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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	2912	Press. Mis.
Dated	28-11-1878	197

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29/12

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

8th November 1878, No. 4,298 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper :—

No. 121. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th October 1878, No. 2,805.

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 28th September 1878, No. 141 :—

I HAVE the honor to report upon the public works executed in the Nilgiri District during the official year 1877-78. The prescribed statements are herewith forwarded.

2. The expenditure during the year and the grants sanctioned were as follow :—

				Grants.			Expenditure.		
				RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
New Works	...	...	...	1,05,552	0	0	1,80,208	11	2
Repairs	...	...	...	64,298	1	4	63,751	2	10
Total	...	...	...	1,69,850	1	4	2,43,959	14	0

The expenditure was thus in excess of the sanctioned grants by Rupees 74,109-12-8. The District Engineer affords no explanation as to this large difference.

3. The expenditure was distributed as follows :—

New Works.

				RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Military	...	...	...	23,379	3	9			
Civil Buildings	...	...	...	1,02,006	6	2			
Communications	...	...	...	23,320	9	5			
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	...	...	...	539	15	11			
Establishment	...	...	...	30,962	7	11			
							1,80,208	11	2

Repairs.

				RS.	A.	P.			
Military	...	...	...	8,910	14	1			
Civil Buildings	...	...	...	3,985	14	8			
Communications	...	...	...	48,125	0	1			
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	...	...	...	179	10	6			
Tools and Plant	...	...	...	2,549	11	6			
							63,751	2	10
Total	...	...	...				2,43,959	14	0

4. *Military—New Works.*—(a). The largest work commenced during the year was the restoration of the "Waterloo Bridge" built across the stream flowing between the Wellington barracks and the bazaar. The original bridge fell some twenty years ago, and has since remained in ruins till last year. The new bridge will afford easy access to the Wellington bazaar from the barracks; I hear that

some time back a soldier met his death while attempting to cross the stream which the new bridge spans. It is constructed on General Walker's design, and the expenditure on it during the year was Rupees 12,741.

(b.) The water-supply to the Wellington barracks is derived from a natural spring, from which the water was led through a channel built of bricks 312 yards long which became choked with the roots of adjoining trees and the supply was very often intercepted and periodical repairs were necessary. It was therefore found necessary to substitute 4-inch cast iron pipes for the brick channel. This was done during the year at a cost of Rupees 2,075-13-9.

(c.) The water-supply to the Lawrence Asylum Institution is purified by the construction of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet of filtering Media composed of quartz sand of sizes. Water is pumped from this reservoir to three underground cisterns by means of iron pipes. From these cisterns it is then raised to the kitchen, &c., by means of pumps. The construction of the reservoir cost Rupees 1,959-14-6.

(d.) Certain blocks in the Wellington barracks are approached by a flight of stone steps on which the rain water collected, rendering the adjoining walls damp and the rooms unfit for occupation. These stone steps were roofed in with corrugated iron and glass, and the walls plastered. The adjoining rooms are now occupied. This work cost Rupees 4,426-12-1.

(e.) The skittle alley at the Wellington barracks was re-floored at a cost of Rupees 1,065-6-3.

(f.) The two other works completed during the year were the formation of a new rifle range, cost Rupees 330-5-8, and an addition to the Duff's cooking range at a cost of Rupees 780-4-1.

Military—Repairs.—The repairs and whitewash to the buildings at Wellington cost Rupees 5,842-12-2; the cantonment roads were repaired at a cost of Rupees 1,312-15-5. The other improvements and expenditure are not of sufficient importance to require detailed notice.

5. *Civil Buildings—New Works.*—Eight new works were carried on during the year, the principal one being Government house. The cost during the year was Rupees 90,355-15-8. The cost of purchasing Sunningdale property and the improvements effected, amounting together to Rupees 8,627-9-3, was charged to "Civil Buildings, New Works." The Police Inspector's quarters at Gudalur were altered during the year at a cost of Rupees 856-4-0, and a bell costing Rupees 490 and six Silber's lamps, valued at Rupees 129-8-9, were purchased for the Wellington church.

Civil Buildings—Repairs.—The public buildings repaired during the year were "St. Stephen's" Church, Commissioner's Office compound; the Post Office, District Engineer's Office, Stonehouse, all at Ootacamund; the Post Office, Monegar's Choultry, Civil Dispensary, Church, Deputy Tahsildar's Catcherry, situated at Coonoor; the Post Office, the Church, and the Joint Magistrate's Office at Wellington; the Post Office and Apothecary's quarters at Gudalur, and the Police Station-house at Cherambady. The aggregate cost of these repairs, including a sum of Rupees 420 paid as rent for the Apothecary at Ootacamund, was Rupees 3,985-14-8.

6. *Communications—New Works.*—The cost under this head was Rupees 23,320-9-5. The works executed were the restoration of the bridge over the Mayar river at Teppacadoo, the metalling of the upper portion of the Karkur ghat which is the only means of communication into South-East Wynad from Calicut, and a portion of the road from Ootacamund to Coonoor, also the removal of the landslips at Craigmere and Elk Hill which occurred during the heavy rains of November 1877, and the erection of new toll-gates. The other works are not of importance.

Communications—Repairs.—These cost Rupees 46,984-11-2. The roads on which large outlay was incurred were the Coonoor station roads, new and old Coonoor ghat roads, Kotagiri ghat road, new road from Ootacamund to Coonoor, road

from Ootacamund to Hickanulla *via* Segur, road from Ootacamund to Gudalur, road from Coonoor to Kotagiri, the Karkur ghat road, the Sultan's Battery road, and the Ootacamund station roads.

7. The year under report was an exceptional one for Public Works operations. The stormy weather towards the end of 1877 caused considerable damage to both the new and old Coonoor ghats and the Kotagiri ghat. Large masses of rock and earth and uprooted jungle trees from the neighbouring sholahs fell across the roads rendering wheeled traffic from time to time impracticable. The great landslip at Craigmere prevented all communication through the cutting between Ootacamund and Coonoor for about a week, and rendered it necessary to go round *via* Lovedale to join the new road at the toll-gate. The landslip at Elk Hill cutting also did considerable damage to the aqueduct and for several months cut off the water-supply to the houses situated to the south side of Ootacamund, and the repairs are still incomplete.

8. So far as my experience of the hills enables me to give an opinion, I consider that the works executed by the Public Works Department have been well performed; much more of course should have been done in the way of extending and improving the existing roads. Such for instance as the important line from Ootacamund to Pykara and widening the track from Avalanche to Sispara, &c., but want of funds alone prevented this. I think, too, another attempt should be made and it could be done, I believe, at a comparatively small expense to restore Melvor's bund, and I shall address the Board separately on this point.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2. —Statements.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The expenditure on New Works amounted to Rupees 1,80,208 against an allotment of Rupees 1,05,552. The excess expenditure seems to have been incurred in connection with Government house.

3. The other allotments seem to have been fairly utilised, and some useful works were carried out during the year, but much more remains to be done if funds were available.

4. The Board will be glad to receive Mr. Barlow's proposals for the restoration of Melvor's bund.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. STURROCK,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 122. ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1878, No. 4,298 W.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.
Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.,

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.
Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

Revenue Deptt

105231.
GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Gobt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FOURTH CIRCLE.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 8th.

Issued

Recd. 27 — do Encl.

G. O., 8th November 1878, No. 4,298 W.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 121-122.

Commissioner's Report on the Public Works,
Nilgiri District.—Proceedings, Board of
Revenue, submitting the — and requesting
the Commissioner to submit proposals for the
restoration of Melvor's bund, communicated
to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth
Circle.

17 Feb 1879 Board of Revenue
No. 29/12
Communicated to the
Board of Revenue
29 Nov 78