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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3123	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	21-11	195
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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st November 1876. No. 3,123.

No. 383. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st October 1876, No. 2,704:—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 18th September 1876, No. 196.

I HAVE the honor to submit my Report on Public Works for 1875-76 accompanied by the lists prescribed in Revenue Board's Circular Memorandum, No. 2,044, of 7th December 1875.

2. The aggregate revised allotments from all funds amounted to Rupees 2,58,467, and the expenditure to Rupees 2,43,704, or Rupees 14,763 within the available allotment.

3. *IMPERIAL—Irrigation Works.*—The expenditure on New Works amounted to Rupees 14,299. The construction of a head sluice to the Singanailoor channel at Coimbatore was commenced, as also the adaptation of a road bridge for a head sluice to the Coimbatore channel supplying the Peria and Valan Colum tanks, and a head and sand sluices to the Pullapolliem channel in Caroor. Improvements of the head sluice to the Arkencottah channel in Sattimungalam Taluq were also taken in hand. All these works were in progress. An embankment and groynes were undertaken at an estimated cost of Rupees 2,500 to prevent the erosion of the Cauvery bank at Humpapoor in Collegal Taluq; this work was completed during the year, but a further estimate of Rupees 1,250 was found necessary for improving the groynes and for planting nanal on the bank; the improvements were completed and the planting is in progress. A surplus weir and under sluices to the Arcapooram channel from the Auliar river were designed and sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rupees 1,800 for the purpose of discharging the drainage and sand and silt brought down into it by the Periacomboo stream; the work was commenced during the year. The improvement of the Polliem tank in Collegal was undertaken at an estimated cost of Rupees 2,150.

4. The expenditure on repairs of Irrigation works amounted to Rupees 58,818 or 1,000 Rupees more than the outlay in the previous year. This is a charge of 10 per cent. on the Revenue dependent on Irrigation works.

5. *PROVINCIAL—Communications.*—Two works of communication were carried on from this fund. The first is the bridle-path or bullock track from the foot of the Anamallay Hills to the Poonachy Saddle. This ghat was projected with the view of making the Anamallay Hills accessible to carts "in the interests of the public, and for encouragement of private enterprise"—vide G. O., No 1,534, of 10th June 1873, Public Works Department. The estimate for the bullock track amounted to Rupees 16,700, and, with the expenditure of Rupees 182 incurred this year, this estimate has been fully carried out and the work is stated to be completed. I inspected it in January 1875.

6. The next work is the road from Malliempolliem to Kodumooddy intended to replace an old village road destroyed by the Railway.

The work, judging from the expenditure incurred, is two-thirds finished.

7. *PROVINCIAL—Buildings.*—Under this head certain improvements and additions to the Central Jail Buildings at Coimbatore were in progress, and a house for the

Police Inspector at Collegal was built. The Civil Buildings were kept in repair at a cost of Rupees 4,944.

8. LOCAL—Communications.—The most important lines of communication, the improvement or formation of which was on hand during the year, were nine.

The first in the list was the improvement of the road from Coimbatore to Pollachy and Oodumalpettah. An estimate of Rupees 40,000 for this work was sanctioned in 1864, and up to the end of the year under report the expenditure has not exceeded Rupees 11,775. The expenditure during the year was Rupees 2,500 with which general improvements were carried out at certain parts between Coimbatore and Pollachy and a new timber bridge was built between Oodumalpettah and Pollachy. In Oodumalpettah and Pollachy Taluqs the road requires extensive improvements (as may be seen from the following extract from the Acting Head Assistant's letter*
* No. 18 of 8th March 1876.

to the Local Fund Board) for which materials were collected:—

"The portion within Pollachy Taluq is the worst piece of road I have ever seen. About the 6th or 7th mile from Pollachy to Oodumalpettah the road is dangerous for carts. There are holes about a foot deep honey-combing the road-way and at other places portions of the original surface of the road or of the bare rock stand out so as to upset a cart which is not dexterously driven. Some days ago the conveyance of Vencata Subbiah, Taluq Gumastah, was upset there and he received injuries.

"There must have been a laxity of supervision. At the 4th mile, 3rd furlong, from Oodumalpettah a trench has been dug for material actually within the line of avenue trees."

From want of funds it was found impracticable to carry out the work more speedily. The difficulty of this road is that it goes over cotton soil.

9. The next work in the list is the improvement of the road from Coimbatore via Pulladam to Konghiem. The estimate of Rupees 28,200 is nearly half carried out. Twenty-two miles of road, six miles of side and catch drains, three bridges, and one tunnel are stated to be completed. Several parts of the road still remain to be built, and twenty-five tunnels, four timber bridges, and four causeways are required to be built.

10. The third work is the trace and bridle-path from Hassanoor via Guddesal and Byloor to Ajjipuram. The estimated cost of this work is Rupees 1,46,800; the expenditure this year is Rupees 4,319, and total outlay up to the end of the year under report is Rupees 27,013. This road is stated to be opened out to an average width of 13 feet, and in certain parts to 15 feet. The road is used by Wudder carts, and the Treasure is sent in Wudder carts by this route from Collegal to Sattiamungalam.

11. The fourth work is the road from Collegal via Lockunhully to Byloor, for which an estimate of Rupees 65,000 was sanctioned in 1874, and the expenditure up to the end of the year was Rupees 11,700. The road is now passable for carts, but with a little difficulty in wet weather. The Range Officer states that carts from the Mysore territory came as far as Byloor for raggi and to the Byloor jungles for bamboos and firewood, and that at times over a hundred carts were seen conveying raggi. This road is a decided success both as it develops local traffic, and being, in fact, a shorter line than that by Ajjipuram.

12. The bridging and improving of the road above the Hassanoor ghaut to the Mysore frontier was taken in hand during the year on an estimate of Rupees 19,450, and Rupees 2,062 were spent.

13. The Ooppar bridge near Dharapuram on the road to Tirupoor was completed during the year and opened for traffic. The aggregate outlay was Rupees 30,099. The Sub-Collector remarks that "the bridge was built under the constant supervision of Mr. Supervisor Nicholson, and will prove, he is sure, a most durable work."

14. The road diversions near the above bridge were nearly completed.

15. The improvement of the Mettoopolium and Kullar road, which was much worn out by the heavy traffic to the Nilgiris, was taken in hand during the year. The Government was applied to for a grant and sanctioned Rupees 3,334. The estimate was for raising and metalling the road and amounted to Rupees 4,000; a little more than two-thirds (viz., Rupees 2,715) of this amount has been spent, leaving a balance of Rupees 1,285 which the Range Officer remarks is utterly inadequate to carry out the remaining work properly; he adds that with the money already expended, "general improvements have been done to the road, but its side drains require to be cleared throughout; the road should be raised in parts and tunnels built under such raised portions, and it should be provided with a considerably thicker layer of metal over it than it now has, as the present thickness is not sufficient to carry the heavy traffic without constantly working into holes." I quite agree with these remarks. I should have liked to have seen a tramway from Mettoopolium bridge to Kullar; the traffic is great, and rain near the hills causes much damage to the road.

16. In November-December 1875 when His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was expected to visit the Anamallay hills, the Public Works Department improved the road from Pollachy to the foot of the ghaut at a cost of Rupees 1,984. This outlay not being of general importance to the welfare of the district and not assented to by the Local Board in the first instance has been debited to Local Funds by G.O., Public Works Department, No. 930, of 8th April 1876.

17. LOCAL FUND—Sanitary and Miscellaneous.—The construction of two new chuttrums was undertaken from Local (General) Funds; the one at Talavady commenced in the previous year was completed in 1875-76, and the other at Guddesal was commenced and nearly completed within the year. The Taluq Dispensary at Dharapuram is still in progress.

18. The following abstract shows the part taken by the different departments in the execution of Public Works during the year under report:—

	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Public Works Department	70,377	16,705	1,11,565	1,98,647
Revenue Department	2,741	268	41,234	44,243
Police Department	...	625	...	625
Superintendent of Central Jail	...	189	...	189
Total...	73,118	17,787	1,52,799	2,43,704

81.51 per cent. of the aggregate expenditure was incurred by the Public Works Department and 18.15 per cent. by the Revenue Department. The greater part of the expenditure by the Revenue Department was on maintenance of roads from Local Funds; the small outlay on Irrigation repairs incurred by the Agency of the Revenue

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st November 1876. No. 3,123.*

Department was in the repair of the Kaniempolliem anicut and channel (Rupees 730 and in removing prickly-pear from several Irrigation works (Rupees 2,010).

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Statements.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The report does not call for much remark. The important road from Coimbatore to Pollachy and Oodumalpettah is said to be in bad order in parts, but the attention of the Local Fund Board has been directed to the necessity for repairing it.

3. The Collector would like to see a tramway laid down from the bridge at Mettoopolliem to Kullar. The work would be a useful one, but the Board doubt whether it could properly be undertaken by the Local Fund Board. Mr. Wedderburn does not however offer any suggestion as to the manner in which it should be carried out.

4. The bridle-path to Poonachy Saddle was completed during the year under review.

5. The total expenditure of the year bears a fair proportion to the allotments.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 384. ORDER THEREON, 21st November 1876, No. 3,123.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 22.

RECORDED; and communicated to the
Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore.

(True Extract:)
(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

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383/84

Public Works—presented in Coimbatore District during 1875-76.—Submitting to Government Collector's report on

OCTOBER
No. 2,704.

Received

Received to D. 28
Revenue - 8-12-76

Oct 28 1876
Exd 2

PROCEEDINGS, 31st OCTOBER 1876, No. 2,704.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

1876.

No. 3123 of 21 Nov/76
Recorded; and
communicated to the
Superintending Engineer
Coimbatore

S. Eng. Coimbatore
7-12-76

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Gobt. of 1876 India.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

to S. E. Quintaloro

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Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G. O. 21st Nov 1876, No. 3123

Nos. 383 & 384. —

Public Works presented on
the Committee's Report during
1875-76 — Gov. Board
of Revenue submitting Collec-
tors' report on the —
recovered & communicated
to the Supt. Engr. —

W. H. P.