M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 527 Press ~~Mis.~~

330.337

Dated 27- 3 - ~~19~~ 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 31st March 1864.

No. 330. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th January 1864, No. 226 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 17th December 1863, No. 484.

1. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. XLVIII, dated 16th June 1863, I regret to state that I am not yet able to furnish my Statement of expenditure from the District Conservancy Fund for the quarter ending 31st October last, owing to the want of the requisite information from the Department Public Works.

2. I have already reported to the Board in my letter of the 28th September last, No. 378, after how much delay and difficulty I had obtained the information required from that Department to enable me to submit the above Statement for the first quarter ending the 31st July.

3. When I was daily expecting similar information for the preparation of my Statement for the last quarter, Captain Moberly sent me a letter dated the 18th ultimo, which I received on the 23rd or eight days after the Statement became due to the Board, observing that he is unable to forward the account called for by the Board for want of the accounts of works executed under superintendence of the Revenue Officers. I pointed out to Captain Moberly that all that is required from him is a quarterly Statement of works done by the Executive Officers of the several Ranges in the Public Works Department, out of the District Conservancy Fund, and that to furnish me with this it is not necessary that he should have an account of the works done under superintendence of the Tahsildars, and I requested him to expedite his Statement for the past quarter ending 31st October, but at the same time I informed him that I had no objection to give him in future copies of the Statements furnished to me by the Tahsildars.

4. In reply, Captain Moberly has addressed me a letter dated the 7th instant, a copy of which is herewith forwarded for the Board's perusal, and docketed, that he "refuses for reasons "assigned, to forward to the Collector quarterly Statements of works done by the Department "Public Works, out of the District Conservancy Fund for the quarter ending 31st October last." In this letter he makes it appear that I declined furnishing him with the accounts of works executed by the Tahsildars from the District Conservancy Fund, and that therefore he was unable to furnish an account due by him to the Auditor of the Public Works Department; but in this he seems to put an erroneous construction on what I wrote. In his letter of 12th November last, Captain Moberly requested to have accounts of works *in progress* under my subordinates, and as all works from the District Conservancy Fund were completed by August last, I informed him in my letter dated the 25th idem, No. 346, that there were no works in progress.

5. Again he says, that works are executed from the District Conservancy Fund by my Department without his approval as Head of the Executive. No work has been executed without the approval of the late Acting District Engineer, Captain Paxton, which a reference to the records in Captain Moberly's Office will show him to be the case, and which I have also explained to him in my letter of the 29th October last, quoting even the dates of Captain Paxton's letters to me approving of the works being carried out under the supervision of the Tahsildars, as was hitherto done in this District.

6. Only the sale proceeds of stones taken from the old Fort wall at Palamcottah, and which merely appear as an item in the Local Fund Accounts, are kept distinct from other items such as "Cattle Trespass Fund," "Avenue loppings, &c.," at the disposal of the Collector, for carrying on the demolition of the old Fort wall, which is a separate and special work, and for which there is no other fund available; and the work has been carried on all along under my orders, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board and Government, dated respectively the 17th November and 11th December 1860, and is progressing rapidly.

7. Thus the Board will see that instead of furnishing me with the simple information required for preparing my Local Fund Statement for the past quarter, Captain Moberly withholds the information, which according to his own showing in the 1st paragraph of his letter, is ready. The Board are already aware of the difficulty I experienced in getting up my Salt works

Budget, and I request that they will be pleased to bring these circumstances to the notice of Government, so as to ensure to me ready and willing aid on the part of the Superintending Engineer, as otherwise the public business must necessarily be impeded.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Madura, 7th December 1863, No. 1,135.

SIR,

1. In reply to your No. 358 of the 2nd instant, I have the honor to observe, that you appear to be under the impression that the accounts of Local Funds furnished to you are in original, whereas they are made up quarterly from those submitted monthly to the Auditor Department Public Works. I have reported to that Officer that I must cease to forward them till I obtain those which have been executed by you, as those which have been already despatched are incorrect, through their omission.

2. Even before 1857, the execution of works from Local Funds was to be generally left to the Department Public Works—see Circular Order, page 290, paragraph 6. By the latter organization of the Department, it is still more clear that I am supposed to be in charge of the Executive—see paragraph 4, Government Order, No. 708, in which Superintending Engineers are held responsible for the appropriation of Local Funds.

3. In Government Order, No. 153, dated 8th August 1863, Superintending Engineers are desired to submit monthly estimates for funds required; in Government Order, No. 708, dated 3rd November 1863, we are desired to keep the Local Fund accounts as regularly as we do those of Imperial Funds. All Bills for Local Funds are audited by the Department Public Works Auditor, and there can be no regularity if the Bills do not agree with the Progress Reports.

4. I have not received any reply from the Auditor, but as you decline to furnish me with the accounts, I shall refer the subject to Government for instructions, being of opinion that in executing works without my approval, as the local Head of the Department Public Works, and in refusing me the accounts, you are not ensuring the regularity required by Government.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, *Collector.*

1. Ordered to be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. In paragraph 12 of Government Order, dated 27th May 1863, No. 908, Revenue Department, the Government directed the Board to arrange for the submission by Collectors of quarterly Statements *at least* of expenditure from Local Funds, and instructions were sent to the Collectors accordingly. The correspondence now submitted will show what great difficulty the present undefined position of the administration of these funds offers to the carrying out of the Government Order. Captain Moberly asserts that in fact the administration rests with him, while the Government Order distinctly assigns as its object that the Board may be in a position effectively to administer the funds.

No. 331.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1864, No. 527.

The Government have since passed orders regarding Local Funds which will prevent future difficulties.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev= 1864. Department.
Pro: of Govt for March

No. 150.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 14th *January* 1864.
Dep 2 10 0
Rec 19

No. 226.

Submitting with remarks a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly explaining why he is unable to furnish his statement of expenditure from the District Conservancy Fund for the quarter ending 31st October 1863, and complaining of the difficulty of procuring the requisite information from the D. P. W.

No 330 & 331.

No 227 31st March
With Cover

53

W. 527- The Govt have since
passed orders regarding Local
Funds which will
=ent future difficulties=
Meanwhile Captain
Moberly will furnish the
Collector with all such state
=ments as he may require
and the Collector
will adopt the same
course towards
Captain Moberly.
No Objn to Resp Rec
Chief Sec

Fort St. George
31st March 64.

J A C