

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	653	Press Mis.
194-5 Dated	13-3-	18 68.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 194. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th February 1868, No. 1,411.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallum, Tanjore talook, 6th November 1867, No. 213:—

1. Adverting to the great importance which the District Road Fund in this district has now assumed in consequence of the introduction of the Road Cess, I have the honor to lay before the Board, for their consideration, the urgent necessity which exists for providing an adequate agency for the executive superintendence of works to be carried out from this Fund.

2. As the Board are aware, the estimated receipts on account of this Fund for the next official year amount to Rupees 2,48,100, and the estimated expenditure also amounts to the same sum, of which no less than Rupees 2,01,852 are for works coming under the head of

	New Works	Repairs	Total
1864-65 ...	54,101	1,92,408	2,46,509
1865-66 ...	76,969	1,69,688	2,46,657
1866-67 ...	81,039	1,54,934	2,35,973
Average ...	70,703	1,72,343	2,43,046

"Communication," including new works and repairs. This sum is but little below the average expenditure on Imperial Public Works in this district for the past three years, as shown in the margin.

3. As the bulk of the Fund consists of the Road Cess, it may be safely assumed to be as permanent as the Imperial Land Revenue itself, and an annual expenditure of about two lacs of Rupees on district roads in this district may be looked upon, therefore, as a matter of certainty; thus showing, beyond all doubt, the desirability which exists for providing a permanent separate executive agency, in order that this large annual sum may be fully and carefully utilized.

4. Up to the present time, as the Board are aware, the execution of works sanctioned from the District Road Fund has been undertaken partly by the Revenue and partly by the Public Works Departments, the proportion undertaken by the latter being comparatively small; but the real truth has been that neither of the two departments has had the necessary time or the requisite subordinate agency for carrying out its respective quota of the work, and hence, it has happened, that even with an annual budget amounting to about one-fifth of what it is at present and is likely to be always hereafter, it has been found next to impossible to expend the whole amount sanctioned within the year.

5. In a deltaic district like Tanjore, the working season of the year is necessarily short, being limited generally to six months, from December to May, and as it is at this time that the Revenue Department has to perform the heaviest part of its own duties, viz., the settlement of the Jummahbundy with the detailed investigation of claims to remission for waste and shavi, it cannot be expected that, with an establishment cut down to the lowest amount, this department can undertake and properly carry out any public works whatever in addition to its own duties.

6. Under the present system, moreover, the Revenue Department labors under another most serious difficulty. According to the rules now in vogue, all plans and estimates have to be prepared by the Officers of the Public Works Department, but it often necessarily happens that in course of carrying them out,

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deviations from the original plan are found necessary: the Divisional Officer accordingly writes for instructions: but the Range Officer of the Department of Public Works being most likely at a distance, and engaged on his own more particular duties, is either unwilling or unable to attend to this requisition till it suits his convenience to do so, and thus months of the only working season in the year are lost, and the work is either not completed within the time fixed, or, if finished, is hurriedly got over within the last month of the official year. Nothing that I can write, can fully describe to the Board the trouble which I have had with regard to the execution of Local Funds, in consequence of the delay which takes place in the submission or alteration of plans and estimates, and I really do not see how any other result can be expected under the present state of things, for the Officers of the Department of Public Works naturally care more about their own particular work, than they do for running about and making estimates for my department.

7. The plan which I would propose is, that an establishment under the direction of a separate Professional Officer of the rank of an Executive Engineer, should be formed as a separate branch of the Revenue Department under the control of the Collector. The duties of this Officer will consist in the preparation of plans and estimates, and the general executive superintendence of all works carried out from the District Road Fund, together with the direction and control of the whole establishment formed for this purpose. All new projects of importance, before they are laid before the Board and Government, will, of course, be submitted to the Superintending Engineer for his consideration and approval, and with this exception the Officers of the Department of Public Works need not take any part in the working of the District Road Department; indeed, as before stated, it is hardly possible they can do so without detriment to their own duties. There will thus be a saving to the Fund of the ten per cent. now charged for Public Works Supervision, on works undertaken by that department.

8. I have given this subject my best and careful consideration, and I cannot conceive a plan that will work better. Colonel Strachey, of the Bengal Engineers, to whom I mentioned the subject in April last, most strongly recommended me to get a special and separate Engineer Officer and establishment for my Local Funds, adding that that was the system adopted in Bengal and the North-West Provinces, and was found to answer admirably. As a subordinate branch of the Revenue Department, the special establishment proposed will work in harmony and hearty co-operation with the Talook Revenue officials, and have their assistance in obtaining labor; and thus, professional superintendence will be combined with intimate local knowledge and local influence, without that clashing of subordinate agencies which is almost unavoidable where two distinct establishments, under the control of different heads, are made to work together.

9. To the Executive Engineer I would assign a monthly salary of Rupees 500 with a fixed travelling allowance of Rupees 50, as well as an office establishment at a monthly cost of Rupees 111. As regards the subordinate agency, I would give to each of the five large talooks of Tanjore, Combaconum, Nannilam, Negapatam, and Pattukottai, and to each two of the remaining four talooks of Mannargudi, Tritrapundi, Mayavaram, and Shialli, (constituting each two of the latter into a division,) an Overseer on a monthly salary of Rupees 50 with a fixed

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allowance of Rupees 15, and with a Gumastah and a Peon to each on a Rupees 15 and 5, respectively. To this separate Executive establishment, also add a small establishment for my own Office, consisting of a Manager, Assistant, and one Clerk, at an aggregate cost of Rupees 85 per mensem.

The total annual cost of the proposed establishment for the district roads amount, as particularized in the enclosed list, to Rupees 16,092; which the future average expenditure on roads from the Fund in question to be placed, would bear a per-centage of about eight thereon.

I trust the plan I have submitted will meet with the approval of the Board and will be submitted for the favorable consideration and orders of Government.

Establishment proposed for the Executive Superintendence of District Roads in Tanjore.

	Salary per mensem.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.
Superintendent of district roads	500	
Fixed travelling allowance do.	50	
<i>Office Establishment.</i>		
1 Draughtsman and Estimate-maker	35	
1 Writer	25	
1 Accountant	25	
2 Lascars, at Rupees 7 each	14	
2 Peons, at do. do.	14	
	111	
		661
Talook Overseers, at Rupees 50 each	350	
Fixed travelling allowance to do. at 15 Rupees each ...	105	
<i>Establishment for Talook Overseers.</i>		
Gumastahs, at Rupees 15 each	105	
Peons, at Rupees 5 each	35	
	140	
		595
<i>For the Collector's Office.</i>		
Manager	50	
Accountant	20	
Clerk	15	
	85	
Total cost per mensem		1,341
Per annum		16,092

(Signed) G. L. MORRIS,
Collector.

The Board cordially concur in the Collector's proposals. It will be seen that the proposed establishment will not amount to ten per cent. on the total, and the proposed arrangement cannot but be more efficient than that at present in force, when it is remembered that the Officers of the Department of Public Works have their own proper duties to perform in addition to those connected with the Road Fund.

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2. The Superintending Engineer of the division will be requested to favor the Board with his opinion on the subject, but meantime the Collector's letter will be submitted to Government, as it is very desirable that the separate establishment should commence work from the beginning of the coming official year.

No. 195.

ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1868, No. 653.

Local Funds, No. 9.
Establishment.

1. Before sanctioning the Collector's proposal, the Government desire to be informed what the views of the Superintending Engineer are as to the success of the changes suggested by Mr. Morris.

2. The Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, will state his opinion also on the merits of the plan, and will report whether any and what members of the Department of Public Works may be placed permanently under the Collector's orders.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd S. T. Augustin.

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14th Mar 68 of Rev. Dept. 14
21 Sec. 25th 7, 3. 7. 15. Sec. 2

13th March 68