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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1442	Press / ~~Mis.~~
50-51		
Dated	8 - 10 -	1873.

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 50. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th September 1873, No. 1857 :—

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 9th August 1873, No. 1266 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the salt roads of this district for 1872-73.

2. I have little to add to that of last year. The four stations that are in the district are Bantumilly, Manginapudi, Nizampatam, and Chinna Ganjam.

3. The first (Bantumilly) has yielded less and less salt since the cyclone in consequence of the diminution of salt-water in the lagoons where it is made. The early part of the year was more promising; but the rain and sandstorms destroyed more than two lakhs of maunds before it was quite fit to be gathered.

4. The District Engineer has the question now before him—what can be done to improve the water-supply?

5. If nothing can be done I shall have the honour to propose to extend the road from Wadali, a distance of about three miles, to the Stri Devi Parra (or swamp) from the salt cutcherry. It will be a station road.

6. This piece of road from Wadali to Bantumilly—nine miles, a true salt road—is in fair order. The road from thence *via* Gudiwada, Perikeed, and so to Hyderabad, is also in fair order and as good as any of the unmetalled delta roads can be.

7. Some culverts required on the lower half of the road will, I hope, be constructed this year, and the palmyra bridges near Argole are being repaired. The channels, however, are not deep, and should be easily fordable by bullocks, especially at the time they usually come. There were some large breaches made by the heavy rains of October and November last, that, in the press of other work in the channel, could not be taken in hand at once. These, I believe, may have tended to keep the Lambadies away; but now they are repaired, and with the Perikeed Bridge over the Ellore Canal finished and that over the Polarazu Codu sanctioned (it will be finished this year), there will be no serious impediment in the way of their march hereafter.

8. The allotment entered against Item No. 14, Part I. of II.-A of the Masulipatam Circle Budget for 1872-73 ("culverts on the road from Argole to Bantumilly and for a road from the terminus calingulah of the Bantumilly Channel to Bantumilly. Improvements to the salt road from Perikeed to Bantumilly") was not spent, I am sorry to say, last year, chiefly because the Local Fund Board were under the impression that they were waiting for the estimates, whereas I now find they were in the Collector's office.

9. There are no station roads, and none are wanted at present.

10. Manginapudi has all the station roads it needs. As soon as I can get the Gudiwada and Masulipatam road in hand I shall ask the Local Fund Board to complete the piece of salt road, 4½ miles, between Pedana and Manginapudi; but I cannot expect funds for some years to come. The Government in their Order, No. 1737, of 5th July 1873, Public Works Department, have recognised the

advantages of laying out funds in the lump on large works, and, until the more important roads are complete, this must wait. The same explanation must be given concerning the road to Masulipatam. I have already reported that it is infinitely better than half the delta roads.

11. The District Engineer is in favour of a canal in preference to a road and has the estimates in hand, and I shall strongly support him when he proposes it, as it would relieve Nizampatam of the great rush that is always made to buy salt there from the convenience of moving it by canal. With as much as two lakhs of maunds here we had empty platforms at Nizampatam in the commencement of last manufacturing season.

12. I am decidedly of opinion it should be constructed out of Imperial Funds and it could be charged to "Salt." It will be of no use save as a method of conveying salt.

13. Nizampatam, the only depôt for the export of salt by sea in the district, has good station roads. There is a fair road to it *via* Repalli, which requires three large ferry-boats or bridges, and a canal from Bezwada. These three crossings will, I hope, be made passable out of the allotment of Rupees 4,000 proposed by the Local Fund Board in their budget of this year. The survey of the road proposed to connect it with Bapatla Town is not yet complete; but I have put a ferry for carts at the Muttadi Revu, a salt-creek that used to be impassable, and I think if the approaches to it are improved there will not be necessity for any but a village road. No money is now available for the road from Sandole to Nizampatam; it is quite practicable for carts in fair weather, and Sandole is in communication with it by the canal.

14. Chinna Ganjam station roads are good. There is but one road to it, that from Inkole; it runs through the Nellore District, and it now rests with the Local Fund Board, Guntoor Circle, to decide whether they will contribute to the Nellore Circle for its upkeep or not. The matter was reported by the Board to Government, and I have just submitted Proceedings of Government, No. 886, of 25th June 1873, Financial Department, to the Local Fund Board for their decision in the matter.

THIS report on the salt roads of the Kistna District is submitted for the information of Government.

In the consideration of the action to be taken at Bantumilly the Collector will give due weight to the observations contained in Dr. Ratton's report, forwarded to him in Board's Proceedings dated 5th April 1873, No. 534.

The most necessary works on the road serving these salt works are approaching completion.

2. The Board hope that the estimates for the canal to Manginapudi will be pressed forward.

3. The ferry for carts over the Muttadi Revu between Bapatla and the works at Nizampatam has been supplied, but nothing is said of the portion of the road crossing a tidal swamp south of the backwater. The road from Chandole to Nizampatam has not been completed. The two places are, however, in communication by canal, and the existing road is good enough in fair weather.

4. The road from Inkole to Chinna Ganjam is reported to be good. The question of liability to the charge of its maintenance by the Guntoor Circle Local Fund Board is under consideration.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. ST. A. GOODRICH,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

Transferred to the Financial Department with reference to G.O., No. 2361, dated 24th September 1873.

OOTACAMUND,
1*st October* 1873.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 51.

ORDER THEREON, 8th October 1873, No. 1442.

To be recorded.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Wright.