M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2441 Press ~~Mis.~~

281. 282.

Dated 12 – 9 – ~~19~~ 1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

(1)

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th September 1866.

No. 281. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting, for information, with remarks, letter from Collector of Coimbatore, reporting on public works carried out during 1865-66. } (Here enter 3rd September 1866, No. 6,246.)

No. 282. ORDER THEREON, 12th September 1866, No. 2,441.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 6,246.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd September 1866.

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 6th August 1866, No. 200:—

1. In pursuance of the instructions contained in the Circulars noted in the margin, I have the honor to forward my report on the public works carried out in this District during the official year 1865-66.

Dated 2nd April 1860, No. 1,668.
" 27th Sept. " " 4,412.

2. The several classes of works performed during the year, with the amount of expenditure incurred on them, are shown in the following Abstract Statement:—

	Expenditure in 1864-65.	Expenditure in 1865-66.	Difference.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
New Works.				
Irrigation	9,537	15,846	6,309	.....
Communications	74,989	97,266	22,277	.....
Buildings	1,92,032	3,45,301	1,53,269	.....
Miscellaneous public improvements ...	.....	4,688	4,688	.....
Total...	2,76,558	4,63,101	1,86,543	.....
Repairs.				
Irrigation	44,247	34,543	.....	9,704
Communications	55,953	63,201	7,248	.....
Buildings	12,992	13,275	283	.....
Miscellaneous public improvements ...	901	289	.....	612
Total...	1,14,093	1,11,308	7,531	10,316
Grand Total...	3,90,651	5,74,409	1,94,074	10,316
Deduct Decrease...	.....	.....	10,316	.....
Net Increase...	.....	.....	1,83,758	.....

3. The new works executed under the head "Irrigation" consist chiefly of masonry sluices to the important channels branching from the Bowany and Ambravatty rivers in the Suttimungalam, Darapooram, and Caroor Taluks. Many of them have been completed, and the others are in progress.

4. Under the head "Communications," a sum of Rupees 97,267 was spent on the following works :—

		Rs.
1.	Coonoor Ghaut Trace	51,441
2.	Road from Coorchy Railway bridge to the Railway station at Pothanoor	437
3.	Chinna Navakaray bridge	1,075
4.	Vangul bridge...	670
5.	Travellers' Bungalow at Pothanoor	14,137
6.	Culvert on 5th mile of road from Caroor to Trichinopoly	1,650
7.	Opening a new line of road from the head of the Coonoor Ghaut to the Wellington Barracks...	2,134
8.	Timber Platform bridge of fifty-six feet span over the Coonoor nullah on the above road	1,366
9.	Burghoor Ghaut new Trace	10,015
10.	Improving a new Trace between Coonoor and Wellington	549
11.	New Trace of road between Ootacamund and Neddivuttum, at the head of the Goodaloor Ghaut	7,007
12.	Bridge over Porty river, on the road to Avelanche Bungalow ...	676
13.	Goodaloor Ghaut Trace	5,760
	Total	97,267

5. The most important works are Nos. 1 and 9, viz., the new Coonoor and Burghoor ghauts. They are in active progress. On the completion of the former, the difficulty now experienced in getting wheeled vehicles up and down the ghaut will be obviated, as one pair of bullocks will then easily take a bandy either up or down, whereas two pairs are now required to take a cart up. The Burghoor ghaut will likewise be of great advantage to the District by opening up a thorough line of communication from the Railway station at Erode to a point on the frontier of the Mysore Territory, within about twenty miles of Mysore; in fact, on the completion of the Burghoor ghaut, all the trade from Southern India to the western parts of Mysore is likely to go via Erode Railway station, and Burghoor ghaut to Mysore, which latter station will only be about thirty miles further from Erode than from Bangalore, so that goods from the south for Mysore will, on being carried by Burghoor, save the Railway carriage from Erode to Bangalore, a distance of 196 miles.

6. No. 2 is a new road from Coorchy Railway bridge to the Railway station at Pothanoor, and serves as a good Railway feeder from the southern parts of the District. Large quantities of produce such as cotton, grain, &c., are now carried along this line.

7. The Chinna Navakaray bridge (No. 3) has, I am sorry to say, fallen in within three months from the date of its completion, owing to its bad construction, as fully reported in the Superintending Engineer's letter to Government, Department of Public Works, dated 19th April 1866, No. 335; an estimate for its re-construction, amounting to Rupees 1,500, has since been sanctioned in Government Proceedings of the 11th May 1866, No. 1,521. No. 4 is a bridge on the road from Caroor to the southern parts of the Salem District, and has proved most useful to travellers and grain merchants.

8. The construction of the Travellers' Bungalow at Pothanoor (No. 5) is a great convenience to European travellers arriving at the Railway station. The building is now used as an Hotel by Mrs. Eassy under the Orders of Government noted in the margin.

9th June 1866, No. 1,395, Revenue Department.

9. No. 6 is a culvert on the line of road from Caroor to Trichinopoly, the passage of wheeled vehicles is very much facilitated by this work. Nos. 7, 8, 11, and 13 are in progress. The improvement of the new Trace between Coonoor and Wellington (No. 10) has been completed, and is in actual use. No. 12 is a bridge over the Porty river on the road to the Avelanche Bungalow, Sispara Ghaut, and Government Chinchona plantations on the Koondahs. This is a dangerous river in which a gentleman named Schnarre, one of the proprietors of the estates on the Koondah mountains, was drowned in attempting to cross it. The bridge is a great boon to the Planters proceeding to and from the Koondahs.

10. *New Buildings.*—The aggregate expenditure under this head amounts to Rs. 3,45,301 of which the large sums of Rupees 1,15,541 and Rupees 1,46,888 have been spent, respectively on the Lawrence Asylum works at Ootacamund and the New Central Jail at Coimbatore. These works are in progress. The construction of the Court House for the use of the Civil and Session Judge, the Joint Magistrate, and Special Assistant Collector at Ootacamund, has been completed, and the expenditure on this building during the year under review amounts to Rupees 39,294.

	Rs.
Sub-Collector's Cutcherry at Kongiem	2,735
Upper room of the Collector's Cutcherry at Coimbatore	2,306
Taluk Cutcherry at Coimbatore	5,788
Post Office at Erode	1,443
Post Office at Pothanoor...	940
New Hospital at Ootacamund	3,050
Total.....	16,262

Rupees 16,262 have been laid out on certain Revenue, Postal, and General buildings, as noted in the margin, the remaining portion of the aggregate sum having been laid out on Military buildings at Wellington, and works of minor importance.

11. Under the head "Miscellaneous Public Improvements," Rupees 4,688 were spent in improving the Ootacamund Water Channel, and in constructing an aqueduct to the Elk Hill cutting.

12. *Repairing Irrigation Works.*—The expenditure in repairing anicuts, clearing channels, and other works of an ordinary character for the maintenance of the revenue, amounts to Rupees 34,543, or only about six per cent. on the Nunjah revenue* of the District. Many of our Irrigation works are in a bad condition, and require a large amount of outlay to put them in order. The Budget allotment for the annual repairs to Irrigation channels and tanks for the current official year is Rupees 37,221, a sum hardly sufficient for the requirements of the District.

* Rupees 5,79,082 for Fusly 1274.

13. *Repairing Communications, Rupees* 63,201.—The greatest portion of this money was laid out in the maintenance of the existing roads, bridges, &c.

14. *Repairs of Buildings, Rupees* 13,275.—Rupees 9,800 have been spent on Military buildings, and Rupees 3,475 on Civil buildings.

15. Adverting to paragraph 2 of the Government Order of the 13th November 1860, No. 2,355, Public Works Department, I beg to state that the expenditure of the annual allowance of Rupees 1,500, for the repair of the bridle paths and cross roads on the Neilgherry Hills, was left to the Engineer's Department during the year under report. In consequence of the want of funds for the new roads from the Coonoor ghaut to Kartery, and from Kotagherry to Kodanad, a sum of 1,000 Rupees from the above allowance was spent on them on the joint concurrence of the Superintending Engineer and myself. The remaining 500 Rupees were appropriated for mending some of the bridle paths under the superintendence of the Executive Engineer of the Neilgherry Range.

16. Copy of a detailed Statement for 1865-66, received from the Superintending Engineer's Office, is herewith submitted for the Board's information.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract.—Annual Progress Report for the year 1865-66.

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1. Ordered that the foregoing report, on the progress of Public Works in Coimbatore in 1865-66, be submitted for the information of Government.

2. Future Statements like that appended to paragraph 2 should, for purposes of ready comparison, show the provision for the year, as well as the actual expenditure under each head.

3. The report calls for no remark from the Board of Revenue. A much larger sum was spent in the year under report than in previous years, viz., 5,74,409 Rupees as against 3,90,651 Rupees, being an increase of 1,83,758 Rupees; but this increase the Lawrence Asylum at Ootacamund and new Central Jail at Coimbatore mainly contributed, 1,15,541 Rupees and 1,46,888 Rupees having been spent on them, respectively, in 1865-66.

4. The new Coonoor and the Burghoor ghauts, on which 51,491 Rupees and 10,015 Rupees have been spent during the year, are likely to be of advantage to the District, and the latter ghaut will be very beneficial to the trade of Mysore, by opening up a through communication to within twenty miles of that town from the southern parts of the Madras Presidency and the line of rail.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
with enclosure.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Rev. Dept. 1866. Department.

No. 2996

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 3rd September 1866.

No. 6,246.

Submitting for information, with remarks, letter from Collector of Coimbatore reporting on public works carried out during 1865-66.

RECORDED.