

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 248

Press
~~Mis.~~

355-356

Dated 24th Sept 1868Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th August 1869.*

No. 355. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th August 1869, No. 5,833 :—

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 30th June 1869, No. 145 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit my Report on the progress of Public Works in this district during the official year 1868-69.

2. The following table exhibits the expenditure in 1868-69 as compared with that of the previous year :—

Items.	Expendi- ture in 1867-68.	Expendi- ture in 1868-69.	COMPARISON.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
<i>New Works.</i>				
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Irrigation	77,358	48,725	.....	28,633
Communications	19,815	20,031	186	.....
Buildings	10,391	26,801	16,413	.....
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	1,07,594	95,560	16,599	28,633
<i>Repairs.</i>				
Irrigation	80,236	77,511	.....	2,725
Communications	68,449	69,539	1,090	.....
Buildings	2,330	4,066	1,736	.....
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ... ..	.....	78	78	.....
Total	1,51,015	1,51,194	2,904	2,725
Grand Total...	2,58,609	2,46,754	19,503	31,358
Net decrease...	.....	.....	.....	11,855

3. There was a net decrease of Rupees 11,855 in the expenditure in the past year as compared with the year previous. The outlay on Irrigation works under new works and repairs is less by Rupees 31,358 than that in 1867-68, and this is much to be regretted in view of the adverse character of the season throughout the year under notice. The net allotment for the district was Rupees 2,62,339, of which Rupees 2,46,754, as shown above, were expended by the Public Works Department on new works and repairs, Rupees 748 on tools and plant, Rupees 4,056 for works executed by Civil Officers, and Rupees 416 for the purchase of stock, leaving an unappropriated balance at the end of the year of Rupees 10,335. I beg to offer a few brief remarks on the most important public works.

4. NEW IRRIGATION WORKS.—*Pombay Channel from the northern end of the Pooniar anicut.*—The estimate, Rupees 45,400, for this project was sanctioned in Government Order, 21st July 1864, No. 2,103, and the object of the work is the irrigation of a considerable extent of land now solely dependant on rain-fed tanks in the talook of Villapuram, and which tanks by means of the connecting channel between the above two rivers and branch channels therefrom will hereafter be supplied with river water in the various freshes during the year. The main channel when completed will be 11½ miles long, 10 yards wide at the bottom with slopes of 1½ to 1, and an uniform fall of two feet in a mile. The increase of revenue expected from the work when completed is Rupees 15,541 or nearly 35 per cent. on the estimated outlay. The expenditure on the past year was Rupees 34,759, and Colonel Foord reports that the channel is now open throughout from the Pooniar to the Pombay, and that many tanks between the two rivers are already supplied. All the works entered in the estimate for this project have been carried out, leaving a balance of only

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Rupees 4,241 which is being expended on bridges over the channels and in converting part of the embankments into a cart road, and other petty improvements.

5. *Anicut across the Manimootandy near Virdachellum.*—The estimate for this work, known as the Keenanoor anicut, is Rupees 34,750. It was sanctioned in Government Order, 19th January 1864, No. 199. As stated in my last year's Report the anicut is intended to ensure a full supply of water to numerous tanks in the vicinity of Virdachellum. In 1867-68 the amount expended on the work was Rupees 27,022, while in 1868-69 it was Rupees 7,824. The work is now finished, and the Superintending Engineer reports that it has been of great value in storing what little water came down the river in the past season, and thus the crops under the influence of the anicut have done well. The saving in the estimate has been laid out in building a calingulah in the bank of the main channel, and sluices in four of the tanks supplied by the anicut; also a shed at the anicut head.

6. *Anicut across the Manimootandy near the village of Mamathoor.*—This project (estimate Rupees 55,800) was sanctioned in Government Order, 24th November 1868, No. 3,684, and consists of an anicut near the village named, with a channel and branches for the better supply of eight tanks in the neighbourhood of Virdachellum, at present dependant on an old and circuitous channel, across which temporary dams had been thrown in the rainy season. It is estimated that 2,000 additional cawnies will be brought under cultivation by means of this work, yielding a return of 11,000 Rupees, or about 20 per cent. on the proposed outlay. The allotment for the year was Rupees 15,000, but owing to the late date of sanction, and as well to the crops being standing on the ground when received, the entire allotment could not be expended, but the main channel, several sluices including the head sluice, and the anicut foundation have all made good progress. The expenditure amounted to Rupees 12,556.

7. *The branch channel from the Ragavaian main channel for the supply of the Poodoopolliem tank, and the re-opening and enlarging of the old Amoor channel,* have been completed; the balance for expenditure in 1868-69 was only Rupees 404 out of a total sum of Rupees 9,234 laid out on the work.

8. The other Irrigation works on which the largest sums have been expended are the following:—

Ten masonry dams and head sluices for the Wallajah main and branch channels	Rs. 1,529
New tank at Kottacolum in the Trinomallay Talook	1,043
Cutting a channel from the Shesnadi river to supply Kullamaradoor tank	1,100
Restoring Naivay ruined tank	982
Cutting a channel from the Guddilum river to supply Manalur tank ...	500
Constructing five masonry dams across the Ariagosty channel... ..	332

9. *NEW COMMUNICATIONS.*—*Gravelling Trunk Road No. IX.*—This work, estimated to cost Rupees 24,900, and sanctioned in Government Order, 16th December 1856, No. 2,318, has now been completed, the expenditure in the year under review being Rupees 3,711-6-0. There are still several miles left unmetalled; in some the soil is naturally good, but for the others metal is required and can only be had from some distance.

10. Rupees 9,290 were expended on the undermentioned salt works in order to connect the Mercanum salt platforms with those of Chunampett in the Madras District lying about three miles further north:—

Completing road from Cundad bridge to Tempakum	Rs. 3,260
Do. road from Tempakum to Chunampett pans... ..	3,530
Do. road from Cundad bridge through Mercanum village	2,500

11. Four bridges on the road between Cullacoorchy and the Salem frontier have been under construction during the last two years, and a sum of Rupees 6,719 has been expended on them. Three of these bridges are now finished, the remaining one over the Vissoodeivanoor stream is in progress and will be open for traffic before the next monsoon.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21th August 1869.*

12. *NEW BUILDINGS.*—Rupees 8,565 were expended on the Cuddalore District Jail. All the buildings are finished excepting the hospital for females, the construction of which has been delayed, the site and design not having been determined.

13. Rupees 17,618 have been sanctioned for Subsidiary Jails, and it is expected that the buildings will be completed within the current official year.

14. On the Police Station-house at Brimadasam in the Tindevanum Talook, Rupees 505 have been spent.

15. The new Zillah School-house was completed during the past year with the balance in hand of Rs. 1,950 remaining unexpended. The total cost of this building has been Rs. 10,355.

16. *REPAIRS.*—231 Tanks, 20 embankments, 71 channels, 18 anicuts, 15 calingulahs, and 34 sluices in different parts of the district have been repaired at a cost of Rupees 77,510.

17. 465 Miles of Imperial road in South Arcot have been kept in repair on a maintenance allowance of Rupees 69,539.

18. As required in paragraph 11 of Government Order, 11th November 1868, No. 2,831, I append a statement furnished by the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, showing the number of miles of Imperial road maintained, completed, under construction, and not yet commenced for the past official year:—

Roads.	Class of Roads.	Length in miles.	No. of miles maintained.	No. of miles completed.	No. of miles in progress.	No. of miles not yet commenced.	Remarks.
Great Southern Road from Madras to Travancore frontier with a branch at Tindevanum towards Negapatam, and another at Vicravandy towards Combaconum, via the Vellaur anicut	I	211	211	...	...	...	Road in good order.
Road from Mercanum to Samulputty on the line of Railway via Tindevanum, Gingee, Trinomalay, and Chungamah pass... ..	I	91	91	...	...	...	Do.
Road from Cuddalore to Salem via Punrootty, Oolundoorpet, Chinna Salem, and Althar	I	65	65	...	...	...	Do.
(Salt Roads) Chunampet to Allathoor, Cundadoo to Thambaukum and Teagavally to the Gundelum ...	II	15	15	...	...	...	Do.
Road to connect the Salt platforms at Cundadoo and Mercanum with the platforms at Chunampet, Madras District	II	10	...	10	...	19	Road from Pondicherry to the Mercanum Salt pans.
Road from Cuddalore to the Salem frontier via Virdachellum	...	68	68	...	...	...	These roads have been since transferred to the Local Funds.
Road from Porto Novo to Trunk Road No. IX	...	16	16	...	...	...	
Total...	...	476	466	10	...	19	

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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No. 356.

ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1869, No. 2,406.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

19. The foregoing remarks relate exclusively to the operations of the Public Works Department from the regular Budget allotments; but during the year, owing to the very unpropitious character of the season, particularly in the western talooks of the district, it was found necessary to undertake works for the special relief of the poorer classes, and the sum expended for this purpose amounted to Rupees 26,900, as will be seen on reference to the statement forwarded with my letter of the 28th May 1869, No. 111. By Government Order, 4th March last, No. 556, further expenditure on these works was prohibited, which I cannot help regretting, as several works on the eve of completion remain unfinished. The Board, in their Proceedings communicating the order of Government, request me to arrange for the completion of the road connecting the Cusbah of Trinomalay with the heart of the Chekkady Jaghire villages from the District Road Funds as money may be made available, but consequent on the recent transfer of certain roads, hitherto treated as Imperial, to the list of Local Fund roads, and to the reserve allotment for the current year having been fully utilised, the District Road Fund is quite unable at present to meet any additional call, but as the year advances, I hope to be able to do something for this important intercommunication.

20. The bridge over the Vellar river for which Rupees 20,000 were provided in the Imperial Budget of the past year, was not, I regret to state, commenced with. Provision is, however, again made for the work in the Budget of the current official year, and I anticipate no further delay in its being vigorously proceeded with.

21. The current year's Budget also provides a considerable expenditure for the improvement of the Allangal channel from the Pooniar river which feeds the large tank of Vallavanoor and eight smaller tanks; also for the Mamathoor, Myoornaddy, and Palandorai anicuts estimated to cost Rupees 25,000, 11,000, and 20,000 respectively, and all of which have been commenced. The proposed road from Pondicherry to Morcanum, the great Salt Depôt of this district, and which is estimated to cost Rupees 49,000, has also a place in the current year's Budget. This project was first sanctioned in 1865, but no steps up to this date have been taken to carry it out.

22. In paragraph 26 of my last year's Report I took occasion to remark on the inadequacy of the Public Works agency for all that was expected of it, and especially is this the case in some of the talooks of this district where the irrigation works are extensive, and require unceasing attention. The whole subject of Public Works and the departmental establishment for carrying them out, more particularly in regard to works of irrigation, being now under investigation and report by a Special Commission appointed for the purpose, I refrain here from any further observation, and it is the less necessary since I have so fully expressed my views and opinion to the Commission itself in answer to their printed questions.

Tanks	...	...	231
Embankments	...	...	20
Channels	...	...	18
Culingulabs	...	...	15
Sluices	...	...	34
			318

SUBMITTED to Government. The Board observe that the report is, on the whole, very favourable.

2. Several large and important irrigation works have been completed, and others well advanced during the year, and 318 minor irrigation works have been put in repair at a cost of Rupees 77,510.

3. The main roads (Imperial) are reported to be efficiently maintained, and good progress has been made in the construction and repairs of Salt Roads.

4. The order which arrested all expenditure for Special Relief Funds after an outlay of Rupees 26,900 had been made, left several important works on the eve of completion unfinished, and in the present condition of the District Road Fund it has not been possible to prosecute the work to completion. The Collector draws special attention to the incomplete state of the line which was in progress to open up the neglected corner of the district known as the Chekkady Jaghire. He should apply any available funds to this road in preference to any other.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Proq Jan'y/69 no 114/15

Revenue 1869. *Net*
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

71-2745

PROCEEDINGS, 9TH AUGUST 1869, No. 5,833.

Exp 16 Augt 1869 Encl.
Received *17c*

71-2406
RECORDED.

24 Augt/69

AUGUST.
No. 5,833.

Public Works—in South Arcot District,—Col-
lector's report on progress of, during 1868-69,
submitted to Government, with remarks.

355-356

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