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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
14th December 1864.*

No. 269. Read the following letter from Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 24th November 1864, No. 4,327 :—

SIR,

I. The road between Madras and Ennore beyond, that is, northward of the limits of the Municipal Commission has always been treated of in three distinct sections, and maintenance grants have been allowed for them of the amounts, and on the dates below specified :—

1 Letter No. 68, dated 29th July 1864, with accompaniment.  
1 Do. „ 75, „ 8th August „ with one sketch.  
1 Do. „ 98, „ 5th Sept. „ with accompaniment.  
1 Do. „ 153, „ 11th November 1864, with accompaniment.

| No of Section. | Names of Sections.                                                  | Length. |    |     | Maintenance grant. | Rate per mile. | Date of Sanction.                                                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----|-----|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |                                                                     | M.      | F. | Y.  |                    |                |                                                                       |
| 1              | From Municipal Commissioner's limits on Basin road to Trivatore ... | 1       | 4  | 160 | Rs. 365            | Rs. 230        | No. 2,179, 10th September 1859.<br>Do. do.<br>No. 223, 9th July 1851. |
| 2              | From do. do. on Mint gate road to Trivatore ...                     | 1       | 1  | 110 | 735                | 618            |                                                                       |
| 3              | From Trivatore to Ennore.                                           | 5       | 4  | 100 | 250                | 37             |                                                                       |
|                | Total...                                                            | 8       | 2  | 150 | 1,350              |                |                                                                       |

The great inequality of these grants varying from Rupees 37 to Rupees 618 per mile will be at once observed. It is the last of the three sections, however, with which I have more particularly to deal at present.

2. In authorising the annual grant of Rupees 250, 13 years ago, the Government “trusted” that it would be so augmented by the contributions of the residents at Ennore as would enable “the Collector to plant a double line of Cassuarina and other ever-green trees on each side of the road, and to keep up an establishment for watering and taking care of them.”

3. For ten years the residents at Ennore steadily gave in their subscriptions, but since 1861, under explanations to be hereafter given, those subscriptions have ceased. It should, however, be stated that a single line of Cassuarina trees has been planted, and no establishment is any longer required to take care of them.

4. During the current year some of the principal residents repeatedly called my attention to the state of the road which became continually covered over with drift sand, and was in parts much out of repair. The small allotment, Rupees 250 was soon expended, and I instructed the Range Officer to make efforts to obtain the usual subscriptions from the residents.

5. The Sub-Engineer accordingly addressed a Circular to them enclosing in it a Statement shewing the probable amount of maintaining the road 5½ miles long for one year in a fit condition for light-spring conveyances; this he estimated, at what at first sight certainly appears a very high figure, viz. Rupees 1,563, and deducting therefrom the Government grant Rupees 250, he left the sum Rupees 1,313 per annum to be paid by the residents.

6. The householders naturally demur to such a demand, and consider it a very unfair division of the charges to be borne respectively by Government and by themselves. Indeed they begin to question whether under the altered circumstances since 1851, they can be justly called upon to aid to any extent in the ‘up-keeps’ of the road, inasmuch as they contend that it partakes now far more of a public than of a private character; the traffic, they argue, occasioned by the shipping of salt from Ennore (as the Salt Depôt has been recently revived there) has become very considerable, and there is a certain amount of through traffic to Pulicat and other places to the northward (when the Ennore Bar is closed.) Moreover carts conveying bricks, straw, paddy, rice, sand, firewood, &c., from Ennore to Madras continually traverse the line.

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7. Nevertheless the residents are willing, if under all the circumstances Government still decide on considering the line of road as being to a certain extent a private one, to contribute what may be deemed a just share of the expenses.

8. This year, failing to obtain the pecuniary assistance of the residents, I endeavoured to supplement the grant by proposing to the Collector to sell the loppings of the trees. This he reminded me was opposed to the orders which enjoined that such proceeds should be paid into the Government Treasury, and eventually the road was only put into some order by a grant of 200 Rupees from the Local Fund, a course which by the way, was not quite regular.

9. Before applying to Government for an increased grant for the section of road under consideration, I thought it advisable to ascertain from the Range Officer whether so large a sum as Rupees 735 was absolutely needed to keep in repair only about 1½ miles of road forming the 2nd of the three sections in the foregoing Tabular Statement. Mr. Bevan replies by forwarding a traffic Statement which does not to my mind justify so large a grant. As however it appears that during the present year Rupees 611 have been already *bona fide* expended, and Rupees 124 can well be laid out during the remaining five months of the year, I will not propose to lessen that grant *this* year. It appears to me that in future 300 Rupees a mile should suffice for Section No. 2, that is, for the road from the Municipal limits on the Mint gate road to Trivatore. The length being about 1½ miles the grant for future years should stand at 337 (say Rupees 340) in lieu of 735, and the difference Rupees 395 should be turned over to Section No. 3, which will thus be increased to Rupees 645 in lieu of Rupees 250, but this also on the Sub-Engineer's calculation is far short of the requirements.

10. I think, however, we might be satisfied with 180 Rupees a mile on the section between Trivatore and Ennore, or say 1,000 Rupees for the whole distance of 5½ miles. Deducting therefrom Rupees 645 as above, we have yet to provide Rupees 355. Of this I think 255 Rupees a year should be paid by the residents leaving Rupees 100 per annum to be provided by Government in addition to the present maintenance grant 1,350 Rupees for the three roads.

11. My reason for making this suggestion is that there is a vast difference in the character of road which the residents require (and cry out if they do not find) and that, which suffices for ordinary traffic. In fact it is just the difference which we may all observe every day between the middle, and the sides, of the Mount road.

12. If these views are adopted by Government the several maintenance allowances for the three roads in question will be as follows, which I recommend may be sanctioned for entry in the Budget of 1865-66 in lieu of the sums included in my lists of the 31st October last for the same roads :—

| Sections. | Road.                                                                  | Proposed annual maintenance. | Rate per mile. | Remarks.                                                         |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1         | From Municipal Commissioner's limits on Basin road to Trivatore ... .. | RS. 365                      | RS. 230        |                                                                  |
| 2         | From do. do. on Mint gate road to Trivatore ... ..                     | 340                          | 300            |                                                                  |
| 3         | From Trivatore to Ennore ... ..                                        | 1,000                        | 180            | • Including 255 Rupees to be contributed by residents at Ennore. |
|           | Total ...                                                              | 1,705                        |                |                                                                  |
|           | Proposed to obtain from residents.                                     | 255                          |                |                                                                  |
|           |                                                                        | 1,450                        |                |                                                                  |
|           | Original grants ...                                                    | 1,350                        |                |                                                                  |
|           | Excess per annum ...                                                   | 100                          |                |                                                                  |

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No. 270.

ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1864, No. 3,567.

On the understanding that a sum of Rupees 255 per annum is contributed by the residents at Ennore towards the maintenance of the road to that place beyond the Madras Municipal limits, the Government sanction the additional annual grant of Rupees 100 for the same purpose applied for in the foregoing letter, and the re-allotment of the allowances for the different sections of the road proposed in the last paragraph.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.  
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.  
„ Accountant General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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Shepard  
14<sup>th</sup> Dec 1864

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Wm.  
I have purpose affixed for  
the foregoing letter, and  
the recalculation of  
the allowances for  
the