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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**G.O. No. 512Press
~~Mis.~~Dated 31. 7. 1877**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

31st July 1877, No. 512 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

Read the following papers :—

No. 388.	Proceedings, Revenue Department, dated 26th January 1877, No. 373.	
No. 388-A.	From the District Engr., South Arcot, ,, 3rd Feb. ,, 205.	
No. 388-B.	From the ,, ,, Salem, ,, 3rd March ,, 157.	
No. 388-C.	From the ,, ,, South Arcot, ,, 18th April ,, 14.	
No. 388-D.	From the ,, ,, ,, ,, 24th May ,, 46.	

No. 389. ORDER THEREON, 31st July 1877, No. 512 W.

THE unsatisfactory condition of the Virdachellum Dispensary was brought to the notice of Government in a letter from the Collector of South Arcot, printed with G.O., No. 2,867, dated 26th October 1876, and the District Engineer was called upon to supply a special report upon it, which he did in letter printed with G.O., No. 373, of 26th January 1877, Revenue Department, which gives the history of the building. He further reported on the same subject in his letter No. 205, of 3rd February 1877.

2. From the correspondence that has taken place it is very evident that neither the Overseer in immediate charge nor the Range Officer examined the work at the various critical stages of progress when such examinations should invariably take place. For, had the work been inspected as it should have been when the naked roof timbers were reported as completed, the omission to nail the rafters to the wall plates, their general insufficiency in length, &c., would doubtless at once have been discovered and remedied. Admitting that both the Overseer and the Range Officer had much to attend to, the Government cannot absolve them of blame in the matter. Had they adopted a more systematic mode of inspection or issued judicious instructions, arranging for regular inspections of the work at such periods as would have insured the ready detection of any scamping on the part of the contractor, the permanency of the structure would no doubt have been secured.

3. Though Mr. Norfor was Acting District Engineer and Range Officer at the time the building was in progress, it is understood that the building is situated at the head-quarters of the range of which he had charge. It is therefore difficult to understand how the work did not receive more of his attention than it appears to have done, and the Government cannot but believe that such neglect can only be attributed to Mr. Norfor's negligence. The Government have on other occasions had very severely to animadvert upon Mr. Norfor's conduct and can but reiterate their former injunctions that Mr. Norfor shall not, until he shows considerable improvement, be promoted beyond the position he holds at present.

4. The District Engineer should take care that the contractor employed on the dispensary work is not again employed on any Government work in his district.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

GOVT.
OF MADRAS.

1877.

P.W.
DEPT.

SECRETARY.

Madras, June 1st

187

OFFICE NOTE

To C.

Sanction has been
sanctioned for removing
the verandah roof of
the Virudachalam
dispensary in South
Arcot District. It is please
let the record be made
in -

OF

187

proposed funds

1.0.77

To Dept. W.

No report has been
made to this Office of
any estimate having
been recently sanctioned
for removing the verandah
roof of the Civil Dispensary
at Virudachalam in
the South Arcot District.

Sanctioned by
C. E. 1/6/77

Sanctioned by
C. E. 1/6/77

*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. Arbutnott, had been more experienced and

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

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 Bahoor 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 Kattunigloor Ancient 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 10,041 out of an estimated cost of Rupees 14,921 :—

	Number.	Estimate.	Outlay.	Com- plete.	Incom- plete.
		Rs.	Rs.		
For Tanks ... { Waste Weirs	2	695	695	2	2
{ Sluices	36	8,916	6,169	34	1
{ Head Sluices	2	1,533	583	1	5
For Canals or { Surplus Sluices or Weirs.	6	1,877	1,297	1	3
Channels. { Distribution Sluices	4	743	260	2	1
{ Supply Channels	3	649	448	1	...
For Spring { Dam	1	223	21	1	3
Channels. { Channel	1	670	156	...	...
Miscellaneous. { Groynes	3	313	182	1	...
{ Channels	1	200	200	...	...
Total...	59	14,921	10,041	44	15

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

Description of Work.	Number in District.	Number repaired.	Outlay.
			Rs.
Ancients or Weirs	179	13	8,990
Embankment or Dykes	33	24	16,765
Canals or Channels	947	50	20,780
Tanks	3,511	126	20,750
Spring Channels	225	4	659
Total	4,995	217	76,884

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

Of the above sum Rupees 68,279 are classed as "Revenue" and Rupees 8,605 as Miscellaneous. The percentage of outlay on "Revenue" repairs 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.	Expendi- ture during the Year.
		Rs.	Rs.
1	Taluq Cutcherry and Sub-jail at Kallakurch...	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 ...	Nil.	254
5	Deputy Collector's Office at Trikalore	4,500	2,847
6	Munsif's Court at Villapuram	5,000	5,109
7	Do. at Virdachellam	5,000	4,997
8	Police Lines at Vanoor	321	369
9	Do. at Cuddalore	2,880	2,627
10	Station-house at Pinnalur	276	273
11	Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry and Sub-jail at Ulundurpett ...	2,000	1,441

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 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.

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

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 Virdachellam Munsif's 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 in mud 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. Norfor discovered on inspection that the tiling had been scamped. It seems a servicable 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 10th April in his administration report that "all masonry to main building and roofing 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. Bird. The jail had most of the couples of the roof in position when I saw it, but the reapers were not nearly all on and not a single tile. The District Engineer must, I think, have been misinformed in the matter. Except that the out-houses had been built, all work on the cutcherry and jail buildings seemed to me to have stood still for a whole year, during which time the iron doors of two of the sub-jail cells have had their hinges broken. The expenditure on this work up to last year was from Provincial Funds. During last year the expenditure on it would seem to have been met from the Convict Labor Fund.

Repairs.—Out of an allotment of Rupees 3,680, Rupees 3,663 were expended on repairing a tomb or burial-ground and fifteen buildings, of which the huzur cutcherry is the only one of importance. The District Engineer says in his administration report that seventeen doors of cells in four sub-jails in the Tindivanam Range have been provided with round iron cross-bars with a view of making servicable the doors, of which complaints have been made by the magistracy. These bars are loose and fit into iron rings fastened to the door-frames and are taken out when the doors are opened and placed on the ground. When in position they no doubt strengthen the doors, but they constitute very dangerous weapons for any ill-disposed prisoners while being led out of their cells when placed, as I have seen them, by the Police guard or warder against the outer wall of the cell. The iron doors of the Vanur Sub-jail do not overlap, and a small slab of stone or iron requires to be inserted into the top and bottom of the door-frame to prevent the play of the leaves of the door inwards. Owing to this it was I believe that a thin prisoner managed to escape between the leaves of the door some

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

time ago. The District Engineer says that some extensive repairs are required to the old Government house at Manjakupam, to the huzur 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 Virdachellam	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 Chedambaram 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 embarkment of the Ponnar.

7. This bridge originally cost Rupees 56,000. 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 44,200, for rendering it secure was laid before the Board, and an allotment of Rupees 9,571 was made for expenditure during the current year on rendering the six northern arches of the bridge secure and of Rupees 18,021 necessary to adjust expenditure incurred during 1875 in one way or another in examining the bridge and driving down some expensive mango plank piling. The Local Fund Board adopted the estimate, and the work of rendering the six northern 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 for an additional grant of Rupees 2,000, which he says is owing "to the heavy expenditure in baling and the cost of materials of site." Considering that the total estimated cost of the work to be carried out this year was less than Rupees 10,000, I consider the above 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 Buildings.	Amount of Estimate.	Grant for year.	Expenditure.
1	The Trikalore Dispensary	Rs. 3,350	Rs. 4,050	Rs. 2,088
2	The Tindivanam Dispensary	9,210	6,000	6,000
3	The Choultry at Tiagar Droog	7,000	590	555
4	The Choultry at Chinnu Salem	7,000	2,500	1,476
5	Apothecary's Quarters at Virdachellam	2,810	2,810	1,966

No. 1.—The progress on this work has been most unsatisfactory. The District Engineer ascribes it to the inexperience of the Sub-Divisional Officer and to the neglect of orders by the Sub-Overseer in charge, but the Range Officer, he considers, is to blame for failing to surrender in good time the sum he could not spend. I inspected this work, and think the palmyra rafters are not all as good as they ought to be. The doors and windows, or a large number of them, have been lying for about a year in a ruined building close by. They will probably be well seasoned by the time they are put up. The total expenditure in two years on this work has been Rupees 6,241.

No. 2.—The work on this building has been pushed on with considerable vigor. The full allotment is reported expended. I inspected it, and thought the materials I saw were good, particularly the palmyra rafters. The masonry work seemed also good. A little pointing which I saw was I thought bad. The Range Officer's attention was drawn to it. The total expenditure on the building up to the end of 1875-76 was Rupees 6,000.

No. 3.—This is a very fine choultry, but the site is not a good one in my opinion. A road to it will have to be made, and it would be much improved if the ground in the neighborhood was cleared, levelled, and planted. It has been finished apparently at a cost of Rupees 6,464, which is a little under the estimate.

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 19 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-

cular 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. 241, 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 on 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 remetalling these 22 miles was sanctioned in 1869. It amounted to Rupees 24,500,

Year.	Allotment.	Expenditure.
1871-72	Rs. 10,000	Rs. 4,998
1872-73	11,000	11,000
1873-74	5,680	5,677
1874-75	2,820	1,462
1875-76	1,361	668

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

was metalled according to the estimate in the 20th and 21st, and I believe in the 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

* Finished in March 1876.

Board in August 1874, and the bridge has been at length rebuilt* and a good deal 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 Chedambram, both cusbahs of first-class taluqs. At

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

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

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.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1877.*

No. 825. Read the following Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 16th January 1877, No. 103 :—

Read the following letter from Major H. R. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, South Arcot, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 10th January 1877, No. 187.

With reference to G.O., No. 2,867, dated 26th October 1876, calling for certain information regarding the Virdachellum

1. Copy of letter, No. 374, of 10th December 1876, from officer, Virdachellum Division.
 1. Copy of Statement which accompanied the above.
 1. Copy of letter, dated 5th June 1876.
 1. Extract from the Notes of Inspection.
- a statement showing the names of the officers in charge of the Range during its construction and the expenditure incurred by each.

2. The work was commenced departmentally, but in May 1874 it was handed over to a petty contractor who took over the materials collected and completed the work.

3. I regret that the Completion Certificate, which was signed by Mr. R. E. Norfor, was forwarded to the Examiner on the 28th February 1876, returned by him for the Civil Officer's signature, and it was sent to the Vice-President, Virdachellum Board, in April last, but although frequent reminders have been sent he has not returned it.

4. I regret much that Mr. Garstin has in his report quoted largely from a private letter from me (he considered it a demi-official one); a matter of this sort should not be treated demi-officially, and I think Mr. Garstin would have done better had he on the receipt of my letter written to me officially on the subject much time and correspondence would have been saved by this.

5. To save any further misunderstanding, I enclose a copy of this letter, also of my notes of inspection, and of a letter from Assistant Engineer Soobroyachariar, and from these papers Government can form an opinion of the dispensary building.

6. The building is not first-class work, but I do not consider Mr. Garstin's remarks regarding it as fair, as he seems to expect a very superior kind of work to that estimated or paid for.

7. The dispensaries in this district have been, in my opinion, designed too cheaply, and the use of palmyrah rafters without teakwood trusses and palmyrah reepers is a mistake. The good old palmyrah rafters and reepers of former days are not procurable, and I regret to say that those in the other dispensaries mentioned by Mr. Garstin, namely, Tindivanam and Villapuram, and I may add Trickalore, although slightly better than those of Virdachellum, are far from the fine old type I am said to allude to.

8. With regard to the hip-rafters, I consider good picked palmyrah rafters as good as teakwood, and I can only remark that no mention of teakwood rafters is in the specification or the estimate.

9. With regard to the present state of the building when I inspected it last June, there was no sign of serious failure, and with ordinary repairs I considered it might last for years and be an efficient building; at the same time the work was by no means first-class, and many portions of it should not have been passed or accepted; it must be remembered, however, that Mr. R. E. Norfor, who is chiefly responsible for the build-

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1877.

ing, was during the time he was in charge of the Range in charge of the district for part of the time also, and therefore could not look after it as it should have been.

10. The report on the building by the Assistant Engineer brings to notice more defects than mine, and this I can only account for by its being written six months after, and that there have been settlements in it during that time; the soil is black cotton, the season has been a very dry one, and the foundations ought to have been built deeper and with wider footings than they have been.

11. I hope early next month to inspect this building again, and I shall then be able to judge if the settlements are anything serious.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department for communication to the Revenue Board. The District Engineer's further report and proposals will be considered when received.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 826.

ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1877, No. 373.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of
Revenue and the Financial Department.

(True Extract.)

J. H. Walker
Secretary to Government

N 205

Dist Engr Office Sarcot
Camp Porto Novo 3^d Febry/77

From

The District Engineer
South Arcot

To
The Secretary to Government
D.P.W.

Sir

In continuation of my letter
No 187 dated 10th Jan'y/77 I have the
honour to report that I have again
inspected Virachollam Dispensary
I found no signs of settlement as I
expected but there is a tendency in the
North and South Verandah roofs to
move outwards, two of the pillars on each
side have cracks about 1 ft. from the
ground and the chimney borders are
also cracked in places

2. As I suspected the Verandah
rafters were not properly secured I
had the tiles removed in 2 places and

for

3. There is I consider no immediate danger to this building but it will shortly be necessary to remove the whole of the Veranda ~~roof~~ and replace it with say $\frac{2}{3}$ new Veranda rafters and at least $\frac{1}{2}$ new rafters.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedient servant.

Major R.E.

Drott Engineer

Th. Hallman, Lehrer

10



10/10/50

P.W.D.
 718-77
 27/8
 3

of the District Engineer
 South District
 of the Madras Presidency
 Cuddalore
 31st July 1877
 16/10/05
 Dispensary at Verda-
 chellum - separating
 further upon the pro-
 posed site of the -

C.E. No. 248 of 13th Feb/11

40312 July 11 No. 388-2

South Arcot District — Verda-chellum Division — Verda-chellum Taluk
 Local Fund — Civil Buildings — Original Works
 Hospitals and Dispensaries

Detailed Estimate of 1876-77.
 Work - Renewing the Verandah roof of the Dispensary
 at Verda-chellum.

Particulars of Work	Measurement				Contents
	No.	L	B	D	
Verandah of Male ward	2	28½	15	"	855
— do — of — do —	2	42½	15	"	1275
					2130
Add for Female ward					2130
Verandah of Receiving and operation room	2	28½	15	"	855
— do — of — do — do —	2	30½	15	"	915
Total sq. ft. of renewing the roof with ⅔ new rafters & ½ rusers					6030

Abstract

Contents	Particulars of Work	Rate	Per	Amount	Total
6030	sq. ft. of Roofing with ⅔ New rafters and ½ new rusers flat and saw tiles and churnam borders	15	"	100 45	904 8 "
	Lumbers	2	"	Cent	20 8 "
	Superintendence	5	"	do	45 " "
Total amount of Estimate Rs-					970 " "

District Engineer's Office - a
 Cuddalore 21st February 1877

Rs. Nine hundred and Seventy

[Signature] Major P.E.
 District Engineer

Data for Renewing the verandah roof of the Dispensary at
Virdachellum with $\frac{2}{3}$ Rafters and $\frac{1}{2}$ Ropes. 12

Quantity	Workmen and Material	Rate	Per	Price
2	Bricklayers	" 8	Each	1 "
1	Man cooly	" 2	do	" 2 "
6	Boys	" 1 3	do	" 7 6
300	Pan tiles	2	" 1000	" 9 7
250	Flat tiles	2	" do	" 8 "
4	Paras of lime	" 7	Paras	1 12
8	do of sand	" "	6 do	" 4 "
4	Palmgrah rafters (to be set at $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft apart)	1 8	Each	6 "
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	do rafters (do 5" from centre to centre)	" 1 6	do	1 2 9
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs of Rafter nails	" 2	th	" 5 "
2	lbs of Ropes do	" 2 6	th	" 5 "
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Carpenters	" 8	Each	1 12
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Man cooly	" 2	do	" 5 "
$\frac{1}{4}$	Sawyer	" 7	do	" 1 9
2	Tie Rod for rafters	" 4	Visc	" 8 "
1	Man cooly	" 2	Each	" 2 "
	Taking down the old roof			16 4 7
	Lundries			" 3 5
	Total per square			16 8 "
	Less probable cost to be realized by sale of 2 Palmgrah rafters at 8 annas each - 1 - - -			1 8 "
	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ rafters at 6 pice - - - - -			" 6 - 3
	Old nails - - - - -			" 1 - 7
	Note - Data for new roofing is Rs 24 per square.			15 " " "

M. M. Major R.E.
District Engineer

P.W.D.
25 FEB 77
~~10~~ 296
4

*Admiral of Godwin's House
No. 100 Godwin's House*

*Order for Renewing
the verandah roof of the
Dispensary at Virachellum*

*Order for Renewing
the verandah roof of the
Dispensary at Virachellum*

Specification to accompany the estimate for
renewing the verandah roof of the Dispensary
at Virachellum... 13.

Amount of Estimate Rs 970--

Description The present roof the Verandah is to be stripped
of tiles and rafters and all rafters that are
not of proper length and screwed to the wall
plates to be removed and replaced by longer
ones; no rafter is to overlap the wall plates
less than 2" and it is to be secured to it or to the
main roof rafters by 5" nail.

All the good rafters to be replaced the bad
ones to be rejected and new ones placed in
their stead.

The Male Ward to be done first then
the Dispensary and last the Female ward
the estimate allows for $\frac{2}{3}$ new rafters and $\frac{1}{2}$ new
rafters which is believed to be on an average
what will be required but until the tiles
are taken off this cannot be known for certain
and therefore at first only sufficient rafters
and rafters according to the estimate for
Ward are to be purchased.

96317 July 1888

The new rafters to be of the best Jaffna
palmynahs available and set $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft apart
the hips to be formed of 2 rafters placed head
to foot together and securely nailed together
they are to be long enough to be properly secured
to the wall plate or to the main roof hip rafters

The ceiling to be of the best palmynah
available $2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ set 5 inches apart and nailed
to each rafter

The old flat and pan tiles to be used
an allowance of 20 percent being allowed
for breakage to have the usual borders
consisting of 1 of lime 2 of sand well pounded.

District Engineer's Office
Cuddalore 21st February 1877
M. M. M. Major R.E.
District Engineer

Q 631st July 77. C.B. No. 388

D. P. W.
SOUTH ARCOT.

No 216

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Camp *Luddalore*

Dated *21 February* 1877

From

The District Engineer,

South Arcot.

To

The

*Chief Engineer,
Roads and Buildings*

Enclosures

Sir,

*Estimate for
No 970, with data
Specifications
Report.*

*With reference to your
Memorandum No 348 dated 13th Feb.
1877, I have the honor to forward
an estimate of the cost of renewing
the verandah roof of the Dispensary
at Tiruchallem, together with
a specification report.*

*I have the honor to be
Sir*

Your most obed^t Serv^t

M. M. Major, B. E.

District Engineer

P.W.D.

*2356977
1041 22/6
5*

*South Arcot District
Tiruchallem Taluk.*

*Specification to accompany
the estimate for renewing
the verandah roof of the
Dispensary at Tiruchallem*

Amount of Estimate Rs 970-00-00

Department of Health
Callum - Observatory
of the East of Henning
the Wendish too,
of the —

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6

SOUTH ARCOT D. P. W.

17a

The District Engineer,
South Arcot.

17a

Chief Engineer
for Road & Building

Dated 21st July 1897

Despatched 21st July 1897

Received

No 157
Dist. Engin. Office, Salem,
Yermond 13th March 1877.
Roads & Buildings.

From
Major Victor The District Engineer
Salem
To The Chief Engineer
Buildings & Roads Branch
P. W. D.

Enclosure {
Letter from Mr. Norfor.
Original letter from
Dist. Eng., D. Street,
3rd Feb 77, No 205.

With reference to your
Memorandum of 28th of
February 1877, I have the
honor to submit Mr. Eccentive
Norfor's explanation
regarding the Ventchellam
Dispensary in North India.

The papers received with
the memo: under reference
are herewith returned.

herein. I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt servant,
Charles F. Smith Major &c.
District Engineer

CR No 516 d/20/2/77
No 774 d/21/3/77

Roads Buildings

No 774 d/21 March 1877

2705

The Executive Engineer
for the explanation regarding
Verdachellum Dispensary
is herewith forwarded to the
District Engineer South Arc
who with reference to
para 19. report of the Contract
two who constructed the

No 157

Date 13th March 1877
Recd

building can now be found
and if the Contract was
such as will a draft of
his proceedings in the event
of his refusing to repair
the Dispensary as estimated
for, when called upon to
do by the District Engineer.
The honor for letter should
be returned.

Encl (No 7) returned

Enclosure

Verdachellum Dispensary

South Arc.

Submit to Mr. Executive Engineer

for explanation regarding

By W. F. Col
Archd.

To the O.S.D.
with Encl (to be returned)

Q. 312 July 1877 No 3880

CR No 774 d/21 March 1877

Salem Divisional Office
Salem, 9th March 1877.

From
P. C. Norfor Esq.
Executive Engineer S. P. W.

To
The District Engineer
of Salem.

Sir
I have the honor as directed to
return the accompanying papers from
the Chief Engineer for Buildings and
Roads Branch.

2. I regret to learn from these papers
the unfavorable report on the Verdachel-
lum Dispensary, and the necessity that
exists for renewing portions of the
Verandah of the Building.

3. As the failure is considered
to be due to the want of proper supervision
on my part, I beg respectfully to
offer the following explanations, which
I trust will absolve me
of the blame that apparently attaches
to

to me in this matter.

4. Took charge of the Verdachellam Range from Supervisor Mr. Hickman on the 15th August 1874. The Verdachellam Dispensary was one of several works in progress at the time at the Head Quarters of the Range (Verdachellam).

5. Before I took charge my predecessor had purchased in the local markets all the Teak, and all but a very few Salween Rafter that were required for the main Buildings. The Rafters were charged as 1st and 2^d class. These were all inspected by the late Mr. Sage, the then District Engineer who was with me at the time, and we then noticed that the rafters were not as good as they might have been but it was explained that nothing better was procurable in the local markets, and as we (Mr. Sage and myself) afterwards were satisfied, after examining the Portonow Depot (the largest and best supplied in the District) that Mr. Hickman's explanation was correct, we had no help for it but.

but to use these, and I accordingly permitted them to be used in the building with the knowledge and approval of my Superior Officer the District Engineer.

6. I was travelling with Mr. Sage from the Tudevanam Range to the Verdachellam Range to which I had been posted, and Mr. Sage knew at Orlandorppell noticed that the Rafters and Ropers purchased by Mr. Woffen were of inferior quality, the Ropew given was the same as above, I think it will be found that Mr. Sage notices this in his diary.

7. The Ropers used at the Verdachellam Dispensary ^{are} as Major Mead remarks also not good, and not such as should have been passed, but I beg respectfully to state that I could not get better. They were sold as usual in bundles of 30, and of these not more than 3 or 4 were fit for any thing more than firewood. I spoke these myself but I admit that as far as I can remember about 50 per cent of these were certainly not

to one
4. not first Clay, I could not however help
chells. This because of the difficulty of getting
Then good Reapers, I supplied one of the
Verda works going on. I forget which, and
several it may be this one, took reapers, cut
the 14 from the waste pieces of rough logs, cut
(Verda up for the construction of Lock Gates.
5. then in hand, but of course this did not
predecessor go far. This is again another item of
marked work. I would not have passed except
for the under the circumstances recorded above.

8. When I arrived at Verdachellom
in August the foundations of the main
buildings were all in, and the basements
with or raised and filled in.

9. During to the want of bricks
might and difficulty of getting them made in
that no consequence of rain, there was little or
the local nothing done to this work till January 75
and my. From January to March the Verdachellom
after a bridge, Court House, and Dispensary
the large and other works kept me very much
District at, and in the neighbourhood of Verdachellom
was Co. Com. and these works were under my
frequent supervision. I can therefore
positively.

19
positively state that no scamping was done
during that time.

10. On the 27th February I was
arrested by the Chief Engineer to relieve
the late Mr. Page of the charge of the
District, retaining charge of my Range.
I remained in my Range
till the 20th March and on that date
I inspected the Dispensary among the
other works in the Town.

11. When I left Verdachellom
28th March the main building of surgery
was nearly roofed in, the male and female
wards having their walls raised to full
height.

12. I had not an opportunity of
visiting this work again till the 11th of
May, when I found the whole completed,
with exception, I think of Gate Compound
wall, and Well. On this occasion I went in
very carefully and every inch of the
building but there was no outward
trace of any scamping in the main build-
ing; my diary however shows that I
ordered the removal of all the Tiles from
the roofs of the kitchen and latrine, to be
replaced by sound well burnt tiles; as
those that had been used were unburnt.
Had there been any perceptible defect
in the main building
I submit I should have taken similar
remedial

to on
remedical steps.

4. 13. From Major Mead's letter I
learn with no little surprise that the defect
in the Verandah roofing is due to the rafters
not being secured to the wall plates, and
that some of the Rafters were not of
sufficient length. I cannot bring myself
to believe that the omission to nail the
rafters to the wall plates could have been
intentionally done by the Contractor, a
matter of 15. or 20. Rs. worth of nails in
an Estimate of 10,000 Rs. is a small benefit.
The same man was building the Court
House, close to the Dispensary, and this
building is ^{said} to be a very good work. It is
quite possible that the workmen are to
blame, but the overseer whose duty it is to
see to these details, should not have per-
mitted it, he being in a position to make
more frequent inspection than I could,
with the charge of the Range and the
District; a week's absence from this work
would have sufficed to efface all perceptible
traces of Scampering. When I saw the work
on the 11th May as I have said, this omission
could not possibly have been detected,
unless there were any signs to cause me
to suspect Scampering. The whole work
was finished off, and whitewashed, in fact

20
the Local Fund Board were so pressing to
occupy the building, the Surgery was indeed
at this time occupied by the Apothecary
that I was obliged to hasten its completion
and to tell the honest truth, in spite of
the inferior Rafters and perfect well
obliged to use, "I could have stated my
life on that work standing in - last for the
next 20 years."

14. From the examination made by
Major Mead it is apparent that some of
the rafters used in the Verandah ought to
certainly to be a foot longer at least. It
was the rafters were not long enough it was
clearly the duty of the overseer to have
brought the matter to my notice, and
not used them simply because they had
been purchased, they were all supposed to
be 12 feet Rafters, which ought to have
been long enough, if they had not been
improperly handled in the drying, but
under any Circumstances if the Overseer
had reported that they were too short. I
certainly would not have allowed them to
be put in with only 6. and 2. inches bearing.
I could have given him any quantity of
fresh rafters from the savings of 3000.
effected in the Estimate, funds being
ample, but they were used during my
absence.

to absence, and without any knowledge, and
4 I had not the means of detecting it, as
ch there was nothing on my inspection to lead
9 to me to suspect any thing wrong.
15 I could not get back to Verda-
chellam again till July 11th when I went
with Mr. A. Rokegan to give over charge
of the Range to him, and as this building
was fully completed then I made a final
inspection of it with him. We both went
over the whole building, and even on that
date there was not a vestige of a crack
or displacement of any sort, any where
to be seen in either the main building or the
out offices; My Major Mead's report of 10.187
of January 1877. When he inspected the
work in June 1876 (one year after my last
inspection) he was of opinion that with
ordinary repair it might last for years
and be an efficient building. I respectfully
submit that under the circumstances explained
I can not in fairness be blamed for
passing the work. It would appear that
not until a year and a half after my
last inspection could the failing in the
roof of the Verandah be traced to any
special cause. When I finally passed the
work there were no signs of defect any
where and the main building had been
finished about 2 months.

21
I have said that between 20th
March and 11th July I had not been able
to make frequent visits to this part
of my charge. I was occupied the
greater part of April and May in making
final inspections of a large number
of other works in my Range for which
Completion Certificates had to be submitted
to the Examiner, this alone took me away
from Verduchellam a good deal. I had
at the same time the annual admini-
stration Report, and Returns from the
Range to prepare in addition to the
Administration Report of the District -
I succeeded to the District charge at the
most busy time of the year under the
most ordinary circumstances: and it
must also be remembered that I had
then thrown upon me the heavy task
of getting up the Estimates for a large
number of works destroyed in the floods
of '74. Among these the Pooniar annicut
Extinction, Appalavadi Project, the
Pooniar Bridge works. I had to
visit these works and many others
(not in my Range proper) to clearly
understand the instructions of the
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
regarding

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wa
regarding the preparation of the Estimates,
and I remember that I was told that
I should be held responsible if anything
went wrong in the repairs and extensions
of these large works. The duties imposed
upon me at this time were such that
I could not give the same attention to
the works in my Range as I could have
done if I had not the duties of the
District Engineer to perform as well.
I respectfully submit that the duties of
District Engineer and Range Office
are in themselves such and individually
extremely hard ones.

17. A great deal of my time
was also taken up in making the Pioneer
Bridge safe against daily expected
floods. The importance of which Major
G. J. Smith R. E. was careful to express
in the strongest terms in his notes.

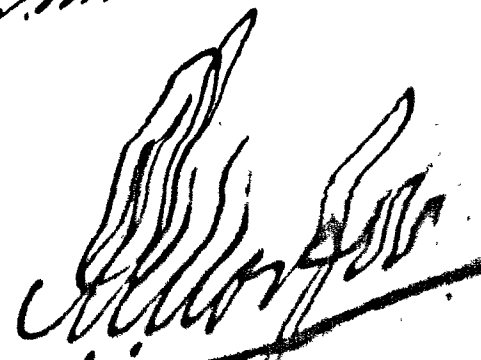
18. I have nothing further to
urge in my defense against the charge
of neglect in the supervision of this
work. If the work was not inspected
as often as was desirable I submit
respectfully it was from unavoidable
causes and not from wilful negli-
gence or duty, the omission to secure
the

the rafters to the wall plates is a thing
I could not have detected at the time
of inspection as the spaces between the
rafters were filled in and the roof com-
pleted and no defect perceptible.

19. I beg in conclusion to respect-
fully to observe that the Contractor
is clearly liable and can be sued for
the recovery of the cost of renewing
the windmill. The Contractor is bound
by the terms of his Contract bond to
execute the work in a substantial &
manner as per Estimate furnished
him. Subsequent results show that
he has not so executed the work.
He is not only liable for the cost of
renewal of the roof but may be
prosecuted for cheating. He may have
given me a receipt in full of all
demands against me but I have
given him nothing to show I have
no further claim against him.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servant.



P. C.

Vadalore. 13th April 1877.
23

To.

The District Engineer
South Arcot
Cuddalore.

Respected Sir

In reply to your memo No 20 dated 10th April 1877 I beg to inform you that the Civil Dispensary work at Virdachellam was given to S. Aroonmogam Moory & Co upon petty contract system that is to measure the works every month and pay for the actual extent of the work done and also taken off the responsibility.

That the Palmirah rafters used in the Verandah of the Dispensary was purchased at Portobello by Mr. Dickens, the Officer in charge of the range, then & supplied to us the value of the rafters subsequently been deducted in our account.

The matter of which you now complained (that some of the Verandah rafters are not sufficient length) was reported to the Department then and we were ordered to make use of the same as they were already purchased by the Department and paid for. Consequently, I believe you will have no means at all to make us liable to pay the cost of refreshing the portion of the Verandah roofing.

I beg to remain
Respected Sir

Your most Obedt Servant.
(Signed) S. Aroonmogam Moory.

True Copy



Major P. C.
District Engineer.

P.W.D.

15th 1877

No 2766-4048

7

From

Mr. R. E. Maffin
to
Mr. S. S. S. S.

The District Engineer.

Cuddalore

Dated 9th March 77
Recd 10th do.

Attending Engineer.
-ten with reference
to the Verandah
Dispensary at
South Arcot

At 31st July 1877 S. Aroonmogam Moory

P.W.D.

20 APR 77

2058

Enclosure in a letter
from the District Engineer
South Arcot to the Chief
Engineer for Roads and
Buildings No 14 dated 18th
April 1877

Copy of Contractors
letter.

63rd July 1877 B.L. 388

No 14

District Engineer's Office. South Arcot

Cuddalore 18th April 1877.

24

From.

Roads & Buildings

The District Engineer.
South Arcot.

To.

The Chief Engineer
Roads and Buildings.

Enclosures 2

1 Copy of letter
from Contractor

1 Orig. letter from
Mr. Porfor Sir,

In reply to your memo No 774 dated 21st March calling on me to report regarding the contract - or &c of the Tiruchellam dispensary work, I have the honor to inform you that there was no formal agreement made for this or any of the other Local Fund works in this district and I would refer you to Mr. Porfor's letter No 11 dated 15th April printed in G.O. No 1242 dated 3rd May 1875.

Materials for this work were purchased and the work commenced departmentally; it was afterwards handed over to Aroomooga Brodd & Co on what was called petty contract he taking over the materials &c at their cost price.

2 I have written to the head of the firm Arunuga - Brodd and I enclose his reply, he considers that the final bill relieved him of any further responsibility and also asserts that the shortness of rafters used in the Verandah (that had been purchased by the Department) was reported and that he was directed to

to him
by Mr. Brodd

to make use of them in the work.

3.

I do not think there are sufficient grounds for a prosecution and I feel sure that if the case was tried in a Civil Court that there would be no hope of a decision in favour of Government, there being no formal agreement, no evidence of fraud, the bills signed by the Executive Agent being of course in favour of the contractor, and further the rafters having been (as I believe was the case as asserted by the Contractor) purchased by the Department and handed over to him, is of course evidence on his side that the error was not his.

4.

Mr. Norfor in para 14 of his letter states that the rafters were all supposed to be 12 ft rafters which ought to have been long enough if not improperly handled in the dressing. Unless Mr. Norfor is mistaken in this remark of 12 ft rafters the whole thing is explained as the Verandah is $9\frac{1}{2}$ ft in width and therefore a 12 ft rafter was not of sufficient length to do the work properly as rafters of 13 ft at least were required.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedt. Servant

M. A. S. Major P. C.

District Engineer.

GP. N^o 1242 of 3rd May 1875
CC Memo N^o 576 of 28th July 1877
GP. N^o 768 of 6th March 1877

105377
1053
Roads and Buildings
From
The District Engineer,
South Arcot.

No 14
Dated 18th
Sept 18th } April 1877
Recd

Number of Enclosures 2

Virudachellum Dispensary
Stating reasons why the
Contractor for — should
not be prosecuted on ac-
count of the Verandah of
the —.

C.E. N^o 1097 of 27th April 1877
C/12
24/7/77 C

GP 31st July 1877 SD 388-6

Dist. Engr's Office. South Arcot.
Cuddalore 24th May 1877.
No 46

From The District Engineer
South Arcot.
Roads & Buildings To The Chief Engineer
D. P. W.

Roads & Buildings Branch.

Sir.

With reference to your Memo-
randum N^o 1097 dated 27th April 1877 I have
the honor to inform you, that the original
plan of the Virudachellum Dispensary was
forwarded to the Board of Revenue in July 1875
with the Estimate for the Dispensary proposed
to be built at Trinamalay, and there were sub-
mitted by them to Government in the Fi-
nancial Department with their Proceedings
dated 26th July 1875, N^o 2081. Nothing has
been heard since about the Estimate or the
plan, and it is believed that the plan is still
in the Government Office as the President
Local

Local Fund Boards states that it has not been returned to him.

2. There are no records ^{regarding} ~~whatsoever~~ ~~to show that~~ the Contractor's statement, that he or any one reported that the rafters were too short and that he was ordered to make use of them as they had been already purchased by the Department and this is denied by the Sub Overseer who was in charge of the building.

3. Sub Overseer Cunnizati Pillay, who was the subordinate in immediate charge of the building during its construction, states that about 400 of the rafters were supplied by the Contractor in addition to those purchased by Mr. Hickin (believed to be 250 first class, 151 second class total 381 rafters), these were of different lengths; there were no rafters separately set apart for the Verandah work. The Contractor had orders to pick out suitable rafters for the different portions of the work. All his orders to the Contractor

Contractor were verbal and he believes that the Range Officer's orders were also verbal.

4. The Sub Overseer also stated that he attended to the Dispensary work whenever he could and the work on his inspections appeared satisfactory; there was no mastery on the work and he the Sub Overseer could examine the work but seldom as he had charge of about 160 miles of road and also the work of Virdalchellam Bridge foundations which took up nearly all his time.

5. I consider that there is no doubt but that this man had more work to do than he could properly carry out, and also that Mr. R. P. Narfar who was in executive charge could not possibly attend to the Dispensary work as he was constantly in charge of the District as well as the Range, the result was that the Contractors were not looked after and scamped the work. I have already in letter No. 14 dated 18 April 1917 expressed my opinion that there are not sufficient grounds for

for a criminal prosecution and that there would
be no hope of a favorable result if the case
was taken into a Civil Court.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servant,

M. R. C.

Major R. C.

Distt Engineer

Recd. 10/10/18

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4.0 6 March 1877 h: 768.
 10 Aug 1875 " 2317.
 15 July " " 2015.
 10 June " " 1631.
 3 May " " 1242.
 19 Apr " " 1108.
 15 Aug 1874 - 2262.

P.W.D.
 Roads and Buildings
 5247
 From
 The District Eng^r
 of South Arcot

No. 46
 Dated 24th
 Despd 24th } May 1877
 Recd

Enclosures - None

Dispensary at Virda-
 chellum - Submitting
 the further report called for
 regarding the —, and
 stating that the Contractors
 statement as contained in
 his letter cannot be veri-
 fied from Office records.

10312 July 1877 No. 3880

23/7/77 R 31-7-77

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 31st July 1877
 Read the following:—

Proceedings in the Revenue Dep^t (H.B. No 373 dated 26th Jan'y 1877).
 From the District Engineer South Arcot (205 - 3rd Feby 1877).
 " Salems (157 - 3rd March 1877).
 " South Arcot (14 - 18th April 1877).
 " South Arcot (465 - 24th May 1877).

The unsatisfactory con-
 dition of the Virdachellum Dis-
 pensary was brought to the
 notice of Government in a
 letter from the Collector of South
 Arcot, printed with G.O. No 2867
 dated 26th October 1875, and
 the District Engineer was called
 upon to supply a special
 report upon it, which he did
 in letter printed with G.O. No
 373 of 26th January 1877, Reve-
 nue Department, which gives
 the history of the building.
 He further reported on the same
 subject

subject in his letter N^o 205 of
3rd February 1877.

2. From the correspondence
that has taken place, it is
very evident that neither the
Overseer in immediate charge,
nor the Range Officer exam-
ined the work at the various
critical stages of progress when
such examinations should in-
variably take place. For,
had the work been inspected,
as it should have been, when
the naked roof timbers were
reported as completed, the
omission to nail the rafters
to the wall plates, their gene-
ral insufficiency in length &c:
would doubtless at once have
been discovered and remedied.

Admitting that both the
Overseer and the Range Officer

had much to attend to, the
Government cannot absolve
them of blame in the matter.
Had they adopted a more sys-
tematic mode of inspection
or issued judicious instruc-
tions, arranging for regular
inspections of the work at
such periods as would have
insured the ready detection
of any scamping on the part
of the Contractor, the perma-
nency of the structure &
would no doubt have been
secured.

3. Though Mr. Norfor
was Acting District Engineer
and Range Officer at the
time the building was in
progress, it is understood
that the building is situ-
ated

situated at the Head Quarters
of the Range, of which he had
charge. It is therefore diffi-
cult to understand how
the work did not receive
more of his attention than
it appears to have done, and
^{the Government} they cannot but believe
that such neglect can only
be attributed to Mr. Norfor's
negligence ~~and apathy~~
~~or incompetency~~. The Govern-
ment have on other occa-
sions had very severely
to animadvert upon Mr.
Norfor's conduct and can
but reiterate their former
injunctions that Mr. Norfor
shall not, until he shows
considerable improvement
be promoted beyond the
position

position he holds at pre-
sent.

4. The District En-
gineer should take care
that the contractor em-
ployed on the dispensary
work is not again employed
on any Government work
in his District.

EDT
23/7

P. C. South Acct. ✓
Repd - 8. 8. 77

position in India at present.

sent.

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1441

Dept. of 1877: Sydney.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The R. & L. S. & A. Co.

Dated

Issued

Recd.

By

G. O. 31st July 1877, No. 512W

Nos. 388-389

Girdachellum Dispensary
S. Arcot Dr. Reviewing
Correspondence relating
to the unsatisfactory con-
dition of the — and animad-
verting upon the conduct
of Mr. W. P. the Officers
in charge.

Sent to Mr. P. P.