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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2787 Press / Mis.

54-55

Dated 3 . 11 1871 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 54. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th September 1871, No. 3,901 :—

Read the following letter from C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th August 1871, No. 2,231.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Annual Report on the operations of the Department of Public Works for the past official year 1870-71.

2. The subjoined abstract exhibits the expenditure under all heads during the year compared with the preceding one.

Statement showing the expenditure under all heads compared with past official year.

Description of Works.	Expenditure of 1869-70.	Expenditure of 1870-71.	Comparison. Increase.	Comparison. Decrease.
New Works.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Irrigation	4,819 11 2	11,378 10 2	6,558 15 0	.....
Communications	258 12 3	.....	.....	258 12 3
Buildings	50,958 3 4	10,337 3 9	.....	40,620 15 7
Total...	56,036 10 9	21,715 13 11	6,558 15 0	40,879 11 10
Repairs.				
Irrigation	25,804 10 3	18,396 8 3	.....	7,408 2 0
Communications	35,249 1 2	41,013 2 2	5,764 1 0	.....
Buildings	3,273 8 8	4,200 6 4	926 13 8	.....
Total...	64,327 4 1	63,610 0 9	6,690 14 8	7,408 2 0
Grand Total...	1,20,363 14 10	85,325 14 8	13,249 13 8	48,287 13 10

3. *Irrigation.*—The expenditure under the head "New Works" amounted to Rupees 11,379, as against Rupees 4,820 during the past year. The chief works under this head are the Serukalay tank in the Namkul Talook, the Chinna Kistnapuram, Valayamadaivee tanks and the Vellyoor, Goodamalay, and Kistnapuram anicuts in the Ahtoor Talook. The Serukalay tank is reported to have been completed, but the Tahsildar of Namcul reports that the stone-facing is badly executed and that there are leaks in the bund near the calingulah. Much work, both earth and stone, has been done to the Valayamadaivee tank which I have inspected and to the Chinna Kistnapuram tank. The work to the Chinna Kistnapuram tank is at a stand-still, owing to disputes regarding the site for the calingulah. The Executive Engineer, Mr. Lawford, who has only lately joined the district, has as yet expressed no opinion upon the point. He is not, I believe, satisfied with the site for the calingulah to the Valayamadaivee tank. As regards the anicuts, nothing beyond the collection of a few materials has been done. The works are stopped by the orders of the Superintending Engineer, as the designs require to be altered.

4. The Sub-Collector, speaking of the new works, states that "the charges "were not incurred upon what can justly be called "New Works," as it was,

" with very trifling exceptions, devoted to the re-building of damaged sluices and " calingulahs."

5. Under the head " Repairs " fifty-nine tanks, seven channels, fourteen anicuts, one calingulah, and two sluices were repaired during the year, at a cost of Rupees 18,397, while the expenditure during the past year amounted to Rupees 25,805. It is lamentable that in so large a district as this the expenditure under this most important head should be so trifling, and grievous to see the way in which tanks and other irrigation works have been neglected. Hundreds of tanks in almost every talook are in need of repair, and the consequence is that the Government is every year out of pocket to a considerable amount, either in being obliged to grant remissions or in lands being left waste, owing to the state of disrepair of the irrigation works upon which these lands depend. The result of allowing these works to fall more and more into disrepair will, as the Sub-Collector observes, be that " Government will finally have to spend upon them 50 per cent. more than " would be necessary, or that it will have to abandon them as not being worth " the cost of repair." I trust that this matter will attract the serious attention of Government, and that measures will be devised for remedying the evil.

Communications.—There has been no expenditure on new works under this head. The bridge across the Pennar, on the Oossoor and Maloor road, was in progress, but the amount expended was provided from the Local Funds.

7. Under Repairs Rupees 41,013 were expended on the two imperial lines of roads running through this district. The Superintending Engineer states " that " 296 miles of imperial roads have been kept in a *sort of repair*," and goes on to say that " it is lamentable to see the condition of the roads in some places." Further comment is unnecessary. The first step to amendment is acknowledging a necessity for amendment.

8. *Buildings.*—The expenditure under this head amounts to Rupees 14,538. The new works in progress were the Tahsildars' Cutcherries and Subsidiary Jails at Ahtoor, Namcul, Utengherry, and Vaniembady, and the new Post Office at Salem. This latter building and the Subsidiary Jail at Utengherry have been completed and appropriated for the purpose for which they were intended. At Vaniembady, the Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry is finished, but the Subsidiary Jail is incomplete. At Ahtoor the work is progressing satisfactorily, but at Namcul, Pennagaram, Kistnagherry, Darampury, Tripatore, and Oossoor the works have been entirely stopped, and the incomplete buildings are exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather, and are fast going to ruin; and the work will in consequence have to be done over again, and the amount expended (not a small sum) must be set down as simply thrown away. The Sub-Collector's remarks on this point are forcible.

9. Before proceeding to notice the requirements of the district, I must premise that it is impossible that efficient supervision can be expected with the present staff of the Department of Public Works attached to this district. It is out of the question that *one* Executive Engineer can look after a range with an area of 3,166 miles, a revenue of 10,70,000, and containing 654 tanks, 270 anicuts, 241 minor channels, and the three Cauvery channels. Such is the Salem Range. The hands of the department must be strengthened, and it is absolutely necessary that the Salem Range should be divided and placed under two separate officers. I have

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 3rd November 1871.

already addressed the Superintending Engineer on the subject, and I trust steps will be taken for allowing another officer to this district.

10. *Irrigation.*—With the exception of the Chinnakistnapuram and Yalayamadaivee tanks, in the Ahtoor talook, none of the projects already brought forward have been put in hand, or even placed in a state to be sanctioned. The Badatalah, the Barur, the Maurundahully, the Pennagoundapuram, the Malapady, and the Kistnagherry reservoir projects have been on the tapis for four and five years, and with the exception of the Badatalah and Pennagoundapuram projects, for which estimates have been sent in, the rest are said to be still under examination by the Department of Public Works.

11. *Communications.*—Now that the Local Funds' Act has come into force the distinction between the Imperial and Local under this head has been done away with, and it will rest with the Local Funds Board of each Circle to provide funds for all roads. The requirements under this head will therefore be in future noticed in the report on the Local Fund works.

12. *Buildings.*—The want of Talook Cutcherries and Subsidiary Jails at Namcul, Darampury, Pennagaram, and Tripatore is much felt. The Sub-Collector reports that the Darampury Cutcherry is in such a state that it will " not be surprising if it tumbles down ere long." The Kistnagherry Cutcherry is in much need of alterations. There is a great want of accommodation in my own Cutcherry. I lately submitted a scheme for improvements which, I trust, will be sanctioned.

13. A copy of the Report from the Sub-Collector accompanies.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Salem, dated Oossoor, 14th June 1871.

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the operation of the Department Public Works during the official year 1870-71.

2. The annexed abstract Statement shows the cost of New Works and Repairs as compared with the preceding year :—

Description of Works.	Expenditure of 1869-70.	Expenditure of 1870-71.	Difference.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
New Works.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1. Irrigation	1,398 4 0	2,284 3 11	885 15 11	.. ..
2. Communications	6,196 13 2	3,370 0 10	.....	2,826 13 2
3. Buildings	18,989 7 0	322 10 10	.....	18,666 12 2
Total...	26,584 8 2	5,976 15 7	.....	20,607 8 7
Repairs.				
1. Irrigation	7,949 9 10	3,888 15 10	.....	4,060 10 0
2. Communications	10,807 5 10	12,703 3 7	1,895 13 9	.....
3. Buildings	1,370 7 4	2,569 0 3	1,198 8 11	.....
Total...	20,127 7 0	19,161 3 8	.....	966 3 4
Grand Total...	46,711 15 2	25,138 3 3	.....	21,573 11 11

3. *Irrigation.*—The expenditure on "New Works" under this head amounted to Rupees 2,284-3-11, as against Rupees 1,308-4-0 in the preceding year. This shows the slight increase of Rupees 975-15-11; but the charges not incurred upon what can justly be called "New Works," as it was with very trifling exceptions, devoted to the re-building of damaged sluices and calingulahs. The largest item was the construction of the new calingulahs for the Yalagherry tank, in the Darampury taluk, the cost of which was Rupees 467. It may thus be seen of how petty a nature all the work done under this head was.

Under the head of "Repairs" the expenditure during the year under report was Rupees 3,688-15-10, exhibiting, as compared with the charges of the previous year, the heavy falling off of Rupees 4,060-10-0, or more than half. As I have before remarked in other reports, I cannot set this down to the want of work to do. On all sides there are tanks requiring repair; they are daily growing worse, and still estimates are either not sanctioned, or else there is no money to carry them out. I presume the financial difficulties which brought about the increased Income-tax, and the scarcity caused thereby, has prevented the execution of any repairs, but those of the most urgent and remunerative character. Whether economy so excessive as to allow of the expenditure of only Rupees 3,688-15-10 upon repairs to the irrigation works of a tract of country consisting of some 2,000 square miles is economy in the long run, appears open to argument. Works year after year are allowed to fall more and more into disrepair, and the end of it all will be that the Government will finally have to spend upon them 50 per cent. more than would now be necessary, so that it will have to abandon them as not being worth the cost of repair.

The chief items in the head under consideration are marginally noted, and of these the only one which calls for special remark is the "Temporarily repairing of the Maurundahully anicut and channel." The amount spent (Rupees 400) was not large, but the effect has been to very nearly fill the Sangambasavan tank, in the Darampury talook, which this work supplies, and to save Government revenue amounting to something over Rupees 900. I am astonished that the Engineers, who have repeatedly had the state of this tank and channel before them, did not think of this expedient before. The charges will, I believe, have to be incurred every year, until the, I fear, distant period when the "Maurundahully Project" shall have been carried out. Still it yields a profit of something more than cent. per cent., and therefore should certainly be continued.

4. You will observe that the Alleyam channel, in the Oossoor talook, figures in the list, although it was completed in the previous year, by a supplemental estimate of Rupees 580. This does not speak very well for the quality of the work done. I trust that, in the present year, some improvement may be made in the system of irrigation repairs. I cannot conceive, short of a complete abolition of the Department of Public Works altogether, a more unsatisfactory state of things than now exists. The ryots are for ever grumbling and discontented; I find both from personal inspection and the reports of my subordinates that the complaints made are for the greater part just. I wrote to the Range Officer who, I believe, does his best, and sends in an estimate; and there in five cases out of six the matter stops.

5. *Communications.*—The expenditure upon "New Works" and "Repairs" under this head was Rupees 3,370-0-10 and Rupees 12,703-7-7, giving, as compared with 1869-70, a respective increase and decrease of Rupees 1,695-13-9 and Rupees 2,826-13-2. The charges on account of "New Works" were met entirely from Local Funds, and they consisted for the main part of Rupees 2,447-3-6 for the completion of the bridge across the Pennair at Bangalore, and of Rupees 790-2-6 for the completion of the road from Palcode to Maurundahully. The former work has proved a great convenience, but to render it safe and passable the approaches on either side should be widened. The work has not been in my hands, and I have not yet received charge of the

bridge. The Palcode and Maurundahully road has been made over to the Revenue Department, and is already being a good deal used for cart traffic.

The expenditure on account of "Repairs" was, with the exception of Rupees 50-11-0, spent upon the public bungalow at Oossoor, incurred for the maintenance of that portion of the Great Western road which runs through the division. The falling off of very nearly Rupees 3,000 in this item of charge was owing to the reduction of the annual grant consequent on Imperial financial difficulties.

6. *Buildings.*—The charges under these heads during the year 1870-71 were as follows:—"Original Works, Military," Rupees 80-4-0; Original Works, Civil, Rupees 242-6-10; "Repairs, Military," Rupees 2,150-15-6; "Repairs, Civil," Rupees 418-0-9. The enormous difference in the charges for "New Works," both Military and Civil, in this and the preceding year, namely Rupees 11,171-9-10 and Rupees 7,495-2-4, was entirely due to the deficit. The large range of stabling at the Remount Depôt, the Pennagaram Cutcherry, and all the new Sub-Jails of the division were, on the 31st March 1871, in the same state as regards completion as they were on the 31st March 1870, and it at present appears to be almost a matter of certainty that, with the exception of the Sub-Jail at Oossoor, which I, as a Magistrate, require the least, they will be still incompleted at the end of this official year. I suppose that if there had been funds available grants would have been made, and that deterioration which has taken place in nearly every work has been unavoidable. Still it appears to me that even if Government had to borrow the money it would be more economical to do that and finish these works than to leave them to fall down, as two-thirds of them probably will within the next two years. I had hoped that the Sub-Jail at Kistnagherry, which is more required and will cost less to complete than any other, would have been finished during the past year; but nothing has been done to it. When I last saw it, about a month ago, large flakes of the plastering of the cook-house had fallen; there were cracks in the walls, and the roofs seemed in disrepair.

The main item of expenditure under "New Works, Civil," was the providing of railings to protect the records of the Kistnagherry Talook, which cost Rupees 174-15-0, and which was very much required.

"Repairs, Military," comprised house-rent drawn for Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers at the Remount Depôt (Rupees 617-1-7), and repairs to the various Government buildings at that place (Rupees 1,533 13-11); the principal item being Rupees 1,254-10-0 expended in repairing the roof of No. 1 Lines.

The charges for "Civil Repairs" were incurred on account of the Talook Cutcherry at Kistnagherry and the building used for the Sub-Collector's Cutcherry at Oosoor. The latter item amounted to Rupees 388-9-5, and was necessitated by a large beam giving way and by the roof being almost entirely destroyed by white-ants.

7. I now proceed with the requirements of the division under the preceding heads—

8. *Irrigation.*—As in 1869-70, so in the year under report, not one of the irrigation projects brought forward arrived even at the sanctioned stage. The Bade Talal scheme passed out of my hands long ago, and I am ignorant of what its fate since then has been. It certainly promised well, and I hope that it will eventually be sanctioned. The Pennagoundapuram project in the Kistnagherry talook has been disposed of as far as I am concerned. It will, I believe, pay nothing *less* than 8-24 per cent. on Rupees 25,000. The Malapadi scheme still remains in the hands of the Department Public Works, I believe, in consequence of some error in the plans originally prepared, and of the small staff made available for the examination of irrigation projects. During a very great portion of the year under report Sub-Engineer Mr. Blacker was employed on the surveys of the Maurundahully anicut and channel scheme in the Darampury talook. What he has been doing all this time I do not know, but he appears to me to have been very dilatory. It is now quite two years ago since this work was first taken in hand, and though there do not appear to me to have been any engineering difficulties in the surveys and plans, neither one nor the other seems to have been completed.

I beg to reiterate the doubts which I have more than once expressed regarding Mr. Blacker's

8. The Board consider that of all the district reports they have seen th reveals a more unsatisfactory state of affairs than any, and they would reque Government to peruse carefully the reports of Mr. Longley and Mr. Price in t hope that this most neglected district may receive a larger share of money an attention for the future.

9. The usual statement regarding the mileage of Imperial Road has not bee submitted, and should be forwarded as soon as possible.

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 3rd November 1871, No. 2,787.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 8.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintend ing Engineer of the 5th Division, whos attention will be given to paragraph of the Board's Proceedings.

2. The Government note that the present grant of Agricultural repairs in th Salem District for the year 1871-72 is Rupees 35,000, or Rupees 10,000 in exces of the modified allotment for 1870-71. The short outlay in the latter year, a compared with the available grant, amounted to Rupees 6,603, and it has beer explained that it was owing to the unusually large supply of water in the tank during the working season. However much to be regretted therefore it woul seem in this instance that the short expenditure was unavoidable.

3. The allotment of the current year for Civil Buildings shows an increas of Rupees 8,141 over that for the year under review.

4. With reference to paragraph 7, the Government observe that there are a present two Executive Engineers attached to the Salem District leaving only on range to be administered by an Upper Subordinate.

5. The question of redistributing the Executive charges of this Presidenc having been referred for the consideration and report of the Superintending Eng neers an opportunity will be afforded to the Government of apportioning th charges of different officers more equally than has been perhaps the case in som instances and the requirements of Salem will receive due consideration.

6. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Sub-Collector's letter printed wit the Board's Proceedings the Superintending Engineer will report his opinion o Mr. Sub-Engineer Blacker's qualifications for the work entrusted to him and whetho he has been properly diligent in the performance of his duties.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augusti

Salem District
1868/69

		Grant for the year	Expenditure	
Military	New Works	12640	6872	
	Repairs	1250	1050	
Civil Buildings	New Works	66420	59017	
	Repairs	38675	2957	
Agricultural	New Works	20669	19248	
	Repairs	32000	31765	
Communications	New Works	8160	8394	
	Repairs	44430	45340	
Mis. Pub. Depts.	New Works			
	Repairs			
	Total	189756 *	173283 *	
Tools & Plant		1030	290	
Establishment		not given	45949 / 28452	
		190786	202022 / 219522	

* Imperial Works 11,126 / 173283

Salem District.

1869/70.

		Grant as it stood on the last day of the year	Expenditure.
Military	New Works	11360	
	Repairs	808	
Civil Buildings	New Works	39698	
	Repairs	2416	
Agricultural	New Works	4820	
	Repairs.	25804	
Communications.	New Works	259	
	Repairs	36249	
Mis. Pub. Bnfts.	New Works		
	Repairs.		
	Total	133518	* 120364
Tools & Plant		1300	301
Establishment		Incl. forces	46894
		134818	167559

* Navy Works 80457
Repairs 120364

Salem District. 6

1870/71.

		Grant as it stood on the last day of the year	Expenditure.
Military	New Works	81	80
	Repairs	2119	2151
Civil Buildings	New Works	12763	10257
	Repairs	246	2049
Agricultural	New Works	4926	11379
	Repairs	37[illegible]	18397
Communications	New Works		
	Repairs		41013
Mis. Pub. Bnfts.	New Works		
	Repairs.		
	Total	40,001	* 85326
Tools & Plant		202	143
Establishment		Incl. forces	42555
		40203	128024

* Navy Works 41457
Repairs 85326

compared

Extract from Proceedings No. 2787 dtd 8th Sept 1871 of the Madras Govt. Public Works Department

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (M. Ex. No. 3901 dtd. 14th Sept 1871)

Communicated to the Chief Engineer & the Divisional Officer whose attention will be given to para 2 of the Board's Proceedings.

A/A.

The Government note that the present grant of Agricultural repairs in the Salem District for the year 1871/72 is Rs 35,000 or Rs 10,000 in excess of the modified allotment for 1870/71. The short outlay in the latter year, as compared

compared with the Estimate
of Collegrant amounting
to Rs 6603 and it has
been explained that
it was owing to the
unusually large supply
of water in the tanks
during the wet season. However much
we regretted it therefore
occasion this instance
therefore to have been the short expenditure was
unavoidable

The allotment of the
current year for Civil
buildings shows an
increase of Rs 81 41 over
that for the year under
review

With reference to para
7 the Government observe
that there are at present
two

two Executive Engineers
attached to the Salem
District carrying only
one Range of the ad-
-ministered by an
Upper Subordinate.

The question of
redistributing the
Executive charges of this
Presidency having been
referred for the consi-
-deration and report
of the Superintending Engineers an
opportunity will be
afforded to the Govern-
-ment of apportioning
the charges of different
officers more equally
than has been perhaps
the case in some in-
-stances and the
requirements of Salem

with

will receive due
consideration.

With reference
to para 8 of the Rule
Collectors letter printed
with the Boards pro-
-ceedings the Super-
-intending Engineer
will report his opinion
of Mr Rule Engineer
Blackers qualifications
for the work entrusted
whom and whether
he has been proper
diligent in the perfo
-mance of his duties.

Yours

16 Oct

34
3

Supt Engineer 5th Div.
Board of Revenue

Dispd 6/11/71

9

C-ho-4495.

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Superintending Engineer
5th " Division

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 3rd Road 1871, No. 2787.

Nos. 54 & 55

Public Works Salem The Board's Pro. submitting the Collectors report on the working of the Department of P. W. in 1870-71 communicated to the Govt. by the 5th Div. with remarks.