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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 288 Press ~~Mis.~~

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Dated 12. 2. 1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 12th February 1862.

No. 253. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th January 1862, No. 354:—

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Chittoor, 16th August 1861, No. 201.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit my Annual Report on the operations of the Department of Public Works in this District during the Official year 1860-61.

Works.	Expenditure of 1859-60.	Expenditure of 1860-61.	Difference. Increase.	Difference. Decrease.	Estimate of 1860-61.
"NEW WORKS."	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Irrigation.. ..	2,027	5,895	3,868	0	0
Communication ...	16,542	34,277	17,735	0	0
Buildings.. ...	649	0	0	649	0
	19,218	40,172	21,603	649	0
"REPAIRS."					
Irrigation.. ..	50,003	63,854	13,851	0	0
Communication ..	56,917	47,746	0	9,171	0
Buildings... ..	7,172	9,604	2,432	0	0
	1,14,092	1,21,204	16,283	9,171	0
Grand Total..	1,33,310	1,61,376	37,886	9,820	4,86,231

2. In the marginal Abstract the total expenditure incurred during the year under review is compared with that of the preceding year under its respective heads of "Irrigation Works," "Communications" and "Buildings."

3. From this you will find that the total outlay during 1860-61, exceeds that of the preceding year by Rupees 28,066. Column 4 shows the items in which there was increased expenditure. The causes for this shall be explained hereafter as each general head comes under review. The only item in which the expenditure falls short of that of 1860, are "New Buildings," and "Repairs to Communications."

4. Of the Rupees 5,895 laid out on "New Works" of Irrigation, Rupees 3,266 were spent in working out eight fresh sections of the Palar Anicut scheme, and Rupees 2,628 on minor new projects.

5. Under the head "Repairs of Irrigation Works," Rupees 63,854 were expended, a large sum but necessary, for the maintenance of the Revenue at its ordinary standard, and the conservation of the works on which it depends.

6. The additional revenue realized in each Táluq during the year, consequent on the repair or improvement of minor works of Irrigation, is shown below :—

Name of Táluq.	By Repairs.	By New Works.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1. Chittoor...	16 3 3	4 10 0	20 13 3
2. Chendragheri	266 10 6	0 0 0	266 10 6
3. Palmanair	13 6 10	0 0 0	13 6 10
4. Gudiatum...	0 0 0	4 15 0	4 15 0
5. Palikonda	78 0 8	0 0 0	78 0 8
6. Polur...	33 15 3	0 0 0	33 15 3
7. Wandawash...	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
8. Arcot	52 7 11	0 0 0	52 7 11
9. Wallajah	203 9 0	0 0 0	203 9 0
Total...	664 5 5	9 9 0	673 14 5

These figures do not of course represent the real value of these improvements, as owing to the all but total failure of both monsoons, no immediate practical results could be looked for; and

because, as already observed, the more immediate object of such expenditure is rather the conservation of the works themselves than the increase of revenue.

7. Of the Rupees 34,277 spent on new communications, 5,562 Rupees were expended in completing the Bridge over the Palar near Vellore, and the remaining Rupees 28,715 on the roads noted in the margin, the Estimates for which amount to Rupees 1,18,560. Of these, the road from Bannaveram (Sholinghur) Railway station is finished; and operations on the other three in various stages of progress.

	Rs.
Road from Kompanipet to Conjeveram, ...	29,100
Do. from Wallajanugger to Banaveram...	12,600
Do. from Vellore to Arni, ...	44,260
Do. from Arcot to Arni	32,600
Total...	1,18,560

8. On general repairs to trunk and other roads, Rupees 47,746 were expended, being Rupees 9,171 less than the previous outlay under this item. These roads, I may observe, are all in excellent order.

9. No new buildings were constructed during the year, and of the Rupees 9,604 spent on repairs under this head, Rupees 7,447 were laid out alone on Military buildings.

10. The subjoined Statement exhibits the additional revenue realized under the tanks supplied from the Palar, Ponne and Cheyar Anicuts:—

Name of Anicut.	Name of Táluq.	Number of Villages irrigated.	Number of Tanks supplied.	Additional Revenue derived.
				Rs. A. P.
Polur.....	Wallaja.....	65	49	121 14 10
	Arcot.....	42	67	4,989 3 2
		107	116	5,111 2 0
Ponne.....	Wallaja.....	38	38	24 11 9
Cheyar.....	Wandavash.....	34	34	1,755 9 2
	Total ..	179	188	6,891 6 11

Of these three the grand irrigation works of the District the last and smallest only has its complement of channels, and may be called complete. I have so frequently urged the early resumption of operations on an adequate scale in connection with the two other noble projects that it is superfluous to revert to the subject. Meanwhile, the District Engineer in consultation with myself has done what he could towards extending the channel works of the Palar Anicut on the southern bank of the river. This we were enabled to do by so arranging, at the begining of the season on which I am reporting, the alottment of the funds at our disposal, as to leave a surplus of Rupees 10,000 available for this all-important purpose. Of this amount, there were as already stated Rupees 3,266-7-1 expended, for which eight additional sections of subsidiary works have been completed. Pursuing the same policy, we have again alloted for the prosecution of these works during the current year a sum of Rupees 20,000, saved in a distribution of the funds available for general expenditure. Meanwhile nothing has or can be done for the Ponne project, which is the more to be deplored as the river being narrower, floods much more easily and frequently than the Palar, and would flush the Anicut channels in years when those from the larger river were comparatively inactive. I yet hope to hear that means have been found to provide for the gradual completion of both projects on a scale commensurate with the advantages to be derived from them.

	Rs.
Thellar to Conjeveram.....	1,080
Wallajanugger to Sholingher.....	1,500
Palikonda to Palmanair.....	5,200
Arni to Kalasapak.....	600
Banaveram to Sholinghur road.....	844
Vernujepuram to Trunk road No. 1.....	50
Santhapeta to Trunk road No. 11...	100
	9,374

11. The seven roads noted in the margin have, under the instructions of the 29th August 1860, been placed on the Local Fund list from the 1st September, and the cost of their maintenance amounting to Rupees 9,374 which has hitherto been met from the General Fund, will for the future be a net saving to Government. It has been suggested, that, as a further relief to the public purse, the Palmanair and Vencatagirri Kota line should be transferred to the Local Fund list. Being asked for my opinion, I deprecated the proposition on the following grounds:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th February 1862.

1*st*.—"That it has always been regarded and very recently accepted as a work that should "be completed, as it has been commenced at the cost of Government."

2*nd*.—"That it traverses so far as it has been partially worked out a very poor Táluq, which "contributes but little to the Local Fund, and that if extended as it eventually should be to the "Railway station at Kuppam, it will be for nearly one-half of its length within a Zamíndári tract "where no road cess at all is levied."

3*rd*.—"That traversing nearly the whole length of the extreme western frontier of the "District, its local advantages though great, will be quite secondary to the immense benefits it "will confer on the trade from the Cotton growing Districts of Bellary and Cuddapah, and the "whole of Mysore *plateau*."

4*th*.—"That the public purse has already been greatly relieved by the transfer of seven roads until lately at its charges to the Local Fund list."

5*th*.—"That owing to the failure of rains last season the revenue of the District has fallen "some two lacs, and that old accumulations having been nearly expended, the collections of road "cess for the past Fasli will not more than suffice for the maintenance of lines transferred to and "already constructed out of the Local Fund, and for the prosecution of some fresh project most "material to the convenience and welfare of the District."

6*th*.—"I lastly object to the proposition on the general ground taken by Government in "their Order of the 29th August 1860, No. 1,841, where they remark 'that it is not to be laid "'down as a maxim that in Districts having Road Fund, District roads are to have no public "'money expended on them. If this were so a District with a Road Fund would be in a worse "'position than one without such a Fund.'"

12. Agreeably to the instructions conveyd in the Order of Government, dated 13th November 1858, No. 2,386, I beg to subjoin a Statement showing the number of tanks, channels, &c., "in repair" and "out of repair," as ascertained from the latest returns from the Táluqs:—

Description of works.	No.	In repair.	Out of repair.
Tanks...	1,837	1,354	483
Chitteris...	40	37	3
Tangals.	194	126	68
Supplying Channels.	376	318	58
River Channel....	358	337	21
Spring do.	437	364	73
Anicuts.	3	3	0
	3,245	2,539	706

The decrease in the total number of irrigation works as compared with the return for the preceding year is to be ascribed to the transfer of the Suttevadu Táluq from this to the Madras District, and as the tracts from the Madras and South Arcot Districts were only recently (1st July 1861) annexed to this District, a detailed list of their works of irrigation has not yet been compiled. In the list of works "out of repair" have been included a great many long abandoned tanks, &c., which on closer inspection will be found defective in position and construction and not worth restoring.

13. Some of the Dasabandam tanks have since my last report been put into working order and fresh instructions have been issued to the Tahsíldárs to exact from the Inámdárs a rigid fulfilment of their obligations in respect of such works.

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1. Resolved that the letter above recorded be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The total expenditure on the public works of the District during the year under review was as follows :—

	New works.	Repairs.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Irrigation.....	5,895	63,854	69,749
Roads and Bridges.....	34,277	47,746	82,023
Buildings.....	0	9,604	9,604
Total...	40,172	1,21,204	1,61,376

3. Out of the outlay of Rupees 5,895 on "New irrigation works," Rupees 3,266 were spent in executing eight fresh sections of the Palar anicut, and the remainder on minor projects. The amount under the head of "Repairs" was appropriated to the maintenance and conservation of existing tanks and channels. In paragraph 6, the Collector gives a short Statement of the additional revenue supposed to have been realized from the improvement of minor works of irrigation in the past year, but the estimate is purely conjectural.

4. In paragraph 10, the Collector brings to notice the undeveloped state of the two grand irrigation Projects of the District, viz., the Palar and Poiney Anicuts, and their dependent channels. He states that an attempt has been made to continue the former project by reserving 20,000 Rupees for expenditure on it during the current year, but that nothing can be done towards the latter, which is the more to be regretted as owing to the river being narrower, it floods much more easily and frequently than the Palar, and would flush the Anicut channels, when those of the latter were comparatively inactive. The Board observe that Government have lately made a special grant of Rupees 11,550 for the advancement of the Poiney works, but it is to be hoped that the financial exigencies of the country will soon admit of large sums being devoted to the advancement of both the above useful systems of river irrigation.

Order of Government, 29th October 1861, No. 1,995, P. W. D.

5. The outlay on "New roads" was chiefly on the lines noted in the margin, and on the completion of the Bridge across the Palar. The expenditure on repairs has, it is stated, placed the trunk and other roads of the District in excellent order. Seven of the roads heretofore repaired from the General funds of the District have been transferred to the Local Fund list.

Companypet to Conjiveram.
Wallajanugger to Bannavaram.
Vellore to Arni.
Arcot to Arni.

6. The Statement of tanks and channels in repair, and out of repair appended to paragraph 12, shows that about one-fourth of the minor irrigation works of the District still need improvement ; to the execution of which, the Board hope, due attention will be bestowed as circumstances permit.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 254.

ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1862, No. 288.

Communicated to the Department of Public Works.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

Rev: 1862. Department.
Pro: of Govt for February.

No. 278.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 15th January 1862.
Desp 30 Dr
Rec'd 31st

No. 354.

Submitting for information, with remarks, the report of the Collector of North Arcot on the operations of the Public Works Department during 1860-61.

N. 253 & 254.

N. 288 - 12 Feb
With an order

N. 288.
Communicated to the Department of Public Works

First Lt George
12th July 1862

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14 — Adopted