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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1411	Press Mr.
Dated	5-5-	1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department,
3rd June 1863.*

No. 67. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 27th May 1863, No. 908 :—

Passing orders on the letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue reporting on the operations of the Local Funds for the year 1861-62 in all the Districts of this Presidency. } (Vide Revenue Proceedings, 27th May 1863, Nos. 307-308.)

No. 68. ORDER THEREON, 3rd June 1863, No. 1,411.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers of Divisions, whose particular attention is requested to the remarks contained in paragraphs 4 to 8.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue:—

Reporting on the operations of the Local Funds for the year 1861-62 in all the Districts of this Presidency. (Here enter 30th March 1863. No. 1,912.)

ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1863, No. 908.

1. In this letter the Board of Revenue report on the operations of the Local Funds in the several Districts in the official year 1861-62.

2. The total amount available was Rupees 5,19,400.* The expenditure amounted to Rupees 3,08,116, and the balance at the end of the year was Rupees 2,11,284. There was a decrease of Rupees 1,48,226 in the receipts of the year as compared with those of 1860-61, but this was owing to the receipts of the latter year being swelled by large sums which were realized from Cattle Fines in previous years, and except in Tanjore were brought into the Local Fund account for the first time in that year. In Ferry rents, Tolls and Arrears clippings there was an increase of Rupees 10,109. The Government observe that the Ferry rents of Tanjore fall very far short of the Collector's expectations, and request a full explanation of the cause of this.

3. The sum actually spent in 1861-62 on local improvements was Rupees 2,99,452, the remainder Rupees 8,664 consisted of the cost of the Establishment (Rupees 7,912) and of refunds and transfers to other accounts (Rupees 722).

4. The proportion of the expenditure on works to the sum available in each District is shown below:—

* South Arcot	92 per cent.
* North Arcot	89 "
* Coimbatore	93 "
* Salem	96 "
Malabar	37 "
Kistna	43 "
Nellore	46 "
Madura	53 "
* Bellary	98 "
Tinnevely	73 "
South Canara	39 "
Tanjore	40 "
Godavery	30 "
North Canara	30 "
* Kurnool	82 "
Trichinopoly	36 "
Madras	4 "
Vizagapatam	57 "
Ganjam	0 "
Cuddapah	0 "

} Collections very trifling.

In the six Districts marked with an asterisk the expenditure bears a fair proportion to the income, but in the others the Government are concerned to find how little advantage was taken of the funds available. In Madras of the total sum of Rupees 27,126 in the Collector's hands, only 1,011 Rupees were spent. The District Engineer (whose name ought to have been given) is stated to have pleaded want of leisure as the cause of his not having undertaken works. This excuse is very unsatisfactory, and the Officer in question should receive a suitable warning. The Superintending Engineers of Divisions will be informed that Government look upon these Local Funds as forming part of the funds which they are answerable for properly appropriating, and that they attach great importance to this duty. The works executed from these funds are usually of a very ordinary character, and knowing the great want of cross communications in the Madras District the Government are mortified

to find that so large a sum has been lying idle in the Treasury. The immediate attention of the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division will be called to the subject through the Public Works Department, and he will be instructed, in communication with the Collector, to make such arrangements as will ensure the proper expenditure of the sums annually available.

	Sums left unspent	
Kistna	39,231	5. The Government are surprised to learn that in
Nellore	30,737	Malabar only 20,000 Rupees were spent out of 80,000, and
Madura	11,458	that even of that small sum Rupees 5,000 represents a pay-
South Arcot	12,555	ment for work done by private agency. The Government
Tanjore	12,000	hope that the next report will show a much more favorable
Coimbatore	11,745	result in this District as well as in the other Districts margi-
North Arcot	9,627	nally noted.
Trichinopoly	6,502	

Nothing can have a worse effect on the people than the knowledge that the improvement of their roads is neglected notwithstanding the existence of the requisite funds.

6. The Collectors and District Engineers of North and South Arcot, Coimbatore, Salem, Bellary and Kurnool, will be informed that Government highly appreciate their energy in utilizing the Local Funds of their respective Districts.

7. In paragraphs 16, 18 and 20, the Board explain that in the Districts named in the margin the expenditure exceeded the sum in hand, and that the excess was met from the Imperial Funds without authority. This proceeding is irregular and cannot be permitted in future.

8. The expenditure on the Coimbatore and Coonoor road need not be refunded, as that line has now been constituted a local road, and tolls are to be levied on it which will be credited to the Local Fund, though specially applicable to its repair and improvement. As regards other roads, the simplest plan, to ensure the appropriation of Local Funds to local roads only, will be for the Board to procure from the Collectors (who will of course consult the Superintending Engineers) lists of Imperial works on which such funds are not to be expended. This should be done at once, and the lists submitted for the final orders of Government with rough sketch maps. The list of each District can be separately submitted as prepared.

9. In paragraphs 25 to 29 the Board report on the administration of the funds noted in the margin, which though subordinate to the head "Local Fund" are kept separate, as the receipts are devoted solely to special objects. The first, consisting of seignorage levied on fuel and timber cut in the jungles not under the Forest Conservancy Department, is reserved for forming new plantations or preserving and improving those already existing. A sum of nearly 35,000 Rupees was available, but nothing has yet been done to carry out the special object for which it was raised. This is very unsatisfactory, and should be remedied immediately. In North Arcot the collections are so large (Rupees 5,561) that the Government apprehend that Imperial Forest Revenue must have been included in the item, and they request an explanation on this point as well as the heavy charge for maintenance. The statements in future should show the gross collections, the commission paid, the expenditure and net receipts separately.

10. The system of "stamping weights and measures" on payment of a small fee has been in full operation only in the District of Madura and the town of Madras. The transactions under that head are therefore very limited, but orders have lately been issued for extending the system to other Districts, and there can be no doubt that the facilities thus afforded for testing the weights and measures in common use will be appreciated by the people.

11. The Trichinopoly Irrigation Cess Fund requires no special notice.

12. The Government approve of the administration of all these Local Funds forming the subject of a single report, but they look to the Board to ensure the submission of the report at a much earlier date hereafter. A review of the operations of any year is practically useless when delayed till another year has elapsed. The Board will arrange for the submission to them by Collectors of monthly or at least quarterly statements of expenditure, which will enable them to watch the proceedings of the local Officers during the year when their interposition may be of practical use. The "Local Fund" has been of the greatest advantage in those Districts in which it has been energetically administered, as a mere inspection of the list of works executed in South Arcot, North Arcot and a few other Districts shows. The Government will not allow Districts to

submit solely from the fact that they have administered promptly, and this is impossible. The official year 1890-91 is by the 1st September next, submit their returns within three

On receipt of the report, the Board will be of the

such inaction as to be useful must be for them without undue expect the Board's report any Officers who fail to

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*For information & reference of Treasurer & Bookkeeper
of the same and credit of City account*