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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue - DEPARTMENT

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Dated 16-7-1874 1896 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 1,670.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd July 1874.

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 5th May 1874, No. 127:—

I HAVE the honour to report on the state of the Public Works executed in the district during 1873-74.

2. The following is an abstract of the usual statement of expenditure herewith sent:—

Items.	Actual Expenditure in 1872-73.	Actual Expenditure in 1873-74.	Increase.	Decrease.
New Works.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Irrigation	2,47,733 7 1	2,42,049 14 7	... .	5,683 8 6
Communications	16,711 2 4	17,321 8 1	610 5 9	... ...
Buildings	32,408 2 8	32,924 2 11	516 0 3	... ...
Total...	2,96,852 12 1	2,92,295 9 7	... ...	4,557 2 6
Repairs.				
Irrigation	1,76,478 14 1	1,86,100 5 8	9,621 7 7	... ...
Communications	4,967 12 6	7,373 14 7	2,406 2 1	... ...
Buildings	4,050 11 1	4,790 7 4	739 12 3	... ...
Total...	1,85,497 5 8	1,98,264 11 7	12,767 5 11	... ...
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	... ...	48 11 4	48 11 4	... ...
Grand Total...	4,82,350 1 9	4,90,609 0 6	8,258 14 9	... ...

3. The expenditure in this year has exceeded that of the last year by Rupees 8,258-14-9 on the whole.

4. NEW WORKS.—There has been a decrease in the new works to the extent of Rupees 4,557-2-6, and there has been an increase of Rupees 12,767-5-11, so that the net result was a moderate increase.

5. (1.) *Irrigation.*—The principal works under Irrigation executed this year are those connected with the extension of irrigation in the eastern and western deltas. In the former, the expenditure has fallen far short of that in the preceding year. The expenditure was chiefly incurred on the Cocanada and Mandapeta Canals, and the Bikkaval and Teki Drains. In the latter (western delta) the increased expenditure amounts to Rupees 30,000 in round numbers. The Nursapur, Undi, Attily, and Ellore Canals have been improved, as also some channels. The outlay on minor new works to irrigation canals is almost the same as in last year.

6. (2.) *Communications.*—Under Communications, a fair progress has been made in the construction of the road from Rajahmundry to Rahitapur, and the river embankment road on the west bank of the Godavery between Vizheswarum and Polaveram.

7. (3.) *Buildings.*—The only buildings constructed during the year, and worth mention here, are the Taluq Cutcherries of Peddapur and Rajahmundry. The former has been completed, and the latter too, except that a few doors are to be fitted and a few yards of asphalting work is to be done. The main building and out-houses of the Telegraph Office at Cocanada have been fully completed. Under New Works, there is a decrease of Rupees 5,683-8-6 under Irrigation, while the difference in the two other heads (Buildings and Communications) is comparatively small.

8. REPAIRS.—(1.) *Irrigation.*—Under Repairs, those executed to the Godavery Anicut (Rupees 24,310), to the Samulcotta Canal (Rupees 8,600), to the Amlapui Main Canal (Rupees

10,316), and Bobberlanka Head (Rupees 4,310), are of importance, besides a large amount of money spent on other irrigation canals and drainages and tanks, viz., Rupees 1,24,143 and Rupees 10,147, respectively. There is an increase of Rupees 9,621-7-7 under this head in irrigation.

9. (2.) *Communications.*—Under Communications under Repairs, the only work was the dredging the Cocanada Harbour which has been completed. The repairs to buildings are of no importance. On the whole, there has been an increase of expenditure under this major head of Repairs to the extent of Rupees 12,767-5-11.

10. The number of irrigation and other works repaired during the year under report is as follows:—

	NO.
Irrigation Canals, etc.	308
Tanks	65
Drainage Channels	15
Buildings	34
Total...	422

11. *State of Works.*—From what I have seen of the district, I think the works were executed satisfactorily. The officers now in charge of the Sub and Head Assistant Collectors' offices have only lately assumed charge, so that they could not give any opinion on the state of Public Works within their ranges from personal observation. The Cocanada Canal was closed throughout the whole of last year. The transit boats and dhonies went then through the Samulcotta Canal to Dowlaishweram. The former was open for some months in the current year and then closed, so that the boats went the other way. The District Engineer writes to me that the canals in the eastern delta were closed on the 15th ultimo, with a view to the repair of the head sluice and the thorough clearance of the canal heads, whereby to secure a proper supply of water during the next cultivating season for the lands under their influence. Both canals therefore between Cocanada and Dowlaishweram are now closed, and this is very inconvenient.

12. I have had under my notice more than once, that tanks which used to irrigate Zemindari, Inam, and Government assessed land before the anicut was constructed are now allowed to fall into disorder because the ayacut of those tanks is now irrigated by the anicut channels. This may at first sight appear to be advisable, but I cannot help thinking, and it has been found to be the case, that great difficulty would be and actually is experienced by the holders of the land when the canals are closed for repairs or for other causes. In the Ellore Taluq, there are several such tanks under the Kistna Canal, and they are never repaired by the Department Public Works, because the lands under them are irrigated by canal water. I think that measures should be taken to put the tanks in repair, whenever they would be of use. So also these tanks would be of real use, when the canals fail to get a proper supply of water. Occasionally, the Godavery does not receive its high freshes till late in the cultivating season. In this case, if the tanks were in order and there were rains in the district, cultivation would not suffer to any noticeable degree.

13. In the Yernagudem Taluq, there is a natural stream called Bayana River across which there is a calingula technically known as "Bandakattu." It is a little above Kannapurum, and is the source of irrigation for the two proprietary villages of Billuwille and Bayanaguden, and three Government villages. This Bandakattu fell out of repair in 1856. It was usual for Government to execute the repairs and to recover half of the cost from the proprietor. In 1863, Government sanctioned Rupees 16,000 on account of the reconstruction of the calingula. It was rebuilt, but the work proved a failure for want of a dam which would cost 3,000 Rupees at a distance of 100 yards or so above where it was thrown. In July 1869, Government sanctioned a moiety (Rupees 1,500) for this dam. In 1872, the Superintending Engineer was asked why the work could not be executed though sanctioned three years ago, and that officer replied that the late Superintending Engineer only supposed that he might be able to remedy the evil by throwing the dam referred to, that he has visited the place and reported to Government thereon, and that he has received orders to make further investigations. In July 1872, he told me that the Surveyor who went to the locality returned with fever and no other efficient Surveyor was found. He suggested that the calingula might be raised in the ordinary manner with bamboos and tatties for the year. This was done, but was soon washed away. Nothing has been done as yet to put the work in hand, and the consequence is that an annual remission of, on an average, 1,000 Rupees or so is being given to the proprietor, because the Government are bound by usage to repair the work. They would charge the proprietor with a moiety of the cost.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The total expenditure exceeds that of 1872-73 by Rupees 8,258.

3. The expenditure on new irrigation works was slightly below that of 1872-73, and was incurred chiefly on the Cocanada and Mandapeta Canals.

4. Two Taluq Cutcherries have been completed, viz., those at Peddapoor and Rajahmundry.

5. The dredging of the Cocanada Harbour has also been completed.

6. It would have been well if the Collector had stated whether the new buildings fulfil their requirements, and whether the repairs which have been effected to different works, such as irrigation canals and drainages, have been satisfactorily carried out.

7. The Cocanada Canal (which was reported as closed throughout 1872-73), after having been open for a short time, appears to have been again closed. No reason is given for this, although the inconvenience resulting from it is said to be great.

8. The Board would request the attention of Government to paragraph 12 of the Collector's report, from which it appears that when land, formerly irrigated from tanks, has been supplied with water brought by canals from a newly constructed anicut, the tanks have been suffered to fall into decay.

9. The Collector points out that the occasional and necessary closing of the canals for repairs or cleaning inflicts great inconvenience on the holders of land irrigated by them, which would be avoided if the old source of irrigation, viz., the tanks were kept in repair. If this could be done at a trifling outlay it is perhaps worthy of consideration, though the tanks of course would only occasionally be brought into use.

10. In paragraph 13, the Collector brings to notice the delay which has occured in building a dam to protect a calingula across the Bayana River in Yernagudem Taluq.

11. Government sanctioned the payment of a part of the outlay needed so long ago as 1869, but no permanent work has yet been carried out, the result being a loss to Government, in the shape of remissions, of 1,000 Rupees every year.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J Grote

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
with one original statement.

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

Exd. W. H. French.

No. 2328.
No. 753

Revenue 1874. Department.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD JULY 1874, No. 1,670.

Desp. 10 July 74 Encl.

Received 11 July 74

JULY.

No. 1,670.

Public Works—executed in Godavery District during 1873-74.—Collector's report on —, submitted to Government with remarks.

No. 131

Lodged

16 July 74