Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 5017

DATED 17th December 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comng. to the Bd. of Revs. Progs. of the P.W.D. comng. to the officers concerned — letter from the Govt. of India sanc — tioning the schedule amounting to Rs. 32,100 of the further outlay required to be incurred on the Buckingham Canal, with note thereon by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation &c.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue Department

IRRIGATION.
ACCOUNT.

Government (1898) of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Original No. 2

Recd. 15th Dec. 1898.
Regd.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 926 I., 30th November 1898.

NOVEMBER.

G.P. Irrs No 5017 dt 17th Dec 1898.
Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

RS 16-12-98

17 To the Bd of Rev (Rev. Settt) Rns. 3-1-99

Buckingham Canal A 15-12-98.

Letter from the Government of India sanctioning the schedule, amounting to Rs. 32,100, of the further outlay required to be incurred on the —, with note thereon by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, communicated to the officers concerned, with remark; and a copy of the Proceedings, with copy of G.O., No. 319 I., dated 18th April 1898, ordered to be forwarded to the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.
Account.

READ—the following papers:—

From O. C. LEES, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (Civil Works—Irrigation), to the Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, dated Simla, 25th August 1898, No. 437 C.W.I.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Government of Madras in the Public Works Department, No. 537 I., dated the 18th July 1898, I am directed to communicate the sanction of the Government of India to the schedule amounting to Rs. 32,100 of the further outlay required to be incurred on the Buckingham Canal, and to request that a date may be named for the completion of the works in accordance with Public Works Department Code, Volume II, Chapter IX, paragraph II—VI.

2. The Government of India desire, however, to be furnished with the views of the Local Government as to the financial prospects of the project together with details of the revenue charges since the work was opened, and also with any remarks in regard to the revenue receipts, of which details have been given in Chapter XIII of the History of the Buckingham Canal by Mr. A. S. Russell, that may be necessary in a consideration of the general prospects of the canal.

The sanction accorded in paragraph 1 has been registered as No. 7 I. of 1898–99.

No. 284 I.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

With reference to the concluding portion of paragraph 1 of the Government of India letter, it is observed that in paragraph 4 (2) of the note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation embodied in Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 537 I., dated 18th July 1898, it was noted that the sanction to the statement of incomplete works should remain current up to the 31st March 1900, which is the probable date of completion of the works.

2. With reference to the second paragraph of the Government of India letter, it is observed that the financial prospects of the Buckingham Canal are intimately bound up with the navigation on the Kistna and Gódávari systems of canals with which it is connected and with the Navigation rules which govern the management of the whole system of canals. These rules were revised early in the current year and are dealt with in Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 319 I., dated 18th April 1898, which embody a note on the subject and diagrams showing navigation receipts and charges, ton mileage and tonnage of goods carried on these canals from 1880–81 up to 1896–97. A copy of these Proceedings might be forwarded to the Government of India. A separate statement and a diagram contrasting receipts and charges of the Buckingham Canal up to the end of 1897–98 have now been prepared and are appended to this note. The Examiner of Public Works Accounts reports that it is not possible now to furnish details required from the date the canal was opened, as most of the old records have been destroyed. The statement furnishes particulars for the period since 1879–80, as regards receipts and for expenditure since 1866–67.

3. These show that the receipts have risen steadily from 1884–85 to 1896–97, but that there has been a fall in the last year 1897–98. An examination of the tonnage of goods carried shows that this falling off is mainly due to a reduction in the amount of rice and other food-grains and salt carried. The falling off in the former class of goods is due entirely to the unfavourable seasons, the exports from the deltas of the Gódávari and Kistna being diverted to the Northern Circars and the Deccan. The falling off in salt is due to the temporary stoppage of manufacture in the factories that supply Madras on account of an over-stocking of the Madras depots in previous years. It is not, however, to be anticipated that after the opening of the East Coast Railway the canal will be as much used as hitherto, as all the coal and a great part of the grain and salt traffic will undoubtedly be taken by the railway. It may be that, in course of time, there will be a large development of traffic more suited to the canal. A temporary falling off in traffic must be considered probable as the canal has no branches like the Gódávari and Kistna canals, the traffic development on which may compensate for the reduction of traffic on the lines competing with the railway.

4. This falling off in receipts has, however, been accompanied by a decrease in the charges due to the completion of locks in the canal whereby a high level of water can be locked in, in all reaches, and thus effecting economy in maintenance. It will be observed that the charges during this last year 1897–98, viz., Rs. 83,651, are the lowest yet reached since 1878–79 and Mr. Russell anticipates a still further decrease. In pages 67 and 68 of his History, Mr. Russell estimates that the maintenance charges will decrease to Rs. 53,000 in 1902 and that, after that, the annual charges should average Rs. 50,000 and should not exceed Rs. 45,000 in an ordinary year and Rs. 55,000 in a year of droughts or cyclones. These figures may be accepted as the probable future maintenance charges. They do not include the usual percentage for establishment, &c., charges.

5. As regards the revenue receipts referred to in Chapter XIII of Mr. Russell's book, it is to be observed that it is by the ton mileage and not by the receipts that the condition of traffic on any canal of the system is to be judged, boat owners being allowed to take out licenses in the Gódávari, Kistna or at Madras as suits their convenience.

5th November 1898.

(Signed) W. HUGHES,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT showing the Details of Receipts from and the Revenue charges on the Buckingham Canal from commencement to end of 1897-98.

Year.	Receipts.							Charges.						
	Plantation.	Other canal produce.	Navigation.	Rents of buildings.	Fines.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Extension and improvements.	Maintenance and repairs.	Establishment.	Tools and plant.	Refunds of revenue.	Total direct charges.	Indirect charges.	Total direct and indirect charges.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
To end of 1866-67	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,37,623	85,518	4,645	..	4,27,986	12,115	4,40,101
During 1867-68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,359	3,809	284	..	15,452	539	15,991
,, 1868-69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29,764	10,829	744	..	41,337	1,534	42,871
,, 1869-70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,000	3,590	275	..	14,865	508	15,373
,, 1870-71	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,920	3,946	498	..	24,364	559	24,923
,, 1871-72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,200	7,949	555	..	30,704	1,126	31,830
,, 1872-73	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,700	6,436	592	..	30,728	920	31,708
,, 1873-74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35,000	8,135	899	..	45,000	1,152	46,152
,, 1874-75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,434	5,423	411	..	22,268	768	23,036
,, 1875-76	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,871	10,001	872	..	45,744	1,417	47,161
,, 1876-77	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,475	6,119	612	..	31,206	867	32,073
,, 1877-78	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,718	3,429	343	..	17,490	486	17,976
,, 1878-79	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	685	171	17	..	873	24	897
,, 1879-80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,901	64,741	21,695	1,716	..	91,053	3,059	95,012
,, 1880-81	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,22,929	30,732	3,073	..	1,56,734	4,357	1,61,091
,, 1881-82	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,845	81,603	22,549	7,935	2,598	1,17,430	3,194	1,20,624
,, 1882-83	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,807	1,14,030	38,374	3,100	244	1,61,555	5,436	1,66,991
,, 1883-84	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,371	1,23,564	34,163	1,689	6,389	1,70,076	4,783	1,74,859
,, 1884-85	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,956	70,858	21,465	1,567	234	96,072	3,005	99,077
,, 1885-86	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,415	93,097	28,347	2,559	67	1,30,445	3,969	1,34,454
,, 1886-87	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,461	76,238	24,886	2,764	68	1,09,417	3,484	1,12,901
,, 1887-88	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,363	94,294	29,812	3,190	1,624	1,34,293	4,175	1,38,468
,, 1888-89	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,746	84,686	28,646	2,573	1,641	1,25,290	4,010	1,29,300
,, 1889-90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,123	1,06,110	33,460	2,653	3,061	1,50,297	4,683	1,54,980
,, 1890-91	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,494	80,004	27,978	2,303	12	1,13,791	3,917	1,17,708
,, 1891-92	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,130	1,21,098	38,865	2,831	67	1,67,484	6,441	1,72,925
,, 1892-93	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,420	80,361	28,309	2,094	1,609	1,15,993	3,963	1,19,956
,, 1893-94	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,408	80,067	30,125	2,312	48	1,19,960	4,681	1,24,641
,, 1894-95	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,556	62,885	26,004	4,318	71	97,954	3,653	1,01,607
,, 1895-96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	760	62,059	21,900	4,823	9	92,548	3,486	96,032
,, 1896-97	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,080	64,143	26,501	5,586	16	99,326	3,710	1,03,036
,, 1897-98	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	686	54,241	22,466	3,115	98	80,606	3,145	83,651
Total ..	1,204	29,644	16,49,111	3,479	1,294	9,232	31,05,092	75,414	22,18,822	6,94,681	72,476	17,846	30,79,239	98,066	31,77,305

(a) Represents the total realizations to end of 1878-79 for which the distribution either by sub-heads or by years is not available.

ORDER—No. 926 I., dated 30th November 1898.

Communicated to the officers concerned for information.

2. The sanction accorded by the Government of India is registered as No. 98 I. of 1893-99.

3. The Government concurs in the opinion expressed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the foregoing note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

4. Ordered that a copy of these Proceedings, together with a copy of Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 319 I., dated 18th April 1898, be forwarded to the Government of India for information.

[Here enter No. 927 I., dated 30th November 1898.]

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

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