M.R. O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2812 Press/Mis.

136-37.
Dated 10-11- 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10*th November* 1868.

No. 136. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Communicating to the Officers concerned Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, submitting, with remarks, the report of the Collector of Kistna on the progress of Public Works during 1867-68. (Here enter 4th November 1868, No. 3,449.)

No. 137. ORDER THEREON, 10th November 1868, No. 2,812.

Miscellaneous. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1868 [illegible]

REVENUE.

To

Dated November, 1868.

Read.

G. O. 10th November 1868, No. 2,812.

Ref.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 136-137.

Public Works in Kistna District.—Order regarding their progress during 1867-68, recorded.

No. 39. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th October 1868, No. 7,077 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Sub-Collector in charge of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th June 1868, No. 190.

1. I have the honor to submit the report on Public Works in the Kistna for 1867-68.

2. The total expenditure was Rupees 3,64,209, being an increase of Rupees 1,02,722, or thirty-nine per cent. on the figures of last year, distributed as follows :—

Works.	Expenditure in 1866-67.	Expenditure in 1867-68.	Comparison.		Estimate for 1868-69.
			Increase.	Decrease.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
New Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Agricultural	1,02,280	2,32,186	1,29,906	.....	2,61,800
2. Communications	8,980	10,658	1,678	.....	50,000
3. Buildings	9,322	7,852	.....	1,470	5,000
Total...	1,20,582	2,50,696	1,31,584	1,470	3,16,800
Repairs.					
1. Agricultural	90,863	60,905	.....	29,958	80,000
2. Communications	23,897	27,059	3,162	.....	39,960
3. Buildings	4,535	4,709	174	.....	4,200
Total...	1,19,295	92,673	3,336	29,958	1,24,160
1. Miscellaneous Public Improvements	16,593	13,713	.....	2,880	500
2. Tools	5,017	7,127	2,110	.....	4,600
Total...	21,610	20,840	2,110	2,880	5,100
Grand Total...	2,61,487	3,64,209	1,37,030	34,308	4,46,060

3. There was thus an increase on Agricultural New Works of Rupees 1,29,906, or twenty-seven per cent., and a decrease in Repairs of Rupees 29,958, or thirty-three per cent. Communications, New and Repairs, show increases of nineteen and thirteen per cent., respectively.

Agricultural, New and Repairs.

4. The chief operations in agricultural works were directed as hitherto to the improvement and extension of Delta irrigation. To this object were devoted Rupees 1,76,845, or sixty per cent. of the whole agricultural expenditure. The

principal works executed or in progress during the year, their estimated cost, the expenditure upon them hitherto and during the year are detailed below :—

Names of Works.	Estimate.	Expenditure up to last year.	Expenditure in the year 1867-68.	Balance to be expended.
I. North of Kistna.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Widening the main canal from Bezwadah to Kankipad	1,83,100	.....	43,015	1,40,085
2. Widening the head of the Masulipatam canal	20,080	.....	7,741	12,339
3. Widening the lower portion, Pulleru... ...	1,04,050	95,475	6,561	2,014
4. Excavating western side irrigation channel of the Bunder Canal...	49,860	.....	14,512	35,348
5. Do. eastern side channel	15,160	.....	.....	.....
South of Kistna.				
Widening the western bank channel	1,46,179	1,09,543	15,843	20,793
Enlarging the main canal near Sitanagaram ...	2,76,404	1,72,370	14,316	89,688
Extending the Commamoor Channel and subsidiary works	1,95,770	75,484	51,294	68,992
Side irrigation channels from Duggirala to Nizampatam	54,857	.....	19,097	35,760
Duggirala and Jagarlamudi locks	30,570	19,013	4,436	7,121

5. In irrigated area the year shows an advance of Acres 4,926, returning Rupees 36,450, or five per cent., above the revenue of last year; but the increase is not all progress: it is in some degree matter of account, not of cultivation. On 2,081 acres in the Repalli talook classified as wet, and assessed at Rupees 10,907, dry crops were raised: they have from the efflorescence of salts (chowdoo) become useless for wet cultivation: their only chance of recovery is to be cultivated as dry, to which the rigidity of the existing Water Rules prevents their re-conversion. The advisability or necessity rather of a modification of the present restriction on re-conversion has been advocated in the correspondence noted in the margin, on which no orders have been yet passed by the Board. The owners, meanwhile, prefer to pay wet assessment and cultivated dry crops to relinquishing lands that have in many cases descended to them through a long succession of generations.

Fuslies.	Land. Acres.	Sist.	Water-rate on Agrahrams and Zemindaries.	Total.
1276	1,17,650	6,46,850	1,36,369	7,83,224
1277	1,22,576	6,74,242	1,45,432	8,19,674
Difference...	4,926	27,387	9,063	36,450

To Board, No.	87,	30th March	1867.
From do.,	,, 2,990,	15th May	,,
To do.,	,, 261,	31st July	,,
To do.,	,, 266,	9th August	,,
To do.,	,, 49,	6th February	1868.

6. Of the works noted in the Statement in paragraph 4, I have at various times of the year seen nearly all. So far as I could judge they appeared to be progressing well. While in the Delta talook of Gudivada in January I visited a large number of the main and subsidiary irrigation works, recorded the wants of every village as ascertained from the people in irrigation, drainage, and roads, and communicated the information to the Superintending Engineer. By the grant to the ryots of palmyras many of the villages and other channels, for crossing which the Department of Public Works make but little provision, will be bridged. Many parts of this talook are very low and exposed to flood from defective embankments

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and the want of drainage; losses from this cause I have brought before the Board in a separate letter, No. 162, dated 18th May 1868.

7. The drainage of the Southern delta, too, is not yet by any means fully provided for: inlets have been made to the Commamoor channel opposite four of the outlets; the main drainage of the Rompeeru has been finished, and the extension to the creek of the drainage from Kadavakuduru, the terminus of the canal on the salt road from Chinna Ganjam to Inkole, has been commenced; but in Bapatla talook there was this year a loss from flooding of Rupees 14,424. In the Repalli talook there were losses from similar defects amounting to Rupees 11,870: these matters were brought to the notice of the Superintending Engineer by Mr. Thornhill, who urged that the necessary works should be rapidly pushed on to prevent serious disaster in a heavy monsoon. The new calingula to the Bapatla tank has been finished, and is a very excellent piece of work: about 1,200 to 1,500 acres of the Moolakkandam of Bapatla, which is irrigated from this tank, were this year waste from the want of an irrigating sluice and supply channel.

8. In his report of last year, Mr. Thornhill pointed out the inconvenience caused to the people by the digging of channels and non-provision of means to cross them. The draw-bridges proposed by him and approved by the Board do not yet exist; but the ten iron punts, the construction of which for use on the canals was sanctioned in 1867, are, according to my information, well-advanced to completion. The locks at Duggirala and Jagarlamudi on the Commamoor channel are expected to be completed in July.

Communications, New Works and Repairs.

9. There was an increase in the expenditure on communications of Rs. 4,840, or fifteen per cent. on that of the preceding year. The roads and the various amounts expended upon them are shown below. The portion of the Trunk Road No. 6, between Guntoor and Sitanagaram, is gradually becoming an excellent road, that beyond to the Nellore frontier is in very indifferent order: for this part a sum of Rupees 50,000 has been sanctioned in the current year's Budget. The Hyderabad road from Masulipatam to Bezwadah has never been completed, and in the rains is for the greater part terrible muck. Beyond Bezwadah large sums have been at various times spent upon it, and in the year under review Rupees 500 worth of metal was put down between Bezwadah and Ibrampatam; the expenditure hitherto seems to have had but little effective result, for Mr. Stuart reports that nothing but a new estimate will, in his opinion, make the road between Bezwadah and Kanchikacherla (20 miles) fit for traffic. The Trunk Road No. 7 is in generally good order; near Rompicherla a road dam is required over the Veeravuttum Vagoo; from Pidugurala to the Kistna there is no made road but a well-defined track, in the middle of which are at places huge boulders of rock which impede traffic; the passage of the Nagaleru at Dachepalli requires to be provided for: this stream is never dry and is often in flood: the track at present lies right through the bed of the river, and the passage is closed when the river is down. The only new water communication completed during the year was a navigable canal from the Buntumilly channel to the Salt Cotaurs at Buntumilly :—

	New Works. Rs.	Repairs. Rs. A. P.
Maintenance of a road from Inkollu to Chinna Ganjam...	.....	718 10 5
Improvement to Trunk Road No. 6 between Guntoor and Seetanagaram...	2,000	... ...
Maintenance of 10½ miles of Trunk Road No. 6 between Guntoor and Seetanagaram...	.....	1,455 0 0
Do. do. for 9½ miles of do.	.....	1,245 0 0
Repairing Trunk Road No. 6 from Guntoor to Gorrapaud and from the latter place up to Bapatla Travellers' Bungalow...	.....	499 14 8
Maintenance of Trunk Road No. 7 from Kopparapad towards Pondugal	.....	3,898 6 9
Maintenance of 7½ miles of Hyderabad road	.....	10,034 15 3
Maintenance of Masulipatam road between Bezwadah and Pamurru	.....	2,832 11 0
Constructing a navigable channel from Buntumilly channel to salt platforms of Buntumilly near Pondraka with a masonry basin...	6,078	... ...
	8,978	20,684 5 1
Other small communications constructed, repaired...	1,680	6,374 10 11
Grand Total...	10,658	27,059 0 0

10. On buildings there was spent Rupees 12,561. The Jail buildings at Guntoor (5,150) have progressed favorably; the surrounding walls are complete, the new hospitals and their subsidiary buildings are in progress, and the new condemned cells are finished. At Manganapady a new Salt Cutcherry was built at a cost of Rupees 599-1-9; minor repairs to the Collectors, Sub-Collectors, and various Talook Cutcherries were executed at a cost of Rupees 7,811-14-3.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

11. I regret to have again this year to report the failure of the supply of Kistna water to this town just when it is most wanted. The necessity of closing the channels for repair prevents the possibility, at present, of a constant supply during the hot weather; nor from what I learn from the Superintending Engineer is it probable that any change for the better can be expected for some time if ever. The matter is very serious in a town where good water is so scarce. Numerous pits have been dug throughout the town, but the water, if good at first, soon becomes brackish and unfit for use. It may be not impossible to provide for a constant supply by laying down a line of pipes from the river to the bridge whence the conduit to the basin rises.

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

2. The expenditure during the year under review amounted to Rupees 3,64,209, being more than that of the preceding year by a lac of Rupees, but the full Budget allotment of Rupees 4,46,060 was not, however, taken advantage of.

3. In paragraph 5, Mr. Wilson states that Dry crops only have been raised on certain lands classified as wet in Repalli talook liable to a water-rate in consequence of their having been rendered unfit for wet cultivation, by the salts that rise in efflorescence from them, and observes that the rigidity of the Water-rate Rules presses heavily upon the ryots, who are not allowed to re-convert their lands. As regards the first point, the Board do not believe that "Sowdoo" lands are quite unfit for wet cultivation. Repeated floodings wash out the liquified salts, and the land gradually become cultivable. The Board understand that extensive tracts of such lands have been redeemed in the Punjab. As regards the rigidity of Water-rate Rules the Board have already passed orders in their Proceedings, dated 5th August 1868, No. 5,679, directing the Collector to remit the water-rate until the land becomes fit for wet cultivation, which it will do after varying periods.

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4. Referring to paragraph 6 of the letter recorded above, commenting upon the defective condition of several embankments in the Gudewada talook, the Board observe that they have already called upon the Acting Collector in paragraph 2 of their Proceedings, dated 23rd July 1868, No. 5,363, to state what steps have been taken by the Superintending Engineer for the improvement of the several embankments, and the drainage of the talook, on the information furnished to him regarding their condition. The Collector will now be requested to submit this report.

5. The Board concur with the Collector in considering that the several works mentioned in paragraph 7 should be rapidly completed, in order to prevent serious disaster in a heavy monsoon. The Board regret that, owing to the want of an irrigating sluice and supply channel, a large area under the Bapatla tank has been lying waste. The Board request that the attention of the Superintending Engineer may be directed to the completion of this work.

6. The Board observe that several lines of communication are in a very unsatisfactory state: all of these should be rapidly completed.

7. Mr. Wilson brings again to notice the failure of the water supply to the Town of Masulipatam during the hot weather, a period in which the want of water is most felt, nor are the Collector and the Superintending Engineer sanguine as to being able to effect any improvement in this respect. No efforts should be spared in supplying the Town with good drinkable water. The special attention of Government is solicited to the Acting Collector's suggestion.

No. 40. Order thereon, 4th November 1868, No. 3,449.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 5.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and to the Superintending Engineer of the 2nd Division.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue 1868-Oct.
No. 3488.

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 4th.

Read. 6th —— *Encl.*

G. O., 4th November 1868, *No.* 3,449.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 39-40

(Progress of Public Works.—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting, with remarks, the report of the Collector of Kistna on the — during 1867-68, communicated to the Officers concerned.

RECORDED.