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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police, Madras DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 563	Press Mis.
535-26	
Dated 27.2.18	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th February 1871.*

No 535. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 27th January 1871, No. 233 :—

In compliance with the instructions contained in G. O, No 2,327, of the 27th September 1870, on the Salem Collector's report on the operations of the

1 List of materials

Department Public Works for the year 1869-70, I have the honour to make the following observations —

2. *Paragraph 2 of the G. O* —The bad state of the Imperial roads in this district has been a source of grave anxiety to me, and the Range Officers have received most stringent orders from me on the subject. And I am in great hopes, therefore, that such measures have now been taken as to prevent any further complaints being made on this score. At the same time it must be conceded that considering the large amount of traffic passing over these roads, as also the great and unexpected reduction of 22 per cent. made, late in the season, in the maintenance allowance of last year, it cannot be a matter of surprise that the efficiency of the roads in question should have been appreciably affected. The reduction of 6 per cent. in the current year's allowance, although comparatively small to that of last year, is also to be regretted, and will be seriously felt.

3. Mr. Pochin's statement, quoted by the Board, that the Imperial roads in the district "cannot be in a worse condition than they are" is, of course, mere hyperbole, in fact a phrase which, self-evidently, was never seriously intended to be taken literally, and, therefore, would better have been avoided in a report of the kind.

4. I should be very sorry to mislead the Government by attempting to defend the condition of these roads, but, on the other hand, I can see no object in stigmatizing them in such a wholesale way as that adopted by the Collector, for it is clear that a statement so obviously exaggerated as that above quoted must defeat its own purpose.

5. The report called for in paragraph 2 of the G. O., regarding the Malapady bridge, was submitted with No. 228 of the 24th January 1871, from this office.

6. With reference to paragraph 4 of the G. O., I have the honour to forward a list of the materials collected for the proposed Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry and Subsidiary Jail at Pennagaram, and to state that these materials can scarcely be utilized on other works, as there are no works of the kind sanctioned at a reasonable distance from Pennagaram, nor can they be sold except at a great loss to Government. The materials are lying in an out-of-the-way corner of the district, and their carriage to any large town, such as Salem or Bangalore, would be very considerable, and this too with but a slender chance of our realizing anything like the original cost of the articles.

7. It may be observed from the list that some of the materials have already become useless, and it is not unlikely that many, if not most of the other materials, if left in their present state much longer, will share the same fate, and cause a considerable loss to accrue to Government in consequence.

8. An outlay of Rupees 3,154 has been incurred on the work in question. The foundations and basement have been constructed, and almost all the wood-work required is ready on the spot. An estimate of Rupees 15,980 was submitted with letter No 64, of the 9th July 1869, from this office for this Cutcherry, but no orders have been passed thereon.

9. As any outlay that may be incurred on account of the safety of the materials would only cause an additional loss to Government, and taking into consideration the demands made by the Revenue authorities for the completion of the buildings, I would, both on the score of economy and necessity, venture to suggest that the Government be pleased to sanction the estimate submitted, and to grant the balance thereof from the next year's Reserve under "Civil Buildings," so that the materials remaining may be utilized and the buildings completed.

10 In paragraph 6 of his report, the late Mr. Pochin does not hesitate to repeat the charge made by him in former reports, that the "misfortunes that have occurred to our irrigational works" are due to bad work and insufficient supervision on the part of this department, and he proceeds to state that nearly "ninety per cent of the works for which estimates were sent to me during the year, were those upon which money had been laid out during the preceding one, two and three years" I am surprised how statements, so inaccurate in the sense in which they are intended to be taken, can be brought forward by any one really conversant with the subject

11. Mr. Pochin was well aware of the rule restricting the outlay on the repairs of a tank or irrigation work in any one year to the revenue of that work. It is for this very reason that the thorough repairs required for a work have frequently to be extended over two or three years. Not that the same work has to be done year after year, as Mr. Pochin would lead one to suppose was the case, but because in order to place, say, a tank in a satisfactory state, it frequently happens that the cost of the repairs considerably exceeds the revenue, and it has been customary, under such circumstances, to allow the work to spread over several years; thus, the bund will be repaired one year, a new sluice built the second year, and a calingulah the third year

12. To prevent, however, any future misunderstanding under this head, I have arranged that whenever an estimate for a tank, or other irrigation work, is prepared, that estimate shall include the whole of the repairs and improvements required; and in the event of the estimate exceeding the ayacut revenue, that allotments, embracing a period of two or three years, as may be found necessary, shall be made, so as to complete the work satisfactorily and without exceeding the revenue in any one year.

13 With reference to the breaches of irrigation works, it must be remembered that the district of Salem is peculiarly situated as regards these works. The district is very hilly, and, in consequence, the tanks, most of which receive their supply from adjacent hills, are subjected to severe and sudden tests on occasions, and the loose-stone structure of almost all the sluices, calingulahs, and anicuts, tends no doubt to breaches in these works. It should also be borne in mind that the tanks are, as a rule, of small capacity, and give but a very modest return in the shape of revenue on their original somewhat expensive cost of construction.

In fact it is not too much to say that the execution now-a-days of works offering such poor returns would never be sanctioned. But as the value of water in an arid district like Salem is beyond calculation, it behoves both the Revenue and Public Works Departments to use their united and best endeavours to keep these feebly remunerative works in efficient repair at as little cost to the Government as possible. So far from this being the case, however, I am of opinion that accidents to irrigation works in this district are attributable, in the greater number of instances, to the total absence of customary labour, or Kudimaramut, and to the ryots taking no care whatever of the safety of these works by which they are not less benefited than the Government. The ryots are only too glad at all times of an excuse to save themselves trouble. The want of support from the late Collector to this department has been more than once brought to the notice of Government. The ryots aware of this feeling have thus been encouraged, as it were, to remain inert. The consequence has been that a small injury to a tank, which could in the outset have been repaired, if not by the ryots themselves, at least at a very trifling cost to Government, has frequently been allowed to become so extensive and serious a breach as to require, in the end, a very large outlay for its repair.

14. In conclusion, I have the honour, with reference to paragraph 8 of the Acting Sub-Collector's report, embodied in the G. O. under notice, to recommend most strongly the construction from Local Funds of the bridge across the Chennaur, on the road between Oosoor and Maloor. The crossing of this river is always attended with inconvenience, and frequently with danger by laden bullock bandies, as the steep descent to the river, on either side, causes the bullocks to go down with a rush, obliquely, on to the rough and narrow causeway which is by the bed of the river, and if one wheel of the bandy gets off the causeway which is by no means unlikely to be the case, the cart is certain to be upset. The Bangalore bridge being now finished the construction of the bridge over the Chennaur is all that is required to complete this line of road.

No 536. ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1871, No. 563.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 38

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department with reference to the Proceedings of Government in this Department, dated 27th September 1870, No. 2,327.

2. The report of the Acting Superintending Engineer on the Malapady bridge, alluded to in paragraph 5, has been disposed of in G. O., No 367, dated 7th February 1871, and the estimate of Rupees 15,980 for the Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry and Subsidiary Jail at Pennagaram, of which mention is made in paragraph 8, was referred to the Judicial Department on the 12th July 1869.

3. Adverting to paragraph 9, His Excellency the Governor in Council observes that as the Pennagaram Cutcherry is only one of many works which have been left in an unfinished state for want of funds it will not, His Excellency in Council fears, be possible to assign an allotment for its completion for some time to come.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th February 1871.

4. The subject of paragraph 14 will receive consideration in the Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Judicial do
,, Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

5th Division D P L
Salem District — Ossoor Range — Parampoozy Talook
Statement showing the number and nature of the materials
collected for the Pennagaram subsidiary jail

No.	Description	Remarks showing the nature of materials
229	C feet of Junglwood	Good order
20000	Pantiles	Useless
15000	Bricks	Useless
10000	Broken bricks	Useless
300	Paras of chunam	Useless
50	D ^o of D ^o (pounded)	Useless
200	D ^o of sand	Useless
2	Straw hats	Good order
11	Ventilation & panelled doors with frames	Good order
6	Door frames	Good order
7	Window D ^o	Good order
4	Iron railing doors	Good order
2	D ^o fixed D ^o	Good order
7	D ^o Windows	Good order
22	Bolts	Good order
11	Lockskey	Good order
4	Padlock	Good order
44	Hinges bolts	Good order

Parampoozy Talook Office
Parampoozy 15th January 1871

Parampoozy Talook Officer

Superintg. Engineer's Office, 5th Divn.,
Madras, 24th January 1891.

From, Lieut. Col. R. A. Roberts, R.E.,
 Asst. Superintg. Engineer, 5th Div.
 To, Colonel Charles A. Orr, R.E.,
 Secretary to Government, I.W.D.

Sir,

In compliance with the instructions contained in G.O. No. 2327 of the 21st of September 1890, on the Salem Collector's report on the operations of the D. I. W. for the year 1889-90, I have the honor to make the following observations.—

No. 1 of the G.O.—The bad state

2. Para 2 of the G.O.— The bad state of the Imperial roads in this district has been a source of grave anxiety to me, and the Range officers have received most stringent orders from me on the subject.— And I am in great hopes therefore that such measures have now been taken as to prevent any further complaints being made on this score.— At the same time it must be conceded that considering the large

amount of traffic passing over these roads, as also the great and uncorrected reduction of 22 per cent made, late in the season, in the maintenance allowance of last year, it cannot be a matter of surprise that the efficiency of the roads in question should have been appreciably affected. — The reduction of 6 per cent in the current year's allowance, although comparatively small to that of last year, is also to be regretted and will be seriously felt. —

3. Mr. Tochin's statement, quoted by the Board, that the Imperial Roads in the District "cannot be in a worse condition than they are" is, of course mere hyperbole, in fact a phrase which, self-evidently, was never seriously intended to be taken literally, and, therefore, would better have been avoided in a Report of the kind. —

4. I should be very sorry to mislead the Government by attempting to defend the condition of these roads, but on the other hand I can see no object in stigmatizing them in such a wholesale way as that adopted by the collector, for it is clear that

a statement so obviously exaggerated as that above quoted must defeat its own purpose. —

5. — The report called for in para 2 of the G.O. regarding the Malapranj bridge was submitted with No. 228 of the 24th January 1871, from this office. —

6. With reference to para 4 of the G.O., I have the honor to forward a list of the materials collected for the proposed Dy. Tahsildar's bachelery and subsidiary jail at Tennagarim, and to state that these materials can scarcely be utilized on other works, as there are no works of the kind sanctioned at a reasonable distance from Tennagarim, nor can they be sold except at a great loss to Government. — The materials are lying in an out of the way corner of the district, and their carriage to any large town, such as Salem or Bangalore, would be very considerable, and this too with but a slender chance of our realizing anything like the original cost of the articles. —

7. It may be observed from the list that some of the materials have already become useless, and it is not unlikely

that many, if not most of the other materials, if left in their present state much longer, will share the same fate; and cause a considerable loss to accine to Government in consequence.—

8. An outlay of Rs 3,154. has been incurred on the work in question.—The foundations and basement have been constructed and almost all the wood work required is ready on the spot.—An estimate of Rs 15,980. was submitted with letter 1564 of the 7th July 1869, from this office for this butchery, but no orders have been passed thereon.—

9.—As any outlay that may be incurred on account of the safety of the materials would only cause an additional loss to Government, and taking into consideration the demands made by the Revenue authorities for the completion of the buildings, I would, both on the score of economy and necessity, venture to suggest that the Government be pleased to sanction the estimate submitted, and to grant the balance thereof from the next year's Reserve under "Civil Buildings", so that the materials remaining may be utilized & the buildings completed.—

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10.— In para 6 of his report, the late Mr. Pichin does not hesitate to repeat the charge made by him in former Reports that the "misfortunes that have occurred to our irrigation works" are due to bad work and insufficient supervision, on the part of this department, and he proceeds to state that nearly ninety per cent of the works for which estimates were sent to me during the year, were those upon which money "had been laid out during the preceding one, two and three years".—I am surprised at his statements, so inaccurate in the sense in which they are intended to be taken, can be brought forward by any one really conversant with the subject.—

11.—Mr. Pichin was well aware of the rule restricting the outlay on the repairs of a tank, or irrigation work, in any one year, to the Revenue of that work.—It is for this very reason that the thorough repairs required for a work have frequently to be extended over two or three years.—Not that the same work has to be done year after year, as Mr. Pichin would lead me to suppose was the case, but because in order to place, say, a

work in a satisfactory state; it frequently happens that the cost of the repairs considerably exceeds the Revenue, and it has been customary, under such circumstances, to allow the work to spread over several years—thus the bund will be repaired one year, a new sluice built the 2^d year, and a calingulak the 3^d year.—

12. To prevent, however, any future misunderstanding under this head, I have arranged that whenever an estimate for a Tank, or other irrigation work, is prepared, that estimate shall include the whole of the repairs and improvements required; and in the event of the estimate exceeding the Agent Revenue, that allotments embracing a period of two or three years, as may be found necessary, shall be made, so as to complete the work satisfactorily and without exceeding the Revenue in any one year.—

13. With reference to the breaches of Irrigation works, it must be remembered that the District of Salem is peculiarly situated as regards these works.—The district is very hilly and, in consequence, the Tanks, most of which receive their supply from adjacent

1354
hills, are subjected to severe and sudden tests on occasions, and the loose stone structure of almost all the sluices, calingulaks, and mounds, tends, without, to breaches in these works.— It should also be borne in mind that the Tanks are, as a rule, of small capacity and give ^{but} a very modest return in the shape of Revenue in their original somewhat expensive cost of construction.— In fact it is not too much to say that the Nation now a days of works offering such poor returns would never be sanctioned.— But as the value of water in an arid District like Salem is beyond calculation, it behoves both the Revenue and Public Works Departments to use their united and best endeavours to keep these feeble remunerative works in efficient repair at as little cost to the Government as possible.— So far from this being the case, however, I am of opinion that accidents to irrigation works in this district are attributable, in the greater number of instances, to the total absence of customary labor, or Koodiy Maraimmut, and to the neglect of taking in care whatever of the safety of

these works by which they are not less benefited than the Government. - The ryots are only too glad at all times, of an excuse to save themselves trouble. - The want of support from the late collector to this Department has been more than once brought to the notice of Government. - The ryots, aware of this feeling, have thus been encouraged, as it were, to remain inert. - The consequence has been that a small injury to a tank, which could, in the outset, have been repaired, if not by the ryots themselves, at least, at a very trifling cost to Government has frequently been allowed to become so extensive and serious a breach as to require, in the end, a very large outlay for its repair. -

4. - In conclusion, I have the honor, with reference to para 8 of the Acting Sub Collector's Report embodied in the G.O. under notice, to recommend most strongly the construction from Local Funds of the bridge across the Chennai, on the road between Aopur and Malur. - The crossing of this river is always attended with inconvenience and frequently with danger

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I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant,

Rich^d Roberts Lieut. Col. R.E.,
Ag. Superintg. Engineer, 5th Division.

Public Works Department
 No 563
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date - the 25th Feb'y/71
 Read the following

From The Ag. Sup^r Engineer, S. E. No 2337/27th January 1871
 3rd Division

Communicated
 to the Revenue Depart^t
 with reference to the
 Proceedings of Government
 in this Department
 dated 31st Sept 70 No 2327.
 The report of the
 Acting Sup^r Engineer on
 the Malapady Bridge
 alluded to in Para 5
 has been disposed of in
 G. O. No 367 dated 7th
 Feb 1871 and the estimate
 of Rs 15,980 for the
 Deputy

Public Works Department
 No 563
 From The Ag. Sup^r Engineer
 3rd Division
 The Secretary to Govt
 Public Works

Dated 27th January 1871
 No 563

Enclosure - No 1
 Operations of the 1865 and
 1866-67 seasons in the
 collection of the 1865-66
 1866-67, of stating that the
 material collected for
 the proposed 1867-68 season
 including all 1867-68 season
 carried the 1867-68 season
 other works.

No 563 - 25th Feb'y/71

No 563

11th Feb'y/71 No 13

Deputy Tahsildari
 Cutcherry and subsidiary
 Jail at Purnasaram,
 of which mention is made
 in Para 8, was referred to
 the Judicial Department on
 the 12th July 1867.

Adverting to Parony

His Excellency the Governor
in Council observed that
as the Penangam
butchery is only one
of many works which
have been left in an
unfinished state for
want of funds it will
not, His Excellency in
Council, fear, be possible
to assign an allotment
for its completion for
some time to come.

1791

The subject of H.S.
(Para 14) will receive
consideration in the
Revenue Department.



The Rev. Depart^{ts}
" Inst. Depart^{ts}
Sup^r Cong^r. 5th Dec^r

be. 28/2/71

Dec 24 September 190 91 465-466
7 February 191 - 138-139

(2)

First of two. Recd 1372/23-3-71

3.555
Govt. of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Revenue Department

Mat. :

Recd.

6025 P. 563.

535-536

The Works. P. 563.
The form is to be
filled up by the Revenue
Department in the report of the
Commissioner of the
Public Works in the year 1873.