M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages.

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3186 Press / Mis.-

154-155.

Dated 6--10--1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 6th October 1866.

No. 154. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th September 1866, No. 6,739:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 30th August 1866, No. 168.

1. I have the honor to submit my report on the Public Works of my District for the official year 1865-66.

2. The following table exhibits in one view the expenditure on public works under each head, the total amount being Rupees 1,72,736, or Rupees 1,01,616 less than the sum expended in the previous year:—

	Expenditure in 1864-65.	Expenditure in 1865-66.	Difference.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
New Works.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Irrigation	32,179	13,628	.....	18,551
Communications	22,998	11,025	.....	11,973
Buildings	26,228	15,811	.....	10,941
Total ...	81,405	40,464	.....	40,941
Repairs.				
Irrigation	1,04,173	62,042	.....	42,131
Communications	87,026	67,652	.....	19,374
Buildings	1,748	2,390	542	.....
Miscellaneous Public Improvement...	.....	188	188	.....
Total ...	1,92,947	1,32,272	730	61,505
Grand Total ...	2,74,352	1,72,736	730	1,02,446
Net decrease ...	.....	.....	.....	1,01,616

Except on repairs of buildings and works of public improvement a very perceptible decrease is observable in all the other heads, but in none is this more painfully apparent than in the item of Irrigation Works, in which, under both original works and repairs, there was a decrease of expenditure of no less a sum than Rupees 60,682. This greatly reduced outlay, the Board are aware, is attributable to the revision of the Public Works Budget by the Government of India, which reduced to a minimum the assignment of funds for the entire Presidency, consequent on the demands on the Public Treasury for carrying out a complete system of improved barrack accommodation for the European troops throughout India. Limited, however, as was the allotment for this District, the Public Works Department certainly made the most of the funds placed at their disposal; and after deducting the payments noted in the margin, only Rupees 1,932 remained unexpended of the allotment of Rupees 1,78,195 for the year.

	RS.
Tools	449
Paid for works executed by Civil Officers.	3,078
Total...	3,527

3. *New Works, Irrigation.*—Rupees 3,280 were expended during the year on the anicut across the Cheyar river, but with the exception of this, no new irrigation work of importance was undertaken. A sum of Rupees 10,000, for cutting the

Pombay channel from the north bank of the Ponneaur river for irrigating the lands of the Villapuram Taluk, and a similar amount for constructing an anicut across the Manamootynaddy at Comaramungalum, were provided for, as sanctioned by the Madras Government in the Public Works Budget of the year, but both were finally disallowed by the Government of India. By private enterprise the Sendanadoor square tank in the Ellavanassoor Taluk was cleared at a cost of Rupees 1,200, and a channel has been cut from the Manamooty river to the Cullacoorchy tank at an outlay, by the ryots, of Rupees 1,500. Both of these works had long been much wanted, and they were no sooner sanctioned by Government than the ryots cheerfully came forward and advanced the entire sums necessary for their execution.

4. *Communications.*—The rebuilding of the ten arches of the Gudalum bridge destroyed by the flood of October 1864, and the widening of the other ten arches which withstood the inundation, were completed during the official year, and the bridge itself was thrown open for usual traffic in February last. Rebuilding the destroyed arches cost Rupees 3,755, and widening the bridge Rupees 3,299.

5. *Building.*—The new Court-house was occupied by the different Courts on the 15th March, and the building was completed by the 30th April last. The entire outlay has been Rupees 48,979-7-0, or nearly 5,000 Rupees in excess of the original estimate, which was only Rupees 44,000. Accommodation is provided for three Courts, viz., the Civil and Session Court, the Court of Small Causes, and the Cuddalore District Munsiff's Court, and the building is the only one in the place which can lay claim to any pretensions to architectural appearance, and it is unquestionably an ornament to the station.

6. *Repairs, Irrigation.*—Under this head only Rupees 62,040 were expended in the past year, or little more than half the amount expended on similar works in 1864-65. The Superintending Engineer states that 202 tanks, 25 channels, 26 embankments, 10 calingulahs, 22 sluices, and 13 anicuts were repaired, and 8 calingulahs, 23 sluices, 1 anicut, and 2 channels newly constructed. The following are amongst the irrigation works on which the largest sums have been expended for repairs:—

	Rupees.
Repairing southern bank of the Permal tank	1,708
Closing breaches in bund of Trivady tank	2,324
Repairing bund of Culput tank	2,673
Do. do. of Cundumpakum tank	1,408
Do. do. of Olookay tank	1,756
Do. the banks and clearing the Ragavien channel	1,906
Do. calingulah in Khan Saib's channel	1,586
Closing breaches in the Coleroon embankment near Calegum	1,429
Repairing the Alachaygoody tank	1,763

7. The Tindevanum taluk was visited in November last by a very severe storm, which did considerable damage to tanks and other irrigation works generally, but the ryots were prompt in their aid to meet the emergency, and the numerous breaches in nearly all the tank bunds were quickly repaired. About the same time extensive injury to cultivation in the Chellumbrum taluk was threatened by a breach in the Coleroon anicut, but any very serious results from the occurrence were fortunately averted by the promptitude and active zeal of the then Tahsildar Kolundoovaloo Pillay, who, within 12 days, constructed a bund, 750 yards long, 15 wide, and from 7 to 8 high, at the comparatively small cost of Rupees 1,550. But for the timely and able efforts of this officer, aided, as they were, by the people, a loss of several lacs of revenue might, possibly, have resulted. I regret to add here that this excellent and efficient Tahsildar has recently died of cholera, and no public servant in the District perhaps could so ill have been spared.

8. *Communications.*—Rupees 67,652 represents the expenditure under the head of repairs to communications, and the following are the principal roads on which this sum has been expended :—

		Rs.
No. I. Range.	Repairs to 19 miles of Trunk road No. 8	3,660
	Do. 30 do. do. do. No. 9	2,779
	Do. 25 do. from Tindevanum to Cuddalore *via* Mylum and Pondicherry	4,872
	Do. 28 do. from Cuddalore to Trunk road No. 9, and from Trunk road No. 9 to Trunk road No. 8	3,926
	Do. 24 do. from Cuddalore to Salem frontier by Virdachellum	2,724
No. II. Range.	Do. to Trunk road No. 8...	4,940
	Do. to road from Merkanum to Tindevanum	1,940
	Do. do. from Tindevanum to Chengum and Trinomaláy.	5,553
No. III Range.	Do. to Trunk road No. 8	4,179
	Do. to road from Oolundoorpet to Cullacoorchy ...	2,184
	Do. to road from Cullacoorchy to Salem frontier ...	2,280
No. IV. Range.	Do. to Trunk road No. 8	3,650
	Do. to road from Cuddalore to Salem *via* Virdachellum.	4,179
	Do. to road from Cuddalore to Coleroon	1,649
	Do. to road from Porto Novo to Trunk road No. 9 ...	3,049

9. *Buildings.*—The repairs to buildings were only Rupees 2,390, and the items call for no remark.

10. I hardly expected that provision would be made in the Budget of 1866-67 for the construction of the road between Merkanum and Pondicherry, sanctioned in the Government Order, 12th May 1865, No. 1,001, but no doubt a good metalled road between these two places will be a great boon; and I have already pointed out all the advantages of the project, when completed, in my letter to Mr. Clarke, and that Officer, in his Report to Government on the salt works of this District, warmly advocated the outlay, so that further comment is unnecessry. The estimate is unavoidably, large, owing to the absence of all material on the spot, but I do not think it more than commensurate with the great benefits to the salt revenue and the trade generally, which may be expected from it.

11. It is gratifying to find, notwithstanding their exclusion from the original Budget, that two important works are to be taken in hand at once. I allude to the—

	Rs.
Re-construction of a bridge across the Thumbipetta Oday, on the six-teenth mile of the road between Cuddalore and Salem	5,900
Forming road-way and embankment on the bed of the Mullatar on the line of Trunk Road No. 8, and erecting a bridge over do. ...	1,950

the cost of which is to be met from the unexpended imperial allotment for repairs in the Salem District.

12. The frequent complaints, for some years past, by the Government of Pondicherry on the subject of the irrigation from the Vieravandy anicut and channels are, I am happy to say, in course of immediate settlement, and the necessary scheme with all specifications and other particulars to meet the varied interests at stake has, at length, been arranged between the English and French Engineers, and the matter is now before the Madras Government, on the report of Colonel Foord, the Superintending Engineer of the Division ; and despite all the difficulties which beset the question, it is likely now to have a satisfactory and permanent solution, the importance of which can only be judged of by those who have year after year had to listen to the unceasing complaints and dissatisfaction expressed by the French Government on behalf of their ryots without the ability, till now, of placing matters on any acceptable footing.

13. Since the foregoing was written, the Government sanction has been received to all Colonel Foord's recommendations, and the estimated expenditure for the current year has been authorized.

14. As regards the general condition of public works in South Arcot, I have only to add my opinion that it is fully equal to the limited allotment of funds at the disposal of the Public Works Department. There are many works, especially of irrigation, which urgently call for execution or extensive repairs ; but with the mere nominal allotment year after year it is hopeless to expect improvement, and the marvel is that the revenue has not more perceptibly suffered ; and it is often a subject of surprise and comment with those conversant with the wants of the people and the interests of the State, that so little money is laid out by Government on irrigation works, the importance and the remunerative character of which are patent to all, and when, if permitted, private enterprise would quickly be forthcoming to do what is required. Almost every outlay on works of irrigation in this District would result in a large additional revenue ; and in my humble judgment a State loan for public works of this character would prove a very profitable investment, if the public treasury be stil unable to meet the needed outlay. The time, I think, must come, and that at no very distant period, when Government will be compelled either to incur an enormous expenditure for placing works of irrigation in the condition they should be, or to sacrifice a proportionate amount of existing revenue. It is a fact that there are but few tanks in South Arcot capable of holding their proper complement of water, or which are not in need of very material and extensive repairs ; and if so, it is clear that mere patch-work can only postpone the evil day ; and how far Government are bound to respect their obligations to the ryots in this matter, apart from what is due to their own interests, it is for them to decide ; but if an outlay of ten or twelve lacs of Rupees has been recommended as indispensable to render effective the irrigation works of the District, and only an insignificant sum of a little more than half a lac is year after year assigned, it is not difficult to foresee the prospective consequences of a policy, which appears so widely at variance with that usually followed in private life by those who seek the most profitable and sure return for the investment of capital.

15. The Superintending Engineer of the Division, Colonel Foord, has been in the District for some months, and has in that interval visited all parts where his presence was most needed for the inspection of works. Colonel Foord's experience of the District renders these visits very valuable, and his untiring energy and devotion to the interests of the District, and of the agricultural classes so far as his Department is concerned, exercise a most beneficial effect, and the subordinate officers are thus incited and stirred up to increased activity and zeal by the example of their chief.

---

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board note the Collector's testimony to the valuable services of Kolunduvalu Pillay, late Tahsildar of the Chellumbrum Taluk, and regret that his death should have deprived Government of so zealous a servant.

No. 155. ORDER THEREON, 6th October 1866 No. 3,186.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 12.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

P.C. 1866. Department.

Press Genl for October
No 3920

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

81

Dated 20th September 1866.

No. 6,739.

Submitting for information letter from Collector of South Arcot reporting on Public Works for 1865-66.

No 1654. 167-

No. 3186 - 6th Oct 66

William Arden

Sb Ordered

No. 2186

Communicated to the
Supt Engr of the 5 Div

Fort St George
6th Octr 1866

2 Sets 5 Div
" Rev Dept
" Bd of Rev
Asst Sr Retaker

32
4