

(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.	1501	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
81-82		
Dated	6.6.	1873

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th June 1873.*

Read the following papers:—

- No. 81. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 22nd April 1873, No. 251.
From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., District Engineer, Chingleput, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R. E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Guindy, 16th April 1873, No. 115.

REFERRING to G. O., No. 1,093, of 12th instant, I have the honour to observe that when I joined the 4th Division in May last, I found that estimates had been sent from my office to the Collector, Chingleput, to the amount of—

Rupees 1,37,864 Repairs.
,, 61,306 Minor New Works.

and that in addition fresh estimates were coming in each week for repairs to damages caused by the cyclone.

2. After some little time spent in inspection duty, etc., principally in North Arcot, I took up the subject of these estimates, which I found had been forwarded, in the majority of cases without examination, to the Collector, that he might select from the mass so many as we could carry out from the allotments of Rupees 85,000 and 5,000 respectively, under Repairs and Minor New Works.

3. When I received the papers I found that the same estimates contained provisions for New Work and Repair mixed together quite beyond my ability to separate, and in many instances, if I remember right, the only entry for a sluice or calingulah described its length. There was not a single plan or specification or any information as to the reason for constructing such a work.

4. I therefore returned all papers to the Range Officers with instructions in which I anticipated your remarks. As there was not on record any means of forming an opinion on these points, much delay occurred in submission of papers properly drawn up. The rainy weather and the consequent condition of the country prevented the execution of the works sanctioned to the amount of Rupees 4,684 up to 1st April, but they will be carried on speedily now, and I hope gradually to see the works in this district put in efficient working order.

5. Considering the very heavy rain we have had during the past year, I think very little more could really have been done if estimates had been prepared and sanctioned early. More money would have been spent, but the newly laid foundations and fresh masonry would probably have been all carried away or seriously damaged.

6. There would have been little or no difficulty in spending the allotment if I had permitted outlay on ill-considered, and, in many cases, unnecessarily costly works. I was hopeful that much might have been done on plans properly designed, but I preferred to run the risk of not spending my allotments to giving way to the slovenly method which prevailed, and I still hope that I shall receive the approbation of Government of my procedure.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government, with reference to G. O., No. 1,093, of the 12th instant.

2. It will be observed that as regards minor masonry works nothing was done in the earlier part of the year, because, though numerous estimates had been prepared, none of the information necessary to enable the then Superintending Engineer to judge of their necessity, or of their being suitable to the purposes intended,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th June 1873.*

had been furnished. Towards the end of the year estimates approximating in amount to the allotment available were sanctioned, but it was then too late for much to be done before the end of March. I have been in personal communication with the District Engineer on the subject, and have been unable to ascertain whether any such works were actually commenced before the end of the year. The Range Officers have sanctioned estimates sufficient to enable them to carry on work as fast as it can be supervised, and though, as yet, no appropriations for the current year have been made, I am informed that these officers understand that those works can be gone on with in anticipation of the necessary appropriations.

3. The nature of the agency employed, it will be seen, had nothing to do in this particular case with the non-utilization of the grant, but, with reference to Public Works generally in the Chingleput District, I have made inquiries as to the arrangements in force, and it appears that for the most part earthworks are carried out by contract, and that for masonry works the materials are obtained on contract and that the actual construction is executed departmentally. Colonel Moberly wishes to entrust village works to the villagers, but as reported in his

* No. 54, dated 9th December 1872.
G. O., No. 262, 27th January 1873.

letter as per margin* much success has not hitherto attended his efforts in that direction. I do not attach much impor-

tance to the preference which local officers may entertain for any particular agency. Whatever this may be, much the same care is required to ensure good work, and that is essential. Personally, I am not in favour of giving out work, except earthwork upon a schedule of rates, and the preparation of materials, on contract. I have never seen any benefits from the so-called contract system, and the losses are often considerable. Efficient subordinates should be able to command labour, but I believe it would generally be impracticable to carry out small works departmentally without the services of Maistries and Gumastahs entertainable at the discretion of the Executive Officer, and payable from the estimates.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 81A. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 25th April 1873, No. 260.

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., District Engineer, Chingleput, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R. E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Guindy, 23rd April 1873, No. 164.

In continuation of my No. 115 of 16th April, I have the honour to report that of Rupees 4,684 sanctioned on Minor New Works in 1872-73, Rupees 1,301 were expended previous to 31st March.

2. The balances on these works have been re-allotted and Rupees 185 have been sanctioned in addition, making a total of Rupees 3,568 up to date.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of this office No. 251, dated 22nd April 1873.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th June 1873.*

No. 82.

ORDER THEREON, 6th June 1873, No. 1591.

IRRIGATION, No. 8.

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets to learn that only Rupees 1,300 out of the Rupees 5,000

allotted for Minor New Works in the Chingleput District were utilized in the past official year. He cannot agree with the District Engineer in thinking that very little more could really have been done if work could have been started earlier. The officers of the Public Works Department must indeed be wanting in professional resources if they are unable to secure petty works from damage during execution.

2. The remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in the 3rd paragraph of his note are cordially concurred in by the Government, and are commended to the attention of all District Engineers and Range Officers. The so-called contract system appears to have been so relied on in some quarters that officers and subordinates of the department have become utterly helpless and dependent upon contractors, whereas efficient executive agents after a short acquaintance with their charges should never be at a loss for labour to carry out the ordinary work of the department. There is nothing in the rules of the Public Works Department to prevent the employment of lower subordinates payable from estimates to assist in carrying out work departmentally.

3. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation is requested to devote much attention to ensuring the effective outlay of the ordinary grants for Agricultural Repairs and Minor New Works in the different districts of the Presidency.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
.. District Engineer, Chingleput.
To all other District Engineers.
To Major R. B. Kennedy.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

No. 251.

Letter from District Engineer Chingle.
 - put No 115 Dated 16 April 1873.

Enclosure
 one.

Submitted for the information of Government with reference to G. O. No 1093 of the 12th Instant.

2 It will be observed that as regards Minor Masonry works nothing was done in the earlier part of the year, because, though numerous estimates had been prepared, none of the information necessary to enable the then Superintending Engineer to judge of their necessity, or of their being suitable to the purposes intended, had been furnished. Towards the end of the year estimates approximating in amount to the allotment available were sanctioned, but it was then too late for much to be done before the end of March.

I have

12
I have been in personal communication with the District Engineer on the subject, and have been unable to ascertain whether any such works were actually commenced before the end of the year.

The Range Officers have sanctioned estimates sufficient to enable them to carry on work as fast ^{as} it can be supervised, and though as yet, no appropriations for the current year have been made, I am informed that these Officers understand that those works can be gone on with in anticipation of the necessary appropriations.

3 The nature of the agency employed, it will be seen, had nothing to do in this particular case with the non-utilization of the grant, but, with reference to Public Works generally in the Chingleput District, I have made enquiries as to the

the arrangements in force, and it appears that for the most part earthworks are carried out by contract, and that for masonry works the materials are obtained on contract and that the actual construction is executed departmentally. Colonel Moberly wishes to entrust Village works to the Villagers, but as reported in his letter as per margin much success has not hitherto attended his efforts in that direction. I do not attach much importance to the preference which Local Officers may entertain for any particular Agency. Whatever this may be, much the same care is required to ensure good work, and that is essential. Personally I am not in favor of giving out work, except earthwork upon a schedule of rates, and the preparation of materials, on contract.

I have

x No 54, dated
4th December
1872 -

G.O. No 262
27 Jan^y 1873

10
I have never seen any benefits from
the so called contract system, and
the losses are often considerable. —
Efficient subordinates should be
able to command labor, but I be-
lieve it would generally be im-
practicable to carry out small works
Departmentally without the services
of Maistries and Gunastahs enter-
tainable at the discretion of the Execu-
tive Officer, and payable from the
estimates. —

Fort Saint George
22nd April 1873

Whitcomb

205
254
Lieut. Col.

Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To
The Secretary to Government.
Public Works Department.

Pro 27 January 1873 No 536-537
12 April 209-211

P. No 1843, Depart.
From, No 2641.
The Chief Engineer for
Irrigation
To The Secretary to
Government P.W.D.

Dated 22nd April
Received 29th 1873.

No 251

Enclosure one.
Submits for information
letter from the Dist. Engr. of
Chingleput reporting the
cause of small outlay during
last year under "M. New
Works Agricultural" and
remarks on the system
in force in this Dist. of
executing P. Works whether
departmentally or by Con-
tract.
No 1504-8th Decr/73.

No 81

Pro to Pro 29 April 1873

No. 164

CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT ENGR.'S OFFICE,
Guindy, 23rd April 1873.

From
THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
Chingleput.

To
The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation
Sir,

In continuation of my No 115
of 16th April. I have the honor to report that
of Papees 4,684 sanctioned on minor
new works in 1872-73. Papees 1,301 were
expended previous, to 31st March.

The balances on these works have
been re-allotted and Papees 185 have
been sanctioned in addition making a
total of Papees 3568 up to date.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

J. H. S. S.
Colonel, R.E.,
District Engineer, Chingleput.

Mr. Chas. M. T.

The District Engineer
Chungking

To, Mr. Chief Engineer
for Livingston

Dated 23rd April 1873
Recd 24th 1873

No. 104

Reports that at
No. 4684 standard
on Minor New works
on 1872/73 No. 1301
and expended money
to 31st March 1873

2739/73

No. 260.

Submitted to Government
in continuation of this Office No. 257
dated 22nd April 1873.

Mr. J. G. George?
25th April 1873

Vol. 1000
to Livingston for Livingston

To the Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

From ¹⁸⁷³ ^{Dept} ^{of} ^{Public} ^{Works}
No. 2739
The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation
To the Secretary to
Government
O R D

Dated 25th } April
Received 3rd } May 1873.
21
No. 260.

Submits to Govt. letter
from the Dist. Engr.
Chingleput reporting
that of Rs. 4684 some-
times on minor new
works agricultural in
1872-73 Rupees 1301
were expended previous
to 31 March.
No. 1501. 6th June 1873.

No 81 A
recd to Coly 8 May 1873

152
No. 1501. P. M. D.

No. of the Madras Govt.

Read the following:-

From the Chief Engr for Engrs. (R. No. 251 of 22nd April 73)
Do - Do - 260 of 25 - July

His Excellency the
Governor in Council re-
grets to learn that only
Rs. 1300 out of the Rs. 5000
allotted for minor new
works in the Chingleput
District were utilized
in the past official year.
He cannot agree with
the District Engineer
in thinking that very
little more could really
have been done if work
could have been started
earlier. The Officers
of

of the Public Works Department must indeed be wanting in professional resources if they are unable to secure public works from damage during execution & now that Colonel Moberly has but one District under his charge the Government will expect better results from his management of its Agricultural works than are recorded of his management of the 2^d Division in 1871/72 (vide G.O. No 1671 of 11th July 1872), or have followed his transfer to the 4th Division

Though deserved. I think I would not this. To be perpetually censuring a public officer destroys all his influence.

PM

17a
Division in 1872/73.

The remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in the 3rd para of his note are cordially concurred in by the Government and are commended to the attention of all District Engineers and Range Officers. The so called Contract system appears to have been so relied on in some quarters that officers and subordinates of the Department have become utterly helpless and dependent upon Contractors, whereas efficient executive agents after a short acquaintance

- ~~tailed~~ with their charges
should never be at a
loss for labor to carry
out the ordinary work
of the Department. There
is nothing in the Rules
of the Public Works
Department to prevent
the employment of Lower
Subordinates payable
from estimates to
assist in carrying out
work departmentally.

The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation is requested
to devote much attention
to ensuring the effective
outlay of the ordinary
grants for Agricultural
Repairs and minor
new

170
New Works in the dif-
ferent Districts of the
Presidency - G.M.W.

To

Ch. Engr for Irrigation
D. S. Chingleput
all other D. S. Engrs
Major Kennedy
Revenue Dept

15/-
25/-

13/6/73

Ind. uncl.
in England

8

81-82
17/12/68

Ind. uncl.
in England

Op. 2641 & 2739
★
Govt. of (1873) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Chief Eng. for
Irrigation

Dated

Recd.

Recd.

G. O. by "Lancet", No. 1501.

Nov. 8/78

Agricultural Works in
the Pandyas &c.

Passing orders the papers
affording explanation
as to the cause of the
short delay in agricul-
tural works.