but it is left for investigation and adjustment at the settlement.

Early this month (April) I removed my head-quarters to Ootacamund.

OOTACAMUND,
11th April 1877.

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

14. The staff were paid from the 2nd to the 16th March 1877.

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

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY UPPER DIVISION.

KERNOOL,
7th April 1877.

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

Monthly Report for the Month of March 1877.

I was quite prepared not to expect the Toongabdra water in the Lower Division again, and it seems it did not travel beyond the 60th mile.

2. There is little doubt that the canal water affects the health of the people considerably. When procurable canal water is always preferred to well water; some villagers are in the habit of going a distance of two miles for it. While in camp, during the latter end of the month I was unable to find a well in any village containing water fit to drink. In Canagoodoor, though greatly in need of a draught of water, I was compelled to abstain from drinking any of the water

of three wells, as the taste of each was not only different, but filthy. I think the village drinking contans should always be filled so soon as the water in the canal begins to fail. Wells as a rule are not sufficiently used especially where canal water is within reach, to keep them free from the effects of stagnation; most of them are insufficiently deep, and therefore soon become useless as the water decreases and the brackishness increases, and I believe none of them are ever cleaned out.

3. The frequent freshes in the Koondir have enabled me to keep the 10th section open throughout the month, and, although I was letting as much water as I could through the canal for the irrigation and the tanks commanded by it, the last returns show 3 inches of water over the Adinampully anicut.

4. Some very refreshing and unseasonable showers have fallen at the latter end of the month. The fall seems to have been general and there are yet symptoms of more rain, the most infallible have proved to be the sudden change from warm to cold winds, about ten or twelve days previous to the advent of the rain.

5. Progress has been made in dressing the banks, levelling the bed, felling such trees as interfere with the safety of the banks, and repairs to locks. If I am allowed to remove the silt at the head lock in the 10th section, which up to the present it is unnecessary to do, the lower division as far as the Cuddapah cantonment will be quite ready in July to carry boats of 3 feet draught from beginning to end.

6. I enclose an abstract of the irrigation recorded for the season. Additions are being made each month, as some of the accounts for late irrigation have been delayed owing to the sickness of two of the Amins, and irrigation is yet going on in the 10th section. By the end of April the final inspection of villages and closing of accounts, as well as the returns of the cultivation, by means of subsoil leakage, will have been completed.

7. I am glad to say that those young crops which were so greatly in need of water have considerably revived under the effects of the late copious showers.

8. In the "abstract" I have shown the quantities of water discharged into the tanks. Some of these tanks have received, and are now receiving, additional supplies, so that the quantities are not the totals for the season.

9. One of these tanks, Cheypaud tank, Proddatore taluk, appears to me to be utterly useless as a reservoir, as the water diminishes so rapidly by leakage, through its own bed, apparently. I gather from the villages that this tank if filled, with its sluices shut, will become dry in three months through percolation. It is a large tank covering an area, I believe, of 300 acres, and was intended to irrigate between 300 and 400 acres; this ayacut has now dwindled down to 33 acres, the extent irrigated this season by means of the 2,496,647 cubic yards, exclusive of the supplemental discharge discharged into it. This tank was filled by means of a weir, 12 feet long, in a main supply channel, with a foot of water going over it at times, and although it is the largest tank commanded in the Lower Division, with a remarkably small extent of land cultivated under it, it now contains the least water. The ryots in ordinary seasons place no dependence on the tank, and have cultivated a large part of the ayacut by means of the canal. The 300 acres of land absorbed by the bed could be very advantageously irrigated by the canal.

A produce statement is in hands, and will be submitted next month, and will show an excess over that furnished in February.

10. I hope that next season the Kurnams will be instructed to pay more attention to their irrigation duties than they have hitherto done. There has been little cultivation beyond that under the canal, and yet they seem to have omitted a very large extent from the accounts, for shortly after the half-yearly accounts were sent in, the Acting Deputy Collector of Cuddapah wrote to me in March, stating that there was a difference of Rupees 15,221 in the accounts for the Cuddapah District, although the demand then sent in was considerably less than the actual revenue which up to the time the Kurnams were called upon for their returns would not fall far short of Rupees 52,000. According to the Kurnams' account the revenue is Rupees 21,648.

11. Many of the Kurnams are intelligent enough and willing to work, but they seem to be left a great deal too much to themselves, and therefore they take advantage. I have frequently complained of their protracted absence from their villages, keeping no accounts of the irrigation, cancelling irrigated fields, neglecting the rules generally, and rude refusals to attend or give me any information about the irrigation, but nothing happens; the same incompetent, indolent, and useless men reigned in their villages ever since I have been in the country without molestation. The most reasonable complaint fails to affect their position. There are only a few of those men, who are certainly the real obstacles to irrigation.

12. I am glad to state that all the criminal cases for offences committed against the Company in the Cuddapah District have now been disposed of. The last, for which a penalty of 15 Rupees was imposed by the Special Magistrate of Cuddapah, was for mischief to works;

the culprit formed a masonry dam unsuited for irrigation purposes as he thought, so he proceeded with a crowbar to demolish so much of it as he thought would be necessary.

In the Kurnool District such offences were far more numerous, but the one case instituted occupied such a lengthened period, such ill success attended the attempted institution of others, and the unfortunate transfer of Mr. Thorburn to Cumbam, who was expected at Nundial, and before whom it was intended to charge several persons with mischief against the irrigation works, have been the cause of the escape of so many law-breakers from punishment in this district.

13. It seems a pity that, while there is so much work for relief parties on existing roads, especially those which during the irrigation season the ryots can hardly help keeping in a state of almost impossible mire, new roads should be laid out, which may not be used for years. Near my office a new road has been made. I do not know where it is intended to go, and its direction does not agree with the suitable roads marked on the village map. It seems to have been an experiment, as at first it was pegged out in several different directions, one course being through raggy and paddy fields (one of which belongs to a Canal Overseer), and eventually it was discovered that the best course was through some irrigated fields, and it was accordingly made. No man or bullock could or does use the road.

Another of these was made near the Beempaud bridge, so, through each man's field there is a pair of roads, on one of which neither man nor animal can walk, and the old road.

14. The health of my staff has not been good. Cholera seems to prevail.

The staff were paid from the 6th to 14th March 1877.

Dnoor,
6th April 1877.

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

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY, LOWER DIVISION, FOR SEASON 1876-77.
Statement of all Irrigation recorded up to end of March 1877.

District.	Taluk.	Wet or Garden Crop.	Dry Crops.	Total.	TANKS FILLED.		Full crops Subsoil leakage not charged.	Remarks.
					Name.	Quantity of water discharged.		
Kurnool ...	Sirwell ...	ACS. DECS. 2,349 29	ACS. DECS. 16,943 25	ACS. DECS. 19,292 54	Chintakunta tank, Chintakunta.	297,591 cubic yards ...	ACS. DECS. 261 86	An alteration occurs in the total of wet crop as such crops as korra, arica, bariga, &c., erroneously classed as wet have been transferred to the Dry head.
	Koilkundla	589 22	6,374 83	6,964 05	Pichapaud tank, Pichapaud.	Ayaout charged ...	30 02	
	Jammalmadugu	266 16	1,582 77	1,848 93	Cheypaud tank, Cheypaud.	2,496,647 cubic yards, supplemental discharge yet to be added.	80 00	
	Proddatore	5,104 21	3,759 44	8,863 65	Sunkasala tank, Sun- kavala	Ayaout charged ...	22 90	
Cuddapah ...					Middatir tank, Middatir.	1,082,854 cubic yards, supplemental discharge yet to be added.	...	Column 7 shows the extent of full crops matured on bona fide subsoil leakage.
					Kummayaram Coonta, Pugganapalli.	169,893 cubic yards.	...	
					Nagala Coonta, Chin- namaspalli.	338,315 "	...	
					Theomala Coonta, do.	277,153 "	...	
					Rave Coonta, Palm- palli.	519,336 "	...	
					Borra Coonta do. ...	145,210 "	...	
					Rachinapally tank, Rachinapally.	66,360 "	...	
					Reservoir at Dundu Vagoo.	Quantity not yet cal- culated.	...	
	Total ...	12,358 08	30,796 73	43,154 81				

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

SUBMITTED to Government.

It will be noticed in paragraph 9 of the report of the Lower Division that about 2½ millions of cubic yards of water had been supplied to a tank* having an area of irrigation of only 33 acres under it. The tank is apparently incapable of retaining water, and should not, it is considered, be again supplied from the canal. The value of the water supplied will, at 1,440 cubic yards a rupee, be some 1,736 Rupees, or more than 52 Rupees an acre.

2. Paragraph 13 contains some remarks on the roads undertaken as relief works.

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

To the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
Irrigation Branch.

No. 47. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1877, No. 24 I.

THE attention of the Collector of Cuddapah will be called to the notice of the Cheypaud Tank and to the remarks on Famine Relief Roads.

(True Extract.)

Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Chief Engineer and Manager, Irrigation and Canal Company.
" Revenue Department.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

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IRRIGATION.

Govt. of 1877 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

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ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION,
&c. &c. &c.
Comments to the Engineer
who will call the Collector of
the land revenue related to the
road attached to the
of the Engineer's letter
6-5-77

Encl.

G. O., 14th May 1877, No. 24 L

MAY.

Nos. 46-47.

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Madras Irrigation and Canal Company—
The attention of the Collector of Cuddapah
called to the remarks about the Cheypaud
Tank and Famine Relief Roads noticed in
the monthly report for March 1877 of
the —.

72. B. of Revenue of 6 June 77.