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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

V. S. M.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

30th May 1877, No. 49 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following papers :—

No. 95. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 21th May 1877, No. 30 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, 17th May 1877, No. 59.

Monthly Reports for April 1877.

I have the honor to forward per book post copies of Upper and Lower Division Reports, together with that of my own, for the month of April 1877.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

Upper Division.

Monthly Report for April 1877.

By the 7th the water was very low at the Kurnool town supply and in a few days gradually stopped ; it had ceased running into the canal at Soonkesala by the end of March.

A small fresh sent a little water down as far as Yeddaroor, but it fell again until the 22nd, when the river began to rise and 3 inches ran over the anicut from the 23rd to the 30th April ; 2 feet of water was let into the canal. This reached Kurnool by the 24th and the town was again fully supplied. The Collector has given men gang of relief coolies to raise the dam ; so that at present we have 7 feet of water at the town sluice and a considerable quantity escapes down the canal. This unlooked for fresh is a real blessing to the Kurnool people, to the Sepoys of the 43rd Native Infantry now camped close to the canal, and to all who have gardens and fields ; every one has taken advantage of it to the fullest extent, and the trees are already recovering. Some repairs at Pedd'anand wall at 32 miles 48 chains hinders me from sending water down to fill Gardenaigoo tank, but by the 10th May I hope to pass it on so that we shall fill the canal much earlier than usual. This is an advantage as there will probably be a heavy demand in the coming season and the chances of getting second crops depend on an early use of the water.

2. The weather has not been so hot as usual (100 degrees in my verandah is the highest I have noticed) and showers fell occasionally in the early part of the month, but they are quite local. The ryots, however, in many parts have commenced ploughing and are looking out for an early monsoon. It will indeed be a great boon to all concerned if we get rain soon.

3. The bankers have been arranged in gangs as much as possible and set to regular work near Kurnool; they have cut down 671 chains of thorn trees, as they are considered dangerous to the banks. In consequence of this there is a large amount of firewood available near Kurnool. This tree called the "Babool" in some parts makes very fine firewood, but unfortunately it is very hard to cut up, and the Kurnool people being among the laziest in the world will not bid for it on that account. I have therefore had large quantities burnt for charcoal, and stood up to the present 1,905 garulu. The charcoal made from this wood is excellent.

Unless the wood is sold or used up it would soon disappear. The villagers near Kurnool are in the habit of stealing it at night and cutting it up at their houses. They then carry it into Kurnool and sell it; every day great numbers of these bundles are brought in; in fact, as there are a few trees besides those on the canal banks we cannot identify our wood; the bankers are on separate works, so the pillage goes on from Sunkesala to Cuddapah I believe.

4. Settlement of the water-rate in my three talugs will take place rather late this year, owing probably to the press of work in the Revenue Department. We are ready, however, to commence as soon as the date is specified and the usual notice given to the ryots according to the rules.

Some serious troubles will arise making the work much heavier than usual. For instance, although it is only a settlement of wet and garden crops, it is probable that all cases in which the ryots deny having taken water for dry crops will have to be inquired into.

I hear that on all sides they are clamouring for remittance of water rates; in truth they are the last to whom it ought to be given. The value (per acre) of the straw alone this year is often twenty times more than dry and wet tax together. Those ryots who got a tax crop have often made Rupees 250 per acre. The Curnum's post this year must be a very profitable one, combining as it does in many cases the paying of relief coolies and the settlement of the remissions. Next month I shall probably be able to report more fully on the actual settlement.

5. *Cutingulah 9.*—Stone is being collected for the retaining wall to the outlet banks; but as I was obliged to open the sluices for some days to let off the surplus water, the contractor has not been able to begin actual work.

6. The plaster at the old wall, No. 1 at Purthapaud, is being carried on and will be finished in a few days. This wall was found to leak copiously last season when the water rose above 4 feet.

7. The principal works to be done in the lower part of the division are at Lookinaula and the 6th section. My Surveyor is now engaged on that work and plans and estimates will be prepared.

8. Some 200 Teak planks have arrived from Madras for the outlingulahs, and, as soon as I obtain sanction for the expenditure, they will be fitted up.

* 1,5 Planks received at Kurnool.
of Do. and 20 do. received at Ayatur.

9. The health of the staff has been fair during the month only a few cases of fever have occurred, but towards the end the Overseers reported that a great many cases of cholera were occurring in the villages under the canal. This is not surprising under the circumstances, and considering the utter want of the most ordinary precautions in the sanitary arrangements of the villages.

In this respect there is free trade indeed, as there is not the slightest restraint put on them. It is a wonder that whole villages are not swept off. In spite of the most awful warnings they prefer to live as their fathers did before them in the grossest ignorance, to foul dens like animals, and contracting diseases of all kinds by their fearful habits. Their villages too are often disgracefully kept surrounded in wet weather by pestilential swamps which they never attempt to improve. It is almost ludicrous to consider that they are being even forcibly saved from starvation to live the old life over again. This way of living dulls their senses and renders them averse to the slightest improvement. It has not a little to do with the failure to take our water. If we had only had to do with a more intelligent set of ryots it would scarcely have required a famine to make them sensible of the benefits of irrigation.

The staff were paid from 2nd to 14th April 1877.

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

Rain Register for the Month of April 1877.

Month and Date.	Stations.					
	Sunkesala.	Kurnool.	Jupal.	Vellapanur.	Jutoor.	Ayatur.
April 1st	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 2nd	...	0·15	...	...	1·00	...
Do. 3rd	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 4th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 5th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 6th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 7th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 8th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 9th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 10th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 11th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 12th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 13th	...	...	...	...	...	0·40
Do. 14th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 15th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 16th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 17th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 18th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 19th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 20th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 21st	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 22nd	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 23rd	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 24th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 25th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 26th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 27th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 28th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 29th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 30th	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	0·15	...	...	1·00	0·40

Kurnool,
7th May 1877.

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

LOWER DIVISION.

Monthly Report for the Month of April 1877.

The unusual rains about the middle of the month and springs have enabled me to keep up water in the 10th section throughout the month.

Every tank in this section has been refilled, supplies to some of them having been sent in up to the end of the month.

2. Considerable progress has been made in the repairs by the staff, and minute inspections have proved all the masonry works, especially the foundations, to be thoroughly sound.

3. For several days the water was level with the Adimyapully anicut, and I took the opportunity of having soundings taken from the head lock to tail lock. The average depth was 4·00 feet with the exception of 15 chains length of an average depth of 1·70 feet. To deepen this which I have made double would be afforded by the under sluices, and the removal of the rib

on and in front of the head lock, the accumulation of years at a cost which I have estimated at Rupees 625 will render the Lower Division navigable.

With a rough stone foreshore to the anicut a channel across the river can be easily maintained, and if requisite an additional temporary scour can be made by emptying the reach above the tail lock into the river.

4. I enclose a statement of rainfall for the month.

5. All applications, including the second crop in the Cuddapah taluq, have been sent in and the accounts made up for settlement.

The enclosed abstract shows the adjusted recorded area irrigated this season a decrease owing to a clerical error on that submitted last month.

6. It will be seen that the extent of dry crops sown in the Proddatore and Cuddapah talúqs is very small, the 2,000 acres sown in the latter being under the ryotwar of one village in the Siewell taluq and not much above two or three others. The dry crops in these talúqs were sown very late, much later than in the Kurnool District. I believe the ryots would have sown more extensively and earlier had more energetic steps been taken to explain the meaning of the order on dry crop irrigation.

7. The statement of produce under the canal which I submitted in my February Report has undergone revision, the produce in each village having been again carefully worked out.

The crops have been carefully separated and their value estimated from notes made by the Amins during inspections. The only calculations which I consider unsatisfactory are those for fodder; the ryots have a very loose method of estimating the value and quantity of their paddy or cholum straw. The straw, as it is cut, is merely tied up into bundles of any size, length or weight.

8. The prospects for next season are very promising, at least in the Cuddapah District, where the intention is to sow wet crops on a large scale.

In the Kurnool District the ryots are too much attached to their dry crops to make a considerable and sudden change in favor of wet cultivation, but with their splendid land the ryots ought to be encouraged to make the best use of it. Where they have tanks and springs they make the utmost use of them, and if this coming season, after the experience of the drought, they do not use the canal water for more than the average paltry extent they have usually irrigated in each village, it must be owing to other reasons than poverty, ignorance and indifference. The contrast between the growth of the wet crop cultivation in the two districts is very marked, and must show that the ryots of the Cuddapah District have a little more intelligence and independence than the Kurnool ryots, who seem to me afraid of making any independent change which may affect their relations with the Taluq Revenue Officials.

9. The price of grain around about my station has risen considerably, the patty of paddy which last month was selling at Rupees 48 is now at Rupees 58, raggy has risen from Rupees 74 to Rupees 90.

From my own observation and inquiries I believe there is little grain stored in the villages, strings of bandies laden with grains pass my compound daily. These must, of course, cease travelling during the coming month if there be any considerable rainfall, 3 feet of water in the Penneir being quite sufficient to stop the traffic across the river except by means of boats, of which I believe there is not a single one.

10. My staff are again complaining of high prices and ask me to again purchase grains for them. There seems a possibility of the prices going up and of there being a difficulty in getting food later on; if practicable it would be as well to lay in a month or two's supply.

11. The health of the staff has not been good and sickness of various kinds are prevalent. Mr. Johnston, in charge of the 1st and 2nd Ranges, reports having seen a woman with a child drop down from exhaustion or some other cause close to Yalloor bungalow and died there.

He also met an old woman lying in a dying state on the canal bank near Donnipad.

The relief works in the vicinity of Dhoor seem only for a favored few; some wretched old and maimed people who cannot work come to my compound daily for scraps of food; they say they cannot get any from the village authorities, as they do not belong to the village and should return to their own villages.

Dhoor,
7th May 1877.

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

LOWER DIVISION.

Register of Rain-fall during the Month of April 1877.

Month and Date.	Yalloor	Chinta-cunta.	Reply.	Dhoor.	Adena-pally.	Remarks.		
1877.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.			
1st	...	0·50	0·52	0·33	...	1877.	0·85	
2nd	...	...	...	...	...			
3rd	...	...	...	...	...	1876.	...	
4th	...	...	...	...	...			
5th	...	...	...	...	...	1875.	0·34	
6th	0·01	...	...	...	...			
7th	...	...	...	...	...			
8th	...	...	...	...	...	1874.	...	
9th	...	...	...	...	...			
10th	...	...	...	...	...			
11th	...	...	...	...	...	1873.	...	
12th	0·14	...	...	...	...			
13th	...	...	...	...	...			
14th	...	...	...	...	...	1872.	...	
15th	...	...	...	...	...			
16th	...	...	...	...	...			
17th	...	...	...	...	...	1871.	...	
18th	...	...	...	...	...			
19th	...	...	...	...	...			
20th	...	...	...	...	...	1870.	...	
21st	...	...	...	...	...			
22nd	...	...	...	...	...	(Nil.)	0·01	
23rd	...	...	...	...	...			
24th	...	...	...	...	...			
25th	...	...	...	...	...			
26th	...	...	...	...	...			
27th	...	...	...	...	...			
28th	...	...	...	...	...			
29th	...	...	...	...	...			
30th	...	...	...	...	...			
Total ...	0·15	0·50	0·52	0·33	...	Nothing fell at Dhoor from 1st January to end of April.		

Dhoor,
— May 1877.

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

Statement of all Irrigation recorded up to April 1877.

Lower Pennar and Sriperumbudur Taluks.

Taluks.	Tanks under.	Number of Tanks discharging	Area irrigated. Wet.	Garden. Dry Crop.	Total.	Remarks.
			A.	A.	A.	
Sriperumbudur	Tanks under Sriperumbudur Channel.	27	1,500 72	2,833 08	4,333 80	
	Tanks under Vellore Channel.	1	106 00	1,001 00	1,107 00	
	Tanks under Conjeeveram Channel.	1	267 00	1,077 00	1,344 00	
	Tanks under Kaveripauk Channel.	1	1,020 00	2,760 00	3,780 00	
	Tanks under Arcot Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Poonamallee Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Chingleput Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Trivellore Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Madras Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Cuddalore Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Tripassore Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Vellore Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Conjeeveram Channel.	1				
	Tanks under Kaveripauk Channel.	1		

Thomas Sydserff
1622

Out of Date Stock
Please destroy

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]