M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2366 Press ~~Mis.~~

156-55 Dated 11-9- 19 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 154. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Submitting to Government, with remarks, report of Collector of Tinnevelly on progress and effect of Public Works in district for 1867-68. (Here enter 2nd September 1868, No. 6,264.)

No. 155. ORDER THEREON, 11th September 1868, No. 2,366.

Miscellaneous. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. SEWELL,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 6,264.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 2nd September 1868.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th May 1868, No. 238:—

1. I have the honour to report on the progress and effect of Public Works in this district for the past official year 1867-68.

2. The total expenditure was Rupees 1,78,530, against Rupees 1,60,059 in the preceding year:—

	Expenditure of 1866-67.	Expenditure of 1867-68.	Increase.	Decrease.
New Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Military	1,500	6,594	5,094	.....
Civil Buildings	4,693	4,214	.....	479
Agricultural	5,573	6,716	1,143	.....
Communications	27,959	44,981	17,022	.....
Miscellaneous Public improvements	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total...	39,725	62,505	22,780	.....
Repairs.				
Military	2,149	2,061	.....	88
Civil Buildings	6,126	2,571	.....	3,555
Agricultural	55,050	62,625	7,575	.....
Communications	56,586	48,631	.....	7,955
Miscellaneous Public improvements	423	137	.....	286
Total...	1,20,334	1,16,025	.....	4,309
Grand Total...	1,60,059	1,78,530	18,471	.....

3. CIVIL BUILDINGS.—The Public Offices were enlarged at Tuticorin, and a District Moonsiff's Court-house was built at Ambasamudram. Subsidiary Jails at Tenkasy and Nanguneri were repaired.

4. New Cutcherries at Tenkarei and Ambasamudram are sanctioned, but will not be commenced pending final instructions from the Subsidiary Jail Committee.

5. Rupees 680 were sanctioned in 1866 for enclosing the tombs of the officers and men who fell at the siege of Panjalankurichi, but no allotment has yet been made.

G. O., No. 89, dated 19th Feb. 1868.

6. Rupees 1,800 were sanctioned for building a wall round the new burial ground at Turicorin, and the work has been put in hand.

7. AGRICULTURAL.—The usual remark has to be repeated that but little was done for the irrigation works which are falling into sad disorder everywhere. Colonel Anderson, Secretary to Government for Irrigation Works, who lately made a tour through the district, was, I believe, fully impressed with the necessity of immediate action to save some of our largest works from rapid deterioration; much water is now wasted for want of systematic arrangements, and a liberal outlay on the anicuts and channels would bring in a large return.

8. Rupees 6,716 were spent on new works, and Rupees 62, 625 on repairs, against Rs. 5,573 and Rupees 55,050 respectively in 1866-67. Comparing this outlay with the area of the district, it is but little more than one Rupee a square mile for new works, and ten Rupees a square mile for repairs.

9. The larger works projected or needed were separately reported on in my letter of 6th March last; but attention to the minor works is even still more important, and will certainly be more remunerative in a financial point of view.

I know of many places where 10, 20 or 30 Acres might be added to the irrigated area at a very moderate outlay, and there are undoubtedly opportunities of doing something by way of improvement to almost every river-fed tank or channel.

New Works	Rs.	44,981
Repairs	„	48,631
		93,612

10. COMMUNICATIONS.—The total outlay on roads was Rupees 93,612.

New Works.		Rs.
Road No. 4, from Madura to Travancore via Tinnevelly		18,784
,, No. 5, from Strivilliputtur to Tuticorin		5,000
,, No. 8, from Palamcottah to Tuticorin...		21,197
	Total...	44,981

Repairs.	
Road No. 4, from Madura to Travancore via Tinnevelly	19,328
,, No. 5, from Strivilliputtur to Tuticorin	12,215
,, No. 8, from Palamcottah to Tuticorin...	3,270
,, No. 9, from Palamcottah to Tenkasy	3,428
Minor repairs to roads	10,390
Total...	48,631

11. Salt Roads.—The Arasadi and Kayalpatnam salt roads were put in good order under the superintendence of the Salt Deputy Collector.

12. A detailed report on the mode in which I propose to allot the Road Cess on local roads has been prepared, and will be submitted to the Board immediately.

13. Miscellaneous Public Improvements.—Rupees 137 were laid out on a permanent look out shed at the Flag Staff at Tuticorin.

14. A new dioptric light is to be exhibited on the Dutch Column on an island off Tuticorin. I was opposed to the outlay at first, and referred the matter to the Board on 6th November last; but as the Superintending Engineer now informs me that the sacrifice of even a good light is necessary to secure a uniform system of dioptric lights all along the coast of India, of course I withdraw my objection.

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1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board regret to learn that "As usual little was done for the irrigation works which are "falling into sad disorder ***; and that much water is now wasted for want of systematic arrange- "ment and a liberal outlay on the anicuts and channels, which would bring in a large return."

3. The amount spent on irrigation repairs was only Rupees 62,625, though the irrigated lands yielded a revenue of 16,52,848 Rupees. The proportion borne by the assessment of irrigated lands in Tinnevelly to that in Coimbatore, Tanjore, and Godavery, is shown in the margin.

	Average rate of wet assessment per acre. Rs.	A.	P.	
Tinnevelly	13	7	8	
Coimbatore...	7	10	6	
Tanjore	4	15	3	
Godavery	6	11	5	inclusive of water-rate.

4. The Board are of opinion that the annual allotment should be very largely increased; but even this would furnish an insufficient remedy, and a special treatment of this district is they submit absolutely called for, to admit of the neglect of former years being overtaken.

5. Mr. Puckle states that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation was, during his tour in Tinnevelly, "fully impressed with the necessity of immediate action to save some of the largest works."

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.
,, the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev 1868. Department.
Proc: of Govt for September

No. 2898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 2nd September 1868.

Rec'd 7
Rec'd 8th

No. 6,264.

Submitting to Government with remarks report of Collector of Tinnevelly on progress and effect of Public Works in District for 1867-68.

RECORDED. Re. 2366

11th Sept 1868

A. 154/155

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