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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 555 Press
~~Misc~~
114-115

Dated 7/5/ 1969

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th January 1869.

No. 114. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting to Government, report of Collector of South Arcot, on operations of Public Works Department during 1867-68. (Here enter 28th September 1868, No. 6,894.)

No. 115. ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1869, No. 55.

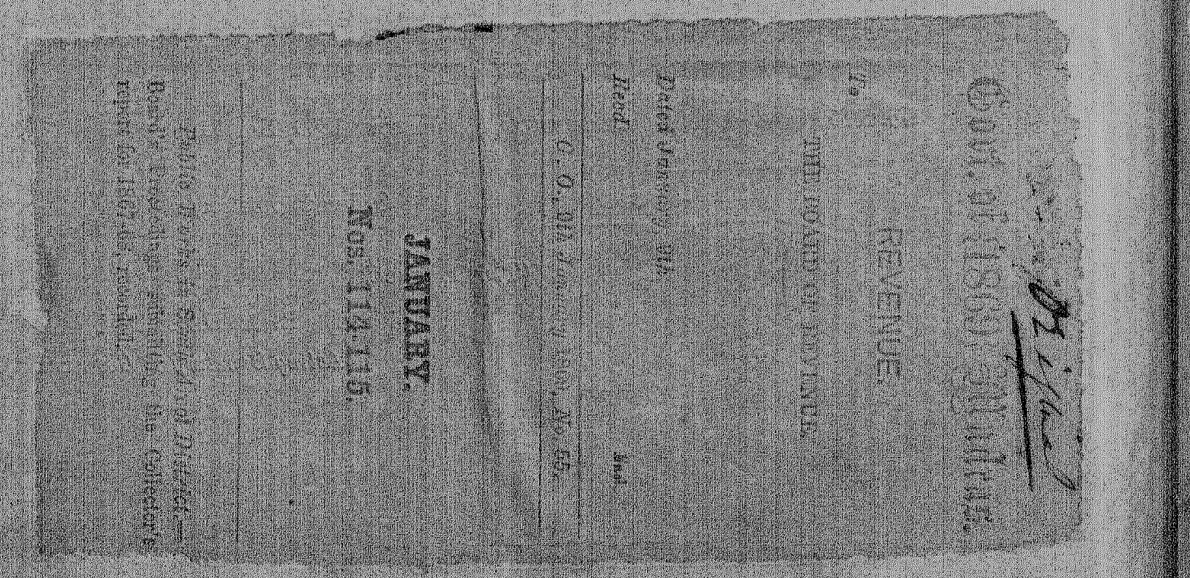
Miscellaneous. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.



No. 6,891.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 28th September 1868.

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Perambay, 14th July 1868, No. 181:—

1. I have the honour to submit my report on the operations of the Public Works Department in this district, during the official year 1867-68.

2. The expenditure on Public Works in the year under review and its predecessor, is given in the subjoined table:—

ITEMS.	Expenditure in 1866-67	Expenditure in 1867-68	COMPARISON.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
New Works.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Irrigation	13,203	77,358	64,155	...
Communications	13,772	19,845	6,073	...
Buildings	9,263	10,391	1,128	...
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ...	480	...	...	480
Total...	36,718	1,07,594	71,356	480
Repairs.				
Irrigation	58,645	80,236	21,591	...
Communications	61,439	68,449	7,010	...
Buildings	1,832	2,330	498	...
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ...	...	...	...	...
Total...	1,21,916	1,51,015	29,099	480
Grand Total...	1,58,634	2,58,609	1,00,455	480
		Net Increase...	99,975	

3. It is satisfactory to find that the total outlay in the past year exceeded by Rupees 99,975 the expenditure in 1866-67, and the increase is most noticeable in the item of "Irrigation" in which under "New Works" and "Repairs," the expenditure exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 85,740. The net allotment for the district was Rupees 2,74,599, of which Rupees 2,58,609 were expended on works executed by Public Works Department, Rs. 546 on tools, and Rs. 3,205 on works executed by Civil Officers, leaving a balance of Rs. 12,238 unexpended at the close of the year.

4. NEW IRRIGATION WORKS.—The first in importance is the Keenanore Anicut across the Manimoottanady in the limits of Comaramungalum, in the Virdachellum talook. The object of this anicut is to throw water into the Keenanore and Kumapoorum Channels on the north bank of the river, and by means of a new head sluice into the Devangoody and Kavanoor Channels. A proposal to build this anicut had been under consideration at different times for the last twenty-two years, but only in 1864 was the present estimate finally sanctioned. The work, when completed, will insure an adequate supply of water to several tanks in about thirty villages of the Virdachellum and Chellumbrum talooks, which hitherto depended for their irrigation on the temporary earth-bund thrown over the river in each year, and which was invariably carried away by the first fresh. The estimate for the work is Rs. 34,750, and the estimated increase of revenue to be derived from it amounts to Rs. 10,587, or about thirty per cent. of the cost. Rs. 27,022 were spent in the past year, leaving at its close Rupees 7,728 unexpended.

5. The next important irrigation work is the channel from the northern end of the Pooneaur Anicut to connect it with the Pombay river. This work I have advocated ever since I joined the district. The channel is to be 11¼ miles long, five of which have been completed, and the remainder is more than half done. The object of the work is to secure the irrigation of 103 villages in the Villa-

puram talook, which at present are entirely dependent on the rains for their water supply, and the increase of revenue resulting from it is estimated at Rs. 15,541 per annum. The estimate amounted to Rupees 45,400, of which Rupees 39,824 were allotted for expenditure on the channel in the year under review, and of this Rupees 26,977-12-2 have been spent.

6. The supply channel from the Ragavien main channel has been improved, and the old Ameer channel has been re-opened at a cost of Rupees 8,830. This latter work is likely to prove remunerative by the security it will give to the cultivation of lands whose heretofore source of supply was somewhat precarious.

7. The anicut across the Manimoottanaddy for the supply of the Kallacoorchy tank has been completed with the exception of the head sluice of the channel. This work has been under execution for the past two years.

8. The restoration of the Cushba Vaak at Virdachellum was also completed in the past year, and the new calingulah on the bank of the Wallajah channel has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,050.

9. New Communication.—Rupees 1,080-0-5 were expended to complete the gravelled embankment with bridge and tunnel across the Mullatar, a work which had been commenced in the previous official year.

10. Two of the bridges on the road to Salem *via* Kullacoorchy and Yellavanasur, namely, those at the 148th and 153rd miles, have been completed, and two other larger bridges at the 151st and 152nd miles have been commenced; the total expenditure in the year for these works being Rupees 4,591-9-6.

11. Rupees 2,633-13-11 were spent on a bridge on the road between Cuddalore to Virdachellum, which is now completed and open for traffic.

12. Rupees 6,999-15-6 were laid out for metalling Trunk Road No. 9, parts of which were becoming almost impassable for wheeled traffic.

13. New Buildings.—Rupees 6,562 was allotted for expenditure during the year on additions and improvements to the Zillah Jail, and the money was all expended.

14. A bungalow, with out-offices, has been built at Tindavanum for the Assistant Superintendent of Police at a cost of Rupees 2,000-15-3, and another smaller bungalow at Vuldavoor for the Sayer Police Inspector, at a cost of Rupees 1,100.

15. The new Zillah School-house at Cuddalore has been erected during the year at a cost, up to the close of the year, of Rupees 8,404-11-0, and the building only requires plastering to be fit for use.

16. Five toll gates were put up at five Sayer or Land Customs stations at a cost of Rs. 500 during the official year, and another has since been erected at Cuddalore-gut, where by mistake had been overlooked.

17. Repairs.—Repairs have been made to 162 tanks, 63 channels, 12 anicuts, 20 anicut or dams, 8 calingulahs, 23 embankments, and 8 head sluices and aqueducts; and under the head of minor new works 29 sluices, 7 anicuts, and 3 calingulahs have been completed. The largest sums laid out on repairs was Rupees 6,131-13-2, which was expended on the Trikanar supply and surplus channels, from which immediate benefit was derived.

Four hundred and sixty-five miles of Imperial road have been kept in repair, at a cost of Rupees 67,806-13-5.

18. Since my last Public Works Report, Government have sanctioned the estimate for the bridge over the Veller, and I believe it was in contemplation to commence the work in the present year, but for some cause or other, probably the calls for Relief Works elsewhere, it has been found necessary to postpone the execution of this bridge to another year.

19. There are other works, which, in my opinion, and in that of Colonel Foord, urgently call for execution. The principal of these are, the Anicut across the Manimoottanaddy river in the Virdachellum talook near Manendoor, and extensive improvements to the Allungoli or Vellaramner, Vellapuram, and Pooncaur channels from the Pooncaur river. These works will be found mentioned in my letter recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd March 1868, No. 1,409.

20. There is now a project which is likely to prove feasible and not very costly of supplying the tanks of these important towns and villages by a branch channel from the main channel on the north bank of the Pooncaur, adverted to in paragraph 5 of this report, and I am of opinion that the execution of this project is imperative in view of the very serious loss to the revenue and the people for years past, owing solely to the present very precarious source of supply. I have specially called the attention of the Superintending Engineer to the subject.

21. The two other works mentioned in my letter, namely, the road from Manalcorpett to Tirunamally, (estimate Rupees 10,000,) and that from Kullacoorchy to Virdachellum via Varanjarum, (estimate Rupees 8,000,) will be executed in the current official year from the District Road Fund.

22. The Western Talooks of the district, with the exception of Tirunamallay, have suffered far less by the failure of the monsoon rains than I had anticipated; but in Tirunamally, at one time considerable distress threatened, but which has been averted by timely measures of relief, both by extensive remissions and by the employment of labour, and works of all kinds are being carried out, which will, I hope, not only for the time benefit the ryots immediately affected by an adverse season, but will prove of permanent and lasting good to the country in general. Fortunately the heavy and unlooked-for fall of rain in January averted much of the anticipated distress, and particularly was it so in those parts of the district nearer the coast where wet cultivation prevails; but notwithstanding the propitiousness of these late rains, they were not in time to save the greater proportion of the dry crops which had already very generally perished, whole or in part, throughout every talook in the district.

23. Subsequent to my last year's Public Works Report, I have separately addressed the Board on more than one occasion on the unsatisfactory result of my conference with the French officials in the matter of the Vikravandy anicut and channels referred to in paragraph 16; and I desire to call the Board's attention again to my letter of 31st October 1867, No. 188. I am now able to report the satisfactory termination to the differences which had arisen, a result brought about by a special conference at my instance between Col. Foord and the Chief Engineer of the French Government, and without which I stated in my letter nothing could be done. The alterations we sought from the French in the works executed by them for their special benefit, under the conditional sanction of the Madras Government, at the recommendation of the Superintending Engineer, have been conceded; and articles have been drawn up and are now in course of enforcement which will secure to our ryots (and by consequence the public revenue) all those rights and interests which at one time seemed jeopardized by the improvements that had been carried out for the exclusive benefit of French subjects.

24. It is due, however, that I should repeat what I have already mentioned, that throughout the frequent discussions that have taken place on the subject, there has been no disposition evinced by the French Government to overreach us, or to do otherwise than what was right, and they have never contended that they were privileged to enforce the advantageous results of their improvements to our detriment; the question has been whether those improvements were really attended with injury to English interests, and though for a while they contended this, and wished them to be tested by the season, no sooner were they convinced on the point, and discovered that it was through an imperfect knowledge on Colonel Foord's part that the dilemma had arisen, than they yielded and at once acquiesced in the alterations desired by the Superintending Engineer. The question was, of course, one for scientific solution; hence it was impossible for me to enforce my views which I represented as those of Colonel Foord, against four or five French Engineers who met me in camp in September last, as reported in my letter above quoted, for the consultation, so that we might come to some definite understanding, and I then at once saw that, without Colonel Foord, who had originally permitted the French to carry out their projects, it was hopeless to look for any satisfactory settlement of the *vexata quæstio*.

25. The correspondence will, I trust, suffice the Board, or Government desire to have before them the further correspondence which has passed between the French Government, Colonel Foord and myself; and it would be sufficient if I were to record definitely that all differences have been determined, and that the rights and interests of English ryots have been secured and permanently secured under the present Convention. Agreements, and I am sanguine that no further cause of difference will arise, letters on record between the parties in connection with this matter.

26. The present liberality of the Home Government in respect to grants for all works of public utility, whether of irrigation or communication, disarms all complaint which hitherto had been rife on the subject, and the responsibility of local Officers is, of course, all the heavier, since with them it rests to project such works, and to expend on them the sums so liberally and readily granted; and although in my belief all is done that can reasonably be expected, more particularly in one or two of the Ranges where the Officers at the Head of the Department are active and alive to their responsibilities, still I think that the agency employed, on the whole, is not equal to the work required of it; and consequently there are many minor works of equal importance as great ones to the parties interested, which are delayed and left undone, for years it may be, simply for want of the means of looking after their execution; and if it were practicable to meet and overcome this defect in the system, there would, I think, be a larger and more profitable expenditure of money than at present. For instance, looking after the irrigation works of a talook must give ample employment for a single Overseer; and in fact his time ought, in my opinion, to be restricted to such duty, while roads and tunnels and the smaller bridges might safely be left to a Head Maistry or Sub-Overseer, who might, with advantage and little cost, be specially appointed to that duty, relieving the Talook Overseer, and enabling him to devote his attention more closely to his more important functions.

27. The return to the old system of Progress Reports from the various ranges, advocated by me in my last year's report, and insisted on by the Board, is an important correction of a grave mistake, and now Collectors, as formerly, are kept informed of all improvements, and their progress great and small throughout their districts, while in the interval between the discontinuance and revival of those reports a Collector was powerless to interpose, and his opinion and interference were both alike ignored.

28. I have not thought it necessary to forward copy of my Sub-Collector's Report specially relating to his Division of the district. It mainly treats of matters of detail with suggestions for transfers of maintenance allowance from certain roads to others, and enters into questions affecting the working of the Department which are rather for consideration by the Executive Head; and accordingly I have furnished Colonel Foord with a copy of Mr. Hathaway's letter in order that, so far as may be practicable or expedient, the suggestions offered may be acted on, and there is nothing in the Report calling for other than the interference and notice of the Superintending Engineer, who is so thoroughly conversant with the district, and all its requirements, as well as with the most advantageous manner of laying out money in meeting them.

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1. Submitted to Government.
2. The Board are glad to learn that the differences with the French Government about the Vikravandy Anicut and Channels are settled.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" to the Acting Collector of South Arcot.

No. 6684, dated 25th September 1868.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

No. 2464, dated 1868, Despatched

Submitting to Government report of Sub-Collector of South Arcot on Operations of P.W.D. Department during 1868-69.

Ed. J. Wright

RECORDED