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

G.O. No. 2410	Press
87-88	~~Mis.~~
Dated 6. 10.	1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th October 1870.*

No. 87. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1870, No. 5,754 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 27th June 1870, No. 161.

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the operations of the Public Works Department during the official year ending 31st March last.

2. The subjoined table shows the expenditure in 1869-70 contrasted with that in the previous year :—

Items.	Expendi- ture in 1868-69.	Expendi- ture in 1869-70.	COMPARISON.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
<i>New Works.</i>				
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Irrigation	48,725	45 104	...	3,621
Communications	20,031	35,637	15,606	...
Buildings	26,804	16,936	...	9,868
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	...	...	...	..
Total...	95,560	97,677	15,606	13,489
<i>Repairs.</i>				
Irrigation	77,511	76,998	...	513
Communications	69,539	47,362	...	22,177
Buildings	4,066	1,643	...	2,423
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	78	...	...	78
Total...	1,51,194	1,26,003	...	25,191
Grand Total...	2,46,754	2,23,680	15,606	38,680
Net Decrease...	...	...	...	23,074

3. There was a decrease of Rupees 23,074 in the expenditure in the past year as compared with the year before. This was owing to the restrictive orders on Public Works expenditure received from Government at the close of the past calendar year. The allotment originally was liberal enough, Rupees 3,03,291 being the amount entered in the Budget as passed by Government, and Rupees 33,570 the amount of the additional grants subsequently sanctioned, making a total of Rupees 3,36,861, from which, if Rupees 1,01,213 on account of transfers be deducted, there remained a net allotment of Rupees 2,35,648 available for expenditure. The outlay on Public Works proper, as shown in the above table, was Rupees 2,23,680; but if to this be added Rupees 969 paid to Civil officers for works executed by their department, and Rupees 74 expended on tools, the total expenditure will be found to be 2,24,723 Rupees, leaving an unappropriated balance of Rupees 10,925 at the end of the year.

4. NEW IRRIGATION WORKS.—The first new irrigation work that claims attention is the *improvement of the Allungal channel*. The plan and estimate for this project were passed in Government Order, dated 9th April 1870, No. 998, though permission to commence the work was given in August, owing to the necessity

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there was for getting certain of the work done before the early freshes in the Pooniar. The Board will observe that in my letter, recorded in their Proceedings of the 9th August 1869, I brought prominently to their notice the importance of this project, the main object of which is to secure by means of this channel, the only real supplying source, a full supply of water to the large tank of Valavanoor, a village once wealthy, populous, and flourishing, but which has gradually become impoverished and depopulated, owing, in great part, to the very serious check to the cultivation of the lands of the village, consequent on the failure of water in the said tank. The estimate for the work amounts to Rupees 12,620, of which only Rupees 3,688 were spent during the year; but the Superintending Engineer reports that the result of the work already done fully justifies the statement of prospective increase of revenue, and it is true that the Valavanoor tank did receive a comparatively full supply of water for the first time during several years, and which resulted in a very marked increase in the revenue of the current fusly year.

5. *Anicut across the Manimoottannuddy near Mamathur.*—The history of this project I have already given in my Public Works Report of 1868-69. The expenditure in 1869-70 amounted to Rupees 21,127-8-2, and more would have been done but for the orders restricting further outlay on Public Works. The anicut is completed, but the stoppage of the work was most inopportune, and it is feared that the execution of the irrigation canal from the anicut for the supply of water to the neighbouring villages may not be in time for the coming freshes.

6. *Anicut across the Myore Nuddy in the Virdachellum Talook.*—This work, the estimate, Rupees 11,003, for which was sanctioned in Government Order, 1st October 1868, No. 3,087, consists of a weir over the above river, with a channel from it for the better supply of the Nugger tank and the lands of the Sapakum village. When the proposed works are completed, an additional area of 240 cawnies will be brought under cultivation yielding an increased revenue of Rupees 1,200, or about 11 per cent. on the outlay. Rupees 4,774 have been expended, and the whole would have been finished before the close of the official year had not the work been stopped in January last.

7. *Improvements in the Vyloor tank in the Virdachellum Talook.*—The estimate, Rupees 6,065, sanctioned in Government Order, 27th May 1869, No. 1,733, provides for the extension of the bank of the tank so as to intercept a large quantity of water that now runs to waste into the Manimoottannuddy river. The tank when enlarged will irrigate 402 cawnies of land at present lying uncultivated; of this extent 280 cawnies it is expected will be brought under immediate cultivation. The increased assessment will be about 1,000 Rupees, or 17 per cent. on the outlay. The expenditure on the work was Rupees 2,005, and it is reported that about one-third of the earthwork is finished and materials have been collected for the masonry works.

8. *Pambay channel from the northern end of the Pooniar anicut.*—I have noticed this work in my last report in which the estimated cost was given at Rupees 45,400, but in view to the completion of the channel, a supplemental grant was applied for and sanctioned in Government Order, 29th April 1870, No. 1,140. Rupees 4,229 were laid out on the channel in the past year, making a total of

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Rupees 45,387 spent on it since its commencement. Captain Roberts, the Acting Superintending Engineer, reports in confirmation of the great benefit derived from this work, all the tanks depending on it received a fair supply of water, and a large quantity passed into the Pambay river itself, enabling an additional supply to the tanks under the influence of that small river.

9. Next in importance to the original irrigation works above described are the following:—

(1.)	Re-constructing Periacoorchy ruined tank	RS. 764
(2.)	Constructing a calingulah in the bund of Siruvatoor tank	636
(3.)	Cutting a channel from the Guddilum river to supply Manaloor tank, etc.	424
(4.)	Constructing two sluices in the Kongampett small tank	390

10. *NEW COMMUNICATIONS.—Road from Merkanum to Pondicherry.*—The importance of this road, which was sanctioned to facilitate the trade in salt between the two places, was forcibly pointed out by me to Government, through Mr. Clarke, the Member of the Board, who in 1864 inspected and reported on the salt works of this district, and although it was at first expected that the cost would be too large to admit of the work being at once undertaken, it was since found possible to reduce the estimate to Rupees 49,000,* or about one-half of the original estimate. Rupees 20,000 were provided in the Budget of

* G. O., 10th January 1867, No. 10.

1862-70 for this work, but subsequently this was reduced by Rupees 8,000 in December last. The expenditure, up to the close of the year, was Rupees 10,606, and 9½ miles of the road out of the 20, the entire length of the line, has been formed, though not entirely metalled. The Budget of 1870-71 contains no provision for the continuance of this work, nor has any maintenance allowance been granted for the portion already made, and with Captain Roberts I much regret this, and I should be glad if the Board are able to recommend the allotment of funds from the Reserve, or by any transfers for the continuance and maintenance of this important road, the completion of which is essential to the full development of the salt trade between Merkanum, Pondicherry, and other parts.

11. *Bridge across the Vellar at Mutloor on the road from Pondicherry to Nega-patam.*—The estimated cost of this work is Rupees 44,800, of which Rupees 19,931 have been expended in the past year, and a sum of Rupees 20,800 has been provided for the further prosecution of this work in 1870-71. If the progress of the work be not further delayed in the current year, it is hoped that the bridge will be completed in 1871.

12. The sums expended on other new roads and bridges of less importance, are shown below:—

Bridge over the Melattar near Veeramperoonanalloor	RS. 1,658
Bridge over the Vasoodavanoor river on the road from Kullacoorchi to the Salem frontier	2,096
Bridge over the Amiahpoorumoday on the road from Kullacoorchi to the Salem frontier	1,098
Causeway over the Melattar channel on the 107th mile of Trunk Road No. 8.	247

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13. NEW BUILDINGS.—The expenditure under this head consists mainly of sums laid out on the construction of new or improvement of old Talook Cutcheries and Subsidiary Jails, the most considerable of which are the following:—

	RS.
Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry and Subsidiary Jail at Vanoor.	1,916
Subsidiary Jail at Cuddalore	2,053
Talook Cutcherry at Chellumbrum	2,545
Subsidiary Jail at Virdachellum	1,296
Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry at Munnargoody	1,078
Do. do. at Bowengherry	1,179
Do. do. at Porto Novo	2,322

These buildings were progressing rapidly when all was suddenly stopped in common with all other public works, the result of which stoppage will, I fear, involve considerable additional expenditure in the end.

14. REPAIRS.—Of irrigation works; 185 tanks, 16 embankments, 56 channels, 14 anicuts, 10 calingulahs, and 30 sluices have been repaired at a cost of Rupees 76,998, and 470 miles of Imperial road have been kept in repair on a maintenance allowance of Rupees 47,362.

15. The following table exhibits the number of miles of Imperial roads that have been maintained, completed, are under construction, and which have not been commenced during the year under notice:—

Number of the roads as given in paragraph 9 of G. O., dated 11th Nov. 1868, No. 2,831.	Names of Roads.	Total length in miles in this district.	Number of miles which have been maintained in good order during the year.	Number of miles of new road completed during the year.	Number of miles under construction.	Number of miles not yet commenced.	Remarks.
II.	Main Lines of Communication. Great southern road from Madras to Travancore frontier near Cape Comorin with a branch at Tindevanum to Negapatam, via Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Sheally, and Tranquebar, and another at Veckaravandy to Combaconum, via the Vellar anicut...						
IX.	Merkannum to Samulputty on the line of Railway, via Tindevanum, Gingee, Trinamalai, and the Chongmah Pass ...	211	211	.....	.....	.....	Road in good order.
X.	Cuddalore to Salem, via Punrotty, Oolandoorpett, Kullacoorechi, Chinna Salem and Ahtur ...	91	91	.....	.....	.....	Do.
	Salt roads.	65	65	.....	.....	.....	Do.
14	Cundadu to Thanbakam in South Arcot ...	5	5	.....	.....	.....	Do.
15	Chunampett to Alathoor in South Arcot ...	10	10	.....	.....	.....	Do.
16	Teagavelly and Gundalum in South Arcot ...	5	5				Do.
13	Merkannum to Pondicherry in South Arcot ...						Do.
	Total...	387	387	91		91	

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16. Having inspected several of the works executed during the past year, I am able to bear testimony to their good and efficient character so far as they had gone, but I fully endorse Captain Robert's opinion that the stoppage of the works at the most favourable season of the year for carrying them on is likely to be attended with very unfortunate results. "It has," to quote his, Captain Roberts' own words, "not only thrown the whole working machinery out of gear, but it has caused considerable distrust and discontent amongst contractors who have undoubtedly suffered losses from the unexpected suspension of all works. Coolies collected under great difficulties from distant places, and who have received large advances from the contractors, are of course unable to repay in coin, or to work out their advances; they have all therefore returned to their villages, and the contractors find their chance of recovering the advances very small indeed," and I agree with the Superintending Engineer that it is very desirable "that funds be supplied as early as practicable for meeting all such outstanding demands, and for executing such work as may be necessary for preventing the rapid deterioration that is now taking place of the many half-constructed, roofless buildings, and of the unprotected materials lying about at so many stations and on so many roads in this division," and more especially is this the case with the Talook Cutcheries and Subsidiary Jails, nearly all of which already bear marks of such deterioration resulting from the exposure to all weathers of unfinished and roofless buildings.

17. The district has sustained a loss on the departure on extended leave of Colonel Foord, who for so many years filled the position of District Engineer of South Arcot, and subsequently of Superintending Engineer. His great experience of, and interest in, the district considerably lightened my own labours in regard to the projection and oversight of works of all kinds for the general good and in furtherance of the public revenue, but I make no doubt that the important trust and duties connected therewith will in no way suffer in the hands of his successor Captain R. Roberts, who relieved Colonel Foord in April last.

RESOLVED that the foregoing report be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The expenditure during 1869-70 fell short of that in the previous year by Rupees 23,074. The principal new irrigation works in hand are the Allungal channel, the anicut near Mamathur, the anicut across the Myore, the Vyloor tank, and the Pambay channel.

3. The first three works have been interrupted by the stoppage of funds. The last-named work was, however, so far completed at a cost of upwards of Rupees 45,000 as to be of considerable benefit during the past season.

4. The completion of the salt road from Merkanum to Pondicherry is delayed for want of funds. The Collector and Superintending Engineer urge the necessity of an early allotment to carry on the work, and the Board hope that funds may be forthcoming soon for this purpose.

5. The progress of the bridge over the Vellar is also stopped. In South Arcot, as elsewhere, many buildings have been left half finished to the mercy of

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the weather. Great ultimate loss must be caused by the exposure they have suffered.

6. All the main trunk roads are said to be in good order.

No. 88.

ORDER THEREON, 6th October 1870, No. 2,410.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 9.

COMMUNICATED to the Acting Super-
intending Engineer of the 5th Division.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

No. 5,754.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th September 1870.

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9. Next in importance to the original Irrigation works above described, are the following:—

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. G. M.
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
to the Collector of South Arcot.

04-01-9

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6-10-70

Received 23 Dec 1950.

Index

SEPTEMBER.

No. 5,754.

Public Works—in South Arcot District.—Collector's report on progress of, during 1869-70, submitted for information of Government, with remarks.

It is under

✓ 2410-5-10-90

Ch 3773

Govt. of 1870

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Acting Superintendent
Engineer 5th Division

Dated

Recd.

G. O. 6th Act 2410

Nos. 87-88

Public Works. Mr. of the
Board of Rev. in the Mechanic
Department on the progress of
Public Works in the
South and District
May 1889-90, Com. of the
Superintendent of the 5th Division