M.R. O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	2627	Press / ~~Mis.~~	
223-24.			
Dated	13-10-	19	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th October 1868.

No. 223. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Requesting the Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division to report, in communication with, and after personal conference with the Collector, on the practical measures necessary for the more effective conservancy, &c., of the Irrigation works of the Tinnevelly District.	(Here enter 8th October 1868, No. 3,177.)

No. 224. ORDER THEREON, 13th October 1868, No. 2,627.

Irrigation, No. 10.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To

Dated October, 13th.

Read.

G. O., 13th October 1868, No. 2,627.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 223-224.

Irrigation Works of Tinnevelly District.—Order requesting a report on the measures to be adopted for their effective conservancy, improvement, and extension, recorded.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 8th October 1868.

Read the following papers:—

No. 183. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd September, 1868, No. 6,264:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th May, 1868, No. 238.

1. I have the honor 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.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
New Works.				
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	1,78,539	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. 39, dated 19th February, 1868.

6. Rupees 1,800 were sanctioned for building a wall round the new burial ground at Tuticorin, 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 Rupees 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, ...	,,	48,931
		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
,, ,, 5, ,, Strivilliputtur to Tuticorin, ...	...	5,000
,, ,, 8, ,, Palamcottah to Tuticorin, ...	...	21,197
Total,	...	44,981

Repairs.

Road No. 4, from Madura to Travancore, via Tinnevelly,	...	19,328
,, ,, 5, ,, Strivilliputtur to Tuticorin, ...	...	12,215
,, ,, 8, ,, Palamcottah to Tuticorin, ...	...	3,270
,, ,, 9, ,, ,, 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 arrangement 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."

No. 184. Memorandum from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 12th September, 1868, No. 67.

1. Mr. Puckle's remarks in paragraph 7 of his report, dated 29th May, 1868, No. 238, might lead to the purport of my observations to him being misapprehended. My observations were confined to the condition of the irrigation channels under the river Tambrapoornee, which I had visited in connection with the proposed extension of irrigation from the same river, from Strevigoontum to Tuticorin and Trichendoor, on the north and south banks respectively.

2. My opinion of the state of the existing channels, has lately been submitted to Government in a separate Memorandum, dated 4th September, 1868, and it is there expressed to much the same effect, so far as I can remember, as I expressed myself in conversation with Mr. Puckle, but I may give it again here in other terms. The anicuts across the Tambrapoornee and their subsidiary channels are remarkably interesting specimens of the old native workmanship. There is doubtless a great waste of material, as they are carried obliquely across the channel when they would have stood equally well, and would furnish the requisite supply to the channels with equal facility, if they had been carried at right angles to the direction of the stream. There is also a great waste of labor and material in the case of two of the anicuts above Tinnevelly, which are situated within-one-and-a-half miles of each other: one to feed a channel on the north bank, and the other on the south, when one anicut would have answered equally well in every respect.

4. As regards the condition of the anicuts, generally, I thought there was considerable room for improvement. They have been repaired from time to time, but the repairs have been confined to patching up anything which may have given way, and in fact to keeping up the anicuts to much the same standard of efficiency as may have existed for the last twenty or thirty years. In some cases considerable additions and improvements were visible especially at the Murdoor anicut or the lowest of the series; but, as a whole, they have been treated in a very unsystematic

manner. This remark does not apply to any particular executive agency under which the works have been managed, but to the general treatment of them since the district first came into our possession.

5. The channels also are defective in several respects. There must be great waste of water, but that is not of so much consequence, since any surplus from the irrigated fields from one anicut channel must pass on either to those under the next in succession or into the river, to be again appropriated. Such waste as there is under the last series of channels is so much loss; but the Strevigoontum works will again have the effect of checking it.

6. But the principal defect of the channels appeared to me to consist in their being without means of regulation of the supply at the heads. A large body of water must at times pass into them, which is not required by the cultivators, and the irrigated lands must either be damaged or there must be a series of escapes to let the surplus water run back to the river. It would be a great improvement to have sluices at the head by which only so much water as should be required for the cultivation should be allowed to enter, and no more. The clearances are not heavy, but any water uselessly admitted brings silt with it, a portion only of which can be returned to the river.

7. As moreover a great volume of flood water passes uselessly to the sea every year by the only stream in the district, which derives a supply from the south-west monsoon, it appeared to me desirable that inquiry should be set on foot, with a view to ascertain whether the present irrigation limit could not be extended to the right and left. The fall of the country along the banks is about three feet per mile, or double that of the Godavery or Kistna Deltas, and there can be no doubt that the water could be carried to a much higher level than it reaches by the existing tortuous channels.

8. In the Memorandum above referred to I mentioned that it was a common practice for the cultivators to lower their fields to allow of their being within the command of the water. This wasteful operation would be quite unnecessary if the fall was economised.

9. But any improvement on the existing state of things cannot be carried out without some interference with existing rights, and an acceptance on the part of the Revenue authorities of the justice of interfering with, and perhaps injuring the cultivation held by one ryot or Meerassidar, to improve the cultivation of many, always on the understanding that the loser should receive liberal compensation. It is, I have no doubt, the difficulty attending this question of existing rights that has prevented improvements in the direction I have indicated, having been taken up by the local officers before this.

No. 185. ORDER THEREON, 8th October, 1868, No. 3,177.

IRRIGATION, No. 8.

These papers will be communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division, who will, in communication with and after personal conference with the Collector, submit to Government, through the Board of Revenue, a joint report on the practical measures which they

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th October 1868.

would recommend for the more effective conservancy, improvement and extension of the irrigation works of the Tinnevelly District.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department.
" Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Revenue Dept.
Proc. of Govt. for October.
No. 3218.

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October, 8th.

Recd. 10th. Encl.

G. O., 8th October 1868, No. 3,177.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 183-185

Irrigation works.—The Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division requested to report, in communication with, and after personal conference with the Collector, on the practical measures necessary for the more effective conservancy, &c., of the —, of the Tinnevelly District.

RECORDED.