

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2438

Press
Mis.

Uto 141

Dated

9-10-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th October 1865.*

No. 140. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—
Submitting, for information, report of the Col-
lector of Madura on the operations of the
Public Works during 1864-65 ; and desiring
the Collector to address the Board separately
on the subject of the repair of the rain-fed
tanks in Melur and Dindigul. (Here enter 28th September 1865, No. 6,097.)

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 9th October 1865, No. 2,438.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

• Exd. T. S. Augustin.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 28th September 1865.
Read the following letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th July 1865, No. 165 :—

1. I have the honor to submit my Public Works Report for the official year 1864-65.

2. The Memorandum in the subjoined Statement exhibits at one view the whole expenditure incurred, as compared with that of the year preceding. It will be seen there was a decreased expenditure on communications; however, 11,335 Rupees was laid out towards finishing the bridge across the Shanmoogavadi river, situated west of the town of Palany, on an important cotton, salt and commercial line of road :—

	Expenditure of 1863-64.			Expenditure of 1864-65.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
NEW WORKS.												
1. Buildings	5,831	8	9	1,294	0	0	...	...	...	4,537	8	9
2. Communications	38,048	0	1	22,875	7	5	...	...	...	15,172	8	8
3. Irrigation	264	11	4	1,500	0	0	1,235	4	8	...	...	...
Total... ..	44,144	4	2	25,669	7	5	1,235	4	8	19,710	1	5
REPAIRS.												
1. Buildings	1,890	11	11	1,503	5	11	...	...	...	387	6	0
2. Communications	72,151	7	9	54,103	11	5	...	...	...	18,047	12	4
3. Irrigation	23,021	9	3	33,590	4	4	10,568	11	1	...	...	...
4. Miscellaneous	...	...	...	604	5	2	604	5	2	...	...	...
Total... ..	97,063	12	11	89,801	10	10	11,173	0	3	18,435	2	4
Grand Total... ..	1,41,208	1	1	1,15,471	2	3	12,408	4	11	38,145	3	9
							Net Decrease..			25,736	14	10

3. **NEW WORKS—CIVIL BUILDINGS.**—Under this head, there is no work requiring any notice, the improvements made consisting merely of slight additions and alterations to the Huzur treasury, and to a few Sub-Magistrates' offices.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS.**—Rupees 8,174-4-0 were laid out on two of the salt roads, and on the cotton road from Tirumungalum to Coimbatore. On the 31st May, I had to call the attention of the Superintending Engineer to the state of the salt road No. 13, from Vuttanum to Dindigul, which at one point was impassable.

5. I had also to complain in my last year's Report,* (paragraph 4,) about the inconvenience felt owing to the non-completion of bridges, &c., on this line.

6. The cutting of the inner reef angle in the Paumben channel has now been in progress for five years, and is still incomplete. A sum of Rupees 3,364 has been spent upon it in the year under report, against Rupees 7,111 expended the year preceding. The reef channel is now eighty feet wide by twelve feet deep at low water.

7. **IRRIGATION.**—There is an increase of Rupees 1,235-4-8 in the expenditure under this item above that of the year preceding; but the sum was laid out on ordinary irrigational works deserving of no special notice.

8. The tanks in Melur Taluk and many in Dindigul are rain-fed, and many of them of very small size each only irrigating a small extent, and requiring to be filled three or four times to bring the crops to maturity. Under them the crops frequently fail, and thus the Ryots are kept in a state of impoverishment. Their distress is further augmented by the rule which

* Vide Board's Proceedings, No. 6,394, dated 20th September 1864.

the Department of Public Works wish to have enforced under the Order of Government, dated 20th July 1859, No. 1,747, Chief Engineer's Circulars, No. LXII. of 1859-60, and No. CXXXI. of 1860-61, that Ryots should execute all repairs to irrigational works costing Rupees 25 and under. As the tanks are very small, they scarcely require any repairs costing more than the above sum, and so the cost of maintaining this description of Government works, which in the case of larger tanks fall upon Government, has, in the above cases, to be defrayed wholly by the Ryots, while their more fortunate brethren in other Taluks, who enjoy a more abundant supply of water, and derive a greater and more certain benefit, are exempted from the burthen, in consequence of their hydraulic works being very large, and requiring a greater expenditure which is met by Government. I beg strongly to recommend that this anomalous state of things be remedied. On two or more occasions, I have addressed the Department Public Works on this subject; but the cost of maintaining the works of irrigation is one demanding the immediate attention of Government; for, while the revenue derived from them remains almost stationary, the profits from them are continually increasing, owing to the rise in prices, all which goes into the hands of the Ryots, whilst the cost of repairs, owing to rise in the value of labor, goes on increasing, which has to be borne by Government, making the repairs costly beyond the original proportion between revenue and cost of maintenance. Had the Waiam system been still in continuance, this disproportion would not have occurred, and therefore, I think, the Ryots should be made to bear a portion of the extra cost of maintenance now falling on Government.

9. From the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Department Public Works, dated 17th May last, No. 1,337, it appears the project for diverting the waters of the Periyar into this District has not been dropped. Were that scheme carried out, Madura would be turned into a two-crop District, and many rain-fed tanks could be converted into river-fed, with an unfailing supply of water.

10. Under the marginal tanks in the Palany Taluk, there is a great extent of waste which the Tahsildar reports could be brought under cultivation if the tanks were improved. The water which they can hold at present is not sufficient to irrigate the waste in addition to the cultivated area. The supplying channels of Kalikanaickenputty, Thatangolum, and Parithiyoer tanks are not in good order, and consequently they do not receive a full supply of water.

11. Several important channels in the Madura Taluk require permanent establishments for the conservation of the channels and banks, for the prevention of the waste of water in the irrigating season, and for diverting water down the channels from the river, and for fairly distributing it to the different tanks. In certain instances, I have endeavoured to get the Ryots to agree to a rate per cawny for the support of such establishments, but without success, without unanimity, the cost of establishment cannot be met, and all will not agree. I find that the villagers at the heads of the channels will not agree; they are certain of their supply, and are the parties who waste the water purposely; where a large interest is so much concerned, consumers as well as producers of food, the entertainment of such necessary establishments should be rendered compulsory.

12. REPAIRS—CIVIL BUILDINGS.—I now come to the item "Repairs." There is only a small decrease of Rupees 387-6-0. A sum of Rupees 1,503-5-11 was expended chiefly in repairing and altering Sub-Magistrates' and Taluk Cutcheries, &c., to provide accommodation in them for the Police and District Post Offices.

13. SALT WORKS.—During the year, Rupees 571-6-2 was spent on salt works. Correctly speaking, only Rupees 171-6-2 was laid out, because Rupees 400 was paid to reimburse an advance made in 1863 for a salt work which had remained unadjusted. In the Budget Statement submitted by me in November 1863, for works to be performed in 1864-65, I entered a sum of Rupees 3,825 for New Works, but the Government not having allotted any sum for them, no new works were performed during the year under report. After much correspondence, the Go-

* Board's Proceedings, 10th March 1865.

vernment, in their Proceedings,* Department Public Works, dated 24th February 1865, No. 529, promised to provide funds for the above works from the Reserve of 1865-66.

14. In the current year's Budget sanctioned by Government, no sum was provided either for repairs, or new works in the Salt Department. All the works are at a stand still. A few works, which were commenced in the preceding year, were also put a stop to. I have addressed the Board on the subject, under date 17th June 1865, No. 149, and trust it will receive early attention.

15. IRRIGATION.—Repairs to works of irrigation received a greater amount of expenditure this year than in the last, while there were also an increase over the year preceding, as shown in the margin. The increase during the year is Rupees 10,568-11-1, which was laid out on tanks and on channels which feed them, to maintain

	RS.	A.	P.
In 1862-63	18,204	0	0
" 1863-64	23,021	9	3
" 1864-65	33,590	4	4

them in good condition, but not to improve them. Considering the present high prices of labour and materials, the quantity of work executed cannot be expected to be greater than that performed last year. However, needful and urgent repairs have been duly attended to, and there is no complaint on that account. Several of the important works received a fair share of the expenditure.

16. COMMUNICATIONS.—There is a decrease in expenditure under this item, amounting to Rupees 18,047-12-4 which is owing to a very large amount having been expended in the year 1863-64 exceeding that of the year previous by Rupees 34,943-7-9. Rupees 47,412-12-7 were laid out on maintenance of metalled roads, and Rupees 6,690-14-10 on unmade roads. The latter sum forms a portion of Rupees 10,000 placed at the disposal of the local authorities as a discretionary grant, under the Order of Government, in the Department Public Works, dated 18th January 1864, No. 183.

17. As the Government have separated imperial and local roads, the only roads requiring notice in this report are the imperial lines, which consist of the military trunk road from Trichinopoly to Palamcottah; the cotton road from Madura via Aroopocotta to Tuticorin; the cotton road from Palany via Terunungalom to Tuticorin; and the salt roads. Of the above roads, the only one which has been finished is the military trunk road, the others still require much to make them readily passable in even fair weather.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Report of progress of Maramut works during the year 1864-65, in the Madura District.

1. Ordered that the foregoing letter be submitted for the information of Government. Special attention will be requested to Mr. Levinge's remarks in paragraphs 5, 9, 13 and 14. The Collector has already been informed by the Board, that Superintending Engineers are expected to execute repairs to salt works from the amount available for repairs generally.

Board's Proceedings, 1st August 1865, No. 4,542.

2. With reference to paragraph 11, the Collector will be informed that he should continue to make every effort to induce the Ryots of the villages concerned to combine for the payment of a Channel Conservancy Establishment. Mr. Levinge should address a separate communication to the Board on the subject of paragraph 8, reporting the extent of repairs hitherto customary in the village to which he refers as compared with those now executed.

3. The report is on the whole satisfactory; but Mr. Levinge should have entered more fully into the wants of his District as to communications.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

W. H. Levinge

Acting Secretary.

To Colonel C. A. Orr, R. E., Secretary to Government, P. W. D.,
with enclosure.

Copy to W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.
,, to V. H. Levinge, Esq., Collector of Madura.

14. 20th October 1865

Exd. J. Wright

Submitting for information report of the
Collector of Madura on the operations of the
Public Works during 1864-65; and desiring
the Collector to address the Board separately
on the subject of the repair of the rain-fed
tanks in Melur and Dindigul.

No. 6,037.

*Met 28th September 1865.
Ref 3 Oct
20.4.6.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
No. 2791-

*11.2.1865. Department.
No. of 1865 for October*

RECORDED

29.2.1865

90. Post-14