

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1184

DATED 2^d March 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

According Board's Prop. coming to the
Collectors with remarks, &c. agreeing with
the Board of Revenue and the Chief Engineer
for Irrigation in the opinion that the enter-
tainment of a permanent establishment
of overseers is absolutely necessary for
the purpose of maintenance of Minor
Irrigation Works in the charge of the Rev. Deputy
and addressing the Govt of India for obtain-
ing the sanction of the Secretary of State
for the entertainment of the establishment
proposed.

BACK PAPERS.

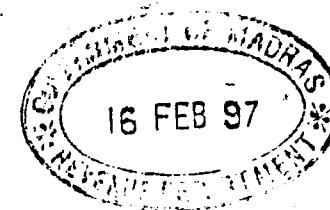
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1421



From

The Board of Revenue

(Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri.).

Order no: 1184 d/28 Mar 1897.

Recorded

[Handwritten signature]

No. 90 Pers.

Dated 2nd February 1897.

Received 16-2-1897.

Registered 16-2-1897

Enclosures

Spare copies

To

The M. R. S. S. 4-3-97

List

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Note.

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SUBJECT.

Communicating to Collectors with remarks, &c. agreeing with the Board of Revenue and the Chief Engineer for Enigabm in the opinion that the establishment of a permanent establishment of Overseers is absolutely necessary for the proper maintenance of minor Enigabm works in the charge of the Rev. Dept.; and addressing the Government of India for obtaining the sanction of the Secretary of State for the establishment of the establishments proposed.

[Handwritten note]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
fu	6267	7-12-56	0.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 2ND FEB. 1897, No. 90.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

Read—the following G.O., No. 696, Revenue, dated 7th December 1896 :—

Read—again G.O., No. 476, Revenue, dated 22nd July 1895.

ABSTRACT.—Transferring to the Public Works Department with remarks, Board's Proceedings submitting remarks on the proposals of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for providing efficient machinery for the restoration and maintenance of minor irrigation works.

Read—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 4110, Revenue, dated 18th October 1895 :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 10th August 1895, No. 255 :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 5th June 1895, Mis. No. 2849 :—

Read—the following letter from A. E. CASTLESTUART STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Cuddalore, 10th May 1895, No. 1075-Ver. :—

I have the honour to reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 77-A, dated 22nd March 1895. The establishment proposed by the Board for this district is one man on Rs. 135, one on Rs. 80, one on Rs. 60, two on Rs. 40 and three on Rs. 30 with one lascar on Rs. 7 for each subordinate. The one upper subordinate to be provided for this district is, I believe, to draw Rs. 135 per mensem. The Board's Proceedings does not state any thing about the prospects of the upper subordinate. If he is to rest satisfied with Rs. 135 a month for the whole period of his service, he will have nothing to look forward to in the way of promotion. Persons who are appointed for this post should, I think, have a chance of promotion in the regular line in the Public Works Department on the recommendation of the Collector.

2. The number of hands allotted for this district is quite adequate, but the pay of the last two grades, i.e., Rs. 40 and Rs. 30, appears to be insufficient to attract trained men. The lowest grade in the existing establishment carries with it a salary of Rs. 35. The pay of the last two grades may therefore, I think, be fixed, at Rs. 45 and Rs. 35 respectively, to secure the services of efficient men; the grade on Rs. 80 being reduced to one on Rs. 70. At present there is only one overseer on Rs. 35 in this district. Considering that the largest allotments have been given to this district for some years and that this will be the case for some years to come, instead of two overseers on Rs. 40 and three on Rs. 30, three overseers on Rs. 45 and two on Rs. 35 may I think be provided.

3. The allotments for the district for six years are shown in the margin. Minor irrigation work is heavy in this district.

Years.	Allotment. Rs.
1895-96	65,000
1894-95	70,000
1893-94	50,000
1892-93	40,000
1891-92	61,350
1890-91	55,000

The new upper subordinate, in addition to a charge of his own, will have to check the work of the lower subordinates and his correspondence will also be far heavier than those of his brethren. To enable him to devote more time to the inspection of works and other professional duties, a clerk on Rs. 15 per mensem might be provided for this district, whose duty will be to keep the accounts, records, &c., of the upper subordinate, to make arithmetical checks of estimates and also to work on occasion in the Collector's office when minor irrigation work is heavy.

Resolution—dated 5th June 1895, Mis. No. 2849.

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for favour of his opinion on the suggestion made in paragraph 1, that the upper subordinates on the proposed establishments for the upkeep of minor irrigation works should be eligible for promotion to higher posts in the Public Works Department.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter, it is observed that the cost of the establishment, including the office clerk, proposed by him amounts to Rs. 485, as against Rs. 445, the cost of the establishment recommended by the Board. The Board thinks there is not sufficient ground for this increase; but it will make no objection to the Collector modifying the details of the scale provided the total cost does not exceed Rs. 445 a month.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Collector of South Arcot.

Read—also the following letter from Colonel R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 1st May 1895, No. 198-M. :—

With reference to the concluding paragraph of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 77-A, dated 22nd March 1895, I have the honour to state that I see no objection to the restriction suggested by the Board regarding the submission to this office of estimates for repairs to minor irrigation works, Revenue Department, but the limit of Rs. 250 should be tentative.

2. As the lists now submitted through this office for annual repairs will be discontinued, steps will have to be taken by the Board to see that estimates not submitted to this office are not excessive when compared with the revenue of the works.

Read—also the following letter from Colonel R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Ootacamund, 24th June 1895, No. 280-M. :—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 5th June 1895, Mis. No. 2849, I have the honour to inform you that the rate of pay of the upper subordinates entered in the statement which accompanied my note printed with Proceedings, dated 22nd March 1895, No. 77-A, was intended to represent the average pay of a Public Works Department upper subordinate. My intention was that Public Works Department upper subordinates should be placed at the disposal of the Revenue Department for duty under Collectors and that whilst on deputation they should receive their Public Works Department pay and allowances and the promotion to which they would be entitled had they remained on duty in the Public Works Department. The lower subordinates entered in the statement were also intended to have the same pay and allowances as the Public Works Department sub-overseers and may well be promoted to the upper subordinate establishment if found deserving. These men are, it should be noted, proposed to be recruited from the Tank Restoration Scheme.

2. To make the distribution and pay of the proposed establishment clear, I enclose a revised statement based on the numbers given in the Board's statement. A note in the remark column explains how the distribution is arrived at.

3. In addition to the upper and lower subordinates, a clerk-draftsman is provided for each upper subordinate. These men should be qualified draftsmen and will be much more useful than a mere clerk. Lower subordinates require neither a clerk nor a draftsman.

4. The cost of establishment as now proposed amounts to 17.4 per cent. of the probable assignment of funds or to 14.6 per cent. if the proposed clerk draftsmen and peons are not included. This percentage is based on an estimated probable assignment at the rate of As. 4 per acre irrigated which, it is considered, may be taken as about the sum required to be spent on minor irrigation works, Revenue Department, until the operations of Tank Restoration Scheme are concluded.

5. I would point out that the efficiency of the working of the proposed scheme entirely depends on efficient establishment and that the system of working out the percentage of establishment to cost of work executed is altogether unsatisfactory as efficiency, according to that test, depends largely on the exigencies of the Financial Department. The proposed establishment will be in charge of a large number of works spread over a large area and the pay and prospects of promotion should be sufficient to attract good men.

6. Whilst on this subject I would mention that I am disposed to modify this office letter, No. 198-M., dated 1st May 1895. In that letter I agreed to the Board's proposals in paragraph 8 of Proceedings, dated 22nd March 1895, No. 77-A; but on further consideration I am inclined to think that Collectors might be given powers of sanction up to a limit of Rs. 500 for ordinary repairs on the understanding that the estimate does not include the construction of new masonry works other than simple tank sluices, nor any material deviation from the standard of efficiency laid down by the Tank Restoration Scheme. This would considerably reduce the amount of work thrown on the Central office of the Tank Restoration Scheme, and all that would be necessary would be for Collectors to submit a monthly return of estimates sanctioned by them should the Board see any advantage in this procedure. As a matter of fact, I see no reason why the Board should not allot lump sum grants to Collectors and leave to them the responsibility of working them out. In this case the Board could retain full control over the expenditure by adopting Public Works Department Form E. No. 115, of which a copy is herewith forwarded.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.
STATEMENT showing the establishment proposed for minor irrigation works, Revenue Department.

Districts.	Number of taluks.	Number of minor irrigation works under charge of Revenue Department.	Area irrigated in 1893-94, first and second crop.	Share of revenue due to irrigation, 1893-94.	Average expenditure during three years ending 1893-94.	Grant at four annas per acre.	Proposed establishment—Number of																Total cost.			Percent- age of columns 5 and 22.	Percent- age of columns 7 and 22.																								
							Upper subordinates.						Lower subordinates.		Clerk- drafts- men.	Peons.	Monthly.	Annual.	RS.	RS.																															
							Sub- Engineers.	Super- visors.	Overseers.	Sub-Overseers.	First.	Second.	Third.	First.							Second.	Third.	First.	Second.	Third.																										
																												Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.	Grades.												
																																								First.	Second.	Third.	First.	Second.	Third.	First.	Second.	Third.	First.	Second.	Third.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24																												
Ganjam ..	3	2,748	81,313	86,978	16,138	20,328	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Vinayapatnam ..	3	1,275	104,974	1,47,904	11,772	26,244	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Giddavari ..	14	1,322	68,814	84,836	11,744	14,704	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Kistna ..	12	361	28,652	93,572	15,915	7,138	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Nellore ..	9	389	39,896	1,13,757	29,891	9,974	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Cuddapah ..	11	2,643	210,705	6,13,789	37,426	62,676	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Kurnool ..	8	603	35,239	97,485	9,875	8,802	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Bellary ..	8	243	37,460	89,705	3,628	9,365	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Anantapur ..	7	2,042	93,953	2,44,417	16,820	23,488	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Salem ..	9	2,536	152,359	2,55,249	17,236	38,099	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Coimbatore ..	10	96	18,339	46,574	3,456	4,585	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
North Arcot ..	9	3,356	253,733	6,45,069	59,572	63,433	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
South Arcot ..	8	2,823	247,054	7,40,578	46,991	61,764	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Chingleput ..	6	2,039	180,751	2,82,249	42,877	45,188	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Tanjore ..	5	601	39,810	82,335	9,714	9,553	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Trichinopoly ..	5	989	70,639	1,11,335	16,253	17,650	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Madura ..	6	5,472	144,850	3,48,085	27,248	36,213	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Tinnevely ..	9	1,798	133,128	4,26,692	50,551	33,282	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..																												
Total ..	146	31,336	1,931,539	44,20,607	4,27,110	4,82,887	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	4	16	26	41	17	100	7,005	81,060	17,40	1.9																											

Note.—The upper subordinate establishment in this statement is divided into grades according to the scale in the Public Works Department. Of the total number of upper subordinates, 1/3 are sub-engineers, 1/3 supervisors and the remainder overseers. Of the sub-engineers, 1/3 belong to the third grade, 1/3 to the second grade and the remainder to the first grade. Of the supervisors, 1/3 are of the first grade, the rest belonging to the second grade. One half of the overseers will be in the third grade, 1/3 in the second grade and the remainder in the first grade. Of the lower subordinates, 1/3 will be in the first grade on pay Rs. 50-10-70, 1/3 in the second grade on pay Rs. 35-5-45, and the remainder on pay Rs. 25-5-35. The increase of pay to be quinquennial and only to be given to deserving men. The clerk-draftsmen to be on pay Rs. 20-2-30, the increment being annual and given for approved service.

Resolution—dated 10th August 1895, No. 255.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd March 1895, No. 77-A.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation now explains that his intention was that the upper subordinates (sub-engineers, supervisors and overseers), to be given to Collectors for the maintenance of minor irrigation works, should be members of the Public Works Department establishment, who, while employed on this duty, will be considered to be on deputation. In other words their appointment, punishment and dismissal will not rest with the Collector. As regards the lower subordinates (sub-overseers) also, the Chief Engineer apparently contemplates that they should belong to the Public Works Department establishment.

3. The Board has serious misgivings as to whether this plan would work satisfactorily. The establishment would no doubt be at the disposal of the Collector, but it would not be under his effective control, inasmuch as the appointment, promotion, punishment and dismissal of the men must need rest with the department to which they belong.

4. The minor irrigation works were placed in charge of Collectors because the Public Works establishment was not strong enough to undertake the duty, and because, in general, their repair does not require high engineering attainments, but can, with such assistance as an overseer can render, be undertaken by the villagers interested under the supervision of the Tahsildars. Supervisors and sub-engineers on from Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 a month would not work in subordination to the Tahsildars, and the Board doubts whether the appointment of one sub-engineer, or one supervisor, in districts where small tanks are numbered by the thousand, would prove as useful to the Collector as the appointment of several overseers on lower pay, and at the same total cost.

For instance, in North Arcot with its 3,356 minor irrigation works, two overseers on Rs. 100 each would probably be twice as useful as one sub-engineer on Rs. 400, as proposed by the Chief Engineer.

5. If Government approves the Chief Engineer's proposals and sanctions the establishment which he recommends, it would seem deserving of consideration whether the charge of minor irrigation works might not now, with advantage, be undertaken by the Public Works Department.

The proposal would probably be welcomed by most of the Collectors; and the superior officers of the Public Works Department, who have now to travel over their districts inspecting large tanks, often at a great distance from each other, could do a great deal of supervision over the small tanks on their way, without any serious addition to their labours.

6. The Board is disposed to think that this transfer of charge would be the best solution of the difficulty; but if the charge is to remain with the Collectors, the Board considers that whatever establishment is sanctioned should be distinct from the Public Works Department, though there should be no impediment to deserving officers passing from one establishment to the other as occasion offered.

7. In paragraph 6 of his letter, the Chief Engineer recommends that Collectors should "be given powers of sanction up to a limit of Rs. 500 for ordinary repairs on the understanding that the estimate does not include the construction of new masonry works other than simple tank sluices nor any material deviation from the standard of efficiency laid down by the Tank Restoration Scheme." The Board supports this recommendation, but would limit the Collector's power of sanction to Rs. 250.

This limit would cover the great majority of estimates.

In 1894-95, out of 1,592 works repaired, there were only 171 for which the repairs cost Rs. 500 and upwards.

In the two previous years the number of estimates for Rs. 500 and above was 113 and 161. In 1894-95, 64 per cent. of the number of estimates were for sums below Rs. 250.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ all Collectors, except Madras, Nilgiris, Malabar and South Canara.
„ the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Read—also G.O., No. 2155 W., dated 29th August 1895.

ABSTRACT.—Sanctioning, with remarks, the revised proposition statement for establishment under the Public Works Department for tank restoration works, the existing establishment being regarded as temporary up to the 30th September 1895.

Order—Mis. No. 4110, Revenue, dated 18th October 1895.

The Government concurs in the opinions expressed in paragraphs 3 to 6 of the Board's Proceedings read above. If the works are to continue in charge of the Revenue Department, the establishment sanctioned for their maintenance should be distinct from the Public Works Department, and as it will have to work under the control of the Tahsildars, it is undesirable that any of the upper subordinates should be paid more than, say, Rs. 140 per mensem, the pay of the lowest grade of Tahsildar being Rs. 150. Arrangements should also be made to give promotion to deserving men in the regular Public Works line on the recommendation of the Collector.

2. It seems unnecessary to pay as much as Rs. 25 to clerk-draughtsmen and it must also be considered whether peons cannot be got for less than Rs. 7 per mensem.

3. The Chief Engineer is requested to re-consider his proposals with reference to the above remarks. The Government agrees with the Board in thinking that Collector's power of sanction should be limited to Rs. 250.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch).

Read—again G.O., Mis. No. 4952, Revenue, dated 7th December 1895.

ABSTRACT.—Referring to the Board of Revenue, for remarks, Proceedings, Public Works Department, transferring note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation regarding the establishment required for the upkeep of minor irrigation works, Revenue Department.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 13th July 1896, No. 163:—

Read—G.O., Mis. No. 4110, Revenue, dated 18th October 1895.

Read—also the following paper:—

No. 220 I.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

In G.O., No. 4110, dated 18th October 1895, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is asked to reconsider his proposals regarding the establishment required by the Revenue Department for the upkeep of Minor Irrigation Works, Revenue Department, but many of the objections made by the Board appear to be based on a misconception.

2. The Board is in error in supposing that it was proposed that all the subordinates should belong to the Public Works Department. It was always intended that the Sub-Overseers should be under the Tahsildars and should be entirely under the control of the Revenue Department both as regards promotion and punishment. These men were proposed to be recruited from the Tank Restoration Scheme in order to provide properly qualified men, but if Government does not approve of this, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation has no objection to raise to their being recruited in any other way that is thought most suitable. There will, however, it is apprehended, be considerable difficulty in obtaining properly trained men from other sources.

3. As regards the proposed Upper Subordinates, it was suggested that they should be deputed from the Public Works Department, as otherwise it is difficult to see where properly qualified men can be obtained. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation has no power to dismiss these men without the sanction of Government, and it is believed that the powers of Government cannot be delegated to a Collector. Even if this could be done, it is not likely that good men would volunteer for service in the Revenue Department, if, when considering their promotion or punishment the whole of their previous service in the Public Works Department is to be neglected. There is also no necessity to reduce the pay of these men to less than that of a Tahsildar, as only one Upper Subordinate is provided in each district, and his duty will be to supervise the work of the Sub-Overseers and generally to advise the Collector regarding the repair of Minor Irrigation Works. He cannot well be placed under all the Tahsildars in a district and there is no necessity for doing so. He will be attached to the Collector's office and should be a very useful addition to it.

4. It will thus be seen that the Board is under a misapprehension regarding the proposed establishment, as only a single Upper Subordinate in each district is intended to belong to the Public Works Department, and for all practical purposes the whole of the staff will be under the orders of the Collector.

5. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation does not approve of the suggestion that Minor Irrigation Works should be retransferred to the Public Works Department as Executive Engineers have plenty to do and in most districts complain that they have not sufficient time to look after the works already in their charge. That this is not the case in North Arcot is difficult to believe as there are several projects uninvestigated in that district, and, if the Executive Engineer has any spare time, the Superintending Engineer should see that there is no further delay in submitting plans and estimates.

6. The powers of sanction of Collector is a matter for Government in the Revenue Department as that department should know the extent to which it is advisable to trust those officers.

7. The pay of clerk-draughtsmen and peons is merely a question of supply. The Public Works Department cannot obtain a sufficient number of qualified draughtsmen even on a higher pay than that proposed, and it is difficult to see how qualified men are to be attracted by reducing their prospects. The pay of peons was suggested by the Board, and it was assumed that Rs. 7 was the pay ordinarily given in the Revenue Department. The Public Works rate of Rs. 6 can be adopted.

MADRAS, (Signed) R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, Col., R.E.,
11th November 1895. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
To the Joint Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

No. 3554-C.

Transferred to the Revenue Department with reference to G.O., Mis. No. 4110, Revenue, dated 18th October 1895.

(Signed) R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, Col., R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government, P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.
MADRAS,
19th November 1895.

Endorsement Mis. No. 4952.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for remarks.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th December 1895.(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Ag. Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement Land Records and Agriculture).

Resolution—dated 13th July 1896, No. 163.

The Board has carefully reconsidered the whole question, but sees no reason to modify the opinion expressed in its Proceedings, dated 10th August 1895, No. 255, and approved by Government in G.O., Mis. No. 4110, Revenue, dated 18th October 1895. It does not consider that the services of highly paid Upper Subordinates—Sub-Engineers and Supervisors—on the scale proposed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation are really required for carrying out the ordinary repairs of petty irrigation works in charge of the Revenue Department. Moreover, the number of such officers provided in the Chief Engineer's scale is so small that they could not be of much assistance in the way of securing efficient supervision. For instance, in a district like North Arcot, covering an area of over 7,000 square miles and containing 3,356 irrigation works in charge of the Revenue Department, one Sub-Engineer on Rs. 400 provided by the Chief Engineer could hardly do much good in the way of efficient supervision, as the greater portion of his time would be wasted in travelling from one taluk to another. Works requiring skill are generally few, and these are usually carried out with the assistance of the Public Works Officers, which the Board believes will still be available as before. In lieu, therefore, of the half a dozen superior officers, on salaries ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 a month, proposed by the Chief Engineer, it would be much better to provide for a larger number of higher paid men in the Overseer and Sub-Overseer grades, so as to attract qualified men to the department and afford them fair prospects of promotion. The pay of the Supervisors may be fixed at a maximum of Rs. 140 a month, as suggested by Government. As the repairs will be inspected by Tahsildars who have to countersign the completion certificates, and occasionally by Divisional Officers also, no further check appears to be necessary.

2. A revised statement showing the establishment, as now modified, including the staff of clerks and lascars proposed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, is submitted for the information of Government. The total cost amounts to Rs. 71,376 a year as against Rs. 82,860 proposed by the Chief Engineer, and comes to 16.79 per cent. on an estimated outlay of 4.25 lakhs a year.

3. The greater portion, if not the entire staff of Overseers and Sub-Overseers, will be recruited from the Tank Restoration Party; but the whole establishment should be under the complete control of the Collector and his Divisional Officers. In taluks in which the number of works is small, a maistry on Rs. 20 has been provided. In the working season, it may also be necessary to employ temporary maistries for a few months to assist the Overseers and Sub-Overseers. No provision on this account has been made in the present estimate, but the cost is not likely to exceed Rs. 2,500 a year.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

APPENDIX.
STATEMENT showing the establishment proposed for Minor Irrigation Works including clerks and lascars.

Districts.	Number of taluks.	Number of Minor Irrigation Works under Department.	Area irrigated in 1893-94, 1st and 2nd crop.	Average expenditure for three years ending		Grant at 4 annas and rate on the area in column 4.	Amount taken as normal grant.	Establishment as now modified by the Board.						Total cost.		Percentage on column 7.					
				1893-94.	1895-96.			Supervisors on		Overseers on		Sub-Overseers on		Maistries on Rs. 20.	Clerks on		Monthly.	Annual.			
								Rs. 140.	Rs. 120.	Rs. 100.	Rs. 80.	Rs. 60.	Rs. 50.		Rs. 40.				Rs. 30.	Rs. 25.	Rs. 20.
1. Ganjam ..	3	2,748	81,313	16,138	14,472	20,328	16,000	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	Rs. 279	3,348	20.93	
2. Vizagapatam ..	3	1,275	104,974	11,772	14,806	26,244	16,000	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	269	3,328	20.18	
3. Giddavari ..	14	1,322	68,814	11,744	14,345	14,704	16,000	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	224	2,688	19.20	
4. Kistna ..	12	361	28,552	15,915	9,100	7,138	7,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	158	1,896	27.03	
5. Nellore ..	9	389	39,896	29,891	18,768	9,974	12,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	320	3,840	32.00	
6. Cuddapah ..	11	2,643	210,705	81,425	21,538	62,676	33,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	579	6,948	19.83	
7. Kurnool ..	8	603	35,209	6,875	4,999	8,802	10,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	244	2,928	19.28	
8. Bellary ..	8	243	37,460	3,628	4,403	9,365	8,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	158	1,896	23.70	
9. Anantapur ..	8	2,042	93,953	16,820	23,478	23,488	23,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	355	4,020	17.48	
10. Chingleput ..	6	2,039	180,751	42,877	27,620	45,188	45,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	487	5,844	12.99	
11. North Arcot ..	9	3,356	253,733	59,572	45,515	63,433	60,000	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	629	7,548	12.58	
12. South Arcot ..	8	2,823	247,054	46,994	59,624	61,764	60,000	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	599	7,188	11.98	
13. Tanjore ..	9	601	39,810	9,714	6,297	9,953	10,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138	1,896	18.96	
14. Trichinopoly ..	6	989	70,639	16,253	17,327	17,660	16,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	188	2,256	14.10	
15. Madura ..	6	5,472	144,850	27,248	19,922	36,213	30,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	437	5,244	17.48	
16. Tinnevely ..	9	1,798	133,128	50,551	50,379	33,282	40,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	523	6,276	15.69	
17. Coimbatore ..	10	96	18,339	3,456	2,907	4,585	3,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92	1,104	36.80	
18. Salem ..	9	2,536	152,359	17,238	12,855	38,000	20,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	269	3,228	16.14	
Total ..	147	31,336	1,931,539	4,27,110	3,67,635	4,82,887	4,25,000	2	4	4	7	10	18	24	24	7	10	53	5,948	71,376	16.79
As per Board's original proposal.	146	31,336	1,931,539	4,27,110	..	4,82,887	4,25,000	..	7 at Rs. 135.	7	8	9	..	22	47	..	..	100 at Rs. 7.	6,815	69,780	16.42
As per Chief Engineer's proposal.	146	31,336	1,931,539	4,27,110	..	4,82,887	4,25,000	..	2 at Rs. 200.	2	2	4	16 at Rs. 60.	26	41	..	17	100 at Rs. 6.	6,905	82,860	19.50

* Sub-Engineers—one at Rs. 400, one at Rs. 300 and two at Rs. 250.

There are three Government taluks—Goomour with about 710 works, Chicaole 630, and Belampur 1,410. The district is unhealthy and the Collector states that it is difficult to get competent men to remain long, unless the pay is sufficiently attractive. The Overseer on Rs. 100 will have charge of Belampur and inspect also other taluks. There are 136, 289, 881 works respectively. The Overseer on Rs. 100 will have charge of Palkonda where the works are in bad order and superintend works in other taluks also. In five taluks or divisions, there are no works. In four, the number of works is less than 50, and in two, there are only 73 and 81 respectively. In the remaining three taluks, the number of works is about 329 (Paddapuram), 240 (Ellore), 430 (Rajahmundry). There are no taluks in which the number of Minor Irrigation Works exceeds 100. There are only five taluks in which the number is above 50 and below 71. Not one taluk in which the number of tanks exceeds 100. Gudur has 91, Rapur 69 and the others less; Kanigiri has only 9. The area of the district, however, is large and means of communication bad. Omitting Jammalamadugu and Proddatur (with 25 and 20 works respectively), the other taluks would require a Sub-Overseer or Overseer each. One highly paid officer for the sub-division and another for the main division are provided. Palkonda taluk has 241 works, the others less than 100, Nandikotkur and Sireel having only 29 and 35. Rayadurg and Kedingi alone show 69 and 68 tanks; all the others below 20, except Harpanakali, which shows 36. There are eight taluks, including Kalyandurg. Tadipatri shows only 55 and the Kalyandurg and Dharmavaram taluks less than 50 each. All the taluks (nine) have a fair number of works and require a strong staff. Omitting Chidambaram, which has less than ten works, the other seven taluks have a large number of works each. Tanjore and Pattukottai taluks show about 340 and 380 works respectively, the others less than 10 each. In Trichinopoly and Udairapalayam taluks, the number of works exceeds 300; in the others it is less than 100. Out of six taluks, Dindigul and Mehar have over 1,500 and 1,100 tanks respectively, Madura about 500, Tirumangalam about 200, and two others below 100 each. Nine taluks—Nanguneri and Ambasamudram, 515 and 316, Tenkasi, Srivilliputhur, nearly 200 each, Sankaranankovil 130, Tinnevely 114, and the two other taluks less than 71.

Order—No. 696, Revenue, dated 7th December 1896.

Irrigation No. 17.

The papers read above relate to the proposals for the organization of a permanent staff of upper and lower subordinates for the upkeep of the minor irrigation works in the charge of the Revenue Department. As explained by the Board of Revenue in paragraph 4 of its Proceedings, No. 77-A, dated 22nd March 1895, all petty repairs to these works are, under the existing system, estimated for and executed by Tahsildars or Revenue Inspectors, with the assistance of a small staff of low paid minor irrigation overseers and masons—mostly men of little or no training—and the help of the Public Works Department is sought only in cases requiring professional skill, such as the provision of new masonry sluices and calingulabs, and the reconstruction of ruined or abandoned tanks. Even work of this latter kind has of late been left more and more to the Revenue Department, as the Executive Engineers, with the very inadequate establishment at their disposal, can, as observed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, afford but little assistance in this matter. It is evident, however, from the figures exhibited in the statement appended to paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings referred to above, that the irrigation works in the charge of the Revenue Department are not less important and that their upkeep should, therefore, be in the hands of a properly qualified staff, especially as it is believed that the large revenue now being realised from the works may be increased still further if more money be judiciously spent on them. It is reported that an attempt recently made to improve matters by the entertainment of professionally trained men has not been attended with success, as the establishment entertained is temporary and the scale of pay that can be given within the limit of 15 per cent. of the total annual grant for the maintenance of the works is so low that it does not attract properly qualified men to accept service on the establishment. On a careful consideration of all the circumstances His Excellency the Governor in Council entirely agrees with the Board of Revenue and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in the opinion that the entertainment of a permanent establishment of overseers, &c., is absolutely necessary for the proper maintenance of the minor irrigation works in charge of the Revenue Department.

2. In paragraph 5 of its Proceedings, No. 255, dated 10th August 1895, the Board raises the question whether in the event of a permanent establishment being sanctioned for the maintenance of the works, the charge of the works might not be retransferred to the Public Works Department. It is disposed to think that this transfer of charge would be the best solution of all difficulty and that it would be welcomed by most of the Collectors. But His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that the work should continue to be under the control of the Revenue Department in view of the objection raised by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in paragraph 5 of his "Note," No. 220 I., dated 11th November 1895, and of the fact that these works which do not generally require much professional skill can be executed more expeditiously and at less cost if left in charge of the Revenue Department, for that department possesses in its Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors a very large staff of men ordinarily capable of controlling expenditure on tank and channel repairs in all parts of a district and of directing the villagers to whom the work is generally entrusted and who have a personal interest in it as to the proper manner of its execution. In cases requiring special professional skill, the officers of the Public Works Department should as hitherto be consulted; but it is believed that, after the entertainment of the trained staff now proposed, such references will be rare.

3. The charge of the works being vested in the Revenue Department, the staff of subordinates employed for their upkeep must also be entirely under the orders of the Revenue officers and altogether independent of the Public Works Department establishment. The instruction contained in the concluding portion of paragraph 1 of G.O., No. 4110, dated 18th October 1895, to the effect that "arrangements should be made to give promotion to deserving men in the regular Public Works line on the recommendation of the Collector," is accordingly cancelled.

4. As already observed in G.O., No. 4110, dated 18th October 1895, the establishment entertained will work under the orders of the Tahsildar in each taluk, and the Government agrees with the Board of Revenue in considering that highly paid upper subordinates of the grade of Sub-Engineer and Supervisors, on the scale suggested by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, are not really required for carrying out the ordinary repairs to these irrigation works which are mostly of a petty nature, and that it would be better to provide a larger number of higher paid men in the overseer and the sub-overseer grades.

5. The strength and pay of the establishment required, which is shown in the appendix to the last of the papers read above, appear adequate and are approved. The total cost of the establishment proposed amounts to Rs. 71,376 *per annum* against Rs. 69,780 originally proposed by the Board of Revenue and Rs. 82,860 proposed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and taking an annual grant of 4.50 lakhs, it comes to 15.94 per cent. on the total outlay against a limit of 15 per cent. allowed under existing orders.

6. No person should be appointed to any of the new posts who has not previously qualified by the tests prescribed for corresponding appointments in the Public Works Department; cases deserving of special consideration may, however, be submitted for the orders of Government.

7. The following letter will be addressed to the Government of India in view to the sanction of the Secretary of State being obtained for the entertainment of the establishment proposed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Financial Department, with letter.
" the Public Works Department (Irrigation).
" the Accountant-General.

RESOLUTION—dated 2nd February 1897, No. 90.

Communicated to the Collectors of all districts except Nilgiris and South Canara.

2. Their special attention is drawn to paragraph 6 of the Government Order. The establishment proposed should not, however, be entertained until the sanction of the Secretary of State has been received.

3. It will be observed that Government, in its Order, No. 4110, Revenue, dated 18th October 1895, printed in the Government Order read above, approved the proposal to give Collectors powers of sanction up to a limit of Rs. 250 for ordinary repairs to Minor Irrigation Works provided that the estimates "do not include the construction of new masonry works other than simple tank sluices nor any material deviation from the standard of efficiency laid down by the Tank Restoration Scheme." Collectors are requested to defer giving effect to this arrangement until the revised establishment proposed is actually entertained, as only then will they be able to exercise this power properly.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Collectors of all districts except Nilgiris and South Canara.

Copy to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

" " Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Ed. C. M. Thambuswamy.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 13th.

Proceedings, 2nd Feb. 1897, No. 90.

Minor Irrigation Works.—Communicating to Collectors, with remarks, G.O. agreeing with the Board of Revenue and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in the opinion that the entertainment of a permanent establishment of Overseers, &c., is absolutely necessary for the proper maintenance of — in the charge of the Revenue Department; and addressing the Government of India for obtaining the sanction of the Secretary of State for the entertainment of the establishments proposed.

When given for copying _____
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189

DATE

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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