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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1506	Press. / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	17.6.1878	197 .

GB

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

18th April 1878, No. 342 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following papers:—

Read again G.O., No. 228 W, dated 14th January 1878.

No. 41 I.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 73-A.

In G.O., No. 228 W, of the 14th January 1878, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation was directed to report on two paragraphs of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reviewing the report for 1876-77 of the Collector of Cuddapah on Public Works in that District.

2. The best way of turning to account some part of the very large quantity of water which now leaves each district and is ultimately discharged into the sea is a subject which perhaps may be taken up ere long, when its importance has been sufficiently understood to allow of the requisite examination of the sources of water-supply to be made.

3. It is certainly highly probable that if there had existed at the commencement of the famine well considered schemes for storing or distributing the water-supply of the distressed districts, a great deal of the money which has been sent in relieving distress without securing any other advantage might have secured permanent benefits of very great value.

4. So far however the Irrigation Department has not been in a position to deal effectively and comprehensively with the important subject of the economical treatment of the old sources of irrigation which in many cases need radical alteration in the direction of getting rid of many petty tanks, and increasing the capacity of those retained. The demands upon the time of officers and subordinates are too many and too considerable to allow of much progress being made with any investigations of this kind, however desirable they may be known to be. It would be it is considered very advantageous were every considerable drainage basin examined thoroughly with a view to determine what its capabilities for the economic storage of water may be. If water could be impounded at a reasonable cost in quantities bearing a fair proportion to the total annual discharge from rainfall, the condition of extensive tracts of country would be very materially improved, great numbers of petty irrigation works which are costly to maintain would be superseded, and much water which is so valuable when utilised, and of which so much now runs uselessly into the sea would be turned to good account. The investigation would involve a very great amount of work, and it may safely be assumed that it cannot be commenced without the employment of a special establishment for the purpose, which at first should be small until the course of the investigations has been thoroughly systematised, after which the results obtained in the case of two or three principal drainage basins would serve to indicate what advantages might be expected from an enlargement of the field of investigation.

5. Hitherto under the pressure occasioned by fortuitous circumstances some desultory investigations have been made, generally at the cost of withdrawing from current duties officers who could ill be spared; and with on the whole very indifferent

results, because attention has been directed not to the best way of dealing with any given water-supply, but to ascertaining whether some particular scheme, which may have been brought forward with or without any *prima facie* evidence in its favor, were feasible.

6. With regard to the Proddatur and Cuddapah Taluqs it may be noticed that a water-supply, superior to that afforded by the Pennair and Papugni rivers alone, has been made available by means of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company's Canal to an extent considerably in excess of the use hitherto made of it. There can therefore be no present need of providing more water for the parts of these taluqs which are commanded by the Company's Canal.

7. That the Suggilair may be turned to better account than at present is tolerably certain and the undersigned would recommend the complete examination of the not very extensive area concerned, whenever Government may be in a position to appoint an officer with a survey party for the purpose. Something has been done towards an examination of the river, but no Range Officer can find time to do such work properly, and usually the time he may devote to it is wasted because his investigations remain incomplete at the time of his transfer to some other part of the country; and to his successor the work done is usually not of much value.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20th February 1878.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

No. 73-B. Minute by the Honorable SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I., dated 23rd February 1878.

No. 73-C. ORDER THEREON, 18th April 1878, No. 342 I.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council considers that it would be desirable to select three or four officers to be employed solely in the investigation of the capabilities of certain streams for irrigation or storage, but it not being practicable to make the services of several officers available, action should be confined for the present to the investigation of the best way of turning the waters of the Suggileru to account, and on this Mr. Unwin, now in charge of the district, can be employed as soon as a permanent District Engineer is appointed to the district. The District Engineer should arrange for a complete examination of this river with a view to the determination of the position and description of works which will be likely to be valuable, and which may, if occasion arise, be made available for relief purposes. A preliminary report should be submitted to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation as soon as possible, when further instructions will be given.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

(True Copy.)

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

To the District Engineer, Cuddapah.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.
" Famine "
" Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
20 Spare Copies

15-9-71

Revenue 1878 Dept

No 2593.

IRRIGATION.

Govt. of {1878} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
CUDDAPAH,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 18th.

Issued

Recd. June 17 *Encl.*

G. O., 18th April 1878, No. 342 I.

APRIL.

Nos. 73-A-73-C.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue

17 June 1878

The Suggilern Project.—Ordering an investigation of the — when an officer becomes available by the appointment of a permanent District Engineer.