

(1) Number of pages 4
(2) Date of repair 12-3-1984
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2921	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29-11-1878	197

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Archives 1-5,806-24-2-78,

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

14th November 1878, No. 4,357 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 176. From Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. KENNEDY, District Engineer, Malabar, to the Chief Engineer, Buildings and Roads, dated Calicut, 7th November 1878, No. 91.

REFERENCE—G.O., No. 3,652 W, dated 16th September 1878.

With reference to paragraph 1 of above I have the honor to forward the following explanation regarding the repairs to Veatil and Enamakal dams.

2. In the first place, the figures of the abstract statement given by the Collector are not quite correct, so far as they relate to the works particularly named.

The expenditure in the year 1872-73 was Rupees 2,114, not Rupees 1,648; in 1873-74 Rupees 1,533, not Rupees 1,783; in 1875-76 Rupees 1,701, not Rupees 1,707; in 1876-77 Rupees 2,062, not Rupees 2,069. The Collector, moreover, has left out all mention of the share of the expenditure contributed by the Cochin Government.

3. The Veatil dam was constructed 26, and Enamakal 30 years ago, the masonry portion being laterite in shell chunam, and the more costly part of the repairs have been connected with that sub-head; the repairs of the actual bund and embankment varying very little, as will be seen from accompanying Statements A and B.

4. Statement D shows the expenditure on these works in years previous to 1872-73 of which we have any record; in the years not shown I believe the maintenance was in the hands of the Revenue Department; it will serve to show still, greater fluctuations in annual expenditure than that remarked on by Collector, for in 1859-60, 1864-65, and 1869-70 the expenditure as greatly exceeds that of 1872-73 and subsequent years, as in 1858-59, 1865-66, 1867-68, 1870-71, and 1871-72 it falls below.

5. If the expenditure on the works is examined separately for the years 1872-73 and subsequently, the conclusion of a constant increase rests on an equally incorrect basis, for while that on the Veatil dam has been as follows:—

RS.	A.	P.
562	2	6
437	0	0
621	12	0
798	13	6
959	15	10
803	11	7

that on the Enamakal is—

RS.	A.	P.
1,497	12	6
826	0	0
709	11	1
892	10	10
1,102	6	4
1,423	6	0

showing that while in the former case the year 1877-78 exhibits a decrease of Rupees 156-4-3; in the latter, the first year of the series is also the largest of any by Rupees 74-6-6. The fact is that repairs to a work of this description can never be kept at a constant figure, but must vary according to exigency, and the remarks appended to Statements A and B will show this better than any lengthy explanation. In the current year the grant is Rupees 1,865, and I do not anticipate that it will

be exceeded; while next year, in ordinary course, our requirements would be even less, owing to the good effects of the works of the last two or three preceding seasons. I have, however, lately received directions from the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation to have the wing walls of Ventil dam raised, and of course that will necessitate an increase.

6. I have been at great pains to have all the foregoing information hunted up, as I wish to show the Collector how unsafe it is to draw inferences from imperfect knowledge, and in further illustration of somewhat the same opinion that appears to have been come to by Government, as shown in the concluding sentence of paragraph 1 of the Government Order under reply.

7. I rest content with the answer of Government to what Mr. Logan says about the delay in completing the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry at Manantoddy; but I must take exception to such a random assertion as is contained in the concluding words of paragraph 11 of his letter, which I feel certain have been made without the smallest reference to data of any kind whatever, just as is also the equally positive, and I beg leave to believe equally random—statement that "it is notorious that work can be done, and done well, at rates far below what are charged by the Public Works Department." Had Mr. Logan the smallest practical experience on the point that he writes so authoritatively about, he would have hesitated before committing himself to any such statements. The experience that he lacks I have had, and I have not found that work done by private individuals, and done well, is cheaper than that executed under supervision of the Officers of the Public Works Department; on the contrary I have found the rates at which I have offered contracts, for instance, have invariably been objected to as inadequate, and yet they were considerably higher than what we can work for. I have also found that when I have had to take over work left undone by contractors, I have been able to get the unfinished portions completed at considerably less than the contract rates. The truth is, I imagine, that Mr. Logan has allowed himself to be taken in by flashy bits of work he has occasionally seen, and with regard to which he has not either had the opportunity, or not been at the pains to make any strict inquiry; the chances being that had he done so the fancied good quality and cheapness would have broken down under the inquisition. A little inquiry also regarding Public Works rates and those at which for instance the Railway Companies' work, would perhaps make him less dissatisfied with the former.

8. I trust in these remarks I have not been betrayed into acerbity of tone towards an officer who in his zeal to point out fancied blots has, I am quite sure, been actuated by no personal feeling or jealousy; and, while I equally disclaim anything approaching the latter I feel bound to remark on a slur cast on the officers of the Public Works Department serving in this district, by hasty observations and statements based on no tenable grounds, and which, if put to the test of experience and of data, at once fall to pieces.

No. 177.

ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1878, No. 4,357 W.

COLONEL KENNEDY's letter will be communicated to the Board of Revenue through the Revenue Department, with an intimation that the Government concur generally in the remarks made by the late District Engineer, whose explanation on the points specially referred to him for report is perfectly satisfactory. Further correspondence will be unnecessary.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

28/11

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Revenue Department

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

No 5249.
Govt. of (1878) *Malabar*.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

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

Dated November 14th.

Issued

Recd. *28 November* Encl.

G. O., 14th November 1878, No. 4,357 W.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 176-177.

17 to the Board of Revenue &c. &c.

Malabar

Veetil and Enamahal Dams, Malabar District.—Colonel Kennedy's letter explaining cause why the charges for repairs to the — should be steadily increasing, communicated to the Board of Revenue through the Revenue Department.

No 2921
Communicated to the
Board of Revenue
29 Nov 78 *Jul*