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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	3924	Press. / Mis.
Dated 13.7.1877		~~197~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

29th June 1877, No. 117 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following papers:—

No. 122. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 25th May 1877, No. 1,819.

DIARY N. 1.

Madras to Sulurpet, 50 Miles up the Northern Trunk Road, May 7th, 1877.

THE destitute people who travel down the Northern road towards Madras are no longer met with in hundreds but in small parties or singly; they have not the same distressed look as formerly, and are mostly women and children on their way to join relatives who are said to have found work in Madras. Between Madras and Sulurpet, a distance of 50 miles, I did not pass more than 200 destitute travellers, and perhaps half of these were Tamil people from Pounri and the Sataved Division of Trivalur. There is need of more work in the Chinglepu District between Madras and Gumadipundi; for, with the exception of the bridge building over the Cortilliar river, I am not aware of the existence of any road-side work in progress for a distance of 30 miles. The proposed embankments of the Cortilliar and Nara navaram rivers and the cutting of the main drainage channels from the Red Hills tank are works of the first necessity; for, as mentioned in my Settlement Report on the villages thereabouts, the whole country is flooded at times by the want of artificial embankments to the rivers, and by the choking up of the old drainage channel. These works have been surveyed and aligned and estimated for, but have not been commenced for want of final sanction. The people of that part of the country are most anxious that the present dry season should be taken advantage of for the execution of works on which the welfare of some 50 villages depends, and it is in this very locality that work now seems to be so very much needed.

The choultry at Narivarikupum near the calingulah of the Red Hills Tank had been whitewashed, but the ground round it needs scraping and cleaning. Hundreds of carts halt nightly at the very door of the choultry, and the small space between the road and the building is covered inches deep with the dust and filth of years. There have been no deaths at this choultry since arrangements were made to receive the sick and feeble into the camp close by; but at Gumadipundi further on, where there is a very fine choultry with the same filthy surroundings as at Narivarikupum, I found 11 small-pox patients and 3 other sick people occupying quarters in the midst of some hundreds of cartmen. I did not visit the new camp at the Cortilliar, as it stands so far back from the road that I missed it altogether; it would be well I think to advance some of the buildings nearer to the road, so that passers-by might see them, and a few men might be specially told off for the duty of intercepting destitute travellers and offering them food and shelter. There is plenty of water along the road as far as Gumadipundi, but the long stretch at the head of the Pulicat lake is almost without fresh water; at the 35th mile, just within the border of the

Venkatagherry Zemindari, a spring of good water is being cleared out and deepened; and at Tadda, some miles further on, also in the Venkatagherry Zemindari, two square tanks are being deepened. The traffic on the Northern road is excessive, mainly grain and hoop-iron going up from Madras, and straw, firewood, hides, and pottery coming down. Straw is exceedingly dear and scarce, about 15 Rupees a cart load, but firewood and pottery are said to be cheap this year. The road is in very bad condition, the surface being quite cut through, and it will have to be entirely remade for miles. It is impossible to do anything to it now, as there is no water to tamp the laterite metal, which, if put on dry, grinds into dust immediately. There are relief camps at Sulurpet, Naidupet, and Gudu on the Northern road in the Nellore District, and these have no doubt helped to check the flow of destitute travellers towards Madras. I will report on these camps hereafter.

SULURPET,
7th May 1877.

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Ag. 3rd Member, Board of Revenue.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of Chingleput, who will state whether any objection exists to the commencemer of the drainage works referred to by Mr. Puckle in preference to the embankmers of the Cortilliar and Narayanavaram rivers.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested in the Public Works Department to submit the plans of the drainage works referred to for the inspection of Government.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 122-A. From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Public Works Department, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 16th June 1877, No. 942.

IN reply to your No. 68 C—N, of 13th instant, I have the honor to observe that you desired me to omit the drainage channel under the Red Hills weir from the Madras Water Works Project. I cannot find the memorandum immediately, and do not wish to lose any time in answering.

Near North Road	13·79	2. There is very little work to be done on this channel. In the margin are entered the height referred to M.S.L. of various points in its bed where the general survey crosses the drain — see survey sent with my No. 695, of 29th May 1877.
	7·14	
	4·77	
	0·74	
	1·30	
	1·85	
On Trivatur Road Bridge floor ...	·15	
	1·79	

3. Water is kept in it by cross dams and silt here and there, which enable the cultivators to supply the basin under the tank. Till the new distribution channels are cut we cannot touch these obstructions; when they are finished, very little will allow of flow of drainage.

No. 64 I.

No. 122-B. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

THE Superintending Engineer does not answer the question put to him as to whether any estimate had been prepared for improving the drainage channel by which the surplus of the Red Hills Tank reaches its out-fall near Shediankuppam. The omission of the estimate from that of the Madras Water Works Project is a separate question altogether. Colonel Moberly, however, intimates that the surplus

channel is dammed in many places to raise water for irrigation, and that when the new distributaries have been carried out the removal of those dams will much improve the drainage. The estimates for the new distributaries have been received and form part of the revised estimate for the Madras Water Works, which has to be submitted for the sanction of the Government of India.

2. Mr. Puckle probably mistook these distributaries, which will have an indirect effect on the drainage for drainage channels.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
22nd June 1877.

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

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

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1877, No. 117 I.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department with reference to the Order No. 1,819, of the 25th May 1877, in that department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Revenue Department.
Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
Spare Copies

Rev. 1877 Dept.
No. 5755

No 5379 Bte Rev. 9 July/77.

IRRIGATION

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Mis GO. 13 July 1877 N 3924

Dated June 29th.

Issued

Recd. 12/7/77 Encl.

G. O., 29th June 1877, No. 117 I.

JUNE.

Nos. 122-123.

N 3924

Comm? of the Irrigation
with reference to the Colg
Chf Engr on Irrig
12/7/77 13 July 77

Main drainage between the Red Hills and Shediankuppam outfall.—Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on letter from the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, reporting on the —, communicated to the Revenue Department.

Revenue Board
Mr Chingleput Supt C Engr 13 July/77