M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-5-37.

(1) Number of pages 1-11

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	804	Press ~~Mis.~~
73-74.		
Dated	7-6-	1873.

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 73. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th May 1873, No. 733 :—

Read the following letters :—

From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Officiating President of the Local-Fund Board, Tanjore District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 21st January 1873, No. 17.

In their Notification of the 4th October 1872, the Government were pleased to direct that the two Local Fund Boards in the Coimbatore District should be amalgamated into one, and after much and careful consideration I now venture to submit whether the time has not arrived when a similar arrangement ought to be carried out in the Tanjore District.

2. The district of Coimbatore comprises an extent of nearly 8,000 square miles (7,991), while that of Tanjore contains considerably less than 4,000 (3,735), or less than half of the area of the former; like Coimbatore it has a Railway traversing its entire length, but dividing the district into northern and southern divisions, and with the exception of the small village of Needamungalum (and which is the real centre of the district), it cannot be denied but that Tanjore, and which is the principal town and head quarters of the Collectorate, is most accessible and convenient, as the Board are aware it can be reached from Negapatam itself in less than three hours.

3. The reasons which led to the district being divided into two Local Fund Circles would seem to have been chiefly that Tanjore was already divided into two Judicial Zillahs, and that such an arrangement would prove to be a convenient one; but in practice I would submit that the arrangement has not proved a success, and that the disadvantages of having two Boards, two sets of budgets, and two sets of periodical returns and reports, and in fact every general measure having to be considered, and to pass through the established routine twice over, are too apparent as to require any further remark. I would also beg to point out that, practically, the greater part of the labour is thrown on this office, and for all only the President is held responsible.

4. As regards the Negapatam Local Fund Circle, I would take leave to observe that since its establishment sixteen meetings have been held, attended by eighty-three members, which gives an average attendance of about five and a quarter members at each meeting. Of the total of eighty-three members, forty comprises the attendance of official members, and deducting these the number of non-official members is only forty-three, or an average of considerably less than three per meeting. If, however, from this last number, the attendance of two members, one being at Negapatam and one close to it, be deducted, the attendance of non-official members would only average about one and a half.

5. As regards the attendance of official members at Negapatam, I would beg also to state that I myself was only able to attend one meeting, the Head Assistant likewise only one, and the Superintending Engineer five, and I have the authority of Major Hasted, as well as of the Officiating District Engineer and of all the Covenanted Officers now serving in the district, to state that it is their unanimous opinion that the objects for which these Boards were established would be far better attained by the amalgamation of the two into one central one

to meet at Tanjore; to this might be added the names of all the gentlemen now constituting the Negapatam Board.

6. I trust the Board of Revenue will support the recommendation I have now the honour to make, and that sanction may be obtained for its taking effect from the beginning of the official year 1873-74.

From the same Officer, dated Tanjore, 21st March 1873, No. 99.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, under date 5th February 1873, No. 131, I have the honour to forward, herewith, a letter from the Vice-President of the Local Fund Board of the Negapatam Circle, together with its enclosures, from which it will be seen that the Board, as now constituted, deprecates the amalgamation of the two circles.

2. I am, however, unable to see any force in the arguments adduced by the Board against the proposed measure, as I based my recommendation, not on the ground that the securing of local representation in as great a degree as possible was not an object to be aimed at, but on the grounds that, in the present circumstances of the district, the expectations entertained as to the good results likely to accrue from it have not been realized, while the inconveniences of having two Boards are patent.

3. The Board will observe that Mr. Stokes, who has had great experience in the working of the Local Fund Board, agrees with me in this opinion, and that the gentleman whose views have now been adopted by the majority of the Board has never yet taken any part in the proceedings of such a body nor attended a single meeting. I also fail to see that the requirements of the Sheally and Mayaveram Taluqs are so great as represented, and, as the Board are fully aware, as regards communications, they have permanently their full share of the annual allotments.

From H. J. STOKES, Esq., Vice-President of the Local-Fund Board, Negapatam Circle, to the President of the Local Fund Boards, Tanjore District, dated Negapatam, 15th March 1873, No. 34.

In reply to your letter, No. 31, dated February 1873, I have the honour to inform you that the following resolution on the subject of the amalgamation of the Tanjore and Negapatam Circles was passed yesterday* by the Board:—

* 10th March 1873.

"Resolved that, in the opinion of this Board, the proposed amalgamation is unadvisable. The Board adhere to the principle of local representation, and believe that it is for the interests of the circle which they represent that they should continue to exist as a separate body."

2. I enclose a copy of a letter from the Acting Head Assistant, which was laid before the meeting, and fairly expresses the views which each member took of the question.

3. For my own part I was in favour of amalgamation, and endeavoured to make my opinion prevail. But the members had fully made up their minds and were not to be shaken.

4. It must be confessed that there is a good deal to be said on their side of the question. At the same time I hardly think that the security afforded of having a certain amount of the funds expended in this circle, and of not being starved to feed the Tanjore Circle, is worth the trouble and delay in the transaction of business necessitated by having two Circles and two Offices. Of this the members are not so conscious as the officers who are concerned in the administration of the fund.

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

From C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Tanjore, to H. J. STOKES, Esq., Vice-President of the Local-Fund Board, Negapatam Circle, dated Mayaveram, 6th March 1873, No. 52.

I regret that I shall be unable to attend the meeting of the Local-Fund Board at Negapatam on the 10th instant, but I request that this letter may be laid before the Board. I observe that one of the propositions for discussion is the union of the Tanjore and Negapatam Local-Fund Boards, and against that union I beg, in behalf of the taluqs of Mayaveram and Sheally, to protest. The result can be nothing but the diversion of a part of the very small available funds of this part of the district to the part of the district lying next Tanjore, and to Tanjore itself. Inconvenient as it is to the members of the Board residing near Mayaveram to attend meetings at Negapatam, it will be doubly inconvenient for them to go to Tanjore, and the result of their absence will be of infinitely greater consequence; for, instead of the expenditure of the local allotment being, as now, according to the wishes of the Negapatam Board and so at least on projects somewhat near to home, the risk of the disposal of the whole allotment falling altogether into the hands of Tanjore members of the Board from their being always in the majority at meetings becomes very great. And what will be the probable consequence of the funds being managed by the Tanjore members? The answer is that the consequence will be the same as has ensued in every known case of the disposal of funds by Board; proposals will be received in greater numbers from persons near at hand for an allotment of funds, and larger funds will be allotted to the neighbourhood of the place of meeting than to any other part of the district; this will leave a smaller sum available for the remoter parts, and the difficulty of squeezing out the funds will be increased in proportion to the distance. These eastern taluqs are in places lamentably off for communications, and a system ought at once to be devised for improving them in this respect, and I hope before long to lay such a system before the Board for their approval as far as regards my own taluqs; but if our funds are to be rendered more difficult of access, I utterly despair of doing anything. We have numbers of bridges to build before we can render the direct road across country in any one direction accessible even to foot-passengers for the entire year, and these bridges will require constant allotments, and are we likely to squeeze allotment after allotment out of a Board meeting at Tanjore? I think not, and beg the earnest consideration of the meeting to the question before they relinquish the great right of standing alone and consent to a union of which, when once accomplished, there will be no repeal.

The Collector's proposal to amalgamate the Tanjore and Negapatam Circles will be submitted for the orders of Government, but the Board cannot support it.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 74. Order thereon, 7th June 1873, No. 804.

The Governor in Council is not at present prepared to entertain this proposal.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secretary,
for *Chief Secretary.*

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Wright.

Financial Department. 5
9

CEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

5V

Financial DEPARTMENT.

No. 868.

Proc. of the Board of Revenue.

~~From~~

Dated 7 May 1873.

FOR ORDERS.

Nayakatana is to easily ac
cessible by rail from Tanjore
that amalgamation does not
seem to be either necessary
or expedient.

I D.S.

Govt. of [illegible] 1873.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June, 7th.

Read.

G. O., 7th June 1873, No. 804.

JUNE.

Nos. 73-74.

Declining to sanction the proposed amalgamation of the Tanjore and Negapatam Circles.

7V

proceedings in the case of Coimbatore.
And it will therefore be necessary to decide
upon some principle of action. I shd be
inclined to think that the Districts
have been too much subdivided, and
that we shd not be wrong in opposing
the "amalgamation" scheme proposed, within
certain limits of geographical area.
I do not know whether per se there would
be any objection to an exceptional case
in favour of uniting Tinnevelly & Tuticorin

Mr. Chas 20/73

I am opposed to amalgamation as hostile to
any thing like real representative institutions. If the
scheme of Local Boards is to be worked
seriously - the circles should be of moderate
size - where local wants will be made
known by the Boards. Collectors would
allike be on Boards - & still better

None

PR.

Proposal to analyse
-Make the Tanjore &
Negapatam L.Z.

For Orders

C No 5
A 2/16/73.

Financial Department. 5
9

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ P.C.

of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th May 1873, N. 783.

Order thereon. Adarcanund.
7 June 1873. No 804

The Governor-in-Council
is not at present prepared
to entertain this proposal.

D.S.
D.S.C.

To
The Board of Revenue

32 Lto

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Board of Revenue.

Dated June 7. }
Recd. } 1873, No. 804.

Nos. 73. 74.

Declining to sanction the proposed amalgation of the Tanjore & Rezapatam Circles.