M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2420 293-294	Press Mis—
Dated 15—10—1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th October 1867.

No. 293. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Submitting, for information of Government, report of Collector of Salem on Public Works operations for 1866-67, drawing attention of Government to paragraphs 4 and 12 of the Report, and suggesting that instructions be issued to Officers of Department Public Works to expedite completion of certain Irrigation works in district. } (Here enter 9th October 1867, No. 6,464.)

No 294. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1867, No. 2,420.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

gxd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 6,464.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 9th October 1867.

Read the following letter from C. N. POCHIN, Esq., Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 31st August 1867, No. 238:—

1. I have the honour to report on the operations of the Department of Public Works in this District for the official year 1866-77, together with two Statements, the one showing the expenditure on New Works and the other on Repairs.

2. The following abstract shows the total expenditure under different heads during the year in comparison with the past year:—

Description of Works.		Expenditure of 1865-66.			Expenditure of 1866-67.			Comparison					
								Increase.			Decrease.		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
New Works..	Irrigation	1,087	8	6	2,366	9	8	1,279	1	2	...	...	...
	Communications.	15,334	14	10	5,239	15	6	...	...	...	10,094	15	4
	Buildings	12,307	12	3	15,185	7	6	2,877	11	3	...	...	...
	Total ..	28,730	3	7	23,792	0	8	4,150	12	5	10,094	15	4
Repairs ...	Irrigation	19,862	9	0	19,169	11	6	...	...	..	692	13	6
	Communications.	52,278	8	8	46,167	9	8	...	...	...	6,110	15	0
	Buildings	1,656	1	5	3,845	8	2	2,189	6	9	...	...	...
	Total ..	73,797	3	1	69,182	13	4	2,189	6	9	6,803	12	6
	Grand Total ...	1,02,527	6	8	92,974	14	0	6,346	3	2	16,898	11	10
									Net ..		10,552	8	8

3. IRRIGATION.—The small amount (Rupees 2,367) spent on New Works under this head, is itself sufficient to show that no work of any importance was executed during the year. The sum, namely, Rupees 19,170 spent upon Repairs, was chiefly closing up of breaches, &c., in existing works, and was spent upon sixty-eight tanks, twenty-four channels, and twenty-four anicuts.

4. COMMUNICATIONS.—The principal new road under construction was that between Malur and Oossoor, the expenditure upon which alone was Rupees 3,360. This road is said to have been completed on the 30th March last. The Sub-Collector, however, writes* in regard to this road as follows:—

* In letter, dated 17th July 1867.

"This road is still being constructed. It yet requires much done to it. The culverts and road bridges have been built, and the work of covering them and making the approaches has been completed, but metalling, &c., has not yet been done. I spoke to the Assistant Engineer regarding this, and he informed me that he wished the work to remain as it is until the monsoon is over in order that the earth may settle. I consider the road practicable, but not by any means perfect. Two large bridges have, to insure regular communication with the rail, to be constructed—one across the river Pennar at Bagalore, and the other over the Chinniar near Oossoor. Estimates for these have been sent in by the Assistant Engineer, but the works have not yet been begun. I need hardly dilate on the importance of this road as a railway-feeder for the whole of the Oossoor talook, and I can only reiterate the wish of my predecessor that measures may be speedily taken for putting it into perfect working order, and insuring by means of bridges an uninterrupted communication."

5. The road between Devetypatty on Trunk Road No. V. and the Shevaroy Hill Railway station, and the road between Sooramungalum and Tharamungalum, are reported to have been completed.

6. Rupees 46,168, under the head Repairs, were spent upon 413 miles of Imperial road.

7. Buildings.—The largest expenditure under this head was upon new works, namely, Rupees 15,185. The chief buildings were the Salem Central Jail, the Remount Depot Stables, and the Rest-house at Jolarapett.

8. In regard to the irrigation wants of the District there is much that is required to be done, and if only funds admit of their being carried out, several works of a very useful and remunerative nature could be mentioned, such as Naranjipett anicut, Cuddumbore tank, &c. I am, however, glad to observe that the Public Works Department are engaged in framing estimates for some of them already recommended. The principal ones are the Badatalaib and Malapady tanks in the Kistnagherry taluk. I propose shortly to address the Board specially on this subject.

9. There are numerous existing works, such as tanks and anicuts requiring repair, and several of these have been put in hand under the Order of Government, dated the 15th of June 1867, No. 1,807.

10. The wants of the District in regard to communications are not much. There are a few which properly fall upon Local Funds, and provision will accordingly be made for them as circumstances permit in the Budget.

11. In regard to buildings the wants are somewhat considerable. Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates' Cutcherries, as well as Subsidiary Jails, are required at almost every station in the District, and proposals under this head will be made after the Subsidiary Jail Committee's labours are brought to a close.

12. I cannot conclude this report without mentioning that my own opinion is that several of the repairs to irrigation works that have been carried on by the Department of Public Works have not been of that proper and substantial nature, which they ought to have been. The result has been that much money has been spent in repairing breaches which having been repaired but a short time previous should have stood for years. If works are given out on contract, there should be careful supervision, to see that the work done is good. After a work is completed, it is impossible then to tell whether the foundation work has been properly executed or not. Supervision whilst the work is in progress is what is chiefly wanted.

13. I have written to the Superintending Engineer on this matter, and I hope that his orders on the subject will have the required effect.

Enclosure No. 1, A.

Abstract.—Statement showing the expenditure on New Works, during the year 1866-67.

Enclosure No. 2, B.

Abstract.—Statement showing the expenditure on Repairs, during the year 1866-67.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing report be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board beg to draw attention to the Collector's remarks, in paragraph 4, on the state of the road between Malur and Oossoor.

3. They will be glad to receive the communication promised in paragraph 8 regarding the progress of irrigation works; and would suggest that Government should be pleased to issue instructions to the Officers of the Department of Public Works to expedite matters.

4. The special attention of Government is also requested to paragraph 12, regarding the unsubstantial nature of the repairs executed by the Department of Public Works. There can be no doubt of the necessity for careful supervision during the progress of such works when executed by contract. The Collector should have sent up the reports of his subordinate officers in independent charge.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Department of Public Works,
with two enclosures.

,, the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Salem.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev. 1867. Department.
Proc Govt for Oct

No. 2750.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 9th October 1867.
Dep. P.W. do —
Rec. 14

No. 6,464.

Submitting for information of Government report of Collector of Salem on Public Works operations for 1866-67, drawing attention of Government to paragraphs 4 and 12 of the report and suggesting that instructions be issued to officers of D. P. W. to expedite completion of certain irrigation works in District.

P. 2620.

RECORDED.

15th Oct 1867

N: 293-294