M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	533	Press ~~Mis.~~
35. 36.		
Dated	2nd March	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Pns

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd March 1869.

No. 35. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Recording the endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, submitting, with remarks, letter from Captain Ryves shewing that he has not exceeded his powers as Superintending Engineer, while declining to carry out certain tank repairs in the Vizagapatam District.

(Here enter 19th November 1868, No. 3,626.)

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1869, No. 533.

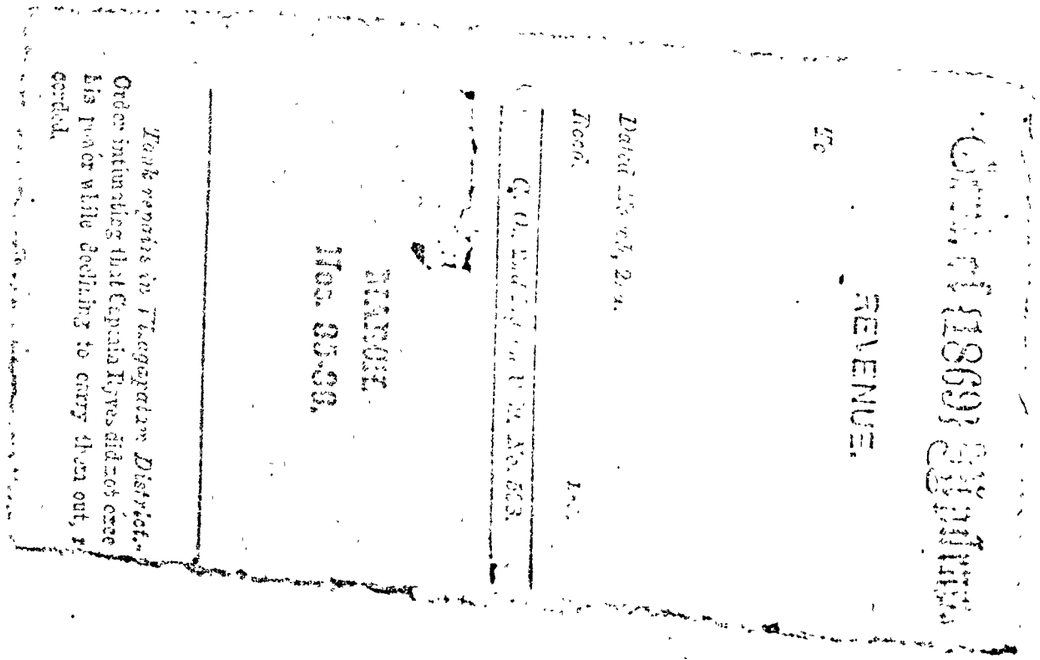
Irrigation, No. 1.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. G. A. Turton.



Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 19th November 1868.

No. 397. Read the following Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 30th October 1868.

Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Dowlaishweram, 19th October 1868, No. 132 :—

1. While on duty, in Madura, I received a copy of G. O., No. 2,216,* dated 20th August, but I have deferred writing what follows until I had the means of ascertaining numbers and dates of the orders, and chapter and paragraph of the Public Works Code under which I acted, and which not only empowered, but obliged me to dispose, as I did, of the tank repair estimates, which that G. O. refers to.

* Communicated with Department Public Works G. O., No. 2,730, dated 26th August 1868.

2. Chapter XXIV of the Public Works Code states the Orders of Government giving sanctioning powers to Officers of the Public Works and Revenue Departments.

Paragraph 5 gives the Collector power to sanction repairs to irrigation works *within the highest year's revenue* derived from the work during the preceding five years.

Paragraph 1 gives to the Chief Engineer power to sanction repairs to irrigation works, the proposed expenditure being less than four years' revenue, except when the tank or channel has produced no revenue for three years.

3. By G. O., No. 958, dated 18th April 1863, the sanctioning powers of the Chief Engineer of the old Department Public Works were transferred to Superintending Engineers of the re-modelled Department, and, on a reference from the Revenue Department, proposing to give Collectors this power, Government so lately as last 13th November 1867, declined to alter the existing rules.

G. O., No. 3,507, 13th November 1867.

4. The estimated cost of the proposed repair of the seven tanks in question is Rupees 722, the Ayacut assessment of the lands under them Rupees 231-8-4, the responsibility of sanctioning the estimates, therefore, rested on me.

5. I trust that the above statement will show that I have not exceeded my powers, and I still feel certain that, in refusing sanction to the estimates in question, I was exerting those powers as it was intended they should be exerted.

6. The information before me showed that as *repair*, the proposed work was not required; in the case of six out of the seven tanks, the whole Ayacut area of wet land under these tanks is, according to the Revenue Officer's own statement, under cultivation. As regards the seventh tank, the Ayacut area under it is only four acres, of which one only is entered as cultivated, the revenue is Rupees 5-9-6, the estimated cost of the proposed repairs Rupees 62, the estimate would, therefore, have to be sanctioned by Government, neither I nor the Collector having power to order the execution of the work.

7. Before concluding, I beg to submit some remarks regarding paragraphs 2 and 3, of Chapter XI of the Code, quoted in the G. O. under reference. These

paragraphs state in general terms the recognised position of Collectors with regard to irrigation works, as it was when that Chapter of the Code was drafted, but they are not now and have not, for many years, been practically acted upon.

8. The Collector's opinion regarding the proper distribution of funds to the several works in progress, and the choice of works to be undertaken, whether new or repairs, will, of course, always have great weight when fully and definitely expressed; but in practice, the choice of works to be undertaken falls upon the Superintending Engineer, and, in the case of repairs, it is but reasonable that the Department which is responsible for the efficient maintenance of the Public Works, should have full control over the repair operations, and power to prevent waste by unnecessary or extravagant expenditure of the limited funds placed at its disposal for repairs.

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1. Submitted to Government, with reference to their Order in the Revenue Department, No. 2,216, dated 20th August 1868.

2. In the above letter Captain Ryves defends the course he adopted with reference to certain estimates for repair of tanks in the Vizagapatam District, on the grounds that he acted on the authority conveyed to him, along with other Superintending Engineers, in G. O., No. 5,507, dated 13th November 1867, to the effect that the power formerly pertaining to Chief Engineer, of sanctioning estimates for irrigation repairs, except when the expenditure was not to be more than four years' revenue, devolved on him.

3. The Ayacut assessment, actual revenue, and estimated cost of repairs required to the seven tanks in question, are noted below:—

	Ayacut Assesment.			Actual Revenue.			Estimated cost of Repairs.
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	
No. 1	22	6	0	5	9	6	62
„ 2	22	8	0	22	8	0	123
„ 3	37	0	0	37	0	0	79
„ 4	52	3	9	52	3	9	78
„ 5	47	12	0	47	12	0	110
„ 6	32	4	9	32	4	9	67
„ 7	50	8	8	50	8	8	203

4. As the proposed expenditure on the first, second, and seventh of these tanks is in excess of five years' revenue, the estimates require the sanction of Government. In the other cases the estimates are within the competence of the Superintending Engineer.

5. Considering that the Collector of Vizagapatam had strongly urged the execution of the repairs to the seven tanks above enumerated, it is, I think, to be regretted that Captain Ryves had not addressed Government on the subject in the first instance, submitting a full statement of the facts, accompanied by an expression of his own opinion.

(Signed) J. C. ANDERSON, Colonel, R. E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department 19th November 1868.

No. 398. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1868, No. 3,626.

IRRIGATION, No. 17.

Ordered that these papers be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rs 8 hungs 3 to 74 to 75
" 18 hungs/67 " 306 to 307
" 20 August/68 " 317 - 321.
" 25 August/68 " 2730. P to D.

Perenne Ofice
No. 3654

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

1st Division.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 19th.

Recd 21st Inst.

G. O., November 19th 1868, No. 3,626.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 397-398

N 538

RECORDED.

Tank-repairs.—Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation submitting, with remarks, letter from Captain Ryves showing that he has exceeded his powers as Superintending Engineer, while declining to carry out certain tank repairs in the Vizagapatam District, recorded.

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