

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government Revenue Department,
10th February 1877.

Read the following papers:—

No. 304. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 3rd February 1877, No. 261.

Read the following letter from R. BURROWS, Esq., Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Hon. W. SUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 2nd February 1877, E. No. 674:—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of endorsement, No. 223, Financial Department dated 31st ultimo, referring for remarks an Order of Government* in the Revenue Department on the subject of restricting the issue of water from the Red Hills for purposes of irrigation.

2. The Board of Revenue, on whose Proceedings the above Order is based, appear to be under the impression that the water in the reservoir is still at such a level as to gravitate through the municipal sluice, and that it is allowed to flow incessantly from public taps throughout the town.

3. The facts are that, since the 22nd of August 1876, it has been necessary to pump water from the lake into the Municipal supply channel, and that water is only obtainable at the public taps for about an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening, and that it does not flow incessantly even during those two hours.

4. The Board also call attention to the fact that roads are watered with the Red Hills water. It is true that an inconsiderable quantity is used for this purpose. The road in front of the General Hospital from the bridge as far as the Medical College gate, a length of about three furlongs, and a portion of the Mount Road are watered with Red Hills water. But the stoppage of the watering of these roads would not have any appreciable effect on the duration of the supply.

5. The town has been taking about 200,000 cubic yards per mensem according to the returns last received from Captain Smith, the Public Works Department Officer in charge of the reservoir from September last, and the quantity issued for irrigation is said to be double that quantity. Then there is evaporation and leakage, which represent an unknown quantity. With these agents of exhaustion at work the lake is falling at the rate of about a foot in a month at the present time.

6. I admit that it is very distressing to see crops of paddy perish for want of water, but if the crops cannot be irrigated without causing a failure of supply to the population of Madras, I would certainly advise the sacrifice of the crops.

7. A fresh supply at the Red Hills cannot be reckoned upon with any degree of certainty before the 1st of November, and the question is whether the present store will suffice for both the Municipality and the crops until that date.

8. It should be borne in mind that the rate of fall will be more rapid as the surface area of the water becomes less, and it is possible that in March or April the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
February 1877.

rate will be double what it is now, and the drops remaining the same. I doubt if there is a drop of water in the lake on the 1st of November, unless either irrigation is stopped or we have rain.

9. It is necessary to prepare for the worst. I should respectfully submit to Government whether it is not advisable to diminish the present store of water should be so husbanded as to continue to furnish the Municipality with its present supply if possible up to the 1st of November or such earlier date as the Government may think safe; and that, unless irrigation can be carried on without risk of the store failing before that date, it should be stopped forthwith.

10. It is not a question of saving a few nearly mature crops. I am informed by an eye-witness that crops in every stage of growth are being irrigated. As long as water keeps coming, so long, as a matter of course, will the ryots continue to cultivate and keep up the cry for more water. But I submit that the natural selfishness of a few ryots should not be indulged at the risk of exposing the population of Madras for two or three months to the horrors of a water-famine.

REFERRED to the Revenue Department, with G.O., dated 20th January 1877, returned.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 305. Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, dated 5th February 1877, No. 414.

Read the following paper:—

From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 1st February 1877, No. 78.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the consideration of Government, the following observations regarding the water-supply of Madras.

2. The Red Hills Lake is now quite as low as it used to be at this season of the year before its enlargement for the Madras Water Works supply, and, judging from my experience of former years, when I was well acquainted with the neighbourhood, I should estimate that the quantity of water remaining is not likely to last more than three or four months at the rate of present consumption for irrigation.

3. Government are aware that, owing to the low state of the tank, the supply for the Municipality for some months past has been raised by pumping. The volume of water thus brought into the supply channel for the use of the town is not equal to that escaping from one irrigation sluice near Mr. Teed's house. The quantity of water issuing from the other sluices I cannot state as I had no time in my visit to the famine camp yesterday to inspect them, but I may remark that there is a very considerable amount of cultivation going on in the area irrigated from the Red Hills Lake, and that, if this distribution of the water is not put a stop to, there will very soon be none left to supply the town.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th February 1877.

4. It was considered by the late Engineer, C.E., who designed the survey works, that the reservoir would, in ordinary seasons, hold enough water for the use of the town without interfering with the rights of cultivators, but it is now perfectly plain that a wet cultivation below an adequate supply for municipal uses, is incompatible in seasons so abnormal as the present one.

5. A water-famine in the town would add very much to the difficulties of dealing with the existing distress, but this may certainly be looked for if measures are not speedily concerted to arrest the use of the lake water for irrigation. The value of the growing crops must be insignificant in comparison with the distress and inconvenience to the population of Madras, and on these grounds I venture most respectfully to urge on Government the necessity of closing the irrigation channels without delay.

6. It is a fortunate circumstance that the wells and tanks which supplied the population of Madras before the introduction of water from the Red Hills are still in existence, for, if rain should not fall, even they will have to be brought again into use in the course of the coming hot season—indeed many of the wells are already largely resorted to.

7. In making observations in regard to the level of the subsoil water in different parts of the town, and shall soon address Government on the subject; but, in the mean time, I think it would be a wise precautionary measure if Government were pleased to call the attention of the Municipal authorities to the probable failure of the Red Hill supply and to the necessity of cleaning out those public wells and tanks which formerly supplied potable water, so that the people may have these reserves to fall back upon in case of need.

8. In the early part of the year 1869, after two years of deficient rainfall, the subsoil water of this locality fell lower than I have ever known it. A large number of trees died in consequence of the moisture sinking away from their roots. Water for drinking purposes was so scarce, that the people often had to get up in the middle of the night to await their turn at the wells. Notwithstanding the scarcity of water at this period, the public health was good, and the deep subsoil water then obtained with great labor and difficulty was not injurious to the people. On this occasion the public and private wells throughout the town were cleaned and deepened. There has been no necessity for a similar cleansing and deepening since, but the present low level of the water (not yet so low as in March and April 1869) all over the town area affords a convenient opportunity for the employment of some of the wudder (tank-diggers) population on what may prove to be a very necessary public work.

ORDERED that the Sanitary Commissioner's letter be referred for consideration in the Revenue and Public Works Departments, with copy of the remarks of Members of Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 306.

ORDER THERE

Miscellaneous.

define and immediate information
under-mentioned points in connection

- First.—The acreage under usual crop.
Second.—The further time needed for maturing the above.
Third.—The acreage with newly-planted crop.
Fourth.—The time required for maturing the above.

(True Extract.)

Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Public Works Department.

Ed. J. Wright.

Madras, 2nd February 1877.

From

L. R. BURROWS,

Acting President Municipal Commission.

To

The Honorable W. Hudson
Chief Secretary to Government
Port of George

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Indorsement No. 223 Financial Department dated 31st ultimo referring for remarks an Order of Government in the Revenue Department on the subject of restricting the issue of water from the Red Hills for purposes of irrigation.

G.O. dated 24th Jan'y 1877.
No. 256. A. Revenue Dep't.

2. The Board of Revenue whose proceedings the above order is based appear to be under the impression that the water in the Reservoir is still at such a level as to gravitate through the Municipal sluice, and that it is allowed to flow incessantly from public taps throughout the town.

3. The facts are that since the 22nd of August 1876 it has been necessary to pump water from the lake into the Municipal Supply Channel, and that water is only obtainable at the public taps for about an hour in the morning and

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

CC.

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Dated February 10th.

Recd.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 304-306.

Irrigation under Red Hills Tank. - Communi-
cating to the Board of Revenue papers relating
to - and requesting immediate information as
to average under usual wet crop and with newly
planted crop, and the time required for maturing
them.

in hour in the evening and that it does not flow incessantly even during those two hours.

4. The Board also call attention to the fact that roads are watered with the Red Hills water. It is true that an inconsiderable quantity is used for this purpose. The road in front of the General Hospital, from the Bridge as far as the ecclesiastical College Gate, a length of about three furlongs, and a portion of the Canton Road are watered with Red Hills water. But the stoppage of the watering of these roads would not have any appreciable effect on the duration of the supply.

5. The Lake has been taking about 200,000 cubic yards per mensem according to the returns last received from Captain British, the Public Works Department Officer in charge of the Reservoir from September last, and the quantity issued for irrigation is said to be double that quantity. Then there is evaporation and leakage which represent an unknown quantity. With these agents of exhaustion at work the Lake is falling at the rate of about a foot in a month at the present time.

6. I admit that it is very distressing to see crops of paddy perish for want of water, but if

if the crops cannot be irrigated without causing a failure of supply to the population of eludras I would certainly advise the sacrifice of the crops.

7. A fresh supply at the Red Hills cannot be reckoned upon with any degree of certainty before the first of November, and the question is whether the present store will suffice for both the Municipality and the crops until that date.

8. It should be borne in mind that the rate of fall will be more rapid as the surface area of the water becomes less, and it is possible that in March or April the rate will be double what it is now, all things remaining the same.

I doubt if there will be a drop of water in the lake on the 1st of September, unless either irrigation is stopped, or we have rain.

9. It is necessary to prepare for the worst. I would respectfully submit to Government whether it is not advisable to direct that the present store of water should be so husbanded as to continue to furnish the Municipality with its present supply if possible up to the 1st of November or such earlier date as the Government may think safe: and that unless irrigation can be carried on without risk of the store failing before that date, it should be stopped forthwith.

It is not a question of saving a few nearly
mature crops. I am informed by an eye-witness
that crops in every stage of growth are being
irrigated. As long as the water keeps coming,
so long, as a matter of course, will the ryots
continue to cultivate and keep up the cry
for more water. But I submit that the
natural selfishness of a few ryots should
not be indulged at the risk of exposing
the population of accladsas for two or three
months to the horrors of a water-famine.

I have the honor to be

Your most obedient servant

L. R. Narayan.

Acting President
Municipal Commission

Rev. 1877 To whom
 Henry C. Hatcher
 Secy. of the
 Municipal Council
 Mayor
 To the Chief Secretary
 of the Government
 at Washington
 D.C.
 Report on necessity
 of the stoppage of the
 Red Hills in a lot
 for the irrigation
 of the
 10-2-77 A. B. H.

N. 261
 Report to the R. & S. M. L. H. J. O.
 20 January 77. Edward J. Bradstreet
 N. 324
 H. L. Smith George
 20 January 77.
 To the Revenue Department
 with L. O. 20 Dec 77

To the Sup.
 N. 426 dated 6th Sept 76.
 To - Dr. 4/23rd Nov 76
 N. 589.
 To the President of the
 Municipality N. 580
 4/22nd Dec 76 -
 From Sup. & Sup. N. 3360
 4/23rd Jan 77.
 Copy of a letter addressed
 to Sup. & Sup. by the Pres.
 of the Municipality N. 608
 4/28th Dec 76.



Revenue Dept
 10/1

Proceedings of the Mexican Government
 Read Pres. Board

Parture dated 20 January 1877:-
 Read the following
 letter from the Minister of Chihuahua dated
 15 January 1877 N. 35:-

In forwarding
 copies of correspondence as per
 margin which has passed
 between me, the Superintendent
 General, the President, I have
 the honor to draw the special
 attention of the Board to my
 N. 426 of 6th September last and
 to suggest that some permanent
 arrangement should be come to
 so that the Red Hills water may
 be utilized by the Municipality

pumps to draw water when
 its level falls below the municipal
 service. It would be matter for
 regret if there is sufficient water in
 the tank both to supply the town and
 irrigate the fields, and yet not utilized
 for the latter purpose and the crops
 fail in consequence.

1010-277
 11/1086/77

J. H. P. Smith
 Addl. Secretary to Govt.

The Financial Department.

10223
 Reported to the President of the Council
 for his concurrence. [Signature]
 31 January 1877
 The President of the Madras Municipal Commission

Revenue Dept^{re}
 No 604

Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date the 10th Feb 77

Read Letter from A. S.
 President, Madras Municipal Commission dated
 2 Feb 77 No 674, & Res. of Govt.
 Finl Dept^{re} dated 5 Feb 77
 No 414, on the subject of the
 water supply of the town of
 Madras.

Ordered that the
 foregoing papers be commu-
 nicated to the Board of
 Revenue with the request
 that they will obtain &
 submit definite & imme-
 diate information from
 the C.W. of Shingleput
 on the undermentioned points

in connection with the
Irrigation under the Red
Hills tank.

1st the acreage under
normal sel. crop

2nd the further time
needed for maturing the
above.

3rd the acreage with
newly planted crop.

4th the time required
for maturing the above.

ms 613/3 of Revenue of 10 Feb/77 Printed Cop. dated 20-2-77.
to Ld. Department
20 000 Department

604/0
Financial Dept.

Remarks by the Members of
Government on letter from the Secretary
Commissioner for Madras dated 1 February
1877 No 78.

The Honble Sir W. Robinson K.C.S.I.

I would call on the Collector for an
immediate report on the consequences of
giving effect to Dr. Cornish's proposals
and also on the President Municipal
Commission for a report on what he
is doing and intends to do in the
direction of Dr. Cornish's suggestion.

L.P. W.R.
3/2

A.B.

I observe that the matter of closing
the sluices has already engaged attention
in D.P.W.

L.P. W.R.

Hos

1
His Grace the Governor.

2 I think a definite and
3 immediate report should be sent
4 for from collector showing - acreage
5 under usual wet crop - how much
6 more time needed for maturing -

7 What with newly planted crop - and
8 the time required for maturing -

9 Also from P. W. what amount of
10 water is actually being run out
11 for irrigation - and how much is
12 utilized - also whether any leakage
13 and if so to what extent round
14 sluices or under Bunds. I would
15 obtain this before closing sluices -
16 as the result of my visit the other
17 day.

18 J. S. B. L. 3/2.

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I think this matter is very
serious. I would close the sluices
for irrigation and grant compensation.
I beg to call attention to the
Commissioner's para 7, on wells in
the Town. I think Barrows should
be urged most strongly to systematic
clear and if necessary deepen
the best wells in the Town. They
will before long be urgently neces-
sary.

J. S. B. L.

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Restoration League
under the water tank

10-11-12

302-306