M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2871 Press ~~Mis.~~

355.556

Dated 24 - 10 - 1866.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th October 1866.

No. 555. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting, with remarks, letter from Collector of North Arcot, reporting on operations of Public Works Department during 1865-66. } (Here enter 12th October 1866, No. 7,356.)

No. 556. ORDER THEREON, 24th October 1866, No. 2,871.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 7,356.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th October 1866.

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 20th September 1866, No. 272:—

1. I have the honor to submit my Report upon the operations of the Public Works Department, during the official year 1865-66.

2. The subjoined abstract statement shows the expenditure incurred during the year under report, as compared with the outlay during the previous season :—

Works.	Expenditure in 1864-65.	Expenditure in 1865-66.	Difference.		Estimate of 1865-66.
			Increase.	Decrease.	
	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.
New.					
Irrigation	81,824	34,372	.....	47,452	55,647
Communication	41,772	4,306	.....	37,466	14,150
Buildings	13,484	6,740	.....	6,744	6,500
	1,37,080	45,418	.....	91,662	76,297
Repairs.					
Irrigation	71,654	68,967	.....	2,687	61,000
Communication	49,083	55,177	6,094	.....	58,072
Buildings	4,235	4,846	611	.....	7,874
	1,24,972	1,28,990	6,705	2,687	1,26,946
Total ...	2,62,052	1,74,408	6,705	94,349	2,03,243
Net Decrease ...	.....	.....	.....	87,644	.....

3. *Irrigation Works, New.*—Thus, in the two first items, under head "New Works," the expenditure falls far short of the sums sanctioned on estimate. I have no means of forming an opinion as to how this has arisen, but cannot call the result satisfactory, and least so in respect of new irrigation works, where so much yet remains to be done towards bringing, to their full measure of usefulness and profit, the subsidiary channel works connected with the three great annicut projects.

4. Of the new Irrigation works, thus executed at a cost of Rupees 34,372, the most important are the following :—

First, the strengthening of the Palar annicut by additions to the apron ; *second*, the further extension and improvement of the network of channels leading from the Ponne, Palar, and Cheyar annicuts. The amount spent on each of these single group of operations is specified in the margin. The storms in the last week of November and 1st of December did infinite damage to many of our works of irrigation, breaching numerous tanks, sweeping away the new masonry works of the Ponne annicut, and completely demolishing two valuable dams across the Kamandala river, a principal affluent of the Cheyar. The new masonry works on the Ponne annicut have since been restored, and have stood well, thus far, the recent freshes in the river. An estimate, amounting to Rupees 31,700, has been framed for constructing a single dam across the Kamandala river, at the spot where the higher of the two dams, swept away last year, stood with certain improvements which, it is thought, will render the restoration of the second or lower dam superfluous. The destruction of these two dams has seriously aggravated the distress every where prevalent throughout the Polur taluk, and I have, therefore, not hesitated to allot Rupees

	Rs.
Palar Annicut	10,596
Cheyar do.	5,997
Ponne do.	5,708

3,500, for the purpose of starting the new works, as a means of employing the able-bodied poor, in anticipation of the funds about to be asked for, under the order of Government dated the 25th July 1866.

5. The balance of the Budget allotment, viz., Rupees 12,071, was spent on minor works. Of these, the more important are named below :—

	Amount of estimate.	Amount expended during the year.
	RS.	RS.
Widening and deepening the Poloor Supplying Channel ...	2,200	1,450
Constructing do. Sluice and cutting Channel from Palar Annicut to Chakramalloor Tank	8,300	170
Constructing Calingulah to Nelly Tank	600	557
Doosy Main Channel	1,983	105
Cutting Channel from South Sluice of Mahendravadi Tank, Narayentangal Tank, and constructing Under-Sluice...	4,900	941
Improving and completing the Thackolam Channel ...	3,400	317
Completing the South Calingulah Surplus Channel of Mahendravadi Tank	5,000	1,500
Constructing a Flood Calingulah in the north bank of Thackolam Channel	1,100	1,100

From this list, it will be seen that the greater part of the estimated cost of these works was spent during the previous year, and this will explain why the year's expenditure which I am reviewing fell so far short of that incurred in the preceding year.

6. *Irrigation Repairs.*—A sum of Rupees 68,967 was laid out on Irrigation repairs. This will ever be a heavy, as it is an all-important, item of expenditure in this district, where the revenue so greatly depends on the good order of the numberless tanks with which it is studded. A list of the principal items of repair is enclosed. This expenditure is less by Rupees 2,697 than that of the previous year. This I ascribe to the same cause as that which has reduced so largely the expenditure on new works of irrigation for the year under report, as compared with the amount spent on similar works in the preceding season.

7. The subjoined statement shows the progressive growth of revenue under the three annicuts during the year under report :—

Annicuts.	Taluks.	Increase of Revenue. Up to Fusly 1274.			In Fusly 1275.			Total.		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Palar Annicut	Wallajah...	9,344	3	2	111	14	2	9,456	1	4
	Arcot	35,552	15	3	905	6	2	36,458	5	5
		44,897	2	5	1,017	4	4	45,914	6	9
Ponne do.	Wallajah	10,924	15	2	995	2	11	11,920	2	1
Cheyar do.	Wandawash	40,395	4	4	5,468	13	7	45,864	1	11

8. I may observe of the Ponne group of works that they were not efficient during the best part of the year for the reasons noticed in paragraph 4 of this letter; nor am I at all certain that the district gets its full share of the advantages of the Palar group of works, as the scour of the great channel on the north bank of the river is direct on the head sluice of the Maclean channel, and the bulk of the water is thus carried past the Caveripauk head sluice to the Madras district. The distribution of the water at these two head sluices is an ever recurring source of complaint with the large agricultural villages lying under the Caveripauk tank.

9. Under the head Irrigational, our principal requirements are these :

First.—The extension of the network of channels, leading from the "Palar" and "Cheyar" annicuts, on the southern bank of either river.

Second.—The construction of another annicut across the latter of these rivers (Cheyar) either at a point east of Arni, a project which finds favor with the Superintending Engineer, or at Yellattoor, in the Polur taluk, where the Cheyar river is joined by its principal affluent from the Javadi hill range. I have ridden over much of the ground, on either bank of the river, at this point of confluence, and believe that, for a comparatively moderate expenditure, a most remunerative work might be constructed, feeding a long series of fine tanks placed at most convenient levels. This would provide, with a certain supply of water, a taluk which has suffered grievously from drought ever since Railway operations were brought into the valley of the Palar, when its fine hill slopes were denuded of timber, for sleepers and other purposes of the line. In this same taluk (Polur) is the other group of irrigational works, alluded to in paragraph 4 of this letter. In connection with the restoration of the dam, the channel and series of tanks fed by it stand in urgent need of repair and improvement. These are all in a deplorable state, and the loss of revenue has been very great. Having already denounced departmental mismanagement, in respect of this group of all important works, I need not say more in this place, than observe that the operations already set afoot out of special funds promised in Proceedings of Government, dated 25th July, should be energetically prosecuted in view, if possible, to their completion within the current year.

10. In proof of what I have so often urged in respect of the necessity of a more liberal provision for public works of all kinds in this district, I may mention that, of the estimates forwarded by the Department of Public Works for my counter-signature, there are now lying in my office, awaiting provision, estimates amounting to some 1¼ lakh of Rupees. A list of these estimates is appended. With my letter of the 11th ultimo, No. 224, I forwarded, at the Board's requisition, a selected list of the more important of these works of irrigation. These, and many others, demand our early attention, and I should be glad indeed to think that the state of the public finances admitted of their being taken up at an early date, in the order of their urgency.

11. *New Communications.*—The expenditure incurred in the formation of new roads during the year, is considerably under the outlay of the previous season, amounting only to Rupees 4,306. This is explained by the fact, that only the two small works given in the margin were undertaken.

	RS.
1. Road from Nageri to Nageri Railway Station	830
2. Re-constructing a Bridge on Trunk Road No. 1, near Alankuppam	3,476

12. *Repairing Communications.*—On the repair of roads, Rupees 55,177 were laid out during the year. This expenditure represents the total annual maintenance allowance made to the several roads named in the margin; it was laid out to good purpose on the several trunk and other imperial roads of the district. I have had opportunities of inspecting in person most of these roads, and was pleased at finding a very marked improvement in all of them, particularly in the great thoroughfare between this and the Vellore Railway station.

Trunk Road No. I.	
Do. „ X.	
Branch Road.	
Trunk Road „ XI.	
Road from the town to the Railway station of Trivalam.	
Do. from Railway station of the junction of Trunk Road No. X.	
Do. from Melpati Railway station to Satghur.	
Do. from Pulliconda to Gudiatam.	
2nd Class Road No. VII. from Puthalput to Karcambadi.	
Road from Puthur to Nagalapuram.	
Do. Nageri to Karcambadi and Ralpalli, No. XIII.	
Do. from Puthur to Palliput.	
Do. from Vellore to Arni.	
Do. from Ranipet to Amoor.	
Do. from do. to Wallajah.	
Do. from Arconum to Trunk Road No. I.	
Do. from Tirtani to Arcot Kuppam.	
Do. from do. to Ramakristnarajpett.	
Do. from Kaveripauk to Sholinghur Railway station.	
Do. from Sholinghur to do.	
Do. from Arcot Railway station to junction of road from Wallajapet to Perancanji.	
Do. from Ponne to Arcot Railway station.	
Do. from Arcot to Arni.	

13. Under this head, the most important wants are the improvement of the Mugli Ghat on the high road to Bangalore; the completion of the new gradients on the Synagunta Pass leading down on Gudiatam; and the construction of the necessary masonry works along the whole network of local roads. Owing to the necessity of providing employment for unskilled abor, some works of this latter kind, allotted for

execution during the current season, may have to stand over; but if the circumstances of the district permit, I propose making a large allotment in my next Local Fund Budget for such skilled work. I should have added to my list of requirements, under the head of communications, the completion of the three principal roads through the Sub-division connecting us with the South Arcot group at Tindevanam, Ginjee, and Trinamalli. These are so import ant in themselves, and lying, as they do, through the most distressed part of the district, so desirable as a means of employing the able-bodied poor, that operations are already in activity along all of them, in anticipation of provision being available out of the special funds already alluded to.

14. *New Buildings.*—A sum of Rupees 6,740 was spent in the construction of new buildings during the year. Of these, the Civil Dispensary building, at Chittoor, is the most important. This is still in progress, and the amount laid out on it up to the end of the year is Rupees 3,200.

Additions to the Huzur Treasury Building.
Punganur Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry and Police station.
Subsidiary Jail at Palmanair.

The buildings named in the margin, referred to in my last Report, were all completed during the year under review.

15. I greatly regret the delay which has taken place in submitting this Report, but I have been so incessantly engaged, during the past two months, in putting relief measures in motion, with largely increased Magisterial work, and my other general duties, that I have found no leisure to put these statistics into earlier form.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—List of Estimates received from the Superintending Engineer, and retained in the Collector's office unsanctioned, owing to want of funds.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—List of Irrigation works repaired by Public Works Department, during the official year 1865-66.

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1. Ordered that the foregoing Report be submitted for the information of Government.

2. It appears, from the statement appended to paragraph 2, that the expenditure on Public Works in North Arcot, in the year under report, was 87,644 Rupees less than the outlay of the previous year, the expenditure under all heads, in 1864-65 and 1865-66, being 2,62,052 Rupees and 1,74,408 Rupees, respectively.

3. The Board do not quite understand paragraph 3 of the Collector's Report. When he remarks that the outlay on New Irrigation works and Communications fell "far short of the sums sanctioned on estimate," it is not clear whether he refers to the amounts of the sanctioned estimates, or to the Budget provision for the year on each of those estimates. Because Government sanction an estimate for a work, it by no means follows that the expenditure is sanctioned without reference to the Budget provision. If, however, as is probably the case, the Collector means to say that the actual expenditure fell far short of the Budget provision for the year, then his remarks in paragraph 3 would appear to call for the special attention of Government.

4. The Board would also beg attention to the Collector's remarks in paragraphs 8 and 9, in respect to the district of North Arcot losing its full share of the advantages of the Palaur works; the distribution of water at the Maclean channel and Caveripauk head sluices; the expediency and practicability of constructing, at moderate expense, annother anicut across the Cheyar either in the vicinity of Arnee or at Yellatoor; and the miserable condition of the irrigation works affected by the demolition of the Kamandala dams.

5. The subjects discussed in paragraph 13 would have properly found a place in the Collector's Local Fund Report.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
with two estimates.

„ the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.