

16TH SEPTEMBER 1884, No. 2211, FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From H. G. TURNER, Esq., President, Municipal Commission, Vizagapatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Vizagapatam, 29th July 1884, No. 469.

The main road in the town of Vizagapatam has been hitherto maintained by the Public Works department, as a cantonment road, from imperial funds. On the 10th May last, the Executive Engineer in charge of the Vizagapatam division wrote to me to say that, as Vizagapatam has been abandoned as a military station, he had no funds for the maintenance of the road and that he would therefore hand it over to the municipality of Vizagapatam. On receipt of this letter, I requested that officer to quote the order of Government under which he proposed to transfer the road. At the same time, I called his attention to the very bad state of repair in which the road is, and told him that, should it be determined by Government to hand over the road to the municipality, it should be put in thorough repair before so handing it over. With his reply, dated 21st May last, No. 318, the Executive Engineer forwarded to me copy of G.O., dated 22nd November 1883, No. 3329 W., Public Works department. In this I find no mention whatever about the road. It simply deals with the disposal of the military buildings and the sepoy lines. The Executive Engineer admits that he is aware that the road is in urgent need of repairs, but says that he is unable to repair it for want of funds.

2. On the 17th May last, the Superintending Engineer also wrote to me as President of the Vizagapatam municipality to ascertain if I would approve of the cantonment road being transferred to the municipality. This letter was laid before a meeting of the Commissioners held on the 19th June 1884, and they expressed their willingness to take it over provided the annual cost of maintaining it is paid to them by Government. The road having been all along in charge of the Public Works department, it is for them to keep it in good order until it is formally handed over to other agency. The present state of the road, especially of that portion which lies within the town, is one of great disrepair. It suffered much damage during the heavy rains of October last, and no thorough repair has been granted to it since. The result is the road is now full of pits and holes. It is the most important and most extensively used road in the town. There is heavy traffic upon it. It runs through the whole length of the town, and it is the main thoroughfare for every description of vehicle.

3. The length of the road is about six miles. I understand that the Public Works department allotment until last year was Rs. 1,800 per annum. The road being the most important one in the town, anything less than Rs. 300 a year per mile will not suffice to keep it in good order.

4. The municipality has already twenty-four miles of road to maintain, and it has at present to spend a large sum of money for the construction of an iron pontoon bridge across the backwater, the financial arrangement for this work having been made with

no thought that such a large item as the upkeep of the main road would have to be provided for in the event of the removal of the native regiment. It will, therefore, be altogether beyond its means to maintain in proper order this additional length of six miles of a first-class road.

5. The income to the municipality from tolls at present is Rs. 18,000, of which it cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 12,000 on roads and bridges without starving other works. Deducting, from this Rs. 12,000, Rs. 6,500 to Rs. 5,250 a year on account of the annual instalments towards the repayment of the pontoon bridge loan with interest, there will be only Rs. 5,500 to Rs. 6,750 for expenditure on roads, which is hardly sufficient to maintain even the existing twenty-four miles of road, the greater portion of which is metalled. The sanitation, drainage and water-supply of the town require great improvement, and this cannot be done without sufficient money.

6. Under the foregoing circumstances, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government for the maintenance of the road from provincial or imperial funds as heretofore.

7. Should, however, the Government determine on its transfer to the municipality, I shall feel obliged if you will obtain for the municipality a contribution of at least a moiety of the cost of its maintenance, from either of the above sources.

8. The recent transfer of the middle class and primary education has already encroached on the resources of the municipality, and it will be difficult to meet this fresh charge, for which it is entirely unprepared, at a short notice. I would, therefore, suggest that, should the transfer be determined on, it may not come into force till the beginning of the next official year, and then only on condition of Government paying a moiety of the cost from provincial or imperial funds, the Public Works department being directed meanwhile to put the road into a thorough state of repair without loss of time.

No. 527-E.

The Public Works department are of opinion that the proposal of the President of the Municipal Commission, Vizagapatam, to have the road put into proper order, before it is handed over to the municipality, is reasonable. The cost of the work may, it is thought, be charged to provincial funds. It is not likely that the Government of India will sanction the diversion of military funds to a road which is no longer required for military purposes.

2. Having once put the road in order, the Public Works department should hand it over to the municipality for future maintenance.

3. Whether the municipality should subsequently be aided by grants of provincial funds on account of the road seems a matter for consideration in the Financial department.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
22nd August 1884. Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Financial department, with papers in original.

ORDER—dated 16th September 1884, No. 2211, Financial.

The Public Works department will issue the necessary orders for having the road put into a state of thorough repair during the current year, the charge being met from provincial funds. The maintenance of the road will, from the commencement of the next financial year be undertaken by the municipality. No further aid can be given from provincial funds as it is observed the municipal funds can well afford to bear the charge. According to the Commissioners' showing, in their application for a loan for constructing the pontoon bridge, they will have an annual balance of Rs. 7,400

from which to pay the debt instalment with interest. After paying this demand there will be a surplus as shown in the margin. It is true the surpluses in the first four years fall short of the amount (Rs. 1,800) required to maintain the road in question. But in the current year's budget, a provision of Rs. 7,500 is made for repayment of debt, which will not be utilized for that purpose as it is proposed

to raise the loan only after the local fund contribution of Rs. 33,500 and Rs. 3,500 from municipal funds have been spent. The latter sum deducted from Rs. 7,500 leaves Rs. 4,000, which will be more than sufficient to cover the difference in the cost of maintenance for the four years referred to above. This calculation, it must be

remembered, is irrespective of the fact that the toll revenue is expected to be hereafter Rs. 2,000 more than the average taken into account by the Commissioners in their loan application. The cost of

middle class and primary education is not in excess of the sum heretofore charged to the municipality for police and consequently involves no encroachment on municipal funds.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Vizagapatam.
„ Public Works department.

Exd. C. Vencatasubbaiyar.

P. W. D.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

FINANCIAL.

N^o 2500 Wd/9th Oct 1884

Communicated to the
Suptg. Engineer I Circle,
who will have the road
put into thorough repair
from the Provincial repair
grant to the Vizagapatam
Division -

(Signed) *S. E. I*

S. E. I Circle

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 16th September 1884, No. 2211.

N^o 2500 Wd/9th Oct 1884

SEPTEMBER.

Main Road in the Vizagapatam Town.

Requesting the Public Works department to
issue the necessary orders for having the — put
into a state of thorough repair from provincial
funds during the current year, and directing
the municipality to undertake the maintenance of
the road from the commencement of the next
financial year.

With orders

No. 266 v₂

FROM,

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

FIRST CIRCLE.

TO,

THE CHIEF ENGINEER

Public Works Department
FOR IRRIGATION

DOWLAISHWARAM, 18th November 1884,

Recd 19th

SIR,

I have the honor to surren-
der Rupees 900 from the grant of
Rupees 3,500 for the Vizagapatam Divi-
sion under Imperial Military repairs.
This surrender has been rendered
necessary by the Cantonment road
at Vizagapatam having been ordered
in G. O. No. 2,500 W dated the 9th October
1884 to be repaired from Provincial funds.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant
W. M. A. S. S. S.
Superintending Engineer 1st Circle.

Ms. 9877

B. No 2947 Waf 29 November

FROM,

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
FIRST CIRCLE.

TO,

THE CHIEF ENGINEER *D.P.W.*
~~FOR IRRIGATION.~~

DATED 18th
DESPATCHED 19th November 1884
RECEIVED

No. 266vz

ENCLOSURES. —

B. No 2947 Waf 29 November

Grant for the
Vizagapatam Division
under Imperial
Military repairs

Surrenders Rs 900
from the — for
the season given within.

With order

The sum of Rs 900 sur-
rendered by the Suptg. Engr.
1st circle from the current year's
allotment to the Vizagapatam
Division under Imperial, Military
Repairs is held in reserve with
Govt. under the same head
of service.

C.D.
28.11.84

11/12/84

The Suptg. Engr. 1st circle
Examiner. S.W. deets

13/12