

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 8/5	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
128-129	
Dated 8-4-1967.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th April 1867.*

No. 128. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Works Department:—

Requesting Mr. Ellis to explain on what information he made the statement that plans of irrigational improvement in the Salem and North Arcot Districts as having been prepared and laid aside. } (Here enter 4th April 1867, No. 1,058.)

No. 129. ORDER THEREON, 8th April 1867, No. 815.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
4th April 1867.

Read again the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, No. 2,333, dated 10th October, and recorded in Public Works Proceedings No. 2,737, dated 18th October 1866.

Communicating paragraphs 59 to 61 of the Sanitary Commissioner's Report on the condition of the North Arcot and Salem Districts, and the measures adopted for the relief of the people. (Here enter 10th October 1866, No. 2,737.)

ORDER THEREON, 18th October 1866, No. 3,323.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 81.

1. The Government request the Board of Revenue to furnish a list of the irrigation projects in the North Arcot and Salem Districts which are stated to be in the records of their Office.

2. The Superintending Engineers of the 4th and 5th Divisions will also be called upon to cause a search to be made among the records of the late Chief and District Engineers' Offices and to submit the plans and estimates of all such new irrigation works in the two districts above mentioned as may have been recommended for execution in former years as likely to be both useful and remunerative.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, No. 3, dated 17th January, and recorded in Public Works Proceedings, No. 597, dated 27th February 1867.

1. Towards the close of his report, dated 21st September last, on the recent scarcity in the Districts of Salem and North Arcot, your Sanitary Commissioner, Mr. Ellis, after referring to a "certain periodicity" which has been observed in the occurrence of droughts in India, proceeds as follows:—

"The regular intervals thus accorded between periods of scarcity should serve to stimulate a careful examination, and execution in each district of projects which, if they did not actually prevent the effects of drought, would at least mitigate some of the sufferings which result from even partial failure of rains in districts where there are no artificial means of retaining the waters of those rivers and mountain streams which now so frequently run entirely or partially unused to the sea.

"In both the districts which I have recently visited, much remains to be done in this respect, and there are in the records of the Board of Revenue and of the Public Works Department plans of irrigation works which, if they had been executed, would not only have been highly remunerative, but would have this year made the serious failure of rain result in only a partial instead of an entire loss of crops. It is beyond my province to do more than allude to this question, but it was impossible that it should not be constantly a subject of thought and regret, for there was scarcely a village through which I passed in company with the district officers where there was not the same complaint of breached tanks and channels out

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1867.*

of repair, while, in many places, great natural reservoirs were pointed out to me which only required a comparatively moderate outlay of money to bring into cultivation large tracts of country now lying waste.

"Considerable rivers and streams are allowed to flow away into the sea, carrying away the drainage of thousands of square miles of country, which, if retained by a carefully improved system of dams in the river valleys, with connected channels, might store water sufficient to carry the crops through even as severe a season as that which we have recently experienced."

2. The suggestion which this statement involves ought not, I think, to be neglected. The Government of India have lately been assured by me that the necessary authority for raising such sums as they may deem it expedient to apply to the extension of irrigation shall not be withheld, and I observe that they have called upon your Government for a list of such irrigation projects, as, having received your sanction, are sufficiently matured to allow of their execution being speedily commenced. As supplemental to this list, which has, I presume, been already sent in, I would suggest that any projects for irrigation works in Salem or North Arcot, answering to Mr. Ellis's description, which may exist in the Public Works Department, should, at an early period, if approved by you, be likewise submitted to the Government of India.

ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1867, No. 597.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 93.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

Read also the following:—

No. 111. From the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation), to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, in the Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 2nd March 1867, No. 28 I.

1. I am directed again to invite attention to Public Works Department Circular, No. 25 of 1866, regarding the preparation of projects for irrigation works, and to request that the list of irrigation projects in readiness for execution in the Madras Presidency, specially asked for in my letter as per margin, may be submitted without delay, or that explanation may be furnished of the reason of its not being forwarded.

2. I am also desired, with reference to the Despatch No. 3, dated 17th January 1867, addressed by the Secretary of State to the Madras Government, to request that the Government of India may be favoured with a report of the Proceedings of His Excellency the Governor in Council on the subject of droughts in Salem and North Arcot, and of the measures proposed to be undertaken in consequence.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1867.*

No. 112. From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Cuddalore, 26th March 1867, No. 199.

1. In reply to your Memorandum No. 62, of the 21st of March, I have the honour to report that, on receipt of the Order of Government of the 8th of October last, No. 3,323, I had a search made among the records of the District and Range Offices of Salem, but have not, as yet, found any plans and estimates of irrigation works recommended for sanction in former years. I do not know the names of the works alluded to in paragraphs 60 and 61 of the report of the Honourable Mr. Ellis, nor have the sites of any of the great natural reservoirs been brought to my notice. I have written to the Collector for any information he may possess regarding them.

2. The Assistant Engineer of the Usur Range is now examining three projects, one for restoring a large tank, and the others for cutting channels from the Pooniar to tanks in the Kistnagherri talook, which was not visited by Mr. Ellis, nor were the Alitur and Namkul talooks, in which are situated the large irrigation works sanctioned for execution next year.

3. The irrigation works in the other talooks are, for the most part, of small size, and yield but little revenue. The estimates for repairing them are, with difficulty, kept within the amount of the highest year's revenue derived from them, and are often out of all proportion to the revenue.

4. The repairs of these works are carried out as far as the means at the disposal of the Range Officers will allow, but the grant for the Salem District is very small, and many tanks are left unrepaired. The current year's allotment for the Salem Range (comprising three large talooks) is only Rupees 5,500, and next year's allotment for the whole district is only 26,000 Rupees. The irrigation works were much damaged in September and October last, and an increase of at least 5,000 Rupees to the allotment is much needed.

No. 113. From the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 30th March 1867, No. 5,340.

1. With reference to your Memorandum No. 69, dated 28th March 1867, I have the honour to inform you, that I am unable to name any of the irrigation works or reservoirs alluded to in the Honourable Mr. Ellis' report, recorded in G. O. of the Revenue Department, No. 2,737, dated 10th October 1866.

1 Demi-official letter.

2. On receipt of your former Memorandum on this subject I wrote to the Sanitary Commissioner, and received last evening the enclosed demi-official reply.

No. 62, dated 21st March 1867.

3. I purpose writing to the Collector of the North Arcot District on the subject.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1867.*

No. 114. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd April 1867.

Read the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 25th March 1867, No. 632.

1. I have the honour to express my regret at the delay which has taken place in replying to the Board's Proceedings, No. 7,579, dated 20th October 1866, which reached me when I was engaged on public duty in the Bellary District, and which has since escaped my attention.

2. This Memorandum appears to have been written in consequence of a paragraph in page 7 of a Report No. 218, dated 21st September 1866, on the condition of the North Arcot and Salem Districts, submitted by me to Government.

In this paragraph I say "In both the districts much remains to be done, (in the execution of irrigation works,) and there are in the records of the Board of Revenue and of the Public Works Department plans of irrigation works which, if they had been executed, would not only have been highly remunerative, but would have this year made the serious failure of rain result in only a partial instead of an entire loss of crops."

3. The Board seem to think that in these lines I alluded to projects of works which have reached them, but have not been by them submitted to Government.

4. Such was not my intention, for I am aware that the Board of Revenue have lost no opportunity of advocating the execution of works which have for their object the storage of water and the irrigation of land. I am also aware that until very recently these works were all more or less dependent on the varying annual condition of the public revenues.

5. I trust that under this explanation the Board will not require the clue indicated in paragraph 1 of their Proceedings, dated 20th October last, the more so as I notice that by the Government Order, dated 18th October 1866, No. 3,323, Public Works Department, the Superintending Engineers of the 4th and 5th Divisions have been directed to furnish information of irrigation works in the North Arcot and Salem Districts which have been formerly projected, and which are likely to be useful and remunerative.

1. The Board observe that as the Government in their Order dated 18th October 1866, No. 3,323, in the Department Public Works, called upon them to submit information as to the plans of irrigation works to which Mr. Ellis alluded, they requested him to supply the necessary clue to enable them to do so.

2. The explanation now supplied by Mr. Ellis will be submitted to Government, with advertence to the requisition in question.

No. 115. ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1867, No. 1,058.

IRRIGATION, No. 7.

A careful examination of the records of the Government Secretariat and of the Board of Revenue, and a search in the Offices of the Superintending Engineers of the 4th and 5th Divisions, as well as in those of the Ranges of the Salem and North Arcot Districts, having failed to bring to light any traces of such plans of irrigational improvement in those districts.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1867.*

as the Sanitary Commissioner speaks of in the Report quoted at the head of these Proceedings as having been prepared and laid aside, the Government request Mr. Ellis to explain on what information he made the statement alluded to, and to be good enough to intimate the positions of a few of the sites for reservoirs of which he mentions that many were pointed out to him.

(True Extract.)


Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Board of Revenue.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Do. do. 5th do.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Copy

Received 1867 Oct 14th
by Gov. Ford
No. 897.

Proceedings in the
S. M. Oldman's

Dated 4th 3. 1867.
Received 5th 3. 1867.

No. 1058.

Respecting Mr. Oldman's
to explain and what information
he made the statement that
plans of migration in the
inferment in the
Jailhouse and Fifth Street
District no having been
prepaid and said route.

RECORDED. 815.

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