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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 225 (W)	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated 12-6-	1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

12th June 1877, No. 225 W.

General.
Account.

Read the following paper :—

No. 96. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Department,
dated 23rd May 1877, No. 1,552.

ABSTRACT.—*Local Funds—Roads.*—Concurring with Board of Revenue that the charge of Rupees 1,193-1-4, expended without allotment by an Overseer lately in charge of the Jeypur range, should be borne by the Local Fund Board of the Vizagapatam Circle.

No. 97. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1877, No. 225 W.

RECORDED, with the remark that no steps can be taken which will effectually guard against irregularities on the part of dishonest members of the Public Works Department, and that all that can be done in such cases is to punish the individual offender.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Vizagapatam.
" Financial Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

23rd May 1877, No. 1552.

Local Funds—Roads.

Read the following paper:—

No. 193. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th April 1877, No. 1,943.*

Read the following letter from H. ST. A. GOODRICH, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, Vizagapatam, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th April 1877, No. 284:—

I HAVE the honor to bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue that Serjeant Bennett, the late officer in charge of the

Road between Maradam and Parvatipur, (portion of road from Vizianagram to Parvatipur)
Road from Ramabhadrapuram to Salur

RS. A. P.
972 15 8
220 1 8

Total ... 1,193 1 4

Jeypur range, incurred an expenditure of Rupees 1,193-1-4 on the two roads noted in the margin, in excess of the sanctioned allotment for those roads without the sanction of the Local Fund Board.

2. The District Engineer has authorized the payment of the sum to the coolies and contractors, to whom it was stated to be

due, in anticipation of the sanction of the Local Fund Board for the charge. Serjeant Bennett had incurred this excess expenditure in direct defiance of all standing departmental orders on the subject, and I informed the District Engineer that the matter would be placed before the Local Fund Board at their next meeting, but that they would beyond doubt decline to sanction the amount. The District Engineer, in reply, stated that Serjeant Bennett had been already removed to the Military Department and that the refusal of the Local Fund Board to pay the amount would cause the credit of the Public Works Department, which is identified with the Local Fund Board in this case, to suffer and would not increase Serjeant Bennett's punishment, but would merely mulct the work-people and add to the unsatisfactory state of matters obtaining in the Jeypur range of public works.

3. The subject was discussed by the Local Fund Board at their last meeting, attended by eight members, among whom the District Engineer was one. They sanctioned the charge on the ground that the credit of the Board is at stake and hope that Government will reimburse them the amount. The Public Works Department entrusted with the works not having maintained the control over expenditure, in consideration whereof the Local Fund Board pay to the account of that department a heavy percentage for supervision, it has been resolved that the charge for supervision be reduced by the amount which the due enforcement of its own rules would have prevented the department from spending.

4. They further take this opportunity to submit to Government their decided objection to the present practice of entrusting men of the subordinate grades and of little or no professional education with the charge of ranges. Where the officer in charge of the range is a commissioned officer, they feel in his position and the sense of responsibility attaching thereto, a security which they do not feel in other cases. The result of Serjeant Bennett's appointment was the mismanagement of works

involving great waste of Local Fund money. The District Engineer informed the Board at the meeting that Serjeant Bennett had similarly exceeded the estimates of several other incomplete works, and consequently supplemental estimates will have to be sanctioned.

1. Letter from the District Engineer, dated 14th March 1877, No. 2,558.
2. Letter to the District Engineer, dated 15th March 1877, No. 247.
3. Letter from the District Engineer, dated 19th March 1877, No. 2,588.

See Board's Proceedings, dated 15th February 1875, No. 358.

See Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd April 1875, No. 2,666.

See Board's Proceedings, dated 1st June 1875, No. 4,785.

5. I herein enclose correspondence as per margin between myself and the District Engineer on the subject for the information of the Board of Revenue.

6. I beg to add my personal opinion, which is that if the successor appointed to Serjeant Bennett in the charge of the range had not unfortunately happened to be the same officer whose incapacity has wasted large sums in the neighbouring district, the members of the Local Fund Board would not have felt bound to make this representation.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major H. W. WOOD, R.E., District Engineer, to H. Sr. A. GOODRICH, Esq., President of Local Fund Board, Vizagapatam, dated Waltair, 14th March 1877, No. 2,558.

LIEUTENANT LEVER, who has recently been appointed to the Jeypur range of public works, reports that Serjeant Bennett (hitherto in charge of the range) has handed him a statement showing that he owes to contractors and coolies Rupees 220-1-8 on the road between Salur and Ramabhadrapuram, and Rupees 972-15-8 on that between Maradam and Parvatipur.

2. Both of these sums are in excess of the amounts* sanctioned for the repairs of these roads, and the charges have been incurred by Serjeant Bennett in direct defiance of all orders on the subject.

	Rs.
* Road between Maradam and Parvatipur (portion of road from Vizianagram to Parvatipur) ...	6,525
Road from Ramabhadrapuram to Salur ...	1,000

3. Serjeant Bennett's services have been already placed at the disposal of the Military Department, so there appears to be nothing more to be done than to pay the money due to coolies and contractors. I have, therefore, in anticipation of the sanction of the Local Fund Board, directed Mr. Lever to disburse the charges which have been incurred by Serjeant Bennett.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

H. Sr. A. GOODRICH,
President.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From H. Sr. A. GOODRICH, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Vizagapatam, to Major H. W. WOOD, R.E., District Engineer, Vizagapatam, dated 15th March 1877, No. 247.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 2,558, dated 14th instant, I have the honor to state that the Local Fund Board pay 25 per cent. to the Public Works Department to execute all Local Fund works with the money sanctioned by the Local Fund Board under the rules sanctioned by Government. This being the case the Public Works Department ought not to incur any expenditure in excess of the allotments without the sanction of the Local Fund Board.

2. The Local Fund Board fail to see any reason which necessitated Serjeant Bennett to incur a sum of Rupees 1,193-1-4 in direct defiance of all orders on the subject, and beyond doubt decline to sanction the amount. The matter will be placed before them at this month's meeting.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

H. Sr. A. GOODRICH,
President.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Major H. W. WOOD, R.E., District Engineer, to H. Sr. A. GOODRICH, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Vizagapatam, dated Waltair, 19th March 1877, No. 2,588.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 247, dated 15th March 1877, informing me that the Local Fund Board will *beyond doubt decline to sanction* the payment of Rupees 1,193-1-4, which Serjeant Bennett states he owes to coolies and contractors on the Ramabhadrapuram-Salur and on the Ramabhadrapuram-Parvatipur roads.

2. I have consequently written to Lieutenant Lever, the present Range Officer, not to disburse the above sum, and it is probable that this order will arrive in time to cancel my previous instructions, to the effect that he was to pay the money in anticipation of the sanction of the Local Fund Board.

3. I beg, however, to bring to your notice that if coolies and contractors are not paid money for work they may have done, it is not likely they will come to work in the future. Moreover, it is possible that suits may be commenced against the President of the Board for the recovery of the above money. Whatever the result may be, the credit of the Public Works Department, which is identical with the interest of the Local Fund Board in this case, will suffer.

4. I informed you in my letter No. 2,558, dated 14th instant, that Government have remanded Serjeant Bennett to military duty, and this step was taken on my representation of the professional and personal incapacity of the Overseer. The Local Fund Board will therefore see that as far as I am concerned their interests have not been neglected. I am not responsible for Serjeant Bennett's appointment to the Public Works Department of this district, and all that is within the competence of a District Engineer is to report for the information of Government the desirability of removing any of his subordinates whom he may have found to be incompetent or to be otherwise unfit for employment.

5. That Serjeant Bennett has not been reported unfit for employment by me at an earlier date has not been my fault, as will be seen by referring to the 12th, 13th, and 14th paragraphs of the letter printed in Proceedings of Government, dated 22nd February 1877, No. 803, sent herewith.

6. In the present case, the Government have already punished Serjeant Bennett, and the refusal of the Local Fund Board to pay the money referred to will not increase that punishment, but will merely mulct the wretched work-people and add to the unsatisfactory state of matters obtaining in the Jeypur range of public works.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

H. Sr. A. GOODRICH,
President.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Local Fund Board of the Vizagapatam Circle have sanctioned the charge of Rupees 1,193-1-4 expended without allotment and in defiance of orders by Serjeant Bennett, an Overseer lately in charge of the Jeypur range, as they considered that the credit of the Public Works Department and of the Local Board was at stake, and because the loss which their refusal would entail would fall, not on the culprit (who has left the department), but on coolies and contractors who have worked for the money. They beg, however, that Government will reimburse the amount, and have resolved that it be deducted from the sum payable for Public Works Department supervision. This will in effect throw the charge upon Provincial Funds.

3. The Board do not see the justice of this, seeing that the money has been spent on Local Fund roads, and it is not even alleged that equivalent in work has not been got. But they fully sympathize with them, in defiance of all orders and reluctance to bear a charge thus forced upon them, in defiance of all orders and rules, by a department already extremely expensive. There have been numerous instances of similar irregularity, and the Board do not think that such are likely to cease until a severe example is made of some officer, by the enforcement of his personal responsibility for money spent without authority. Such example, however, cannot be made in the present case, and the Board see nothing for it except to call upon the Local Fund Board to pay.

4. They beg the attention of Government to paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the President's letter, which contain what appears to be a fully warranted remonstrance by the Local Fund Board.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 194.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1877, No. 1552.

The Government concur with the Board of Revenue in considering that, under all the circumstances of the case, the charge should be borne by the Local Fund Board. It will be considered in the Public Works Department what steps should be taken to prevent the recurrence of similar irregularities.

2. With reference to the remarks in paragraph 4 of the President's letter, to which attention is drawn by the Board of Revenue, the Government have to observe that the present Public Works Establishment would have to be increased if it were decided that a range should under no circumstances be entrusted to an officer of the position of Serjeant Bennett and that any increase to the establishment would necessarily involve an increase in the charge for supervision which is already complained of as heavy.

(True Extract.)

J. J. J.
Under Secy. to Govt.

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

Exd. W. H. French and T. O'Connor.

P. W. Dept. General

No. 225 Wd/12th June 1877

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Read the following

Proceedings of the Financial Department } (M.O. No 1552. d/23rd May 1877)

Recorded with
the remark that no steps
can be taken which will
effectually guard against
irregularities on the part
of dishonest members of
the Public Works Department,
and that all that can be
done in such cases is to
punish the individual
member.

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D. Vizagepatam ✓
Finl. Dept. ✓

Drpd. 18.6.77

W. A. P.

P.W.D.
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FINANCIAL.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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General
Account

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The D & C Magazine

13/6

Date

Amount

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2 June 1854

No. 96. 97

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the Jersey Range, viz Dr.
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