M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2855 Press Mis.

507-508

Dated 23-10-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd October 1866.

No. 507. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Submitting, for consideration, letter from Collector of Tanjore, reporting on operations of Department Public Works during 1865-66. } (Here enter 11th October 1866, No. 7,347.)

No. 508. ORDER THEREON, 23rd October 1866, No. 2,855.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No. 7,347.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th October 1866.

Read the following letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 21st September 1866, No. 253:—

1. I have the honor to submit my report on the operations of the Department of Public Works in this district during the past official year 1865-66.

2. The total allotment was Rupees 2,63,974, and the actual expenditure Rupees 2,46,657. The following tabular abstract shows the expenditure under the different heads as compared with the preceding year:—

Works.	Expenditure of 1864-65.	Expenditure of 1865-66.	Difference.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
New Works.				
Civil buildings...	1,373	19,429	18,056	.....
Agricultural	31,522	45,505	13,983	.....
Communication	21,206	11,913	.....	9,293
Miscellaneous Public Improvement...	.....	122	122	.....
	54,101	76,969	32,161	9,293
		Net...	22,868	
Repairs.				
Civil buildings...	8,953	8,181	.....	772
Agricultural	1,16,821	99,954	.....	16,867
Communication	64,292	60,505	.....	3,787
Miscellaneous Public Improvement	2,342	1,048	.....	1,294
	1,92,408	1,69,688	.....	22,720
Total..	2,46,509	2,46,657	.....	.....
Allotment. RS.				
New works 85,575				
Repairs 1,78,399				
		2,63,974		
Difference...		17,317		

3. It will thus be seen that there is an increase of Rupees 22,868 under the head of new works, with a decrease of Rupees 22,720 under that of repairs.

4. The most important of the new works executed during the year under report, with the amount of expenditure on each, are detailed below :—

Names of works.	Expenditure up to the end of the preceding year.	Expenditure during the year.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1. The Vedaranyam canal	27,408 0 0	9,721 0 0	37,129 0 0
2. Re-building the fallen portion of the lower Coleroon anicut...	41,320 0 0	38,316 0 0	79,636 0 0
3. Improving Vadavar head	... ...	1,900 0 0	1,900 0 0
4. Constructing salt platform with surrounding wall, watch-house, and Superintendent's Cutcherry at Negapatam...	1,200 0 0	8,275 0 0	9,475 0 0
5. Excavating trench, &c., raising bank and platform for the new salt pans at Tranquebar...	... .	1,925 0 0	1,925 0 0
6. Metalling road from Negapatam Railway station to Nagore	21,727 0 0	1,562 0 0	23,289 0 0
7. Constructing road from the Railway station to the town of Kevalore	2,634 0 0	394 0 0	3,028 0 0

5. On the work first mentioned, viz., the Vedaranyam canal, the expenditure has been Rupees 9,821 during the past year, and was laid out as follows, viz., Rupees 5,924 on the parapets of the Chandranady bridge and plastering to under-tunnels in progress, and Rupees 3,797 in getting in the foundation of three syphon sluices. This expenditure came under two different estimates, the one of Rupees 24,165* for the Junction canal from Negapatam to Tirupundi, and the other of Rupees 64,000 for completing the entire line of water communication. The total estimated cost of this project, including the portion between Vedaranyam and Toputorai already completed, amounts, as shown below, to Rupees 1,03,742 :—

*Including supplemental estimate.

	RS.
Actual expenditure on the portion between Vedaranyam and Toputorai	12,588
Do. under the estimate of Rupees 24,165 for the Junction canal	20,744
Estimate for completing the line throughout	64,000
Alterations and additions since sanctioned	6,410
	1,03,742

The importance of this canal (provided of course it is always navigable) to the salt revenue of this district cannot be too highly estimated, for it will be the means of rendering the almost inexhaustible resources of Vedaranyam as a place of production, available for the inland trade, which will be thrown open by the Railway when completed to Erode. It was a very great pity that the digging of this canal could not, for want of funds, be proceeded with in the months of March and April last, for the season was so extremely dry, that the work might have been very satisfactorily done. It is to be hoped, however, that nothing will prevent its being carried out in those months in 1867, for there appears good reason for supposing that the Negapatam and Madras Railways will be joined together by August next at the latest, and I need hardly add that any assistance which I can afford the Department of Public Works towards the completion of the work will be most willingly given.

6. The expenditure of Rupees 38,316 on the lower Coleroon anicut during the year under report, was under three different estimates, viz., first, Rupees 63,000 for re-building the fallen portion of the south branch; second, Rupees 74,000 for restoring such portion of the work executed under the first estimate, which was destroyed by floods in July 1865, as also for executing certain additional work; and third, Rupees 16,000 for extending the aprons of the three sluices at the north end of do. Under the first estimate, work to the extent of nearly Rupees 30,000 had been executed up to the beginning of July 1865, when the high floods that came down the Coleroon swept away the greater part of it, and causing also some further damage, and thus rendering the second estimate of Rupees 74,000 necessary. Of this, about Rupees 22,000 have been expended during the year under report, as also a further sum of nearly Rupees 6,000 out of the third estimate. The total estimated cost of restoring this anicut comes to Rupees 1,41,106, thus :—

	RS.
Actual previous expenditure in restoring the portions of the bridge and anicut which originally gave way	21,577
Do. under the estimate of Rupees 63,000	29,529
Second estimate	74,000
Third do.	16,000
Total ...	1,41,106

This work is one of great magnitude; and its thorough restoration is of considerable importance, a revenue of upward of a lac and half depending on it; but as the season for high freshes has already passed, and there is now no likelihood of anything like last year's mishap recurring again, I see no reason for doubting that the whole work will be thoroughly completed before the end of April next.

7. The progress of the project for improving the head of the Vadavar, the estimated cost of which amounts to only Rupees 4,800, has been somewhat impeded by opposition on the part of the owners of the land required for the new channel, as also by the extreme hardness of the soil through which it had to be taken. The difficulty first indicated has, however, been overcome, and I think the work will be completed next season. The early completion of this work is of much importance to the improvement of the irrigation under the Vadavar channel, which at present is in a rather precarious state.

8. The new salt platform with watch tower and Superintendent's Cutcherry at Negapatam has been completed. This is a work which was much required and is calculated to much facilitate the transaction of business at this important salt station. [illegible] also in fair progress, and will soon be completed. The opening of a new salt station at this locality is also a measure which will doubtless contribute towards the fuller development of this important branch of the public revenue.

9. The metalling of the road from the Negapatam Railway station to Nagore has been nearly completed, and the improvement of this road is a great public convenience. From the nature of the locality and of the soil, a metalled road here is necessarily very expensive, the estimated cost for a distance of only six miles being as much as Rupees 25,730. Adequate provision should be made for renewing the coating of metal as it is worn away; for otherwise, the large outlay already made on this road will be so much money lost.

10. The road from the Railway station to the town of Kivalore has been completed with the exception of the metalling; which, together with the completion of the metalling of the road last mentioned, have been retarded by the difficulty in obtaining trucks for conveying gravel from Tanjore by rail.

11. The aggregate outlay on repairs during the year under report amounts, as already shown, to Rupees 1,69,688, against Rupees 1,92,408 in the preceding year. By far the larger portion of the amount first mentioned, or nearly a lac of Rupees, comes under the head "Agricultural." The number of irrigation works repaired during the past year, as ascertained from the Superintending Engineer's Administration Report, is shown below :—

Irrigation canals	110
Tanks	14
Dykes	327
Drainage channels	9

Under the head of "Communications," the total expenditure has been Rupees 60,505 on 827 miles of roads and six navigable channels kept in repair. The expenditure under the head "Civil buildings" amounts to Rupees 8,181, the number of buildings repaired being 25.

12. Before concluding, I beg to offer a few observations on the state of the Public Works in this district. The irrigation works on which the land revenue of Tanjore so essentially depends, are generally in an efficient condition, with the exception, however, of the lower course of the Cauvery in the taluks of Myaveram and Sheally, and the channels of supply in the south-eastern portion of the delta. The roads are also in a generally satisfactory state, considering that they are made of mud, and the dearth of metal of any kind in the delta taluks.

13. The subject of the state of the Cauvery has been so frequently before the Board, that I need hardly dilate on it here. In my last year's report I expressed a hope that I might be able to supply certain valuable information to the Board on this subject; but I regret to state that I am not able to do so, the Revenue officers employed by me for the purpose being unable, in consequence of want of levels and professional training, to do more than send me a mere statement of the quantity of water which flowed down the Cauvery and its tributaries. This year's remissions, however, in the Myaveram taluk alone amounted to Rupees 81,662, and show beyond doubt that something ought to be done, and that quickly, if Government are not annually to lose a large amount of revenue. Captain Mead has, as the Board are aware, been engaged in the investigation of a project for remedying the evil complained of, and I can only express a fervent hope that his labors may result in the application of practical and effectual measures.

14. As regards the channels of irrigation in the south-eastern portion of the delta: owing partly to their silted up and deteriorated state, and partly also to the irregular distribution of water from the main feeders from which they take their source, the supply of water to the cultivation dependent on them, has latterly become very deficient. The Sub-Collector in his report on Public Works for the past year, refers prominently to the very bad state of the heads of the Vellayar and Chittar, and states that "the large amount of remissions granted in Negapatam taluk for the current and the former Fuslies is especially attributable to this failure ... have had to be granted during the past year for failure of cultivation under the four streams of Mulliar, Harichendranadi, Adappar, and the Pallavanar, in the Tritrapundi taluk, have amounted to as much as Rupees 43,370. The quantity of revenue dependent on each of these rivers, and the proportion of remission granted, is exhibited in the subjoined table:—

	Amount of Revenue.	Amount of remission granted.	Per-centage
	Rupees.	Rupees.	
Mulliyar	49,235	12,245	25
Harichendranadi...	78,891	23,614	30
Adappar	23,702	4,320	18
Pallavanar	26,651	3,191	16
	1,72,479	43,370	...

Deputy Collector Ramachendra Row, in his report on the result of the examination of waste and shavi in the Tritrapundi taluk, states that, "unless decisive steps are taken to place these irrigation channels in an efficient condition, the annual sacrifice of revenue to an enormous extent will be inevitable and perpetual."

15. The attention of the Superintending Engineer has been called to the state of these channels, and I sincerely trust that some effectual measures will be adopted for remedying the evils complained of.

1. Submitted for the consideration of Government.

2. The Board can only express their hope that means may be found for restoring the Tanjore irrigation works to an efficient condition.

3. The maintenance of the Railway feeders referred to by the Collector should, as far as possible, be provided for from the Local Funds.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works.
" the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
Copy to the Collector of Tanjore.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Rev. '1866. Department.
Pro. of Govt for October

No. 3637.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 11*th October* 1866.
Desp. 15-0
Rec. 16

No. 7,347.

Submitting for consideration letter from Collector of Tanjore reporting on operations of D. P. W. during 1865-66. R. 2858.

RECORDED.

22 Oct 66.

N. 507/7508