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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4642	Press.
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Dated	17.8.1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

6th August 1877, No. 222 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following paper:—

No. 24. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 17th July 1877, No. 104 I.

From Major H. W. WOOD, R.E., District Engineer, Vizagapatam, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Waltair, 6th July 1877, No. 775.

In forwarding the list of letters remaining unanswered up to 1st June 1877, I have the honor to inform you that your No. 12-C, dated 22nd July 1876, and No. 1,102, dated 30th April 1872, are in course of being taken up by me. Supervisor Lyons, besides being a valetudinarian or something worse, is professionally unequal to report on the subject of those letters, and I am only able to make myself acquainted with the different irrigation works of the Golcondah Range as occasion offers in the intervals of current business.

2. There is besides some difficulty attached to the irrigation works of this district from the fact of Government land being mixed up with zemindari land, and that the irrigation works never seem to have been formally handed over to the charge of this department. A case in point is now going on which will serve to illustrate the state of matters obtaining in the district, and I shall recount it in the hope of eliciting your orders as to the course that should be pursued in order to put matters on a proper footing.

3. Two years ago (as I am informed) the head of the Kokerapilly Channel, that is diverted from the right bank of the Surada Nuddee and that waters lands of the Vizianagram and Cassimcotta Zemindaris, was damaged. It appears from inquiries I made on the spot that the Principal Assistant Collector and the Range Officer, Public Works Department, repaired to the locality, and the former officer directed the proprietors of the two zemindaris to repair the head of their channel.

4. This was not done, and the channel continued to enlarge and to divert more and more water to the Vizianagram and Cassimcotta lands at the expense of the Government lands about Dimili, which lie further down the Surada Nuddee. The increased stream running in the channel also overflowed and carried away about 600 yards of the bank of the river immediately below the head of the channel.

5. This state of things having been brought to my notice last December, I then spoke to the Collector (Mr. Melville) urging him to insist on his orders regarding the repair of the head of the channel being immediately carried out by the Vizianagram and Cassimcotta proprietors.

6. I heard no more of the matter until April, when the Collector (Mr. Goodrich) informed me that, in consequence of the damaged state of the head of the Kokerapilly Channel, the loss of Government revenue had been great and would be greater still; and he requested me to make immediate preparations for commencing work.

7. I accordingly directed the Range Officer, Mr. Lyons, to arrange for collection of rough stone, &c., and as from his subsequent communications to me he evidently

had a very vague idea of what work should be provided for, I called for the levels of the country traversed by the Kokerapilly Channel and Surada Nuddee respectively, and directed him not to begin work until a proper design had been fixed upon.

8. In the mean time the Principal Assistant Collector repaired to the locality in company with the representatives of the Vizianagram and Cassimcottah Zemindaris and with Supervisor Lyons. The representatives of the two estates, having had the benefit of so much water for the last two years, were naturally averse from any measures being taken, which might lessen the quantity their lands had been receiving, but eventually some arrangement as to what should be done appears to have been arrived at between them and the Principal Assistant Collector.

9. Supervisor Lyons soon after informed me that an estimate and specification for the work had been forwarded by him through the Principal Assistant Collector, for my sanction and requested leave to commence expenditure.

10. Taking for granted he had sent the information I had directed him to furnish, and having regard to the loss of Government revenue that was threatened, I authorized him to commence expenditure.

11. But, when I received the estimate from the Collector with a request that I would at once appropriate funds, I found that none of the required information had been sent by Supervisor Lyons. The work he had provided for was apparently something that had been arranged between himself and the Principal Assistant Collector and the Agents of the two Zemindaris, but I was not informed what stream the new head of the Kokerapilly Channel was designed to pass, nor what stream was to flow down the Surada Nuddee for the purpose of watering the 9,500 acres of Government cultivation in the Dimili direction.

12. It thus appeared that I was required to allot money for the execution of work for whose fitness I was responsible to the Government, while at the same time I was denied the information requisite to enable me to judge of its fitness.

13. I accordingly wrote to Supervisor Lyons, cancelling my sanction to incur expenditure and pointing out that, if he removed the dam which formerly diverted water into the Kokerapilly Channel, and if he built a rough-stone dam across the head of the channel, both of which measures were provided for in his estimate, the result would probably be that after a very short time no stream at all would enter the Kokerapilly Channel, and that the lands of the Vizianagram and Cassimcottah Zemindaris would in turn be deprived of their share of irrigating water. I consequently directed him to go on repairing the bank of the river, but not to meddle with the channel, until I had received information as to what stream should pass into it, and also regarding the levels of the country it traversed. I also informed the Collector that I could not allot funds for a work regarding which I had no information; but that, if he would take the responsibility of what the effect of the works might be which had been settled upon by his Principal Assistant, I would immediately allot funds.

14. To this the Collector replied that the failure of the Range Officer, Public Works Department, to repair the head of the Kokerapilly Channel two years ago was no excuse for my refusing to repair the work now. I consequently addressed the Collector again, and officially detailed all the circumstances of the case which had been already unofficially communicated to his predecessor and his Principal Assistant six months ago. I also pointed out to him that the proceedings of the Principal Assistant Collector two years since, as well as his more recent ones, appeared to show that the irrigation works of this district were practically in the hands of the Revenue Department and not in those of the Public Works Department.

15. Meanwhile it appeared that the Principal Assistant Collector had informed Supervisor Lyons that the section of the Kokerapilly Channel should be 12 square yards. This had been fixed upon in 1859 by a functionary called the Head of Police, but it is not clear whether the section was that of the channel in its present position or across its former line, which left the river some little way above. On this it is evident the discharge of the channel must depend, and I have applied for the informa-

tion to the Principal Assistant Collector, as well as for the area of cultivation that is watered by this channel.

16. Supervisor Lyons could have found this out on the spot from the Principal Assistant Collector, and could, with the levels of the country traversed by the channel, have calculated what the proper volume was which the Kokerapilly Channel should carry, but he did not do this, and has employed himself in considering how some unknown volume of water shall be made to enter the channel from the river. Although I directed him nearly three months ago not to commence expenditure until a definite project had been fixed upon, and although I cancelled my sanction to expenditure being incurred when I found that such sanction had been wrongfully obtained as detailed in foregoing paragraph 10, I have not considered my responsibility as terminated, but have endeavoured to point out to Supervisor Lyons the steps I considered he should direct his attention to.

17. In lieu of the dam which he proposed to erect across the mouth of the channel and which (from levels I procured from an Overseer whom I specially deputed to the locality) I found would certainly prevent the passage of water into the channel after the excess of sand now in the river's bed had been swept away by the first freshes, I suggested the construction of some rough-stone groynes above the head of the channel, whose action would counteract the set of the river on the mouth of the Kokerapilly Channel and reduce its carrying capacity by silting it up.

18. To this Supervisor Lyons replied that the agents of the Vizianagram and Cassimcottah Zemindaris would not be likely to agree to such an arrangement; and, though he has given up the idea of erecting a rough-stone dam across the mouth of the Kokerapilly Channel, I am entirely in the dark as to what he proposes to do beyond that he is repairing the damaged bank of the Surada Nuddee immediately below the channel. It is evident, however, that, if the waters of the river be allowed to flow into the channel in excess, as they now do, owing to the deposit of sand in the river below and to the set which the stream has assumed during the past two years towards the head of the channel, this repair of the river's bank is likely to be taken in reverse as before, and the money expended on it will be thrown away.

19. When I receive the information I have asked for from the Principal Assistant Collector (*vide* paragraph 15), I shall issue definite directions to Supervisor Lyons, and it will remain with him to disobey them at his peril; but, until this information is received, you will observe that I am helpless in the matter.

20. Meanwhile I beg to sum up the foregoing statement, which gives a fair idea of the arrangements obtaining in reference to the irrigation works of this district. I will say nothing more regarding Supervisor Lyons' behavior, for, though affairs have been in consequence somewhat complicated in the present case, this is extraneous to the general question.

21. It appears that where Government and Zemindars are both concerned in the irrigation works of Vizagapatam, there is a vagueness as to the authority which shall direct the repair of zemindari works. The Collector (*vide* paragraph 14) goes as far as to say that the Range Officer should have repaired the Kokerapilly Channel two years ago, but from previous as well as from recent proceedings of his Assistant it would seem to be the duty of the Revenue Department to order such repairs. Two years ago (if the information I received on the spot be correct), the agents of the Vizianagram and Cassimcottah Zemindaris were directed to execute the repairs necessary to the head of the Kokerapilly Channel, and now it appears that the Government Officers are to execute them since the agents have not done so. At the same time there is great doubt as to the quantity of water the channel should carry, and besides this the agents of the two zemindaris named assert their right to judge what measures shall be adopted. It does not seem entirely unjust that, when zemindari works fall out of repair, they should be repaired at the Zemindar's expense, and this more especially when, by remaining in a continued state of disrepair, the zemindari works defraud Government tenants of their proportion of water. But it is by no means apparent what authority is responsible that the irrigation

works of zemindaris shall be kept in order, and it is needless to add that the present state of matters is disastrous to the interests of Government.

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government.

One letter.
list.

The Kokerapilly Channel, which is supplied from the Surada Nuddee, appears to be exclusively a zemindari or proprietary channel, and, if so, it is not clear how under any circumstances State funds can be expended upon it.

2. If, by the neglect of the proprietors to keep it in repair, other interests suffer and damage is occasioned, the application of a remedy would appear to rest with the Collector, and all the District Engineer can do is to advise the Collector what measures may be necessary to prevent the damage or injury complained of.

3. Agricultural repair funds are provided for the maintenance of Government works of irrigation, and not for the restoration to efficiency of private works. Moreover interference with proprietary works, whether with or without the concurrence of the proprietors, involves responsibility as to the effect, direct and indirect, of the measures taken, and this result it would seem to be desirable to avoid.

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

No. 25.

ORDER THEREON, 6th August 1877, No. 222 I.

The Collector will be called upon through the Revenue Department to report on the circumstances, and to state on what grounds the repair of the head of the Kokerapilly Channel, which appears to be a proprietary irrigation channel, was proposed to be undertaken from Government funds.

2. The reported unfitness of Mr. Supervisor Lyons for the charge of the range will be dealt with by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

C. J. Under
Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Revenue Department.

- " District Engineer, Vizagapatam.
- " Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
- " Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

(1) Spare Copies

3.6 21 Feb 78 N 489.

Vide L. N. 721/78
" 3500/78.
" 4244/78.

N 4642
Communicated
to the Board of Revenue
in view to the report
acquired in para
1 of the foregoing Order
being obtained and
forwarded.

17. Aug 77

13. D. R. of Revenue and P.

Revenue Department
No 3697
IRRIGATION.

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August 6th.

Issued

Recd. 15 August

Encl.

G. O., 6th August 1877, No. 222 I.

Disg 17-8-77 N 4642
AUGUST.

Nos. 24-25.

Kokrapilly Channel, Vizagapatam District.
—Calls for particulars connected with the
repair of the head of the —, and requests
the reported unfitness of Mr. Supervisor
Lyons for the charge of a range, to be dealt
with by the Chief Engineer, Public Works
Department.

With Order