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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 1170	Press. / Mis.
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Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

25th April 1878, No. 348 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following paper :—

No. 80. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th April 1878, No. 917.

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th March 1878, No. 68 :—

I HAVE the honor, in reporting on the Public Works executed in this district during the year 1876-77, to submit the two statements prepared in the form prescribed in the Board's Circular memorandum, dated the 7th December 1875.

2. The abstract below shows the total expenditure on Public Works during the year under report as compared with the previous year :— .

	1875-76.		1876-77.	
	Allotment.	Expenditure.	Allotment.	Expenditure.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Imperial	67,822	74,669	55,850	53,618
Provincial	23,747	22,528	33,662	35,098
Local Funds ...	2,52,419	2 1,023	1,79,647	1,37,196
Total ...	3,43,988	3,28,220	2,69,159	2,25,912

3. The progress towards completion of all original works, the estimates for which exceed Rupees 1,000, and of all repairs, the estimates for which exceed Rupees 2,500, is particularized in the list prepared according to the prescribed form.

4. Owing to the disastrous nature of the season and consequent famine during the greater part of the year under report, relief-works were undertaken on a liberal scale for the protection of the famine-stricken population in the district. This measure drew away all the available labor, so that the Public Works Department, who in practice do not pay wages daily, found it impracticable to utilize the Budget Grant in full, most of the time of the Range Officers and subordinates having been taken up principally in the supervision of relief-works.

5. No new works deserving of al notice were carried out.

6. Of minor new works, twelv sonry weirs and sluices to tanks and channels were constructed, and four remained incomplete at the end of the year, the outlay upon them being Rupees 7,090. It is very necessary that such works as these should be undertaken on a still larger scale to protect the tanks and channels from damage by floods.

7. Several irrigation repair works having been carried out from Relief Funds under the agency of the Revenue Department, the outlay under "Agricultural Repairs" was not so much as might otherwise have been found necessary for the upkeep of the various irrigation works in the district. The amount expended was Rupees 45,625 against Rupees 63,345 in the preceding year.

8. The Tungabudra channels in the Bellary, Hospett, and Gooty Ranges were all cleared as usual and are reported to be in good order. The repairs of the Singanamalla Tank in the Gooty Range, an of the Dharmaveram Tank in the Pennakonda Range, were finally completed. Bo ese tanks were considerably damaged during the rains of October 1874, whilst the repairs of the Bookapatnam Tank similarly breached were nearly completed at the end of the year.

9. The Sub-Collector remarks: "the existing agricultural Public Works in my division are in good repair. From what I have seen of the face of the country and from what I have heard, I think it may be said that there is no opening for extension of Public Irrigation Works."

10. The Deputy Collector of the Hurpunhully Division, while pointing out the very small outlay on Irrigation Works in the Hadgali Taluq, observes "that it is the misfortune of the agricultural ryots that the Revenue authorities, who have a better knowledge of their wants, have no means to make the repairs at once, while the Public Works Department prepare their estimates at their leisure and execute the repairs some years afterwards. He suggests that as under the present system the petty repairs to Irrigation Works cannot be effected in proper time, it is necessary for the interests of Government and ryots that Divisional Officers should be placed on an equal footing with Salt Deputy Collectors who are empowered to execute all petty repairs necessarily required." On this subject I expressed my opinion in last year's report, and can only reiterate it again. All y Irrigation repairs should be in the hands of the Revenue Department.

11. Mr. Firth, the Deputy Col in charge of the Bellary Division, observes: "In the Kudlighi Taluq very little h een done by the Public Works Department, except the repairing of a small tan ice besides the constructing of a weir and aqueduct across the supply channel Kudlighi Tank, which latter work has been only recently commenced." He adds, hat in both the taluqs (Raidrug and Kudlighi) almost all the road works, and the repairs to most of the Irrigation works having been undertaken in the Revenue Department as famine relief works, and large sums expended on them, many of the latter rks have been nearly completed, and I would therefore suggest, both for the benefi the ryots as well as of the public revenue, and with a view to utilize what has been already done on them in the present famine, which would otherwise be rendered entirely useless by heavy rains which may come on, that such agricultural works as can be completed with a comparatively small expenditure should be undertaken without delay and completed under professional supervision, and not allowed to stand over for years until the Department of Public Works at their leisure can furnish ela e estimates, after a long and weary procedure which their departmental rules entail.

12. Mr. Ross, the Acting Hea sistant Collector, remarks: "No important irrigation works were constructed ommenced during the year, but necessary repairs and petty improvements to ing works were effected. None of these, however, can be said to have affected erially the welfare of the ryots or the public revenue, where these interests can, opinion, be most materially advanced, is the improvement of the source of to those tanks which do not now contain

sufficient water to irrigate their ayacuts, here is a marked want of attention by the Public Works Department to the clearance and improvements of supply channels. Besides that supply channels are to a great degree neglected, the state of several tank bunds is not satisfactory, but on the whole they are in fair condition."

13. I have no particular remarks to offer in regard to buildings; the Head Assistant Collector reports that the Gagammahal at Pennakonda, to which certain improvements were made to render it fit for use as a Munsif's Court, answers the purpose very well. Mr. Ross also points out th he Taluq Cutcherry, which is a new building, continues to leak.

14. The list of works in progress co s the principal Local Fund Works carried out in the three circles under the supe ion of the Public Works Department.

15. In regard to the general state of th oads, repairs to them as far as funds would allow were carried out during the ye nd these roads may on the whole be pronounced to be in good order. The state o e Dharwar road to the west of Bellary was bad at the end of the year under report. The traffic on it during the famine was exceptionally heavy. An attempt on the part of the Public Works Department to keep the road in good order failed, owing to the want of rain. No water was procurable for tamping and rolling purposes. The length of the roads in the Bellary Circle is said to be 603 miles.

16. Mr. Ross remarks that in his divis n communications, except the Bangalore High Road, continued during this year be bad, as the Local Fund Board had little or no money to spend on them. He ad s that in facilitating by good and sufficient roads the means of carrying his prod ce, there remains still a wide field for improving the welfare of the ryot.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Statements.

SUBMITTED for the information of Goverr nent.

2. The proportion between total expen ure and total allotment under Imperial Provincial and Local Funds was less in 187 7 than in 1875-76; being 83·93 per cent. as against 95·41 per cent.

3. The expenditure on agricultural r rs amounted to Rupees 45,603 against Rupees 63,345 in the preceding year, and reference to paragraphs 10 to 12 of the Collector's letter, the Board resolve to e upon Government the necessity of taking action in view to the prompt execut of agricultural repairs, the delay in which has been a standing grievance for ma years. Unless these repairs can be carried out more expeditiously by the Profess nal Department, interests, private and public, must suffer; and if the present organi ation of the Public Works Department will not admit of any improvement in this r ject, it might be well to try in one or two districts the experiment of entrusting the Revenue officers with the execution of minor repairs, say of Rupees 1,000 and under The villagers are as a rule quite able to execute minor tank repairs, and there is ev less need for professional aid than in the case of road repairs.

(A true Copy a Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 81. ORDER THEREON, 25th Ap 78, No. 348 I.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer ary, whose attention will be called to the alleged inadequate outlay on the up of irrigation works in 1876-77 in certain taluqs.

2. The District Engineer shou[illegible]re that the requirements of Circular No. 198 I, dated 31st July 1877. No. 20 (Revised) are fully and carefully carried out, as directed in Government Order marginally noted.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

Copy.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the District Engineer, Bellary.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Board of Revenue, with two staten
" Revenue Department.

Exd. C. Howarth.
Spare Copie

Revenue 1878 Dept
No 1972.

IRRIGATION.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1878} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
BELLARY,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 25th.

Issued

Recd. May 9th *Encl.*

G. O., 25th April 1878, No. 348 I.

APRIL.

Nos. 80-81.

Public Works executed in the Bellary Districts, 1876-77.—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting Collector's report on —, communicated to the District Engineer, Bellary, with remarks. No 1170

Lodged

with order 15 May 1878