M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 18

(2) Date of repair 5-7-40

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1544 Press Mis.

112-113

Dated 11-9 1874.

9/10

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 112. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th May 1874, No. 1136:—

Read the following letter from F. PRICE, Esq., Acting President of the Local Fund Boards, Salem District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Senkerry Droog, 28th March 1874, No. 331:—

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the consideration and orders of the Board of Revenue, an extract from the Proceedings passed at a special meeting of the Oossoor Local Fund Board, held on the 3rd instant.

2. The proposals which this contains are two-fold, viz:—

(1.) That the whole of the roads now in charge of the Department of Public Works should be transferred to "Other Agency."

(2.) That the grant from Provincial Funds should be increased from Rupees 11,000 to Rupees 20,000.

3. The Acting Vice-President explains that the reason why these two propositions have been sent up together is that they are the result of one consultation upon one set of papers.

4. As regards the transfer proposed by the Local Fund Board, I would observe that it meets with my approval. The manner in which the Department of Public Works has carried out the road repairs entrusted to them was a matter for a constant complaint when I was Sub-Collector; and my successor has frequently found fault with it. I have not visited the Sub-division (beyond going to Oossoor for the Christmas holidays when I made no inspection of roads) since July last; and I am, therefore, unable to say whether the Executive Agent of the Range has made any improvement in the state of things, which, when I left, was decidedly indifferent. Mr. Wilkinson, however, has moved about a good deal, and his verdict is unfavorable. The feeling of the Local Fund Board also is certainly for the change; and I would recommend, therefore, that it should be made. I have had the superintendence of a great deal of work in the way of restoring and repairing roads during the last seven years, and have had full opportunity of comparing the results produced by Revenue Officers with those of the Department Public Works. I honestly believe that the former are better and cheaper than the latter.

It will be observed from the Acting Vice-President's covering letter, a copy of which I enclose, that by the transfer proposed, a saving of Rupees 3,580, in the item of supervision, will be effected.

5. I consider it necessary to lay before the Board of Revenue copies of the protest of the Executive Agent, Oossoor Range, and the covering letter of the District Engineer. I cannot agree with Major Hunter. The road from Kristnagherry to Samulpatti, which was formerly in my charge, has no heavy traffic on it. I consider myself, in virtue of my long experience of the Sub-division, capable of forming a more correct opinion upon the subject than either the District Engineer or Mr. West. So also with the roads from Oossoor to Malloor, and from Dharampuri to Morapúr, which have the same allotment as the road from Oossoor to Denkanikottah on which there is very much more traffic. It is true that the number of carts passing over the Great Western Road, and those from Burgoor to

Mullapadi and Oossoor to Adamancottah, is considerable; but of these the first two were originally constructed at a large expense; they are well-bottomed and metalled throughout; they have ceased to be, what they formerly were, the only highways to the Mysore country available in this district, and there is now no longer any necessity for expending for their up-keep the large amounts which were required when every passenger to and from Madras to Bangalore, and every thing that went to the rail from Mysore or *vice versa*, passed over them. As regards the Oossoor and Adamancottah Road, I can only remark that as Sub-Collector I received it from the Department Public Works in villainously bad order, and that I found that when a piece of road had once been put in order, Rupees 100 per mile were quite sufficient to keep it in repair.

6. The remark of the District Engineer in paragraph 2 of his letter being so evidently made under a misapprehension, both of the facts of the case and of the Local Fund Rules, calls for no remark from me.

7. I now turn to the second portion of the resolution of the Local Fund Board.

8. They point out that at least Rupees 20,000 a-year have to be provided for the five roads which they wish transferred from the care of the Department of Public Works, and they urge that they have incurred a considerable outlay for the purpose of completing the bridging of the road from Oossoor to Malloor which, they remark, is of much importance and convenience to the Remount Depôt. The Vice-President also calls attention to the fact that the allotment for Trunk Roads Nos. 1 and 5 alone, and which the Department Public Works authorities consider too low, is Rupees 10,620 per annum, or only Rupees 390 short of the whole allotment for the Circle from Provincial Funds.

They urge, and I think with good reason, that having reduced the allotments for roads to the lowest possible limits, and having been deprived of authority to levy taxes for educational purposes, they must either postpone educational arrangements, or else have additional help from Government.

9. Their remark regarding the illegality of the appropriation of Rupees 1,500 made at my suggestion is incorrect. If the Board had considered my view improper, they were at full liberty to reject it, but it was not so; for, when I wrote, they had, after making all their appropriations for Education, Medical charges, etc., still Rupees 3,000 at credit under "General Funds," and could consequently devote a portion of it to roads.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Extract from Proceedings passed at a Special Meeting of Oossoor Local Fund Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From F. WILKINSON, Esq., Acting Vice-President, Local Fund Board, Oossoor Circle, to F. PRICE, Esq., Acting President, Local Fund Boards, Salem Circle, dated 4th March 1874, No. 232.

I HAVE the honor to forward, herewith, an extract from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Oossoor Circle, dated the 3rd instant. I have sent the two resolutions together, as they were the result of one consultation on one set of papers.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
11*th September* 1874.

2. The meeting at which these resolutions were passed was called to consider the present state of the finances of the Circle, which are not, it is to be regretted, in a flourishing state.

3. It appears that in 1872-73, the Road Fund Expenditure exceeded the Road Fund Receipts by Rupees 11,284. The collections on account of Road Fund did not nearly realize the estimated amount, whereas the expenditure went on, as if the receipts would reach the figure put down in the budget.

4. At the same time, the Circle Board, then in its infancy, undertook to build a bridge on the Oossoor Malloor at an expenditure of Rs. 9,620. This amount has now been increased to Rs. 11,000, and in consequence of the Supplemental Budget for this year having been returned for revision after the Budget for 1874-75 (in which no provision for this and another new work was made) had been submitted, the Board now find that they have to provide Rupees 5,459 during the ensuing year.

5. At the same time, the allotment on existing roads has been considerably reduced (from Rupees 37,200 in 1873-74 to Rupees 30,870 in 1874-75) in order to allow of the introduction of an improved system of elementary education, the Circle being at present extremely backward in this respect.

6. One of the ways in which the Local Fund expenditure might be reduced, which suggested itself to the Members of the Board, is by transferring the repairs of all existing roads from the Department Public Works to Other Agency. The Board have, at present, to pay Rupees 5,290 towards the cost of Department of Public Works Establishments, and considering that the value of the work to be executed by the Department Public Works in 1874-75 is only about Rs. 20,000, the Board were unanimous in considering that the amount to be paid was out of all proportion to the amount of work to be done. By the repair of the two Trunk Roads, and the three Railway Feeders being handed over to Other Agency, a saving of Rupees 3,580 will be effected, and there is little fear that the roads will suffer. In fact, the Board anticipated the best results from the change. The worst roads in the Circle at present are the Great Western Road and the road from Oossoor to Adamancottah. The Executive Agent complains that the mileage is inadequate, and at the Local Fund Board's Meeting in September last, when the budget was discussed, expressed his willingness to make over the repairs to Other Agency. I am therefore directed by the Board to express their hope that you will submit their first proposal to Government with a strong expression of your approval.

7. With reference to the second resolution, I am to point out, for the consideration of Government, that the Great Western Road and the road from Oossoor to Adamancottah are old Trunk Roads, and were, until the introduction of Local Fund Boards, maintained by Government from Imperial Funds. I am also to point out that the annual allotment for the Great Western Road amounts to Rupees 10,620, which is only Rupees 388 short of the whole Provincial Grant; that the total grant for the two Trunk Roads and three Railway Feeders, which were originally considered Imperial Works, amounts to Rupees 18,070, and that on other purely Local Fund roads, the Board have to provide for an annual expenditure of Rupees 12,800.

So that the total yearly allotment for maintenance of roads reaches the large sum of Rupees 30,870 (notwithstanding that the mileage has been reduced to the lowest possible figure). Towards this, Government contribute only 11,000, leaving the Local Funds to bear a little less than two-thirds. You will observe that the maintenance allotment for the Trunk Roads and Railway Feeders is far more than that for the other nineteen Local Fund roads.

8. I am also to point out that the Local Fund Board have undertaken the erection of a bridge over a dangerous stream on the Oossoor Malloor Road. This road is little more than a Railway Feeder, and its importance to the Remount Depôt, a Government Institution, it is unnecessary for me to comment on.

The Board consider, therefore, they are fairly entitled to some assistance from Government on this score.

9. Moreover, as suggested by you in your letter No. 662, dated 31st October 1873, the Circle Board have appropriated Rupees 1,500 from the one-third road-cess in 1874-75 for the up-keep of roads. This is directly opposed to paragraph 8 of the Proceedings of Government in the Financial Department, dated 28th March last, No. 426, but the Board had no alternative.

10. I proposed to the Board to postpone the introduction of the educational scheme for which provision has been made in the Budget for 1874-75, and to expend the Rupees 7,150 so provided in completing the two incomplete new works. This proposal did not meet with the approval of the Board, who were of opinion that Government having taken away from Local Fund Boards the power of levying the house-tax (which was especially intended as an educational tax) were in a manner bound to assist Local Fund Boards in carrying out an improved scheme of education. Should Government, however, decline to increase our Provincial Grant, there will be no alternative but to postpone the improvement of elementary education for another year.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Acting Vice-President.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Major J. N. HUNTER, R. E., District Engineer, Salem, to F. PRICE, Esq., Acting President, Local Fund Boards, dated Palcode, 18th March 1874, No. 303.

I HAVE the honor, at the request of the officer in charge of the Oossoor Range, to enclose copies of correspondence between that officer and the Acting President of the Local Fund Board, Oossoor Circle, and myself, regarding the proposed transfer of the roads in the Oossoor Circle from the Public Works to Other Agency.

2. I quite agree with Mr. West in all that he has advanced, and think that no comparison can be drawn between Department Public Works roads with heavy traffic and small maintenance and roads under the Revenue Department, where the traffic is light and the maintenance comparatively large.

3. I beg to draw attention to paragraph 2 of Mr. Wilkinson's letter, No. 245, dated 13th March 1874, as I am of opinion that under Rule XL of the Local Fund Rules it is not competent for the Board to make the transfer therein mentioned without the sanction of Government.

4. I may add that I have now marched along this road from Oossoor to Palcode, and except portions in the 26th and 27th miles where water was not to be had to consolidate the gravel laid, I have found the road in good order. More so than could have been expected from the smallness of the allotment, 100 Rupees per mile.

(A true Copy)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Acting Vice-President.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From W. C. WEST, Esq., Executive Agent in charge of No. 2 or Oossoor Range, to Major J. N. HUNTER, R.E., District Engineer, Salem, dated Roycottah, 17th March 1874, No. A.-2.

I HAVE the honor to enclose the accompanying correspondence (marginally noted) on the transfer of roads repaired by the Public Works Department to Other Agency, and to inform you that from the Budgets I have examined for the last five years, the Great Western Road was in charge of the Public Works Department during that period; and I hear, was always so. The allotment for this road was always Rupees 11,850 for the past five years, but was reduced in 1873-74 to Rupees 10,620.

Extract from the Proceedings of the special meeting of the Local Fund Board, Oossoor Circle, dated 3rd March 1874.
Letter No. 245, of 13th March 1874.
Letter No. A.-1 of 162 March 1874.

2. The Oossoor and Adamancottah Road was made over by the Local Fund Board to the Public Works Department in 1871-72, and the annual allotment was Rupees 7,950, but was reduced to Rupees 5,300 in 1873-74. I believe the subject of the transfer of this, and other roads, to the Public Works Department was warmly discussed at the Local Fund Board Meetings while Mr. Price was Vice-President of this Circle, and Mr. Paynter strongly recommended that the transfer should be made on professional grounds, which was accepted.

3. The Public Works Department carried out the repairs of the other roads for the past three years, but, prior to that date, it is hard to say who carried them out. Of these roads, the road from Burgoor to Mulapádi had an allotment of 750 till 1873-74, when it was reduced to Rs. 630, and the road from Kristnagherry to Samulpatti had an allotment of Rupees 2,400 till 1873-74, when it was reduced to Rupees 1,800.

4. I beg to invite your attention to my letter No. 555, dated 30th August 1873, in which I endeavored to bring the subject more fully to your notice.

5. From the above, it will be seen that the Public Works Department are not to blame; and with regard to the work executed, I respectfully wish to state that the Overseers have done their best, and that nothing irregular has been brought to my notice which I have not tried to remedy. I believe the allotments are insufficient, but have been judiciously utilized; and those portions of roads which were the worst have been put in better repair. I expect there will be better results next official year in the Oossoor Taluq, especially where the roads are not very good, as better agency will be employed.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. N. HUNTER, Major, R.E.,
District Engineer, Salem.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Acting Vice-President.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From W. C. WEST, Esq., Executive Agent in charge of No. 2, or Oossoor Range, to F. WILKINSON, Esq., Acting Vice-President of the Local Fund Board, Oossoor Circle, dated Oodenhulli, 16th March 1874, No. A-1,494.

WITH reference to your letter No. 245, dated 13th instant, and extract from the Proceedings of a special meeting of the Local Fund Board, dated 3rd idem, I have the honor to request you will kindly record and communicate to the President my protest on the above-mentioned extract that "the Public Works Department should be relieved from the execution of all repairs to communications" in the Oossoor Circle. I cannot see how the "Board*" are *unanimous* in the opinion, as I never agreed to such an arrangement, and beg to state that no other department† would ever be able to carry out the repairs as efficiently and cheaply as I have done for the same amount of money. I admit that some *portions*‡ of the roads are bad; but the same is with some of the roads executed by Other Agency; however, that§ is no fault of the Public Works Department. If we are limited to a small maintenance grant of Rupees 100 and 125 per mile, with a *heavy traffic*, while the same roads had a maintenance grant of from 150 to 250 Rupees per mile in previous years, you cannot expect excellent results. Also I believe you did not see the roads prior to August 1873 (eight months ago). You would therefore, I venture to state, not be able to know what was done, and arrive at such a conclusion‖ that

* Namely, the Members of the Board present. Notice was sent to Mr. West, and he could have been present if he liked, but unfortunately for the Board he prefers writing afterwards to speaking at the time. (Signed) F. W

† A matter of opinion.

‡ This is all the Board or Acting Vice-President have ever said. (Signed) F. W.

§ The state of roads executed by Other Agency is of course not the fault of Public Works Department; no one would hazard such an opinion. (Signed) F. W.

‖ It is not my conclusion, but that of the Board. (Signed) F. W.

the Revenue Department can undertake the same repairs, I mean at the reduced grants, more efficiently.

I have also the honor to invite your attention to Rule XI. of the Local Fund Rules with reference to your 2nd paragraph, in which it is stated that a "special* application should be made to Government" in the transfer of any work from the Public Works Department to Other Agency. Although I was present at the Circle Board when the Budget was framed, I never agreed† to the transfer of the road from Oossoor to Adamancottah. I‡ thought you had simply suggested the arrangement, and that after the discussion on the subject, your proposal was withdrawn.

* Such has been made. (Signed) F. W.

† All the other Members present are of opinion Mr. West consented. (Signed) F. W.

‡ Slightly inaccurate as the change was made and agreed to at the time. (Signed) F. W.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) F. WILKINSON,
Acting Vice-President.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Ag. Vice-President.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Oossoor Local Fund Board wish the roads in charge of the Public Works Department to be transferred to "Other Agency." As in the case of the Salem Circle, which is submitted to Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 30th April 1874, No. 1,007, the wish is reasonable *because* the work done by the Public Works Department is not well done, but the question whether the transfer shall be allowed depends upon general considerations, and must be determined by Government with reference to them. If the transfer is not allowed in the case of these two Circles measures must be taken for making the Public Works Department more efficient in the Salem District.

3. The Oossoor Local Fund Board also ask that the grant from Provincial Funds for roads may be increased from Rupees 11,000 to Rupees 20,000.

4. The grant for 1873-74 was Rupees 11,010. The Local Fund Board argue that as there are in the Circle two Trunk Roads and three Railway Feeders, for the up-keep of which at least Rupees 20,000 have to be annually provided, the Provincial grant is inadequate.

5. In 1872-73, the grant from Provincial Funds was Rupees 8,780, and it was expected that it would be necessary to appropriate Rupees 15,920 of the one-third land-cess for roads, but the actual appropriation amounted to only Rupees 9,490. In 1873-74, the grant was raised to Rupees 11,010, and the estimate of the necessary appropriation was reduced to Rupees 14,000. In 1874-75, as will be seen from Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March 1874, No. 459, paragraph 50, it is estimated that no appropriation will be necessary. This result has only been obtained by reducing the maintenance allowances of existing roads which amounted to Rupees 42,450 in 1872-73 (actuals Rupees 42,166), and Rupees 37,200 in 1873-74, and which are estimated at Rupees 30,870 for 1874-75.

6. It may be that the reduced allotments will be proved by experience to be insufficient, but so long as this is not proved, there seems to the Board to be no sufficient reason for increasing the grant-in-aid from Provincial Funds.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 11th September 1874, No. 1544.

Recorded with reference to G.O., dated 7th August 1874, No. 1297.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue, with enclosures returned.

Exd. W. H. French.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September, 11*th*.

Read.

Read.

G.O., 11*th September* 1874, *No.* 1544.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 112-113.

Roads in Oossoor Circle.—Proceedings Board of Revenue, submitting proposals of the Local Fund Board that all the roads be transferred from Public Works Department to "Other Agency," and that the grant for roads from Provincial Funds be raised from Rupees 11,000 to Rupees 20,000, recorded with reference to G.O., dated 7th August 1874, No. 1297.

No. 1,136.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th May 1874.

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(1.) That the whole of the roads now in charge of the Department of Public Works should be transferred to "Other Agency."

(2.) That the grant from Provincial Funds should be increased from Rupees 11,000 to Rupees 20,000.

3. The Acting Vice-President explains that the reason why these two propositions have been sent up together is that they are the result of one consultation upon one set of papers.

4. As regards the transfer proposed by the Local Fund Board, I would observe that it meets with my approval. The manner in which the Department of Public Works has carried out the road repairs entrusted to them was a matter for a constant complaint when I was Sub-Collector; and my successor has frequently found fault with it. I have not visited the Sub-division (beyond going to Oossoor for the Christmas holidays when I made no inspection of roads) since July last; and I am, therefore, unable to say whether the Executive Agent of the Range has made any improvement in the state of things, which, when I left, was decidedly indifferent. Mr. Wilkinson, however, has moved about a good deal, and his verdict is unfavourable. The feeling of the Local Fund Board also is certainly for the change; and I would recommend, therefore, that it should be made. I have had the superintendence of a great deal of work in the way of restoring and repairing roads during the last seven years, and have had full opportunity of comparing the results produced by Revenue Officers with those of the Department Public Works. I honestly believe that the former are better and cheaper than the latter.

It will be observed from the Acting Vice-President's covering letter, a copy of which I enclose, that by the transfer proposed, a saving of Rupees 3,580, in the item of supervision, will be effected.

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7. I now turn to the second portion of the resolution of the Local Fund Board.

8. They point out that at least Rupees 20,000 a-year have to be provided for the five roads which they wish transferred from the care of the Department of Public Works, and they urge that they have incurred a considerable outlay for the purpose of completing the bridging of the road from Oossoor to Malloor which, they remark, is of much importance and convenience to the Remount Depôt. The Vice-President also calls attention to the fact that the allotment for Trunk Roads Nos. 1 and 5 alone, and which the Department Public Works authorities consider too low, is Rupees 10,620 per annum, or only Rupees 390 short of the whole allotment for the Circle from Provincial Funds.

They urge, and I think with good reason, that having reduced the allotments for roads to the lowest possible limits, and having been deprived of authority to levy taxes for educational purposes, they must either postpone educational arrangements, or else have additional help from Government.

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(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Acting Vice-President.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Major J. N. HUNTER, R. E., District Engineer, Salem, to F. PRICE, Esq., Acting President, Local Fund Boards, dated Palcode, 18th March 1874, No. 303.

I HAVE the honour, at the request of the officer in charge of the Oossoor Range, to enclose copies of correspondence between that officer and the Acting President of the Local Fund Board, Oossoor Circle, and myself, regarding the proposed transfer of the roads in the Oossoor Circle from the Public Works to Other Agency.

2. I quite agree with Mr. West in all that he has advanced, and think that no comparison can be drawn between Department Public Works roads with heavy traffic and small maintenance and roads under the Revenue Department, where the traffic is light and the maintenance comparatively large.

3. I beg to draw attention to paragraph 2 of Mr. Wilkinson's letter, No. 245, dated 13th March 1874, as I am of opinion that under Rule 40 of the Local Fund Rules it is not competent for the Board to make the transfer therein mentioned without the sanction of Government.

4. I may add that I have now marched along this road from Oossoor to Palcode, and except portions in the 26th and 27th miles where water was not to be had to consolidate the gravel laid, I have found the road in good order. More so than could have been expected from the smallness of the allotment, 100 Rupees per mile.

(A true Copy)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Acting Vice-President.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From W. C. WEST, Esq., Executive Agent in charge of No. 2 or Oossoor Range, to Major J. N. HUNTER, R.E., District Engineer, Salem, dated Roycottah, 17th March 1874, No. A.-2.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the accompanying correspondence (marginally noted) on the transfer of roads repaired by the Public Works Department to Other Agency, and to inform you that from the Budgets I have examined for the last five years, the Great Western Road was in charge of the Public Works Department during that period; and I hear, was always so. The allotment for this road was always Rupees 11,850 for the past five years, but was reduced in 1873-74 to Rupees 10,620.

Extract from the Proceedings of the special meeting of the Local Fund Board, Oossoor Circle, dated 3rd March 1874.
Letter No. 245, of 13th March 1874.
Letter No. A.-1 of 162 March 1874.

2. The Oossoor and Adamancottah Road was made over by the Local Fund Board to the Public Works Department in 1871-72, and the annual allotment was Rupees 7,950, but was reduced to Rupees 5,300 in 1873-74. I believe the subject of the transfer of this, and other roads, to the Public Works Department was warmly discussed at the Local Fund Board Meetings while Mr. Price was Vice-President of this Circle, and Mr. Paynter strongly recommended that the transfer should be made on professional grounds, which was accepted.

3. The Public Works Department carried out the repairs of the other roads for the past three years, but, prior to that date, it is hard to say who carried them out. Of these roads, the road from Burgoor to Mulapádi had an allotment of 750 till 1873-74, when it was reduced to Rs. 630, and the road from Kristnagherry to Samulpatti had an allotment of Rupees 2,400 till 1873-74, when it was reduced to Rupees 1,800.

4. I beg to invite your attention to my letter No. 555, dated 30th August 1873, in which I endeavoured to bring the subject more fully to your notice.

5. From the above, it will be seen that the Public Works Department are not to blame; and with regard to the work executed, I respectfully wish to state that the Overseers have done their best, and that nothing irregular has been brought to my notice which I have not tried to remedy. I believe the allotments are insufficient, but have been judiciously utilized; and those portions of roads which were the worst have been put in better repair. I expect there will be better results next official year in the Oossoor Taluq, especially where the roads are not very good, as better agency will be employed.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. N. HUNTER, Major, R.E.,
District Engineer, Salem.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Acting Vice-President.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From W. C. WEST, Esq., Executive Agent in charge of No. 2, or Oossoor Range, to F. WILKINSON, Esq., Acting Vice-President of the Local Fund Board, Oossoor Circle, dated Oodenhulli, 16th March 1874, No. A-1,494.

WITH reference to your letter No. 245, dated 13th instant, and extract from the Proceedings of a special meeting of the Local Fund Board, dated 3rd idem, I have the honour to request you will kindly record and communicate to the President my protest on the above mentioned extract that "the Public Works Department should be relieved from the execution of all repairs to communications" in the Oossoor Circle. I cannot see how the "Board*" are *unanimous* in the opinion, as I never agreed to such an arrangement, and beg to state that no other department† would ever be able to carry out the repairs as efficiently and cheaply as I have done for the same amount of money. I admit that some *portions*‡ of the roads are bad; but the same is with some of the roads executed by Other Agency; however, that§ is no fault of the Public Works Department. If we are limited to a small maintenance grant of Rupees 100 and 125 per mile, with a *heavy traffic*, while the same roads had a maintenance grant of from 150 to 250 Rupees per mile in previous years, you cannot expect excellent results. Also I believe you did not see the roads prior to August 1873 (eight months ago). You would therefore,

* Namely, the Members of the Board present. Notice was sent to Mr. West, and he could have been present if he liked, but unfortunately for the Board he prefers writing afterwards to speaking at the time.
(Signed) F. W

† A matter of opinion.

‡ This is all the Board or Acting Vice-President have ever said. (Signed) F. W.

§ The state of roads executed by Other Agency is of course not the fault of Public Works Department; no one would hazard such an opinion. (Signed) F. W.

* It is not my conclusion, but that of the Board. (Signed) F. W.

I venture to state, not be able to know what was done, and arrive at such a conclusion* that the Revenue Department can undertake the same repairs, I mean at the reduced grants, more efficiently.

I have also the honour to invite your attention to Rule XI. of the Local Fund Rules with reference to your 2nd paragraph, in which it is stated that a "special† application should be made to Government" in the transfer of any work from the Public Works Department to Other Agency. Although I was present at the Circle Board when the Budget was framed, I never agreed‡ to the transfer of the road from Oossoor to Adamancottah. I§ thought you had simply suggested the arrangement, and that after the discussion on the subject, your proposal was withdrawn.

† Such has been made. (Signed) F. W.

‡ All the other Members present are of opinion Mr. West consented. (Signed) F. W.

§ Slightly inaccurate as the change was made and agreed to at the time. (Signed) F. W.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) F. WILKINSON,
Acting Vice-President.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Ag. Vice-President.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Oossoor Local Fund Board wish the roads in charge of the Public Works Department to be transferred to "Other Agency." As in the case of the Salem Circle, which is submitted to Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 30th April 1874, No. 1,007, the wish is reasonable *because* the work done by the Public Works Department is not well done, but the question whether the transfer shall be allowed depends upon general considerations, and must be determined by Government with reference to them. If the transfer is not allowed in the case of these two Circles measures must be taken for making the Public Works Department more efficient in the Salem District.

3. The Oossoor Local Fund Board also ask that the grant from Provincial Funds for roads may be increased from Rupees 11,000 to Rupees 20,000.

4. The grant for 1873-74 was Rupees 11,010. The Local Fund Board argue that as there are in the Circle two Trunk Roads and three Railway Feeders, for the up-keep of which at least Rupees 20,000 have to be annually provided, the Provincial grant is inadequate.

5. In 1872-73, the grant from Provincial Funds was Rupees 8,780, and it was expected that it would be necessary to appropriate Rupees 15,920 of the one-third land-cess for roads, but the actual appropriation amounted to only Rupees 9,490. In 1873-74, the grant was raised to Rupees 11,010, and the estimate of the necessary appropriation was reduced to Rupees 14,000. In 1874-75, as will be seen from Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March 1874, No. 459, paragraph 50, it is estimated that no appropriation will be necessary. This result has only been obtained by reducing the maintenance allowances of existing roads which amounted to Rupees 42,450 in 1872-73 (actuals Rupees 42,166), and Rupees 37,200 in 1873-74, and which are estimated at Rupees 30,870 for 1874-75.

6. It may be that the reduced allotments will be proved by experience to be insufficient, but so long as this is not proved, there seems to the Board to be no sufficient reason for increasing the grant-in-aid from Provincial Funds.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J Grose
Secretary.

To the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department,
with one original enclosure.
,, the Acting President of the Local Fund Boards, Salem District.

Exd. W. H. French.

Copy Rusp

1546

Read 1874. Depart

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH MAY 1874, No. 1,136.

Desp 21 May/74

Encl. 1

Received. 25. May/74.

MAY.

No. 1,136. R. 1108

Roads in Oossoor Circle—of Salem District.—Proposals of Oossoor Local Fund Board that whole of — should be transferred from Public Works Department to "Other Agency," and that grant for roads from Provincial Funds should be raised from Rupees 11,000 to Rupees 20,000, submitted for orders of Government with remarks.

With ...

G.O. 13 May/74. No 827
7 August/74 No 1297.

Read 11 Sept 1874 No 1546.
Recorded with reference to G.O. dated 7th August 1874 No 1297.
Sd/-
Vide draft with a similar reference from the Board of Revenue dated 15th May 1874.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Financial

To
The Board of Revenue.

G. O. Sept. 11. , 1874, No 1544.

Nos. 112. 113

Roads in Coosoor Circle. Pros.
Bd of Rev: Submitting proposals
of the L. F. Bd: that all the
roads be transferred from
P. W. Dept: to "Other Agency" &
that the grant for roads
from Prov. Funds be raised
from Rs. 11000 to Rs. 20000
recorded with ref. to G. O.
D/7 Aug: 1874 No 1297.