

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	325	Press Mis.
81-82-		
Dated	11. 3. 1861	19c

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
11th March 1861.

- c No. 81. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 1st March 1861, No. 412.

Communicating copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer, on the subject of the employment of Convict labor, with a view to its being ascertained in the Judicial Department for what reason the Convicts have been withdrawn from being employed on the Cantonment roads in the District of Trichinopoly gratuitously, &c.

(Vide Proceedings Public Works Department, dated 1st March 1861, Nos. 9 and 10.)

No. 82.

ORDER THEREON, 11th March 1861, No. 325.

Referred to the Inspector General of Jails for report.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Military.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 5th February 1861, No. 9,602:—

SIR,

From District Engineer, 1st September 1860, No. 563.
To do. 28th " " 5,272.
From do. 23rd Oct. " " 822, with 1 enclosure.
To Quarter Master General, 16th Nov. 1860, No. 7,033.
From do. 19th " " 3,068, with 1 enclosure.
To District Engineer, 17th November 1860, No. 8,084.
From do. 22nd December " " 1,088, with 1 Plan.
From Quarter Master General, 18th January 1861, with 1 Plan.

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kept in repair with the allowance of Rupees 1,336 entered in Statement No. 3 of the Budget of 1860-61, with the aid of gratuitous Convict labor. The residents also contributed small sums varying from 2 to 5 Rupees each; but the total amount realized by this means is not mentioned by the District Engineer.

3. Since the publication of the G. O. G. above quoted, instructions were issued by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, at my suggestion, for Committees being convened at Stations where Conservancy allowances are granted, with a view to determine what roads should be kept in repair under the Conservancy grants, and what by this Department under the superintendence of District Engineers. Agreeably to these instructions the accompanying Plan* has been prepared showing that under the new arrangements the length of road in the Cantonment of Trichinopoly to be repaired by the Department of Public Works is seven miles, which, the Acting District Engineer reports, having suffered considerable damage by the late monsoon, and not having been repaired since June last, under the restriction imposed on expenditure upon Cantonment roads generally by the Orders of Government dated 2nd May 1860, No. 904, is "rapidly deteriorating in condition." In addition to these seven miles of road, there are also about six and a quarter miles between the Cantonment and the Fort of Trichinopoly which were originally kept in order by means above stated, but are represented to be at present in a state of disrepair.

4. Lieutenant Palmer states† that the allowance‡ entered in the Budget has only sufficed to meet the expense of cart hire for the carriage of road materials, and that the residents have withdrawn their subscriptions in consequence of the operation of the Income Tax Act. Moreover, a great portion of the gravel required for the roads has been hitherto quarried from pits in the Cantonments; but under the Conservancy arrangements, the material will have to be carted from an average distance of about two miles, and consequently, the additional expense which this change will entail, will prevent any saving being effected in the item of cart hire, by the diminution in the length of road to be kept in repair by this Department. I addressed§ the Commander-in-Chief with regard to the practice of digging gravel from pits in the Cantonment, being permitted as hitherto; but His Excellency considers it objectionable, as the pits are liable to become pools of stagnant water which generate malaria.

5. Under the foregoing reasons the Government will doubtless perceive that, unassisted by Convict labor which has been withdrawn|| by the Judge, the Budget allowance of Rupees 1,336 is inadequate for keeping the roads, under consideration, in that efficient state of repair which was practicable under the former system. Should the Government see fit to authorize the employment of Convict labor on the Trichinopoly Cantonment roads, free of charge, the amount¶ allowed in the Budget** for them will be sufficient: but if not, an allowance at Rupees 200 a mile per annum for 13½ miles, making an aggregate of Rupees 2,650, will, in the District Engineer's opinion, be necessary for the purpose. As the Acting†† District Engineer requests authority for making the necessary repairs to the roads under notice, I beg to suggest that the sum of Rupees 1,336, entered in the Budget of 1860-61, but not available under the restriction imposed by the Orders of 2nd May 1860, No. 904, may be placed at that Officer's disposal, in order that such repairs as it may be practicable to carry out in the current official year may be executed; and should the Government decide that Convict labor cannot be gratuitously furnished, I request that the amount entered in Statement No. 3 of the Budget of 1861-62 for the Cantonment roads

† 1st September 1860, No. 563.
‡ Rupees 1,336.

§ 16th November 1860, No. 7,030.

|| Paragraph 5 of District Engineer's letter 1st September 1860.

¶ Rupees 1,336.
** 1860-61.

†† 22nd December 1860, No. 1,088.

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in Trichinopoly, viz., Rupees 1,336 may be increased to Rupees 2,650 by reducing the sum therein set apart for roads unprovided with special grants from Rupees 5,455 to Rupees 4,141.

6. In conclusion, I would beg permission to suggest the expediency of Convict labor being made available free of charge for the repair of roads generally in Cantonments where there are Jails, and where it has been the practice hitherto to furnish such aid gratuitously, and that, in the event of this suggestion being approved of, an annual Statement of the value of such labor should be furnished for the information of the Inspector General of Jails and Government.

ORDER THEREON, 1st March 1861, No. 412.

1. With this letter the Chief Engineer forwards a Plan of the Cantonment roads at Trichinopoly, showing those undertaken by the Conservancy Department, for which a sum of Rupees 3,000 per year was recently allowed; and those left to the District Engineer; which are stated to be nearly 13 miles in length. The whole of the roads of the station were hitherto maintained by means of a Government maintenance allowance of Rupees 1,336, with the aid of Convict labor and of private Subordinates. The Chief Engineer represents that notwithstanding the diminution in the extent of road under the District Engineer no reduction can be made in the Government allowance, in consequence of the increased cost of material the General Commanding having prohibited the digging of it within the Station.

2. The Honorable the Governor in Council approves of the allotment of roads between the Department Public Works and the Conservancy as shown in the Plan, and will be prepared to grant a sum of Rupees 100 a mile, per annum, being about the rate now recommended, for the maintenance of the former; but Colonel Horsley will be requested to furnish more exact information as to the length of the roads forming the charge of the District Engineer, as they do not appear from the Plan to extend to nearly 13 miles.

3. On the subject of the employment of Convict labor the Chief Engineer's letter will be referred to the Judicial Department, where it will be ascertained for what reason the Convicts have been withdrawn. Under the Orders noted in the margin their labor ought to be made available primarily for the Cantonment roads, and without charge.

Order, dated 13th August 1860, No. 1,711.
Do. do. 15th September 1860, No. 1,935.

(True Extract.)

J. H. Sandillon

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer.

„ Judicial Department.
„ Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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For 17th August 1861

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