

(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.	1418	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated	22-5-	C875-195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd May 1875.*

No 411 Read the following letter from Colonel F J MOBERLY, R E, Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Colonel G W. WALKER, R E, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Veerajeeconum, 26th April 1875, No 311 —

In acknowledging the receipt of G O, No 880, dated 2nd instant, I have the honor to call attention to G O, No 2,851, dated 7th October 1874, on my letter

1 Statement
No. 1,953, dated 5th September, which has, I presume, been overlooked, as the Government consider that my "explanations should have been forthcoming five months earlier"

2 I am quite aware, as the Government observe, of the condition of the irrigation works of this district. In 1862-63, when I held this appointment, I put a stop to the incomplete estimates, but the old system obtained again, and in 1872-73 I found after some experience in the district that scarcely any estimate was for more than patchwork.

3 I insisted on fuller examination of the wants of irrigation works, and had succeeded in getting, during 1873-74, a better class of estimates

4 I would also beg that the Government would be pleased to compare the outlay in this district with that in other districts, see pages cxxxii to cxxxv, Administration Report, copy of which has just reached me

5 After the large outlay in 1873-74 we began the year 1874-75 with estimates to the amount of Rupees 30,074 and 3,112 for Agricultural Repairs and Minor New Works, respectively

New Works	Repairs
1,20,099	1,95,136

I respectfully submit that as District Engineer I had every reason to be satisfied that we were making a good start

6 During April 1874 the members of the establishment were busily occupied in examining and compiling the vouchers for the outlay abovementioned. These amount to several volumes, of which, I think, the Government can have no conception

7. The heat in April is very great, the soil is baked hard, and the laborers, who had been much pressed to complete their work in March, at least into measurable form, refused to do anything till the showers of May enabled them to dispense with the use of a crowbar. I believe I may safely say that throughout the country very little is done in April, and that the outlay which is shown is in payment of work executed in March

8 I was myself in camp in Madranticum, endeavouring to study the country, which is generally very difficult to travel over, attendance at a Local Fund Board Meeting saved me from being in my tent when it was blown down in May, 17 inches of rain fell in one day, and when I rejoined my camp I found the whole country under water, tanks were full, breaches had been rapidly patched up, and cultivation was begun

9 The arrangements which had been made for future work were necessarily altered, and it was very difficult or even impossible for some time to traverse the country in the manner required for proper estimating. I beg to refer to Revenue

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd May 1875*

G. O., No 1,082, dated 26th August 1874, in support of my statement as to the condition of Madranticum, which applies in less degree to the other taluqs

10 I also solicit the perusal of Revenue Board's Proceedings, No 2,880, dated 5th October 1874, on which Public Works G O, No 1,075, dated 17th instant, has been passed

11 I may be allowed to explain that the soil of the district generally is sandy or sandy loam on rock, a great quantity of water is passing a little way under the surface, which is dried by the sun to great hardness. After heavy rain a horse or cart breaks through this crust to the saturated or quicksand below, and moving about is difficult and unsafe. This surface soil may be used to patch, but with a tank full of water, and fields irrigated below it, we cannot get earth to restore banks, nor was there any necessity or economy in doing so.

12 I would also call attention to the large number of tanks, 2,334, in this district of only 2,753 square miles—See Administration Report, page 156

13 Cultivation having commenced earlier, the harvest was earlier, meanwhile estimates had been prepared with great difficulty but tolerable accuracy, and as soon as the ground and weather admitted work was begun. The issue is that—

Agricultural repairs have been measured and paid for to the amount of Rs 85,375

Minor new works „ 3,212

More under the latter head would have been expended, but that Contractors, busy with their harvest, would not come to be paid.

14 I believe some thousands more are due to work-people, for which we had not funds

15 I trust I have shown that my arrangements were good as regarded the requirements, character, quality, and cost of the work

16 My exertions to carry them out have been unremitting.

17 I cannot but remark here that whereas for twenty-five years under Generals Sir A Cotton, F Cotton, Lawford, Orr, my industry and professional capacity were always favorably spoken of by my superiors (whatever my other shortcomings might be), I have during the last three years apparently failed to give satisfaction to Government

18 I would respectfully plead inspection of the fruit of my labors during the first two years of this period

Statement enclosed, taken from Administration Report for 1872-73, pages cxxxiv to cxxxvi, and 1873-74, pages cxxxii to cxxxv., shows the position of Chingleput in the list of districts according to its expenditure

19 In addition to the superintendence of all these, I have had personally to prepare the plans for new barracks, family quarters, and hospital at Poonamallee, and the approximate estimates for the new Ordnance buildings at Avady

20 The Government in the Military Department thought that a special officer should be deputed for this last. In the

G O, No 2,314, dated 14th July 1874 Public Works Department Captain A C Smith was nominated, he complained that he could scarcely get through his range work, and when I was put on the Committee I undertook the preliminary work myself

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd May 1875.*

No 412

ORDER THEREON, 22nd May 1875, No 1,419

IRRIGATION, No 48

RECORDED, with the remark that the Government hope that the progress made with the reformation of irrigation works in the Chingleput District in the current year will be far more satisfactory than was the case in 1874-75. The circumstances of that district cannot be so different from those of adjacent districts as to make it reasonable that in one-half of the year there should be little or nothing done in the former and much in the latter, and it is necessary in evidence of efficient administration that a fair number of these works should actually year by year be put into thorough order

(True Extract)

Major, R E,

Offg Joint Secretary to Government

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation

„ Revenue Department

Exd S T Austin

Spare Copies

Statement referred to in para 18 of letter from the Superintendent Engineer, Chinghai to Secretary to Government D.P. No. No 311 dated 26th April 1875. —

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Sup's Engineer Chinghai
Cause: Stearage account
26th April 1875
Sept 29 — " —

J. H. Stanley
Sup's Engineer Chinghai

Enclosure in letter
from Supt. Engineer
Chungking to Secretary to
Govt. P. M. Dept. No.
311 dated 26th April/75

Mr 2884/75

No 311

Supt. Engrs. Office Chungking,
Camp, Keesaeroomun

26th April, 1875
Despatch 29 — " — 121

From: The Superintending Engineer,
Chungking
To: The Secy. to Government
D.P.

Sir,

On enclosure No 880 dated 2nd instant, I have the honor to call attention to G.O. No. 2851 dated 7th October 1874 on my letter No. 1953 dated 5th September which has, I presume been overlooked as the Government consider that any "explanations should have been forthcoming 5 months earlier".

2. I am quite aware, as the Government observe, of the condition of the irrigation works of this district. In 1862-63, when I held this appointment, I put a stop to the incomplete estimates, but the old system obtained again; and in 1872-73, I found, after some experience in the district, that scarcely any estimate was for more than patchwork.

3. I insisted on fuller examination of the wants of irrigation works, and had succeeded in getting, during, 1873-74 a better class of estimates.

4. I would also beg that the Government would be pleased to compare the outlay in this district with that in other districts see p.p. CXXXII - CXXXV Administration report copy of which has just reached me.

5. After the large outlay, in 1873-74 ^{New works} ^{Repairs}
we began the year 1874-75 with estimates 1,20,099. 195,136
to the amount of Rs. 30,074. and 3,112 for
agricultural repairs and minor new
works respectively. I respectfully
submit that as District Engineer I
had every reason to be satisfied that
we were making a good start.

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the establishment were busily occupied
in examining and compiling the vouchers
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the soil is baked hard, and the labourers,
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enabled them to dispense with the
use of a circular. I believe I may
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very little is done in April, and that
the outlay which is shown is in payment
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8. I was myself in camp in Mad-
rautium, endeavouring to study the
country which is generally very difficult
to travel over. Attendance at a Local
Fund Board meeting, saved me from
being in my tent when it was blown
down in May 17th of rain fell in one day;
and

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the whole country under water, tanks were
full, breaches had been rapidly patched
up, and cultivation was begun.

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altered, and it was very difficult, or even
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the country in the manner required
for proper estimating. I beg to refer
to Revenue G.O. No. 1082 dated 26th August 74
in support of my statement as to the
condition of Madrautium, which applies
in less degree to the other taluqs.

10. I also solicit the perusal of
Revenue Board's proceedings No. 288
dated 5 Oct 1874 on which Public Works
G.O. No. 1075 dated 17th instant has been
passed.

11. I may be allowed to explain
that the soil of the district generally
is sandy, or sandy loam, or rock; a
great quantity of water is passing
a little way under the surface, which
is dried by the sun to great hardness.
After heavy rain a horse or cart breaks
through this crust to the saturated,
or quick sand below, and moving about
is difficult and unsafe. This surface
soil may be used to patch, but
with a tank full of water, and fields
irrigated below it, we cannot get earth
to restore banks, nor was there any
necessity or economy in doing so.

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ministration report page 156.

13. Cultivation having commenced earlier, the harvest was earlier; meanwhile estimates had been prepared with great difficulty, but tolerable accuracy; and so soon as the ground and weather admitted, work was begun. The issue is that Agricultural repairs have been measured and paid for to the amount of Rs. 85,375.

Minor new works ————— 3,212
More under the latter head would
have been expended, but that con-
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15. I trust I have shown that my arrangements were good, as regarded the requirements, character, quality, and cost of the work.

16. My exertions to carry them out have been unremitting.

17 I cannot but remark here that whereas for 25 years under General Sir A. Cotton, J. Cotton, Lawford, Esq., my industry and professional capacity were always favourably spoken of by my superiors (whatever my other

shortcomings might be, I have during
the last 3 years apparently failed
to give satisfaction to Government - 61
I respectfully plead

18. I would respectfully plead inspection of the fruit of my labours, during the first two years of this period.

period.

Statements ^{enclosed} taken from Administration
reports for 1872-73 page CXXXIV to VI
1873-74 CXXXII-25

1873-74
Shows the position of Chingleput
in the list of districts according
to its expenditure.

19. In addition to the superintendence of all these, I have had personally prepared the plans for new barracks, family quarters and hospital at Poonamallee and the approximate estimates for the new Ordnance building at Arcady.

at Auddy!
20. The Government in the Military Department thought that a special officer should be deputed for this task. In the D.P.O. Captain A.C. Smith was nominated, he complained that he could scarcely get through his range work, and when I was put on the Committee I undertook the preliminary work myself.

It has been a puzzle through his range work, and when I
to me, I began to be was put on the Committee I under-
why Colonel Ambrose took the preliminary work myself.
Administration is practically the I have the honor to be
reverse of satisfaction. He works hard Sir
I usually know his estimate, but Your most obedient servant
I understand the results are H. Crosby Colonel R.
last spoken in the Kistina in connection
Incorporated & a fine 100-acre plot in the latter has taken
the same time - it is left it Supp. Engr. Chief Engr.

Aug 71 O. H. Rept 4

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following:-

From the Superintendents } (H. 11:311 of 26 April 1875
Chief Supt }

G.O. no: 1419 of 22nd May 1875

Recorded, with the
remark that the Government
hope that the progress made
with the reformation of
Irrigation works in the Chief
Supt District in the current
year will be far more satis-
factory than was the case
in 1874-75. The circumstances
of that District cannot be
so different from those of
adjacent Districts as to
make it reasonable that
in one half of the year
there should be little or
nothing

20 6 June 1875 12:00-12
28 July 1875 6:00-6:05
2 12 Oct 1875 17:52
2 17 Jan 1876 17:10
2 18 Jan 1876 18:00-18:02
2 2 April 1876 18:52
2 17 May 1876 18:49
H. 11:311 of 26 April 1875

Mr. B. V. S. S. S.

From, 12 2834.

The Superintendent
Chief Supt

To, Mr. Secretary to Govt.
Public Works Dept.

Dated 26
Dec 1875
Recd 1 31st April 1875
H. 11:311

Mr. Secretary further
explained in
regard to short
expenditure and
irrigation works
in 1874/75.

Ref. no: 1419 of 22-5-75

12-411

nothing done in the former
and much in the latter - indeed
conduct is necessary in evidence
of efficient administration
that a fair number of
these works should actually
year by year be put into
thorough order.

Wm. H. H. H.

No 211-412

1. The first 8 days of the first part of
5. of the first part of the first part of
the first part of the first part of

8.1 2857 ✓
Govt. of 1875 Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Engineer,
Chingleput

Dated

Issue

Recd

Encl

22 May, No 1419

Nos. 411-412

Chingleput District - Short
Expenditure on Irrigation
Works in 1874-75. - The
letter of the District
Engineer furnishing
explanation in regard
_____, recorded with
remarks.