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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th October 1876.

Read the following letter from C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Salem, 18th August 1876, No. 208:—

I HAVE the honor to report on the operations of the Public Works Department for the official year 1875-76, together with the two statements prescribed in the Board's Circular Memorandum, No. 2,044, of the 7th December last.

2. The annexed abstract gives in one view the cost of new works and repairs under the several heads as compared with the past year:—

Description of Works.	Expenditure for 1874-75.	Expenditure for 1875-76.	COMPARISON.			
			Increase.		Decrease.	
<i>New Works.</i>	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.	
Irrigation	7,817 11 1	13,384 4 4	5,566 9 3		...	...
Buildings	26,517 8 5	10,044 5 1	...		16,473 3 4	
Communications	23,980 10 4	13,671 3 4	...		10,309 7 0	
Total ...	58,315 13 10	37,099 12 9	5,566 9 3		26,782 10 4	
<i>Repairs.</i>	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.	
Irrigation	39,819 0 3	50,380 12 8	10,561 12 5		...	...
Buildings	5,086 4 9	3,868 8 0	...		1,217 12 9	
Communications	1,49,241 12 2	1,38,780 11 3	...		10,461 0 9	
Total ...	1,94,147 1 2	1,93,029 15 11	10,561 12 5		11,678 13 6	
Grand Total ...	2,52,462 15 0	2,30,129 12 8	16,128 5 8		38,461 7 10	

3. ORIGINAL WORKS—*Irrigation.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rupees 13,384, or Rupees 5,567 in excess of the past year's expenditure. The new works on which this amount was laid out consisted of sluices and waste weir, which were either newly constructed or old ones extended.

4. The largest expenditure (Rupees 3,494) under this head was by the Tripatur Tank. The escape to this tank was extended, and the work completed in July 1875, at an outlay of Rupees 4,538, when it again breached in August last (1875). The work was again put in hand and is in progress. The Head Assistant Collector, commenting on the progress report for March last, writes as follows regarding this work:—"The Tripatur Perieri is not yet finished. Since May 1874 it has been out of repair, and, although in November 1874 the Tahsildar and I snatched the revenue out of the fire by repairing the tank ourselves, up to date the Public Works Department have not succeeded in supplementing our efforts, and I believe that the revenue was lost this year. The calingulah, which was rebuilt in the beginning of last year, fell to pieces almost immediately owing, I believe, to the use of bad materials in its construction. When the bricks used in the repair were lying *in situ*, I showed the Range Officer that I could break them between my finger and thumb. With such materials, what else but disaster could be expected?"

5. Rupees 42 were expended in making rice cultivation experiment, which, I find from the progress report of the Oosoor Range Officer, was completed and certificate sent.

6. REPAIRS.—The outlay on repairs amounted to Rupees 50,331, or Rupees 10,562 more than the amount expended in the preceding year. The repairs themselves were insignificant, consisting of the closing of breaches and the strengthening of the bunds of tanks, &c. Petty sums were expended on 79 anicuts (as they are called, but are in reality nothing more than stone dams across jungle streams), 16 supply channels, and the paltry number of 147 tanks; and it was only on 8 works in Salem, 10 in Tripatur, and 7 in the Oosoor ranges that an expenditure of over 500 Rupees was reached. In fact the works carried out during the year under this head were not of any importance, and required no professional skill whatever. The Head Assistant Collector complains of delay in the repair of certain irrigation works in his division, and the Sub-Collector writes regarding the manner of execution as follows:—"The Board, in paragraph 3 of their circular memorandum, suggest that we should report on the manner of execution. I have inspected a good many works which have been executed during the past year. The masonry work has been as good as the earthwork is indifferent. On visiting the Onnaman Tank, an important reservoir of some six months' capacity, the other day, I found that an attempt had been made to raise the bund by taking earth from the rear of the bund and piling it up in front; but the earthwork had not been tamped nor turfed, and I was able to thrust a light cane into it to the depth of 3 feet. Whether such work will stand heavy rain remains to be seen." These remarks will be brought to the notice of the District Engineer.

7. BUILDINGS.—The expenditure under this head, both on new works and repairs, amounted to Rupees 13,913, which is Rupees 17,681 below the expenditure of the former year. The curtailment of the budget allotment accounts for the small expenditure under this head.

8. ORIGINAL WORKS.—The chief works under this head in the Salem Range were (1) improving the building purchased for the forest office at Salem at a cost of Rupees 1,316; (2) constructing Police huts near the Central Jail, on which Rs. 4,799 were expended; (3) converting the old Taluq Cutcherry at Namcul into a Deputy Collector's Office (Rupees 536); and (4) constructing Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry at Yercaud for which Rupees 730 were granted. Of these, the first-mentioned work has been completed and the rest are under progress. In the Oosoor Range the only work of importance carried out under this head was the altering of the remount sick lines at Madagherry at a cost of Rupees 1,170. In the Tripatur Range the expenditure on original works was on six buildings belonging to the Postal Department and the construction of an Overseer's Office at Uttengherry at a cost of Rupees 686. The last-mentioned building is said to be nearly completed.

9. REPAIRS.—In the Salem Range Rupees 333 were expended in repairing the old Taluq Cutcherry at Namcul, Rupees 396 on the Salem District Munsif's Court, Rupees 22 on the Salem Town Sub-Magistrate's Office, and the remainder on buildings attached to the Salem Central Jail. In the Oosoor Range two Subsidiary Jails, three Taluq Cutcheries, a District Munsif's Court, the Sub-Collector's Cutcherry, and the Munro's Bungalow at Darampury were repaired. The compound wall and tombs of the cemetery at Royacottah were also repaired at a cost of Rupees 77. In the

Tripatore Range the expenditure was incurred chiefly in repairing the Sub-Magistrate's Offices and the Tripatur Taluq Cutcherry.

10. COMMUNICATIONS.—The outlay on new works amounted to Rupees 13,671, and the repairs to Rupees 1,38,781.

11. Of the outlay on new works, Rupees 6,645 were expended by the Public Works Department, and Rupees 7,026 by Other Agency. The chief works under this head were (1) road from Tripatur to Pudupet, Rupees 1,823; (2) palisading with stone uprights on the Hustumpetty and Sooramungalam road, Rupees 2,540; (3) road from Kistnagherry to Maharajagadai, Rupees 597; (4) road from Caveripatnam to Palcode, Rupees 1,056; and (5) the bridges over the Chennar on the Oosoor and Maloor road, over the Soorabanganadi on the Womalore and Taramungalam road and across the jungle stream near Kistnapuram. No. 1 was approaching completion at the end of the year, and all the other roads as well as bridges were fully completed. The three bridges have been opened for traffic, and tolls at the full rates collected on the same.

12. Rupees 55,110 were expended by the Public Works Department, and Rupees 83,680 by Other Agency on the repair and maintenance of all roads. Full particulars will be given in my report on Local Funds.

13. REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.—*Irrigation*.—It seems hardly necessary to say anything under this head, for, though several projects have been from time to time mentioned, none have as yet been matured. Nothing has been done during the year towards the completion of the Chinna Kistnapuram Tank, a most important work, on which a large sum of money has already been expended, nor have any steps been taken to utilize the water of the Swatanadi river, by the construction of the Kistnapuram and Goodamalay anicuts at more eligible sites. Not a single anicut has been constructed by Government on the Pennar River, though the Ankusagiri and Bagalur Poliputs have made good use of this perennial stream, whose waters flow wastefully through the barren tracts of the Uttengherry Taluq. An estimate for the construction of a head sluice for the main channel from the Canvery has just been received, after three years' delay, from the District Engineer. As regards repairs, I can only reiterate what I have so frequently said in former reports that the present allotment for the repair of irrigation works is utterly disproportionate to the requirements of this important district.

14. BUILDINGS.—There was no allotment for any of the cutcheries during the year. The building rented for the Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry at Womalore having fallen into entire disrepair, there was no help but to give it up, and the Deputy Tahsildar is now holding his office in a Local Funds Choultry. I would earnestly urge that funds may be allotted for the construction of the office at Womalore. The cutcherry building at Darampury and the alterations in the cutcherry building at Kistnagherry are also urgently needed.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Statements.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The remarks of the Head Assistant Collector regarding the Tripatur Perieri quoted by the Collector in paragraph 4 appear to call for the notice of Government. The Board would also direct attention to paragraph 13, in which the Collector

complains of the insufficiency of the annual grants made for irrigation works in the district. The necessity for a new cutcherry at Womalore is evident. At present the Deputy Tahsildar has taken refuge in a choultry belonging to the Local Fund Board, an arrangement which is objectionable on every ground. The Collector should endeavor to rent some other building as a temporary cutcherry. Mr. Longley also urges the need for further office accommodation at Darampuri and Kistnagherri.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

L. W. Fisher
Acting Sub-Secretary.

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

Copy to the Collector of Salem.

" to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. J. W. Fisher.

Public Works Department—of Salem District.
Submitting to Government, with Board's
views, report of Collector on operations of —
during 1875-76.

OCTOBER.
No. 2,611.

Received

L. W. Fisher

PROCEEDINGS, 19TH OCTOBER 1876, No. 2,611.

Copy to Collector

End.

BOARD of REVENUE,
MADRAS.

1876. 1876. 1876.

Dated

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