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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public (Works) DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 2,882

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th July 1871

Read the following letter from J. W. BREEKS, Esq , Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 7th June 1871, No 64 —

I HAVE the honour to submit my Public Works Report for 1870-71.

2. The following statement shows the grants and expenditure during the year —

Heads	Grants.	Expenditure
	RS A P.	RS A. P
New works . .	79,852 14 3	79,908 9 2
Repairs	36,277 1 6	36,267 12 11
		1,16,176 6 1

The above expenditure is classified as follows —

Heads	Amount
New works	RS. A P
I Military	22,829 8 3
II Civil Buildings	1,316 10 11
III. Agricultural . .	3,576 5 6
IV Communications	14,493 1 1
V. Miscellaneous Public Improvements ..	14,469 12 3
VI Tools and Plant	1,250 0 0
VII Establishment	21,973 3 2
Repairs	
VIII Military	6,995 7 0
IX Civil Buildings	2,936 15 9
X. Agricultural	.
XI Communications	25,585 10 9
XII Miscellaneous Public Improvements .	249 11 10
XIII Tools and Plant .	499 15 7
XIV. Establishment	. .
Total	1,16,176 6 1

3 Of item No I., Rupees 21,139-15-4 appertain to the Lawrence Asylum. In November 1869, the construction of the male branch, when about two-thirds finished, was stopped. The works were resumed on the 1st December 1870 During the last four months of the year the exterior of the building (tiling, pointing, etc ,) was finished off The school-room, a large handsome room 96 × 36 feet, was handed over to the Principal, and about ten days ago, the remaining Dormitories were finished and handed over

4 Saint Thomas' Church was completed on the 20th of October 1870. Exclusive of furniture and fittings, and cost of site, the building has cost Rupees 11 per square foot of plan over all

5. Item No III was paid to Mr McIvor for his silt bund The Board are aware that the bund after having reached a height of 84 feet, was carried away in June last, the breach having been caused by circumstances unconnected with the peculiar method of construction. Mr McIvor has lately been silting out a saddle for the permanent escape, but at the depth of 45 feet he has met with a sheet of rock A detail contour survey and sections of the bund site and adjoining country are in progress

6 Of item No IV, Rupees 12,867-5-3 were spent upon the new Coonoor ghaut which was opened throughout to wheeled traffic on the 2nd July 1870 Rupees 6,015 was expended upon parapet walls to the most dangerous parts The whole of the 6th and 7th miles have been fenced in this way, besides half a mile on other parts of the road

7 Of Item No V —

Rupees	2,016	14	11	were spent upon the Ooty water-supply,
,,	2,184	15	4	were spent upon the Ooty reclamation,
,,	3,319	14	0	upon Lake sluices,
,,	6,948	0	0	compensation for land for water-supply
,,	14 469	12	3	

The *south branch of the water-supply* has been completed and handed over to the Municipal Commissioners It consists of a reservoir with a capacity of three millions of gallons and a supply channel of five and a-half miles in length. The main details of the *north branch* have also been finished. The reservoir has a capacity of 46,566,000 gallons. About two-thirds of the supply channel has been cut The swamp *reclamation* has not progressed so fast as it might have done, owing to large gangs of convicts having been employed on the lake sluice and in reclaiming about an acre and a half of land called "Allamby's Marsh" to the north of Charing Cross The lake *sluice* is all but finished It was begun in June 1870 I am glad to be able to report that the compensation question for lands taken up for the water-supply and reclamation projects, has come to an end without reference to the Arbitration Court. The net cost to Government on this account has been Rupees 30,407 I append an account of receipts and disbursements and balance in hand —

	RS		RS
Sanctioned in 1869-70 for Reclamation—Government Order, No 53 dated 9th January 1869	20,000	Compensation paid away	32,679
Cheque from Superintending Engineer	10,000	Compensation still to be paid	346
By transfers ,,	6,948	Refund to Public Works Department	900
By recoveries	2,618		33,925
		Balance to credit of Government including recoveries when unpaid compensation is settled	5,641
Total	39,566		39,566

8 The following sums were spent on *Repairs* of various roads —

		Miles	RS	A	P
I	Coonoor new ghaut	16	9,753	0	0
II	Wellington Station Roads	12	1,320	0	0
III	Coonoor Station do	8	778	13	5
IV	Ootacamund do	16	1,759	15	10
V	Coonoor to Kotagherry	12	1,154	8	0
VI	Ooty to do	12	1,199	15	5
VII	Do Kakamella towards Mysore	26	2,560	1	2
VIII	Do to Coonoor (new road)	12	2,499	13	7
IX.	Do to Goodaloor	34	3,139	6	11
X	Do to Devasholah	12	1,320	0	5
	Devasholah to Kaitary	12		...	
	Total	172	25,485	10	9

The Coonoor new Ghaut Road (No I) absorbed more than one-third of the sum allotted for Repairs for the year out of Imperial Funds. The High Roads to Mysore (VII) and Wynaad (IX) absorbed about one-tenth each Of the 172 miles, seventy-eight miles are metalled with granite.

9 I venture to allude to the small allotment assigned to this district for 1870-71 (Rupees 14,493) under the head of *New Works—Communications*, as compared with that of 1869-70, (Rupees 75,912) I trust the Government will bear in mind the peculiar circumstances of this district, which seem to me to claim exceptional consideration Tea, Coffee, and Cinchona plantations made with English enterprise and capital form centres of agricultural industry which are highly beneficial to the native inhabitants, and roads are of the first importance

Our Local Funds from tolls and road-cess can never amount to a large sum The district is but sparsely inhabited, and contains no commercial towns, while the nature of the ground adds largely to the cost of road-making, chains of hills necessarily regulating the direction of roads with a view to practicability rather than economy.

10 I may mention the following roads which have already received sanction, but for which funds have not yet been allotted —

I Road from Ootacamund to Mailkondah—Estimate Rupees 35,000—sanctioned in Government Order, No 1,635, 23rd May 1868, and Government Order, No 3,551, 14th November 1868, paragraph 2.

II. Improvement of road from Tippacaudoo Bridge to 10th mile-stone towards Ootacamund—Estimate 4,200 Rupees—sanctioned in Government Order, No 2,570, 28th October 1870

III Widening Goodaloor Ghat—Estimate Rupees 20,000—sanctioned in Government Order, No 2,587, 31st October 1870.

IV Kartairy, Mailoor, and Devashola Roads—Estimate Rupees 17,260—sanctioned in Government Order, No 1,706, 29th May 1868 The Superintending Engineer, on the 27th August 1870, stated that the unexpended balance on this road (Rupees 7,755) would be applied for in the Budget for 1871-72

V. Waterloo Bridge at Wellington—Estimate Rupees 14,000—sanctioned in Government Order, No 681, 28th February 1868, and Government Order, No 1,596, 19th May 1868 The Superintending Engineer, on the 10th November 1870, stated that the work had been entered in the Budget for 1871-72.

11 I can report satisfactorily of the state of the roads generally Captain Morant's zeal and readiness on all occasions to attend to the requisitions of my office and of a somewhat exacting public, are very praiseworthy. I cannot say that complaints have not reached me of the state of the roads in some parts of the district, but such complaints have seemed to me unreasonable, considering the maintenance allowance at the disposal of the Executive Engineer

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SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

,, to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries

Exd T Cartledge.

P. R. 1871 Dept

No. 3512

1871.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 12TH JULY 1871, No. 2,832.

Dept 21 July 71 Encl.

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JULY.

No. 2,882.

Public Works on Neilgherries,—Commissioner's report on progress of, during 1870-71, submitted to Government.

No 2091 - 15 Aug 71

With an order

Cp-3572

Govt of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Acting Secretary to Govt
Engr. & Ld Department

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G 15 Aug 6 1291.

Nos. 158 & 159

Public Works in the Neil-
cherries - Rec. the Ch
Rep on the Commissioner's
Report on Public Works
in the Neilgherries for
1870/71, Comd to the Subj
Engr Nilgiris &c