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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2963 Press ~~Mis.~~

24.25

Dated 2 — 11 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd November 1866.

No. 24. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Passing orders on Revenue Board's Proceedings, submitting with remarks Public Works Report of North Arcot District for 1865-66. } (Here enter 26th October 1866, No. 3,419.)

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, 2nd November 1866, No. 2,963.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 26th October 1866.

No. 620. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th October 1866, No. 7,356 :—

Read the following letter from the 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.	
New.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
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 anicut 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 Anicut by additions to the apron ; *second*, the further extension and improvement of the network of channels leading from the Ponne, Palar, and Cheyar Anicuts. 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 Anicut, and completely demolishing two valuable dams across the Kamandala river, a principal affluent of the Cheyar. The new masonry works on the Ponne Anicut 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

	RS.
Palar Anicut	10,596
Cheyar do.	5,997
Ponne do.	5,708

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 Táluq, and I have, therefore, not hesitated to allot Rupees 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 Anicut 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	1500
Constructing a flood calingulah in the north bank of Thackolam channel	1,100	1100

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 anicuts during the year under report:—

Anicuts.	Táluqs.	Increase of Revenue. Up to Fusly 1274.			In Fusly 1275.			Total.		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Palar Anicut	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" Anicuts, on the southern bank of either river.

Second.—The construction of another anicut 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 Táluq, 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 Táluq 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 Táluq (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 a foot 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 countersignature, there are now lying in my Office, awaiting provision, estimates amounting to some $1\frac{1}{4}$ 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

Trunk Road No. I.
Do. ,, X.
Branch Road.
Trunk Road No. 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. ,, Pulliconda to Gudiatam.
2nd Class Road No. VII. from Puthalput to Karcambadi.
Road from Puthur to Nagalapuram.
Do. Nageri to Karcambadi and Balpalli, No. XIII
Do. from Puthur to Palliput.
Do. ,, Vellore to Arni.
Do. ,, Ranipet to Amoor.
Do. ,, do. to Wallajah.
Do. ,, Arconum to Trunk Road No. I.
Do. ,, Tirtani to Arcot Kuppam
Do. ,, do. to Ramakristnarajpett.
Do. ,, Kaveripauk to Sholinghur Railway Station.
Do. from Sholinghur to do.
Do. ,, Arcot Railway Station to junction of road from Wallajahpet to Perancanji.
Do. from Ponne to Arcot Railway Station.
Do. ,, Arcot to Arni.

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.

13. Under this head, the most important wants are the improvement of the Mugli Ghaut 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 labor, 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 important 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. The buildings named in the margin, referred to in my last report, were all completed during the year under review.

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

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.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th October 1866.

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.

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 Palar works; the distribution of water at the Maclean channel and Caveripauk head sluices; the expediency and practicability of constructing, at moderate expense, another anicut across the Cheyar either in the vicinity of Arni 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.

No. 621. ORDER THEREON, 26th October 1866, No. 3,419.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 52.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, the Government observe that as in the year 1865-66 the original assignment for Public Works in this Presidency was considerably curtailed, it became necessary to reduce the appropriations in the Budget to the extent of nearly seven and a half lacs of Rupees, and owing to this reduction, allotments, aggregating Rupees 55,647, for works in North Arcot, were withdrawn; and this coupled with the fact that a grant of Rupees 33,583 was made in

Rupees 19,700. For extending irrigation under the Cheyar Anicut.
,, 35,947. For works connected with the Ponne project.

the previous official year for the completion of certain works which were in progress in connection with the Palar Anicut on an estimate of Rupees 6,52,871, sufficiently accounts for the disproportion which the Board notice in the expenditure of the two years.

3. Colonel Boileau will report on paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, and submit a statement of the allotment and expenditure on new irrigation works and communications during the year 1865-66, explaining, if necessary, the reasons which prevented the whole of the Budget grant being appropriated.

4. Colonel Boileau's attention will be drawn to paragraph 4. He will observe from Proceedings No. 3,402, dated 24th October 1866, that an application has been made to the Government of India for establishments to be employed on the investigation of irrigation projects in the 4th Division.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
,, Board of Revenue, ~~with one Enclosure~~.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Rec'd 1866 Oct 4th
Pro: of Govt Ford November
No. 3839.

Proceedings in the
P. W. Dep't.

Dated 26th Oct
Received 30th 1866.

No. 3419.

Pro. in the Pub. W. Dep't
Nov 29 November 1866 No. 4318

Passing orders on
Rec'd Bd's Pro. submitting
with remarks Public
Works Report of the North
Arcot District for 1865-
66. — No. 2963.

RECORDED.

A. 24425

22 Nov 1866