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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

7th September 1877, No. 303 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following paper:—

No. 46. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 4th September 1877, No. 167 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, 28th August 1877, No. 104.

I HAVE the honor to forward, per packet post, copies of Monthly Reports of Upper and Lower Divisions, together with my own for July 1877.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

Upper Division.

Monthly Report for July 1877.

THE water was kept up through the month, and finally on the 29th it was raised to 6-0 at Soonesala; but before this could have reached the spot a breach occurred at 65 miles 32 chains, about 18 chains below the Terrigopully aqueduct on the upper bank.

It occurred on the 1st of August. On the 2nd news reached me at Kurnool, and I immediately made preparations for starting repairs and came to Jupad.

On the 3rd a dam was commenced above Jupad bridge in order to prevent water from enlarging the breach. As I write water has been entirely stopped, and upwards of 500 coolies are on the work.

2. The rain has been almost nothing until the 25th when showers have fallen, but very partially as will be seen by the rain register enclosed. It is evident that great amount of misery will be sustained through the failure of the early rains.

3. Poolimuddy channel relief-work has been measured up, and a contractor is now engaged in completing earthwork.

4. My time and that of office hands has been wholly taken up by the settlement. The reason for the delay has been owing to the difficulties raised by the Curnams at settlement.

In order to avoid loss of time in haggling over the evidence of Curnams and Amins I was compelled to come to some temporary arrangement by which we could advance. But I cannot help thinking that the whole settlement is very unsatisfactory, and, in my opinion, not according to the liberal intentions expressed by the Government in their original order, viz., that water used was to be paid for without reference to remissions.

5. Water has been poured into Nundial tank, and I hear from Mr. A. L. Dunphy that there is a three weeks' supply, so that the crops will not suffer from want of water under that tank.

6. Owing to some misunderstanding the Form Irrigation No. 9 is not properly completed, and on the present emergency I am unable to get right in time as my report is already too late.

Health.—The Overseer of the 3rd and 4th Ranges was attacked with acute rheumatism at Puggidial, and I sent him to Kurnool on the 26th July 1877.

During his absence the breach occurred when a Sub-overseer was in charge.

Mr. A. L. Dunphy was very ill with fever, but has recovered.

The staff were paid from 3rd to 10th July 1877.

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

Rain Register for the Month of July 1877.

Date.	STATIONS.						Remarks.
	Soggesala.	Kurnool.	Jupal.	Velapanoor.	Jutur.	Ayalur.	
1st	..	..	..	..	..	..	
2nd	..	..	..	..	..	0.30	
3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	
4th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
5th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
6th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
7th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
8th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
9th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
10th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
11th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
12th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
13th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
14th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
15th	..	..	..	..	..	0.05	
16th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
17th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
18th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
19th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
20th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
21st	..	..	..	..	..	..	
22nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	
23rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	
24th	..	..	..	..	..	..	
25th	..	..	0.20	0.03	..	..	
26th	..	..	0.10	0.36	..	..	
27th	..	0.15	0.20	0.10	0.75	0.75	
28th	..	0.20	..	0.36	0.30	0.05	
29th	0.30	0.50	..	..	0.30	0.05	
30th	..	..	0.25	..	..	..	
31st	0.40	..	..	..	..	..	
Total	0.70	0.85	1.35	0.85	1.85	1.20	

UPPER DIVISION.

Abstract of Irrigation in the Kurnool District for July 1877.

Name of Taluq.	CLASS OF IRRIGATION.					Tanks supplied.	Estimated unrecorded Irrigation.	Remarks.
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Monthly.	Total.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ramalakotta	478.79	342.08	941.06	1,761.93	..	..	15.00	
Nundikotkur	227.07	265.22	1,164.09	14.41	1,578.79	..	4,811.47	Form No. 9 will follow for 3rd and 4th Ranges, also for 6th Range.
Nundial	524.83	696.32	1,854.81	2.24	2,388.20	..	11,650.00	
Total	1,260.69	1,061.62	3,899.96	16.65	6,228.92	..	16,476.47	

CAMP AT TERRIGOPULLY,
12th August 1877.(Signed) C. H. WILKS,
Conservancy Engineer.

LOWER DIVISION.

Report for the Month of July 1877.

On the 24th June water was let into the canal at Jutur head works (74 miles 65 chains), and by the time it had reached the 132nd mile was being taken in all directions; the demand for water was far in excess of the supply which could not be increased rapidly to meet the demand, without a great risk of breaches being run.

The water was admitted into this section nearly a month earlier than the previous season, but such was the demand for it that all the water I received from the Jutur head works was

absorbed by the villages nearest to the head-works; lower down they got little or none until the water was raised.

Before the end of the month I had a plentiful supply of water running through this section.

2. I admitted the water into the 9th section (145 miles 63 chains) on the 30th of June 1877, but before it reached the 1st lock (171 miles 47 chains) it escaped through a hole in the bank, and breached it in the night. The bank of black cotton soil was 16 feet high, and had been constantly and carefully attended to, but I fear the cause was what I think hardly can be prevented when the banks have been so long exposed to the sun without rain or water in the canal to moisten them, and that is, the numerous holes and cracks which almost perforate the black soil banks. These can be closed to a certain depth with crowbar and rammer, but they never close internally until the earth becomes saturated with water, and if this be done very gradually indeed the bank contracts and is tight and safe. The cost of repairing this breach was Rupees 62; the progress of the water was delayed three days.

3. Another breach about a furlong above the spot, where the other occurred, happened on the 20th July 1877, and like the other in the night; in this case the water was allowed to rise above the authorized height suddenly before the earth was saturated. The section of the bank showed this, for the low part was firm and moist, while the upper part was loose, dry and full of small cracks. The water was allowed to pass five days after the breach occurred. The cost of filling in this was Rupees 68.

The Toongabudra water reached the Adymyapully head works (181 miles) on the 5th July 1877, but before it arrived I opened the head sluices and let in what water I had to save the perishing crops in Chennur.

4. The rainfall during the month has not been heavy; it was certainly too late to be of much benefit to the crops. It ought to have fallen a fortnight earlier at least.

The greatest fall at all stations was on about the 26th July 1877; since then there have been showers; the prospects of more are not promising.

5. All, if not all the standing dry crops for which we had water, have been saved and are in a very good condition; no dry crops are being sown as it is yet considered too early to sow any except inferior grain crops.

Extensive preparations are being made to sow paddy; the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of next month being the time when the water will be required for the fields.

6. I regret to have to enclose incomplete returns of irrigation for the month. Up to the present I have not received the accounts for the Kurnool District. This is owing to the serious indisposition of Mr. H. E. Maltby. I have therefore given my estimate of the irrigation in that district.

7. Some extracts from a return called for by the Chief Engineer and Manager will show the progress of irrigation this season in comparison with last year. Up to the 21st July, in the Sirwell taluq 1,132 acres irrigated against 161 acres up to the same period last season; in the Koilkuntla taluq 904 acres against 64 acres; in the Jamalnadugu taluq 100 acres against none; in the Proddatur taluq 1,772 acres against none; and for Cuddapah taluq 907 acres against none.

In the two last-named taluqs, I am very sanguine of obtaining 50 per cent. more irrigation on last seasons, even though the water be cut off in January.

In the Kurnool District there will undoubtedly be an increase, but its proportion will depend upon the north-east monsoon.

8. I enclose an abstract of the area irrigated last season, and net amounts settled at the meetings between the Deputy Collectors and myself. The disputed cases under reference to the Chief Engineer and Manager and Collectors are not included.

9. The settlement of the demand for the Cuddapah taluq commenced on the 5th July 1877, and terminated on the 19th July 1877. The after-comparison of accounts, which, were the Curnams to keep their accounts, made up to date should not occupy more than three or four days, was not concluded until the 2nd August 1877. As usual much of the time was devoted to settling supposed uncertainties regarding cases of water-stealing.

Every ryot who was so charged was either ready to deny that he took the water, or boldly denied having done so. In nearly every case, the Overseer, Amin, or Banker witnessed the act; in not one single case did the Curnam discover or report water-stealing; he frequently accompanied the canal officers at their request to see the spot, and generally attached his signature with remarks to the list prepared by the Amins; but at settlement he attaches little importance to this, and generally seems loath to support the canal officers.

In one village, Chennur (C. T.), in which there were a large number of cases of water-stealing detected; petitions against their being unjustly charged, spiced with accusations of asking for bribes were sent by the ryots against the Overseer. I began an inquiry regarding these charges (as I was directed by the Chief Engineer and Manager) in the presence of the Deputy Collector;

but after the Deputy Collector had left, they expressed their unwillingness to say anything except in his presence. They did not appear the next and subsequent days.

10. The health of the staff has been generally good. Mr. H. E. Maltby, however, since the middle of the month, has been laid up with an attack of dysentery contracted while riding through the rain one evening.

The staff were paid from 6th to 16th July 1877.

CAMP AT ADYMYAPALLY,
5th August 1877.

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

LOWER DIVISION.

Register of Rainfall during the Month of July 1877.

Date.	STATIONS.						Remarks.
	Yallur.	Chintamani.	Rajoly.	Dhoor.	Adymyapally.	Beenpand.	
1st							
2nd							
3rd							
4th							
5th							
6th		0.01					
7th							
8th							
9th							
10th		0.36	0.16				
11th							
12th							
13th							
14th							
15th							
16th							
17th							
18th							
19th							
20th							
21st							
22nd							
23rd							
24th							
25th		0.04	1.06	1.12	0.35		
26th		0.76	0.65	1.13	2.22	0.60	
27th		0.02		0.99	0.49	0.70	
28th		0.24		0.05	0.45	0.40	
29th							
30th							
31st					0.20		
Total	1.41	1.88	3.29	3.42	1.90	8.97	

DHOOR,
3rd August 1877.

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

SEASON, 1877-78.

Abstract of Irrigation recorded up to the end of July 1877.

District.	Talug.	CLASS OF IRRIGATION.				Total.	Tanks supplied.	Estimated unrecorded Irrigation for Aug. only.	Remarks.
		1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Monthly				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kurnool { Cuddapah {	Sirwell	Returns for the month not received.				* 3,000	..	5,000	* Estimated.
	Koilkuntla	Do.	do.	do.	do.	* 1,500	..	2,000	
	Jamalmadugu	Do.	do.	do.	do.	850	..	1,000	
	Proddatur	457-39	583-69	993-73	56-72	2,001-00	..	4,718	
	Cuddapah.	21-96	279-90	917-32	86-18	1,305-36	..	1,686	
Total		479-35	863-49	1,821-05	142-90	8,556-36	..	14,832	

hope is the case, all the weak points of these Terrigopully banks have been detected and repaired, viz., one breach and three slips. Owing to the energy of Mr. Wilks, the repairs have not taken longer to execute than for similar breaches in previous years, although the famished coolies absolutely cannot work; they eat daily all that their daily wage will supply, and starve and work with hollow stomachs and pale faces until the next payment comes. It was very trying for Mr. Wilks to turn away hundreds of absolutely useless skeletons, and the early stages of the work upon which only a limited number of men can be put on, for want of room were much delayed by the weakness of the laborers. These were done chiefly by a gang from Kurnool and by the bankers collected from the neighbouring sections of canal. By establishing a grain store the price of rice in the neighbouring village was kept down to about 2½d. a lb. We are now paying full wages for skilled excavators in ordinary years, viz., 6d. a day for men and 4½d. for women; and the work will in consequence cost about double what it would in ordinary years. Every assistance has been given by the Revenue authorities both to the canal in the offer and supply of labor and to the useless applicants in the way of scanty relief.

The Deputy Collector of Kurnool seems to hope that the loss of crops owing to the breach will not be serious in Kurnool, but he cannot speak with certainty until he shall have got in his returns.

As to distribution, the quantity of water wasted this year is much less than usual. The villagers are also much more ready to make their village channels, and much more obedient and orderly in the use of them.

A small but deep breach occurred in the lower section just as Mr. Dunphy went on sick leave to get medical advice in Madras, but local rains and freshes will have done much to prevent injury to crops from the temporary cessation of canal water.

The demand for water seems to have no limit so far. The extent of waste land will be unusually large no doubt.

(Signed) J. H. LATHAM,
Chief Engineer and Manager.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

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

No. 47.

ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1877, No. 303 I.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. Grubert.

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Revenue Department
No 4089

IRRIGATION.

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 7th.

Recd

20 September

G. O. 7th September 1877, No. 303 I.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 46-47.

82 42 of Revenue (12-9-77)

Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's
Monthly Report for July 1877 recorded.

Consd to the
Board of Revenue
11.8.77