M.R.O. 14—5,450—23-10-26.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1691 Press Mis.
493 494
Dated 25-7-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th July 1867.

No. 493. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting, with remarks, report of Collector of Madura on operations of Public Works Department for official year 1866-67. } (Here enter 18th July 1867, No. 4,544.)

No. 494. ORDER THEREON, 25th July 1867, No. 1,691.

Miscellaneous.

The Government desire that the Collector will not relax his efforts to induce the ryots to establish voluntary funds for the cost of petty repairs and maintenance of irrigation works in lieu of customary labour, and that in any case he will not allow the latter requirement to fall into abeyance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 4,544.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th July 1867.

Read the following letter from the Honourable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Periacolum, 7th June 1867, No. 144:—

1. I have the honour to submit my Public Works Report for the official year 1866-67, accompanied with the usual detailed Statement showing the particulars of works, amount of estimate, &c. The Sub-Collector and the Acting Head Assistant Collector have, under the Standing Circular, No. XXXI. of 1865, furnished their reports on the progress of Public Works within their respective ranges, which are herewith transmitted for the information of the Board.

2. I beg to subjoin a memorandum showing the expenditure, during the past year, on Public Works under the several Budget heads, as compared with that of the preceding year. It will be seen that, in the year under report, there is a net increase of Rupees 63,291-5-7 over the expenditure of the year preceding, but deducting therefrom Rupees 3,561-12-9, the cost of tools and plant which was not brought to account in the last report, the actual increase is Rupees 59,729-8-10. This increase chiefly occurs under the head Civil Buildings:—

	Amount of allotment for the year 1866-67.	Expenditure of 1865-66.	Expenditure of 1866-67.	Increase.	Decrease.
New Works.	RS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Civil Buildings	56,644	3,105 14 2	56,558 11 7	53,452 13 5	
Communications ...	32,617	30,601 1 1	32,399 10 1	1,798 9 0	... ...
Agricultural	2,223	2,417 0 0	1,854 12 3	... ...	562 3 9
Salt works...	426	... ...	426 0 0	426 0 0	... ...
Tools and Plant. ...	1,697	... ...	1,695 0 0	1,695 0 0	... ...
Total...	93,607	36,123 15 3	92,934 12 7	57,372 6 5	562 3 9
Repairs.					
Civil Buildings	1,450	1,624 8 0	1,444 12 10	... ...	179 11 2
Communications ...	51,733	51,829 10 3	51,731 0 9	... ...	98 9 6
Agricultural	36,883	32,073 14 6	36,825 5 9	4,751 7 3	... ...
Salt works	900	749 8 1	891 11 8	142 3 7	... ...
Tools and Plants ...	1,867	... ...	1,866 12 9	1,866 12 9	... ...
Total...	92,833	86,277 8 10	92,759 11 9	6,760 7 7	278 4 8
Grand Total...	1,86,440	1,22,401 8 1	1,85,694 8 4	64,132 14 0	840 8 5
			Net Increase...	63,292 5 7	

3. In the memorandum, I have opened a new heading showing the allotment of funds for each description of works, with a view to exhibit the sums actually placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department, as directed in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, dated the 24th August 1866, No. 6,073. It will be observed that the total allotment for 1866-67 is Rupees 1,86,440, of which Rupees 1,85,695 have been spent, leaving only a small balance of Rupees 745. The expenditure has, therefore, been commensurate with the available funds.

4. NEW WORKS.—*Buildings.*—A sum of Rupees 56,558-11-7 was spent on Civil Buildings, which is in excess of the amount laid out in the year preceding the last by Rupees 53,452-13-5. By far the greatest portion of this sum was laid out on constructing a new Jail and Court-house at Madura. The remainder was chiefly spent in improving the Jail at Pamben and constructing Station-houses. The Court-house and Jail at Madura are being constructed under contract, and are progressing rapidly.

	RS.	A.	P.
New Jail	34,999	2	5
Convicts' huts at do.	4,817	2	11
Court-house	9,799	0	0
	49,615	5	4

5. *Communications.*—The expenditure on communications exceeds the amount spent in the preceding year by Rupees 1,798-9-0, but seeing that there was also an increase of Rupees 7,725

under this head in 1865-66, I consider that the roads in this district have received a fair share of the Public Works expenditure.

6. The road from Tirumungalum *via* Ammainaickanoor to Pulni and Coimbatore, which also communicates with Tuticorin, is an important cotton line. The Government sanctioned an estimate of Rupees 1,65,000 for making this road: up to this time Rupees 35,574-8-10 has been spent. At this rate, about ten years will be required to complete the road. A sum of Rupees 12,935 has been laid out in the year under report, and one of Rupees 15,000 has been provided for the work in the present year's Budget.

7. A large bridge constructed across Shunmooganady river on the above line of road has been finished, and is now open for traffic. It is a great convenience to the people. Rupees 10,960 was laid out on this work in the past year.

8. Another important road is No. IV. from Trichinopoly to Tinnevelly *viâ* Madura. It is a thoroughly made road, has a maintenance grant, and is in good condition. A small sum of Rupees 143 has been laid out on lengthening and constructing tunnels.

9. The Road No. 15, from Ramnad to Madura and Dindigul, is a salt line, and is in a very bad state. Certain platform-bridges have been constructed on the road at a cost of Rupees 2,400, and repairs have been executed on several portions of it at an aggregate expense of Rupees 7,942, while Rupees 3,840 has been laid out on the maintenance of the made portion lying between Dindigul and Madura.

10. The branch Salt roads were ordered to be made over to the Revenue Department after they were completely made. Only one of them, namely, that between Morecolum and Yettivial, has now been made at a cost of Rs. 6,700. The work was commenced in 1865-66, and was completed last year. Its maintenance can now be transferred to the Salt Deputy Collector. A sum of Rupees 1,206 has been allotted as a maintenance grant in the current year's Budget. I would also recommend that the execution of repairs to the other branch salt roads, for which money is allotted in the Budget, be intrusted to the Salt Deputy. These records are out of the way of efficient supervision by the Officers of the Department of Public Works, while the Salt Deputy is near the place, and his frequent tours will allow him opportunities to see the works efficiently executed.

11. The next road on which an expenditure was made under the head "New Works" is No. 13, a salt road from Vattanum and Tondi *viâ* Trippatore and Cottamputty to Dindigul, on which three tunnels have been constructed between Cottamputty and Dindigul at a cost of Rupees 560, and a sum of Rupees 5,459-6-3 has been spent on conserving and repairing this road. As to the condition of the road, I beg to refer the Board to paragraphs 3 and 4 of my report on Salt roads, dated the 27th April last, No. 114.

12. A sum of Rupees 870 has been spent on the construction of a platform-bridge of five vents on the road from Dindigul to Pulkmooth, while Rupees 1,500 has been laid out on its repair. This road connects Dindigul with Pulni and Coimbatore, and is in good order.

13. The Cotton Trunk-road from Madura *viâ* Cariaputty and Arappoocottah to Tuticorin is in tolerably good condition, and has been repaired at an expense of Rupees 1,818.

14. The other roads in the district, both imperial and local, with the exception of those repaired from the Local Funds, have received a fair share of the expenditure, and do not require any remarks.

15. The road from Caroor to Dindigul, alluded to in paragraph 5 of the Sub-Collector's report, is the one remarked upon by the Board in paragraph 4 of their Proceedings, dated 24th August 1866, No. 6,073. No action seems to have been taken in the matter. The current year's Budget does not contain any provision for its improvement.

16. The cutting of the inner angle of the Paumben reef channel is still in progress, and work has been performed at a cost of Rupees 2,631-10-1, against Rupees 1,569-4-1 spent in 1865-66. The Overseer in charge of the operations at Paumben reports that blasting operations were carried on for the months of August, September, and October 1866, and February and March of 1867, and during that period, 9,195$\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet of stone was removed from the channel.

17. A sum of Rupees 695 has been laid out on repairing the Travellers' Bungalows at Dindigul and Pulni.

18. *Irrigation.*—The sum of Rupees 1,854-12-3, expended during the year upon agricultural works, falls short of the amount spent in the preceding year by Rupees 562-3-9. No new work of importance has been constructed; nearly the whole amount was laid out on building sluices, &c., to existing works of irrigation. However I understand that no work requiring attention has been neglected.

19. The Periyar project is under examination, and estimates, &c., are, I believe, under preparation. An expenditure of Rupees 448-0-9 was incurred in conducting the preliminary examination of the project.

20. The Channel Conservancy Establishment entertained for the Nelayode Channel at the expense of the ryots has done good service. The ryots appreciated the benefit arising therefrom. I am sorry that the efforts made to induce the Caruppatty and Irumbali ryots to contribute for a similar establishment for the channel irrigating their lands have not yet been attended with success. These people draw water directly from the Vadagherei channel, and fear that the advantage they now enjoy of drawing as much water as they like, which their residence near the head of the channel enables them to do, will be curtailed. The ryots of Cholavandan, &c., whose cultivation also depends on the channel for supply of water, are, I understand, willing to contribute their quota of the expense.

21. *Salt Works.*—Only one work was executed under this head at a cost of Rupees 426, viz., excavating a channel from the sea to supply brine to salt beds at Morecolum. The Government having this year allotted funds, in the Revenue Budget, for the Salt works recommended by Mr. Levinge, I hope the pressing wants of the Salt Department will be met this year, when all the sanctioned works have been executed.

22. As the funds for the Salt works are now provided in the Revenue Department, and as the works are performed by the Revenue agency, it will not be necessary to notice the progress and condition of Salt works in my future Public Works Report.

23. Repairs—*Civil Buildings.*—The repairs to Civil Buildings were made at a cost of Rupees 1,444-12-10, a great portion of which was spent in repairing the Police Barracks, Principal Sudder Ameen's Court, Madura Taluk Cutcherry, and Sea Custom-house at Devipatam. The other repairs are of an ordinary and petty character requiring no special notice.

24. *Communications.*—Having noticed above, at some length, the several principal communications in the district, it is not necessary to allude to them separately. Rupees 51,731-0-9 were expended on the maintenance and repair of the roads in the district. I believe that this sum has been judiciously spent with reference to the requirements of each case.

25. *Agricultural.*—A sum of Rupees 36,825-5-9 was laid out on the repair and conservancy of tanks, channels, and other works of irrigation, which is in excess of the amount spent during the preceding year by Rupees 1,751-7-3. The Officers of the Department of Public Works have always been ready with their assistance whenever cases requiring their attention have been brought to their notice. All the urgent cases have been promptly attended to.

26. *Salt Works.*—Repairs to Salt works were executed, under the superintendence of the Salt Deputy Collector, at a cost of Rupees 891-11-8, which exceeds the amount of the previous year's expenditure by Rupees 142-3-7.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract.—Report of progress of Maramut works during 1866-67.

1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted for the information of Government.

2. With regard to his remarks in paragraph 10 concerning the repair of Salt works, the Collector is referred to the Board's Standing Circular Order, No. 207, wherein it is ruled that "It "is open to all Collectors to obtain the execution of any Salt works by the Salt Department by "application to the Superintending Engineer."

3. With reference to paragraph 15 of his letter, the Collector will observe that the Board in their Proceedings, dated 24th August 1866, No. 6,073, distinctly stated that provision for the repair of such roads, namely, Railway-feeders, should be made from Local Funds.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
with enclosure.
,, the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Collector of Madura.

Exd. J. Wright.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 18th July 1867.

No. 4,544.

Submitting with remarks report of Collector of Madura on operations of P. W. D. for year 1866-67.