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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>2666</i>	Press
<i>558-559</i>	~~Mis.~~
Dated <i>26-8-</i>	<i>1866</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th August 1864.*

No. 558. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department :—

Concurring with the Collector of Godavery and the Board of Revenue, in the opinion that the sum of Rupees 1,000 expended from the Local Fund on dykes, along the left bank of the northern branch of the Godavery, should be refunded, but stating that it is not worth while to do it now. } (Here enter 20th August 1864, No. 1,513.)

No. 559. ORDER THEREON, 26th August 1864, No. 2,464.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th August 1864.*

No. 309. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th July 1864, No. 4,835.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of the Godavery District, dated Cocanada, 11th July 1864, No. 172:—

1. I have the honor to forward copies of letters* that have passed between the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, and myself, regarding the re-payment, to the Local Fund, of a sum that was laid out from it, with Mr. Morris's sanction, on what appears to me to be essentially an imperial work.

* Collector's letter to the Superintending Engineer, No. 76, 2nd July.
Superintending Engineer's letter, to the Collector, No. 528, 6th July.

2. My only reason for asking for a refund of the money is, that the local roads in this District are in such a wretched state, so wanting in proper bridges and ferry boats where the various irrigation and navigable channels are crossed by them, that the whole of our Local Road Funds are not sufficient for what is required of them in this respect. It seems to me that these wants should first be supplied, before money from these sources is laid out on works which are, at any rate, more of an Imperial, than a local nature. In the case in point, the revetment of the river bank from Dowlaishwarum to Kadiyapulanka, I presume the outlay was intended to protect the river embankment from evasion by the current, or from being breached. If it were, and the Godavery flooded the country through the breach thus made, Imperial revenues would certainly suffer largely.

3. My belief is and has been, that Local or rather District Road Funds are principally intended for the formation of local roads where there are none, for their maintenance and improvement where they exist. No District that I have yet resided in is worse off in this respect than the Godavery District. There is not at present a single District road in it which is provided as it should be with bridges, tunnels, or ferry boats; and my anxiety is to see those roads that exist on paper only properly so provided.

4. The District Road Fund in this District is at present composed principally of road cess, grass rents, and surplus cattle pound fines; of which the two last supply by far the larger portion. The proceeds from ferry rents and tolls are very small.

5. Colonel Chambers thinks that because the banks of the channels are used as foot and bridle roads, therefore the repairs that are required to maintain these very banks should partly be executed from Local Funds. I do not see the propriety of this. These channels and their banks are required for Irrigation purposes, and must be maintained in efficient repair whether or not the banks are used as roads. They are not dug in order that the banks may be used as roads, but because the State requires them for Imperial purposes, to create Imperial revenue; and the banks, being in existence, are naturally used as foot or bridle paths. The District Road Fund should, therefore, I maintain, be applied simply in levelling, smoothing, and gravelling the tops of these banks, and bridging or providing safe means of crossing other channels led from the main ones, which make impassable gaps in the bridle paths; but not to the repair or maintenance of the banks. This seems to me fairly and legitimately a charge on Imperial revenue alone. Sometimes works that have been executed from Imperial Funds, roads for instance, have been transferred to the head District or Local, and thenceforward of course they must be maintained and repaired from the funds of this designation. But I do not think that a work which belongs to the class Imperial, which it seems to me that work regarding which this correspondence has arisen does, should be maintained from Local Funds. I believe that Government intend Local Funds to be supplemented from Imperial and not *vice versa*.

6. I have the honor therefore to request that you will obtain the opinion of the Board, and if necessary of Government, on this difference of opinion which exists between Colonel Chambers and myself; and that, at any rate, it may be plainly laid down, whether channel or river

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th August 1864.*

embankments, which must be maintained any how, and which may also be used as roads, are to be repaired or maintained from Local Funds.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. FRASER, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Godavery District, to Lieutenant-Colonel O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated Cocanada, 2nd July 1864, No. 76.

1. With reference to the Estimate amounting to Rupees 1,000 received with your Memorandum of the 18th February last, No. 2,208, for repairing the stone revetment of the river bank from Dowlaishwaram to Kadiyapulanka, I have the honor to inform you that the actual expenditure up to 30th April last, is Rupees 867-1-4, as per quarterly statement received from Major Stoddard.

2. I observe from the remarks in the Estimate in question that aid from the District Road Fund was required in consequence of there being no funds available then from the Imperial Reserve Funds, and that the same has been sanctioned by Mr. Morris. I should not object to any sum being advanced from the Local Funds when so urgently required, as this was for the repair of an Imperial work, but I look on the advance as a loan only. This stone revetment was originally constructed from Imperial Funds, and I observe that Rupees 472 were expended from the same source in repairing the work in the year 1863-64. Under these circumstances, I request you will have the goodness to remit to me the above amount, from the Imperial Funds by a transfer receipt that it may be re-credited to the District Road Fund. All the money available under this head is required for outlay on local roads and works in the District. In the event of your differing from me in opinion, I request you will let me know the same, so that I may refer the matter to Government for their consideration and disposal.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. FRASER, Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Lieutenant-Colonel O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to J. FRASER, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Godavery District, dated Waltair, 6th July 1864, No. 528:-

1. In acknowledging the receipt of your letter as per margin, I beg to state that I regret to differ from you in the opinion expressed therein that the sum of Rupees 1,000, which

Mr. Morris and myself thought might be with advantage expended on dykes along the left bank of the northern branch of the Godavery, should be treated as a loan only, and not as an absolute grant.

2. In the past official year Rupees 4,750 were provided in the Budget for repairing dykes in the Godavery District, and Rupees 17,298 expended from Imperial Funds, exclusive of Rupees 867 from Mr. Morris's grant; the expenditure in the present year should be on a larger scale, and, as only 12,300 Rupees are available, I cannot take upon myself to diminish that already insufficient amount by transferring even 867 Rupees as a refund to the Local Funds' account.

3. It seems to me that you are under a mistake in supposing that the Local Funds of a District are to be exclusively applied to its roads; under the head of Dykes, 1,000 Rupees were granted by Government in the past year to the Kistna from the ferry and other funds, and under the same head another sum of 6,410 Rupees was allotted to the Nellore District from the Income tax Funds.

4. Without these precedents, any expenditure from local sources required to supplement sums already granted by Government, might, in my opinion, be made without hesitation on the groynes by which the river embankments are protected, inasmuch as these banks are amongst the most frequented foot and bridle roads in the Collectorate.

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20th August 1864.*

5. The fact of these groynes having been originally established with Imperial Funds, is no argument for Local Funds to be prohibited from supplying money for their repair; nothing is more common than for an Imperial grant to be supplemented with one from Local Funds, or

Vide Budget of Local Funds passim.

for a work constructed originally by the State to be repaired with money granted by Government from local sources.

6. This application of Local Funds to other objects besides roads, appears to be a very proper arrangement at the Godavery in particular, because there the funds in question are derived in a large measure from other sources than ferries.

7. Should you still purpose addressing Government on the subject, I beg that you will oblige me by accompanying your report with this my letter that my views may be submitted to Government at the same time as yours, and a reference perhaps avoided.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Officiating Collector.

Ordered to be submitted for the decision of Government. The Board consider that the distinction drawn by Mr. Fraser is a proper one, and that Local Road Funds should not be employed in revetting river banks when such banks form part of a general scheme of Irrigation works.

ORDER THEREON, 20th August 1864, No. 1,513.
No. 310. The Government concur in the views of

Local Funds.

the Collector and the Board, but as decided in the case marginally noted, it is not worth while to make any refund now.

Order dated 3rd August 1864, No. 1,378.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.

Ed. T. O'Connor.

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