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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press / Mis.
Dated	18 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 510. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th September 1862, No. 6,157:—

Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 13th August 1862, No. 86.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward the usual report on the progress of Public Works in this District for the official year 1861-62.

2. The amount finally sanctioned for expenditure was Rupees 93,251, of which Rupees 7,813 remained unexpended, owing I believe to a deficiency in superintendence, caused by very great changes in the Upper Subordinate branch of the Department, which was for some time in a very weak state.

	Rs.
Irrigation repairs	17,222
Communications do.	26,723
Buildings do.	1,577
Total	45,521

3. Of the total expenditure of Rupees 85,438 Rupees 45,521 was for repairs, as detailed in the margin, and Rupees 39,917 on new works.

4. An allowance being allotted for the maintenance of each line of road, in its completed portion, the repairs on this account constitute a chief item of expenditure.

5. All the roads are in fair order, but the remark I have previously made as to the danger caused by the fracture of the slates that form the road tunnels, still holds good. The majority of the road tunnels in the District have holes in them, and this inconvenience must be suffered until the road tunnels are built in a more substantial manner than has hitherto been the practice.

6. The expenditure on new works has been confined to communications, and progess has been made in carrying out all the lines of road under construction.

7. The bridges on the road from Kurnool to Nundial have been completed, and that over the Koondar near Nundial is under construction. An unexpected fresh in the river carried away some arches, and delayed the latter work, which is however again being carried on briskly.

8. Rupees 8,170 have been expended in carrying out the works on the Nandy Kanama, and Rupees 5,930 on the Manteral Kanama Pass. On a recent occasion when Rohillas were reported to be threatening on Markapoor frontier from the Nizam's territory, this newly made pass enabled me to forward assistance, in the shape of a Troop of Irregular Horse from Kurnool, with rapidity and effect, while some days would have been lost had it been necessary for them to go round by the Nandy Kanama.

9. The Pass is still very little used for general traffic, and the length of jungle on this line without villages or inhabitants will prevent it being ever much used by bandies, or native travellers. As I have before stated it is however the favorite line of road for the Lambadies bringing salt westward from the Coast.

10. The road between Doopad and Dorenal which is to lead up to this Pass from the east has been commenced in this year, and an outlay of Rupees 4,549-0-0 has been expended thereon.

11. The road leading to the Pass from Kurnool will be carried out gradually from the local Funds, as the line is of great importance to the Táluq through which it runs.

12. The Irrigation repairs of the District are not of importance, and have been carried out by the Department with apparent facility, as no complaints have reached me as to the difficulty of procuring labor for them, though the operations of the Irrigation Company have of course raised the price of labour throughout the District.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer.

2. From the absence of any detailed statement of the operations, the Board have not the means of judging of the actual progress made in public works in Kurnool during 1861-62. The Collector would appear however to have been satisfied with the state of affairs on the whole. The total expenditure was 85,138 Rupees or 7,813* Rupees less than the amount sanctioned, owing, the Collector believes, to a deficiency of superintendence. The amount spent in 1860-61 was 80,826 Rupees, or 4,612 Rupees less than in the year under report. The following abstract shows the relative sums spent in 1860-61 and 1861-62 on new works and repairs:—

* Amount sanctioned ..... Rs. 93,251
Amount spent 85,438
7,813

Nature of work.	1860-61.	1861-62.	Increase.
New works....	39,078	39,917	839
Repairs	41,748	45,521	3,773
Total.....	80,826	85,438	4,612

3. In paragraph 5, the Collector brings to notice again the evil resulting from the breaking of the slabs of slate employed in constructing the road tunnels. In his former report of the 27th May 1861, No. 50† (paragraph 12), Mr. Minchin remarked that these tunnels were constructed in a cheap and efficient way, by laying a slab of slate across upright stones, but that these slates often and easily broke, causing dangerous holes in the centre of the road. He therefore recommended that only strong slabs should be selected in the first instance, and that with the liberal allowance available for repairs, the Overseer should replace a broken slab at once, instead of leaving it for months as a trap for the public. This is an important matter, to which the Board request the Chief Engineer's attention for one broken tunnel may often stop all the traffic on the road.

† Board's Proceedings, 18th June 1861, No. 3,162.

4. In paragraph 8, the Collector mentions a recent instance of the advantage that has followed the opening of the Manteral Kanama Pass, by which route he was enable to furnish a troop of Irregular Horse with rapidity and effect, to put down a threatened attack of Rohillas from the Nizam's frontier. He adds however in paragraph 9 that the Pass, though a private line for the Lambadies carrying salt westward from the Coast, is still very little used for general traffic, the length of jungle and the absence of villages and inhabitants along the line deterring bandies and native travellers frequenting it. The Board would suggest to the Collector the expediency of granting land along the line on favorable terms, as an inducement to villagers reclaiming the jungle and forming settlements along the route.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 511.

ORDER THEREON, 29th September 1862, No. 2,329.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 6,157.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th September 1862.

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	Rs.
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10. The road between Doopad and Dorenal which is to lead up to this pass from the east has been commenced in this year, and an outlay of Rupees 4,549-0-0 has been expended thereon.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To Colonel W. I. Birdwood, R. E., Chief Engineer, D. P. W.

Copy to Honorable T. Pycroft, Chief Secretary to Government.

„ to J. I. Minchin, Esq., Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. J. Wright.

Proc. of Govt. for Sept. 62
No. 2525
P. W.

1862. Department.

No. 2525

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 15*th September* 1862.

Desp'd 17th Oct.
Rec'd 19th Sept.

No. 6,157.

Reviewing the report of the Collector of Kurnool on the progress of Public Works in his district for the official year 1861-62.

Recorded

No. 2329 - 29 September.

No. 2329
Recorded -

Chepauk
29th Sept. 1862

No. 570. 571.

C23 Sep. R24