

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	487	Press Mis.
Dated	11-6-1918	1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

11th June 1869.

No. 59. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Tanjore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Chetubava, 24th May 1869, No. 77.

With reference to paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Order of Government, Public Department, dated 3rd April 1869, No. 427, I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter in my address from the Tanjore Municipal Commissioners.

2. In forwarding this letter, I have the honour to particularly call the attention of Government to the further explanation given with regard to the horse allowance to the Manager, and the charges on account of the carriage and a pair of horses for the Municipal Commissioners.

3. In my opinion the Commissioners have shown the necessity which exists for those charges being incurred, and I trust, therefore, that the Government will now pass them.

From the Vice-President of the Tanjore Municipal Commission, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Tanjore; dated Tanjore, 20th May 1869, No. 5.

I have the honour, by direction of the Commissioners, to submit the explanations called for by your Docket Order, No. 137, on the several items of budget expenditure for the year 1869-70, commented on by the Government in their Order of 3rd ultimo, No. 427, Public Department.

2. This sum, as will be seen from the entries in the budget, is for three distinct projects of improvements, one being for the strengthening of the bank of the chief good water-supply tank with a view to increasing its capacity for holding water.

The second is for cleaning out a large good-water tank situated in a densely-populated portion of the town, and for works designed to improve its supply channel, and the third is for repairing or rather reconstructing one of the walls of a large tank within the fort, the water of which at present escapes into the neighbouring ditch by some defect in the foundations of the wall. No regular estimates have been framed for any of these three works, but their probable cost has been roughly guessed and inserted in the budget. Before the works are commenced, estimates in due form will be drawn up and passed by the Commissioners, one of whom is the Range Officer of the Department of Public Works. These works are connected with no new scheme of water supply for the town, but are part and parcel of the existing plan of water supply.

3. The masonry conduits built centuries ago to lead and distribute the good water from the large reservoir of Sivaganga in the little fort, to the various public tanks and numerous private wells of the fort, having fallen in several places into a state of disrepair, and their closeness proximity to the sewage drains with which they in some places run parallel, leading by percolation and in some places by direct branches to the contamination of the good water by the sewage, the Commissioners thought it best to abandon the old conduits altogether, and to substitute iron-pipes in their stead. It is for this purpose they set apart a large sum as a first instalment towards the purchase of pipes, which will not be laid down except with the counsel and practical aid of the professional member of the Commission. No regular estimate of the total cost of replacing the masonry conduits by iron pipes has yet been drawn up for want of information as to the cost of the latter. But every step in this matter will be taken with great caution and regard to economy.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department
11th June 1869.

• Item Raposa 25 0 for 225 avenue trees

6 watermen, at 5 Raposa each for 12 months	300	0	0
225 seedlings, at 4 Raposa each	900	0	0
250 Pim, at 3 Raposa	750	0	0
250 Pim, at 1 Raposa	250	0	0
250 Pim, at 1 Raposa	250	0	0
250 Pim, at 1 Raposa	250	0	0
250 Pim, at 1 Raposa	250	0	0
250 Pim, at 1 Raposa	250	0	0
250 Pim, at 1 Raposa	250	0	0
250 Pim, at 1 Raposa	250	0	0

Total 2100 0 0

9. 25 Carts at Raposa 10 12 0 each, per man.

100 Carts at Raposa 10 12 0 each	1000	0	0
100 Carts at Raposa 10 12 0 each	1000	0	0
100 Carts at Raposa 10 12 0 each	1000	0	0
100 Carts at Raposa 10 12 0 each	1000	0	0
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100 Carts at Raposa 10 12 0 each	1000	0	0
100 Carts at Raposa 10 12 0 each	1000	0	0

For manure 250 0 0

For manure 250 0 0

Item 200 Raposa have allowance to Manager.

for the supply of materials, to inspect and pass them when brought to the works, to note the daily progress of each work, to pay the labourers weekly their hire, to measure the work when completed, and to prepare accounts of actual expenditure for submission to the Commissioners. It was found simply impossible for one man to attend to so many things at the same time, and there was a constant plea put forward of heavy work whenever anything went wrong, and he was called upon to account. It also came to the knowledge of the Commissioners that malpractices were gaining ground, which it was imperatively necessary to check at the earliest as far as possible. With a view, therefore, to relieve the overseer to some extent, and also to serve as a check over his other uncontrolled proceedings, the Commissioners found it necessary to call upon their manager to take part in the supervision of the work and of the materials supplied therefor, and, to enable him to keep a horse for this purpose, they passed to him an allowance of Raposa 20, which simply pays the keep of a pony, and is in no way a remuneration for services voluntarily rendered mostly during his morning hours. This joint supervision has been of great benefit, the money value of which is far in excess of the sum of Raposa 210 per annum. The savings on estimates, since his intervention commenced, that is, for a period of six months, have alone amounted to Raposa 675 during the past year.

7. It is no doubt the intention of the Legislature and of Government that the Commissioners should exercise a vigilant and not a mere nominal control over the expenditure of the money entrusted to them. It must also be admitted that such vigilant control cannot be exercised unless the Commissioners or their representatives of the Vice President, make it a point daily to visit the various works as they are progressing, and satisfy themselves that they are carried on in a faithful manner. It was often becoming necessary for the Commissioners, or a sub-committee of them, to go to distant spots and decide upon certain questions, and it was often necessary for them to interfere with the progress of works, while the Commissioners are quite willing to consider the honorary character of their appointments, to devote as much of their time and attention as they could possibly spare to work out the programme of the Act as the best means of promoting it, it is too much to expect of them to be out of pocket for meeting the disbursements incurred by their honorary office, and as the chief executive work falls to the lot of the Vice President, the burden of the cost of carriage would fall almost entirely on the Commissioners, leaving the office. The Commissioners, after bestowing their mature consideration on the subject, came to the conclusion that it would be highly advantageous for the interests of the Municipality to maintain, at its cost, a carriage for the use of the Commissioners to enable them or their representatives, the Vice President, to exercise that close and constant supervision over the works of the Municipality, without which it would be impossible for them to see that the funds placed under their trust are faithfully and economically laid out. This resolution was communicated to you at the time, and received your unqualified approval.

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11th June 1869.

8. The necessity for a carriage thus becoming apparent, the Commissioners next anxiously deliberated upon the style and cost of conveyance, seeing that the conveyance should be sufficiently respectable and such as to accommodate at least a quorum of Commissioners, whenever required. Bearing in view the extent of ground to be gone over at a time in such an extensive Municipality as this, covering about ten square miles with twenty to twenty-five miles of metalled road, twenty or twenty-one miles of streets and lanes, and fourteen miles of drains, a couple of horses to relieve each other was considered absolutely necessary.

9. Under these circumstances, the Commissioners trust you will be pleased to lend to them the weight of your own opinion, and request the Government a reconsideration of their objection.

No. 60. ORDER THEREON, 11th June 1869, No. 789.

The Government consider the explanation afforded by the Municipal Commissioners for the town of Tanjore regarding the sums of Raposa 4000 and Raposa 9815 entered in the budget estimate for 1869-70 for strengthening the embankments of tanks, and for providing iron-pipes for bringing good water into the town, to be satisfactory.

2. They also consider the explanation regarding the cost of planting avenue trees at an average rate of Raposa 2 per tree satisfactory.

3. As the Commissioners have shown that by the grant of horse allowance to the Manager he has already been able to exercise a very efficient check over expenditure, and that he has effected a saving of above Raposa 600, the Government withdraw their objection to the allowance, which will be retained in the estimate for 1869-70.

4. The Government regret that they are unable to withdraw their objection to the sum of Raposa 804 entered in the estimate on account of a carriage for the Municipal Commissioners.

(True Extract).

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Tanjore.

- .. Accountant General.
- .. Public Works Department.
- .. Board of Revenue.

Ed J Wright

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Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
President & Municipal Council, Tanjore
(Here enter 24th May, 1869 No 777)

Obert. No 789 - 11 June 1869

The Government
Consider the explanation
afforded by the Municipal
Commissioners for the Town
of Tanjore regarding the
sum of Rs 2000 Rs 500
entered in the Budget
estimate for 1869-70 for
strengthening the embankments
of tanks, and for
providing iron pipes
for bringing good water
into the town to be
utilized.

They are considered.

the

The explanation regarding the cost of planting avenue trees at an average rate of Rs 2 per tree satisfactory.

As the Commission have shown that by the grant of Rs 50000 allowed to the Municipal Council he has already been able to exercise a very effective check on the expenditure, and that he has spent a sum of about Rs 600, the Government withdrew their objection to the allowance, which will be retained in the estimate.

They are also pleased to withdraw their objection to the grant of Rs 50000 in the estimate on account of a business for the Municipal Commissioners, as the Government have no objection to it.

They are also pleased to withdraw their objection to the grant of Rs 50000 in the estimate on account of a business for the Municipal Commissioners, as the Government have no objection to it.

The President is in a position to allow it. Some of the members may be of the opinion that it is not worth the trouble.

The explanation offered by the Commissioners that they could not properly supervise the work in the town, which is stated to cover an area of about 10 square miles, and to contain 20 to 25 miles of metalled road, & 20 to 25 miles of unmetalled road, and a large number of small lanes, is not a satisfactory explanation.

W.L.

It is not clear whether the Government have to sanction an outlay of Rs 50000. W.L.

To the President Municipal Council, Bangalore. Accountant General, Bangalore. Public Works Department, Bangalore.

Port of 1156 Madras

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