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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	81	(W)	Press
B.P. No.			Misr
Dated	14-1-		1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th January 1876.*

No. 158. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 1st January 1876, No. 3,720 :—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of G.O. of the 10th December 1875, No. 3,500, and beg very respectfully to submit the following explanations for the consideration of his Grace the Governor in Council.

2. At the time I first submitted a list of the Local Fund Overseers of this district in April last, the Maistries on Rupees 20 a-month were not ordered to be included in that establishment, and it was only in June 1875, three months afterwards G.O. of the 20th June 1875, No. 1,038, in the Financial Department, that orders were specially sent to consider these men as Sub-overseers; in making the representations I then did to the Government regarding the strength of the establishment here, I did no more than adopt the course I had taken in the Godavery district, and which was entirely supported by you to have one first-class Local Fund Overseer in each taluq of the district, and the results of which had been found to be so beneficial there, that before I left the Godavery district all cash balances had been fully utilized and the Local Fund Boards were obliged to propose that the full rate of assessment should be levied to enable us to complete the works for which estimates had been prepared and sanctioned.

3. In this district there are but three Local Fund Sub-overseers, 1st Grade, two belonging to the Madura Circle and entirely employed in the large Zemindaries of Ramnad and Shevagungah; so that for the Government taluqs of Madura and Meylore we have none but men of the 3rd Grade or the ordinary Maistry class on Rupees 20 a-month, without any establishment and who are not competent to make payments, and have no special qualifications for such large important and responsible charges, some not being able to speak English. In the Dindigul Circle there is but one Local Fund Sub-overseer of the 1st Grade, which includes several large Zemindaries besides the large Government taluqs of Dindigul, Pereacolum, Pulney and Tiroomungalum; and as only one competent man is attached to so large an area, the Local Fund Board approved of my proposal to increase the strength of the establishment here as had been suggested for Madura Circle.

4. The area of the Godavery district is but 7,531 square miles; the area of Madura is 8,789½ square miles. In the former the canals of the delta afford great facilities for the conveyance of road materials; in the latter there is nothing better than the ordinary bandy of the country, and I had found, as already reported to the Chief Engineer in my No. 2,952 of the 20th October 1875, that nothing had been effected to reduce the cost of transport, though some 20 lakhs of Rupees or more must have been spent in road making here; whereas in the Godavery very good results had been obtained by adopting the course you had recommended for a district with bad roads in it, and here the roads are by no means so good as they ought to be to get full benefit from them.

5. I trust, then, the Government will be pleased to relieve me of blame in this matter, as I have only recommended the same measures for this district which I had found to be most beneficial elsewhere, and it was to serve their own interests that I wished to establish the same rate of progress here that I applied for similar means.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th January 1876.

When I went to the Godavery in 1869 the expenditure on all works was about 5 lakhs a-year; when I left in 1874 it was over 10½ lakhs, and all Local Fund balances had been fully utilized and funds had to be raised to maintain the rate of progress; but of this matter I would not have said anything and have not done so, unless I had been compelled to do it to show that I was only working on principles which had proved to be sound and had given good results, and which had received your own approbation and support.

G. I have in my letter of the 20th November 1875, No. 3,368, forwarded a statement showing the exact strength of the Local Fund Sub-overseer establishment of this district, and in my letter, No. 3,186, dated 6th November 1875, printed in G.O., No. 3,500, dated 10th December 1875, under reply, I have made the recommendations I consider absolutely necessary, as called for in G.O. of the 1st November 1875, No. 3,094, and trust this will be approved of.

No. 159.

ORDER THEREON, 14th January 1876, No. 81.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 16.

RECORDED, with the remark that
Financial Department Order, No. 1,038,
of 20th June was issued in 1871 not in
1875.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government

To the District Engineer, Madras.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

No 3720 District Engineer's Office
Madras 1st January 1876
From

Lieut Colonel J. Fischer R.E.
District Engineer, Madras

To

Major General G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government

Sir,

I have the honor to
acknowledge receipt of LfO
of the 10th December 1875 No 3500
and beg very respectfully to
submit the following explanation:
: reasons for the consideration
of his grace the Governor in
Council.

2. At the time I first
submitted a list of the Local
Fund Overseers of this District
in April last, the Maistries
of Rspees 20 a month were
not ordered to be included in
that establishment and it
was only in June 1875, LfO. of the
3rd June 1875.

20 June 1875 to 1888 in the Financial Department that orders were specially sent to consider these men as Sub Overseers; in making the representations of them did to the Government regarding the strength of the establishment here I did no more than adopt the course I had taken in the Godavery District and which was entirely supported by you to have one first class Vocal Fund Overseer in each Talook of the District and the results of which had been found to be ^{beneficial} so that before I left the Godavery District all cash balances had been fully utilized and the Vocal Fund Boards were obliged to propose that the full rate of assessment should be levied to enable us to complete the works for which estimates had been prepared and sanctioned.

3 In this District there are

but 3 Vocal Fund Sub Overseers 1st grade, 2 belonging to the Madama Circle, and entirely employed in the large zemindaries of Ramnad and Sheraquinah, so that for the Government Talooks of Madama and Maylore we have none but men of the 3rd grade or the ordinary Maistry class on Rs 20 a month, without any establishment, and who are not competent to make payments, and have no special qualifications for such large important and responsible charges, some not being able to speak English: in the Dindigul Circle there is but one Vocal Fund Sub Overseer of the 1st grade which includes several large zemindaries besides the large Government Talooks of Dindigul, Breacolum, Pulney and Tirumangalam and as only one competent man is attached to so large an area the Vocal Fund Board approved

of my proposal to increase the strength of the establishment here as had been suggested for Madras Circle

4. The area of the Godavery District is but 7534 square miles. The area of Madras 8789 $\frac{3}{4}$ square miles in the former the canals of the Delta afford great facilities for the conveyance of road materials in the latter there is nothing better than the ordinary banyan of the country and I had found as already reported to the Secy/Eng in my No 2952 of the 20 October 1875 that nothing had been effected to reduce the cost of transport though some 20 lacs of Rupees or more must have been spent in road-making here, whereas in the Godavery very good results had been obtained by adopting the course you had recommended for a District with bad roads in it and here the roads are

by no means so good as they ought to be, to get full benefits from them.

5. I trust then the Government will be pleased to relieve me of blame in this matter as I have only recommended the same measures for this District which I had found to be most beneficial elsewhere, and it was to serve their own interests that I wished to establish the same rate of progress here that I applied for similar means. When I went to the Godavery in 1869 the expenditure on all works was about 5 lacs a year when I left in 1875 it was over 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lacs and all local fund balances had been fully utilized and funds had to be raised to maintain the rate of progress but of this matter I would not have said anything and have not done so, unless I had been compelled to do it to show that I

was ^{only} working on principles which
had proved to be sound and
had given good results and
which had received your own
approbation and support.

6. I have in my letter
of the 20th November 1875 No 3368
forwarded a statement showing
the exact strength of the Local
Fund and Overseer establishment
of this District and in my letter
No 3186 dated 6th Nov^r/75 printed
in Lf O No 3500 dated 10th December/75
under reply I have made the
recommendations I considered
absolutely necessary as called for
in Lf O of the 1st November 1875
No 3094 and trust this will be
approved of.

I have the honor to be
your Most Obedt servant
Wm. T. Tucker Dist Engr

1873-1874 1440 107 hrs
 1874-1875 550-331
 1875-1876 253-294
 1876-1877 169-272
 1877-1878 247-248
 1878-1879 17-18
 1879-1880 926-1032
 1880-1881 1602-1602

No. 81. 14 Jan 76. 4. 1880.
 Recorded with the account that was made
 Department Order No. 1038 of 20 June 1880
 in 1874 not in 1875. (a) Each with which Col.
 teacher might have made himself acquainted
 before unnecessarily sending the Government

158-159
 11-1-76

P. H. 1876 22610

Spent No 57

At Suburb Singapore

To the Secretary to

Expedition

Exhibit 1st Jan 76

Received 6/11
 2-5-80 (C. J. G. G. G.)
 ment

W. J. G. G.

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 Pub. of 1876 22610

PUBLISHED WORKS.

To the Secretary to

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