

(1) Number of pages 66

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev.

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>609</i>	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
<i>Rev. Dept.</i>		
Dated	<i>2 - 2 - 1877</i>	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I-6,806-24-2-78.

Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
dated Fort St. George, 19 January 1877, No. 54 W:—

*Report of Mr. J. C. JOHNSTON, Assistant Engineer, on Special Duty, Cumbum Tank
Works, for the week ending 6th January 1877.*

THE pencilling, inking and coloring of the Gundlacamma river scouring sluices plan occupied me the first four days of the week. I provided five vents to scour the river at the level of its old bed, and one at the level of the channel which has been excavated. Mr. Goodchap, however, does not approve of the plan, on account of the lower level vent; he considers the channel useless and has directed me to make another plan with its six vents on the level of the old bed.

2. I saw Mr. D. Arbuthnott, Acting 2nd Member of Board of Revenue, on Monday evening, and he gave me instructions to close the breach in the Cuthwa at once. Though it is too late now to save Rupees 20,000 which will have to be remitted on account of failure of crops below the Cuthwa channel, the closing of the breach will provide drinking water to two villages near the anicut and to several lying near the channel. I commenced work this morning with about 200 coolies. As the relief work had been temporarily suspended, on account of the "Proclamation," crowds of coolies came for work on Tuesday. On Wednesday however the relief works were re-started and my coolies fell off at once, though I was paying them higher rates than usual, viz., 3 Annas for a man, 2 Annas for a woman and 1 Anna 8 Pies for a boy.

3. The remaining two days of the week I spent in making duplicate copies of the cross section sheets, by the pricking process. I finished the pencilling of all and coloring and inking of three sheets, the Draftsman completing the other two. All the plans and estimates for the new Nakkalagudi channel will be ready for submission next week.

4. The Overseer has been busy all the week with the estimates, calculating, checking, &c.

5. The Surveyor has completed the plotting of all the Pedda Cumbum channel sections, and has been busy with the Curnams in compiling the necessary irrigation statements. It is very fortunate I put him on this duty, for the returns submitted by the Curnams were found to be very incorrect. They had omitted almost all the Inam lands which lie under the channels, and if we had trusted to their returns would not have provided sufficient water for all the cultivation.

Mr. Davidson, the new Collector, very rightly insists upon the task-work system in dealing with relief works. This order of Mr. Davidson's now gives me a better chance of completing my own works, though it all depends on the subordinates who carry it out. I think however that if my wuddahs and masons were either paid partly in grain and partly in money, or, better still, were allowed to spend a certain proportion of money paid them by me in the purchase of Government grain, I would stand a better chance of attracting labor and of completing my works quickly. The complaint is that grain cannot be purchased at reasonable rates; $2\frac{1}{2}$ measures per Rupee, or about 3 Annas a pound, is the present rate, and that a day's cooly does not suffice for the day's meals. I am afraid my servants will go off to the relief works,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th January 1877. No. 279.

and if Government would entrust me with the management of all the subordinates of the Public Works Department, I would be able to relieve all the people and also my own work-people.

6. The Draftsman is still suffering from a fever. I have managed to get another man, and the present one can now leave the district. The health of the remainder of the staff has been good.

7. It is very necessary that the repairs of all the tank sluices be attended to, and this year is very favorable as the water level is very low, and I dare say we shall not have such another opportunity till next year. It is of no use constructing channels and masonry works to carry a certain quantity of supply, if the sluices are allowed to discharge double that quantity. I have asked the Deputy Collector to stop second crop cultivation so as to enable me to throw my ring bunds in front of the sluices to examine them, and I have written to the farmer on the subject also. I have received no reply from the latter, nor has the second crop cultivation been in any way restricted. The head of the Chinna Cumbum sluice is out of the perpendicular, and all the cisterns require rebuilding, and at the same time the water went down in December for the lowest sluice to be dry. On this calculation, I will not be able to commence operations till March, and I would not be surprised if the tank received a supply in April or early in May. The Nullamullay Hills, which lie close to the tank, receive water in April while the plains are still dry. So I request Government will issue an order for me to commence the repairs to the sluices at once, irrespective of any loss of revenue from second crop cultivation, which after all cannot be very great, and small compared to the advantages that will be gained.

CAMP AT CANDIAPUR,
10th January 1877.

(Signed) JOHN C. JOHNSTON,
Asst. Engr., on Special Duty.

SUBMITTED TO Government.

(Signed) A. DEC. SCOTT, Major, R.E.,
Dy. Chief Engr. for Irrigation,
for Chief Engr. for Irrigation.

No. 576.

ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1877, No. 279.

IRRIGATION, No. 60.

statements of the Public Works Office as to the effect of the relief works on the supply of labor for the regular work of the Public Works Department.

2. The question of limiting the second crop cultivation under the tank for the purpose of enabling the various existing masonry works to be repaired should also be considered by the Board in communication with the Collector. There is no information before Government regarding the probable extent this irrigation would assume if left unchecked. It is desirable certain to make some sacrifice for the purpose of placing all the works in a satisfactory

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th January 1877. No. 279.

3. The Assistant Engineer should repair the sluice heads at once, so that the water may be carried out expeditiously; and great care must be taken to do this in a substantial manner, so that it may obviate the need of any further work in many years to come.

(True)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Kurnool.
" Special Officer, Cumbum.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

T. Austin.

pies

Rev: 1874 Dist
No 102
Capt. of 1877 Madras.

Feed: 2 1/2 lbs

No 609

Communicated to the B.
of Revenue for attention with
reference to the points noticed in
cases 1 and 2.

2 Feb XI.