M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1055 — Press Mis.

147–148

Dated 9—5—1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1055

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th May 1867.

No. 147. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th April 1867, No. 2,561.

Read again the following papers :—

G. O., dated 25th October 1866, No. 3,408, Public Works Department, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd November 1866, No. 8,448.

G. O., dated 25th October 1866, No. 3,409, Public Works Department, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 31st idem, No. 7,883.

G. O., dated 31st October 1866, No. 3,458, Public Works Department, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd November 1866, No. 8,438.

Read also—

G. O., dated 18th December 1866, No. 3,414, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting Board to report what arrangements they propose to make to give effect to the new arrangement to be introduced from 1st April 1867, into Vizagapatam, Nellore, Madras, Tanjore, and North Arcot districts, in regard to execution, &c., of repairs of petty Irrigation works by Revenue Department.

G. O., dated 20th December 1866, No. 4,014, Public Works Department.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting Collectors of Nellore, Madras, North Arcot, and Tanjore, to report fully in communication with Superintending Engineers, and through Board, on subject of Irrigation works in their districts, proposed to be transferred to Revenue Department.

Letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 7th January 1867, No. 7.

1. As directed in the Order of Government, Public Works Department, dated 20th December 1866, No. 4,014, I have the honour to report how the arrangement ordered to be carried out in the Proceedings of Government, Nos. 3,408 and 3,458, dated 25th and 31st October 1866 respectively, can, in my opinion, best be effected in this district.

2. *Firstly.*—With regard to the classes of works which should on the one hand be transferred to the Revenue authorities, and on the other hand remain under the officers of the Department of Public Works.

3. In a district like Tanjore, where roads and rivers run alongside of each other, and the works connected therewith are as it were mixed up one with the other, it would never do for one department to have charge of existing works of irrigation, and the other of local communication ; for both would be in the market at one time, bidding against each other, for the same kind of labour. I, therefore, think that the repairs of all existing works of irrigation and local communication in this district, should be transferred to the Revenue Department, with the exception of the following, which are very large and intricate, and therefore require professional knowledge and supervision, viz.:—

The upper anicut and Cavery dam.
The head of the Seringham Island.
The 150 yards Calingulah.
The Vennar and Cavery dams.
The Grand and Attee anais.
The Vadavagudy sluices.
The Katchaimangalam anicut.
The lower anicut.
The South Rajan Vaikal and Kukiniky Manniyar heads.
The Manniyar upper and lower locks.
The Coleroon river bank.

4. I am also of opinion that new works for purposes of irrigation, which are estimated to cost not more than Rupees 500, should be entrusted to the Revenue Department. These works are never very numerous, not more on an average than four or five in a taluk, nor difficult to carry out, and their execution can, therefore, be well undertaken by the same Department as that which has charge of repairs.

5. On the other hand, the execution of new earthworks for purposes of communication, should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works. Captain Oakes in writing to me on this subject says, that new roads are never properly made by the Revenue Department, sufficient attention not being paid to the precise position a road is to occupy, nor to the cutting and sloping of the drains on both its sides; and that the original plan is thus not only not properly carried out, but all subsequent repairs of such a road are rendered extremely difficult. As I feel that what Captain Oakes says on this point is quite correct, I consider that these new works should be left as hitherto with the Department of Public Works.

6. To sum up then. On the one hand, the Revenue Department should have charge of the repairs of all existing works of irrigation and communication (with the exception of those specially mentioned in the end of paragraph 3), as well as the execution of new works for purposes of irrigation, which are estimated to cost not more than Rupees 500; on the other hand, the Department of Public Works should have the control and supervision of the works specially mentioned at the end of paragraph 3, together with the execution of all new works for purposes of communication, as well as of all new irrigation works, the estimates for which exceed Rupees 500.

7. *Secondly.*—With respect to the manner in which the examination of, and check on works, carried out by the Revenue authorities is to be conducted by the Department of Public Works.

8. If the Board will be so good as to refer to paragraph 9 of my letter, dated 18th July 1862, No. 266, recorded in their Proceedings of the 11th October 1862, they will see that I then most strongly deprecated the examining and checking of works carried out by the Revenue Department, by any officers below the grade of Executive or Assistant Engineers. I am still of that opinion. Without in any way wishing to depreciate the merits of the upper subordinates of the Department of Public Works, I have no hesitation in saying that those in this district are not fit men to check work done under the orders of Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars. I am quite certain that the accuracy of their reports would be openly denied by the Revenue officers, and that the measurements would have to be done over again by an Executive or Assistant Engineer, before the truth could be arrived at. A case of this kind occurred only a few months since, with regard to some works which had been carried out by the Salt Department, under the general orders of the Salt Deputy Collector, who is himself an old officer of the Department of Public Works; and I have good ground, therefore, for writing so strongly on this point.

9. Again, I do not see why the examination and check of the Sub-Overseer who will be attached to the Tahsildar's Cutcherry, should not, as a general rule, be considered sufficient for works estimated not to cost more than Rupees 250, the officers specified in the next paragraph examining occasionally such as they may come across. Much cheating cannot possibly take place with so small a sum of money, and the villagers, moreover, who will execute these works, will take so much interest in their stability, that they will see that they are properly carried out.

10. There are at present in this district four Executive Engineers, besides the Superintending Engineer, viz., Captains Hasted and Mead, Lieutenant Livesay, and Mr. Walsh, and these gentlemen will, I should imagine, be well able to examine all works executed by the Revenue Department, the estimates for which exceed Rupees 250, in addition to their other duties; for it must be recollected that the number of works which will be executed by the Revenue Department in this district will be very large, and that the officers of the Department of Public Works will accordingly be relieved of an immense deal of petty details, which they now have to superintend.

11. I beg therefore to propose, that all works executed by the Revenue Department, and estimated to cost not more than Rupees 250, should not absolutely require any further examination than that of the Taluk Overseer, who will be attached to the Tahsildar; whilst all works executed by the same department, and estimated to cost more than Rupees 250, should be examined and checked by Executive and Assistant Engineers, who will also be at liberty to do the same regarding works under that amount whenever they may see fit to examine them.

12. As regards the preparation of estimates, I would have them *all* prepared as at present in the Engineer's Department, since they will thus be much more carefully drawn up, than they can possibly be by any Sub-Overseer attached to the Tahsildar's Cutcherry.

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9th May 1867.

13. Before closing this report, I must refer to one subject in particular, though it has not been specially alluded to in the Government Proceedings under reply, and it is the establishment which will be required both in the Huzur and in the Taluks. After carefully considering this point, I have adopted the scale laid down by the Board in paragraph 16 of their Proceedings, No. 6,835, dated 11th October 1862, with the exception of the Maramat Overseer and Lascar for the Collector's Cutcherry who will not be required, and for whom I have substituted two Clerks on Rupees 20 each, for the two extra Deputy Collectors' offices which exist in this district, as well as raised the pay of the Head Clerk in the Collector's Cutcherry from Rupees 70 to 100 rupees, besides increasing the number of Peons allowed for the taluks from 6 and 4 to 12 and 8 respectively. The proposed establishments will stand thus :—

	Rate of salary.	Amount per mensem.	Amount per annum.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
COLLECTOR'S CUTCHERRY.			
1 Head Clerk and Accountant	100		
1 Accountant	35		
1 Do.	20		
1 Vernacular Clerk	35		
1 Do.	15		
2 Attenders, at Rupees 7 each	14		
		219	2,628
SUB-COLLECTOR'S CUTCHERRY.			
1 Clerk and Accountant	20		
1 Gumastah	15		
1 Attender	7		
		42	504
HEAD ASSISTANT'S CUTCHERRY.			
1 Clerk	20		
		20	240
DEPUTY COLLECTOR'S CUTCHERRY.			
1 Clerk	20		
For three Deputy Collectors, according to this scale	...	60	720
TALUK ESTABLISHMENT.			
1st Class Taluk.	RS.		
1 1st Class Sub-Overseer	50		
Travelling allowance	30		
	80		
1 Gumastah attached to him	10		
1 2nd Class Sub-Overseer	30		
Travelling allowance	30		
	60		
1 Gumastah	10		
IN TAHSILDAR'S CUTCHERRY.			
1 Clerk	20		
1 Do.	15		
12 Peons to be employed in the taluk, at 6 Rupees each	72		
	267		
For seven taluks, according to this scale	...	1,869	22,428
2nd Class Taluk.			
1 1st Class Sub-Overseer, as above	80		
1 Gumastah	10		
TAHSILDAR'S CUTCHERRY.			
1 Clerk	20		
1 Do.	15		
8 Peons, at 6 Rupees each	48		
	173		
For two Taluks according to this scale	...	346	4,152
Total	...	2,556	30,672

14. The salaries of the establishments specified in the preceding paragraph can be easily met, if 10 per cent. of the estimated cost of the works to be carried out by the Revenue Department is allowed by Government to be employed for that purpose; and I beg, therefore, to propose that the Board will obtain the sanction of Government accordingly. Captain Oakes informs me that Government have already sanctioned 11,000 Rupees for such establishment as may be required for carrying out the repairs specified in the Budget-Estimate for 1867-68, and which amount to Rupees 1,14,000. If, therefore, a sum in the same proportion is allowed out of the Road Cess and Local Fund collections in this district, (estimated to amount annually to Rupees 2,50,000,) for the works to be executed under those particular heads, we shall have altogether the sum of Rupees 36,000 available for the purpose required.

15. I am sure I need not point out to the Board how absolutely necessary it is that the Revenue Department in this district should have an adequate establishment, if it is to properly superintend the execution of works, the estimated cost of which will amount to three lacs and a half of Rupees per annum. There have of late been many changes in the strength of the Revenue establishments, and though it is true that many works will be carried out by villagers interested in their being efficiently performed, yet these villagers will require much superintendence and looking after, and many accounts and returns will also have to be prepared and despatched from the Taluk and Huzur Cutcherries, all of which cannot possibly be done with the present establishments, which have been reduced by the late revision to the minimum of strength. Besides, it must be recollected that in this district the Nat Curnum establishment will also, in accordance with my letter, No. 6, dated 7th January 1867, be very soon abolished. Under all these circumstances, therefore, I deem it my duty to bring this part of the subject most prominently to the notice of the Board, and to beg that they will obtain for Tanjore the establishments which I have proposed, for I feel convinced that without such establishments it will not be possible for the Revenue Department to efficiently superintend the execution of those works, which I have in this letter proposed should be handed over to them from Marramut Repairs, as well as the Road Cess and Local Funds.

Letter from J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kolagotla, Atmakur taluk, 18th January 1867, No. 16.

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt in due course of the Board's Proceedings noted marginally, and submit, in communication with the Superintending Engineer, the report called for by Government in their Order of the 20th December 1866, Public Works Department, No. 4,014, as to the classes of Irrigation works, the maintenance of which is to be undertaken severally by the Revenue and Public Works Departments, and the mode in which the work done by the former will be examined and checked by the latter.

22nd November 1866, No. 8,438.
23rd November 1866, No. 8,448.

2. CLASSIFICATION.—**The class of works, the maintenance of which I would recommend should** be undertaken in this district by the Revenue Department, are those that in the words of the Government of India would elsewhere fall under the management of Zemindars. All other works I would leave with the professional department. And adopting this general classification, there is comparatively little difficulty in deciding in detail to which class the several works should belong. The system of irrigation from the Pennair anicut at Nellore would of course remain in the hands of the Public Works Department, as proposed by Colonel Winscom in his letter of the 4th, copy of which I enclose. There is also a large system of connected irrigation to the north of the Pennair under the Duvvuru and Kanigiry tanks that should be similarly treated. And agreeing with Colonel Winscom that it would for the present be better were the Nellore Range to remain as it is, which would include the work specified, the maintenance of all other Irrigation works in the district would with propriety be undertaken under the proposed classification by the Revenue Department.

3. As regards checking and examining the work done, Colonel Winscom, with reference to the allowance available, would appoint three good Maistries on Rupees 50 each, and let them prepare and send all estimates and bills through the Range Officer to the Collector. But I doubt whether this would be really carrying out the proposed transfer; and the arrangements to be made should apparently be such as would relieve the professional department of all primary responsibility.

4. PROFESSIONAL CHECK AND EXAMINATION.—I would recommend that all estimates when prepared should be sent by the Tahsildar to the Collector, and by the Collector to the Officer of the Public Works Department, to whom the duty of revising them may be entrusted; and should no objections be received within a month, that the Collector be at liberty to give orders for the work to be done, Should the estimate be for work of an emergent nature, it should not be necessary to wait for the month, or, in extreme cases, for the Collector's sanction. In like manner, when the work has been done, whether in due course or on emergency, the bill should be forwarded, and a similar or longer period allowed for its professional examination, after which, in default of objections, the Collector should be empowered to pass it and close the accounts. The Officer of the Public Works Department, exercising a professional supervision, would thus have timely notice of what work was going to be done or in hand, which he could inspect when convenient, would have the opportunity of correcting whatever might appear erroneous on the face of the bill or estimate, or of requiring a further time to be given for a special inspection of the localities should he consider such a course requisite; and on the other hand, the department entrusted with the work would be responsible for it from the first, and would, in fact, undertake the management of the irrigation works transferred in the full sense of the term.

5. MASONRY.—The execution of all masonry repairs Colonel Winscom would retain under professional supervision. It is difficult to lay down any precise rules on this point. It is a matter better to be left to be decided at the time on its merits. And when estimates contained details of this nature, the course I propose would enable the Officers of the Public Works Department to decide from their nature by which department the proposed repair had better be undertaken.

6. MAINTENANCE ALLOWED FOR THE IRRIGATION WORKS TRANSFERRED.—The Nellore Range includes a portion of the Nellore, and a portion of the Guduru taluks. And leaving the whole of these two taluks out of consideration for the present, I beg to refer now to the agency I would recommend for the remaining seven taluks as shown below, the number of the irrigation works in each, the gross demand in round numbers on the irrigable area for which the ryots were liable in 1865-66, and the proportion of the maintenance allowance available in 1867-68 for repairs, and the agency to be considered :—

Taluks.	Tanks and Channels.	Gross Demand.	Maintenance allowance.
	No.	RS.	RS.
1. Atmakuru	113	83,000	4,000
2. Kavaly	84	88,000	4,000
3. Kandukuru	95	76,000	3,500
4. Rapuru	128	29,000	1,500
5. Ongole	58	18,000	900
6. Udayagiry	61	12,000	600
7. Kanigiry...	10	7,000	300
Total	549	3,13,000	14,800

7. AGENCY.—With a total allowance of 300, 600, 900, or 1,500 Rupees, it is of course impossible to provide a special permanent agency for the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th taluks. They might be linked in with taluks with a larger provision. But then we have large areas to be travelled over of from a thousand to two thousand square miles. We have subordinates whose duties would lie under two or three Tahsildars. And sooner than incur the disadvantages of such a system, I recommend, till the allowances be increased, that the Tahsildars of these four taluks be allowed to entertain temporary agency for the preparation of bills and estimates, and that this

system be extended to the other three taluks, should it be found cheaper than retaining a special agency, which will depend on circumstances. As regards the actual execution of the work, I propose invariably to adopt the Zemindary system of having the work done by the ryots, and the payments made by an adjustment of the year's revenue.

8. And acting on these principles as regards the preparation of estimates, the execution of the work, and professional supervision, I beg to give briefly the course that would be generally pursued in other respects.

9. General System.—The Tahsildars will have the reports of the village authorities as to the requirements of their tanks. They will further have their own personal knowledge, and the reports of their Inspectors. And with this information they will prepare and submit a rough list to the Collector of the works that require repair, the supposed cost, the nature of the repair, and the works they would recommend should be taken in hand first. On the receipt of the Collector's orders as to the works to be selected, they will have the requisite estimates prepared by such agency, temporary or otherwise, as may be available, or by any of their own establishment competent to do the work, and whose services can be spared for the purpose. The estimates, after being checked by the Tahsildars or the Inspectors, will be sent through the Collector for professional supervision. On receipt of the requisite authority from the Collector, the Village authorities will be ordered by the Tahsildars to take the works in hand and suspend remittances to the taluk Treasury to the amount of the estimate. As soon as a work is completed it will be examined, if necessary, by special agency always by the Tahsildar himself or such subordinate as he can entrust with the duty. And when the work is satisfactory the bill will be forwarded like the estimate, and on the receipt of the Collector's order, the village and the taluk Treasury will be credited with the amount of the bill as so much money collected and remitted. Thus no money will change hands, all payments will be by adjustment. The work will be done by those most interested in its being well done.

10. Exceptional cases.—Provision has to be made for the case of villagers who refuse to undertake their own repairs, and villagers who only execute them in part. As regards the former, I do not anticipate there will be many if preference be given to those who do undertake their own repairs. Such as there are must be dealt with, with reference to the circumstances of each case. And as regards the latter the Tahsildar will go to the village, ascertain who have not done their share of the work, collect the revenue due from them, and have the work completed with the means thus placed at his disposal. In either case the conduct of those who thus refuse to help themselves will be with propriety taken into consideration when claims are made for remissions. They will have to show that the short supply was due to no fault of theirs, that the estimate was inadequate, &c.

11. Apportionment of repair.—In Zemindaries the work is usually apportioned on the number of ploughs, in the Ryotwar villages the apportionment would be on the area unless the ryots made other arrangements among themselves. However conducted, the necessity for such apportionment must be recognized, for there is no labour market where most of our work will have to be done.

12. System proposed for the Nellore and Guduru taluks.—The total sum to be spent in the coming year in the seven taluks to be transferred, it has been shown, is Rupees 14,800*; the share of the two taluks included in part by the Nellore Range is Rupees 26,000. And rather than divide these taluks, and have two systems in the same taluk, I think it would be better for the present to allow the whole of both taluks to remain under the Public Works Department, and as regards the irrigation works that would be properly transferred to this department; carry out the execution of earthwork, repairs, &c., in the manner proposed, but on estimates framed by the

* Paragraph 6.

Taluk.	Tanks and Channels.	Gross Demand.	Maintenance Allowance.
	No.	RS.	RS.
Guduru ...	235	1,91,000	9,000
Nellore ...	208	3,57,000	17,000
Total ...	443	5,48,000	26,000

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other department. I would also be prepared to have work similarly executed when required in the tanks and channels referred to as not included in the transfer. And we should thus free the Officers of the department from work that can be done by a less expensive agency, and enable them to give more time to important works that are urgently needed and in many cases absolutely necessary, such as escapes, sluices, &c., as enumerated in my letter to the Board of the 30th October 1865, No. 263.

13. Forms.—We shall, I presume, be furnished with forms in which the estimates and bills are to be prepared, and I would urge that these forms, with reference to the agency available, should be as simple as possible.

14. Apportionment of maintenance allowance.—The total maintenance alllowance available is Rupees 40,800. And it may be considered that there is no necessity for this sum being apportioned in the manner I have adopted, that it might be spent otherwise, and thus a more efficient agency obtained for the preparation of estimates, &c. But in the present state of our irrigation works, there is no part of the district in which all the money we can give is not urgently required. The apportionment made seems to me the only fair way of disposing of the allowance.

	Gross demand.	Maintenance allowance.
	RS.	RS.
Seven taluks transferred...	3,13,000	14,800
Two taluks retained... ...	5,48,000	26,000
Total...	8,61,000	40,800

15. Customary labour cess.—With a gross demand of eight lacs we have for the coming year a maintenance allowance of 40,000 Rupees or 5 per cent. In concluding this report, I beg respectfully to urge the necessity of further provision being made either by a labour cess as proposed in my letters to the Board, of the 30th October 1865, and 11th August 1866, or otherwise. And I will take this opportunity of referring to the remarks made by the Board on the proposed cess.

16. Objections to labour cess as originally proposed.—In their Proceedings of the 23rd February 1866, the Board observed that the proposed cess would either be an "additional tax," or, introduced with a revised assessment, would be an assignment of the public revenues, and a remission when no expenditure was actually needed. Whilst under the great systems of irrigation where the supply is more secure, the ryots would have less to do, though better able to pay than under the smaller works. And it would be, therefore, unfair whether as regards public or private interest.

17. Proposed modification.—In proposing that for every Rupee of an irrigation assessment 4 Annas or a fourth should be considered due for a customary labour cess, or, as I then styled it, for a repair and improvement cess, I further proposed that of this sum one Anna should always be levied for the pay of the necessary establishment. And with this proposal before them, the cess did include a tax. If, however, the whole sum be devoted to the work to be done, it will neither be an additional tax or an assignment of the public revenue, but simply a legal enforcement of customary labour. And as regards the unfairness of its application in respect to individuals, I would beg to observe that under large systems of irrigation, clearing out the channels is a heavy item of expenditure, and were this duty properly performed, the labour falling to the share of those who hold under large and small tanks would not be so very uneven, whilst in either case what was required to be done one year would much depend on what had been done the previous year, and with effective supervision a steady application of a much less sum than 4 Annas would probably be sufficient.

18. Supervision of customary labour and Inams.—Thus modified should the Board be disposed to support a customary labour cess for our irrigation works, the cost of supervision might be met from the maintenance allowance, and pay given that would secure an efficient agency and yet appear moderate when compared with the work done. The amount of the cess* might be reduced, but it would be better to keep it as originally proposed to be on the safe side, and meet cases of neglect. It would only be levied so far as required, and would, I believe, be received by the ryots as a necessary and satisfactory measure for the safety of the capital sunk in irrigation, often

* I propose making detailed inquiries during the Jummahbundy now in hand as to the number of days labour likely to be required for customary repair per acre.

for the safety of their village, which perhaps depends entirely on the tank being kept in proper order. Whilst with the proposed cess we should be able to make the Inamdars contribute their share of customary labour, a power we are rapidly losing, though there are 34,929 acres of Inam irrigated in this district from public sources, exclusive of whole villages.

19. ACCOUNTS.—With so little to spend, I have made no provision for the additional accounts thus thrown on the Revenue establishment.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant-Colonel G. V. WINSCOM, R. E., Superintending Engineer, Second Division, to the Collector of Nellore, dated Camp Survapully, 4th January 1867.

1. With reference to Government Order, No. 4,014, dated 20th ultimo, and the conversations we have since had on the subject of the works which "have to be transferred to the Revenue authorities," and "the manner in which the examination of, and check on, such works will be conducted by the Department of Public Works Officers," I have the honour to state that as the 1st paragraph of Government Order, No. 3,408, dated 25th October last, would point to the transfer of petty irrigation works only, I would propose that the whole of the works connected with the Pennair Delta project should remain under the immediate charge of the Nellore Range Officer.

2. Besides the Delta works, there are but few tanks in the Nellore Range, and as the Executive Officer is a gentleman of large experience, I would suggest that his charge be left intact.

3. I would propose that the earth repairs of all tanks in the western, centre, and northern Ranges be done by your department; but I think that all masonry works, even the building of rough stone revetments, should remain under professional supervision, as a rule, which might be occasionally deviated from at the discretion of the Range Officer.

4. The average expenditure on repairs in the Nellore Range for the last five years has been about 12,000 Rupees. As Government have included the whole allotment for the repairs of the district (Rupees 40,800) in the Revenue Budget, it would seem desirable that the sum abovementioned, plus 9,000 Rupees for repairs to masonry works in the three other Ranges, should be transferred to that of the Public Works. This would be altogether 21,000 Rupees.

5. As regards the check to be exercised on works carried out by the Public Works Officers on the repairs executed by the Revenue Department, I would remark that Government appear to contemplate an establishment being entertained by you at the rate of 10 per cent. on the expenditure incurred. But as the actual work would be managed by head coolies who would themselves work and be charged for as labourers, the 2,000 Rupees available might well pay for three good Maistries at 50 Rupees per mensem, one to be attached to each Range. If you approve of this, I would recommend that they frame all estimates and send them to you through the Range Officer, who would countersign them and mention if he had checked them or not. Notice might be sent to him when you sanction a work, so that he might visit it when in course of execution if he chooses, and the Maistry's bill might be submitted to you through him, and he could state thereon whether he had examined the work or not. Whilst leaving it generally to his discretion whether he should visit the work or not, I should consider him bound to do so, on your expressing a special wish as regards any particular work. I think that one good Maistry would suffice for each Range, if he merely has to superintend earth repairs.

$\frac{1}{10}$ of 20,000.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. B. DYKES,
Collector.

Letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Circuit Camp at Chendragherry, 5th March 1867, No. 50.

To Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated 24th January 1867, No. 63.
To do. dated 8th February 1867, No. 76.
From do. dated 27th February 1867, No. 4,679.

1. I have the honour to submit transcript of correspondence between the Superintending Engineer and myself on the subject of the redistribution of Public Works between our respective Departments.

2. I shall review the question as discussed in Colonel Boileau's letter.

3. On paragraph 1, I have only to observe that I have not yet seen the Civil Budget, and am, therefore, unable to say how far the expenditure of the annual allotments for *agricultural repair* works can, with reference to the nature of the details, be undertaken by the Revenue Department.

4. Colonel Boileau engages to send me lists of "incomplete and promise-of-payment" works (end of paragraph 2), but I have no present data which afford me any idea as to what proportion of the whole allotment may have to be set aside for these two classes of works, or what reduction in the strength of the present Public Works establishment may be practicable under the partial transfer of the executive to the Revenue Department.

5. I should be very reluctant (paragraph 3 of Colonel Boileau's letter) at the outset, to undertake the maintenance of the three anicut projects and their subsidiary channels, and even in the event of the funds remaining in my hands, I do not see that there should be any greater difficulty, as a mattter of mere inter-departmental accounts in their case, than there will be in drawing money and adjusting accounts for the "incomplete and promise-of-payment" works alluded to in preceding paragraph of Superintending Engineer's letter.

6. If it be decided that the anicut works shall remain, for the present at least, with the Public Works Department, the Conservancy establishments should, as Colonel Boileau (paragraph 4) proposes, also continue to be under the control of his department. With further extensions and improvements in contemplation, I cannot think that it would be wise or perhaps safe to subdivide the management and responsibility of these large projects at the present time.

7. On paragraph 5 of the Superintending Engineer's letter, the only remark which suggests itself is, that if all the *minor new works* are on the Public Works Budget for execution by that department, a more numerous subordinate agency will probably have to be retained than is compatible with any economy which may be expected to result from the new experimental arrangements.

8. In regard to the items mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 7, we are both agreed. Bridges for local roads of the span named by Colonel Boileau might, as he suggests, be planned and executed, without perhaps drawing too largely on its time and attention, by his department.

9. Colonel Boileau says, "I would rather not have the completion up to a certain fixed point "of Local Fund roads now under execution by the Public Works Department. I don't quite know "what you mean by a certain fixed point." Now what I mean by a "certain fixed point" should be sufficiently apparent. There are numerous Local Fund roads at this moment in different stages of progress under the direction of the Department of Public Works. Before I could be fairly asked to assume the responsibility of prosecuting such incomplete roads, it becomes necessary that operations be brought up to some definite point (to be settled between the Range officer and myself), and the accounts so far closed.

10. This preliminary—and for me most necessary precaution—has only to be agreed to by the Superintending Engineer, when the remaining arrangements for the transfer and further prosecution of the works by the Revenue Department can be easily and harmoniously effected.

11. It would be out of place in this letter to notice the general remarks with which Colonel Boileau concludes this paragraph (7) of his letter, but I am glad that certain observations in the Proceedings of Government noted in the margins make it necessary that I should explain, at an early date, my policy with respect to Local Fund expenditure.

23rd November 1866, No. 3,213.

12. I then hope to be able to show, that the principles which regulated my distribution of those funds, were the only fair, and, under the circumstances of the district, applicable ones, and that the results, so far as I am responsible for them, have been most gratifying, and have been thankfully acknowledged throughout the district. Apologizing for this digression, I return to paragraph 8 of the Superintending Engineer's letter.

13. In the matter of "buildings" there can be no question. They will of course remain with the professional department.

14. In paragraph 9, Colonel Boileau is of opinion that each Department should estimate for the works which fall to its respective share.

15. Against this I have nothing to urge except that, as I shall require skilled agency for many of the works thrown on me, it becomes necessary that I be informed, with the least possible delay, what portion of the Public Works Staff comes over to me with the transfer of works.

16. In paragraph 10, Colonel Boileau touches on the degree of check to be exercised by his department over works undertaken by mine. My own views are explained in the letter to which Colonel Boileau's is a reply.

17. I propose that the work undertaken by the Revenue Department be, as was the practice under the old system, executed, as far as possible, by village contract, and when this may not be available, by Special Agency. Progress Reports will be required monthly from the taluks and submitted in an abstract Statement to the Board. The degree of check will of course, as the Superintending Engineer observes, in a great measure, depend on the amount of audit required of him by the Controller, and in the case of Local Fund works by the Board of Revenue.

18. I have my doubts whether this feature in the scheme admits of any arrangement which will ensure uninterrupted harmony between the departments. If the system of check be extended to all kinds of work, it will be a never-ceasing source of vexation and jealousy between the two departments.

19. Bills for works executed by the Revenue Department will be called for from the taluks at the close of the year, and a general Statement will be prepared from these and submitted to the Board for adjustment.

20. To prevent confusion and keep the expenditure in fair proportion to the originally computed requirements of each taluk, frequent intermediate estimates for ordinary works to be undertaken, either by the Revenue or Public Works Department, should be avoided as much as possible. Estimates for emergent works should, of course, go forward when the necessity arises.

21. I fear there is not much in all these letters to assist the Board in shaping a scheme of redistribution, which will be likely to work well and economically; but without the Civil Budget to refer to, or any information as to the re-organization of establishments, I have no means of bringing any proposition to the test of facts and figures. The movement takes the direction which I have always advocated, and any scheme which throws money into the district, by more fully employing local labour, and assigning the execution of work to those who have the nearest personal interest in its accomplishment, must commend itself to acceptance. At the same time, I was not prepared to expect so large and sudden a transfer, as is now contemplated, and although I shall exert myself to the best of my ability in promoting the success of the experiment, there is much room to fear that the results at the first outset may come short of what might be desired and expected.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, dated Chittoor, 24th January 1867, No. 63.

1. In Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 20th December 1866, No. 4,014, I am directed to devise, in communication with you, some scheme of subdivision of the Public Works which shall relieve your Executive Staff of all operations not requiring professional skill and superintendence.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th May 1867.

2. In this sense at least do I understand the object proposed in the re-adjustment of responsibility, of which there is question in the paper above quoted.

3. The re-distribution of work between the two departments might, I think, be effected something in this wise.

4. I sketch in my programme very loosely, rather to elicit your views and suggestions, than that I have at all made up my mind to the propriety of the arrangement in all its detail.

5. The works which might, I think, be undertaken by the Revenue Department are these:—

Agricultural.

1. Earthwork and repacking old and adding new rough stone work on tank bunds.
2. Repair of existing sluices, calingulahs, and aqueducts.
3. Earthwork and ordinary revetment of channel embankments.
4. All breaches and emergent repairs of tanks.

Against this, the Department of Public Works would have under agricultural—

1. Maintenance, repair, and extension of three anicut projects with subsidiary channel works.
2. Construction of new sluices, calingulahs, and aqueducts to tanks and channels.
3. Formation of new spring and river channels.

In *Communications*, the Revenue Department might have—

1. Formation of new roads out of Local Funds.
2. The repair and maintenance of all Local Fund communications.

For their part, under the same general head, the Department Public Works would have—

1. All imperial lines.
2. Repair and maintenance of do.
3. All bridges, buildings, and regular masonry works on Local Fund roads and elsewhere.
4. Completion up to a certain fixed point of all Local Fund roads now under execution by Department of Public Works.

All buildings.

For works to be executed under this arrangement, by the Revenue Department, estimates up to Rupees 250 shall be executed, and the accounts accepted without check by the Department of Public Works.

In like manner, estimates under items 1, 3, and 4, Agricultural, Revenue Department, up to Rupees 1,000, whether framed by Department of Public Works or by Revenue agency, might be executed and passed without check by your department.

All estimates under item 2, Agricultural, Revenue Department, exceeding Rupees 250, to be checked after execution of the work by Department Public Works, as also all estimates under items 1, 3, and 4, of Rupees 1,000 and upwards.

6. All Local Fund expenditure on formation, repair, and maintenance of roads should be in the absolute control and at the responsibility of the Revenue Department, and the measurements be accepted, and work passed without check by your department.

7. Any works executed by revenue agency, which may, under my proposition, come under check of the Department of Public Works, should only be so checked by Officers of the grades of Executive and Assistant Engineers.

8. When the general programme thus roughly sketched has been arranged between us in its larger features, I would then be in a position, with reference to the list of works so to be distributed, to say what office establishment I would require for the purpose, and what proportion of them would require special agency, and what might be executed by village or other local contract.

9. It is obviously desirable that all works of whatever class now in progress under Department of Public Works agency, or being executed by them on promise of payment from future Budgets, should remain as they are until the work has been brought up to some definite point, and the accounts so far wound up.

10. The control of all irrigation establishments should, I think, be transferred to the Revenue Department, which has better means of enforcing their responsibilities as regards public and local interests.

11. I would solicit an early expression of your views on the proposition which I have now roughly sketched.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, Madras, dated Wandiwash, 8th February 1867, No. 76.

1. Adverting to my letter noted in the margin, I have the honour to request that, as the Board of Revenue urge an immediate answer on the subject therein discussed, you will be so good as to favour me with a reply at your very earliest convenience.

Dated 24th January 1867, No. 63.

2. I have had no time to re-consider this matter since that letter was written, but think that my proposition should be modified somewhat in regard to small masonry works, new and repair. If all these, scattered as they will be throughout the district, are, however small, to devolve on the Department Public Works, a larger subordinate establishment would probably be necessary than is compatible with the object of the transfer of minor works to the Revenue Department. All such works under Rupees 500 might, therefore, I think, be executed by revenue agency.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated 27th February 1867, No. 4,679.

1. In reply to your letters, Nos. 63 and 76, dated respectively the 24th January and 8th February 1867, I have the honour to observe that the first thing to be borne in mind is that the whole of the annual allotment for agricultural repair works for 1867-68 has been excluded from the Public Works Budget, and has been entered, I believe, in the Civil Budget, so that the whole expenditure to that amount must be undertaken by your department.

2. As regards incomplete works and promise-of-payment works, our department will work them out, but the accounts must be rendered to your department, the funds being obtained from you. Lists of these will be supplied to you early in the coming year.

3. As there is no separate allotment for the maintenance of the three anicut projects and the subsidiary channels, the funds for their repair being in your hands, the work also must be done by your department.

4. The Conservancy establishments of these works should, I think, continue under me.

5. As the minor new works item is still in my Budget, the construction of new sluices, calingulahs, aqueducts, &c., to tanks and channels will remain with this department.

6. The formation of new channels should, as you suggest, be executed by me.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th May 1867.

7. As regards roads being formed, or to be formed, or repaired out of the District Road Cess Funds, they should be undertaken by you, with all minor masonry works. Any bridge above twenty feet span might be placed in our hands. I would rather not have "the completion up to a certain fixed point of Local Fund roads now under execution by the Public Works Department." I don't quite know what you mean by a certain fixed point, but I cannot undertake to finish any road up to any point unless funds are provided. The system of giving a mere maintenance allowance to maintain an *unmade* road is a mistake; what is wanted is a grant first for *making* a road and *then* a grant for maintaining. I trust, therefore, you will take all the local roads, as I confess my absolute inability to make them under the present niggardly system of laying out money.

8. The Government have said nothing about buildings in the order upon which this correspondence is based, nor indeed about roads. However, all buildings should remain as heretofore.

9. All estimates of works to be carried out by you should, I think, be made by your department, and similarly of course those to be executed by me by my department.

10. As regards the amount of check to be exercised by this department over the works to be taken in hand by your department, that seems to me to depend upon what amount of audit will be required from me, by the Controller, or in local road works by the Board of Revenue. In any case that I am called upon to sign a bill of work done by you, I must of course be allowed, if I wish it, to measure the work done.

11. I would have answered your letter earlier, but that I made it over for perusal to the Collector of the Madras district, and only received it back on the 26th instant.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

Letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 25th March 1867, No. 66.

1. With reference to the Government Proceedings of the 20th December last, No. 4,014, calling upon me to report upon the arrangements that I would propose to make for the management of the petty irrigation works to be transferred from the Department of Public Works to the Revenue Department, I have the honour to forward, herewith, copies of communications on the subject that have passed between me and the Superintending Engineer.

2. The more one considers the subject, the more apparent are the difficulties that must ensue from the Revenue Department having to undertake these duties without some permanent establishment.

3. However, the fiat having gone forth, and no permanent establishment provided, there is no help for it, but to undertake the work with such means as we already have, supplemented with the temporary establishment that will of course be allowed from the estimates.

4. The Board will perceive from my letter to Colonel Boileau, the nature of the works that I propose to undertake, viz., all repairs and all new masonry works under 400 Rupees. I have also undertaken to have estimates framed for the same, but this on second thought, I am of opinion that I shall not be able to get done, unless indeed the one Overseer, that Colonel Boileau says he can dispense with, is placed under my orders for the said purpose of framing estimates and generally checking by actual inspection of all the works in the district. This Overseer's pay, however, must be included in either the Department of Public Works Budget, or in the Revenue Budget. It cannot be taken out of the allowance for superintendence, as in that case the Overseer's service being only temporary, would not count for his pension.

5. The works themselves I propose having done entirely by contract; the immediate superintendence of them I would put in the hands of the Revenue Inspectors, who for their labour ought to be paid a per-centage of the superintendence allowance.

6. To each taluk I would have a temporary Maistry attached. He should be subject to the Tahsildars, and go wherever ordered by them either to inspect works, reported by the Revenue Inspectors to be completed, or to accompany the Overseer of the Zillah on his tour of inspection. He should in fact supply the place of the old Taluk Maistry of the days previous to the establishment of the Department of Public Works, and must be paid also from the per-centage allowed from the estimates.

7. If this plan is approved of, no establishment is actually required, although it may be found hereafter expedient to apply for one or two Gumastahs to be at the Collector's head-quarters, and to help the Overseer in checking the taluk accounts, and in rendering his own accounts generally.

8. With regard to the conservancy of the two anicuts of this district, I propose, for this year at least, or until we see our way clearly to undertaking their conservancy thoroughly, to accept Colonel Boileau's proposal and to get him to manage it, the funds being drawn in the Revenue Department, and handed over to him for disbursement.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, dated on Circuit at Trivellore, 8th March 1867, No. 53.

1. With reference to the orders of Government of the 20th December last, No. 4,014, directing me to report, in communication with you, the arrangements I would propose in taking over the management of certain of the irrigation works, I have the honour to suggest the following arrangement.

2. All agricultural repairs, whether earth or masonry, *to be undertaken by the Revenue authorities, and all new works such as tank bunds, spring channels, &c.*, all new masonry works of 400 Rupees and under, provided they do not require skilled supervision, to be also executed by them. All other masonry to be undertaken by your department. All anicuts and the channels leading from them to be also under your department, as the taking the levels for the latter and the masonry work of the former would require more professional skill than the Revenue Department could possibly supply. All new masonry works such as calingulahs, sluices, &c., to be also under you, as also all new and important channels.

3. The estimates for all the works to be undertaken by my department to be made by the Revenue Department, but I think that it should be able to call upon your department to occasionally check those estimates or to report upon the works and the way in which they have been performed.

4. As to the roads, I should propose to have the surveys and estimates for them made by your department, and the work itself duly carried out by mine; but, as the Government in their order say nothing about roads, I would leave the management of them as it is at present, *i. e.*, if the Revenue authorities fancy they are able to carry out the making or repairs of any line more conveniently than the Department of Public Works, they are at liberty to do so.

5. To make the estimates and to superintend the works generally, that I then propose to undertake, a competent Overseer will be required for each taluk, together with a small office establishment for both Taluks and Huzur. I fancy these servants will have to be supplied from the servants at present in your department, but on this point I shall have to address the Board of Revenue separately.

6. Finally, the small Conservancy Department that you have now under you, I would with all due deference to your opinion to the contrary, as expressed in your letter to Mr. Robinson, have under the Revenue authorities, as they can so much more thoroughly exercise supervision over it through the Tahsildars than you can.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. G. R. FANE,
Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th May 1867.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, to the Collector of Madras, dated 21st March 1867, No. 5,124.

1. In reply to your letter, No. 53, dated 8th March 1867, (but only received by me on the 16th,) I have the honour to inform you that your proposals have my general concurrence.

2. You observe that "all anicuts and the channels leading from them to be under the Engineer Department;" *that* I presume is as regards repair, because further on you advise that the *conservancy* be under the Revenue Department. You must bear in mind that we have absolutely no funds for any repairs whatever, so that if we maintain the anicuts and their channels, the arrangement must be a private one, the funds being received by you and the works entered in your accounts.

3. I agree in your remarks in paragraph 3 of your letter.

4. Under the District Road Cess Funds the grants for local roads will, I presume, be very largly increased. The formation of the roads should, I think, rest with my Department. In the North Arcot District I am trying to rid myself of having anything to do with the local roads, because the Collector issues such driblets year by year, (in spite of my repeated remonstrances,) that I despair of ever being able to make roads on such a system.

5. As regards establishments, I observe by the Civil Budget that a sum of nearly 10 per cent. on the amount of agricultural repairs for the year 1867-68 has been allowed you for that purpose. I am recommending to Government the reduction of only one taluk Overseer in each District. I am also proposing that in future there shall be only three Ranges in lieu of four. The Madurantakum taluk (now No. 4 Range) being re-absorbed into No. 3 Range.

6. I shall offer no objection to the conservancy of the two small anicuts in your district, viz., that of Kesaveram and Koratoor being under the charge of the Revenue Department. You are aware of the constant endeavours that have been made for years to obtain for certain tanks in the Trivellore taluk an undue supply from the Kesaveram anicut to the detriment of the large Chembrambakam tank, and I have no doubt you will give such instructions as will tend to preserve the interests of the cultivators under this large reservoir.

7. One more word regarding conservancy. If, as I greatly fear, it should be determined that the Palar anicut and channels should be placed under the management of the North Arcot Revenue Department, it will be extremely important, in the interests of your district, that you should keep an establishment also at the head, otherwise the North Arcot people will appropriate more than their fair share of water, and will probably keep the Madras head shut altogether until Kaveripak tank is full.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. G. R. FANE, Collector.

G. O., dated 12th April 1867, No. 857, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating an Order of the Public Works Department, sanctioning the re-distribution of Ranges in the Madras and North Arcot districts, proposed by the Superintending Engineer of the Fourth Division, consequent on the transfer of the Conservancy of the irrigation works to the Revenue authorities.

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1. In his letter, dated 18th September 1866, No. 850A, the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Public Works, revived a suggestion previously made by the Supreme Government that "*the maintenance of* PETTY *irrigation works*" should be transferred to the Revenue Department, and explained that the works referred to were of a character "*with which the Government does not concern itself, except under a Ryotwary settlement*" and were "*of the nature of Landlords improvements.*"

2. The Government considered that the experiment was worthy of trial, and going beyond what seems to have been the intention of the Supreme Government, transferred the maintenance of *all* irrigation works in four districts to the Revenue Department, from the 1st instant, and directed that provision for the purpose to the extent made in the Department of Public Works Budget for 1867-68, with an additional allowance for petty establishments, should be included in the Revenue Budget. It was added that "such larger reconstructions of earth and masonry works as may require the intervention of the Professional Department" would be provided for in the Public Works Budget. In another Order of the same date the Vizagapatam district was added to the list, and in one of the 31st idem, No. 3,458, the control of the Irrigational Conservancy establishment in all five districts was transferred to the Revenue Department, which was to provide for their cost in its Budget.

Government Order, 25th October 1866, No. 3,408, Public Works Department.
Nellore.
Madras
North Arcot.
Tanjore.

No. 3,409.

3. Hence in these five districts the Revenue Department, according to these instructions were, during the current year, to undertake the maintenance of *all* irrigation works, but of *these only*, and to the extent of the provision made in the Budget, *plus* an allowance of ten per cent. for *petty* establishments.

4. In an Order dated 18th December last, Revenue Department, No. 3,414, the Board were directed to report their arrangements for giving effect to these instructions, and in another order in the Department of Public Works, dated 20th idem, No. 4,014, Government called upon the Collectors of the first four districts "to report fully, in communication with the respective Superintending Engineers and through the Board of Revenue, their views upon this subject." The reports were to show "*the classes of works* which are proposed to be transferred to the Revenue authorities and those which are to remain under the Officers of the Department of Public Works, as also in what manner the examination of, and check on, works of the former class will be conducted by the Department of Public Works Officers."

5. Taking these orders together, the present intention of Government seems to be that while the characteristic of being of a "petty" nature is still altogether excluded, the Revenue Department is to undertake the maintenance of some, but not necessarily of all irrigation works.

6. The Board have received reports from the Collectors of the first four districts, and they would remark generally at the outset, that these Officers have not adhered to the letter of their instructions,

7. The Collector of Tanjore proposes that the repair of all existing works of irrigation, with eleven exceptions, and of all roads, should be undertaken by the Revenue Officers; and further, that they should execute all new irrigation works, estimated not to cost more than 500 Rupees. No distinction seems to be contemplated between earth and masonry work. On the other hand, the Department of Public Works is to undertake all new road works, all new irrigation works above 500 Rupees, and the eleven specially excepted works. In these views the Superintending Engineer appears (from his letter, dated 8th November 1866, No. 945) to concur, adding "that the excepted works might be undertaken for, or under the Revenue Department, as it were."

8. The Collector of North Arcot (who has adopted the very inconvenient plan of writing in general terms to the Superintending Engineer and forwarding that officer's reply with a running commentary) seems to recommend that the Revenue Department should undertake all earthwork and masonry repairs to irrigation works, excepting the three anicuts with their subsidiary channel works.

9. The Collector of Nellore adhering to the distinction drawn by the Supreme Government between Imperial and other works, proposes to leave the Nellore anicut and its subsidiary works to the Public Works Department and to take over all others.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th May 1867.

10. The Collector of Madras proposes to undertake all agricultural repairs (earth as well as masonry) all new works such as tank bunds, spring channels, &c., and all new masonry works of 400 rupees and under, not requiring skilled supervision, and to leave the anicuts and their subsidiary works to the Department of Public Works.

11. The Collector of Vizagapatam has not yet reported on the subject, and the Board find that, through oversight apparently, the Government Order referred to in paragraph 4 above did not include this district. The principles adopted in making the change in other districts can, however, be followed in Vizagapatam.

12. The Collectors, though giving the proposals of Government a wider signification than intended, are unanimous in their unwillingness to be charged with the care of the anicuts and other large works in their districts. These works both as regards maintenance and extension, essentially need professional knowledge, and they almost invariably affect the interests of several villages, and indeed of large tracts of country. When a work benefits a single village, as is the case of most tanks, the self-interest of the people of that village is enlisted, their labour suffices, and they exercise a wholesome check on the outlay and the execution of the work. But these aids are wanting in the case of a work like an anicut, and any advantages which the Collector's local influence may give him, will, the Board consider, be but a poor substitute for the Engineer's trained skill. He may do the work somewhat more cheaply, but he is not likely to do it nearly so well, and the saving may cost the State very dearly. All such works should, in the Board's opinion, remain with the Public Works Department, but instead of restricting that Department to the *works themselves*, the Board would prefer that they should, as at present, undertake all works within the taluk, or, if the taluk can be conveniently subdivided, within a well-defined portion of the taluk in which they are situated. This is the arrangement proposed by the Collector of Nellore, who wishes to leave the Nellore and Goodoor taluks, in which the Pennair anicuts and channels are situated, to the Department of Public Works, and unless some such arrangement be adopted, the Department of Public Works and the Collector will be competing in the same market for labour and materials, and economy of supervision will be lost.

13. The Board would, therefore, suggest that Collectors should only take over agricultural earthwork repairs and similar masonry repairs which are not estimated to cost more than (say) 250 rupees, and are not specially important or difficult, throughout their districts, excepting the taluks, or (if such a subdivision can conveniently be made) parts of taluks in which such works as the Collectors specially mention are situated. The experiment is one of great importance and the chances of its success should not, the Board think, be reduced by undertaking too much at once, for its failure may also involve very serious loss to the State.

14. The plan of operations will be as follows:—It will be the duty of the Village Heads primarily and, so far as they have opportunities and means, of all Revenue and Department of Public Works Officers to report immediately in cases of emergency and periodically in other cases, whenever a work needs repair, and the nature of the repair and extent, and approximately, the cost to the Tahsildar. An estimate will then be framed by the Public Works Department, and made over to the Collector or Tahsildar for execution. It will be absolutely necessary to give the Tahsildar, one or more officers possessing a sufficient knowledge of "Maramut," to inspect the works and examine them while the repairs are in progress and on their completion. The Revenue establishments have lately been largely reduced, and are now barely equal to their own duties, so that any material aid in this way is not to be expected from them, though they can help in reporting on the condition of tanks, &c.

15. The Collector of Tanjore, who has gone very fully into this part of the question, requires an establishment which will annually cost Rupees 30,672. This may, the Board think, be very considerably reduced when the department is relieved of the eleven excepted works and restricted to agricultural repairs. Mr. Morris proposes to debit the charge for the large establishment he proposes against the Imperial revenue and the Local Fund Budget in equal proportions. He calculates on getting 11,400 rupees at 10 per cent. on the agricultural repairs, but makes no allowance for the diminution which the repair grant of Rupees 5,14,000 must suffer if the eleven works

he excepts are left in the charge of the Department of Public Works. He also assumes that the annual Local Fund collections, which he sets down at Rupees 2,50,000, will be annually spent, and that by his Department alone, whereas the first will never be wholly the case, and he himself proposes that the Department of Public Works should make all new roads. On this last expenditure the Road Fund will have to pay 10 per cent., so that his establishment will cost very much more than 10 per cent. on the aggregate *expenditure* for Irrigation and Road Fund repairs.

16. The Collector of Nellore reports that the Superintending Engineer recommends the employment of a good Maistry on 50 rupees monthly for each of the three Ranges in which the repairs are to be executed by the Revenue Department. It is not quite clear whether he wishes to adopt this plan for each of his three large taluks; but for the four smaller taluks he proposes to let the Tahsildars employ temporary agency.

17. The Collector of North Arcot only mentions the absolute necessity of his having skilled agency, and the Collector of Madras laments the absence in the scheme of any permanent establishment.

18. The Board consider that the smallest establishment with which the scheme could be carried out in Tanjore would be a Maistry, Gumastah and Peon in each taluk, and a Head Maistry, two Writers and two Peons at the Collector's headquarters on salaries noted in the margin. The annual cost of establishment would be thus Rupees 13,596, which would be a little less than 12 per cent. on the outlay Rupees 1,14,000. Similar establishments would certainly be required in the North Arcot, Madras, and Vizagapatam districts, but inasmuch as the money to be laid out in each district is much below what it is in Tanjore, the rate of percentage on the outlay will be far higher. In the Nellore district the total allotment is only Rupees 40,800, so that an establishment on the same scale as in Tanjore, for each taluk and for the Collector's headquarters, would cost no less than 35 per cent. on the outlay. One taluk has an allotment only of Rupees 300; another of 600; and a third of 900. Under such circumstances the Collector must be left to get the work done as he best can by the villagers, or on contract, under the superintendence of the Range Officers.

	Rs.
Taluk Maistry (travelling allowance included)...	80
Gumastah	20
Peon	6
	106
	12
Annual	1,272
For nine taluks	9
	11,448
Head Maistry...	100
Clerk	40
Do.	25
2 Peons, at 7 rupees each	14
	179
	12
	2,148
	11,448
	13,596

19. With regard to the examination of, and check on works by the Department of Public Works, the Collector of Tanjore expresses a strong opinion on the absolute necessity of restricting the power of examination to Officers of the grade of Assistant or Executive Engineers. There is much force in what Mr. Morris urges, and the Board think, with him, that unless the examination be restricted as he proposes, the correspondence, discussions, and disputes which will ensue will take up the Collector's whole time. The examination of works under 250 rupees should be conducted by the Revenue Officers; all above that by the Department of Public Works who should also examine any work under Rupees 250 when asked by the Collector. There is nothing more anomalous in the Revenue Department examining its own petty works, than in the Department of Public Works doing the same for itself.

20. With regard to bills, payments, &c., the system sketched in paragraphs 20 to 35 of the Board's letter to Government of the 11th October 1862, will, the Board think, be found suitable to the requirements of the new scheme.

21. The question of constructing works out of the Road Cess has been very unnecessarily imported into the discussion. It was not alluded to in the Order of Government, and the rules under which the Fund is administered, specially leave it to the Collector and the Superintending Engineer to decide by which department its construction shall be executed. The Board are now engaged with the Road Fund arrangements, and will sanction such establishments as it may be found to require. Any assistance that these establishments can afford towards the execution, &c., of revenue repairs will, of course, be rendered on the same terms as the Public Works Department affords its assistance, but the Board are very strongly of opinion that the maintenance of a joint establishment is highly inexpedient.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th May 1867.

22. The scheme to which Mr. Dykes alludes in his report, paragraph 15, will receive the Board's careful consideration in connection with the revision of the settlement now in progress. Its immediate adoption, even if it were free from all objections, is obviously impracticable, as it would involve either an arbitrary addition of 25 per cent. to the Nunjah assessment, or a corresponding reduction of the revenue.

23. Having thus suggested the arrangements which seem to them necessary for carrying out the wishes of Government, the Board trust they may be permitted to express the grave apprehensions they feel as to the success of the measure. It is beyond all question that the efficient and prompt performance of their legitimate duties, Revenue, Magisterial, &c., is ample to occupy fully the time of the District Officers of all grades. The recent amalgamation of taluks, has, it may be said, doubled the area of each Tahsildar's charge, while the searching revision of establishments which accompanied the arrangement reduced, as it was intended to do, the District establishments to the minimum requisite for performance of the duties assigned to each office. The Magisterial work of the local officers has greatly increased of late years, and much of it has now to be done *personally* which was formerly left to subordinates. The close supervision of the higher authorities; the new financial system; the formation of the new departments; the introduction of new taxes; and various other administrative changes have all added greatly to the duties of the District Officers. The present time is also peculiarly ill-suited for the introduction of such a system, owing to the numerous changes in the staff of the districts selected. In Nellore, for instance, the Collector, * Sub-Collector, † and Head Assistant ‡ are all acting and new to the district. In Vizagapatam the Sub-Collector has but just joined from a Southern district, and the Collector will leave next month, and be succeeded by a stranger to the district; and the same may be said of the other districts. In all five districts the Sub-Collectors and Assistants are young Officers, who have still to acquire the local knowledge, experience, and personal influence on which so much depend. Not one of the European Officers, and probably but few of the Native Officers in the grade of Tahsildar have any personal acquaintance with the system which it is now sought to revise. The old native officials by whom the "Maramut" of each district was performed have passed away, and the same willing assistance and ready obedience cannot be immediately expected from the people.

* Joined April 1867.
† Not joined yet.
‡ Joined December 1866.

24. These considerations serve to show that the experiment will now be tried under very unfavourable circumstances. Moreover the great object which the Government had in view, in proposing the experiment, seems unlikely to be attained. The terms in which the Supreme Government suggested the measure seemed to imply that the cost of these petty agricultural repairs, rightly designated as being of the nature of landlords' charges, and of a character with which the State has no concern, save under Ryotwarry Settlements, would be met out of Income, and would be altogether excluded from the Public Works assignment. But in their orders on the Public Works Budget of 1867-68, the Supreme Government allude to the measure as one merely of "administrative convenience;" remark that the cost of these works should have been deducted from the Public Works estimate, and reducing the latter by one lac, allow the remaining two lacs to stand only because much of the sum is to be devoted to the construction, &c., of Jails.

25. The Accountant General has also informed the Board that a moiety of the sum (2,00,000) entered in the Civil Budget for Salt Works has been deducted, pending the submission of information to show whether the works should or should not be provided for from the Public Works assignment.

26. These measures seem to preclude the hope that the Supreme Government will permit the expense of these works being defrayed from the Civil Budget without entailing a corresponding reduction in the Public Works assignment.

27. Under these circumstances, it seems to the Board matter for serious consideration whether a change which, at a peculiarly unfavourable time, will transfer the legitimate work of the

Public Works Department to the Revenue Department, which has sufficient work of its own, and has not the special knowledge required in this new duty, should now be persevered in.

28. The Board have made no allusion in these Proceedings to reductions in the Department of Public Works, consequent on its relief from these works; but if there be not a reduction corresponding with the new establishment, the new system will have the disadvantage of being more expensive as well as less effective. The Board would suggest, in preference, such a reorganization of the Department of Public Works as would give each district its own Engineer as formerly, and enable the Department of Public Works to do the work for which it is maintained.

No. 148. ORDER THEREON, 9th May 1867, No. 1,055.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded, with reference to G. O. dated 3rd May 1867, No. 1,334, Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Encl in the Pro of the Bd of Revt to the Govt to Govt N.D. dated 26th Nov. 1866 No 2561.

Rec'd 10/12/66

No. 8,443.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 23rd November 1866.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 15th November 1866, No. 3,110, Revenue Department.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 25th October 1866, No. 3,408, Public Works Department.

Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, in the Public Works Department, dated Simla, 18th September 1866, No. 850A:—

1. I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 2,182, dated 12th July 1866, in continuation of previous correspondence regarding the amount of the Public Works grant assigned to Madras, and in reply to communicate the following remarks:—

2. In reply to the remark made in the previous letter,* that the preparation of estimates still lagged behind the supply of funds, it is explained that estimates for Irrigation works, to the extent of nearly twenty lakhs, are sanctioned and waiting for the supply of funds to be undertaken. I am, however, to point out that the remark made, by the Government of India, had special reference to works *entered in the Budget Estimate*, Items 16, 37, 63, 64,† large Military and Civil Works, which were going on without properly sanctioned estimates. And it was noticed in paragraph 12 of the Budget orders for the current year, that provision had been made in the Budget Estimate for upwards of fifty items, under Original Works, for which estimates were not sanctioned, and of which about twenty appeared to be in progress.

* No. 501A, of 26th May 1866.

† 16. Race Course Barracks, Bangalore.
37. Lawrence Asylum building, Ootacamund.
63. Jail at Rajahmundry.
64. Jail at Coimbatore.

3. The Governor General in Council, however, is glad to learn that a large number of projects for Irrigation works are matured; but I am to point out that the Government of Madras was invited (in paragraph 5 of my letter above quoted) to send up a list of these Irrigation works, with reference to a call made in Public Works Department Circular, No. 25 of 1866, and in view to enable the Government of India to consider the desirability of obtaining authority for raising funds to carry them out.

4. With regard to what was said of the comparative costliness of the Madras Establishment, you have now furnished a Statement, comparing certain parts of the Madras Public Works Establishment with the same parts in Bengal, to shew that the former is the cheaper of the two. But I am to observe that the *total* charge for this head of service is nevertheless higher in Madras, although the grant to that Presidency is smaller. A Statement is attached, comparing the total cost of the two establishments.

5. The requisition for additional funds for the construction and improvement of Jails has been met by the grant made in my letter, No. 783A, dated 31st August 1866.

6. In respect to the suggestion made by the Government of India, to transfer the maintenance of petty Irrigation works from the control of the Public Works Department to that of the Civil authorities, I am to say that the petty Irrigation works referred to, are matters with which the Government does not concern itself, except under a Ryotwary settlement. Such small tanks are not properly imperial public works, but matters of local improvement, which elsewhere would fall under the management of Zemindars. It appeared to Government of India that, without attempting any sudden radical change, these charges, of the nature of landlords' improvements, might, by degrees, be separated from the really Imperial Public Works Charges, and placed under the Revenue Administration, to which they seem more properly to belong. This might be done, experimentally, in one or two localities where circumstances were favorable, and local officers inclined to try the change; and if successful, the change might be gradually extended. So far as it was

carried out, the Imperial Public Works grant for the Madras Presidency would be relieved from exceptional charges, and brought into a fit state for comparison with other Governments and Provinces. This would of itself be no small advantage, though it might not be accompanied by any saving of expense to the Government on the whole.

* Extract paragraph 7.

No. 843 in A, dated 15th September 1866.

7. The Secretary of State, in a Despatch No. 33, dated 24th July 1866, of which a copy* has been forwarded to the Government of Madras, with my docket as per margin,* has lately expressed himself as favorable to such a system as that above suggested.

8. The Governor General in Council does not, however, desire to attempt any change in the present arrangements, as regards the maintenance and repairs of minor Irrigation works, to which the local Government does not clearly see its way, but leaves the matter in the hands of the Madras Government.

9. I am to remark, however, that it would not be regular to allow any charge for the construction or repair of small Irrigation works to be charged direct against the revenue, or to be deducted from the collections brought to the credit of Government. Whatever charge is made for this purpose must be provided under regular entry in the Budget Estimate and subsequent submission of accounts, whether Civil or Public Works, so that the Officers of either Department must in any case act under proper sanction and control.

10. Lastly, with respect to the general question raised in your letter, regarding the insufficiency of the Public Works grant assigned to Madras for the wants of the country, I am to say that the Government of India has now under consideration the subject of the distribution of the Public Works grant to the various local Governments and Administrations, and that the decision which may be arrived at on this point will be duly communicated to the Government of Madras.

Statement comparing the Cost of the Public Works Establishments in Madras and Bengal, as provided for in the Budget Estimates for 1866-67.

Madras.		Bengal.	
	RS.		RS.
Direction	3,11,484	Direction	2,76,930
Construction	13,84,330	Construction	12,30,824
Accounts	60,840	Accounts	1,16,936
Total...	17,56,654	Total...	16,24,690
Deduct amount debitable to Local Funds.	40,556	Deduct amount debitable to Local Funds.	24,690
Net amount debitable to Imperial Grant.	17,16,098	Net amount debitable to Imperial Grant.	16,00,000

ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1866, No. 3,408.

1. In this letter, the Government of India refer to a former suggestion which they made, to transfer the management of petty Irrigation works in this Presidency from the control of the Public Works Department to that of the Civil authorities, and they recommend that, as the charges for the maintenance of these works are of the nature of landlords' improvements, they might, by degrees, be separated from the really Imperial Public Works Charges and placed under the Revenue Administration, to which they seem more properly to belong. The Government of India point out that, if this could be done experimentally in one or two localities where circumstances were favorable, and if the change proved successful, it might be gradually extended, and so far as it was carried out, the Imperial Public Works Grant for the Presidency would be relieved from a large amount of charge, which now presses heavily upon the annual assignments for works of Public Improvement.

2. The Government quite concur with the Government of India that this, of itself, would be a great advantage, though no saving on the whole might accrue, and his Lordship in Council accordingly resolves to direct, that the maintenance of all Irrigation works in the districts noted in the margin, shall be transferred, as an experiment, to the charge of the Revenue Department from the 1st April 1867, and that, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Colonel Dickens's letter, provision for the purpose to the extent* made in the current Public Works Budget, with an additional allowance for Petty Establishments, shall be included in the forthcoming Revenue Budget. Orders in the Revenue Department will be issued to this effect.

Tanjore.
Madras.
North Arcot.
Nellore.

	RS.
*Tanjore	1,14,000
Madras	89,136
North Arcot	60,240
Nellore	40,800

3. Such larger re-constructions of earth and masonry works as may require the intervention of the Professional Department, will be provided for in the Public Works Budget, as at present.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1866, No. 3,110.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Communicated to all Collectors.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. T. MAYNE,
Acting First Assistant.

To all Collectors.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 8,438.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd November 1866.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 17th November 1866, No. 3,130, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—Communicating an Order of Public Works Department, directing that the control of the Irrigation Conservancy Establishments, in the Districts of Madras, North Arcot, Nellore, Tanjore, and Vizagapatam, be also transferred to Civil authorities.

Communicated to the Collectors concerned.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Madras.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Acting Collector of Nellore.
" the Collector of Tanjore.
" the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Exd. J. Wright.

Received 25 November 1866. Department.

Rec No. 109 / 66

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

To all Collectors.

Dated 23rd November 1866.

Received

No. 8,448.

Communicating an Order of Government, Department of Public Works, directing that the maintenance of all Irrigation works in Districts of Nellore, Madras, North Arcot, and Tanjore, be transferred, as an experiment to charge of Revenue Department, from 1st April 1867.

26. These measures seem to preclude the hope that the Supreme Government will permit the expense of these works being defrayed from the Civil Budget without entailing a corresponding reduction in the Public Works assignment.

27. Under these circumstances, it seems to the Board matter for serious consideration whether a change which, at a peculiarly unfavourable time, will transfer the legitimate work of the Public Works Department to the Revenue Department, which has sufficient work of its own, and has not the special knowledge required in this new duty, should now be persevered in.

28. The Board have made no allusion in these Proceedings to reductions in the Department of Public Works, consequent on its relief from these works; but if there be not a reduction corresponding with the new establishment, the new system will have the disadvantage of being more expensive as well as less effective. The Board would suggest, in preference, such a reorganization of the Department of Public Works as would give each district its own Engineer as formerly, and enable the Department of Public Works to do the work for which it is maintained.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, R. D., } with copies of Board's Procs., dated 31st October and
" the Secretary to Government, P. W., } 22nd and 23rd November 1866, Nos. 7,883, 8,438, and 8,448.

Copy to the Collector of Madras,
" to the Collector of North Arcot,
" to the Collector of Nellore,
" to the Acting Collector of Tanjore,
" to the Collector of Vizagapatam,
} with one spare copy of G. O., dated 18th and 20th December 1866, Nos. 3,414, R. D., and 4,014, P. W., and 12th April 1867, No. 857, R. D.

1867. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 26th April 1867.
Received

No. 2,561.

Submitting Board's opinion on the subject of making over repair of petty Irrigation works in certain districts to Revenue Department.

Entered in the Proc^s of the B^d of Revenue to the Govt to for^d R. D. Dated 26 April 1867 N^o 2561.

Rev N^o 109/167

Trans^d May 1867 Ins. N^o 147.

to decide by which department its construction shall be executed. The Board are now engaged with the Road Fund arrangements, and will sanction such establishments as it may be found to require. Any assistance that these establishments can afford towards the execution, &c., of revenue repairs will, of course, be rendered on the same terms as the Public Works Department affords its assistance, but the Board are very strongly of opinion that the maintenance of a joint establishment is highly inexpedient.

22. The scheme to which Mr. Dykes alludes in his report, paragraph 15, will receive the Board's careful consideration in connection with the revision of the settlement now in progress. Its immediate adoption, even if it were free from all objections, is obviously impracticable, as it would involve either an arbitrary addition of 25 per cent. to the Nunjah assessment, or a corresponding reduction of the revenue.

23. Having thus suggested the arrangements which seem to them necessary for carrying out the wishes of Government, the Board trust they may be permitted to express the grave apprehensions they feel as to the success of the measure. It is beyond all question that the efficient and prompt performance of their legitimate duties, Revenue, Magisterial, &c., is ample to occupy fully the time of the District Officers of all grades. The recent amalgamation of taluks, has, it may be said, doubled the area of each Tahsildar's charge, while the searching revision of establishments which accompanied the arrangement reduced, as it was intended to do, the District establishments to the minimum requisite for performance of the duties assigned to each office. The Magisterial work of the local officers has greatly increased of late years, and much of it has now to be done *personally* which was formerly left to subordinates. The close supervision of the higher authorities; the new financial system; the formation of the new departments; the introduction of new taxes; and various other administrative changes have all added greatly to the duties of the District Officers. The present time is also peculiarly ill-suited for the introduction of such a system, owing to the numerous changes in the staff of the districts selected. In Nellore, for instance, the Collector,* Sub-Collector,† and Head Assistant‡ are all acting and new to the district. In Vizagapatam the Sub-Collector has but just joined from a Southern district, and the Collector will leave next month, and be succeeded by a stranger to the district; and the same may be said of the other districts. In all five districts the Sub-Collectors and Assistants are young Officers, who have still to acquire the local knowledge, experience, and personal influence on which so much depend. Not one of the European Officers, and probably but few of the Native Officers in the grade of Tahsildar have any personal acquaintance with the system which it is now sought to revise. The old native officials by whom the "Maramut" of each district was performed have passed away, and the same willing assistance and ready obedience cannot be immediately expected from the people.

* Joined April 1867.
† Not joined yet.
‡ Joined December 1866.

24. These considerations serve to show that the experiment will now be tried under very unfavourable circumstances. Moreover the great object which the Government had in view, in proposing the experiment, seems unlikely to be attained. The terms in which the Supreme Government suggested the measure seemed to imply that the cost of these petty agricultural repairs, rightly designated as being of the nature of landlords' charges, and of a character with which the State has no concern, save under Ryotwarry Settlements, would be met out of Income, and would be altogether excluded from the Public Works assignment. But in their orders on the Public Works Budget of 1867-68, the Supreme Government allude to the measure as one merely of "administrative convenience;" remark that the cost of these works should have been deducted from the Public Works estimate, and reducing the latter by one lac, allow the remaining two lacs to stand only because much of the sum is to be devoted to the construction, &c., of Jails.

25. The Accountant General has also informed the Board that a moiety of the sum (2,00,000) entered in the Civil Budget for Salt Works has been deducted, pending the submission of information to show whether the works should or should not be provided for from the Public Works assignment.

16

W. 1055

Encl. in Govt Spl. Letter
G.O. of 3 May 1867. No. 1334
P.W.D.
J.B.
ge. May/67.

14 Copies Lr to the Secy to Govt Revl Dept.