

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.
DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Misc.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23th June 1871.*

No 495. Read the following Endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated
3rd June 1871 —

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th May 1871, No. 2,130

Read the following letters.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R E, Acting Superintending Engineer,
8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
dated 6th April 1871, No. 92.

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for the instructions of Government, the accompanying letter, No 2, dated 3rd instant, from the Assistant Engineer in charge of No 1 Range, Madura, requesting, for the reasons set forth therein, that he may be relieved from any scrutiny or responsibility regarding the road works carried out in his Range by the Collector's Department.

2. In Government Order, 21st March 1871, No. 501, communicated with your order, 29th March 1871, No. 172, it is stated that the Government "would be glad of some assurance that the state of things described by Mr Chase is "really exceptional" And I think that the perusal of the accompanying letter is sufficient of a reply to show that as regards the District of Madura, the Local Fund Roads are in an eminently unsatisfactory state.

3. I have recently carefully inspected the road between this place and Shevagungah, twenty-seven miles in length. For the first eight miles this road is along Imperial Road No XIII, and is in excellent order. From this point the District Road leads off, and for the whole of its nineteen miles its condition is as unsatisfactory as can well be imagined. Indeed, considering that a sum of no less than Rupees 18,000 was expended on its formation by this department so recently as in 1867-68, after which it was handed over in good order to the Revenue authorities, and notwithstanding that since that period the liberal allotment (liberal considering the traffic) of Rupees 125 per mile has been granted annually for its maintenance, it may safely be said that the state of this road is as disastrous as it is unworthy of a civilized Government.

4. This road has, during the interval of two years, deteriorated to such an extent in consequence of the deep gullies, almost chasms in some places, formed by the rain as it washes away the sides of the road embankments, that the width of the roadway is frequently so reduced as to leave scarcely room for one bandy to pass along the road, and it is only at the peril of one's limbs if not danger of one's life that this road can be traversed in a bandy in the day-time, while it cannot be used at all at night.

5. The system, if it can be called such, appears to be not to attempt to maintain the road in a good state by the well known "stitch in time that saves nine," i.e., by executing small repairs as they become necessary, but to wait until some portion or portions of the road have become so bad as to be impassable for traffic and then to prepare an estimate for these portions and give the same out on contract. And as if this system were not deleterious enough in itself, it has been rendered more so by delaying for considerable periods to check the work executed by contractors, and to defray the cost of the work performed by them.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23th June 1871.*

6 As for the "avenues" along the road, anything more pitiable in the way of neglect can scarcely be imagined, as I have brought to the notice of the Collector.

7. I mention these details not at all in the manner of a complaint, but simply to show, from the facts of a case that has recently come under my immediate cognizance, how very necessary it is that an end should be put to the present very unsatisfactory state of affairs. It is clear that as work of the nature undermentioned is the business of the Department of Public Works, that department should be made to do its work and not throw unnecessary labour and responsibility on the members of another department who have other and sufficiently onerous duties to occupy the whole of their official time.

8 In the old days of "impresario" Tahsildars, a good deal of so-called voluntary labour could be obtained, and if it was not very good of its kind, at all events it was not costly. Now, the picture has been reversed the money is expended, but the road is not mended.

From G R LEGGATT, Esq., Assistant Engineer in charge of No 1 Range, Madura, to the
Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated 3rd April 1871, No 2

I BEG to draw your attention to the disgraceful state in which all the Local Fund Roads in this Range are maintained by the Revenue Department, numerous bills have been sent to me in order that I should grant completion certificates for them; this I have refused* to do, as I found on inspection that *not in one instance* was the road in such condition as to justify my passing the bill. I have therefore the honour to request you will be good enough as to obtain the orders of Government towards this department being *entirely* relieved of any scrutiny or responsibility regarding works carried out by the Collector's Department.

REFERRED to the Collector of Madura, through the Board of Revenue, for full and immediate explanation.

(Signed) F BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.
6th May 1871.

From the Honourable D ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 11th May 1871, No. 136.

I HAVE the honour to submit the explanation called for in the endorsement of Government, dated 6th May 1871, and in the Proceedings of the Board, Miscellaneous No. 1,485, dated 8th May 1871, regarding the alleged disgraceful state of the local roads of Madura District. Lieutenant Colonel Roberts having called special attention to the state of the road between Madura and Shivagunga when inspected by himself, I will first explain by whom the road was constructed and then show the cause of its dilapidated condition.

2. This road was constructed entirely under the orders and supervision of the Department of Public Works and was finished in 1867-68, and in 1868-69 an allotment of Rupees 125 per mile for repairs was made in the Budget of the Public Works Department and spent by them. The Revenue Department took charge of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23th June 1871.*

the road in 1869-70. In November 1869, the road which Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts alleges was handed over in *good order* (only a few months previously) was almost entirely swept away by the heavy rains.

3 This catastrophe arose simply from faulty construction. The water-way allowed was wholly insufficient, and the road was breached in many places and greatly damaged through its whole length. After this disaster in the end of 1869, the Department of Public Works again made a few trifling repairs at a cost of 410 Rupees, so that, correctly speaking, the road was not out of their hands till the beginning of 1870. Since that time the Revenue Department has expended the repair allotment as far as it would go in re-constructing the road, but, as I have pointed out to Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, the road will still be liable to the same destruction in floods if additional water-way is not provided.

4 Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts' remarks are only excusable on the ground of his ignorance of the real state of the case, which his very recent arrival in the district sufficiently accounts for.

5. Mr Leggatt's allegation that all the Local Fund Roads are in a disgraceful state, is simply untrue; but as he has not entered into any details or mentioned any particular road, I request that he may be called on to give more particular information.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to their endorsement on a letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated the 6th April 1871,
No. 92

TRANSFERRED to the Department of Public Works of the Secretariat.
(Signed) D F CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 496 ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1871, No 1,732.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 24

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division for such further remarks as he may wish to offer on the Collector's report regarding the road from Madura to Shivagunga. Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts will call upon Mr. Leggatt to specify the particular Local Fund Roads which he describes as being in a "disgraceful" state, and on hearing from that officer the Superintending Engineer will take an early opportunity of inspecting the roads and reporting on their present exact condition.

2. The Superintending Engineer will at the same time caution Mr. G R. Leggatt, Assistant Engineer, against the use of such an expression as "disgraceful" in reference to work executed by other officers or under the orders of officers of another department.

3. The Government feel themselves constrained to notice the objectionable character of paragraph 5 of the Honourable D. Arbuthnot's letter of the 11th of May 1871 to the address of the Board of Revenue. In qualifying the statement of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th June 1871.*

Mr Leggatt as "simply untrue" the Collector of Madura was betrayed into the use of language inadmissible in official correspondence, and calculated to prevent that harmonious co-operation between the officers of the Revenue and Public Works Departments which the Government desire to promote
(True Extract)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No 2

1st Range Office 5
Madura 3rd April 1871

From

The Assistant Engineer
in ch. of No 1 Range Madura

To

The Superintending Engineer
8th Division

Sir,

I beg to draw your attention to the disgraceful state in which all the Local Fund Roads in this Range are maintained by the Revenue Department; numerous bills have been sent to me in order that I should grant completion certificates for them, this I have refused to do as I found on Nos 271 & 394 inspection that not in one instance dated 10th Sept^r was the road in such condition as 8th December 1870 to justify my passing the bill. I have therefore the honor to request you will be good enough as to obtain the orders of Government towards this Department being entirely relieved of any scrutiny or responsibility.

7
regarding works carried out by the
Collectors' Department

Shewell

Signed by H. Veggall

Asst Engineer in ch. of

No 1 Range, Macdures

True copy,

Genl. Roberto - Lieut. Col. R.E.

Asst. Superint. Engineer 8th Div.

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order 29th

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the Government "would be glad of
some assurance that the state of things
described by Mr. Chase is really
"exceptional" - And I think that

Madura 11
6th April 1871

No 92

From
Lieut. Col. R. A. Roberts R.E.
8th Div.

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March 1871 - to 172, it is stated that
the Government "would be glad of
some assurance that the state of things
described by Mr. Chao is really
exceptional" - And I think that

For
the Government
to the Secretary of
the Government
6th April 1871

Dec 13 1871
Dec 17 1871

P. M. 1871/11

Copy to the
Hon. Secy. of the
Government
Madras 11
P. M. 1871/11

Enclosure 1
in a letter from the
of Supt. Engineer
3rd Division to the
Secretary to Govt. of P.W.
dated 21st April
1871. No. 258

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P. 2566/71
Sum 28 June 1871 L. 195

Copy of Mr. Roberts
letter of 21st of
2nd (Feb 1871)
In G. P. No 2609/71

Madras 11
April 1871
No. 1092

Madras 11
6th April 1871

No 1092

From
Lieut. Col R. A. Roberts R.E.
Asst. Superintg. Engineer 8th Div.
To
Colonel C. A. Smith R.E.
Secretary to Government D. P. W.

Sir,
I have the honor to forward herewith for the instructions of Government the accompanying letter No 2 dated 3rd instant from the Assistant Engineer in charge of No 1 Range Madras, requesting for the reasons set forth therein, that he may be relieved from any scrutiny or responsibility regarding the road works carried out in his Range by the Collectors' Department.
In my No 21st March 1871, No 501, communicated with your order 29th March 1871 - No 172, it is stated that the Government "would be glad of some assurance that the state of things described by Mr. Schae is really exceptional" - And I think that

Enclosure 1

the perusal of the accompanying letter is sufficient of a reply to show that as regards the District of Madura the Local Fund roads are in an extremely unsatisfactory state.

3. I have recently carefully inspected the road between this place and the village of 24 miles in length. In the first 8 miles, this road is along Imperial Road No. XIII, and is in excellent order. From this point the District Road branches off and for the whole of its 19 miles, its condition is as unsatisfactory as can well be imagined. Indeed, considering that a sum of no less than Rs. 15,000 was expended on its formation by this Department so recently as in 1864-68, after which it was handed over in good order to the Revenue authorities, and notwithstanding that since that period, the liberal allotment - liberal, considering the traffic - of Rupees 125 per mile has been granted annually for its maintenance, it may safely be said that the state of this road is as disastrous as it is unworthy of a civilized Government.

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1. This road has during the interval of two years deteriorated to such an extent, in consequence of the deep gullies - almost chasms in some places formed by the rain as it washes away the sides of the road embankments, that the width of the roadway is frequently so reduced as to leave scarcely room for one bandy to pass along the road; and it is only at the peril of one's limbs, if not danger of one's life, that this road can be traversed in a bandy in the day time, while it cannot be used at all at night.

5. The system, if it can be called such, appears to be not to attempt to maintain the road in a good state, by the well known 'stitch in time that saves nine', i.e. by executing small repairs as they become necessary, but to wait until some portion, or portions, of the road have become so bad as to be impassable for traffic and then to prepare an estimate for these portions and give

the same out on contract. And as of this system were not deleterious enough in itself, it has been rendered more so by delaying for considerable periods to check the work executed by contractors, and to defray the cost of the work performed by them.

6. As for the "avenues" along the road, anything more pitiable in the way of neglect can scarcely be imagined as I have brought to the notice of the collector -

7 I mention these details not at all in the manner of a complaint, but simply to show, from the facts of case, that has recently come under my immediate cognizance, how very necessary it is that an end should be put to the present very unsatisfactory state of affairs. It is clear that as work of this nature under mention is the business of the Department of Public Works, that Department should be made to do its work and not throw unnecessary labor and responsibility on the members of another Department.

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it have other and sufficiently meritorious duties to occupy the whole of their official time.

8 In the old days of "improvisation" and a good deal of so-called voluntary labor could be obtained, and if it was not very good of its kind, at all events it was not costly. Now the picture has been reversed. The money is expended but the road is not mended.

I have the honor to be

Sir
your Most Obedient Servant
Richd. Roberts Lieut Col R.E.
Ag. Superintending Engineer
8th Division

By the consideration of Govt of para 5 of
 the Collector's letter which I think ought to be noticed.
 Mr Lygatt's description of the state of the roads is merely
 his opinion, and how incorrect it may be in the Collector's
 view, or however inaccurate it may be hereafter pronounced
 by the Superintending Engineer, there can be no harm
 or cooperation between the two Depts. if the officers
 of either use such language towards those of the other.

J. S. S. 8th

Therefore that it must be found
 fair to assume the balance to
 be the use of the one or the other
 of the two, it is assumed
 for the sake of the other, it is
 true in the existing circumstances
 as reported must be assumed
 in the opinion of opinion in the
 same may be said of the other things
 must. It is assumed as a balance
 and if any action is to be taken
 of either I think it should
 be the use of both.

17th June 1871 B. D.

Report
 Collector of the
 through the
 of Revenue
 & immediate
 action
 Mr. Lygatt
 Mr. S. S.
 Mr. S. S.

Report
 Collector of the
 through the
 of Revenue
 & immediate
 action
 Mr. Lygatt
 Mr. S. S.
 Mr. S. S.

10th June 1871
 Mr. S. S.
 Mr. S. S.
 Mr. S. S.

10th June 1871
 Mr. S. S.
 Mr. S. S.
 Mr. S. S.

P. M. D. . .
Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following

Endorsement from the
Revenue Department } W. E. L. — 23 June 1911

I regret that I am
unable to concur
in the additional
charge proposed by this
Committee.

Mr. Leggate - a
young gentleman who
entered the D.M. in
1908, officially declines
the work of the Chief
Magistrate of the District to
be "dispassionate" - no
instances are mentioned
the charge is sweeping
& universal.

The Chief Magistrate
in his statement is "kindly
but untrue" - and I think

Communicated to
the Superintending Engineer
of the 8th Division for
such further remarks as
he may wish to offer
on the Collector's report
regarding the road from
Madura to Shivagunga
Lieut. Colonel Roberts
will call upon Mr. Leggate
to specify the particular
Local fund roads which

T. W. 28 June 171 L 2495.

He describes as being in
a "disgraceful" state,
and on hearing from
that officer ^{The Sup. E.} ~~he~~ will
take an early opportunity
of inspecting the roads
and reporting on their
present exact condition.

has Sept. 11 richly deserved
~~the~~ ^{life} that he has - an
officer and applied the
term "disgraceful" to
a better officer, he would
probably undoubtedly ^{have} been
called to account in a
way that would have been
his own choice in his
situation hereafter. If "Co.
operations" is the demand, the
first state, I submit, is to
prevent exact condition.

[illegible]

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[Faint handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

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Communicated to
the Supt Engineer of the
8th Division for such
further remarks as he
may wish to offer on the
Collector's report regarding
the road from Lincatura
to Shuvaguniga; Lieut^t
Col. Roberts will call
upon Mr. Leggett to
specify the particular
Local fund towards which
he describes as being in
a "disgraceful" state,
and on hearing from
that

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that officer the Super Engineer
will take an early oppor-
tunity of inspecting the
roads and reporting on
their present exact condition.

The Super Engineer
will at the same time
caution Mr. H. R. Leggatt,
Assistant Engineer, against
the use of such an expression
as "disgraceful" in reference
to work executed by other
officers or under the orders
of officers of another Depart-
ment.

The Government
are willing to believe that
the expression was used
only as expressive of what
was considered the bad
state of repair of the road
but even so it was an

omit 11

objection
A/A

25
inappropriate adjective,
unsuitable in an official
report, and disrespectful
towards the Collector
of the District.

The Govt feel
themselves constrained to
notice the ^{objectionable} offensive char-
acter of para 5 of the
Honorable D. Arbuthnot's
letter of the 11th of May 1871
to the address of the Board
of Revenue. In qualifying
the statement of Mr.
Leggatt as "simply untrue"
the Collector of Madras
was betrayed into the
use of language in-
admissible in official
correspondence and cal-
culated to prevent that
harmonious cooperation

omit 11
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between the officers of the
Revenue and Public
Works Departments
which the Govt. desires
to promote.

Y

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To the Superintendents
of the Bd. of Revenue
Rev. Dep't

Recd 29/6/71.

Sept 1871 31/10/71

PUBLIC WORKS.

1. *The City Superintending Engrs*
8th Division

Date:

Ref:

2

G 28 June 1871 No 1732.

Nos. 495 & 496