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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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151

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st February 1873.*

No. 507. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, Madura, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 10th December 1872, No. 4,072:—

In forwarding the enclosed letter, No. 2,269, dated 25th ultimo, from the Acting Collector of Madura, on the subject

1 Letter.

1 Memorandum.

of the establishment necessary for the supervision of works in the Ramnad

Zemindary, I have the honour to solicit the orders of Government as to the steps which they propose to take in this connection.

2. It is now more than a year since I first addressed the Government on this subject, namely, in my letter of the 28th November 1871, No. 3,263. But neither the proposals contained in that letter, nor those offered in my letters printed with G. O., 3rd February, and 8th March 1872, Nos. 329 and 643, respectively, have been approved.

3. In paragraph 13 of my letter No. 3,263, above quoted, I have called particular attention to the poverty-stricken aspect of the Ramnad Zemindary. But no steps have yet been taken, by the timely repair of irrigation works, to bring this magnificent property into a less deplorable state.

4. So long as only two departmental officers were attached to the district, I have considered it imperatively necessary that there should be only two ranges; but now that Assistant Engineer Mr. Hawksworth is appointed to Madura, and it would appear that the Government are about to take under their immediate charge the Marramut works of the extensive Zemindary of Ramnad, it is now advisable and, indeed, requisite to introduce a third range, to comprise the Shevagungah and Ramnad Zemindaries with Paumben as a sub-division, with Mr. Hawksworth in charge of the range.

5. Captain Pennycuik, R.E., on giving over charge of the Dindigul Range, has submitted the accompanying valuable memorandum, dated 29th ultimo, regarding the distribution of works in the Madura District. I would call particular attention to the remarks in paragraph 5 of that memorandum, as they coincide so entirely with the views I have already expressed in paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 3,861, dated 18th ultimo, regarding the ridiculous demarcation of the two Local Fund Circles of Madura as at present constituted.

6. It will be observed from paragraph 5 of his memorandum that Captain Pennycuik is strongly in favour of making the district consist of a single circle. There can be no question of the soundness of this view, and I would refer you to paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 2,505, dated 2nd September 1872, pointing out the inconvenience of the present arrangement, and advocating the formation of a single Board for the whole district.

7. Taking into consideration the various points above mentioned, I am of opinion that the time has now arrived for dividing the district into three ranges, namely:—

No. 1.—Madura Range, to comprise the Madura, Meylore, and Tirumungalum	Rs.
Taluqs. Assistant Engineer Mr. Leggatt in charge, with 1st class Range	
Establishment	171

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No. 2.—Dindigul Range, to comprise the Dindigul, Periacolum and Pulney Taluqs. Executive Engineer Captain Cunningham, R.E., in charge, with 1st class Range Establishment	rs.	171
No. 3.—Zemindary Range, to comprise the Ramnad and Shevagungah Zemindaries, with Paumben as a Sub-division. Assistant Engineer Mr. Hawksworth in charge, with 1st class Range Establishment	rs.	171
	Total	513
	Amount now sanctioned	384
	Balance requiring sanction	129

8. With regard to the establishment to be entertained for the Ramnad Zemindary, I am of opinion that it should consist of—

1 Overseer on	rs.	60 per mensem.
With travelling allowance	15	do.
2 Maistries each	20	do.
With travelling allowance	5	do.
2 Lascars each	6	do.
Total	137	do.

From the Acting Collector of Madura, to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated Camp at Periacolum, 25th November 1872, No. 2,269.

As Government may probably take over the Ramnad Estate for a considerable period, it will be necessary to decide what establishment should be entertained for repairing the numerous irrigation works in that Zemindary. I therefore request you to consider the subject and to favour me with your views. I think that all petty works should be carried out by the Special Assistant Collector, who can obtain cheap labour from the ryots, but professional assistance and supervision will be necessary for all but the most ordinary repairs.

From the District Engineer, Madura, to the Acting Collector of Madura, dated 9th December 1872, No. 4,073.

In reply to your letter No. 2,269, dated 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the following is the establishment which I consider should be specially entertained for and at the charge of the Ramnad Zemindary.

1 Overseer at	rs.	60 per mensem.
Travelling allowance for do.	15	do.
2 Maistries (establishment) at	20	do.
Travelling allowance for do.	5	do.
2 Lascars	6	do.
Total	137	do.

2. I have recommended the Government to sanction a Zemindary Range with a first class office establishment, under Assistant Engineer Mr. Hawksworth, who has been posted to this district, and if the special Assistant Collector will aid that gentleman in the manner indicated by you, it is hoped that the Zemindary will soon show the good effect, of such enlightened management; and present in the course of time a less dreary aspect than it offers at this day.

Memorandum regarding the distribution of work in the Madura District.

The district is at present divided into two ranges, the first consisting of the two taluqs of Madura and Meylore with the Ramnad and Shevagungah Zemindaries and Paumben, and the second

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of the four Taluqs of Dindigul, Pulney, Periacolum, and Tirumungalum, the last named having only lately been transferred from the first range to the second. Attached to the second range are the Goodaloor Ghaut and the road from its head to the site of the proposed dam on the Perryaur, which are under the charge of an officer specially appointed for that work.

2. From my own experience I have no hesitation in saying that the work of the second, or Dindigul Range, is more than can be properly managed by a single officer. From the Coimbatore boundary on the Caroor road north-east of Dindigul to the Travancore frontier on the south-west is 118 miles, and from the boundary of the same district beyond Pulney to the north-west of Dindigul, to that of the Tinnevely District to the south is (by the nearest road) 97 miles. The area of the range is almost 4,000 square miles; it contains upwards of 400 miles of road under construction or maintenance by this department, and an enormous number of irrigation works of every description.

3. The re-organization of the department, which is to take effect from the 1st December next, gives an additional officer to the district, and will enable the charges to be distributed in a more natural and satisfactory manner.

4. There is little doubt that looking to departmental requirements alone, the natural division is into three ranges, the Dindigul, Pulney, and Periacolum Taluqs forming one, the Madura, Meylore, and Tirumungalum Taluqs, a second, and the two Zemindaries a third.

5. The only objection to this distribution is that these divisions do not coincide with Local Fund Circles. I must say that it is not at all clear to me why any great stress should be laid upon such coincidence.

6. The communication between the Local Fund Boards and the Public Works Department will be through the District Engineer, and the sub-division of the district into ranges is a purely departmental arrangement, and I cannot but think that it would be a mistake to sacrifice practical efficiency in working to a fanciful symmetry of arrangement.

7. If, however, it be considered a *sine qua non* that the Public Works and Local Fund divisions should coincide, it becomes a question whether the latter might not be altered. My own opinion is very strongly in favour of making the district to consist of a single circle. There are not in the Dindigul Circle the materials for forming a really efficient Board; several of the members live in Madura, and rarely, if ever, attend a meeting, or take part in any of the Board's Proceedings, and in point of fact the Board practically consists of two members, the Sub-Collector and the Range Officer.

8. This is not a healthy state of affairs, and certainly does not realize the objects with which the Local Funds Act was passed. It would be far better to have for the whole district a single board, whose influence and control would be real, instead of as at present only nominal.

9. If there must be two circles the Tirumungalum Taluq should certainly belong to the Madura Circle; a glance at the map will show this better than a page of explanation. This arrangement would still allow of the division of the district into three ranges, as recommended, without any discrepancy between their extent and that of the Local Fund Circles.

10. My opinion, then, is that the best possible plan would be to make the district a single Local Fund Circle, and to divide it into three ranges; the next to that would be the division into two circles, of which one would consist of the Dindigul, Pulney, and Periacolum Taluqs, and would coincide with one of the Public Works Ranges, the other two ranges forming together the Madura Circle. If neither of these plans could be adopted, and the Local Fund divisions must remain as they are, then the Public Works divisions should be made independent of them.

11. The worst possible arrangement is the present one, but if it must be retained, that is, if it be a necessity for the Local Fund Circles and the Executive Ranges to coincide, while no alteration can be made in the former, then the best plan would be to make the Periacolum Taluq a sub-division under the charge of the officer employed on the Goodaloor Ghaut Works. This will at best be but an unsatisfactory and inconvenient arrangement.

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12. If the cost of the additional Range Office Establishment be looked upon as a bar to the division of the district into three ranges, then the Zemindaries might be made a sub-division of

*I do not know what this means. This "grave evil" has not shown itself in Tinnevely, where the system has been at work for many months.
(Signed) R. A. ROBERTS.

the Madura Range, instead of a separate range; but this would not, in my opinion, be a good plan. The principle of executive sub-divisions is, I think, bad, as it introduces the grave evil of divided responsibility.

13. Of the officers posted to the district by the new organization, one is a Captain of Engineers, an Executive Engineer of standing and experience, one a Lieutenant of Engineers, an Assistant Engineer of ability far above the average, and the other two Uncovenanted Assistant Engineers. The second of these is now employed on the Goodaloor Ghaut, and will, it is to be hoped, continue on that duty. During the months when work in the Goodaloor valley is stopped on account of the unhealthiness of the climate, special duty can always be found for him in the district, and while work is going on I have not the smallest hesitation in saying that his constant presence on the spot saves his pay twice over in the increased economy and efficiency produced by careful and constant supervision. It would be a good thing if possible to put this officer in direct communication with the District Engineer, attaching the work to the Dindigul Range only as regards accounts, as was done with the Perryaur investigations up to 1870.

14. Of the other three officers the senior ought certainly to hold the Dindigul Range. This range is the more important and the more difficult of the two present ones, while the distance to which it extends from the head-quarters of the district render it advisable that the officer in charge should be one who can be left with less supervision from the District Engineer than will be available for the Madura Range.

15. This arrangement will have the advantage of producing the least possible disturbance of existing charges, and it may be remarked (though I cannot enlarge upon this point) that any other would be likely to lead to a collision with the Local Funds Board of the Dindigul Circle.

MADURA,
29th November 1872.

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Captain, R.E.,
Executive Engineer.

No. 508.

ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1873, No. 582.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 44.

THE subject of the Madura Ranges has lately been disposed of in G. O., No. 54, of 8th January, since which Assistant Engineer Hawksworth has joined the district, and orders have been passed to replace the Supervisor at Paumben by an Overseer. It remains for the District Engineer to make the best use in his power of the officers and subordinates now at his disposal. He has an Executive Engineer and an Assistant Engineer in the Dindigul Range; and there seems no objection to the latter officer having charge of the Periacolum Taluq in addition to the Goodaloor Ghaut. In the Madura Range he has two Assistant Engineers and one Supervisor, of whom the two former ought to be competent to work its two sub-divisions, each in direct communication with the District Engineer, and the Supervisor is available for special services under either of them.

2. The subjects of alteration of Local Fund Ranges and provision of Petty Establishments other than Imperial for Zemindary works are such as should be

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brought forward by the Collector of the district, for consideration in the Revenue Department. Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts should accordingly address his observations on these subjects to that officer.

(True Extract.)

Thomson Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Revenue *Off.*
77-552
Sect. of 1873 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, MADURA.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated February 21st

Recd.

u 26.

Encl.

G. O., 21st February 1873, No. 582.

FEBRUARY

Nos. 507 508

Public Works Ranges.—Passing orders
on letter from the District Engineer,
Madura, recommending the division of the
district into three ranges.

27-151.
Comm. to the B^d of Rev

28 Feb/73.

10 To the Board of Rev on 4 June 1873