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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4357-W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	14.11.1878	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Q2

4353

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

14th November 1878, No. 4,357 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 176. From Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. KENNEDY, District Engineer, Malabar, to the Chief Engineer, Buildings and Roads, dated Calicut, 7th November 1878, No. 91.

REFERENCE—G.O., No. 3,652 W, dated 16th September 1878.

With reference to paragraph 1 of above I have the honor to forward the following explanation regarding the repairs to Veatil and Enamakal dams.

2. In the first place, the figures of the abstract statement given by the Collector are not quite correct, so far as they relate to the works particularly named.

The expenditure in the year 1872-73 was Rupees 2,114, not Rupees 1,648; in 1873-74 Rupees 1,533, not Rupees 1,783; in 1875-76 Rupees 1,701, not Rupees 1,707; in 1876-77 Rupees 2,062, not Rupees 2,069. The Collector, moreover, has left out all mention of the share of the expenditure contributed by the Cochin Government.

3. The Veatil dam was constructed 26, and Enamakal 30 years ago, the masonry portion being laterite in shell chunam, and the more costly part of the repairs have been connected with that sub-head; the repairs of the actual bund and embankment varying very little, as will be seen from accompanying Statements A and B.

4. Statement D shows the expenditure on these works in years previous to 1872-73 of which we have any record; in the years not shown I believe the maintenance was in the hands of the Revenue Department; it will serve to show still greater fluctuations in annual expenditure than that remarked on by Collector, for in 1859-60, 1864-65, and 1869-70 the expenditure as greatly exceeds that of 1872-73 and subsequent years, as in 1858-59, 1865-66, 1867-68, 1870-71, and 1871-72 it falls below.

5. If the expenditure on the works is examined separately for the years 1872-73 and subsequently, the conclusion of a constant increase rests on an equally incorrect basis, for while that on the Veatil dam has been as follows :—

RS.	A.	P.
562	2	6
437	0	0
621	12	0
798	13	6
959	15	10
803	11	7

that on the Enamakal is—

RS.	A.	P.
1,497	12	6
826	0	0
709	11	1
892	10	10
1,102	6	4
1,423	6	0

showing that while in the former case the year 1877-78 exhibits a decrease of Rupees 156-4-3; in the latter, the first year of the series is also the largest of any by Rupees 74-6-6. The fact is that repairs to a work of this description can never be kept at a constant figure, but must vary according to exigency, and the remarks appended to Statements A and B will show this better than any lengthy explanation. In the current year the grant is Rupees 1,865, and I do not anticipate that it will

be exceeded; while next year, in ordinary course, our requirements would be even less, owing to the good effects of the works of the last two or three preceding seasons. I have, however, lately received directions from the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation to have the wing walls of Veatil dam raised, and of course that will necessitate an increase.

6. I have been at great pains to have all the foregoing information hunted up, as I wish to show the Collector how unsafe it is to draw inferences from imperfect knowledge, and in further illustration of somewhat the same opinion that appears to have been come to by Government, as shown in the concluding sentence of paragraph 1 of the Government Order under reply.

7. I rest content with the answer of Government to what Mr. Logan says about the delay in completing the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry at Manantoddy; but I must take exception to such a random assertion as is contained in the concluding words of paragraph 11 of his letter, which I feel certain have been made without the smallest reference to data of any kind whatever, just as is also the equally positive,—and I beg leave to believe equally random—statement that “it is notorious that work can be done, and done well, at rates far below what are charged by the Public Works Department.” Had Mr. Logan the smallest practical experience on the point that he writes so authoritatively about, he would have hesitated before committing himself to any such statements. The experience that he lacks I have had, and I have not found that work done by private individuals, and done well, is cheaper than that executed under supervision of the Officers of the Public Works Department; on the contrary I have found the rates at which I have offered contracts, for instance, have invariably been objected to as inadequate, and yet they were considerably higher than what we can work for. I have also found [that when I have had to take over work left undone by contractors, I have been able to get the unfinished portions completed at considerably less than the contract rates. The truth is, I imagine, that Mr. Logan has allowed himself to be taken in by flashy bits of work he has occasionally seen, and with regard to which he has not either had the opportunity, or not been at the pains to make any strict inquiry; the chances being that had he done so the fancied good quality and cheapness would have broken down under the inquisition. A little inquiry also regarding Public Works rates and those at which for instance the Railway Companies' work, would perhaps make him less dissatisfied with the former.

8. I trust in these remarks I have not been betrayed into acerbity of tone towards an officer who in his zeal to point out fancied blots has, I am quite sure, been actuated by no personal feeling or jealousy; and, while I equally disclaim anything approaching the latter I feel bound to remark on a slur cast on the officers of the Public Works Department serving in this district, by hasty observations and statements based on no tenable grounds, and which, if put to the test of experience and of data, at once fall to pieces.

No. 177. ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1878, No. 4,357 W.

COLONEL KENNEDY's letter will be communicated to the Board of Revenue through the Revenue Department, with an intimation that the Government concur generally in the remarks made by the late District Engineer, whose explanation on the points specially referred to him for report is perfectly satisfactory. Further correspondence will be unnecessary.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FOURTH CIRCLE.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 14th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 14th November 1878, No. 4,357 W.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 176-177.

Veatil and Enamakal Dams, Malabar District.—Colonel Kennedy's letter explaining cause why the charges for repairs to the — should be steadily increasing, communicated to the Board of Revenue through the Revenue Department.

No. 91

From

To

Sir,

Reference G. O. No. 3652 W dated 16th September 1878 —

Malabar District Engineer's Office.
Calicut 7th November 1878.
The District Engineer
Malabar.

The Chief Engineer
Roads and Buildings.
Madras.

With reference to para 1 of above I have the honor to forward following explanation regarding the repairs to Veatil and Enamakal Dams.

2. In the first place, the figures of the abstract statement given by the Collector, are not quite correct, so far as they relate to the works particularly named.

The expenditure in the year 1872-73 was Rs 2114 not Rs 1648, in 1873-74 Rs 1533, not Rs 1783. In 1875-76 Rs 1701 not Rs 1707, in 1876-77 Rs 2062, not Rs 2069. The Collector moreover has left out all mention of the share of the expenditure contributed by the Cochin Government.

3. The Veatil dam was constructed

26, and Enamakab 30 years ago, the masonry portion being laterite in shell chunam, and the more costly part of the repairs have been connected with that subhead; the repairs of the actual bund and embankment varying very little, as will be seen from accompanying statements A.B.

4. Statement D shows the expenditure on these works, in years previous to 1872-73, of which we have any record; in the years not shown I believe the maintenance was in the hands of the Revenue Department; it will serve to show still greater fluctuations in annual expenditure than that remarked on by collector for in 1859-60, 1864-65, 1869-70, the expenditure as greatly exceeds that of 1872-73, and subsequent years as in 1858-59, 1865-66, 1867-68, 1870-71, 1871-72 it falls below.

5. If the expenditure on the works is examined separately for the years 1872-73 and subsequently ~~and~~ the conclusion of a constant increase rests on an equally incorrect basis, for while that on the Veatil dam has been as follows.

562-2-6	that on the Enamakab is	1497-12-6
437-0-0		
621-12-0		826-0-0
708-13-6		709-11-1
959-15-10		892-10-10
803-11-7		1102-6-4
		1423-6-0

showing that while in the former case, the year 1877-78 exhibits

exhibits a decrease of Rs 156-4-3, in the latter, the first year of the series is also the largest of any by Rs 74-6-6. The fact is, that repairs to a work of this description can never be kept at a constant figure, but must vary according to exigency; and the remarks appended to statements A and B will show this better than any lengthy explanation. In the current year, the grant is Rs 1865, and I do not anticipate that it will be exceeded; while next year, in ordinary course, our requirements would be even less, owing to the good effects of the works of the last two or three preceding seasons; I have, however, lately received directions from the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation to have the wing walls of Veatil dam raised, and of course that will necessitate an increase.

6. I have been at great pains to have all the foregoing information hunted up, as I wish to show the collector how unsafe it is to draw inferences from imperfect knowledge, and in further illustration of somewhat the same opinion that appears to have been come to by Government, as shown in the concluding sentence of para 1 of the G.O. under reply-

7. I am not content with the answer of Government to what Mr Logan says about the delay in completing the Deputy Collector's Kutcheri at Manantoddy, but I must take exception to such a random assertion as is contained in the concluding

words of para 11 of his letter, which I feel certain have been made without the smallest reference to data of any kind whatever, just as is also, the equally positive, and I beg leave to believe, equally random statement that "It is notorious that work can be done, and done well, at rates far below what are charged by the Public Works Department." Had Mr. Logan the smallest practical experience on the point that he writes so authoritatively about, he would have hesitated before committing himself to any such statements. The experience that he lacks, I have had, and I have not found that work done by private individuals, and done well, is cheaper than that executed under supervision of the Officers of the Public Works Department; on the contrary I have found the rates at which I have offered Contracts, for instance, have invariably been objected to as inadequate; and yet they were considerably higher than what we can work for, I have also found that when I have had to take over work left undone by Contractors, I have been able to get the unfinished portions completed at considerably less than the Contract rates. The truth is, I imagine that Mr. Logan has allowed himself to be taken in by flashy bits of work he has occasionally seen, and with regard to which he has not either had the opportunity, or not been at the pains to make any strict inquiry.

the chances being that had he done so, the fancied good quality, and cheapness would have broken down under the inquiry; a little inquiry also regarding Public Works rates, and those at which for instance the Railway ^{Companies} ~~Engineers~~ work, would ~~also~~ perhaps make him less dissatisfied with the former.

8. I trust in these remarks I have not been betrayed into acerbity of tone towards an Officer who in his zeal to point out fancied blots, has, I am quite sure, been actuated by no personal feeling, or jealousy; and while I equally disclaim any thing approaching the latter, I feel bound to remark on a slur cast on the Officers of the Public Works Department serving in this District, by hasty observations, and statements based on no tenable grounds, and which if put to the test of experience, and of data, at once fall to pieces.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servant,
W. B. Kennedy Lt. Col.
District Engineer, Malabar.

Roads and Buildings.

No. 12544

From

The District Engineer
Malabar

No 94

Dated 7th November 1878.

Enclosure 2.

Explanation regarding
the repairs to Veatil
and Gernianakal
Dams.

13712
No. 4357 W Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 14th Nov. 1878

Read the following:—

From

The Dist. Eng^r. Malabar (H.C. No 91 of 7th Nov. 1878)

LK

Colonel Kennedy's
letter will be communicated
to the Board of Revenue
through the Revenue Dept.,
with an intimation that
the Government concur
generally in the remarks
made by the late District
Engineer whose explanation
on the point specially
referred to him for report
is perfectly satisfactory.
Further correspondence will
be unnecessary.

Sup^rg. Eng^r. 4th Circle
Revenue Dept. S 21

W. L. S. M. 7/11

Dec^r 24 11 78

907 9.11.78

Statements of Grants and Expenditure on Yenamattel and Vittel Dams previous to the year 1872-73

Official years	Original Works.				Official years	Maintenance.			
	Description of Work	Grant	Expenditure in each year	Total Ex- penditure in years		Description of work	Grant	Expenditure in each year	Total Ex- penditure in years
1865-66	Throwing a salt Water Bind and re- placing Coffin Boxes at Yenamattel Dam	260	260		1858-59	Erecting an Eastern Embankment to and placing Coffin Boxes in Yenam- attel Dam	500	500	500
	Removing and replacing Coffin Boxes at Yenamattel Dam	200	200		1859-60	Repairing the Masonry Dam at Yenamattel	10190	6328	6328
	do do do				1864-65	" Yenamattel Dam	2400	2216	
	at Vittel Dam	100	74	534		" Vittel Dam	750	607	2623
					1865-66	" Yenamattel Dam	170	170	2623
						" Vittel Dam	85	85	255
					1866-67	" Yenamattel	600	629	789
						" Vittel Dam	300	118	747
1868-69	Constructing a Sluice at Northern end of Vittel Dam	with drawn			1867-68	" Yenamattel Dam	800	400	400
1869-70	Improving the actual condition of Yenamattel Dam	1029	1029		1868-69	" Yenamattel Dam	800	400	400
	Improving Yenamattel Dam	800	477	1506		" Vittel Dam	740	740	1140
1870-71	Constructing Temporary Bind to prevent percolation of Salt Water at Yenamattel Dam	404	404		1869-70	" Yenamattel Dam	1068	1048	1048
	Improving Yenamattel Dam	1413	1016	1820		" Vittel Dam	232	185	1233
					1870-71	" Yenamattel Dam	267	267	2739
						" Vittel Dam	238	254	521
					1871-72	" Yenamattel Dam	710	330	2341
						" Vittel Dam	184	165	495
					N.B.				
					1861-65	No record to be found			

Malabar Mt. Eng^r's Office

Calicut 7th November 1878

Conf^d
File

W. H. K. K. K. K. K.

District Engineer, Malabar.

B

Expenditure on Repairing Pannamattel Dam under the heads of Estimate for the years 1872-73 to 1877

Officers
Masonry
Gravel
Repairing
Masonry
Masonry
Masonry

Remarks

6

11) The Body wall damaged by heavy flood of dam about 80 feet long was restored, by constructing ring Roads on both sides and having water cutting nearly 400 feet.
12) The dam always leaks owing to faulty construction in the first instance, hence these repairs
13) The flood having caused damage to the Embankments it was repaired & turfed
14) The old worn out portions of masonry pointed with Port Land Cement
15) The damages to Embankments were repaired and turfed to prevent further damage to the rest
16) Old materials became unserviceable had to be renewed in greater proportion and also earth to be brought from a greater distance as the work was in this instance necessarily permanent and at an unusual time
17) Another portion of the Body wall having been washed away by heavy flood it was renewed, the water being raised by flood repaired & turfed.
18) Slabs of Embankment caused by flood repaired & turfed.
19) New rough stone having cost of Rs 400 odd done to strengthen the Body wall and to stop scour in front of dam.
20) Granite slabs fallen in water were taken and bricked on salt water side. Cracked rough stone Revetment rebuilt.

1872-73 286 79 138 86 10 12 13 14 9 126
1873-74 290 89 128 23 40 50 826
1874-75 288 56 145 4. 283 14 709 11 114
1875-76 281 7. 163 29 468 1 892 10 10
1876-77 30 11. 99 146 694 12 10 1102 6 4

1877-78 293 123 159 20 970 69 1423 60
Note. The dam being 30 years old and the foundation built of laterite stone and shell lime it will always require careful attention and considerable expense.

Malabar District Engineer's Office
Calicut, 4th November 1878

W. W. Kennedy Esq. St. George

District Engineer, Malabar

4359

A

Expenditure on Repairing Vethi Dam under sub heads for the Official year 1872-73 to 1874-75

Official
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Remarks

8

1872-73 260 16 38 46 263 126 562 26 The usual repairs 8% were done

1873-74 258 36 54 126 104 00 437

Q:

(1) The work over the previous year was owing to the widening of the embankment on the North extremity where it had been worn away.

(2) 8% owing to the body wall and other masonry having been plastered with Portland Cement.

(3) Owing to the substitution of new piles in temporary Bund in place of the very decayed old piles.

(4) Owing to the extensive repairs that were required to the Dam itself which was found leaking, such as stopping leak-ages 8% with Portland Cement, and constructing new Pile and stone Revetments to the centre wing.

1876-77 240 76 62 8 657 4 93 9 15 10 51 The repairs was owing to the damage done to Embankment by flood entailing extensive repairs and surfacing

(6) Owing North wings being fallen and requiring to be rebuilt, new masonry revetment was constructed the leadings in Dam stopped with Portland Cement and the decayed wood of sluice renewed

1877-78 261 43 57 86 484 16 10 803 11 7 17 Owing to flood of sluice requiring repair worn parts of sluice of wings to be under pinned with stones 8% large hole communicating between the salt and fresh water had to be closed with blocks of Portland Cement, and leadings also stopped. More coffer had to be renewed and damaged revetment replaced.

Note

The Dam is 26 years old, its masonry being laterite in shell chunan.

358

W. W. Kennedy

Malabar District Engineer's Office
Calicut 7th November 1878

District Engineer, Malabar

20-13

Christy

Govt. of [1878] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS

To the S.E. Fourth Circle

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 14 Nov 1878, No. 4357 W

Nos. 76 CD 177

Vestil and Enamahal
Damp Malabar D.

Col Kennedy's letter ex-
plaining cause why the
charges for repairs to the
— should be steadily in-
creasing, commd to the
Dy of Rev this the Rev Secy.

Ents in Regt.

435
1-14
2-13
3-12
4-11
5-10
6-9
7-8

14