

## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|                |              |                         |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| G.O. No.       | 1932         | Press<br><del>Mis</del> |
| 90-91<br>Dated | 5-12-1870-19 |                         |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
5th December 1870.*

No. 90. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th October 1870, No. 6,096 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st July 1870, No. 1,815.

HAVING recently made a short tour through the south of the district, I am desirous of bringing to the notice of the Board and Government certain circumstances connected with the administration, which, in my opinion, need to be considered, and some alteration made.

2. I find that at Venkatagiri, the seat of the Rajah, and the head-quarters of the Sub-Magistrate in charge of the Zemindari Division bearing that name, we are indebted to the Rajah's courtesy for the accommodation required by the Sub-Magistrate for his cutcherry and sub-jail. The building was lent to Government in 1868 under the circumstances recorded in the papers on which Government Order, dated 3rd July 1868, No. 1,059, was passed. It was then understood that a new office and jail would soon be built; but, owing to the recent financial crisis, nothing whatever has been done towards its erection, and our occupation of the Rajah's building is indefinitely prolonged. Again, at Nayadupett, the present head-quarters of the Deputy-Collector on general duty, and the prospective location of the Head Assistant Collector and Magistrate, we are occupying a small bungalow belonging to the Rajah, and in the rear of his own cutcherry, for the purposes of an office, and in both cases no payment is made in the way of rent, nor would it be accepted, if offered.

3. I cannot but think that these arrangements are objectionable, and that it is not in accordance with the dignity of Government that we should, for a moment longer than absolutely necessary, carry on the business of the State in borrowed lodgings.

4. The proposal to erect a suitable cutcherry and sub-jail at Nayadupett has already been sanctioned;\* but, for the same reason as that mentioned in the case of Venkatagiri, no funds have been allotted for the purpose, and the transfer of the Head Assistant to that station has accordingly been postponed.†

5. The recent stoppage of work has had a most disastrous effect. At Rapur a site had been selected for a new taluq cutcherry and sub-jail, (both very much required,) and materials collected at a considerable cost. Orders have recently been received, I understand, to dispose of these. In regard to the wood-work, this can only be done at a considerable loss, for the timber has been cut to suit the purposes for which it was required, and there is no demand for it on the spot.

6. At Gudur alterations in the existing cutcherry had made considerable progress. The walls of a new record-room and of an office for the Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate have been raised. Several cross walls within the cutcherry have been built, and now that the work has been left half finished, there is more inconvenience felt than if the building had never been touched. I asked the Superintending Engineer if he could complete it; in reply, he tells me that he cannot even pay his debts, much less go on with the work.

7. At Sularpett, the head-quarters of the Sub-Magistrate of the Polur Zemindari Division, an estimate for a cutcherry and sub-jail has been sanctioned at a cost of Rupees 12,252. Of this, a sum of Rupees 3,620 has been spent. The foundations and basement walls (two feet above ground) of the whole cutcherry have been completed, a well twenty feet deep has been sunk, 660 cubic feet of teak (sufficient for the whole building) have been provided, also eleven venetian and panel doors. These materials are all lying on the spot. This wood the Superintending Engineer wishes to sell, but the Range Officer has pointed out that this would be very difficult, if not impossible, and would involve great loss, as it has all been cut into proper scantlings for each part of the work, and only wants planing before being put up. The present office of the Sub-Magistrate at Sularpett is simply disgraceful, more like a pig-sty than anything else: it is held in a tumble-down native house with a thatched roof, which gives free admittance to the rain. This house is the property of a resident in the village, and was borrowed when the Sub-Magistrate was transferred from Nayadupett in 1861. No rent appears to be paid. The sub-jail is held in a native house opposite, of a very insecure description. A monthly payment of Rupees 3 is made for this.

8. I have written thus far of the public buildings in the south of the district. I would now add a word about the great northern road. This may be said to be in fair working order; at all events it is passable, but there are some great hindrances to the traffic in the way of rivers. I would not mention them if no efforts had been made to bridge them, but considerable expenditure has been incurred, and this, so far as the public are concerned, is money spent in vain, unless the works are finished.

9. An estimate has been sanctioned for a bridge across the Kalinganadi, a mile south of Sularpett, at a cost of Rupees 37,650. The amount spent up to the end of last year was Rupees 13,764. The whole of the foundations have been completed to floor-level, the retaining walls to inverts, and two out of the seven inverts themselves have been constructed. The work was commenced in January 1869, and actual construction ceased on 1st November of the same year, owing to the setting in of the monsoon. 60,000 bricks, a large quantity of firewood, and some chunam were prepared during the following two months, as the contractor intended resuming work in January 1870, but in the middle of that month orders were received to stop further progress. The materials are still at the site of the bridge; but as no allotment has been made for the current official year, the contractor must inevitably suffer no inconsiderable loss. This stoppage of the work will, I am informed, render necessary an addition to the estimate of 2 or 3,000 Rupees, as a large quantity of earth from the temporary bunds, the sides of the cuttings, and river deposit, which now covers the works, will have to be removed, and this will involve an outlay, for which there is no provision in the estimate.

10. Owing to the non-completion of this bridge, bandies have to leave the high road a mile or so north and south of the river, and make a detour through heavy sand before they can reach the road again. When the river is in flood, crossing is out of the question.

11. At the southern extremity of the district, and separating it from Chingleput, is the salt-creek or backwater of Punamgana, between the 32nd and 33rd mile-stones on the Madras road. Considerable progress has been made in the works necessary for crossing the two branches of this creek. The works, I understand, belong to the first Range of the Madras District, and I have been unable to learn any particulars, but I observed, on crossing the creek, that the embankment between and on either side of the two branches had been nearly completed; that one bridge of seven or eight arches was all but ready to be opened; and that the piers, abutment, etc., of a smaller bridge of two arches had been finished. I was able to walk over the larger bridge, but the roadway has still to be laid and side walls built. It seemed to me that at a comparatively small expenditure this most useful work might be made available for traffic. At present nothing is being done, and bandies struggle through the heavy sand and water as of old.

12. The remarks above recorded have reference to personal observations made during the last few weeks in one portion of the district. The inconvenience and loss, of which examples have been mentioned, are not confined, however, to the south. In every taluq the stoppage of Public Works expenditure has been felt; and on this point I would refer the Board to the remarks in paragraph 17 of my report\* on Public Works for 1869.

\*Dated 20th June 1870, No. 1,552.

13. It may be said that in this letter nothing has been said that is not already well known; that the present state of things is unavoidable; and that all districts are similarly affected.

14. I am aware that this is perfectly true, and I have been in doubt whether it was of any use my troubling the Board with these particulars. It seemed to me, however, that no harm would be done, even if actual good did not accrue by bringing to their notice what struck me as I went along.

15. No suggestions can be of any use if money is not available; but it occurs to me that, when funds can be spared, it would be the best plan to take in hand first of all such works as have already been commenced, and then those which are the most urgently needed, though not at present begun.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The state of things reported by Mr. Master is no doubt to be regretted, but it exists in every district in the Presidency.

3. If, however, it can possibly be done, the Board recommend that funds be granted for the completion of the bridge across the Punamgana creek, mentioned in paragraph 11.

No. 91.

ORDER THEREON, 5th December 1870, No. 1,932.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be communicated to the  
Department Public Works.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
5th December 1870.*

2. The Government greatly regret the existence of the state of things reported, but fear that, in the present condition of the finances, it is impossible to apply an effective remedy.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

*Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.

,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

8<sup>th</sup> June/79 No. 179-180  
 7 June/70 - 88-89  
 23 September - 82 & 2.  
 8 July/68 - 125/6

Rev. 1870. *Old*  
**Board of Revenue,**  
**MADRAS.** *Jy. 3284*

PROCEEDINGS, 13TH OCTOBER 1870, No. 6,096.

*Dep. 24 Oct/70* Encl.

Received *25*

*S. O. 1932 - 5 Dec 1870*

OCTOBER.  
 No. 6,096.

*Public Works*—in Nellore District.—Letter from Collector bringing to notice disastrous effects of stoppage of expenditure on, submitted for orders of Government, with recommendation that, if possible, funds be granted for completion of bridge across Punangana Creek.

*90*  
*29 hope in Rev 1870*

**Govt. of 1870**

**REVENUE.**

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy, Secy, Secy,

Dated December, 5th.

Recd.

G. O., 5th December 1870, No. 1,932.

**DECEMBER**  
 Nos. 90-91.

*Public Works in Nellore District.*  
 Proceedings Board of Revenue bringing to notice the disastrous effects of stoppage of expenditure on them, communicated to Department for Public Works.

Memo for orders on N<sup>o</sup> 3284.

In this paper Mr. Master reports upon the serious loss which is being incurred in several parts of the <sup>Western</sup> District owing to the stoppage of public works which are half completed. He also draws attention to the fact that the Gov<sup>t</sup> are occupying for public purposes two buildings belonging to the Venkatagiri Zemindar.

2 As observed by the Board the same complaint would probably be properly made from every District in the Presidency, and little is to be gained by commenting on such an unfortunate state of things. It is submitted however that

it

it is surely false economy to  
adopt a course of action on  
behalf of the State which no  
private person would dream of  
following in his own private  
affairs. It would surely be  
worth-while to make a strong  
representation to the Govt. of  
India in the Public Works Dept.  
showing exactly the number  
of buildings already commenced,  
the expenditures on each up to  
date, that needed to complete  
them, and an estimate of the  
inevitable loss to Govt. if they  
are left in their present  
state, with an urgent request  
that, as an exceptional case,  
the amount required be at once  
provided for by special loan  
with perhaps the proviso that  
the interest of the loan, and

107  
7 per cent for sinking funds;  
i.e. 12 per cent on the amount  
advanced shall form the first  
charge on the Annual Public  
Works grant to the Madras  
Presidency until the loan is  
repaid.

Edw. D.

Revenue  
Public Works  
Mellore Dist.

Council

Agree to start the  
information but the  
best way to get money  
for bridge work will  
be to loan on the  
local funds with  
Tolls on the Bridges  
to pay the interest  
on the loan.  
N.

This book is to be  
brought for work at  
Council & in future  
the Council will be  
stained from the  
on to the local  
in case to give the  
for the same  
- please make  
N. A.

Revenue Department  
17-1932.

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Under date the 5<sup>th</sup> Decemr/32

Read the following  
Proceedings of the Board  
of Revenue.

Subj. for order letter from  
Collyer writing to notice disastrous  
effects of stoppage of expenditure  
on P. Works in Mellore Dist. with  
recommendation that, if possible,  
funds be granted for completion  
of bridge across Purnaganga Creek.

(H.C. 13<sup>th</sup> Oct/30 H.C. 6094)

Ordered to be com-  
municated to the Depart  
Public Works.

2. The Government  
greatly regret the ex-  
istence of the state of  
things reported - but fear

Revenue  
Public Works  
Mellore Dist.

Council

Agree to start the  
information but the  
best way to get money  
for bridge work will  
be to loan on the  
local funds with  
Tolls on the Bridges  
to pay the interest  
on the loan.  
N.

29/10/1932

This has been  
brought forward at  
Council & in  
the Council has  
been decided from 1932  
on to the 1st - 1932  
in order to give the  
for the same  
N.A.A.

Revenue Department  
17-1932.

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Under date the 5th Decr. /32

Read the following  
Proceedings of the Board  
of Revenue.

Subj. for order letter from  
Collyer regarding to notice disbursements  
effects of stoppage of expenditure  
on P. Works in Mellore Dist. with  
recommendation that, if possible,  
funds be granted for completion  
of bridge across Perunganga Creek.

(H.C. 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. /30 H.C. 6094)

Ordered to be com-  
municated to the District  
Public Works.

2. The Government  
greatly regret the ex-  
istence of the state of  
things reported - but fear

that

That in the present con-  
dition of the finances  
it is impossible to apply  
an effective remedy.

H.A.

List

Ordered in Council

29 Nov. 1870.

For the P. R. R. Dept. 6<sup>th</sup>  
P. R. R. Dept.

H.A.

30. Decided by No 302-306.

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