

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2640	<u>Press</u> Mis.
534-535	
Dated 27 - 10	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th October 1865.

No. 534. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting report of the Acting Collector of
South Arcot on the operations of the Public
Works Department during 1864-65, and
agreeing with that officer as to the necessity
for making more liberal grants for repairs to
irrigation works. (Here enter 16th October 1865, No. 6,550.)

No. 535. ORDER THEREON, 27th October 1865, No. 2,640.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.) -

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th October 1865.

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 30th September 1865, No. 194 :—

1. I have the honor to submit the Report on Public Works in this District, for the Official year 1864-65.

2. The annexed table shows the expenditure on public works during the year under review.

3. The Budget allotment for this District was Rupees 2,89,935, and the expenditure Rupees 2,74,352, leaving Rupees 15,633 unappropriated. So large a sum being unappropriated is doubtless to be regretted, but it was unavoidable; sanction for works takes so long in being obtained, and the authorized Budget allotments are received so late in the year, that the best part of the working season is over before the works can actually be taken in hand; thus the year closes before they are completed, and the unexpended portion of the estimate lapses :—

Items.	Expenditure in 1863-64.	Expenditure in 1864-65.	DIFFERENCE.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
NEW WORKS. -				
Irrigation	8,523	32,179	23,656	...
Communications	23,192	22,998	...	194
Buildings... ..	15,473	26,228	10,755	...
Total...	47,188	81,405	34,411	194
REPAIRS.				
Irrigation	41,975	1,04,173	62,198	...
Communications	66,641	87,036	20,395	...
Buildings	1,260	1,748	488	...
Total...	1,09,876	1,92,947	83,071	...
Grand Total...	1,57,064	2,74,352	1,17,488	...
Net Increase...	...	...	1,17,283	...

It will be observed that there was an increase of expenditure over the previous year under every head except "New communications," the decrease in which, however, is very trifling, and calls for no remarks.

NEW WORKS.—IRRIGATION.

4. The outlay under this head is set down at Rupees 32,179.

	RS.
(1.) Improving and extending the Gavarapat channel... ..	4,821
(2.) Improvement to the ancient over the Gudde-lum in the limits of Trivady, Yanamadavy, and Tri-vandipurum... ..	19,348
Total...	24,169

5. The most important of these works are detailed in the margin, and these have absorbed somewhat more than two-thirds of the expenditure, and the remainder has been spent on minor works, such as dams, sluices, &c.

6. These undertakings hardly come under the denomination of "New Works," but they are so entered in the Progress Reports, and as such the sums spent on them have been sanctioned.

COMMUNICATIONS.

7. Rupees 22,998 were expended this year under this head, the works are the same

as those reported on in last year with the addition of the re-building of two bridges, one of which connects Old and New Town, and the other the large village of Trippaploor with Munjacoopum; both these structures were washed away by the flood of last October.

BUILDINGS.

8. The chief and indeed the only work under this head is the new Court House at Cuddalore

sanctioned in 1864. It is now approaching completion. The outlay this year has been Rupees 26,164, making an aggregate expenditure, on account, of Rupees 35,316. Only Rupees 64 have been spent on other works of the nature. The anticipation formed in the last Report, that the building will be completed in the Official year under review, has not been realized, owing to the laches of the timber Contractor. The building, however, is now fast progressing towards completion, and it is hoped will be ready for occupation by the end of the Calendar year. It is a very commodious and very handsome structure, adding greatly to the appearance of the station.

REPAIRS.—IRRIGATION.

9. The rains of last October caused immense damage to works of irrigation, and this has necessitated the large expenditure under repairs to irrigation, viz, 1,04,173. The largest expenditure was on the following works :—

	RS.
Perumaul tank	11,011
Veeranum tank	5,050
Wallaja tank	2,537
Vadavar channel	3,590

altogether 365 tanks, fifty-five channels, eleven embankments, eight calingulahs, four sluices, and five anicuts have been put in good order.

COMMUNICATIONS.

10. The outlay under this item has been Rupees 87,026; this is simply a maintenance charge which is indispensable for keeping up the lines of communication in existence in this District in an efficient state.

BUILDINGS.

11. The expenditure has been trifling, and calls for no particular remarks.

12. I regret that I cannot state, from personal experience, the results of the labours and exertions of the Public Works Department, but what little I have seen during my short re-acquaintance with South Arcot seems certainly commendable. The roads, wherever metal is procurable, are in good order; but those which have to be formed of sand and clay alone, necessarily require constant attention, and are at best but unsatisfactory means of communication. The Irrigation works, upon which the welfare and prosperity of our inhabitants so much depend, are doubtless falling to decay, and the very scanty Agricultural Budget that has been sanctioned for the ensuing year, gives but little hope of these essential works being put into a satisfactory condition. For instance, we may roughly take the revenue of South Arcot at 3,000,000, whereas all that has been conceded for the ensuing year under agricultural is Rupees 60,000, manifestly inadequate where large channels and large tanks have to be dealt with. The channels leading from the Ponnear anicut need extension, and the proposed channel from this structure, for the irrigation of lands on the northern bank, although long advocated, is kept in abeyance for want of funds; many persons have taken up land waste for years past, in the hopes that the supply which could be thus easily furnished from the anicut would be afforded them, but want of Government funds still disappoints these would-be cultivators.

13. I should like to see the Tahsildars take more interest in the public works throughout their respective Taluks, but they deem the department altogether a separate and foreign one, and look on with comparative indifference as to what is taking place, still it cannot altogether be avoided. The new race of Tahsildars, although excellent scholars, have not, like their predecessors a good practical knowledge of the conduct, management, and remunerative extension of public works.

Submitted for the information of Government. The Board quite agree with the Acting Collector as to the urgent necessity of making more liberal grants for repairs to irrigation works in South Arcot, as in all other Districts. The Acting Collector should impress upon his Tahsildars that though the executive duty of carrying out repairs to irrigation works is no longer entrusted to them, they are not thereby freed from responsibility in regard to the revenue which mainly depends upon the irrigation works being maintained in a proper state of repair.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

M. A. S.

Acting Secretary.

To Colonel C. A. Orr, R. E., Secretary to Government, P. W. D.
 „ W. Huddleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.,
 „ G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev. = 1865, Department
No. of Govt for Act.

No. 2977
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 16th October 1865.

Dep't of -
Rev. & 1st.

No. 6550.

Submitting report of the Acting Collector of
South Arcot on the operations of the P. W. D.
during 1864-65, and agreeing with that officer as
to the necessity for making more liberal grants
for repairs to irrigation works.

80-2640.

RECORDED

24. Oct. 1865.

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14. For the Director of Public Works