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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	403.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	14. 2. 1878	-197-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 23.

ORDER THEREON, 4th F. 8, No. 559 W.

Communicated to the District Engineer, Coimbatore.

2. No orders have been passed in the Works Department regarding the construction of a tramway from Mettapalli. But the work was included in a programme of works provisionally for execution by famine labor in Revenue (Famine) Department Order No. 6th October 1877, which it is observed was communicated to the Board.

(True 1

EA md Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Coimbatore.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department. ✓

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

W Spare Copies

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
COIMBATORE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated February 4th.

Issued

Recd. 12 Feb 78 Encl.

G. O., 4th February 1878, No. 559 W.

FEBRUARY.

Nos 20-21

403
Communicated to
the Board of Revenue
14 Feb 78

Public Works in Coimbatore District—
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on
Collector's report on — for 1876-77
communicated to the District Engineer with
remarks.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

4th February 1878, No. 559 W.

G

Encl.

Read the following paper:—

No. 22. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th January 1878, No. 2.

Read the following letter from A. WELDON, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore,
to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd
November 1877, No. 434:—

I HAVE the honor to forward my report on Public Works for 1876-77,
accompanied by the prescribed lists.

2. The aggregate allotments from the same amounted to Rupees 2,79,164 and
the expenditure to Rupees 2,56,342.

3. IMPERIAL.—Under this head the expenditure, Rupees 91,138, is almost entirely
on irrigation works; several small improvements taken in hand in the previous year
were completed, but no new work was commenced. The irrigation works were kept
in repair at an outlay of Rupees 74,700. Irrigation works in this district are
in fairly good condition. I am not aware of any matured feasible projects for fur-
ther storage of water; there is some distribution which is being gradually
amended as funds admit.

4. PROVINCIAL.—Communications.—Two works were carried on from this
fund. One is the road from Malliampollodoomoody, intended to replace an old
village road destroyed by the Railway; been in progress since 1874 and is
still incomplete. The road, in my opinion, has been too expensively provided with
culverts when road-dams would have sufficed as a village track. The second is the
improvement of the Mettoopolliem and road on which the Provincial allotment
of Rupees 4,000 sanctioned in the previous year was worked out. This road requires
far more funds for up-keep than are at present available. I suggested a tramway in my last
year's report. The traffic is great and the road suffers.

5. PROVINCIAL.—Buildings.—The repairs and improvements to the Central Jail
at Coimbatore were three-fourths finished and seemed well done. A house was
built for the Inspector of Police, Collega small improvements were carried out
to my Cutcherry, such as ventilators to my English record-room, verandah round
my English record and the Forest Deputy Collector's office, &c. Four Police huts
were constructed at Mettoopolliem, and buildings in the district were kept in
repair at a cost of Rupees 2,989.

6. There are now good Cutcherry buildings at Taluq Cusbahs in the district and tolerable
These buildings are in good condition. I have Chisholm's standard plan at four
for the Collector's office. I have also made arrangements in the way of fresh buildings
are—

- (1). A Cutcherry and a house for the Sub-Collector; the latter is being constructed.
- (2). A house for the Head Clerk or Northern Division.
- (3). A Cutcherry for the District Engineer.

cannot be carried out by the Public Works Department.

are provided in the Public Works Department.

7. LOCAL—Communications.—7,477 were spent in carrying on new works and improvements of communication. Rupees 1,13,282 on up-keep of existing roads. The state of the communication in the district is generally fair and cart communication is everywhere feasible. Between Pollachy and Oodumulpettah for six miles through cotton soil and across drainage is almost impassable in very wet weather. Metal is far distant and most expensive. The isolated taluq of Collegal is being opened up and connected with the low country by two lines of road. The Bhowany and Collegal roads on the Burghoor plateau on which Rupees 72,100 had been previously spent, are now made practicable throughout for carts at an estimated cost of Rupees 9,620. The road from Tirpur to Collegal is one-third done; another access to Collegal by Bylore and Lockanhi is now opened out at a cost of Rupees 5,028.

8. I have stated above that the roads in this district were generally in a fair condition. I cannot illustrate this more strongly than by referring to the enormous traffic which has gone over them, notably the road from Tirpur or Avenashy Road Railway Station to Ipettah and Madura. Thousands of tons of grain, chiefly rice, were carted over it. The soil over which the road passes is favorable. Other roads again, such as that from Coimbatore to Sattiamungalam, partly traversing cotton soil, were grievously cut up by traffic. There was a very inefficient Range Officer in the district who has since been removed.

9. The railway saved our roads to a great extent, but for its distribution of grain would have been difficult and

10. I am unable to suggest agricultural (i.e., irrigational) works for this district. In general the rain-fall is not sufficient and does not supply the existing reservoirs; nor can an extension of canal cultivation be contemplated, as the usual supply is generally short of the land requirements. Some vast schemes, such as a great reservoir up the Bhodley, was some years ago mooted; but I am not in possession of data as to practicability of the scheme. The contemplated Cauvery anicut at Nerinjipet, was unfavorably reported on by Captain Mead, R.E., some years ago and is not now under consideration in this district.

11. My experience of this district leads me to place more confidence in an extension of wells by private enterprise than in additional surface reservoirs, which, in time of drought, would be empty.

12. I think the rail or tramway is now ordered, to Cullar will be a beneficial project, and if the railway is built, the Nilgiri plateau much advantage would be gained by that district. It would save the toil and waste of human and animal power saved to the people of this district and supply the markets of the Nilgiri plateau.

13. The railway system of the district is well supplied with feeders which, in time of need, also serve as distributors of trade.

14. While I have pointed out the defects of the existing district communication, I think the improvements I think are required I am of opinion that the existing district communication is of the utmost service to its agricultural interest.

THE report is satisfactory and the expenditure being 92 per cent. of the estimate, I am of opinion that the head of "Provincial." Mr. Webb is to be, on the whole, well pleased with the state of communication in this district.