M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1857 Press ~~Mis.~~

126127

Dated 9—10—~~19~~ 1863.

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th October* 1863.

No. 126. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1863:—

Read again Board's Proceedings Nos. 4,601 and 5,056, dated 24th July and 13th August 1863.

Read also the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Salem, 15th September 1863, No. 750.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 13th ultimo, No. 5,056, a copy of which was furnished to me by the Collector of South Arcot, I have the honor to state for the information of the Board, that the question of keeping up a separate Executive Establishment to look after the Local Fund works, has been twice brought under the consideration of Government, who have passed distinct orders about it on each occasion.

1 Copy of Chief Engineer's Circular.

2. The first reference was made by the Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts in March 1863, as will be seen by the accompanying Circular from the late Chief Engineer, dated 31st March 1863, No. 6,348.

3. The second reference was made by me regarding the Establishment to be kept up for the Local Fund works of the South Arcot District, and a copy of the orders passed thereon has already been furnished to the Board by Mr. Reade.

4. The Government of India in passing orders* on the Public Works Budget of the current official year remarked as follows:— "As was before observed, His Excellency is of opinion that the Imperial Budget may "fairly be relieved of a portion of the charge for the Madras Establishments, since they also "supervise the expenditure of the Local Public Works Funds. These may be taken at 8 lacs, "and their fair share of the charge may be reckoned at one and half lacs, which sum will be "provided by a transfer from the Local Funds, &c."

* Dated 14th May 1863, No. 15.

5. To enable this Government to set aside the latter sum, they have resolved† to ascertain what amount the Public Department would contribute out of the Educational and Port Funds, and on the receipt of that information to decide upon getting the remaining amount from the District Local Funds, &c.

† See Order, dated 10th June 1863, No. 1,492.

6. Under the above circumstances, I do not think it advisable for me to address Government again on the subject under reference.

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1. The Board resolve to submit the above papers for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. They believe that the orders under which the Local Conservancy Establishments have been broken up, were misunderstood, and were not intended to produce this effect.

3. It needs scarcely be remarked that as roads are opened out or restored by means of the local District Conservancy Funds, maintenance Establishment must be increased, and that the permanent District Establishments cannot possibly perform this work.

4. The funds to pay the Establishments are available, and it will be the best economy to expend them in maintaining works executed in former years which otherwise must fall to ruin.

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No. 127. ORDER THEREON, 9th October 1863, No. 1,857.

Recorded, with reference to G. O. 30th ultimo, No. 2,833, Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
*Deputy Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 4,601.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th July 1863.

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th July 1863, No. 182:—

1. I beg to forward for the Board's information copy of a letter of this date addressed by me to the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, on the subject of the future arrangement and appropriation of the local funds in this District.

2. I could of course greatly enlarge in support of the views I have expressed to Colonel Hitchins; but as I believe that Officer fully concurs with me in those views, I have thought it better to leave it to the Superintending Engineer to add his own practical opinion as, coming from an experienced Officer of the Department, it will doubtless give weight and influence in the consideration of the question.

3. I would express the hope that the Board may be induced to interpose their powerful voice on a subject which cannot be dissociated from the revenue interests of the country, and, therefore, I presume it is as much their province as it may be that of a Collector to give their vote for, or against, a change of system so radically important in its effects on the efficient working of a valuable institution such as the local funds of a District. The amalgamation of the local funds with those of the Imperial Public Works Department, and the combined management of the two under the newly organized and very inadequate establishment sanctioned for the latter, must be fatal to any progressive improvement in our local works, at all commensurate with the means available, and I do feel that apart from other interests and considerations, the people, whose money forms the staple of our local, fund have a vested right, if not a voice in its due appropriation, and it is clear, I think, that, except under separate and distinct management there, is no guarantee that that appropriation will be effectually secured.

4. The proposal, as I understand it, to subject the entire control of the local fund works to the limited agency of the new department just introduced cannot, I am sure, have the approval of the Board of Revenue. The result will be obvious. Local Revenue Officers will henceforth cease to take an active interest in that over which they will [illegible] every se any direct or controlling power, while the inadequacy of the Public Works Establishment for its own immediate wants is sufficiently prophetic of the fate that must await the administration of our local funds when placed in the hands of those whose time and labour will, I fear, prove quite unequal to the satisfactory performance of their own more ostensible duties.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. HITCHINS, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, Bangalore, dated Cuddalore, 16th July 1863, No. 96.

1. It seems to me very important that some immediate steps be taken to put an end to the present very unsatisfactory state of matters as regards the Public Works, especially the roads in this District.

2. I will confine myself entirely to the works paid out of the local funds, which in South Arcot are, as you know, very extensive, and need incessant watching and care in keeping them in good repair. The entire establishment hitherto and for years entertained, and which was organized on a very efficient and unexpensive footing, has disappeared simultaneously with the introduction of the new Public Works Department, but up to the present time all is at a stand still. We have money in abundance, but no fit agency through which to expend it where it ought to be expended; and at this season particularly all our excellent cross roads and main district thoroughfares so well planned, executed, and kept up, will, I fear, greatly suffer and deteriorate unless timely supervision for effecting the needed repairs be immediately provided.

3. I am aware that you are in no way answerable for the abandonment of the system which had hitherto obtained for working the local funds ; but I am sure you must share with me in the regret I feel at that abandonment, especially since nothing has, as yet, been done in substitution ; and already, even in the brief period since the establishment was withdrawn, the evil effects are becoming apparent. Roads require metalling, bridges require looking to, and on both roads and bridges a very large expenditure will be inevitable unless something be quickly done to carry on the all-important works of supervision and repairs.

4. In the recent Proceedings of Government they were pleased to express their great gratification at the improvements effected in this and other Districts with the funds of which I speak, and at their very profitable and useful appropriation during the year then under review ; and the Government seemed of opinion that it was most desirable, as it undoubtedly is, that this valuable means of doing good to the country by opening up, and keeping in repair, internal communications should be fully availed of, and they expressed their displeasure in instances where the local funds had been allowed to lie idle instead of being turned to the account for which they were organized, namely, for the benefit of the people of the District in which they were contributed.

5. I am satisfied that it is sufficient to draw your attention to the subject and, if it were practicable, I would venture with all earnestness to suggest that either the old establishment be revived, or that one equally efficient be speedily organized ; and I would further add my opinion that the appropriation of the local funds should, in all respects, be distinct from the imperial Public Works, and that in order to secure that economy and efficiency which have heretofore marked the past system, the same should be continued as regards our mutual arrangement independent of those checks and hindrances which, I believe, unavoidably attach to the working of the General Public Works Department.

6. I do trust that there may be no amalgamation, for with it, there will be an end, I fear, to the amount of usefulness to which the local funds may be turned, while it will be very evident to you that the newly reduced Taluk Establishment of one Overseer and one writer will be quite unable to do justice to their own immediate duties; and thus to impose on them the supervision of works paid for out of the local funds would simply be wasting money as that supervision would amount to *nil*, and the door would be opened to abuse and malversation of all kinds. I do not need to enlarge on this topic because I may appeal to your own experience in support of what I state, for I am sure that no one can be insensible to the serious evils arising from incompetent or inadequate supervision and control over the expenditure of large sums on works such as bridges and roads ; in the one case resulting in bad materials and bad workmanship, and in the other dilatoriness and peculation of all kinds have to be grappled with ; and thus to keep up properly the extensive line of local communications in this District, a separate and specific local establishment is, in my judgment, imperatively called for.

(True Copy.)

(Signed). C. W. READE, Collector.

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1. The Board understand the Collector to refer to Establishments maintained out of the District Conservancy Fund for the supervision and execution of works charged to that Fund, but they are not aware of any orders which have necessitated the abolition or reduction of such Establishments.

2. The Collector will please to explain the matter more fully.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To C. W. Reade, Esq., Collector of South Arcot.

Exd, J. Wright.

Rev = 1863. Department.

Rev 2251-/63.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

*Dated 24th July* 1863.

No. 4,601

Requesting further and fuller explanation as to the future arrangement and appropriation of the local funds of the district.

P-W Pro-10 Lmw/63 N°1492
Chief Engineers Circular of
31st March/63 N-63-8

Revenue 1863 Oct 7th
Rec'd of Govt for 9th October
Proceedings of the Board
of Works.

Dated 19th Sept 1863
Desp.
Rec'd 21st

Enc 2 Pcs

Submitting with the
Board's remarks a letter
from the Superintending
Eng'r 5th Division on
the subject of Local
Conservancy Establish-
ments.

N°1857 9th Oct

N°1857

Recorded with Reference to G.O. 30th

Albino N°2833 P.W.D

Fort St George
9th Oct 1863

1 Copies to the Bd of Revenue Dept 10 Oct
21 P.W.D

N°1264 27