

(1) Number of pages 24(2) Date of repair 12-5-38(3) Initials of the Referencer CJ

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.*Cons. 12-4-57*

G.O. No.	845	Press Mis.
<i>61-62</i> Dated	<i>11-4-</i>	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th April 1859.

No. 61. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 24th March 1859, No. 8939.

SIR,

In reply to the order* of Government withholding an assignment of Rupees (28,000)

* Extract Minutes Consultation No. 476, dated 2nd March 1859.

¶ See No. 62 of 11th March 1859, to District Engineer.

¶ No. 217 of 11th March 1859, to Chief Engineer.

twenty-eight thousand, for repairs and clearances of the large and valuable Tambrapoorney Channels in the Tinnevely District, the Collector|| has stated that "he is of opinion funds ought to have been granted for the "purpose."

2. Lieutenant Payne,¶ Acting District Engineer, in forwarding Mr. Levinge's letter (transcript of each is now sent) gives reasons why the Repairs of the two preceding years, as marginally quoted in the order of Government, cannot be quoted as a safe guide for judging of average irrigational annual repairs.

3. It was to have been both expected (and even hoped as a test of an improved system,) that for some years after transferring the Executive to a special Professional Department, the outlay on repairs would be greater than formerly, first by a more minute and constant attention to the condition of all hydraulic works; and secondly, by the increased cost of repairs performed by free labour without the accustomed influence of local authoritative pressure.

4. I have seen it stated that the growth of expenditure upon irrigational repairs is to be regarded as an evidence of improvidence and want of thrift or indeed even of honesty in the Subordinate grades of the new stipendiary Public Works Establishment.

5. But if the reformed system be worked in a thoroughly effective and wholesome manner, I cannot but believe that unless we shut our eyes to the generally admitted fact of the Mofussil works of irrigation being for the most part in far from a state of security, one of the first consequences of professional supervision must be not only the discovery of a good deal of entire neglect, but the application also of a much more extensive and radical practice of repair than that previously prevalent.

6. That with some exceptions the existing standard of our hydraulic works is below that required for their safety seems to be conclusively established by the numerous breaches in the banks of both Tanks and Channels after every monsoon of seasonable abundance.

7. Preferentially then to projects of local improvement or extension of cultivation, the most healthy staple employment of the permanent establishment of the Public Works Department would seem to be the judicious progressive raising of the general standard of hydraulic maintenance throughout the charge of each professional Executive Officer.

8. Until such state of prevailing security has been attained, the annual repair expenditure cannot but increase, if due vigilance and vigour be uniformly displayed; but an equally certain though future result would appear to be a gradual discernment of maintenance from the time that existing works have been thoroughly secured.

9. For these reasons, I venture under all the unceasing exceptional circumstances which have beset the new Department Public Works since its establishment nominally in 1855, but more accurately in 1857, to submit that the time has not yet arrived for a correct assignment of the amounts which each Mofussil District annually requires, and that much practical evil may result from a rigid application of amounts assumed to be adequate for the wants of each locality to the denial of further grants when specially applied for by the Revenue and Public Works Officers conjointly.

10. The defectiveness and inaccuracy of the present allotments have been shewn within the last few weeks in Bellary, Cuddapah, North Arcot, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura and Tinnevely, and there is reason to fear that want of available funds at a critical period of the working season has led, in some instances to positive actual loss, besides incurring prolonged risk of further injury.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th April 1859.

11. With the permission of Government, I should therefore wish to again address the Collectors by a Circular letter, requesting them to forward in communication with the District Engineers, a new Schedule of proposed entries for List No. 3 of the Budget for 1860-61, availing themselves of the information and experience gained during the late few years in which so much increased attention has been given to the maintenance of Public Works.

12. Finally in respect to the Tinnevely District Engineer's proposal to put off operations on the beds of the Tambrapoorney Rajah Voikals until the 1st May, I think it to be greatly deprecated. There ought to be little if any difficulty in correctly closing the Accounts to 30th April, if by the assignment of Funds the District Engineer were placed in a position to undertake the requisite clearances *at once*; and working against time, and being so closely pressed as he will be with only fifteen clear days on which he can securely calculate, I recommend that authority be given for immediate operations on a special grant only limited to the amount of his outlay which, at this late period would probably fall short of ten, instead of twenty-eight thousand Rupees.

Letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Acting Collector; to Lieutenant G. M. PAYNE, Acting District Engineer, Tinnevely, dated 10th March 1859, No. 62.

SIR,

With reference to the Chief Engineer's Memo. on the back of Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 2nd March, No. 476 in the Public Works Department, I have the honor to report that I consider that the amount applied for, viz., 28,000 Rupees should have been sanctioned as the sum was necessary for carrying on repairs which may be considered to have been emergently required, at the same time I think it is now too late to begin on most of those works as the time of the year within which they should have been completed closes the 15th May.

Letter from Lieutenant G. M. PAYNE, Acting District Engineer, Tinnevely; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Palamcottah, 11th March 1859, No. 217.

SIR,

As directed in the Extract from your Proceedings No. 8356 dated 4th March 1859, I have the honor to inform you that I requested the Collector of Tinnevely to favor me with his opinion regarding the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date 2nd March 1859, No. 476, and I beg to forward herewith for your information a copy of a letter received this day from that gentleman on the subject.

2. With reference to the 2nd para. of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation above referred to, I beg to point out that the extra amount solicited for (Rupees 28,000) was particularly and emergently required for carrying on Repairs to the large Channels of irrigation and other works which are influenced by the South West monsoon; Repairs to works of this nature must be executed from February to 15th May as the monsoon sets in early in the month of June.

3. In the official year 1856-57, I have the honor to state that the cause of the small amount of expenditure arose from the fact of the Transfer of the Executive being then in contemplation, and the Revenue Officers in consequence were disinclined to commence works, the superintendence of which they might have at any time to relinquish.

4. In the official year 1857-58, the amount expended in the District on repairs to works of irrigation was Rupees 54,844. The smallness of the amount is accounted for from the fact of many of the works in progress being summarily stopped in obedience to the restrictive orders of Government. The greater portion of the sum in question was expended in the early part of 1858, in repairs to the large Channels and Tanks supplied by the South West monsoon.

5. The amount expended during the current official year on repairs to works of irrigation up to 28th February last is Rupees 50,651, and on Roads Buildings, &c., Rupees 31,726, making in the aggregate a sum of Rupees 85,376, which leaves only Rupees 7,304 for expenditure on all discriptions of works up to the close of the official year on the 30th April next.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th April 1859.

6. As the orders of Government in refusing to sanction the sum of Rupee 28,000 appear to be decisive, and as the season for carrying on the repairs is already far advanced, so that in the event of any further sum being sanctioned, it would be impossible to execute much work. I have the honor to inform you that I have made arrangements for carrying out the most urgent repairs from the small sum at my disposal.

7. In conclusion, I have the honor to state that on the close of the official year endeavours will be made to execute as much as possible in the way of clearing out the large Channels of irrigation prior to the setting in of the monsoon.

No. 62.

ORDER THEREON, No. 845; dated 11th April 1859.

In this letter the Chief Engineer repeats his application for additional funds for Irrigation repairs in Tinnevely; submitting letters from the Collector and the District Engineer.

2. The refusal of the 2nd March to the former similar request, was caused by the entire absence of any sufficient explanation of the grounds of the application. Under the explanation now given, the Governor in Council grants 12,000 Rupees; being, according to Colonel Faber's opinion, more than can be expended within the current official year. The Government are far from wishing to limit the outlay on necessary repairs; but they require that the necessity of additional grants should be shewn; and if the Engineers would attend to this requirement which has been very frequently pressed upon them they would avoid many disappointments.

3. The Government believe that there is much justice in the Chief Engineer's remarks in paras. 5 to 8 of his letter; and they request that he will, as proposed in para. 11, obtain and submit revised Statements of the sums proper to be allowed in the several Districts for repairs. These Statements should be very carefully compiled, so as to avoid both extremes; and the Governor in Council looks to the Chief Engineer to make a judicious and discriminating scrutiny of them.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

From

V. H. Livinge Esquire
Acting Collector

To

Lieutenant J. Mc. Payne
Acting District Engineer
Tinnevely

Sir,

With reference to the Chief Engineer's Memo on the back of Extract Minutes of consultation dated 2^d March. V. H. 76 in the Public Works Department, I have the honor to report that I consider that the amount applied for viz-28,000 Rupees should have been sanctioned as the sum was necessary for carrying on repairs which may be considered to have been Emergently required at the same time I think it is now too late to begin on most of those works as the time of the year within which they should have been completed closes the 15th May.

I have &c.

Signed V. H. Livinge
Acting Collector

Tinnevely }
10th March/59 }

/ True Copy/

Signed J. Mc. Payne. Lieut.
Acting District Engineer Tinnevely
/ True Copy/

Asst. Secy. Colonel
Chief Engineer

24th Jan 1859
 To
 Colonel C. C. Fisher
 Chief Engineer
 Department of Public Works
 Fort Saint George
 Madras 11th March 1859

Sir

As directed in the Extract from your Proceedings N^o 5356 dated 4th March 1859, I have the honor to inform you that I requested the Collector of Tinnevely to favor me with his opinion regarding the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date 2^d March 1859 N^o 476, and I beg to forward herewith for your information a copy of a letter received this day from that Gentleman on the subject.

2. With reference to the 2^d para of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation above referred to, I beg to point out that the Extra Amount allotted for (Repairs 28000) was particularly and Emergently required for carrying on Repairs to the large Channels of irrigation and other works which are influenced by the South west Monsoon Repairs to works of this nature must be executed from February to 15th May as the Monsoon sets in early in the month of June.

Enclosed in a letter

from the Chief Engineer

The day to 5th March 1859

000649/59

Enclat 24th } March 1859
 Officiated

1859

Copy is letter 1st 1859
 dated 10th March 1859

Acting Secretary of the Government
 in reference to the 24th of
 1859: N^o 5356 dated 4th March
 that he considered that the amount
 applied for Rs. 28,000 should have
 been sanctioned as the sum now
 very necessary for carrying on repairs
 which may be considered to have
 been urgently required.

3. In the Official year 1856/57, I have the honor to state that the cause of the small amount of expenditure arose from the fact of the transfer of the Executive being then in contemplation, and the Revenue Officers in consequence were disinclined to commence works, the Superintendence of which they might have at any time to relinquish.

4. In the Official year 1857/58 the amount expended in the District on repairs to works of Irrigation was Rupees 54,844 - The smallness of the amount is accounted for from the fact of many of the works in progress being summarily stopped in obedience to the restrictive orders of Government. The greater portion of the sum in question was expended in the early part of 1858 in repairs to the large channels and Tanks supplied by the South west Monsoon.

5. The amount expended during the current Official year on repairs to works of irrigation up to 28th February last is Rupees 50,651, and on Roads - Buildings &c Rupees 34,726 making in the aggregate a sum of Rupees 85,376 which leaves only Rupees 7364 for expenditure in all descriptions of works up to the close of the Official year on - the

the 30th April next.

6. As the Orders of Government in refusing to sanction the sum of Rupees 28,000 appear to be decisive, and as the season for carrying on the repairs is already far advanced, so that in the event of any further sum being sanctioned it would be impossible to execute much work, I have the honor to inform you that I have made arrangements for carrying out the most urgent repairs from the small sum at my disposal.

7. In conclusion I have the honor to state that on the close of the Official year Endeavours will be made to execute as much as possible in the way of clearing out the large channels of irrigation prior to the setting in of the Monsoon.

Sincerely
Dist^l Eng^r Office
Palamottah
11th March 1859

I have &c
Signed / G. M. Payne Esq
Acting Dist^l Eng^r
Sincerely

/ True copy /
Wd. Lister Colonel
Chief Engineer

Central Office of Mr.
 Port St George
 24th March 1859

N. 8939
 From The Chief Engineer
 To The Secretary to Government 146.

Sir,
 In reply to the order of Government
 with holding an assignment of Rs. 28,000
 twenty eight thousand for repairs and
 clearances of the large and valuable
 Panipatpurney channels in the Simnelli
 District, the Collector has stated that
 he is of opinion funds ought to have
 been granted for the purpose.

Public
 + Sec. to Govt.
 11.17.6 of 2nd March
 1859.
 Sec 2
 2 copies of letter
 11.21.7 of 11th March
 1859.
 District Engineer

2. Since Rs. 28,000 being District Engineer
 in forwarding Mr. Swinge's letter / transcript
 of each is now sent / gives reasons why
 the repairs of the two preceding years,
 as marginally quoted in the order of
 Government, cannot be quoted as a safe
 guide for judging of average irrigation
 annual repairs.

3. It was to have been both
 expected (and even hoped as a test
 of an improved system) that for some
 years

Endorsement in 1859 from
 the Chief Engineer
 to the Secretary to Govt.
 11.17.6 of 2nd March
 1859.

0000 698759

24th March 1859

11.17.6 of 2nd March
 1859.

Copy of a letter from
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 District Engineer

years after transferring the Executive to a special professional Department, the outlay on repairs would be greater than formerly, first by a more minute and constant attention to the condition of all hydraulic works, and secondly by the increased cost of repairs performed by free labour without the accustomed influence of local authoritative pressure.

4. I have seen it stated that the growth of expenditure upon irrigation repairs is to be regarded as an evidence of improvidence and want of thrift or indeed even of honesty in the subordinate officers of the new stipendiary works establishments.

5. But if the reformed system be worked in a thoroughly effective and wholesome manner, I cannot but believe that unless we shut our eyes to the generally admitted fact of the colossal works of irrigation being for the most part in far from a state of security, one of the first consequences of professional supervision must be not only the discovery of a good deal of entire neglect, but the application also of a much more extensive and

passive

practical practice of repair than has previously prevailed.

6. That with some exceptions the existing standard of our hydraulic works is below that required for their safety seems to be conclusively established by the numerous breaches in the banks of both tanks and channels after every season of remarkable abundance.

7. Preferentially then to projects of local improvement or extension of cultivation the most healthy staple employment of the permanent establishment of the P.W.D. would seem to be the judicious progressive raising of the general standard of hydraulic maintenance throughout the charge of each professional Executive Officer.

8. Until such state of prevailing security has been attained, the annual repair expenditure cannot but increase, if due vigilance and vigour be uniformly displayed; but an equally certain though future result would appear to be a gradual decrement of maintenance from the time that existing works have been thoroughly secured.

9. For these reasons I venture under all the increasing exceptional circumstances

circumstances which have beset the new
D.P.M. since its establishment nominally
in 1855, but more accurately in 1857,
to submit that the time has not yet
arrived for a correct assignment of the
amounts which each Proprietary District
annually requires, and that much
practical evil may result from a
rigid application of amounts assigned
to be adequate for the wants of each
locality, to the denial of further
grants when specially applied for by the
Revenue and P.M. Officers conjointly.

10. The defectiveness and inaccuracy
of the present allotments have been
shown within the last few weeks in
Bellary, Chudachah, North Arcot,
South Arcot, Coimbatore, Tanjore,
Trichinopoly, Madurai and Tinnevely,
and there is reason to fear that want
of available funds at a critical period
of the working season has led in some
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11. With the permission of Govern-
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15-
in communication with the District Engineer
a new Schedule of proposed entries
for Est. No. 3 of the Budget for 1860/61
availing themselves of the information
and experience gained during the last few
years in which so much increased
attention has been given to the
maintenance of P. Works.

12. Finally in respect to the ^{Tinnevely} District
Engineer's proposal to push off operations
on the head of the Pambasorey Rajah
works until the 1st May, I think it
to be greatly deprecated. There ought
to be little if any difficulty in correctly
closing the accounts by 30th April,
if by the assignment of Funds the
District Engineer were placed in a
position to undertake the requisite
clearances at once; and working
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clear days on which he can securely
calculate, I recommend that authority
be given for immediate operations on
a special grant only limited
to the amount of his outlay which
at this late period would probably
fall

fall short of ten, instead of twenty
eight thousand Rupees.

Fort St George
24th March 1859

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obed^t servant.

W^m Lister Colonel
Chief Engineer.

To
The Secretary to
Government P^ort.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Undertaken the 11th ^{APR} March 1837.

Read the following letter
from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 24th March 1859
No 8939)

In this letter the Chief Engineer repeats his application for additional fund for irrigation repairs in Tinnevely; submitting letters from the Collector and the District Engineer.

2 The refusal of the 2^d March to the former similar request, was caused by the entire absence of any sufficient explanation



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Cons. 8th March 1859
No. 1-2-

Ms. A. 9. 2. 6. 7. 8.

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of the day. For the

Wm. A. R. (1889)
March 24

11 April
 1893

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4 March 1891

exploration of the ground
of the application. Under
the explanation now gi-
ven, the Governor in Coun-
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being, according to Colo-
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21
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in the several Districts
for repairs. These state-
ments should be
very carefully compiled,
so as to avoid both ex-
tremes; and the Governor
in Council looks to the
Chief Engineer to make a
judicious & discriminating
scrutiny of them.

10 Copies to the Chief Eng.
Dist^o 12

[Signature]

Public Works, 1859-60
No 15 and 16th April.

C 10845

Michael Thun of Rome.

27th 11th April 1859.

Concerning Dec 19, 2000

for the repair of a brickwork
works in vicinity for the
current year 1859-60
and requesting the Chief
Engine to obtain a contract
received statement of the
same before to be allowed
with the General District for
repair.

No 61762.