Financial Department.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT. MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following paper

Despatch from the Secretary of State for India
Dated 17th June 88, No: 7.

With reference to the letters noted in the margin I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I have sanctioned compliance with the indents therewith forwarded.

Letter from the Secy to the Govt of Madras in the Public Works Deptt. No: 670 W: dy 27th July 88 (Machinery &c. for Periyar Project)

× × ×

Ordered, 3rd July 1887, No: 519

Recorded.

(True Extract)

W. C. Bonnerjea

Under Secy to Govt. P.W.D.
for A. Chief Secretary.

To The Public Works Deptt
" Revenue Deptt

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following papers:—

From Colonel H. M. VIBART, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (through the Examiner of Public Works Accounts), dated Chepâk, 16th February 1888, No. 4818.

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 69 I., dated 30th January 1888, I have the honor to forward an indent, in triplicate, on the Home Government for machinery and plant required to be obtained from England for the Periyár Project works.

2. In the estimate printed with the Government order above alluded to, there is a provision of £348 under "Miscellaneous" for minor and unforeseen items. This amount is not included in the indent, as it is evidently intended for such articles as the India Store Department may find it necessary to supply in complying with this indent.

No. 543 S.E./5th.

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, with the necessary certificate.

MADRAS, 22nd February 1888. (Signed) C. H. P. CHRISTIE, Major, R.E., Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

ENCLOSURE.

CERTIFICATE by the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Number and date of indent or letter with which received.	Description and value of articles indented for.		Work and Division to which the value is chargeable.	Grant.		Certificate attached by the Examiner.
				Amount.	Authority.	
1	2		3	4	5	6
	Provincial.	£ s. d.	*Periyár Project Division.*	RS.		
Superintending Engineer's (V Circle) letter No. 4818, dated 16th February 1888.	Tunnelling and Quarrying machinery, Concrete-making machinery, Wire Tramways, Turbines, Floating Plant and Piping.	12,087 10 0	Tools and Plant.	1,75,000	Preliminary issue of the budget estimate of Irrigation Major Works for 1888-89.	I certify that funds to meet the outlay, which it is estimated will be incurred in England in connection with this indent during the year 1888-89, have been provided for in the estimates of the Public Works Department to the extent of £12,087-10-0.

MADRAS, 22nd February 1888. (Signed) C. H. P. CHRISTIE, Major, R.E., Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

ORDER—dated 27th February 1888, No. 669 W., Public Works.

The indent will be forwarded to the Home Government for compliance.

(Here enter Nos. 670-671 W., dated 27th February 1888.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
" " " Periyár Project.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

LETTER—to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, London, dated Fort St. George, 27th February 1888, No. 670 W.

With reference to paragraph 2 of despatch from this Government to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, No. $\frac{3}{69\ I.}$, dated 30th January 1888, I am directed to forward a special indent for stores required for the Periyár Project in this Presidency, and to state that Colonel Pennycuick, R.E., may be consulted with respect to all details which do not appear in the indent.

2. A copy of the proceedings of this Government, No. 669 W., dated 27th February 1888, embodying the usual certificate by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, is enclosed.

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 27th February 1888, No. 671 W., Public Works.

Copy of the above, with copy of the indent, forwarded to the Government of India for information.

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

Exd. J. Moses.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of (1888) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated February, 27th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 27th Feb. 1888, Nos. 669, 670 W.

FEBRUARY.

Indent

Orders on special — for certain machinery and plant required for the Periyár Project works.

27TH JUNE 1888, No. 1197 L., LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From C. BRITO, Esq., Assistant Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, to the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, dated Salem, 17th April 1888.

I have the honor to submit the following report on my recent inspection of the Local Fund accounts of the Salem district for the period extending from January 1887 to February 1888:—

1. *Time occupied in the inspection.*—From 6th to 17th, being ten working days.

2. *When last inspected and for what period.*—The accounts were last inspected by the Inspector in February 1887; and the period then dealt with was from October 1885 to December 1886.

3. *Period now reported on.*—The period inspected on the present occasion was as noted below:—

(1) Engineer's records from
(2) Do. compiled accounts from } January 1887 to February 1888.
(3) Miscellaneous grants accounts from

I.—GRANT I, PUBLIC WORKS.

4. *Engineering Staff.*—Mr. J. W. A. Ellis continued to fill the post of Local Fund Engineer during the period under report.

5. *Letters of Credit.*—The Engineer's credits were for the most part excessive with reference to the rule which requires that the balance be not ordinarily more than half the average expenditure of the succeeding month.

6. *Imprests.*—Beginning with April 1887, no imprests were granted under Local Fund Public Works Rule No. 146 (owing to the contract system being in full for all works excepting those in the hands of miscellaneous Revenue agency). It is noticeable that regular imprest accounts were not ordinarily submitted in connection with the imprests held by miscellaneous agency, mere vouchers having been sent in.

In some cases the imprests have remained long unadjusted; for example—

Particulars.	Amount advanced.	To whom advanced.	Month in which	
			Advanced.	Adjusted.
	Rs.			
For town roads, &c.	200	Deputy Tahsildar, Sankaridrug.	September 1887 ..	February 1888.
,, carpentry shed attached to school.	35	A member, Salem Taluk Board.	October ,, ..	Not yet adjusted.
,, repairing Panchayat office..	50	Chairman, Hosúr Panchayat.	November ,, ..	Do.

A register to watch the adjustment of such advances is carefully maintained in the Engineer's office.

ENGINEER'S ORIGINAL RECORDS.

7. *Extent of Inspection.*—The Engineer's records were examined in detail for the following months:—

March and July 1887 and February 1888.

8. *Pass Book.*—No remarks except that new form, No. 6, should be substituted for the form now in use.

9. *Counterfoils of cheques.*—In a few cases the balance as noted on the reverse of the counterfoils of cheques did not agree with the balance as shown in the cash-book at the close of the month; for example—

Treasury.	Closing balance of February 1887. As per counterfoil of cheque. RS. A. P.	Closing balance of February 1887. As per cash-book. RS. A. P.
Salem	1,380 9 1	1,005 15 5

10. *Cash Book.*—The entries in the cash-book are not as clear as required by rule (note 1 on the reverse of new form No. 8), that is, the number and date of the bill are not given and other particulars of the amount of the bill and deductions pending check-measurement, to furnish a clear idea of the transactions and to facilitate reference.

Under the arrangement referred to in paragraph 7 of the last report, that is, of granting a permanent advance to the Engineer's accountant of Rs. 5 (raised to Rs. 15 from January 1888) for the purchase of petty articles falling under Contingencies, the balance in the petty cash-book maintained, which is signed by the Engineer at the close of each month's transactions, is the only balance in hand. It was *nil* on the date of my examination, namely, the 13th April 1888.

It is apparent from the statement given below, which shows the expenditure incurred on works alone as per accounts current, that there is in this district a great crowding of expenditure, as a rule, incurred in the month of March of each year.

Such large expenditure would necessarily involve the scrutiny of a very large number of bills and entries in the connected accounts which it would be very difficult, if not altogether impossible, to get through with *sufficient* care in the limited time for disposal of the same. It is further noticeable that the payments made on the *last* day *alone* of March—that is, the 31st—is far in excess of the expenditure incurred in any other *full* month of the year.

It is desirable that endeavours should be made to regulate the expenditure by more evenly distributing it throughout the other months of the year:—

	1886-87. RS. A. P.	1887-88. RS. A. P.
April	..	..
May	..	142 6 4
June	442 5 5	1,396 2 3
July	1,726 13 9	3,742 3 3
August	3,226 14 2	6,052 6 0
September	3,706 7 6	7,160 2 10
October	8,098 9 4	4,703 12 0
November	16,808 5 1	18,837 9 0
December	11,208 5 6	13,740 4 11
January	6,311 1 8	11,039 14 5
February	10,096 9 6	19,168 11 3
March	* 59,077 7 10	* 49,326 11 7

* Expenditure on 31st March { 1886-87 .. .. Rs. 39,562 11 9; 1887-88 .. .. ,, 27,705 11 5

11. *Imprest Accounts.*—In some cases the abstract at foot was wanting, and the "Head of Account" column had in some cases not been filled in; for example—

Imprest account, No. 21, of February 1887, of the Salem taluk overseer.

12. *Contractors' Ledger.*—With reference to paragraph 11 of the last report, extracts from the contractors' ledger have since been regularly submitted to the audit office.

In some cases, balances were found to have remained long unadjusted; for example—

Rs. 3 due from September 1887 to contractor Anantha Row, Dharmapuri taluk, page 98.

13. *Road Metal Statements.*—With reference to paragraph 12 of the last report, forms No. 15 and 42 (old forms) have been brought into use.

They were not correctly prepared in some cases; for example—

Salem-Cuddalore Road.—Form No. 15, of August 1887, shows 191 and 592 cubic feet of metal collection, which quantity, however, was not brought into the appropriate column in Form 42.

In some cases the measurements in the measurement sheets were in cubic *yards*, while those in the road metal statements were in cubic *feet*, which renders comparison of the entries difficult, for example:—

Great Western Trunk Road, No. 5, Krishnagiri taluk, measurement sheet and Form 15 for August 1887.

The Engineer has, however, issued circulars to remedy the defect.

With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1317, dated 9th July 1887, reviewing the last report, the President reported to Government that the District Board approved of the Engineer's proposals to leave the "Famine metal" on the road side and to account for it as utilized, and to insist as far as possible upon its being used up. Thereupon Government, in their order, Mis. No. 1980 L., dated 21st October 1887, required the President to report the balance of "Famine metal" remaining on the 31st March 1887, as worked out from the statements prepared after the famine and the security against the metal being used and charged for afresh.

The Engineer's report thereon, which was received on the 1st February 1888, with a statement working out the balance on 31st March 1887 as called for by Government, remains to be disposed of by the District Board at their next meeting.

14. *Road Metal Rate Book.*—It is noticeable that no quarry maps are received from the overseers in view to the Engineer being made aware of changes in the location of quarries.

15. *Measurement Books.*—It was noticeable that the measurement books of the Engineer's division did not bear the Engineer's initials in token of check by him—for example, the Námakal, Tirupatúr, Yercaud, Uttankarai taluk overseers' measurement books for 1887-88—the check of the entries in the measurement sheets having doubtless been considered sufficient; but it is clearly desirable that the measurement sheets be compared from time to time with the measurement books.

There should always be a note of the number and date of the bill in which measurements were billed for, to allow of the entries being clearly traceable into the accounts (Local Fund Public Works Rule 104).

16. *Register of Works.*—Rates have not been noted either as "estimated" or as "executed."

It was noticeable that in some cases the expenditure incurred was in excess of the sanctioned amount, the excess not having received sanction as required by Local Fund Public Works Rule No. 63; for example—

1887-88.	Sub-head.	As estimated. RS. A. P.	As executed. RS. A. P.
Special repairs, Komalalayam Tank, estimate Rs. 1,500	New stone work.	188 3 0	162 7 8
Building a shandy shed at Nynamalai, estimate Rs. 1,430	Plastering, 2 coats	50 15 4	80 5 9

ENGINEER'S COMPILED ACCOUNTS.

17. *Extent of Inspection.*—These accounts were examined in detail for the following months:—

March, July and October 1887, and January 1888.

18. *Submission of Accounts to President's Office.*—From the attached statement it will be seen that, excepting in the case of four months, the Engineer's accounts were not submitted by the due date. Every endeavour should be made to comply with rule in this respect in future.

19. *Schedules of Expenditure.*—The completion certificate statement was not submitted with the schedule of expenditure even when works were completed; for example, in the case of the reconstruction of the bridge on the 182nd mile of the Trunk Road, No. I, completed in November 1887.

20. *Contract Certificates.*—The defects noticed in the contract certificates were the following, those which escaped the audit clerk's attention are specially referred to:—

(*a*) When the payee signed in a certain vernacular, the amount was in some cases acknowledged in a *different* vernacular; for example—

Work voucher 2, of March 1887, vouchers 529, 530 and 531.—The payee signed in *Telugu*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

Work voucher 1, of October 1887, voucher 33.—The payee signed in *Telugu*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

Work voucher 2, of July 1887, voucher 22.—The payee signed in *Hindustani*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

(*b*) In the case noted below, besides others of a like nature, a detailed bill in manuscript under the *Apothecary's* signature was filed in support of the expenditure incurred, whereas either a contractor's bill or nominal rolls should have been forthcoming:—

Work voucher 16, of January 1888, voucher 90, for Rs. 25, for re-tiling the Apothecary's quarters.

Work voucher 22, of November 1887, voucher 174, for Rs. 17-6-0, for repairing a Local Fund School.

(*c*) The words "As a final settlement of all demands" were not added to the contractor's acknowledgment in some cases when *full* and *final* payments were made; for example—

Work voucher 27, of March 1887, voucher 406 for Rs. 219 5 5.
" " " 407 for " 280 8 0.

(*d*) In some cases the number and date of the vouchers on which the previous payment was made were not noted in the space provided for the purpose; for example—

Work voucher 4, of March 1887, voucher 370, for Rs. 271.

(*e*) The Engineer's initials were wanting in the vouchers in a few cases; for example:—

Work voucher 27, of March 1887, voucher 191, for Rs. 79-8-7.
" 5, of August " " 41 for " 38.

(*f*) Erasures and unattested corrections were noticed in some cases; for example—

Work voucher 18, of July 1887, voucher 66, for Rs. 27 } The amounts paid and receipted for
" 22, " " 65, for " 10 } by the contractor were erased and written over.

(*g*) *Cash* payments were in some cases not witnessed; for example—

Work voucher 22, of November 1887, voucher 173, for Rs. 15, paid by the head master of a school.

(*h*) Payments on account of compensation for land are supported by manuscript vernacular receipts from the payees. It is desirable, for the sake of clearness and system, that the form prescribed by Rule 3 of annexure to Chapter 6 of Civil Account Code be introduced for the purpose, the necessary alteration to make the same suitable for Local Funds being carried out.

(*i*) Errors in calculation.

(*j*) Previous payments incorrectly noted.

(*k*) With reference to what was stated at paragraph 19 of last report, it is noticeable that final bills to the amount of Rs. 33,910 were passed by the Engineer without previous check measurement, the President's order in the matter being that the Engineer shall check-measure "wherever possible."

21. *Establishment Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not in *words* up to January 1888.

There are two store-watchers—one on Rs. 5 and the other on Rs. 4 per mensem—regularly employed; their pay is, however, charged to "Works" instead of to "Establishment."

22. *Travelling Allowance Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not in *words*.

In cases when mileage was claimed by clerks for journeys of 20 miles or more, the words "Actual travelling expenses only" were omitted to be noted in the bill (paragraph 4 of the Accountant-General's Circular, No. 21, dated 3rd December 1886).

Halting allowance was paid to the Engineer for halts of *more* than ten days' duration in the following cases:—

From the 21st March 1887 to 4th April 1887 inclusive, being 15 days.
" 23rd June " to 3rd July " " 11 "

Halting allowance for six days would thus need to be recovered from Mr. Ellis.

23. *Contingent Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not noted in words, and the words "Contents received" or other proof of actual payment were wanting in some cases in the sub-vouchers; for example—

Voucher 3, of December 1887, for Rs. 13-4-0, for "printing."

24. *Work Vouchers.*—Work vouchers were received throughout the period, being in some cases sent in after the submission of the accounts. Those for February 1888 were not received up to the date of my examination. Those for original works and special repairs (old form 22) in some cases had not the entries filled in in the column under "As per estimate;" for example—

Work voucher 1, of July 1887, for constructing a shandy shed at Nynamalai.

In other cases, the *rates* as per estimate were not given; for example—

Work voucher 1, of November 1887, for reconstructing a bridge in the 182nd mile of Trunk road, No. 1.

25. *Schedule of Rates.*—There was no schedule of rates submitted for 1887-88 as required by Rule 39 of the Local Fund Public Works rules. Why, it is not apparent.

26. *Returns of Tools and Plant.*—As remarked in paragraph 4 of the President's endorsement on the last report, the correct opening balance was decided by the District Board and adopted in the half-yearly return of tools and plant for September 1886. In the return for September 1887, however, the undernoted differences are shown to exist in the Krishnagiri overseer's store between the balances as worked out and those as actually counted. The differences were duly communicated to the President in the Engineer's No. 115, dated 20th October 1887, for orders as to whether the value may be deducted from the amount * due to the said overseer (whose services were dispensed with) on account of pay and allowances, &c., and the matter awaits disposal:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
* Salary	110	5	2
Travelling allowance	15	0	0
Remuneration for minor irrigation works	52	2	8
Security deposit	300	0	0
Total ..	477	7	10

	Wanting.	Value.		
	No.	Rs.	A.	P.
Crowbars	32	32	0	0
Sledge hammers	9	20	4	0
Stone do.	526	131	8	0
Mamoties	281	210	12	0
Pick-axes	157	157	0	0
Metal rings	25	0	12	6
Hand saw	1	1	4	0
Total ..	553	8	6	

27. *Audit Registers.*—The defects noticed in the establishment audit register were the following:—

The sections were not well defined, the whole Local Fund Public Works establishment being shown under *one* section instead of being distributed.

There were no notes made in the space provided for the purpose of amounts withheld on account of leave or other causes.

28. *Result Statements.*—The result statements were, on the whole, issued without marked delay, but they should in future be more promptly disposed of. They were promptly returned in some cases.

The more frequently recurring objections were—

(*a*) Unattested corrections.
(*b*) Errors in calculations.

29. *Objection Book.*—Several of the objections outstanding appertain to March 1887. There appears no reason why they should not long since have been removed from the objection book by actual recovery, the Engineer having admitted the excess payments to which the majority of the objections relate. The Engineer promised to effect the necessary recoveries last month.

II.—MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS (II, III AND IV).

30. *Extent of Inspection.*—These accounts were examined in detail for the following months :—

March and July 1887 and February 1888.

31. *Submission of accounts to President's Office.*—The accounts were delayed in submission to the audit office. Statement I.

32. *Vouchers.*—The defects noticed in the vouchers were the following, those which escaped the audit clerk's attention are specially referred to :—

(*a*) The words "Contents received" or other proof of payment were in some cases wanting ; for example—

Voucher 36, of March 1887, sub-voucher for Rs. 13 10 8 for books.
„ 49, of November 1887 „ „ 12 0 2 for stationery of inspecting schoolmasters.

(*b*) In some cases the payee's bill alone countersigned by the officer incurring the charge was filed in support of expenditure incurred without a regular covering contingent bill with the necessary certificates under the *signature* of that officer ; for example—

Voucher 51, of March 1887, for Rs. 518 4 6 for books purchased.
„ 12, of May „ for „ 2,200, being medical contribution to Salem Municipality.

(*c*) In some cases there were no vouchers from the suppliers, the amount being receipted for by the officer incurring the charge instead ; for example —

Voucher 67 of March 1887, for Rs. 22-8-0, paid to the manager of a result system school for furniture and maps, the payments being certified to by an *inspecting* schoolmaster.

Voucher 15, of February 1888, for Rs. 18, paid to the Treasury officer on account of the *Medical Gazette*, to be remitted to Calcutta.

(*d*) Vouchers in support of "Refunds of cess" were wanting in the certificate as prescribed by the Board of Revenue as to the amount having been duly credited in the accounts and not already refunded ; for example—

Voucher 61, of July 1887, for Rs. 2-13-8.

(*e*) In some cases the rate of pay was not given ; for example —

Voucher 3, of March 1887, for Rs. 62-14-11, Tirupatur Taluk Board.

(*f*) The pay order was wanting in some cases ; for example —

				RS.	A.	P.	
Voucher	6, of	March	1887, for	26	11	2	For result grants, Tirupatur Taluk Board.
Do.	7, of	„	„	16	0	0	
Do.	8, of	„	„	43	12	0	
Do.	9, of	„	„	13	0	0	

(*g*) As a rule, bills for grant-in-aid results grants are not countersigned by the Presidents of the Boards concerned. (Account and Audit Rules 2—Appendix).

(*h*) The amount of the bill in the case given below is Rs. 53-14-10, and as paid, whereas in the pay order Rs. 53-14-11 is noted :—

Voucher 43, of March 1887, Salem Taluk Board.

(*i*) Contingent bills of the Deputy Inspector of Vaccination were not in some cases countersigned by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer ; for example—

Voucher 19, of February 1888, for Rs. 18-3-9.

(*j*) The purpose of journey was not noted in bills in some cases ; for example—

Voucher 65, of March 1887, for Rs. 39-3-0, Tirupatur Taluk Board.

(*k*) It is noticeable that in some cases claims on account of travelling allowance of non-official members were made much in arrears ; for example—

Voucher 65, for Rs. 39-3-0, paid in March 1887, embracing claims for June, August, October, January and March 1887.

(*l*) In some cases, the head-quarterly station was omitted to be given in the travelling allowance bills ; for example—

Voucher 56, of March 1887, for Rs. 5-14-0, Hosur Taluk Board.

(*m*) When a consolidated bill was drawn by the President of the Board concerned for travelling allowance on account of non-official members, no separate receipts from the payees were in some cases attached to the bill ; for example—

Voucher 147, of March 1887, for Rs. 27, Hósur Taluk Board.

(*n*) In the following case, the sub-voucher from Messrs. Oakes and Co., dated 2nd June 1887 (being a *memorandum* of amount due), is for Rs. 11-12-0, with a foot-note that if the amount be paid within a month, it would be Rs. 10-12-0. The amount paid, however, on the 29th June 1887, as noted in the covering bill in support (that is, *within* the month) was Rs. 11-12-0, and not Rs. 10-12-0 as it should have been. There was, besides, no distinct acknowledgment received for the amount paid.

33. *Establishment Register.*—The defects noticed in the establishment audit register were the following :—

(*a*) The totals at foot of each cage were not made to allow of the necessary comparison with the sanctioned scale.
(*b*) The column "Sanction" in several cases was not correctly filled in, the budget sanction being noted instead of the original Government orders.

34. *Result Statements.*—The results statements were issued, on the whole, with a fair degree of punctuality. There was great delay in their return in the earlier portion of the period under report, notwithstanding several reminders, as may be seen from the attached Statement No. I.

The more frequently recurring objections were the following :—

(*a*) Want of detailed bills.
(*b*) „ of sub-vouchers.
(*c*) „ of authority being communicated to admit excess expenditure.
(*d*) Omission in leave statements.
(*e*) Errors in bills.

35. *Objection Book.*—The miscellaneous objections outstanding up to December 1887 are of such a nature that they can be readily removed from the objection book.

The following items, being of long standing, call for immediate attention, and special reminders should be sent in respect of them to the Presidents of Local Boards concerned.

Item No.	Month.	Voucher No.	Head of Account.	Particulars.	Amount.	Nature of Objection.
					RS. A. P.	
1	November 1886 ..	55	Refunds of cesses ..	Refunds of cesses ..	3 4 10	The receipt furnished is not signed by the parties, but by the Hosúr Taluk Sheristadar.
2	March 1887 ..	34	Education, Secondary Schools, Miscellaneous.	Purchase of prize books, maps, &c.	32 4 0	Want of detailed bill.
3	July 1887 ..	39	Hospitals and Dispensaries, Medical Subordinates.	Pay bill of C. R. Ramasami Naidu, 3rd-class hospital assistant on fever duty, Hosúr, for June 1887, Rs. 25.	..	Want of receipt stamp.
4	August 1887 ..	54	Do.	Do. for July 1887, Rs. 25.	..	Do. do.

Those outstanding under sanitary and other advances are detailed in Statement 2.

The defects noticed in the vouchers received in adjustment of sanitary and other advances were the following :—

(*a*) There were no payee's receipts or nominal rolls filed to support the undernoted expenditure :—

Voucher 107, of March 1887, sub-vouchers for Rs. 21 for improvement of water-supply.
" " " " " 70 for " "
" " " " " 11 for " "

(*b*) In some cases memoranda from suppliers were filed in support of charges in place of regular receipts acknowledging payment ; for example—

Voucher 58, of December 1887, sub-voucher for Rs. 19-8-0, for cholera medicines from Messrs. West and Co.

(*c*) In some cases vouchers were purely in the *vernacular* ; there should in future be an abstract at least, in English, at foot ; for example—

Voucher 11, of May 1887, for Rs. 25 for improvement of water-supply.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS.

36. *General Result of the Inspection.*—The post of audit clerk was filled by A. E. Appa Rao up to the end of February 1887. Since then T. D. Sama Rao, who was placed in charge of the work, has on the whole conducted his duties with intelligence and care. He would, however, need to maintain a better system of record. Under the present arrangement of recording vouchers subsequently received (Miscellaneous Grants) elsewhere instead of with the original vouchers on which objections were made, much more time than could be conveniently spared was taken up in procuring the same.

37. *Engineer's Office.*—C. S. Muthuthandavaroyan continues as Engineer's Accountant and has on the whole conducted his duties satisfactorily.

38. *Points to be noted by President.*—The matters needing special attention are the following :—

Grant I—

	Para.
(*a*) Necessity for better regulation of Engineer's credits ..	5
(*b*) Delay in the adjustment of advances made to miscellaneous agency on account of works	6
(*c*) The practice of crowding expenditure into March	10
(*d*) Defects in the road metal statements and necessity for "Famine Material" accounts	13
(*e*) Defects in the register of works and necessity for obtaining sanction to deviations from sanctioned estimates	16
(*f*) Defects in contract certificates	20
(*g*) Defects in travelling allowance bills and necessity to recover certain excess haltage from Mr. Ellis	22

	Para.
(*h*) Failure to submit a schedule of rates	25
(*i*) Deficiencies in the Krishnagíri overseer's store of tools as per return for September 1887	26
Other Grants—	
(*j*) Defects in vouchers	32 and 35
(*k*) Delay in return of result statements	34
General—	
(*l*) Defects in the establishment audit registers	27 and 33
(*m*) Necessity for the early adjustment of outstanding objections	29 and 35

Forwarded to the Accountant-General with the following remarks :—

(1) The practice of crowding the year's expenditure into March (paragraph 10) is drawn attention to time after time without result. It is apparently regarded as one of the inevitable evils attendant upon Public Works expenditure, but it appears to me that every effort should be made to prevent its continuance, inasmuch as it must result in the evils indicated by Mr. Brito.

(2) The delay in the return of result statements referred to in paragraph 34 cannot but be considered most unsatisfactory ; and the special attention of the Presidents of Taluk Boards concerned should be called to the matter, I think. Such delay must necessarily result in objections remaining unduly long outstanding in the objection book (see paragraph 35.)

(3) For the outstanding objections under Grant I the Engineer is responsible, and his special attention should be drawn to the necessity for taking the action required of him in respect of them.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
23*rd April* 1888.

(Signed) R. C. CHAPMAN,
Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

No. L.F.D.—109.

Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, through the President, District Board, Salem.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
30*th April* 1888.

(Signed) E. W. KELLNER,
Offg. Accountant-General.

No. 89—L.F.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Engineer's credits were regulated on the average monthly expenditure of the preceding three years.

3. Items Nos. 2 and 3 of amounts advanced for works referred to in 6 have since been adjusted.

4. The subject of "famine material" alluded to in paragraph 13 has since been disposed of by the District Board, Salem, and Government have been separately addressed in the matter.

5. As regards the Assistant Inspector's remarks in paragraph 25 of his report that there was no schedule of rates submitted for 1887-88, it is observed that, there having been no change in the rate of any kind of work, the sanctioned schedule of rates for 1886-87 was adopted in 1887-88, and that Rule 39 of the Local Fund Public Works rules now in force does not state that there should be a schedule of rates for every year, as was the case before the issue of these rules.

6. As for the deficiencies in the Krishnagiri overseer's store of tools—*vide* paragraph 26—all the tools and plant were made good by the person concerned in March last.

7. The attention of the Local Fund Engineer has been called to paragraphs 5, 8 to 26, and 28 and 29, 37 and 38, and copy of the report furnished to the Treasury Deputy Collector, in view to these officers noting and attending in future to the several requisitions pointed out.

The attention of the Presidents of the Local Boards has also been invited to the necessity for the early return of result statements. With regard to the large expenditure in March, or in the last month of the year, the contractors now are all bound to finish their works within December, and *interim* payments are ordered to be made for sections of work as they are completed without waiting for the completion of the whole. The state of the season must, however, regulate road work. If there is no water, there can be no spreading and tamping unless materials are to be wasted.

SALEM,
4th June 1888.

M. SURIYAMURTI PILLAI,
for *President.*

To the Chief Secretary to Government.

ORDER—dated 27th June 1888, No. 1197 L., Local and Municipal.

Recorded, with the following remarks :—

(1) The Engineer's credits should be regulated according to rule.
(2) Advances made to miscellaneous agency should not be allowed to remain so long unadjusted.
(3) The excess halting allowance drawn by Mr. Ellis should be recovered from him.
(4) The schedule of rates should be revised at least once a year.
(5) It does not appear that the audit report was placed before the District Board, as required by G.O., dated 16th August 1888, No. 990 L.F.

(True Extract.)

Assistant Secretary to Govt. M.D.
pro *Chief Secretary.*

To the President, District Board, Salem.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Communicated
to the S. V Circle
and the Exam Wacets
with reference to clause
13 (3) of the order in the
Local Dept.

12.7.88

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Issued

Recd. 11.7.88 Encl.

G.O., 27th June 1888, No. 1197 L.

JUNE.

Local Fund Accounts.

Recording, with remarks, audit report of the Salem — from January 1887 to February 1888.

S.E. VI Circle
Exam Wacts
requires to obs

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From C. BRITO, Esq., Assistant Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, to the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, dated Salem, 17th April 1888.

I have the honor to submit the following report on my recent inspection of the Local Fund accounts of the Salem district for the period extending from January 1887 to February 1888:—

1. *Time occupied in the inspection.*—From 6th to 17th, being ten working days.

2. *When last inspected and for what period.*—The accounts were last inspected by the Inspector in February 1887; and the period then dealt with was from October 1885 to December 1886.

3. *Period now reported on.*—The period inspected on the present occasion was as noted below:—

(1) Engineer's records from
(2) Do. compiled accounts from } January 1887 to February 1888.
(3) Miscellaneous grants accounts from

I.—GRANT I, PUBLIC WORKS.

4. *Engineering Staff.*—Mr. J. W. A. Ellis continued to fill the post of Local Fund Engineer during the period under report.

5. *Letters of Credit.*—The Engineer's credits were for the most part excessive with reference to the rule which requires that the balance be not ordinarily more than half the average expenditure of the succeeding month.

6. *Imprests.*—Beginning with April 1887, no imprests were granted under Local Fund Public Works Rule No. 146 (owing to the contract system being in full for all works excepting those in the hands of miscellaneous Revenue agency). It is noticeable that regular imprest accounts were not ordinarily submitted in connection with the imprests held by miscellaneous agency, mere vouchers having been sent in.

In some cases the imprests have remained long unadjusted; for example—

Particulars.	Amount advanced.	To whom advanced.	Month in which	
			Advanced.	Adjusted.
	Rs.			
For town roads, &c.	200	Deputy Tahsildar, Sankaridrug.	September 1887 ..	February 1888.
,, carpentry shed attached to school.	35	A member, Salem Taluk Board.	October ,, ..	Not yet adjusted.
,, repairing Panchayat office..	50	Chairman, Hosúr Panchayat.	November ,, ..	Do.

A register to watch the adjustment of such advances is carefully maintained in the Engineer's office.

ENGINEER'S ORIGINAL RECORDS.

7. *Extent of Inspection.*—The Engineer's records were examined in detail for the following months:—

March and July 1887 and February 1888.

8. *Pass Book.*—No remarks except that new form, No. 6, should be substituted for the form now in use.

9. *Counterfoils of cheques.*—In a few cases the balance as noted on the reverse of the counterfoils of cheques did not agree with the balance as shown in the cash-book at the close of the month; for example—

Treasury.	Closing balance of February 1887. As per counterfoil of cheque.			As per cash-book.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Salem	1,380	9	1	1,005	15	5

10. *Cash Book.*—The entries in the cash-book are not as clear as required by rule (note 1 on the reverse of new form No. 8), that is, the number and date of the bill are not given and other particulars of the amount of the bill and deductions pending check-measurement, to furnish a clear idea of the transactions and to facilitate reference.

Under the arrangement referred to in paragraph 7 of the last report, that is, of granting a permanent advance to the Engineer's accountant of Rs. 5 (raised to Rs. 15 from January 1888) for the purchase of petty articles falling under Contingencies, the balance in the petty cash-book maintained, which is signed by the Engineer at the close of each month's transactions, is the only balance in hand. It was *nil* on the date of my examination, namely, the 13th April 1888.

It is apparent from the statement given below, which shows the expenditure incurred on works alone as per accounts current, that there is in this district a great crowding of expenditure, as a rule, incurred in the month of March of each year.

Such large expenditure would necessarily involve the scrutiny of a very large number of bills and entries in the connected accounts which it would be very difficult, if not altogether impossible, to get through with *sufficient* care in the limited time for disposal of the same. It is further noticeable that the payments made on the *last* day *alone* of March—that is, the 31st—is far in excess of the expenditure incurred in any other *full* month of the year.

It is desirable that endeavours should be made to regulate the expenditure by more evenly distributing it throughout the other months of the year:—

	1886-87.			1887-88.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
April		..			..	
May		..		142	6	4
June	442	5	5	1,396	2	3
July	1,726	13	9	3,742	3	3
August	3,226	14	2	6,052	6	0
September	3,706	7	6	7,160	2	10
October	8,098	9	4	4,703	12	0
November	16,808	5	1	18,837	9	0
December	11,208	5	6	13,740	4	11
January	6,311	1	8	11,039	14	5
February	10,096	9	6	19,168	11	3
March	* 59,077	7	10	* 49,326	11	7

* Expenditure on 31st March { 1886-87 .. .. Rs. 39,562 11 9; 1887-88 .. .. ,, 27,705 11 5

11. *Imprest Accounts.*—In some cases the abstract at foot was wanting, and the "Head of Account" column had in some cases not been filled in; for example—

Imprest account, No. 21, of February 1887, of the Salem taluk overseer.

12. *Contractors' Ledger.*—With reference to paragraph 11 of the last report, extracts from the contractors' ledger have since been regularly submitted to the audit office.

In some cases, balances were found to have remained long unadjusted; for example—

Rs. 3 due from September 1887 to contractor Anantha Row, Dharmapuri taluk, page 98.

13. *Road Metal Statements.*—With reference to paragraph 12 of the last report, forms No. 15 and 42 (old forms) have been brought into use.

They were not correctly prepared in some cases; for example—

Salem-Cuddalore Road.—Form No. 15, of August 1887, shows 191 and 592 cubic feet of metal collection, which quantity, however, was not brought into the appropriate column in Form 42.

In some cases the measurements in the measurement sheets were in cubic *yards*, while those in the road metal statements were in cubic *feet*, which renders comparison of the entries difficult, for example:—

Great Western Trunk Road, No. 5, Krishnagiri taluk, measurement sheet and Form 15 for August 1887.

The Engineer has, however, issued circulars to remedy the defect.

With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1317, dated 9th July 1887, reviewing the last report, the President reported to Government that the District Board approved of the Engineer's proposals to leave the "Famine metal" on the road side and to account for it as utilized, and to insist as far as possible upon its being used up. Thereupon Government, in their order, Mis. No. 1980 L., dated 21st October 1887, required the President to report the balance of "Famine metal" remaining on the 31st March 1887, as worked out from the statements prepared after the famine and the security against the metal being used and charged for afresh.

The Engineer's report thereon, which was received on the 1st February 1888, with a statement working out the balance on 31st March 1887 as called for by Government, remains to be disposed of by the District Board at their next meeting.

14. *Road Metal Rate Book.*—It is noticeable that no quarry maps are received from the overseers in view to the Engineer being made aware of changes in the location of quarries.

15. *Measurement Books.*—It was noticeable that the measurement books of the Engineer's division did not bear the Engineer's initials in token of check by him—for example, the Námakal, Tirupatúr, Yercaud, Uttankarai taluk overseers' measurement books for 1887-88—the check of the entries in the measurement sheets having doubtless been considered sufficient; but it is clearly desirable that the measurement sheets be compared from time to time with the measurement books.

There should always be a note of the number and date of the bill in which measurements were billed for, to allow of the entries being clearly traceable into the accounts (Local Fund Public Works Rule 104).

16. *Register of Works.*—Rates have not been noted either as "estimated" or as "executed."

It was noticeable that in some cases the expenditure incurred was in excess of the sanctioned amount, the excess not having received sanction as required by Local Fund Public Works Rule No. 63; for example—

1887-88.	Sub-head.	As estimated.			As executed.		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Special repairs, Komalalayam Tank, estimate Rs. 1,500	New stone work.	188	3	0	162	7	8
Building a shandy shed at Nynamalai, estimate Rs. 1,430	Plastering, 2 coats	50	15	4	80	5	9

Engineer's Compiled Accounts.

17. *Extent of Inspection.*—These accounts were examined in detail for the following months:—

March, July and October 1887, and January 1888.

18. *Submission of Accounts to President's Office.*—From the attached statement it will be seen that, excepting in the case of four months, the Engineer's accounts were not submitted by the due date. Every endeavour should be made to comply with rule in this respect in future.

19. *Schedules of Expenditure.*—The completion certificate statement was not submitted with the schedule of expenditure even when works were completed; for example, in the case of the reconstruction of the bridge on the 182nd mile of the Trunk Road, No. I, completed in November 1887.

20. *Contract Certificates.*—The defects noticed in the contract certificates were the following, those which escaped the audit clerk's attention are specially referred to:—

(*a*) When the payee signed in a certain vernacular, the amount was in some cases acknowledged in a *different* vernacular; for example—

Work voucher 2, of March 1887, vouchers 529, 530 and 531.—The payee signed in *Telugu*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

Work voucher 1, of October 1887, voucher 33.—The payee signed in *Telugu*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

Work voucher 2, of July 1887, voucher 22.—The payee signed in *Hindustani*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

(*b*) In the case noted below, besides others of a like nature, a detailed bill in manuscript under the *Apothecary's* signature was filed in support of the expenditure incurred, whereas either a contractor's bill or nominal rolls should have been forthcoming:—

Work voucher 16, of January 1888, voucher 90, for Rs. 25, for re-tiling the Apothecary's quarters.

Work voucher 22, of November 1887, voucher 174, for Rs. 17-6-0, for repairing a Local Fund School.

(*c*) The words "As a final settlement of all demands" were not added to the contractor's acknowledgment in some cases when *full* and *final* payments were made; for example—

Work voucher 27, of March 1887, voucher 406 for Rs. 219 5 5.
" " " 407 for " 280 8 0.

(*d*) In some cases the number and date of the vouchers on which the previous payment was made were not noted in the space provided for the purpose; for example—

Work voucher 4, of March 1887, voucher 370, for Rs. 271.

(*e*) The Engineer's initials were wanting in the vouchers in a few cases; for example:—

Work voucher 27, of March 1887, voucher 191, for Rs. 79-8-7.
" 5, of August " " 41 for " 38.

(*f*) Erasures and unattested corrections were noticed in some cases; for example—

Work voucher 18, of July 1887, voucher 66, for Rs. 27 } The amounts paid and receipted for
" 22, " " 65, for " 10 } by the contractor were erased and written over.

(*g*) *Cash* payments were in some cases not witnessed; for example—

Work voucher 22, of November 1887, voucher 173, for Rs. 15, paid by the head master of a school.

(*h*) Payments on account of compensation for land are supported by manuscript vernacular receipts from the payees. It is desirable, for the sake of clearness and system, that the form prescribed by Rule 3 of annexure to Chapter 6 of Civil Account Code be introduced for the purpose, the necessary alteration to make the same suitable for Local Funds being carried out.

(*i*) Errors in calculation.

(*j*) Previous payments incorrectly noted.

(*k*) With reference to what was stated at paragraph 19 of last report, it is noticeable that final bills to the amount of Rs. 33,910 were passed by the Engineer without previous check measurement, the President's order in the matter being that the Engineer shall check-measure "wherever possible."

21. *Establishment Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not in *words* up to January 1888.

There are two store-watchers—one on Rs. 5 and the other on Rs. 4 per mensem—regularly employed; their pay is, however, charged to "Works" instead of to "Establishment."

22. *Travelling Allowance Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not in *words*.

In cases when mileage was claimed by clerks for journeys of 20 miles or more, the words "Actual travelling expenses only" were omitted to be noted in the bill (paragraph 4 of the Accountant-General's Circular, No. 21, dated 3rd December 1886).

Halting allowance was paid to the Engineer for halts of *more* than ten days' duration in the following cases:—

From the 21st March 1887 to 4th April 1887 inclusive, being 15 days.
" 23rd June " to 3rd July " " 11 "

Halting allowance for six days would thus need to be recovered from Mr. Ellis.

23. *Contingent Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not noted in words, and the words "Contents received" or other proof of actual payment were wanting in some cases in the sub-vouchers; for example—

Voucher 3, of December 1887, for Rs. 13-4-0, for "printing."

24. *Work Vouchers.*—Work vouchers were received throughout the period, being in some cases sent in after the submission of the accounts. Those for February 1888 were not received up to the date of my examination. Those for original works and special repairs (old form 22) in some cases had not the entries filled in in the column under "As per estimate;" for example—

Work voucher 1, of July 1887, for constructing a shandy shed at Nynamalai.

In other cases, the *rates* as per estimate were not given; for example—

Work voucher 1, of November 1887, for reconstructing a bridge in the 182nd mile of Trunk road, No. 1.

25. *Schedule of Rates.*—There was no schedule of rates submitted for 1887-88 as required by Rule 39 of the Local Fund Public Works rules. Why, it is not apparent.

26. *Returns of Tools and Plant.*—As remarked in paragraph 4 of the President's endorsement on the last report, the correct opening balance was decided by the District Board and adopted in the half-yearly return of tools and plant for September 1886. In the return for September 1887, however, the undernoted differences are shown to exist in the Krishnagiri overseer's store between the balances as worked out and those as actually counted. The differences were duly communicated to the President in the Engineer's No. 115, dated 20th October 1887, for orders as to whether the value may be deducted from the amount * due to the said overseer (whose services were dispensed with) on account of pay and allowances, &c., and the matter awaits disposal:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
* Salary	110	5	2
Travelling allowance	15	0	0
Remuneration for minor irrigation works	52	2	8
Security deposit	300	0	0
Total ..	477	7	10

	Wanting.	Value.		
	No.	Rs.	A.	P.
Crowbars	32	32	0	0
Sledge hammers	9	20	4	0
Stone do.	526	131	8	0
Mamoties	281	210	12	0
Pick-axes	157	157	0	0
Metal rings	25	0	12	6
Hand saw	1	1	4	0
Total ..		553	8	6

27. *Audit Registers.*—The defects noticed in the establishment audit register were the following:—

The sections were not well defined, the whole Local Fund Public Works establishment being shown under *one* section instead of being distributed.

There were no notes made in the space provided for the purpose of amounts withheld on account of leave or other causes.

28. *Result Statements.*—The result statements were, on the whole, issued without marked delay, but they should in future be more promptly disposed of. They were promptly returned in some cases.

The more frequently recurring objections were—

(*a*) Unattested corrections.
(*b*) Errors in calculations.

29. *Objection Book.*—Several of the objections outstanding appertain to March 1887. There appears no reason why they should not long since have been removed from the objection book by actual recovery, the Engineer having admitted the excess payments to which the majority of the objections relate. The Engineer promised to effect the necessary recoveries last month.

II.—MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS (II, III AND IV).

30. *Extent of Inspection.*—These accounts were examined in detail for the following months :—

March and July 1887 and February 1888.

31. *Submission of accounts to President's Office.*—The accounts were delayed in submission to the audit office. Statement I.

32. *Vouchers.*—The defects noticed in the vouchers were the following, those which escaped the audit clerk's attention are specially referred to :—

(*a*) The words "Contents received" or other proof of payment were in some cases wanting; for example—

Voucher 36, of March 1887, sub-voucher for Rs. 13 10 8 for books.
„ 49, of November 1887 „ „ 12 0 2 for stationery of inspecting schoolmasters.

(*b*) In some cases the payee's bill alone countersigned by the officer incurring the charge was filed in support of expenditure incurred without a regular covering contingent bill with the necessary certificates under the *signature* of that officer; for example—

Voucher 51, of March 1887, for Rs. 518 4 6 for books purchased.
„ 12, of May „ for „ 2,200, being medical contribution to Salem Municipality.

(*c*) In some cases there were no vouchers from the suppliers, the amount being receipted for by the officer incurring the charge instead; for example —

Voucher 67 of March 1887, for Rs. 22-8-0, paid to the manager of a result system school for furniture and maps, the payments being certified to by an *inspecting* schoolmaster.

Voucher 15, of February 1888, for Rs. 18, paid to the Treasury officer on account of the *Medical Gazette*, to be remitted to Calcutta.

(*d*) Vouchers in support of "Refunds of cess" were wanting in the certificate as prescribed by the Board of Revenue as to the amount having been duly credited in the accounts and not already refunded; for example—

Voucher 61, of July 1887, for Rs. 2-13-8.

(*e*) In some cases the rate of pay was not given ; for example —

Voucher 3, of March 1887, for Rs. 62-14-11, Tirupatur Taluk Board.

(*f*) The pay order was wanting in some cases ; for example —

			RS.	A.	P.	
Voucher	6, of March	1887, for	26	11	2	For result grants, Tirupatur Taluk Board.
Do.	7, of „	„ „	16	0	0	
Do.	8, of „	„ „	43	12	0	
Do.	9, of „	„ „	13	0	0	

(*g*) As a rule, bills for grant-in-aid results grants are not countersigned by the Presidents of the Boards concerned. (Account and Audit Rules 2—Appendix).

(*h*) The amount of the bill in the case given below is Rs. 53-14-10, and as paid, whereas in the pay order Rs. 53-14-11 is noted :—

Voucher 43, of March 1887, Salem Taluk Board.

(*i*) Contingent bills of the Deputy Inspector of Vaccination were not in some cases countersigned by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer; for example—

Voucher 19, of February 1888, for Rs. 18-3-9.

(*j*) The purpose of journey was not noted in bills in some cases; for example—

Voucher 65, of March 1887, for Rs. 39-3-0, Tirupatur Taluk Board.

(*k*) It is noticeable that in some cases claims on account of travelling allowance of non-official members were made much in arrears; for example—

Voucher 65, for Rs. 39-3-0, paid in March 1887, embracing claims for June, August, October, January and March 1887.

(*l*) In some cases, the head-quarterly station was omitted to be given in the travelling allowance bills; for example—

Voucher 56, of March 1887, for Rs. 5-14-0, Hosur Taluk Board.

(*m*) When a consolidated bill was drawn by the President of the Board concerned for travelling allowance on account of non-official members, no separate receipts from the payees were in some cases attached to the bill; for example—

Voucher 147, of March 1887, for Rs. 27, Hósur Taluk Board.

(*n*) In the following case, the sub-voucher from Messrs. Oakes and Co., dated 2nd June 1887 (being a *memorandum* of amount due), is for Rs. 11-12-0, with a footnote that if the amount be paid within a month, it would be Rs. 10-12-0. The amount paid, however, on the 29th June 1887, as noted in the covering bill in support (that is, *within* the month) was Rs. 11-12-0, and not Rs. 10-12-0 as it should have been. There was, besides, no distinct acknowledgment received for the amount paid.

33. *Establishment Register.*—The defects noticed in the establishment audit register were the following :—

(*a*) The totals at foot of each cage were not made to allow of the necessary comparison with the sanctioned scale.
(*b*) The column "Sanction" in several cases was not correctly filled in, the budget sanction being noted instead of the original Government orders.

34. *Result Statements.*—The results statements were issued, on the whole, with a fair degree of punctuality. There was great delay in their return in the earlier portion of the period under report, notwithstanding several reminders, as may be seen from the attached Statement No. I.

The more frequently recurring objections were the following :—

(*a*) Want of detailed bills.
(*b*) „ of sub-vouchers.
(*c*) „ of authority being communicated to admit excess expenditure.
(*d*) Omission in leave statements.
(*e*) Errors in bills.

35. *Objection Book.*—The miscellaneous objections outstanding up to December 1887 are of such a nature that they can be readily removed from the objection book.

The following items, being of long standing, call for immediate attention, and special reminders should be sent in respect of them to the Presidents of Local Boards concerned.

Item No.	Month.	Voucher No.	Head of Account.	Particulars.	Amount.	Nature of Objection.
					Rs. A. P.	
1	November 1886 ..	55	Refunds of cesses ..	Refunds of cesses ..	3 4 10	The receipt furnished is not signed by the parties, but by the Hosúr Taluk Sheristadar.
2	March 1887 ..	34	Education, Secondary Schools, Miscellaneous.	Purchase of prize books, maps, &c.	32 4 0	Want of detailed bill.
3	July 1887 ..	39	Hospitals and Dispensaries, Medical Subordinates.	Pay bill of C. R. Ramasami Naidu, 3rd-class hospital assistant on fever duty, Hosúr, for June 1887, Rs. 25.	..	Want of receipt stamp.
4	August 1887 ..	54	Do.	Do. for July 1887, Rs. 25.	..	Do. do.

Those outstanding under sanitary and other advances are detailed in Statement 2.

The defects noticed in the vouchers received in adjustment of sanitary and other advances were the following :—

(*a*) There were no payee's receipts or nominal rolls filed to support the undernoted expenditure :—

Voucher 107, of March 1887, sub-vouchers for Rs. 21 for improvement of water-supply.
" " " " " 70 for " "
" " " " " 11 for " "

(*b*) In some cases memoranda from suppliers were filed in support of charges in place of regular receipts acknowledging payment ; for example—

Voucher 58, of December 1887, sub-voucher for Rs. 19-8-0, for cholera medicines from Messrs. West and Co.

(*c*) In some cases vouchers were purely in the *vernacular* ; there should in future be an abstract at least, in English, at foot ; for example—

Voucher 11, of May 1887, for Rs. 25 for improvement of water-supply.

III. Concluding Remarks.

36. *General Result of the Inspection.*—The post of audit clerk was filled by A. E. Appa Rao up to the end of February 1887. Since then T. D. Sama Rao, who was placed in charge of the work, has on the whole conducted his duties with intelligence and care. He would, however, need to maintain a better system of record. Under the present arrangement of recording vouchers subsequently received (Miscellaneous Grants) elsewhere instead of with the original vouchers on which objections were made, much more time than could be conveniently spared was taken up in procuring the same.

37. *Engineer's Office.*—C. S. Muthuthandavaroyan continues as Engineer's Accountant and has on the whole conducted his duties satisfactorily.

38. *Points to be noted by President.*—The matters needing special attention are the following :—

Grant I—

	Para.
(*a*) Necessity for better regulation of Engineer's credits ..	5
(*b*) Delay in the adjustment of advances made to miscellaneous agency on account of works	6
(*c*) The practice of crowding expenditure into March	10
(*d*) Defects in the road metal statements and necessity for "Famine Material" accounts	13
(*e*) Defects in the register of works and necessity for obtaining sanction to deviations from sanctioned estimates	16
(*f*) Defects in contract certificates	20
(*g*) Defects in travelling allowance bills and necessity to recover certain excess haltage from Mr. Ellis	22

	Para.
(*h*) Failure to submit a schedule of rates	25
(*i*) Deficiencies in the Krishnagíri overseer's store of tools as per return for September 1887	26.
Other Grants—	
(*j*) Defects in vouchers	32 and 35
(*k*) Delay in return of result statements	34
General—	
(*l*) Defects in the establishment audit registers	27 and 33
(*m*) Necessity for the early adjustment of outstanding objections	29 and 35

Forwarded to the Accountant-General with the following remarks :—

(1) The practice of crowding the year's expenditure into March (paragraph 10) is drawn attention to time after time without result. It is apparently regarded as one of the inevitable evils attendant upon Public Works expenditure, but it appears to me that every effort should be made to prevent its continuance, inasmuch as it must result in the evils indicated by Mr. Brito.

(2) The delay in the return of result statements referred to in paragraph 34 cannot but be considered most unsatisfactory ; and the special attention of the Presidents of Taluk Boards concerned should be called to the matter, I think. Such delay must necessarily result in objections remaining unduly long outstanding in the objection book (see paragraph 35.)

(3) For the outstanding objections under Grant I the Engineer is responsible, and his special attention should be drawn to the necessity for taking the action required of him in respect of them.

Fort St. George,
23*rd April* 1888.

(Signed) R. C. CHAPMAN,
Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

No. L.F.D.—109.

Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, through the President, District Board, Salem.

Fort St. George,
30*th April* 1888.

(Signed) E. W. KELLNER,
Offg. Accountant-General.

No. 89—L.F.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Engineer's credits were regulated on the average monthly expenditure of the preceding three years.

3. Items Nos. 2 and 3 of amounts advanced for works referred to in 6 have since been adjusted.

4. The subject of "famine material" alluded to in paragraph 13 has since been disposed of by the District Board, Salem, and Government have been separately addressed in the matter.

5. As regards the Assistant Inspector's remarks in paragraph 25 of his report that there was no schedule of rates submitted for 1887-88, it is observed that, there having been no change in the rate of any kind of work, the sanctioned schedule of rates for 1886-87 was adopted in 1887-88, and that Rule 39 of the Local Fund Public Works rules now in force does not state that there should be a schedule of rates for every year, as was the case before the issue of these rules.

6. As for the deficiencies in the Krishnagiri overseer's store of tools—*vide* paragraph 26—all the tools and plant were made good by the person concerned in March last.

7. The attention of the Local Fund Engineer has been called to paragraphs 5, 8 to 26, and 28 and 29, 37 and 38, and copy of the report furnished to the Treasury Deputy Collector, in view to these officers noting and attending in future to the several requisitions pointed out.

The attention of the Presidents of the Local Boards has also been invited to the necessity for the early return of result statements. With regard to the large expenditure in March, or in the last month of the year, the contractors now are all bound to finish their works within December, and *interim* payments are ordered to be made for sections of work as they are completed without waiting for the completion of the whole. The state of the season must, however, regulate road work. If there is no water, there can be no spreading and tamping unless materials are to be wasted.

SALEM,
4th June 1888.

M. SURIYAMURTI PILLAI,
for *President*.

To the Chief Secretary to Government.

ORDER—dated 27th June 1888, No. 1197 L., Local and Municipal.

Recorded, with the following remarks :—

(1) The Engineer's credits should be regulated according to rule.
(2) Advances made to miscellaneous agency should not be allowed to remain so long unadjusted.
(3) The excess halting allowance drawn by Mr. Ellis should be recovered from him.
(4) The schedule of rates should be revised at least once a year.
(5) It does not appear that the audit report was placed before the District Board, as required by G.O., dated 16th August 1888, No. 990 L.F.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the President, District Board, Salem.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of 1888 Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Order thereon No 2192 dt 4th July 1888

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer VI circle and the Examiner Public Works Accounts with reference to clause 13 of the order in the Local and Municipal Department.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

C.O. J.O.H.

G.O., 27th June 1888, No. 1197 L.

No 2192 dt 4th July 1888

JUNE.

Local Fund Accounts.

Recording, with remarks, audit report of the Salem — from January 1887 to February 1888.

A.E. VI Circle
Examr P.W.A.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From C. BRITO, Esq., Assistant Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, to the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, dated Salem, 17th April 1888.

I have the honor to submit the following report on my recent inspection of the Local Fund accounts of the Salem district for the period extending from January 1887 to February 1888:—

1. *Time occupied in the inspection.*—From 6th to 17th, being ten working days.

2. *When last inspected and for what period.*—The accounts were last inspected by the Inspector in February 1887; and the period then dealt with was from October 1885 to December 1886.

3. *Period now reported on.*—The period inspected on the present occasion was as noted below:—

(1) Engineer's records from
(2) Do. compiled accounts from } January 1887 to February 1888.
(3) Miscellaneous grants accounts from

I.—GRANT I, PUBLIC WORKS.

4. *Engineering Staff.*—Mr. J. W. A. Ellis continued to fill the post of Local Fund Engineer during the period under report.

5. *Letters of Credit.*—The Engineer's credits were for the most part excessive with reference to the rule which requires that the balance be not ordinarily more than half the average expenditure of the succeeding month.

6. *Imprests.*—Beginning with April 1887, no imprests were granted under Local Fund Public Works Rule No. 146 (owing to the contract system being in full for all works excepting those in the hands of miscellaneous Revenue agency). It is noticeable that regular imprest accounts were not ordinarily submitted in connection with the imprests held by miscellaneous agency, mere vouchers having been sent in.

In some cases the imprests have remained long unadjusted; for example—

Particulars.	Amount advanced.	To whom advanced.	Month in which	
			Advanced.	Adjusted.
	Rs.			
For town roads, &c.	200	Deputy Tahsildar, Sankaridrug.	September 1887 ..	February 1888.
,, carpentry shed attached to school.	35	A member, Salem Taluk Board.	October ,, ..	Not yet adjusted.
,, repairing Panchayat office..	50	Chairman, Hosúr Panchayat.	November ,, ..	Do.

A register to watch the adjustment of such advances is carefully maintained in the Engineer's office.

ENGINEER'S ORIGINAL RECORDS.

7. *Extent of Inspection.*—The Engineer's records were examined in detail for the following months:—

March and July 1887 and February 1888.

8. *Pass Book.*—No remarks except that new form, No. 6, should be substituted for the form now in use.

9. *Counterfoils of cheques.*—In a few cases the balance as noted on the reverse of the counterfoils of cheques did not agree with the balance as shown in the cash-book at the close of the month; for example—

Treasury.	Closing balance of February 1887. As per counterfoil of cheque.			Closing balance of February 1887. As per cash-book.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Salem	1,380	9	1	1,005	15	5

10. *Cash Book.*—The entries in the cash-book are not as clear as required by rule (note 1 on the reverse of new form No. 8), that is, the number and date of the bill are not given and other particulars of the amount of the bill and deductions pending check-measurement, to furnish a clear idea of the transactions and to facilitate reference.

Under the arrangement referred to in paragraph 7 of the last report, that is, of granting a permanent advance to the Engineer's accountant of Rs. 5 (raised to Rs. 15 from January 1888) for the purchase of petty articles falling under Contingencies, the balance in the petty cash-book maintained, which is signed by the Engineer at the close of each month's transactions, is the only balance in hand. It was *nil* on the date of my examination, namely, the 13th April 1888.

It is apparent from the statement given below, which shows the expenditure incurred on works alone as per accounts current, that there is in this district a great crowding of expenditure, as a rule, incurred in the month of March of each year.

Such large expenditure would necessarily involve the scrutiny of a very large number of bills and entries in the connected accounts which it would be very difficult, if not altogether impossible, to get through with *sufficient* care in the limited time for disposal of the same. It is further noticeable that the payments made on the *last* day *alone* of March—that is, the 31st—is far in excess of the expenditure incurred in any other *full* month of the year.

It is desirable that endeavours should be made to regulate the expenditure by more evenly distributing it throughout the other months of the year:—

	1886-87. Rs.	A.	P.	1887-88. Rs.	A.	P.
April	..			..		
May	..			142	6	4
June	442	5	5	1,396	2	3
July	1,726	13	9	3,742	3	3
August	3,226	14	2	6,052	6	0
September	3,706	7	6	7,160	2	10
October	8,098	9	4	4,703	12	0
November	16,808	5	1	18,837	9	0
December	11,208	5	6	13,740	4	11
January	6,311	1	8	11,039	14	5
February	10,096	9	6	19,168	11	3
March	* 59,077	7	10	* 49,326	11	7

* Expenditure on 31st March { 1886-87 .. .. Rs. 39,562 11 9; 1887-88 .. .. „ 27,705 11 5

11. *Imprest Accounts.*—In some cases the abstract at foot was wanting, and the "Head of Account" column had in some cases not been filled in; for example—

Imprest account, No. 21, of February 1887, of the Salem taluk overseer.

12. *Contractors' Ledger.*—With reference to paragraph 11 of the last report, extracts from the contractors' ledger have since been regularly submitted to the audit office.

In some cases, balances were found to have remained long unadjusted; for example—

Rs. 3 due from September 1887 to contractor Anantha Row, Dharmapuri taluk, page 98.

13. *Road Metal Statements.*—With reference to paragraph 12 of the last report, forms No. 15 and 42 (old forms) have been brought into use.

They were not correctly prepared in some cases; for example—

Salem-Cuddalore Road.—Form No. 15, of August 1887, shows 191 and 592 cubic feet of metal collection, which quantity, however, was not brought into the appropriate column in Form 42.

In some cases the measurements in the measurement sheets were in cubic *yards*, while those in the road metal statements were in cubic *feet*, which renders comparison of the entries difficult, for example:—

Great Western Trunk Road, No. 5, Krishnagiri taluk, measurement sheet and Form 15 for August 1887.

The Engineer has, however, issued circulars to remedy the defect.

With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1317, dated 9th July 1887, reviewing the last report, the President reported to Government that the District Board approved of the Engineer's proposals to leave the "Famine metal" on the road side and to account for it as utilized, and to insist as far as possible upon its being used up. Thereupon Government, in their order, Mis. No. 1980 L., dated 21st October 1887, required the President to report the balance of "Famine metal" remaining on the 31st March 1887, as worked out from the statements prepared after the famine and the security against the metal being used and charged for afresh.

The Engineer's report thereon, which was received on the 1st February 1888, with a statement working out the balance on 31st March 1887 as called for by Government, remains to be disposed of by the District Board at their next meeting.

14. *Road Metal Rate Book.*—It is noticeable that no quarry maps are received from the overseers in view to the Engineer being made aware of changes in the location of quarries.

15. *Measurement Books.*—It was noticeable that the measurement books of the Engineer's division did not bear the Engineer's initials in token of check by him—for example, the Námakal, Tirupatúr, Yercaud, Uttankarai taluk overseers' measurement books for 1887-88—the check of the entries in the measurement sheets having doubtless been considered sufficient; but it is clearly desirable that the measurement sheets be compared from time to time with the measurement books.

There should always be a note of the number and date of the bill in which measurements were billed for, to allow of the entries being clearly traceable into the accounts (Local Fund Public Works Rule 104).

16. *Register of Works.*—Rates have not been noted either as "estimated" or as "executed."

It was noticeable that in some cases the expenditure incurred was in excess of the sanctioned amount, the excess not having received sanction as required by Local Fund Public Works Rule No. 63; for example—

1887-88.	Sub-head.	As estimated. Rs.	A.	P.	As executed. Rs.	A.	P.
Special repairs, Komalalayam Tank, estimate Rs. 1,500	New stone work.	188	3	0	162	7	8
Building a shandy shed at Nynamalai, estimate Rs. 1,430	Plastering, 2 coats	50	15	4	80	5	9

Engineer's Compiled Accounts.

17. *Extent of Inspection.*—These accounts were examined in detail for the following months:—

March, July and October 1887, and January 1888.

18. *Submission of Accounts to President's Office.*—From the attached statement it will be seen that, excepting in the case of four months, the Engineer's accounts were not submitted by the due date. Every endeavour should be made to comply with rule in this respect in future.

19. *Schedules of Expenditure.*—The completion certificate statement was not submitted with the schedule of expenditure even when works were completed; for example, in the case of the reconstruction of the bridge on the 182nd mile of the Trunk Road, No. I, completed in November 1887.

20. *Contract Certificates.*—The defects noticed in the contract certificates were the following, those which escaped the audit clerk's attention are specially referred to:—

(*a*) When the payee signed in a certain vernacular, the amount was in some cases acknowledged in a *different* vernacular; for example—

Work voucher 2, of March 1887, vouchers 529, 530 and 531.—The payee signed in *Telugu*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

Work voucher 1, of October 1887, voucher 33.—The payee signed in *Telugu*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

Work voucher 2, of July 1887, voucher 22,—The payee signed in *Hindustani*, whereas the amount was acknowledged in words in *Tamil*.

(*b*) In the case noted below, besides others of a like nature, a detailed bill in manuscript under the *Apothecary's* signature was filed in support of the expenditure incurred, whereas either a contractor's bill or nominal rolls should have been forthcoming:—

Work voucher 16, of January 1888, voucher 90, for Rs. 25, for re-tiling the Apothecary's quarters.

Work voucher 22, of November 1887, voucher 174, for Rs. 17-6-0, for repairing a Local Fund School.

(*c*) The words "As a final settlement of all demands" were not added to the contractor's acknowledgment in some cases when *full* and *final* payments were made; for example—

Work voucher 27, of March 1887, voucher 406 for Rs. 219 5 5.
" " " 407 for " 280 8 0.

(*d*) In some cases the number and date of the vouchers on which the previous payment was made were not noted in the space provided for the purpose; for example—

Work voucher 4, of March 1887, voucher 370, for Rs. 271.

(*e*) The Engineer's initials were wanting in the vouchers in a few cases; for example:—

Work voucher 27, of March 1887, voucher 191, for Rs. 79-8-7.
" 5, of August " " 41 for " 38.

(*f*) Erasures and unattested corrections were noticed in some cases; for example—

Work voucher 18, of July 1887, voucher 66, for Rs. 27
" 22, " " 65, for " 10
} The amounts paid and receipted for by the contractor were erased and written over.

(*g*) *Cash* payments were in some cases not witnessed; for example—

Work voucher 22, of November 1887, voucher 173, for Rs. 15, paid by the head master of a school.

(*h*) Payments on account of compensation for land are supported by manuscript vernacular receipts from the payees. It is desirable, for the sake of clearness and system, that the form prescribed by Rule 3 of annexure to Chapter 6 of Civil Account Code be introduced for the purpose, the necessary alteration to make the same suitable for Local Funds being carried out.

(*i*) Errors in calculation.

(*j*) Previous payments incorrectly noted.

(*k*) With reference to what was stated at paragraph 19 of last report, it is noticeable that final bills to the amount of Rs. 33,910 were passed by the Engineer without previous check measurement, the President's order in the matter being that the Engineer shall check-measure "wherever possible."

21. *Establishment Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not in *words* up to January 1888.

There are two store-watchers—one on Rs. 5 and the other on Rs. 4 per mensem—regularly employed; their pay is, however, charged to "Works" instead of to "Establishment."

22. *Travelling Allowance Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not in *words*.

In cases when mileage was claimed by clerks for journeys of 20 miles or more, the words "Actual travelling expenses only" were omitted to be noted in the bill (paragraph 4 of the Accountant-General's Circular, No. 21, dated 3rd December 1886).

Halting allowance was paid to the Engineer for halts of *more* than ten days' duration in the following cases:—

From the 21st March 1887 to 4th April 1887 inclusive, being 15 days.
" 23rd June " to 3rd July " " 11 "

Halting allowance for six days would thus need to be recovered from Mr. Ellis.

23. *Contingent Bills.*—The total amount of the bills was not noted in words, and the words "Contents received" or other proof of actual payment were wanting in some cases in the sub-vouchers; for example—

Voucher 3, of December 1887, for Rs. 13-4-0, for "printing."

24. *Work Vouchers.*—Work vouchers were received throughout the period, being in some cases sent in after the submission of the accounts. Those for February 1888 were not received up to the date of my examination. Those for original works and special repairs (old form 22) in some cases had not the entries filled in in the column under "As per estimate;" for example—

Work voucher 1, of July 1887, for constructing a shandy shed at Nynamalai.

In other cases, the *rates* as per estimate were not given; for example—

Work voucher 1, of November 1887, for reconstructing a bridge in the 182nd mile of Trunk road, No. 1.

25. *Schedule of Rates.*—There was no schedule of rates submitted for 1887-88 as required by Rule 39 of the Local Fund Public Works rules. Why, it is not apparent.

26. *Returns of Tools and Plant.*—As remarked in paragraph 4 of the President's endorsement on the last report, the correct opening balance was decided by the District Board and adopted in the half-yearly return of tools and plant for September 1886. In the return for September 1887, however, the undernoted differences are shown to exist in the Krishnagiri overseer's store between the balances as worked out and those as actually counted. The differences were duly communicated to the President in the Engineer's No. 115, dated 20th October 1887, for orders as to whether the value may be deducted from the amount * due to the said overseer (whose services were dispensed with) on account of pay and allowances, &c., and the matter awaits disposal:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
* Salary	110	5	2
Travelling allowance	15	0	0
Remuneration for minor irrigation works	52	2	8
Security deposit	300	0	0
Total ..	477	7	10

	Wanting.	Value.		
	No.	Rs.	A.	P.
Crowbars	32	32	0	0
Sledge hammers	9	20	4	0
Stone do.	526	131	8	0
Mamoties	281	210	12	0
Pick-axes	157	157	0	0
Metal rings	25	0	12	6
Hand saw	1	1	4	0
* Total ..	553	8	6	

27. *Audit Registers.*—The defects noticed in the establishment audit register were the following:—

The sections were not well defined, the whole Local Fund Public Works establishment being shown under *one* section instead of being distributed.

There were no notes made in the space provided for the purpose of amounts withheld on account of leave or other causes.

28. *Result Statements.*—The result statements were, on the whole, issued without marked delay, but they should in future be more promptly disposed of. They were promptly returned in some cases.

The more frequently recurring objections were—

(*a*) Unattested corrections.
(*b*) Errors in calculations.

29. *Objection Book.*—Several of the objections outstanding appertain to March 1887. There appears no reason why they should not long since have been removed from the objection book by actual recovery, the Engineer having admitted the excess payments to which the majority of the objections relate. The Engineer promised to effect the necessary recoveries last month.

II.—MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS (II, III AND IV).

30. *Extent of Inspection.*—These accounts were examined in detail for the following months :—

March and July 1887 and February 1888.

31. *Submission of accounts to President's Office.*—The accounts were delayed in submission to the audit office. Statement I.

32. *Vouchers.*—The defects noticed in the vouchers were the following, those which escaped the audit clerk's attention are specially referred to :—

(*a*) The words "Contents received" or other proof of payment were in some cases wanting ; for example—

Voucher 36, of March 1887, sub-voucher for Rs. 13 10 8 for books.
„ 49, of November 1887 „ „ 12 0 2 for stationery of inspecting schoolmasters.

(*b*) In some cases the payee's bill alone countersigned by the officer incurring the charge was filed in support of expenditure incurred without a regular covering contingent bill with the necessary certificates under the *signature* of that officer ; for example—

Voucher 51, of March 1887, for Rs. 518 4 6 for books purchased.
„ 12, of May „ for „ 2,200, being medical contribution to Salem Municipality.

(*c*) In some cases there were no vouchers from the suppliers, the amount being receipted for by the officer incurring the charge instead ; for example —

Voucher 67 of March 1887, for Rs. 22-8-0, paid to the manager of a result system school for furniture and maps, the payments being certified to by an *inspecting* schoolmaster.

Voucher 15, of February 1888, for Rs. 18, paid to the Treasury officer on account of the *Medical Gazette*, to be remitted to Calcutta.

(*d*) Vouchers in support of "Refunds of cess" were wanting in the certificate as prescribed by the Board of Revenue as to the amount having been duly credited in the accounts and not already refunded ; for example—

Voucher 61, of July 1887, for Rs. 2-13-8.

(*e*) In some cases the rate of pay was not given ; for example —

Voucher 3, of March 1887, for Rs. 62-14-11, Tirupatur Taluk Board.

(*f*) The pay order was wanting in some cases ; for example —

			RS.	A.	P.	
Voucher	6, of	March 1887, for	26	11	2	For result grants, Tirupatur Taluk Board.
Do.	7, of	„ „ „	16	0	0	
Do.	8, of	„ „ „	43	12	0	
Do.	9, of	„ „ „	13	0	0	

(*g*) As a rule, bills for grant-in-aid results grants are not countersigned by the Presidents of the Boards concerned. (Account and Audit Rules 2—Appendix).

(*h*) The amount of the bill in the case given below is Rs. 53-14-10, and as paid, whereas in the pay order Rs. 53-14-11 is noted :—

Voucher 43, of March 1887, Salem Taluk Board.

(*i*) Contingent bills of the Deputy Inspector of Vaccination were not in some cases countersigned by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer ; for example—

Voucher 19, of February 1888, for Rs. 18-3-9.

(*j*) The purpose of journey was not noted in bills in some cases ; for example—

Voucher 65, of March 1887, for Rs. 39-3-0, Tirupatur Taluk Board.

(*k*) It is noticeable that in some cases claims on account of travelling allowance of non-official members were made much in arrears ; for example—

Voucher 65, for Rs. 39-3-0, paid in March 1887, embracing claims for June, August, October, January and March 1887.

(*l*) In some cases, the head-quarterly station was omitted to be given in the travelling allowance bills ; for example—

Voucher 56, of March 1887, for Rs. 5-14-0, Hosur Taluk Board.

(*m*) When a consolidated bill was drawn by the President of the Board concerned for travelling allowance on account of non-official members, no separate receipts from the payees were in some cases attached to the bill ; for example—

Voucher 147, of March 1887, for Rs. 27, Hósur Taluk Board.

(*n*) In the following case, the sub-voucher from Messrs. Oakes and Co., dated 2nd June 1887 (being a *memorandum* of amount due), is for Rs. 11-12-0, with a foot-note that if the amount be paid within a month, it would be Rs. 10-12-0. The amount paid, however, on the 29th June 1887, as noted in the covering bill in support (that is, *within* the month) was Rs. 11-12-0, and not Rs. 10-12-0 as it should have been. There was, besides, no distinct acknowledgment received for the amount paid.

33. *Establishment Register.*—The defects noticed in the establishment audit register were the following :—

(*a*) The totals at foot of each cage were not made to allow of the necessary comparison with the sanctioned scale.
(*b*) The column "Sanction" in several cases was not correctly filled in, the budget sanction being noted instead of the original Government orders.

34. *Result Statements.*—The results statements were issued, on the whole, with a fair degree of punctuality. There was great delay in their return in the earlier portion of the period under report, notwithstanding several reminders, as may be seen from the attached Statement No. I.

The more frequently recurring objections were the following :—

(*a*) Want of detailed bills.
(*b*) „ of sub-vouchers.
(*c*) „ of authority being communicated to admit excess expenditure.
(*d*) Omission in leave statements.
(*e*) Errors in bills.

35. *Objection Book.*—The miscellaneous objections outstanding up to December 1887 are of such a nature that they can be readily removed from the objection book.

The following items, being of long standing, call for immediate attention, and special reminders should be sent in respect of them to the Presidents of Local Boards concerned.

Item No.	Month.	Voucher No.	Head of Account.	Particulars.	Amount.	Nature of Objection.
1	November 1886 ..	55	Refunds of cesses ..	Refunds of cesses ..	RS. A. P. 3 4 10	The receipt furnished is not signed by the parties, but by the Hosúr Taluk Sheristadar.
2	March 1887 ..	34	Education, Secondary Schools, Miscellaneous.	Purchase of prize books, maps, &c.	32 4 0	Want of detailed bill.
3	July 1887 ..	39	Hospitals and Dispensaries, Medical Subordinates.	Pay bill of C. R. Ramasami Naidu, 3rd-class hospital assistant on fever duty, Hosúr, for June 1887, Rs. 25.	..	Want of receipt stamp.
4	August 1887 ..	54	Do.	Do. for July 1887, Rs. 25.	..	Do. do.

Those outstanding under sanitary and other advances are detailed in Statement 2.

The defects noticed in the vouchers received in adjustment of sanitary and other advances were the following :—

(*a*) There were no payee's receipts or nominal rolls filed to support the undernoted expenditure :—

Voucher 107, of March 1887, sub-vouchers for Rs. 21 for improvement of water-supply.
" " " " " 70 for " "
" " " " " 11 for " "

(*b*) In some cases memoranda from suppliers were filed in support of charges in place of regular receipts acknowledging payment ; for example—

Voucher 58, of December 1887, sub-voucher for Rs. 19-8-0, for cholera medicines from Messrs. West and Co.

(*c*) In some cases vouchers were purely in the *vernacular* ; there should in future be an abstract at least, in English, at foot ; for example—

Voucher 11, of May 1887, for Rs. 25 for improvement of water-supply.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS.

36. *General Result of the Inspection.*—The post of audit clerk was filled by A. E. Appa Rao up to the end of February 1887. Since then T. D. Sama Rao, who was placed in charge of the work, has on the whole conducted his duties with intelligence and care. He would, however, need to maintain a better system of record. Under the present arrangement of recording vouchers subsequently received (Miscellaneous Grants) elsewhere instead of with the original vouchers on which objections were made, much more time than could be conveniently spared was taken up in procuring the same.

37. *Engineer's Office.*—C. S. Muthuthandavaroyan continues as Engineer's Accountant and has on the whole conducted his duties satisfactorily.

38. *Points to be noted by President.*—The matters needing special attention are the following :—

Grant I—

	Para.
(*a*) Necessity for better regulation of Engineer's credits ..	5
(*b*) Delay in the adjustment of advances made to miscellaneous agency on account of works	6
(*c*) The practice of crowding expenditure into March	10
(*d*) Defects in the road metal statements and necessity for "Famine Material" accounts	13
(*e*) Defects in the register of works and necessity for obtaining sanction to deviations from sanctioned estimates	16
(*f*) Defects in contract certificates	20
(*g*) Defects in travelling allowance bills and necessity to recover certain excess haltage from Mr. Ellis	22

	Para.
(*h*) Failure to submit a schedule of rates	25
(*i*) Deficiencies in the Krishnagiri overseer's store of tools as per return for September 1887	26
Other Grants—	32 and 35
(*j*) Defects in vouchers	34
(*k*) Delay in return of result statements	
General—	27 and 33
(*l*) Defects in the establishment audit registers	
(*m*) Necessity for the early adjustment of outstanding objections	29 and 35

Forwarded to the Accountant-General with the following remarks :—

(1) The practice of crowding the year's expenditure into March (paragraph 10) is drawn attention to time after time without result. It is apparently regarded as one of the inevitable evils attendant upon Public Works expenditure, but it appears to me that every effort should be made to prevent its continuance, inasmuch as it must result in the evils indicated by Mr. Brito.

(2) The delay in the return of result statements referred to in paragraph 34 cannot but be considered most unsatisfactory ; and the special attention of the Presidents of Taluk Boards concerned should be called to the matter, I think. Such delay must necessarily result in objections remaining unduly long outstanding in the objection book (see paragraph 35.)

(3) For the outstanding objections under Grant I the Engineer is responsible, and his special attention should be drawn to the necessity for taking the action required of him in respect of them.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
23*rd April* 1888.

(Signed) R. C. CHAPMAN,
Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

No. L.F.D.—109.

Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, through the President, District Board, Salem.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
30*th April* 1888.

(Signed) E. W. KELLNER,
Offg. Accountant-General.

No. 89—L.F.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Engineer's credits were regulated on the average monthly expenditure of the preceding three years.

3. Items Nos. 2 and 3 of amounts advanced for works referred to in 6 have since been adjusted.

4. The subject of "famine material" alluded to in paragraph 13 has since been disposed of by the District Board, Salem, and Government have been separately addressed in the matter.

5. As regards the Assistant Inspector's remarks in paragraph 25 of his report that there was no schedule of rates submitted for 1887-88, it is observed that, there having been no change in the rate of any kind of work, the sanctioned schedule of rates for 1886-87 was adopted in 1887-88, and that Rule 39 of the Local Fund Public Works rules now in force does not state that there should be a schedule of rates for every year, as was the case before the issue of these rules.

6. As for the deficiencies in the Krishnagiri overseer's store of tools—*vide* paragraph 26—all the tools and plant were made good by the person concerned in March last.

7. The attention of the Local Fund Engineer has been called to paragraphs 5, 8 to 26, and 28 and 29, 37 and 38, and copy of the report furnished to the Treasury Deputy Collector, in view to these officers noting and attending in future to the several requisitions pointed out.

The attention of the Presidents of the Local Boards has also been invited to the necessity for the early return of result statements. With regard to the large expenditure in March, or in the last month of the year, the contractors now are all bound to finish their works within December, and *interim* payments are ordered to be made for sections of work as they are completed without waiting for the completion of the whole. The state of the season must, however, regulate road work. If there is no water, there can be no spreading and tamping unless materials are to be wasted.

SALEM,
4th June 1888.

M. SURIYAMURTI PILLAI,
for *President*.

To the Chief Secretary to Government.

ORDER—dated 27th June 1888, No. 1197 L., Local and Municipal.

Recorded, with the following remarks :—

(1) The Engineer's credits should be regulated according to rule.
(2) Advances made to miscellaneous agency should not be allowed to remain so long unadjusted.
(3) The excess halting allowance drawn by Mr. Ellis should be recovered from him.
(4) The schedule of rates should be revised at least once a year.
(5) It does not appear that the audit report was placed before the District Board, as required by G.O., dated 16th August 1888, No. 990 L.F.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the President, District Board, Salem.
„ Accountant-General.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Order thereon. No. 2172 M
dt 17th July 1888

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, II Circle and the Examiner Public Works Accounts with reference to clause 131 of the order in the Local and Municipal Department.

dt/ J. F. H.

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 27th June 1888, No. 1197 L.

No. 2172 M dt/17th July 1888

JUNE.

Local Fund Accounts.

Recording, with remarks, audit report of the Salem — from January 1887 to February 1888.

S/C II Circle
Examr P.W.A.