M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1656 Press / ~~Mis.~~

347-348

Dated 20 - 9 - 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 347. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th August 1860, No. 3,942 :—

Read the following letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George ; dated 15th August 1860, No. 165 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit my report on the operations of the Department Public Works for the Official year 1859-60 together with a detailed statement of the progress of public works.

Works.	*Expenditure of 1858-9.*	*Expenditure of 1859-60.*	*Difference.*		*Estimate of 1859-60.*
			Increase.	*Decrease.*	
"New Works."	0	0	0	0	0
Irrigation	34,589	10,288	0	24,301	0
Communications	1,944	3,930	1,986	0	0
Buildings					0
	36,537	14,218	1,986	24,301	
"Repairs."	41,337	28,150	0	13,187	0
Irrigation	13,868	32,788	18,980	0	0
Communications	1,942	1,403	0	539	0
Buildings					
	57,147	62,341	18,980	13,726	0
Total	93,684	76,559	20,966	38,027	3,41,247

2. The abstract given in the margin shows that a less amount was expended in the year under review than in the preceding, and that no new works of irrigation were undertaken.

3. Of 10,288 Rupees spent on communications, 4,432 Rupees were laid out in deepening the Pamben channel, the remaining sum, 5,856 Rupees, was spent in building small bridges and tunnels and performing earthwork on the six lines of road noted in the margin, the completion of these lines of road which had been sanctioned, amounting to Rupees 55,461, was stopped owing to the restriction on expenditure on public works, and Rupees 407 was laid out on the

	Rs.
1. *Road between Allinagaram and Cambam*	4,842
2. ,, *between Trichinopoly and Dindigal*	6,800
3. ,, *between Samianullur and Dindigal*	14,510
4. ,, *between Butlagunta and Pallapatti*	7,884
5. *Roads on the Palani Hills*	6,000
6. *Bridge over the Shanumganaddi river on road from Dindigal, vid Palani to Palghaut*	15,425
Total	55,461

Umravatty bridge, at present a ruin. The completion of the above-mentioned works has been attended with little present benefit to traffic. In many places new bridges are met with perfectly useless for want of approaches.

4. Estimates were sanctioned for extending and making new Salt Platforms amounting to Rupees 8,520. Of this, only 1,639 Rupees were expended in extending some *"Buildings."* of the Platforms : the slow rate at which these repairs have progressed has been exceedingly inconvenient, and caused much difficulty in securing the Government Salt.

5. On Irrigation works the sum of Rupees 28,150 was expended, but as this expenditure was chiefly incurred on account of securing the existing revenue which, I *"Repairs."* suppose, may be taken as a beneficial outlay, and as most of it was spent on works below 2,000 Rupees, concerning which the Engineers do not furnish any particular accounts, I am not able to state what benefit, further than the above-mentioned, has accrued to the Government or Raiyats. At present the Engineers only furnish statements in the gross, showing the total expenditure on works below 2,000 Rupees, and the Collector is not informed what work has been finished : it would be advisable to instruct the Engineer to

furnish the Collector at the end of the Official year with a list showing the expenditure on each work ; the required information as to actual benefit derived from the expenditure could then be ascertained from the Tahsíldárs.

6. The sum of 32,788 Rupees was laid out in repairs to roads, and that chiefly on roads leading from the interior to the Salt Pans. I have lately passed by the side of several of these roads, and any thing worse than their state can scarcely be imagined.

7. None of them ever were completed, and the unfinished embankments have since been washed down, and the centre of each road is nothing more than a narrow ridge, with its sides cut into deep gullies. In many places bridges have been commenced and left unfinished, the foundations having been sunk and not filled in ; they are traps and pitfalls for travellers. In other places the bridges have been perhaps pulled to pieces for repair or alteration, and left in an unfinished state, causing the greatest inconvenience. Connected with the repair and construction of the roads, there is a point which requires consideration of Government with a view to legislation on the subject, that is, damage to the Government roads and bridges by the breaching of tanks and other irrigation works.

8. In Government Táluqs the Government naturally bears those losses, but nearly half this District is Zamíndári, and the Zamíndárs generally pay no attention to the conservancy of their tanks, &c. ; consequently breaches are of frequent occurrence attended by the washing away of roads and bridges. This damage is common in the Ramnad Zamíndari, in both the Zamíndár's and the Inám Pagoda, and Darmasanam, &c. villages. There is no way of recovering damages but by a Civil suit. I think some summary law on the subject is required.

9. The report for the Official year 1859-60, of Sub-Overseer Mr. Drane to the District Engineer, which I have seen, will show the Board that it is almost useless and nearly a waste of money for Government to repair the roads in the Zamíndári of Ramnad on account of the insecurity of the tanks.

—

1. Resolved that a copy of the above Report be forwarded to Government for information and to the Chief Engineer whose attention is particularly requested to the Collector's remarks on the state of the roads in Madura. The Board trust that sufficient funds will be available for repairs this year, as otherwise the Government revenue, especially from Salt ; will certainly decline.

2. The Board concur with the Collector that a lower sum than 2,000 Rupees should be fixed as the limit within which particulars need not be furnished to the Collector. They observe that of Rupees 71,000 expended in Madura on repairs of irrigation works no less than Rupees 67,000 were spent in sums below 2,000 Rupees.

3. The Collector is requested to obtain and forward a copy of Mr. Drane's letter referred to in paragraph 9.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 348. ORDER THEREON, 20th September 1860, No. 1,656.

1. The Board of Revenue send up an interesting and useful Report from the Collector of Madura on the operations of the Public Works Department in his District in the official year 1859-60. It is precisely such a Report as the standing orders require Collectors to make every year, but which have not been by any means regularly submitted. Mr. Levinge's Report in its comprehensiveness and its brevity furnishes an excellent model ; and the Board will be requested to circulate a copy of it to all Collectors, and desire them to make a similar Report at the end of each official year. This Report would probably have been submitted earlier, but that Mr. Levinge only took charge of the District some time after the close of the year to which it relates.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th September 1860.

2. The Chief Engineer will call the attention of the local Officers to the remark in paragraph 4 as to the slow progress of the new Salt Platforms. As there was so little work going on during the year, there is the less excuse for this.

Paragraph 5.

3. There is no reason whatever why the Collector should not be furnished with a list showing the expenditure in repairs on every individual work of irrigation, and the Chief Engineer will direct that this shall be done. The Governor in Council presumes that no such work is undertaken, except in cases of clear and sudden emergency, without the Collector's previous approval and sanction ; and it is proper and necessary that he should know the amount expended, both to compare it with his sanction, and to note the results. Of all new works also the same information should be given, whatever the amount of the Estimate.

4. The Collector's remarks in paragraphs 6 and 7 on the state of certain roads deserve the serious attention of the Chief Engineer and of the newly appointed Acting District Engineer. It must be ascribed to want of attention ; for a little judicious outlay from the repair funds would have put the works in a state to be neither a source of inconvenience to travellers nor to receive injury themselves.

5. Adverting to paragraph 8 of Mr. Levinge's letter, the Government observe that the Draft Revenue Code for this Presidency contains a provision for empowering Collectors to compel Zamíndárs and Inámdárs to keep their tanks in such a state of repair as not to be dangerous to person or property.* It does not appear to Government that any special legislation is necessary to make such persons liable for damage caused by the bursting of their tanks. The liability is a just one, and the Government conceive that the general law is sufficient to maintain it. The Government will be prepared to sanction an action in Court to try the question, if Mr. Levinge should advise such a course. A case should be selected, in which the facts are clear.

* *See Bill No.* 2, *Clause* 93.

6. It is observed in the Progress Report submitted, that the new Táluq Kacheri at Mélúr is left unfinished though apparently requiring a very small sum for its completion. The sanction being Rupees 3,853, and the expenditure 3,784. Unless the Estimate is likely to be materially exceeded, in which case a report should be made, immediate arrangements should be made by the District Engineer for completing the building.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Pub Departt.

No. 1656

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 20th September 1860.

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of

Revenue.

Forwarding for the information of Govt. Copy of a Report from the Collector of Madura on the operations of the P.W. for the Official year 1859/60 and the points to which the special attention of the Chief Engineer has been called.

(Here enter 29th Augt/60 No. 3942.)

The Board of Revenue send up an interesting and useful Report from the Collector of Madura on the operations of the Public Works Department in his District in the Official year 1859/60. It is precisely

precisely such a Report as the standing orders require Collectors to ~~make~~ submit every year but which ~~very few~~ have not been by any means regularly ~~Collectors have ever~~ submitted. ~~written~~ - Mr Levinge's Report in its comprehensiveness and its brevity furnishes an excellent model, and the Board will be requested to circulate a copy of it to all Collectors, and desire them to make a similar Report at the end of each official year. This Report would probably have been submitted earlier, but that Mr Levinge only took charge of the District some time after the close

close of the year to which it relates.

2. The Chief Engineer will call the attention of the local officers to the remarks in Para 4 as to the slow progress of the new salt Platforms. As there was so little work going on during the year, there is the less excuse for this.

3 There is no reason whatever why the Collector should not be furnished with a list shewing the expenditure in repairs on every individual work of irrigation, and the Chief Engr will

Para 5

will direct that this shall be done. The Governor in Council presumes that no such work is undertaken, except in cases of a sudden clear emergency, without the Collector's previous approval and sanction, and it is proper and necessary that he should know the amounts expended, both to compare it with his sanction, and to note the results. Of all new works also the same information should be given, whatever the amount of the Estimate.

4 The Collector's remarks on Paras 6 & 7 on the state of certain roads deserve the serious attention of the Chief Engineer and of the newly appointed acting District Engineer. It must be ascribed to want of attention, ~~entirely~~, for a little judicious outlay from the repair funds would have put the works in a state to be neither a source of inconvenience to travellers nor to receive injury themselves.

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such a state of repair as not to be dangerous to person or property.* It does not appear to Govt. that any special legislation is necessary to make such persons liable for damage caused by the bursting of their tanks. The liability is a just one, and the Govt. conceive that the general law is sufficient to maintain it. The Govt. will be prepared to sanction an action in Court to try the question, if Mr. Levinge should advise such a course. A case in which the facts are clear, should be selected.

6 It is observed in the Progress Report submitted, that the new Tálug Machineri at Mélur is left unfinished tho'

* See Bill No. 2, Clause 98.

tho' apparently requiring a very small sum for its completion. The sanction being Rs. 3,853, and the expenditure 3,784. Unless the Estimate is likely to be materially exceeded, in which case a Report should be made, immediate arrangements should be made by the District Engineer for completing the building.

2 Copies
Board of Revenue
Chief Engineer

Dis. No. 21
with enclosure

Report of the operations of the D.P.W. in Madura.

Revenue 1860 Departt.
Pro: of Govt for Septr

No 1656.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dy 20th Septr 60.

Reviewing the Report from the Collector of Madura on the operations of the D.P.W. in his District in the Offic years 1859-60.

No 347 & 348.

No

Q 10 Despatch to Madras, 5 Oct 60