M.R.O. 1—28,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2361	Press Mis.
142-44 Dated	11-9-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th September 1868.

Read the following :—

No. 142. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th November 1867, No. 7,514.

1. The Board resolve to call upon all Collectors to report, at their early convenience, upon the wants of their respective districts in regard to irrigation works.

2. A list of all new and important projects of irrigation, which are calculated to increase the food-producing powers of their districts, but the construction of which has been postponed for want of funds, or for any other cause, should be submitted, and new schemes of the same description should be sought out and brought forward. There are few Revenue Officers possessing a thorough knowledge of their charge, who are not aware of many promising projects of irrigation, and no time should now be lost in bringing them to notice in view to their practicability being tested. In many unfrequented parts of the country, too, there are remains of important irrigation works, constructed by the old Native Governments, but long since in ruins, which are well worthy of investigation, as to whether it would not be advantageous to restore them, or to construct new and improved works on their sites.

3. Where possible, a rough estimate of the approximate cost of each work should be given, and of the probable return likely to be realized, should they be constructed.

4. The Collectors annually bring before the Board the condition of the existing irrigation works, in conformity with the instructions contained in Board's Standing Circular, No. XXIII., dated 15th March 1864, but, with the report now called for, they are requested to submit a Statement shewing the area of the ayacut and of the cultivation under each work for the last three years, and the amounts proposed by the Collectors to be expended on irrigation repairs in each year contrasted with the sum actually granted in the annual Budgets, and the sufficiency or otherwise of the latter amounts should be shewn.

5. The Public Works Reports, submitted by Collectors each year, in conformity with the Orders of Government, under date 20th September 1860, No. 1,656, should also be consulted, and the amount expended upon new irrigation works each year should be given for as many years back as the information is readily available, whether from these reports or other sources. The revenue derived from all the irrigated lands of the district in each of these years should be stated, in view to shewing the advantages that have been obtained by this outlay on new works, and where possible, the estimated revenue of the irrigated land included in the alienated rent-free and favorably assessed tenures (Inams) should be added in a foot-note, but, of course, where an Inam village is in no way dependent for its water supply on Government works of irrigation, it should be excluded from the calculation.

6. In submitting the report now called for, Collectors are requested to be specially careful to quote, by date and number, any previous correspondence which may have taken place in regard to any of the matters brought forward, and they are particularly requested to forward the report within some reasonable period, say at the latest in two months.

No. 143. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th August 1868, No. 6,179.

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Punrooty, 21st February 1868, No. 50.

1. In acknowledgment of Board's Proceedings, No. 7,514, of the 18th November 1867, I have the honor to submit copies of two letters, respectively, from the Superintending Engineer and my Sub-Collector on the subject, to which my attention is called.

From Supg. Engineer, 11th Feb. 1868, No. 226.
,, Sub-Collector, 16th Dec. 1867, ,, 447.

2. I can add little to the information and particulars given by Colonel Foord and Mr. Hathaway. Most of the works referred to are known to me, and the Board may be sure that every feasible project for improving the irrigation and water supply of the country, and as well the increasing cultivation of the land in all parts of the district, will have prompt attention, and no time will be lost in preparing the necessary data on which to recommend any undertakings of the kind.

From Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. FOORD, R. E., Superintending Engineer, Fifth Division, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 11th February 1868, No. 226.

1. In reply to your letter, No. 186, of the 24th of November last, I have the honour to inform you that estimates for the undermentioned important irrigation works, for which funds have been allotted in the next year's Budget, are now under examination:—

Anicut across the Manimootanuddy river near Mamathoor.

Improvement of the Allungul, Villapuram, and Kolianoor channels from the Pooniar river.

Division sluices across the Wallajah main and branch channels.

2. The following projects have been recommended by the Executive officers. For some, estimates have been prepared, and the others have not yet been investigated:—

Forming a new tank bank at Kottacolum and constructing Calingulah and Sluices...	2,743
Restoring the Theroovadathanoor anicut across the Bambanar river ...	590
Cutting a channel from the Cheyar for the supply of the large tank near Trinamallay	...
Improving the bund of Rupanaraya Nellore tank	1,240
Do. the Vylur tank	6,300
Restoring the ruined tank of Pornagudy...	896
Improving the Nadiaput tank	870
Constructing sluices in Comapuram tank...	518
Improving the Thurinjicollai tank bank	711
Constructing surplus Calingulah, an irrigation sluice, and drainage sluices for Oothamasolamungalum	941
Re-constructing a Calingulah in Sathapady tank	1,100
Constructing three dams, one regulating sluice in the surplus, and one irrigation sluice and one under-sluice in Thalacolum channel ...	809
Constructing two drainage sluices for Pinnathur	523

3. The following large works now in progress will only be completed during next official year:—

Anicut across the Manimootanuddy river near Virdachellum	34,750
Cutting the Pombay channel from the northern end of the Pooniar anicut to supply a portion of the Villapuram talook	45,400

The above, with those for which funds have been allotted in anticipation of the estimates approved, the new bridges and repair works will absorb the available labor and superintendence during the whole of next official year. By the time these works are completed, other projects have been investigated.

5. As you showed me on Saturday a letter* from a Deputy Collector, formerly a Tahsildar in this district, recommending the restoration of certain old works, I will here give my opinion of them.

* Vide Board's Procs., 1st February 1868, No. 808.

6. *Anicut across Vellaur near Kudikad,* (about twelve miles south of Virdachellum.)—I have seen the ruins of this anicut, and am sure that it never came into use. It was most injudiciously placed in a bend of the river, the course of which was completely diverted by the anicut. There are no remains of the channel near the river. The bank is very hard soil, the channel, if it ever cut, must have been at least thirty feet deep, and as there are no traces of it, it is evident it was never cut.

7. *Nundan Voikal.*—I have examined the remains of this work also, and taken levels for several miles along the supposed course of the channel. The original work consisted of a tank formed by damming up the Toorinjilaur river, and the Nundan Voikal was the surplus of the tank. Most of the bank has been washed away, and there are now two small anicuts across the river. The restoration of this work is of very doubtful utility, as very little water comes down the river.

8. *Restoring Ponnary tank.*—This work is in the Trichinopoly district, but some of the land formerly irrigated by it is in South Arcot. I believe this tank might be restored with advantage to both districts.

9. Many of the ordinary irrigation works are in want of more substantial repair than the annual allotment will allow of. The allotment for next year is larger, and endeavours will be made to expend it to the best advantage. The important works of the district are regularly inspected and repaired, and they are in better order than they were in former years. There are still many tanks unprovided with calingulahs and sluices, and breaches are to be attributed quite as much to the absence of these works as to weekness in the banks. After a bank is once thoroughly repaired, it should be kept in repair by the Ryots. If the slopes were planted, and petty repairs executed annually by the Ryots, there would not often be occasion for large estimates for filling breaches. A portion of the annual allotment for repairs might well be laid out in providing tanks with sluices and calingulahs.

From W. F. HATHAWAY, Esq., Sub-Collector, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Virdachellum, 16th December 1867, No. 447.

1. In answer to the Board's Proceedings, No. 7,514, of the 18th ultimo, received with your Memorandum, No. 1,070, of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state, that the Sub-division of this district is peculiar in not having any such special works that might be prominently brought forward.

2. The greater part of the talook of Chellumbrum is irrigated fully by the Coleroon and Vellaur anicuts. In this talook there is little irrigation, but all the tanks that there are have been very well kept up by the Assistant Engineer, and reflect great credit on him, considering the exceedingly small allowances that have been sanctioned of late years. The only new projects that there are would be anicuts across the Manimucktanadi and the Vellaur. The supply of water is good, but there are no large tanks in which it could be stored, and it is not sufficiently permanent to allow of irrigation direct from the anicut channel. The scheme for the Manimukta river anicut at Memattoor has just been finally estimated, and it is found that the return will be only ten or twelve per cent. The project for an anicut over the Vellaur at Toladoor will now be under consideration, and the necessary calculations made. In conclusion, I may mention that my own opinion is, that it is far better to keep in thorough repair all the existing irrigation works, rather than construct new ones. The present allowances being admittedly insufficient for repairs already required, I do not see how additional works could possibly be kept up even if built, unless the expenditure for repairs be on a far larger scale.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th September 1868.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board are surprised to find that the Revenue Officers of the District f South Arcot are aware of so few promising projects for irrigation.

3. The Statements called for in paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings, dated 8th November 1867, No. 7,514, should be submitted as soon as possible.

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o. 144. ORDER THEREON, 11th September 1868, No. 2,361.

Irrigation, No. 8.

T[illegible]ed to the Public Works
[illegible] restoration of the
[illegible]n the Trichinopoly
I[illegible] should not be lost sight of.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Irrigation

No. 2361.

Transferred to the Public Works Depart-
ment. The restoration of the Damaury Tank,
in the Trichinopoly District, should not be lost
sight of.

11th Sept. 1868.

21 Copies to the Public Works Department
14 — to the Board of Revenue