

(1) Number of pages 24
(2) Date of repair 30-9-69
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	22	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5 - 1 - 1876	196

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th December 1875.*

No. 214. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 7th December 1875, No. 1,435:—

From Major H. SMALLEY, R.E., Officiating District Engineer, Ganjam, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Itchapore, 23rd November 1875, No. 13.

With reference to G.Os., Nos. 2,325 and 2,857, dated the 12th August and 6th October 1875, respectively, I have the honor to annex extracts from Range Officers' Reports on short outlay on Repairs, Agricultural.

Mr. Executive Engineer Leggatt reports, "that owing to the existence of water in almost all of the channels and tanks and from space not being available for digging earth owing to the cultivation under some of the tanks, as well as the want of full complement of Overseers during the first-half of the year, the short outlay was occasioned; and I now hope, as the full strength of Overseers is completed, to be enabled to make good for the short expenditure of the past."

The Berhampore Range Officer reports, "that the cause of short outlay on irrigation works is simply on account of Irrigation Overseer W. Subbarayadu Naidoo not sending estimates as ordered and not keeping works in proper progress."

This only refers to the Berhampore Taluq. In the Gumsoor Taluq progress has been fair. The Overseer named has been reduced one grade. Lieutenant Lever also says much work has been done which he has not been able to inspect and measure as yet, and which he will not pay for on Overseer's measurements even in part, as he is doubtful of their accuracy.

2. The following table shows the expenditure in each range per month for the first-half year of 1875-76:—

	EXPENDITURE.							
	Berhampore Range.				Chicacole Range.			
	Minor New Works.		Repairs.		Minor New Works.		Repairs.	
	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.	
April ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
September ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1,033	8	11		6,956	1	1	
					443	6	5	
					2,642	5	4	

From this it is clear that in both ranges the important first quarter of the year has been more or less lost.

3. The average expenditure on the present year's allotment of the Berhampore Range and of the Chicacole Range should be respectively about Rupees 3,000 and 1,500 in the first and last quarters, and about half these amounts in the second and

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third quarters. According to this in both ranges only one-fourth of what ought to have been spent has been actually spent in the first quarter, and only half in the Chicacole Range in the second quarter, the Berhampore Range has spent what is expected of it in the second quarter. It should be observed that work in September was quite stopped by heavy rains and floods, and the expenditure in that month refers to previous month's work.

4. The Range Officer, Berhampore, only took charge on 1st April 1875, and had no previous acquaintance with the Berhampore Taluq, in which by far the greater number of his irrigation works are situated. The Range Officer, Chicacole, has had charge of his range from the 1st September 1874, and he too had no previous acquaintance with it.

5. I attribute the short expenditure therefore in a great measure to a want of intimate acquaintance with the country on the part of the Range Officers, owing to their having been only a short time in their respective charges. There have also been many changes in the subordinates, and there is hardly any one now in the district of long, local experience. But by far the greatest difficulty in getting work carried out is from the villagers in this district not affording any assistance in carrying out the repairs sanctioned for their own irrigation works. They are ever ready to cry out if work is not done, but if asked to supply labor for the same they seem to look upon such a demand as something preposterous. Mr. Leggatt's letter on this subject is appended, which applies equally to all parts of the district.

From G. R. LEGGATT, Esq., C.E., Executive Engineer in charge of No. II. Range, Ganjam, to Major H. SMALLEY, R.E., Officiating District Engineer, Ganjam, dated Camp at Dampara, 11th June 1875, No. 72.

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice that since I have been in this district, now over one year, I have invariably found that in the matter of carrying out irrigation works on sanctioned estimates the village authorities mostly concerned in the works will render this department no assistance whatever in procuring labor, &c.

2. In the southern districts the village authorities are most ready to take up the contract of any sanctioned work themselves; in many cases I found that they always executed more work than estimated for; they saw it was to their own interest to take up our estimates and have the work done as cheaply as possible, and whatever profits were made they expended the same on further improvements to the work.

3. In this sub-division I have been deluged with petitions from villagers requiring repairs to their tanks and channels, yet when asked if they will take up our estimates and carry out the works, the reply I always get is "this is not mamool here."

4. I am of opinion that a most beneficial result would accrue if the Collector would insert a notice in the *District Gazette* that, for the future, in carrying out repairs to irrigation works, those villagers who come forward to take up contracts for, or render assistance to, the Department of Public Works in getting the works done in which they may be interested, those will have prior claims on the allotment for agricultural repairs for the year, and all those who fail to do either will render themselves responsible for the full payment of their kist, whatever may be the injury their irrigation works sustain, in consequence of their remaining unrepaired or in a weak state. This course would likewise be a check on the subordinates of this department, for the villagers would see that every piece sanctioned would be laid out on the works in which they were interested, and a more satisfactory expenditure on agricultural works will be the sequel.

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SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The absence of co-operation on the part of the villagers adds no doubt much to the difficulty of carrying out repairs to irrigation works, and if they will not assist, the work done should be confined to what is absolutely necessary. At the same time Range Officers must manage to do the work of their ranges, and they should be able to get hold of all the available labor of the country at those seasons when agricultural operations do not absorb it. The expenditure on Public Works works of all kinds in Ganjam is very small, and there must, it is thought, be enough labor for the work to be done if arrangements be efficient and suited to the circumstances.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1875, No. 3,520.

IRRIGATION, No. 15.

Account.

RECORDED and communicated to the Revenue Department.

2. It is to be regretted that the villagers who wish the irrigation works of their villages to be repaired are apparently unwilling to aid in carrying out the work to be done, but the Government look to the District Engineer to take care that whatever arrangements are necessary are introduced, for the absence of co-operation by the villagers cannot be admitted as a valid reason for the non-execution of the small amount of work to be done in the Ganjam District yearly.

(True Extract.)

G. R. Leggatt Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Ganjam.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

20 Spare Copies

Revenue Department
N. 2917
Gobt. of 1875 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER.

Dated December 14th.

Issued

Recd. 24th

Encs.

G. O., 14th December 1875, No. 3,620.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 214-215

N^o 22
Comm^d to the
Board of Revenue for
information.

5 Jan'y 76

Short outlay on Repairs, Agricultural,
Ganjam District.—Endorsement of the Chief
Engineer for Irrigation submitting with
remarks extracts from Range Officers'
reports on —, recorded and communicated
with remarks to the Revenue Department.

14 To the Board of Revenue Secy Jany