

(1) Number of pages 3
(2) Date of repair 28-2-81
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>4568</u>	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<u>15.8.1877</u>	197 .

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

4th August 1877, No. 219 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following paper:—

No. 18. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 31st July 1877, No. 117 I.

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 19th July 1877, No. 79.

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

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

UPPER DIVISION.

Monthly Report for June 1877.

WATER was slowly filling the tanks during the first ten days of the month and reached Lockinsula, the 75th mile, on the 16th June; but, owing to the quantity of mud in suspension, it was thought advisable not to open the head sluices until it was clearer. On the 18th, however, 3-8 was let in and gradually increased to 5-3. Some leaks occurred in the 6th mile and for a time the water was lowered more or less, but it is now again 5-3 and 4-5 at Lockinsula with all the sluices full open, into the Canals, so that a large quantity of water is running to the Lower Division.

The following list shows the dates which water reached Jutoor anicut for the last four seasons:—

In 1874, 9th July.

" 1875, 16th "

" 1876, 10th "

" 1877, 18th June.

2. *Weather.*—It has been excessively windy all through the month. The accompanying* register of rainfall shows that the quantity has been small and partial.

* Will follow.

In fact the last few days have been less cloudy and a break seems to have set in. There is a possibility of another scarcity, and ryots are beginning to apply for water for fields already sown.

3. As I had feared the difficulties in regard to settlement of the water-rates have been very great, owing to the peculiar arrangements made last year.

It was thought that the dry crop flooded under the Government stipulation would be simply registered and settled off between the Government and the Company; but in reality, although the Curname's accounts have nearly all been prepared within a week or two of the day fixed, they still dispute many of our entries, so it is as necessary to go into each case as it is with wet or garden crops, and we have been compelled to copy out the whole statement again in a more convenient form, otherwise the time taken up on actual settlement would have been months instead of weeks.

4. The settlement actually commenced on the 4th, and by the 11th we had completed the wet crops of Nundial Taluq and one village of dry crops. It then appeared that time must be given for the further preparation of the accounts. The Curname's were all in readiness to get at our accounts, as their own, owing to circumstances, were either very faulty or did not exist.

We have still to settle the dry crops of Nundial, the wet and dry crops of Nandikatkar and Ramakota Taluq; about one-fifth of the work is done. The preparation of the accounts is now however in a forward state, and to-morrow (the 4th July) we commence again.

5. The leaks spoken of occurred in and near the 45th chain of the 6th mile. In July 1876 ten chains of this mile were paddled, but last dry season nothing was done. From the

constant trouble which this scudoo bank has given, it is evident that a puddle foreshore is necessary, and it would be best to do the whole length or at least 30 chains next year.

6. The very high winds have done some damage to the kunkor revetments between Pagadial and Japad, and bankers and occasionally coolies are kept to repair the places that have been washed down.

The training wall from calingulah No. 9 is completed, but not the backing.

7. A plan for making use of the natural calingulah at Lockinsula was prepared and sanctioned by the Chief Engineer. This work has already been commenced.

8. Mr. A. L. Dunphy arrived at Ayaleor on the 9th June and proceeded with me to Kurnool. He will at present take in hand the Toorcherla channel enlargement scheme with plans and surveys.

9. The health of the staff has been good; a few bankers near Kurnool, principally Mahomedans, are very much reduced, so that, though willing, they are quite unable to do their usual work; I have therefore put them to lighter tasks. One man was so far gone that I sent him to Kurnool for a few days to be fed up. These men are respectable and honest; but, owing to their customs, they get no assistance from their families, and the pay of one man goes to support many of his female relations. Other bankers have their wives and children employed on relief works or elsewhere, and consequently are much better off.

10. The staff were paid from the 5th to the 10th June 1877.

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

LOWER DIVISION.

Report for June 1877.

The sanctioned repairs to the canal of so much as is submerged have been completed; but raising banks, bridge repairs, and the erection of three new sluices are unfinished, but progressing as favorably as can be expected, considering the dearth of labor.

The widening and completion of last season's hastily made channels are well in hand, and as many masonry falls and bridges are being made as the limited supervision will allow; such works as the latter require a deal of attention, and, as they are situated miles apart, half a dozen of them are as much as an Overseer can spare time to attend to.

2. Water was admitted into the Lower Division on the 22nd June 1877. Great care and watchfulness have to be exercised in raising the water, as the banks are almost thoroughly dry throughout and split into innumerable cracks, which can only be closed thoroughly when the earth becomes partially saturated with water. In all probability the water will have passed through the whole canal on the 5th July, about three weeks earlier than last year.

3. I enclose a table of rainfall for the month; it shows at all stations a moderate fall for three or four days at about the 10th, but none and little or none afterwards. The sky up to the 26th June was covered with dense heavy clouds, which were daily blown away by the heaviest winds I have known to prevail in June. Since the 10th the barometer rose steadily and gradually with the wind about west by north.

4. The prospects of irrigation seem more favorable than usual, and the water though earlier is greatly needed for the corra, ureen, &c., about which I mentioned last month. Applications for those crops which are perishing are coming in. No wet crops are yet sown, but preparations are being made; unfortunately the ryots are allowing a lot of valuable time to pass in waiting for the so-called season for sowing the wet crops. Nothing we can do seems to arouse them from their lethargic state; they are acting as they did last year and the year before. In every village I have had printed notices compiled by the Chief Engineer posted, containing advice to the ryots as to the best way of utilizing the canal water, and other useful hints. At the settlement I also distributed these, but apparently they have done little good; the ryots seem never to take advice from any one except the Magistrate.

5. I have made efforts to induce them, not only for their own good, but for my convenience, to give their applications for water before hand, but this does not please them; they say they must see the water first and then they will think about it. In the 4th range I sent an Amin through the villages to inform the ryots that water was admitted into the canal, and to take as many applications as he could, but all preferred to wait. The dry crops in Chennoor (Guddapah Taluk) being greatly in need of water, I sent an Amin to take applications, and promised to send the water which I could only admit in the canal with inconvenience, and without waiting for the Toombodra water, but not a single one was given. The ryots said they would wait until they saw the water, or in fact do as they did last year, take the water when they wanted it and apply for it at their leisure afterwards.

6. The Koilkootla Taluk Irrigation Settlement was conducted at Oyalvada. It commenced on the 1st ultimo and terminated on the 7th ultimo. The time occupied was rather long; but this was owing to the excellent plan adopted by the Deputy Collector P. Rajah Ratnam Moodelly, of settling the Governmental remission on dry crops under G.O. No. 1329 of 23rd September 1876 at the same time. The Amins and Curnams' accounts generally differ; but this season the Amins' accounts, which were very complete and gave the proportion of yield of crop when inspected, were considered worthy of reliance and were made use of by the Deputy Collector chiefly as a check on the Curnams' accounts which were not so elaborately prepared. The settlement gave entire satisfaction to the ryots who attended in large numbers. This taluk seemed singularly fortunate in obtaining good dry crops, better according to my judgment than any rain-sown crops. To support this I may mention that 906 acres of dry crops in Ravanoor were irrigated, bringing in a revenue of about Rupees 1,812 to the Company, and about Rupees 2,718 to the Government. There was not I believe a single case of remission of water-rate or land-rate by Government, as the crops were above the average fair crop. In other villages the water-rate remission on dry crops and I presume the land-rate (by Government) were frequent, but in most cases the loss was brought about by the ryots negligence in either deferring his application for canal water in the hope of rain or by late sowing.

7. The settlement for the Ouddapah District was not commenced until the 25th June, as the Deputy Collector C. Kistna Row's other duties would not allow of an earlier meeting. The Jummamudugu Taluk was disposed of on the 25th ultimo, with only one claim for remission. I was exceedingly surprised to find that only one Curnam appeared, and no Reddies and villagers.

For the crops in Jungalpully which had suffered considerably owing to wanton interference, referred to in a previous report, not a single individual appeared, or put in a claim for remission. I was prepared to remit largely in this village, as I myself and the Chief Engineer on one occasion examined the crops; then the ryots were very clamorous for remission.

8. We commenced the Proddator Taluk on the 26th ultimo and finished on the 30th ultimo. Much of the time was occupied in disagreeable contests between the Overseer and Amins on one side, and the Curnam on the other, concerning the claims of the Company for water taken without application. The ordeal the Overseer has to go through during these inquiries is the most disagreeable duty he has to perform throughout the season. His records are always looked upon as though they were something to be treated with distrust, and they are always boldly contradicted by the ryots headed by their Curnam. It is a disagreeable task for me at settlement going into these cases; if the ryot is charged, I meet with disapproval, or as a ryot stated in a petition "I had gone out of the right path and charged them unjustly." If the claim be withdrawn, I get no credit, and the Overseer feels himself placed in a false position by his superior officer. These claims ought not to be treated with such discredit. The Overseers and Amins are the best men that can be obtained for their work, and none unfit for it in any respect are tolerated in the service.

9. It would be much better for the canal and the ryots if the Revenue Officers who officiate at the settlements, and who have so much to say on behalf of the ryots, could find time to take more interest in the works. I think the fact that 2,722.17 acres of irrigation without application in one taluk this season being left to the Amins to discover, shows that affairs could be considerably improved.

10. The difficulties the Canal Overseers have to contend against in pressing the claims for water stealing may be shown in a case brought before us at settlement. The Overseer and I last season found that water had been diverted by means of a channel dug in the Company's land into Pitchaped tank, which had received hardly a drop of water from rainfall, as may be imagined from the quantity that fell throughout the season. I gave the ryots the option of applying, but they remained silent, and I therefore had the crops registered as irrigated without application. In November the owner of the tank foreseeing that an early failure of water in the canal was likely, and intending to sow 2nd crops applied to have his tank filled. The tank was twice supplied and the ryots reaped two crops. At settlement the Shrotriendar, the owner of the tank and village, not the cultivators who had been charged, declared that the water had not been taken without application, and that the tank had a large natural supply. The Deputy Collector pleaded for the man, and said that "he and not the cultivators would be liable for the water-rate, and such an infliction as we proposed, viz., water-rate for the 1st crop plus 8 Annas fine, and monthly rate for 2nd crop, would ruin him, and that he would be unable to collect the money from the ryots." As the Shrotriendar gave his word that water had not been stolen, and the case was represented as hard and unjust, it was arranged to charge Rupees 3 for the two crops. Last season the crops under this tank were charged with fines, as water had been taken without application. I examined this tank a few days after the settlement and found it completely dry, with the exception of a stream of water running through its sluices which had been diverted from the canal D land. I have asked the Deputy Collector to send a Revenue Inspector to see the place with the Canal Overseer.

11. The settlement of the Cuddapah Taluk will commence on the 6th instant.

12. I ought not to omit to mention the great assistance given by the Sub-Magistrate of Proddatoor Jeeyan Row and its good effect. All cases of mischief to works were thoroughly inquired into by him, and when the mischief was found to be great, the punishment was administered in proportion. In one case where a ryot had wilfully breached the important Yartoor channel, he not only fined him for breaking the law, but made him pay for the damage he had done. In another case a banker who had been violently assaulted while in performance of duty had Rupees 30 out of the fine paid to him as a recompense.

13. It is very difficult to obtain labor, especially at Dhoor. I required some rock removing from the bed of the canal, but I could only get coolies to work in the night; at 5 o'clock in the morning the majority went off to the relief works. If these coolies be really in want, it seems astonishing to me how they live, as I frequently find that they only work four days in the week, the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday being devoted to payments in Dhoor, whither all the coolies flock on those days.

14. Mr. H. E. Maltby has been placed in charge of the 1st and 2nd ranges.

15. The staff were paid from 1st to 12th.

16. I enclose a statement of the irrigation and demand showing the net amount as settled for three taluqs and the anticipated revenue for the Lower Division.

ADIMAYAPULIN,
6th July 1877.

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

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

Register of Rain-fall for the Month of June 1877.

Month and Date.	Sourashtra.	Kurnool.	Jupad.	Valsad.	Joravar.	Avaloor.	Yallac.	Chintamani.	Rajahy.	Dhoor.	Adimayapuliy.	Remarks.
1st June	..	0.25	0.50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1871. 8.82
4th ..	..	..	0.15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1870. 9.52
5th ..	..	..	0.20	0.50	1.30	2.75	..	..	..	..	..	1875. 8.82
7th ..	..	..	0.20	0.60	0.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	1874. 10.04
8th ..	..	0.05	..	0.35	1.00	0.10	0.10	0.02	0.32	..	..	1873. 4.06
9th ..	..	0.05	0.30	0.10	..	2.30	1.20	0.30	0.30	..	..	1872. 6.36
10th ..	..	0.40	0.00	0.15	..	0.70	0.31	0.32	0.42	0.30	..	1871. 1.01
11th ..	..	..	..	..	..	0.05	..	0.10	0.30	0.40	..	1870. 7.25
12th ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.40	..	1869. 7.09
13th ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.64	..	0.50	..	..
14th ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.20	..	..
15th ..	..	0.35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16th ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.10	0.14	..	..	..	..
20th ..	..	0.10	0.45	..	..	1.50	..	..	..	..	..	..
23rd ..	..	0.02	..	0.20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25th ..	..	0.20	0.12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30th ..	..	0.00	0.20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1.15	2.20	1.00	1.55	5.90	4.50	7.10	1.84	2.93	1.50	2.30	Rain-fall at Dhoor from 1st Jan to end of June.

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

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

Chief Engineer's Report for June 1877.

About Kurnool no rain to speak of has fallen up to date, nor has any fallen about Dhoor since the 10th June. The south-west monsoon must be written off as a failure, nor are there any indications in favor of rain within four days of next new moon; that is the last lingering hope of the most sanguine ryots.

2. While the water was actually running first down the canal this month, and while Overseers were under orders merely to show the water in every channel under their sluices until the water should reach Dhoor, three very reassuring omens occurred—

(1.) A resolution of the shareholders of the Company was received conveying their satisfaction with the efforts of the whole staff in India.

(2.) A similar feeling of confidence and approbation was shown by the Madras Government not formally indeed but very acceptably nevertheless. The settlement of the sums payable by the Government to the canal has been conducted on the part of Government carefully but liberally, and with an evident desire to give the Company all that was fair; and an additional Rupees 70,000 has been put at my disposal for maintenance, although the sum actually due to the Company had (for seasons beyond the control of the settling officers of Government) not been finally settled. This makes a total of Rupees 2,14,550 already paid by Government to the Company for earnings realized since 30th September 1876.

(3.) It was laughable to visit the large and now opulent villages under the canal in order to learn whether they wanted any more water. Pointing to the wretched dribble sent down the channels to open them, they could not find words to express their disgust. "See, is this enough for one single field?" and so forth; so very different from this time last year. In all cases they promised with every possible assistance that if more were given they would waste none, and that if water were given at night they would turn out and utilize it.

The canal will at last be fairly tested. If all go well there will be 6 feet in it during the next full moon, and 7 during that in August and 8 in September. In that state, it is to be hoped, the October monsoon will fall into it. Great efforts will be made to utilize the week before and after the next full moon for day and night distribution. Every possible precaution shall be taken, but the staff is but small to fully work such a canal.

CAMP JUPAD,
9th July 1877.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer and Manager,
Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 19.

ORDER THEREON, 4th August 1877, No. 219 I.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Chief Engineer and Manager of the Irrigation and Canal Company.
" Collector of Kurnool.
" " of Cuddapah.
" Revenue Department.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

Revenue Department
CP 36/4

Col. J. B. M. Thomas
PUBLIC WORKS.

✓

The Chief Engineer, Public Works.

Dated August 14/19

14/8/19

14 August

G. O. No. 14/19, 14/8/19

Mr. M. J. M. Thomas
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Under the provisions of the Public Works
Department, the following is the
lower limit of the ...

Comm. to the
Board of Revenue