

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

1398

Press
Mis.

Dated

14-9-

1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 420

Sup: Engineer, Office Genl
Sangre 10 August 1871. 1 D.

Mr President
of the Municipalities in the Sangre D.
S.

I have the honor to inform you that
there appears to be some doubt relative to
the responsibility of the Municipalities and
of the D. P. M. with regard to works
of irrigation since the Municipalities within
the limits of the Municipality of Sangre do not
to bring the matter to an issue. I have
the Vice President of the Municipality of
Sangre relative to the Bridge on the Road
over the Tamar calling his attention to the
growth of plants in the face wall of the
Bridge &c. I received no reply to my letter
but am aware that the Municipality of
Sangre have undertaken the plastering
&c of portions of the Bridge subsequently
to the despatch of my letter to the Vice
President.

S.

2. In March last I observed that the
Masonry of the Tottum Bridge at
Angon had been cut away between H & L
Watermill and I requested the Range
Officer to call the attention of the Municipality
of Angon to the condition of the Bridge
and steps have since informed been taken
to secure the wings of the Bridge.

3. The Executive Engineer of Combar-
cann has lately brought to my notice that
a portion of the parapets of the Bridge
at Combarcann have been destroyed in
order that Lamp posts may be placed
on the Bridge; there was no occasion
whatever to destroy these parapets in
order to fix Lamp posts on the Bridge
and if the Bridge is in charge of the
Municipality I suppose that body have
a right to destroy and disfigure any
Building in their charge.

4. As regards a case of destruction
I

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I would refer to the closing up of a place
which provided for the discharge of flood
water and for the relief of the Bridge
over the Vadavar on the South Approach
to that Bridge at the point at which the
new road, in continuation of the street
in the Town of Tanjore in which the
Palace stands, joins Road No 4: the
closing of this Arch I should characterize
as a most imprudent proceeding.

5. It appears in Madrasgazette that the
~~the same should be referred to the Charge of~~
the Engineer between the Bridges on
Roads No 15 and 23, along the North
bank of which a road has lately been
formed by the Municipality.

6. From Clause I of para 69 of Act III
of 1871, it would appear that the main-
tenance of Bridges should be provided for
from Funds raised for Municipal purposes
but the Conservancy of Bridges depends
in a very great measure on the preservation
of

of oblique drains along the faces of the
Chutes and through the Arches and these
can be regulated only by attention to the
lets and currents for considerable distances
above and below the Bridges and since
the Conservancy of a Bridge involves
the regulation of the bed of the River
within the Bridge spans for some consi-
derable distance above and below the
Bridge; this regulation is now provided
for under ~~Agriculture~~ and it appears
to be desirable that the Conservancy
of Rivers and of the masonry works
which span them within the limits of
Municipalities should be left to the
S.P.W. to whom the Conservancy
of the Public Buildings, other than
those of Communication, within Muni-
cipal limits is now entrusted, or that
the Conservancy of the Rivers within
Municipal limits or for certain distances
above

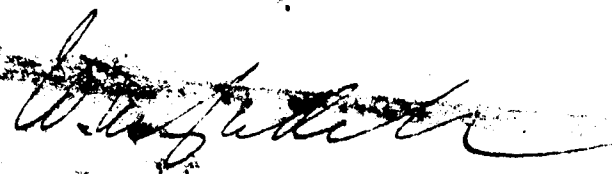
above and below Bridges should be
entrusted to the Municipalities the distance
being determined in each case according to
the peculiarities of each locality. The
responsibility of the S.P.W. and of the
Municipalities should be clearly defined
and if the Municipalities are not de-
finitely responsible for the Conservancy
of Rivers and Bridges within Muni-
cipal limits they should not be allowed
to interfere in any way with the S.P.W.
banks or with the waterways provided
across Roads ~~etc~~ as in the case mentioned
in para 6. The blocking up of the
river referred to in para 6 and the
roads to the right of the opening of
the Tottam North bank above the
Bridge a bank in the Conservancy of
which the S.P.W. are at present re-
sponsible. When the filling up of the
River in question was granted I was
absent

about from Engine or I should un-
doubtedly have recorded a protest
against the curtailment of the waterway
for the passage of floodwaters of the
Indwar across Road No. 4.

I have seen

Signed/ R. F. Baker, Capt. U.S.A.
Superintendent

True Copy



Off. President

No 200

Vallam 23^d August 1871

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From

W. M. Cadell Esq
Off^r President Municipal Commission
Tanjore District

To The Honorable R. S. Ellis C. S.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort. Saint. George
Pondicherry

Sir

I have the honor to forward for the information and orders of Government copy of a letter from Captain Coker the Superintendent of the Division, in which that officer brings to notice the necessity for some definite orders being passed ^(to the effect of) in whom the responsibility for the conservation of Rivers & Bridges within Municipal limits is to devolve.

2. I am inclined to agree with Captain Coker that, in the case of at least all the larger Rivers and the Masonry works which span them, the charge of them should be left to the Department of Public Works, in the same way as Civil Buildings are at present; if the Department are responsible for the general conservancy of the Rivers and their

In a letter

1871

From

The Off^r President
Municipal Commission
Tanjore District

To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort. Saint. George
Pondicherry

Received
3 August 1871

No 200

Copy of the above
Engineer's letter, regarding
the conservation of
Rivers & Bridges within
Municipal limits.

In Feb. 1871
No 200
13 August 1871

their embankments, it is but fair they should have this, without any restriction whatever, even within Municipal limits, and it may I think, be fairly assumed that, as a rule, the class of persons employed by Municipalities ^{as persons} is by no means competent to deal with the regulation of such streams as the Cavery, Vennar, Arasalar and Vellar, or of the large bridges which span them.

3. In addition to the instances specified by Captain Oakes I may be permitted to mention that, when lately at Combaroom, I inspected the banks of the Cavery and especially the south bank, on which the Municipal Commissioners proposed to spend Rs. 2000 this year in widening and improving the roadway, and to which I took exception in my letter of the 21st April last. I have known this locality since the beginning of the year 1862 and on my recent visit found that the state of the river had undergone in this neighbourhood considerable change: formerly the set of the current was on the north bank

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bank and towards the College buildings, and there existed a considerable fringe (technically I believe called the berm) between the road and the water edge. In the year 1861 & 1862 Kanai grass was, however, planted on the northern side with a view to the protection of that bank; this has acted admirably for the purpose for which it was intended, but, as might have been expected, the set of the current has in consequence been diverted to the south, and a considerable fringe of ground which existed between the road and the river is being gradually washed away. The Municipal Commissioners have within the last one or 2 years, for the protection of the bank, extended the wing walls of a large supplying channel which has its head-chance about 60 yards east of the Cavery Bridge, and for some distance these walls themselves form the facing of the river embankment, but it is by no means improbable that by the removal of a little of the Kanai

on the northern side and the planting of some
on the southern fringe and at head of the channel,
the heavy cost of the walls might possibly have
been avoided -

4. As another instance of the necessity
pointed out by Captain Oakes, I may mention
that at Nagore the South bank of the Vellar
and the bridge over the stream are within
Municipal limits, while the north bank
is under the control of the D. P. W., and
in dealing with a large river like the Vellar,
it is unnecessary to point out what
mischievous consequences might possibly arise
on account of this division of responsibility -

5. Should the Government concur
in the propriety of the recommendations I have
now the honour to submit, I think there
will be no legal difficulty in the matter
nor any insecurity for any alteration in the
existing laws: there is no mention made

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as far as I can find in Act III of 1871, regarding
the maintenance and conservancy of rivers or
river embankments in Municipal limits, but under
section XXIX of the Act, the Government have
expressly reserved to themselves the right to prescribe
such rules and regulations as they may think proper,
and I apprehend, therefore, there would be no
difficulty in the Government issuing a declaration
to the effect that Municipal Funds were not to be
applied to the conservancy either of river beds
or their embankments, and that these were placed
exclusively under the control of the D. P. W. -

6. I would only add that the
Commissioners have been requested to remove
the filling up of the flood arch over the
Vadavara and of which Captain Oakes complains.

I have the honour to be

Yours Very Truly

W. H. P. S. S.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Offg President - Municipal
Commission, Tanjore District,
dated 23rd August 77, 1870.

Order thereon - forwarded 14 Sept
1871. No 1398.

It is difficult
to frame orders on a question
of this kind, which shall be
of general application.

It may, however,
be laid down that, where
rivers or watercourses, which
are in fact irrigation chan-
nels and for the conservancy
and regulation of which
the Department of Public
Works are responsible, no
works should be executed
affecting either the banks
or the water-way of bridges
without the consent of the
Superintending Engineer,
and that that officer should
be allowed to decide as

J. D. L.
A. N.

Public Department
1871

3.07.1398
14 Sept
The Offg President
Municipal Commission
Tanjore District

14 Sept 77
To the Government
Tanjore District
Commissioner

14 Sept 77
Received 14 August 1871

No 200 No 1821
Enclure 1

Bringing to the notice
of the Government
the letter from the
Municipal Commission
Tanjore District
dated 23rd August 77
in which it is stated
that the Commission
have been directed
to submit a report
on the subject of
the proposed
works to be executed
on the banks of the
rivers and water-
courses in the
District.

60.

they fail to bring to the
notice of the ^{Municipal} Commissioners,
circumstances which in
their judgment ^{lead}
to endanger the structures.
4th.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Tanjore. dtd 20/9
To the Public Works Department } dtd 21/9
- Board of Revenue.
- Presidents of all Municipal Commissions. dtd 23/9/41.

to what rivers or channels
come within the above
category. The President of
the several municipalities
will see that these orders
are conformed to.

3. The bridges them-
selves are ~~lowly~~ works
of communication, and as
such the care of them belongs
to the municipal bodies.
It is not possible to relieve
municipal funds of liability
for their maintenance.
In some cases, however,
repairs to the extent of
which the municipal funds
are quite inadequate,
are required, but such
bridges are invariably
of an importance not
merely municipal, and
a portion of the ^{of their maintenance} cost should
be met from local funds.

4. Range officers of
the Department Public
Works should be instructed
to look after bridges of
this kind, and should be
held responsible if
they

247.8.71

Govt. of 1871 Orders.

To Public
The Post Office Commr.
Bangalore
for

Dated Sept. 14. }
Recd. 1871, No. 1398.

Nos. 60-61.

Laying down instructions as
to the procedure to be
observed in cases in which
works have to be executed
affecting Rivers Bridges, &c.
undertaken within Postal Limits.

Circular