M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2954 Press
275- Mis.

Dated 13 - 12 - 1842.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 275. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 22nd October 1872, No. 3,291 :—

In reference to paragraph 5 of G. O., dated 11th July 1872, No. 1,671, remarking that the Superintending Engineer "even so late as February 1872 was unaware of the backwardness of the works under Repairs, Agricultural, inasmuch as he did not then surrender any portion of the sums sanctioned," I have the honour to report that the season during 1871-72 was a very exceptional one, and that work could not be carried out, as usual, under the head of "Agricultural Repairs" during the months of January and February 1872 owing to the tanks having been unusually full during that time. The Range Officers were, however, under the belief that their respective allotments under this head could be utilized, and so far, therefore, from my being unaware of the backwardness of the works under Repairs, Agricultural, I was fully acquainted with the fact, and I was in hopes that a far larger sum than that actually expended would have been laid out with advantage to the service.

2. Another fact which has to a certain extent been the cause of the small expenditure noticed by Government is the reduction of rates by me by about 25 per cent. on those that were prevailing in this division previous to my assuming charge of the same.

3. Thus, although, as noticed by Government, the expenditure fell short in the Madura and Tinnevelly Districts by 25 and 19½ per cent., respectively, of the allotments, yet there has been no actual decrease of work performed, inasmuch as for the money expended there has been an amount of work executed at rates which under the previous *régime* would have exhausted the entire allotments, while the work performed during the year in question has been as superior to, as its cost was more moderate than, that executed in recent years in this division. As an instance I may mention that in the year 1870-71 there were only three minor new works, Agricultural, executed in the Madura Range, and these were so scamped as to necessitate their reconstruction.

4. I would also bring to notice that the state of disorganization into which this division had been allowed to lapse was such that there was a general tendency to scamp work, and very great care was obliged to be taken, and strict supervision to be exercised, in so laying out Government money as to ensure its being profitably expended.

5. I am happy to be able to report that this year has been peculiarly favourable for agricultural works in the district of Tinnevelly, and Mr. Puckle, the Collector, has been good enough to inform me that to the best of his recollection never has there been an equal amount of satisfactory work executed in one year as has been performed in the portion of the current year that has already elapsed.

6. Under these circumstances I beg that the Government will be pleased to reallot the sums withdrawn in the above-quoted G. O., and that the original grant of Rupees 1,38,000 for this division under Repairs, Agricultural, may be allotted as below :—

	Rs.
Madura District	46,000
Tinnevelly do.	92,000
Total ...	1,38,000

7. I take the liberty to bring to the prominent notice of Government the very great inconvenience which arises from the adoption of the present official year. Our Mahomedan predecessors in the government of this country, in comparison with whom we are, as it appears to me, in reference to a detailed knowledge of the agricultural requirements of the country, but as mere children groping in the dark, instituted a *fasl* or harvest year, *i. e.*, a year that should correspond with the requirements of the harvest. We, on the contrary, ignoring the wants of the country in this respect, have adopted the official year in use in England, so that in this country we have the anomalous state of things of three distinct years on our records, namely, the Calendar year, the Fasli, and the Official year.

8. Now, however, that Earl Russell is pointing out to the Government at Home the great inconvenience experienced in England by the retention of the present official year and is urging the adoption of an official year that shall terminate on the 30th June, I earnestly trust that this most vital question for India may not be lost sight of in this country. Curtailed as our working season naturally is by the monsoons each year, that period is broken into by the closing of our arbitrary official year with all its accounts to be squared up, and a new year to be inaugurated with its allottings to be confirmed and its consequent delays to be incurred, before a Rupee can be spent, while the days for work are gliding idly by; whereas were the year to close at the end of June, *i. e.*, in the middle of the south-west monsoon, the full working period of the year could be utilized and the time of Executive Officers could be devoted to the preparation of their annual reports and returns without interfering with their executive duties, which is not the case at present.

9. In conclusion, I have the honour to state that I have deferred replying to the remarks in the Government Order already quoted until I was in a position to state definitively the requirements of this division for agricultural repairs, and I can only trust that the Government will be pleased to sanction the allotments solicited in paragraph 6 of this letter.

No. 276. ORDER THEREON, 13th December 1872, No. 2,954.

ACCOUNT, No. 20.

RECORDED with reference to G. O., No. 2,757, of 23rd November 1872.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

No 3291. Superintg Engineer's Office &c
Madura 22 October 1872

From
Lieut: Colonel R S Roberts RE
Superintg Engineer 8th Dr

To
Colonel G W Walker RE
Secretary to Government Dept W

Sir,

In reference to para 5 of G O dated 11th July 1872, No 1671, remarking that the Superintending Engr "was so late as February 1872, was "unaware of the backwardness of the "works under Repairs Agricultural, "inasmuch as he did not then surrender "any portion of the sums sanctioned", I have the honor to report that the season during 1871-72 was a very exceptional one; and that work could not be carried out as usual under the head of "Agricultural Repairs" during the months of January and February 1872, owing to the tanks having been unusually full during that time. The Range Officers were however

under the belief that their respective allotments under this head could be utilized. And so far therefore from my being unaware of the backwardness of the works under repairs agricultural, I was fully acquainted with the fact, and I was in hopes that a far larger sum than that actually expended would have been laid out, with advantage to the service.

2 Another fact, which has to a certain extent been the cause of the small expenditure noticed by Government, is the reduction of rates by me, by about 25 per cent, on those that were prevailing in this Division previous to my assuming charge of the same.

3 Thus although, as noticed by Government, the expenditure fell short in the Madura and Tinnevelly Districts by 25 and 19½ per cent, respectively, of the allotments, yet there has been no actual decrease of work performed, inasmuch as for the money expended, there has been an amount of work executed at rates which under the previous régime would have exhausted the entire allotments, while the work performed during the year in question has been as superior to, as its cost was more moderate than, that executed in recent years in this Division. As an instance I may mention that in the year 1870-71, there were only 3 minor new works, agricultural executed in the Madura Range, and these were so scamped as to necessitate their re-construction.

4 I would also bring to notice that the state of disorganization into which this Division had been allowed to lapse was such that there was a general tendency to scamp work; and very great care was obliged to be taken, and strict supervision to be exercised, in so laying out Government money as to ensure its being profitably expended.

5 I am happy to be able to report that this year has been peculiarly favorable for agricultural works in the District of Tinnevelly. And Mr Buckle

the Collector has been good enough to inform me that to the best of his recollection never has there been an equal amount of satisfactory work executed in one year as has been performed in the portion of the current year that has already elapsed.

6. Under these circumstances I beg that the Government will be pleased to realot the sums withdrawn in the above quoted G.O. and that the original grant of Rupees 138,000 for this Division, under Repairs Agricultural, may be allotted as below -

Madura District	Rs 46 000
Tinnevelly	Rs 92 000
Total Rupees.	138000

7. I take the liberty to bring to the prominent notice of Government the very great inconvenience which arises from the adoption of the present official year. Our Mahommedan predecessors in the Government of this country, in comparison with whom, we are, as it appears to me, in reference to a detailed knowledge of the Agricultural requirements

of the country, but as mere children groping in the dark, instituted a fasl, or harvest year i.e. a year that should correspond with the requirements of the harvest. We, on the contrary, ignoring the wants of the country in this respect, have adopted the official year in use in England. So that in this country we have the anomalous state of things of three distinct years on our records, viz the Calendar year, the Fusli, and the Official year.

8. Now however that Earl Rufell is pointing out to the Government at Home the great inconvenience experienced in England by the retention of the present official year, and is urging the adoption of an official year that shall terminate on the 30th June. I earnestly trust that this most vital question for India may not be lost sight of in this country. Curtailed as our working season naturally is by the monsoons each year, that period is broken into by the closing of our

arbitrary Offical year, with all its accounts to be squared up, and a new year to be inaugurated, with its allottings to be confirmed and its consequent delays to be incurred, before a rupee can be spent, while the days for work are gliding idly by; whereas were the year to close at the end of June, i.e. in the middle of the South West monsoon, the full working period of the year could be utilized and the time of Executive Officers could be devoted to the preparation of their annual reports and returns without interfering with their executive duties, which is not the case at present.

9 In conclusion I have the honor to state that I have deferred replying to the remarks in the G.O. already quoted, until I was in a position to state definitively the requirements of this Division for Agricultural repairs. And I can only trust that the Government will be pleased to sanction the allotments

Solicited

solicited in para 6 of this letter.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obt Servant,

Rich.d Robert Lieut. Col. R.E.
Superintg Engineer &c

P. W. 1872 Despatch
No 3291

From No 5219.1
The Supg Engineer
S Div
To
The Secretary to
Government D R W

Dated 23 October 1872
Received 28 — — —

Reports regarding
the small expenditure
on Agricultural
Repairs for 1871-72
& applies for addi-
tional funds for
the same.

No 2954-13 Dest
With an order

Rec'd with my Letter No 2954 dated 23 November 1872
Rec'd 28 Oct 72
Ans'd to Acct 28 Oct 72.

Ch. 5219.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated.

Rcvd. Encl.

G. O. 13th Decr 1872 No. 2954.

Nos. 275 & 276

Funds - Letter forwarding Estimate of the Collr. reporting on the usual Expenditure on Agricultural Repairs for 1871/72 and applying for additional funds for the same, recommended.