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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

1326

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 24-6-1968 196 .

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No. 321. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Tanjore, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 6th May 1875, No. 580 :—

BEFORE availing myself of the furlough granted to me in G. O., Military Department, dated the 19th April 1875, No. 279, and before I leave the Tanjore District, I think it my duty to offer the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. From the published return the land revenue of the Godavery District appears to be now a little more than the land revenue of Tanjore, though Tanjore is still, as it has always been, the richest and the most important district of this Presidency.

3. It is admitted on all sides that the advancement of the Godavery in wealth and revenue is entirely due to the great attention that has been given to its works of irrigation, and to the large sums that have been spent upon them, and there is no reason to doubt that if Tanjore were treated in a similarly liberal manner, its revenue would be considerably increased, instead of standing, as it has done, at almost the same figure for the last fifty years; while the revenue of the Godavery has more than doubled itself, in fact has increased by about 23 lakhs of rupees during the last twenty years.

4. I am aware that an impression prevails in some quarters that Tanjore is almost wholly cultivated already, and that, however much may be expended on its works of irrigation, cultivation and revenue cannot be increased to any appreciable extent, but I am fully satisfied that this is a mistake.

5. There are thousands of acres of land in Tanjore that yield but a very poor revenue, or no revenue at all, and, what is as much to be deplored, produce no crops and yield no benefit to the people through defective irrigation and defective drainage.

6. Very many able reports have been written from time to time on this subject, and some of the ablest officers of Government have devoted their best energies to remedy the defects above referred to; but with insufficient funds, and with a totally insufficient establishment, it is impossible to expect that the state of the works in Tanjore should be better than they are.

7. With the exception of the few regulating works constructed during the past few years, at the heads of the Vennar and its branches, and at the heads of the Arasalar and Veerasholen, there has been nothing done of any practical value for the proper distribution of the waters of this district for nearly forty years; and the consequence is that when the rivers are low the lands at the head of the delta appropriate more than a fair share of the water, and leave the lands lower down a parched and barren waste, while in the season of floods the owners of lands at the head of the delta force all the water downwards, and swamp the lands near the coast.

8. A great deal has been undoubtedly done in improving the old native works of the district, but it has been almost exclusively confined to embankments. This work was essentially necessary, and it has during recent years saved the district from the disasters which were of such common occurrence in seasons of floods a few years ago.

9. A great deal more requires to be done in this respect, but the great want of the district at the present time is a proper distribution of the water. All the old

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head-sluices, built without system and apparently without calculation, require to be reconstructed and remodelled, and the working of the head-sluices must be taken out of the hands of the villagers or they will be speedily destroyed, and many cultivators will be ruined, as is the case at present.

10. I am aware that the resources of Government in regard to establishment and funds are limited. Tanjore has, however, a strong claim to have a fair and proportional share of these resources, but the following statements show that it does not at present receive a fair share of one or the other.

Probable Executive Establishment in the Godavery, Kistna, and Tanjore, on the 1st May 1876, exclusive of District Engineers.

	Godavery.	Kistna.	Tanjore.	Remarks.
Executive Engineers	2	1	1*	* This Officer will be in charge of the district in a few days.
Assistant do.	5	4	2†	† One of these has applied for 6 months' leave, the other is on special duty.
Sub-Engineers	2	1		
Supervisors	2	4	3‡	‡ 1, a young man, only recently appointed.
Overseers... ..	10	12	9	
Delta Superintendents	29	10		
Total	50	32	15	

Allotments for Ordinary Irrigation Works in 1874-75, vide G. O., No. 1,061, dated 16th April 1875.

	Repairs.	Minor New Works.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Godavery	1,73,600	5,000	1,78,600
Kistna	1,59,000	7,776	1,66,776
Tanjore	1,70,000	17,000	1,87,000

11. These statements show that while the allotment for Irrigation Works is practically the same for the three districts, the establishment of the Godavery is at the present moment three times, and that of the Kistna twice as strong as that of Tanjore; and that the works in the Godavery and Kistna, though quite new, receive as much for their up-keep as the ancient, and originally ill-constructed, works in Tanjore, where what is called "repair" is frequently "reconstruction."

12. It will be observed that I have included Delta Superintendents in the establishment of the Godavery and the Kistna, for although they belong to what is called the Conservancy Establishment, I suppose they perform some executive duties. As a matter of fact the whole establishment of Tanjore is a Conservancy Establishment, and, in making a comparison, the Delta Superintendents must be included. In a few days more the executive establishment of Tanjore will actually consist of only three Supervisors and nine Taluq Overseers, while the allotments for the year amount to about five lacs.

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13. I am aware that there is a considerable amount of expenditure from Loan Funds in the Godavery and the Kistna, but they are large works, and require but a comparatively small amount of supervision. One Overseer on a large work can easily supervise work to the extent of 50,000 or 60,000 Rupees in a season, while it would take three or four Overseers to superintend works costing a similar amount when scattered over three or four taluqs.

14. A considerable amount of Loan Funds has been expended of late years in Tanjore also, but the work was entirely superintended by the ordinary establishment.

15. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, Tanjore should have at the least as strong an establishment as the Godavery, and one and a half times as much money for the up-keep of its works.

16. In making this comparison I am far from thinking that the establishments of the Godavery or the Kistna too large, I merely desire to show that the establishment at present in Tanjore is entirely too small, and that until the Government can find ways and means to increase the establishment generally, Tanjore should have a proportional share of the existing general establishment.

17. I have carefully examined the Annual List of the Establishment recently published, and I am of opinion that besides the District Engineer, Tanjore is entitled to two Executive Engineers, three Assistant Engineers, two Sub-Engineers, three Supervisors, and the usual complement of Overseers. I am also of opinion that, in justice to the landowners and cultivators of Tanjore, the establishment should never be less than the above number, and that special works should be specially provided for.

18. The next thing to be considered is the distribution of this establishment, or of the smaller establishment at present in the district.

19. I am strongly of opinion that the proposals made in my letter printed with G. O., dated the 6th January 1875, No. 19, and the reconsideration of which I now earnestly urge on the attention of Government, is the best and the most judicious arrangement that can possibly be adopted. I have consulted the Range Officers, some members of the Revenue Department, and others who are interested in the works of this district, and all agree with me in saying that the arrangements I propose would be a vast improvement on the arrangements now in force.

20. The objections to the present arrangements are:—

- 1st., that Nos. 3, 4, and 5 Ranges are each comprised of portions of different Revenue divisions;
- 2nd., that they extend across the delta and give each Range Officer short sections of numerous different rivers; and,
- 3rd., that we have not competent officers for the charge of five distinct ranges.

21. The proposed arrangement would make each range conterminous with the Revenue divisions (No. II. Range would embrace two of the small Revenue divisions). It would give each Range Officer a longer reach of a fewer number of rivers, and a better command of the distribution of water, and there is a possibility that the district will seldom or never be without at least four officers competent to take charge of ranges.

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22. These ranges should be all first class ranges and be divided into sub-division of taluqs. The head quarters sub-divisions (except in the case of Tanjore itself) to be immediately under the Range Officer, while the two sub-divisions of Tanjore and the second sub-division of each of the other ranges to be under Sub-Division Officer in each case.

23. The following table shows the distribution of the ranges as they now stand and as proposed :—

No. of Range.	Taluq.	Revenue Division.	Area.	Revenue.	Office Establishments.
I...	Tanjore ...	Deputy Collector No. 1.	635	5,56,130	Range ... 171 Sub-Division ... 39
II...	Combaconum...	Assistant Collector ...	341	7,59,818	Range ... 171 Sub-Division ... 39
III.	Mayaveram ...	Head Assistant Collector. Sub-Collector ...	276	5,57,031	Range ... 171 Sub-Division ... 39
	Sheally ...		170	2,68,621	
	Nunnilum ...		294	7,16,388	
			740	15,42,040	
IV.	Negapatam ...	Sub-Collector ... Deputy do. No. 2. ...	242	3,93,198	Range ... 136
	Tritrapoondy...		536	3,11,495	
			778	7,04,693	
V.	Munnargoody..	Do. do. do. ... Do. do. No. 1. ...	300	3,92,659	Range ... 136
	Puttoocottah ...		945	1,83,658	
			1,245	5,76,317	

Proposed arrangement :—

No. of Ranges	Taluq.	Revenue Division.	Area.	Revenue.	Office Establishments.
I.	Tanjore ...	Deputy Collector No. 1. Do. do. do. ...	635	5,56,130	Range ... 171 2 Sub-Divisions 78
	Puttoocottah ...		945	1,83,658	
			1,580	7,39,788	
II.	Combaconum...	Assistant Collector ... Head do. do. ... Do. do. ...	341	7,59,818	Range ... 171 Sub-Divisions 39
	Mayaveram...		276	5,57,031	
	Sheally ...		170	2,68,621	
			787	15,85,470	
III.	Nunnilum ...	Sub-Collector ... Do. ...	294	7,16,388	Range ... 171 Sub-Division 39
	Negapatam ...		242	3,93,198	
			536	11,09,586	
IV.	Munnargoody..	Deputy Collector No. 2. Do. do. do. ...	300	3,92,659	Range ... 171 Sub-Division 39
	Tritrapoondy...		536	3,11,495	
			836	7,04,154	

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24. The proposed arrangement will increase the cost of office establishments by Rupees 51 per month, but it is probable that as the Controller of Public Works Accounts will have a range less to deal with he may be able to reduce his establishment by a similar amount.

25. There is nothing in the papers printed with G. O., Nos. 1,586, dated 1st July, and 1,824, of the 2nd August 1872, against the arrangement now proposed, and which I am given to understand was contemplated by Majors Hasted, Mead, and Montgomeri, when these officers were in charge of the district. The question discussed on those papers had reference to the supposed necessity of keeping the boundaries of ranges within the limits of Local Fund Circles, but experience has shown that this is a matter of no importance whatever.

26. The only account forwarded by Range Officers to Local Fund Boards is an extract from their monthly Progress Report, and it will not cause any inconvenience and but very trifling additional labor to send two extracts instead of one as should be done in the case of Nos. II. and IV. of the proposed ranges. It has been suggested, moreover, to have but one Local Fund Circle in this district, the suggestion has for the present fallen through, but there is every prospect of its being revived and carried through at some future time.

27. It will be observed that Tanjore and Puttoocottah form a comparatively large range, but with two Sub-Division Officers the range can be easily and well managed. There are but very few rivers in the Tanjore Taluq, and it is when the rivers are dry, and when the Range Officer's presence is not much required in Tanjore, that he will be required in the Puttoocottah Taluq, in reference to the numerous tanks in that taluq which have never been attended to by this department.

28. The proposed No. III. Range is, on the other hand, comparatively small in regard to area, but there is constantly something going on in connection with the port of Negapatam and the coast canal, which makes it always an important range. Though a portion of the canal runs along the skirt of the Tritrapoondy Taluq, the canal would still for obvious reasons belong to the Negapatam range.

29. In conclusion, I trust that Government will be pleased to consider this report favorably. It is the result of careful deliberation and inquiry, and I am perfectly satisfied that if the proposals which I have now the honor to submit are sanctioned, there will accrue great advantage to this district.

No. 322.

ORDER THEREON, 14th June 1875, No. 1,679.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 16.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts.
Mr. W. B. Leggatt.
Lieutenant Greenaway.

THE Honorable the Governor in Council observes that by recent changes, whereby the officers as per margin have been removed from the Tanjore District, while none have as yet been posted to take their place, the executive staff has been

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rendered so weak as urgently to demand strengthening, and as under existing circumstances it is not practicable properly to officer the five ranges the alternative of reducing their number must be adopted. His Excellency in Council, however, considers that instead of adopting Colonel Roberts' proposals, which involve important alterations in all the ranges, it will be better to amalgamate the Tanjore and Combaconum ranges, leaving the other three as they are at present.

2. The Ranges will then become as follows:—

	Taluka.	Area.	Square miles.
Tanjore Range	{ Tanjore ...	635	
	{ Combaconum ...	341	
		—	976

With two sub-divisions.

Mayaveram Range	{ Mayaveram ...	276	
	{ Sheally ...	170	
	{ Nunnium ...	294	
		—	740

With two sub-divisions.

Negapatam Range	{ Negapatam ...	242	
	{ Tritrapundy ...	536	
		—	778

With one sub-division.

Manargudy Range	{ Manargudy ...	300	
	{ Puttoocottah ...	945	
		—	1,245

With one sub-division.

and the effect of these alterations as regards cost of establishments will be—

	Rs.
Tanjore Range	171
Two Sub-divisions at 39	78
Mayaveram Range	171
Two Sub-divisions at 39	78
Negapatam Range	136
One Sub-division	39
Manargudy Range	136
One Sub-division	39
Total	848

Present Establishment.

Two Ranges at 171	= 342
Three do. at 136	= 408
Two Sub-divisions at 39	= 78
	— 828

Increase ... 20

which will be met from savings.

3. Until the return from leave of either Major Mead or Lieutenant-Colonel Oakes the Acting District Engineer will retain charge of his own range, Negapatam, to which a sub-division has now been given. Sub-Engineer Munneappah Pillai will be transferred from Madura to Tanjore at once, and Mr. Supervisor Baker will be posted to Tanjore on relief by Captain F. Graham in the Tindivanam Range of the South Arcot

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District. Another Supervisor for the charge of the 6th Sub-division will be made available as soon as possible.

(True Extract.)

J. S. Austin

Major, R.E.,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Tanjore.

" " " Madura.

" " " South Arcot.

" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

" Controller of Public Works Accounts.

" Revenue Department.

Exd S. T. Austin.

20 Spare Copies will follow.

Rev: 1875: Sept
N. 2375

Govt of [1875] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER.

TANJORE.

&c. &c.

Dated June 14th.

Issued

Recd. 22nd

Encl.

G. O., 14th June 1875, No. 1,679.

JUNE

Nos. 321-322

N: 1326

Comm: to the
Board of Revenue

24 June/75

Number of Ranges in the Tanjore District.—Passing orders on the proposal of the Superintending Engineer to reduce the from five to four.