M.R.O. 14-5,450-22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1056 — Press Mis.

149-150

Dated 9 — 5 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1056

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th May 1867.

No. 149. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th April 1867, No. 2,380.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Ramandrug, Talook Hospett, 12th March 1867, No. 52:—

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th March 1867, No. 1,368, requesting me to give an opinion on some points connected with Mr. Foster's report on the Public Works in the Sub-division. When I sent on the Acting Sub-Collector's report, I had not been in the Sub-division; nor, inclusive of my ten months acting in 1863-64, had my residence at that time in the Bellary District exceeded fourteen months; so I could not offer any opinion from personal knowledge of the subject.

2. I have now traversed the division, in its extreme length, from the Pennar to the Mysore boundary, and crossed it in its breadth from Codyconda to Madacsera, and north-east obliquely to Bookapatnam, and again transversely north-west to the proposed site of a new large reservoir at Bookacherla, west of Anantapur. The tanks I examined were the Anantapur, Singhanamalla, Bookapatnam, Dhurmavaram, Purghee, and some minor ones, such as Hindupur, Madacsera, Harisamudram, &c.

3. These first five I have specified by name, are magnificent first class reservoirs, and nearly all were full of water. Under none of these, did I hear of an anticipated diminution of the cultivated area, or ayacut, owing to the decreased capacity of the tanks. I think the state of these tanks reflects great credit on Captain Fischer, the former Engineer of this district.

4. The Singhanamalla is an extensive sheet of water with a fine feeder. Its bund was raised, and ample vents provided. It had been breached in the extraordinary storm of 1851. The Curnums informed me that every acre under it would be cultivated this year.

5. The Anantapur tank is also a fine one. Owing to its having formerly breached, its escapes have been made so ample, as to preclude any future fear of such a contingency. I believe, that these escapes might be safely raised a foot, or 18 inches, and thus conserve a larger amount of water. There is a tendency under tanks, of which this is one, and Dhurmavaram is another, for people to increase the irrigable limit, especially if they are influential persons; and this requires looking to, for it tends to aggravate the scarcity of water in a bad season, when it has to be spread over an additional area. When full, this tank can irrigate the original area for one crop.

6. The Bookapatnam and Dhurmavaram tanks are very fine ones. The first is formed by taking advantage of a low range of hills, and stopping up the course of the Chittra, a branch of the Pennar river. The last-named tank receives the waste water of the upper one, and lies in the course of the same river. The Bookapatnam is the deepest tank in the district, though it has not the largest water-spread. By the expenditure of Rupees 6,000 in raising the level of its escapes and bund, there was realized an additional revenue in two out of five years of Rupees 9,500, by the raising of a second crop, that is to say, in each year the tank filled; if it filled every year, the profit Rupees 9,500 would be annual.

7. The Dhurmavaram tank, with th[illegible] of a slight leak, and a small

connected with the engineering of this tank, which I have also seen in another district, did not explain itself to my mind. At the furthest calingula, and on the floor of the tank, the bund was continued, which could have no effect in containing water, until it rose *above* the calingula level. It could only affect the tank injuriously, by confining the water, at the time provision should be made for its speedy escape. Each of the four calingulas, in the rain of October, discharged two feet head of water, and if this tail to the bund had been absent, the pressure would have been much diminished, and probably the leak would not have appeared. I have suggested to the Superintending Engineer the removal of this useless bund. The Dhurmavaram tank not only irrigates its ayacut, but a large extra area, the property of the *Curnum*.

8. It is possible that in bad seasons, like the one before last, a miscalculation is sometimes made, and a greater breadth of land sown than can be completely irrigated, but intelligent Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors can easily arrange a limit, so that some crops, at least, may be harvested, while the other land obtains remission. The good sense of the people, generally, leads them to make this arrangement themselves. When exceptional cases arise, such as insufficiency of water, I have intimated to the people, that they are at liberty to raise dry crops on such land, as cannot receive water, paying only the dry assessment thereon, and this has been accepted with satisfaction.

9. It does not appear, that, previous to inditing the letter under the review of Government, the Acting Sub-Collector had seen the reservoirs, after they were filled, which he describes as being altogether defective.

10. Not only is the Sub-division remarkable for its many fine efficient reservoirs, but the main road, which traverses it from north to south, has been, for the most, carefully made by Mr. Pelly, in the last famine in 1853-54, and subsequently kept up. The southern portion beyond Penconda had lately been somewhat neglected, which I brought to the Superintending Engineer's notice. I consider the state of the Sub-division of Bellary, in irrigation works and roads, as most creditable to the former Collector, Mr. Pelly, and Engineer, Captain Fischer.

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1. Submitted to Government, with reference to their Order dated 8th January 1867, No. 47.

2. The Board rely on the Collector to take measures to prevent the general interests of the villages being sacrificed to those of a few influential persons. The irrigated land under tanks should be strictly limited to such quantity as can be supplied with a sufficiency of water.

No. 150. ORDER THEREON, 9th May 1867, No. 1,056.

Communicated to the Public Works Department.

Miscellaneous.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 1056

Public Department.

No. 1027

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 15th April 1867.

No. 2,380.

Submitting to Government letter from Collector of Bellary giving opinion on certain points connected with Mr. Fosters reports on the Public Works in Sub-Division of district.