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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue . DEPARTMENT

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 2nd December 1875.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 27th October 1875, No. 4,943:—

I HAVE the honor to report on the operation of the Public Works Department during the official year 1874-75.

2. Subjoined is a statement of expenditure on Public Works during the year under report in the district as compared with that of last year:—

Works.	Expendi- ture of 1874-75.	Expendi- ture of 1873-74.	DIFFERENCE.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
<i>New Works.</i>	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Civil Buildings ... { Imperial ...	21,887	21,887	...	...
... { Provincial ...	...	44,094	...	22,207
Agricultural ... { Ordinary ...	24,273	17,231	7,042	...
... { Extraordinary ...	8,173	21,367	...	13,194
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ...	304	1,286	...	982
Total ...	54,637	83,978	7,042	36,383
Net ...	...	...	...	29,341
<i>Repairs.</i>	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Civil Buildings ... { Imperial ...	70	6,008	530	...
... { Provincial ...	5,938	5,478	55,352	...
Agricultural ... Imperial ...	...	1,17,171	...	...
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1,78,531	1,22,649	55,882	...
Net ...	...	...	55,882	...
Grand Total...	2,33,168	2,06,627	...	...
Allotment ... { New Works ...	60,955	2,36,133	2,07,887	...
... { Repairs ...	1,75,178	...	...	...
Total ...	2,965	1,260	...	...

3. The allotment for the year was Rupees 2,36,133 against Rupees 2,07,887 in the last year, while the outlay was Rupees 2,33,168 against Rupees 2,06,627 in the year preceding, and it is satisfactory to note that nearly the full allotment has been utilized. The season was generally favorable for the operation of the Public Works Department. The fall of rain was, as in the year 1873-74, below the average, being 32.59 inches and 49.93 at Tanjore and Negapatam respectively against 31.58 and 59.80 in the year preceding.

4. The most important among the works executed during the year under report are shown in the tabular statement below:

	Amount of Estimate.	Expenditure up to 21st March 1874.	Expenditure during the year 1874-75.	Total.
	RS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Constructing Taluk Cutcherry and Sub-jail at Pattucottah	23,080	10,607 15 5	12,198 4 8	22,806 4 1
Constructing Deputy Tah-sildar's Cutcherry and Sub-jail, with out-houses at Vedarniem	12,620	6,331 15 3	2,023 15 0	8,405 15 0
Constructing temporary Court-house at Negapatam	850	...	851 8 0	851 8 0
Protecting the fort of Tranquebar by means of additional groynes	1,590	200 0 0	1,122 6 6	1,322 6 6
Surveying Vedarniem Canal and fixing bench mark stones	11,500	10,435 2 4	804 6 4	10,739 8 8
Additions and improvements to the Provincial College, Combaconum	1,280	...	1,280 0 0	1,280 0 0
Regulating works for the principal branches of the Vennar	58,000	9,999 4 11	27,349 12 7	37,349 1 6
Cutting a new channel from the Canvey north bank and providing masonry works for the irrigation of Ponnarassol, &c., villages	2,06,106	98,498 1 24	4,580 0 10	2,03,078 2 04
	22,475	15,784 3 6	5,321 14 3	21,106 1 9

5. The progress made during the year in the taluk cutcherry building at Pattucottah was very satisfactory, and it was almost completed at the close of the year, with the exception of the roofing of the verandah, flooring and plastering some of the rooms, and finishing off the turret with wood-work. These works having since been finished, the Tahsildar has been directed to hold his cutcherry there. The Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry at Vedarniem has not been so satisfactorily proceeded with owing to the failure of the contractor and some other causes. The temporary Court-house at Negapatam, the Sea Custom-house at Velanganny, the additional groynes for the protection of the fort of Tranquebar, have all been completed during the year; thirty-two miles of the Vedarniem Canal, inclusive of eight miles of Adapaur, appear to have been surveyed. As reported in 1873-74, the estimate for the improvement of the Provincial College, Combaconum, was received and raised to Rupees 58,000; the work commenced in February 1874, and has been progressing very fairly. The walls of all rooms have been raised to their full height, and all the rooms terraced, with the exception of three.

6. The branches of the Vennar, for which regulating works were constructed, are Vettaur, Pamaniyaur, Corayaur, Pandaivayaur, and Vellayaur; the Vettaur head works were commenced in March 1871, and finished in October 1874, while those for other works, though commenced in 1871, were completed only in March last. The effects of these works must be seen after the close of this year, but complaints have already been received that the irrigation under Pamaniyaur has suffered owing to the work at its head, and the matter has been brought to the notice of the Public Works Department. In this connection, I beg to annex an extract from the District Engineer's report to Government regarding the effects of these regulating works:—

"It is right to mention here that, as systematic regulation of water-supply has been hitherto a thing unknown in the Tanjore District, Mirasidars, who formerly received larger supplies of water than they should have done, have made, as might be expected, complaints that the distribution has not been equally

rendered. Mirasidars holding lands under the Pamaniyaur are the great complainers. Before the heads were constructed, this river branched from the Vennaur about 300 yards above its present new head, and it drew from that river a far larger supply than the total quantity of water available justified. The new head has, of course, considerably reduced the Pamaniyaur supply; but the present supply is now proportionate to the areas irrigated by the three branches (Vennaur, Corayaur, and Pamaniyaur). In fact, owing to the increased fall of the bed of the Pamaniyaur, that river at the present moment takes off more water in proportion to the area of its sluices than do the other two branches named.

"No immediate increase of revenue can be expected from these works, as they do not increase the supply, but merely distribute the water available in proportion to the areas irrigated. In case, however, of a bad year, they will, no doubt, prevent failure of crops and loss of revenue, as the regulation can then be so adjusted that water can be sent down any one of the branches where failure is seen to be imminent, and crops may thus be saved.

"Again, no returns can be made to show the cases in which, before regulation was possible, the outturn was less than it would have been if the water available had been fairly distributed, as remissions are not granted in this district, save in cases of total failure. A fair distribution must, therefore, prevent these partial failures, which took place when regulation of the supply was impossible, and, though no returns can be made to show what these failures actually amounted to, the fact of such failures occurring hardly admits of a doubt. If prevention of partial failure can be claimed as one of the good results that must follow from the new heads, no further argument is necessary to show that the district in the end will be the richer, as the outturn will be on the whole greater. And, although the land revenue will not be increased, Government will be the gainer in other and more indirect ways. Other minor advantages that may be claimed for the new works are prevention of deposit of silt at the heads of any one of the branches, as also the power of partially cutting off the supply to any of the branches in case of a breach below."

7. The number of irrigation and other works repaired during the year were as follow:—

Anicuts...	11
Sluices, aqueducts, and under tunnels	58*
Calingulas and dams	25
Surplus calingulas and sluices	1
Embankments or dykes	169
Distributaries	66
Surplus channels	9
River improvements, such as defensive works, cutting projections, &c...	219
Tanks	10
Miscellaneous	11

8. I beg to observe, however, that much remains to be done towards the repair of irrigation works as already stated in the last year's report. Regarding the bad state of the tanks of the Pattucottah and Tanjore Taluqs, the District

* This figure indicates the number of estimates sanctioned, and not the number of sluices, &c., repaired. Several sluices are included in each estimate.

Engineer says that they will be attended to soon; the neglected state of the Tritapandi Taluq up to last year is attributed to the want of a competent Range Officer; as Lieutenant Romilly is now in charge, it is to be hoped that early measures will be taken for improving the irrigation and drainage of that taluq. The effect of the regulating works in the Cauvery at Virasholagan head has been that the latter stream draws away more than its due share of water. It is expected that the Public Works Department will do something for remedying this evil next working season.

9. I beg to forward the reports of the Sub and Head Assistant Collectors on the operations of the Public Works in their divisions. The Sub-Collector brings to notice that several minor channels which urgently require repairs in his division, especially the drainage channel of Singalipuram, have not been attended to, and the Head Assistant Collector complains that several sluices and aqueducts in the Vikramanaur and Pudumaniyaur, as also the drainage channels of Vettangudi, &c., villages have not been repaired. The attention of the Public Works Department has been directed to these wants, but I fear the department itself needs more officers to enable it to deal effectually with the great amount of work cast on it.

10. As directed in the Board's Circular Memorandum, dated 14th October 1874, a statement showing the progress of public works in this district, received from the District Engineer, is herewith submitted.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. CAMERON, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Tanjore, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, dated Negapatam, 22nd July 1875, No. 506.

I have the honor to submit my report on the operations of public works during 1874-75 in the sub-division of Tanjore.

2. NEGAPATAM TALUQ.—*Civil Buildings.*—Under the head of Civil Buildings in this taluq a sum of Rupees 3,195-11-10 has been spent in the execution of three original works. Of these three, the improvement of the Roman Catholic cemetery at Negapatam which was, as remarked in the last year's report, commenced in the previous year. During the year under report a sum of Rupees 1,221-13-4 was spent on this work against an allotment of Rupees 1,565 for the year. The next work is the construction of the Sea Customs Office at Velanganny, for which an estimate of Rupees 1,590 was sanctioned. This work was also commenced last year, the expenditure during the year on this work being Rupees 1,122-6-6. The work is reported to have been finished during the year, but the accounts have not been closed. The other building is the temporary shed for the District Court of North Tanjore, for which a sum of Rupees 850 was sanctioned. The actual expenditure amounted to Rupees 851-8-0.

3. A sum of Rupees 1,858-4-6 against an estimate of Rupees 1,870-4-0 was spent in the repair of eight works; the chief of them are:—

	RS.	A.	P.
1. Substituting brick-in-chunam for the walls of the sub-jail cook-room at Negapatam	315	0	0
2. Repairing the taluq catcherry at Negapatam	844	10	7
3. Do. the store shed of dredge at Negapatam	208	11	4
4. Do. the District Munsif's Court at Trivalore	360	0	0

All these, as well as other minor works of repair, are reported to have been completed.

4. *Agricultural.*—Under the head of Irrigation Works, there was no original work executed this year in the Negapatam Taluq. A sum of Rupees 4,582-15-8 has been spent in the ordinary repair of thirty-four minor works of irrigation against an allotment of Rupees 12,097.

There are about 599 irrigating and drainage channels in this taluq, and the only channel from which silt was removed during the year is the channel of Puravacheri Village. Many of these channels do not appear to have been repaired for some years. The Mirasidars complain that, owing to the channels being silted, the cultivation of their lands is much prejudiced.

Marine works.—A sum of Rupees 762-7-1 was spent from the port fund during the year, Rupees 540 of which was the cost of the establishment for improving the sand spit between sea and the river Kaduvaiyaur at Negapatam. Rupees 156 was spent for painting the light-house at Negapatam with white zinc.

5. *Nannilam Taluq.*—The only original work in this taluq under the head of Civil Buildings is the construction of Police guard-rooms and out-houses at Nannilam Taluq Cutcherry, for which a sum of Rupees 2,060 was sanctioned in G.O., No. 2,475, dated 28th July 1869. The allotment for this work during the year is Rupees 500, of which Rupees 295-2-9 has been spent. It is reported that materials have been collected.

6. A sum of Rupees 825-10-3 has been spent on the repair of the taluq cutcherry and the whitewashing of the sub-jail at Nannilam. The works are reported to have been completed.

7. *Irrigation.*—During the year under report a sum of Rupees 4,792 has been allotted for eleven original works. One of them, i.e., the construction of a surplus sluice in the right bank of Vellappar for the drainage of Singalipuram, for which Rupees 1,350 has been sanctioned, was not commenced at all, although the subject of the drainage of this village is, as has already been remarked in the previous correspondence on the subject, one that requires immediate attention. The other works are most of them the construction of head and surplus sluices to channels. The total amount spent for these works comes up to Rupees 2,900-13-4. A sum of Rupees 21,276-10-11 against an allotment of Rupees 45,481 was spent in this taluq during the year under report for the strengthening and repair of the banks of some rivers and channels as well as for the construction of palmyra groynes in the margins of rivers and such other irrigation works.

8. A statement prepared (as far as can be gathered from the Public Works Progress Reports) in the form prescribed by the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings, dated 14th October 1874, No. 1,678, is enclosed.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Statement forming enclosure to the foregoing.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From M. R. WELD, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Tanjore, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, dated Mayaveram, 7th July 1875, No. 245.

With reference to your letter of the 21st May 1875, I have the honor to report on the operation of the Public Works Department in No. III. Range during the past official year 1874-75.

2. *Imperial.*—Under the head of *Revenue account* there was an expenditure of Rupees 4,308-5-11 on original works and of Rupees 7,723-9-6 on repairs.

3. *Agricultural.*—Under the head of *Miscellaneous* there was an expenditure of Rupees 1,188-6-1 on original works and of Rupees 36,748-15-3 on repairs.

4. *Provincial Service, Civil Buildings.*—Under this head there was an expenditure of Rupees 1,382-11-10 on original works and of Rupees 1,174-2-8 on repairs.

5. A sum of Rupees 304-6-4 was expended for protecting and repairing Kings Bastin at Tranquebar under the head of *Miscellaneous Public Improvements, Original Works, Marine.*

6. I enclose a statement showing the description of the different works on which the total amount of Rupees 52,830-9-7 was spent by the Public Works Department in the Tranquebar Range under the different heads above noticed.

7. The reports of the Mayaveram and Shealli Tahsildars on the state of public work^s have already been forwarded with my letter of the 8th May 1875, No. 153.

8. Nothing seems to have been done to remedy the bad state of some aqueducts at the end of the Vikramanar over the Andi Vaikal, &c., nor the bad state of the sluices along the Pudu Manniar and of bridges by which Road No. 48 crosses them, nor have the sluices along the Tiruvangad Road No. 43, been repaired.

9. Nothing has been done for the improvement of the Vali Odei and other drainage channels of Vettangudi.

10. The sluices to prevent sea water coming up on both banks of the Uppanar at Tranquebar should be repaired.

11. The heads of Cauvery and Virasholagan have not yet been regulated, and this year the water came down the Virasholagan some time before it came down the Cauvery.

12. Road No. 48 in Vindirajapuram and Kadalangudi limits is in a bad state. This has been pointed out to the Range Officers, No. II. and III., as stated in my letter, No. 153, dated 8th May 1875.

13. The roads in my division are generally in as good order as they can be expected to be, considering the nature of the soil and the small allotment for maintenance.

14. The progress report for the last quarter of 1874-75 for No. III. range, received through the Sub-Collector, is returned.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.—Statement forming enclosure to the foregoing.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.—General Statement forming enclosure to Collector's letter.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The total expenditure amounted to Rupees 2,33,168 out of allotments aggregating Rupees 2,36,133 which is satisfactory. The outlay on Civil Buildings, New Works, amounted to Rupees 21,887 against Rupees 44,094 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rupees 22,207. There was also a decrease of Rupees 13,194 under the head of Agricultural, Extraordinary. On the other hand there was an increase of Rupees 55,352 under Agricultural Repairs. The net result was an increased outlay of Rupees 26,541 as compared with 1873-74.

3. The principal new works in progress during the year were the construction of a taluq cutcherry at Pattucottah, which is reported to have progressed satisfactorily and to be approaching completion, and the improvements to the Provincial College, Combaconum.

4. The effect of the head work for regulating the distribution of water must be carefully watched. The subject is a most important one attended with considerable practical difficulties, but seems to be receiving attention.

5. The expenditure on agricultural repairs amounted to Rupees 1,72,523 against Rupees 1,17,171 in the preceding year. The state of sundry Minor Irrigation Works is much complained of and demands attention and expenditure. The funds available appear to have been fully utilized.

6. There was no expenditure on Communications from Imperial or Provincial Funds, and the Collector has not noticed the Local Fund outlay. His attention is called to G. O., dated 16th July 1874, No. 1,174, Financial Department.

(True Copies and Extract.)

C. S. Thomas
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
with three original statements, to be returned.

„ the Collector of Tanjore.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. A. Grubert.

No 4873

Revenue 1875, Dec

Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 2ND DECEMBER 1875, No. 3,269.

Copy to Dec 1875

Encl.

Received

16th Dec 75

DECEMBER.

No. 3,269.

Public Works Department—in Tanjore District.—Reviewing and submitting to Government Collector's report on the operation of— during official year 1874-75.

2645

20. Dec 75