

(1) Number of pages ————

(2) Date of repair ————

(3) Initials of the Referrncee ————

G.S.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 42	Press <u>Mis.</u>
81-82	
Dated 5 th 1	1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th January 1870.*

No. 81. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th December 1869, No 8,947 —

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nizampatam, 2nd November 1869, Extra No 362 —

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 1st March 1869, No 1,328, I have recently had lists very carefully prepared of all the tanks, etc, which require repair in this district, and I forwarded these lists in two instalments to the Superintending Engineer on the 4th and 24th September.

2. On 4th October 1869, in a letter No 156, Colonel Moberly wrote. " In reply to your No 279, 4th ultimo, I have the honour to point out that the repairs supposed to be required to the various tanks amount to 31 per cent of the revenue

" The Return forwarded with your Extra No 72 of 24th September shows that an immediate expenditure of 70 per cent on the revenue is required, and 25 per cent, annually. The general average calculated is, I believe, 6 per cent

" It is impossible to carry out all these repairs with my allotments, I would therefore adhere to my proposal, (*vide* my letter No 89, of 17th July 1869,) that the Tahsildar and Range Officer should consult as to the most important, and the latter prepare estimates accordingly "

3 I had already, in the *Gazette* of the 7th August, published the Circular of the Superintending Engineer to which he refers, but this did not allow me to ignore the Board's instructions, in their Proceedings, No 1,328, dated 1st March 1869, and, therefore, the complete list of tanks requiring repairs was also prepared. The Superintending Engineer, however, proposes to make no practical use whatever of this list, in which case the labour spent in its preparation has been entirely wasted

4. The rain this year has been unusually abundant, and in consequence several tanks have breached. These, as emergent works, I have brought at once to the notice of the Superintending Engineer from time to time. I have just received a letter from him, dated 25th October 1869, No 180, in which he writes —

" In returning the enclosed papers, I have the honour to inform you that in consequence of the financial difficulty under which the Imperial Government is labouring, my allotment for "Repairs, Agricultural" has been reduced by Rupees 30,000, and that up to 30th September the expenditure by this department had exceeded the new allotment, besides which there were probably debts still due for work not completed

" Since that, requisitions have poured in on me for repairs, which in some cases have been commenced as emergent by the Range Officers. I am quite unable to meet these calls, and know not how we shall get our tanks in anything like order after the unusually abundant rain-fall, unless the Government can arrange to supply me with more funds."

5 I am bound to bring the matter at once to the notice of the Board, for if all repairs to tanks and channels are to be stopped forthwith, there will be undoubtedly a very serious falling off in the revenue as the natural result, and the cost of the repairs will, in the end, be greatly increased, if they are not undertaken early.

o/c 19/1/70 Wall

This stoppage of works may temporarily relieve the financial difficulty of this year, but it will entail a difficulty of far larger proportions to be met in next year. We may stop the execution of new works which are calculated to be re-productive, but if we neglect to keep existing irrigation works in repair, the revenue on which we calculate will be seriously imperilled.

Postscript —As the Public Works allotments have been so much reduced, and no reduction of establishments made, I would suggest that, with the additional leisure at their disposal, the Range Officers might be directed carefully to examine and report upon the state of all the tanks entered in the Collector's list as requiring repair. Estimates might be prepared for those which are considered worth repairing, the work to be put in hand as soon as funds are available, and special reports might be made with regard to those which the Department Public Works consider it desirable to abandon. The Superintending Engineer seems to consider the Revenue estimate high, but my experience is, that when the Department Public Works make professional estimates, they always greatly exceed the rough estimates of the Revenue Department.

2 I would further suggest that it would be very desirable if the officials of the Department Public Works, when proceeding to estimate for the repair of tanks or such similar works, were to consult the villagers as to their wishes, and what they would propose. I have been very much struck with the uniform tenor of the replies made by the ryots themselves in every part of the district, to the questions lately sent down to be put to them by the Public Works Commissioners. They are all, almost without exception, in favour of the management of irrigation works being placed under the Collector, because they complain that the Department Public Works never consult them in any way, but make estimates without their knowledge, and undertake repairs which they have never asked for, and by which they derive no benefit, leaving the most important works undone, for which they have been petitioning year after year. I have heard the same thing from the lips of the ryots over and over again. They also generally complain that the works are not constructed in such a strong and enduring manner now, as they used to be in former days, but are put out of hand in a make-shift sort of way, so as to be continuously requiring fresh repairs. They also complain that the Department Public Works do not study their convenience as to seasons, but make large demands for labour when every hand is required for agricultural operations, instead of executing the works before the commencement of the cultivation season, when they would gladly give every assistance in their power. Many of these remarks deserve attention. In the prosecution of public works, we ought to use every endeavour to secure the hearty co-operation of the people.

(Signed) J. A. C. BOSWELL,
Officiating Collector.

SUBMITTED, together with a copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 1st March 1869, No 1,328, for the orders of Government.

2. The Board observe that, although it could scarcely be expected that funds would be available for the immediate repairs of all the tanks requiring it, it is

greatly to be regretted that no money can be provided for emergent repairs. It appears to them that the only course will be to intimate this to the people, and inform them that for the present year they must do what they can for themselves and not look for any help from the Public Works Department.

3. Mr Boswell, in his postscript, suggests that Range Officers should be called on to examine and report on the state of all tanks entered in the Collector's list, and the Board recommend that this suggestion be acted on.

4. The Board do not deem it desirable in this place to enter into a discussion of the subject broached in Mr. Boswell's postscript, but they fully appreciate the absolute necessity for a cordial co-operation between those who execute the repair of works, and those for whose benefit the repairs are executed.

No 82. ORDER THEREON, 5th January 1870, No. 42

IRRIGATION, No. 2.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer of the 2nd Division whose attention will be drawn to the suggestion in paragraph 3.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.
.. Revenue Department
.. Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Exd T O'Connor.

14/1/70 wall

No 1,328

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st March 1869

From a careful examination and comparison of the periodical returns of tanks requiring repair, received from the several districts, the

Prepared in accordance with paragraph 89 of the Government Order, Public Works Department, 6th February 1864

Board see reason to apprehend that there is a want of uniformity in the system of preparing the returns

2 In some districts the number of tanks requiring repair is probably compiled from Tahsildars' returns, but in others, it is evident that some other system is followed. The Board are aware, in respect to one district included in this return, that the number of tanks shown in the return are those concerning which the Superintending Engineer has received petitions during the year, and the return itself was obtained from his Office. In other cases the tanks only, in respect of which estimates have been prepared, are returned, and so on. Such returns are rather calculated to mislead than inform.

3 The Board, therefore, request that advantage be taken of the present Jummahbundy season to prepare, in communication with the Curnums and Monegars, a correct return of the tanks in every talook requiring repair, with their Ayacut, cultivation, etc., and the amounts which, in the opinion of experienced officers and ryots, are required to put them into thoroughly efficient state; and to maintain the annual repairs. Care should be taken to prevent extravagant estimates, and as far as possible the superior Revenue Officers should verify the fact of the tank being out of repair, and to what extent.

4. It should be clearly understood that when a work is omitted from this "list of works requiring repair," the Collector or divisional Officer has satisfied himself that the work is in an efficient state, or not capable of repair with profit.

(A true Extract)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy)

(Signed) J T MAYNE,
First Assistant

To all Collectors

Exd. F. R. Bantleman

oc in 14/1/70 tall

Entered the Proc. of the B. of
Revenue in the Treasury to 400
B. P. dated 4th December 1869
at 1869.

1869.

Department

Received
No

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

1869. 1869. 1869. 1869.
Dated 1st March 1869
Received

No 1,328

Tanks requiring repair, with their Agent,
cultivation, etc., and amount required for their
repair—Collectors directed to prepare, in com-
munication with Curums and Monagars, cor-
rect Returns showing—.

Ch: Engineer for Sengah / m. s. deep 5/1/70 to the two first.
O-c in 19/1/70 to all

Transferred to
the P. W. Dept

W. A. Lyell
Asst. Secretary to Govt
Forst and Range
17 December 1869

A. 88

P. W.
1869. Sept
Board of Revenue
MADRAS No. 5323
H. 1104

PROCEEDINGS, 4TH DECEMBER 1869, No. 8,947.

Desd 15 Decr 1869 Encl 1
Received 11 Decr 1869
n 25 Decr 1869

DECEMBER.
No. 8,947.

Tanks—in Kistna District.—Letter from Col-
lector bringing to notice refusal of Superinten-
ding Engineer to undertake repair of, owing to
want of funds, and suggesting that Range
officers be directed to examine and report upon
state of all tanks entered in Collector's list, as
requiring repair, submitted to Government,
with remarks

No 42. 51 Jan 1870

Transferred.

Public Works Department
No 42
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 5th Jan^y 1870.
Read the following
No. of the Board of Rev. H. E. No 8947 of 4th Decr 1869

Communicated
to the Superintending
Engineer of the 2nd
Divⁿ whose attention
will be drawn to the
suggestion in para 3.

To the S. Eng. 2nd Divⁿ
Rev. Secy.
Ch. Engineer for Sengal
p. 8 desd 25/1/70 to the two first.
O. C. 14/1/70 tall

Cue 5323.

Govt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

*The Superintending Eng^r
2^d Division*

Dated

Recd.

G.O. 5th January 1870, No. 42

Nos. 81-82

Order (Copy the Board of Revenue re-
questing that Range Officers may
be called upon to examine and report
on the state of certain tanks in
the District of $8\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$ com-
-mands.