M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1080 Press Mis.

195-196

Dated 4—5—1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th May 1867.

No. 195. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on letter from Superintendent, Government Chinchona Plantations, respecting a proposal to throw a bund across the valley which separates the Neilgherry from the Koondah range of mountains. } (Here enter 8th May 1867, No. 1,393.)

No. 196. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1867, No. 1,080.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 1,393.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1867.

No. 204. Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Government Chinchona Plantations, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th April 1867:—

1. I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of Government, a proposal to throw a bund or embankment across the valley which separates the Neilgherry from the Koondah range of mountains. This embankment will be upwards of 700 feet in height; its extreme thickness at the base about 3,200 feet; and its length at the top about 4,500 feet. This embankment would store many hundreds of millions of cubic yards of water, and collect the drainage from the west and south slopes of the Neilgherries, also from the east and southern slopes of the Koondahs. The embankment would cross the valley of the Bhowany, from the village of Mundhunnah on the Neilgherry side, to the village of Soondhutty on the Koondah side. It would thus connect these two ranges of mountains at a point which would give the most effectual means of opening out the communications of both the Neilgherries and the Koondahs. On the Neilgherry side the abutting mountain of the embankment forms a continuous range to the high peak at Deva Shola, connected without a break with Thymullay by the Mailoor ridge. A spur breaking off from the Deva Shola range connects Kartery and the Coonoor Ghaut, while another branching to the north connects the station of Ootacamund. On the Koondah side the spur which forms the abutments of the embankment, runs direct to Avalanche, where it branches off in spurs connecting the whole of the villages on the Malakoondah and Kólakoondah ridges.

2. The top of the embankment would thus form a level road-way, which, without the precipitous rise and fall of the valley, would open up a communication of very great value, and would form a point of connection of the roads now being carried out by the Engineer Department, and this is important, as I have ascertained by an interview with Colonel Walker, who, after personal inspection of the locality, considers it the most desirable line of road which can be selected.

3. I am aware that a work of this kind may appear stupendous and impracticable; I am also aware that all new methods of construction are necessarily and correctly received with suspicion. That it is long before any new process of this nature can be of any practical value, unless its promoters push it forward with energy and at their own risk. By the time the scientific world rules on the practicability of a new scheme, much of the benefit which it might bestow is necessarily lost, and it is now urgent for the prosperity of India, that without loss of time we devise a cheap and effectual means of storing the water of the monsoons. On the efficiency with which this is done, depends the wealth and prosperity of this great empire. At present we suffer from two great evils: now drought, then inundations. Our rain falls in heavy torrents, runs rapidly off the water sheds, and accumulating in the rivers causes inundations, whence this great fertilising agent is allowed to carry death and destruction in its progress back to the sea. We thus not only lose the treasures which nature has placed at our command, but in their loss we sustain other and serious damage. Had we reservoirs the case would be quite different, as this would enable us to maintain in our rivers a uniform flow of water throughout the dry and wet seasons, either for the purpose of navigation or irrigation.

4. I have for years performed earth-work by silting, and in every instance successfully. I have now gained considerable experience in this process, and although it is true I have not performed any work to be compared to the one I now propose, I am, nevertheless, confident that I can perform this work successfully, and if it can be established that water may be stored in this manner, a benefit will be conveyed to India, the importance of which no language can portray.

5. I therefore propose, for the consideration of Government, that I be allowed to construct this bund by the silting process. If it fails the loss will be mine. I will perform the whole of the earth-work and masonry recesses without calling upon the Government for any advance of money, until the work is completed and reported upon as being good and substantial by the District Engineer or any officer the Government may appoint. On receiving a satisfactory report, the Government to pay me the cost of construction, which I guarantee not to exceed one-half the amount the work could be performed for by any other means. In removing the soil for the construction of the bund, I will also form the line of road for a few miles on each side of the bund, for this also I will expect to be paid at the average cost of such road to Government, that is, if the work is successful, but not otherwise, as in the event of failure I accept the loss. The Government will be expected to furnish the pipes and valves for this work. Three lines of three feet pipes will be required, each line being 1,200 feet in length; each pipe being fitted with a valve, as described in a pamphlet now in the press, and to be obtained from Mr. Higginbotham, Publisher, Madras. In this pamphlet a detailed outline of this process has been given. With reference to the valves, I may mention that I have had a six-inch one fitted and in use for many years, it is perfectly water-tight, and can be worked by a child under any pressure.

6. Should the Government decide on accepting this offer, I would be happy to see the valves cast while I am in England, as the principle of construction is new. This is a mere outline of what I propose, further details will be submitted should the Government decide on considering the proposal. Enclosed is a sketch of the country: the proposed bund will be formed across the valley at A, and raised to the height of the dotted line at B.

Transferred to the Department of Public Works for disposal.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

24th April 1867.

No. 205. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1867, No. 1,393.

IRRIGATION, No. 15.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, for such observations as he may be in a position to offer from his knowledge of the locality where the proposed embankment is to be constructed.

2. Colonel Walker will state his views as to the eligibility of the proposed site for the formation of a reservoir, and as regards the purposes to which the water stored in it may be applied, and he will furnish a rough estimate of the cost of constructing, by any ordinary method, such an embankment as Mr. McIvor describes.

3. The Government are disposed to think that the process of forming embankments by silting may in some situations be advantageously employed for the formation of reservoirs, and they would wish it to be tried on a small scale, if a convenient site can be found. Colonel Walker will report on this point.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

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Pro. of Govt for May
No. 1203.

Proceedings in the
P. W. Department.

Dated 8th May 67.
Received 9th May 67.

No. 1393.

No. 1080.

Communicated
to the Board of Revenue

14th May 67.

No. 1080. 14th May

Passing Orders
on letter from Superintendent
Govt Chinchona Plantations
respecting a proposal to
throw a bund across the
Valley which separates
the Naduvattum from the
Koondah range of
mountains.
With Orders &

No. 1393 Dated 14th

A. 195 & 196