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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rw DEPARTMENT

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Dated	8th November	1873 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 2,141.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th October 1873.

Read the following letter from F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th August 1873, No. 253:—

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the operations of the Department of Public Works in this district during the official year 1872-73, and to, as usual, enclose a copy of the Acting Sub-Collector's letter on the subject as connected with his division.

2. The annexed abstract statement shows the cost of new works and repairs under the several heads, as compared with the preceding year:—

Description of Works.	Expenditure for 1871-72.	Expenditure for 1872-73.	COMPARISON.					
			Increase.			Decrease.		
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	
<i>New Works.</i>								
Irrigation	3,753	2 8	3,236	.....		517	2 8	
Buildings	20,439	2 10	45,446	25,006	13 2	.....		
Total...	24,192	5 6	48,682	25,006	13 2	517	2 8	
<i>Repairs.</i>								
Irrigation	34,469	3 3	79,869	45,399	12 9	.....		
Buildings	4,658	2 1	4,189	.....		469	2 1	
Total...	39,127	5 4	84,058	45,399	12 9	469	2 1	
Grand Total...	63,319	10 10	1,29,504	70,406	9 11	986	4 9	

3. *Irrigation.*—The expenditure upon "new works" under this item amounted to Rupees 3,236, which was less by Rupees 517 than the outlay incurred in 1871-72. The grant on this account for the year under report was Rs. 9,589. In the Oosoor and Tripatur Ranges the allotments were very fairly worked up, but in the Salem Range this was not the case. Rupees 5,050, granted for the construction of the Valayamadevi tank, in the Ahtur Taluq, were left untouched; the reason assigned for this being that the grant had been surrendered, as the estimate was to be revised. I have not as yet seen or heard of any revised estimate. A further sum of Rupees 1,050 was assigned for the re-construction of sluices and calingulabs of tanks in the Trichengode and Salem Taluqs, and the reason given in every case for the non-execution of the estimates was that there was water in the irrigation-works concerned. This was probably the case, as the

estimates were not sanctioned until the rainy season had set in. Deducting the amounts above alluded to, there was a small unexpended balance occasioned by savings in the execution of works. Of the works carried out, all were, with one exception, of minor importance, and were really repairs, as they consisted in the construction of sluices and calingulabs to supply the places of others which had become useless. The exception referred to was the construction of a tank at Chinna Kristnapuram, in the Ahtur Taluq, upon which Rupees 1,386-7-1, out of a grant of Rupees 1,420, were expended. This work has now cost Rupees 6,369-14-9, and it is to be hoped that this year will see it completed. It has been in hand nearly five years.

Under the head of "repairs" the allotment was Rupees 86,000, of which Rupees 79,869 were expended. The works repaired for this sum were eighty tanks, five calingulabs, nine anicuts, and six channels. The District Engineer, in his Administration Report, assigns, as the causes for not working up the whole allotment, the following reasons:—

"The short expenditure is due, in the *Salem Range*, to the range officer having retained a percentage of the amount due on works he cannot measure on account of water in the tanks; in the *Oosoor Range*, to the unfavourable nature of the season and to the late sanction accorded to estimates (vide my letter, No. 37, of 15th March 1873, on the detention of estimates by the Revenue Department). In the *Tripatur Range*, the short expenditure is due to many of the tanks having retained water throughout the year and to the extreme prevalence of fever during the last two months."

As regards the Salem and Tripatur Ranges I can say nothing, as I took charge of the district within a very few days of the close of the official year. The Acting Head Assistant Collector, however, in a letter to me on the subject, seems to consider that a little more energy in the Tripatur Range would have produced better results. With respect to the Oosoor Range, I can only say that, having moved about it a good deal during the year, I do not consider that the season was at all unfavourable to work. It was not nearly so wet a one as many that preceded it, and the cyclone of May 1872 was the only really heavy rain that we had. I am much more inclined to attribute the shortcomings in the way of repairs to the carelessness and idleness of the Taluq Overseer of Oosoor, who has since been dismissed under the orders of Government, and to the severe illness from small-pox, in the beginning of January last, of the range officer, Mr. Paynter, who, from that time until he left for England, was physically unfit for duty, and could not bear any real exposure or moving about. I would observe, with reference to these remarks, that there was not a single estimate sanctioned in this range after December 1872; whereas many in the Salem Range and a few in Tripatur were passed in January 1873 and subsequent months. The subject of the alleged delays occasioned by the Collector having to countersign estimates before they can be taken in hand having been already disposed of in the Proceedings of Government marginally noted, I do not revert to it. The largest item under

"repairs" was the repair of the embankment of the Kaveri near Velur, in the Namkal Taluq, which cost Rupees 9,041-15-3, and which was necessitated, in the opinion of the District Engineer, by neglect of conservancy of the river-banks on the Coimbatore side. The damage caused by the cyclone of May 1872 called for the expenditure (with the object of saving revenue) of large sums on the repair of several considerable works, chiefly in the Namkal and Trichengode Taluqs, which were either breached or seriously injured by it. The principal of these

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yadapady tank. | 8. Edumbancolam tank. |
| 2. Andapuram " | 9. Mangalam " |
| 3. Puthipulli " | 10. Mullasamoodrum " |
| 4. Chennampatty " | 11. Kotapoliem. |
| 5. Womalore anicut. | 12. Elipili anicut. |
| 6. Konniar " | 13. Agaram " |
| 7. Lathivady " | |

are noted in the margin. Of the repairs mentioned in the Acting Sub-Collector's report, Nos. 1 and 3 were alluded to by me last year, and No. 2 was required owing to the Morasur tank having breached during the cyclone in conse-

quence of the bursting of other tanks in the Mysore territory above it.

4. *Communications*.—In accordance with the remark made in paragraph 9 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,041, dated 21st October 1872, no allusion is made to this subject.

5. *Buildings*.—The sum expended under this head during the year 1872-73 was Rupees 45,446 as against Rupees 20,439-2-10 in 1871-72. This increase was mainly attributable to additions to the Central Jail at Salem (Rupees 10,328), the construction of taluq cutcherries at Namkal and Ahtur (Rupees 8,335 and 3,307), the completion of the range of stabling for the Remount Depot at Oosoor (Rupees 7,641), alterations to the Collector's cutcherry (Rupees 2,628), and the building from the Surplus Pagoda Funds of chuttrums at Sooramungalam and Jollarapet (Rupees 9,288 and 3,918). The works at the Salem jail are still in progress. There is every probability of their being completed by the close of the current year. The Ahtur cutcherry is nearly finished. I saw it in February last, and it was then ready for occupation, with the exception of the flooring of the verandah. The District Engineer promised, on the 11th April last, that we should have it handed over to us in two months' time; but though I have since sent him a reminder, the Revenue Department has not yet had charge made over to it. The present Tahsildar's office is a den, in which it is hopeless to attempt to make things straight and neat. I consider, from the inspection which I made of the new building, that its design is faulty in the matter of the jail; the verandah to which is very short and high, and which faces west. The consequence of this is that the afternoon sun shines straight into some of the wards, and that in wet weather, when there is any wind from the westward or south-westward, the rain will beat into the jail and render the place extremely damp. This defect might, of course, be remedied by putting up pandals; but these, in the first place, would render, what is at present a moderately neat-looking building, unsightly, and there is the further objection that they would be likely to give harbour to snakes and noxious insects, to say nothing of their requiring renewal from time to time.

The Namkal cutcherry has been very recently made over to us. The General Charge Deputy-Collector reports favourably of the work, but strongly recommends the addition of verandahs, which he considers are much required as

a protection from the weather for persons coming to the office on business. The stables at the Remount Depot appear to have been well constructed, and are fine buildings of their kind; but I think that they might have been cheaper, and that the use of teak beams, etc., procured from Malabar, was totally unnecessary when timber equally durable could have been procured from the Forest depot at Denkenicottah, only 12 miles distant.

The chattrum at Sooramingalam I have seen. It is pretty well advanced, and the work seems to be good. I think, though, that more hands might be employed upon it than there are at present. The Jollapet chattrum is,—so the Acting Head Assistant Collector informs me,—not progressing in a satisfactory manner. The reason assigned for the short expenditure was the unfavourable nature of the past season and the difficulty in procuring materials.

The alterations to my cutcherry are going on very slowly. I have not heard officially as to the plan finally decided upon; but I have been told by the Assistant Engineer, Mr. Turner, that it has been determined that no new building can be placed upon the present structure, and that the additions must be made by altering the Collector's room and building on to it. The press-room, which is very much needed, is in progress. Of the amount entered under the head of repairs (Rupees 4,180), Rupees 582 were paid as horse-rent to Military subordinates, and the remainder was expended in small sums upon repairs to the various courts and cutcherries of the district. Repairs to the roof of the District Court-house alone cost Rupees 300. It appears to me to be a very indifferent building. The roof of the late Principal Sadr Amin's Court, which, whilst the alterations to my own cutcherry are going on, is being used as an office, looks like a sieve whenever it rains. The latrine of the subsidiary jail at Ossoor was being repaired when I last saw it. The hospital was in indifferent order. The plan is, to my mind, faulty: the roof has a very sharp pitch, and does not appear to be sufficiently supported at the outer edge; and the consequence is that the tiles slip, and must always do so.

The District Engineer issued instructions to the range officer to prepare an estimate for the purpose of remedying the defects which I, in my last report, pointed out in the Denkenicottah jail. That my remarks upon this subject were well founded has been shown by the fact that a woman got out of the jail under the nose of the sentry, and in the very manner that I had told the late Executive Engineer was possible, and escaped clear of the cutcherry building. The estimate has not yet reached me. There has been ample time to allow of one being prepared a dozen times over.

6. I now turn to the requirements of the district.

7. *Irrigation.*—On the subject of new works under this head, it appears to me to be a waste of time to write further. All the projects, which have been from time to time brought forward, seem to have come to a standstill, and nothing satisfactory can, in my opinion, be done unless some qualified officer is specially employed to look into and work them out.

As regards repairs to irrigation-works, they are still much needed everywhere, and are likely to be so for some years to come. That more are not sanctioned and

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carried out is, in my opinion, in a great measure due to the exceedingly high estimates for repairs to extremely petty works, which are sent in by the Department of Public Works. I would beg to draw attention to paragraph 11 of my letter as Sub-Collector to the Collector, No. 428, dated July 19th, 1872. I have no desire to be in any way obstructive; but as I have to countersign estimates for repairs to irrigation-works, and Government has decided that I have a right to remark upon them when sent to me by the District Engineer, I consider it my duty to express my views on the subject. I do not think that any man in his senses would put down a marble floor in a falling house, and why, therefore, should the Department of Public Works build a costly stone and chunam calingulah, with an expensive retaining wall in brick and chunam, to a tank, which has got on very well for the better part of a century with one of "pitched stone," and which is now more than half silted up? The point which I would respectfully urge is that different kinds of irrigation-works require different classes of repairs, and that though expensive and durable masonry work may be in some cases most desirable, and in the long run economical, it would be in others a sheer waste of money. This district is, as the Board is aware, strewn with very numerous irrigation-works, few of which are really of any size or individual importance. A large proportion is in need of repairs. The Department of Public Works will only estimate for one kind of work, which provides for stone and chunam or brick and chunam, and I, as a revenue-officer, am obliged to say that the repairs will not pay, as they far exceed the average income of five years. The consequence is that very many works which require repairs are not put in order, and that they are left to deteriorate, simply because the Department of Public Works will not provide for work which, though not calculated to last for the next hundred years, would probably out-live the tank's period of usefulness, and would be as efficiently done to all ends of its being carried out without loss to Government and with much profit to the ryots.

8. The subject of communications is, with reference to paragraph 4 of this letter, omitted from consideration.

9. *Buildings.*—The Deputy-Tahsildar's cutcherry at Pennagaram, which is very much required, is in course of completion, and will, I trust, be ready for occupation by the beginning of the next official year.

The taluq cutcherry at Dharampoory is very insecure, and I consider that the work of building a new one should be taken in hand as soon as possible. The site has been selected, and the estimates and plans are, I believe, either under preparation or prepared. The next most requisite building is a Deputy-Tahsildar's cutcherry at Womalore. The present office is a native bazaar, and totally unfit for the purpose to which it is devoted. It is better than that at Pennagaram, but that is all that can be said of it. No estimate for this cutcherry has yet been sent in. The District Engineer has been called upon to prepare one.

The taluq cutcherry at Kistnagherry is exceedingly small and inconvenient, and it is, moreover, very old. One side is occupied by the records and a small room, which was formerly the sub-jail, but which is now used as the Tahsildar's office. Another side of the three available is occupied by the Police, store-rooms,

and the treasure-chest (there is no enclosed treasury), and all the Gumastahs and the Sheristadar have to work in the other. The building might either be improved by extensions and repairs, or an entirely new one might be constructed. I am in favour of the latter course, as the catcherry is in the heart of the town, and there is an excellent site for it outside Dowlatabad (new Kistnagherry) and half way between it and the old town.

I would submit for consideration the question as to whether it would not be advisable to purchase for Government the Sub-Collector's office at Oossoor and the residence and outlying bungalows attached to it. The rental paid for the former alone amounts to Rupees 540 per annum in addition to making repairs, which certainly amount, on an average, to quite Rupees 60 a-year more. This, at 10 per cent., would represent a capital of Rupees 6,000. The house itself is rented for Rupees 100 a-month, about one-third of which sum goes annually in repairs. This rental would be equivalent, at the rate above alluded to, to a capital of Rs. 12,000, or Rupees 18,000 for the house and office. Mr. Brett asks Rupees 10,000 for the whole. I would not hesitate to strongly recommend the purchase of the property, did I not feel inclined to fear that the house is not safe. It has been said to have been falling for the last six or seven years, and though during the time that I lived in it, it was examined by several engineers, no one could come to a decided opinion regarding it. The general verdict was that it did not look safe, but that as it was built of excellent material and had hung together for so long, it might last for many years to come, or fall within twelve months. If upon a careful survey, it is pronounced safe, the investment would be a good one. The cost of the rental and of repairs to the present office would be entirely saved, as it would be more than covered by the rent of the house.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. WALLACE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, dated Oossoor, 15th July 1873, No. 307.

With reference to your despatch No. 432 dated 10th ultimo, I have the honour to submit my report on the operations of the Department Public Works during the official year 1872-73.

2. The annexed abstract statement shows the cost of new works and repairs as compared with the preceding year :—

Description of Works.	Expenditure in 1871-72.	Expenditure in 1872-73.	DIFFERENCE.			
			Increase.		Decrease.	
<i>New Works.</i>						
Irrigation	RS. A. P. 970 14 0	RS. A. P. 1,053 4 5	RS. A. P. 82 6 5		RS. A. P.	
Communications	128 0 0	11,574 13 4	11,446 13 4		.....	
Buildings	5,111 11 3	572 2 11	.....		4,539 8 4	
Total...	6,210 9 3	13,200 4 8	6,989 11 5		.....	
<i>Repairs.</i>						
Irrigation	9,779 0 4	8,385 10 8	.....		1,393 5 8	
Communications	22,937 0 2	24,717 3 4	1,780 3 2		.....	
Buildings	1,281 3 2	1,715 8 0	434 4 10		.....	
Total...	33,997 3 8	34,818 6 0	821 2 4		.....	
Grand Total...	40,207 12 11	48,018 10 8	7,810 13 9		.....	

3. *Irrigation.*—The expenditure on "original works" under this head during the year under report was Rupees 1,053-4-5, being Rupees 82-6-5 in excess of that incurred during the year preceding. From the Progress Report of the Department Public Works I find that the works on which this amount was spent were petty ones, such as the construction of calingulahs to certain tanks; the estimate in no case exceeding Rupees 400. The expenditure on "repairs" amounts to Rupees 8,385-10-8, which is less by Rupees 1,393-5-8 than the amount spent in 1871-72. The principal works on which a greater part of this amount was laid out are those mentioned in the margin.

1. Repairing Nadupatti ancient channel, Rupees 600.
2. Repairing and strengthening bund, closing breach, and constructing sluices to the Morasur tank, Rupees 1,688.
3. Do. the bund of Adamankottah tank, Rupees 1,360.
4. Do. the bund and re-constructing the calingulah of Malayandapalle tank, Rupees 767.

4. *Communications.*—The outlay on "new works" under this head was Rupees 11,574-13-4. This may be considered satisfactory, seeing that the expenditure in 1871-72 under the same head was no more than Rupees 128. The expenditure was partly incurred on cross local roads newly projected and sanctioned by Government and partly on the bridges noted in the margin. The amount of expenditure on "repairs" was also slightly in excess of that of past year, and was incurred chiefly on the imperial lines transferred to the Department Public Works in the last year's Local Fund budget.

1. Re-constructing the Malapadi bridge in the Kistnagherry Taluk, Rupees 3,300.
2. Completing the approaches of the bridge across the Pennaur, Rupees 730.
3. Constructing a skew-bridge on the road from Palcode to Adamankottah, Rupees 2,500.

5. *Buildings.*—There has been a decrease of Rupees 4,539-8-4 under "new works," and an increase of Rupees 434-4-10 under "repairs" compared with similar items of the year 1871-72. The principal work under the former head appears to be "the improvements to the old District Munsiff's Court at Kistnagherry to adapt it for a subsidiary jail." This work has been completed at a cost of Rupees 2,536. The other items both under this head and under that of "repairs" were of a petty nature, and need no remark.

6. With regard to the requirements of the division, I am not, having only recently joined the district, yet in a position to speak much has been done so; much almost as to leave comparatively little to be done for roads.

7. While continuing to attend to the improvement of the existing works of irrigation, best consideration to the improvement of the existing works of irrigation.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

T. PRITCHARD,
Deputy-Collector,
For Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The past year was on the whole one of more activity than that which preceded it; but it was found necessary to surrender Rupees 6,353 out of an allotment of Rupees 9,589 for new works of irrigation!

3. Under the head of repairs the expenditure was not very much below the allotted sum.

4. Under buildings the sum expended largely exceeded that spent during the previous year.

5. The Central Jail, the Tahsildars' cutcherries at Namkal and Ahtur, and the stables at Oossoor, and the chuttrums at Sooramungalam and Pullempet, all absorbed large sums.

6. The Collector's remarks on the want of protection to the wards of Ahtur sub-jail from the westerly sun and rain demand the attention of the Department Public Works.

Paragraph 5.

7. Similar protection would seem to be needed to the catcherry at Namkal.
8. The insecure state of the Denkenicottah sub-jail should also be remedied.
9. Mr. Price's remarks on the difficulties in getting minor repairs executed

Paragraph 7.

in an economical manner suited to the circumstances of different works and localities are, the Board think, worthy of attention. The general rule of the department, which insists on all masonry work being executed in the most substantial way, often results in the neglect of smaller works which will not bear such expensive treatment.

10. The want of catcherry accommodation at Dharampoory, Kistnagherry, and Womalore, should, if possible, be supplied next year.

Paragraph 9.

11. The Board think that the proposed purchase of the house and buildings at Oosoor deserves consideration, and suggest that they should be examined and reported on by an experienced engineer officer.

(True Copies and Extract.)

H. P. Stokes

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, to the Collector of Salem.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Recd. for 16-12-73 No. 3025
18-6-74 No. 736

18. Nov. des. 13. 1873.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

1873.

Recd. 1873 Oct. 18
No. 3448

PROCEEDINGS, 18TH OCTOBER 1873, No. 2,141.

24/10/73
Encl.

Received 21/10/73

OCTOBER

No. 2,141.

Public Works in Salem District.—Collector's report on — for 1872-73, submitted to Government with remarks.

RECORDED.

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Collection for 1873

8. Jan 1873