M.R.O. 14--5,450—29-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 62 Press ~~Mis~~

120. 121.

Dated 9 — 1 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th January 1867.

No. 120. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on letters from the Superintending Engineers, 6th and 2nd Divisions, respecting the G. O. directing the transfer of the maintenance of all irrigation works in the Tanjore and Nellore Districts. } (Here enter 20th December 1866, No. 4,014.)

No. 121. ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1867, No. 62.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Read the following letters:—

No. 406. From the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Tanjore, 8th November 1866, No. 945.

1. With reference to G. O. No. 3,403, dated 25th October, ordering the transfer of the maintenance of all irrigation works in the Tanjore District to the Revenue Department from the 1st April, I have the honor to inform you that I have discussed the subject with the Collector, and we have agreed that in a district like Tanjore, in which the roads often run along the river banks, and in which the roads and irrigation works are so much intermingled as they are in the delta, it would be impossible for two departments to work side by side, and possibly under different systems, it is necessary, therefore, that the maintenance of both irrigation works and roads should be undertaken by one and the same department, and this, I presume, is intended, as the Collector has informed me that an Act has been passed authorizing the levy of a cess on the land for the purpose of providing a fund for the repair, &c., of roads. This cess is likely to amount to the large sum of Rupees 2,85,543, or more than four times as much as is now allotted for the maintenance of roads in the district, and no allotment from Imperial Funds will, I presume, be made in future for the repair of roads, and as the cess is carried to the head of Local Funds, and works under that head are now executed by the Revenue Department, I presume that the maintenance both of irrigation works and roads will be entrusted to the Revenue Department. Should this be the case, it is not for me to raise objections to the arrangement, though I cannot but regret that the control over the rivers, for the improvement and regulation of which so much has been done of late years, should be taken from this department just at present, or until the execution of the project now under preparation by Captain Mead, whereby the supply to the larger streams will be regulated by masonry works, and the quantity of water which will pass into the delta during floods will be so limited as to prevent injury to the banks, &c., in the rivers and channels in the delta, if the most ordinary care or attention is bestowed upon them.

Allotment in 1866-67 was Rupees 59,917.

2. The Collector agrees with me that the following works should still remain under the control and supervision of this department :—

The Upper Anicut and Cavery Dam.
The head of the Seringham Island.
The 150 yards Calingulah.
The Vennar and Cavery Dams.
The grand and Attee Anais.
The Vaduvagudi Sluices.
The Cutchamungalum Anicut.
The Lower Anicut.
The S. Raja Voikal and Kucunki Munnyaur heads.
The Munnyaur Upper and Lower Locks;
And the Coleroon river bank.

3. The last work is included, because the effect of the scheme now under preparation by Captain Mead will be to throw a larger volume of water into the Coleroon during floods than it now receives, and the river which at all times requires great care and attention will require scientific management even more than it now does.

4. The above-mentioned works might be undertaken by this Department, for or under the Revenue Department, as it were, the accounts, &c., being adjusted as those for the execution of repairs by the Revenue Department are adjusted.

5. I would further suggest that the "Minor New" works of irrigation, which cost less than Rupees 500 each, should be undertaken by the Revenue Department, as these works will be scattered over the delta, and will be far more easily executed by the Revenue Department than by the Public Works Department, the establishment of which, I presume, will be somewhat reduced.

6. I would propose that all large new works, whether sums are provided for them from Imperial or Local Funds, should be undertaken by the Public Works Department.

7. With regard to changes in the establishment, &c., it is premature to make suggestions until I am fully informed of the nature of the supervision this department may have to exercise over the works executed by the Revenue Department, and of the extent of work to be undertaken by that Department, *i. e.*, whether it is to be confined to Agricultural repairs, or is to include repairs to Roads and Civil Buildings, Minor New Works, and all new works provided for from Local Funds.

8. The Collector expresses his ability to undertake the repairs to works of irrigation and to roads, provided this Department has not to check the work done, or, as he expresses it, provided the works are examined and checked only by Officers of the grades of Executive or Assistant Engineers, and to this effect he appears to have reported when the subject of the transfer, now ordered, was mooted in 1863. I do not feel that I am called upon to make any comment upon this point at present, but I would only observe that so strong is this feeling with regard to the undesirability of check or control by this Department over works under execution by the Revenue Department, that on my recently reporting* unfavorably on three works which were being executed from Local Funds, and which I had myself seen, and on suggesting† that this Department should check the works under execution by the Revenue Department, the Collector declined any interference on the part of this Department by way of check, lest it should lead to ill-feeling and disputes.

* No. 598, 28th August.

† No. 625, 3rd September 1866.

No. 335, 28th September 1866.

9. As the Revenue Department will probably entrust the repairs to rivers and roads to the villagers through whose lands the rivers and roads run, dividing the work amongst the villagers, as was formerly done, while this Department, as a rule, entrusted each work to a single villager, or sometimes to a contractor unconnected with the village in which he worked, it will not be possible or at least advisable that a work commenced by this Department should be completed by by the Revenue Department, the early part of the working season of 1867 will therefore be in a measure lost, and about Rupees 10,000 may probably be transferred to the Trichinopoly District to aid in restoring the damage done by the recent floods, as reported in letter No. 936, dated 7th instant.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th December 1866.

10. I would suggest that the execution of repairs to irrigation works in the Trichinopoly District should be handed over to the Revenue Department. With the exception of the works in and near Trichinopoly, the irrigation repairs are of the simplest nature, and consist chiefly in the conservation of small tanks, the assessment under which has recently been so much reduced that the estimates for the repair of the tanks will, as a rule, far exceed the limit of the Collector's sanctions, and many of the tanks will, I believe, be abandoned. On my representation the Collector is in communication with the Revenue Board on this subject.

11. The cess fund for roads in the Trichinopoly District will, I believe, be small, and may be spent with advantage in making cross-roads for some years. The maintenance of the Trunk Roads must still be provided from Imperial Funds, and may be supervised by this department, for these roads, as a rule, run through a thinly populated portion of the district, more or less remote from irrigation work, and the Revenue and Public Works Departments in undertaking the irrigation and road repairs respectively, would not be likely to be bidding against each other for labor as they would do, under similar circumstances, in Tanjore.

12. I have not been able to consult with the Collector of Trichinopoly on the subject of the transfer of irrigation works to the Revenue Department.

No. 407. From the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Camp, Sooloorpett, 3rd December 1866, No. 70.

1. With reference to G. O. No. 3,458, dated 31st October 1866, directing the transfer of the control of the Nellore Irrigational Conservancy Establishment to the Civil authority, I have the honor to request information as to whether the Delta Conservancy Establishment is to be included.

2. It would appear from G. O. No. 3,408, dated 25th October, that the order is issued only with regard to petty irrigation works, and I think that when the immense importance of the Nellore Anicut is considered, it is evident that the establishment for working the under-sluices and regulating the quantity of water flowing into the channels, demand professional superintendence, for a little mismanagement might lead to very disastrous results.

3. Should Government agree with me in these views, I would request that the G. O., No. 3,458, may be modified to meet the case in question.

No. 408. ORDER THEREON, 20th December 1866, No. 4,014.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 82.

As it is necessary that, before passing orders on the questions referred to in these letters, the Government should have before them the opinions of the Collectors concerned, and of the Board

of Revenue, on the manner in which the arrangements ordered to be carried out in Proceedings Nos. 3,408 and 3,458, dated 25th and 31st October 1866, respectively, can best be effected, His Excellency in Council resolves to call upon the Collectors of the Districts noted in the margin to report fully in communication with the respective Superintending Engineers, and through the Board of Revenue, their views upon the subject. The reports should show for each district the classes of works which are proposed to be transferred to the Revenue authorities and those which are to remain under the Officers of the Department Public Works, as also in what manner the examination of, and check on, works of the former class will be conducted by the Department Public Works Officers.

Nellore.
North Arcot.
Madras.
Tanjore.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Collector of Nellore.
,, do. North Arcot.
,, do. Madras.
,, do. Tanjore.
,, Superintending Engineers, 2nd, 4th, and 6th Divisions.

Rxd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue 1866 Dept.
Pro of Govt for January
Mh. 1870.

Proceedings in
the S. W. Dept.

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Recd 20th Dec.
Revised 22nd 1868.
No. 4016.

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Passing orders on
letters from the Supt. Engineers 6th and 2nd Divisions
respecting the G.O. directing
the transfer of the maintenance of all irrigation
works in the Tanjore and
Nellore Districts. —

No. 62.

A. 120–21

RECORDED.

9th Jan 1869 — 12