M.R.O. 1—77,004—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 10.

(2) Date of repair 30-5-40.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 492 Press ~~Mis.~~

208-209

Dated 23—3— 1876.

617

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 208. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th February 1874, No. 412 :—

Read the following letter from G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th January 1874, No. 41 :—

ADVERTING to paragraph 5, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th July last, No. 1,317, and to Proceedings, dated 8th October last, No. 2,046, I have the honour to request the Board to reconsider their orders, at least as far as the retrospective action enjoined is concerned, on the following grounds—

2. In their Proceedings of 29th September 1868, No. 6,908, paragraph 9, the Board themselves suggested, for the consideration of Government, that Rupees 20,000 from the Nellore Jungle Conservancy Fund should be "devoted to planting topes, sinking wells, and building choultries along the four chief lines of road of the district;" and in paragraph 5 of their Order thereon, dated 1st December 1868, No. 3,013, the Government sanctioned the expenditure of that sum in the mode suggested by the Board.

3. It was not understood, nor do I think it was intended, that none of the wells referred to by the Board should be sunk except in connection with a new tope. What was in contemplation was to afford comfort to the people when travelling along the roads, and it cannot be disputed that the comfort of a drink of water from a well or pond excavated under, or adjacent to, the shade of existing trees is equal, not to say superior to the comfort of a drink of water from a well or pond excavated for the purpose of growing trees, which are not likely to afford shade for a long time.

4. This sum of Rupees 20,000 has not yet been expended for the purposes specially sanctioned by Government at the Board's suggestion. Indeed, I was the first Collector of Nellore who availed himself of this special sanction. In the last paragraph of the covering letter, dated 2nd November 1871, of the first Jungle Conservancy Budget I submitted after assuming charge of the district, I announced my intention of utilizing the balance of Jungle Conservancy Fund as far as possible by planting topes and sinking wells, and promised to send in a Supplemental Budget with that object.

5. Accordingly, on the 13th December 1872, I submitted a Supplemental Budget for the year 1872-73, containing thirty items of proposed expenditure, amounting to Rupees 19,953; of which sum, Rupees 19,116 were required for expenditure in that year.

6. In their Proceedings, dated 30th January 1873, Miscellaneous No. 544, the Board sanctioned the expenditure of the latter sum, as proposed.

7. Together with the above Supplemental Budget for 1872-73, I sent in my regular Jungle Conservancy Budget for 1873-74, with a letter, dated 13th December 1872, No. 2,903, in which I entered at some length into a description of my operations, especially in connection with the fencing of wells for the comfort and safety of the people. The Board had the letter before them a month before they sanctioned the Supplemental Budget of 1872-73. Nevertheless, about twenty out of the thirty items sanctioned in the Supplemental Budget relate to works of the same two descriptions as were entered in the regular Budget for 1873-74, and to

which the Board afterwards took exception, when submitting that Budget to Government.

8. In the Supplemental Budget, about Rupees 10,000 were sanctioned for securing existing wells all over the district, but as it was very doubtful how much of that sum would be spent within the year, I entered a fresh appropriation of Rupees 9,000 for the same purpose in the Regular Budget for 1873-74, as explained in paragraph 7 of my letter of 13th December 1872.

9. As a matter of fact, only Rupees 2,193 were spent in 1872-73 under this head, and in the current year Rupees 587-7-7, making a total of Rupees 2,780-7-7, or scarcely more than a quarter of the sum sanctioned by the Board for 1872-73.

10. The Local Fund Board are not in a position, even if they would be willing (a point upon which I am ignorant at present) to refund the above sum, and I hope that, under the circumstances above detailed, the Board will not insist on the refund. The expenditure of Rupees 587-7-7 in the current year can be regarded as an incomplete work of 1872-73, and provided for from the unexpended portion of the sanctioned grant of that year.

11. I have stopped further expenditure of public funds on the securing of wells, and I may say that I have done so with much regret. Much time and trouble have been expended in bringing to book all the wells in the district and in organizing the work of making them a source of comfort instead of danger to the public; and I feel sure that this good and popular work, once abandoned, will never be carried to completion by the Local Fund Board, who have already more to do with the money at their disposal than they can manage.

12. If the Board examine my Regular and Supplemental Budgets for the current year, they will find 230 items, involving an outlay of over a lakh of rupees, and they will see that Planting operations and Jungle Conservancy proper have by no means been neglected. Such being the case, I trust that looking to the comparative opulence of the Nellore Jungle Conservancy Fund, the policy of 1868 will be continued, and the Collector be permitted to spend a moderate proportion of the surplus in adding to the comfort of the people by improving their supply of drinking water. Though it may be the business of the Local Fund Board to do this, they cannot afford to do a tithe of what is requisite.

UNDER the circumstances reported by the Collector the expenditure of Rupees 587-7-7 spent "in providing safe means of access to and fencing wells" during the current year from the Jungle Conservancy Fund is sanctioned.

2. The question whether any further expenditure from the fund shall be allowed for objects of this sort will be submitted for the special orders of Government.

G. O., 1st December 1868, No. 3,013: As Mr. VansAgnew points out, in 1868 the Board approved and Government sanctioned an expenditure of Rupees 20,000 "in planting topes, sinking wells and building choultries along the four chief lines of road in the district." In their Order of the 16th July 1870, No. 1,096, Government insisted on the Jungle Conservancy Fund being used for its proper purposes only, but the Board inadvertently passed without remark a Nellore Supplemental Budget for 1872-73 which

provided for expenditure on wells not connected with topes, &c., so that the order forbidding all expenditure "on wells except wells connected with topes at halting-places and other plantations" during the current year was not expected.

G. O., 22nd September 1873, No. 1,355.

3. For the reasons set forth by Mr. Vans Agnew in paragraph 11 the Board think that the permission given in 1868 should be revived, and that the Collector of Nellore should be authorized to spend Jungle Conservancy money in securing wells, provided that the total sum thus spent is not more than Rupees 20,000 and that the proper objects of the fund are amply provided for.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 209. ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1874, No. 492.

The Governor in Council is not prepared to recede from the Order dated the 22nd September 1873, No. 1355.

2. All expenditure connected with the construction and repair of wells in towns and villages should properly be met from Local Funds and not from the Jungle Conservancy Fund, which is a Special Fund established for the conservancy and extension of village jungles.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Collector of Nellore.

Exd. G. A. Turton and A. S. Rodgers.

Rec: 23d September 1873. No 155-66
" — 16 July 1870. No 173-74. Rec.
" — 1 October 1868 - - 9-10. R.

Rec: 23d March/74

Fwd. 1874. Dept.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH FEBRUARY 1874, No. 412.

Dept 29 March/74

Encl.

No 475

Received 3d April/74

FEBRUARY.

No. 412.

Wells—in Nellore District.—Expenditure of Rupees 587-7-7 incurred by Collector from Jungle Conservancy Fund during 1873-74 in fencing — and providing safe means of access to them, sanctioned. Government recommended to authorize Collector to spend Jungle Conservancy money for such purposes on certain conditions.

C 5/3.
R —
C —
R 15 —
C 15 —
R 21 —

No 208.

Govt. of [1874] Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c.,

Dated March, 23rd.

Read.

G.O., 23rd March 1874, No. 492.

MARCH.
Nos. 208-209.

Jungle Conservancy Fund.—All expenses connected with the construction and repair of wells in towns and villages ordered to be met from Local Funds and not from the Jungle Conservancy Fund which is a Special Fund established for the conservancy and extension of village jungles.

Funds and not from the Jungle Conservancy Fund which is a Special Fund established for the conservancy and extension of village jungles.

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th February 1874, No 412.

Order thereon, 23d March 1874 No 492

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which is a Special Fund
established for the conservancy
and extension of village ~
jungles.

To 30/4/20

The Board of Revenue
-"- Collector of Nellore.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Financial

To

The Board of Revenue.

&c

Dated Mar. 23 }
Recd. } 1874, No. 492

Nos. 208. 209.

Jungle Conservancy Fund. All Expenses connected with the Constn & repair of Wells in Towns & Villages ordered to be met from Local funds & not from the Jungle Conservancy fund, which is a Special fund, Estab.d for the Conservancy & Extension of Village jungles.

C. S. 3. 74.