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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
~~B.P. No.~~

746

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

18.6-1874 195.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th June 1874.*

No. 160. Read the following Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 1st June 1874:—

Read the following letter from Colonel E. A. FOORD, R.E., Inspecting Engineer for Civil and Military Buildings, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 26th May 1874, No. 741.

With reference to paragraph 6 of the order of Government of the 16th of December 1873,

1. Survey.
5. Plans.

No. 3,025, I have the honour to forward a survey of Mr. Brett's property at Oosoor and plans of the buildings situated on it. I inspected

the buildings on the 10th and 11th March, but I had often seen them before while Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division.

2. The principal building is one of the few houses in India that has any pretensions to being architectural. It is said to have cost as much as 80,000 Rupees, and undoubtedly its cost must have been much greater than that of houses of the same size built in the usual way. The interior has been finished as carefully as the exterior, the doors, windows, ceilings, *etc.*, all being in keeping with the general design.

3. Unfortunately, the house was built on made ground inside the fort, and there are defects in the foundations which have shown themselves by cracks in the walls. The porch was taken down some time ago by the advice of the Executive Engineer. There is now a longitudinal crack in the roof of the stair-case, and there are smaller cracks in the walls of the rooms. The tower, which is the highest part of the building, is free from cracks. I do not consider the building unsafe.

4. Besides the house, there are two detached bungalows, a cutcherry, and extensive stabling and godowns. The godowns are often in need of repair from the slope of the roof being too great and causing the slipping of the tiles. This defect can be easily remedied. The area of the land is stated to be 69 acres. The Collector mentioned in his last annual report that the house is rented for 100 Rs. a-month and the cutcherry for 45 Rs. a-month. These two sums are a very good return for an outlay of 10,000 Rs. In addition, the further of the two bungalows would do for a Range Office or for the residence of the Executive Engineer. I do not think the defects in the principal building are of such a nature as should deter any one from buying it and the rest of the property, when they are offered for so much less than the original cost.

REFERRED to the Revenue Department for consideration, with reference to the accompanying Proceedings, dated 16th December 1873, No. 3,025. It is remembered that accommodation for the Range Officer is also wanted at Oosoor.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 161. ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1874, No. 746.

Miscellaneous.

It appears that Mr. Brett's property at Oosoor (consisting of house, out-buildings, and 69 acres of land) is offered for sale at Rs. 10,000.

The Acting Collector of Salem in his report on the Public Works of the district for 1872-73 showed that if the house was pronounced safe it would be the most economical plan to purchase the property outright, as the annual rental, *etc.*, paid for that portion of it which is used as the Sub-Collector's Office represented a capital of Rs. 6,000, while the residence at the rent now paid for it (Rs. 100 a-month) might be valued at Rs. 12,000.

2. The information now before Government shows that the buildings cannot be considered unsafe, and that the defects are not of such a nature as should deter any one from buying at a price so much less than the original cost.

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3. It is also observed that accommodation is required at Oosoor for the Range Officer, and that one of the detached bungalows would answer for this purpose.

4. His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves, therefore, to sanction the purchase of the property for Rs. 10,000. The Collector will carry out the negotiation, obtain the title-deeds, and arrange for the transfer in due form.

5. The Public Works Department, in communication with the Financial Department, will provide the necessary funds.

6. The Collector, Sub-Collector, and District Engineer, will form themselves into a Committee for the purpose of deciding upon the best method of utilizing the various out-buildings after setting aside those required by the occupant of the main bungalow. Their report will be submitted through the Board of Revenue.

7. The Board, to whom the plan showing the whole of the fort at Oosoor will be sent, will further report upon the use to which the outlying portions of land marked A can be put. For Government purposes the ground within the fort proper will probably be quite sufficient.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th December 1873.

No. 270. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th October 1873, No. 2,141 :—

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 calingulahs 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 calingulahs to supply the places of others which had

Mr. Beeth's Property at Oosoor, Salem District.—Authorizes the Collector to purchase—for Rs. 10,000, and to arrange for its transfer; appoints a Committee to report upon the best mode of utilizing the out-houses; and directs Revenue Board to state how the outlying portions of certain land may be utilized.

JUNE.
Nos. 160-161.

G. O., 18th June 1874, No. 746.

Dated June 18th.

Encl.

to
The BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

REVENUE.

Obdt. of 1874
MADRAS.

Original

Vide Board's Pro. 2 July/74
No 4420 Meis.
vide B.Porp 8 Octu/74 No 2927

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 calingulahs, 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 13th 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."

Rupees 67,358-7-6.
Rupees 8,335-10-8.
Rupees 4,125-2-3.

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 estimate 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 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 consequence 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 Sooramungalem 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 inspections 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 Madras, was totally unnecessary when timber equally durable could have been procured from the Forest depot at Denkenicottah, only 12 miles distant.

The chuttrum at Sooramungalam 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 Jollarapet chuttrum 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 4,189), Rupees 582 were paid as house-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, leaks like a sieve whenever it rains. The latrine of the Subsidiary Jail at Oosoor 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 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 sufficiently cheap to allow 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 Sheristadars 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 cutcherry is in the heart of the town, and there is an excellent site for it outside Dowlatabad (now Kistnagherry) and half-way between it and the old town.

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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 Oosoor 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 Oosoor, 15th July 1873, No. 307.

With reference to your docket, No. 482, dated 19th 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.	Expenditure in 1871-72.	Expenditure in 1872-73.	DIFFERENCE			
			Increase.		Decrease.	
<i>New Works.</i>	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Irrigation	970 14 0	1,053 4 5	82 6 5	.....	.....	.....
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

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year preceding. From the Progress Report of the Department Public Works I find that the works on which this amount was spent were pretty 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 amicut-channel, Rupees 600.
2. Do. and strengthening bund, closing breach, and constructing two sluices to the Morasur tank, Rupees 1,683.
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 Munsif'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 attach to these the importance they deserve, I purpose to give my 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 Tahsildar's cutcherries at Namkal and Ahtur, and the stables at Oosoor, 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 cutcherry at Namkal.

8. The insecure state of the Denkenicottah sub-jail should also be remedied.

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9. Mr. Price's remarks on the difficulties in getting minor repairs executed 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 cutcherry accommodation at Dharampoory, Kistnagherry, and Womalore, should, if possible, be supplied next year.

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.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 271. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1873, No. 3,025.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 23.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, Salem.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council cannot but regard the expenditure of only Rupees 3,236 out of comparatively so small a grant as Rupees 9,589 on new works of irrigation as most unsatisfactory; and he resolves on again drawing the attention of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to the subject, with reference to the instructions already conveyed to him in paragraph 4 of G. O., of 18th January 1873, No. 173, in the hope that he will take such steps as will prevent the non-utilization of grants to the extent to which they may be made available. The shortcomings of 1872-73 may be to a certain extent palliated by frequent changes of executive and supervising officers, and there is no doubt of the need for addition to the executive staff of the district of an officer of some standing and experience. This want His Excellency in Council proposes to supply by transferring Captain Bailey, as soon as he may be relieved of his district charge and completes the trace of the Kotiady Ghaut, to the charge of the Oosoor Range, leaving it to the District Engineer to make such other distribution of the agency at his disposal as he may consider advisable. The District Engineer will himself however be held responsible that he makes himself personally acquainted with the work of the district and sees that it is properly carried out.

2. The remarks of the Board in paragraph 9, regarding the difficulty in getting minor repairs carried out economically, will be referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for such notice as the subject may demand.

3. The Board remark that the expenditure under buildings largely exceeded that of the previous year but it was by no means commensurate with the grant. The subject having however been specially noticed in G. O., No. 1,626, of 21st June 1873, and No. 2,975, dated 9th December 1873, no further comment seems neces-

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sary at present. The District Engineer will give his early attention to paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings. It is believed that as regards the wards of the Ahtoor sub-jail honey-comb work between the pillars of the existing verandah, where found to be required from the particular aspect of the building, would be the best remedy. The protection needed to the Namkal cutcherry will be provided by the addition of verandahs. Orders have recently been issued for altering the standard design accordingly.

4. His Excellency in Council observes that the attention of the District Engineer having been drawn to the insecure condition of the Denkenicottah sub-jail in Government Order of 18th January last, the works required for its repair should have been provided for ere this. The District Engineer will report what action has been taken in the matter.

5. Adverting to paragraph 10 it is presumed that the Collector and District Engineer have agreed as to the Civil Buildings which should be included in Budget of 1874-75, and the submission of the necessary plans and estimates should be expedited.

6. The Inspecting Engineer for Buildings will take the first opportunity of examining the buildings occupied by the Sub-Collector at Oosoor, and reporting on the advisability of effecting the purchase advocated by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Cal. of 1873 India

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR

IRRIGATION.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December 16th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 16th December 1873, No. 3,025.

DECEMBER

Nos. 270-271

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 1872-73.

No. 741

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTING ENGINEER
FOR CIVIL AND MILITARY BUILDINGS,
Chepauk 26 May 1874.

From

THE INSPECTING ENGINEER
FOR CIVIL AND MILITARY BUILDINGS,

To

The Secretary to Government
P. W. Department

Sir,

Enclosure 6
1 Survey
5 Plans.

With reference to para 6 of the
Order of Government of the 16th of Decem-
ber 1873, No. 3025, I have the honor
to forward a Survey of Mr. Brett's
property at Osseoot, and plans of the
buildings situated on it. I inspected
the buildings on the 10th and 11th March,
but I had often seen them before—
while Superintending Engineer of
the fifth Division.

2. The principal building is one
of the few houses in India that has
any pretensions to being architectural.
It is said to have cost as much as
eighty thousand Rupees, and un-
doubtedly its cost must have been
much greater than that of houses of
the same size, built in the usual way.

The interior has been finished so carefully as the exterior, the doors windows ceilings &c all being in keeping with the general design.

3 Unfortunately, the house was built on made ground inside the fort and there are defects in the foundations which have shown themselves by cracks in the walls. The porch was taken down some time ago by the advice of the Executive Engineer. There is now a longitudinal crack in the roof of the staircase, and there are small cracks in the walls of the rooms. The tower, which is the highest part of the building, is free from cracks. I do not consider the building unsafe.

4 Besides the house there are two detached bungalows, a futcherry and extensive stabling and godowns. The godowns are often in need of repair, from the slope of the roof being too great and causing the slipping of the tiles. This defect can be easily remedied. The area of the land

land is stated to be sixty nine acres. The collector mentioned in his last annual report that the house is rented for 100 Rupees a month and the futcherry for 45 Rupees a month. These two sums are a very good return for an outlay of 10000 Rupees. In addition, the further of the two bungalows would do for a Range office or for the residence of the Executive Engineer. I do not think the defects in the principal building are of such a nature as should deter any one from buying it and the rest of the property, when they are offered for so much less than the original cost.

I have the honor to be
Your Most Obedient Servant
E A Milford R E.
Inspecting Engineer
Govt Buildings

C2^d June 1/4 R84

9/17
11/6/76
Jld
202 200

ready up in money
will to Am. sh. use the
I think pt. would do.

FOR ORDERS.
From The Inspecting Engineer for Buildings
Dated 26th May 1874.

C No. 1754

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

FOR ORDERS.

746

Received 11/1/34
Jld. No. 1874 & pt.
No. 741 No. 3139

From
The Inspecting Engineer
for Buildings,

To
The Secretary to
Government PWD

Dated 26th May 1874.
Recd. 27th
Encl. 6 R25R

Offer opinion
regarding the purchase
of 8000 Bunt's firelocks
at Govt's in the
Colonial District.
For order
Jld

Referred to the
Revenue Department
for consideration with
reference to the accom-
panying proceedings
16th December 1873. R3135
It is recommended that
accommodation for the
Range Officer is also
wanted at Govt's

Amended Jld 11/3.
Secretary to Govt
10th June 1874. 160.
C2^d June 1/4 R84
C2^d June 1/4 R84
C2^d June 1/4 R84

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 18th June 1874.

READ the following Letter from the
Inspecting Engineer for
Buildings.

Offering opinion re-
-garding the purchase of
M^r. Brett's property at
Ossoor in the Salem
District

H. E. 26th May 1874.

It appears that
M^r. Brett's property at
Ossoor (consisting of house,
outbuildings and 69 acres
of land) is offered for
sale at Rs 10,000. The
Acting Collector of Salem
in his report on the Public
Works of the District for
1872-73 shewed that if
the house was pronounced

safe

M.B.
17/6

safe it would be the most economical plan to purchase the property outright as the annual rental Rs. paid for that portion of it which is used as the Sub-Collector's Office represented a capital of Rs 6,000 while the residence at the rent now paid for it (Rs 100 a month) might be valued at Rs 12,000.

2. The information now before Government shows that the buildings cannot be considered unsafe and that the defects are not of such a nature as should deter any one from buying at a price so much less than the original cost.

3. It is also observed that accommodation is required

12
required at Ossoor for the Range Officer and that one of the detached Bungalows would answer for this purpose.

4. His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves therefore to sanction the purchase of the property for Rs 10,000. The Collector will carry out the negotiation, obtain the title deeds and arrange for the transfer in due form.

5. The Public Works Department in communication with the Financial Department will provide the necessary funds.

6. The Collector, Sub-Collector and District Engineer will form themselves into a Committee

Committee for the purpose of deciding upon the best method of utilizing the various out buildings after setting aside those required by the occupant of the main Bungalow. Their report will be submitted through the Board of Revenue.

7. The Board to whom the plan shewing the whole of the Fort at Oossor will be sent, will further report upon the use to which the outlying portions of land marked A can be put. For Government purposes the ground within the Fort proper will probably be quite sufficient.

To Mr. Mearns & Co. } 7/30/6.
Mr. Deplu
Asst. Genl

5/10
C.W.

L.O.
Purchase of Mr. [unclear]
Property at [unclear].

Cur

Dis

160-161

C 10th June 174 R 18th