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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

P. Subbarao DEPARTMENT.
Secy 31/3/60

G.O. No.	<i>603</i>	Press
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(9-10)		
Dated	<i>21-3-</i>	<i>18 60</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of March 1860.*

No. 9. Read the following letter from Captain C. H. DICKENS, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Fort William, 10th March 1860, No. 1309.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters as per margin, requesting sanction to certain grants made by the Government of Madras in excess of the limit of Public Works expenditure for 1859-60, as anticipations of the outlay assigned for 1860-61.

No. 329 of 11th Feb. 1860, granting Rs. 10,000 for the Calicut and Mandur Road.	
No. 338 of 13th Feb. 1860, granting Rs. 13,000 for works in the Canara District.	

2. The Government of Madras are aware that in the case of a similar application for Rupees 10,000 for the Tambracherri Ghat, the Government of India, (No. 819, dated 14th ultimo), confirmed the sanction as an emergency of the current year.

3. I am now to observe that, if the system of anticipating the succeeding year's allotment of funds be allowed to be carried to any length, the result would be that the expenditure for the year would not be the sum assigned by the Government of India for that purpose. It would be some other sum produced by deducting from that assignment what had been forestalled in the previous year, and adding to it what might be forestalled out of the assignment for the following year. If such a system were to be allowed, precision in financial arrangements for the Public Works Department would be impossible, and the annual allotments would become a delusion.

4. Furthermore, I am to remark that, in the present and similar cases, when individual projects are submitted for the consideration of the Government of India, that Government is placed in a false position. It has no information before it as to what other works might be retarded or postponed, in order to make way for such ordinary exigencies as may occur during the progress of the year; and is, therefore, obliged either to refuse sanction to such recommendations, or to disturb financial arrangements in order to sanction them. The duty of selecting works, or of recommending them, for execution within the limit in preference to others, is peculiarly that of the local Government; and the duty would be evaded if the local Government were always in such cases to apply to the Government of India for an extra grant of funds.

5. Again, I am to observe, that as the main object of these specific allotments is to limit the demands upon the public exchequer within the year, that object would be entirely lost, if monies are to be drawn within the present year, in anticipation of the expenditure of a future year.

6. The inconveniences of such a mode of proceeding are rendered still more apparent when, as in the cases now reported, the local Government authorizes the expenditure before making the report and receiving the required sanction.

7. I am, therefore, to request that in future the Government of Madras will abstain from sanctioning any expenditure in excess of the limit laid down by the Government of India; and that all ordinary exigencies which arise during the year may be met out of the allowance made in the Budget for unforeseen expenditure, or by restricting expenditure on the less urgent works.

8. But while requesting the Government of Madras to adhere strictly to the limit of Public Works expenditure, and to insist on all its Officers doing so, I am to state that the Government of India will be prepared to consider any application in relation to special and unforeseen emergencies, whenever their importance may appear to justify such application.

9. I am to add that the Honorable the President in Council is willing to allow for the difficulties the local Governments may have had during the present year in working for the first time on a fixed limit; and, as the Government of Madras has sanctioned the increase of expenditure in the cases now reported, the Government of India will allow them as these additions to the outlay of 1859-60, rather than admit them as an anticipation of that of 1860-61.

No. 10. ORDER THEREON, 21st March 1860, No. 603.

Ordered to be communicated for the information and guidance of the Chief Engineer with reference to his letters dated 19th January and 1st February 1860 Nos. 9300 and 9867, and also to the Account and Audit Departments.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 1309.

FROM

THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Fort William, 10th March 1860.

Communications.
Roads.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters as per margin, requesting sanction to certain grants made by the Govt. of Madras in excess of the limit of P. W. expenditure for 1859-60, as anticipations of the outlay assigned for 1860-61.:

No. 329 of 11th Feb. 1860, granting Rs. 10,000 for the Calicut and Mandur Road.
No. 338 of 13th Feb. 1860, granting Rs. 13,000 for works in the Canara District.

2. The Govt. of Madras are aware that in the case of a similar application for Rs. 10,000 for the Tambracherri Ghat, the Government of India (No. 819, dated 14th ultimo) confirmed the sanction as an emergency of the current year.

3. I am now to observe that, if the system of anticipating the succeeding year's allotment of funds be allowed to be carried to any length, the result would be that the expenditure for the year would not be the sum assigned by the Govt. of India for that purpose. It would be some other sum produced by deducting from that assignment what had been forestalled in the previous year, and adding to it what might be forestalled out of the assignment for the following year. If such a system were to be allowed, precision in financial arrangements for the P. W. Dept. would be impossible, and the annual allotments would become a delusion.

4. Furthermore, I am to remark that, in the present and similar cases, when individual projects are submitted for the consideration of the Govt. of India, that Govt. is placed in a false position. It has no information before it as to what other works might be retarded or postponed, in order to make way for such ordinary exigencies as may occur during the progress of the year; and is therefore obliged either to refuse sanction to such recommendations, or to disturb financial arrangements in order to sanction them. The duty of selecting works, or of recommending them, for execution within the limit in preference to others, is peculiarly that of the local Govt.; and the duty would be evaded if the local Govt. were always in such cases to apply to the Govt. of India for an extra grant of funds.

5. Again, I am to observe, that as the main object of these specific allotments is to limit the demands upon the public exchequer within the year, that object would be entirely lost, if monies are to be drawn within the present year, in anticipation of the expenditure of a future year.

6. The inconveniences of such a mode of proceeding are rendered still more apparent when, as in the cases now reported, the local Govt. authorizes the expenditure before making the report and receiving the required sanction.

7. I am, therefore, to request that in future the Govt. of Madras will abstain from sanctioning any expenditure in excess of the limit laid down by the Govt. of India; and that all ordinary exigencies which arise during the year may be met out of the allowance made in the Budget for unforeseen expenditure, or by restricting expenditure on the less urgent works.

8. But while requesting the Govt. of Madras to adhere strictly to the limit of Public Works expenditure, and to insist on all its Officers doing so, I am to state that the Govt. of India will be prepared to consider any application in relation to special and unforeseen emergencies, whenever their importance may appear to justify such application.

9. I am to add that the Hon'ble the President in Council is willing to allow for the difficulties the local Governments may have had during the present year in working for the first time on a fixed limit; and, as the Government of Madras has sanctioned the increase of expenditure in the cases now reported, the Government of India will allow them as these additions to the outlay of 1859-60, rather than admit them as an anticipation of that of 1860-01.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. H. Dickson Captain

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

