

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2687	Press ~~Mis.~~
39-40	
Dated 4-11-1865.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th November 1865.*

No. 39. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Works Department :—

Communicating, with observations, certain cor-
respondence on the subject of the transfer of } (Here enter 3rd October 1865, No. 2,911.)
the Irrigation Conservancy Establishments in }
Districts to the Revenue Department.

No. 40. ORDER THEREON, 4th November 1865, No. 2,687.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Revenue
Board.

2. The transfer of the Neeranicum Establish-
ments in Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Madura, Tinnevelly,
and Malabar, where the Collectors and Superintending Engineers are agreed
as to the expediency of the measure, will be carried out at once if the necessary
transfer of funds can be arranged, and if not, then from the commencement of the
next official year.

3. The necessary provision for the charge will be made in the Revenue
Budget for and from 1866-67.

4. The amount appears to be as shewn below :—

Ganjam	...	...	...	...	Rupees 618
Vizagapatam	...	...	...	...	" 528
Madura	...	...	...	...	" 12
Tinnevelly	...	...	...	...	" 97
Malabar,	not	stated.			

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Read the following papers :—

- No. 26. From Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coonoor, 15th May 1865, No. 11.

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No. 1,233 of 8th May, I have the honor to report that the Collector of Malabar and myself have agreed as to the propriety of the transfer of the Irrigation Conservancy Establishments of that District to the Revenue Department, as already reported in my letter, No. 134 of 12th October 1864.

- No. 27. From Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. FOORD, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Salem, 7th June 1865, No. 417.

SIR,

With reference to the Order of Government of the 8th of May, No. 1,238, I have the honor to report that I have communicated with the Collector of South Arcot, and he is averse to the transfer of the Conservancy Establishment of that District to his Department. I also consider that it will be much better to allow the establishment to remain as at present, under the Public Works Department.

2. There is no establishment in Salem.

- No. 28. From V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, in Public Works Department, dated Madura, 9th June 1865, No. 966.

SIR,

Adverting to the Order of Government in the Public Works Department, dated the 8th May last, No. 1,238, I have the honor to report that the only Conservancy Establishment in the District is three Cavilgars, employed to watch the Sittanai and Peranai anicuts. They can, with advantage, be placed under the Revenue Officers, to which arrangement Captain Payne in charge of the Superintending Engineer's Office gives his assent.

- No. 29. From Captain J. G. RYVES, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Waltair, 13th June 1865, No. 277.

SIR,

1 Statement.

* No. 1,238.

1. I have the honor to submit the report called for in the Order of Government, dated 8th ultimo,* though I regret that it will be incomplete owing to the

Collector of the Godavery District, not having communicated to me his views regarding the disposal of the large and expensive Conservancy Establishment in his District.

2. I am of the same opinion with the Collectors of Ganjam and Vizagapatam as regards the establishments in their Districts: and in accordance with that opinion now report that there is no objection to the transfer of these establishments to the Revenue Department.

	Per annum.	RS.
Ganjam	618	
Vizagapatam	528	

3. The cost of the Godavery Conservancy Establishment is Rupees 40,312 per annum, distributed as follows:—

	RS.
Anicut... ..	3,768
Navigation... ..	17,444
Irrigation Delta	17,972
Do. Upper Taluqs... ..	1,128
Total..	40,312

4. I am of opinion that the irrigation conservancy of the Upper Taluqs may, with advantage, be transferred to the Revenue Department; but that the whole of the Delta Establishment should continue under the independent control of the Public Works Department.

5. Bearing in mind the object of Government in calling for this report, I beg to submit the following observations on the Godavery establishment, and the mode of charging its cost in the estimates:—

(1.) The Anicut establishment Rupees 3,768, of this Rupees 2,520 (the wages of Lascars and Coolies) should be removed to the head "Works," and provided for by an annual maintenance estimate. Rupees 288 should be charged to navigation, and the remainder Rupees 960 remain as an Establishment charge in Part IV.

(2.) Navigation Rupees 17,444 × Rupees 288, transferred from Anicut: of this Rupees 11,352 is the pay of the men employed night and day in opening the 38 locks on the several canals of the Delta; this should be charged as Work, and a grant for the purpose should be an annual item in the Local Funds Budget Estimate of expenditure as a set off against the amount of proceeds* of Canal Boats,

* 25,000 to 30,000 Rupees annually.
License fees, granted in aid to the District Conservancy Funds: of the remainder Rupees 1,100 for travelling allowance should be struck out altogether, leaving as charge for Establishment Rupees 5,280 (which I hope to be able to reduce), of which half should be borne by the Public Works Department, and half by the Boat License Fees.

(3.) Delta Irrigation Rupees 17,972, of this Rupees 5,108 (for channel Peons and Lascars, whose duties it is to open and close sluice shutters and escapes) should be removed from the head "Establishments," and be provided for in the Annual Estimates for Canal maintenance, 800 Rupees for travelling allowance should be struck out, and the balance Rupees 12,064 remains a charge for Establishment.

(4.) Upper Taluq Irrigation Rupees 1,128, to be transferred to the Revenue Department.

	RS.	
Anicut	960	6. The Conservancy Establishment
Navigation	2,640	charge on the Public Works Budget Esti-
Irrigation	12,064	mates when thus relieved of improper
	15,664	charges will be Rupees 15,664.

7. The cost of the Anicut establishment and the half of the pay of the Navigation Superintendents are fairly chargeable to Establishments for superintendence of work; but only part of the third item in the margin of the preceding paragraph is chargeable to Superintendence. With a view to efficient management of the canals with their numerous sluices, escapes, aqueducts, &c., it is proposed that the irrigation establishment be retained under the control of the Engineer Department, and therefore, in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Government, its cost will have to be included in their estimate of charges for Establishments. Nevertheless, when calculating the per-centage of the cost of establishments on the expenditure for works, for comparison of the charges for superintendence in different Divisions or Presidencies, that proportion of the cost of this Irrigation Establishment, which is fairly chargeable solely to the control and distribution of the water supplied for irrigation by the Delta works, should be eliminated from the calculation; any comparison made without eliminating this source of error would be fallacious. The proportion chargeable to the Revenue Account of the Delta works would be about five-eighths leaving three-eighths, or Rupees 4,524, properly chargeable for superintendence of work.

8. If these views meet with the approval of Government, I will have a revised list of the Conservancy Establishment prepared for their sanction, and arrange for the inclusion of the working men's wages in the annual canal maintenance estimates; the estimated charges in Part IV. will have to be reduced by Rupees 24,648, and those in Part II. under the head Repairs "Agricultural" to be increased by Rupees 7,628: Rupees 13,992 will be included in the annual estimate of charges on Local Funds, and Rupees 2,274* will become a charge against the Revenue Department.

	RS.
* Ganjam	618
Vizagapatam	528
Godavery	1,128
	2,274

9. The difference, Rupees 17,020, between the amount taken off Part IV. and that added to Part II. would (supposing Government sanction the proposals in this report), I imagine, be available for transfer to Works: I beg that it may be assigned to the Godavery, and that I may be called upon, in communication with the Collector, to submit the names of the works to which it should be allotted.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
 3rd October 1865.

Statement of the Godavery Conservancy Establishment with an Abstract showing the heads of account to which it should be charged, to accompany letter No. 277, dated 13th June 1865, from Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Distribution.	Description of Establishment.	Amount.	Total.
		RS.	RS.
Anicut ...	3 Gumastahs	480	3,768
	3 Maistries... ..	480	
	3 Lock Maistries	288	
	2 Lascars	120	
	60 Coolies	2,400	
Navigation...	Errapothairum Lock	264	17,444
	Pullevella do.	192	
	Mokkamulla do.	288	
	Siddantum do.	288	
	Palcole do.	288	
	Nursapore do.	384	
	Nadupudi do.	384	
	Ellore do.	384	
	Ellore Canal and Toomoolair	576	
	20 Locks	7,440	
	2 New Locks on Mundapetta Canal	576	
	8 Navigation Superintendents	5,280	
	Travelling allowance	1,100	
	3 Delta Superintendents	2,880	
	Writers and Peons	600	
Delta Irrigation.	50 Channel Superintendents and Lascars... ..	9,600	17,972
	2 do. Amalapore	492	
	Tanuku Establishment	1,410	
	1 Gumastah and four Peons, Ralley	312	
	6 Peons, Nagarum	306	
	3 Do. Mundapetta	150	
	Ramachendrapoor Establishment	1,164	
	River banks	228	
	Travelling allowance	800	
	Lingumpurti	288	
Irrigation Upper Taluqs.	Rajahmundry and Peddapur.	420	1,128
	Kottapully... ..	420	
Total Conservancy Establishment			40,312

Abstract of the proposed incidence of charges for Godavery Conservancy Establishment paragraphs 4 to 8 of letter.

				PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.				Revenue Depart- ment.	Total annual charge for Conser- vancy
				Imperial.		Local Funds.			
				Estab- lishment.	Work.	Estab- lishment.	Work.		
				RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.		
Anicut	...	...	...	960	2,520			ES.	ES.
Navigation	...	...	...	2,640		2,640	11,352		3,480
Irrigation	...	...	...	12,064	5,108				16,632
								1,128	18,300
				15,664	7,628	2,640	11,352	1,128	38,412
				Travelling allowance struck out				...	1,900
				Total per annum				...	40,312

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
 3rd October 1865.

No. 30. Official Memorandum from Captain J. G. RYVES, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Waltair, 16th June 1865, No. 303.

With reference to G. O. No. 1,238, dated 8th ultimo, and to paragraph 1 of his Report, dated 13th instant, the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, has the honor to submit (in original) a letter* from the Collector of Godavery, reporting that no part of the Conservancy Establishment in that District can be placed under the Revenue Officers.

From J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to Captain J. G. RYVES, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated Cocanada, 12th June 1865, No. 90.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 83 of the 15th ultimo, enclosing Government Order No. 1,238, dated 8th idem, Public Works Department, and to inform you in reply that the Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates in this District have now so much work to do in connection with their Revenue and Magisterial duties, that they cannot undertake the superintendence of the irrigation works in addition. No portion of the present Conservancy Establishment can, therefore, with advantage be placed under Revenue Officers in this District.

No. 31. From Captain A. S. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp, Ramandroog, 22nd June 1865, No. 47.

Sir, With reference to Government Order No. 1,238 of the 8th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that there are no Conservancy Establishments in this Division under the charge of the Public Works Department. On the Toongabuddra Channels a number of Neergunties are employed, but I would strongly recommend that a proper Conservancy Establishment should be allotted for each of the channels.

No. 32. From Captain R. F. OAKES, R. E., Acting Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Trichinopoly, 25th July 1865, No. 632.

Sir, With reference to the Order of Government No. 1,238, dated 8th May, I have the honor to inform you that the Collectors of Tanjore* and Trichinopoly† agree with me that no change should be made in the charge of the Conservancy Establishments in their respective Districts.

* No. 166, 14th July.
 † „ 119, 18th do.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd October 1865.*

No. 33. From Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 2nd August 1865, No. 1,215.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report as directed in G. O. No. 1,238, dated 8th May 1865, what Conservancy Establishments can with advantage be placed under Revenue Officers. The result in my own mind is that wherever adequate establishments have been afforded to our Department, it would be most inexpedient to make such a transfer. I say 'adequate establishments' because where they are inadequate it obviously becomes necessary for this Department to accept a responsibility without the means of meeting it, and auxiliary aid can be better extemporised by the Revenue Department.

2. I have consulted the Collectors of Madras and North Arcot, and also the Executive Officers in charge of Ranges wherein establishments are maintained. Mr. Fane wrote on the subject to the Board of Revenue on the 24th June 1864, advocating the placing of the anicut establishments under the Collector, on the broad ground that the land revenue is dependent on the irrigation works under anicuts, *ergo*, Revenue Officers are the proper parties to control them. It is quite true that upon these large irrigation works the land revenue in a great measure depends, but the management of these works has a professional bearing in an engineering point of view, and upon their proper regulation may be said to depend the absolute safety of the works themselves. If the Engineer Department are called upon to hand them over to the tender mercies of the Revenue Department, they must be permitted to divest themselves at the same time of all responsibility attaching to the possible failure of any part of the works. Are the Revenue Department prepared to accept these responsibilities?

3. So far as I remember this is no new subject. The upshot of all discussions up to this time has been, I believe, that it has been decided that the distribution of water in the main channels should rest with the Engineer Department, and in the minor channels and to the fields with the Revenue Department; so it is now, and I do not think that the mere desire to rid this Department of a certain annual charge should be allowed to influence so salutary a decision.

4. Mr. Fane's next objection to the establishments being under the Engineer Department is that, "they are indifferent or connive at the Zemindars and other proprietors taking more water than they are entitled to," or in other words, that they are more open to corruption than the subordinates of the Revenue Department, who would no doubt mete out the water supply with judgment and justice! This remark appears undeserving of notice, for I believe that the Natives of one Department are just as corrupt as those of the other, opportunities being equal.

5. The Collector of Madras next observes that, "the Engineer Officers with their limited staff cannot possibly exercise a sufficiently close supervision over the principal irrigation works, as they visit the localities only when they have work there." Precisely so, and no work there is more important or more demands their

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd October 1865.*

presence than this very matter of ascertaining in person that the shutters of the various works are opened or closed at proper times with reference to the capabilities of the channels, and the perfect security of the works.

6. As regards Mr. Fane's argument, that complaints against Muttadars for misappropriating water would be more sure of receiving a hearing from the Tahsildars if preferred by an establishment under their own control, I can only say that it appears to me to be a simple confession of dereliction of duty on the part of Tahsildars, who, I suppose, should be equally ready in all cases to give a hearing to complaints fairly rendered. It is also to be borne in mind that the said misappropriation is not likely to occur under the careful management which the works receive from this Department.

7. I am dealing with the general principle, not with the two petty works to which Mr. Fane is referring, the establishments of which (one Monegar and one Peon each) must be increased before I could guarantee safe management.

8. The Collector of North Arcot is disposed to think that I am correct in my conclusion that the transfer proposed is to be deprecated.

9. I note, moreover, that it would be quite incongruous that one Department should be conserving works which another Department frequently has in hand for execution. This principle was admitted by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 67, 16th January 1856, (*vide* page 239, Grant's Circular Order Book), who "fully agreed with the Chief Engineer that when the executive duties are in the hands of the Engineer Department, all establishments maintained for the conservation of tanks, channels, or other works of irrigation should be placed under that Department."

10. The opinions of the Range Officers interested in this question are subjoined. Supervisor, Mr. Booth writes: "The man who would propose to hand over such works to the care of the Revenue Officers, *i.e.*, village Monegars, must know little about the one and the other, and care far less. The certain destruction of property alone on such a transfer is frightful to contemplate. Better such works had never been thought of. I need not dilate on a question which never should have been proposed."

Captain Chrystie writes: "The principal duty of these establishments is to regulate the supply of water passing down irrigation channels, and undoubtedly the Engineer Officer is the person best qualified to decide what depth of water his works can resist with safety, but besides this duty, they are expected to do trifling repairs to embankments, to clear out sluices, heads of channels, &c., and it has only been by constant driving and severity that I have been able to exact a proper amount of work from them. Were they placed under the Revenue authorities there would be no Officer to look after them, and they would again fall back into their old lazy habits."

Mr. Goodchap observes, that "it would be anomalous to make over only the conservancy establishments of anicuts to the Revenue authorities, while the Public Works Department must still be charged with the execution of such works," and he submits "that there is more likelihood of our anicut Monegar doing his duty honestly, watched as he is by the local petty Revenue Officers, than if he belonged to the

same Department as themselves," and adds "As the Tahsildar would not be able to visit anicuts, &c., so often as the Taluq Overseer, his control over the establishment would be barely nominal."

11. An application will be made in a separate communication for proper establishments for the Kesaveram and Koratoor anicuts, and their dependent channels.

From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Saidapet, 5th July 1865, No. 215.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, No. 685, asking my opinion regarding the supervision of the irrigation conservancy, I beg to refer you to paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, of the letter I wrote to the Board on the 9th June 1864, No. 255, a printed copy of which, I observe, was furnished to you by the Board.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Chittoor, 24th July 1865, No. 245.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 21st June 1865, No. 669, I have the honor to request that you will obligingly communicate to me the grounds upon which you have formed your opinion that the transfer to the Revenue Department of the Conservancy Establishments of Irrigation Works is to be deprecated on every ground. I am disposed to think that you are right in your conclusions; but as the Board will require a full explanation on the subject, I should be glad to have an exposition of its bearings from a professional stand-point.

No. 34. From Lieutenant-Colonel G. V. WINSKOM, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Masulipatam, 11th August 1865, No. 57.

SIR,

1. With reference to the G. O. No. 1,238, dated 8th May 1865, I have the honor to inform you that after repeated consultations with the Collector, who referred the matter for the reports of all his Tahsildars, both Mr. Thornhill and I have come to the conclusion that in the present unfinished state of the Kistna works, it would be productive of considerable evil to place any part of the Conservancy Establishment under the Revenue Officers.

2. But I am of opinion that as this Department will eventually be unable to make all the clearances to the minor village channels, which are rendered necessary by the extraordinary amount of silt which the Kistna water contains, it will become sooner or later necessary for Government to hand over such village channels to the villagers, and then, I think, some of the Conservancy Establishment might advantageously be placed under the Tahsildar, who as local Magistrate could enforce the needful repairs, and as Revenue Officer would take considerable interest in them. We were unable this year to make all the needful clearances, although between March and end of June no less than 45,300 Rupees was expended in digging out the silt, and as cultivation extends the difficulty of doing all that is necessary to ensure a full supply of water will increase.

3. I await the publication of the Maps of the Revenue Survey to mature, with the Collector, a definite proposition on this matter, for submission to Government.

No. 35. From Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Courtallam, 14th August 1865, No. 822.

SIR,

1. In reply to G. O. No. 1,238 of 8th May, I have the honor to report that the Collectors of Madura and Tinnevely agree with me as to the transfer of Establishments, as per Statement enclosed, from the Public Works to the Revenue Department.

2. The delay has been caused by the necessity of more than one reference to the Tinnevely Office, where the two Collectors have held different views.

Statement showing the Conservancy Establishment in the Madura and Tinnevely Districts, proposed to be transferred to the Revenue Department.

Establishment.	Rate of monthly pay.	Amount.	Total.
MADURA DISTRICT.	RS.	RS.	RS.
3 Anicut Watchers	4	12	12
TINNEVELLY DISTRICT.			
5 Monegars	7	35	
2 Do.	5	10	
26 Neeranikums	2	52	
			97
Total			109

COURTALLAM,
14th August 1865.

(Signed) F. J. MOBERLY, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

No. 36. From Lieutenant-Colonel G. V. WINSKOM, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Masulipatam, 21st September 1865, No. 74.

SIR, With reference to G. O. No. 1,238, dated 8th May 1865, and your Memorandum No. 177, dated 11th instant, I have the honor to inform you that at present no Conservancy Establishment in the Nellore District can with convenience be transferred to the Revenue Department, but when the channels are finished I think the transfer may be arranged.

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, 3rd October 1865, No. 2,911.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 4.

1. Communicated to the Revenue Department, with reference to the Orders in that Department, No. 920, dated 4th May 1865.

3rd October 1865.

2. The Government observe that the Superintending Engineers of the 1st, 7th, and 8th Divisions report, after communicating with the Collectors of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Malabar, Madura, and Tinnevely, that the Conservancy Establishments employed in those Districts, may with advantage be placed under the Revenue Officers.

3. The Collector of Madras is also in favor of such a change in respect to the Anicut Establishments, maintained in that District; but the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division considers that wherever adequate establishments have been appointed for the care of irrigation works, it would be inexpedient to transfer them to the Revenue Department. This view, the Collector of North Arcot is disposed to adopt with reference to the Conservancy Establishments in his District.

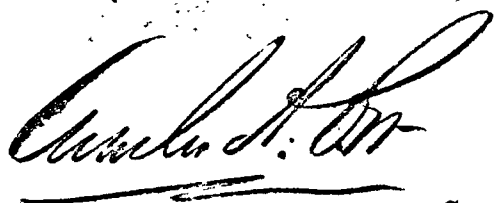
4. The Superintending Engineers of the 2nd, 5th, and 6th Divisions agree with the Collectors concerned, that it would be advisable to allow the Conservancy Establishments in the Districts, marginally noted, to remain as at present under the Public Works Department.

Kistna.
Nellore.
South Arcot.
Tanjore.
Trichinopoly.

5. With reference to the Godavery District, the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division reports that the transfer of the Irrigation Conservancy of the upper Taluqs to the Revenue Department is very desirable, but the Collector states that the subordinate Officers under his orders are unable to undertake the charge.

6. There are no Conservancy Establishments in the Bellary, Kurnool, Cudapah, Salem, Coimbatore, and South Canara Districts.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

1/2th letter -

„ Superintending Engineers.

„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

