M.R.O.—1—77,008—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	827	Press Mis.
123-124		123-124
Dated	12-3-	1874.

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 123. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th April 1874, No. 1007: —

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 Namkul, 19th March 1874, No. 261:—

I HAVE the honour to lay before the Board of Revenue a Resolution unanimously passed at a special Meeting of the Salem Local Fund Board held on the 10th instant, and in accordance therewith to request that it may be laid before Government with such remarks as the Board of Revenue may deem necessary.

2. Both the District Engineer and the Range Officer had special notices of this Meeting and its object sent them. Major Hunter was unable to attend, as he had arranged to meet Colonel Foord at Oossoor, and the Assistant Engineer did not appear. I have since heard privately that Mr. Turner is ill.

3. The Board of Revenue are aware that the Railway feeders and former imperial trunk lines of road in the Salem Circle were, in the orders passed upon the budget for the current year, transferred to the Department of Public Works. In the middle of June the District Engineer was asked to take charge of them, a notice that they had been transferred being at the same time issued in the District Gazette. Neither Major Hunter nor the Range Officer, however, did anything to them until October of last year, although I find from the Local Fund Overseer that he several times spoke upon the subject to Mr. Turner, and that in his diary so far back as August he mentions having gone to certain places to meet the Assistant Engineer in order to go over the road.

4. In February of last year, when the Cuddalore road was in the hands of the Revenue Department, I, as Sub-Collector, went along it as far as Tallavasal, which is forty-one miles from Salem. The Revenue Officers were putting the part between Salem and Kariputti (nine miles) into thorough repair, and the Tahsildar of Ahtur was repairing the portion between Valapadi and Tallavasal (twenty-four miles) and rendering it fit for cart traffic. Between Kariputti and Valapadi nothing was being done. By the end of March the Revenue Department, which had, I believe, not received charge of the road until August 1872, had put the piece between Salem and Kariputti into excellent order, and made the length between Valapadi and Tallavasal fairly passable.

5. I was, as the Board are aware, detained for a considerable time in Salem on account of my being without an Assistant, and it was not until December 1873 that I was able to go out. My first trip was down to Tallavasal. I then found no work going on between Salem and Kariputti, and that the length between the latter place and Valapadi, which was in a condition which I can only characterize by the term "disgraceful," had not been touched since I saw it in the previous February. Further, that what repairs were being done between Valapadi and Tallavasal were of the most indifferent description.

6. Upon this I wrote to Major Hunter, pointing this out and asking for an explanation, and he laid the blame of the state of things chiefly upon the fact of

the road not having been made over until July, a statement which he afterwards qualified by personally informing me that he had made a mistake, and that his department did not take it over until November.

7. I then brought the matter before the Local Fund Board, and they called upon the District Engineer for an explanation, a copy of which I enclose. This was, as I drew attention to the small expenditure upon the roads marginally noted, not deemed satisfactory, and Major Hunter was asked how he proposed to spend the very large balance in hand, to which he replied that he intended to collect materials which, as this includes digging large quantities of gravel, would involve excavating at the most unfavourable time of the year when the ground is like a stone, and no water is to be had.

Salem Range.
Vaniembady and Comarapoliem road.
Salem and Cuddalore road.
Salem and Trichinopoly road.

8. The Local Fund Board do not approve of this.

9. Up to the 31st January Rupees 16,349-12-6 had been spent out of an allotment of Rupees 33,980, and a large amount of this was expended in January. I most fully agree with the Local Fund Board in considering that this heavy balance cannot be profitably spent before the end of the official year. Had the Revenue Department had the work in their hands the roads to this place and to Tallavasal would, instead of being (except where the Revenue Officers repaired them last year) in exceedingly bad order, be nearly if not entirely finished and converted into what they are now certainly not, first-class roads. It is not in this part of the district alone that there is ground for censure. The Sub and Head Assistant Collectors have both been loud in their complaints, which have been duly communicated to the District Engineer.

10. I would most earnestly beg of the Board of Revenue to support the application of the Local Fund Board to have all the roads of the circle again made over to the Revenue Department. The Oossoor Local Fund Board have made a like request, which I am about to forward, and the wish expressed is in neither case one emanating from the President or Vice-President, but is a point upon which the members themselves have a most decided opinion, which several have more than once expressed long before matters came to such a state as to require decided action.

11. As regards the Cuddalore and other roads I find from the Progress Reports that the Department of Public Works spent upon them nearly as much in October last as they did in November, and the conclusion consequently is that they were in actual working charge of these roads during the whole of the former month, and therefore took them up at the end of September. I cannot find that they ever formally took charge, but as there was nothing but a few heaps of gravel and metal for them to receive there was nothing to prevent their setting to work before.

12. The reasons assigned by the District Engineer for the extreme delay in the execution of the repairs to the roads to which I have alluded are, in the opinion of the Local Fund Board, unsatisfactory. Their object in making this reference is to ascertain whether Government will consider them so or not.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Extract from Proceedings of Local Fund Board.

No. 43.

Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Salem Circle, at a special Meeting held at the Board's Office at Salem, on Tuesday the 10th March 1874, for the consideration of the insufficiency of work performed by the Department of Public Works.

PRESENT.

The Acting President.
,, ,, Vice-President.
,, ,, Head Assistant Collector of Salem.
,, Acting Zillah Surgeon.
,, Tahsildar of Salem.
J. Small, Esq., Head Master, Zillah School, Salem.
Charles McFarlaine, Esq., Coffee Planter, Shevaroy Hills.
M. R. Ry., S. Gopalasami Mudali, Acting Muttahdar of Annademaputty.
,, A. Coopoosawmi Naidoo Garu.
,, ,, Chinna Raja Gounden, Avergal, Muttahdar of Poothoor.
Chinnanna Goundar Avergal, Joint Muttahdar of Komaramangalum.
(Present 11, absent 14.)

Read Progress Reports of Local Fund Public Works for the month of December 1873 and January 1874.

Read also correspondence from the District Engineer offering, in reference to paragraph 4 of the Circle Board's Proceedings, dated 17th January 1874, explanation of the short expenditure by the Department of Public Works on the works entrusted to it in the Salem Circle.

Resolved unanimously that the Board cannot accept the District Engineer's explanation, and that they consider the fact that the Department of Public Works have up to the close of January 1874 expended but Rupees 16,350 out of an allotment of Rupees 33,880, for the marginally noted works extremely unsatisfactory.

		Grant	Expenditure.		
		Rs.	Rs.	A.	P.
Salem Range.	Womalore Bridge ...	4,9608	58	13	7
	Krillimapuram do. ...	4,220	4,000	6	8
	Vaniembady and Comerapolliam road.	7,800	4,323	9	5
	Salem and Cuddalore road... ...	10,650	3,776	6	2
	Salem and Trichinopolly road.. ...	6,350	3,390	8	8
	Total ...	33,980	16,349	12	6

Resolved, further, that the President be requested to lay a copy of the above resolution before the Board of Revenue with the request that it may be placed before Government, and that Government may be moved to transfer to the Revenue Department, from the beginning of the coming official year, the whole of the Local Fund Roads in this Circle, now in charge of the Department of Public Works.

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Acting President.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Major J. N. HUNTER, R.E., District Engineer, to F. PRICE, Esq., Acting President of the Local Fund Boards, Salem, dated Chendramputty, 6th February 1874, No. 273.

IN reply to your letter, No. 783, dated 23rd December 1873 (received on the 7th January 1874), I have the honour to inform you that every measure has been adopted for utilizing the entire allotments for the roads mentioned in the letter under reference by the end of the current official year.

2. The cause of the short expenditure is due partly to the transfer of the roads late in the year from the Revenue to this department, and partly to the fact that a great deal of material

has been collected but not yet paid for, so as to make the quantity of work done as it appears in the Progress Report less than it actually is.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) F. PRICE,
Acting President.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. On the facts stated by the Collector the Local Fund Board are right in declaring the explanations of the Public Works Officers unsatisfactory, and their wish that all the roads may be transferred to the Revenue Department or "Other Agency" is reasonable.

3. It is obvious, however, that if the roads are so transferred in this and other circles the Local Fund establishment must be increased and the Imperial Department Public Works establishment reduced, and Government will not allow such a change to be made until the present system has been "fairly tried." G. O., dated 31st May 1873, No. 762, paragraph 4.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 124. ORDER THEREON, 13th May 1874, No. 827.

The District Engineer will be called on for explanation in the Public Works Department.

2. For the reasons already given the proposal to transfer the Local Fund works to the Revenue Department must be negatived for the present, but the Government fully recognise that in refusing to do so they are bound to see that the work is duly carried out by the officers of the Public Works Department, and the most serious notice will be taken of any failure which cannot be satisfactorily explained.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL.
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of [1874] Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 13*th*.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 13th May 1874, *No.* 827.

MAY.

Nos. 123-124.

Salem Circle.—Explanation called for in the Public Works Department from the District Engineer in regard to the complaint of the President of the unsatisfactory nature of work performed by the Public Works Department on certain Local Fund Roads in the Salem Circle.

No. 1,007.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th April 1874.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

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(True Copy.)

(Signed) F. PRICE,
Acting President.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

J Grote

Secretary.

Chief Financial

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

Exd. J. Tulloch.

827

Rec'd 1874. Depart.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH APRIL 1874, No. 1,007.

Dep. 4 May 74.

Encl. 1

No 1009

Received 8. May 74.

APRIL.

No. 1,007.

Local Fund roads—in Salem Circle.—Letter from President, Local Fund Boards, bringing to notice unsatisfactory nature of work performed by Public Works Department on certain —, and stating that Circle Board desire that all roads in the circle should be made over to them, submitted for orders of Government with remarks.

The Board of Rev
P.W. Depart.

With order

Ootacd 13th May 1874 R.C.D.

In District Superintendent will be called on for explanation in the Public Works Department

C 11/5 R 135

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Financial.

To The Board of Revenue.

G.O. May. 13, 1874, No. 827.

Nos. 123 & 124.

Salem Circle - Explanation called for in the P.W. Dept from the Dt. Engr. in regard to the Complaint of the Presidt. of the unsatisfactory nature of work performed by the P.W. Dept: on certain Local Fund roads in the Salem Circle -