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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 138 —Press
B.P. ~~No.~~ Mis.

Dated 23.8.1872 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 14th August 1872.

No. 241. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th July 1872, No. 1,238:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st May 1872, No. 502.

I HAVE the honour to report on the Public Works executed from Imperial and Provincial Funds in this district during the past official year, and to forward, herewith, the Progress Reports of Range Officers, and the reports of my Assistants thereon.

2. The following is a comparative statement of expenditure during the past and the preceding year:—

Items.	Expenditure in 1870-71.	Expenditure in 1871-72.	Comparison.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
New Works.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Irrigation	983 5 2	485 1 4	.....	498 3 10
Communications	87,787 7 2	.....	.....	87,787 7 2
Civil Buildings	13,429 10 10	22,489 0 2	9,059 5 4	.....
Total...	1,02,202 7 2	22,974 1 6	9,059 5 4	88,277 11 0
Repairs.				
Irrigation	10,516 5 3	8,566 10 4	.....	1,949 10 11
Communications	46,052 5 0	.....	.....	46,052 5 0
Civil Buildings	5,485 2 4	4,637 7 2	.....	847 11 2
Total...	62,053 12 7	13,204 1 6	.....	48,849 11 1

3. IRRIGATION.—In Irrigation the outlay has been less than in the year 1870-71, owing to the Budget allotment having been less in 1871-72.

4. COMMUNICATION.—The large decrease under this head is due, first, to the fact that all roads which had hitherto been classed as Imperial were transferred to Local Funds during the year under review; secondly, the expenditure on roads from Local Funds was included in the statement annexed to the report for 1870-71, whereas it is now omitted under paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st July 1871, No. 3,173.

5. A sum of Rupees 12,301 was expended during last year on relief works, which has formed the subject of a separate report.—*Vide* my letter dated April 9th, 1872, No. 275, recorded in Government Proceedings, R. D., dated April 18th, No. 287.

6. The grant for clearing jungles and making roads in the Jeypore country for 1871-72 was Rupees 10,000, which was allotted as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Principal Assistants	1,097	2	6
Senior Assistant	2,500	0	0
Assistant Agent	6,402	13	6

A statement showing the particulars of expenditure is enclosed.

Besides the above, a sum of Rupees 5,000 was also expended in the partial construction of the Assistant Agent's house at Koraput.

7. Civil Buildings.—In this there is an increase of Rupees 8,211-10-2 in the expenditure, the chief items of which are—

		Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Converting part of the old Ordnance Depôt into a Post Office	2,425	6	5
2.	Zillah Jail at Vizagapatam	4,987	0	7
3.	Subsidiary Jail at Chodavaram	709	6	4
4.	Constructing night latrines in the District Jail	1,639	5	10
5.	Construction of Police huts	4,742	0	0

Nos. 1 and 2 are in progress. No. 3 has been completed and the work seemed to me to be very well done; additions to the Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry at Bobbili, consisting of a Subsidiary Jail, are reported by the Senior Assistant to have been well done; when inspected by me in February, the work was in progress. The new Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry at Vizianagram was taken in hand, and considerable progress made in it; it has since been completed. The building was inspected by myself and the Senior Assistant. I would call special attention to the remarks of the Principal Assistant Collector on the Yalamanchilly Taluq Cutcherry, a building on which 9,000 Rupees have been spent and which has been six years in progress. The walls have been built to their full height, and now it is found that they will not support a roof. No comment is needed on a system under which such mistakes can occur; the other works mentioned in the Progress Report call for no remark.

Enclosure No. 1.

From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq, Acting Collector, for Principal Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 17th April 1872, No. 28.

I have the honour to report on the state of the Public Works in the Sub-division for the year 1871-72.

2. Buildings.—The Cutcherry and Sub-Jail at Chodavaram have been completed, and a new Sub-Jail built at Nursipatam. Nothing has been spent on the unfinished Cutcherry at Yalamanchilly, and under recent orders of Government, in the Public Works Department, it is to be pulled down. This, I think, is greatly to be deprecated, for Rupees 9,000 has been spent on it, and as it has been under construction for six years, it is to be regretted that its condition has never been discovered before. I do not pretend to any professional knowledge, but I cannot help thinking that a lighter roof might be put on or the walls buttressed or supported, and thus avoid the necessity of wasting so large a sum of money. The building has been constructed by Mr. Laskey, who has been Supervisor of this range for seven or eight years. Captain Beatty, the Executive Engineer, has had nothing to do with it, though his duties in connection with the trunk road take him under the walls of the building every month. I wish to be understood as referring to the system, and not simply to Captain Beatty and Mr. Laskey—the system which leaves an important building, of this kind entirely in the hands of a subordinate, while an Executive Engineer who, as I said before, constantly sees the building has nothing to do with it, and is powerless to interfere in any or to correct what is wrong. The Superintending Engineer has other important works, especially in the Godavery Delta, to attend to, and the result of the present system is that a building (not in an out-of-the-way corner but on the trunk road) which has been slowly building for a period of over six years, and on which Rupees 9,000 has been spent, is now declared to be fit only to be pulled down. I cannot but think that this would have been impossible under the old system of District Engineers. The Superintending Engineer has too much to attend to, and important works are left to subordinates. The Nursipatam Taluq, with 60 miles of road and with such important irrigation works as the Komarawole Ava, and the Duggada and Gubbada channels from the river, has never at any time been visited by a Superintending Engineer since that grade was established in 1863.

3. Roads.—A list of these is shown in the margin with the allotments for maintenance and repair assigned for each by the Local Fund Board. The road from Chodavaram to Ankapilly is now complete and open for traffic with the exception of a break at Gajapatinagaram where a bridge is under construction; very little has been done to the Ankapilly. Pudimadaka road on the southern side of Kondakerla. The other roads, except trunk roads, are generally in good condition. During the year I have inspected all of them.

1. Nursipatam to Tallapalem.
2. Nursipatam to Pollavaram.
3. Subbavaram to Venkannapalem.
4. Great Northern Trunk Road.

4. The statement shows the sum* expended on agricultural repairs during the year. Many of these I have inspected, and I consider that the work has been properly done. But a large sum will be required to put these channels and tanks in a proper state of repair, and I hope that a great deal will be done with the Rupees 15,000 given to Public Works Department for expenditure on these works for relief purposes.

		Rs.
* Golgondah	...	2,244
Sarvasiddhi	...	5,132
		7,376

Enclosures Nos. 2 and 3.—Progress Reports.

Enclosure No. 4.—Statement.

Enclosure No. 5.—Inspection Report of the Subsidiary Jails.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The report is on the whole satisfactory.

3. In addition to the ordinary allotments considerable sums were granted for expenditure on works of relief under the special orders of Government.

4. These have formed the subject of a separate report as shown in paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter. The only point calling for special remark is the condemnation of the new Taluq Cutcherry at Yellamanchilly, alluded to at the close of the Collector's letter, but more fully reported on by the Principal Assistant Collector. The construction of a new Taluq Cutcherry at Yellamanchilly was sanctioned six years ago, at a cost of about Rupees 18,780. The walls of the building were run up to their full height in brick and chunam at a cost of Rupees 9,000; and the work, in common with many others, was then stopped and has remained untouched until this day. A few months ago it was inspected by the Superintending Engineer, who reported to Government that the building as it stood was insecure, that it ought to be pulled down and rebuilt in stone and chunam at a cost of some Rupees 31,000.

5. The Principal Assistant Collector reports that it appears a pity to sacrifice the existing building, which he is of opinion might be made available by buttressing or in some other way.

6. It is an invidious position for non-professional persons to occupy when they criticize the opinions of professional officers, but where the Government interests are concerned, it is sometimes right that they should do so.

7. In the present instance the Board are informed by their Acting First Member, that he (being on special duty in Vizagapatam) was present with the Collector and Principal Assistant when the building was examined, and agrees with them that, so far as can be judged by mere inspection, it would be a great waste of money to pull it down.

8. The bare walls alone were standing; out of some thirty or more arched doors and windows five arches had cracked, and in a few places the bricks showed signs of decay from exposure. It certainly did not appear impossible to remedy these defects in such a manner as to render the building secure for many years.

9. The Principal Assistant Collector also alludes to the unfortunate want of authority on the part of the superior officers of the Public Works Department to supervise the work of their juniors even when the greatest facilities for so doing exist.

10. Captain Beatty, R.E., is Executive Officer in charge of the Central Range of the Vizagapatam District. The Northern Trunk Road, so far south as Tuni on the Godavery frontier, is a part of his charge. The Southern Range is under the charge of Mr. Laskey, Supervisor of the 1st Grade, and the Yellamanchilly Cutcherry building is in his Range and under his charge.

11. The Trunk Road passes through Yellamanchilly and, as stated by Mr. Kelsall, under the very walls of the Cutcherry, and yet Captain Beatty, though passing it monthly on his tours of inspection, appears to have been powerless to inspect and report on the works which had to wait for years until the Superintending Engineer was able to find time to leave his duties elsewhere to look at it.

No. 242. ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1872, No. 1,936.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 17.

THE new Taluq Cutcherry at Yellamunchelly was in progress in 1868-69 and 1869-70, and was stopped with many

others in January 1870, when the wa had been raised nearly to full height and Rupees 8,920 had been spent.

2. The revised estimate of Ru es 22,150 for a new cutcherry of stone-in-chunam, which was sanctioned in Go ernment Order No. 458 of 17th February 1872, was in excess of the original sanc on of Rupees 18,780 by only Rupees 3,370. But in submitting it, the Superintend Engineer omitted to state the full amount that would be lost in addition out of t Rupees 8,920 already spent. The founda-tions of concrete and rough stone in d are evidently, from comparison of the original and revised estimates, to be r ained; their cost with ten per cent. contin-gencies, namely, Rupees 1,380, shoul therefore, be deducted from the sanction of Rupees 22,150, and credited to the ou y of Rupees 8,920, leaving balance of the latter Rupees 7,540. But the estima ed value of the brick superstructure and archwork which it is proposed to pull d wn with contingencies is only Rupees 2,250. Hence there are materials, or work to e left standing, to that value, to be credited against previous outlay, and presu edly deducted from the current sanction.

The Superintending Engineer should have mentioned all these details when submitting to Government his revised estimate. And he will now instruct Captain Beatty, whose other duties, it seems, take him within sight of the building, not only to examine and report fully in personal communication with the Range Officer on this subject, but to state his professional opinion, without regard to previous correspondence, as to the possibility of completing the work as designed, by removal of the few cracked arches and other expedients. Meanwhile the demolition of the building will be suspended.

3. Amongst the papers referred to the Public Works Department are three Progress Reports, from which it is observed that a vast amount of detailed information is at present supplied by Range Officers to Collectors of not the slightest interest to the latter, but wasting much paper and entailing on the offices of the former a great deal of copying. Government are of opinion that extracts only of Range Progress Reports should be supplied to Collectors, containing all information as at present regarding Provincial and Local Works, and Imperial Works under the heads of Agricultural, Civil Buildings, Miscellaneous Public Improvement, and Communications. Expenditure under Military, Imperial Establishments, Tools and Plant, Profit and Loss, Transfers, etc., should be omitted.

(True Extract.)

H. Walker Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
To all other Superintending Engineers.
,, Major R. B. Kennedy.
To the Controller of Public Works Accounts,

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Revenue 1872 Misc.
No 2783

Govt. of 1872 Works.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August 14th.

Rcd. 4 22nd Encl.

G. O., 14th August 1872, No. 1,936.

AUGUST

Nos. 241-242

Public Works.—Passing orders on the report of the Collector on the Public Works executed in the Vizagapatam District from Provincial and Imperial Funds during 1871-72.

No 138

LEDGER