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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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Dated 16-9-	1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th September 1864.*

No. 355. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd September 1864, No. 5,747 :—

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 22nd August 1864, No. 193 :—

1. I have the honor to report on the operations of the Public Works Department during the official year 1863-64.

2. The following abstract shows the expenditure incurred during the year under report as compared with the outlay in the preceding one :—

Works.	Expendi- ture of 1862-63.	Expendi- ture of 1863-64	Difference.		Estimate of 1863-64.
			Increase.	Decrease	
NEW WORKS.					
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Irrigation	90,950	84,442	.....	6,508	.....
Communication	1,026	12,196	11,170	.....	.....
Buildings	5,051	5,917	866	.....	.....
	97,027	1,02,555	12,036	6,508	62,900
REPAIRS.					
Irrigation	58,752	34,823	.....	23,929	.....
Communication	51,162	47,030	.....	4,132	.....
Buildings	3,395	5,523	2,128	.....	.....
	1,13,309	87,376	2,128	28,061	1,09,267
Total ...	2,10,336	1,89,931	14,164	34,569	1,72,167

Net Decrease ... 20,405

3. *New Irrigation Works.*—A sum of Rupees 84,442 was spent on new works during the year. Of this Rupees 77,880-7-4 were devoted to the Palar and Ponai Anicut projects, and other subsidiary works connected therewith; the remainder, Rupees 6,561-8-8, having been appropriated for minor undertakings, such as Channels, Calingulas, Sluices, &c. The decrease under this head during the year is small and needs no remark.

4. *Repair of Irrigation Works.*—Rupees 34,823 were expended under this head. Of this Rupees 31,980 were laid out on tanks, and the remainder on channels. From the abstract in paragraph 2, it will be observed that during the year the expenditure fell short of that of last year by Rupees 23,929. The Budget Estimate for repairs not only fell short of that of the preceding year, but the whole sum sanctioned, viz., Rupees 47,000, was not expended during the past season. Several works having been left uncompleted, this accounts for the decrease observable in the outlay under this item. The Superintending Engineer will, however, be requested to appropriate to the respective works the whole amount allotted for repairs during the current official year, especially as these repairs are absolutely necessary to decrease to some extent the annual remissions now granted.

5. The outlay under the above two heads, deducting the demands on account of the three Anicuts hereafter to be considered, has led to an increase of revenue to the extent of Rupees 1,401-11-3 as detailed in the following Statement. Considering that each individual work is passed by the Collector either with a view of maintaining or of increasing the revenue, the result is certainly surprising and most unsatisfactory, especially as in many of the estimates sanctioned it would appear that annual additions of 400 or 500 Rupees would accrue to the village realizations. There are however some valid reasons to be assigned for this apparently very unremunerative

return for the outlay made by the State. In the first place many of the repairs have to be undertaken merely to maintain the village Beriz at its present standard; it would exhibit a falling off if the remedial measures were not taken. It must also be borne in mind that in the Sub division where a large outlay has taken place, there is no charge levied upon second crops; the Tirwah is a consolidated cess, no distinction existing between one and two crop lands; Fasal-jasty, and its attendant Bhoghahnushty are equally unknown in this portion of the District. It is therefore to the new cultivation of waste lands alone, that we must look to a return upon outlay. The consolidated cess system has numerous advantages, but it does not make expenditure on public works look well in statistics of this kind. Moreover, the seasons have undoubtedly been bad for the last few years, and the Palar freshes, upon which the south and eastern portions of the District so mainly depend, have sadly fallen off; this last cause may be taken as the principal reason for the unsatisfactory return to the exertions and expenditure of the Public Works Department.

Number.	Talook.	INCREASE OF REVENUE.									
		From New Works.			Form Repairs.			Total.			
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	
1	Chittoor										
2	Chendraghery	6	13	10	72	1	1	78	14	11	
3	Palmanair	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
4	Gudiattum	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
5	Vellere	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
6	Poloor	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
7	Wandawash	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
8	Arcot	760	2	1	.....	.....	.....	760	2	1	
9	Wallajah	.....	.....	.....	89	0	0	80	0	0	
	Total...	8	14	5	478	11	10	482	10	3	
		775	14	4	625	12	11	1,401	11	3	

6. I regret here to express my inability to give the

775	14	4	625	12	11	482	10	3
						1,401	11	3

6. I regret here to express my inability to give the separate amount expended out of the total disbursements in different Tálúqs, owing to the absence of necessary information in the Annual Progress Report furnished by the Superintending Engineer. It gives neither the Tálúq, nor in some instances even the names of the villages to which the works belong. I have requested Colonel Boileau to remedy this for the future.

7. Complaints have in some instances been made that the repairs to works have not been carried out as satisfactorily as could be desired owing chiefly, I imagine, to the neglect or undue thriftiness of the Contractors; it has however been subsequently determined to give the contracts as far as practicable to the villagers themselves; and as they must naturally take a greater interest than any one else in the thorough completion of the work, it is to be hoped that this system can be largely introduced, and thus prevent any representations against the quantity or quality of the work done.

8. *Anicuts*.—The principal works connected with the Palar project executed during the year are the widening of the Mahendravadi channel from six to fifteen yards at sole, for a distance of five miles from the Head Sluice at an outlay of Rupees 11,000, and the extension of the Dusi Main Channel to a further distance of about a mile at a cost of Rupees 3,000. The Govindavady and Kaverepak channels, running from the northern side of the anicut, have been deepened and improved, the rocks which impeded the flow of the water having been cut through. The main works connected with the Poinay project executed in the year are as follows:—The breadth of the Perungangi channel was greatly increased, and a main branch newly supplying several tanks in the Wallajah Taluq was excavated from this improved source at a cost of Rupees 24,000. The body of the anicut itself was also raised. The eastern channel was hitherto very irregular in its section, its width at sole varying in near localities as much as from six to twenty yards. During the year under review, these variations have been extensively

remedied and uniformity in the width of the sole has been gained. In the first section of about three miles in length, the width is twenty yards, and in the second section comprising about the same length of channel, the uniform width is twelve yards. No expenditure was this year incurred on account of the Cheyoor Irrigation works.

9. A Statement showing the increase of revenue during the year under report, and up to the year previous, is subjoined for the information of the Board:—

Anicut.	Taluq.	Increase of Revenue.		
		Up to Fasli 1272.	In Fasli 1273.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
Palar Anicut... ..	Wallajah Arcot	9,088 14 6	185 15 6	9,274 14 0
		22,957 1 11	4,689 1 7	27,646 3 6
		32,046 0 5	4,875 1 1	36,921 1 6
Ponai Anicut... ..	Wallajah	6,770 15 9	2,811 10 6	9,582 10 3
Cheyoor Anicut	Wandawash	30,195 15 1	3,719 4 6	33,915 3 7

The gross increase may be taken at Rupees 80,419. This is doubtless, in a commercial point of view, but a very poor return for the capital sunk in these projects, but the causes already enumerated in paragraph 5 are equally applicable to this statistical result.

10. *Communications.*—The outlay for the construction of new roads during the year is Rupees 12,196, or Rupees 11,170 in excess of the expenditure under this head in the previous season. The greatest portion of this amount has been expended on the construction of a new road from Armet to Arnes. The outlay during

the year, on account of repairs to existing lines of communications, is Rupees 47,030, of which a sum of Rupees 170-13-7 was appropriated for the repairs executed on Traveller's Bungalows, as shown in my report* upon the Bungalow Fund for the year 1863-64. The decrease of Rupees 4,132 under this head calls for no special remark.

* Dated 12th August 1864.

11. The Trunk roads Nos. 1, 10, 11 in the District are in good order, although not very pleasant for light traffic, owing to the stones projecting in certain portions above the road level. From Arcot to Arnee, the state of the road was complained against, and this year Rupees 10,400 has been sanctioned for setting matters right. Second class Road No. 7 from Poothalpat to Tripatty is in tolerable order, and is much used.

12. During the year, the roads particu-

From Palamanair to the Cuddapah frontier.
From Arnes to Chetpat.

12. During the year, the roads particularized in the margin were transferred from those to be dealt with by the Local Fund, to those coming under the revenue derived from the Income tax, and will henceforward be treated as imperial lines.

13. *Buildings.*—The expenditure incurred in the construction of new, and in the repair of old buildings, was Rupees 5,917 and 5,523 respectively; of these amounts, Rupees 680 of the former, and 3,247 of the latter were expended in Military structures, and the remainder on those connected with the Revenue, Judicial and other Civil Departments.

14. In conclusion, I beg to state that from the abstract appended to paragraph 2 of this Report, the Board will observe an excess of Rupees 17,764 in the expenditure over the estimate or the Budget grant ; this deficit has, I presume, been adjusted from the Reserve Fund.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th September 1864.*

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. With the exception of the non-employment of available funds to the full extent on needed repairs, and the cessation of work in the Cheyoor Anicut system of works, the facts reported appear to the Board to be fairly satisfactory, but Mr. Banbury has omitted one most important part of the subject, viz., the general condition of the public works, irrigation, communication and buildings, throughout the District.
3. The Board always peruse these reports of the progress of public works with much interest, and are satisfied that, thanks to the zeal and intelligence of the Officers of the Department, excellent work is being done; but it is even more important to be fully informed of what is still needed, and in what direction special efforts should be made either to arrest decay or to effect improvements, and for this purpose the independent evidence of the local head of the Revenue Department, and chief administrative Officer in the District, is most important.
4. The Board, however, presume that Mr. Banbury, who has but lately taken charge of the District, was unwilling to express an opinion where he had not had the means of obtaining a personal knowledge of facts.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 356.

ORDER THEREON, 16th September 1864, No. 2,700.
Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Board of Revenue

Copy to G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot.

2700

Communicated to the Chief Engineer
H. Division

To the Chief Engineer & J. J. Wright
1089 Board of Revenue

16th Sept 1864

17th September

16th Sept 1864

(5)

1864. Department.
Pro. of Govt. for Sept.
No. 3981

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 3rd September 1864.

Res. 9.

No. 5,747.

2700 - 16th Sept 1864 -

Submitting with remarks, for information, letter from the Acting Collector of North Arcot reporting on the operations of the P. W. D. during the official year 1863-64.

With an order