M.R.O. 1—77,606—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 7-5-92

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 71	Press / Mis.
139-140.	
Dated 29-1-	18 62.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 29th January 1862.

No. 139. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th January 1862, No. 469.

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Trichendoor, 6th January 1862, No. 11:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report on the progress and effect of Public Works in this District for the official year 1860-61.

Works.	Expenditure of 1859-60.	Expenditure of 1860-61.	Difference. Increase.	Difference. Decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
NEW WORKS.				
Irrigation	186	409	223	....
Communications	1,333	488	....	845
Buildings	601	1,159	558	....
	2,120	2,056	...	64
REPAIRS				
Irrigation	47,078	49,299	2,221	....
Communications	9,425	20,911	11,486	.....
Buildings	3,249	3,047	...	202
	59,752	73,257	13,505	....
Total	61,872	75,313	13,441	....

2. From the abstract Statement given in the margin, it will be seen that the total amount expended upon Public Works during the year 1860-61 exceeds that of the previous year by Rupees 13,441.

3. Of the sum of Rupees 49,299 laid out on repairs to Works of Irrigation during the year under report, Rupees 46,577 were expended upon ordinary repairs, and Rupees 2,722 on emergent works. This expenditure was incurred for preserving the existing cultivation and revenue.

4. No new works of irrigation were undertaken during the past official year; only an Anicut work above 2,000 Rupees was executed, on which Rupees 409 were spent during the year under review.

	Extent of wet land brought to account.	Revenue.	Deduct remission.	Net revenue.
	Acres.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Fasli 1269	1,50,270	15,84,525	2,336	15,82,189
Do. 1270	154,861	15,54,177	1,86,656	13,67,521
Increase	4,591	..	1,84,320	...
Decrease	\....	30,348	...	2,14,668

5. From the Statement given in the margin, it will be seen that the extent of wet land brought to account during the year under report, including waste lands charged and remitted, exceeds that of the previous year by Acres 4,591. This the Board are already aware of, from the Report on the Land Revenue Settlement for the year. The revenue realized during the year, falls short of that of the previous year, owing chiefly to large remissions having had to be granted for lands left waste in the Carr season, from the almost total failure of the south-west monsoon, which caused a famine in Travancore, and the failure of the Carr cultivation in Tinnevelly.

6. The total expenditure on road improvements during the year under report amounted to Rupees 21,399, of which Rupees 8,973 were laid out on High Road No. 4 running from north to south through this District, connecting Madura with Travancore, and Rupees 4,443 on the Branch Cotton Road No. 6, and the remainder or Rupees 7,983, were expended in repairing portions of roads* made in former years, and which have become damaged by use and weather.

	RS.
* Road No. 1	1,460
,, ,, 9	1,263
,, ,, 11	1,076
,, ,, 10	874
,, ,, 5	965
Other roads	2,345

7. It is sad to see the state of the roads in Tinnevelly at present, and I am of opinion that the Discretionary allowance for this District should be increased from Rupees 5,000 to Rupees 15,000 per annum, as the present allowance is inadequate to the wants of the District, and as only a few of the roads have been provided with maintenance allowance under the sanction of Government, dated 19th August 1861, No. 1,576. The absolute necessity for an increased Discretionary allowance for roads in Tinnevelly, was discussed between the District Engineer and myself, and the Chief Engineer has been requested by me, to obtain the sanction of Government to this proposal.

8. As regards the Public Works in general, I am decidedly of opinion that the transfer of the executive charge of these works from the Revenue, to the Professional Department, attended as it is with great additional cost to the State, has not produced the beneficial results expected from it, at least in this District.

9. Repairs to works of Irrigation, which are numerous and scattered in Tinnevelly, as well as repairs to roads, are not now executed so speedily under the present system as they formerly were, and I have never heard but one opinion expressed by the Ryots on this head, generally coupled with the expression of a wish, that the executive was again in the hands of the Revenue Officers.

10. The actual expenditure on Public Works during the year under report amounted to Rupees 75,313, or Rupees 6,276 per mensem, as per Statement furnished by the District Engineer, while the expenditure on account of Salaries and Establishment, &c., during the above period, amounted to no less than the enormous sum of Rupees 51,825, or Rupees 4,318-12-0 per mensem, showing the huge proportion of 68$\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the sum laid out, as shown in the Statement enclosed.

11. As it is a matter of great importance that works of Irrigation should be maintained in a state of efficiency to preserve the existing cultivation and revenue under them, and that repairs should be completed before the commencement of the cultivating season, and as complaints are occasionally made of backwardness in letting water to the channels and tanks on account of the dilatory execution of repairs, I beg to recommend strongly that petty earth repairs to works of Irrigation costing less than 50 Rupees, which are numerous, should be entrusted to the local Revenue Officers, as recommended in my letters of 4th May and 19th June 1861, Nos. 203 and 262, respectively, as such an arrangement would be very acceptable to the Ryots. When I spoke to the people on this subject at the Jammabundy, they all begged it might be carried out, many adding, they wished all repairs without reference to this limit, might be executed under the local Revenue Officers as formerly.

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1. Ordered to be submitted to Government.

2. The deficient expenditure below the sanctioned estimates, and the extreme disproportion between the cost of establishment and the cost of the work executed, are matters for serious consideration; but as the Board are aware that the re-organization of the Department Public Works is under discussion, they will only observe that they are decidedly of opinion that all minor earth works can be more readily, cheaply, and efficiently performed as formerly through the Revenue Officials than by the Department Public Works.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 140. ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1862, No. 71.

1. Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, who is requested to submit his opinion on the Collector's proposition to increase the discretionary allowance for roads in the Tinnevelly District from Rupees 5,000 to Rupees 15,000 per annum. It is observed that in their orders No. 1,576, dated 19th August 1861, the Government have sanctioned the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 29th January 1862.

large sum of Rupees 36,660 for the maintenance of the principal roads in the District, during the current year, and Rupees 51,400 for the same purpose for entry in the Budget of 1862-63. It should be ascertained whether there are any local funds which can be applied to the repair of minor roads in aid of the present discretionary allowance of Rupees 5,000.

2. Colonel Birdwood is also requested to submit the District Engineer's explanation relative to the alleged dilatoriness in the execution of repairs to irrigation works and the consequent delay in letting water to the tanks and channels at the commencement of the cultivating season.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut-Colonel,
Chief Engr. and Secy. to Govt., D.P.W.

No. 469.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 20th January 1862.

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Trichendoor, 6th January 1862, No. 11 :—

1. I have the honor to report on the progress and effect of Public Works in this District for the Official year 1860-61.

Works.	Expenditure of 1859-60.	Expenditure of 1860-61.	Difference. Increase	Difference. Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
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Irrigation	186	409	223	....
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	2,120	2,056	....	64
REPAIRS.				
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Communications	9,425	20,911	11,486	....
Buildings	3,249	3,047	....	202
	59,752	73,257	13,502	....
Total..	61,872	75,313	13,441	....

2. From the abstract Statement given in the margin, it will be seen that the total amount expended upon Public Works during the year 1860-61 exceeds that of the previous year by Rupees 13,441.

3. Of the sum of Rupees 49,299 laid out on repairs to Works of Irrigation during the year under report, Rupees 46,577 were expended upon ordinary repairs, and Rupees 2,722 on emergent works. This expenditure was incurred for preserving the existing cultivation and revenue.

4. No new works of irrigation were undertaken during the past Official year ; only an anicut work above 2,000 Rupees was executed, on which Rupees 409 were spent during the year under review.

	Extent of wet land brought to account.	Revenue.	Deduct remission.	Net revenue.
	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Fasli 1269	1,50,270	15,84,525	2,336	15,82,189
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Increase	4,591	..	1,84,320	...
Decrease	...	30,348	..	2,14,668

5. From the Statement given in the margin, it will be seen that the extent of wet land brought to account during the year under report, including waste lands charged and remitted, exceeds that of the previous year by Acres 4,591. This the Board are already aware of, from the Report on the Land Revenue Settlement for the year. The revenue realized during the year falls short of that of the previous year, owing chiefly to large remissions having had to be granted for lands left waste in the Carr season, from the almost total failure of the south-west monsoon, which caused a famine in Travancore, and the failure of the Carr cultivation in Tinnevelly.

6. The total expenditure on Road improvements during the year under report amounted to Rupees 21,399, of which Rupees 8,973 were laid out on High Road No. 4 running from north to south through this District, connecting Madura with Travancore, and Rupees 4,443 on the Branch Cotton Road No. 6, and the remainder, or Rupees 7,983, were expended in repairing portions of roads* made in former years, and which have become damaged by use and weather.

	Rs.
* Road No. 1...	1,460
„ „ 9..	1,263
„ „ 11...	1,076
„ „ 10..	874
„ „ 5..	965
Other roads..	2,345

7. It is sad to see the state of the Roads in Tinnevelly at present, and I am of opinion that the Discretionary allowance for this District should be increased from Rupees 5,000 to Rupees

15,000 per annum, as the present allowance is inadequate to the wants of the District, and as only a few of the roads have been provided with maintenance allowance under the sanction of Government, dated 19th August 1861, No. 1,576. The absolute necessity for an increased Discretionary allowance for roads in Tinnevelly, was discussed between the District Engineer and myself, and the Chief Engineer has been requested by me, to obtain the sanction of Government to this proposal.

8. As regards the Public Works in general, I am decidedly of opinion that the transfer of the executive charge of these works from the Revenue, to the Professional Department, attended as it is with great additional cost to the State, has not produced the beneficial results expected from it, at least in this District.

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10. The actual expenditure on Public Works during the year under report amounted to Rupees 75,313, or Rupees 6,276 per mensem, as per Statement furnished by the District Engineer, while the expenditure on account of Salaries and Establishment, &c., during the above period, amounted to no less than the enormous sum of Rupees 51,825, or Rupees 4,318-12-0 per mensem, showing the huge proportion of $68\frac{3}{16}$ per cent. on the sum laid out, as shown in the Statement enclosed.

11. As it is a matter of great importance that Works of Irrigation should be maintained in a state of efficiency to preserve the existing cultivation and revenue under them, and that repairs should be completed before the commencement of the cultivating season, and as complaints are occasionally made of backwardness in letting water to the channels and tanks, on account of the dilatory execution of repairs, I beg to recommend strongly that petty earth repairs to Works of Irrigation costing less than 50 Rupees, which are numerous, should be entrusted to the local Revenue Officers, as recommended in my letters of 4th May and 19th June 1861, Nos. 203 and 262, respectively, as such an arrangement would be very acceptable to the Ryots. When I spoke to the people on this subject at the Jammabundy, they all begged it might be carried out, many adding, they wished all repairs without reference to this limit, might be executed under the local Revenue Officers as formerly.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract.—Statement showing the amount indented for in each month on account of Public Works Department and that actually drawn and expended, as well as the amount actually disbursed on account of Salaries and Establishment, &c., during the Official year 1860-61, in the District of Tinnevelly, as shown in the monthly Treasury accounts sent to the Accountant General.

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1. Ordered to be submitted to Government.

2. The deficient expenditure below the sanctioned Estimates, and the extreme disproportion between the cost of Establishment and the cost of the work executed, are matters for serious consideration; but as the Board are aware that the re-organization of the Department Public Works is under discussion, they will only observe that they are decidedly of opinion that all minor earth works can be more readily, cheaply, and efficiently performed as formerly through the Revenue Officials than by the Department Public Works.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to J. Silver, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. J. Wright.

19 August 1861 - W 300 - 301.

From the Dy. Chf. Engr.
D/ 28th March 1862
Cir. 936.

Nos. 139 & 140.

relative to the alleged dilatoriness in the execution of repairs to Irrigation works and the consequent delay in letting water to the Tanks and Channels at the Commencement of the Cultivating Season.

W 1911.

To Govt. St. George
29th July 1862
136 Chief Engr. Circle
4 Revenue Dept.
No. 87 with Encls.

Pub. Work 1862. Department.
Board of Govt. for Cauvery
No. 174.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 20th *January* 1862.
Despatched. 23 Do
Received. 24th Do
C. I. of Encls

No. 469.

Submitting a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly reporting on the progress of Public Works in his District for the year 1860-61.

With an order
No. 71 - 29 Jan.

Mem 71

Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engr. S. Circle who is requested to submit his opinion on the Collector's proposition to increase the discretionary allowance for roads in the Tinnevelly District from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per annum. It is observed that in their order No. 1576 dated 19th August 1861 the Government have sanctioned the large sum of Rs 36,660 for the maintenance of the principal roads in the District, during the current year and Rs 51,400 for the same purpose for entry in the Budget of 1862-63. It should be ascertained whether there are any local funds which can be applied to the repair of minor roads in aid of the present discretionary allowance of Rs 5,000.

Colonel Birdwood is also requested to submit the District Engineer's explanation