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(2) Date of repair 26-6-62

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	627	Press
		~~Mis.~~
S-89-590		
Dated	31-3-	1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1862.*

No. 589. Read the following Endorsement of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, dated Chepauk, 21st February 1862, No. 10,811.

Read the following letter from Captain E. A. FOORD, District Engineer, South Arcot, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, dated Tindevanum, 15th February 1862, No. 173 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to inform you with reference to your Endorsement No. 10,263, on the Order of Government regarding the approaches to the Salt Pans, that an estimate of Rupees 450 has been made for the repair of the branch roads leading to the Mercanum Salt Pans, and the cost of these repairs can be defrayed from the sum (Rupees 450) allowed in the Budget of the current year for Salt Pan roads.

2. I was at Mercanum last week and found an excellent gravelled road from the village to the lattice bridge, across the back-water, and from the lattice bridge westward across the swamp to the village of Cundad which is on high ground. The branch roads to the Salt pans were in bad order, but not in a worse state than unmettalled roads formed with bad soil must be after the monsoon.

3. An estimate for gravelling the branch roads was sanctioned four years ago, and if the work is carried out, branch roads will be in good order all the year, for the gravel that can be obtained about four miles off is of excellent quality. It is therefore not necessary to forward any fresh estimates for these Salt Pans which are the most important in the District.

4. The lattice bridge was built in 1856, and the high road east and west of it has been gravelled out of the maintenance allowance. These works have apparently been very remunerative, for according to a statement given me by the Salt Amín, the average amount realized by the sale of Salt for the five years preceding the construction of the bridge was Rupees 1,05,465, and the average for the five following years was Rupees 1,60,260.

5. I have recommended that 5,000 Rupees should be laid out next year in gravelling a bad part of the high road from Tindevanum to Mercanum, and it would be well if a further sum of Rupees 4,000 (from the same estimate of Rupees 22,500) were laid out on the branch roads.

6. Repairs are being made, from the Local Fund, to the roads leading to the other Salt Pans, and the prisoners are at work on those near Cuddalore.

7. As regards the falling off on the Salt sale in November, I must observe that November is usually the wettest month in the year, but the quantity of rain that falls in that month varies very much. I have known a November in this District in which there was not a drop of rain. When there is much rain in Novembers I suppose fewer carts will come for Salt than when there is little rain, whether the roads are bad or good.

8. It is only within the last six years that any thing has been done to facilitate access to the Salt Pans, and they are all much easier of access than they used to be, but considering the large revenue derived from them, the roads ought to be still further improved. The cost of all the works required would be very small, compared with the revenue derived from Salt in a single year.

1 Original letter No. 173, dated
15th February 1862.

1. Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to their Proceedings No. 108, dated 1st February 1862.

2. Government will observe that repairs are being executed to the branch roads leading to the Mercanum Salt Pans, on an estimate of Rupees 450, from the sum* allowed in the current year's Budget, under the head "Salt Pan road."

* Rupees 450.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1862.*

* Vide Budget No. 2 of 1859-60,
item No. 382.

3. As Government had already sanctioned* an estimate, amounting to Rupees 22,800, Captain Foord is of opinion that it is not necessary to forward a fresh estimate. He therefore recommends that Rupees 4,000 may be granted from the above estimate for repairing the branch roads, in addition to the sum of Rupees 5,000 for gravelling the worst portion of the high road from Tindevanum to Mercanum.

4. The Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, agrees with the District Engineer in thinking that "the roads ought to be still further improved," and he therefore recommends, that if the whole amount of the estimate of Rupees 22,800 cannot be granted next year, the sum† now applied for and that‡ already requested§ may be sanctioned from the "Reserve Fund" of 1862-63, so as to put the roads in tolerable order.

† Rupees 4,000.
‡ Rupees 5,000.

9,000

§ Vide Endorsement No. 10,396,
dated 8th February 1862.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel,
Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle.

No. 590.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1862, No. 627.

1. The Deputy Chief Engineer of the Southern Circle recommends an outlay of 9,000 Rupees from the Reserve Fund of 1862-63, for repairing the branch roads leading to the Salt Pans at Mercanum in the South Arcot District, and metalling the worst portions of the road from Tindevanum to Mercanum, if the entire estimate of 22,800 Rupees entered in the Budget for the purpose cannot be made available. The Government observe that only 5,000 Rupees of this estimate has been provided in the Budget of 1862-63 for expenditure in that year and that too (being marked A) conditionally on the Government of India assigning any funds in addition to the Budget allotment. They cannot now sanction any outlay from the Reserve Fund of 1862-63; but they may do so after the commencement of the year, when they shall be in a better position to judge of the propriety of making the grant, on due cause being shown for the course proposed.

2. The Deputy Chief Engineer's attention will be called to the wishes of Government expressed in paragraph 1 of their Proceedings of the 19th February last, No. 262, and that of the Board of Revenue will be drawn to paragraph 2 of Proceedings 1st February 1862, No. 103.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Southern Circle

Mercanum

No. 173

15th Feb 1862

*From Captain C. A. Foord
District Engineer Arcot*

*To Colonel W. I. Birdwood
Deputy Chief Engineer S.C.*

Sir
I have the honor to inform you with

reference to your endorsement No. 10262, on the order of Government, regarding the approaches to the Salt pans, that an Estimate of Rspect 450 has been made for the repair of the branch roads leading to the Mercanum Salt pans and the cost of these repairs can be defrayed from the sum [Rupees 450] allowed in the Budget of the current year for Salt pan roads.

2 *I was at Mercanum last week and found an excellent gravelled road from the village to the Lattice bridge, across the back water, and from the Lattice bridge Westward across the Swamp to the village of Cundad which is on high ground. The branch roads to the Salt pans were in bad order, but not in a worse state than unmetalled roads formed with bad soil must be after the Monsoon.*

3 *An Estimate for gravelling the branch roads*

roads was sanctioned four years ago, and if the work is carried out, branch roads will be in good order all the year, for the gravel that can be obtained about four miles off is of excellent quality. It is therefore not necessary to forward any fresh estimates for these salt pans which are the most important in the district.

4. The lattice bridge was built in 1856 and the high road east and west of it has been gravelled out of the main-tenance allowance. These works have apparently been very remunerative, for, according to a statement given me by the Salt Amun. The average amount realized by the sale of salt, for the five years preceeding the construction of the bridge, was Rupees 105,465 and the average for the five following years was Rupees 1,60,260.

5. I have recommended that 5000 rupees should be laid out next year in gravelling a bad part of the high road from Undermum to Murcam, and it would be well if a further sum of Rupees 4000 from the same estimate of Rupees 22,500 were laid out on the branch road.

5
6. Repairs are being made, from the Local Fund, to the roads leading to the other salt pans, and the Prisoners are at work on those near Enasalore.

7. As regards the falling off in the salt sale in November, I must observe that November is usually the wettest month in the year, but the quantity of rain that falls in that month varies very much. I have known a November in this district in which there was not a drop of rain. When there is much rain in November I suppose few carts will come for salt than where there is little rain, whether the roads are bad or good.

8. It is only within the last six years that any thing has been done to facilitate access to the salt pans, and they are all much easier of access than they used to be, but considering the large revenue derived from them, the roads ought to be still further improved. The cost of all the works required would be very small, compared with the revenue derived from salt in a single year.

I have the honor to be

Yours most obedt. Servt

J A Smith Captain
Q. M. G. Fort Southwell

N^o 10811.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to their Proceedings N^o 108, dated 1st February 1862

2. Government will observe, that repairs are being executed, to the branch roads, leading to the Mercanum Salt Pans, on an Estimate of Rupees 450, from the sum^{*} allowed in the Current Year's Budget, under the head "Salt Pan road".

3. As Government had already sanctioned an Estimate, amounting to Rupees 22,800, Captain Ford is of opinion, that it is not necessary, to forward a fresh Estimate. He therefore recommends, that Rupees 4,000 may be granted, from the above Estimate, for repairing the branch roads, in addition, to the sum of Rupees 5,000 for

graveling

* R. 450

* Vide Budget at-2 of 1859/60, item 382-

to Govt 10/2/62 10/10/81

Constitution Bill

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18/2/62

gravelling the worst portion of the high road,
from Sindavannu to Mercanum.

4. The Deputy Chief Engineer
Southern Circle, agrees with the District
Engineer, in thinking that "the roads ought
to be still further improved," and he therefore
recommends, that if the whole amount of
the Estimate of Rs 22,800, cannot be
granted next year, the sum now applied ^{Rs 4,000}
for, and that already requested may be ^{Rs 5,000}
9,000
sanctioned from the "Reserve funds" of ^{vide endorsement}
1862/63, so as to put the roads in tolerable ^{N: 10386 dated 8th}
order. February 1862.

Deputy Chief Engineer
Circular 21 February
1862

Colonel
Deputy Chief Engineer
Lieutenant Colonel W B Horsley
Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

fund of 1862/63; but they may
do so after the commencement of
the year, when they shall be in a better
position to judge of the propriety of
making the grant, on due consideration being
shown for the course proposed.
2. The Deputy Chief Engineer's attention
will be called to the wishes of the District Engineer
in para 1 of their Proceedings of the 19th
February last; Rs 262, and that of the Board
of Revenues will be drawn to para 2
of Bo: 142, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188.

W B Horsley

For W B Horsley
31 March 1862.

13 Copies
To The Deputy Chief Engineer Southern Circle
13. 217. Board of Revenues
N: 87.

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Public Works Dept
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