To be substituted for G.O. of same number and date.

23RD JANUARY 1884, No. 213 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

READ—the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 20th December 1883, No. 3875.

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th September 1883, Mis. No. 7547.

Read—the following letter from C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated 20th April 1883, No. 119.

I have the honor to state that two watchmen on Rs. 5 each per mensem were employed to watch the stores and the engineer's bungalow at Gandamanáyakanúr, and that their salary was met from the provision made in the estimates on account of petty supervision. The salary due to these men for February and March 1883 has not been paid to them, as there are few works now under progress in the estate, and the requisite sum to defray the charge is not in consequence available from the above source. The Engineer, Mr. Hardy, says, that the services of these men are very necessary, and requests sanction for the payment of the salary due to them for the above months out of the estate funds and for the inclusion of their names in the office permanent establishment roll in future.

2. I support Mr. Hardy's request and solicit sanction for the same. Provision will be made in the budget to be submitted for Fasli 1293 on account of this charge.

Reference on the above, dated 26th April 1883.

The Collector will be good enough to submit a list of the existing engineering establishment, showing its total cost, together with another list showing the sanctioned works, and works now actually in progress in the estate, with their estimated cost.

2. The nature and value of the stores which the two watchmen are required to guard should be stated.

(Signed) J. A. DAVIES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of Madura.

Read—the following letter from C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Kodaikánal, 20th July 1883, No. 229.

Adverting to the Court's reference on G.R. No. 2885, dated 26th April 1883, I have the honor to submit herewith three lists—No. I, showing the existing engineering establishment, with its total cost; No. II, the sanctioned works and works now actually in progress in the estate, with their estimated cost; and No. III, the nature and value of the stores in the estate overseer's office.

Enclosures Nos. 1 to 3.—Lists.

Resolution.—dated 5th September 1883, Mis. No. 7547.

The Court of Wards observe that the stores are valued at Rs. 1,152, of which Rs. 840 are accounted for by four instruments of trifling size. These can be placed in the manager's care for deposit in the office strong room; the other stores can be kept in the manager's office under charge of his peons, and issued as required. The Collector will at once dismiss the watchmen, and is authorized to pass their pay at Rs 5 each per mensem up to date of discharge.

2. He is requested to state what can be done with the engineer's bungalow which recently cost Rs. 4,260, and is now apparently useless.

3. The Court cannot but express their grave dissatisfaction at the non-completion of several of the works entered in list II: items 1 and 3 have been lingering on since 1877, and are still incomplete, nor does it appear from the list that a single rupee has been spent on No. 3 during Fasli 1292. They desire that the Collector will take an early opportunity of visiting the estate and inspecting the works alluded to and reporting on them. They also desire explanation as to the large expenditure on items Nos. 7 and 8, which, though represented as sanctioned in column 3 of statement No. 2, are in the remark column, entered as pending sanction. The Court, however, have not sanctioned these estimates, nor is the matter pending before them.

4. They further observe that the entries in the column for expenditure in Fasli 1292 do not at all agree with the entries in the audit registers in the Court's office which show an expenditure of Rs. 856 on irrigation works, Rs. 995 on buildings and an unadjusted expenditure, not yet admitted for want of vouchers, of Rs. 8,435. This matter must also be fully explained.

5. The Collector is also requested to state whether he has been able to reduce the establishment as hoped in paragraph 3 of his letter, No. 155, of the 31st May last.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) F. A. NICHOLSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of Madura.

Read—also the following letter from C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated 25th November 1883, No. 372.

With reference to the Court of Wards' proceedings, dated 5th September 1883, Mis. No. 7547, I have the honor to submit the following report on the maramut works of the Gandamanáyakanúr estate.

2. I had intended to address the Court on this subject sometime ago, but deferred it, pending a personal inspection of the works. I visited the estate last month and inspected as many works as the weather permitted me to do. It was incessantly raining during the term of my stay in the estate, and consequently I was not able to inspect all the works as I had intended to do; but from what I have seen, I am of opinion that there must have been, to say the least of it, a great waste of money. I enclose a statement showing the names of works, the outlay on them, their ayacut, revenue, &c. Of these works, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 17 were sanctioned and commenced before Mr. Hardy's appointment in March 1879, while works Nos. 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 were estimated for and sanctioned after that date. They were, however, all begun before I took charge of the district.

3. A total sum of Rs. 71,800 has been spent on irrigation works since the commencement of the Court's management of the estate. Of this, Rs. 26,210 has been spent on completed works, and Rs. 45,590 on incomplete.

* Court of Wards' proceedings, No. 2180, 1st September 1882, and Board's proceedings, Mis. No. 10169, 22nd December 1882.

4. The incomplete works, except No. 4, the Samiappen anicut project, which has been virtually abandoned* are—

		Estimate. Rs.	Outlay. Rs.
No.	3, Theppamputti tank	12,100	8,250
,,	5, Tank under old anicut	9,260	7,982
,,	6, Theppam	1,270	1,130
,,	13, Periacolum	5,500	4,554
,,	14, Siroocolum	3,850	2,832
,,	15, Peria anicut	6,000	5,692
,,	16, Sengolam	300	100

5. *No.* 3, *Theppamputti tank.*—The minor's mother having, among other things, made a specific complaint that out of the Rs. 8,000 charged to this work, only Rs. 4,000 was actually spent on it, I asked Mr. W. S. Harington, who was then in charge of the estate works (Mr. Hardy having gone on leave to England), to inquire and report. The report submitted by him shows that there is, at the very least, a difference of 38,322 cubic yards of earthwork, representing a money value of Rs. 3,718, between the quantity shown in Mr. Hardy's bills and that found on actual measurement by him, and that this difference was arrived at by him after making every allowance for weather during the past three years. In other words, Mr. Harington reported that the complaint made by the minor's mother was true.

6. The overseer, who executed the work, is dead. On receipt of Mr. Harington's above report, I ordered the suspension of the present acting overseer, who was sub-overseer at the time when the above work was executed and his writer, and desired Mr. Harington to obtain and forward their defence. He has accordingly submitted written statements, in which they deny *in toto* their connection with the fraud, and state that the late overseer alone was responsible. It was suggested by Mr. Harington that the overseer's former writer, who is now a vakil in the Paramagudi Munsif's Court, might be able to give some information tending to throw light on the subject, and a list of interrogatories, as submitted by Mr. Harington, was sent to him, and his replies were obtained and forwarded to Mr. Harington for his remarks. But no real light has been thrown on the matter by the statements of these inculpated persons.

7. *No.* 5, *Tank under old anicut.*—I have seen this tank. I am not sure whether the full amount of work has been executed for the sum shown to have been spent on it. But I may say that the expenditure has been in vain, because, even if the tank is completed, it can be of no use for the present, the old anicut, which used to supply this tank, being in a ruined state, and the construction of the new Samiappen anicut, by which it was proposed by Mr. Hardy to supply this tank, being now out of the question.

8. *No.* 6.—This work is almost finished. It is simply a large well situated in the head-quarter village, and is used for garden cultivation and drinking purposes. Mr. Harington reports that measurements taken show that there is full value in this work for the money expended.

9. *Nos.* 13, 14, 15 *and* 16.—On these works I fear that the money spent, viz., Rs. 13,178, has been entirely thrown away. Judging from the discovery made in the case of the Theppamputti tank, it is not at all unlikely that a large deficiency may be found in the quantity of work done, if these works are examined and measured up. They appear to have no ayacut at all, nor is the locality adapted for agricultural operations, for it is in the middle of what is, probably, the most deadly jungle in Southern India infested by wild beasts. It is impossible to induce ryots to go and cultivate lands in that place.

10. Very soon after I took charge of this district, I saw that economy was required in the Public Works staff of the Gandamanáyakanúr estate. Certain papers, which passed through this office regarding the Samiappen anicut, also convinced me that, whatever else Mr. Hardy might be, he certainly was not an Irrigation Engineer. I therefore (as far as the estate was concerned gladly) redeemed a promise made to my predecessor, and appointed him Local Fund Engineer of the Dindigul circle. I also

immediately afterwards dispensed with the services of his estate establishment, except a draftsman. The remaining establishment also has been discontinued, as reported in my letter, dated 25th August 1883, No. 263, and a maistry is now temporarily appointed to look after the emergent works in the estate (*vide* Court's proceedings, dated 23rd October 1883, Mis. No. 8809).

11. It may not be out of place to mention here that in January last I was within an ace of reporting to the Court of Wards Mr. Hardy's conduct in having, in spite of every form of order and reminder, most unduly delayed the submission of vouchers for expenditure on certain works, regarding which an anonymous accusation of embezzlement had been received. As, however, when the accounts and vouchers were eventually received, an immediate examination of them showed that they were apparently in order, I dropped the matter, censuring Mr. Hardy for his delay in replying to my repeated telegrams. But from what has now come out in regard to the Theppamputti tank work mentioned in paragraph 5, and from the fact that the vouchers connected with this tank work also were received along with the other vouchers now alluded to, I am now reluctantly compelled to suspect fraud in the preparation of these accounts and vouchers.

12. The accompanying statement will show that there has been no return worth speaking for the outlay incurred on the completed works. While in regard to the incomplete works I have to remark that the selection of the localities was far from happy, and there is now even reason to doubt whether the completion of these works may not have been purposely postponed, lest their uselessness should come to light. It may be that their completion was put off in view to keep up the establishment for sometime longer, or until the minor come of age.

13. In regard to buildings also, it is impossible to conceive worse work than has been put by Mr. Hardy on his own (estate) bungalow at Gandamanáyakanúr. This last year, I had no opportunity of closely examining the building, as it was then occupied by Mr. Hardy. The building has now not the least appearance of being new, it leaks all over the joists, and the beams are dangerously sagged, so much so that I had to put a prop in one place which seemed to be coming down, and the wood-work is of the coarsest description. In paragraph 2 of the proceedings quoted at the head of this letter, the Court have called for a report as to what should be done with the engineer's bungalow at Gandamanáyakanúr. I beg to submit that it should be retained for the minor's use. The locality is good, being, as it is in the bank of the Vaigai, at a reasonable distance from the village, and in an open and airy place, and I think that it is better to repair and improve the building at an additional cost of, perhaps, Rs 1,000 or Rs. 1,200, than to lose altogether the large outlay of Rs. 4,000 and odd already incurred. The minor when he comes of age will doubtless be glad to have a bungalow at this place, and his mother and stepmother, who were consulted on the subject, are in favor of maintaining the building.

14. Mr. Hardy having returned to Madura rather unexpectedly in the middle of October, I at once called upon him for explanation of the Theppamputti tank business. I can only describe the response made by him as most disingenuous. The Court will perhaps be able best to form an opinion on this point by reference to the marginally noted correspondence (copies enclosed), which has passed between him and me and Mr. Harington. The gist of it all is, that Mr. Hardy declines to afford any explanation until measurement books, which never existed, are produced, quite oblivious apparently of the obvious fact that, if he is unable to show that the work charged for by him is, or ever was, in existence, he is the only person interested

1. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 19th October 1883, No. 251.
2. Mr. Hardy's reply, dated 20th October 1883.
3. Endorsement to Mr. Harington, dated 22nd October 1883, Mis. No. 243.
4. His reply, dated 26th October 1883, No. 55.
5. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 23rd October 1883, No. 257.
6. His reply, dated 1st November 1883.
7. Endorsement to Mr. Harington, dated 2nd November 1883, Mis. No. 253.
8. His reply, dated 8th November 1883, No. 60.
9. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 16th November 1883, No. 278.
   Mr. Hardy's reply not yet received.

in the disappearance of documents, which would be proof of his own direct complicity in the fraud.

15. Mr. Hardy is not in charge of the estate works at present, as he overstayed his leave, and consequently forfeited his appointment as Local Fund Engineer, Dindigul circle, and I do not think it expedient to put him again in charge of the estate works.

16. The Court will probably agree with me in thinking that, in the interest of the estate, a thorough examination of all the works completed and under progress should be conducted by an experienced officer of the Public Works Department in order to ascertain at a very early date, (1) whether or not the money has been properly expended, (2) whether there are any defects which can be remedied, (3) which of the works should be abandoned and which prosecuted to completion, (4) and whether any improvements to the irrigation of the estate are necessary and feasible.

17. It appears that formerly the estimates for works in the estates under wardship in this district were subject to the scrutiny and examination by imperial engineer officers, and that the latter had, besides, a sort of general supervision over the works conducted by the estate officers. This system was ordered to be discontinued (*vide* G.O., dated 6th August 1877, No. 2453), and the entire management of the estate works was entrusted to the engineer specially appointed for it. I submit that if the former system had continued, such waste and incapacity, as there is only too good reason to suspect in the case of Gandamanáyakanúr, could not have occurred.

18. I would, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government be moved to issue orders to the Public Works Department to the effect that the estimates for all Court of Wards' estate works should hereafter be checked and countersigned by a competent officer of that department before they are submitted for sanction, that the works should be finally examined by the same department, and that the estates should bear such proportion of the costs of the Department of Public Works establishment as the Government may fix.

19. At present in the huge Ramnad estate there is no engineer at all, and I do not think that the present staff of supervisor and overseers can properly be entrusted with the practically uncontrolled execution of the important works in progress in that estate. Further, the Court will, I think, feel that the responsibility involved in these public works is not such as the Collector of a district, who acts as their agent, can fairly be saddled with.

20. Lastly, as the next working season should not be lost in completing any works which can profitably be finished, I have the honor to request that the Court of Wards be pleased to recommend to Government to direct the Superintending Engineer of the circle to take such steps as may be necessary for the inspection of all the Gandamanáyakanúr estate works, and to furnish me with information on the points mentioned in paragraph 16, for submission to the Court of Wards. I do not think that it will take more than two months to finish this work. The estate must, of course, meet the cost of this special establishment, but it will be money well spent.

21. In the proceedings under reference, the Court further remark that the stores may be made over to the manager for deposit in his office, and that the watchmen should be dismissed. I beg to report that the stores have been handed over to the manager. Of the watchmen, one has been removed, and the other's services are retained, as sanctioned in their proceedings, dated 4th November 1883, Miscellaneous No. 9443. They also desire information regarding the large expenditure on the Samiappen anicut (items 7 and 8 as quoted by the Court, but entered as No. 4 in the accompanying statement). On this subject I beg to refer them to their proceedings, dated 23rd September 1880, Miscellaneous No. 10414, in which they condoned the unauthorized expenditure incurred on that abortive project, which has subsequently been abandoned.

22. With regard to the Court's observation in paragraph 4 of the proceedings under reply that the entries in the column for expenditure in Fasli 1292 do not correspond with those in the Court's audit registers, I beg to be informed as to how the figures (as regards irrigation works) in the audit registers were obtained, and

under what items discrepancies occur, as without such information the account department informs me that it is impossible to render the required explanation.

Enclosures Nos. 1 to 9.—Correspondence, &c., as per list.

Enclosure No. 10.

List of papers forming enclosures to the letter to the Court of Wards, dated 25th November 1883, No. 372.

1. Statement of ayacut, revenue, &c., of the irrigation works in the Gandamanáyakanúr estate.
2. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 19th October 1883, No. 251.
3. Mr. Hardy's reply, dated 20th October 1883.
4. Mr. Harington's reply, dated 26th October 1883, No. 55.
5. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 23rd October 1883, No. 257.
6. His reply, dated 1st November 1883.
7. Mr. Harington's reply, dated 8th November 1883, No 60.
8. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 16th November 1883, No. 278.
9. List of records of Gandamanáyakanúr overseer's office handed over to Local Fund Engineer.

Read—petition from J. T. HARDY, Esq., Court of Wards' Engineer, Madura, dated 23rd November 1883.

Resolution—dated 20th December 1883, No. 3875.

The Collector's letter will be forwarded to Government with the request that an officer of the Public Works Department may be deputed at once to the Madura district for service, temporarily, under the Court of Wards, and in order, first of all, to carry out the inquiry suggested in paragraph 16 of the Collector's letter relative to the completed and incomplete works, and the buildings, in the Gandamanáyakanúr estate, and then to check and supervise the expenditure on works in the Ramnad estate.

2. The Court also support the Collector's proposal in paragraph 18 of his letter that all estimates for works in estates under the Court of Wards should be checked and countersigned by the District Engineer of the district where each estate is situated before the works are carried out.

3. Paragraph 22 of the Collector's letter will be disposed of in separate proceedings.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Secretary.

Mis. No. 152, Revenue.

Transferred to the Public Works Department for disposal.

Fort St. George,
14th January 1884.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary to Government.

Telegram from the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Trichinopoly, 17th January 1884.

No officer can be spared now as it is working season.

Orders—dated 23rd January 1884, No. 213 W., Public Works.

With reference to paragraph 1 of the Proceedings of the Court of Wards, the Government resolve to place at the disposal of the Court the services of Mr. C. Vincent, Temporary Executive Engineer, who will, on return from Calcutta, proceed to Madura, and at once take up the inquiry in connection with works on the Gandamanáyakanúr estate, as recommended in paragraphs 16 and 20 of letter from the Collector of Madura, No. 372, dated 25th November 1883.

2. The question raised in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings, as to the check and countersignature, by Public Works officers, of all estimates for works in estates under the Court of Wards, as well as the question of the check and supervision of works on the Ramnad estate, will be disposed of separately. It is considered that, should this duty be assigned to the Public Works Department, a percentage on the value of the works will have to be paid as a contribution to the cost of Public Works establishments, as is now done by all funds other than "Provincial," to which the establishment is directly chargeable. The Chief Engineer will, after consultation with Superintending Engineers, report what percentage may be fairly charged, having in view the nature of the check required.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department, with enclosures.
To C. Vincent, Esq.
To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

Fxd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated January, 23rd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 23rd Jan. 1884, No. 213 W.

JANUARY.

Mr. C. Vincent, Temporary Executive Engineer

The services of — placed at the disposal of the Court of Wards for work on the Gandamanáyakanúr estate, with remarks as to the undertaking of estate works under the Court of Wards by the Public Works Department.

Revenue Board Office,
MADRAS.
Feb. 6 — 1884.

My Dear Shaw Stewart,
Many thanks for the copy of Mr Patrick's letter - Is his present address in Calcutta in your Office? - If so please let them send it to me - C.F. from Rs 200 to 3875 - Rule 20 in Dr 83 Para - for

W.

re reference to Circular

with the Board the Court and the Engineer Officer to inquire & report on the buildings and incomplete works, completed in the Pantamanaikum Estate & also in the Ramnad Estate, the works in which are in the same unsatisfactory condition as in the Sattur Estate - The former, the Court said, will occupy 2 months, but the Ramnad Work will take up much more time. I leave now to be-prepared to Proceed to report quickly as to the length of time each work will be required to complete the work ordered by the Court & Board, & I will let you know further as soon as I get his reply -

Yours very sincerely

W. J. Whitwell

2134

To W.
for information
CJ
17-1-84

Noted.
It has been decided by
Govt. to employ Mr. Vincent,
on his return, on temporary
duty under the Court of
Wards. The S.D. will
probably issue Today

DM
23.1.84

D. W.

With reference to Vincent's
return, regarding which you
lately asked information.
He writes, under date 13th
instant, to say he will prob-
-ably return to Madras about
the beginning of Feb. next,
preparatory to going on furlough
in about 6 weeks time
from that date; and adds
that, if possible, he would
be glad if some small job
in Madras could be given
to him, so as to save him
getting a Direct outfit
for so short a time.
I don't think the S.S has
any small work for the
D. Pressel, to which Vin-
-cent could be employed.
but possibly something may
turn up before his arrival.

AK
(c. 1. 84

D.W.

Please look into this.
My impression is that the
duty assigned by Govt to
W. Vincent is what was
suggested by Collector of
Madura, & did not
cover the additional
matter to which Mr.
Whitesides alludes in
this d.o.

W.
7.2.84

W.

Yes — this points to the inquiries
into over fail of all the suspected
frauds on the fundamaniyakkans Estate.
Then came the question of the check &
supervision of works on the Kannivadi &
other Estates under the Court of Wards.
The latter question has manifestly
to be dealt with apart from the first.
Please read paras 16 & 18 of Collector's
letter. —

CL.
7-2-84

S.A.W.

Clean draft for WS embodying
finishing alterations to
G.O. of 23rd ult. amended
as follows:—

In para 1 for "the duties specified
in" read "the inquiry in connection
with entry on the Sunday closing
lists as recommended in para
16 of Collector of Customs' letter of

and in para 2 after "if all
Estimates for works in States
under the Court of Wards"
insert "as well as the check
and supervision of works on the
Ramnad Estate".

CG

D.W.

Fresh draft appended
submitted, which, if
passed, will be issued
in substitution of G.O.
of same number & date.

CG
7.2.24

CG

How about the S.J.C. promotion during Mr Vincent's absence?

CJ
15-2-84

To D.W.

The promotions have already been made - vide file attached

KL
15.2.84

Very good - and now about his deputation to Madeira?

CJ

To D.W.

Mr Vincent has received his orders vide S.O 213 of 23rd Jany. M.

KL
15.2.84

CJ.

Please show Pro: of Court
2 words - with letter from
Col: of Madura - on which
W. Vincent's deputation was
ordered.

W.
18-2-84

File submitted

W.
18/2

C. A. W.

G. O. N° 243 W
should be printed.
I have marked
it A.

W.
18-2-84

H.C.
For attention -
K.S.
18.2.84

Days 18/2/84.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS.

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th September 1883, Mis. No. 7547 :—

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2. The nature and value of the stores which the two watchmen are required to guard should be stated.

(Signed) J. A. DAVIES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) F. A. NICHOLSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

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READ—also the following letter from C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated 25th November 1883, No. 372:—

With reference to the Court of Wards' proceedings, dated 5th September 1883, Mis. No. 7547, I have the honor to submit the following report on the maramut works of the Gandamanáyakanúr estate.

2. I had intended to address the Court on this subject sometime ago, but deferred it, pending a personal inspection of the works. I visited the estate last month and inspected as many works as the weather permitted me to do. It was incessantly raining during the term of my stay in the estate, and consequently I was not able to inspect all the works as I had intended to do; but from what I have seen, I am of opinion that there must have been, to say the least of it, a great waste of money. I enclose a statement showing the names of works, the outlay on them, their ayacut, revenue, &c. Of these works, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 17 were sanctioned and commenced before Mr. Hardy's appointment in March 1879, while works Nos. 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 were estimated for and sanctioned after that date. They were however all begun before I took charge of the district.

3. A total sum of Rs. 71,800 has been spent on irrigation works since the commencement of the Court's management of the estate. Of this, Rs. 26,210 has been spent on completed works, and Rs. 45,590 on incomplete.

4. The incomplete works, except No. 4, the Samiappen anicut project, which has been virtually abandoned* are—

	Estimate.	Outlay.
	Rs.	Rs.
No. 3, Theppamputti tank	12,100	8,250
„ 5, Tank under old anicut	9,260	7,982
„ 6, Theppam	1,270	1,130
„ 13, Periacolum	5,500	4,554
„ 14, Sirooolum	3,850	2,832
„ 15, Peria anicut	6,000	5,692
„ 16, Sengolam	300	100

* Court of Wards' proceedings, No. 2180, 1st September 1882, and Board's proceedings, Mis. No. 10169, 22nd December 1882.

5. *No.* 3, *Theppamputti tank.*—The minor's mother having, among other things, made a specific complaint that out of the Rs. 8,000 charged to this work, only Rs. 4,000 was actually spent on it, I asked Mr. W. S. Harington, who was then in charge of the estate works (Mr. Hardy having gone on leave to England), to inquire and report. The report submitted by him shows that there is, at the very least, a difference of 38,322 cubic yards of earth-work, representing a money value of Rs. 3,718, between the quantity shown in Mr. Hardy's bills and that found on actual measurement by him, and that this difference was arrived at by him after making every allowance for weather during the past three years. In other words, Mr. Harington reported that the complaint made by the minor's mother was true.

6. The overseer, who executed the work, is dead. On receipt of Mr. Harington's above report, I ordered the suspension of the present acting overseer, who was subordinate at the time when the above work was executed and his writer, and desired Mr. Harington to obtain and forward their defence. He has accordingly submitted written statements, in which they deny *in toto* their connection with the fraud, and state that the late overseer alone was responsible. It was suggested by Mr. Harington that the overseer's former writer, who is now a vakil in the Paramagudi Munsif's Court, might be able to give some information tending to throw light on the subject, and a list of interrogatories, as submitted by Mr. Harington, was sent to him, and his replies were obtained and forwarded to Mr. Harington for his remarks. But no real light has been thrown on the matter by the statements of these inculpated persons.

7. *No.* 5, *Tank under old anicut.*—I have seen this tank. I am not sure whether the full amount of work has been executed for the sum shown to have been spent on it. But I may say that the expenditure has been in vain, because, even if the tank is completed, it can be of no use for the present, the old anicut, which used to supply this tank, being in a ruined state, and the construction of the new Samiappen anicut, by which it was proposed by Mr. Hardy to supply this tank, being now out of the question.

8. *No.* 6.—This work is almost finished. It is simply a large well situated in the head-quarter village, and is used for garden cultivation and drinking purposes. Mr Harington reports that measurements taken, show that there is full value in this work for the money expended.

9. *Nos.* 13, 14, 15 *and* 16.—On these works I fear that the money spent, viz., Rs. 13,178, has been entirely thrown away. Judging from the discovery made in the case of the Theppamputti tank, it is not at all unlikely that a large deficiency may be found in the quantity of work done, if these works are examined and measured up. They appear to have no ayacut at all, nor is the locality adapted for agricultural operations, for it is in the middle of what is, probably, the most deadly jungle in Southern India infested by wild beasts. It is impossible to induce ryots to go and cultivate lands in that place.

10. Very soon after I took charge of this district, I saw that economy was required in the Public Works staff of the Gandamanáyakanúr estate. Certain papers, which passed through this office regarding the Samiappen anicut, also convinced me that, whatever else Mr. Hardy might be, he certainly was not an Irrigation Engineer. I therefore (as far as the estate was concerned gladly) redeemed a promise made to my predecessor, and appointed him Local Fund Engineer of the Dindigul circle. I also immediately afterwards dispensed with the services of his estate establishment, except a draftsman. The remaining establishment also has been discontinued, as reported in my letter, dated 25th August 1883, No. 263, and a maistry is now temporarily appointed to look after the emergent works in the estate (*vide* Court's proceedings, dated 23rd October 1883, Mis. No. 8809).

11. It may not be out of place to mention here that in January last I was within an ace of reporting to the Court of Wards Mr. Hardy's conduct in having, in spite of every form of order and reminder, most unduely delayed the submission of vouchers for expenditure on certain works, regarding which an anonymous accusation of embezzlement had been received. As, however, when the accounts and vouchers were eventually received, an immediate examination of them showed that they were apparently

in order, I dropped the matter, ensuring Mr. Hardy for his delay in replying to my repeated telegrams. But from what has now come out in regard to the Theppamputti tank work mentioned in paragraph 5, and from the fact that the vouchers connected with this tank work also were received along with the other vouchers now alluded to, I am now reluctantly compelled to suspect fraud in the preparation of these accounts and vouchers.

12. The accompanying statement will show that there has been no return worth speaking for the outlay incurred on the completed works. While in regard to the incomplete works I have to remark that the selection of the localities was far from happy, and there is now even reason to doubt whether the completion of these works may not have been purposely postponed, lest their uselessness should come to light. It may be that their completion was put off in view to keep up the establishment for sometime longer, or until the minor come of age.

13. In regard to buildings also, it is impossible to conceive worse work than has been put by Mr. Hardy on his own (estate) bungalow at Gandamanáyakanúr. This work has cost more than Rs. 4,000, and it was only completed in 1881. Unfortunately last year, I had no opportunity of closely examining the building, as it was then occupied by Mr. Hardy. The building has now not the least appearance of being new, it leaks all over the joists, and the beams are dangerously sagged, so much so that I had to put a prop in one place which seemed to be coming down, and the wood-work is of the coarsest description. In paragraph 2 of the proceedings quoted at the head of this letter, the Court have called for a report as to what should be done with the engineer's bungalow at Gandamanáyakanúr. I beg to submit that it should be retained for the minor's use. The locality is good, being, as it is in the bank of the Vaigai, at a reasonable distance from the village, and in an open and airy place, and I think that it is better to repair and improve the building at an additional cost of, perhaps, Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,200, than to lose altogether the large outlay of Rs. 4,000 and odd already incurred. The minor when he comes of age will doubtless be glad to have a bungalow at this place, and his mother and stepmother, who were consulted on the subject, are in favor of maintaining the building.

14. Mr. Hardy having returned to Madura rather unexpectedly in the middle of October, I at once called upon him for explanation of the Theppamputti tank business. I can only describe the response made by him as most disingenuous. The Court will perhaps be able best to form an opinion on this point by reference to the marginally-noted correspondence (copies enclosed), which has passed between him and me and Mr. Harington. The gist of it all is, that Mr. Hardy declines to afford any explanation until measurement books, which never existed, are produced, quite oblivious apparently of the obvious fact that, if he is unable to show that the work charged for by him is, or ever was, in existence, he is the only person interested in the disappearance of documents, which would be proof of his own direct complicity in the fraud.

1. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 19th October 1883, No. 251.
2. Mr. Hardy's reply, dated 20th October 1883.
3. Endorsement to Mr. Harington, dated 22nd October 1883, Mis. No. 243.
4. His reply, dated 26th October 1883, No. 55.
5. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 23rd October 1883, No. 257.
6. His reply, dated 1st November 1883.
7. Endorsement to Mr. Harington, dated 2nd November 1883, Mis. No. 253.
8. His reply, dated 8th November 1883, No. 60.
9. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 16th November 1883, No. 278.

Mr. Hardy's reply not yet received.

15. Mr. Hardy is not in charge of the estate works at present, as he overstayed his leave, and consequently forfeited his appointment as Local Fund Engineer, Dindigul circle, and I do not think it expedient to put him again in charge of the estate works.

16. The Court will probably agree with me in thinking that, in the interest of the estate, a thorough examination of all the works completed and under progress should be conducted by an experienced officer of the Public Works Department in order to ascertain at a very early date, (1) whether or not the money has been properly

expended, (2) whether there are any defects which can be remedied, (3) which of the works should be abandoned and which prosecuted to completion, (4) and whether any improvements to the irrigation of the estate are necessary and feasible.

17. It appears that formerly the estimates for works in the estates under wardship in this district were subject to the scrutiny and examination by imperial engineer officers, and that the latter had, besides, a sort of general supervision over the works conducted by the estate officers. This system was ordered to be discontinued (*vide* G.O., dated 6th August 1877, No. 2453), and the entire management of the estate works was entrusted to the engineer specially appointed for it. I submit that if the former system had continued, such waste and incapacity, as there is only too good reason to suspect in the case of Gandamanáyakanúr, could not have occurred.

18. I would, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government be moved to issue orders to the Public Works Department to the effect that the estimates for all Court of Wards' estate works should hereafter be checked and countersigned by a competent officer of that department before they are submitted for sanction, that the works should be finally examined by the same department, and that the estates should bear such proportion of the costs of the Department of Public Works establishment as the Government may fix.

19. At present in the huge Ramnad estate there is no engineer at all, and I do not think that the present staff of supervisor and overseers can properly be entrusted with the practically uncontrolled execution of the important works in progress in that estate. Further, the Court will, I think, feel that the responsibility involved in these public works is not such as the Collector of a district, who act as their agent, can fairly be saddled with.

20. Lastly, as the next working season should not be lost in completing any works which can profitably be finished, I have the honor to request that the Court of Wards be pleased to recommend to Government to direct the Superintending Engineer of the circle to take such steps as may be necessary for the inspection of all the Gandamanáyakanúr estate works, and to furnish me with information on the points mentioned in paragraph 16, for submission to the Court of Wards. I do not think that it will take more than two months to finish this work. The estate must, of course, meet the cost of this special establishment, but it will be money well spent.

21. In the proceedings under reference, the Court further remark that the stores may be made over to the manager for deposit in his office, and that the watchmen should be dismissed. I beg to report that the stores have been handed over to the manager. Of the watchmen, one has been removed, and the others' services are retained, as sanctioned in their proceedings, dated 4th November 1883, Miscellaneous No. 9443. They also desire information regarding the large expenditure on the Samiappen anicut (items 7 and 8 as quoted by the Court, but entered as No. 4 in the accompanying statement). On this subject I beg to refer them to their proceedings, dated 23rd September 1880, Miscellaneous No. 10414, in which they condoned the unauthorized expenditure incurred on that abortive project, which has subsequently been abandoned.

22. With regard to the Court's observation in paragraph 4 of the proceedings under reply that the entries in the column for expenditure in Fasli 1292 do not correspond with those in the Court's audit registers, I beg to be informed as to how the figures (as regards irrigation works) in the audit registers were obtained, and under what items discrepancies occur, as without such information the account department informs me that it is impossible to render the required explanation.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 9.—Correspondence, &c., as per list.

ENCLOSURE No. 10.

LIST of papers forming enclosures to the letter to the Court of Wards, dated 25th November 1883, No. 372.

1. Statement of ayacut, revenue, &c., of the irrigation works in the Gandamanáyakanúr estate.
2. Letter to Mr Hardy, dated 19th October 1883, No. 251.
3. Mr. Hardy's reply, dated 20th October 1883.
4. Mr. Harington's reply, dated 26th October 1883, No. 55.
5. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 23rd October 1883, No. 257.
6. His reply, dated 1st November 1883.
7. Mr. Harington's reply, dated 8th November 1883, No. 60.
8. Letter to Mr. Hardy, dated 16th November 1883, No. 278.
9. List of records of Gandamanáyakanúr overseer's office handed over to Local Fund Engineer.

READ—petition from J. T. HARDY, Esq., Court of Wards' Engineer, Madura, dated 23rd November 1883.

RESOLUTION—dated 20th December 1883, No. 3875.

The Collector's letter will be forwarded to Government with the request that an officer of the Public Works Department may be deputed at once to the Madura District for service, temporarily, under the Court of Wards, and in order, first of all, to carry out the inquiry suggested in paragraph 16 of the Collector's letter relative to the completed and incomplete works, and the buildings, in the Gandamanáyakanúr estate, and then to check and supervise the expenditure on works in the Ramnad estate.

2. The Court also support the Collector's proposal in paragraph 18 of his letter that all estimates for works in estates under the Court of Wards should be checked and countersigned by the District Engineer of the district where each estate is situated before the works are carried out.

3. Paragraph 22 of the Collector's letter will be disposed of in separate proceedings.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with nine original enclosures and petition to be returned.
" Collector of Madura.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Revenue Department

No 139

P 13

Minute 152

Transferred to the Public Works Department for disposal.

J. Elwin
Secretary to Govt

Fort St. George
14th January 1885

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1883.

Court of Wards,

MADRAS.

Rec'd 15/1/83

Printed December th.

R/Jany 9. 1884. Encl 10

Proceedings, 20th Dec. 1883, *No.* 3875.

Copies to

Court of Wards 9/1/84

Requesting Government to depute an officer of the Public Works Department at once to the Madura District for service, temporarily, under the Court of Wards, to report on the *works* in the *Gandamanáyakanúr and Ramnad Estates*, and supporting the proposal of the Collector that all estimates for works in estates under the Court of Wards should be checked and countersigned by the District Engineer before the works are carried out.

Form No. 66. SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY. P 14

Class. OS

To Madras — From Duchmopoly (Station) — Local No.

Nrs.	Words.	Time tendered for transmission Railway time. Day	Hour.	Minute.
41	25	3	17	13

OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

To (Person) Madras Works

From Person Superintending Engineer 6th Circle

1		2	
3	No		Officer
5	Can	6	be
	Spared	8	now
9	As	10	At
11	is	12	Working
13	Season —	14	
15		16	
17		18	
19		20	
21		22	
23		24	
25		26	
27		28	
29		30	
31		32	

RECD FROM — L. L.
AT — Hrs. — Mts, on the
BY
Date 17-1-84

SENT TO — L. L.
AT — Hrs. — Mts, on the
BY

Signaller in charge.

IC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Revenue Dept. H

No 213 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 23rd Jany/84

READ the following

Proceedings of the Court of Wards — N.6. No 3875 dy 20th Decr/83

Endorsement thereon by the Revenue Dept: " — " — 152 Inis dy 14th Jany/84.

Telegram from the Supty: Engr: III. circle — " — " ——— dy 17th Jany/84.

With reference to para.1 of the Proceedings of the Court of Wards, the Government resolve to place at the disposal of the Court, the services of Mr. C. Vincent, Temp: Executive Engineer, who will, on return from Calcutta, proceed to

No 416

Ins 1875/84

Papers

Madura, and at once take up the duties specified.

2. The question raised in para 2 of the Proceedings as to the check and countersignature, by Public Works officers, of all estimates for works in Estates under the Court of Wards, will be disposed of separately. It is considered that, should this duty be assigned to the Public Works Department, a percentage on the value of the works will have to be paid as a contribution to the cost of P.W. Establishments, as is now done by all Funds other than "Provincial," to which the Establishment is directly chargeable. The Chief Engineer will, after consultation with the Suptg. Engineers, report what percentage may be fairly charged, - having in view the nature of the check required.

16-1-84

Revenue Dept: (with enclos.)
C. Vincent Esqre
Chief Engr: for Irrign:
Suptg: Engr: VII. circle

dev 24/1

To be substituted for Pp 1 & 2 of Govt Memo dated

No 2135

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 23rd January 1884.

READ the following

Proceedings of the Court of Wards — } M. E. No: 3875 d/ 20th Decr 1883

Endorsement thereon by the Revenue Department } " " 152 Mis: d/ 14th Jany 1884

Telegram from the Suptg. Engineer VI circle } " " " d/ 17th Jany 1884

With reference to para 1 of the Proceedings of the Court of Wards, the Government resolve to place at the disposal of the Court, the services of Mr. L. Vincent, Temporary Executive Engineer, who will, on return from Calcutta proceed to Madura, and at once take up the enquiry in connection with works on the Gundamanayakanur Estate, as recommended in paras 1 & 2 of

of letter from the Collector of Madura No: 372 dated 25th November 1883.

2. The question raised in para 2 of the Proceedings as to the check and countersignature, by Public Works Officers, of all estimates for works in Estates under the Court of Wards, as well as the question of the check and supervision of Works on the Ramnad Estate, will be disposed of separately. It is considered that, should this duty be assigned to the Public Works Department, a percentage on the value of the works will have to be paid as a contribution to the cost of P. W. Establishments, as is now done by all Funds other than "Provincial", to which the Establishments is directly chargeable. The Chief Engineer will, after consultation with Suptg. Engineers, report what

-4-

percentage may be fairly charged,- having in view the nature of the check required.

(J) 7-2-84.

Revenue Department (with enclos)
C. Vincent Esqre
Chief Engr for Irrign.
Suptg. Engr III circle

RW 9/2

333.416

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS

B. 1/2

Read

~~B. 1/2 2131 23-1-84~~

Rec'd. Read.

G. O. 23rd Jany 1884 No. 2134.

Ex. C. Vincent

Asstt. Engr.

The services of — placed at the disposal of the Court of Wards for work on the Grand Anicut Canal, with remarks as to the undertaking of the works under the Court of Wards by the PW Dept.

Note