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Review of the Administration Report
of the Punjab Public Works Department,
Buildings and Roads Branch,
for the year 1946-47

1947-48

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Proceeding of the Punjab Government in the P. W. D.,
Buildings and Roads Branch, No. G., dated
1949, concerning.

The Administration Report of the P. W. D., Buildings and Roads Branch, for the year 1947-48.

Expenditure—The total expenditure on works and technical education, etc., in the year 1947-48, was Rs. 51·5 lakhs in round figures as compared with Rs. 35 lakhs in the previous year.

Communications—The total expenditure on roads, etc., including their maintenance was Rs. 29,98,926. During the year under report only 551 miles were surfaced with tar and bitumen as against 1,009 miles in 1946-47. The decrease is due to various difficulties which arose consequent to the partition of the province and communal disturbances. Due to partition of the Punjab and shortage of rolling stock, the position regarding the supply of bajri became very acute. Besides this the non-Muslim contractors and labour who were in majority, left for East Punjab, leaving the work unfinished and the execution of the work had to be suspended for considerable period for want of suitable contractors and labour. At the end of the year under review there were under the charge of this department 2,679 miles of metalled and 1,227 miles of unmetalled roads as against 4,698 miles of metalled and 1,985 miles of unmetalled roads in the Joint Punjab last year.

In addition to the above lengths of roads there were in the Province 296·69 miles of metalled and 4,002·18 miles of unmetalled class II roads in charge of the district boards.

Of the several road works completed during the year mention may be made of the following :—

- (1) Improving and metalling Arterial Road No. 2 Section Mianwali-Kalabagh-Isakhel-Zaki in Mianwali district.
- (2) Improving and metalling the Lahore-Sargodha-Mianwali-Kalabagh-Bannu Road, Arterial No. 2 in Sheikhpura district.
- (3) Improving and metalling Arterial Road No. 3 Lahore-Lyallpur-Bhakkar-Jhang-Dera Ismail Khan, Section. Lyallpur to Thekhwala in the Lyallpur district.
- (4) Constructing a bridge over Ling River near Kahuta on Rawalpindi-Kahuta Road. Arterial No. 30 and its approaches.
- (5) Improving and metalling Tarbela Hatti-Campbellpur-Dhullian Road, Arterial No. 8.
- (6) Re-aligning the Lahore-Mianwali-Sargodha-Kalabagh-Bannu Road, Arterial No. 2 and provision of a road bridge over Glancy Barrage at Daud Khel.

- (7) Improvement to Kot Chutta-Choti Road in the Dera Ghazi Khan district.
- (8) Metalling Eastern Approach Road to Indus Crossing at Ghazi Ghat.
- (9) Diversion of Sambarial-Gujranwala-Pindi Bhattian-Jhang Road, Arterial No. 29.
- (10) Improving and metalling Arterial Road No. 39 Jhang-Toba Tek Singh-Chichawatni-Burewala Road.

The total expenditure on buildings including cost of maintenance was Rs. 19,23,952. The expenditure by Minor Heads under the following Major Heads on buildings (original Works and Repairs) was :—

	MAJOR HEAD	
	50—Civil Works	81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue.
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	Rs.	Rs.
General Administration (Charged)	60,155	..
General Administration (Voted)	4,16,221	1,979
Forest	—729	..
Administration of Justice	6,285	14,677
Jail and Convict Settlement	1,32,158	—47
Police	89,919	30,700
Medical	1,71,609	..
Public Health	10,291	..
Agriculture	51,491	284
Veterinary	14,658	..
Industries	269	..
Civil Works	2,90,921	8,946
Scientific Department
Stationery and Printing	2,434	..
Education	1,42,148	18,343
Co-operative	1,112	..
Other Departments	4,60,128	..
Total	18,49,070	74,882

Buildings—Amongst the important building works completed during the year following may be mentioned :—

- (1) Constructing a building for the Punjab Transport Service Rawalpindi.
- (2) Constructing a new hostel in the Punjab Agricultural College at Lyallpur.
- (3) Constructing married quarters at Police Station Shahdara in Sheikhpura district.
- (4) Additions and alterations to Casualty Block, Mayo Hospital, Lahore.
- (5) Constructing double storey block (now single) for D.I.G., C.I.D., in the Civil Secretariat compound, Lahore.
- (6) Constructing a new police station with quarters at Nurpur at Shahpur.
- (7) Constructing Government Girls School with hostel at Mandi-Baha-ud-Din, in Gujrat district.
- (8) Constructing police station with married quarters at Lalian, in Jhang district.
- (9) Providing additional accommodation for Office of Civil Supplies, Lahore.
- (10) Erection and maintenance of Wagha and Bowli Camps. Mention may be made of the following important works, which were in hand :—

- (1) Constructing Bulk Storage Bins at Sargodha, Phullarwan, Sikhanwali and Bhalwal.
- (2) Constructing Government College at Sargodha (New Buildings for Demontmorancy College).
- (3) Construction of Normal School at Sargodha.
- (4) Constructing Block for P. W. D., Officers in P. W. D. Secretariat.
- (5) Extension to the Punjab College of Engineering and Technology, Lahore.

The department had to face great difficulties in finding suitable contractors for all the unfinished major works, as good and resourceful contractors were not forthcoming throughout the West Punjab to fill the gap created by the exodus of Non-Muslim contractors. The difficulty was further supplemented by shortage of technical and clerical staff, as non-Muslim staff, who were in majority had opted for the East Punjab, however, progress of the works was not allowed to retard very much. Due to hard work and determination of the staff though small in number the department emerged from the ordeals of partition of the Province with flying colours and with a few exceptions almost all the unfinished major works were completed during the year under report.

Besides, the uphill task of providing temporary accommodation to millions of homeless refugees, who were forced to leave their hearth and home, was tackled very successfully and despite many difficulties such as shortage of technical and clerical staff, dearth of suitable contractors and non-availability of buildings material, etc., almost all the refugees were temporarily accommodated in various refugee camps constructed for this purpose throughout the West Punjab.

Communications Board—During the year after partition the Board held one regular meeting and one meeting of the Finance Subcommittee for distribution of grants to District Boards during the year. Funds to the extent of Rs. 3,11,162 were distributed as grants-in-aid to various District Boards in the West Punjab, and Technical Sanction was given to 56 road projects of the different District Boards by the Engineer Secretary to the Board.

The combined post of Superintending Engineer (Roads,) and Secretary Communications Board, West Punjab, continued during the year with a separate staff for the latter.

Public Health Branch—During the year under review, the Public Health Branch prepared and examined projects of the value of Rs. 37,82,011 for the West Punjab Government, Local Bodies in the West Punjab, and the Defence Department of the Central Government. Besides the construction of the Lahore Sewrage Scheme and other Schemes of Local Bodies which were either completed or in progress about 12 important works were commenced and 15 were completed during the year. All important water supply and sanitary installations throughout the West Punjab continued to be maintained and run by this branch for the year 1947-48, as usual. These works comprise water supply installations consisting of tubewells and percolation wells with steam oil engine driven, and electric pumping plants, reservoirs, tanks and pipe lines, sanitary installations with pipe fittings of all types, drains, sewers, sewage, pumping treatment, and disposal installations, septic tanks and sewage farms, steam disinfection apparatus gas plants, hot water supply, heating, air conditioning and laboratory installations, etc. The average daily quantity of water, sewage and sullage dealt with by the Public Health Circle was approximately 81,35,010 gallons and the total horse power of the installations including those under completion was nearly 912 B. H. P.

The total B. H. P. of the plant actually in operation was approximately 1,228 while new plants totalling more than 110 B. H. P. were under order or in the course of erection.

Electrical Engineering—The Electrical Engineer and his staff remained very busy during the year in executing a large number of original works and maintaining the electrical installations in Government owned buildings all over the province.

Engineering Education—The cost of Engineering Education during the year was Rs. 2,30,119.

(a) *Punjab College of Engineering and Technology Lahore*—During the year under review 421 candidates competed for entry to the 'A' class leading to the B.Sc. (Engineering) Degree of Punjab University for 178 vacancies against 673 applications for 74 seats during the last year. In addition, 3 candidates were admitted from the Railway and 48 from other Administrations, making a total of 229. For the 'B' class which leads to L. M. E. and L. E. E. certificate in Engineering, 29 candidates competed for 23 vacancies reserved for the Punjab Students, while for 'C' class, namely, apprentice class, there was only one candidate. In view of short number of candidates it was decided not to run the 'C' class.

Due to the migration of students from Aligarh and other Technical Institutions from all over India, a pre-Engineering Class, for a period of 6 (six) months was started in the College in January 1948 and examination was held in May, 1948. The students who obtained 60% or more marks were accepted for admission to the regular 1st year Degree class.

The results of the final examination in 1947, was satisfactory. Out of 60 'A' class students who sat for the B. Sc. (Engineering) Degree Final Examination of the Punjab University, 52 were declared successful.

Employment of students presents no problem as the demand for trained Engineers and workshop Operators exceeds the supply and every student who qualifies can find employment forthwith.

(b) *Government School of Engineering, West Punjab, Rasul*—As a result of the Annual Examination held in November, 1947 and January, 1948, 135 students were admitted into the Overseer Class. In addition to this 9 students who had migrated from Aligarh were also admitted. 15 students in the first year class repeated the course and one 1st year student who left the school in 1946, was again admitted to complete the course. The total number, in the first year class as it stood on 31st March, 1948, was 159 students, out of these 9 students belonged to N.-W. F. P.

The result of the Final Examination for Overseers was very satisfactory. Of the 88 students who sat 38 obtained the 'A' class certificate, 3 with honours and 35 with 'credit' and the remaining 50 obtained the 'B' class certificate. In the second year Draftsman Class 4 students appeared and all passed.

The school also acts as a Service Securing Bureau and about 60 men were offered posts through it during the year under review.

Town Planning—During the year under review Mr. U. A. Coats, B. A. Arch (Hons.), F. R. I. B. A., M. T. P. I., continued to hold the office of the Provincial Town Planner, Punjab, till 4th

November, 1947, when he proceeded on leave (ex-India) preparatory to retirement, after making over charge to Mr. Habib J. A. Somjee., B. A. Arch (Lond.) F. R. I. B. A., C. T. P., (Lond.), F. I. I. A., who continued to hold that post in addition to his own duties as Consulting Architect to Government West Punjab till the end of the year.

The Municipal Committee before proceeding to prepare town planning or building schemes generally consult the Provincial Town Planner, and the quality of Municipal Schemes is improving. During the year under review 17 regulative Town Planning Schemes were prepared, 13 were in the process of preparation and advice was given either to Government or the local authorities concerned on 44 different town planning schemes, lay out, etc.

Administration—Mr. L. A. Freak., B. Sc. A.M. Inst. C. E. I.S.E., continued as Chief Engineer and Secretary (East) to Government Punjab, P.W.D., B. & R. Branch till 14th August, 1947 when he opted for the East Punjab.

Mr. H.A. Harris, O.B.E., A.C.G.I., M.R. San, I., I.S.E., continued as Chief Engineer and Secretary (West), to Government Punjab, P. W. D., Buildings and Roads Branch till 23rd May, 1947, when he proceeded on 4 month's leave ex-India after making over charge to R.B. Brij Mohan Lall, M.I.E., I.S.E., who continued to perform in addition to the duties of Deputy Secretary to Government, Punjab and Secretary Communications Board till 29th May, 1947. On return from leave ex-India, Mr. L.S. Adlard, I.S.E., took over from R. B. Brij Mohan Lall, I. S. E., as Chief Engineer and Secretary West to Government Punjab, P. W. D., Buildings and Roads Branch and continued in office till the partition of the Province when this post was abolished.

After partition of the Punjab, Mr. H.A. Harris, O.B.E., A.C.G.I., M.R. San. I., I.S.E., on being compulsorily recalled from leave (ex-India) took over the charge of the post of Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, West Punjab, P. W. D., Buildings and Roads Branch, on the forenoon of the 16th August, 1947, from Col. L.S. Adlard, I.S.E., who proceeded on leave. Mr. H.A. Harris, O.B.E., A.C.G.I., M. San. I., I. S.E., held that post till 15th December, 1947, forenoon when he proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement, handing over to Sh. Abdul Qadir, Temporary Superintending Engineer (Rawalpindi), who continued to perform in addition to his own duties till 15th February, 1948. Mr. Abdul Karim, I.S.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, West Punjab, Irrigation Branch, on transfer from that Branch relieved Sh. Abdul Qadir, B.Sc., of his additional charge and continued to hold the post of Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, West Punjab, P. W. D., Buildings and Roads Branch, till the end of the year.



