

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	527	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
	208. 209	
Dated	14 - 3 - 1865.	

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th March 1865.*

No. 208. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on a letter from the Collector of Tanjore, shewing the necessity for allotting more funds for the Public Works in that District, and stating that the Public Works staff may be strengthened, and some of the works may be transferred to the Revenue Department. (Here enter 7th March 1865, No. 625.)

No. 209. ORDER THEREON, 14th March 1865, No. 547.

Miscellaneous.

Forwarded to the Board for their information, with reference to their Proceedings dated 1st February last, and for communication to the Collector of Tanjore.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 625.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

2

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th March 1865.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 122. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1865.

Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tanjore, 25th January 1865, No. 14.

SIR,

1. In the Gazette of the 17th instant, Lieutenant Smith of the Royal Engineers, Executive Officer in charge of the 1st Range in this District, was granted three months' leave of absence. Another Range Officer Mr. Roberts, Executive Engineer in charge of the 4th Range, is also absent on leave, and my object in now addressing the Board, and the Government through them, is to call their urgent and special attention to the leaving of this District, and during its very short working season, literally almost in the hands of the lower subordinates of the Public Works Department.

2 As the Board are aware, Captain Bean has proceeded to Europe, and the Division is in charge of Captain Palmer, Executive Engineer of the Trichinopoly District, an able and efficient officer, but already burdened with work. Range No. I., and which comprises the upper and grand anicuts, and a very large number of river embankments and works of irrigation is in charge of a young East Indian Overseer. No. II., and which comprises all the rivers from the Coleroon to the Vennar, and including the lower anicut, &c., is in charge of a young Officer of the Royal Engineers of one year's standing. Ranges Nos. III. and V. are in charge of a European Subordinate; and Range IV., including the Vedarniam canal, is in charge of Mr. Sub-Engineer Bateman, an excellent subordinate, but who is very much worn out, and whose health is at present so precarious that he cannot stand any exposure whatever.

3. I have again and again, since I assumed charge of this District, had in the discharge of my duty, to point out that our works both of irrigation and communication have of late years not received that attention which they deserved, and it is again my disagreeable duty to point out that matters are not improving, and the complaints which are being daily made of the deteriorated state of our rivers and channels are incessant. Our communications are also by no means improved, and in my late visit to the lower anicut, it was with much regret that I found the Trunk Road No. 9, which used to be the best road in the District, and on which so much money has been spent, as bad as any other.

4. I am aware, however, that my representations on these matters are considered biased, and that an impression has gone abroad that I am personally hostile to the Department Public Works, as a Department. I can honestly assure the Board that such is not the case, and that all my anxiety is to see the Public Works in this District kept up as they should be, and as they used to be.

5. I cannot but feel that of late years while other Districts which are perhaps considered more rising, and to which in consequence more attention and a proportionately larger share of public money has been devoted, there has been a tendency to think that enough has been done for Tanjore, and there is, I think, reason to fear that the same interest is not taken by the zealous and able officers of the Public Works Department in the mere keeping up and preservation of existing works, as in the carrying out of new projects, and the successful prosecution of which carry them with some éclat.

6. I submit, however, it must not be forgotten that the keeping up of our embankments and works of irrigation generally, is of as much importance to the prosperity of the District, and to the security of the public revenue, as the successful prosecution of new works; and if a District like this is to be left during the most important season of the year in the hands of very inexperienced and subordinate officers of the Public Works Department, it is beyond question that its interests must suffer.

7. I have had before to bring to notice the deteriorated state of the Cauvery, and the consequent loss of public revenue; as I have already informed the Board the lower anicut has this year failed for the third time, and had it not been for timely measures taken by this Department there would have been a loss to Government by the failure of that work only, of not less than 40,000.

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7th March 1865.

I am glad, however, to say that the work executed by the combined efforts of the Tahsildars of Combaconum, Mayaveram, and Shialli, has been successful, and that the loss apprehended this season has been in a large measure averted.

8. I would here take occasion to draw the attention of the Board to the paramount importance of restoring the lower anicut *as early as possible*; the work, as I have said, has now failed three times, and from an inspection I have just made of the same, I am very apprehensive that the work generally is in anything but a safe and satisfactory condition; the failure in October last, took place in the same part of the work as in the year 1863, and in my humble opinion has been caused, firstly, by the new masonry not having had time to dry and consolidate before the setting in of the freshes; and secondly, by the flooring of the first sluice near the island having been undermined by the force of the current. I should, however, also observe that when the work failed in 1862 near the other end, I am inclined to think the structure is also by no means safe, and one of the arches is much cracked and dilapidated.

9. But whatever value may be attached to my unprofessional opinion, I beg to direct attention to the fact that the execution of this difficult and troublesome work is left to an officer of one year's standing, and who has also charge of the whole of the large Taluq of Combaconum, and I cannot but express my strong conviction that unless the work is prosecuted with more vigour and under more experienced professional supervision than at present, there is much reason to fear that the work may again fail.

10. I would, therefore, most urgently beg to recommend that an officer of experience and acquaintance with Tanjore and its works should at once sent down to the District, and if I may be permitted to suggest names, I would propose either Colonels Lawford or O'Connell should be selected.

11. I would only further venture to hope that I shall have the earnest support of the Board in the proposals, I have now made, and that they will urge upon Government that if the revenue of this fine Province is ever to be maintained at its present standard, it is absolutely and indispensably necessary that its works receive more attention and a larger share of the expenditure of public money than they have of late years received.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the early consideration of Government as a matter of urgent necessity.

2. The Board have already brought to notice the state of affairs in Tanjore, and they regret to say that they entertain most serious apprehensions of the stability of the large amount of revenue dependant on the Cauvery, &c., works.

3. The Board deem it of the greatest importance that no time should be lost, or efforts spared, to apply an effectual remedy. They would suggest that the ordinary Maramut be transferred to the Revenue Department, and that the attention of the Department Public Works be concentrated on the special works of restoration, under the superintendence of a competent officer.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

8th February 1865.

No. 123.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th February 1865.

Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tanjore, 1st February 1865, No. 31:—

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Proceedings of Government, under date the 28th October last, No. 3,105, communicated with the Board's Order of the 3rd November last, I have the honor to state that it never was my intention to recommend that the bed of so large a river as the Cauvery should be cleared from all the sand accumulations in its course.

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2. It is the state of the Cauvery to the east of Combaconum especially to which I adverted, and from which place the Cauvery is comparatively a small stream, the width of the bridge over the river there being only 45 yards, and of that at Myaveram only 25; and it is this part of the river only to which I would almost earnestly recommend that attention should be directed. I would also request especial attention to the fact that, since the construction of the coast canal in the years 1854 and 1855, and since the small embouchure (by which the small quantity of water that remained in the Cauvery proper was allowed to escape to the sea) was closed, the filling up of this part of the stream has been much accelerated. It is true a calingulah for the escape of the surplus water was constructed in the east bank of the canal; but in order that as much water as possible might be retained in the canal for the purposes of navigation, the calingulah was constructed on a high level, and the course of the stream was diverted; the consequence has been that for many years past no water from the Cauvery whatever has found its way to the sea, and in my humble opinion this must have had its effect in gradually raising its bed throughout the latter part of its course.

3. But further, I have caused search to be made in the old records of the District, and I find that between the years 1805 and 1857 the sum of nearly Rupees 23,000 has been spent in clearing the part of the Cauvery to the east of Combaconum only, and that in the years below, the expenditure was as follows:—

1809	...	...	Rupees 5,970
1831	...	...	" 3,269
1832	...	...	" 4,642
1855	...	...	" 2,239

Again, the expenditure incurred in clearing the accumulations of sand in the Cauvery and other rivers in Tanjore, during the years 1805—1857, has been no less than 90,000 Rupees, and of this upwards of 14,000 Rupees was spent in the year 1824, while the whole expenditure on the river Cauvery only and from Trivayar eastward has been during the same time 33,000 Rupees.

4. From these facts, I submit that it has been established that the rivers of this District do, under existing circumstances, require to be periodically cleared of the accumulations which take place, and I would very earnestly recommend that the labors of Lieutenant Meade should be directed to the survey of the Cauvery eastward from Combaconum, and that an estimate should be framed at the earliest possible date, and before our short working season is over for deepening and embanking this part of the Cauvery. As we are at present circumstanced, even could we procure all the water we require, the bed of the river is so silted up and the embankments so weak and dilapidated, that the latter would be inevitably breached, and the water instead of being utilized for the purposes of irrigation would, by inundating the country, cause nothing but loss and devastation.

5. I have to apologize for the delay which has taken place in replying to this reference, but I had to refer to a number of old records, and I was specially anxious to place before Government at length the reasons which led me to submit the recommendation I formerly made. I beg, in conclusion, to append a statement in detail of the amount annually spent in clearing rivers, so far as I have been able to complete the same, and earnestly trust that whatever arrangements may be determined on, I may be permitted to see them carried out before the close of our present short working season.

Submitted to Government, through the Secretary to Government in the Department Public Works, with the Board's recommendation that measures be at once taken to carry out the work suggested by the Collector. The necessity of at any rate partially removing the accumulations from the bed of the river east of Combaconum seems to be undoubted, and though the means proposed may be rude, they have at least been effectual in previous years so far as the preservation of the revenue is concerned.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary.

4 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,*
7th March 1865.

No. 124.

ORDER THEREON, 7th March 1865, No. 625.

1. The late Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division having, before he left Tanjore, granted three months' cumulative privilege leave to Mr. Assistant Engineer Roberts, and subsequently the same indulgence to Lieutenant Smith, another Executive of that District, the Collector has taken the opportunity of these two Officers being absent from their Ranges, and of no successor having been immediately appointed to Captain Bean, again to bring forward allegations of inefficiency against the Department of Public Works. He complains, moreover, in general terms of the works both of irrigation and communication of the District not having received of late years the attention which they deserve, and which he alleges they formerly had bestowed upon them, and he urges the claims of Tanjore to a more liberal allotment of funds, more especially for the purpose of carrying out the extensive system of works, which it is confessedly necessary to undertake to check the progressive deterioration of the rivers and channels, and to restore the means of irrigation, where, for a series of years, they have been falling more and more into disorder.

2. Mr. Cadell seems to think that executive efficiency can only be secured by the employment of an officer in each Range, and that, when these happen even for a time to be entrusted to Upper Subordinates, the works they contain must necessarily be neglected. This, however, by no means follows, and Mr. Cadell does not assert that the large, although perhaps inadequate sums of money which it has been in the power of the Government to assign to Tanjore, are being misapplied, or that they are likely to be left unexpended to the fullest advantage, so far as they will go. The Government observe that, when laying Lieutenant Smith's application for leave before them for confirmation, Captain Bean distinctly stated that, with the number of Upper Subordinates he had at his disposal, he could make sufficient provision for conducting the duties of the Department during that officer's absence. It was on this assurance that Lieutenant Smith was permitted to leave his post, and looking to the fact of there being no works of any magnitude in progress in Tanjore, except the partial restoration of the Lower Coleroon Anicut, there appears to be little ground for apprehension. The Board of Revenue suggest the expediency of transferring the ordinary Maramut, that is, nearly the whole of the works now in progress in Tanjore, to the Revenue Department, but they do not explain in what respect the character of the supervision at the disposal of the Revenue Department is superior to that which is exercised by the Public Works Department. It has been decided that the transfer would not be an economical arrangement, and unless it can be shown that with a given sum of money more work can be done under the superintendence of the Revenue authorities, or better done than by the professional Department, the change would not seem to be desirable.

3. The attention of the Superintending Engineer will be requested to the Collector's remarks, and he will use his best endeavours to make arrangements, in concert with Mr. Cadell, to ensure the whole of the allotment for Tanjore being expended in the most useful manner.

4. Mr. Cadell expresses a fear that the interests of Tanjore are made to yield to those of other Districts, but this, it is needless to say, is a mistake. The Government are as anxious to foster the works of Tanjore as of any other District, but in apportioning funds they must consider the relative urgency of the several demands made upon them, and take care that whatever money they are able to give for new works shall be laid out to the very best advantage. In the Budget lately prepared for the ensuing year, Tanjore has been allotted a larger sum for repairs "agricultural," in proportion to the amount thought by the Collector to be required, than almost any other District.

5. The Government have under their consideration a Memorandum by Colonel Lawford on the causes of the repeated failures of the southern branch of the Lower Coleroon Anicut, and offering suggestions for its restoration and future stability. That Memorandum with all the papers on the subject will be separately referred to Lieutenant-Colonel Greenaway, who, after thoroughly examining the work and consulting with the Collector, will furnish a report on it and on what may appear to him to be the best mode of re-building and protecting it. The Government will

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look with confidence to him, as an Officer of experience, to make immediate arrangements for restoring the work so far at least this season as to make it effective during next freshes. To do this it will probably be advisable to try to complete the dam only, and merely to get down the foundations of the bridge.

6. The gradually deteriorating state of the rivers and channels of Tanjore, on which the Collector of late lays so much stress, is no new subject of complaint. The Records of Government show that the necessity of undertaking works to check the deepening of the beds of the Kodamoorty, the Araselaur and other water courses, and to prevent the silting up of the Cauvery, has often been brought to notice. What appears to be wanted is the regulation of the relative levels of the heads of all the streams. There will be no difficulty in doing this by a series of permanent masonry works, commencing from the upper part of the Delta, but the expense will be great, and the Government can scarcely be expected to sanction a beginning till they are in possession of the fullest information as to what the cost of the works will be, and the period of time over which their construction will extend.

7. The preparation of the necessary preliminary surveys and levels has now been entrusted to an Officer specially detailed for the duty, and till their completion, and the submission of well considered plans and estimates, no permanently remedial measures seem possible. The Collector indeed does not appear to be of this opinion, and affirms that much may at once be done by clearing out by hand some portion, at least, of the mass of sand that has accumulated in the Cauvery. In confirmation of his views, and in reply to a doubt expressed by Government of the possibility of much good being effected by the means he proposes to employ, he states that he has ascertained from his records that between the years 1805 and 1857, nearly Rupees 23,000 had been spent in clearing out sand from the bed of the Cauvery east of Combaconum. In the opinion of Government this insignificant outlay, averaging less than 500 Rupees annually, is so utterly disproportioned to the extent of work that must necessarily have been performed to make any impression upon the accumulating deposits of a river like the Cauvery at Combaconum, as conclusively to prove that the labor it represents, as seen in the result, was misapplied, and that practically the river, from the date of the earliest records, has been left very much to nature. The gradual elevation of its bed by the deposition of sand has doubtless been accelerated by the withdrawal of water by new artificial canals, and still more by the unrestrained deepening of its larger branches, such as the Kodamoorty and the Araselaur, but there is nothing to lead the Government to admit that this natural process could have been prevented by any effort of the Public Works Department, though it might possibly have been impeded, in some degree, by a more liberal expenditure, not in the direction indicated by the Collector, which it is believed must be totally inefficacious, but on the construction of small temporary dams and cuttings to direct and control currents, and to some extent to regulate discharges.

8. Simple measures like these, if resorted to systematically and in time, are often effectual to counteract the tendency to change, by alternate erosion and deposition, that pertains to all deltaic rivers, and as the requisite works are easy of construction and individually inexpensive, there should be no difficulty in providing for them from the comparatively large grant annually made to Tanjore for the repair and conservancy of its agricultural works.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

„ Board of Revenue.

„ Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.