M.R.O. 14—18,000—27. 8-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2794 Press ~~Mis.~~

249. 250

Dated 15. 11 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th November 1865.

No. 249. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th November 1865.

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 8th November 1865, No. 2,718 :—

1. Forwarded to the Collector of Madras for report.

2. The Board observe that Mr. Fane's attention has already been drawn to the Order under reference by Government.*

* O. M. dated 4th November 1865, No. 1,067.

No. 250. ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1865, No. 2,794.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

8th November 1865

Rev. 1865 Depart. Sec: of Govt of Fort St. George
No. 3214.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 10th
Desp. 10th } November 1865.
Rec. 11th

No.

Stating that the attention of the Collr. of Madras has already been drawn to the orders of Govt. referred to by them regarding Mr. Dy Collr. Locke

No. 2794.

RECORDED.

No. 249 & 250.

Mr. Locke's Dismissal

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th November 1865.

No. 251. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Sanctioning the entry, in the Budget for 1866-67, of Rupees 6,600 for the maintenance of the water communication between Ponany and Cochin, and drawing attention of the Collector of Malabar to certain remarks made by the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division. (Here enter 11th November 1865, No. 3,374.)

No. 252. ORDER THEREON, 16th November 1865, No. 2,795.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board, for information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 3,374.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 190. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coimbatore, 15th October 1865, No. 154:—

1. In G. O. No. 1,054 of 13th April 1864, paragraph 7, I was instructed to report fully my opinion as to the best and least costly mode of improving the navigation along the Malabar [illegible] without [illegible] the subject having been acquired [illegible] so far as twenty years back, when I was Assistant in the old 7th Division, I waited, before reporting, till I should have been able to refresh my memory as to details, which I have not been able to do till last month, when I performed the whole distance between Tiroor Railway Station and Cochin by the inland water communications.

2. Of these the portion from Tiroor to Ponany river, about 15 miles in length, is a natural creek of ample width and depth, influenced by the tide, not auxiliary to irrigation, nor requiring any thing to be done for it, except perhaps landing places for goods behind the Railway Station.

3. The shallows in Ponany river, alluded to in the Railway Chief Engineer's letter, printed with G. O. No. 3,795 of 22nd December 1863, are obstacles of a nature which cannot be contended with by cheap expedients. By the country traffic, to which my remarks will alone apply, they are avoided by taking advan- [illegible] of tides

gode rivers is by far the worst portion of the [illegible] miles long, entirely artificial, and unconnected with irrigation. At low-tide I found it absolutely impassable, to the entire suspension of traffic for several hours every day. I think Mr. Kennedy must have confused his recollections of this short cut, with those of the southern portion, as I cannot find out that dams are ever thrown across it. Nor can I suppose that so gross an abuse would be tolerated at the head quarters of a Deputy Collector and Tahsildar, as no previous usage and custom could be pleaded, and the practice would subserve no other purpose but that of extortion. Locks or dams can be dispensed with at either end of this cut; but a maintenance grant, say of 4 Annas a running yard, or Rupees 440 per mile, is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the communication. It should be granted at once for the current year, and laid out emergently in improving the worst places.

[illegible] to end. From the old survey, made previous to its excavation, it would seem that but two dams existed in former days; the Mooteecul dam at the southern end to keep out the salt water, and the Tiravattoor dam, a mile north of it, where the old creek apparently ended. Ponds of water, fed by springs, occurred at intervals along the line, and from their subsidiary use in irrigation it would appear to me that the practice had arisen among the Ryots of considering the new canal in the light of a series of enlarged ponds which they might utilize to the utmost by dams. A

the same time no real use can be derived from multiplying dams if the level bed of the canal is maintained throughout, as one dam at each end will do all that is required, which is to keep the Salt water out. I cannot but think, therefore, that proper inquiry on the part of the Magistrate will show that the multiplication of dams is pu[illegible]ly for the purpose of extortion, and that all but one at each end [illegible] without detriment to the cultivation.

6. The construction of p[illegible] necessity shall have been proved by further experience. It is during the monsoon, when communication by sea is suspended, that the great utility of this inland water transit is chiefly developed; and as it is utilized by craft of much greater tonnage then than at other seasons, it is all the better that they be not obstructed by permanent structures, which are only detrimental, and themselves liable to damage during the floods. If only two temporary dams are allowed to be constructed by the cultivators, those who navigate the smaller boats used during the dry season will not grumble much at the trouble of hauling them over, as the rise of tide water is so small that two feet extra height of dam keeps it out. But the system of levying black mail, indulged in by the cultivators with impunity, must be stopped with a heavy hand. Being early in the season I encountered but one dam; and whatever the Collector's orders may be to the contrary (*vide* paragraph 4 of his letter with G. O. under reply), I had myself to promise payment before I could get the men engaged at it to pass my boat over.

7. As for the short cut between the Ponany and Veliangode rivers, so for this length of twelve miles, I consider a maintenance allowance indispensable; and if the same rate of Rupees 440 a mile is allowed, I should propose gradually to renovate on better principles all the calingulahs, foot bridges, and other minor works along the line, now in great disrepair, besides performing the requisite annual clearances. It is greatly to be desired that the exact width of land taken up for public purposes by the canal and on both sides of it should be distinctly defined, and guarded by the proper authorities from being encroached upon, or the roadway at present existing on both sides of the twelve miles of canal last described, will in course of time be absorbed into the adjoining paddy fields. A little research into the records of past years ought to show what width of ground was originally alienated for public purposes; and such width should be resumed from any private individuals who may have made free with any portion of it.

8. The remainder of the communication to Cochin, some fifty miles in length, being natural, with the exception of a short cut at Edditooraty, Pub. [illegible] profess to deal with it, as its improvement must be costly, and is not a matter of necessity. I may shortly state my opinion from what I saw of it, that between Chowghaut and Chetwye, the communication is good or indifferent according to the state of the tide. From Chetwye to the Edditooraty cut, excellent. Thence to Pallipoot good, but being more river than back-water, liable to occasional siltings from the monsoon. The rest of the way to Cochin is fine sailing. I would make the annual allowances specially granted for the artificial canals north of Chowghaut, do all that may be occasionally required south of that place. In fact the gross amount of Rupees 6,600 had better be entered as a grant of Rupees 100 a mile for

the total length of [illegible]6 miles from Ponany to Cochin. Its judicious expenditure for two or three years will do much for the commu[illegible]tion, and afford data for ascertaining what more can be done effectually to impr[illegible] the same.

No. 191. ORDER THEREON, 17th No[illegible]ber 1865, No. 3,374.

CIVIL WORKS No. 20 [illegible]

[illegible] made by the Superintending Engineer, [illegible] sanctions the entry, in the Budget for 1866-67, of a sum of Rupees 6,600, for the maintenance of the water communication between Ponany and Cochin, being at the rate of Rupees 100 per mile. As funds are not now available, no outlay can be made during the current year.

2. The remarks made by Colonel Walker, in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the foregoing letter, upon the unnecessary number of dams which obstruct the canal between the Veliangode river and Chowghat, and upon the system of levying toll which seems to be still in force, will be brought to the notice of the Collector of Malabar.

3. Mr. Ballard's attention will also be called to Colonel Walker's remarks* as to the advisability of distinctly defining, and protecting from encroachment,

[illegible]

* In paragraph 7.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 2795
Comm[illegible] to the

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
Controller of Public Works [illegible]

" Revenue Department.

14 To the Board of Revenue Pub. Works
No 3374 Dec 16 Nov
16th Nov 65

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

30-9-10

Rev = 1865 Depart.
Recs: of Govt for Year
No. 3245.
Proceedings of the
Madras Govt: in
the P.W. Depart.

Dated 11th Novr
Received 13th 1865.

No. 3374.

Sanctioning the sum, in the Budget for 1866/6, further No. 66000 for the maintenance of the roads, communication between Pondy and Bahur, and drawing attention of the Collr of Malabar to certain Remarks made by the Supg Engr of the 7th Divn.

Nos. 257 & 252.

No. 2795. 16 Nov

With order.

Commissariat Rent
Jy Rem. 1868 Ch. 4 30.