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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

2nd February 18, No. 99 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following paper:—

No. 6. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. ATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Godavery, to the Chief Engineer Irrigation, dated Camp, Dowlaishweram, 19th January 1878, No. 3,221.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Officer in charge of the Western Delta finds it will be impossible to complete the improvements of the lower portion of the Ellore Canal this season on the sanctioned estimate.

2. The rates were Annas 1-3 for cutting and Annas 1-1 for banking, and these are still sufficient for such works in other parts of the district, and would be sufficient on the Ellore Canal but for the special difficulties that have arisen, and which were not and could not in all cases have been foreseen when the revised estimates were framed.

3. In framing the rates 1 Anna was allowed for digging a cubic yard, carrying it to the edge of the bank, and putting* it in a bank not more than 10 yards from the edge of the pit.

* Including trimming and dressing.
One Pie is added for every additional yard of the face of 10 yards after the first, and 1 Pie is added for every additional yard of the face of 10 yards after the first, and of pit to top of bank exceeds 6 feet, at when the total height from bottom

4. The special difficulties of work on Ellore Canal were not foreseen, because, (1), no large earthworks had been carried out that part of the district for many years; (2), the famine has occurred to upset normal rates, and the price of rice is now 1 Rupee for less than 9 seers, whereas the old rate before the famine was 20 seers and upwards for the Rupee; (3), in each season the work has been in hand hitherto outbreaks of cholera have occurred, which has dispersed the workmen and given the work a bad name; this is no doubt due in part at least, to the bad water of those parts, which is nearly all brackish when the canal is used.

5. The experience of the two seasons work has been in hand hitherto shows that not more than 300 coolies can be had at present, and these principally from the adjoining villages, Kykaram, Kullah and Bhole. The Bantadars of large gangs of coolies in other parts, willing to come at usual rates to works elsewhere more favorably situated as regards water, &c., will do nothing to do with these Ellore Canal improvements at the present rates.

6. The total value of work done in the preceding working seasons has been Rupees 18,000, leaving 17,000 Rupees worth of work to be done this season according to the estimate; but it is now believed that the rate for cutting should be increased to at least 1½ Annas for cutting, and 1¼ Annas for banking, which will occasion an excess of about Rupees 3,000 on the total of the sanctioned estimate.

7. The object of the proposed increase is to attract a good supply of labor, so as to get the large amount of earthwork still to be done completed within the 2½ months to which Government has agreed, and so avoid the necessity for further closures in subsequent seasons. It is possible that the increase of rate proposed may be insufficient to effect the object, but it is certainly as little as can be tried with any prospect of success.

8. As the critical state of matters in regard to this work has only just been ascertained, and the closure of the canal is place to-morrow, so that every day is of consequence in collecting labor, I have considered it necessary, in anticipation of the orders of Government, to authorize the charge officer to offer the increased rates at once.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, February 1878, No. 99 I.

The proceedings of the Superintendent of Engineering, as detailed in the foregoing letter, are approved, and the results shall be reported in due course. The importance of avoiding, if possible, the closure of the Ellore Canal again for constructive work is sufficient to warrant the increased rates with a view to attract labor, and the present high price of food makes the proposed increase not greater than is reasonable though the percentage is considerable.

(To attract.)

R. E. Jones

Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the District Engineer, Godavari
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

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Recd. 8 Feb.

Com^{rs} to the
Board of Revenue
9 Feb 58