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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

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No. 1,233.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 9th July 1873.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th May 1873, No. 293:—

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the progress of Public Works in Tinnevelly for 1872-73.

	Expenditure of 1871-72.	Expenditure of 1872-73.	Increase.	Decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
New Works.				
Military	1,111	...	...	1,111
Civil Buildings	6,602	8,379	1,777	...
Agricultural	1,02,269	1,56,166	53,897	...
Total...	1,09,982	1,64,545	55,674	1,111
Repairs.				
Military	...	...	...	...
Civil Buildings	61,637	90,801	29,164	...
Agricultural	3,065	789	...	2,276
Total...	64,702	91,590	29,164	2,276
Grand Total...	1,74,684	2,56,135	84,838	3,387

2. CIVIL BUILDINGS.—The following are the new works executed during the year:—

(1.) The Taluq Cutcherry and Sub-jail at Ambasamudram.
(2.) Renewing Sub-jail at Nanguneri.
(3.) Station House at Vedanattam.
(4.) Do. at Kalugumalei.
(5.) Do. at Vadakachampatti.
(6.) Post Office at Sattur.

Nos. 1 and 6 are in progress and Nos. 2 to 5 were completed.

3. A District Munsif's Court-house and some of the Taluq Cutcherries, etc., were repaired at a cost of Rupees 789.

4. Rupees 1,37,600 were spent on the Strivyguntum Anicut, but though so near completion, another year will yet elapse before water is brought to the fields. The knavery of the original contractor's absence on leave, and subsequent departure from the country of Lieutenant Shepherd who so ably conducted the work,

and a prolonged correspondence with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on various points of detail have been the chief cause of delay. This year I trust the work may be completed, but much depends on the officer deputed to take charge and the orders that he may receive from Madras. All that is needed now to finish the work is the addition of the top layer of stone to the body of the anicut fitting the sluices of both tanks and channels with the patent shutters, which unfortunately have been received just a size too large from Madras. Completing one syphon sluice at Yeral, revetting the tanks on the north side with stone, completing the Uppár Odei Calingulah, and digging the distributing channels from the tanks to the fields. Too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity for cutting these channels at once, for until the ryots see water flow, they cannot determine the level to which to dress down their fields.

5. The river throughout the Tenkarei Taluq was thoroughly embanked with the unspent balance of the ryots' subscriptions raised in 1868.

6. The repairs of the Tamaraiyar and Karumbandiammen Anicuts were completed; these Anicuts are both in the Nanguneri Taluq. Large sums were spent on the River channels, and a systematic method of clearance has now been adopted; as these channels are dry for only three months, March, April and May, and the official year with its attendant labour of measuring up and closing accounts terminates at the end of March, while fresh allotments were not available until the beginning of May, it may be imagined that clearances were often delayed till too late, or if begun were incomplete when the freshes came down in June. All this has happily terminated, and with a greatly improved system of management and better financial arrangements, the opportunity now can be seized and the channels are likely to be fully attended to directly they run dry in future.

7. About 125 tanks were repaired, and the banks of many of them were planted as soon as repaired; watchmen were appointed to keep off cattle, and cross fences were run up at either end of the bank; the result has been most satisfactory. Some of the banks are now protected with a dense belt of Nanal grass and thousands of young trees are growing on the slopes of the banks.

8. I have watchmen appointed to forty-four tanks, and should like to see every tank that is not revetted with stone thus protected.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Strivyguntum Anicut still claims the first place in importance among the Irrigation works of the district, although nearly completed it was not found possible to utilize the work during the last season. The sluice shutters received from Madras were too large for the sluices and in other matters of detail delay occurred.

2. Mr. Puckle is apprehensive that yet another season may be lost.

3. The Board trust that such will not be the case, as the loss to Government and the people for every year in which the work is not utilized is very great.

4. From paragraph 5 it appears that the large breaches of the Tambrapurni have been embanked by subscription amongst the ryots.

5. The Collector is requested to report more fully on this subscription. It is gratifying to find that satisfactory arrangements have now been made for effecting the clearance of Irrigation channels during the short season available for the purpose.

6. The progress made in repairing and planting the banks of tanks is very satisfactory.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" to the Collector of Tinnevelly.

Revenue 1873 Sept.
No. 2134.

1873.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 9TH JULY 1873, No. 1,233.

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Encl.

Received 18 July 1873

JULY.

No. 1,233.

Public Works—in Tinnevelly District.—Report of Collector on progress of — for 1872-73, submitted to Government with remarks. Collector to report further regarding repair of Tambrapurni embankment by subscription among ryots.

No. 160

Lodged 23/July/73