

(1) Number of pages 3 sheets
(2) Date of repair 13.8.82
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>85</u>	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<u>10. 1. 1878</u>	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 5,161.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th December 1877.

Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Womipenta, 25th October 1877, Extra No. 2,447:—

I HAVE the honor to submit my report on the Public Works of this district for the official year 1876-77, and to enclose the usual statements.

2. I trust that the Board will, on account of the work which the famine has created, excuse any shortcomings in the way of the remarks which, under their Proceedings, No. 2,992, dated 25th June last, it appears that Collectors are expected to make. Since I have joined the district I have never had leisure to consider Public Works affairs as I in ordinary times would have done, and any observations which I may make will, I fear, be of but little value and perhaps refer to matters which have been considered and disposed of long ago by officers who, from their local experience, were far more capable of judging of their merits and demerits than I.

3. The total expenditure under the several heads during the year under report was, as particularized in the subjoined statement, Rupees 51,955 on New Works and Rupees 1,34,315 on Repairs, making a total of Rupees 1,86,270, or less by Rs. 52,780 than the outlay of the preceding year. The falling off appears to be attributable to the shortness of provision in the Local Fund Budget under the head of Communications, &c., and to the Order of the Board of Revenue, No. 853, dated 23rd January last, directing a stop to be put to expenditure upon all roads.

Particulars.	1875-76.		1876-77.		COMPARISON.			
	Allotment.	Expenditure.	Allotment.	Expenditure.	ALLOTMENT.		EXPENDITURE.	
					Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Imperial.</i>	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Irrigation { New Works...	7,000	5,040	16,000	16,420	9,000	...	11,880	...
{ Repairs ...	46,000	44,561	53,000	51,833	5,000	...	7,072	...
Buildings... { New Works...	...	...	700	220	700	...	220	...
{ Repairs ...	19	19	240	41	221	...	28	...
Total ...	53,019	49,620	69,940	68,514	14,921	...	18,694	...
<i>Provincial and Special.</i>								
Buildings { New Works...	19,150	19,003	13,774	11,773	...	6,406	...	7,229
{ Repairs ...	3,055	3,544	9,025	7,789	5,970	...	4,294	...
Total ...	22,205	22,546	22,799	19,561	5,970	6,406	4,294	7,229
<i>Local Funds.</i>								
Communications { New Works...	68,106	65,437	27,892	28,028	...	37,900	...	43,609
{ Repairs ...	99,837	93,078	72,927	70,042	...	11,789	...	22,435
Educational ... { Repairs ...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	17
Sanitary and { New Works...	9,313	5,679	3,375	3,514	...	4,840	...	2,166
Miscellaneous { Repairs ...	8,000	4,673	5,000	4,261	30	...	...	418
Total ...	1,77,561	1,67,084	1,09,237	95,445	80	64,609	...	68,689
Grand Total ...	2,54,785	2,39,950	2,00,999	1,86,270	10,961	66,915	23,083	75,865

4. IRRIGATION, NEW WORKS.—Under this head the expenditure was Rupees 16,420, being in excess of the Budget allotments by Rupees 420.

The works consisted of the following:—

- 37 Waste weirs to tanks.
- 13 Sluices to tanks.
- 6 Surplus sluices or waste weirs to channels.
- 6 Other works.

Of these but six waste weirs, four sluices one surplus sluice to a channel, and three other works were completed.

5. IRRIGATION, REPAIRS.—With the exception of Rupees 1,367, the allotment under this head has been expended upon about 178 works, by far the major portion of these being tanks and sluices. There were 97 of the former and 38 of the latter.

6. The chief repairs were those to the Davasamudram and Poli tanks and the Kandukur tank calingula. These were begun in 1875-76. The last was finished, and the District Engineer promises in his report to complete the remaining two at an early date. Estimates for the embankment of the Cheyair river, above and below the railway bridge, were sanctioned during the year as famine relief-works, and the District Engineer reports that good progress has been made with that on the right bank above the railway.

7. IMPERIAL BUILDINGS.—The allotment on this account was Rupees 21,769, out of which Rupees 19,511 were spent, the outlay being upon a Post Office and Post Master's residence at Madanapalli which was a new work, and repairs to the Post Office at Cuddapah. Both were completed.

8. PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS, NEW WORKS.—The principal works carried out under this head were the Taluq Cutcheries and Subsidiary Jails at Kadiri, Madanapalli, and Jamalamadugu, the Police Stations at Kazipett and Vallur, and the improvement of the Police Hospital at Cuddapah. Of these, the Cutcherry at Jamalamadugu, the Police Station at Kazipett and the Police Hospital at Cuddapah were completed. The others are reported to be in fair progress. The expenditure upon the Cutcherry at Kadiri having been exceeded a supplemental estimate has been sent in. The completion of that at Madanapalli has been delayed owing to the non-receipt from Madras of the timber required for roofing it.

9. PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS, REPAIRS.—The allotment under this head was Rupees 4,375 and the expenditure Rupees 3,088. Twenty-four works were taken in hand and sixteen completed.

10. LOCAL FUNDS.—The total amount of grant for the year 1876-77 under the several heads was Rupees 1,09,287 and the expenditure was Rupees 98,445, leaving a balance of Rupees 10,842. This decrease, the District Engineer states, is the result of carrying out the order of the Board of Revenue referred to in paragraph 3 of this letter.

11. The following is a statement showing the grant and expenditure under the several heads of Local Funds arranged in accordance with the two circles of the district:—

Name of Circles.	COMMUNICATION.				EDUCATION.				SANITARY AND MISCELLANEOUS.				Total.	
	New Works.		Repairs.		New Works.		Repairs.		New Works.		Repairs.			
	Allotment.	Expenditure.	Allotment.	Expenditure.	Allotment.	Expenditure.	Allotment.	Expenditure.	Allotment.	Expenditure.	Allotment.	Expenditure.		
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.		
Cuddapah	22,175	14,696	43,318	41,729	..	..	..	..	2,732	2,732	2,000	1,790	70,226	60,940
Madanapalli	5,716	5,339	29,609	28,922	..	..	..	..	616	732	3,090	2,471	39,061	37,606
Total	27,892	20,028	72,927	70,642	..	..	..	..	3,375	3,514	5,090	4,261	1,09,287	98,446

12. LOCAL FUND, COMMUNICATIONS, CUDDAPAH CIRCLE.—Owing to want of funds the whole of the allotment under this head was not expended during the year under report. Fair progress was made with the works taken in hand. Under the remarks made in paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,992, of the 25th June last, it is unnecessary to enter into any account of them.

13. LOCAL FUND, COMMUNICATIONS, MADANAPALLI CIRCLE.—A state of things similar to that indicated above and arising from the same causes existed in the Madanapalli Circle during 1876-77.

Grant.	Expenditure.
RS.	RS.
8,468	7,775

14. LOCAL FUNDS.—Sanitary and Miscellaneous.—The grant and expenditure under this head were as per margin.

15. SANITARY AND MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS.—A sum of Rupees 4,261 was spent upon the payment of establishment for the maintenance of avenue trees.

16. REMARKS.—I now venture to offer some remarks upon such of the subjects above referred to as seem to call for them.

17. This district appears to have throughout but few irrigation works of any magnitude, and more than one of the largest might, with advantage to the public revenue and to the ryots, be furnished with supply channels, either larger than those which at present exist, or cut from some of the numerous rivers which intersect the country. Why the wide, level, and highly fertile plains of the Proddatur, Jamalamadugu, and Cuddapah Taluqs have not been brought more under the influence of irrigation from the Pennair and Papagni rivers, I am at a loss to imagine. There is, however, probably some very sufficient reason for it, as the idea must have occurred to many others long ago. Still even supposing that other interests require that anicuts should not be placed across these rivers, it seems, when one hears of nine feet of water going over the anicut at Nellore, that this means waste of what might be saved and utilized. To construct tanks would, I fear, as the country is so level, be impossible, and the course of the channels along the Pennair is the drifting sandstone of the summer which continually and rapidly fill them up. I am surprised that no attempt seems to have ever been made to keep these sands back. Nanul and the bindweed convolvulus ought to grow well enough. The Babul and Bher trees flourish. If water could be only got on to these cotton plains, the country would be an almost evergreen garden, instead of being, in the event of want of rain, a howling wilderness.

18. The project of cutting a supply channel from the Suggilair to the Porumamilla and Budwail tanks is one which has often and long ago been mooted. Had it been in existence when the famine began a great deal of want would have been prevented and Government would probably have saved, twice or three times over, the money which it would have cost. As far back as March, the Suggilair came down in sharp and heavy flood, but neither of the tanks, referred to by me, received any supply. Had an anicut and channel existed they would, and much want and consequent expenditure of money in relief, to say nothing of the loss of revenue in the shape of remissions, would have been saved.

19. As a matter of actual hard return in point of revenue, I do not think that the scheme will ever pay, but as a means of securing Government from loss in the way of remissions and the people, at some future time, from want, I believe it to be of value.

20. Throughout the district there are sundry ancient and some of them good-sized breached tanks. It appears to me that lists of these might be made and those which seem worth doing anything to, carefully examined in view to their being taken in hand when necessary. A stock of estimates of this kind when the famine began would have saved the waste which has occurred in laying out new and useless roads.

21. In the sub-division I have noticed everywhere long strings of wretched little tanks with perhaps a pretty fair one at the bottom of the series. It appears to me that it would be an advantage to the people and the State if some of these were

got rid of by breaching and those retained improved. These tanks in chains are always as source of danger to one another, as the bursting of one may endanger the safety of the others, and all have therefore, though several may not, from a pecuniary point of view, be worth it, have to be kept in order.

22. From what I have seen of the irrigation works of the district, though I must say that I have not inspected them with a view to forming an opinion, they appear to be kept in very fair condition. The revetments are, however, frequently in a bad state owing, I fancy, to unskilful construction in the first instance. One satisfactory feature throughout is the entire absence of any of those very objectionable articles, calingula stones. Continuing the work of embanking the rivers will, I consider, be of great benefit. The floods of 1874, a repetition of which may, as the history of the district shows, take place at any time, caused a very great loss to Government and the people, which would have been avoided had protective works existed.

23. PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—The public buildings of this district are, without exception, the very worst that I have ever seen. Cuddapah which has the reputation, and I believe justly of having the vilest climate in the Presidency, has, instead of a suitable Cutcherry, one which is scattered over a very large extent of ground and which is utterly inadequate for the accommodation of the native establishment. The Collector's room is a single apartment of the same size as is usually assigned, in other places, to an Assistant Collector, and it is without a retiring room of any kind. The Collector has to work in this place with the whole of the copying establishment sitting behind him and divided from him by an open door-way through which whatever is said in an ordinary tone can be distinctly heard. The room for the Assistant Collector is still worse, and is in at all warm weather a stifling oven.

24. There is no Sub-Collector's Cutcherry, that which formerly existed having been so badly built as to require pulling down. The Taluq Cutcheries are on a par with that at the head-quarters and some are in a very dilapidated condition. They were, I am told, built in the days of the Nawabs and are utterly unsuited to the requirements of the present time. It is hopeless to expect neatness, clearness, and order whilst they exist. The sub-jails are, for the greater part, almost as bad as the Cutcheries to which they are attached. Some attempts to ventilate and improve them have been made, but they are as compared with what I have seen elsewhere very indifferent.

25. The new Cutcheries are a great improvement, but that at Jamalamadugu appears to have been badly constructed. It has only just been handed over to us, but the flagging in the verandah has already become displaced, and there is a most serious crack in the wall in the front and to the north of the tower which has broken the stone at the top and bottom of a door-way and the sill of a window above. There are also minor cracks in other parts of the walls. The cause of this I believe to be that the foundations were not deep enough and that the tower is settling and of course injuring the remainder of the building. The soil upon which the Cutcherry is built is very treacherous black cotton underlaid at no great depth by a blue slatey rock in horizontal layers. The water has probably got into the foundations, and the result has been that the walls where the ground is softer than elsewhere have sunk.

26. As regards road and bridges I could make some observations but to the best of my recollection an order of the Board exists to the effect that mention of them is not to enter into the Public Works reports.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Statements.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The ordinary operations of the Public Works Department were somewhat interfered with by the famine, and Mr. Price was so much occupied with famine work that he was unable to examine into the state of the Public Works of the

district very closely. The allotments were, however, fairly utilized, the short outlay being mainly under the head of Local Fund, Communications, and being due to the Board's instructions in January last, to curtail expenditure on roads as much as possible.

3. In paragraphs 17 *et seq.* Mr. Price offers some valuable observations. He points out the apparent facility with which a large tract of country could be watered from the Pennair and Papagni rivers if they were supplied with anicuts and brings to notice again an often discussed project for turning the water of the Suggilair into the tanks at Podumamilla and Budwail. These rivers although depending on comparatively local rains often receive good supplies of water when there is not enough rain to supply tanks dependent on land drainage alone, and the Board consider that these projects, regarding which no correspondence can be traced in their office, should receive careful attention in the Public Works Department with a view to its being decided whether any and what action should be taken in regard to them.

4. Mr. Price does not particularize the *ancient breached tanks* to which he alludes; possibly some of them may be worth repair and should be examined with that view; but it is not unfrequently the case that old breached tanks have been advisedly abandoned, the beds having silted so much as to render them useless. His suggestion in paragraph 20 that a number of estimates should be kept always ready to be put in hand in seasons of scarcity is deserving of consideration; it is certain that the want of such estimates and the difficulty of obtaining them when existent was a great hindrance to the starting of useful works during the late famine.

5. The question of the best mode of treating the small Dusbandum tanks in the sub-division has already been before the Board, and it was directed that a Committee consisting of the Collector, District Engineer, Settlement Officer, and Sub-Collector Board's Proceedings, dated 24th July 1876, No. 1,895, should investigate and report on the

subject. This order should not be lost sight of and should be acted on as soon as the officers concerned can find time.

6. The Board can quite support Mr. Price in his condemnation of the public buildings of all kinds in Cuddapah. The climate is perhaps the worst in Southern India, and the accommodation for officers instead of being suitable is of the worst description. It having been at length decided that Cuddapah is to be retained as an headquarter station, the estimates, preparation of which was directed in G.O., dated 10th October 1876, No. 2,094, should be submitted without delay. As regards the Sub-Collector's Cutcherry at Madanapalli the Collector's reply to Board's Proceedings, dated 5th June 1877, Miscellaneous No. 8,064, calling for explanation as to the cause of the delay in erecting the building sanctioned in G.O., dated 4th February 1875, is awaited. It is presumed that the defective construction of the new Taluq Cutcherry at Jamalamadugu will form the subject of inquiry in the Public Works Department.

7. The Collector is mistaken in supposing that he is precluded from making observations regarding communications; the Board are not aware of any order to that effect; all that was intended by the instructions conveyed in Board's Proceedings, dated 25th June 1877, No. 2,992, was that the remarks should be of a general nature, and that it was unnecessary in the report on Public Works to enter into details regarding each of the lines of road in progress.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
with two original statements to be returned and copies of
Board's Proceedings, dated 24th July 1876, No. 1,895,
and 28th July 1875, No. 2,112.

Collector of Cuddapah.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Ed. A. Grubert.

Measure 10728 Dec 18

No 93
1877.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH DECEMBER 1877, No. 5,161.

Recd

Supd. G. S. S. S. S.

Received

G. S. S. S. S.

DECEMBER.

No. 5,161.

Public Works — of Cuddalore District. — Submitting to Government Collector's report on — for 1876-77.

1885

Sodgud

10 Jan 1885