137-5

M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 10

(2) Date of repair 4-12.65

(3) Initials of the Referencer MB

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	137	Press / Mis.
Dated	23-1-1873	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 18th January 1873.

No. 347. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st October 1872, No. 2,041 :—

Read the following letter from C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd September 1872, No. 248 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the operations of the Department of Public Works for the past official year 1871-72.

2. The annexed abstract shows the expenditure on new works as well as on repairs during the year contrasted with the preceding one :—

Description of Works.	Expenditure for 1870-71.	Expenditure for 1871-72.	Comparison.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
New Works.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Irrigation	11,378 10 2	3,753 2 8	....	7,625 7 6
Buildings	10,337 3 9	20,439 2 10	10,101 15 1	....
Total ...	21,715 13 11	24,192 5 6	10,101 15 1	7,625 7 6
Repairs.				
Irrigation	18,396 8 3	34,469 3 3	16,072 11 0	....
Buildings	4,200 6 4	4,658 2 1	457 11 9	....
Total ...	22,596 14 7	39,127 5 4	16,530 6 9	....
Grand Total ...	44,312 12 6	63,319 10 10	26,632 5 10	7,625 7 6

3. *Agricultural.*—Rupees 3,753 were expended on new works and Rupees 34,469 on repairs under this head.

4. The anicut across the Swátha Naddi and the tank at Chinna Kristnápuram are the chief new works under execution during the year. Both are in the Ahtoor taluq ; and though it is now several years since these were projected, and though it is now three years since they have been put in hand, they are still reported to be in progress. The works themselves are estimated at Rupees 8,650 and Rupees 8,070, respectively. The expenditure during the year on the former was only Rupees 479 and on the latter Rupees 533. Of the former, which has now been in progress for three years, the Superintending Engineer states that in the opinion of the present Executive Engineer the project requires *revision*. The rest of the expenditure on new works was simply the re-construction of calingulas and sluices.

5. The expenditure on repairs is certainly large when compared with the previous year, but by no means equal to the requirements of the district. It is a pity to see in every taluq hundreds of Irrigation works requiring repair neglected to the prejudice of the interests alike of Government and the ryot. The repairs were chiefly closing breaches, tanks, and anicuts, and revetting and strengthening the bunds. The chief item under repairs is the closing of a breach in the north bank of the Cauvery at Tiroomalanamasamoodram, and the construction of groins for the protection of the river banks.

6. *Communications.*—The expenditure under this head was confined almost to repairs and the amount is reported to be Rupees 43,554. It was expended on roads known as "Imperial" prior to the introduction of the Local Funds' Act. All roads without exception have now been transferred to the charge of the Loca

Funds' Board, and their state will form a subject in the Board's Administration Report on funds committed to their charge. I therefore consider it unnecessary to continue to treat this subject in this report.

7. *Buildings.*—Under this head, Rupees 20,439 were expended on new works and Rupees 4,657 on repairs.

8. *New Works.*—Under "Military" 2,007 Rupees are entered, and this was simply an advance for materials for the stabling at the Remount Depôt at Oossoor. Under "Civil" the largest expenditure was on the Taluq Cutcherries at Ahtoor and Namakal, which have now been in progress for four years. On the former Rupees 5,497 and on the latter Rupees 3,889 were expended. The Subsidiary Jail and out-houses at Tripatore, which were left in an unfinished state for several years, were completed during the year at a cost of Rupees 1,459. The out-houses in connection with the Deputy-Tahsildar's Cutcherry at Vaniembady cost Rupees 2,339.

9. In the Oossoor Range Rupees 1,620 was expended in completing the Subsidiary Jail at Oossoor, and Rupees 1,320 in improvements to the Subsidiary Jail at Denkenicotta. The former was a new building altogether; and the Sub-Collector states that the jail is "too airy and exposed for this part of the country." The cook-house, he says, is too small and the latrine is in a dangerous state, being built of bad materials. The Denkenicotta Jail, the Sub-Collector states, is double the size required, and is by no means safe as a place of confinement. I have called the attention of the Superintending Engineer to the remarks of the Sub-Collector both in regard to the Oossoor as well as Denkenicotta Jails.

10. *Wants of the District.*—As regards the requirements of the district, I can do no more than ask the earnest attention of the Board and Government to the remarks I have made in my last report. Unless the hands of the department are strengthened and more money placed at their disposal for *irrigation repairs*, very little more can be expected.

11. *Irrigation.*—Several new projects have been on the tapis for the last five or six years, and as yet they have not reached the stage of being laid before Government for sanction. Only two have been put in hand, and these too, though of a petty nature, have been under progress for the last three years. Besides Badatalab, the Pennagondapuram, the Barúr, the Kristnaghiri Reservoir, and the Malapady projects, there are several others in view; but unless the Department of Public Works is enabled to take up the work of examining these projects, there is very little use in bringing them forward.

12. *Buildings.*—The want of accommodation in my Cutcherry is very much felt, and though an estimate for improvements has been sanctioned, no funds have been allotted for the work. As repeatedly mentioned in previous reports, new Cutcherries at Dharampury, Pennagaram, and Womalore are *urgently* required. The present building at Dharampury is, as stated in the last year's report, tumbling down. At Pennagaram and Womalore small native houses are used for the offices of the Deputy-Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate. These buildings are quite unsuited for the purposes of a Cutcherry. I trust, now that the financial pressure is removed, steps will be taken to provide funds for these very necessary buildings.

13. A copy of the Sub-Collector's report is enclosed. I would ask the Board's attention to Mr. Price's remarks as to the plan suggested for carrying out

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less expensive repairs to minor irrigation works, by which a considerable saving to Government would be effected and the available grant would go much further.

ENCLOSURE NO. 1.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Salem, dated Oossoor, 19th July 1872, No. 428.

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the operation of the Department of Public Works during the official year 1871-72.

2. The annexed abstract statement shows the cost of new works and repairs, as compared with the preceding year. It is to be remarked that the charges under the head of Communications both "new works" and "repairs" are for the first time entirely debitable to Local Funds.

Description of Works.	Expenditure for 1870-71.	Expenditure for 1871-72.	Difference. Increase.	Difference. Decrease.
New Works.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Irrigation	2,284 3 11	970 14 0	... ...	1,313 5 11
Communications	3,370 0 10	128 0 0	... ...	3,242 0 10
Buildings	322 10 10	5,111 11 3	4,789 0 5	... ...
Total...	5,976 15 7	6,210 9 3	233 9 8	... ...
Repairs.				
Irrigation	3,888 15 10	9,779 0 4	5,890 0 6	... ...
Communications	12,703 3 7	22,937 0 2	10,233 12 7	... ...
Buildings	2,569 0 3	1,281 3 2	... ...	1,287 13 1
Total...	19,161 3 8	33,997 3 8	14,836 0 0	... ...
Grand Total...	25,138 3 3	40,207 12 11	15,069 9 8	... ...

Irrigation.—The expenditure upon "new works" under this head amounted to the small sum of Rupees 970-14-0, and the items constituting this total were of so petty a nature as to call for no allusion to them in detail. As in the previous year, they were, for the major part, really nothing more than re-constructions of calingulas and sluices; small as the charges under this head were, they were less than those estimated for, which amounted to Rupees 1,133.

Why there has been a falling off of nearly 50 per cent. in the outlay on this account I am not in a position to say. The reason of it is, as in the case of repairs, certainly not the want of work to do.

Under the head of "Repairs" the charges were Rupees 9,779-0-4 as contrasted with Rupees 3,888-15-10 in the year 1870-71. Though this shows an improvement, it appears to me that a very much larger sum might have been expended with benefit, not only to Government but to its tenants also. I believe, however, that within a few Rupees, the whole of the allotment made for Agricultural repairs in the year under report was expended.

1. Repairing the Marandahulli anicut channel.
2. Do. the bund of Appasandrum tank.
3. Do. the bund of, and constructing calingulah to, Sampagu tank
4. Do. the bund of Admancottah tank.
5. Do. Naduputti anicut channel.
6. Do. calingulah and sluice of Zoolzoovadi tank.

Having in previous reports expressed opinions upon the subject of Irrigation repairs, which I have not yet had any reason to change, I consider it unnecessary to repeat them here. The chief items under the head now being considered are marginally noted.

The repairs of the Marandahulli anicut and channel in the Dharampoory taluq again cost 300 Rupees, and paid 200 per cent. by saving a large annual remission. The charge is therefore not one to which any exception can justly be taken. Not so, however, in the case of the Adman-

cottah tank, in the Dharampoory taluq, to the bund of which repairs amounting to Rupees 1,360 have been made, and with regard to which I have remarked in my letters upon the monthly progress reports. I of course speak from a non-professional point of view. The bund itself appeared before it was repaired to be in very good order, quite equal to that of certainly one half of the tanks in the division, and even setting aside another consideration which I am about to bring forward, I do not think that an expenditure of 1,360 Rupees was required. My main objection to this repair is that the tank has no source of supply, and that to the best of my recollection it has only filled during one of the six seasons that I have now been in this district. I consider that until some means of filling the tank are devised, repairing the bund at a cost very nearly equal to two-thirds of the value of the ayacut is throwing away money which might be more advantageously and profitably spent elsewhere.

I do not think that there could be the least danger to the tank in its former state, even if it filled to the sill of the calingulah; but I cannot pretend to pass any more definite opinion on a point on which I can have no other than non-professional ideas. The estimate and plans did not pass through my hands. If they had, I should have raised the present objection, and I did so as soon as I became aware of what was going on.

The repair of the Nadooputti anicut and channel in the Kistnagherry taluq was a necessary work and one which will save revenue and will probably give a small increase of it.

All other repairs were, with very few exceptions, to tank bunds, sluices, and calingulahs, and were requisite.

The Alleyâlum channel in the Oossoor taluq does not, I may here observe, pay so well as was at first anticipated. I fear that there was something faulty in the original design.

4. Communications.—The expenditure upon new works under this head was only Rs. 128, which was the cost of iron spouts to the new bridge at Bagalore, in the Ooossoor taluq. Four new roads were sanctioned in the budget for the year under report, but owing to the late period at which the revised budget came out and to the introduction of the decentralization system and the Local Funds' Act and Rules, the funds allotted could not be placed at the disposal of the Department of Public Works sufficiently before the close of the official year to allow of their being expended in a proper manner. The necessary steps to render these unexpended amounts available during the current year have been taken by the Local Fund Board.

The repairs on communications, carried out by the Department of Public Works, cost Rupees 11,843-9-10, and were confined to what were formerly "Imperial" lines. They were of the usual character.

5. Buildings.—The charges under this head during the year 1871-72 were as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
"Original Works, Military"	2,006	12	4
"Original Works, Civil"	3,104	14	11
"Repairs, Military"	852	0	0
"Repairs, Civil"	427	3	2

Of the first item, Rupees 2,000 was devoted towards the completion of the new range of stabling at the Remount Depôt, and this sum was paid as an advance to the contractor who is still engaged on the work. The remaining Rupees 6-12-4 were spent on removing certain materials connected with the works at the Remount.

The charges under the head of "Original Works, Civil," were incurred in order to complete the Oossoor and Denkenicottah Subsidiary Jails. The former of these buildings is entirely new. I cannot say that I like the plan. I consider the Jail too airy and exposed for this part of the country. The cook-house is too small la and thetrine is built of such bad materials as to be already in a dangerous state. This is owing to mud having been used in the walls, which were, I think, run up faster than they ought to have been.

The new Jail at Denkenicottah is an adaptation of three-fourths of the old Cutcherry and is about double the size required. I am of opinion that it is not by any means safe as a place of

confinement; that the design allows of free intercourse which it is impossible for the Police to prevent between prisoners and their friends outside; and that any man who really wished to escape from it need not remain there for twelve hours of darkness. I have made my remarks on this Jail in my Jail reports and also when it was handed over to this department.

The plans and estimates both for this and the Oossoor Jail did not pass through my hands.

I must say that I think both buildings very expensive.

The Kistnagherry Jail, which I, as a Magistrate, require most, is being completed.

Repairs, Military, consisted of Rupees 852 paid as house-rent to the Military employés at the Remount Depôt.

The charges for Civil Repairs were as per margin. The principal item was, as will be observed, repairing the roof of the record-room of my office in which a beam gave way taking with it a good deal of the roof but fortunately doing little other damage. The walls of the building are brick and mud and are full of white-ants, which are constantly doing some harm and cannot be got rid of.

1. Repairing the roof of the record-room of the Sub-Collector's Office.
2. Do. the Munsif's Court house at Dharampoory
3. Do. the Taluq Cutcherry at Dharampoory.

6. Of the requirements of the division under the preceding heads I have but little new to say; I have, I believe, in former reports alluded to almost everything that, to my knowledge, is wanted.

7. Irrigation.—The numerous new projects under this head, which for the last four or five years have been under consideration, still remain unsanctioned. Some have not yet arrived even at that stage at which the revenue officers have to express their opinions as to the profits to be derived from them, whilst others having passed it are still under consideration elsewhere. I had hoped before leaving this district, as I must now very shortly do, to have seen at least one of the projects in which I have felt very much interest commenced; but I fear, as none are entered in the sanctioned budget of the current year, that there is no chance of this.

Mr. Blacker has left the division, and the vacancy thus caused has not been filled up. All the work of examining irrigation projects is, I believe, entirely at a stand-still owing to the want of special assistance. I do not think that anything satisfactory can be done by the Range Officer alone. He has, with his ordinary work, quite enough to do, and cannot give that time and attention which he should to the irrigation schemes now being elaborated. It would, I believe, prove profitable to Government if some officer was specially deputed to clear off all the irrigation projects now pending examination. If any are likely to prove remunerative, the sooner they are put in hand the sooner they will be yielding income, and if any are not, the sooner they are disposed of the less loss of time and money in the shape of the salary of the officer who can only manage to go on with them now and then there will be.

8. Before quitting this portion of my subject, I may notice that in the course of a tour in connection with the census I noticed what I think would be a good site for a tank or anicut across the Palar river in the Dharampoory taluq, a perennial stream taking its rise between Dharampoory and Admancottah having a large catchment basin and flowing through the centre of a long and level valley, which contains Tolúr, Perumballi, and other considerable villages. From a rough estimate I take the irrigable area of a tank constructed in this valley at about four by one or one-and-a-half miles. The waters of the Palar now run to waste. I am not aware that this project has ever before been brought forward.

9. As regards repairs to existing irrigation works, I have only to repeat that they are required everywhere.

10. I do not myself approve of the system of making all stone and brick-work repairs of the most permanent and expensive character.

11. It is undoubtedly the right one where large and important works which it is desirable to maintain in thoroughly efficient order are concerned; but there are very many small tanks which could be satisfactorily enough patched with rough work—"pitched-stone" I believe it is

the Salem District from Imperial and Provincial Funds during the past official year were as follows:—

Heads of Service.	Imperial.		Provincial.	
	Grant.	Outlay.	Grant.	Outlay.
Original Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Military	2,007	2,007	.....	... ..
Civil Buildings	.....	.....	21,077	19,296
Agricultural	6,143	3,756	.....	.....
Repairs.				
Military	1,020	1,017	.....	.....
Civil Buildings	180	155	3,883	3,848
Agricultural	35,000	34,469	.....	.....

3. The above shows that except under the head "Original Works, Agricultural," the grants were well worked up to, and contrasting the figures under "Outlay" in this statement with those appearing against 1870-71 in the abstract appended to the Collector's report, the Government note that, excluding New Works, Irrigation, the expenditure in 1871-72 was considerably in excess of that of the preceding official year.

4. The short outlay on Agricultural Works was, however, most unsatisfactory, and is commended to the attention of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, with a view to the adoption of measures for the more vigorous prosecution of the few works in hand.

5. G. O., No. 2,456, of 26th September 1871, is the last order on record relating to the Sivatha Nuddy Anicut, and it is time that a final decision should be arrived at regarding that work.

6. On the Chinnakistnapuram Tank* Rupees 4,893 were laid out up to the close of the past official year, and this year Rupees 1,420 have been already allotted, leaving a balance on the sanctioned estimate of Rupees 1,757. The District Engineer will carry out the work to completion during the current official year, applying to Government for an additional grant which will be allotted on the receipt of a report specifying the amount required with reference to instructions which the Range Officer has already received for the revision of the estimates.

* Estimate Rupees 8,070, sanctioned in G. O., No. 3015 of 1868.

7. Adverting to paragraph 5 of the Collector's report, the Government observe that the appropriations under "Repairs Agricultural" are annually made with reference to the total grant sanctioned by the Government of India for that head of service. As pointed out in the review of the Collector's annual report for 1870-71, the allotment for 1871-72 was in excess of the modified assignment for the year immediately preceding by Rupees 10,000. This year the Government have been able still further to augment the funds for expenditure on Agricultural Repairs in the Salem District.

8. The Oossoor and Denkenicottah Subsidiary Jail Works were doubtless carried out in conformity with the recommendations of the Jail Committee. But the District Engineer will ascertain, in communication with the Collector, what

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alterations are likely to render the former more suitable for the exposed site it occupies, and the latter more secure; and submit the necessary plans and estimates for carrying them out. He will also cause the latrine to be put into a safe condition at once.

9. Adverting to paragraph 12 the Government note that Rupees 10,000 were allotted in Proceedings of the 25th September last, No. 189, for improvements to the Collector's Cutcherry with instructions to the Superintending Engineer to arrange for the early commencement of the work. Estimates on the standard design for the new Cutcherry required at the station first named in the margin should be submitted, and funds will, if practicable, be provided for all three buildings in the outgoing Budget.

Dharampury.
Pennagaram.
Womalore.

10. The statement in paragraph 3 of the Sub-Collector's report should be taken up by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. It may well be that Agricultural Repairs are not attended to with proper regard to the selection of the works most requiring attention. But much may be done by free inter-communication on the subject between the local authorities of both departments.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Salem.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Inspecting Engineer for Buildings.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Revenue Dept.
No. 194

Govt. of Madras. 1873

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, SALEM.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January 18th.

Recd. " 22nd " Encl.

G. O., 18th January 1873, No. 178.

JANUARY
Nos. 347 349

Public Works in the Salem District.—Passing orders on Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on Collector's report on Public Works in the Salem District during 1871-72.

No. 137.
Commd. & Rest. Rev.
Lodged 22/1.
23rd Jany 73.