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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2127	Press Mis.
93.94		
Dated	6 9	1872

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th September 1872.*

No. 93. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th August 1872, No. 1,593 :—

From the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th July 1872, No. 84.

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the Department Public Works' transactions in this district for the year 1871-72.

2. The expenditure as compared with the grants during the year stands thus :—

				Grant.	Expenditure.
				RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
New Works	...	...	...	91,267 10 3	91,451 15 10
Repairs	...	...	...	52,404 0 0	52,323 15 4
Total...				1,43,671 10 3	1,43,775 15 2

3. This expenditure was distributed as follows :—

				New Works.	RS. A. P.
1.	Military	...	...	...	29,092 5 11
2.	Civil Buildings	...	...	...	11,200 5 9
3.	Communications	...	...	...	12,571 0 5
4.	Miscellaneous Public Improvements	...	...	...	10,703 9 6
5.	Tools and Plants	...	...	...	800 0 0
6.	Establishment	...	...	...	27,084 10 3
Total...					91,451 15 10

				Repairs.	RS. A. P.
7.	Military	...	...	...	8,925 11 9
8.	Civil Buildings	...	...	...	4,053 10 8
9.	Communications	...	...	...	37,765 6 5
10.	Miscellaneous Public Improvements	...	...	...	949 2 6
11.	Tools and Plants	...	...	...	630 0 0
Total...					52,323 15 4

Grand Total... 1,43,775 15 2

4. No expenditure was incurred under the head "Agricultural."

5. I note the following details :—

NEW WORKS—*Military*—*Expenditure Rupees 29,092-5-11.*—Of this sum Rupees 25,152-5-11 were spent upon the Lawrence Asylum; a large dining-hall (105' x 40') with store-rooms underneath; a School Library and Reading-room each (19' x 18'), the main staircase, and other passages and staircases, the latrines and wash-houses, the covered play-ground (364 square yards) together with the Masters' cook-rooms, were completed and handed over to the Principal. The present strength of the Boys' School is 346; this includes 250 boys received into the Asylum in September last. Four acres of rough swamp land were reclaimed and levelled for an open play-ground for the boys. The fresh designs

with estimates for the construction of the hospital into a branch for 300 girls, and the buildings on the female site into hospitals, with attendants' quarters, etc., for both branches, were prepared and submitted; but the orders of the Government of India have not yet been received. The balance of the expenditure, Rupees 3,940, was laid out in the construction of latrines and drains at Wellington.

Civil Buildings.—The 1,000 Rupees allotted for the masonry drop for the lake sluice was spent in procuring bricks and stone. The old escape of the lake was so completely destroyed, in the heavy storm in November last, that an estimate for re-constructing the sluice and channel, and making the drop steps and revetments of mortar masonry, received the sanction of Government. The work has been begun and will be completed before the heavy rains. Of the balance, Rupees 2,000 were given as a grant-in-aid for the re-construction of the dome of the Roman Catholic Church. Three hundred and seventy Rupees for enclosing part of the Engineer's yard, Ootacamund, and 100 Rupees for the repairs of Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry, Coonoor.

The Commissioner's Office, etc., was re-roofed, and continuous iron-sheeting placed underneath the tiles. The roof is now perfectly water-tight. A light iron verandah (106' x 10') was also constructed on the south side of the building for protection from the weather, of people resorting to the Courts and Offices.

Upon Stonehouse Rupees 3,776-9-1 were also spent. The roof was entirely re-constructed, and fresh pavement laid down in the out-offices. The premises were also white-washed, oiled, and painted throughout, and dignified by the erection of a flag-staff, a single pole of Australian gum 90 feet high.

Communications.—The expenditure, Rupees 9,000, under this head was principally upon the new Coonoor Ghaut Road. Parapet walls, in all two miles in length, were constructed at intervals along the most dangerous parts of this road; seven miles also of the road have been widened and improved, and there remains now but one spot for which repairs are urgently needed, and these will be effected shortly.

Rupees 1,000 were also expended upon the road from Yellenhully Chuttrum to Kartairy. Twenty stone drains, and three miles of catch-drains were made, and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of the road widened. The road is now nearly half completed. Upon the Kotagherry Ghaut New Road, Rupees 2,341-0-5 were spent; the line was traced and surveyed. The ghaut is twenty miles in length with a gradient of 1 in 17, and has only three zigzags. The surveys and estimates have been approved by the Local Fund Board and Government. The money was spent upon the lower portion near Mettappolium, seven miles in length, where the old track is worst. Should the road be proceeded with, every effort will be made to open out these seven miles for bullock traffic during the year.

Four miles of the road starting from Kotagherry were opened last year. The work is at present at a stand-still until the Planters have assured the Board of the payment of the promised contribution of Rupees 3 per acre of cultivation.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements. Rupees 10,703-9-6.—The most important work falling under this head is the Ootacamund water-supply. It will be remembered that the Southern Channel was completed in 1870-71 and the main works of

the Northern Channel, but during the early part of 1871-72 no funds were available. In May, however, there were heavy rains; these caused the Snowden tunnel in some places to fall in, and consequently it was found necessary to line the tunnel (370 feet long) with masonry. This has been done, and it only now remains to build up the south lining walls. Near St. Stephen's Church a masonry drop (73 feet long) with seventeen steps has been constructed, the height vertically is 36 feet.

At the Marlinund Reservoir it was found necessary to construct a masonry drop 128 feet long with twenty steps. The fall vertically is 49 feet. This work was necessary in order to let out the water for clearing the lake. I would mention that the south channel has worked well, and the supply of water has sufficed. The northern part of the town will, it is hoped, receive pure drinking water by the north channel in October next. The cost of distribution is being borne by the Municipality. Cisterns have been constructed at their cost, and already 300 yards of earthenware piping has been laid down, and they propose to lay down similar piping to the extent of nearly a mile.

No great progress has been made with the Ootacamund Lake Reclamation Scheme, as the convicts were otherwise engaged. However, a sum of 2,600 Rupees was spent upon this undertaking during the year. Three acres of land were reclaimed; a masonry drain of 30 running feet was constructed near Abdool Kawder's shop; and 300 running yards of road in the same neighbourhood were levelled, drained, and metalled.

Over and above this a quarter of a mile of road leading from Gool Mohamed's shop into the bazaar was excavated and levelled, and the earth used for the lake reclamation.

The reclamation of the marsh near Allamby's was completed during the year; swamp to the extent of twenty acres has now been reclaimed in Ootacamund; two hundred and seventy running yards of the supply channel revetted with stone; and a sluice has been constructed for lowering the waters of the lake, so as to admit of the swampy and marshy parts at the head of the lake being cleaned and cleared of weeds and refuse.

REPAIRS—Military Buildings.—The amount expended on repairs to Military Buildings was Rupees 8,925-11-9, of which Rupees 1,785-6-5 pertain to the Lawrence Asylums at Ootacamund.

Repairs to Civil Buildings cost Rupees 4,053-10-8. The principal items of this expenditure are Rupees 1,260-15-9 laid out in repairs to the terraced roof of the European Prison, and Rupees 500-6-11 in re-tiling and white-washing the Public Offices at Coonoor. Among minor repairs are included those to the Ootacamund, Coonoor, and Kotagherry Churches, and those to the Government Buildings at Ootacamund known as "Lower Norwood."

Communications.—Rupees 33,328-1-4 is the total expenditure on the roads of the district as particularized below:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Station roads of Ootacamund, Coonoor; and Wellington	...	3,959	15 9
Road from Coonoor to Kotagherry	...	1,319	15 0
Do. Ootacamund to Kotagherry	...	1,320	0 2
Do. Ootacamund to Tippecadoo via Seegoor Ghaut	...	2,856	15 10
Do. Coonoor to Ootacamund (new)	...	2,639	15 7
Do. do. (old)	...	1,099	15 7

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th September 1872.*

	RS.	A.	P.
Road from Ootacamund to Goodaloor	3,303	1	3
New Coonoor Ghaut	9,824	15	10
Old do.	990	0	0
Road from Ootacamund to Deva Sholah	1,320	0	0
Do. Kartairy to Ootacamund	280	0	0
Do. Kartairy to Colacumbie	280	0	0
Do. Kotagherry to Kodanad	329	15	5
Kotagherry Ghaut	1,624	15	2
Road from Ootacamund to the Avalanche Bungalow	528	10	5
Do. Coonoor to Dolphin's Nose, via Lady Canning's Seat.	660	0	0
Do. Coonoor Ghaut to Hoolicul	550	0	0
Do. Coonoor to Kartairy	439	9	4
Total ..	33,323	1	4

This money was laid out upon 233 miles of road and bridle-paths. Seventy-eight miles of the road were metalled with granite, and 144 miles made and bridged but not metalled.

The heavy rains of 7th November last did some damage to roads in different parts of the district and necessitated emergent repairs. The following expenditure occurred:—

	RS.	A.	P.
On toll-houses	98	0	0
On emergent repairs to roads	383	5	1
Cost of surveys and estimates	250	0	0
Re-construction of the Cold Stream Bridge	500	0	0
Re-roofing the Travellers' Bungalow at Neddivuttum	3,600	0	0
Repairs to Chuttrum	200	0	0
Total...	4,437	5	1

The bridges at Kartairy, Kotagherry, Pykara, and Seegoor sustained more or less injury from the rains in November. Rupees 3,000 were expended in re-roofing with continuous iron under-tiles the Neddivuttum Bungalow and out-houses attached. The completion of this very necessary work will no doubt make the bungalow a more frequent resort of the Wynaad Planters than it has hitherto been.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.—Rupees 949-2-6 were spent in repairs to the escape weir of the Lawrence Asylum Lake Bund which the rains of November damaged considerably, and Rupees 630 on *Tools and Plants*.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. There is nothing in the report to call for any special remark from the Board of Revenue.
3. The results of the expenditure will be patent to His Excellency in Council.

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, 6th September 1872, No. 2,127.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 9.

PROGRESS with the Ootacamund Lake Reclamation has not been satisfactory, and His Excellency the Governor in

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th September 1872.*

Council observes from this report that the convicts were otherwise engaged, and he desires to be informed on which of the other works for which their labour was given to the Municipality, as detailed in G. O., No. 1,302, of 19th September 1871, Judicial Department, they were employed.

2. The neglect of the bridle-paths around Ootacamund, and on the hills generally, has attracted the notice of His Excellency in Council, and he understands that it has arisen from the discontinuance of an allowance of Rupees 1,500 for Hill Roads which was first granted when Lord Dalhousie was resident on the Neilgherries, and which used to be laid out in the proportions of Rupees 500, Rupees 350, and Rupees 150 for bridle-paths in connection with Ootacamund, Coonoor, and Kotagherry respectively. A reference will be made to the Financial Department to ascertain whether the Provincial grant to the Neilgherries cannot be augmented permanently to the extent of the small sum required for maintenance of bridle-paths.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Financial do.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Edw. J. Wright.

Public Works Department
 No 2127
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 under date the 6th Sept 1872
 Read the following

Pro. of the Board of Revenue. H.E. No 1693 of 18th Aug 1872

Progress with the
 Colacaimund Lake
 Reclamation has
 not been satisfactory,
 and His Excellency
 the Governor in Council
 observes from this
 report that the Con-
 victs were otherwise
 engaged. And he
 desires to be informed
 on which of the other

B.A.
 T.O.S.
 H

A.C. 1.3.8

Chp 903
 18-4-9/72

~~Communication to the
 Engineer of the 4th Division~~

to Mr. 1872 1872
 C. M. of Madras
 1872. 4156

Board of Revenue,
 MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH AUGUST 1872, No. 1,593.
 29/26 Aug 1872
 Encl.

Received 29th August 1872.
 No 2127-6-16/1872.
 AUGUST.
 No. 1,593.

Public Works—in Nilgiris.— Report
 from Commissioner on progress of — during
 1871-72, submitted to Government.
 H. A. S. 1872

works for which their
labour was given to
the Municipality, as
detailed in G.O. No.
1302 of 19th September
1871 (Judicial Departt.)
they were employed.

The neglect of the
Bridle paths around
Cotacamund, and
on the Hills generally,
has attracted the
notice of His Excellency
in Council and
he understands
that it has arisen
from the disconti-
nuance of an allowance
of Rs 1500 for Hill

Roads which was formerly
granted when Lord
Dalhousie was resi-
-dent on the hilleries,
and which used to
be laid out in the
proportions of Rs 500
Rs 350 and Rs 150
for Bridle paths in
connection with
Cotacamund, Coonoor
and Kotagerry res-
-pectively. A reference
will be made to the
Financial Departt.
to ascertain whether
the Provincial grant
to the hilleries

cannot be augmented
permanently to the
extent of the small
sum required for
maintenance of
Bridle paths.

GNW.

65-

- 7. L. E. 7th Div ✓
- 8. Pen Dept ✓
- 9. Int. Sec. ✓
- 10. B. of Rev. S. ✓
- 5. Cont. Sec. ✓ Dec 11/9/72.

12.50

cannot be augmented

C. 4156

Govt. of 1872 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintendent
of the District

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 6 September 1872. No. 2127.

No. 93947

Public Works on the Railways.

Refer to the order in No. 171
to the effect on the Commission
about the progress of
Public Works on the
Railways during 1871/72.