Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th December 1874.

No. 353. Read the following Endorsement of the Financial Department, dated 26th November 1874 :—

ABSTRACT.—Transferring Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting a letter from the President, Local Fund Boards, Ganjam, requesting that Mr. Leggatt may be restored to the Chetterpore Range.

No. 354. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1874, No. 3,548.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 29.

His Excellency the Governor in Council declines to interfere with the District Engineer of Ganjam in the arrangements which he has found it expedient to make for the supervision of the executive ranges of his district.

2. As it has not been found possible to replace Ensign Lever by another officer or subordinate during his six months' leave, the only alternative was for the District Engineer himself to take charge of the range in addition to his other duties.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Ganjam.
„ Financial Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

No. 2,902.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th October 1874.

Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting President of the Local Fund Boards, Ganjam, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Berhampore, 25th August 1874, No. 208 :—

IN continuation of my letter, No. 497, dated the 29th July, I have the honor to enclose copy of a resolution passed by the Chetterpore Local Fund Board at their meeting on the 20th instant.

2. In it "the Board regret that reasons exist in the opinion of the District Engineer, which render the transfer of Mr. Leggatt from this Circle to that of Chicacole desirable, as his services have been found particularly valuable in the roads of the Circle, and the Board had wished that he had been able to carry out his suggestions. Major Smalley objects to the matter being discussed, and is therefore no party to the resolution."

3. I have also the honor to enclose copy of a letter, No. 181, dated the 18th July, addressed by Mr. Leggatt, the Range Officer, to the District Engineer, in which he brought to that officer's notice the "most deplorable state" of the trunk road in particular, expressed his anxiety "to improve the condition of all the roads in the district," which he represented to be in a "bad state," pointed out existing defects, and offered a variety of most useful suggestions for their improvement, and which, if carried out under his own superintendence, could not have failed to be attended with most beneficial results to the Circle.

4. During the short time that Mr. Leggatt was resident in the Circle, a marked improvement has been perceptible in those portions of road where he has had time to introduce his improved system of repair, and the Local Fund Board looked hopefully to the extension under his auspices of similar benefit throughout the Circle.

5. It was with much disappointment therefore, that the Local Fund Board became suddenly aware that the District Engineer had transferred Mr. Leggatt from this Circle to that of Chicacole, at the very time when he had had the moral courage to bring the existing shortcomings of the road department to light, and had suggested a remedy.

6. In deference to the expressed wishes of some members of the Local Fund Board, I addressed the District Engineer demi-officially, requesting him to reconsider the proposed transfer, and, if possible, permit Mr. Leggatt's services to be continued to the Circle.

7. In reply I was told "I really do not know what to say in answer to it now," that Mr. Leggatt was even then engaged in assuming charge of the Chicacole Range, and that Mr. Lever would be transferred to Berhampore from Chicacole, if he continued in the service.

8. The Local Fund Board are not aware what departmental reasons exist which have induced Major Smalley to effect this transfer, but they feel themselves in duty bound in the interests of the Circle under their charge, to express their sentiments of regret at the loss which the Circle has sustained by being deprived of Mr. Leggatt's services, at a time when the Board fully expected to reap such benefits from them.

9. When the subject was mooted at the Local Fund Meeting, Major Smalley protested against the Board expressing any opinion whatever regarding it, on the ground that it was purely a departmental matter with which the Board had no concern whatever.

10. The objection was unanimously over-ruled by the other members present, because they were of opinion, without wishing to question Major Smalley's right to make the transfer, that they were entitled to make him acquainted with their views on the subject, and that they would be wanting in their duty to the Circle interests, did they abstain from doing [illegible] the more especially as it was Mr. Leggatt who had brought to their special notice at the pre[illegible] meeting, how the Local Fund Board had hitherto been deprived, by fraud and otherwise, of 50 per cent. of the material which they paid for, owing to the pernicious system which obtained in the Department of Public Works of paying for material at the quarry, instead of on the road where it was intended for use.

11. The general question raised as to the right or otherwise of the Local Fund Board to make their sentiments known is of such importance, that I think it proper to submit it for an authoritative decision.

12. I may add that the Board were particularly careful to explain to Major Smalley that they did not for a moment question his perfect right to make the transfer.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Chetterpore Circle, dated Berhampore, 20th August 1874.

Present.

R. Davidson, Esq., Acting President.
T. J. Maltby, Esq., Acting Vice-President.
H. St. A. Goodrich, Esq., Deputy-Director of Revenue Settlement.
Major Smalley, District Engineer.
F. J. V. Minchin, Esq.
G. Balaramiah Pantulu garu, Tahsildar of Berhampore.

Read the following papers.

* * *

21. Letter from the District Engineer, dated 11th August 1874, No. 251, forwarding copy of No. 1 Range Officer's letter, No. 181, of the 18th July 1874, in which that officer brings to notice the "most deplorable state" of the trunk road, urges the necessity of increasing the maintenance grant for it from Rupees 150 to 250 per mile, and offers a variety of valuable suggestions for the better management of the road department.

Recorded. Resolved that the consideration of the subject of increased allowance be postponed until the reply of Government has been received to the proposal which has been submitted for the allotment of a special grant for the renovation of the grand trunk road.

22. The Board regret that reasons exist in the opinion of the District Engineer, which render the transfer of Mr. Leggatt from this Circle to that of Chicacole desirable, as his services have been found particularly valuable in the roads of this Circle, and the Board had wished that he had been able to carry out his suggestion. Major Smalley objects to the matter being discussed, and is therefore no party to the resolution.

* * *

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Ag. President, Local Fund Board.

CHETTERPORE,
25th August 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. R. LEGGATT, Esq., C.E., Assistant Engineer, and officer in charge of No. 1 Range, to Major H. SMALLEY, R.E., Officiating District Engineer, Ganjam, dated Berhampore, 18th July 1874, No. 181.

As the Local Fund Budget for 1875-76 will soon have to be prepared, I take the opportunity of impressing upon you the necessity there is of urging the Board to increase the maintenance grant for the trunk road from Rupees 150 to Rupees 250 per mile. This road is in a most deplorable state, the traffic on it is enormous, and with a maintenance allotment of Rupees 150 a-mile, it is simply impossible we can maintain it in anything like order. The road was constructed about twenty years ago, and the surface has been worn to a mere crust. An estimate, amounting to Rupees 1,25,251, has been framed for reforming the road within the limits of this range, and has, I believe, been submitted to the Local Fund Board for sanction sometime back, and until this is sanctioned, the maintenance allowance must be increased.

2. The allotment I now ask for is comparatively small compared with the grant allowed for the trunk roads in other districts, where it is relieved of much traffic by rail and canal.

3. In the Madura District, from whence I have just come, the maintenance for the trunk road was Rupees 285; in fact 75·100 and Rupees 150, respectively, per mile was allowed for second-class roads where the traffic was not one-fourth so heavy as it is here, and, moreover, the carts used south are of a superior description to those in use here, the wheels of which are all shapes and axles of wood, which must of course considerably injure the road.

4. I am anxious to improve the condition of all the roads in the district, but really they are in such a sad state, that I find it impossible to adopt any means to do so with the insufficient grants now at my disposal.

5. The first attention every road requires in the district is in the matter of their surface drainage; this in itself is an expensive item, but must be done at once.

6. Platforms for depositing material along the road are absolutely necessary, for at present we have nowhere to do so where the roads run through wet cultivation, and by having these platforms, we have some means of checking the quantity of material supplied; at present there is none and never can be unless we have them.

7. You are aware of the system I have introduced, or at least am trying to do so, of having material quarried, carted, deposited on the road-side and then paid for; but unless there are convenient places for depositing material constructed, this important system cannot work.

8. For every section of 10 or 12 miles (at the most) of road, a good maistry is needed to superintend repairs, etc.; but the present allotments will not allow of our doing so, and the consequence is we are obliged to put men on fifteen and twenty and even thirty miles to look after, when we know for a certainty it is impossible to expect them to do the work anything like satisfactory.

9. No maistry in the Madura District had more than twelve miles of road to look after; he was compelled to have* mid-way of his charge, and could reasonably be expected to visit his section three times a-week.

* Sic (line).

10. Considering that the trunk road to be maintained is eight yards in width, the grant I now asked for, viz., Rupees 250 per mile, will only allow us the small sum of 2 Annas and $3\frac{3}{11}$th Pies to maintain each running yard of road.

11. I believe that the number of miles of road opened for traffic in this district, and obliged to be maintained, is far longer than perhaps any other in the Presidency; but I am considered responsible for their condition, and feel bound in duty to bring their present state to your notice, and I can but trust the Local Fund Board will increase the allotment to enable me to bring them into better state of repair.

No. 251.

FORWARDED to the President, Local Fund Boards, to be laid before the next meeting for consideration of the advisability of the entry of an increased grant for the trunk road in the Budget for 1875-76. It has been ascertained that on the Bengal side of our frontier the allowance is Rupees 200 per mile, which will be increased hereafter.

CHICACOLE,
11th August 1874.

(Signed) H. SMALLEY, Major R. E.,
Officiating District Engineer, Ganjam.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Acting President.

THE Local Fund Board were acting within their province when they expressed regret at the removal of Mr. Leggatt, and the resolution referred to in paragraph 2 seems to be unobjectionable in any way; but this is so obvious, that the Board do not think any reference to them was necessary.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the President of the Local Fund Boards, Ganjam District.

Exd. W. H. French.

1874.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 6TH OCTOBER 1874, No. 2,902.

Received

OCTOBER.
No. 2,902.

Mr. Leggatt.—Assistant Engineer in charge No. I. Range, Ganjam.—Resolution of Chetpore Local Fund Board, expressing regret at loval of — to Chicacole, considered unobjectable.

Encl.

No. 3,160.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd November 1874.

Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting President of the Local Fund Boards, Ganjam, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Berhampore, 2nd October 1874, No. 1,998:—

IN my letter to you, No. 208, of the 25th August, I had the honor to bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue, among other things, the disappointment which the Local Fund Board, Chetterpore Circle, felt at being suddenly and unexpectedly deprived of the services of their Range Officer, and I enclosed copy of a resolution which the Board passed on the subject.

2. I have now the honor to inform you that at the meeting held on the 28th ultimo, the District Engineer announced that we are likely to be deprived of the services of a Range Officer for the next six months, in consequence of Mr. Lever, Range Officer of the Chicacole Circle, having taken six months' leave, and of our own Range Officer, Mr. Leggatt, having been transferred to Chicacole in his place.

3. A special meeting for the preparation of the budget for 1875-76 was held on the 29th instant, on which occasion Mr. Minchin, one of the members of the Board, presented the following memorandum:—

"With reference to the statement made by the District Engineer at yesterday's meeting of this Board to the effect that we are likely to be without the services of a Range Officer during the next six months in consequence of Mr. Lever, Range Officer of the Chicacole Circle, having taken six months' leave, and of our own Range Officer. Mr. Leggatt, having been transferred to Chicacole, I beg to bring to the notice of the Board the serious apprehensions which I entertain that the interests of our Circle will suffer in consequence."

"I therefore beg to suggest that measures be at once taken to obtain the services of a Range Officer for this Circle."

"I consider this the more necessary as strenuous efforts have lately been made with considerable success to improve our communications, and looking to the heavy traffic which may be expected to commence shortly, I beg to point out that it is impossible for the District Engineer alone to discharge efficiently the double duties now imposed on him, viz., of District Engineer and of Range Officer. Our roads will necessarily suffer, and I fear will fall back into their recent unsatisfactory state."

"I take the same opportunity of submitting for the consideration of the Board whether they have not a right to expect that before their Range Officer who has the entire control of the expenditure of their Road Funds is again removed departmentally, they ought not to have due intimation of his intended removal in order that the Board may take steps, in consultation with the District Engineer, to protect the interests of their Circle."

4. The subject was then fully discussed, when the following resolution was unanimously passed thereon, the District Engineer being one of the members present, viz:—

"Suggestions carried unanimously. Resolved that the President be requested to give effect to them."

5. In accordance with the terms of that resolution, it is my duty now to lay the matter before the Board of Revenue in order that measures may be taken to restore to this Circle the services of its Range Officer, and that the instructions of Government may be obtained on the important question raised in the latter part of Mr. Minchin's memorandum.

6. Neither the Local Fund Board, nor I, had any idea, until the meeting of the 28th ultimo, that the Circle would be left without the services of its Range Officer for such a length of time. We fail to discover any sufficient reason why the interests of our Circle (embracing an extent of upwards of 360 miles of made road) should be sacrificed to those of any other Circle, especially to one of less importance.

7. I therefore request that the Board of Revenue will be pleased to move Government to direct the restoration of Mr. Leggatt's services to this Circle, as this Board are very sanguine of the beneficial results which will accrue from his presence in the Circle as pointed out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter already quoted.

8. I would invite the attention of the Board to the fact that Government, in their order dated 17th February 1874, No. 269, Financial Department, declared Local Fund Boards to be "responsible for the financial and administrative condition of their Circles," and I would submit that this Board will be placed in a very anomalous position if while such responsibility devolves upon them, they are liable at any moment to be suddenly and unexpectedly deprived of their right-hand man whom they must hold primarily responsible for the efficient state of their communications, and for the proper disbursement and application of their Road Funds without any satisfactory provision being made to supply his place.

9. Had the Local Fund Board been permitted an opportunity of expressing their sentiments in regard to the contemplated removal of their Range Officer, they would certainly have remonstrated against the measure until at least a suitable substitute had been provided, and precautions taken to protect the interests of their Circle.

SUBMITTED for the favorable consideration of Government.
—(A true Copy and Extract.)

J Grote
Secretary.

To the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department,
with Board's Proceedings, dated 6th October 1874, No. 2,902.

To the President of the Local Fund Boards, Ganjam.

Exd. W. H. French,

Received 10 Nov 1874

Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD NOVEMBER 1874, No. 3,160.

Encl 2 in 2902 dt 23 Oct 74

NOVEMBER.

No. 3,160.

Range Officer—for the Chetterpore Local Fund Circle, in Ganjam District—Letter from President, pointing out the difficulties felt owing to the want of —, and requesting that Government may be asked to direct the restoration of Mr. Leggatt, the former Range Officer, who has been removed from the Circle to it, submitted for the favorable consideration of Government.

Bruce Peel
Public Works Dept
25/10/74

P. W. 1874 Depart.
Proceedings for December
No. 7455.

From.

The Sy. Chief Secty.
to Govt. Public D.

Dated 26th Nov/74.
Recd 27th
Encl: 1 Copy

Transferring
Rep: of the Board of
Rev: submitting a
letter from the District
Local Fund Boards
Coimbatore requesting
that Mr Leggatt
may be restored
to the Cheetapore
Range —

R. C. No: 3548. 17-12-74.

X

An 35B

Cir 8-12-74

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the 187 .

Read the following:—

Rc: Board of Revenue through the Field Dept

(H. P. Dis 3160 & 32 Nov 1874)
3548

His Excellency the Governor in Council declines to interfere with the Dis. trict Engineer of Salem, in the arrangements which he has found it expedient to make for the supervision of the Executive Rangers of his District. It is observed that the Local Fund Boards admit his perfect right to make such arrange. ments.

W.P.
8/12

Lr sent

arrangements, he being responsible for their results.]

2. As it has not been found possible to replace Foreign Leave by another Officer or Ordinated during his six months leave, the only alternative was for the District Engineer himself to take charge of the Range in addition to his other duties, and there is no reason why he should not be compensated for both, with the assistance of the Sub-

Sub-Divisional Officer.
The arrangement is one which is forced upon the Government at times and must be submitted to.]

Lyon
C

D. E. Ganjam
Financial Deptt
Deptt to Delhi 18/12/14.

1455

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Dt Supr.
Tanjore

Dated

Read. Encl.

G. O. 17 Dec. 1874, No. 3548

Nos. 353-354.

Mr Leggatt - Asst Engr

Declining to interfere with the Dtng of Tanjore in the arrangements made for the supervision of the Grantline Ranges of his District with reference to the transfer of ~~xxxx~~ Mr Leggatt to Chicacole Range -

353-354.

Copied 8-12-74