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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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Dated	13-9-	1864.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th September 1864.*

No. 247. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th August 1864, No. 5,567.

Read the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated Sydapet, 16th August 1864, No. 367 :—

1. I have the honor to submit my Report on the operations of the Department of Public Works for the year 1863-64.

2. The subjoined Abstract Statement shows that the total expenditure of the year under review fell short of that of the preceding year by Rupees 46,345 :—

Particulars of Works.		Expenditure of 1862-63.	Expenditure of 1863-64.	DIFFERENCE.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Irrigation.	{ New Works	77,152	48,928		28,224
	{ Repairs	32,536	45,270	12,734	
Communi- cation.	{ New Works	34,006	38,550	4,544	
	{ Repairs	1,12,411	1,14,265	1,854	
Buildings.	{ New Works	41,671	39,988		1,683
	{ Repairs	54,516	18,946		35,570
Total.	{ New Works	1,52,829	1,27,466	4,544	29,907
	{ Repairs	1,99,463	1,78,481	14,588	35,570
Grand Total... ..		3,52,292	3,05,947	19,132	65,477
			Net	Decrease.....	46,345

3. *New Works.*—The amount expended on new works of irrigation was Rupees 48,928; but almost the whole of that was laid out on the Palar Anikut project. In the last year's report, Mr. Ellis recommended a yearly separate grant for "New Works" of Irrigation, such as Calingala, Sluices, and Channels. As no separate provision for such works in the Budget prevents any systematic construction of them, I beg to reiterate the recommendation for the next Budget.

4. *Repairs.*—The amount expended on *Repairs* was Rupees 45,270, a sum totally inadequate to the wants of this District. Mr. Ellis in his report for the year 1862-63 stated, that the tank bunds in this District were generally in so ruinous a condition, that a very large outlay for repair for at least three successive years would be required, and would be amply repaid by extension of cultivation and by the cessation of remissions, and applied for a grant of one lac and fifty thousand Rupees for the current year (1864-65). Unfortunately only Rupees 86,000 were sanctioned, and the evils deplored could not therefore be fully remedied. A plan has been adopted this year, also at the suggestion of Mr. Ellis, of executing no patchwork repairs of no lasting benefit to a great number of tanks, but of thorough repairs to some in each Taluk, as far as the funds will permit, due attention being paid to emergent repairs. By this plan, all the Irrigation works in the District are expected to be put in good order in the course of four or five years, if an annual grant of at least one lac of Rupees be sanctioned.

5. *New Works.*—Rupees 38,550 were laid out on new works of communication, of which Rupees 3,161 were spent on the new road under construction between Coonattoor and the Mylapoor tank *via* Kodambakam, and Rupees 22,574 in deepening and widening the Salt Channels at Vulloor, Pooloodiwak, and Attiput and in excavating certain other new Salt Channels at Voyaloor and at the proposed Kattoor pans. A branch channel of about a mile in length was also excavated at a cost of Rupees 2,093 from the Southern Canal to Tripo roor in the

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Chingleput Taluk, a place much resorted to by pilgrims. The remainder was spent in giving compensation for lands taken up for the high Western and Northern Trunk roads, and for the Southern Canal.

6. *Repairs.*—Rupees 1,14,265 were laid out in repairs of communications; of that sum Rupees 67,315 were expended on the Trunk roads; Rupees 29,683 on cross roads; Rupees 3,333 on the Cantonment roads, and the remainder on the Northern and Southern Canals. The roads generally are reported to be in a good condition.

7. The Tahsildar of Ponnery reports that a road constructed in the year 1853 between the village of Punjetty on the Northern Trunk road and Poonery, the Taluk Cusbah, some three or four miles in length is in such a ruinous condition that its immediate repair is absolutely necessary, and as leading to the station of a Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate, most useful to the public. From Punjati to Trivallur a road has been also often recommended, and as connecting the two Cusbah towns of Ponnery and Trivallur should, in my opinion, be at once planned and estimated for by the Superintending Engineer, and would when made make the lines of communication in this District very complete.

8. The total amount expended on buildings is Rupees 58,934, of which Rupees 39,988 were spent on new buildings, and the remainder on repairs.

9. A copy of this report has at his request been sent to Colonel Boileau.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The reduced expenditure on New Works of Irrigation is to be regretted when the most rapid completion possible of the Palar system of works is a matter of such vital importance to the District, and the Board would draw attention to the Collector's remarks on the state of the existing Irrigation works generally, and of the Punjetty and Ponnery road.

3. The Local Road Fund is too insignificant in amount to afford any material assistance in the general improvement of the District roads.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 248. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1864, No. 2,650.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, whose attention will be requested to paragraph 7 of the Collector's letter.

2. The Government observe that the current year's assignment for repairs of Irrigation works is Rupees 41,000 in excess of that for 1863-64, and that the sum of Rupees 26,210, allotted in the Budget for the Palar Project, Madras District, is the unexpended balance of the Estimate on the 30th April last.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
" Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 5,567.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 29th August 1864.

Read the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated Sydapet, 16th August 1864, No. 367:—

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To Major J. H. M. S. Stewart, R. E., Deputy Secretary to Government, P. W.
J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to E. G. R. Fane, Esq., Collector of Madras.

Exd. J. Wright.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

1864.

Department.

Dated 29th August 1864.

No. 5,567.

Submitting with remarks letter from the Collector of Madras reporting on the operations of the Department of Public Works for 1863-64.

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With an Order