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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2867	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26-10	1876
		195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th October 1876. No. 2,867.*

No. 419. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th September 1876, No. 2,461:—

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 9th August 1876, No. 365:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the Public Works Report for this district for 1875-76, accompanied by the statements prescribed in the Board's Circular Memorandum, No. 2,044, of the 7th December last.

2. *IMPERIAL—Civil Buildings.*—This item is omitted from the Board's form showing progress of public works. During 1875-76 Rupees 2,634 were spent out of an allotment of Rupees 3,000 in the erection of a post office at Manjakuppam. * The estimated cost of the building was Rupees 3,000. The whole would probably have been spent within the year if the site had been made over to the Public Works Department a little sooner. The work done seems very good. The building is now finished and occupied by the Postmaster.

3. *Irrigation—New Works, Extraordinary.*—Out of an allotment of Rs. 15,000 for the Palandorai Anicut and Channel only Rupees 13,578 were spent owing to the non-receipt of some materials from Madras. The anicut and head sluice have been finished with the exception of fitting up the head sluice shutters. The main channel, the District Engineer says in his administration report, is *supposed* to have been completed, but is in need of considerable repairs and improvements. An estimate, amounting to Rupees 16,600, has since been sent to me for countersignature for carrying out these repairs. Nothing had been done relative to the investigation of the storage and cross-drainage of the channel, but Assistant Engineer Mr. Maclean has been detailed for this work, which will entail the construction of about twenty masonry works of various kinds, such as bridges, aqueducts, sluices, inlets, and escapes, and their cost will probably be somewhere about Rupees 15,000, so that it seems as if there was a good deal still to be done before the channel can be really considered finished. It is hardly satisfactory, however, that the fact of whether it really is finished, or not should be a matter of doubt. Water was let down the channel in October 1875, and when the works above alluded to are finished and the project really completed, I fully expect the revenue derived from additional water-rate will amply repay the outlay on the anicut and its subsidiary works. A very important point, namely, with which Department—the Revenue or Public Works—the supervision of the channel below the head sluice will rest has yet to be definitely decided by Government.

3. *New Works—Ordinary—Original Allotment, Rs. 17,400; Revised, Rs. 30,080; Expenditure, Rupees 26,224.*—The ill health of two of the Range Officers seems to have interfered with the full expenditure of the allotment while the progress of the works was affected by cholera.

(a.) *The Uppalavadi Channel* remained in *statu quo* throughout the year. The contractor who carried out some of the work, and whose accounts were left unsettled a long time, claims Rupees 1,285 more than the measurements of work done appear to show he is entitled to, and the matter is now *subjudice* in the Munsif's Court.

(b.) *The Extension of the Ponnai Anicut—Allotment, Rupees 24,000; Expenditure, Rupees 22,413.*—From the District Engineer's remarks on this work, it is to be gathered that, if the Supervisor, Mr. Arbuthnott, had been more experienced and

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energetic, greater progress would have been made. A good deal has been done, and, so far as I could judge, but little more is required to finish the Pombay head sluice, and in that case there ought to be a considerable increase of revenue under that channel this year after the monsoon has set in.

(c.) *Bund across the Buloor Tank.*—Out of an allotment of Rupees 900 for expenditure during the year, only Rupees 244 were expended. The District Engineer remarks that the work is almost completed, and that much unnecessary delay in its completion has been caused by the bad feeling existing between the villagers of the French and English villages bordering the tank.

(d.) *Completing the Kattunygloor Anicut Channel.*—Out of an allotment of Rupees 2,500, Rupees 2,499 were spent during the year. The District Engineer hopes that the full amount of the estimate, Rupees 4,000, will have been worked out before the north-east monsoon, and the work completed. I have not been able to visit this work.

(e.) *Closing Breaches in and completing the Vylur Tank.*—Out of an estimate of Rupees 2,330, Rupees 2,180 were allotted, but only Rupees 1,069 were spent. Only half the earthwork has been finished. This is attributed to the difficulty in getting coolies owing to the prevalence of cholera.

Minor New Works.—Under this head the following works were taken in hand and completed or partly finished during the year at a cost of Rupees 10,911 out of an estimated cost of Rupees 14,921:—

	Number	Estimate.	Outlay.	Cost	Income
For Tanks ... { Waste Weirs	2	11	11		
For Canals or { Head Sluices	33	65	65		
Channels { Surplus Sluices or Weirs	2	1,016	1,016	2	2
{ Distribution Sluices	4	1,210	610	21	1
For Spring { Supply Channels	4	1,877	1,877	1	3
Channels { Dams	3	341	341	1	3
{ Channels	1	611	445	2	1
Miscellaneous { Groynes	1	258	21	1	
{ Channels	3	67	184	1	3
Total ..	59	11,921	10,911	41	15

Repairs.—Under this head the following works have been carried out or under taken during the year under report:—

Description of Work.	Number	Estimate	Outlay
Anicuts or Weirs	10	170	170
Embankment or Dykes	10	170	170
Canals or Channels	10	170	170
Tanks	10	170	170
Spring Channels	10	170	170
Total ..	50	840	840

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Of the above sum Rupees 68,279 are classed as "Revenue" and Rupees 8,605 as Miscellaneous. The percentage of outlay on "Revenue" is stated by the District Engineer to have been 2.98.

3. *PROVINCIAL—Civil Buildings, New Works.*—The following works were taken in hand during the year, and the expenditure on each is shown opposite to it:—

No.	Names of Buildings.	Allotment.	Expenditure during the Year.
		RS.	RS.
1	Taluq Cutcherry and Sub-jail at Kallakurchi	7,500	7,500
2	Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry at Porto Novo	Nil.	22
3	Taluq Cutcherry and Sub-jail at Villapuram	Nil.	155
4	Improving Cutcherry at Trikalore and constructing Sub-jail	4,500	2,847
5	Deputy Collector's Office at Trikalore	5,000	5,109
6	Munsif's Court at Villapuram	5,000	4,997
7	Do. at Virdachellam	321	369
8	Police Lines at Vanoor	2,880	2,627
9	Do. at Cuddalore	276	273
10	Station-house at Pinnalur	2,000	1,441
11	Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry and Sub-jail at Ulundurpett ...		

I inspected all these buildings during April and May last except No. 6 and No. 11, which however I have since seen.

The Kallakurchi Cutcherry and Sub-jail are getting on. They are being built according to the standard plan adopted by Government. The iron and wood work has all been sent from Madras I believe, and seems very good. The buildings are built across a slope, and there seems to have been no excavation to obtain a level space before laying the foundations, and the consequence is that, while the floor of one of the cells of the sub-jail is but little above the level of the ground, that of the one at the other end of the row is about two feet above ground-level, and the prisoners going into that cell will require to make a high step to get into it. Fine strong iron doors have been provided for the cells, and to make them more secure very nice batten doors have been constructed, which are, I believe, to shut outside the iron doors and so prevent any possibility of access to the prisoners. They will certainly tend to make the cells warmer at night, and will probably on that account be appreciated by the prisoners. There are no windows in the lower story of the building, only doors. I think, if the two doors leading into the Police Inspector's room at opposite ends and the door leading into the Sheristadar's room near the tower were changed into windows, it would be an improvement. The porch where the public are expected to stand is useless in my opinion. One of the treasury doors opens into it according to the plan. This should be altered I consider, and a fixed iron-barred window substituted. The iron grating separating the shroff from the Sheristadar should be turned into an iron door, and the door leading into the Shroff's room should, I think, be made of iron and be a fixture. A screen is very much required across the arch between the Court room and the Clerk's room. The wall built round the cutcherry compound is about seven feet high on two sides, but on the two others it is so low in one or two places that a man can easily jump over it.

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No. 5.—Considerable progress has been made with the Deputy Collector's office, and the work seemed good. It will probably be ready for occupation before the rains set in.

No. 6 is almost finished, and the work done seems good, but not so good as that of No. 7.

No. 7.—The Virudachellam Munsiff Court-house is almost finished, and the work appeared to me very good.

No. 8.—The Vanoor Police Lines are now fairly strong, but I think they would have been better if the little cookrooms at the ends had had walls of brick instead of being made of mud only. The mud walls enclosing the buildings were very bad. They have been since rebuilt.

No. 9.—The Police Lines at Cuddalore are good substantial buildings. Surrounding them with high mud-walls has made them look very unsightly as these walls are not whitewashed, that item, as I am informed, not having been included in the estimate.

No. 10.—The Station-house at Pinnalur was reported completed more than a year ago, but Mr. Norrie discovered on inspection that the thing had been scamped. It seems a serviceable little building, but I think it is a mistake having the window shutters of the lock-up to open on the inside as is the case.

No. 11.—The District Engineer reports of this building on the 16th April in his administration report that "all masonry to main building and wing to subsidiary jail completed." This was not the case when I inspected the building and sub-jail, on the 27th of May last, in company with the Assistant Engineer Mr. Bick. The jail had most of the couples of the roof in position when I saw it, but the roofers were not nearly all on and not a single tile. The District Engineer says, I think, have been misinformed in the matter. I suspect that the roofers had been laid off work on the cutcherry and jail buildings, and to the late stage still for a while year, during which time the iron doors of most of the cells have had their hinges broken. The expenditure on this work for last year was from Provincial Funds. During last year the expenditure on the jail was from the Provincial Funds and Labor Fund.

Repairs.—Out of an allotment of Rupees 1,000, Rupees 200 were expended on repairing a timber burial-ground and 100 on the walls of which that is the only one of importance. The District Engineer reports that a number of cells in the Jail at Pinnalur have been provided with mud iron doors, and a new set of doors for the cells of which complaints have been made by the prisoners. These have been made and placed in a room for use. When in position they were found to be very good, but they were very heavy and were not so well adapted for the doors of the cells as the iron doors which I have seen there. The District Engineer says that the outer wall of the cells. The iron doors of the Jail at Pinnalur are made of a small slab of stone or iron requires to be inserted into the ground between the frame to prevent the play of the door. The District Engineer says that I believe that a thin plate of iron or steel is inserted between the frame of the door

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time ago. The District Engineer says that some extensive repairs are required to the old Government house at Manjakupam, to the hazur cutcherry and to several other buildings in the district, and the allowance to carry out these therefore requires increase. I quite concur with him. The roof of the bungalow attached to the old Government house is ruinous and requires renewal.

4. LOCAL FUNDS—New Works.—The following works of importance were undertaken or carried out during the year:—

No.	Works.	Estimate.	Allotment of Year.	Expenditure.
		RS.	RS.	RS.
1	Bridge at Virudachellam	55,700	13,000	11,282
2	Road from Kallakurchi to Sankarapuram	35,660	4,430	4,127
3	Completing road from Merkanam to Pondicherry	23,040	13,520	13,651
4	Road from Bramadesam to Kilianur	9,050	2,000	1,868
5	Pasimuthan Odai Bridge	6,000	2,000	1,141
6	Causeway across the Ponnai at Trikalore	4,020	120	120
7	Rendering secure the Ponnai Bridge	44,200	...	16,018

Work No. 1.—The total expenditure on this bridge up to the end of the year under report was Rupees 18,753. From the District Engineer's administration report it appears that 165 wells have been sunk and filled in with concrete, masonry foundations have been "laid to a depth of 5 feet and up to floor level to eastern abutment wings, first four piers and retaining walls; to 5th, 6th, and 7th piers and retaining walls to the same depth above wells; concrete flooring laid to the first four arches, and a quantity of materials prepared." The slow progress of the work is ascribed partly to the difficulty experienced in preparing materials and partly to the want of a separate officer to be in charge of the work. The Sub-Collector in his report observes that it would have been better if the Local Fund Board had been informed of this earlier "so as to enable them to provide for the same."

No. 2.—The Road to Sankarapuram from Kallakurchi.—Out of an estimate of Rupees 35,660 the total expenditure in two years has been Rupees 14,139. The road is about 15 miles long, and at this rate will not be finished for another three years. I was informed that owing to rain having fallen the road was not easily passable, so, being pressed for time when at Kallakurchi, did not go over it. The Divisional Officer does not seem to have inspected it.

No. 3.—The progress with the little bridge over this road near Kalapett has been very slow. A good deal of material for gravelling the road has been collected, but, in my opinion, it is of an inferior character. The District Engineer inspected it, and thinks that it is the best available in the neighborhood, and that in time it will make a good road.

No. 4.—I had not an opportunity of inspecting the road, nor does the Divisional Officer appear to have visited it, as the present Acting Head Assistant Collector (who has only recently joined) says he is not in a position to send in any report on the public works in his division as no notes of inspections of works were left by his predecessors.

No. 5.—The progress on this work has been extremely slow. On my way to Chedambam on the 18th February the work was apparently just being commenced. During the following six weeks Rupees 1,141 seem to have been spent.

No. 6.—The allotment for this work was cancelled by the Local Fund Board acting on the advice of the District Engineer and its execution deferred till something definite had been decided about the embankment of the Penniar.

7. This bridge originally cost Rupees 56,000 in 1874. At the meeting of the Local Fund Board on 12th July 1876 the District Engineer's estimate of the cost of the work was Rs. 1,00,000.

7. This bridge originally cost Rupees 50,000. It was damaged by floods in 1874. At the meeting of the Local Fund Board on the 12th April 1876 the District Engineer's estimate, amounting to Rupees 41,200, for rendering it secure was before the Board, and an allotment of Rupees 2,871 was made for expenditure on the current year on rendering the six northern arches of the bridge secure. Rupees 18,021 necessary to adjust expenditure incurred during 1876 in one of another in examining the bridge and driving down some expensive mangro plank arches secure has been reported finished; but, although the estimate was only submitted in April and the work reported finished in July, the District Engineer has asked an additional grant of Rupees 2,000, which he says is owing to the heavy expenditure on balancing and the cost of materials of steel. Considering that the total estimated cost of the work to be carried out this year was less than Rupees 10,000, I consider the increase of over twenty per cent. is, to say the least, discouraging. It yet remains to be seen whence the money is to come from which the above expenditure is to be met.

Civil Buildings.

No. _____

Names of _____

No	Names of Buildings	Amount of Estimate	Grant for Year
1	The Tirukalre Dispensary	84	
2	The Tiruchivanam Dispensary	2,160	400
3	The Choultry at Tingar Droog	2,216	400
4	The Choultry at Chinna Salem	7,000	600
5	The Choultry at Virudhachalam	7,000	600
6	Apothecary's Quarters at Virudhachalam	2,800	200

No. 1.—The progress on this work has been most unsatisfactory. The Engineer ascribes it to the inexperience of the Sub-Divisional Officer and of orders by the Sub-Overseer in charge, but the Range Officer, however, for failing to surrender in good time the sum he could not spend. I have been thinking of the palmyra rafters are not all as good as they ought to be, and windows, or a large number of them, have been lying for about a year and building close by. They will probably be well season-dried by the time the building close by. The total expenditure in two years on this work has been Rupees 6,211.

No. 2.—The work on this building has been pushed on with care. The full allotment is reported expended. I inspected it, and thought I saw were good, particularly the palmyra rafters. The masonry work was a little pointing which I saw was I thought bad. The Range Officer has drawn to it. The total expenditure on the building up to the end of Rupees 6,000.

No. 3.—This is a very fine choultry, but the site is not a good one to build a road to it will have to be made, and it would be much improved if the neighborhood was cleared, levelled, and planted. It has been estimated at Rupees 6,161, which is a little under the estimate.

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No. 4.—I did not see this building during the year. The District Engineer reports that all the rafters and reepers are collected and the manufacture of bricks is in progress.

No. 5.—I saw these buildings. The couplings for the roof, I thought, were not very good, but I was informed that some of them had been condemned by the Overseer. Not half the allotment for the year was expended however, which is unsatisfactory. A revised estimate for this work, amounting to Rupees 3,260, has been submitted to the Virdachellam Local Fund Board.

Repairs.—From the District Engineer's administration report it appears that 1,160 miles of road were kept in repair during the year at a cost of Rupees 1,27,780, many of them, however, were dusty and the metal on others could not be laid down owing to the want of rain or of water in the vicinity. I regret that, after having made a tour through part of every taluq in the district and having traversed a considerable length of road, I cannot say that I see any improvement in the condition of the communications of the district since 1874-75, but, if anything, a deterioration. The want of rain and of water by the road-sides is the reason most commonly advanced for roads not being repaired, and no doubt to get metalling or gravel to combine water is required, but I cannot say that I have found repair work pushed on any faster when rain does fall. The excuse (which has certainly much force in it) then is that the laborers are all engaged in agriculture, and it is difficult to get workmen to repair the roads.

Unexpended Balances.—In the Cuddalore Circle Rupees 20,032 (Rupees 12,166 out of the allotments for original works and Rupees 7,866 from that for repairs) and in the Virdachellam Circle Rupees 15,921 (Rupees 9,477 from original works allotments and Rupees 6,444 from repairs allotments) were left unutilized during the year under report. These sums are respectively 12 and 11 per cent. of the total Local Fund grants of the two circles. The reasons for this unsatisfactory state of affairs are variously given by the District Engineer as cholera, railway competition for labor, neglect or incapability of some of the Sub-Overseers, and the illness of two of the Range Officers during parts of the year. The district has certainly been very unfortunate in the health of all its Range Officers.

5. Before concluding my report I must make some remarks on the Virdachellam Dispensary. This building cost nearly Rupees 11,000 and was only reported finished and taken possession of last year. This year I find the walls of the cookhouse split in several places, and I fully expect that the first heavy fall of monsoon rain we have it will tumble down. The hip-rafters of the dispensary verandahs are made of pieces of palmyra nailed together, and at or near the end which rests on the wall of the building these pieces are, in one instance at least, jointed, because apparently they were not long enough originally to span the whole distance. The consequence is that the roof at that angle of the verandah shows a decided sinking under the pressure of the wind, nor is this the only angle where such sinking is to be seen, and I shall not be surprised to see these roofs fall during the monsoon unless teak hip-rafters are substituted for the palmyra ones. I brought the matter demi-officially to the District Engineer's notice. He inspected the building, and replied to me, pointing out that the work was second class. The hip-rafters he explained were done as usual, but not well done. He did not think the verandah roofing was in danger, but admitted it had settled in two places, and said that it should be looked to, but that there was no parti-

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ular hurry. He thought the worst feature in the roof were the reapers; the rafters were he considered pretty fair, but the good old rafters which used to be procurable were not to be had now. He admitted the work done was not by any means first-class work of the kind estimated for. It was given on contract, and he seemed to think that the contractor was allowed to have things too much his own way. I do not know whether it is too much to expect first-class work in a dispensary costing Rupees 11,000 in round numbers, but this I know, that far better work has been done at Villapuram, where a dispensary, I believe, on identically the same design was finished for Rupees 9,346, and there the hip-rafters are all teakwood, and for Rupees 9,000 a much better building will be turned out at Tindivanam, and there the rafters will be of the fine old type to which the District Engineer alludes, and the hip-rafters will be of teak, and I may remark that in the estimate for a dispensary (apparently on the same principle as those in this district, but having wards 54 feet long) which is given in the Proceedings of Government of the 3rd February last, No. 244, the cost is only Rupees 12,700, and this includes teak rafters throughout, in fact a larger building and first-class work appear to be possible for about 10 per cent. over what was paid for the Virdachellam Dispensary, so I cannot see why that building should not have been at least of first-class workmanship of the kind estimated for.

6. Nor must I omit to remark of the state of the road from Cuddalore via Punrooty to Veeraperumanellore, a distance of 22 miles. The traffic on this road is much greater than that on any other in the district, for it is the road leading from Cuddalore to the high road from Salem and Trichinopoly to Madras. An estimate for reticulating these 22 miles was sanctioned in 1869. It amounted to Rupees 24,500,

Year.	Allotment.	Expenditure.
1871-72	10,000	4,938 4 8
1872-73	11,000	11,000 0 0
1873-74	5,680	5,677 15 4
1874-75	2,820	1,462 0 9
1875-76	1,361	668 7 0

and the first allotment was made in 1871-72. The allotments year after year are shown in the margin along with the annual expenditure. The 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd miles of this road are unmetalled and passage over them in the wet weather is difficult, and yet, as the Board will see, the expenditure out of the allotments in 1874-75 and 1875-76 was less than 50 per cent. of them. The road 22nd miles between 1872 and 1874, but was very much cut up by a flood in the latter year, which also swept away a small bridge in one of those miles. To carry out repairs at once an emergent allotment of Rupees 4,450 was made by the Local Fund Board in August 1874, and the bridge has been at length rebuilt* and a good deal

* Finished in March 1876.

of metal carted, but the District Engineer now writes to me that the estimate will be exceeded by Rupees 850 as more laterite is required to be carted to the 19th mile of the road, and that a further allotment will be required.

7. My last remark applies to the taluq cutcherries. It is I believe under contemplation to build new ones in all the taluqs by degrees. Kallakurchi has been already taken in hand. I would suggest that next year a commencement be made with those at Villapuram and Chedambaram. Both cutcherries of first-class taluqs. At

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Villapuram particularly the building is much too small for a taluq cutcherry, and the floor is in such a state of disrepair and so full of holes that the Tahsildar complained to me when I was in the building a few days ago (and I believe with very good reason) that it was difficult to walk over it barefooted without spraining one's ankle.

8. The reports from two of the three Divisional Officers contain no remarks at all. The Sub-Collector observes, of the maintenance grant for the roads in the Virdachellam Circle, that only Rupees 34,363 out of the allotment of Rupees 38,048 have been spent, and that "this is so much the worse for the road."

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Statements.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The expenditure upon new works was only 69.9 per cent. of the allotment and that upon repairs 89 per cent. Various reasons are assigned for this short expenditure, such as the bad health of the Range Officers, the prevalence of cholera, and the inefficiency of subordinates.

3. Speaking of the Kallakurchi Cutcherry, the Collector criticises the plan in considerable detail. Some of the improvements which he suggests, such as the need of a step to one of the jail wards, are slight, and could doubtless be provided within the amount of the estimate; others are more important, involving a deviation from the original plan; if Mr. Garstin considers these latter alterations essentially necessary, he should submit definite proposals in a separate letter; they can scarcely be disposed of in an annual report. The use of loose iron bars for securing the doors of the sub-jails appears to the Board to be a serious mistake for the reasons given by the Collector; possibly they might be fastened to the post in such a manner as to prevent their being used as weapons by ill-disposed prisoners.

4. The work of the Virdachellam Bridge appears to have progressed slowly, and a considerable portion of the allotment was unspent. It is suggested that a special officer ought to be in charge of the work. The progress of the dispensary at Trikalore has also "been most unsatisfactory," for only Rupees 2,088 were utilized out of a grant of Rupees 4,650. Mr. Garstin's description of the Virdachellam Dispensary and also the opinion of the District Engineer show that the work has been very indifferently executed. The Board would like to know under whose orders the contractor worked and upon whose certificate the work was paid for; whether a specification was drawn up, and, if so, how far it has been neglected; if not, upon what basis the contractor was expected to proceed.

No. 420. ORDER THEREON, 26th October 1875, No. 2,867.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 3.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, South Arcot, who will see to the securing of the loose bars to doors of the

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sub-jail of the Kullacurchy Cutcherry; and supply the information required by the
Revenue Board regarding the Virdachellam Dispensary.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No 2867

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 26th Oct 76.
Read the following:—

in full
Proposed to Board of Revenue } (H.C. No 2461 d/28th Sept 76)

Communicated to the
District Engineer, South
Arcot, who will see
to the securing of the
loose bars to doors of
the sub-jail of the Kulla-
-curchy Cutcherry; and
supply the information
required by the Revenue
Board regarding the
Virdachellam Dispensary.

H. S. Archd.
B. P. Revenue
Resd Sept 76

Done 8/10/76

1350

Dept. of Int. & Agric.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To H. B. South Street

11/12

25 October 1867

Nos.

Report on Public Works
on 1875-76, South Street
Bridg — Cross: Board of
Revenue Committee
Collection — Subcommi-
-ttee to the Brit. Ex-
-change instructions —

11-12-1867