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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 803 Press / Mis.

69-72

Dated 7-6- 1873.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
7th June 1873.

No. 69. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st April 1873, No. 609.

Read the following letters:—

From H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Local-Fund Boards, South Arcot District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 6th December 1872, No. 215.

I AM induced, by the enclosed application from the Deputy-Collector, in charge of the Treasury, for an additional Accountant to carry out a resolution formed sometime back, to recommend the amalgamation of the two Local Fund Circles in this district, as has been done in Coimbatore. The complaint made by the Deputy-Collector, with reference to the increase of work which has accrued since the division of the district into circles, is echoed by the Public Works Department, and it entails upon myself double the amount of correspondence which would otherwise fall to me. Of course, these considerations would have to be put on one side, if the objects of the Act and the interests of the tax-payers could be better secured by the circle arrangement; but I do not think this is the case, especially in a small compact district like South Arcot; and, if one Local Fund Board suffices for Coimbatore which embraces an area nearly double in extent, I think it may fairly be argued that we have in this district an excess of administrative power which might, with advantage, be dispensed with. The district is too small to bear division, and in such a limited area, where the interests of the two circles are so closely identical, it is very difficult in the case of large works which will benefit both to apportion the charges fairly between them. I may mention, as an instance, the Vellaur Bridge which will have to be rebuilt at a cost of about one lakh. It is in the Virdachellam Circle, and, of course, its benefit will be immediately felt by local residents; but it is equally certain that, by facilitating the means of communication with all parts of the district and the large centres of trade, its advantages will not be restricted to so limited an area. It is, so far as the district is concerned, an "Imperial" work, and the cost should be borne by the general funds; but to adjust the exact proportions payable by each circle under the present arrangement is a matter of no small difficulty, regarding which there is certain to arise a difference of opinion between the two Circle Boards. It is, moreover, almost an impossibility for the President to exercise a proper control over the two Boards; and, on matters affecting the interests of the whole district, it is not unfrequent for resolutions of a conflicting nature to be passed at the meeting of the respective circles. Two budgets have to be prepared which provide for the wants of the circles, without any regard to the general requirements of the district; and, where the limits of a Public Works range are not conterminous with those of a circle, the construction of a road may have to be arrested midway, because funds have not been provided for its continuance in the adjacent circle; or, if these are forthcoming, it is a matter of no small difficulty for the Range Officer to adjust the charges payable by each circle. I will not fill my paper by reciting in detail the difficulties which beset all concerned with the administration of the funds under the present arrangement, but will merely add that the District Engineer concurs with me in thinking that the objects in view

would be best attained by the fusion of the two Boards. Should the district be constituted one circle, it will be easy to arrange for the meetings to be held either at some central point, or at different parts of the district, so as to afford facilities of attendance to all members. In point of establishment, there will be a saving of about Rupees 35 per mensem, instead of an increased charge which must be incurred, if the present arrangement is continued.

2. Should the Board of Revenue be disposed to recommend to Government the proposal above made, I will submit a list of names of the members of the new Board, and would suggest that the fresh arrangement should come into force from the beginning of 1873-74.

From P. VARADACHARRY, Deputy-Collector in charge of Treasury, South Arcot, to H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Local-Fund Boards, South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 30th November 1872, No. 87.

I have the honour to bring to your notice the great difficulty experienced by me in getting ready the monthly accounts of the two Local-Fund Circles into which this district is divided with the aid of the single Accountant at present allowed. This Accountant has been employed since July 1869, and his entertainment was then sanctioned for the preparation of the Local-Fund accounts of the *district* which used to be submitted to the Revenue Board only; but since then, the account work in connexion with the Local Funds has considerably increased, not only by the division of the district into two circles, and the consequent necessity of preparing all the accounts for each circle separately, but also by addition to the number of accounts to be submitted; for, besides the accounts sent to the Revenue Board for each circle separately, the monthly treasury accounts sent to the Accountant-General and those required by paragraph 69 of the rules, to be laid before the monthly meetings, have to be prepared for each of the two circles.

2. While fully admitting that the account work in connexion with the Local Funds in this district is more than one Accountant can manage, the late President, in his letter to the Revenue Board dated 30th March last, No. 18, suggested, as a tentative measure, that the Cuddalore Circle Clerk may be employed on the account work also, and thus afford aid to the Local-Fund Accountant; but I beg to bring to your notice that this arrangement could not be carried out, and the Cuddalore Circle Clerk, ever since his entertainment, was for some months employed under the Assistant Collector, Mr. Thomson, in the work connected with the formation of School Unions, and, when relieved of this, he was ordered by you to work in the Correspondence branch of the Local-Fund Department, as such an arrangement was considered by you necessary for the efficiency of this branch.

3. A detailed memorandum of the work done in the Account Department in connexion with Local Funds was submitted to the Revenue Board with the President's letter above quoted. A reference to this will, I am convinced, satisfy you of the necessity for a second Accountant. The salary originally suggested was Rupees 20; but, as the last grade of Accountants in the regular establishment receive 15 Rupees only, I consider that this will be enough for the second Local-Fund Accountant now applied for, as he can hope to be advanced to the first Accountant's place, the salary of which is Rupees 25, or even higher salaries in the Account Department. I request, under these circumstances, that you will be pleased to obtain sanction for a second Accountant on the salary proposed for Local-Funds' accounts branch.

From the same Officer, dated Gingee, 12th February 1873, No. 45.

As directed in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th January 1873, Miscellaneous No. 137, I have the honour to submit copy of a letter from the Vice-President of the Virdachellam Circle Board, conveying his views in regard to the proposed amalgamation of the two Local Boards.

2. Mr. Lister, in his natural and commendable jealousy for the interests of the Sub-division, has apparently lost sight of the fact that my proposal was not for the abolition of the Virdachellam Board, but for its amalgamation with the Cuddalore Board. Under such an arrangement, I utterly fail to see how the wants of that part of the district will be lost sight of, or what grounds Mr. Lister has for supposing that they will be set aside in favour of any other portion of South Arcot. The Sub-Collector would, of course, be a Member of the District Board, and so would the majority of the Members who now constitute the Circle Board; and I am quite certain that they would not be found wanting in bringing to notice and supporting, with no uncertain voice, the claims of those portions of the district in which they have a local interest, even if, as apparently is apprehended by the Sub-Collector, the President and District Engineer should conspire to strangle them. Why Mr. Lister should suppose that we take a greater interest in the well-being of the northern part of the district than of the south is not very clear when it is remembered that the administration of the whole province falls within the scope of our duties. This being the case, it must, I think, be conceded that we are less open to the imputation of local partiality, because less exposed to the temptation to be partial than officers who have immediate charge of a limited area.

3. This brings me to the real point at issue. As a matter of justice, Local Funds must be expended for the benefit of those who contribute them; but it is obvious that this object would not be attained by returning to each village the amount of cess contributed by the ryots in the shape of so many yards of road in the immediate vicinity, whilst the main lines of communication were left untouched. It is equally clear that the only mode of giving the people at large a substantial return for the money contributed by them is by a systematic expenditure under which the requirements of particular localities would be subordinated to, but not superseded by, the general wants of the district. Indeed, provision against the latter contingency is made in the Local Fund Rules; but the district must be administered as a whole. What benefits one part of it is indirectly advantageous to another; and, as the construction of lines of communication connecting the great centres of trade and population is an essential preliminary to the formation of roads connecting the villages with such main lines, so must the cost of the latter be borne by the funds generally without carping or cavilling, because more is spent in one division than another. In some parts of a district, a road can be made for Rupees 500 a-mile; in another, it will cost Rupees 5,000. If these localities happen to lie within the limits of different circles, the Local Board of that portion of the district, where road-making is costly, might not consider themselves justified in undertaking their portion of the work because of the expense; and thus the whole district would be deprived of a useful line of communication, the cost of which might have been easily met, had there been one common fund.

4. This is precisely the condition of South Arcot. In some parts of the district road material is so abundant that little more is required than to mark out the trace; in other, and notably in the Chithumbram Taluq, not a stone is to be picked up, and the only material available is sand and clay. In the budget for 1873-74, the Virdachellam Circle Board have entered Rupees 11,550 for merely

metalling four miles of road; and, as the material for every road in this taluq has to be brought from the north bank of the Vellaur, it will be a long time before the Local Board will be in a position to afford, at these rates, the facilities of communication to which this fertile and populous part of the district is entitled. But, with these facts before him, and, whilst admitting that the Sub-division has the worst roads in the district, Mr. Lister protests vehemently, but not, I think, wisely, against a change which would go far to remedy the backward state of the southern part of the district.

5. I will not prolong this letter by discussing, *seriatim*, the Vice-President's arguments against the proposed amalgamation of the two circles. I have taken the liberty of noting my views briefly in the margin of his report. I would, however, ask the Board of Revenue to give their attention to the action taken by the Virdachellam Board in regard to the proposal to rebuild the Vellaur Bridge—a work in which the whole district is interested, but which lies within the limits of the Virdachellam Circle. I forwarded to the Vice-President plans and estimates for the construction of either an iron arch or suspension bridge; and, in requesting him to submit the proposal for the consideration of the Circle Board, I intimated to him that, as the work was one which would prove of the greatest utility to the district at large, the Cuddalore Board would be prepared to contribute their quota. But the Virdachellam Board would have none of it, and, without assigning any reason, they disposed of the proposal in the following brief resolution:—

"The Board think it is not desirable for the present to build a new bridge over the Vellaur at Muttaloor."

This is concise, but is hardly satisfactory; and I own that it took me completely by surprise. I think, however, I see the clue to it in paragraph 12 of Mr. Lister's report. The proposal emanated from the Collector, who, with the District Engineer, is supposed to trample upon "popular representation." The Virdachellam Board feared us, though we brought gifts in our hands and asserted their independence; but the bridge is lost to the district. I submit that the course followed by the Virdachellam Board in this matter is a strong argument in favour of my proposal to have one centre of administration for Local Funds in South Arcot.

6. I do myself the honour to enclose the opinion of the District Engineer on the subject. He has had many years' experience of the district, and it will be seen that he takes precisely the same view of the case that I do. The lines of water-communication to which he refers are most important, and will benefit both divisions of the district; but I do not see my way to carrying out the work under the present divided administration of Local Funds.

7. I do not think it necessary to notice some remarks in Mr. Lister's letter regarding the District Engineer and myself, which it would have been better if he had omitted; but with reference to the hostile position taken up by the Virdachellam Board to the Public Works Department, alluded to in the last paragraph of Mr. Norfor's letter, I feel bound to state that it has attracted my observation, and I have had occasion to draw the attention of the Vice-President to it.

From A. L. LISTER, Esq., Vice-President of the Local-Fund Board, Virdachellum Circle, to H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Local-Fund Boards, South Arcot, dated 27th January 1873, No. 5.

I have the honour to reply to your letter, No. 10, of the 15th instant, covering a copy of your letter, No. 215, of the 6th ultimo, to the address of the Secretary of the Board of Revenue, with the Board's Proceedings thereon.

2. I am unable to concur in your view that it would be a good thing for the district to fuse the two Local-Fund Boards into one; the stage-like unanimity which would doubtless prevail at one Board seems to me to be a strong reason against the adoption of the proposal.

3. It is difficult for me to express an opinion on all your reasons, because I cannot well understand them. I had not the faintest idea that any conflicting resolutions had been passed at the meetings of the respective circles, nor do I understand what may be called the account difficulty, for figures seem to me to be simple and tangible.

4. I am credibly informed that there are Accountants and Clerks in the Office of the Treasury Deputy-Collector who are busily employed from about the 25th of the month to the 9th or 10th of the following month, when they have little or nothing to do until the 25th comes round again. The heavy pressure of work for this fortnight necessitates the employment of a larger establishment than can be worked for the whole month; if the Local-Fund accounts were taken up on the 10th of the month and closed by the 20th, I believe no extra hands would be wanted in the Treasury Office, but even if this plan is not feasible, I do not think a paltry sum of 50 or 60 Rupees a-month should help in any way to determine whether the Virdachellum Local-Fund Board should be abolished or not.

5. The Board decided at the last meeting that it is not advisable for the present to construct a new bridge over the Vellaur at Muttalore, but if a bridge is built there hereafter, I do not see why the Cuddalore Circle should contribute an Anna towards the cost any more than it should contribute to the bridge over the Palar at Chingleput, from which it will reap far more advantage.

Except that the Vellaur is in the district and the Palar is not. H. E. S.

6. There are three rivers between Chellumbrum and Cuddalore, of which two are bridged in the Cuddalore Circle, and if either of these bridges share the doom of the ill-fated bridge at Muttalore, the Cuddalore Circle will have to bear the cost of its reconstruction; while the circle arrangement continues, each circle is a unit entitled to its own assets, and bound to provide for its own wants, and the Virdachellam Circle could no more call upon the Cuddalore Circle than upon the Negapatam Circle to contribute towards the Vellaur Bridge; so it will be with all other extensive works; each circle must get what it can out of Provincial Funds and pay the rest itself.

The result of the circle arrangement is that the whole district is deprived of the advantage of a bridge which could be constructed if there was no such petty sub-division. H. E. S.

7. But, under any circumstances, I cannot think that the possibility or even probability of one public body having a difference of opinion with another public body is any reason for their fusion—which is in reality the abolition of the weaker, nor would the cause for difference of opinion be removed by it. This difference of opinion which you foresee would seem to strengthen my view that the interests of the two circles are not "closely identical"—far from it. What does a ryot in Tittagoody care about the road from Merkanum to Pondicherry? If the Sub-Collector or anybody else in the Sub-division had had any voice in the selection of works to be undertaken, would that road have been metalled at an enormous cost, while the road from Virdachellum to Porto Novo, the principal port of the district, was in such a state that bandies could not travel a mile an hour over it in wet weather?

Union is strength. H. E. S.

Carry out the argument, and the funds raised in each village should be spent within its limits. H. E. S.

An argument in favour of amalgamation. Had there been one Board, provision would probably have been made for this road. H. E. S.

8. The Public-Works Ranges are now conterminous with the circles with the exception of some ten or twelve miles of road; the up-keep of these could be arranged by the President, Vice-President, and District Engineer in about five minutes, and this small difficulty does not demand the drastic remedy of the fusion of the Boards; for instance, the road from Bowanagherry to Koorinjipady is nine miles in length, of which six are in this circle; this short road should doubtless be under the care of one Range Officer; the Cuddalore Circle can contribute 300 Rupees to our assets when the whole expenditure will be shown in the accounts of this circle.

9. No intimation has been made to this Board that any road has been "arrested midway because funds have not been provided for its continuance in the adjacent circle;" but any difficulty of this kind can be avoided by the District Engineer ascertaining the views of both circles before commencing any work which will run in both of them.

10. It must be remembered that the District Engineer had held that office for only ten or twelve days when he gave his opinion, and that he was also performing its duties in addition to the ordinary work of a Range Officer; while doing the work of two men, Mr. Norfor would naturally advocate any scheme which would reduce it; and it would doubtless be easier for the District Engineer to have only one Board and to have only the President to consult about anything; but when a District Engineer joins the district, who will not be in charge of a range, but who will merely have to do in one district the work which Superintending Engineers have hitherto done in two or three, he will have plenty of time to look to the wants of both circles and attend the meetings of both Boards, and I do not think the Local-Fund Boards, which pay about half a-lakh for Public-Works Department supervision, need be afraid of working the District Engineer too hard.

11. A good deal of detail work is now done by the Vice-President, which, if the circles are amalgamated, will have to be done either by the President, or by the Treasury Deputy-Collector, or one of the Assistants at head quarters; in the former case the President's work would be increased; in the latter, the Treasury Deputy-Collector or an Assistant Collector might have more to do with detail arrangements in the Sub-division than the Sub-Collector.

12. It was decided after long reports, elaborate minutes, and full discussion, that a district was too large for a unit of Local-Fund administration; I think that decision was a wise one; if there is one circle for a district, the expenditure of funds will be determined as heretofore by the Collector and District Engineer. The Local-Fund Board will meet to register the foregone conclusions, and all vestige of popular representation in the administration of Local Funds will be at an end; in the old arrangements the Sub-division came off very hardly in the distribution of funds, and now it has the worse roads in the district.

Coimbatore is nearly double the size, and after a trial, it was found expedient to amalgamate the circles there. H. E. S.

Apparently then the *vox populi* only finds an utterance at an assembly presided over by the Sub-Collector, and is stifled by the Collector and District Engineer. H. E. S.

The Sub-Collector would, of course, be a member of the amalgamated Board. H. E. S.

13. These roads have been improved this year, and the people believe the Local-Fund Board has had something to do with the improvement; on all sides everybody objects to the amalgamation of the Boards for the same reason, viz., that everybody fears the Sub-division will come off badly in the future as it did in the past. The Virdachellam Board is fairly representative; it has the confidence to a great extent of the ryots; and it has undoubtedly done good to the Sub-division; then why abolish it?

It is not proposed that the Sub-division should not be represented. The members would become members of the District Board, and their sphere of usefulness would be extended. H. E. S.

14. Unless the Collector has previously served in the district, it is impossible for him to be as well-acquainted as the Sub-Collector is with the wants and requirements of the Sub-division. The Board over which the Sub-Collector generally presides originates schemes for the improvement of the Sub-division with the moneys raised in it by local taxation; the President, with his wider experience and maturer wisdom, has the whole executive power, and can guide the Board when it is in error, and check it when it is hasty; this seems to be the best possible arrangement; the President controls expenditure, and with the guarantees and securities with which Local-Fund Boards are surrounded, there is no danger of any money being expended in a wasteful or harmful manner.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
7th June 1873.

15. At the meeting on Saturday, the Board were unanimous in strongly deprecating their abolition, and they wished to record a resolution to that effect; but I told them that I was not at liberty to submit the question to them. It is my opinion that, if you were to poll the Sub-division to-morrow, there would be an almost unanimous vote among the taxpayers against the amalgamation of the Boards.

The Vice-President showed a want of discretion in mentioning a subject which had been referred for his personal opinion at a public meeting, and he misled the Board in telling them that their abolition was talked of. Amalgamation of the two Boards, and not the abolition of either, is what is desired. H. E. S.

16. In conclusion, I must express my regret at being obliged to submit an opinion so entirely adverse to yours, and to differ with you on a subject on which you *feel so* strongly, but I have such a decided opinion that it will be a bad day for the Sub-division when the circles are joined, that I have felt bound to submit at length my objections to your proposal.

This is a flight of Mr. Lister's imagination. H. E. S.

From R. E. NORFOR, Esq., Officiating District Engineer, South Arcot, to H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Local-Fund Boards, South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 7th February 1873, No. 67.

As you are desirous of a record of my views as to the expediency of amalgamating the two Local-Fund Circles of this District, I have no hesitation in saying that I have always considered the arrangement that now exists faulty in the extreme.

Original letter from Vice-President, Local-Fund Board, to the President, Local-Fund Boards, South Arcot.

2. I have now before me the Vice-President's letter to your address in which he expresses himself as adverse to your proposal to fuse the two Local-Fund Boards into one; but the evidence he sets forward in support of his views are nearly in every case undeniable proofs of the urgent necessity that exists for a change in the present system.

3. Mr. Lister points to the large estimate sanctioned for metalling the coast road from Pondicherry to Merkanum, and complains that the important road from Virdachellam to Porto Novo is left in an impassable condition, and is of opinion that, if the Sub-Collector or anybody else in the Sub-division had a voice in the matter, this would not have been. Surely, this is an argument in favour of amalgamation. Had there been but one Board, with the Sub-divisional Officers and members attached to it, the wants of the district as a *whole* could have been more comprehensively discussed, and a more judicious selection of works made.

4. In like manner had there been one Board, it is doubtful whether the reconstruction of the Muttaloor Bridge would have been indefinitely postponed. The question is not whether this or that circle should contribute towards its cost, but the whole district is deprived of a crying want which has been felt for years, and, in postponing the building of this bridge, the Virdachellam Board are acting a very foolish part, in fact, I may say, cutting their own throats. All the insufferably bad roads in the Chellumbrum Taluq lie to the south of the Vellaur, and the Board are, I believe, desirous of gravelling and otherwise rendering them good wet-weather lines of communication; the road material for effecting this change is all on the north of the Vellaur; the want of a bridge, therefore, will greatly enhance the already fearfully high rates for gravel and laterite.

5. The opening out of the old East Coast Canal would also greatly facilitate the carriage of materials, and reduce the cost of metal to a minimum.

6. The Khan Saib Canal, which is now very little used, owing to its very imperfect condition, might also be the means of conveying material into the heart of the Chellumbrum Taluq at a far less cost than it is possible to do it now.

7. It is absurd to ask what a ryot at Tittagoody cares about a road at Merkanum; the truth is he cares as little about a road in Chellumbrum which he is just as unlikely to see in the course of his lifetime; he is as uninterested and indifferent to the one as to the other, unless the Sub-

Collector has the spare time to sit down and explain the matter to him. If this argument is to hold good, the funds raised in each village should be spent within its limits.

8. I am opposed to the arrangements proposed in paragraph 8 of Mr. Lister's letter ; when this road (which does not at present exist except in name) is made, it will be better to leave the two Range Officers to deal with it so far as it lies in the limits of their respective Ranges ; the Perumal tank-bank is a very well-defined boundary, and there need be no confusion in accounts ; but as I said this road has never yet been *made* it will be an expensive line, but one that will be exceedingly useful.

9. I think I may in passing mention here what I view with regret. One cannot read the proceedings of the Virdachellam Circle Board without observing the very hostile position the Board have taken up towards the Public-Works Department. I will say nothing about Mr. Lister's unpolitic speech in the conclusion of paragraph 10 of his letter, since I have not complained of being too hard worked, nor do I fear that I shall succumb under it, but it goes far to show that the ruling spirit in the Virdachellam Circle is in a great measure to blame for the general discontent that now prevails among the Members of the Department in that Circle.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In the Board's opinion the fact that the Sub-Collector and the Local Board of this division are against the amalgamation must decide the question in the negative.

3. The system of dividing districts into circles has been so short a time at work that it should only be set aside on strong grounds shown, and where the Local-Fund Boards of the Circles amalgamated concur in the propriety of the measure.

4. The First Member is not a party to these proceedings, and has recorded a Minute of dissent.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 609.

No. 70.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

As requested in Memorandum, dated 30th April 1873, No. 147, the undersigned has the honour to forward to the Under Secretary to Government, Financial Department, the Minute of the First Member of the Board of Revenue dissenting from the views expressed in Board's Proceedings, 21st April 1873, No. 609.

MADRAS,
6th May 1873.

(By order.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Under Secretary to Government, Financial Department.

MINUTE of the First Member of the Board of Revenue referred to in paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings, dated 21st April 1873, No. 609.

Mr. Lister rests his defence of the existing arrangement on two arguments which are obviously without foundation. He supposes the abolition of the Board which represents the Sub-division, the truth being that it is merely proposed to amalgamate it with the District Board ; and, secondly, he concludes that an unequal and inequitable distribution of money will result from the administration of the affairs of the entire district by a Board located at head quarters ; there is just as little reality in this objection as in the other, the distribution of funds, in order to confer general benefit, cannot be limited so as to spend in each village the amount collected there, and the very opportune example afforded by the refusal of the Sub-division Board to undertake a bridge in which the district at large is deeply interested, shows the narrow "sectarian" view which the Boards of the smaller circles are only too likely to adopt on such occasions. Mr. Lister has rather lost himself ; he ascribes personal and antagonistic views of the interests of the Sub-division both to the Collector and the District Engineer, and he seems to have invoked the sympathy of the Local Board on a question which cannot possibly be decided with any reference to their personal feeling, and of which they have not been correctly informed by their Vice-President.

2. These local institutions are intended to initiate local administration properly so called, but the admitted unfitness of the community for independent action at present has made it necessary to keep the Local-Fund Boards in leading strings, and the question of their separate existence must be decided for them and not by them. I think a single circle will be the best arrangement for South Arcot.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
First Member of the Board of Revenue.

No. 71. From H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Local-Fund Boards, South Arcot District, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Tindevanam, 12th May 1873, No. 149.

At the request of Mr. Lister, Vice-President of the Virdachellum Circle, I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of Government, in connexion with the proposed amalgamation of the two Local-Fund Circles, copies of his letters dated 27th January and 8th instant, Nos. 13 and 75, respectively.

From A. L. LISTER, Esq., Vice-President of the Local-Fund Board, Virdachellam Circle, to H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Local-Fund Boards, South Arcot, dated 27th January 1873, No. 13.

With reference to your letter, No. 225, of the 13th December, I have the honour to send you copy of Resolution No. V. passed at the last meeting.

2. I may perhaps mention that one of the non-official members proposed that a demand should be made upon Government for 66 per cent. for the cost of a new bridge ; there is a strong feeling about the money the Board have already sunk on a bridge whose fate can hardly be considered an accident after the report of the Commissioners, "that it was doomed to destruction from the first by reason of its defective design"—a design which was approved by Government before the establishment of the Local-Fund Board.

3. I think it would be wise to let the question rest for a time.

4. Mr. DeCloset's letter is returned.

From A. L. LISTER, Esq., Vice-President of the Local-Fund Board, Virdachellam Circle, to H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Local-Fund Boards, South Arcot, dated Porto Novo, 8th May 1873, No. 75.

I have had the honour to receive Board's Proceedings, No. 609, of the 21st ultimo, and have learnt with regret and surprise that you think the question of building a new bridge over the Vellaur at Moottaloor was shelved for the present, because the proposal emanated from the Collector.

2. There was a most acrimonious discussion at the meeting, and in my letter covering the resolution which you think concise, but hardly satisfactory, I reported that one of the non-official members proposed that a demand should be made upon Government for 66 per cent. of the cost of a new bridge, and I submitted my opinion that it would be wise to let the question rest for a time; if the covering letter were read with the resolution, I thought the matter would be clear; but, as you did not understand me, I wish to state that the non-official members had a majority at the meeting, and were pressing hard for a resolution which would have reflected upon the Government officials who designed the bridge, concluding with an extravagant demand which I was sure Government could not accede to. I explained to the irritated members that they were not going the right way to work to secure a large allotment from Provincial Funds, and proposed the resolution you take exception to, and which you justly described as milk and watery to me; such is often the nature of compromises, but it is scarcely fair to submit the resolution without the covering letter explaining it.

3. As the matter is now before Government, I request you to submit a copy of this letter direct to the Chief Secretary, to be considered with the papers, and also a copy of my letter, No. 13, of the 27th January 1873, that Government may not fall into the error of believing that I—for I was the mover of the resolution—was actuated by any other motive than that which really influenced me. I trust it may be thought that, under the circumstances, the resolution was a wise one.

No. 72. ORDER THEREON, 7th June 1873, No. 803.

The Governor in Council is not at present prepared to entertain this proposal for amalgamating the two circles into which the South Arcot District has been sub-divided.

2. The difficulty in working the existing arrangement appears to be mainly due to the antagonistic policy which the Acting Sub-Collector has adopted as Vice-President of the Virdachellam Board, and the Governor in Council directs that Mr. Lister be informed that any continuance of factious opposition on his part will lead to his removal to another district.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of [illegible] 1873 [illegible]

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June, 7th.

Read.

G. O., 7th June 1873, No. 803.

Read.

JUNE.

Nos. 69—72.

Declining to entertain the proposal to amalgamate the Cuddalore and Virdachellum Circles.

No. 609.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st April 1873.

Read the following letters:—

From H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, South Arcot District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 6th December 1872, No. 215:—

I AM induced, by the enclosed application from the Deputy-Collector, in charge of the Treasury, for an additional Accountant to carry out a resolution formed some time back, to recommend the amalgamation of the two Local Fund Circles in this district, as has been done in Coimbatore. The complaint made by the Deputy-Collector, with reference to the increase of work which has accrued since the division of the district into circles, is echoed by the Public Works Department, and it entails upon myself double the amount of correspondence which would otherwise fall to me. Of course, these considerations would have to be put on one side, if the objects of the Act and the interests of the tax-payers could be better secured by the circle arrangement; but I do not think this is the case, especially in a small compact district like South Arcot; and, if one Local Fund Board suffices for Coimbatore which embraces an area nearly double in extent, I think it may fairly be argued that we have in this district an excess of administrative power which might, with advantage, be dispensed with. The district is too small to bear division, and in such a limited area, where the interests of the two circles are so closely identical, it is very difficult in the case of large works which will benefit both to apportion the charges fairly between them. I may mention, as an instance, the Vellaur bridge which will have to be re-built at a cost of about one lakh. It is in the Virdachellam Circle, and, of course, its benefit will be immediately felt by local residents; but it is equally certain that, by facilitating the means of communication with all parts of the district and the large centres of trade, its advantages will not be restricted to so limited an area. It is, so far as the district is concerned, an "Imperial" work, and the cost should be borne by the general funds; but to adjust the exact proportions payable by each circle under the present arrangement is a matter of no small difficulty, regarding which there is certain to arise a difference of opinion between the two Circle Boards. It is, moreover, almost an impossibility for the President to exercise a proper control over the two Boards; and, on matters affecting the interests of the whole district, it is not unfrequent for resolutions of a conflicting nature to be passed at the meeting of the respective circles. Two budgets have to be prepared which provide for the wants of the circles, without any regard to the general requirements of the district; and, where the limits of a Public Works range are not conterminous with those of a circle, the construction of a road may have to be arrested midway, because funds have not been provided for its continuance in the adjacent circle; or, if these are forthcoming, it is a matter of no small difficulty for the Range Officer to adjust the charges payable by each circle. I will not fill my paper by reciting in detail the difficulties which beset all concerned with the administration of the funds under the present arrangement, but will merely add that the District Engineer concurs with me in thinking that the objects in view

would be best attained by the fusion of the two Boards. Should the district be constituted one circle, it will be easy to arrange for the meetings to be held either at some central point, or at different parts of the district, so as to afford facilities of attendance to all members. In point of establishment, there will be a saving of about Rupees 35 per mensem, instead of an increased charge which must be incurred, if the present arrangement is continued.

2. Should the Board of Revenue be disposed to recommend to Government the proposal above made, I will submit a list of names of the members of the new Board, and would suggest that the fresh arrangement should come into force from the beginning of 1873-74.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Application from Deputy-Collector.

From the same officer, dated Gingee, 12th February 1873, No. 45.

As directed in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 10th January 1873, Miscellaneous No. 137, I have the honour to submit copy of a letter from the Vice-President of the Virdachellam Circle Board, conveying his views in regard to the proposed amalgamation of the two Local Boards.

2. Mr. Lister, in his natural and commendable jealousy for the interests of the Sub-division, has apparently lost sight of the fact that my proposal was not for the abolition of the Virdachellam Board, but for its amalgamation with the Cuddalore Board. Under such an arrangement, I utterly fail to see how the wants of that part of the district will be lost sight of, or what grounds Mr. Lister has for supposing that they will be set aside in favour of any other portion of South Arcot. The Sub-Collector would, of course, be a Member of the District Board, and so would the majority of the Members who now constitute the Circle Board; and I am quite certain that they would not be found wanting in bringing to notice and supporting, with no uncertain voice, the claims of those portions of the district in which they have a local interest, even if, as apparently is apprehended by the Sub-Collector, the President and District Engineer should conspire to strangle them. Why Mr. Lister should suppose that we take a greater interest in the well being of the northern part of the district than of the south is not very clear when it is remembered that the administration of the whole province falls within the scope of our duties. This being the case, it must, I think, be conceded that we are less open to the imputation of local partiality, because less exposed to the temptation to be partial than officers who have immediate charge of a limited area.

3. This brings me to the real point at issue. As a matter of justice, Local Funds must be expended for the benefit of those who contribute them; but it is obvious that this object would not be attained by returning to each village the amount of cess contributed by the ryots in the shape of so many yards of road in the immediate vicinity, whilst the main lines of communication were left untouched. It is equally clear that the only mode of giving the people at large a substantial return for the money contributed by them is by a systematic expenditure under which the requirements of particular localities would be subordinated to, but not superseded by the general wants of the district. Indeed, provision against the latter contingency is made in the Local Fund Rules; but the district must be administered as a whole. What benefits one part of it is indirectly advantageous to another, and as the construction of lines of communication connecting the great centres of trade and population is an essential preliminary to the formation of roads connecting the villages with such main lines, so must the cost of the latter be borne by the funds generally without carping or cavilling; because more is spent in one division than another. In some parts of a district, a road can be made for Rupees 500 a mile; in another, it will cost Rupees 5,000. If these localities happen to lie within the limits of different circles, the Local Board of that portion of the district, where road-making is costly, might not consider themselves justified in undertaking their portion of the work because of the expense; and thus the whole district would be deprived of a useful line of communication, the cost of which might have been easily met, had there been one common fund.

4. This is precisely the condition of South Arcot. In some parts of the district, road material is so abundant that little more is required than to mark out the trace; in other, and notably in the Chithumbram Taluq, not a stone is to be picked up, and the only material available is sand and clay. In the budget for 1873-74, the Virdachellam Circle Board have entered Rupees 11,550 for merely metalling four miles of road, and, as the material for every road in this taluq has to be brought from the north bank of the Vellaur, it will be a long time before the Local Board will be in a position to afford, at these rates, the facilities of communication to which this fertile and populous part of the district is entitled. But, with these facts before him, and whilst admitting that the Sub-division has the worst roads in the district, Mr. Lister protests vehemently, but not, I think, wisely, against a change which would go far to remedy the backward state of the southern part of the district.

5. I will not prolong this letter by discussing *seriatim* the Vice-President's arguments against the proposed amalgamation of the two circles. I have taken the liberty of noting my views briefly in the margin of his report. I would, however, ask the Board of Revenue to give their attention to the action taken by the Virdachellam Board in regard to the proposal to re-build the Vellaur bridge,—a work in which the whole district is interested, but which lies within the limits of the Virdachellam Circle. I forwarded to the Vice-President plans and estimates for the construction of either an iron arch or suspension bridge, and, in requesting him to submit the proposal for the consideration of the Circle Board, I intimated to him that, as the work was one which would prove of the greatest utility to the district at large, the Cuddalore Board would be prepared to contribute their quota. But the Virdachellam Board would have none of it, and, without assigning any reason, they disposed of the proposal in the following brief resolution:—

"The Board think it is not desirable for the present to build a new bridge over the Vellaur at Muttaloor."

This is concise, but is hardly satisfactory; and I own that it took me completely by surprise. I think, however, I see the clue to it in paragraph 12 of Mr. Lister's report. The proposal emanated from the Collector who, with the District Engineer, is supposed to trample upon "popular representation." The Virda-

chellam Board feared us, though we brought gifts in our hands and asserted their independence; but the bridge is lost to the district. I submit that the course followed by the Virdachellam Board in this matter is a strong argument in favour of my proposal to have one centre of administration for Local Funds in South Arcot.

6. I do myself the honour to enclose the opinion of the District Engineer on the subject. He has had many years' experience of the district, and it will be seen that he takes precisely the same view of the case that I do. The lines of water-communication to which he refers are most important, and will benefit both divisions of the district; but I do not see my way to carrying out the work under the present divided administration of Local Funds.

7. I do not think it necessary to notice some remarks in Mr. Lister's letter regarding the District Engineer and myself, which it would have been better if he had omitted; but with reference to the hostile position taken up by the Virdachellam Board to the Public Works Department, alluded to in the last paragraph of Mr. Norfor's letter, I feel bound to state that it has attracted my observation, and I have had occasion to draw the attention of the Vice-President to it.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of letter from Vice-President of Virdachellam Circle Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Copy of letter from District Engineer.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In the Board's opinion the fact that the Sub-Collector and the Local Board of this division are against the amalgamation must decide the question in the negative.

3. The system of dividing districts into circles has been so short a time at work that it should only be set aside on strong grounds shown, and where the Local Fund Boards of the Circles amalgamated concur in the propriety of the measure.

4. The First Member is not a party to these proceedings, and has recorded a Minute of dissent.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J Grose
Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department,
with three original Enclosures.
,, the President of the Local Fund Boards, South Arcot District.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

17

Financial Department.

1873.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

P.O. No. 803

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST APRIL 1873, No. 609.

Copy 24 April 73

Rec'd 29. - Encl. 3

Received

APRIL.

No. 609.

Local Fund Circles—of South Arcot District.—Proposal of Collector for amalgamation of the two circles of district into one, submitted for orders of Government, with expression of Board's opinion against the proposal.

No. 87. 19

From

The Deputy Collector
in Charge of Treasury
South Arcot

To The President
Local Fund Boards
South Arcot

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to your notice, the great difficulty experienced by me in getting ready, the monthly accounts of the two Local Fund Circles into which this District is divided with the aid of the single accountant at present allowed. The accountant has been employed since July 1869, and his entertainment was then sanctioned for the preparation of the Local Fund accounts of the District which used to be submitted to the

to the Revenue Board only; but since then, the account work in connection with the Local Funds has considerably increased, not only by the division of the District into two circles, and the consequent necessity of preparing all the accounts for each Circle separately, but also by addition to the number of accounts to be submitted; for, besides the accounts sent to the Revenue Board for each circle separately, the monthly Treasury accounts sent to the Accountant General and those required by para 69 of the Rules, to be laid before the monthly meetings, have to be prepared for each of the two circles.

2. While fully admitting that the account work in connection with the Local Funds in this District is more than one accountant can manage, the late President, in his letter to the Revenue Board dated 31st March last No. 187, suggested as a tentative measure, that the Cuddalore Circle Clerk may be employed on the account work also, and thus afford aid to the Local Fund accountant, but I beg to bring to your notice that this arrangement could not be carried out, and the Cuddalore circle (clerk?) ever since his entertainment, was for some months employed under the Assistant Collector Mr. Thomson, in the work connected with the formation of School Unions, and when relieved of this, he was ordered by you to work in the correspondence branch of the Local Fund Department, as such an arrangement was considered by you necessary for the efficiency of this branch.

3. A detailed memo of the work done in the account Department in connection with Local Funds, was submitted to the Revenue Board with the

Local Fund Office

No. 5. 27th January 1873.

From

A. L. Lister Esquire
Vice-President Local Fund Bd
Vridachellam Circle

To

H. E. Sullivan Esqr
President Local Fund Board
South Arcot.

Sir,

I have the honor to reply to your letter No. 10 of the 15th Instant covering a copy of your letter No. 215 of the 6th Ultimo to the address of the Secretary of the Board of Revenue with the Board's Proceedings thereon.

2. I am unable to concur in your view that it would be a good thing for the district to fuse the two Local Fund Boards into one; the clashing like Unanimity which would doubtless prevail at one Board seems to me to be a strong reason against the adoption of the proposal.

3. It is difficult for me to express an opinion

the President's letter above quoted. A reference to this will, I am convinced, satisfy you of the necessity for a 2d accountant. The salary originally suggested was Rs. 20, but as the last grade of accountants in the regular establishment receive 15 Rs. only, I consider that this will be enough for the 2d Local Fund accountant now applied for, but he can hope to be advanced to the 1st accountants' place the salary of which is Rs. 25, or even higher salaries in the account Department. I request, therefore, that you will be pleased to obtain sanction for the 2d accountant on the salary proposed for Local Fund accounts branch

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt servant
(signed) P. Varadachary
Deputy Collector

South Arcot
Collector's office
Cuddalore
30th November

(True copy)
H. E. Sullivan
President L.F.B.
South Arcot

True in letter No. 215.
H. E. S.
2/12

opinion on all your reasons, because I cannot well understand them. I had not the faintest idea that any conflicting resolutions had been passed at the meeting of the respective Circles, nor do I understand what may be called the account difficulty, for figures seem to me to be simple and tangible.

4. I am credibly informed that there are accountants and clerks in the office of the Treasury Deputy Collector who are busily employed from about the 25th of the month to the 9th or 10th of the following month, when they have little or nothing to do until the 25th comes round again. The heavy pressure of work for this fortnight necessitates the employment of a larger establishment than can be worked for the whole month; if the Local Fund accounts were taken up on the 10th of the month, and closed by the 20th, I believe no extra hands would be wanted in the Treasury office; but even if this plan is not feasible, I don't think a paltry sum of fifty or sixty Rupees a month should help in any way to determine whether the Vridachellam Local Fund Board should be abolished or not.

5. The Board decided at the last meeting that it is not advisable for the present to construct a new bridge over the Vellaur at Muttalore; but if a bridge is built there hereafter, I do not see why the Cuddalore Circle should contribute an anna towards the cost any more than it should contribute to the bridge over the Palar at Chinglepat from which it will reap far more advantage.

Except that the Villages in the Chingleput District and the Polam are not 485

6. There are three rivers between Chillambram and Cuddalore, of which two are bridged in the Cuddalore Circle, and if either of these bridges share the doom of the ill-fated bridge at Muttalore, the Cuddalore Circle will have to bear the cost

cost of its re construction; while the Circle arrangements continues, each circle is a Unit entitled to its own assets, and bound to provide for its own wants, and the Vrida-Chellam Circle could no more call upon the Cuddalore circle than upon the Negapatam Circle to contribute towards the Vellaur bridge; so it will be with all other extensive works; each Circle must get what it can out of Provincial Fund and pay the rest itself.

The result of the circle arrangement is that the whole district is deprived of the advantage of a bridge which could be constructed if there were no such petty sub-Division

7. But, under any circumstances, I cannot think that the possibility or even probability of one Public body having a difference of opinion with another public body is any reason for their fusion – which is in reality the abolition of the weaker, nor would the cause for difference of opinion be removed by it. This difference of opinion which you foresee would seem to strengthen my view that the interests of the two circles are not "closely identical" – far from it.

How can it strengthen

2/ What does a ryot in Tirukazoor care about the road from Mertkaumum to Pondicherry? If the Sub-Collector or any body else in the Sub Division had had any voice in the selection of works to be undertaken, would that road have been metalled at an enormous cost, while the road from Vridachellam to Porto Novo – the principal port of the District – was in such a state that bandies couldn't travel a mile an hour over it in wet weather?

Carry out the argument, and the funds raised in each village should be spent within its limits.

In argument in favour of amalgamation. Had there been one Board, provision could probably have been made for these roads

8 The Public works Rangers are now conterminous with the Circles with the exception of some ten or twelve miles of road; the upkeep of these could be arranged by the President, Vice President, and District Engineer in about five minutes, and this small difficulty does not demand the drastic remedy of the fusion of the Boards; for instance – the road from Bowmaghery to Thoringipudy is 9 miles

miles in length of which 6 are in this Circle; this short road should doubtless be under the care of one Range officer; the Cuddalore circle can contribute 300 Rs to our assets when the whole expenditure will be shown in the accounts of this Circle.

9. No intimation has been made to this Board that any road has been "arrested "midway, because funds have not been "provided for its continuance in the "adjacent circle"; but any difficulty of this kind can be avoided by the District Engineer ascertaining the views of both Circles before commencing any work which will run in both of them.

10 It must be remembered that the District Engineer had held that office for only ten or twelve days when he gave his opinion, and that he was also performing its duties in addition to the ordinary work of a Range Officer; while doing

doing the work of two men, Mr Norfor would naturally advocate any Scheme which would reduce it; and it would doubtless be easier for the District Engineer to have only one Board and to have only the President to consult about anything; but when a District Engineer joins the District, who will not be in charge of a Range, but who will merely have to do in one District the work which Superintending Engineers have hitherto done in two or three, he will have plenty of time to look to the wants of both Circles and attend the meetings of both Boards. And I don't think the Local Fund Boards which pay about half a lac for P.W. supervision need be afraid of working the District Engineer too hard.

11 A good deal of detail work is now done by the Vice President, which, if the circles are amalgamated, will have to be done either by the President or by the Treasury Deputy Collector

with the moneys raised in it by Local taxation; the President with his wider experience and maturer wisdom has the whole executive power and can guide the Board when it is in error, and check it when it is hasty; this seems to be the best possible arrangement; the President controls expenditure, and with the guarantees and securities with which Local Fund Boards are surrounded, there is no danger of any money being expended in a wasteful or harmful manner.

15. At the meeting on Saturday, the Board were unanimous in strongly deprecating their abolition, and they wished to record a resolution to that effect, but I told them that I was not at liberty to submit the question to them; it is my opinion that if you were to poll the Sub-division tomorrow there would be an almost unanimous vote among the tax payers against the amalgamation of the Boards.

16. In conclusion I must express my regret at being obliged to submit an opinion so entirely adverse to yours, and to differ with you on a subject on which you feel so strongly, but I have such a decided opinion that it will be a bad day for the Sub-division when the circles are joined, that I have felt bound to submit at length my objections to your proposal.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

(signed) A. L. Lister
Vice President

(True Copy)

A. Lister

President L. F. B. Dd.

This is a slight of Mr. Lister's writing in part.

The Vice President showed a want of discretion in submitting a subject which had been prepared for his personal opinion, at a public meeting of the Board in telling them that their abolition was talked of, & suggesting a resolution to the Local Boards to the abolition of circles is what is desired.

Collector or one of the Assistants at Head Quarters; in the former case, the President's work would be increased; in the latter, the Treasury Deputy Collector or an Assistant Collector might have more to do with detail arrangements in the Sub-division than the Sub-Collector.

12. It was decided after long reports, elaborate minutes, and full discussion, that a District was too large for a unit of Local Fund Administration; I think that decision was a wise one; if there is one circle for a District, the expenditure of funds will be determined as heretofore by the Collector and District Engineer. The Local Fund Board will meet to register the foregone conclusions, and all vestige of popular representation in the administration of Local Funds will be at an end; in the old arrangements the Sub-Division came off very badly in the distribution of funds, and now it has the worst road in the District.

3/ the amalgamated Board.

13. These roads have been improved this year, and the people believe the Local Fund Board has had something to do with the improvement; on all sides everybody objects to the amalgamation of the Boards for the same reason; viz. that everybody fears the Sub-division will come off badly in the future as it did in the past. The Vridachellam Board is fairly representative, it has the confidence to a great extent of the ryots, and it has undoubtedly done good to the Sub-division; then why abolish it?

It is not proposed that the Sub-Division shall not be represented. The members would become members of the District Board their influence & usefulness would be extended.

14. Unless the Collector has previously served in the District, it is impossible for him to be as well acquainted as the Sub-Collector is, with the wants and requirements of the Sub-division. The Board over which the Sub-Collector generally presides originates schemes for the improvement of the Sub-division with

District Engrs Office South Arcot.

No 67. Cuddalore, 7th February 1873.

From

R. E. Norton Esquire
Offg. District Engineer
South Arcot.

To

H. E. Sullivan Esquire
President L. F. Boards
South Arcot.

Sir,

As you are desirous of a record of my views as to the expediency of amalgamating the two Local Fund Circles of this District, I have no hesitation in saying that I have always considered the arrangement that now exists faulty in the extreme.

2. I have now before me the Vice President's letter to your address in which he expresses himself as adverse to your proposal to fuse the two Local Fund Boards into one, but the evidence he sets forward in support

Enclosure 1
Original letter from Vice President L.F.Bds to the President L.F.Bds South Arcot

Enc 1

From the Vice President L.F.Bds
To the President L.F.Bds
S. Arcot

Madras 27th January 1873

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to forward herewith for your information and record a copy of the Proceedings noted in the margin.

2. The Board desire that you will report whether you consider it advisable to amalgamate the two Local Fund Circles of the District, and if so, what steps should be taken to effect the amalgamation.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
(Signed) J. Pollen
Secy to Govt

Enclosure as
letter no 455
12th Feb. 1873

support of his views, are nearly in every case undeniable proofs of the urgent necessity that exists for a change in the present system.

3. Mr Lister points to the large estimate sanctioned for metalling the coast road from Pondicherry to Merkaumm, and complains that the important road from Vridachellam to Porto Novo is left in an impassable condition, and is of opinion that if the Sub Collector or any body else in the Sub Division had a voice in the matter, this would not have been. Surely, this is an argument in favor of amalgamation? had there been but one Board with the Sub Divisional Officers and members attached to it; the wants of the District as a whole could have been more comprehensively discussed, and a more judicious selection of works made.

4. In like manner had there been one Board it is doubtful whether the reconstruction of the Muttalore Bridge

wants.

1437

would have been indefinitely postponed. the question is not whether this or that Circle should contribute towards its cost, but the whole District is deprived of a crying want which has been felt for years, and in postponing the building of this Bridge, the Vridachellam Board are acting a very foolish part, in fact I may say cutting their own throats. All the insufferably bad roads in the Chillam-bram Taluq lie to the South of the Vellaur, and the Board are I believe desirous of gravelling and otherwise rendering them good wet weather lines of communication; the road material for effecting this change is all on the North of the Vellaur; the want of a bridge therefore will greatly enhance the already fearfully high rates for gravel and laterite.

5. The opening out of the Old East Coast Canal would also greatly facilitate the carriage of materials,

and

and reduce the cost of metal to a minimum.

6 The Khan Saib Canal which is now very little used owing to its very imperfect condition might also be the means of conveying material into the heart of the Chellumbram Taluq at a far less cost than it is possible to do it now.

7 It is absurd to ask what a ryot at Sittagudy cares about a road at Vurhanum. the truth is he cares as little about a road in Chellcambram which he is just as unlikely to see in the course of his life time; he is as uninterested and indifferent to the one as to the other unless the Sub Collector has the spare time to sit down and explain the matter to him. If this argument is to hold good, the funds raised in each village should be spent within its limits.

8

8. I am opposed to the arrangements proposed in para 8 of Mr. Liston's letter; when this road which does not at present exist except in name is made, it will be better to leave the two Range officers to deal with it so far as it lies in the limits of their respective Ranges; the Perumal Taulk bank is a very well defined boundary and there need be no confusion in accounts. but as I said this road has never yet been made it will be an expensive line, but one that will be exceedingly useful.

9. I think I may in passing mention here what I view with regret one cannot read the Proceedings of the Vridachellam Circle Board without observing the very hostile position the Board have taken up towards the Public Works Department. I will say nothing about Mr. Liston's impolitic speech in the conclusion of

of para 10 of his letter, since I have not complained of being too hard worked, nor do I fear that I shall succumb under it, but it goes far to show, that the ruling spirit in the Vridachellam Circle is in a great measure to blame for the general discontent that now prevails among the members of the Department in that Circle.

I have &c.

Signed R. E. Morfee

Offg District Engineer.

True Copy

A Lucas

President L. F. Bd

Encl. No. 2 to letter dated 24th Feb 1875 from the Offg Secy to Govt Public Works Dept

To the President L. F. Bd

Dated 7th February 1875

No. 67

Rec'd

Forwards his opinion as former proceedings

Statistics of the 2 Official Tank Circles of the District.

A. Phillips 30/3/75

Rec'd 2/4/75

16 (1)

Revenue Board Office,
Madras,
Dated 6th May 1873.

70

No. 609.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

As requested in Memorandum dated 30th April 1873, No. 147, the undersigned has the honor to forward to the Under Secretary to Government Financial Department, the minute of the First Member of the Board of Revenue dissenting from the views expressed in Board's Proceedings 21st April 1873, No. 609.

(By Order)

J. Grole
Secretary

For the Under Secretary to Government
Financial Department
with Copy of Minute.

N. D. W. Locker
Esqr Clerk appointed

Minute of the 18th Member of the
Board of Revenue referred to in
para 4 of Board's Proceedings dated
21st April 1873. No. 609.

Mr. Lister rests his defence
of the existing arrangement on two
arguments which are obviously
without foundation. He supposes
the abolition of the Board which
represents the Sub Division, the
truth being that it is merely
proposed to amalgamate it with
the District Board; and secondly
he concludes that an unequal
and inequitable distribution of
money will result from the ad-
ministration of the affairs of the
entire District by a Board located
at head quarters; there is just
as little reality in this objection as
in the other, the distribution of
funds in order to confer general
benefit, cannot be limited so as
to spend in each Village the
amount collected there, and the
very opportune example afforded
by the refusal of the Sub Division
Board to undertake a bridge
in

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

From

The Sub-Secretary to the
Board of Revenue,

To

The Collector of
Tanjore.

S. O. No. 803

Dated 6-7 1873
Received 7 1873

No. 609.

Forwarding minute
of Board dated 18th inst:
"Sanctioning annual Contra
-ction of the two Local
Fund Circles of South
Arcot &c."

1873
Financial Dept.

in which the District at large is deeply interested, shews the narrow "sectarian" view which the Boards of the smaller Circles are only too likely to adopt on such occasions. Mr. Lister has rather lost himself; he ascribes personal and antagonistic views of the interests of the Sub Division both to the Collector and the District Engineer and he seems to have invoked the sympathy of the Local Board on a question which cannot possibly be decided with any reference to their personal feeling and of which they have not been correctly informed by their Vice President.

These Local institutions are intended to initiate local administration properly so called, but the admitted unfitness of the community for independent action at present has made it necessary to keep the Local Fund Boards in leading strings and the question of their separate existence must be decided for them and not by them. I think a single Circle will be the best arrangement for South East.—

[signed] G. S. Forbes
Mbr & Member of the
Board of Revenue

(True Copy)

J Grote
Secretary

SOUTH ARCOT.

LOCAL FUND OFFICE,

No. 149

12th May 1873.
Camp: Tindivanam.

49

71

49

From H. E. Sullivan Esquire
President Local Fund Boards,
South Arcot District.

To The Honorable W. Huddleston
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

At the request of Mr. Listei
Vice-President of the Virdachellam Circle,
I have the honor to forward for the
consideration of Government in-
connection with the proposed amalga-
-mation of the two Local Fund Circles
copies of his letters dated 27th January and
8th Instant Nos. 13 & 75 respectively.

I have the honor to be
sir
Your most obed't Servant
H Sullivan
President L. F. Bd.

Enclosure in Office Letter
from the Secretary to the
Board of Revenue S. P. C.
Endr. Secretary to Govern-
ment F.D. dated 24
May 1873, No. 609. -

Copy of Minute of
Fort St. George
Board of Revenue dated
from Drawn by Thread
in Bound Proceedings
dated 21st April 1873,
No 609. -

Fair Copy
1/5

Local Fund Office

No 13. 27th January 1873

From

A. L. Lister Esquire
Vice-President, Local Fund Bd
Vridachellam Circle

To

H. E. Sullivan Esquire
President Local Fund Board
South Arcot

Sir,

With reference to your letter No 225 of the 13th December, I have the honour to send you Copy of Resolution No I passed at the last meeting.

I may perhaps mention that one of the non-official members proposed that a demand should be made upon Government for 66 per cent for the cost of a new bridge; there is a strong feeling about the money the Board have already sunk on a bridge whose fate can hardly be considered an accidrat after the report of the Commissioner "that it was doomed to destruction from the

Forwarding copies of Resolutions passed at the Vice-Presidents Meeting held on the 27th January 1873.

(1873.)

LOCAL FUND DEPARTMENT

SOUTH ARCOT.

From

The President,
Local Fund Boards,
South Arcot District.

S.O. No. 803.

To the Chief Secretary to Government Fort St George

Dated 12th May 1873.

Received 13th May 1873.

Enclosures 2

No. 149.

Subject.

Forwarding copies of 2 letters from the Vice-Presidents of the Vridachellam circle for the consideration of Government in connection with the proposed grant of a certain sum for the Local Fund circles of the District.

"the first by reason of its defective design" – a design which was approved by Government before the establishment of the Local Fund Board.

I think it would be well to let the question rest for a time.

Mr De Clouets letter is returned.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servant
(signed) A. D. Lister
Vice-President

(True Copy)
[illegible]
President L. F. Bds

Rec'd 6/10/73

Vridachellam Circle.

Local Fund Office
Porto Novo. 8th May 1873.

No. 75

From.

A. D. Lister. Esquire
Vice-President of Local Fund Bd
Vridachellam circle.

To

H. E. Sullivan Esquire
President Local Fund Board
South Arcot

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive Board's Proceedings No. 609 of the 21st ult. and surprise that you think the question of building a new bridge over the Vellaur at Moottaloor was shelved for the present, because the proposal emanated from the Collector.

2. There was a most acrimonious discussion at the meeting, and in my letter covering the resolution which you think concise, but hardly satisfactory, I reported that one of the non-official members proposed that a demand should be made upon the Government

Government for 66 per cent of the Cost of a new bridge, and I submitted my opinion that it would be wise to let the question rest for a time; if the covering letter were read with the Resolution, I thought the matter would be clear; but as you did not understand me, I wish to state that the non-official members had a majority at the meeting, and were pressing hard for a resolution which would have reflected upon the Government officials who designed the bridge, concluding with an extravagant demand which I was sure Government could not accede to; I explained to the irritated members that they were not going the right way to work to secure a large allotment from Provincial Funds, and proposed the resolution you take exception to, and which you justly described as milk and water to me; such is often the nature of compromises, but it is scarcely fair to

to submit the resolution without the covering letter explaining it.

3. As the matter is now before Government I request you to submit a copy of this letter direct to the Chief Secretary to be considered with the papers, and also a copy of my letter No. 13 of the 27th January 1873, that Government may not fall into the error of believing that I for I was the mover of the Resolution - was actuated by any other motive than that which really influenced me; I trust it may be thought that under the circumstances, the resolution was a wise one.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. L. Listed
Vice-President

(True Copy)

H. Saccione
President L.F. Bd.

57

D. D. with forms
to Assist.s of South
River.

Circulated w. H. to
B.D. Fr. of 21. April 75
on presents &
Amendments to the
L. F. Circles &
S. A.

Indorsp. after circul.n
6.6.75.

Finance Department.

2 12

Cuddalore
April 28. 1873.

59

My dear Anderson.

Forgive me for troubling you again. When at Madras I mentioned to you that I & the District Engineer were of opinion that it was desirable that there should be one Local Fund Board in South Arcot instead of having two centres of administration as at present. Sent the matter up & the

Board of Rev: in Bombay
& your Hon: petitioned
his Excellency in February
and I now see that
his petition has been
referred for the orders
of Govt with the Board's
Proceedings of 21st inst:
to Govt - The Board see
how mortified they feel
: post and I submit
that the terms in which
they have done so are
most unprecedented and
calculated to weaken

My authority as head
of the District - put at a
time when it requires
support - the Board of
Rev: do not condescend
to discuss the arguments
for or against the mea:
: sure but record an opinion
(the first member dissenting)
that the bar: part of the
Sub Collector and the Local
Board being opposed to
the proposition is sufficient
to negative a proposition
supported by the Collector
& District Engineer and
backed Mamlatdar by very
strong arguments. The
strong ne is put as if

Local Board is the Sub Collector - What gives him credit for great zeal he is rather inclined to kick over the traces and set up an empire in the Sub Division which I am not content should be so long as the interests of the District generally are not thereby prejudiced. Dizzd - Mr Sub has taken up an attitude now in regard to the Pub. Works Dept which is much to be deprecated but as he does it from behind the bulwark of his board

2

Sca't keep him in order as I could do if he was only Sub Collector I cannot be always on the Sub Division and he knows entirely controls the Local Board at Viroda: Chellum and at the last meeting I was present at he opposed me in a manner which was not seemly considering our relative positions If the Rev: Board's views are adopted without comment by the Govt I shall have up control thereover

...ne is put all the

the Virginia Central Road
At their last meeting
they passed a resolution
that not being satisfied
with the Govt. Commissioners
enquiring into the causes
of the fall of the Valley
Bridge the Govt should be invited
to place at their disposal
all accounts & papers
connected therewith
in order that they might
take up the enquiry them-
selves. This would be
Justice done - although

he was not at the meeting
he drew up the resolution
& gave it to one of the Natural
Members to propose &
of course it was carried

I can dictate four or
five words but I can't
cough, but I can't
dictate his separate
pieces at one time
so give me a distinct
Bond with the Distinct
Engineer as Vice Presi:
dent & Engineer

D. L. Suckley

[illegible] is put all the

Financial Department.

No. 962 & 861

Proceedings of the Bd. of Revenue.

From Offg. Secy: from the Secy: to the Bd. of Revt.

Dated 21st & 26th May 1873.

FOR ORDERS.

When the arrangements requisite for fixing a Rent to the new Local Funds Act were discussed, I strongly urged the extreme necessity of having only one Board in each District at the outset - and of subsequently having several Boards, when things had been brought into order & the Rents be understood what we were after - I was however outvoted. But what has easily practicable then is not so now. There is just ale the

difference between not doing & undoing.

As the matter stands I am averse to any change in S. Aust. Where any thing like proportional representation is conceded to a community - however small the community or however small the concession may be - it will. Branch is sure to be unsatisfactory. and a standing cause of difficulty. and the mixture of the with Branch misunderstood - there is hope Es-pecially the case where two a two & the Expenditure of two states are kept up with the Quarters. There ought, I think, to be strong grounds to induce the Govt. to undo what has so recently been done - The Colr. calls it "amalgamation" of Boards - but to the public - to non-officials - it is really abrogation & abolition of the Minor Board. If such there is some Retrenchment & better by having two Boards - but there was Economy when two Boards were obtained - and it was considered that other arrangements could be made - for S. Aust. the real difficulty, as far as I can see, lies in the Govr Mr Fisher - who has been put out of sympathy with our Policy. I should take him plainly that if he

indulges in this
style of thing. he
will be trans-
ferred to another
Dr. District. And
then I have his
Bill in addition, who
is so unwilling.

The object of
the Act is to try & un-
derstand the public to
take an interest
in their local concerns
& to train them. Each Ches
& Dist: Engr. must be
fair to submit to those
Extra work & trouble.

C12/5 R2/5. L.O.L.

I am sharply shewed
to amalgamation - It
is difficult enough to elicit
opinions from Natives - but
a single Board for a district
would be ignorant &
unpopular. The people at
a distance from head quarters
would not believe in
representation

WH

The evils which must attend a too minute
subdivision of districts, for the purposes
of the Local Funds Act, are obvious enough -
The more restricted the area, the more
possible it is that the interests of the
community will be identical, and the
more scarcely the consequence of ill
will of divided authority and
conflicting jurisdiction - Within certain
geographical limits the interests of the
population will be the most
part the same: and unity of administration

business of importance, both for the sake of
efficiency, and in order that taxation and
the benefits derived from it may be
coincident.

It would appear from these papers
that the district of South Arcot is so
exceptionally limited that its sub-division
were injudicious; and though I agree
with Mr Sim that it is one thing not
to subdivide & opposite another to
"amalgamate", I should be inclined to
agree to the Collector's proposal, as very
few cities are of Coimbatore. The civil

of two amounts subdivisions cannot be
found in India; where local institutions
are a novelty, there they will be in
more advanced countries. The Board
of Revenue puris no valid reason for it
opinion.

Ootacamund May 26/73

23

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ papers

Proc: of the Board of Revt dy 21st April 73, N°609.
Memo: from the Board of Revt — " 6 May 73 — " 609
Letter from the Revt C.J.B.B.S. dated — 12 " " 890.

Order thereon. Ootacamund 7 June 1873. No 803

The Governor in Council is not at present prepared to entertain this proposal for amalgamating the two Circles into which the South Arcot District has been sub-divided.

2. The difficulty in working the existing arrangement appears to be mainly due to the antagonistic policy which the

the Acting Sub Collector has adopted as Vice President of the Vizagapatam Board, and the Governor in Council directs that Mr Lister be informed that any continuance of ~~this~~ ~~opposition~~ opposition on his part, will lead to his removal to another District.

To

The Board of Revenue

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Board of Revenue.

Dated June 7. } 1873, No. 803
Recd.

Nos. 69. 72.

Declining to entertain the pro-
-posal to amalgamate the
Cuddalore & Verdachellum
Circles.