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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.		Press. ☒
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Dated	18.8.1877	197

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

9th August 1877, No. 223 L.

Irrigation.

Read the following papers:—

No. 35. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 31st July 1877, No. 118 L.

No. 33 SL.

MEMORANDUM.

Irrigation.

No. 35-A.

THE undersigned has the honor to request the District Engineer, Salem, to ascertain what field exists in the Darimpury taluq for the improvement of old or the construction of new tanks or other works of irrigation, Government being desirous of employing famine relief labor, so far as may be practicable, on works of this description.

2. If not personally well acquainted with this part of the district, it will be desirable that the District Engineer should obtain on the spot information as to the existing works and as to the new works which the taluq authorities or the people consider would be of value, and, should he obtain *prima facie* evidence in favor of any works of the latter class, measures should be taken for the preparation of the necessary estimates which should be submitted for the orders of Government in due course.

3. In deciding upon the probability of sites for new tanks being found favorable, special attention should be given to the facilities for the disposal of surplus. The area of the catchment basin will probably generally be ascertainable from the atlas sheet, and then it can be roughly decided what length of waste weir will be necessary and whether a site at which a weir of this length can be economically built can be found. A section across the valley at the proposed bund site and including the weir site will then generally show whether it can be considered favorable for the formation of a tank, and an inspection of the country below will show whether there is ground available for wet cultivation for which the area required may be assumed to be 30 to 40 acres per square mile of drainage or per 8,000 cubic yards of water likely to be stored.

4. It follows that favorable *prima facie* evidence will include—

- (1). A good site for a bund at a point where its length would be moderate and the fall of the valley above not excessive.
- (2). A good site for a surplus weir.
- (3). Land available to a sufficient extent for wet cultivation and capable of being supplied from the tank with facility.

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

16th July 1877.

From Major P. MONTGOMERIE, R.E., District Engineer, Salem, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Sunkerrydroog, 23rd July 1877, No. 27 S.L.

With reference to your memorandum, No. 33 S.L., dated 16th instant, requesting information as to what field exists in the Darampury taluq for the improvement of old or the construction of new tanks or other irrigation works on which famine relief labor may be employed, I have the honor to forward a sketch of the Darampury taluq and its neighbourhood, showing what works might be commenced as soon as the plans and estimates have been submitted and passed. They are as follow:—

One Sketch.

1st.—The "Marandahully or Sungabasavan project" which consists in diverting, near the village of Marandahully in the Darampury taluq, the streams that drain that portion of the Oossoor taluq about Denkennicottah and Tulli, and supplementing the at present very deficient supply of a large system of tanks in the northern and eastern portions of the Darampury taluq by the drainage of upwards of 330 square miles.

A small channel taken from a ruined anicut at present exists, but it is very defective, and its capacity is hardly sufficient to carry water for one tank.

This is probably the most promising scheme for the improvement of the Darampury taluq, and will do much to make up for the very deficient yearly rainfall in this part of the district.

The plans and estimates for the entire project were prepared some years ago by Mr. Blacker, and they were returned a few months ago to the Range Officer, Mr. Lowry, for further information, with reference to the supply channel which will have to be much enlarged and carefully designed, so as to ensure the full benefit to be derived from the 330 square miles of extra drainage area.

2nd.—The "Baroor Channel Project."—Although this work is not exactly in the Darampury taluq, it is sufficiently close to afford employment for the people of the taluq. It consists in taking off water from the left bank of the Ponnier river, about 8 miles above the Baroor tank, where the Ponnier passes over a barrier of rocks. The site for the anicut is admirable as well as that for the head sluices which will be placed between two large masses of rocks; and there will also be very little difficulty in excavating the channel. But whether the project will pay sufficiently to admit of its being taken up as a famine relief work can only be seen after the plans and estimates have been submitted; these I am expecting to receive daily, but, as Mr. Executive Engineer Lowry has been promising them for more than two months back, I cannot say for certain when they will be submitted to you.

The channel is intended to fill the tanks along its course, ending with the Baroor tank, the capacity of which can be enlarged.

3rd.—The "Panundore Supply Channel and Tank Repairs."—This is a smaller work nearly opposite the Baroor channel project. The plans and estimates are with me; they appear to have been prepared entirely by Mr. Lowry, and will require very material alteration; the repairs of the tank bund have already been put in hand as a famine relief work.

2. The western portion of the Darampury taluq is very jungly and thinly populated, and the Collector whom I consulted in the matter states that he does not consider work is much required in this part, and that, if it is necessary, the people can be moved to the larger works.

3. In the southern portion of the taluq the people are being employed on the Toppoor Ghaut works and the repairs to the trunk road.

No irrigation project has been proposed for this part, but if it is found possible to divert the water of the Toppoor river draining an area of 112 square miles into the basin of the Womalore river, it could without difficulty be stored in the

Goondacul tank, about 6 miles from Toppoor uttrum, and would be of the greatest benefit to the upper portion of the Womalore valley.

4. Although hitherto very little has been done by the Public Works Department in the way of famine relief works in the Oossoor Range on account of the Revenue Department under the Sub-Collector having retained almost every work in their own hands, I have always kept in view the possibility of such works as the Marandahully project, &c., being required to be taken up by us; and I regret much that the Range Officer, Mr. Lowry, should be so backward in the preparation of the estimates. I have rendered him every assistance by furnishing him with a large temporary establishment and carefully written instructions for each project. And now to ensure that some thing may be done, I have made the Darampury taluq a temporary sub-division of his range under Mr. Supervisor Mahoney, who will be directly under the orders of the District Engineer, until such time as the arrears of estimating have been made up and the works in the range have been properly organized.

5. I have only lately made an inspection of the Darampury taluq and will take an early opportunity of re-visiting it with a view to the early completion and submission of the Marandahully project, &c.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government together with the memorandum to which the District Engineer's letter is a reply.

2. It will be seen that Major Montgomerie has two or three projects in or close to the Darampury taluq which may prove to be feasible, but that there has been some difficulty in getting the information and the estimates completed. Project investigations need special attention, and it is not often that Range Officers, even if well qualified for such work, have time to attend to it and to their current duties.

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

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 9th August 1877, No. 228 I.

THE District Engineer, Salem, should do all that may be possible by his own personal attention to get the complete plans of the several projects referred to, in order that each may be dealt with as promptly as may be.

2. The Governor in Council cannot avoid expressing dissatisfaction at the delay in sending the whole plans for No. 1 prepared years ago, and which were returned it appears a few months since to Range Officer Mr. Lowry for some further information which has not yet been rendered. The District Engineer will see that no further delay occurs, and will use all the means at his disposal to bring forward the irrigation projects noticed in his letter in a shape which will admit of orders being passed upon them.

(True Extract.)

Ag Under Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the District Engineer, Salem.
" Collector of Salem.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.

Exd. E. C. Shanker.
Spare Copies

Rev. 1877 Sept
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IRRIGATION.

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To



THE DISTRICT ENGINEER.

SALEM.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated August 9th.

Issued

Recd.

15/8/77

Encl.

G. O. 9th August 1877, No. 228 L.

AUGUST.

Nos. 35-36.

Min 9018 August 1877 N 2697.

Irrigation Projects in Darampury Taluk,
Salem District.—The District Engineer
instructed to submit in a shape which will
admit of orders being passed upon them
the—

Min 40, m 697

L. J. C.

18 August 1877