1. Number of pages. 10
2. Date of repair. 16-63
... of Reference.

M.R.O. 1—82,400—22-11-80.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 1-4-1857

G.O. No. 633	Press —Mis.—
77-78	
Dated 6-4-	18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

6-4-57

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 7th April 1857.

No. 77. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Acting Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, in charge of the Central office of Public Works, dated 26th February 1857, No. 10481.

Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Poodoochuttrum, 14th February 1857, No. 44.

SIR,

The sum now allotted to the Annual repair and maintenance of roads in Tanjore is Rupees 20,000 for minor roads, and 9,100 for the two main Provincial lines, making a total of nearly 30,000 Rupees.

2. This amount may seem large, but considering the nature of the soil and material available for road making, I can by no means consider it sufficient for that increase of traffic, which alone can enable Tanjore to maintain its place at the head of the Southern Provinces, especially since the Northern Deltas have had such vast advantages conferred on them.

3. Independently of the constant repairs required to the main roads, the want of minor communications between the Villages and the trunk lines is very much felt, and as all voluntary labour on such works has entirely ceased, the advance of the Province in internal improvement is so far at a stand.

4. I am not aware that there is any prospect of a re-assessment of the land in Tanjore, which would afford the opportunity of introducing the road tax, now established over the greater part of South Arcot, and I feel the difficulty of providing as in Coimbatore, fixed maintenance allowances for the numerous District roads, and therefore it seems to me, that the only available mode of meeting this urgent want in a rich and densely peopled Province, is to raise the general road grant to 50,000 Rupees from the 1st May next, a sum which would be equivalent to that derived from a cess of one anna per cawny on 8,00,000 Cawnies or 1,60,000 Vaylies of Nunjah and Punjah land.

5. This fund should be at the disposal of the Local Officers, but I think that some degree of control should be vested in the Superinteding Engineer, especially in cases wherein difference of opinion may arise, and the execution of the works should rest with the Professional Department.

6. I have consulted the Acting Collector on this matter, and believe that my proposition meets with Mr. Phillips's concurrence, under which support, I trust, that it may receive the sanction of Government.

Resolved to forward for the orders of Government, copy of the foregoing letter No. 44, dated 14th Instant, from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, and to observe, in the absence of the Chief Engineer, that it may be considered advisable to await the information already called for from the District Engineer, respecting the several clases of roads in Tanjore, and the probable amount of Annual expenditure that will be required for their efficient repair, with reference to the requirements of other Districts, and the general allotment of funds proposed to be made for road purposes.

(Signed) C. C. JOHNSTON, Captain,
Acting Superintending Engineer Northern Circle.

No. 78. ORDER THEREON, No. 633; dated 6th April 1857.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council concurs with Captain Johnston that it would be advisable to await the information called for from the District Engineer regarding the different classes of roads in Tanjore, before taking into consideration, Major Lawford's recommendation for increasing the Annual allowance for the repair of roads in that District.

* Extract Minutes Consultation 6th November 1855, No. 765.

2. It is observed that the Government have already decided* that only Trunk roads and first class District roads shall be repaired from the general funds.

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

For Orders 3/

Public Works Department No 385
Extract Proc: Chief Engineer 26th Feby: 1857-

It would be advisable to furnish the information called for -

Last has already laid down a rule - that - 1st & 2nd Class roads only are to be repaired from General funds.

H. Forbes
Actg Secy

No. 10481.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief-Engineer in the Department of Public Works.

Under date the 26th January 1857.

Read the following

No. 44 of 1857.

From

Major E. Lawford.
Superintending Engr. Southn. Circle

To

Colonel C. E. Faber
Chief Engineer
Departt. of Public Works

Sir,

The sum now allotted to the annual repair and maintenance of roads in Tanjore is Rupees 20,000 for minor roads, and 9,100 for the two main Provincial lines, making a total of nearly 30,000 Rupees.

2. This amount may seem large, but considering the nature of the soil and material available for road making, I can by no means consider it sufficient for that increase of traffic, which alone can enable Tanjore to maintain its place at the head of the Southern Provinces, especially since the Northern Deltas have had such vast advantages conferred on them.

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4. I am not aware that there is any prospect of a reafsefsment of the land in Tanjore, which would afford the opportunity of introducing the road tax now established over the greater part of South Arcot, and I feel the difficulty of providing as in Coimbatore, fixed maintenance allowances for the numerous District roads, and therefore it seems to me, that the only available mode of meeting this urgent want in a rich and densely peopled Province, is to raise the general road grant to 50,000 Rupees from the 1st May next, a sum which would be equivalent to that derived from a cefs of One Anna per Cawny on 8,00,000 Cawnies or 1,60,000 Taylies of Nunjah and punjah land.

5. This fund should be at the disposal of the local Officers, but I think that some degree of control should be vested in the Superintending Engineer, especially in cases wherein difference of opinion may arise, and the execution of the works should rest with the Professional Department.

I

6. I have consulted the Acting Collector on this matter, and believe that my proposition meets with Mr. Phillips's full concurrence, under which support, I trust, that it may receive the sanction of Government.

Camp Pordonchuttrum
Tanjore District
14th February 1857

I have the honor to be Sir
(Signed) E. Lawford.
Supt. Engr. Southn. Circle

Resolved to forward for the orders of Government, copy of the foregoing letter No. 44, dated 14th Instant, from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, and to observe, in the absence of the Chief Engineer, that it may be considered advisable to await the information already called for from the District Engineer, respecting the several classes of roads in Tanjore, and the probable amount of annual expenditure that will be required for their efficient repair, with reference to the requirements of other Districts, and the general allotment of funds proposed to be made for road purposes.

(True Extract.)

Wolfenstone Captain
A. Supt. Engr. Northern Circle
in charge of the Central Office of P. W.

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department