

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2938	Press
177-178	~~Mis.~~
Dated 9 — 12 — 1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 177. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Works Department :—

Passing orders on a letter from Government of
India regarding the preparation of projects of
irrigation works in districts in which irriga- } (Here enter 4th December 1867, No. 3,767.)
tion has not yet been practised.

No. 178. ORDER THEREON, 9th December 1867, No. 2,938.

Irrigation, No. 8.

Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 3,767.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 59. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) dated Simla, 5th November 1867, No. 111:—

Preparation of projects for Irrigation Works in Districts in which irrigation has not yet been practised.

Read the following letter:—

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Joint Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, dated 4th November 1867, No. 172 I.

1. In order to avoid, as far as possible, all causes of delay in dealing with projects for new Irrigation Works, and more particularly for works proposed in Districts in which Irrigation has not yet been practised, or in which its necessity has not been acknowledged, I am to request attention to the following observations.

2. The Government of India will not feel itself to be in a position to give its sanction to the expenditure of public money on works of this class until there shall be full proof before it of their value to the agriculture of the country, and of their being likely to be properly remunerative. It may be true that Irrigation is almost certain to be useful and remunerative in every part of India, but, in assenting to the prosecution of works with borrowed money, the Governor-General in Council must require something more than a general presumption of their utility and profitable character.

3. It is, therefore, very desirable that in every District in which works are projected for the first time, a separate special enquiry should be set on foot simultaneously with any engineering surveys, having for its object the proper elucidation of the points above referred to. So far as is possible, the questions at issue should be illustrated and decided by facts rather than any mere opinions. With this view the following particulars may be mentioned on which data may usefully be obtained:—

- 1.—The rain-fall from actual observations, with its distribution through the months of the year.
- 2.—The depth of water below the surface.
- 3.—Whether Irrigation is now practised, and to what extent, actual areas being stated.
- 4.—The character of the agricultural seasons, whether the division of khureef and rubbee is maintained or not.
- 5.—The more important crops of the districts giving approximate areas of cultivation.
- 6.—The weight of the ordinary produce of the unirrigated crops per acre, for comparison with the produce of irrigated lands in the same or neighbouring districts.
- 7.—Whether there is at present any important export of agricultural produce, and, if so, to what places, and what are the chief staples.

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- 8.—What are the chief marts for the agricultural produce of the district; and what are the chief lines on which water-carriage is likely to be most valuable for purposes of inland trade, either in respect to agricultural produce, or any other commodity.
 - 9.—What will be the probable fair money-value of water to the chief crops likely to require it.
 - 10.—Whether the settlement of Land Revenue is permanently fixed or not.
 - 11.—Whether the land-holders will be likely to co-operate with the Government in the extension of irrigation. This should be ascertained from actual enquiry of the chief of them.
 - 12.—Whether any special arrangements are suggested in relation to the system of charging for the water supplied consequent on any peculiarity of the tenure of land or otherwise.
 - 13.—Whether any protection by drainage, or embankment, or otherwise, is at the same time needed for the district or parts of it.
4. I am to request the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to these suggestions.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copies of this letter be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R. A.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

No. 60. ORDER THEREON, 4th December 1867, No. 3,767.

IRRIGATION, No. 2.

1. Communicated to Superintending Engineers.

2. The Government observe that the particulars enumerated in the above letter have been drawn up with special reference to projected works of irrigation in Districts in which irrigation has not yet been practised, or in which its necessity has not been acknowledged: as for example in Bengal and in various parts of the Upper Provinces, where it is customary to mature wheat and other crops by the aid of well-water, and where the necessity for introducing Canal irrigation must depend in a great measure on the amount of the rain-fall at certain seasons of the year, and on the expense of supplementing any deficiency from this source by well-water. In such Districts Canals may also give the means of introducing or extending the cultivation of rice; but as this article of produce is not every where the staple food of the population, the means available for exporting it to other parts of the country where a demand for it may exist, must also be taken into account before any accurate calculation of the remunerative effect of the works can be arrived at.

3. The conditions under which irrigation is carried out in this Presidency differ so widely from those above described, that no useful purpose would be served by an investigation of all the points particularized by the Government of India on every occasion on which a new project may be drawn out. Superintending Engi-

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neers will therefore continue, as heretofore, to estimate the remunerative returns of a projected work of irrigation from the data furnished them by the Revenue authorities, and will only furnish such additional information in connection with the points specified in the above letter as they may consider necessary to establish the soundness of their calculations.

(True Extract.)

F. R. Bantleman Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.
Captain Kennedy.
To the Revenue Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Perme 1867. Dph
No of Govt and Sec
79-3314-

Proceedings of the
P. H. O. of Govt

Printed 4th Dec
Rec'd 5th 1867.

82-3767

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on the Govt. from Govt of
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