No. 3292.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION.

Sir, &c., &c.

Dated September, 24th.

Read. 28th *Inst.*

G. O., 24th September 1869, No. 3,109.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 534-535

Progress of Public Works.—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reviewing the report of the Collector on the progress of Public Works in the Trichinopoly District during 1868-69, communicated to the officer concerned.

No. 100

RECORDED.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 24th September 1869.

No. 534. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th August 1869, No. 6,455 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th July 1869, No. 171 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit the annual report upon the progress made in repairs and construction of public works during the past official year 1868-69.

2. The annexed statement shows the amount actually laid out during the year on works of public utility :—

Description of Works.	Budget allotment for 1868-69.	Actual expenditure in 1868-69	Increase.	Decrease.
NEW WORKS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Agricultural	34,576	29.266	.....	5,310
Communications	26,362	19,584	.....	6,778
Buildings, Military	36,473	36,525	52	.....
Do. Civil	1,39,818	1,38,704	.....	1,114
Total ...	2,37,229	2,24,079	52	13,202
REPAIRS.				
Agricultural	1,00,113	96,071	.....	4,042
Communications	44,623	44,221	.....	402
Buildings, Military	6,000	6,118	118	.....
Do. Civil	2,920	2,415	.....	505
Total ...	1,53,656	1,48,825	118	4,949
	3,90,885	3,72,904	170	18,151

3. NEW WORKS, *Agricultural.*—The amount expended under this head was Rupees 29,266, and the principal undertakings for which this outlay was incurred are as follow:—

i.—Constructing ten surplus sluices on left bank of Coleroon.—These have been fully completed, and will prevent the low lying lands near the river bank from being annually inundated, and their crops injured during the heaviest portion of the monsoon.

ii.—Constructing sand sluice to cleanse the mouth of Wyacondam.—This work was designed by Colonel Greenaway, in order to endeavour to lessen the large accumulations of sand which choke up the stream between the Wyacondam head sluice and its source at the river where the coramboo is constructed.

The principle is somewhat novel in this part of the country, the under sluice-gates consisting of shutters working on a pivot by chains and windlasses fixed above. When these shutters are thus horizontally opened during the freshes the sand is intended to pour through these low level apertures in great quantities and scour the stream for a considerable distance; in fact even up to the coramboo head, a mile-and-a-half off. At first all did not work satisfactorily, as the shutters got jammed; but the last reports are favourable, and, during the present high freshes, the sluice is answering its projector's expectations.

iii.—Extension of the Wyacondam Channel, one of the main irrigation systems of the district.—The general opinion appears to be that the results of this undertaking are doubtful. The channel bed is so silted up below Trichinopoly that the villagers dependent upon the supply in these parts are already badly off, consequently, unless these siltings are removed, the cultivators under the extension are likely to be worse off still.

iv.—The Nundiar Anicut.—This project is now completed, and already yields a return on the outlay. But we may expect still better results hereafter, as the ryots in the neighbourhood are preparing their dry lands for well cultivation, and as they fully appreciate the benefits likely to be thus conferred by the anicut an increase to the revenue will naturally result.

4. *Communications.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rupees 19,584. It was incurred on account of the following works :—

i.—Constructing road from Trichinopoly to Salem, viâ Torriore, 42 miles in length.—This work has almost been completed, the last 4½ miles being now in rapid progress, as well as the masonry works on other portions of the road.

ii.—Road from Trichinopoly to Trunk Road No. 9, viâ Wudiarpolliem.—The entire length of this road is 50 miles; of this 43 miles were constructed up to the end of the last year, and the remaining 7 miles were completed during the year reported on. The total cost of this work was Rupees 42,857.

iii.—Road from Trichinopoly to Dindigul, 43 miles in length.—This work was almost completed.

iv.—Constructing iron girder-bridge over the Iyaur, on the road between Salem and Trichinopoly.—The estimated expenditure upon this work is Rupees 74,300, and the abutments firmly built on wells are now ready for the reception of the girders, which, together with the screw-piles, are now being manufactured in Madras.

The Board may remember that the former brick-and-mortar bridge shared the the fate of its two predecessors, and was swept away by a heavy flood which came down the Iyaur in October 1866. The present structure will have so much waterway, and offer so little resistance to the stream, that the Iyaur floods in future, however high, will pass harmlessly on. Apart from its great utility this new structure will be a considerable ornament to this already picturesque spot, and if we could only get the bridges over the Coleroon anicut, and the Cauvery hard by, all would not only look but be really very complete in the way of communication.

5. *Buildings, Military.*—A sum of Rupees 36,525 was spent under this head. The following will show the principal works executed :—

i.—Constructing new Guard-room for the Battery of Artillery.

ii.—Constructing Blacksmiths' forge and Shoeing-shed for the Battery of Artillery.

iii.—Converting the old Bombproof and tiled Barracks into Ordnance, Commissariat, and Medical store-rooms. Converting also a temporary Barrack into quarters for the families of the European detachment.

The increased attention which has lately been paid to the subject of improved Military buildings brought about these changes for the better, and the location of

the Ordnance, Commissariat, and Medical stores in one block of buildings is doubtless a good arrangement. The old abandoned Arsenal was far away, hot, and unsuitable; it has lately been purchased by the Municipality.

6. *Buildings, Civil.*—The expenditure under this head, namely, Rs. 1,38,704, was incurred on account of the undermentioned works:—

i.—Constructing new Central Jail.—The amount of estimate is Rupees 3,76,000. Rupees 2,58,538 were spent up to 31st of March 1869. The work is in progress.

ii.—Additions and alterations to Collector's Cutcherry.—This work was completed, and the amount spent was Rupees 2,754.

The principal work in the district under this head is the new Central Jail, which now begins to assume a somewhat complete appearance. Six hundred convicts are now located therein, with hospital and all other necessary accommodation, and when completed this structure will, doubtless, be universally admired for its excellent arrangements and extensive capabilities.

7. I annex a statement of the repairs executed to minor Irrigation works, Communications, and Buildings:—

1. Repairs, *Agricultural.*

Irrigation Channels	34
Tanks	51
Dykes	81

2. *Communications.*

Roads	7

3. *Buildings.*

Military	85
Civil	20

The second and third items call for no particular remarks, and the whole subject of repairs to minor Irrigation works has been so fully discussed and exhausted before the Committee now sitting in the Board's office that any remarks of mine regarding the future procedure in these matters would be superfluous.

8. The usual statement, showing the whole Irrigation works in this district, is appended:—

	In repair.	Out of repair.	Total.
Large tanks	372	58	430
Small tanks	562	42	604
Irrigation Channels	830	43	873
Supplying Channels	783	25	808
Dams	62	4	66
Bridges	275	1	276
Tank Sluices	577	79	656
Channel Sluices	466	31	497
Calingulahs	242	35	
	4,169		

Proceedings of the Madras Government. Public Works Department, 24th September 1869.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The total expenditure on "New Works" and "Repairs" has been Ru 3,72,904, which amount is in excess of the previous year's expenditure by Ru 50,317.

3. The Board would beg to draw attention to the Collector's observation paragraph 3 on the deterioration of the Wyacondam channel.

4. The per-centage of Irrigation works still out of repair, as shown in statement annexed to paragraph 8, is under eight per cent. of the whole.

No. 535. ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1869, No. 3,109.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 45.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.
" Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.