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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev DEPARTMENT

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Dated 6.2.1879	197 .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 3,187.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st December 1878.

Read the following letter from C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd December 1878, No. 486:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the report on public works executed in the Kurnool District during the official year 1877-78, together with the statements prescribed in Board's Circular Memorandum, No. 2,044, dated 7th December 1875.

2. IRRIGATION.—The budget allotment for the year was Rupees 79,825; of this Rupees 68,129, or slightly above eighty-five per cent., only were expended. There was, however, a further expenditure of Rupees 77,377 from Famine Funds, whereof Rupees 33,150 was incurred by the Revenue Department. The short expenditure from budget grants was due to the attention of the Public Works Department officers having been diverted to the supervision of famine-relief labor employed chiefly on road works.

3. I have no particular remarks to make in regard to any of the irrigation works executed during the year, beyond observing that the return obtained for the large outlay incurred from Famine Funds was unsatisfactory owing, it is said, to the "impossibility of carrying out simultaneously those improvements which required materials and skilled labor," to "the scattered situation of the tanks, and the having to manage and regularly pay gangs of demoralized coolies."

4. Out of 352 tanks in the district, 95 are reported by the Tahsildars to stand in need of repairs or improvements of some sort or other.

5. The condition of the Yeldurty tank in the Ramallakota Taluk calls for special remark. This tank breached in 1874, but the breach was not closed till 1876-77. A sum of Rupees 8,800 was expended in improving and repairing the tank in the interval. Nevertheless, the tank breached again in the year under report and the breach has not been closed up to date, while the heavy rains of the current year have widened it and rendered the cost of its eventual repair more expensive. The failure of cultivation under the tank has thrown many of the laborers of the village out of employ, and in consequence at the present moment distress among the lower classes is still lingering in this village, while it is gradually disappearing everywhere else.

6. BUILDINGS.—It will be seen from Statement No. 1 that the expenditure on buildings during the year was as follows:—

Head of Service.		Original.	Repairs.	Total.
		RS.	RS.	RS.
Imperial...	Public Works Department ...	...	...	...
	Other Agency	...	...	...
Provincial.	Public Works Department ...	21,731	819	22,550
	Other Agency	..	...	...
Local ...	Public Works Department ...	...	...	...
	Other Agency	...	...	...
	Total ...	21,731	819	22,550

7. The outlay on account of new works was chiefly incurred on the new Collector's Cutcherry at Kurnool, the new Taluk Cutcherry at Koilkuntla, and on the construction of three Police station-houses and an additional room in the Police Superintendent's office at Kurnool.

8. *Collector's Cutcherry at Kurnool.*—This building was completed and handed over to the Revenue Department during the year under report. The estimate for the building was Rupees 29,800 and the outlay up to the end of the year Rupees 29,352, exclusive of Rupees 3,535 said to be due to contractors. The building is in a satisfactory condition.

9. *Taluk Cutcherry, Koilkuntla.*—An estimate for Rupees 64,772 was sanctioned for this work in 1874, and up to the end of the year a sum of Rupees 64,152 was expended. The building has been completed with the exception of constructing a dome over the tower, covering a portion of the verandah, building drains around the main building, and white-washing and flooring the jail wards with asphalte.

10. The other buildings constructed during the year do not call for any remark.

11. Repairs.—The following buildings were repaired during the year at a total cost of Rupees 819:—

(1.) Taluk Cutcherry, Markapur.
(2.) Police Assistant Superintendent's Bungalow, Cumbum.
(3.) Civil Court-house, Kurnool.
(4.) District Engineer's Office, Kurnool.
(5.) Nandial Range Office.

12. The Special Assistant Collector reports that the Nandikotkur Taluk Cutcherry is "a very bad one, terribly close in the hot weather, and very leaky in the rains." I have placed myself in communication with the District Engineer on the subject of constructing a new cutcherry at Nandikotkur, and the result will be reported in due course. But I must observe that the building in question (which I have seen) is no exception to the general run of Taluk and Divisional offices in this district.

13. Communications.—The following statement shows the outlay on roads during the year:—

—		Original.	Repairs.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Local Funds ...	By P. W. Department ...	3,999	10,800	14,799
	By Other Agency	...	...	...
Famine Funds.	By P. W. Department ..	70,698	1,42,105	2,12,803
	By Other Agency... ...	12,52,871	13,00,900	25,53,771
	Total ...	13,27,568	14,53,805	27,81,373

14. The subjoined extracts from the reports of Divisional Officers show the general condition of roads in the district.

15. Extract from the Special Assistant Collector's report:—

"The roads in the Ramallakota Taluk are —
(1.) The Gooty road to a little beyond Dhone.
(2.) The Bellary road to near Kodumur.
(3.) The Nandial road to a little beyond Narnur.
(4.) The road from Veldurti to Ramallakota.

"I cannot say much for the condition of any of them. The Bellary road is, I think, on the whole the best, being harder, but even it is getting somewhat cut up now. The first half of the Gooty road is very rough, but it is now under repair, and probably in six months it may present a better appearance. The absence of bridges across the various vagus that cross it causes much obstruction to traffic. All these roads show a want of proper foundation, for in rainy weather they are very easily cut up by carts. The branch road to Ramallakota seemed a little better in this respect, but then it has not been much tested as there is, I fancy, little traffic on it.

"The only road in the Nandikotkur Taluk, not taking abandoned tracts called famine roads into consideration, is the main one through the taluk *via* Atmakur. I have seen it as far as Atmakur. From that place for a few miles it is a mere unmettalled track; it is then a very fair road. The other part of the road from Nandikotkur to Kurnool I travelled over last month. The whole of this part is in very bad condition and very much cut up, and the part from Goddidamadgu, ten miles off to Nandikotkur, is most atrocious, nothing but mud and swamp and very deep furrows; it is so bad that the traffic on it is almost stopped. Riding over it is bad enough, but bandies have to be dragged through it with great difficulty by two pairs of bullocks to each bandy. At Nandikotkur there is a deep gap in the road owing to the rush of water, which occurs whenever any rain falls, from any adjacent tank which has been breached. At this spot travellers have to leave the road and wade through mud and black cotton soil."

16. From my own personal experience I am able to state that the condition of the roads in the Ramallakota and Nandikotkur Taluks has not been exaggerated.

17. Extract from the Peapalli Deputy Collector's report:—

"*The Rampur Pass Road.*—I visited this road during my tour of inspection of Koilkuntla and Pattikonda Taluks. It is in good condition from the 1st to the 8th mile. A part of this road between Rampuram and Garladinnai appears to have been repaired from Famine Funds and has not been completed. No road dams nor bridges have been constructed where necessary, and it does not admit of carts travelling through, especially in the rainy weather.

"The Bellary road from Kodamur to Asperi from the 21st milestone to the 37th milestone was repaired during the year under report

"*Road from Nuncherla to Tuggali.*—This is about thirteen miles in length. Parts of this road between the 1st and 7th milestones and 9th and 11th milestones are reported to be in good condition.

"*The road from Jonnaghery to where it joins the Gooty Road* is badly in want of repairs. The jungle streams and rivulets by which it is traversed here and there have injured it greatly in several places.

"*The road from Gooty to Kurnool.*—The portion of this road between the 36th and 54th milestones is in good order. It was repaired during the year under report."

18. Extract from the Nandial Deputy Collector's report:—

"*Trunk Road No. VII.*—This is a Local Fund road and was repaired during the year out of State Relief Funds. The length of this road in Nandial Taluk is eighteen miles, of which ten miles were repaired from Famine Funds. This is in a bad condition.

"*Trunk Road No. XVII.*—Thirty-seven miles of this road lie in Nandial and thirty-five in Sirvail Taluk Twenty miles in Nandial Taluk and twenty-nine miles in Sirvail Taluk were repaired. As has been remarked by my predecessor, the portion between Moolasagaram and Ayalur Bungalow is in very bad order, while that between Orakul and Paniem, with the exception of one or two miles, is fair. A portion of four miles between Ayalur and Deebaguntla is very bad, while the rest is fair with the exception of short distances between Deebaguntla and Chagalamarry. This and Trunk Road No. VII are the two important roads in the division: the former communicates with Cuddapah and the latter with Cumbum *via* Nandikanama ghat. They are of permanent utility to the public, and it is therefore desirable that they should be constantly kept in a state of thorough and efficient repair."

19. Extract from the Head Assistant Collector's report:—

4. "There are seven Local Fund roads.

"*No. I.*—The first four miles of the road over the Muntralakanama, the pass between the Markapur and Nandikotkur Taluks, *i.e.*, four miles from the foot of the ascent to the top where is the taluk boundary. It is very out of the way, and I have not consequently been there since this time last year. This road was then generally in fair order except that nearly all the bridges, of which there are a good many, over the small streams that run down the hills were going. They were all of the cheapest description, merely palmyra logs half-eaten by white-ants, covered with earth and gravel. If the road over this ghat were put in good order and a really good road made from the foot of it to the Kistna boundary at Mammadivaram and on to Vinukonda, where there is no made road at present, a large traffic would be sure to spring up on it. As it is, from the fact that there is no such road, the bit over the ghat is hardly ever used, and not more than half-a-dozen bandies cross it in the year. A famine road was partly made along that line as will be noticed further on, but much remains to be done to it, and, besides, the most essential part, the first twelve miles from Vinukonda to Mammadivaram which lies in the Kistna District, has not been touched. Unless this bit is done it will be little use making a road from Mammadivaram on to the ghat. This bit of four miles over the ghat is the only made road in the Markapur Taluk. There are some bandy tracks in other directions which appear to have been mentioned in former reports as Local Fund roads, but as there was never any sign of a made road there before the famine, I have not included them under this head.

"*No. II.*—Trunk Road No. VII from 68th mile on the Kurnool side of the top of the Nandikanama or pass between the Cumbum and Sirvail Taluks to the 108th mile at the Nellore boundary, 40 miles. Repaired in the famine and generally in fair order. The Segalur, which crosses the road at the 81st milestone, is not bridged and when in flood is impassable.

"*No. III.*—Road from the 101st mile on Trunk Road No. VII through Cumbum Town and on past the 107th mile in the direction of Markapur, 6½ miles, generally in fair order except in the town itself, where it is very bad and just outside it to the north rendered impassable for the last six weeks by the flood pouring through the breach in the Sikrel Anicut. The fact of this breach not yet having been bridged is the cause of a considerable interruption to traffic and consequent loss to the Local Fund Board. The tolls for the present half-year have sold for only Rupees 645 against Rupees 1,110 for last half-year.

"*No. IV.*—Road from Taticherla in the centre of the Cumbum Taluk to the Cuddapah boundary; fifteen or sixteen miles long. Road repaired between Nallagunta, four miles south of Taticherla and the Cuddapah boundary, that is, about twelve miles during the famine. In fair order.

"*No. V.*—Road from the Rajah Vithi in Cumbum Town to the tank bund, about 1½ miles, in bad order. Rupees 100 has been sanctioned for its repair by the Local Fund Board. I do not think it will be enough.

"*No. VI.*—Road from Kakerla toll-gate to tank calingula, about 1½ miles. Part is in good order, but part needs repair badly.

"*No. VII.*—About 1½ miles of other roads in Cumbum Town in bad order. This finishes the list of roads that existed before the famine. In the famine the following two new roads were begun by the Revenue Department and afterwards worked on by the Public Works Department.

"*Markapur Taluk*—*I.*—From the foot of the Mantralammakanama through Dorvala, Dupad, and Tripurantakam to Mammadivaram on the Kistna boundary; fifty-five miles worked on all over the entire length, but nowhere completed except for a short distance between Dorvala and Dupad.

"*II.*—Road from Cumbum to Tokapalli, where it joins the above road; twenty-five miles. A considerable part finished and in good order. Useless at present from want of bridges.

"These are both most important roads, running as they do through the heart of the Markapur Taluk and connecting the Cumbum and Nandikotkur Taluks with the Kistna District."

20. The outlay of Rupees 27,66,574 from Famine Funds was chiefly in constructing a host of cross roads in the district, for none of which maintenance could be provided from Local Funds. They were all abandoned in various stages of progress, and it is not worth while going into the present condition of each.

21. A portion (Rupees 13,00,900) of the outlay from Famine Funds was incurred in repairing the main lines of communications in the district and in stacking metal on the sides of the roads. It would, perhaps, have been better if the famine coolies had been employed solely in collecting and stacking metal and not permitted to execute (so-called) repairs to the roads. As it is, their interference has done more harm than good as the present condition of the roads shows.

Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.—Statements.

Submitted to Government.

2. The short expenditure from budget grants and the large outlay from Famine Funds on irrigation works is satisfactorily explained. The Yeldurti tank requires immediate attention. Its present condition is not creditable owing apparently to bad work and neglect. The estimates of the Collector's Cutcherry at Kurnool and of the Taluk Cutcherry at Koilkuntla will probably be exceeded. The roads in the district are not in good condition.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
with two original statements to be returned.
" Collector of Kurnool.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd G. Freeman.

Revenue 1879. Dept.
Jre 1870.
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1878.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December 21st.

Printed January 28th 1879.

Received Feby 4th

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST DECEMBER 1878, No. 3,487.

DECEMBER.

No. 3,487.

Public Works — executed in Kurnool District during the official year 1877-78.—Submitting to Government Collector's report on —.

No. 501
Lodged
6. Feb. 1879.

571.