

(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.	880	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2 - 11 - 195	6875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd April 1875.*

No. 53 Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Colonel G. W. WALKER,
R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Camp Poov-
noor, 22nd February 1875, No. 3,975:—

I HAVE the honor to point out that in G. O., No. 144, dated 18th ultimo, I
am first censured and then called on to explain.

2. Moreover, the matter under reference concerns entirely the executive
members of this district, but I am blamed personally and by name. I submit that
the following will show that I have done my duty.

Estimates for Irrigation repairs and Minor New Works were sanctioned—

	Repairs.	Minor New Works.
	Rs.	Rs.
To end of April 1874	30,074	3,112
" of May	32,300	3,512
" of June	35,219	3,512
" of July	51,474	3,512
" of Aug.	55,335	3,870
" of Sept	59,390	4,338

Ten estimates, amounting to Rupees 9,757, for repairs were also sent to you for
submission to Government and have been sanctioned. I would urge that there is
nothing in this deserving of any notice; more than half the usual grant was
appropriated in the first six months of a year of unusual rain.

3 In the 1st Range, I forwarded in April 1874 an application for privilege
leave from Mr. Goodebap, Executive Engineer, on his assurances that he had set
afoot the preparation of estimates which ought to come in speedily. His Sub-
divisional Officer, who succeeded to the temporary charge, was quite inexperienced
in irrigation matters, and unfortunately very diffident as to acknowledging it;

estimates were consequently much de-
* See my No 1,963, printed with G. O., No. 2,851, dated 7th October 1874. layed, and when submitted were very
incomplete.*

4 Mr. Goodebap was promoted on the expiration of his leave to be District
Engineer, Kurnool, and his successor, Captain Taylor, was allowed to avail himself
of three months' leave before he joined. This was granted by Government directly,
and without any reference to me as to the injury to the public service in this
district. I was in consequence without one of my Range Officers during six
months of the year.

5 In No. 2 Range nearly every tank was inaccessible, owing to the immense
growth of prickly-pears, &c.; estimates had been sanctioned year by year for patch-
ing the spaces which could be got at; but nothing was properly done, if indeed it
was done at all; at any rate, there was much opening for fraud, and Overseer
Veeraragavaloo Naidoo took, in my opinion, very considerable advantage of the
opening for which he was afterward dismissed.

6 The difficulty of getting the tanks cleared by customary labor was
particularly great in Sydapet, the Mirasidars of which taluk are principally
residents in Madras. But G. O., No. 2,353, of 21st August 1874, has settled that
point, and we can now see what is wanted. Estimates have been sanctioned for
removing prickly-pear, and we shall immediately afterwards prepare plans for the
earth and masonry needed.

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2nd April 1875.*

7. In No 3 Range we had a very heavy burst of the cyclone in May 1871, which filled all the tanks and allowed of immediate cultivation, ring bands were run up in front of breaches, and so far as I am informed there is not likely to be any deficiency in revenue.

8. This range suffered severely in 1872 from a cyclone; damages were hurriedly and inefficiently repaired; estimates prepared and sanctioned very irregularly. As soon as the weather permitted, I insisted on estimates being more systematically prepared, and in very great degree anticipated the instructions in your Circular, No. 55, dated 17th October 1873.

9. The requirements, however, were new to the subordinate members of the department, and we had to deal with unknown areas and quantities of water; it must be also remembered that throughout the southern part of the district, we had not only the ordinary drainage to deal with, but the exceptionally heavy discharge from breaches in the channels and tanks of North Arcot; we were, therefore, in great measure dependent on the arrangements in that district for our security. I learn by a letter from the Range Officer, Poloor Range, to the Executive Engineer, Chingleput Range, "that 503 tanks in the North Arcot District breached into the Madranticum Valley, and that no arrangements have yet been completed for their security.

10. With this view repairs during 1873 were carried out to such a degree as was absolutely necessary; new sluices were built, as there could be no doubt of their being wanted, and the construction of weirs was deferred, openings being left to admit of discharge as far as we could guess; the cost of repairs executed in 1873-74 was Rupees 1,95,136, and of Minor New Works Rupees 7,210, being nearly double the usual grant in the first, and 150 per cent in the second, besides Rupees 1,14,000 on other irrigation works.

11. The cyclone of May 1871 again brought down heavy floods in Madranticum especially; very many tanks in Wandewash, &c., Taluqs, North Arcot, were breached, and the irrigable parts of Chingleput laid under water; the cyclone was followed by unusual rains and an extraordinarily heavy monsoon, in which the Palar broke its banks in North Arcot and poured over or through this district. I must beg to lay stress on the action of this river in percolation through a much larger area than would be supposed from the map.

12. Tanks were filled, cultivation in good progress, and no difficulty was felt as to realization of the current year's revenue. I have not lost sight of the remarks of Government in Order, No. 1,501, of 6th June 1873, but I cannot think that they wish me to pay three or four times the usual rate, to get completed a work for which ample temporary means were supplied at small cost.

13. The tanks of this district are generally mere shallow pools with banks of very sandy loam, and the irrigation under it would be impossible but for this saturation of the soil. The wet revenue (see page CXXXI. Administration Report for 1872-73) of Chingleput amounts to Rupees 10,28,317, being sixth in amount in the Presidency.

14. Thousands of rupees might have been expended in procuring no better ends if executive officers had attempted to repair the damages in a more permanent manner, e.g., on the division bank at Kasaveram which you saw on the 23rd ultimo.

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2nd April 1875.*

15. Instead of making any attempt to close these breaches, I secured their ends to prevent their extending, and left the channel free till we could work at reasonable rates. I cannot think that the Government wish me to employ hundreds of coolies in carrying earth $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or more merely to secure, in October or November, water which would run to waste by the Coom instead of feeding Chelavaram, &c., by the Cortelliar; in fact, I believe that I have carried out the general instructions in G. O., No. 2,089, dated 10th December 1870.

16. So far as I have seen nothing in the way of revenue has been lost by the delay, but materials and money have been saved in Chingleput, and will I have no doubt be laid out in future as largely as it was in 1873-74.

17. Up to date estimates for Repairs have been sanctioned to the amount of Rupees 1,03,335, for Minor New Works Rupees 6,301; expenditure under the Range Officers for Rupees 48,000, more for February and March. Two heads has been 48,221 and Rupees 2,152, respectively, up to the end of January 1875; unmeasured work is in progress, and even measured work is not paid for, because villagers are too busy with their cultivation to come to the Range Officer for payment.

18. I trust that I have shown that I am not deserving of any censure, and that the Range Officers have acted judiciously. I beg further to point out that my No. 2,025, of 1st November 1873, replying to similar charges has not even been printed.

No. 51. ORDER THEREON, 2nd April 1875, No. 880.

IRRIGATION, No. 6.	
Accounts.	

In G. O. of the 2nd October 1874, No. 2,787, Superintending and District Engineers whose expenditure up to the end of September 1874, on Agricultural Repairs and Minor New Works, might

be less than half the Budget grant, were instructed to transmit explanations of such short outlay.

2. In the Chingleput District the expenditure in the first half of the official year was as follows —

	Grant. Rs.	Quarry. Rs.
Repairs	1,10,000	13,876
Minor New Works	6,000	1,281

the Superintending Engineer omitted to forward the explanations required, and a report was consequently called for in paragraph 2 of G. O., No. 141, of the 18th January 1875.

3. In his letter recorded in these Proceedings, Colonel F. J. Moberly affords explanations which should have been forthcoming nearly five months earlier, and he falls into the error of supposing that the inadequate progress of the first half year is a matter which concerns the executive members of the department in his district entirely, an error which is probably quite sufficient to account for the unsatisfactory way in which Public Works operations generally have been carried on under his supervision. In order therefore to the commencement of a reformation, evidently greatly required, it is essential that the Superintending Engineer

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
2nd April 1875.

should understand that he is responsible for the system on which the work of the department may be carried on, for the way in which the requirements of works are ascertained and provided for, and for the character, quality, and cost of the work done to meet these requirements.

4. The explanations afforded by the Superintending Engineer do not. The Government consider, either account satisfactorily for short outlay, or indicate that arrangements have been made for the future better management of the irrigation works of the district. Admitting as fully as possible that there may have been difficulties of season and otherwise, which may have militated against such progress with the efficient repair of Irrigation works generally as was desirable, it is manifest that with the means available and notwithstanding a hard weather, a great deal could have been done. Much might and would have been left undone; this was unavoidable, but it is altogether impossible to suppose that the following expenditure represents the extent of valuable work which it was practicable to carry out:—

	Rs.	No.
April	...	51
May	...	213
June	657	191
July	3,771	97
August	2,330	303
September	2,173	420
	5,005	

It is probable that all the work done up to the end of the half-year might well have been completed before the storm in May.

5. There has been nothing in the instructions given to Colonel Moberly which could afford any ground for a supposition that, in commenting on short expenditure and inadequate progress, useless outlay for the purpose of spending money or doing something could be approved. On the contrary much pains have been taken to impress upon all District Officers the necessity for ensuring that money spent on Irrigation works shall make them safe and efficient. The remarks in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Superintending Engineer's letter are therefore irrelevant. It is well known to Colonel Moberly that the numerous Irrigation works of his district are in need of extensive reformation, which it will take years to complete, and His Excellency the Governor in Council expects that towards its accomplishment fair progress will be made each year; in the first half of the current year no such progress was effected, and the Government have reason therefore to be dissatisfied.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, I. E. S.

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Revenue Department.
Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Ext. W. J. Lewis
Spire Copies

43975 Chingleput Supg Engrs Office
Camp Ponnampoor 23 February 1875
Desp. 23-20

From
The Superintending Engineer
Chingleput

To
The Chief Engineer
Dopar District Public Works

Sir
I have the honor to inform
you that in G.O. No. 144 dated 13th ult.
I am first censured and then called
on to explain.

2. Moreover the matter under reference
concerns entirely the execution, in the hands
of this district but I am blamed for it
and for no reason. I submit that the following
will show that I have done my duty.

Estimates for irrigation repairs
and minor works were sanctioned
by me to the end of April Rs 30074 3112

May " 32394 3512

June " 35249 3512

July " 54474 3512

August " 55335 3870

September " 57390 4338

10 Estimates amounting to Rs 9434
for

8 This Range suffered severely in 1872 from a cyclone; drains were carried off and ineffectually repaired. Estimates prepared and sanctioned very irregularly. As soon as the weather permitted, repairs put on. Estimates being more systematically prepared, and in many great details we anticipated the instructions in your Circular No 55 dated 17th October 1873.

9. The requirements however were not made to the Subordinate members of the Department, and we had to deal with unknown areas and quantities of water; it must be also remembered that throughout the Southern part of the district we had not only the ordinary drainage but also the exceptionally heavy discharge from breaches in the channels and banks of North Creek; we were therefore in great measure dependent on the arrangements in that district for our security. I heard by a letter from the Range Officer, Polwar Range to the Executive Engineer, Chingleput Range that 503 tenches in the North Creek district breached into the Madras River Valley and that no arrangements

1873-74
Up to date estimates for repairs have been sanctioned to the amount of Rs 103335; for minor new work for Rs 6301 Expenditure under the two heads has been Rs 48221 + Rs 2152 respectively up to the end of January 1875. Unmeasured work is in progress, and even measured work is not paid for, because villagers are too busy with their cultivation.

P. 1875 Sept.
 The Chief Constable
 Cambridge
 1234
 The Chief Constable
 Cambridge

Dates 22³
 Days 23³ } 7-11/35
 Reims 25³

2/28/2025

Furnishing explanation
in his Disbursal
expenditure under
Agricultural Union
New Works and Branch
in the Chicago & North
Western Dist.
called for in G.O. of 1874
8/18th January 1875

S. O. No. 888. 2.4.75

60 18 Aug / 75 = 1114
 " 20 Oct / 74 = 7787
 " 7 Dec / " = 2822
 " 6 Aug / 73 = 1501
 " 10 Dec / 70 = 2787
 " 21 Aug / 74 = 2354
 " 12 Aug / 73 = 1093 ✓
 " 28 July / 74 = 2032
 " 8 Aug / " = 34
 Cor No 50 by Ch. S. Palmer
 717, Oct 173

423

675-3-75
viii

from branches in the chain and
banks of North Creek, we were therefore
in great measure dependent on the
arrangements in that district for our
security. I learned by a letter from the
Officer, Polson Range to Lieut. Casselman on
Chinlepar Range that 503 men to within North
Creek district branches in to the Madison
Valley and that no arrangements
were made for the purpose of securing the
valley from the south.

Just tell me could work at a reasonable rate.
 I cannot think that the Government wish me
 to buy 100,000 of coolies in carrying out
 2,000 or more acres of land, in order to
 - purchase, in order which would mean to waste
 by the Government instead of feeding the
 by the Government, in fact, I believe that I
 have carried out the general instructions in
 11th November 1870.

16. So far as I have run anything in the way
of revenue has been lost by the delay, but
in a series of and money have been saved in
Chimbley, and with I have no doubt that
paid out no further as largely as it was
and 1873-74.

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of Rs 103335, for minor new work for Rs
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measured work is not paid for, because
villagers are too busy with their cultivation.

D No 1875 No 1.1

to come to the Range Officer for
instruct.

18 I trust that I have shown that
I am not deserving of any censure and
that the Range Officers have acted
judiciously. They further to point out
that my No. 2025 of 1st November 1873
replying to similar charges has not
even been printed.

I have the honor to be

Yours most obedt. Servt.
J. H. B. Collett
Supt. Range Charge.

Some get them completed for their security
10. With this view, I have during 1873 been
carried out to such a degree as was a whole
of the district; many houses were built, as
and the fact that no doubt of their being erected,
and the construction of them was deferred;
splendid, being left for a short of discharge
as far as we could give the cost of repairs.
The cost in 1873-74 was Rs 195/36
of Union. The cost of the repairs 72/10
being nearly double the usual grant in the
past, and 130 per cent in the second land
Rs 14,000 in other irrigation work.
11. The cyclone of May 1874 again brought
down heavy floods in Madras and is specially
many houses in Travancore & the Satyag
for the first time braced and the irreplaceable
part of the property laid under water. The
cyclone was followed by unusual rains and
an extraordinarily heavy monsoon, which
the Polar broke in North India
and poured over or through this district
must be to lay a step on the action of the
river in percolation through a much larger
area than would be supposed from the
map.
12. The lands were filled, cultivation in good
progress and no difficulty was felt as to
realization.

realization of the current year's revenue. I have not lost sight of the remarks of Government in order. In 1801 of 6th June 1873 but I cannot think that they wish me to pay three or four times the usual rate to get considered a work for which ample temporary means were supplied at small cost.

13. The banks of the district are generally more shallow pools with banks of very sandy loam, and the corrugated under which would be impossible but for the saturation of the soil. The wet volume 122 page CXXVI - Edmonstone's report for 1872-73 of Chingleput & Amara to Rs 10,8317 being 6th in amount in the Presidency.

14. Thousands of rupees might have been expended in procuring no better mode of drainage Officers had attempted to repair the damages in a more permanent manner e.g. in the division bank at Kasavaram which you saw on the 23rd ultimo.

15. Instead of making any attempt to close these breaches I secured them and prevent their extending and left the channel

C. W. De Silva

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

From
The Supts. & Chingleput (187-1: 2975) 22nd Febr/75

880

In L.C. of the 2nd October 1874, No 2781, Superintending and District Engineers to Govt. Expenditure up to the end of September 1874, on Agricultural repairs and Minor New Works, all might be less than half the Budget grant were instructed to transmit explanations of such short outlay.

In the Chingleput District the expenditure in the first half of the official year was as follows:-

	Grant	Outlay
Repairs	110000	13876
Minor New Works	6000	7281

Wd
19/3

and the Superintending Engineer
omitted to forward the ex-
planations required, and a
report was consequently
called for in para. 2 of G.O.
No. 141, of the 18th January 1875.

3 In his letter recorded
in these Proceedings Colonel
St. J. Herbert affords ex-
planations which should
have been forthcoming nearly
5 months earlier, and he
falls into the error of
supposing that the imma-
nitate progress of the first
half year is a matter
which concerns the Executive
Members of the Department
in his District entirely, an
error which is probably
quite sufficient to account
for the unsatisfactory
way in which Public Works
operations generally have
been

been carried on under his
supervision. In order there-
fore, to the commencement
of a reformation evidently
greatly required, it is essential
that the Superintending
Engineer should under-
stand that he is respon-
sible for the system on
which the work of the
Department may be carried
on, for the way in which
the requirements of works
are ascertained and pro-
vided for, and for the
character, quality and cost
of the work done to meet
those requirements.

The explanations thus
afforded by the Superin-
tending Engineer do not, in
the Government's consideration,
either account satisfactorily
for—

for short outlay or indicate
 that arrangements have
 been made for the future
 better management of the
 irrigation works of the
 District. Admitting as
 fully as possible, that there
 may have been difficulties
 of season and otherwise,
 which may have mili-
 tated against such progress
 with the efficient repair
 of irrigation works generally,
 as was desirable, it is
 manifest that with the
 means available and
 notwithstanding adverse
 weather, a great deal
 could have been done. Much
 might and would have been
 left undone, this was
 unavoidable, but it is
 altogether

altogether impossible to sup-
 pose that the following
 expenditures represents the
 extent of valuable work
 which it was practicable
 to carry out.

	Repairs.	Minor new works.
April -	Ruppes -	Ruppes 51
May -	" - 667	" - 219
June -	" - 377	" - 131
July -	" - 2259	" - 97
August -	" - 2173	" - 300
September -	" - 5006	" - 1,26

It is probable that all
 the work done up to the
 end of the half year might
 well have been completed
 before the storm in May.
 5 There has been nothing
 in the instructions given
 to Colonel Moberly which
 could afford any ground
 for

for a supposition that, in
commenting on short ex-
penditure, and inadequate
progress, useless outlay for
the purpose of spending
money or doing something,
could be approved. On the
contrary much pains have
been taken to impress upon
all District Officers the
necessity for ensuring that
money spent on irrigation
works shall make them
safe and efficient. The
remarks in paras 14 and
15 of the Superintending En-
gineers letter are therefore
irrelevant. It is well
known to Colonel Moberly
that the numerous irri-
gation works of his Dis-
trict are in need of exten-

sive reformation, which
it will take years to com-
plete, and His Excellency
the Governor in Council
expects that towards its
accomplishment fair progress
will be made each year,
in the first half of the
current year no such progress
was effected, and the Govern-
ment have reason therefore
to be dissatisfied.

W. J. P.

[Signature]

To The Supt Engr. Chingleput ✓
" Chief Engr. for Irrigation ✓
" Res. Dept. ✓
" Controller of P.W. Accounts ✓
Disd. - 5-4-75

1234 ✓
Oct. of 1875. *Malaya*
PUBLIC WORKS.

Exptg Engineer
Chingleput.

Filed

Recd.

20 April 1880

Mar 23 5 4

Agricultural Memoir
New Works and Repairs
Chingleput Dist.

Paying order on letter
from the Sup. Eng. Chingle-
put forwarding expan-
sion as to short expenditure
under —, called for
vol. 10. p. 140 of 16 July
1875.