M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2192 Press ~~Mis.~~

58.59

Dated 2 — 12 — ~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 2nd December 1863.

No. 58. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Work Department:—

Passing orders on a letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, proposing improvements to certain Salt Roads in the Tinnevelly District. } (Here enter 26th November 1863, No. 3,468.)

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, 2nd December 1863, No. 2,192.

The number of Salt Pans was reduced from nine to seven, by Order of Government dated 31st March 1862, and it is not likely that any further reduction can be made without loss to the State and inconvenience to the people. Estimates should therefore be at once prepared for the proper repair of such of the Salt roads as the Collector considers of most importance.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 29th October 1863.

No. 657. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th October 1863, No. 6,559:—

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tenkasy, 26th September 1863, No. 375.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report on the progress and effect of Public Works in this Disirict for the official year 1862-63.

Works.	Expenditure of 1861-62.	Expenditure of 1862-63.	Difference. Increase.	Difference. Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
NEW WORKS.				
Irrigation	5,473	1,626	.....	3,847
Communication...	44,776	47,895	3,119	.....
Buildings	4,290	9,238	4,948	.....
	54,539	58,759	8,067	3,847
REPAIRS.				
Irrigation	49,373	45,994	.....	3,379
Communication...	43,190	49,293	6,103	.....
Buildings	2,604	5,083	2,479	.....
	95,167	1,00,370	8,582	3,379
Total	1,49,706	1,59,129	16,649	7,226
Net increase.....			9,423	

From the abstract Statement given in the margin, it will be seen that the total amount expended upon Public Works, during the year 1862-63, exceeds that of the previous year by Rupees 9,423.

2. A sum of Rupees 45,994 was expended upon ordinary and emergent repairs to works of irrigation, during the year under report, for preserving the existing cultivation and revenue.

3. On new works of Irrigation Rupees 1,626 were laid out. They were all works of a minor nature. There were none of any importance to be carried out during the year under review.

Faslis.	Extent of wet land brought to account.	Revenue.	Deduct. Remission	Net Revenue.
	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1272	1,77,913	17,91,774	1,25,278	16,66,496
1272	1,79,729	17,87,537	33,173	17,54,864
Increase...	1,816	.....	.....	87,868
Decrease...	.....	4,237	92,105	.....

4. From the marginal Statement it will be seen that the wet cultivation and revenue brought to account during the year under report exceed those of the previous year by 1,816 acres in land, and Rupees 87,868 in revenue, which is to be attributed to the favorable character of the season.

5. The total expenditure on road improvements amounted to Rupees 97,188, of which Rupees 30,076 from the Imperial Funds, and Rupees 17,819 from the one per cent. Income Tax Local Fund, were laid out on new works, and Rupees 49,293 from the Imperial Funds on repairs to portions of made roads damaged by use and weather. Out of this last mentioned amount Rupees 43,467 were expended from the Maintenance allowance, and Rupees 5,000 from the Discretionary allowance.

6. Of the new works of communication referred to above, the principal ones requiring notice are mentioned below.

1st. A portion of the Trunk Cotton Road, No. 5, between Mapilyoorany and Tuticorin. The estimate for this work is Rupees 29,000, of which sum Rupees 11,999-10-4 were laid out during the year under report, in addition to the sum of Rupees 15,259-4-2 expended up to the close of the previous year.

2nd. The Sattoor Bridge. The estimate for this work is Rupees 15,800, of which Rupees 7,741-4-7 were laid out, in addition to the sum of Rupees 2,746-3-9 expended during the year 1861-62. I would here beg to observe that there has been very great delay in this work; it was commenced in December 1861, and it has not been completed yet, and as this Bridge is situated on the High Road, No. 4, leading from Madura to Travancore, the want of it is very much felt, particularly during the monsoon when the freshes in the river are high, and the mail to and from the north is greatly delayed.

3rd. A portion of Road No. 4, between Vepalapatty and Virdupatty. This work was commenced in November 1856, on an estimate of Rupees 21,745, and it was completed only during the year under report.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 29th October 1863.

4th. Road No. 8 leading from Palamcottah to Tuticorin. I remarked in paragraph 7, of my Report for the previous year, that this road was in such a wretched state that it was almost impassable during the monsoon. During the year under notice a sum of Rupees 1,995-4-4 has been laid out towards its construction, out of the estimate of Rupees 8,000 for commencing it.

5th. Salt roads. These are six in number. The estimate for them, which was sanctioned on the 11th December 1861, amounts to Rupees 50,800, of which Rupees 20,616-10-3 were laid out during the year under report. Adding this sum to that laid out in the previous year, Rupees 9,688-13-11, the aggregate expended is Rupees 30,235-8-2. Little attention has been paid to these roads by the Public Works Department. Their condition has already been fully detailed by me in my report of 26th March 1863, No. 126. It is reported by the Deputy Collector in charge of the Northern Salt Pans, that in consequence of the bad state of the Salt roads, the sales of Salt are falling off to the detriment of the Government revenue, and the special attention of the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, has been drawn by me to this subject.

6. As regards the state of the roads in this District generally, I regret that I cannot say any thing better than what I have stated in my last year's Report, dated 11th October 1862, No. 437.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The only points that call for remark are the delay in completing the Sattoor Bridge, and the injury to the revenue from the wretched state of the Salt roads.

3. The expenditure during the year on the Trunk Road No. 8, seems scarcely what the state of the road demands, especially as the funds for larger operations were available.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 658. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1863, No. 3,161.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

2. The Collector brings to notice the dilatory progress of the Sattoor Bridge. The several grants made for this work in the current official year are as follows:—

		Rs.
In the Local Fund Budget		3,000
Do. Proceedings dated 5th August 1863, No.	2,200 ...	2,410
Do. do. „ 15th October „ „	2,987 ...	2,243
		7,653

It is further observed from the Superintending Engineer's letter dated 3rd October 1863, No. 769, that there will probably be savings from the allotments for other works which might advantageously be expended upon the Sattoor Bridge. With these several grants at disposal, the Government will rely on Captain Moberly's exertions to push on the work with vigor.

3. The attention of the Superintending Engineer will be drawn to the remarks of the Collector on the subject of the Salt roads in the Tinnevelly District. A sum of Rupees 15,800 has been provided for them in the Imperial Budget for 1863-64. Captain Moberly will report how much of this grant has been laid out, and how far the condition of the roads has been improved. The matter is one demanding special notice, as the Salt revenue is reported to suffer from the bad state of the roads leading to the Pans.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
„ Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 26th November 1863.

No. 620. Read the following letter from Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madura, 6th November 1863, No. 1,077:—

SIR,

1. Referring to Government Order No. 3,161 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honor to report that since the sanction of my Supplemental Estimate for Satur bridge in Government Order No. 2,410 of 25th August 1863, one principal cause of delay has ceased, as soon as the weather will allow higher rates will be offered to bricklayers at Palamcottah, &c., and I doubt not that I shall get work rapidly executed if materials can be prepared.

2. This second cause of delay I fear still exists, the scanty and irregular supply of fuel. I have written and spoken to the Collector, and he assures me that orders have been sent to the Tahsildar, but up to my last visit on the 6th ultimo, there had been no improvement.

3. Near Satur there are avenues of abandoned lines, and by the sides of the Trunk Roads are groups of two or more trees so close that they hinder one another's growth, see my No. 445 of 1st September, paragraph 2.

4. I have pointed out this source of supply to both the Collector and Tahsildar, but there seems to prevail an idea that, the usufruct of the trees having been promised to the villagers, they cannot be cut till they cease bearing; I believe their produce would be increased by judicious thinning.

5. As regards the Salt roads, I beg to point out that the Estimates entered at page 3 Budget for 1863-64 do not provide for the completion of the Salt roads therein named, but only for small portions of the worst part, *e. g.*, two out of twenty-five of the line from Vypar towards Madura, a most vague description; four out of eighteen of the road from Manjankolam to Etyapuram, and so on, with the exception of the short branch from Arasady to the Cotton road which will I hope be perfect throughout.

6. All these roads traverse a most difficult country, black Cotton soil, sand, and a mixture impregnated with soda, which makes liquid mud after slight rain.

7. I have not seen the report drawn up by the Salt Commissioner, who I believe has visited all the pans, and therefore I cannot judge how far easy access was considered in the selection of pans to be maintained or abolished. I believe this is a most important object to be kept in view.

8. In conversation with several Revenue Officers, I have found an opinion very generally prevail, that the Salt traders prefer to go short distances over bad roads to going, say, twenty miles further, on a good road to a central depôt. I believe that this is a mistake.

9. It is supposed too that the numerous Salt Pans will provide for the wants of the villages in their immediate neighbourhood even though there be no sale for transport. I am under a strong impression that no villagers on or near the coast buy salt, the quantity that they require is easily made in hidden corners where no authority is likely to inspect.

10. In the Statement of roads are entered items as follow for Salt roads which, only, the Collector brought to my notice:—

	Probable amount required for completion.	Maintenance allowance required.
	Rs.	Rs.
Manjankolam to Etyapuram	26,000	3,600
Arasady to Trunk Cotton Road	...	600
Srivigoontum to Palyacoil	15,000	3,000
Alvartinnevelly to Coolasagaraputnam ...	30,000	2,400

Until the whole subject has been considered by Government, it appears to me waste of time to prepare detailed Estimates, the expenditure up to 31st October has been 35,125-10-3 of Rupees 53,100 estimated.

Proceedings of the Madras Government. Public Works Department, 26th November 1863.

No. 621. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1863, No. 3,468.

1. Paragraphs 1 to 4 of this letter will be communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to their Proceedings dated 12th October 1863, No. 6,559, and with a request that the attention of the Collector may be drawn to the necessity of assistance being afforded, as far as possible, with a view to the supply of fuel,* the want of which is reported to retard the progress of works. The Board will give their consideration to the suggestion in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Captain Moberly's letter.

* See paragraph 14, Chapter XI of Public Works Code.

2. The subject of paragraphs 5 to 10 will be referred to the Revenue Department. Before determining the roads which are to be improved, it seems necessary that a decision should be arrived at as to the places at which Salt Pans are to be maintained. This question will doubtless be reported upon by the Salt Commissioner, who is stated to have visited the several pans in the Tinnevelly District.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department, with copy of Proceedings No. 3,161, dated 29th October 1863.
„ Board of Revenue.
„ Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue 1863 Vol 1st
Rec.d Port 7th Dec.r
No 2891

Secretary to the
Madras Government
Public Works Dep.t

Dated 26th Dec.r
Received 30th " 1863.
No 3168

Passing an estimate
for the Collector
& Tinnevelly for
improvements to certain
Salt Roads in the Tinnevelly
District.

No 2192 3 Encr

With answer

No 58 & 59.

Rec.d Forwarded Dec.r 31st 1863
Copy sent to Collr of Tinnevelly
Copy " to Collr of Madura

No 2192

The number of Salt Pans was reduced from 9 to 7, by order of Government dated 31st March 1862, and it is not likely that any further reduction can be made without loss to the State and inconvenience to the people. Estimates should therefore be at once prepared for the proper repair of such of the Salt roads as the Collector considers of most importance.

Fort St Geo:
2 Dec.r 1863

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