(1) Number of pages 4

(2) Date of repair 13-1-1984

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2820 Press.
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 20-11-1878. ~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

2020
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

6th November 1878, No. 891 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following papers:—

No. 21. Proceedings of the Government of Madras in the Revenue Department, dated 5th September 1878, No. 1,438.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th August 1878, No. 2,194.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 24th July 1878, No. 98.

I HAVE the honor to return Board's petition No. 2,331 of 1874, and to submit the report called for in the endorsement thereupon, dated 28th September 1874.

2. I regret the delay which has occurred in doing this, but the responsibility for it does not lie with me. As soon as I found that the petition was on hand I took measures to dispose of it; but having ascertained from the papers laid before me that no proper inquiry had been held, I was compelled to make another reference to the Superintending Engineer, whose reply has only very recently been received.

3. The result of the report transmitted by the Executive Officer in charge of the Mount Division, who, at my request, made a personal inspection of the wells regarding which the petitioners complain, is that I have arrived at the conclusion that they have been badly treated; that the construction of the wells which Government sanctioned for their use has been improperly and carelessly carried out; and that the wells, upon which Rupees 387-8-9 have been expended up to date, will be, to all intents and purposes, useless unless a further outlay upon them is incurred.

4. As it is necessary that the Board should have before them *in extenso* a professional opinion regarding the state of the petitioners' wells and of the cost of rendering them effective, I beg to enclose the report of the Range Officer to the District Engineer with its accompanying estimate and specification. The amount originally sanctioned was Rupees 430, and by far the major portion of this has been spent. The estimate, it will be observed, is, allowing for old materials and work, in excess of the original estimate by Rupees 140. Explanation of this has not been given; so I have not countersigned the estimate. The allusion made in the concluding portion of the report is to a pond which the petitioners requested might be dug in the centre of their village in addition to the four wells already sanctioned. I do not think it necessary, as there will be, with the tank and wells, if properly constructed, a sufficient supply of water. I mentioned the matter when writing to the Superintending Engineer, as the people begged that they might have the pond. I told them that I could not think of it until they had paid up their arrears, but suggested to Colonel O'Connell that the inspecting officer should see if it was necessary, and if it was, where it would be desirable to excavate it.

5. The officer who appears responsible for the waste of public money and the bad work now brought to notice would seem to be Captain A. C. Smith, R.E., late Range Officer, Mount Division.

6. The correspondence which took place between my predecessor and the Department of Public Works touching the petitioners' complaint is summarised below.

7. On the 23rd September 1874 Mr. Stokes, then Acting Collector, sent a petition, which is an exact copy of that now returned, to the District Engineer who was Colonel F. J. Moberly, R.E., and drew his attention to the complaints regarding the construction of the wells. On the 3rd October, the Board's petition was sent by the same officer to the District Engineer, with the request that an early reply might be forwarded. On the 30th of the same month Colonel Moberly returned both petitions, observing that "the work is being executed in accordance with the plans sanctioned by Government for the Alamadi wells, and by the Overseer who drew up the plans;" and that it was now too late, as the work had progressed too far, to suit the fancy of the petitioners for a round well instead of a square one. Mr. Stokes wrote upon this "letter to Board," but none was sent. On the 9th November Mr. Barlow, who had resumed charge, addressed the District Engineer again, asking whether the wells held water all the year round. The reply to this, dated the 13th of the same month, was that two of the wells had been completed all but the parapet walls, and that two others had been dug to the depth of 27 and 33 feet, respectively, but without water being found. The Collector upon this wrote, on the 3rd December, asking how much further the wells must be deepened, and what the extra cost of doing this would be. The matter then seems to have been lost sight of until June 1876, when a reminder was sent from this office. No reply came and nothing more was done until the 26th April of this year when, finding that the petition was still on the file, I sent another reminder to Colonel O'Connell, R.E., who had succeeded Colonel Moberly. On the — May I sent another, and on the 17th I received from the Superintending Engineer a communication forwarding a copy of a letter, dated 7th August 1876, from Captain A. C. Smith, R.E., to the late District Engineer, in which that officer stated that it would be, in his opinion, "fruitless to dig any lower in the trial wells on the ridge at Alamadi, for even supposing water was reached, it would be at such a depth as to make the wells very expensive;" and expressing the view that the two wells already completed having water in them all the year round, were quite sufficient for so small a village. I then wrote on the 25th idem to the Superintending Engineer requesting that the Range Officer might be directed to inspect the wells carefully and make a detailed report in regard to them. After two reminders, the letter forwarding this was received on the 18th instant.

8. With the report of the Range Officer before the Board, it is needless for me to comment upon the very discreditable way in which the wells, which Government directed should be provided for the petitioners, were excavated. All that remains for me to do is to express the opinion that their request should, as regards the completion of the wells, be complied with. I do not consider it necessary that they should be now altered to the circular form.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Petition.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Estimate.

MR. PRICE's letter will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. In G.O, dated 18th June 1873, No. 623, the Government sanctioned the construction of four wells, at the cost of Government, in the new site assigned to the villagers of Alamadi who had suffered by the enlargement of the Sholaveram tank.

3. On the 28th September 1874 a petition from the villagers complaining of the way in which the work was being carried out was referred by the Board to the Collector of Chingleput for report. The report then called for has only now been received, and it appears that the work has been executed in so unsatisfactory a manner that it is now estimated that it will take Rupees 570 to complete it, the original estimate having been Rupees 430 only.

2820/2

4. The Board concur with the Collector in recommending sanction of the amount necessary to put into an efficient state the four wells ordered to be constructed in 1873.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(igned) J. STURROCK,
Acting Sub-Secy.

THE expenditure recommended is approved, and the necessary orders will be issued in the Public Works Department for the completion of the work, and for obtaining full explanation in regard to defective execution, &c.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under Secretary to Government.

No. 21-A. From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., District Engineer, Bangalore, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Bangalore, 18th September 1878, No. 125.

IN reply to your memorandum No. 4,156, dated 16th instant, I have the honor to report that, so far as I can remember, the estimate was drawn up for the wells at Alamadi in another place than that in which they were eventually sunk, and which latter was specially marked by the Collector. I did not press the objections that occurred to me when I learned where it was, particularly as both Captain Smith and I were surprised at finding water in 1873, a comparatively dry year.

2. We concluded that in ordinary years there would be a sufficient supply, and specially as the adjacent new tank should affect the springs.

3. No objection was made to anything but the shape of the wells. They were properly sunk and completed in 1873.

4. In 1874 there was of course abundance of water as the fall of rain was unusually heavy.

5. The inhabitants of Alamadi have apparently not moved yet from the old village, and I presume that nobody has looked at the wells since they were finished.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 6th November 1878, No. 891 I.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, who will issue the necessary order for the completion of the wells, providing funds from the Ordinary Agricultural grant from Minor New Works at his disposal.

2. The Superintending Engineer will submit a full report to Government on the change of site, which seems to have been injurious to the project.

(True Extract.)

Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Ag. Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

Revenue Department
No 5090.

IRRIGATION.

Govt. of [1878] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
3RD CIRCLE.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 6th.

Issued

Read 19 Nov. Encl. 4.

G. O., 6th November 1878, No. 891 I.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 21 22.

Wells constructed in Adamadi, Chingleput District.—The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, requested to issue the necessary orders for the completion of the — providing funds from the Ordinary Agricultural Grant from Minor New Works at his disposal.

No 2820

Carried to the Board of Revenue with order 20 Nov 78

14 Wells Adamadi Chingleput Dist &c