M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-8-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2143 Press ~~Mis.~~

279.281

Dated 22—11— 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 279. From Captain T. E. GAHAGAN, R. E., Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Salem, 27th May 1864, No. 192.

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 3 of No. 1,740 of the 15th January last, from Colonel Hitchins to your address (see G. O. 305 of the 28th idem), and the enclosed (original) No. 45 of the 20th instant, to my address from the Collector of Salem, regarding the repair and maintenance of the Tapoor Choultry, I have the honor to recommend for the repair of a portion of the building in question, a grant of *Rupees* 700 from the Income Tax Fund balance of Rupees 2,400, which in paragraph 2 of G. O. No. 774, of the 14th March last, I was directed to appropriate for works in the current official year.

Enclosure 1. (to be returned)

2. The return of traffic taken on Trunk Road No. 5, near Tapoor, for the quarter ending January 31st 1864, gives the daily average of 128 carts and 342 pack-bullocks, and from my own observations I believe these figures to be pretty correct.

3. There will, as the Collector remarks, be a falling off in the traffic through Tapoor, as soon as the Erode and Trichinopoly Railway is opened, but enough will remain to warrant the maintenance of a Choultry.

4. To repair the whole of the old Choultry, which is now in a very dilapidated state, would cost 1,600 *Rupees;* but so much accommodation for travellers at Tapoor is unnecessary, and I agree with the Collector that it will be enough to repair about half the building, for which purpose the grant above specified will be sufficient.

5. You will observe that the Collector proposes to defray the cost of repairs in future years from the annual allowance (Rupees 198) made for the Establishment of the Choultry.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for report.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

CHEPAUK,
1st June 1864.

No. 280. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1864, No. 6,515.

Read the following letter from the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th June 1864, No. 112 :—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 10th instant, No. 3,556, I have the honor to inform you that my opinion, relative to the repair of the Tapoor Choultry, is already stated in my letter to the Superintending Engineer of the 20th May 1864, No. 45, a copy of which is enclosed in the Board's Proceedings under reply. I suggested in that letter, that a sum of Rupees 700 should be granted for the thorough repair of a portion of the Chuttrum sufficiently large for all travellers. In paragraph 5 of my letter, I gave my opinion regarding the traffic on the line.

2. The Establishment named in the margin is now maintained at the Tapoor Chuttrum, including an allowance of Rupees 4 for oil. I see no occasion for the three first named servants (Cook, Water Brahmin, and Masalchee), and propose, therefore to do away with them. The Sweeper should of course, be kept, and his pay should be raised to 5 Rupees. The Sweeper at the Talook Cutcherry gets Rupees, 5 and this can scarcely be considered too much at the present time when the cost of living has greatly increased. With regard to oil, it will no doubt

	Pay per month Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Cook	4	0	0			
1 Water Brahmin	3	0	0			
1 Masalchee	3	0	0			
Sweeper	2	8	0			
Allowance for oil	4	0	0			
	16	8	0			
For twelve months..				198	0	0
Deduct Sweeper's pay	5	0	0			
	11	8	0			
Savings for twelve months ..				138	0	0

be a convenience to poor travellers if there were lights in the Chuttrum, but in the absence of any guarantee for the due appropriation of the allowance, I would rather not have it. It must be left to the travellers to provide their own lights.

3. The arrangements above proposed will effect a saving of Rupees 11-8-0 a month, or Rupees 138 per annum, which sum should he held as an allowance for keeping the Chuttrum in repair.

4. A list shewing the dates of former correspondence regarding the Chuttrum is annexed, as required in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings.

List of Correspondence regarding the Topoor Chuttrum annexed to the letter to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th June 1864, *No.* 112.

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 1st March 1850, No. 227.
Board's Proceedings, dated 29th August 1850, conveying Extract from Minutes of Consultation, 21st „ „
Letter to Board, dated 14th February 1851, No. 12.
Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd July 1851, conveying Extract from Minutes of Consulation, dated 24th June, on the 10th March 1851.
To Board, dated 16th February 1851.
Board's Order, dated 7th April 1853, No. 289, conveying Extract from Minutes of Consultation, 4th April 1853, No. 104.
To Board, 29th July 1853, No. 96.
Board's Proceedings 18th August 1853.
To Board, 24th August 1853, No. 111.
Board's Proceedings 27th October 1853, conveying Extract from Minutes of Consultation, 17th October 1853, No. 1,169.
Board's Order, dated 12th December 1859, No. 5,142, communicating Proceedings of Madras Government, dated 2nd December 1859, No. 2,812.
To Board, dated 25th February 1850, No. 57.
Board's Proceedings, dated 26th November 1860, No. 5,482.
To Board, dated 6th December 1860, No. 305.
Board's Proceedings, dated 17th December 1860, No. 5,917.

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT, *Collector.*

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1. The Government in their Order, dated 1st June 1864, referred to the Board of Revenue for report, an application made by the Acting Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division for a grant of Rupees 700 for the repair of the Topoor Choultry in the Salem District. In the letter above recorded, the Collector reports his opinion that the grant ought to be made. He suggests that the whole Establishment now maintained at the Chuttrum, consisting of

	Rs.
One Cook, on	4
One water Brahmin, on	3
One Masalchee	3
One Sweeper	2½
Allowance for Oil	4
Total per mensem...	16½ × 12 = 198 cost per annum.
	60 annual pay of Sweeper proposed to be retained.
	138 annual saving pro-

posed may be discontinued with the exception of the Sweeper, whose pay he would increase to 5 Rupees. He further proposes that the saving of Rupees 138 per annum thus effected should be held as an annual allowance for the repairs of the building.

2. From the correspondence quoted by Mr. Arbuthnott, it appears that this Choultry was brought to the notice of Government, as far back as 1848-49, in a report on the payments made to charitable and religious institutions in the Salem District; that at that time the establishment shewn in the margin, costing Rupees 708 per annum, was maintained; and that the remainder of the allowance, viz., Rupees 1,042, was appropriated to the purchase of provisions for distribution to travellers halting at the Choultry.

From Salem 21st June 1848.

	Rs. A.
1 Monigar	8 8
1 Curnum	5 8
1 Oogranum or Steward	3 6
1 Cook	3 0
1 Water and Carrier	1 11
1 Priest	1 11
1 Reader of the Pooranas	1 11
1 Venayaca Priest	1 11
1 Water Pandal Brahmin	1 11
1 Under Steward	1 2
1 Sweeper	0 12
1 Shepherd	5 8
1 Duffadar	19 13
5 Peons @ 3. 15-4½ each	
Total per mensem ..	59 0
„ per annum ..	708 0

Ex. Mins. Cons., No. 102, dated 25th January 1849.

3. Under the erroneous supposition that there was "already an extensive Choultry for "native travellers at the Topoor Pass," the Government, in paragraph 9 of the Order quoted in the margin, suggested that the whole endowment, viz., Rupees 1,750 per annum, might be more beneficially employed by converting th e Chuttrum into a Lungherkhana or Hospital for the sick and indigent; but on a further report by Mr. F. N. Maltby, then Sub-Collector in charge of the District, to the effect that

From Salem, 15th June 1850.

the circumstances and condition of that part of the country rendered the maintaining of the Chuttrum, with its establishment of Duffadar and Peons, highly expedient if not absolutely necessary, the Government, in paragraph 4 of Extract from Minutes of Consulation, No. 780, dated 21st August 1850, sanctioned the retention of the whole charity on its then existing footing pending further orders, and directed the Collector to furnish full particulars as to the establishment maintained, and the expenditure incurred, in connection with the charity.

4. This report was furnished, on the 14th February 1851, by Mr. Phillips, who had in the meantime been appointed to the District. Mr. Phillips, however, questioned the validity of the Sunnud and endowment, and expressed doubts whether the administration of the charity was honestly conducted. He recommended that the following establishment, viz.,

From Salem, Board No. 427, dated 14th February 1851.

	Rupees.
1 Cook, on	4
1 Water Carrier	4
1 Do.	3
1 Water Pandal Brahmin ...	3
1 Sweeper	2½
	Rs.
Total per mensem...	16½ × 12 = 198 per annum,

should be substituted for the larger one then maintained at a cost of Rupees 59 per mensem, as shewn in paragraph 2 above, that the gratuitous distribution of food to travellers should be discontinued, but that the Chuttrum should be kept in repair.

5. In Extract from Minutes of Consultation, No. 622, dated 24th June 1851, the Government sanctioned Mr. Phillip's proposals, and directed that the "Police Sibbendy at the "Ghát continue to be maintained at a charge "of Rupees 306 per annum,* but in future be "brought on the permanent establishment of "the District," and that "deducting the total "cost under the two heads of Chuttrum Esta-"blishment and Police Sibbendy, viz., Rupees "504 per annum, the remainder of the allow-"ance, or Rupees 1,246,† be carried to the public "account, the repairs to the Chuttrum being "provided for in the same manner as Govern-"ment Choultries."

	Rs.
* 1 Duffadar	5½
5 Peons at 4 Rupees	20
	25½
	12
	306
	Rs.
† Total allowance	1,750
Deduct.	
Chuttrum Establishment	198
Sibbendy	306
Total..	504
Balance..	1,246

6. About two and a half years later, the Government, on the requisition of Mr. Phillips, and at the recommendation of the Board, sanctioned a modification of the establishment particularized in paragraph 4 above, the Cook employed on 4 Rupees, and one of the Water-carriers on 3 Rupees per mensem being dismissed, and the money thus saved being expended in the purchase of oil for lamps of which the Chuttrum stood in great need, and in meeting the pay of a Massalchee at Rupees 3 a month. From the Collector's present report, however, it appears that the Cook was not dismissed, but the remaining water-carrier, who was on the same pay as the Cook, viz., 4 Rupees per month. The establishment has remained from that time until now on the footing shewn in paragraph 1 above, at an annual cost of Rupees 198, while the actual saving to Government for the past twelve years, in respect of the original endowments amounts to Rupees 14,952, at the rate of 1,246 Rupees per annum.

Ex. Mins. Cons. No. 1,169, dated 17th October 1853.

7. It appears that a few years later, a long correspondence took place between the Chief Engineer, the Collector, and the District Engineer, as to the necessity of building another Choultry, or repairing the present old one, and on the matter being referred for the Board's opinion by the Chief Engineer, in a letter dated 15th November 1860, No. 7,020, they called for a report on the subject from the District, and Mr. Brett, who was then the Collector, furnished the required report,* from which the following remarks are extracted:—

* Letter No. 305, dated 6th December 1860.

"I also wish to explain that Mr. Knox was mistaken in supposing that the Chuttrum had no endowment, and that consequently it was "perfectly optional with the Government to "give or to withhold the money allowance made to it. The Chuttrum was endowed by the "Mysore Government in the year 1698-99 with a money allowance (Rupees 1,750), which was "continued when the country passed under the present Government. Though the grant was in "money, not in land, it is not usual for the Government to resume money grants whether made "for charitable or for religious purposes, unless it can be shewn that the Native Government "intended to make the tenure a temporary one."

Paragraphs 8 and 9.

"The original object of the grant was to provide both shelter and food for pilgrims and "others travelling from Benares to Ramaserum by way of the Tapoor Ghaut. In 1851, the "Collector of the Salem District reported that the food provided at the Chuttrum was enjoyed "by a few individuals who had no proper claim to such help. The Government, therefore, "determined to place the Chuttrum on a new footing. They reduced the establishment on the "ground that the practice of supplying food gratuitously was objectionable in principle; but "at the same time expressed their intention to keep the building itself in repair. It was with "reference to this expressed intention that, in 1856 I proposed that the old dilapidated Chuttrum "should be re-built. On the same ground the District Engineer subsequently recommended "that a suitable building should be erected elsewhere, at some place which, with reference to the

"new direction traffic was taking, would be more convenient to the public. We both assumed "that there was a special sum available for the purpose, though the surplus funds have, from "the year 1851, been carried to the credit of Government."

8. As regards the question then more particularly mooted as to the propriety of building another Chuttrum or repairing the present old one, Mr. Brett considered it unadvisable that the Government should incur the expense of constructing a new building either at Tapoor or at any other place until the opening of the Railway to Salem should afford the opportunity of satisfactorily solving the question as to the best locality, whether Tapoor, Soorumangalum, or Mullapooram, for building a Chuttrum that would be of real service to the public; and that the old building should in the meanwhile be repaired, and the establishment maintained as it was then existing. The Board agreed with Mr. Brett at the time, and they still think that it will be sufficient to repair so much of the old Choultry as may be necessary to render it serviceable to the travellers halting at it. The repairs can be effected, as stated by the Collector, at a cost of Rupees 750. In a recent letter from the Collector (dated 20th May 1864, No. 45) to the Acting Superintending Engineer, Salem, the Collector states that a large traffic is still maintained on Trunk Road No. 5 near Tapoor, and that although "when the Errode and Trichinopoly Railway is opened, this traffic will in all proba-"bility be directed to Morapoor station; still there will be sufficient left on the Tapoor road to "warrant the expense of thoroughly repairing a portion of the old Chuttrum." The same "opinion was also given by the Acting Superintending Engineer in his letter to Government, dated 27th May 1864, No. 192.

Board's Proceedings, No. 5,917, dated 17th December 1860.

Enclosure in Government Order, dated 1st January 1864, Public Works Department.

9. The Board are also averse to any further reduction in the establishment now attached to the Chuttrum. The care and superintendence of all such charitable endowments are vested in the Board by Regulation VII of 1817, and they have some doubts whether the Board acted in accordance with Section 15 of that Regulation when, relying on Mr. Phillip's representations they recommended to Government the permanent resumption of a large portion of the endowment under notice.

No. 281.

Local Funds.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1864, No. 2,143.

1. In the foregoing Proceedings the Board of Revenue, with reference to an Order* of Government in the Public Works Department, calling for a report on a proposal submitted by the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, in concert with the Collector of Salem, for the repair of a portion of the Tapoor Choultry at a cost of Rupees 700 have entered into the history of the Choultry, and while of opinion that such an outlay is desirable they deprecate compliance with a recommendation made by the Collector who, for the purpose of raising a fund for the repair of the Choultry would reduce the establishment at present employed, costing Rupees 16-8-0 per mensem, to one Sweeper at 5 Rupees.

* Dated 1st June 1864.

2. The Government agree with the Board that the traffic which is shewn to exist on the line of road on which the Choultry is situated is sufficient to justify such an expenditure as that proposed, and considering how large a sum has been saved to Government by the reduction in the money grant formerly allowed to this institution, it is equally plain that the Local Funds should not be charged with the required repairs.

3. From the docket of the Public Works Department marginally given, it appears that the balance of Income Tax out of which allotments the Superintending Engineer had hoped to provide the sum in question has already been appropriated. Under these circumstances orders will be passed in the Department Public Works for the execution of the work out of such funds as may be available.

Referred to the Revenue Department, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No 6,515, dated 4th instant. The whole of the Income Tax allotments for the Salem District has been appropriated.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

13th October 1864.

4. Under the opinion expressed by the Board the Government will not interfere with the existing establishment. They think, however, that the Government of the day exercised a wise discretion in carrying out the resumption alluded to in the last paragraph of the Proceedings under review.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Public Works Department.

Revenue Department.

W. 2143.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 22d November 1864.

Read the following papers:—

From the Asst Supt Engrs 5th Division Nellore requesting the sanction to the application for a grant of Rs 2400 to complete the Income Tax Road Balance of Rs 2400 to be paid to pointsmen of the Toopoor Choultry.—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue. Submitting remarks on letter from the Collector of Salem suggesting that the whole Establishment with the exception of the Sweeper maintained at the Tapoor Choultrum be discontinued & the saving thus effected expended in repairs for the building.

(Here enter 27th May 1864 No 192)

(Here enter 4th October 1864 No 6,516.

1. In the foregoing Proceedings the Board of Revenue, with reference to an order of Government in the Public Works Department, calling for a report on a proposal submitted by the Superintending Engineer 5th Divn in concert with the Collector of Salem for the repair

× Dated 14th June 1864

of

of a portion of the Sapoor Choultry at a cost of Rs.700, have entered into the history of the Choultry, and while of opinion that such an outlay is desirable they deprecate compliance with a recommendation made by the Collector who for the purpose of raising a fund for the repair of the Choultry would reduce the establishment at present employed, costing Rs.16–8–0. per mensem, to one Sweeper at 5 Rs.

2. The Government agree with the Board that the Traffic which is shewn to exist on the line of road on which the Choultry is situated is sufficient to justify such an expenditure as that proposed, and considering how large a sum has been saved to Government by the reduction in the money grant formerly allowed to this institution it is equally plain that the Local Funds should not be ~~called upon to find the means for~~ charged with the required repairs.

3. From the docket of the Public Works Department marginally given it appears that the balance of Income Tax out of which allotments the Superintending Engineer had hoped to provide the sum in

Referred to the Rev: Dept., with reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Rev: No. 6515 dated 4th Instant. The whole of the Income Tax allotments for the Salem District has been appropriated.

(Signed) C.A. Orr. R.E.
Secy to Govt P.W.D.
13th Octr 1864.

in question has already been appropriated. Under these circumstances orders will be passed in the Dep^t^ Public Works for the execution of the work out of such funds as may be available.

4. Under the opinion expressed by the Board the Govt will not interfere with the existing Establishment. They think however that the Govt of the day excercised a wise discretion in carrying out the resumption alluded to in the last Para of the Proceedings under review.

21 Copies to the P.W. Dep^t^ with an Indt Dep^t^ 23 Nov.
" — B. of Revenue

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Revenue 1864 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for 2 November

No 2143.

Pro: of the Madras Govt:
Dy 2d Novr 64.

Pro No. 21-22.
29-1-1849
" 3 & 4
21-8-1850
" 44-45
1-3-1850
" 30-31
24-6-1851
" 1 & 2
4-4-1853

Passing orders on the repairs to the Tooppoor Choultry Salem.

No 279 & 281.