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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2911-A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
295A		
295B		
Dated	12-10-1874	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th October 1874.*

No. 295A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th September 1874, No. 2,782:—

ABSTRACT.—*Public Works Operations*—in Salem District.—Collector's report on — for 1873-74, submitted to Government with Board's concurrence with Collector in his remarks throughout the report.

No. 295B. ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1874, No. 2,911A.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 20A.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, Salem, for detailed report with reference to the remarks of the Collector.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Salem, with copy of Board's Proceedings,
.. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Ed. T. O'Connor.

Spare Copies

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 23th September 1874.

Read the following letter from F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madigiri, 4th June 1874, No. 221:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the usual report upon the operations of the Department of Public Works in this district for the year 1873-74, and to transmit a copy of the Acting Sub-Collector's letter as regards his division. Mr. Wilkinson has erroneously entered upon the subject of communications, but it does not seem necessary for me to eliminate the portion of his communication bearing upon this.

2. The annexed abstract statement exhibits the cost of new works and repairs under the several heads as compared with the previous year:—

Description of Works.	Expenditure for 1872-73.		Expenditure for 1873-74.		COMPARISON.			
					Increase.		Decrease.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
<i>New Works.</i>								
Irrigation	3,236	0 0	2,095	10 3	...	...	140	5 9
Buildings	45,446	0 0	47,961	11 7	2,515	11 7	...	...
Total...	48,682	0 0	50,057	5 10	2,515	11 7	140	5 9
<i>Repairs.</i>								
Irrigation	79,869	0 0	30,952	3 1	...	...	48,916	12 11
Buildings	4,189	0 0	3,589	3 8	...	...	599	12 4
Total...	84,058	0 0	34,541	6 9	...	...	49,516	9 3
Grand Total...	1,29,504	0 0	84,598	12 7	2,515	11 7	49,656	15 0

3. *Irrigation.*—The total grant for new works under this head was Rupees 11,713. The expenditure amounted to Rupees 2,095 or Rupees 8,808 less as compared with the year 1872-73. The grant on account of works upon which outlay was actually incurred was Rupees 3,113. The allotment for the construction of the Kistnapuram Tank in the Ahtur Taluq during the year under report was Rupees 1,693, but of this, Rupees 375 only were spent. It is stated by the Department of Public Works that the work has been stopped pending the preparation of revised estimates. Why there should be such inordinate delay in the matter of a work which has been six years in hand, I am at a loss to conceive. It has certainly not arisen from the District Engineer and his Assistant being overworked, for what work has been in hand has not "progressed" but "crept," and I can only set down the unsatisfactory way in which things have gone on to want of application and energy on the part of Major Hunter and the Range Officer who have, in my opinion, had ample time to have finished the work above referred to, and others which still remain incomplete. The new works in the Oossoor and Tripatur Ranges were as usual calingulabs and sluices. The sum of

Rupees 8,600 granted for the construction of the Valiamahadevi Tank in the Ahtur Taluq was again surrendered owing, so the District Engineer says in his Administration Report, "to the estimate not being revised, as the ordinary work of the Salem Range was very heavy." I cannot agree with Major Hunter upon this point. I am under the impression that, even if the Range Officer's time was fully occupied, that of the District Engineer was not, and that he might easily have revised the estimate himself.

Under the head of "Repairs" the allotment was Rupees 30,100, and the expenditure Rupees 30,952. For this 103 tanks, twenty-nine anicuts and six channels were put in order. It will be observed that the allotment for the year was exceeded. The amount sanctioned was, in my opinion, totally insufficient, and I agree with the District Engineer in considering that "a great deal has to be done in the way of Minor New Works and Repairs before it can be said that the tanks are in any way efficient." In the year preceding that under report, the expenditure was Rupees 79,869 or Rupees 48,917 more than in 1873-74. It is out of the question to hope to keep the hundreds of small tanks and irrigation works of this district in even moderate order with anything less than Rupees 50,000 per annum. The repairs carried out during the past year were chiefly closing breaches

1. Construction of the Cauvery Groynes, Rupees 2,326, in the Namkul Taluq.
2. Repairing the Yeddapady Tank, Rupees 1,023, in the Trichengode Taluq.
3. Repairing the Komarapolliem Channel Bank, Rupees 1,097, in the Namkul Taluq.
4. Repairing the Thadavoor Anicut, Rupees 2,078, in the Ahtur Taluq.
5. Repairing Belur Anicut, Rupees 2,098, in the Ahtur Taluq.
6. Repairing the Kallanatham Tank, Rupees 703, in the Ahtur Taluq.

in tanks, revetting bunds and repairing sluices. The chief works were as noted in the margin.

No. 1 was required for the conservancy of the bank of the Cauvery. I inspected it and consider it satisfactory.

No. 2 consisted in refilling the breaches in a tank which gave way in the cyclone of May 1872.

No. 3. was necessitated by the breaching of the channel. I saw the work which was carried out by the Taluq Overseer of Namkul, Corporal Wilkinson, and which was extremely good.

Nos. 4 and 5 consisted in repairing breached anicuts. No. 4 I have not seen. No. 5 I saw when the material was being collected. There was very much delay in taking it in hand. It was sanctioned in 1871, and in December 1873, when I saw it, only a little digging for foundations had been begun, and the stones for the anicut had been collected. The remark regarding it in the progress report for March 1874 is "work stopped for want of funds; revised estimate under preparation." When this revised estimate will be submitted, I am unable to say. Whilst it is being prepared, another cultivation season is slipping away.

No. 6 I have not seen. The remark made by the Department of Public Works in the March progress report is the same as that mentioned in the case of the Belur Anicut.

In the sub-division, the repair of the Morasur Tank has not yet been completed. The short expenditure on the Sampagu Tank, remarked upon by the Acting Sub-Collector, is explained by the statement in the progress report of the range, that

work done had not been paid for before the close of the official year. Why this should be the case when the estimate for this work was sanctioned in February 1872, I am unable to say. Perhaps the Department of Public Works may be able to explain.

Mr. Wilkinson's suggestion regarding the Marandahalli Anicut is not one which I think it desirable to adopt, as the construction of a new dam, at the site of the old one, forms a portion of one of the large irrigation schemes which have yet to be worked out.

4. *Buildings.*—The outlay under this head for both new works and repairs was, during the past year, Rupees 51,550 against Rupees 49,635 in 1872-73, thus showing an increase of Rupees 1,915.

In the Salem Range the chief works were (1) alterations to the Collector's Cutcherry (Rupees 5,637); (2) constructing a Taluq Cutcherry at Ahtur (Rupees 4,717); (3) constructing a Taluq Cutcherry at Namkul (Rupees 5,587); (4) additions to, and alterations in, the Central Jail at Salem (Rupees 14,846).

As regards the alterations to my Cutcherry, the only portions completed were the store and press rooms. The latter was handed over, after sundry letters from me and much delay, at the end of the official year. The verandah which has been going on for very nearly a year is almost finished, and the other works are in progress. I consider the delay in regard to this work has been most unconscionable, considering that it is, at what are supposed to be, the District Engineer's head-quarters. We are after repeated letters allowed, in January last, to occupy the Taluq Cutcherry at Ahtur, but it is not yet completed or handed over to us. It is now within a few days of a year from the date upon which the District Engineer in 1873 stated that it would be finished. The Taluq Cutcherry at Namkul for completing which the sum mentioned above was expended during the last year, has been inspected by me. The defect in the matter of verandahs, referred to in my last report, is about being remedied. The workmanship and the material of the whole building, excepting some of the flooring tiles, appeared to me to be very good. They are certainly far superior to those in the Ahtur Cutcherry which, in my opinion, are very indifferent. The works at the Salem Jail consisted mainly in building a new gate with guard rooms and constructing solitary cells, matron's quarters and a quarantine ward. Most of these have been completed, and I have nothing to say respecting them. As regards petty new works, I would observe that last year the roof of a latrine, which had been but a very few days before built at the District Court, fell whilst I was there, evidently owing to careless supervision in construction and consequent bad workmanship, and that out of an allotment of Rupees 1,335 made on account of extensions to the grave-yard at Salem, a work regarding which the

1. Repairing the District Engineer's Office at Salem, Rupees 753.
2. Repairing the roof of the Court House at Salem, Rupees 287.

District Engineer had been pressed by me both personally and in writing, only Rupees 211 were expended, and that in collecting materials. The repairs made

were of a petty nature. The chief were as noted in the margin.

In the Oosoor Range, Rupees 6,761 were spent upon new works, but the only one of these of any importance was the new office for the Deputy-Tahsildar at Pennagaram, which absorbed Rupees 6,626, but which has not yet been completed. I cannot venture to say when it will be. I hope during the current year. It is sadly wanted.

The rather high expenditure—considering what the buildings have already cost Government—made upon the sub-jails at Oosoor and Denkecottah were, the one for the purpose of rebuilding the latrine which was in an unsafe state, and the other in order to make the jail secure. The Acting Sub-Collector writes unfavorably regarding the repairs done to the latter-mentioned sub-jail. I have seen them, and though I do not consider the wards altogether safe, they are much more so than they were before or can possibly be rendered without a very high outlay.

In the Tripatur Range, the only new work was the improvement of the Post Office at Jollarpett, which was effected at an outlay of Rupees 282. The repairs in this range were all of a petty description.

Of the Chuttrums, the construction of which was sanctioned from the surplus Poppur Chuttrum Funds, that at Jollarpett has been completed, and the Acting Head Assistant Collector, who has taken charge of it, reports very favorably upon the building. The Chuttrum at Sooramungalum, though stated to have been completed, has not yet been made over to the Revenue Department. I have not seen it lately, but when I last inspected it, the work appeared to be good. The Poppur Chuttrum is in progress, and an expenditure of Rupees 6,617, out of an allotment of Rupees 9,605, was incurred during the year under report. I think that it has not got on as rapidly as it might have done. The reason assigned is difficulty in procuring labor and the unhealthiness of the locality.

5. I shall now speak of the requirements of the district.

6. *Irrigation.*—Anything further than what has been repeatedly said in previous reports appears useless. No projects have as yet been sanctioned, and as regards those which have been brought forward, everything remains in the same state as at the end of 1872-73. I can only repeat what I have said in my report of last year. I would, however, add that it appears to me desirable to put head sluices to the Cauvery Channels in the Namkul Taluq in order, not only to regulate the supply of water, but also to allow of the water being run off in view to cleaning the beds of the channels or stopping a breach. The idea occurred to me only when making an inspection in March last, and I am not in a position to do more than make a suggestion. I have no doubt that it will have due consideration at the hands of Mr. Longley who, I am aware, has taken much interest in these works.

I think that if the channels were properly bridged, they might be used for carrying produce by means of boats. There is ample depth of water, but the rude bridges now used are too low to allow of a boat passing them.

Touching repairs I am glad to say that my views regarding the undesirability of putting expensive calingulabs, etc., to petty irrigation works have been adopted by the District Engineer, and that it is now possible to sanction many necessary estimates which, under the system formerly existing, had to be rejected.

I think that in the matter of repairs, a good deal would be saved if the officers of the Department of Public Works—I refer particularly to the Salem Range—were a little more expeditious in inspecting. I have, during the time that I have been Acting Collector, had very great difficulty in obtaining replies to references to the District Engineer, and they were in many cases only received after repeated reminders, and then not in the form that they should have been.

7. *Buildings.*—The chief want of the district under this head is Taluq Cutcherries, and in the course of my tours this subject has had my attention. The plans and estimates for the Tahsildar's Cutcherry at Dharampuri have not yet been sanctioned. They were sent to me in September last, but I took exception to them on account, 1st, of the site; 2nd, of the want of verandahs; and 3rd, of the estimate stating that it provided for everything when it did not. They are now, I believe, under revision. The question of the site has been settled. The plans and estimates for the new Deputy-Tahsildar's Cutcherry at Omalur are, I believe, with the Chief Engineer for Buildings. I trust that they may soon be passed, for the office is much required. The present one is a common street-bazaar which in rainy weather leaks everywhere, so much so, that I ordered all the records to be sent to Salem for safe custody.

The District Engineer informs me that the plans and estimates for a Cutcherry at Kristnagherry are under preparation. They ought to have been ready long ago. The delay in the matter has been duly noticed by Government.

At Uttengherry a new Taluq Cutcherry is very much needed. The present building is of brick and mud; the better part of it is occupied by a jail which is about twice as large as is necessary, and to which the rest of the office has been sacrificed. The effect of this is that the Treasury, Registration Office, and the Tahsildar's and Sheristadar's establishments have been all huddled into one place. How work can be efficiently performed there, is a mystery to me. Added to this, the walls and floor of the Record Room are permeated by the nests of white ants which work out through the walls, endanger the records, and necessitate constant watchfulness. Every expedient that the Department of Public Works could devise to get rid of these pests has been tried. The walls and floor were tarred and a good deal of money spent, but in vain. A recent and careful examination of the walls and foundation has shown that the whole room is one vast ants' nest.

I have selected a good site for a new building, and would strongly recommend that the necessary estimates should be prepared. The Acting Head Assistant Collector complains very much of the Taluq Cutcherry at Tripatur, which, he says, is extremely confined, inconvenient and dark. I saw it some four years ago, but did not then take particular notice of it as it was not in my division. I intended to have inspected it before sending in this report, but ill-health has necessitated an alteration of my plans, and I cannot now do so.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From F. H. WILKINSON, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, dated Oosoor, 27th April 1874, No. 264.

I HAVE the honor to submit my report on the operations of the Department of Public Works during the official year 1873-74.

Description of Works.	Expenditure in 1872-73.		Expenditure in 1873-74.		DIFFERENCE.			
					Increase.		Decrease.	
<i>New Works.</i>								
Irrigation	RS. 1,053	A. P. 4 5	RS. 436	A. P. 15 3	RS. ...	A. P. ...	RS. 616	A. P. 5 2
Communications ..	11,574	13 4	11,350	5 4	...	...	224	8 0
Buildings	572	2 11	6,761	8 9	6,189	5 10	...	...
Total...	13,200	4 8	18,548	13 4	5,348	8 8	...	...
<i>Repairs.</i>								
Irrigation	8,385	10 8	4,159	4 5	...	...	4,226	6 3
Communications ..	24,717	3 4	20,259	3 0	...	...	4,458	0 4
Buildings	1,715	8 0	1,102	10 3	...	...	612	13 9
Total...	34,818	6 0	25,521	1 8	...	...	9,297	4 4
Grand Total ..	48,018	10 8	44,069	15 0	...	...	4,048	11 8

The chief items under the head Agricultural Repairs are given in the margin. The work to the Morasur Tank is slowly progressing. One sluice has been completed during the year under review. Only Rupees 339 odd were spent on this work. On the Sampagu Tank, the work is

4. *Communications*.—The expenditure under this head upon new works was Rupees 11,350, which though less than the sum expended in 1872-73 by Rupees 224-8-0, shows well when compared with that expended under Irrigation. The Skew-Bridge on the Oossoor Adamancottah Road has been completed. The greater part of the road between Kristnagherry and Maharajagadai has been constructed, and this road will, I hope, be open for traffic during the current year. Three miles only of the road from Kavaripatnam to Palcode have been formed, but the whole of the sum allotted was worked up. The bridge across a stream at the second mile from Oossoor to Mallur is progressing slowly. More than half the estimated amount has been expended, and there are no signs of an arch yet. The roadway of the bridge is, I learn, to be 30 feet above this little

5. *Buildings.*—The charges under this head during the year 1872-73 were as follows :—

6 Of the requirements of the division, it is not necessary for me to say much, as so many projects for the improvement of irrigation and for the erection of the necessary Cutcherries have, at different times, been sent up, that before they are either sanctioned or rejected, it would be waste of time to go over the ground again.

8. It will be time enough to consider the requirements of the division in the matter of communications when some of the roads at present under construction are completed. The work under the head of Communications in the Sub-division, which is most urgently required, is the construction of a ghaut between Pennagaram and the Cauvery up which timber can be conveyed. I believe a survey has been made, but that seems to have exhausted the energies of the department as nothing has been done for some months.

9. The buildings most required are Taluq Cutcherries at Dharampuri and Kristnagherry, especially at the latter place.

(True Copy.) (Signed) R. S. BENSON

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

R. S. BENSON.

Assistant Collector.

for Acting Collector

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The total expenditure was Rupees 84,598, or Rupees 49,656 less than during the preceding year; nearly the whole of this falling off being attributable to the decreased allotment for, and consequent expenditure on, Repairs to Irrigation Works.

3. The allotment for new works under the same head was Rupees 11,713, of which, however, only Rupees 2,095 were expended.

S.H.C. 116

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,
No. 2782, dated 28th September 1874.

For Orders.

Submitted for orders
whether the District
Engineer should be called
on to reply to these
remarks.

Injustice to himself he must
I think
S.H.C. 116

C. Walker J.A. R.E.
Secy: to Government
S.H.C.

4. The Collector attributes this unsatisfactory state of things to "a want of energy on the part of Major Hunter and the Range Officers," and complains throughout his report of great delay on the part of the officers of the Department of Public Works.
5. Such repairs as were carried out appear to have been well executed, but the Board are of opinion that the dilatory proceedings to which the Collector has drawn attention should be noticed.
6. The outlay on buildings was in excess of that during the past year by Rupees 1,915.
7. The Collector complains of great delay in the execution of various works, among others the Collector's Cutcherry at Salem, and some of the work appears to have been carried out in an inferior and careless manner.
8. Out of a sum of Rupees 1,335 allotted for the extension of the graveyard at Salem, only Rupees 211 were expended.
9. With regard to future expenditure, the Collector suggests that the head sluices of the Cauvery Channels in the Namkul Taluq should be put in order, and he is of opinion that if the channels themselves were properly bridged, they might be used for carrying produce by means of boats, which at present the lowness of the bridges will not permit.
10. The Collector observes in paragraph 7, that Taluq Cutcheries are much needed throughout the district.
11. The Taluq Cutcherry of Uttengherry, which is not mentioned in the list printed with G. O., dated 24th June 1874, No. 1,691, is stated to be both inconvenient and (the Record-room especially) infested with white ants. The Collector considers a new building absolutely necessary. He has selected a site and recommends that the required estimates should be prepared.
12. The Board concur with the Collector in his remarks throughout the report.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J. H. French
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.
Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
.. to the Acting Collector of Salem.
Exd. W. H. French.

J. H. French 1874
1874.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 28th SEPTEMBER 1874, No. 2,782.

116
2042020174
End.

Received 3rd October 1874.

SEPTEMBER
No. 2,782.

Public Works Operations—in Salem District.—Collector's report on— for 1873-74, submitted to Government with Board's concurrence with Collector in his remarks throughout the report.

Ed. No. 2911 d. 12-10-74

S.H.B. 121
Proceedings of the Madras East.

Read the following
Proc. of the Bd of Rev. (H. E. Sec. 2782 of 28th Sept 74)
G.O. No: 2911 A of 12th October 1874.

Communicated to
the District Engineer,
Salem, for detailed
report with reference
to the remarks of the
Collector.

C.M.W.

To, Mr. Eng. Salem with copy of Bd. Proc. S. M. Sec. 2782 of 28th Sept 74.
" Ch: Eng. for Salem
S. Copies despt. 19/10/74.

Recd 7/10/74 Rd 9/10/74

For 2200 of 10-10-74

6200

Gobt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Dy. Commr.
Pulani

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 12 Oct. 1874, No. 2911A

NO. 295A-295-B.

Public Works in operations
in Salem Dist. Proceed
ings of the Bd of Rev.
submitting Collectors' re
port on — for 1873/74.
comd to the Dy Commr
for report with reference
to the remarks of the
Collector —