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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 2,303.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th August 1875

Read the following letter from R. J. MELVILLE, Esq, Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to H. E STOKES, Esq, Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 19th July 1875, No 417 —

I HAVE the honor to submit the report on the progress of Public Works in this district during the past official year 1874-75, accompanied by the statement ordered in the Board's Circular Memorandum, No 1,678, dated 14th October 1874.

2 I annex herein an abstract statement in which the expenditure of the past two years is compared It will be seen from it that the outlay during the year has been less than that of the preceding one by Rupees 2,36,845. The decrease is chiefly under Irrigation Works, which did not make much progress owing to frequent and continuous rain

Abstract showing the Expenditure on Public Works

Particulars		Expenditure in 1873-74	Expenditure in 1874-75	Difference	
				Increase	Decrease
		RS	RS	RS	RS
Irrigation . .	New Works	1,22,098	24,044	.	98,054
	Repairs .	1,95,136	85 374		1,09,762
Communications	New Works .	1,03,848	52,787		51,061
	Repairs	14,960	17,228	2,268	
Buildings . .	New Works	20,254	35,043	14,789	..
	Repairs . .	9,543	14,518	4,975	.
Total	New Works	2,46,200	1,11,874	14,789	1,49,115
	Repairs	2,19,639	1,17,120	7,243	1,09,762
	Total	4,65,839	2,28,994	22,032	2,58,877
	Net Decrease	.	.	.	2,36,845

3 IRRIGATION—*New Works* —The only important New Work in progress during the year was Chembrumbaukum Tank Project, on which Rupees 16,420 were expended, The bund of the tank has it seems been raised to its full height throughout, the revetment completed, and the Korattur Anicut Improvement carried out. A sum of Rupees 3,349 was also expended—Rupees 1,269 in raising to full height the weir of the Sholaveram Tank, and Rupees 2,080 in forming an embankment at the Northern and Southern ends of Kamarapak Anicut The balance of the expenditure under this head was incurred in providing sluices and waste weirs, of which, though thirty-nine of the former and four of the latter were undertaken, only ten and three respectively were completed.

4. *Repairs* —The irrigation works in the district suffered much from the cyclone of May 1874 and the subsequent heavy rains. Rupees 85,374 were spent on their repairs. About 290 tanks and tanguls were repaired during the year, the

chief among them being the Coovum, Noyalur, Manicooppum, and Thoranellur tanks. The restoration of a portion of the Red Hill Lake and the closing of breaches in the spoil banks of the upper supply channel cost Rupees 5,329 The Bungaroo and Kambacal channels were repaired at a cost of Rupees 6,166 and 7,422 respectively The head wall of the Cortillar anicut was also reconstructed at an outlay of Rupees 2,300 None of the other works undertaken are of sufficient importance to deserve special mention

5 COMMUNICATIONS—*New Works*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rupees 52,787, of which Rupees 29,216 were laid out on salt channel clearances, Rupees 8,811 in excavating boat channels at Pulidivak, Nullur, Voyalur, Attiput and Covelong, and Rupees 3,723 in raising bunds at several salt stations in order to protect the pans from flood A sum of Rupees 10,000, entered in the budget of Petty Construction and Repairs for clearing and deepening the worst portions of the East Coast Canals, was authorized to be expended on the Southern or Sadras canal; but, owing to the late date of sanction, none of this sum was utilized during the year The whole of it has been debited in the accounts for expenditure during 1875-76

6 *Repairs*—The outlay under this head has been Rupees 17,228, whereof the maintenance of the Northern and Southern canals absorbed Rupees 16,163, which sum includes Rupees 3,591 paid for work done on the latter canal in 1873-74 in excess of the budget allotment. Of the balance, Rupees 703 were appropriated for the roads in Guindy Park and Rupees 287 for salt roads

7 Nothing was expended during the year on account of special repairs to the canals, which were much silted up by the floods of 1874, and the consequence was a falling off in the traffic Estimates to the amount of Rupees 50,110 for clearing and rendering the canals efficient have been submitted with my letters of the 11th and 28th ultimo, Nos 330 and 364.

8. I may remark here regarding the progress of expenditure by Department of Public Works in the execution of Local Fund Works of communication, that out of an allotment of Rupees 83 969 for New Works and of Rupees 1,15,712 for Repairs, only Rupees 35,387 of the former and Rupees 93,457 of the latter were utilized during the year. The non expenditure of the difference, which appertains mostly to the Chingleput Circle, appears to be due to the following causes:

1*st*,—the continuous and heavy rain of last year which flooded the low tracts and quarries,

2*nd*,—the dearth of labor in consequence of the South Indian Railway authorities offering higher rates of cooly; and,

3*rd*,—the stoppage of works by the District Engineer owing to deviation by the Chingleput Range Officer from sanctioned estimates, and to consequent delay in the preparation of revised estimates This last cause has already been brought to notice in the correspondence printed with the Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No 3,146, dated 20th April 1875

9 BUILDINGS—*New Works*—The expenditure under this head was Rupees 35,043 No new buildings of importance were undertaken this year. A sum of Rupees 727 was expended in extending the verandahs of the Salt Superintendents' Cutcherries at Madras, Voyalur, and Ennore, in furnishing the Court house of the Poonamallee Cantonment Magistrate with dais, witness-box, &c, and the Collectors' Office at Homes' Gardens with punkahs A salt platform was constructed at Covelong at a cost of Rupees 2,571, and a portion of the inscriptions at Mahabalipuram protected by a palisade estimated at Rupees 192 A sum of Rupees 7,672 was employed in the construction of Police huts, inclusive of forty-three permanent huts, sanctioned for the Northern and Southern divisions. The additions and improvements to the buildings at Guindy Park, and the supply of furniture to the same, cost respectively Rupees 14,848 and 7,000. A sum of Rupees 346 was also laid out on the Ecclesiastical buildings at Poonamallee

10. *Repairs*—The repairs of buildings cost Rupees 14,518 Of this sum, Rupees 1,399 were expended in repairing the Taluq Cutcherries at Madurantakum and Chingleput, the Salt Deputy Collector's Office at Madras, the Salt Superintendents' Cutcherries at Kattur and Homes' Gardens, the Sub-jails at Tiruporur and Streepermatur, and the Post Office at Poonamallee The salt platforms at Madras and Homes' Gardens were repaired at a cost of Rupees 1,505 Of the balance, Rupees 1,177 were spent on the Police huts and sheds, and Rupees 10,308 on the works in Guindy Park and on the Ecclesiastical buildings at the Mount, Poonamallee, Tripassore, and Wallajahbad.

ENCLOSURE No 1—Statement

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The total expenditure for the year 1874-75 was Rupees 2,28,994, showing a decrease of Rupees 2,36,845 as compared with the previous year The allotments however were Rupees 5,05,630 in 1873-74 against Rupees 2,19,224 in 1874-75. The falling off was chiefly under the head of Irrigation works, the frequent and continuous rain having interfered with and delayed operations. The outlay on Agricultural works in the year 1873-74 was exceptionally large, owing to damage done by heavy floods having amounted to Rupees 3,17,234 against Rupees 1,09,418 in 1872-73 Comparing the year under review with 1872 73, the expenditure on Irrigation works shows but little variation, and the total expenditure on Public Works is Rupees 19,066 in excess. Two-thirds of the outlay on New Works was in connection with the Chembrumbaukum Tank Project. Small allotments limited the expenditure, but the decrease is to be regretted as many of the Irrigation works suffered from the cyclone at the beginning of the year, and the necessity for liberal repair expenditure seems great.

3. The bulk of the expenditure under the head of "Communications, New Works" was incurred in connection with salt works, such as salt channel clearances, excavating boat channels, raising bunds for the protection of the pans from floods. The special grant of Rupees 10,000 for deepening the Southern canal was not utilized and is available for expenditure this year—*vide* G O, dated 6th July 1875, No. 1,429. The maintenance of the Northern and Southern canals absorbed nearly the whole of the allotment under the head of "Communications, Repairs." The

estimate for deepening the Northern canal has been submitted for the sanction of Government with Board's Proceedings, dated 19th July 1875, No 2,020, and that for the Southern canal with Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1875, No. 2,167.

4 The short expenditure by the Public Works Department on Local Fund Communications has already been brought to the notice of Government Out of allotments from Local funds, aggregating Rupees 1,99,681, only Rupees 1,28,8[illegible] were expended, the result being much natural discontent on the part of the Chingleput Board, that being the Circle mainly affected by the short outlay.

5 The main outlay under the head Buildings appears to have been incurred in connection with the improvements to Guindy Park.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
with an original statement, to be returned

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
" to the Collector of Chingleput

Exd W J. Lewis.

1875. No. 1508

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH AUGUST 1875, No. 2,303.

Public Works—in Chingleput District—Collector's report on progress of—during 1874-75, reviewed and submitted to Government.

AUGUST.
No 2,303

Received 21 August 1875

55081

Govt. of [illegible]

PUBLIC WORKS.

To [illegible]

Dated

Dated

Recd

[illegible] 3 Septr. [illegible] 2[illegible]

No. 70-71

Public Works in Chingleby

Str:— Progs: of the Board of Revenue submitting Collector's report on ___ for 1874-75, commd: to the Super: Engr: for information & guidance.