

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1291

Press
Mis.

Dated

1-6-

1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1291

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st June 1866.*

No. 6. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd May 1866, No. 3,086.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 15th June 1865, No. 3,259, and 17th February 1866, No. 1,135.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trichendoor, 11th April 1866, No. 137 :—

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1866, No. 1,135, requesting me to ascertain from the Collectors of Trichinopoly and Tanjore, in respect to the Nanul and Koray reeds and grasses planted for the protection of tanks, I have the honor to annex copy of the Superintending Engineer's letter of both Districts to the Collector of Tanjore, and of that Officer's communication to me, from which it appears that the sale proceeds of these grasses are expended in the protection of Public Works, and the balance, if any, credited to Local Funds.

2. It is of little consequence who sells the grass, provided the funds are applied to local purposes, and not credited to Imperial Revenue.

3. The proceeds of this grass, and its further development, will save thousands of Rupees in stone revetments; the sum carried to Imperial account is a mere trifle, and I would urge the item being apportioned to its legitimate place, among Local Funds, with the least possible delay.

From the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Collector of Tinnevely, dated Vellum, 3rd April 1866, No. 83.

In answer to your letter, dated 23rd February 1866, No. 203, and its subsequent reminder, I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter this day received from the District Engineer, regarding the practice which exists here of preserving and selling the Nanul. In the Revenue Department we have nothing to do with it, the surplus proceeds alone come to us in the shape of Local Funds.

From the Superintending Engineer, Sixth Division, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated 31st March 1866, No. 2,114.

1. In reply to letter No. 61, dated 3rd March, I have the honor to inform you that in paragraph 12 of Proceedings of Chief Engineer, No. CLXXI., dated 19th January 1858, it was specially ruled, that the sale proceeds of Nanul, &c., from the anicut plantations in the Tanjore District, should be left at the disposal of the District Engineer, for the purpose of protecting the river banks, restoring plantations which had been encroached upon, &c., &c.; the balance of the funds being paid into the Treasury at the end of the year, to swell the Local Funds. This Order has been virtually cancelled by Government Order No. 2,413, dated 19th August 1865, on the new Manual, but I have as a special case requested Government not to alter the arrangements approved in 1858, as regards the disposal of the sums realized by the sale of Nanul, wild-cane, &c., &c., from the anicut plantations.

2. The sales are often made by auction, and at other times private individuals are supplied with timber, Nanul, &c.

3. At the anicuts and at the heads of the larger rivers, the establishments are permanent and are paid on abstracts passed by the Controller; for the protection of the river banks, and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st June 1866.*

for watering and watching Darbah facings or newly-planted Nanul, provision is made in estimates under the head of "Repairs, Agricultural."

Copy of Trichinopoly Collector's report received after the above was drafted.
From the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Collector of Tinnevely, dated 7th April 1866, No. 79.

In reply to your letter, No. 202, dated as per margin, I have the honor to inform you that there are Nanul grass watchers in this District, called Padugai Establishment. They are supervised and paid by the Department of Public Works. The sale proceeds of the Nanul, &c., are credited to the District Conservancy Fund under Local Funds.

1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted for the orders of Government, with the Board's recommendation that the receipts from the sale of Nanul and Koray reeds and grass, be every where credited to the Local Funds, and the necessary establishment of watchers and charges for planting provided at the cost of the Fund under the joint supervision of the Superintending Engineer of the Division and the Collector of the District.

2. This casual receipt is no proper item of Imperial Revenue, and its local expenditure in watching and maintaining the plantations is of the highest importance.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1866, No. 1,291.

The receipts from the sale of Nanul and Koray reeds and grass constitute a legitimate source of income for the Local Funds, and the practice of including them in the Imperial Revenue in some Districts is incorrect. Sanction is, therefore, granted for crediting the proceeds alluded to, to Local Funds minor head "Nanul grass" in every District, and for paying out of them the necessary establishment of watchers and the charges for planting. The Board of Revenue will submit draft of a few simple rules for the administration of this Fund.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Accountant General.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 3,259.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th June 1865.

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trichendoor, 6th April 1865, No. 159 :—

1. In this District the banks of the rivers and channels, as well as the bunds of the tanks, are in many places protected and strengthened by the growth of "Nanul" or Durba grass, and "Koray." The Board are doubtless aware how essentially necessary the growth of these water grasses is for the protection of life and property, as in many instances the rivers becoming diverted from their usual beds, would, without the restraining influence of the powerful Durba reeds, alter their course, and swamp whole villages. Koray grass is equally effectual in a minor degree as regards tank and channel banks. To protect the growth and extension of these plants, an establishment termed "Nanul watchers" has hitherto been retained by the Department Public Works, and paid from Imperial Funds under Irrigation repairs. Latterly, however, the Budget Estimates have been so reduced that Captain Moberly was reluctantly forced to do away with the services of these watchers.* Immediately

* Costing about Rupees 1,500 per annum.

this was done, the people took alarm, and petitions came in pretty thickly, begging for the re-employment of these servants, on the ground of safety to life and property. Some correspondence then ensued between the Superintending Engineer and myself, Captain Moberly wanting to debit arrears and charges to our present Jungle Conservancy Funds, to which I naturally objected; the items being, under existing circumstances, purely distinct; as not only are the Nanul watchers' efforts of benefit to the Imperial Funds alone, by preventing increased estimates year by year for repairs to Imperial works, but nothing comes to Jungle Conservancy from the sale of these water plants, as I shall hereafter show.

2. Things were, however, sadly retrograding during the abolition of these employes, and after consideration with Captain Payne, now Acting Superintending Engineer, they have been re-instated, and I have the honor to propose that the following arrangement we have suggested may be sanctioned regarding the payment of their salaries:—"That from the commencement of the next official year, the realizations under Nanul and Koray be credited to the District Road Fund under their proper head "Sale of Reeds;" that the pay of the servants retained at "Nanul watchers," be disbursed from this fund, the surplus remaining available for employment on the District roads, arrears and salary for present year to be paid as heretofore from "Imperial Funds." This, however, requires the Board's approval, as the procedure in this District has been somewhat exceptional. The receipts from the sale of Koray grass are

Receipts from sale of Koray grass.			
Fasli	Rs.	A.	P.
1269	466	8	6
1270	620	3	0
1271	915	4	0
1272	1,438	3	0
1273	1,504	7	0

to "Ain Land Revenue, the realizations are shown in the margin; but in order to divert it to its legitimate head "District Road Fund," the Board must express their concurrence with regard to the Durba grass. No sales have ever taken place, nor have tracts of it ever been rented, we have never realized any thing by it; these reeds are useful both for thatching, for food for cattle, and for fuel, so that the surplus would always be readily purchased. This system, now proposed, would doubtless work well, our river and tank banks would properly be protected, and our District Road Fund enhanced.

3. I thought of putting the duty of protecting and watching these planted tracts under the village officers, but I find it would not answer. The Monigars, or as they are here termed Mirassidars as a rule receive no emoluments whatever, so we cannot expect any very ready assistance from them, and the time of the Kavilgars cannot be spared from their police work even supposing they were ready to undertake this extra and foreign duty. It would be, I doubt not, but a fruitless measure placing this important task under this virtually irresponsible agency.

The Board request the Collector to explain how long the Nanul establishment has been entertained, and under what orders. The strength and salaries of the establishment should also be reported with remarks as to any possible reductions. The proceeds likely to accrue to District Road Fund, from sales of reeds and grass, should also be given.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary.

To G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely.

Exd. J. Wright.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th February 1866.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th November 1865, No. 456 :—

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th June 1865, No. 3,259, calling for further information about Nanul watchers, I have the honor to inform you, that the earliest notice of their establishment appears in a letter from the District Engineer to the Collector, dated 15th June 1857, stating that two men had been employed on two Tanks from the 13th August 1856, and that they were paid for that year out of an ordinary estimate; the men were much needed, and the Collector's sanction for them was requested, and accorded.

2. In a letter to the District Engineer, dated 19th June 1857, No. 237, Mr. Silver approved of an estimate of Rupees 96 for four Nanul watchers for the year 1857-58.

3. The present strength of the establishment is twenty-four watchers, their monthly pay, Rupees 64-8-0; annual, Rupees 774. Major Paxton is of opinion, that this establishment cannot be reduced, that it is essentially necessary, and should be made more efficient: Colonel Moberly, that it is utterly inefficient, and that it should be incorporated with the District Conservancy Establishment, and paid from that source.

4. The proceeds from Koray or reeds, adverted to by Mr. Banbury in the Proceedings under reply, amounted to Rupees 1,993, actual, credited to Land Revenue, Miscellaneous, in 1863-64. The Budget Estimate for 1865-66 was Rupees 1,400. The proceeds of Nanul might realize Rupees 180 annually, perhaps more in time, if properly looked after, and protected.

5. The planting of Nanul is a matter of vital importance to the District; it is a good and cheap substitute for stone revetments. The revetment of one tank would scarcely be covered by this single amount.

6. Either, we should be allowed adequate means to keep our irrigation works in order, by imperial grants of revenue, (my Public Works Report showed that out of a lac and eighty-four thousand rupees, only one lac and twenty thousand rupees were available for the purpose, sanctioned,) or else we should be allowed the use of small miscellaneous local items of revenue, such as arise from the sale of reeds and water grasses, and make the most of that for the purpose for which imperial funds are required, but not forthcoming.

7. Mr. Banbury reported that the abolition of the establishment, for the protection of irrigation works by planting Nanul, owing to the reduction of the Budget Estimates, had been forced on the Superintending Engineer.

8. The necessity of its retention, if the grass is to be protected, is clear, the services of the men might be also further utilized in planting out trees on channel banks; the sale of reeds is a legitimate local, and not an imperial, item of revenue.

9. With the proceeds of the reeds and water grass, as above noted, the Nanul Establishment might be rendered efficient, by the payment of adequate salaries, instead of the insufficient pittance of Rupees 2-10-0 per man; calculating the proceeds of the reeds, &c., to be annually Rupees 1,600. This amount would support the watchers on Rupees 5 each per mensem, and these men should be under the jurisdiction of the Revenue Department.

1. The Board are decidedly of opinion that the sale proceeds of the Nanul and Koray reeds and grasses should be devoted to maintaining, in an efficient state, the establishment for watching the plantations, and they incline to the opinion that these establishments would be more effectively supervised by the Revenue, than by the Public Works Department.

2. But before addressing Government on the subject, they request the Collector to ascertain from the Collectors of Trichinopoly and Tanjore and report what system is pursued in those Districts in the matter of such plantations.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Tinnevely.

Exd. J. Wright.

Enclosed for the Secretary of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th June 1865.

1865.

Department

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

dated 15th June 1865.

No. 3,259.

Requesting to explain how long and under what orders the Nanul establishment has been entertained and to report the strength and salaries of the establishment and the proceeds likely to accrue to the District Road Fund from the sales of reeds and grass.

Revenue Department
No. 1291-

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 1st June 1866.

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Recommending that
receipts from sale of Nand
and Koray reeds and grass
be everywhere credited to
Local Funds, and the moneys
payable of watchers and
charges for securing provided
at cost of that fund.

(Here enter 2^d May 1866
No. 3086)

The receipts from
the sale of Nand and
Koray reeds and grass con-
stitute a legitimate source
of income for the Local
Funds, and the practice
of including them in the
Imperial Revenue in some
Districts is incorrect.
Sanction is therefore
granted for crediting
the

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

2nd June 1866

Dated 17th February 1866.

Despatched

Received

No. 1,185.

1866. Department.
No. 1309/66

Enrolled in the office of the
Collector of the District
of Tanjore on the 17th May 1866
at 3.30 p.m.

Requesting the Collector of Tinnevely to
ascertain and report the system pursued in
Tanjore and Trichinopoly in regard to the
Nand and Koray reeds and grasses planted for
the protection of irrigation works.

1st June 1866

the proceeds alluded to
 to Local Funds minor
 head "Kanal grafts in
 every District and for
 paying out of them
 the necessary establish-
 ment of watchers and
 the charges for planting.
 The Board of Revenue
 will submit draft of
 a few simple rules for
 the administration of
 this Fund.

Id

Bo. of Rev. Dept. of Home
 Acc. & Gen. V
 P. H. Dept.

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Ms. No. 20. 12286. 1. 1858
 445-4468 28.8.1865

Ed. 1865