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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras,

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 763. Press / Mis.

33-34.

Dated 9-12- 1871.

33-34 5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 33. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd November 1871, No. 4827 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th October 1871, No. 10 :—

I HAVE the honour to request that you will be so good as to submit the following subject for the consideration of the Board of Revenue, with the view of representing to Government the expediency of a change in the present arrangement of Circles for the transaction of business of the Local Fund of this district, which the practical working of the system has brought to notice.

2. For all practical purposes, the town of Coimbatore is the most central, accessible, and convenient place for meetings. It is more accessible from Caroor at the extreme eastern corner, and from Pollachy at the extreme south of the Southern Circle, than the head-quarters of the Sub-Collector, who is Vice-President of the Southern Circle, and who is necessarily much interested in, and somewhat responsible for, the working of that circle.

3. Practically, when meetings of the Southern Circle were held at Coimbatore, they were better attended by the non-official element than the Northern Circle meetings were after the novelty had worn off.

4. The division of the district into two circles is found to be a somewhat arbitrary arrangement as regards its general welfare. It adds much to the difficulty of discussing and deciding general questions, such, for instance, as the question of an important line of road, the importance of which may represent itself much more forcibly to the Committee of one, than to that of the other circle, and involve correspondence, references, and delay, whereas the matter could be discussed and settled at one meeting.

5. I think this a matter of some importance, as the non-official commercial element give their valuable time, and all have to sacrifice their personal convenience to attend meetings.

6. Another consideration is the time of the official element. Two circles entail a double attendance of the Superintending Engineer, whose time, it may be conceded, cannot be spared with advantage to the State or public. His time, I may state, is taken up in two ways—one way in double attendance at meetings, the other way in replying to double communications from two circles about one line of road.

7. The next point I would bring to notice is the extra, and apparently useless, work entailed on my office establishment. Two budgets have to be prepared instead of one. This in itself is doubling the work. A road forming a general scheme of communications is cut in two to suit the circle ; its mileage has to be calculated, and the funds allotted in part to each circle ; grants and allotments, charges and disbursements, have all to be split and re-calculated ; the question is whether there is any compensating advantage for all this trouble.

8. I am not aware of any.

9. The interest of each taluq is secured by the proviso of a percentage of its contribution being spent within its limits. Practically every taluq will have its quota allotted, and most will have much more.

10. But the interests of each taluq are as well preserved by a general as by a separate circle meeting, and the President is as much responsible in the one case as in the other.

11. I can see very little good in a peripatetic "Board of Works;" the attendance of any non-official members but the Taluq residents would be problematical. The head-quarters of the Sub-Division, all of which is in and chiefly constitutes the Southern Circle, is by no means easy of access; eighteen miles from the nearest Railway Station, and is a small and inconsiderable place with no accommodation.

12. A Taluq meeting of the Local Board, attended perhaps by one or two official and a non-official member, would be a not unlikely result.

13. Looking, therefore, at the very central and accessible nature of the chief town of this district, and taking into consideration the other facts and arguments I have adduced, I would strongly urge the re-constitution of the Local Fund Administration into one Board.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
9th December 1871.

THIS letter will be submitted for the information and orders of Government, though it appears to the Board to be too soon to form any conclusive opinion on the subject, and it is evident from paragraph 18 of their order on the Masulipatam and Guntur Budgets that Government are not yet prepared to re-consider it.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 9th December 1871, No. 763.

The Government agree with the Board of Revenue, and observe that most of the inconveniences specified by the President are temporary only. Grants and charges will soon be distributed once for all. The Local Fund Budgets ought to be prepared by Committees of the Board's, and not in the Collector's Office.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1871. Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE.

&c, &c.

dated. December, 9th.

ceed. Encl.

G. O., 9th December 1871, No. 763.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 33-34.

Passing orders on the Revenue Board's Proceedings, submitting letter from the President objecting to the division of the District into two Circles, and urging its re-constitution into one.

Financial 1871 Dec.

1871.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD NOVEMBER 1871, No. 4,827.

Dup: 30 Nov 71 Encl.

Received. 1st Dec 71

No 889

NOVEMBER.

No. 4,827.

Local Fund Administration—of Coimbatore District.—Letter from President of Local Fund Boards objecting to present arrangement under which District is divided into two Circles, and urging re-constitution of District into one Circle, submitted to Government.

With an Order

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

Financial

The Board of Revenue.

Dated 3 Dec 9.
Recd

G. O. 9 Dec, 1871, No. 763

Nos. 33 34

Passing an order on the Revenue Board's Pro. Submitting letter from the Pres. objecting to the division of the Dt. into Circles & urging its re-constitution into one.