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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

783

Press.
Mis.

Dated

16-2-1977

197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd January 1877. No. 203.*

No. 293. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 13th January 1877, No. 34 W :—

From J. H. LATHAM, Esq., Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Kurnool, 23rd December 1876, No. 129.

Reports for November 1876.

I HAVE the honor to forward, per book post, copies of the Upper and Lower Division Reports, together with my own, for the month of November 1876.

MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

UPPER DIVISION.

Report for November 1876.

The water was kept at 5 feet 6 inches in the canal at Soonkasala, and has been over 5 feet at Jupaud, the 61st mile, all through the month.

2. No rain has fallen.

3. The total of first and second class crop is 7,635-59 Acres.
The dry crops flooded is 19,080-31 „

Making a total 26,715-90 „
watered by the canal or 41½ square miles.

4. A statement showing the amount irrigated in each village is appended. Owing to the extreme amount of work in supplying water and endeavouring to keep things straight, some villages only show the acreage applied for, and of this acreage about 4th in some villages was not completed by the 30th November, and a very small portion is not irrigable. In some villages the Curnams have not kept the rules, and I had great difficulty in getting their accounts.

5. It is expected that applications will still be made up to the end of December; but where water could be freely given, the villages have been almost entirely supplied. The list shows that probably 3,770 acres may yet be added to the present total. It has been necessary to regulate my irrigation so as to secure sufficient water for the Lower Division.

6. It is impossible now to give the length of channels made for this work by contractors, by bankers and coolies, and by ryots themselves. It would be represented by very many miles. The channels made by the contractors will remain but all others will probably be ploughed up and disappear before the next season.

7. One large channel, from Bilculgoodoor to Poolimuddy on the Koonduur, has been undertaken by parties of relief-work coolies under Government management, except as far as laying out the line. The channel runs through five important villages, which were not included in the original sanctioned irrigation scheme, and only a small pioneer channel had been run for a few acres. The villagers had given us so little encouragement that it was not thought worthwhile to increase it; but in October it became evident that a larger channel was required. Just then the usual earthwork men, wudders, went off in a body to a cheaper district. The relief-works in Nundial commenced, and for a few days labor failed. The Chief Engineer then made arrangement to put on relief coolies, and on the 10th November he visited the spot. The channel was commenced on the 13th. It is very roughly done, and costs much per cubic yard. About half the

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coolies I have seen on this channel were well able to work; and I am confident that if they were obliged to do half a day's work the greater number would not come. These works are in charge of the Reddies and Curmams of the villages, who appear to stop them every now and then. A man has been appointed by the Chief Engineer to assist them; but as long as it is a fixed thing that whether they work or not they must be paid, very little work will be turned out. In the present emergency neither I nor my staff have a moment to spare from irrigation accounts, &c., or we should be able, by making the payments ourselves, to get more work for less money; but in that case we should be obliged to confine the relief to those only who are able to work, and it would perhaps not be carrying out the wishes of Government.

8. The crops are about to be cut in some villages; under Nundial tank harvest had begun. The crop will, it is expected, be a fine one; the ryots are very anxious to sow second crops. Water was let into the tank for several days, and it was filled about 1/4th, when it was found that the ryots were allowing a large quantity to run to waste. The Chief Engineer thereupon ordered that Canalla tank should first be filled and then Nundial.

9. It would be much better if the ryots sowed cholam or other dry crops in the ayacut, as it is very doubtful if the Company can spare water in sufficient quantity to insure a second crop of paddy, especially when much wastage is allowed to go on.

10. Two cases were brought before the Collector of Kurnool, and in both the defendants were convicted for interference with channels, the ryot was fined Rupees 20 and the Curmam of Beeraval Rupees 100. It is to be hoped that this will have a good effect. In nineteen cases out of twenty it is found extremely difficult to procure sufficient legal evidence of the interference. One other point requires attention. The wasting of water through sheer idleness. Surely the village authorities ought to be made responsible for their own village ryots. Some punishment should be possible for a man who deliberately wastes water knowing how valuable it is. On more than one occasion Curmams have applied to my Overseers to punish the ryots for wastage under the most mistaken view of our powers. We can only refer them to the Magistrate.

11. Many ryots from distant villages have taken up land this year under the canal at high rents, and they express themselves satisfied with the hope of getting only the straw for their cattle which is becoming daily more scarce.

12. Applications continued to pour in during the month; some requiring channels for next season. The prospects of irrigation have never been brighter than at present. The most bigotted of the old ryots are now quarrelling and fighting for the water; the old prejudice is entirely broken down; as a Curmam expressed it, "they (the ryots) have come to their senses about the water." Not a single complaint is made about the roads, although many of them are now almost impassable and the country is a swamp for miles. The sight of the country commanded by the canal water is truly refreshing. In one village alone, Canalla, I rode through tall cholam fields for a mile or two. Here more than 3 square miles of land were saved from utter drought, and about 300 acres of paddy were just ripening.

13. It is very sad to compare this with the rest of the district, where utter failure has occurred, and I regret to say cholera is rapidly increasing.

14. The health of the staff has been unusual; several have suffered from fever and cold. My Surveyor and one Amin were both sent to Kurnool in the middle of the month, and have been under medical treatment ever since.

15. The staff were paid from the 2nd to 23rd of November 1876.

(Signed) C. H. WILKS,

Conservancy Engineer.

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Statement showing the Areas applied for Water up to 30th November 1876.

Name of Village.	Area applied for 1st and 2nd Class Crops.		Area applied for 3rd Class Crop.		Probable increase, Dry Crop.	
	A.	C.	A.	C.	A.	C.
<i>Ramalcotta Taluk.</i>						
Soonkasala	9	13	4	00	...	...
Kontalpaud	14	91	2	00	...	...
Eddroor	81	46	25	64	...	...
Gopalsingvaram	66	23	201	71	...	...
Nidjood	126	95	203	44	...	...
Moongalpaud	75	53	28	60	...	...
Mamidialpaud	59	87	145	95	...	...
Rozza	10	08	9	00	...	...
Kurnool	8	39	0	08	...	...
Kulloor	413	72	86	20	...	...
Jellaporam	70	42	62	56	...	...
Total of Ramalcotta Taluk	936	69	769	18	...	...
<i>Nundicotcoor Taluk.</i>						
Pasapala Rudravaram	76	73	190	33	...	...
Pasapala	3	50	51	77	...	...
Poodoor	65	70	27	51	...	...
Ulloor	92	18	47	23	...	...
Satanicota	95	38	159	24	...	...
Mallyala	88	70	243	31	...	...
Muddigutta	44	48	90	17	50	00
Bejiniwemala	38	51	321	89	50	00
Nagatoor	177	26	123	57	...	...
Moorvakonda	143	19	498	24	...	...
Veerapuram	72	03	122	05	30	00
Vellala	28	27	239	76	50	00
Moodhumary	445	87	251	55	...	...
Palamurru	62	41	300	03	...	...
Beeraval	102	88	329	60	30	00
Pratacota	295	29	613	52	...	...
Paggadial	125	42	136	13	30	00
Lutebmapuram	...	...	37	56	...	...
Ganapavaram	483	37	883	49	100	00
Toomaloor	20	97	558	81	...	...
Tattipaud	152	66	386	01	100	00
Bollavaram	62	89	385	71	...	...
Bannoor	153	58	305	24	...	...
Terrigopala	62	74	78	93	...	...
Chetla Jutoor	87	83	382	63	50	00
Chelimala Rundravaram	170	00	91	73	...	...
Pamulpaud	204	65	151	31	...	...
Cumbalpullu	6	86	57	93	...	...
Tudicherla	110	00	439	36	200	00
Muddoor	100	00	49	57	300	00
Banakeherla	12	00	282	75	100	00
Mittacondala	24	00	123	62	50	00
Wannalla	78	00	440	67	300	00
Vempenta	80	00	273	00	100	00
Velapanoor	80	00	227	99	400	00
Ragadigeodoor	130	00	294	09	300	00
Korrapaloor	73	47	432	40	100	00
Iyavaripally	8	61	...	...	...	...
Abdoollaporam	3	00	51	60	20	00
Gontacondala	...	...	17	00	10	00
Total of Nundicotcoor Taluk	4,011	83	9,704	30	2,370	00

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Statement showing the Areas applied for Water up to 30th November 1876—(Continued).

Name of Village	Area applied for 1st and 2nd Class Crops.		Area applied for 3rd Class Crop.		Probable increase, Dry Crop.	
	A.	C.	A.	C.	A.	C.
<i>Nundial Taluq.</i>						
Bilcuigoodoor ...	350	50	388	22	300	00
Gadivemala ...	16	00	20	00	...	...
Boodanoor ...	65	00	161	13	200	00
Pessaravoy ...	30	00	674	82	300	00
Pernatoor ...	66	00	197	52	100	00
Bojanum ...	5	00	248	97	100	00
Chindakur ...	3	51	486	15	...	...
Gadogerevala ...	4	00	270	53	...	...
Karimuddula ...	60	00	300	00	...	...
Terripaul ...	8	86	100	00	...	...
Koralamuddy ...	9	51	...	...	...	...
Kakanoor ...	10	00	30	00	...	...
Pullinuddy ...	14	05	15	61	...	...
Bundiatmakur ...	12	20	199	41	100	00
Yerragontla ...	65	55	100	00	...	...
Parnapully ...	...	...	41	51	50	00
Eernapaul ...	57	63	93	14	...	...
Iyavaricoodoor ...	301	41	100	02	...	...
Byapoodoor ...	124	49	39	52	...	...
Nundial ...	1,049	11	406	85	...	...
Bollaveram ...	4	12	3	80	...	...
Billalapuram ...	20	00	20	00	...	...
Nunapully ...	54	66	801	79	50	00
Chabola ...	45	03	503	79	50	00
Poosaloor ...	11	58	638	53	50	00
Bheemavaram ...	2	20	...	...	...	...
Canalla ...	300	00	2,141	67	50	00
Chaperevala ...	...	...	473	72	50	00
Mittanalla ...	...	...	30	00	...	...
Total of Nundial Taluq ...	2,637	07	8,606	83	1,400	00

ABSTRACT.

Name of Taluq.	Area applied for 1st and 2nd Class Crops.		Area applied for 3rd Class Crop.		Probable increase, Dry Crop.	
	A.	C.	A.	C.	A.	C.
Total of Ramachetta Taluq ...	936	69	709	18	...	...
" " Nundicoodoor ...	4,011	83	9,704	33	2,370	00
" " Nundial ...	2,637	07	8,606	83	1,400	00
Grand Total ...	7,635	59	19,089	31	3,770	00
					Probable total area of dry crops flooded. 22,850-31	

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

* Estimated as from Corastal measurement has not been received.

† Including 270 acres under tank.

‡ Do. 120 do.

§ Do. 974-54 do.

¶ Tank Ayanat.

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LOWER DIV.

Report for the Month November 1876.

There is nothing to mention about the works this month except that all that has been required has been performed, without the slightest mishap, notwithstanding a very limited staff having to devote nearly the whole of its time to the greatly increased distribution of water.

Besides bestowing a good deal of his thoughts and time upon the regulation of the increased and constantly fluctuating supply of water, the safety of the banks and the construction of miles of channels, the Overseers and Amins have this month, unaided by the Curnams, done the whole of the revenue work, comprising inspecting, measuring, and recording all the irrigation.

There has been no water in any of the rivers; consequently the Toongabudra has supplied water for the whole of the canal.

In this division, or from the Jutoor head works at the 93rd mile to the end of the canal, I have roughly calculated that the loss by evaporation in the canal and the water sent down the rivers to feed the canal, amounts to 156,000 cubic yards per diem, while the channels give off about 1/4th of that quantity. The loss by absorption, especially in the black cotton soil, it is difficult to estimate, for the ground before the canal water reaches it is perfectly dry and covered up with deep, gaping cracks, which seem to swallow up the balance of the season's average rainfall before the water begins to settle on the surface. I think I am far under the mark when I say that the water I am now using would for the same month in an ordinary season suffice for four times the extent at present irrigated.

The enclosed Rain Register shows a very slight fall at three stations and none elsewhere. There is now no hope of rain until May, in which month the mango showers generally fall. Before the end of the month every village (there are now 151 irrigated) included at the original irrigation scheme has been connected with the canal by channels, so that if the ryots continue as intent upon utilizing every bit of land as they now seem bent upon doing, I shall irrigate as much as the resources of the ryots will permit.

To supply many of these villages channels had to be hastily laid out, some of them being between 6 and 7 miles in length. I was fortunate in getting nearly all of them completed before the famine relief works were started, since then hardly a single cooly could be induced to work.

An important channel which I was anxious to complete quickly was entirely abandoned by the coolies who, notwithstanding their being well paid for their work, unanimously went over with their tools to the relief party. I have been communicating with the Tahsildar in charge of the relief works, and do not despair of getting the work continued by relief gang, but nothing definite has been arranged yet.

My irrigation return for the month (enclosed) shows the total extent recorded by the Overseer up to about the 25th of November, since then has been increasing daily and will, I think, go on increasing until the water is stopped.

The irrigation not shown on the statement and not recorded, but irrigated will reach not less than 5,000 acres.

Not only are new channels, new temporary sluices, and abundance of water wanted, all are wanted at once.

The extent I have shown in the return is, I am sorry to say, under the total extent irrigated; but my staff has been so harassed with work that the full extent could not be recorded in time for my report. The amount of work the Overseers and Amins have got through this month cannot be overstated, it might be imagined when I state at one village only during the month irrigated 3,000 acres.

The great demand for water has now fallen off, and I hope to keep pace with the irrigation so far as my records are concerned; still I am besieged by importunate ryots who think canal water can go anywhere.

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It is a great pity indeed the ryots waited so long before they could make up their minds to use the canal water for dry crops. Some of them certainly did endeavour to make me understand that there was a great risk in sowing seeds with canal water, and since heard shoots have appeared that it is very improbable any grain will be obtained; but the chief reason is the fear of having to pay Rupees 2 per acre for the water. Such a hardship was never before experienced or contemplated.

The ryots are now sowing dry crops by and three months after the recognized season, they are still sowing and not giving a thought as to where the water will come from when a second or third flooding is required.

In this division, especially in the Cuddapah District, the cultivation has mostly commenced under the canal, the standing crops that have been flooded bearing a proportion of about a third. Nothing is sown but food grain; indigo, cotton and even gram have been ploughed up and cholam, the staple grain, sown in their stead.

All the crops are reported in good condition, both dry and wet, the former sown under the canal are acknowledged by the ryots themselves to be in as fine and healthy condition as any crops they have ever sown.

I gather from the ryots that they greatly regret not having cultivated rice; this is not surprising considering that rice is a sure crop and will this season, with an unaltered rate, be three times as valuable.

As the Curnams were empowered to file applications and register all the irrigations, indeed it seemed generally understood in the Sirwell Taluq that they alone had charge of the dry crop affairs, and therefore the returns of the actual irrigation should be in their hands. I knew from experience how far these men were to be trusted with the revenue affairs of the Company, and therefore endeavoured to check their accounts as often as possible, but I was not prepared to find their accounts in such a condition, that had they been relied upon *half*, and sometimes more than half, the revenue in some villages would have been lost by the Company.

Many of them never inspected the fields at all, had no measurements, and the only records were sheets of paper containing applications, the work of not more than an hour or two, which in some villages represented a very small extent of the irrigation, as may be judged from the following examples:—The Curnam of Sirwell showed me about 60 acres recorded on a sheet of paper, while at the time I was in the village there were over 400 acres irrigated; he however might be excused as he stated he was engaged on the relief works for four days. The Curnam of Chintakunta had omitted 153 acres from his accounts; the Curnam of Kotapad had omitted 372 acres, and in several other villages there were large omissions found when the Amins inspected the irrigation.

The Curnam of Yarragoontla, who was litering about the famine relief works when I visited the village, had no register of the 340 acres dry crops, although his immediate superior, the Revenue Inspector, lived in the village.

The ryots have not applied to the canal officers this month for water for their dry crops, as they certainly understood such applications were not to be made, the Amins have therefore registered all this omitted irrigation as surreptitious.

Of the thirteen Government tanks commanded by the canal in the Lower Division five were filled before the end of the month, and the remainder will be filled before the middle of next month.

The staff were paid partly by me between the 1st to 15th.

Health has been generally good.

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

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Register of Rainfall during the month of November 1876.

Date.	Y. Floor.	Chintakunta.	Rajoli.	Dhoor.	Adinampully.
1st to 8th November ...	...	...	0.20	0.01	0.10
9th November ...	...	...	...	0.05	...
10th ...	...	...	...	...	...
11th to 30th November ...	...	...	0.20	0.06	0.10
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...

	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Rainfall at Dhoor from 1st January to end of November ...	24.96	23.60	15.98	45.15	26.94	51.33	26.87	8.04

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

5th December 1876.

SEASON 1876-77.

Abstract Statement of all Irrigation up to end of November 1876.

District.	Taluk.	ORDINARY IRRIGATION.	DRY CROPS.				Tanks.	Total.	Remarks.
		Paddy, Raggy, Chillies and Garden Crops.	Cholam.	Cotton.	Bariga.				
Kurnool	Sirwall	ACS. CTS. 2,535 61	ACS. CTS. 7,547 01	ACS. CTS. 2,931 67	ACS. CTS. 5 02	One tank partly filled.	ACS. CTS. 12,968 71		
		508 49	2,147 05	612 42	3,267 96				
Total of each Crop ..		3,043 60	9,694 06	3,494 09	5 02				
Cuddapah	Jammalamudg.	3,905 88	1,894 23	33 20	25 00	Four tanks filled and 7 partly filled.	486 34	The accounts for the tanks are not yet drawn up.	
	Proddootoor	3,145 00	508 00	6 00	75 00		5,758 27		
	Cuddapah.						3,928 00		
Total of each Crop ..		7,173 45	2,789 01	58 20	103 25	Grand total of all crops..	26,359 28		

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

Dhoor,
9th December 1876.

Chief Engineer's Report to accompany the Provisional Reports for November 1876.

The irrigation up to this date (16th December) is—

Wet and Garden crop ...	18,000 acres.
Dry crop ...	37,000 "
Total ...	55,000

At the beginning of the month so much pressure of work came upon the local revenue officers, in reference to the emergent supply of relief works, and superintendence of the starving villagers, that Rule XVII, requiring their attention twice a month to the irrigation as actually

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being practised by the ryots, possibly Rule XII, requiring Curnams to register applications, and certainly Rule XIII, requiring a copy of the register to be sent to the Tahsildar by the Curnam, became dead letters, with a few honorable exceptions. This failure at a time when such supervision was most essential and the safety of crops depended upon it, it is needless to investigate with any view of attaching blame. It is only of importance to see clearly that in ordinary years discipline, represented by the rules, should be maintained as strictly as possible; otherwise it will break down in seasons in which it is of special importance to preserve it. It has been the object to make the rules as liberal as is consistent with fairness, and this object may doubtless be more and more nearly attained by successive revision. But, in the opinion of the Acting Collector of Kurnool and myself, there is a want of simple bye-laws such as will secure to the canal officers, without tedious legal processes, such control over the water, that, even if the local revenue officers be for a time distracted by extraordinary and pressing duties, yet the interests of all cultivators can be duly preserved. This subject I hope shortly to bring before the Madras Government for consideration.

The value of the canal, if it had been furnished with boats, would have been considerable this half-year. The cartage of rice from Ghooty Railway Station to Kurnool is 5½d. a ton a mile, or £1-6-3 a ton; that from Cuddapah to Nundial 7d. a ton a mile, or £2-3-9 a ton for the whole distance. The rate by the canal from Cuddapah to Nundial even at 1½d. per ton mile would be £0-10-0, or £0-10-6 including the fare from Cuddapah to the canal terminus. From Cuddapah to Kurnool the fare by rail and road is about £1-14-4, and by canal (at 1½d. a ton a mile on the full circuit) would be £1-1-0, omitting cost of transhipment in each case. The wretched state of the road between Nundial and Cuddapah, which forms the outlet for canal produce in ordinary seasons, is now very manifest. While in Madras twenty sacks are drawn by a pair of bullocks in a cart, between Ghooty and Kurnool eight only are drawn, and between Cuddapah and Nundial six sacks (of 160 lbs. each) from the commercial cart load. I found certainly one train of very large farm bullocks from near Nundial carting eight sacks; but ordinary bullocks were not dragging more than six, so deep was the interminable sand and dust and so rough the track; and yet the season has been exceptionally suitable for making this "fair weather road" as nearly efficient as it ever can be. The want of any better outlet for canal produce has, in my opinion, been a bar to the spread of irrigation under the canal.

In future years an increase of irrigation may be expected on two accounts, viz., that rice will be more eaten by the villagers, owing both to their becoming accustomed to rice food and to their appreciation of the great certainty of rice cultivation; also dry crops will be more freely irrigated.

KURNOOL,
21st December 1876.

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

SUBMITTED to Government for orders.

2. These reports contain interesting details of the rapid extension of irrigation under the Company's canal.

A number of questions are raised in connection with the management of the irrigation which, however, it is hardly desirable to take into consideration at present. The general machinery of administration is greatly strained throughout the districts traversed by the canal, and much friction and even partial interruption in its working must be looked for. The relations between the officers of the Company on the one side, and the subordinate Revenue officers and ryots on the other, are complicated, and difficulties, confusion, waste of water and mutual recriminations are results not altogether unforeseen.

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Praise is due to the officers of the Company for the manner in which they have exerted themselves to extend the supply of water and to meet demands which have been presented *en masse*.

The subject of the supply of boats to the canal, for use for the transport of grain has already been reported on in memorandum from the undersigned addressed to Government, No. 15 W, dated 8th January 1877.

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

No. 394.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd January 1877, No. 203.

IRRIGATION, No. 44.

RECORDED. The Government notice with satisfaction the good services rendered by the officers of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

(True Extract.)

Volubilis Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer and Manager of the Irrigation and Canal Company,
for Irrigation.
Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

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No. 1208

THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND MANAGER
MADRAS I. & C. Co.
Ac., &c.

783

Dated January 22nd

Issued

By *R. F. F. F.*

Encl.

G. O. Dated January 1877, No. 203

JANUARY.

Nos. 393-394.

MADRAS Irrigation and Canal Company
— Report on the Upper and Lower Divisions
of the — for November 1876, recorded; the
good services of the officers noticed with
satisfaction.

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Comm. to the
Board of Revenue

21/1/77