M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages 24

(2) Date of repair 12-5-38

(3) Initials of the Reference

4

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Secs. 12-4-57

G.O. No.	845	Press / Mis.
41-42 Dated	11-4-	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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) twenty-eight thousand, for repairs and clearances of the large and valuable Tambrapoorney Channels in the Tinnevelly 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.

* 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.

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 conclusivel 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 Tinnevelly, 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.

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 Tinnevelly 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, Tinnevelly, 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, Tinnevelly; 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 Tinnevelly 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 34,726, making in the aggregate a sum of Rupees 85,376, which leaves only Rupees 7,301 for expenditure on all discriptions of works up to the close of the official year on the 30th April next.

6. As the orders of Government in refusing to sanction the sum of Rupeee 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 Tinnevelly; 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.

N.º 62.

From

T. H. Levinge Esquire

acting Collector

To

Lieutenant G. Mc. Payne

acting District Engineer

Tinnevelly

Sir,

With reference to the Chief Engineer's Memo on the back of Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 2d. March N.º 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 proxy.

I have &c.

/Signed/ T. H. Levinge

acting Collector

Tinnevelly
10th March 1859.

/True Copy/

/Signed/ G. W. Payne Lieut.

acting District Engineer Tinnevelly

/True Copy/

A. J. Fraser Colonel

Chief Engineer

No 698/59

Colonel C. B. Foster
Chief Engineer
Department of Public Works
Fort St. George
11 March 1859

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Proceedings No 583 86 dated 4th March 1859, I have the honor to inform you that I requested the Collector of Tinnevelly to remedy the evil complained of in your letter under reply.

I am directed to forward herewith the extract from the Minutes of Consultation noted in the margin, dated 8th March 1859 No 436, and to request that you will be pleased to report for the information of Government the cause of the delay in the execution of the Work sanctioned in the Minutes of Consultation referred to, & to submit such estimate for the Work sanctioned for the Repairs of the Anicut as you may consider necessary.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Secretary to Government

Enclosure in a letter from the Chief Engineer No —
The Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

698/59

Dated 24th March 1859
Received
No 8937

Copy of a letter No 62 dated 10th March from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly reporting with reference to the Chief Engr's Pro: No 8356 dated 4th March that he considers that the amount applied for Rs 28,000 should have been sanctioned as the sum was very necessary for carrying on repairs which may be considered to have been emergently required &c

3

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 this District on repairs to works of Irrigation was Rupees 54,644 – The Smallness of the Amount is accounted for from the fact of many of the works in charge of being Summarily stopped in accordance to the resolution 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 59,651, 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 on 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.

I have &c

Tinnevelly
Dist. Engrs Office
Palamcottah
11th March 1859

/Signed/ G. M. Payne Lt.
Acting Dist. Engr.
Tinnevelly

/True Copy/
A.B. Foster Colonel
Chief Engineer

Central Office of Pks.
York St. George,
24th March 1859.

No. 8939

From The Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Government Pks.

Sir,

In reply to the order of Government withholding an assignment of Rupees 28000, twenty eight thousand for repairs and clearances of the large and valuable Dandbrae Surrey channels in the Shimneville District, the Collector has stated that he is of opinion funds ought to have been granted for the purpose.

2. Lieut. Payne Acting District Engineer in forwarding Mr. Jennings 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 guessing 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

Public

+ Sec. to Govt. No. 1762 of 2nd March 1859.

Sec. 2 2 copies of letter. Rec. 28th March 1859 from Chief Engineer

* 11217 of 11th July to Chief Engineer

Public 24th March
Recd 28th March 1859

No. 8939

Copy of a letter from the Acting Executive Engineer Shimneville regarding the Repairs and clearances of the Dandbrae Surrey channels.

Returned with the Original on the 30th April next. Dr. Jennings letter, transmitted with the above, is also returned for carrying out the arrangements for carrying out the works mentioned from the Chief Engineer's office.

Enclosure a letter from the Executive Engineer Shimneville

Dated 19th March 1859.

Recd 28th March 1859.

years after transferring the Executive to a Special Professional Department, the outlay on Repairs would be greater than formerly, firstly 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 P.W. 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 Rational practice of Repair than that prevails by prevailing.—

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 reasonable abundance.—

7. Preferentially then to projects of local improvement or extension of cultivation the first and 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 P.W.D. since its establishment annually 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 Presidential 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 P.W. 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 Tinnevelly, 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 occurring prolonged risk of further injury.

11. With the permission of Government I should therefore wish to again address the Collectors by a Circular letter, requesting them to form an old

in communication with the District Engineers a new Schedule of proposed entries for Sub 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.

Finally

12. Finally in respect to the District Engineers proposal to mark off operations on the beds of the Pambaporney Nujah within limits until the 1st May, I think it to be greatly deprecated. There ought to be little if any difficulty in correctly drawing the accounts to 30th April, by the assignments 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

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

Fort St. George
24th March 1807

I have the Honor to be,
Sir
Your most obedt Servt

W. C. Taylor Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to
Government P.D.C.

P.W. Department 19-

N°845-

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Underdate the 11th March 1859

Read the following letter
from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 24th March 1859
N°8939)

In this letter the
Chief Engineer repeats his
application for additional
fund for irrigation repairs
in Tinnevelly; submitting
letters from the Collector
and the District Engineer.
2 The refusal of the
2d March to the former
similar request, was
caused by the entire ab-
sence of any sufficient
explanation

Cons. 8th March 1859
N°1-2-

Copy of Letter from Chief Engineer
Dated 24th March 1859
N°8939

Submitted
24/3

Approved
26/3

Sd. Thuckeray Esqr
Secy to Govt

Sd. Brunker Esqr
Secy to Board of Revenue

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 ~~Chief~~ Engineers would attend to this requirement which has been very frequently preped upon

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 & discriminating scrutiny of them.

10 Copies to the Chief Engr.
Dispd. 12

Public Works 1859 Lett.
Dt. to Govt. 12th April.

No. 845.

Extract Mins of Govt.
Dt 11th April 1859.

Sanctioning Rs 1,000 for the repairs of Irrigation works in Tinnevelly for the Current Offl. year 1859-60 and requesting the Chief Engr to obtain & submit revised statements of the sums proper to be allowed in the several Districts for repairs.

No. 61 & 62.