M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| G.O. No. | 2416 | Press Mis- |
| 257-58. Dated | 18-9- | No 1868. |

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th September 1868.*

No. 257. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Communicating to Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, the report of the Collector of Tanjore on the operations of the Department of Public Works during the official year 1867-68. } (Here enter 17th September 1868, No. 2,941.)

No. 258. ORDER THEREON, 18th September 1868, No. 2,416.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

**(True Extract.)**

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 17th September 1868.*

No. 302. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st September 1868, No. 6,244:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Point Calimere, Tritrapundi Talook, 25th June 1868, No. 142.

1. I have the honor to submit my report on the operations of the Department of Public Works, during the past official year 1867-68.

2. Subjoined is an abstract showing the expenditure during the past year under different heads as compared with the year preceding:—

| Works. | Expenditure of 1866-67. | Expenditure of 1867-68. | Difference. Increase. | Difference. Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| *New Works.* | | | | |
| Civil Buildings ... ... ... ... | 6,540 | 6,630 | 90 | ... |
| Agricultural ... ... ... ... ... | 62,655 | 91,960 | 29,305 | ... |
| Communication ... ... ... ... | 11,844 | 30,563 | 18,719 | ... |
| Miscellaneous Public Improvement ... ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 81,039 | 1,29,153 | 48,114 | ... |
| *Repairs.* | | | | |
| Civil Buildings ... ... ... ... | 3,245 | 2,365 | ... | 880 |
| Agricultural ... ... ... ... ... | 91,991 | 98,622 | 6,631 | ... |
| Communication ... ... ... ... | 59,020 | 56,147 | ... | 2,873 |
| Miscellaneous Public Improvement ... ... | 678 | 468 | ... | 210 |
| | 1,54,934 | 1,57,602 | 6,631 | 3,963 |
| | | Net... | 2,668 | |
| Total... | 2,35,973 | 2,86,755 | 50,782 | ... |
| *Allotment.* | | | | |
| New Works ... ... ... ... | 1,49,980 | | | |
| Repairs ... ... ... ... | 1,72,940 | | | |
| | ... | 3,22,920 | | |
| Difference... | ... | 36,165 | | |

3. From the foregoing table, it will be observed that the total expenditure amounted to Rupees 2,86,755, against an allotment of Rupees 3,22,920, or Rupees 36,165 less than the latter. As compared with the preceding year, the expenditure exhibits an increase of Rupees 50,782 during the past year. The Superintending Engineer states that the decrease below the allotment, under New Works, is due to the storm and flood which occurred in January last, and impeded the progress of works in the river beds; and, under the head of Repairs, partly to the above-mentioned cause, and partly to the transfer of irrigation repairs to the Revenue Department on 1st April, and its re-transfer to the Public Works Department in May, thus causing two months of the working season to be lost. The chief cause, however, appears to be owing to the transfer of four Range Officers to new Ranges within the last two months of the past year.

4. The more important of the new works executed during the past year, with the amount of expenditure on each, are detailed in the table appended :—

| Names of Works. | Amount of Estimate. | Expenditure up to the end of the preceding year. | Expenditure during the year. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. |
| I. Lower Coleroon Anicut Works | 97,880 | 68,676 7 9 | 24,219 2 5 | 92,895 10 2 |
| II. Regulating works for the improvement of the river Cauvery | 70,400 | 10,995 8 11 | 22,951, 5 9 | 33,946 14 8 |
| III. Opening the Canal between Negapatam and Vedaranium | 1,10,090 | ... ... ... | 28,309 1 4 | 28,309 1 4 |
| IV. Constructing a Talook Cutcherry and Jail at Mayaveram | 70,410 | 15,719 5 11 | 45,733 9 9 | 61,452 15 8 |
| V. Improvements to the new Salt Pans at Tranquebar. | 6,749 | ... ... ... | 1,551 9 4 | 1,551 9 4 |
| VI. Forming approach to the new Salt Platform at Tranquebar | 5,720 | 4,077 11 0 | 1,995 14 11 | 6,073 9 11 |
| | 2,590 | 1,451 9 8 | 47 0 9 | 1,493 10 5 |

5. The expenditure on the Lower Coleroon Anicut works was under two sets of estimates; one set of Rupees 97,830 for constructing a sluice and seven arches with additional laterite and rough stone apron at the north extremity of the south branch of the anicut, and the other of Rupees 70,400 for completing a front and rear retaining wall and apron along the south branch. A sum of Rupees 24,220 was expended during the past year under the former estimate, which, added to the preceding year's expenditure, makes a total of Rupees 92,895. Under the latter estimate the expenditure including that of the previous year was Rupees 33,947. Considerable progress was made towards completion of these works; the seven arches having been turned, the bridge was opened for traffic early in the year; and it is hoped that the remaining works also will be completed shortly.

6. The regulating works for the improvement of the Cauvery consists of three works, as shown below :—

| | Estimate. |
|---|---|
| | Rs. |
| Constructing Dams with bridges for the Cauvery and Kodamurty. | 72,300 |
| Do. do. for the Cauvery and Arasalar ... ... ... ... | 16,970 |
| Do. do. for do. and Virasholan ... ... ... | 11,270 |

A sum of Rupees 20,801 was spent on the Kodamurty works, chiefly in collecting and preparing materials and forming front embankment, &c. The foundations of five piers were only laid, as they were commenced just before the close of the year.

Under the estimate for the Arasalar Dam, Rupees 1,125 were spent, and some progress was made in raising the wing of Cauvery Dam, in the foundations of the dam and the retaining wall.

The expenditure on account of the Virasholan Dam was Rupees 6,383.

The floods that occurred in January last elsewhere mentioned are stated to have delayed the execution of the foregoing works, causing also some loss in materials, &c.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 17th September 1868.*

7. The expenditure on the canal between Negapatam and Vedaranium was Rupees 45,734 during the past year, and this, together with Rupees 15,719 spent in the year preceding, makes a total of Rupees 61,453. Of this sum of Rs. 61,453, work to the amount of Rupees 11,173-9-6 and Rupees 6,417-4-0 was executed under the personal superintendence of the Tahsildars of Negapatam and Tritrapundi, respectively. An allotment of Rupees 59,960 was made in the past year for this work from three different sources, viz., Rupees 30,000 from the Supplemental Budget, Rupees 1,210 from the Income-tax Funds, and Rupees 28,750 by a loan from the District Road Fund to be repaid in the current year.

During the past year the canal was opened throughout for traffic; the widening of the artificial portions of the canal from 10' to 20' has also been progressing fairly, as likewise the masonry works noted below :—

Thirty feet dam across the Chandranadi
Re-constructing Chandranadi syphon sluice, &c.
One six feet surplus sluice.

8. If the canal is widened throughout the artificial portions, and one or two minor measures of improvement suggested by me to the Superintending Engineer be carried out, I am quite certain that before long the usefulness of this communication, as regards the Vedaranium salt traffic, will be practically seen to its full extent.

9. Under the Orders of Government, dated 29th April last, No. 1,153, Mr. Ricketts, the late Deputy Collector of this district, recently went to Madras to inspect the working of the canal there: since his return he has suggested the construction of locks in the Vedaranium canal similar to those at Ennore. By these works Mr. Ricketts says that we shall be able to let in during high tides and retain in the canal the required depth of water throughout the year, and that there will thus be no more interruption in the dry season to navigation as there is at present. As this measure must greatly tend to improve the utility of this canal, I am now in communication with the Superintending Engineer on the subject, and, when the project is matured, will lay it before the Board and Government for sanction.

10. The new Talook Cutcherry at Mayaveram is in course of construction under an estimate of Rupees 6,740. The expenditure up to the 31st March last was Rupees 1,552, and the Head Assistant Collector reports that the work is satisfactorily progressing. I must, however, observe that it is being built according to the old standard plan.

11. Regarding the Salt works and the approach to the platform at Tranquebar, I have simply to state that they have been completed at a total cost of Rupees 6,074 and 1,499, respectively.

12. The total amount laid out on "Repairs" under all the heads was Rupees 1,57,602, being in excess of the preceding year's expenditure by a net sum of Rupees 2,668. The largest outlay, viz., Rupees 98,662, was on Agricultural works against Rupees 91,991 spent in the year preceding. It is gratifying to see that the annual allotment and expenditure on this class of works in this district, is gradually increasing, and it is to be hoped that the future grants will be more liberal than hitherto, so as to give no cause for apprehension for the safety of the river banks on the one hand, or for complaints from the Mirassidars, of deficient

irrigation on account of the deteriorated state of the irrigation canals of a larger class, on the other.

13. Under the other heads of Repairs there was on the whole a decrease of Rupees 3,963, the largest being under Communication. This is chiefly owing to a few of the roads having been transferred to the Local Funds during the past year.

14. The number of irrigation works repaired during the past year, as also the mileage of roads and the navigable canals maintained, and the number of Civil buildings repaired, are shown below:—

| | No. |
|---|---|
| Irrigation Canals ... ... ... ... | 82 |
| Tanks ... ... ... ... ... ... | 24 |
| Dykes ... ... ... ... .. ... | 414 |
| Drainage ... ... ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| Navigable Canals ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Roads, miles ... ... ... ... ... | 72¾ |
| Buildings ... ... ... ... ... ... | 26 |

15. In my last report I noticed the very satisfactory result which the Mirasidars considered had been brought about by clearing the silt in the bed of the Cauvery in its lower course. That they really thought so is proved by their coming forward again during the past year, and deepening another important channel of irrigation called the Aiyavaianar.

16. I cannot close this report without stating that the irrigation dependent on the rivers Veilaiyar, Mulliyar, and Harichandra Nadi, in the talooks of Negapatam and Tritrapundi, is far from being satisfactory, and that the lands dependent on this irrigation must continue to suffer till the supply entering the Vennar river is regulated by works similar to those now under construction in the Cauvery.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letter, being the report of the Collector on the operations of the Department of Public Works for 1867-68, be submitted to Government.

2. The Board beg to solicit the attention of Government to the observations of Mr. Morris, contained in paragraph 8 of his letter regarding the widening throughout of the artificial portions of the Canal between Negapatam and Vedaraniam. As regards paragraph 15 of Mr. Morris's letter, the Board observe that great care is necessary in the deepening of branches of rivers and important channels, as an injudicious lowering of river and main channel beds might derange the system of irrigation with respect to lands remote from the water head.

3. The Board concur with the Collector in considering that a more liberal allotment for repairs and maintenance is necessary for preserving the agricultural works in due order, and they beg especially to draw attention to the last paragraph of his report.



No. 303. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1868, No. 2,941.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 34.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division.

2. Captain Oakes's attention will be drawn to the remarks contained in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Encl 6

J. Perrone 1868. Offs Pro. of Govt. Sandefteuben
No. 2996.
Proceedings of the Govt. P.W. Offs.

Dated 17th Jany 1868
Recd 19th " "
No. 2941.

Copy to chief Engr 6th
Re the Report of the
Coll. of Tenpre on
the operations of the
Department of Public
Works during the
official Year 1867/68.
No. 2416.
18th Febr 1868

RECORDED.

J. 25 / 258