M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1975 Press ~~Mis.~~

328.329

Dated 26-10-1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th October 1864.

No. 328. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th October 1864, No. 6,628.

Read the following letter from J. FRASER, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Godavery District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 26th September 1864, No. 244 :—

1. I have the honor to forward an estimate prepared, at my request, by the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, for a gravelled road along the canal bank from Cocanada to Samulcottah, to be constructed from the local funds, and I request that the sanction of Government for the expenditure may be procured. In it is included an estimate for an Iron lattice bridge over the Yellaiu, for which I have already sent the estimate to the Board* on the 2nd instant.

With a Plan and Report.

* Letter No. 225.

2. The Superintending Engineer requests that, with this estimate, I will at the same time forward a copy of his letter on the subject. I do so with some remarks on it, as that Officer has, unintentionally of course, very much misrepresented my motives in proposing the construction of this road.

3. In writing to Colonel Chambers some time ago, I alluded to the raised sanded banks or causeways, which are called roads in this District, and which take their place throughout the delta; and I suggested that for sand it would be well to substitute gravel where it could be done at a reasonable cost, as it would make these roads much more durable. Colonel Chambers objected to the use of gravel, as it would be very expensive, and not sufficiently lasting without metal in addition. He estimated that the cost would not be less than 3,500† Rupees per mile for the Samulcottah road. I informed him that I had found a competent contractor here, willing to give good security, who agreed to do it at Rupees 1,100 a mile, which I am glad to see is the rate put down in the present estimate.

† Vide Superintending Engineer's letter of 11th July 1864, No. 574.

4. I never, as Captain Ryves seems to suppose, referred to or proposed *metalled* roads any where, nor did I even allude to spring carriages. Had he referred to the correspondence between Colonel Chambers and myself, he would have seen that, when proposing that the roads should be made passable for wheel carriages, I alluded to the common carts of the country. The sanded roads are useless in this respect: in wet weather they are nothing but heavy mud; and where it is possible to do so, passengers get off them, and walk or drive their bullocks alongside, in order to get on at all. Surely gravel instead of sand would make those banks better instead of worse.

5. It certainly is not creditable to the District authorities, that from a populous and rising place like this, there is not half a mile of road in any direction over which a resident could, if he wished, drive a dog cart or conveyance of any kind. I do not see that it is a waste of local funds, if I propose to make a road which would allow of this, as well as be useful for the general traffic of the country. Colonel Chambers agrees with me that the proposed road is a desideratum; only he cannot, he says, agree with me that it should be commenced at once, and why? because, he says, he cannot see where the funds for it are to come from, unless they are taken from the funds already allotted to other roads in other parts of the District. I showed Colonel Chambers, in reply, that all the roads he proposed for this year were sanctioned by me; and that, besides, there were funds available for the Samulcottah road. Had Captain Ryves taken the trouble to refer to the Budget drawn up by Colonel Chambers and myself, he would have seen that this was the case. He would have also seen that the five lines to which he refers in paragraph 2 of his letter now sent, were provided for to the extent proposed by his predecessor; and I think the allotment is quite sufficient for one year. I do not think it fair that, year after year, the whole funds should be devoted to the delta, and the rest of the District neglected.

6. The proposal of Captain Ryves, in his 3rd paragraph, that "the remainder of the available funds may with propriety be expended on repairing and improving the dykes and groynes "of the Godavery below Dowlaishweram, for which the Imperial Budget will prove inadequate," is, I hope, too preposterous to need comment from me. After the remarks which Government

have already passed on such misappropriation of funds, I should have hoped that no more proposals to do so again would emanate from the Engineer Department. Government and the Board are aware that the local funds in this District are now not more than equal to the legitimate demands on them.

7. In his report on the proposed road, Major Stoddard says, "The road, as above constructed, is not intended to be used by heavy wheeled conveyances; but as the canal now conveys all heavy traffic, it is to be hoped that laden carts may never be seen on the road."

8. I beg to differ most decidedly from him; the road is intended to be used by the ordinary carts of the country, at least such is my intention, whenever they wish to traverse it; and more particularly when the canal is closed for repairs, as it is every year for some three or four months or longer. Much cotton would come by this line, were there a decent road, when the canal is closed; and I know that this year several ships in the roads were detained for a long time for want of cargo, because there were no roads to the port, and the canals were closed. If gentlemen can drive their carriages over this road, while it also serves the useful purpose of being a feeder to the port, so much the better.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain J. G. RYVES, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to J. FRASER, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Godavery District, dated Waltair, 17th September 1864, No. 964.

1. In furnishing you with an estimate of the cost of forming a narrow metalled road for spring carriages on the canal bank between Cocanada and Samulcottah, I have the honor to state that I agree with my predecessor (Colonel Chambers) that it will be wrong to spend 2,000 Rupees per mile on this short bit of road for the advantage only of a few of the wealthier class. All available funds should be devoted to opening up common roads *across* the general direction of the canals, not to metalling and gravelling the banks of navigable canals to adapt them for spring carriages.

1 Plan.
1 Estimate.
1 Report.

2. The following are lines which I consider should be provided with raised sanded roads, including bridges across the several channels crossed by them, before any money be spent upon a work such as that for which you requested my predecessor to furnish you with the estimate which I now have the honor to send you:—

1.—Tanukoo viâ Davvu to Pruttipad on the Ellore Canal.
2.—Narsapore to Virawasaram.
3.—Pedumolum on river bank to Palkole.
4.—Pennugudum to Jugunadagiri.
5.—Neilapilly to Coringa.

3. After allotting for these works as much funds as can be well spent during the current year, and for the Yellairu iron bridge and repairs, the remainder of the available funds may, with propriety, be expended on repairing and improving the dykes and groynes of the Godavery below Dowlaishweram, for which the Imperial Budget allotment will, I believe, prove inadequate.

4. The Yellairu Iron Bridge should be eliminated from the estimate which accompanies this, and should be constructed without delay; the orders for its construction were issued on the 11th of July 1864.

5. If you adhere to your proposal about the Samulcottah road, and forward the estimate for the sanction of Government, I request you will be so good as to cause a copy of this letter to be appended to be laid before Government with the estimate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. FRASER, *Officiating Collector.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th October 1864.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 4.—Estimate, Plan and Specification Report.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the sanction of Government under paragraph 13 of the Local Fund Rules.

2. The Board are in a position to know that the improvement of the line of road in question has been discussed and advocated for some years past, and it will be observed that Colonel Chambers was in favor of the execution of the work, while much of Captain Ryves's objection is based on a misconception of facts.

3. The proposal to supplement the provision in the Budget for Imperial works from the District Local Funds is opposed to all rule and principle, and to repeated and strict injunctions, and is altogether inadmissible.

No. 329.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 26th October 1864, No. 1,975.

The Board are requested to state whence the necessary funds (Rupees 18,960) are available. The Budget submitted by them in their Proceedings dated 28th January last, gave the expected road fund income as Rupees 43,892, and the sanctioned expenditure therefrom is Rupees 41,782. The Government have received no information as to the amount of Pound Fund likely to be available.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

5. If you adhere to your proposal about the Samulcottah road, and forward the estimate for the sanction of Government, I request you will be so good as to cause a copy of this letter to be appended to be laid before Government with the estimate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 4.—Estimate, Plan, and Specification Report.

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1. Ordered to be submitted for the sanction of Government under paragraph 13 of the Local Fund Rules.

2. The Board are in a position to know that the improvement of the line of road in question has been discussed and advocated for some years past, and it will be observed that Colonel Chambers was in favor of the execution of the work, while much of Captain Ryves's objection is based on a misconception of facts.

3. The proposal to supplement the provision in the Budget for Imperial works from the District Local Funds is opposed to all rule and principle, and to repeated and strict injunctions, and is altogether inadmissible.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with three enclosures.

Copy to J. Fraser, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Godavery District.

Exd. J. Wright.

3rd February 64 No. 53-57

Revenue 1864. Department.
Pros: of Govt: for Octr.

No. 2694.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 8th October 1864.
Rec'd 13th —
E-3 - Sent to Board
Proceedings of the Board of Rev: 28 October 64 C. No 2853
No. 6,628.

Submitting for sanction letter from the Officiating Collector of the Godavery District forwarding estimate for a gravelled road along the canal bank from Cocanada to Samulcottah to be constructed from the Local Funds.
No 1975-26 Octr.
With an Order

No 328 & 329.

No 1975.

The Board are requested to state whence the necessary funds (Rs. 18960) are available. The Budget submitted by them in their Proceedings dated 28th January last gave the expected Road Fund income as Rs. 4,3892 and the sanctioned expenditure therefrom is Rs. 4,1782. The Government have received no information as to the amount of Pound Found is likely to be available. —

Fort St. George
26th Octr 64
to Govt Public Dept Rec'd 27 Octr