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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, 31st May 1864.

No. 680. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1864, No. 2,895.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, dated 30th April 1864, No. 141:—

1. I have the honor to report on the operations of the Department of Public Works in this District during the official year 1862-63.

2. The subjoined abstract shows at a glance a comparison between the amount spent in the year under review and that spent in the preceding year on the different kinds of works, from which it will be seen that there is a net decrease of Rupees 12,946 in the expenditure on New Works, while there is an increase of Rupees 29,840 under the head of Repairs.

Works.	Expenditure of 1861-62.	Expenditure of 1862-63.	Difference.		Estimate of 1862-63.
			Increase.	Decrease.	
New Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Irrigation	4,562	2,494	.....	2,068	
Communications	13,391	1,795	.....	11,596	
Buildings	9,830	10,548	718	.....	
Total ...	27,783	14,837	718	13,664	
Repairs.					
Irrigation	1,08,925	1,22,617	13,692	.....	
Communications	50,848	67,383	16,535	.....	
Buildings	8,412	8,025	.....	387	
Total ...	1,68,185	1,98,025	30,227	387	
Grand Total ...	1,95,968	2,12,862	30,945	14,051	

3. Of New Works commenced during the year, the most important was the Vadarniem canal, but the progress made was small, about Rupees 1,000 having been expended at the close of the year out of an Estimate of Rupees 13,000.

4. The construction of the Yengam Corumbu; the re-construction of the Sea Custom House at Negapatam, and the enlargement of the Nannilum Táluq Cutcherry were the only new works of any importance that were *completed* during the year. All of these were commenced in the previous year.

At the spot where the Odampoki branches from the Vettaur.

5. Under the head of Repairs, the re-construction of a portion of the lower anicut, together with the bridge over it which had been carried away by a high fresh in the preceding year at a cost of Rupees 14,565, was the only work of any magnitude. The other works of repairs do not call for any remark.

6. The great and urgent wants of the District are two-fold—1st, the proper regulation and distribution of the water in the Cauvery to the eastward of the Vennaur dam, and the timely clearing of the channels; and 2nd, the wretched state of our roads. Regarding the first of these, there has been a long course of correspondence without any practical result or advantage arising therefrom. At present and for some time past the Arsalar, a branch of the Cauvery, carries off more than three times the water required for irrigating the lands dependant thereon; while all the lands to the east of the Arsalar head, which receive their supply from other branches of the Cauvery, are annually suffering from want of water, and hence every year it is found absolutely necessary to grant large remissions on account of short produce in the Táluqs of Combaconum, Myaveram, and Shealli. This state of things I must further observe is getting worse and worse every year, and unless something is done to remedy these evils, I have no hesitation in stating my conviction that the revenue must ultimately suffer; in fact, if it were not for the existence of the present high prices, I am inclined to think that the revenue would have already materially suffered.

7. I am well aware of the difficulties with which the Department Public Works with their reduced strength have to contend; but still I am inclined to think that something might be done to mitigate if not entirely to remedy the evils complained, and because elaborate and accurate surveys and expensive works cannot at present be made, and because there are no funds for carrying out an elaborate and complete system of works, I fail to see why something should not be done, and why some attempt should not be made to restore the rivers and channels to what they once were. It seems to me the worst of all possible economy to let things alone, or rather to let them go from bad to worse, simply because we cannot at once carry out a system carefully elaborated and thoroughly perfect and complete in all its details.

8. Again with regard to the clearing of channels, complaints of this not being attended to are constantly reaching me, and the Estimates made for the purpose are generally sent in so late in the season that it is simply impossible the work can be efficiently and properly carried out before the freshes. That I am not speaking vaguely or at random on this point I may simply observe that though this is the end of April, not a single Estimate for clearing channels has yet reached me.

9. Second, as to the state of the roads, their condition is most unsatisfactory, and no one who has had any acquaintance with the District for any number of years can fail to admit that they have seriously deteriorated. Captain Bean himself who served in Tanjore in former years will, I am sure, be prepared to admit this.

10. The remedy for the state of things I have ventured to describe seems to me very simple; and I would again take this opportunity of urging as strongly as I possibly can the expediency of re-transferring to this Department the execution of all ordinary works, such as the clearing of channels and the repairs of the roads. The carrying out of all works of importance and their repairs, as also of all works requiring engineering skill ought of course be left to the Professional Department; and even in the execution of ordinary works, we would be glad to seek the benefit of their experience and advice.

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

2. The Board cannot but regret the slow progress of the Vadarniem Canal, the completion of which they believe to be essentially necessary for the full development of the salt trade on the Great Southern of India Railway. The state of things described by Mr. Cadell in regard to the irrigation works calls for special and early attention, and so does also the seriously deteriorated condition of the District roads.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 681. ORDER THEREON, 31st May 1864, No. 1,578.

1. The paper submitted to Government with the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, recorded above, is the report of the Collector of Tanjore on the operations of the Department Public Works in that District during the year 1862-63.

2. The report is dated 30th April 1864, exactly twelve months after the period to which it relates. To be of use to Government communications of this nature should follow close upon the year reviewed, the delay which has occurred in the submission of Mr. Cadell's report renders it all but valueless. In it, for instance, he mentions that in 1862-63 the expenditure on the Vadarniem canal was only about Rupees 1,000 out of an Estimate of Rupees 13,000, and the Board of Revenue is thereby led to make a remark which appears to be meant to apply to the slow progress of the canal since the close of the year under review.

3. With reference to this remark, the Governor in Council observes that the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, reported under date the 13th February last, No. 1,841, that he had reason to suppose that the canal would be completed as far as Topetoray by the end of

Proceedings No. 647, dated 24th February 1864.

April, and it has since been ascertained that the first section from Vadarniem to Topetoray was then completed, and that the second section from Topetoray to Negapatam had been dug to the full depth, the sloping of the banks and the masonry works alone requiring to be completed, materials for the latter having also been collected. Considering the misapprehension that occurred as to the sanctions for the two sections, the Government is of opinion that the progress made with the canal can scarcely be said to be unsatisfactory.

4. Regarding the regulation of the water in the Cauvery, the Superintending Engineer will be reminded of the importance of the subject, and informed that the Government anxiously await the report called for in the Order of the 26th August 1863, No. 2,430, and which they hope to receive by an early date.

5. Paragraph 8 of the Collector's report brings to notice the inattention of the Public Works Department, to the clearing of channels. Captain Bean's attention will be called to the complaint, and he will be requested to report on the allegation that up to the end of April last "not a single Estimate for clearing channels" had been received by Mr. Cadell.

6. As regards the state of the roads in Tanjore, which is represented in the report under notice to be "most unsatisfactory," Government observe that in July last Captain Foord reported that "much had been done towards the improvement of the roads in this District during the past official year" (1862-63). Captain Bean will be good enough to furnish a report on their present condition.

Proceedings No. 2,020, dated 23rd July 1863.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.
„ Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Public Works Department

No. 1578

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 31st May 1864

Read the following

From the Pro. of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting for information letter from the Collector of Tanjore reporting on the operations of the Depart. of P. Works in the District during the official year 1862-63. — P. C. 13th ult. May 1864 No 2898

The paper submitted to Government with the proceedings of the Board of Revenue recorded above is the report of the Collector of Tanjore on the operations of the D.P.W. in that district during the year 1862/63.

2 The report is dated 30th April 1864, exactly twelve months after the period to which it relates. To be of use to Government communications of this nature should follow close upon the year reviewed. The delay

delay which has occurred in the
submission of Mr. Cadell's
Report renders it all but
valueless. In it, for instance,
he mentions that in 1862/63
the expenditure on the Cadarniem
Canal was only about Rs. 1000
out of an Estimate of Rs. 13000
and the Board of Revenue
is thereby led to make a remark
which appears to be meant to
apply to the slow progress
of the Canal since the close
of the year under review.

3 With reference to this
remark, the Governor in Council
observes that the Superintending
Engineer 6th Division reported
under date the 13th February
last. No. 1841, that he had reason
to suppose that the Canal would
be completed as far as Tipitoray
by the end of April, and at
this

has since been ascertained
that the first section from
Vadarniem to Tipitoray was then
completed and that the second
section from Tipitoray to
Negapatam had been dug to
the full depth, the sloping of the
banks and the masonry works
alone requiring to be completed,
Materials for the latter having
also been collected. Considering
the misapprehension that
occurred as to the sanctions
for the two sections, the
Government is of opinion that
the progress made with the
Canal can scarcely be said
to be unsatisfactory.

4 Regarding the regulation
of the water in the Cauvery the
Superintending Engineer will
be reminded of the importance
of the subject, and informed
that

that the Government anxiously await the report called for in the order of the 26th August 1863 No. 2430. and which they hope to receive by an early date.

Para 8 of the Collectors' report brings to notice the inattention of the P.W.D to the clearing of Channels. Captain Bean's attention will be called to the complaint, and he will be requested to report on the allegation that up to the end of April last "not a single estimate for clearing Channels" had been received by Mr Cadell.

6 As regards the state of the roads in Tunjore, which is represented in the report under notice to be "most unsatisfactory," Government observe that in July last Captain Ford reported that "much had been done towards the improvement of the roads in this district during the past official year," (1862/63). Captain Bean will be good enough to furnish a report on their present condition.

No. 2020 of 23d July 1863.

To The Superintg Engineer 6th Dn.
" Board of Revenue

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Dated 1st June.

Key and Letter to England 30th May 1864

D. of W. 1864 Depts
Pro: of Govt for May

No. 1578.

Pro: of the Algoa
D/31. May/64

Quarter letter No. 2850 of
1864.

2850

Submitting the
Report of the Collector
of Customs on the opera-
tions of the D. of W.
during 1863.

No. 680. 681