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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. 2-8-57

G.O. No.	1191	Press Mis.
Dated	19-8-	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 23rd June 1857.

No. 44. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings, of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd May 1857, No. 1720.

Read letter from the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 31st March 1857.

(Here Enter No. 42.)

Resolved that the above letter be laid before Government, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation 20th March last No. 512. Public Works Department, (Public)

2. Mr. Bird deprecates the introduction of a road fund at present, urging that the people are only now about to benefit by the reduced assessment that they are extremely poor, and that they will regard the cess as merely a re-imposition of former taxation in a different shape.

3. The Board are unable to concur with Mr. Bird in these views.

4. Where no abatement of the present high assessment is made, the imposition of a road cess would be liable to the objections urged by him, but in the dry Talooks which are now being surveyed with a view to re-assessment, they see no reason why a fund similar to that now established with such beneficial effects in South Arcot, should not also be introduced. The fund is in reality created by Government withholding a very light rate from what it would otherwise give up as a reduction in the assessment. It cannot be regarded as an enhancement of the existing assessment, for this will still be reduced materially. The burden on the people is extremely light, while the advantages they gain from its judicious expenditure will be very great. In fact the Board consider the existence of such a fund available for the repair of minor roads, without the delay attending other expenditure on Public Works to be essential to the prosperity of a District.

5. They purpose therefore providing for a road fund in the pending revision of assessment.

6. In their report on Local Funds for the past year, the Board will consider the question, whether such a cess should be levied as in South Arcot by a rate per cawnie, or by a per-centage on the puttah beriz of each ryot.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, No. 1191; dated 19th June 1857.

Minutes Consultation 20th March 1857 No. 512.

With these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit a report from the Collector of Trichinopoly on the suggestion of the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle to create a Road Fund in that district on the plan adopted in South Arcot.

2. Mr. Bird does not support the proposition, on the grounds that the people are poor; that they have not yet realized any very material benefits from the reduction of assessment, and that the levy of a road fund would create distrust among the people, because, while the assessment is reduced on the one hand, it is increased on the other under a different name. The Board correctly dissent from this view of the subject. They state that the fund is in reality created by Government withholding a very light rate from what it would otherwise give up as a reduction in the assessment; that it cannot be regarded as an enhancement of the existing assessment, for this will still be reduced materially, and that the burden on the people is extremely light, while the advantages they gain from its judicious expenditure will be very great.

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council concurs with the Board of Revenue in their opinion of the expediency, as well as feasibility of creating a Road Fund in Trichinopoly, and they will be good enough to adopt measures to carry out the plan as early as may be expedient. They should decide at an early date whether the objects of such a fund would be better served by levying a certain rate per cawnie, or by a per-centage on the puttah beriz of each Ryot.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

PWD

No 1191

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 19th June 1857

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Here enter 22d ~~April~~ May /57 No 1720)

With these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit a report from the Collector of Trichinopoly on the suggestion of the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle to create a Road Tunnel with a Culvert on the plan adopted in South Arcot

2. Mr Bird does not support the proposition as

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Chief Com: 26th March /57
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on the grounds that the people are poor, that they have not yet enjoyed any very material benefits from the reduction of assessment, and that the levy of a rood pound would create distrust among the people, because while the assessment reduces on the one hand, it increases on the other under a different name. The Board correctly dissent from this view of the subject. They state that the Pound is in reality created by Government and the levying is very light-rate from that it would create alarm as a reduction in the

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the assessment, that it cannot be regarded as an enhancement of the existing assessment for this will still be reduced materially, and that the burden on the people is extremely light, while the advantages they gain from its judicious expenditure will be very great.

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council concurs with the Board of Revenue in their opinion of the ~~necessity~~ expediency, as well as possibility of creating a rural Fund in Preshimpoly, and they will be glad to adopt measures to carry out the

Dy. to Cons 21st March 1857
No 23837

Public Works 1857 Dy. to
Dy. to Cons 23d June.

c. 13/1191.

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Extract Minutes of Cons.
of 19th June 1857

Extract from the Bd of Revr 30th
July 1858 R 1726 in Cons.

Concurring with the Bd of
Revr in their opinion of the expe-
diency of Creating a Road Fund
in Fredericsburg, & requesting
to be apprd measures to carry
out the plan as early as may
be expedient; & to decide whe-
ther the objects of such a
Fund would be better
Served by keeping a certain
rate per Carriage or by a
per centage on the Postal
Revenue of each Post.

No 44 & 45.

c 13/1191