M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 6
(2) Date of repair 8-6-1968
(3) Initials of the Referencer 22.1.68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 669 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 7-4-1825 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 2nd April 1875.

No. 53. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Camp Poovanoor, 22nd February 1875, No. 3,975 :—

I HAVE the honor to point out that in G. O., No. 144, dated 18th ultimo, I am first censured and then called on to explain.

2. Moreover, the matter under reference concerns entirely the executive members of this district, but I am blamed personally and by name. I submit that the following will show that I have done my duty.

Estimates for Irrigation repairs and Minor New Works were sanctioned—

	Repairs. RS.	Minor New Works. RS.
To end of April 1874	30,074	3,112
,, of May ,, ...	32,399	3,512
,, of June ,, ...	35,249	3,512
,, of July ,, ...	54,474	3,512
,, of Aug. ,, ...	55,335	3,870
,, of Sept. ,, ...	59,390	4,338

Ten estimates, amounting to Rupees 9,757, for repairs were also sent to you for submission to Government and have been sanctioned. I would urge that there is nothing in this deserving of any notice; more than half the usual grant was appropriated in the first six months of a year of unusual rain.

3. In the 1st Range, I forwarded in April 1874 an application for privilege leave from Mr. Goodchap, Executive Engineer, on his assurances that he had set afoot the preparation of estimates which ought to come in speedily. His Subdivisional Officer, who succeeded to the temporary charge, was quite inexperienced in irrigation matters, and unfortunately very diffident as to acknowledging it; estimates were consequently much delayed, and when submitted were very incomplete.*

4. Mr. Goodchap was promoted on the expiration of his leave to be District Engineer, Kurnool, and his successor, Captain Taylor, was allowed to avail himself of three months' leave before he joined. This was granted by Government directly, and without any reference to me as to the injury to the public service in this district. I was in consequence without one of my Range Officers during six months of the year.

5. In No. 2 Range nearly every tank was inaccessible, owing to the immense growth of prickly-pears, &c.; estimates had been sanctioned year by year for patching the spaces which could be got at; but nothing was properly done, if indeed it was done at all; at any rate, there was much opening for fraud, and Overseer Veeraragavaloo Naidoo took, in my opinion, very considerable advantage of the opening for which he was afterwards dismissed.

6. The difficulty of getting the tanks cleared by customary labor was particularly great in Sydapet, the Mirassidars of which taluq are principally residents in Madras. But G. O., No. 2,353, of 21st August 1874, has settled that point, and we can now see what is wanted. Estimates have been sanctioned for removing prickly-pear, and we shall immediately afterwards prepare them for the earth and masonry needed.

---

* See my No. 1,963, printed with G. O., No. 2,851, dated 7th October 1874.

7. In No. 3 Range we had a very heavy burst of the cyclone in May 1874, which filled all the tanks and allowed of immediate cultivation; ring bunds were run up in front of breaches, and so far as I am informed there is not likely to be any deficiency in revenue.

8. This range suffered severely in 1872 from a cyclone; damages were hurriedly and inefficiently repaired; estimates prepared and sanctioned very irregularly. As soon as the weather permitted, I insisted on estimates being more systematically prepared, and in very great degree anticipated the instructions in your Circular, No. 55, dated 17th October 1873.

9. The requirements, however, were new to the subordinate members of the department, and we had to deal with unknown areas and quantities of water; it must be also remembered that throughout the southern part of the district, we had not only the ordinary drainage to deal with, but the exceptionally heavy discharge from breaches in the channels and tanks of North Arcot; we were, therefore, in great measure dependent on the arrangements in that district for our security. I learn by a letter from the Range Officer, Poloor Range, to the Executive Engineer, Chingleput Range, "that 503 tanks in the North Arcot District breached into the Madranticum Valley, and that *no arrangements have yet been completed for their security.*

10. With this view repairs during 1873 were carried out to such a degree as was absolutely necessary; new sluices were built, as there could be no doubt of their being wanted, and the construction of weirs was deferred, openings being left to admit of discharge as far as we could guess; the cost of Repairs executed in 1873-74 was Rupees 1,95,136, and of Minor New Works Rupees 7,210, being nearly double the usual grant in the first, and 150 per cent. in the second, besides Rupees 1,14,000 on other irrigation works.

11. The cyclone of May 1874 again brought down heavy floods in Madranticum especially; very many tanks in Wandewash, &c., Taluqs, North Arcot, were breached, and the irrigable parts of Chingleput laid under water; the cyclone was followed by unusual rains and an extraordinarily heavy monsoon, in which the Palar broke its banks in North Arcot and poured over or *through* this district. I must beg to lay stress on the action of this river in percolation through a much larger area than would be supposed from the map.

12. Tanks were filled, cultivation in good progress, and no difficulty was felt as to realization of the current year's revenue. I have not lost sight of the remarks of Government in Order, No. 1,501, of 6th June 1873, but I cannot think that they wish me to pay three or four times the usual rate to get completed a work for which ample temporary means were supplied at small cost.

13. The tanks of this district are generally mere shallow pools with banks of very sandy loam, and the irrigation under it would be impossible but for this saturation of the soil. The wet revenue (see page CXXXI., Administration Report for 1871-72) of Chingleput amounts to Rupees 10,28,217, being sixth in amount in the Presidency.

14. Thousands of rupees might have been expended in procuring no better ends if executive officers had attempted to repair the damages in a more permanent manner, *e.g.*, on the division bank at Kasavaram which you saw on the 23rd ultimo.

15. Instead of making any attempt to close these breaches, I secured their ends to prevent their extending, and left the channel free till we could work at reasonable rates. I cannot think that the Government wish me to employ hundreds of coolies in carrying earth ¼ mile or more merely to secure, in October or November, water which would run to waste by the Cooum instead of feeding Cholaveram, &c., by the Cortelliar; in fact, I believe that I have carried out the general instructions in G. O., No. 2,989, dated 10th December 1870.

16. So far as I have seen nothing in the way of revenue has been lost by the delay, but materials and money have been saved in Chingleput, and will I have no doubt be laid out in future as largely as it was in 1873-74.

17. Up to date estimates for Repairs have been sanctioned to the amount of Rupees 1,03,335, for Minor New Works for Rupees 6,301; expenditure under the two heads has been 48,221 and Rupees 2,152, respectively, up to the end of January 1875; unmeasured work is in progress, and even measured work is not paid for, because villagers are too busy with their cultivation to come to the Range Officer for payment.

Range Officers ask for Rupees 48,000, more for February and March.

18. I trust that I have shown that I am not deserving of any censure, and that the Range Officers have acted judiciously. I beg further to point out that my No. 2,025, of 1st November 1873, replying to similar charges has not even been printed.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 2nd April 1875, No. 880.

IRRIGATION, No. 6.

Accounts.

IN G. O. of the 2nd October 1874, No. 2,787, Superintending and District Engineers whose expenditure up to the end of September 1874, on Agricultural Repairs and Minor New Works, might be less than half the Budget grant, were instructed to transmit explanations of such short outlay.

2. In the Chingleput District the expenditure in the first half of the official year was as follows:—

	Grant. RS.	Outlay. RS.
Repairs	1,10,000	13,876
Minor New Works	6,050	1,281

the Superintending Engineer omitted to forward the explanations required, and a report was consequently called for in paragraph 2 of G. O., No. 144, of the 18th January 1875.

3. In his letter recorded in these Proceedings, Colonel F. J. Moberly affords explanations which should have been forthcoming nearly five months earlier, and he falls into the error of supposing that the inadequate progress of the first half year is a matter which concerns the executive members of the department in his district entirely, an error which is probably quite sufficient to account for the unsatisfactory way in which Public Works operations generally have been carried on under his supervision. In order therefore to the commencement of a reformation, evidently greatly required, it is essential that the Superintending Engineer

should understand that he is responsible for the system on which the work of the department may be carried on, for the way in which the requirements of works are ascertained and provided for, and for the character, quality, and cost of the work done to meet these requirements.

4. The explanations afforded by the Superintending Engineer do not, the Government consider, either account satisfactorily for short outlay, or indicate that arrangements have been made for the future better management of the Irrigation works of the district. Admitting as fully as possible that there may have been difficulties of season and otherwise, which may have militated against such progress with the efficient repair of Irrigation works generally as was desirable, it is manifest that with the means available and notwithstanding adverse weather, a great deal could have been done. Much might and would have been left undone; this was unavoidable, but it is altogether impossible to suppose that the following expenditure represents the extent of valuable work which it was practicable to carry out:—

	Repairs.	Minor New Works.
	RS.	RS.
April	...	51
May	667	219
June	3,771	191
July	2,259	97
August	2,173	300
September	5,006	426

It is probable that all the work done up to the end of the half-year might well have been completed before the storm in May.

5. There has been nothing in the instructions given to Colonel Moberly which could afford any ground for a supposition that, in commenting on short expenditure and inadequate progress, useless outlay for the purpose of spending money or doing something could be approved. On the contrary much pains have been taken to impress upon all District Officers the necessity for ensuring that money spent on Irrigation works shall make them safe and efficient. The remarks in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Superintending Engineer's letter are therefore irrelevant. It is well known to Colonel Moberly that the numerous Irrigation works of his district are in need of extensive reformation, which it will take years to complete, and His Excellency the Governor in Council expects that towards its accomplishment fair progress will be made each year; in the first half of the current year no such progress was effected, and the Government have reason therefore to be dissatisfied.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.
Spare Copies

Rev: 1875: Dept
N. 1217

Govt. of (1875) Madras,

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

CHINGLEPUT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 2nd

Recd. " 6th Encl.

G. O., 2nd April 1875, No. 880

APRIL.

Nos 53-54

669

To the Board of Rev. [illegible]

Agricultural Minor New Works and Repairs, Chinglepet District.—Passing orders on letter from the Superintending Engineer, Chinglepet, furnishing explanation as to short expenditure under — called for in G. O., No. 144, dated 13th January 1874.

No 669
Communicated to the
Bd. of Rev: [illegible]

7 April/75