

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	870	Press <u>Mis.</u>
Dated	1-4	1865

Not to be folded or roughly handled

R 870
49

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st April 1869.*

No. 10. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Works Department:—

Communicating to the Board of Revenue, with
observations, Endorsement of the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 4th Division, submitting,
with remarks, the report of the Executive Engi-
neer on irrigation works in the Madranticum
Talook, Madras District. (Here enter 19th March 1869, No. 900.)

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1869, No. 870.

Irrigation, No. 2.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

No 527. Read the following Endorsement of the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Madras, 16th February 1869, No. 5,514 :—

Read the following letter from W. B. LEGGATT, Esq., Executive Engineer, 4th Range, Madras District, to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Chingleput, 29th January 1869, No. 265.

1. With reference to G. O. No. 3,102, of the 7th October 1867, and your Memorandum No. 4,062, of the 18th November 1868, I have the honour to make the following report on the state of the irrigation works in the Madranticum talook. I regret to say that the delay is owing to the above G. O. never having been brought on my list of Unanswered References, and thus overlooked.

2. There are five hundred and ninety-eight tanks (large and small), forty river channels, and ten spring channels in the Madranticum talook.

3. I have had opportunities of seeing most of the irrigation works, and my remarks are within bounds when I state that fifty per cent. of them have never had such masonry works as are absolutely necessary for their safety, viz., escapes, head sluices, &c., and only twenty-five per cent. of the remainder have them in good and efficient order.

Estimates for such works have from time to time been framed and submitted for sanction; but the funds at disposal did not in all cases allow of their being carried out.

I attribute to this cause chiefly many of the breaches which occur in the tanks and channels during every monsoon.

4. There are some tank banks in a dilapidated state from fair wear and tear, and require raising and strengthening. Estimates for the repair of many of them have from time to time been framed and submitted for sanction; but from want of sufficient funds several estimates, of the value of upwards of 70,000 Rupees, have not yet been carried out.

I have besides under preparation estimates of the value of Rupees 30,000 for minor new works and repairs, which will be submitted shortly. They have been kept back chiefly owing to the non-sanction of estimates hitherto submitted.

5. It will be seen, therefore, that this Department has done its utmost to rectify the evil, so far as the submission of estimates and the supply of funds would allow.

But I would respectfully beg to draw your particular attention to the fact, that the beds of very many tanks of all classes are silting up rapidly, and as their capacity is thereby considerably diminished, the cause of the falling off of the revenue complained of is readily accounted for.

There are only a few tanks in this talook where this evil might, to a certain extent, be rectified, such whose banks are situated between hills or high and rising ground. The names of which are as follows:—Ootramallore, Pariancolatore, Pennagur, Magrel, Palaisweram, and Yedaimchy.

The floors of most of the sluices of these tanks are from three to four feet below their present beds. They are consequently often choked up to such

Cont. 11869

REVENUE.

To

Dated April 1st.

Recd.

G. O. 11869, No. 870.

Post

APRIL.

Nos. 10-11.

*Irrigation works in Madranticum Talook.
in Madras District.—Order relating to the in-
creased attention that has been paid to them of
late years, recorded.*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th March 1869.*

an extent that the Ryots are unable to clear them out, and much expense is incurred by the Government in doing so.

The Ootramallore and Theroonpoolivenum tanks are two instances where sluices have lately been cleared out, at a cost of Rupees 110-7-9 and 121 respectively. The Ootramallore tank sluices are again reported to be choked up, and I am about to recommend their reconstruction on a higher level.

6. There are numerous instances in which the beds of tanks have already silted up so considerably that they can be no longer of any value to the Government or the people. A few of those that are in this state are as follows:—Vyavoor Vellaray, Caroor, Bungarum, Audithangul Aerarum, Nagamalay, Poondy, Vellaray, Davadoor, Paimatore, Pussumboor, Poodooput, Vapencaranny, Condusamootherum, Cooroomboray Chittary, Caliapett, Mainundoor.

They are nearly useless: all are so shallow now that a man might walk through them not above waist deep in water, and that only near the banks.

The parts of country where they are situated are almost flat, so that it is impossible to do anything to them. It is to these shallow tanks that so much damage is done during monsoons; their inner slopes are washed down, their banks are cut up into gullies, and breaches are the consequence.

7. Should a larger yearly allotment for minor new works and agricultural repairs, say Rupees 10,000 for the former and Rupees 40,000 for the latter, be made for this Range, I would propose to lay it out as follows:—

First, in Minor New Works.

By providing such channels and tanks with sluices and escapes as have none at present, and by reconstructing decayed ones.

Second, in Repairs.

On all such works as are in a dilapidated condition from fair wear and tear, by repairing and strengthening their banks, sluices, calingulaha, &c., (if any,) and clearing out their supplying channels, and by clearing out river and spring channels, and repairing their head sluices, aqueducts, &c., (if any.) Also in restoring, if conveniently situated, those tanks that have been, or are being silted up, and such as have been breached from want of proper means for carrying off surplus water, &c., special reports with sections, plans, &c., should accompany estimates for restoring these.

8. Longitudinal and cross sections might be sent with all tank repair estimates, together with a brief report on the state of bed, bund, and masonry works. A correct opinion might then be formed as to whether they are worth repairing or not, and a complete record might thus in time be obtained of the actual condition of each work. This, together with the statement recommended by Colonel Anderson, to be kept up in each Range would prove of great value.

I now have a register of the tanks and channels in this talook, and shall, if required, report specially on any tank or channel in this Range for which estimates have been submitted, but not yet sanctioned; and I shall lose no opportunity in future of reporting fully on such deteriorated tanks as I may come across in the course of my tours through the Range.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th March 1869.*

FORWARDED to Government, with reference to paragraph 1 of Order dated 7th October 1867, No. 3,102.

2. The talook of Madranticum is one of the most important in the Madras District, and is favorably circumstanced for irrigation works, owing to the Cheyar and Palur rivers running to the sea on its northern boundary. It has also several large tanks which are well supplied.

3. Mr. Leggatt attributes a portion of the failure of the irrigation works to the want of masonry escapes and sluices to the tanks, and he recommends a larger expenditure than heretofore under the head of Minor New Works. He also points out that though the expenditure in irrigation repairs has been increasing of late, it is still inadequate to the wants of the talook, and he would reserve 40,000 Rupees yearly under this head.

4. Some of the tanks have silted up and ceased to yield much revenue. The Executive Engineer states, though in the case of some of these reservoirs this evil cannot be remedied, a sum of money may be judiciously expended in repairing the banks and deepening the beds of many of the tanks. It is very doubtful, however, whether the latter would be an economical measure to take.

5. A reference to the yearly allotment for irrigation repairs will show that more attention is now being paid to this talook. The allotment for repairs in 1866-67 amounted to Rupees 9,124, and in 1867-68 to Rupees 18,527, whilst for the year 1868-69, taking the aggregate expenditure under this head from* the

* May to December.

Progress Reports for the nine months as yet received, the outlay has been Rupees 28,827.

6. A Surveyor and party have been lately transferred from the North Arcot District to Mr. Leggatt's Range, and they have been engaged under his orders in investigating the capabilities of the Cheyar river with reference to throwing a larger body of its water into the Madranticum talook, and supplying by means of an anicut many of the larger tanks now inadequately filled. The Madranticum tank project, which had for its object the better supply and enlargement of this reservoir and subsidiary tanks under its influence, has been sanctioned by Government in Order No. 3,436, dated 6th November 1867, at a cost of Rupees 20,900, and the works have been nearly completed.

7. Considerable delay has occurred in the submission of this report, but the original one submitted by Mr. Leggatt on the 20th September 1868 was returned with Memorandum, dated 12th November 1868, from the Government Office for revision, and an amended report has only lately been received.

(Signed) J. BEAN, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

No. 528.

ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1869, No. 900.

IRRIGATION, No. 26.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proceedings dated 24th September 1867, No.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
19th March 1869.

2. The Government are glad to observe from these papers that increased attention has been paid of late years to the works of irrigation in the Madranticum talook, and, as a very much larger assignment will be available for agricultural works in the Madras district in 1869-70 than has hitherto been at the disposal of Government, His Excellency in Council will rely on its being expended to the best advantage not only in the Madranticum talook but throughout the district.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
,, Revenue Department. ✓
,, Board of Revenue.

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11-01
Revenue Office
No. 902.

Court of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

4th Division.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated March, 19th.

Recd. 22nd.

Encl.

G. O., 19th March 1869, No. 900.

MARCH

NO. 527-528

Irrigation Works.—Endorsement of the
Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division
submitting, with remarks, the report
of the Executive Engineer on irrigation
works, in the Madurantium talook, Madras
district, communicated to the Board of
Revenue with observations.

6-870.
RECORDED.

1st-11/1/1869.