M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1405 Press Mis.

81-83.
Dated 7-9-1870 N

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following :—

No. 81. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th June 1870, No. 4,513.

Read the following letters :

From the Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 28th May 1870, No. 194.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Salt Gollah at Cannanore took fire on the night of the 26th ultimo, and that the whole structure, which was composed of wooden walls and thatched roof, was destroyed. The extent of damage caused to the salt has not yet been ascertained.

2. On hearing of the accident I wrote to the Sub-Collector to proceed to the spot, and take measures to secure the salt in store.

3. At the instance of the Sub-Collector, the Range Officer of Cannanore had two temporary sheds erected, and the salt removed to them. Before the completion of the sheds, however, the Range Officer received instructions from the Superintending Engineer to stop the work, as it was unauthorized; and I have since received an estimate for the work, amounting to Rupees 900, and an application from the Cannanore Range Officer, requesting payment of the money as soon as possible.

I have sent the estimate for the counter-signature of the Superintending Engineer, and will submit it when returned by that officer.

4. The fact that the inquiry into the charge against Turnbull was at the time going on, and the absolute necessity of the Gollah being made safe before the monsoon, accounts for the assistance of the Range Officer having been obtained, though contrary to strict form.

5. I have not received an account of actual expenditure, but I am promised that it will be submitted shortly.

Rupees 300 of the amount sanctioned for petty construction and repairs in this district have been paid to the Range Officer, and I beg that sanction may be granted for 500 Rupees more being paid or transferred from the same source. As the rest of the allotment for petty construction and repairs has been appropriated, I am unable to recommend further payment on the Range Officer's estimate.

6. As it is very desirable to have a permanent building erected at Cannanore for the storage of salt, I have the honour to request that orders may be issued to the Public Works Department for the speedy submission of the plan and estimate for the work.

The new building should have wooden walls and tiled roof.

From the same officer, dated Calicut, 4th June 1870, No. 206.

WITH reference to my letter of the 28th ultimo, No. 194, I have the honour to forward herewith the estimate for constructing a temporary Salt Gollah at Cannanore.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Estimate.

IN the first letter the Collector reports that the Salt Gollah at Cannanore had been burnt down, that the Range Officer of the place was erecting temporary sheds

at the instance of the Sub-Collector, and that salt was being removed to them, but that before the sheds could be completed, the Superintending Engineer directed the work to be stopped, as being unauthorized. It appears that Rupees 300 have been paid to the Range Officer from the amount sanctioned for petty construction and repairs, and the Collector requests that sanction may be granted for 500 Rupees more being paid for the same purpose.

2. With the second letter the estimate for 900 Rupees for erecting these sheds is submitted. The Board sanction the estimate. If this unforeseen expenditure results in the sanctioned estimate for the year 1870-71, viz., Rupees 1,500 being exceeded, the Collector will report under paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th May 1870, No. 3,253.

3. Paragraph 6 of the first letter in which the Collector speaks of the necessity for a permanent building at Cannanore for the storage of salt will be submitted for the favourable consideration of Government. The Board agree with the Collector.

4. The cause of the fire should be reported.

No. 82. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th July 1870, No. 4,962.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 28th June 1870, No. 238.

In continuation of my letter, dated 28th May last, No. 194, I have the honour to submit two letters (to be returned) since received from my Sub-Collector, dated 18th instant, Nos. 520 and 531, regarding the Salt Gollah at Cannanore which was lately destroyed by fire.

2. In letter No. 531, the Sub-Collector describes the steps taken to trace the cause of the fire. This still remains undiscovered although no effort has been spared to find it out.

3. Letter No. 520 refers to the money due to Captain Bailey for the expenditure incurred by him in providing temporary accommodation for the Government salt. The Board are aware that I have already addressed them on this subject in my letter above quoted. In consideration of the inconvenience to which the Range Officer was put in having had to pay Rupees 74-5-2 from his own pocket, I have thought proper to remit this amount to him, although the orders of the Board on my former letter have not yet been received. I submit the bills of the Range Officer for the Rupees 374-5-2 already paid to him.

4. The occurrence calls prominent attention to the danger of having thatched sheds for the storage of large quantities of salt.

5. The Superintending Engineer will be requested to have plans and estimate prepared for a new building with tiled roof. It will, I believe, be necessary to retain wood for the walls, as masonry bulges from the pressure.

Enclosure No. 1.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Tellicherry, 18th June 1870, No. 520.

I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter from Captain Bailey, No. 298, dated 14th June 1870, and to request you will send me at *the earliest possible date* the balance, Rupees 563-9-2,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th September 1870.

of the expense incurred in erecting a temporary Salt Store at Cannanore. Captain Bailey you will see has had to pay a portion of the expense out of his own pocket. His department rendered me very material service at the time, and I am sorry to see him put to personal inconvenience for voluntarily undertaking an essentially public work. It was quite certain I should think that the money would be forthcoming eventually to replenish the Public Works Department Funds, and I would have expected that Departmental Rules would have given way where the public service emergently required it. I feel this because supposing myself placed in the same position again, I could not expect again to receive the ready support which the Public Works Department under Captain Bailey so willingly afforded me.

From Captain H. BAILEY, Assistant Engineer, Malabar, to the Sub-Collector of Malabar, dated Cannanore, 14th June 1870, No. 298.

I have the honour to enclose a bill for Rupees 863-9-2, being the amount expended on constructing the temporary Salt Gollahs here, and would feel much obliged by your kindly forwarding me the balance due, Rupees 563-9-2, as soon as possible, to enable me to pay for materials.

33 Vouchers.

2. Enclosed I forward vouchers for Rupees 374-5-2, being the amount actually paid, Rupees 74-5-2 of this amount I have had to pay myself, pending receipt of funds from you, as I have been forbidden to charge any expenditure on account of Salt Gollahs in my accounts.

3. The vouchers for the balance, Rupees 489-4-0, I will forward as soon as I receive the balance of the bill from you, and have paid the people to whom it is due.

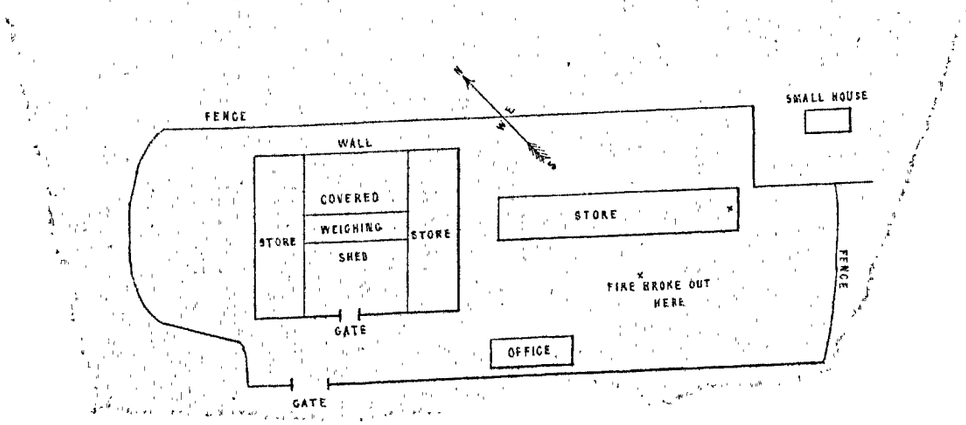
Enclosure No. 2.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Tellicherry, 18th June 1870, No. 531.

I am not sure whether you require a further report regarding the loss of the Salt Gollah at Cannanore by fire; but before I proceed on leave, I may as well state the result of the inquiries I made as to the circumstances under which it took place.

2. But for one or two other fires having occurred near the same place about the same time, I should have concluded the origin of the fire was accidental. I was unable, as you are aware, to make the inquiries in person on the spot, but the Police were busily engaged inquiring into it, aided by the Town Sub-Magistrate. Nothing, however, was discovered tending to throw suspicion on any person, and I have now little hope that anything will be ascertained.

3. The building was arranged thus :—



It is clearly ascertained that the fire broke out at the east or rather south-east end of the separate store. It is also clearly ascertained that the wind was at the time blowing strongly from the north, the long shore wind. It prevailed for several days at that time, and was blowing particularly strong on the day the fire occurred. It is a dry parching wind, and fires are usually most prevalent during the time this wind is blowing. The fire broke out about 6 or 6-15 in the evening, and rapidly spread over all the buildings, office included. A number of European Soldiers of the Royal Regiment were brought down at once, and the Cantonment Magistrate was also on the spot within 10 minutes. The Soldiers nearly succeeded in denuding all the west side of the west store of its thatch before the flames caught that building, and an attempt was also made to cut off the fire from it altogether by stripping the thatch of the weighing shed. The efforts, however, proved ineffectual, and the whole of the buildings were destroyed. A fire engine that was brought down was discovered to be out of repair, but even if it could have been worked, it would have done little good, as the flames took strong hold of the thatched roofs which had been rendered as inflammable as tinder by the dry parching winds, and it might have damaged the salt more than the fire did.

4. As already observed, no information as to the cause of the fire is forthcoming. There is a bandy-pettah within 50 yards of the west side of the store compound, but any sparks from the fires there or from the slaughter-house and other houses in the vicinity would have been carried past the store altogether or lodged in the west end; they could not possibly have been carried by the wind then blowing to the east end of the eastern store where the fire broke out. About 200 yards off, but directly in the eye of the wind blowing on the east end of the store, there are some fires used by washermen at the dhobies nullah: it is scarcely conceivable that a spark could have been carried from them, though in my opinion it is the most plausible account offered. Ashes, too, are thrown about in some compounds on the other side of a stream separating them from the store compound, but they again are rather off the wind blowing in the direction of the eastern end of the east store. The Police ascertained that a blacksmith had been mending a wheel on the afternoon of the day the fire occurred on the sea-shore. He had a large fire for the purpose, but sparks from it could scarcely have flown up wind to a distance of 70 or 80 yards, and there was a story that one of the peons of the store took some of the ashes from that fire, and kept them in the store compound near the eastern side, intending to take them for his fields. It was admitted he had done this on a previous occasion and the Superintendent had the ashes removed on learning that I was probably coming to inspect the store during a visit to Cannanore. Remains of ashes were pointed out to me near the eastern end of the store, but I was unable to satisfy myself that they were not ashes from the building. The peon denied his having brought ashes there though he had asked the blacksmith for the ashes of the fire on the beach. No proof was forthcoming that he did bring them, and even supposing he did, the place where they were said to have been put was to leeward of the place where the fire broke out; so that I don't think there is much in this story. If it was the work of an incendiary, he would scarcely have chosen 6 o'clock in the evening for doing it with a great chance of being discovered, when he could have effected his object so much more easily under cover of night. There is a small house close to the east end of the store, but it had been unoccupied for some time before the fire occurred. On the whole I am inclined to think, even notwithstanding the other fires that occurred in the same neighbourhood apparently without cause, that the origin of the fire was accidental.

5. The salt in store was only very slightly damaged by the fire, and I should think the loss will not exceed 5 or 6 garce, though the Superintendent estimates it at from 10 to 14 garce.

6. The buildings were completely ruined, and will have to be entirely re-built.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 3 to 5.—Bills.

SUBMITTED to Government, in continuation of Proceedings, No. 4,513, of the 29th ultimo.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th September 1870.

2. The Board have already sanctioned the estimate for repairing the buildings. The Collector was quite justified in advancing money on account of emergent work of this kind.

3. There is no good reason to suppose that the fire was other than the effect of accident, though the actual cause is unexplained.

No. 83. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1870, No. 1,405.

Separate Revenue, No. 3.
Salt.

THE Board have already sanctioned the Collector's estimate for temporary sheds. An estimate for a permanent Gollah should be submitted through the Department Public Works, but the Government suggest the employment of pise instead of wood for the walls. The ill-judged interference of the Superintending Engineer will receive notice in the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

From The Colonial Engineer
Dunedin 4th Sept 1870
Rec'd 6th Sept 1870

RECEIVED
6 SEP 1870
COLONIAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE

To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September 5th.
Read
Read

C. O., 7th September 1870, No. 1,455.

Public Works Office,
1705, 21—98.

Acts Collated Carefully.—Estimate for the Permanent Lighting of the Principal Public Works. The Hon. the Minister for Public Works. The Hon. the Minister of the Department of Public Works has the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Board of Revenue, the accompanying Estimate for the Permanent Lighting of the Principal Public Works.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT. UE

No. 2054

From Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 4,513.
Dated 29th June. 1870.

FOR ORDERS.

A permanent building
is necessary. but I do not
like wooden walls. why
not try brick.
The O.M.W. should retain the
Rule Plans till finished in the
finance
I & J

Revenue Department.

No. 1405

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 7th Septr 1870.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Sanctg estimate for temy Tarring Salt Gollah at Cannanore in Malabar District. — B. 29th June 1870, No 4,513.

Forwarding copies of communications from Sub Collr regarding cause of fire which destroyed Salt Gollah at Cannanore. — " — 20 July — " — 4,962.

The Board have already sanctioned the Collectors estimate for temporary sheds. An estimate for a permanent Gollah should be submitted through the Department Public Works, but the Govt suggest the employment of tiles instead of wood for the walls. The ill-judged interference of the Superg Engineer will

J. D. S.

N. A.

By A.

11 Tolls Dy Secy Revenue Board
21 — Dy Secy
16 — Asstt Secy

receive notice in the P.W.D.

