M.R.O. 14-5,650—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2270 Press ~~Mis.~~

467. 468

Dated 27-9-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th September 1867.

No. 467. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on letter from Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, reporting the steps taken towards the investigation of irrigation projects in North Arcot District. } (Here enter 25th September 1867, No. 2,986.)

No. 468. ORDER THEREON, 27th September 1867, No. 2,270.

Irrigation, No. 18. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. H. WILKINSON,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 623. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 17th September 1867, No. 2,942 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Government Order calling upon me to report what steps are being taken towards the investigation of irrigation projects in the North Arcot District, and remarking on the progress of works of this class already sanctioned, and referred to in the Collector's report on the operations of the Public Works Department in 1866-67.

G. O. No. 2,693, dated 3rd September.

2. As regards the irrigation works already in progress, I beg to state that I lately inspected those notified in the margin. The Alliabad dam foundations and apron have been successfully laid, and I have lately received a report that the body wall has been half completed. The foundations of the head sluice had been filled by a river fresh, but no material damage was done or delay caused, and the work-people are now all engaged on it. The Cheyaur channels and the strengthening of the banks of the Mukúr and other tanks in connection with them were in full progress.

Re-construction of the Alliabad dam.
Restoring the Tirinjeecoopum and Kalasamoodrum tanks.
Extension of the channels from South bank of Cheyaur River.

3. I cannot speak so favorably of the Tirinjeecoopum and Kalasamoodrum tanks. The Contractor on the former tank, during the absence of the Range Officer, Assistant Engineer Bevan, and of the Talook Overseer, who had more work in his charge than he could properly attend to, had been doing bad work: the earth work was carelessly thrown up, the stone was carelessly revetted, no water had been used for tamping, and I was apprehensive of the tank breaching if the work had been completed in this manner and the water let in. I ordered it to be pulled down again at the expense of the Contractor, and I have since made arrangements for an Overseer to remain at the two tanks. The rates in the estimates, which were framed two years ago, are too low, and this, added to the unhealthy locality, makes it difficult to procure work-people, and I have authorized the Range Officer to increase the rates 5 per cent. on the sanctioned amount, which I hope may be sufficient to ensure good workmanship.

4. The same remarks may almost apply to the Kalasamoodrum tank, though the work there was somewhat better. Mr. Bevan has promised to ensure good workmanship, and the Talook Overseer will be able to complete the greater portion before the monsoon. I was desirous of straightening portions of the old bank which had been thrown up very crookedly on the occurrence of a former breach, but the funds at my disposal would not admit of it.

5. With reference to the latter clause of paragraph 2, the investigation of a scheme for an anicut across the Cheyaur river at Mambaukum, as the Government observe, is now in progress. The lines chosen for the distribution channels had not been marked out, but I had an opportunity of inspecting the survey already plotted with the Surveyor. Yellatoor, as a site, was abandoned for Mambaukum, 6½ miles higher up the river, where a greater head of water to the extent of 47 feet was obtainable and desirable, the river falling here about 7½ feet per mile. The Polur channel water near the former site only now reaches thirteen tanks, and it was found that an anicut would only supply eleven more tanks.

6. The head at Mambaukum, with an anicut of six feet, and the line of contour levels which have been taken from it, may probably allow of a channel being cut 24 miles in length with a winding course, with a fall of two feet and average cutting of five or six feet except at the head, and the investigations taken thus far show that this will pass through and command many tanks; the number not known as yet, but certainly nine south of the channel, and more than this number between the channel and river. The line beyond this is not so favorable, as it falls 12 feet per mile. The northern channel has not been surveyed as yet. Mr. Dick's project, which was partly worked out, admitted of 36 miles of channel north and south, feeding 66 tanks, but this revised project will embrace a larger extent of country.

7. The surveys and levels may possibly be completed in two months, when the project will be investigated by the Superintending Engineer, estimates made, and laid before Government, it is hoped, in time for the commencement of the work the next official year.

8. Surveys, levels, and estimates have just been received for the Nagaputla and Mallaswarum tanks in Chendragherri talook. The former documents were returned by me some time ago for revision, as they were submitted in a very immature state. A Surveyor has been lately appointed to investigate the scheme for an anicut across the Gudiattum river, to supply certain tanks in the Pulmanair talook. The Survey has only just been commenced, but I received notice from the Range Officer yesterday, that he had lately inspected the site, and was led to suppose that a channel could be taken off to feed a large ruined tank in Zemindari land, which the proprietor would give up, and which would command a considerable extent of land and form a reservoir for other tanks. There has been a difficulty and consequent delay in obtaining competent Surveyors and Draughtsmen.

9. I took the opportunity of inspecting the site for another anicut project across the Cheyaur river, on the border of the Polur and Arcot talook, near Tendri. If this project is feasible and favourable, the channels will be extended into the Madras district, but it is doubtful whether it will not be better to place the work lower down where, in any case, the Madranticum talook will obtain a supply for its large tanks. The channel from Tendri, where there is a favorable site for an anicut below the junction of the Calwa Mudagoo with the river, has been levelled and surveyed, and cross sections to neighbouring tanks taken for a distance of 30 miles; 108 miles of survey have been plotted, and 40 miles of trial levels taken. It was decided that the extension of the Cheyaur channels, referred to in the above Order, paragraph 2, should be deferred, as there was a doubt of there being sufficient water from the existing anicut, and it was supposed that this newly proposed work would afford a ready supply. The channel above, however, is very long and winding, and must feed many tanks on its way, so that it is doubtful whether the Tetry Cheyaur channel can be supplied from it. Simultaneously a Surveyor has been working on the north bank, and surveying the course of the old Doosy Nawab channel for twelve miles, with a view to its being restored and affording an increased supply to the large Doosy Mamdoor tank and other smaller ones by means of this anicut. The levels, however, are not very favorable, and the return as increased revenue not very promising.

10. The large and fine reservoir mentioned above has been contoured and surveyed with a view to its enlargement, the supply from the Palar anicut, which it now receives, certainly not being adequate to its capacity. There is much cultivation, however, in the bed, and the cultivators generally are averse to the Mamdoor tank being enlarged. From the above remarks it will be seen that the project in connection with this anicut requires further careful investigation. It would be premature to abandon the site as yet for one lower down, especially as the channel on the south side probably commands a large number of tanks. I trust the project will be submitted to Government before the close of the official year.

11. The Orders of Government in paragraph 3 shall be attended to, and a further report submitted on the Moghili and Synaganta Ghauts. Want of funds has been the cause of the imperfect state of these communications, more especially of the incomplete condition of the new trace of the latter ghaut.

To the Board of Revenue, No. 198, dated 27th July 1867.

12. Mr. Robinson, in the last clause of paragraph 8 of his letter reviewed by Government, justly remarks on the state of the Polur talook from drought in past seasons. I trust the Government will not consider them irrelevant to the subject under review, if I make a few remarks on this point. Government in paragraph 8 of their Order No. 1,490, dated 17th May 1867, called my attention to a statement made by Mr. Ellis, the Sanitary Commissioner, in paragraph 20 of his letter dated 27th April 1867, with reference to the retrogression in the prosperity of this talook, to the effect, that of the 172 tanks in Polur 166 are in need of repair, and they further observed that this talook being in an out-of-the-way corner of the district had perhaps not had the attention it deserved. I am not aware who is responsible for the correctness of this statement, but Mr. Robinson informs me that Mr. Ellis made a mistake, and that 172 tanks were returned as "in order" against 166 "out of repair." I also called for an explanation from the Range Officer, who reports that fifty-three tanks were repaired in 1865-66 and 1866-67; that estimates for forty-eight others were lying in my office for want of funds; and that if these were carried out together with estimates for twenty-one others, which he submitted as an enclosure of his letter, there would not be a single tank out of repair in the talook. I find that nine of these estimates have since been sanctioned, and twenty are for Minor New Works, so that there are now only forty repair estimates for tanks in the Polur [illegible] are held back for want of funds to dispose of them, and which I will submit to Government if they will be pleased to provide the necessary grant for their execution.

No. 63.

Dated 6th August No 479.

No. 624. ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1867, No. 2,986.

IRRIGATION, No. 29.

1. Ordered that the foregoing report be communicated to the Board of Revenue.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th September 1867.

2. Adverting to paragraph 12, the Acting Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division is requested to report what further sum can be advantageously expended during the current official year on agricultural repairs in the Polur talook of the North Arcot District.

(True Extract.)

Major, R. E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

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

Read S. T. Augustin.