

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	402	Press ~~Mis.~~
²⁴⁸⁻²⁴⁹ Dated	12-2-	18 68.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th February 1868.*

No. 248. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th February 1868:—

Read the following letters:—

From the Acting Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 28th November 1867, No. 398.

1. I have the honor to forward a Copy, dated 26th November 1867, No. 197. letter from Mr. Fraser, C. E., shewing the amount required to be allotted from other districts to meet the expenditure on the new platforms at Madras, I trust that the Rupees 17,191-4-1 required may be made available.

2. I very much regret the necessity for postponing the Cheyur road, as I look upon it as of the first importance but as so large a sum has been expended on the Madras platforms, it appears to be necessary to do so. How the mistake in that matter arose, I am unable to explain. The sum of Rupees 8,852-5-0, which was applied for as urgent in my letter of the 3rd September last, No. 283, was all that I contemplated being spent this year.

From the Executive Engineer, to the Acting Collector of Madras, dated Mount Road, 26th November 1867, No. 197.

1. I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Smith and I consulted the Sheristadar of the Board of Revenue to-day on the means of providing funds for the Salt works which have already been wholly or partially executed, and which have yet to be commenced and finished during the present year.

2. The following is a brief statement of the case as it stands at present. I must premise that a sum of 17,680 Rupees, the estimated cost of repairing certain channels in Pulidivakkam, Vayalur, Kettur, and on the Adyar, was omitted from the Statement of Salt works to be executed in the year 1867-68. The total amount of that statement, viz., Rupees 60,515-5-0, will be required for expenditure during the current year; but we have agreed that certain works may be wholly or partially postponed until next year, and that the whole, or part of the allotment for such works, may be appropriated to the payment for salt channels and platforms for which no provision has been made.

3. The requirements for the year stand thus:

I.—Amount in the statement printed in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, 10th October 1867, less the amount for platforms in Item No. 8, and that which is proposed to be transferred to the Budget Statement for 1868-69	RS.	41,163
II.—Salt channels omitted from that Statement, and which are now completed	RS.	17,680
III.—Required for the two new platforms in the current year	RS.	26,000
	RS.	84,843

To meet these demands we have—

I.—The same as above	RS.	A.	P.
II.—Amount sanctioned for new platforms and entered in Statement	41,163	0	0
III.—Do. sanctioned in Proceedings of Government No. 3,363, dated 31st October 1867	8,852	5	0
IV.—Savings on the Salt channels executed...	4,348	0	0
V.—Transferred from Budget list, as explained in paragraphs 2 and 4...	2,788	6	11
	10,500	0	0
Total	67,651	11	11

This shews that to meet the emergent demands in Madras, a sum of Rupees 17,191-4-1 must be obtained by a re-distribution in other districts.

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4. If this arrangement is approved of, the following items should be transferred from the Budget list of this year to that of 1868-69 :—

No. in Statement.	Estimated amount.	Amount proposed to be transferred to other works.	Amount to be entered in Budget for 1868-69.	Remarks.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	
1	2,500	2,500	2,500	Five Cutcherries. Road at Cheyur channels at Voyalur, &c.
3	7,470	3,000	3,000	
9	11,028	5,000	5,000	
.....		10,500	10,500	

Items Nos. 88 and 89 of the Budget list for 1868-69 should both be reduced to 6,178 Rupees.

5. I have entered 26,000 Rupees as required this year for the two new salt platforms at Madras, because work to about the value of 20,000 Rupees has already been done, and it will take about 6,000 Rupees more to spread earth now heaped up, and to make the unfinished work secure; but if funds are available, I should particularly wish to complete the work so as to have the platforms ready by March next, when they may be required for the storage of salt. It is well known that unless platforms are thoroughly consolidated before salt is heaped upon them, they yield under the pressure: the coverings of the heaps are broken, and rain finds its way to the salt, which is thus not only wasted but is depreciated in value.

It is for this reason that I am desirous of completing these platforms as speedily as possible.

6. In conclusion, I would remark that the present unsatisfactory state of these salt questions has arisen from the number of individuals who were reporting and acting to some extent independently of each other; as an example, I may mention that having received sanction for the execution of certain works on emergency, they were nearly half done, and I was pushing them forward rapidly, when a discussion (of which I knew nothing) was raised as to how much should be expended on them.

I would suggest that as the planning, estimating, and execution of these works are to remain in my hands, that, probably, the most satisfactory arrangements would be that there should be free communication between the Collector and me about them; this would altogether prevent the misconceptions which have now arisen. It is desirable that this should be settled as speedily as possible, as I want to proceed with the new platforms, the operations at which I have partially suspended, pending the result of this inquiry.

From the Collector of the Madras District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, date Sydapet, 5th February 1868.

With reference to the letter No. 398, Mr. Thornhill despatched to the Board on the 28th of November last, which is still unanswered, I have the honor to forward herewith another communication* I have received from Mr. Fraser, explaining the extreme urgency of the matter, and the necessity for an immediate sanction of the amount asked for by him in his letter of the 26th November last, No. 197.

* 20th December 1867, No. 212.

From the Executive Engineer, to the Collector of Madras, dated Mount Road, 20th December 1867, No. 212.

1. Referring to your letter No. 364, dated the 18th instant, and just received, I have the honor to state that in my letter to your address, No. 197, dated the 26th of November, was supposed to supply all the information required about the salt channels and platforms.

2. It was written after my visit to the Board of Revenue for the purpose of putting the whole question in a clear light, and providing a document on which the Board could pass the

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necessary orders. If the statements contained in that letter have not yet been submitted to the Board, I fear we shall have lost the opportunity of getting from other districts the extra funds required for Madras.

3. I enclose a Memorandum of the salt channels, the works on which have been finished, and for the payment of which a sum of Rupees 9,853-1-0 is required.

4. The estimate for the new south platform was, with plans, &c., sent to the Superintending Engineer on the 23rd August 1867.

That for the north platform was sent in on the 5th September 1867.

5. In consequence of the urgent request of the Salt Department, the Superintending Engineer sanctioned the execution of the platform on the 22nd August, and I proceeded with the work as rapidly as possible. On the 1st of October I received the Government Order No. 2,210, dated 20th September 1867, and on the 3rd of November the Order No. 2,514, sanctioning a sum of 4,348 Rupees in addition to 8,852 Rupees previously sanctioned. These orders were passed on correspondence of which I know nothing, and on the date of the first the execution of both platforms had been considerably advanced, and it was considered necessary to proceed with them.

6. The works are now almost entirely suspended, awaiting the decision of the Board of Revenue, although, as you are well aware, it is most desirable that they should be completed without delay.

7. As it seems from Mr. Thornhill's letter that these orders are not in your Office, I send them for perusal, and shall be obliged if you will kindly return them.

8. I trust that you will be good enough to have this matter decided as speedily as possible, as it is undesirable to keep the contractors longer unpaid.

P. S.—To meet present demands, about 20,000 Rupees are required.

1. The first detailed list of Salt works in the Madras District to be executed out of the allotment for Petty Construction and Repair, provided for an expenditure of Rupees 75,638, and was sanctioned in Government Order, 20th September 1867, No. 2,204. A revised list of works, the total cost of which was Rupees 60,515-5-0, was submitted to Government in Board's Proceedings, 27th September 1867, No. 6,207, which were recorded in Government Order, 10th October 1867, No. 2,383. A further expenditure of Rupees 4,348 for salt platforms at the Madras Kotar was sanctioned in Government Order, 25th October 1867, No. 2,514. Thus the total expenditure sanctioned for Madras is Rupees 64,863.

2. From the Acting Collector's letter of the 28th November 1867, and its enclosures, it appears that he omitted to include in his list of works Rupees 17,680, the estimated cost of channels at Pulidivak, Voyalur, Kattur, and the Adyar, which have been actually completed at a cost of Rupees 14,891-9-1; and that he

has under-estimated the sum to be expended on the Salt platforms, which have been pushed rapidly forward, by Rupees 13,799. Thus the additional sum which will be absolutely required is Rupees 27,691-4-1.

	RS.	A.	P.
For Salt channels	14,891	9	1
Platforms	12,799	11	0
	27,691	4	4
1. Five Cutcherries	2,500	0	0
3. Road for Cheyur to Chouth-pakum	3,000	0	0
9. Salt channels	5,000	0	0
	10,500	0	1
	17,191	4	1
	27,691	4	1

3. Mr. Fraser proposes to provide this amount by reducing sanctioned items by Rupees 10,500, as noted in the margin, and by an additional grant of Rupees 17,191-4-1.

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4. The Board find that a saving to the amount of Rupees 32,751 is likely to be made in the allotments for Petty Construction and Repair apportioned to the other districts, and this, together with Rupees 582, the residue of the reserve, is still available. It appears from the statements of the Collector and Mr. Fraser that it is highly desirable that Rupees 6,178 more should be spent on the platforms, so that they may be completed by the end of March, and that the Rupees 3,000, which has been deducted from the allotment for the road from Cheyur to Chouthpakum, should be expended at once. The Board learn further from Mr. Fraser that Rupees

* Excavating Salt channels at Voyalur, Ennore, and Vichoor, for opening new pans to the north, Rupees 11,028.

3,000 of the sum deducted from Item No. 9* can and ought to be spent within the current official year.

5. If these sums are all granted, there will still be a probable saving of Rupees 3,964. The only further application which the Board have reason to think likely to be made under this head during the present year is one for the repair of Salt channels south of Madras, which may be rendered necessary by the unusual state of the Ennore back-water, and they are assured that the expenditure on this work will not amount to more than Rupees 3,000.

6. The Board accordingly resolve to request the sanction of Government for the following finally revised list of works to be executed under the Madras allotment for Petty Construction and Repair of Salt works:—

	RS.	A.	P.
1. Sixteen wooden bridges for the northern pans, at Rupees 50 each.	800	0	0
2. Gravelling the road from Cheyur to Chouthpakum	7,470	0	0
3. Road or bridge across the back-water at Voyalur	2,000	0	0
4. Repairs to Salt channel at Attiput, Nos. 1 to 9, and at Kilambakum	12,395	0	0
5. Do. at Vullur, Nos. 1 to 10, and at Ennore, Vadasamangery, Covelong, and Kilambakum	11,800	0	0
6. Construction of Police huts at Kattur and Kuttupully	3,670	0	0
7. Extension of Salt platforms at Madras	32,178	0	0
8. Excavating Salt channels at Voyalur, Ennore, and Vichoor	9,028	0	0
9. Repairing channels at Pulidivak, Voyalur, Kattur, and the Adyar	14,891	9	1
	94,232	9	1
5 Cutcherries	2,500		
9 Salt channels	2,000		
	4,500		

88.—Converting the piece of waste land lying on the east of Cochrane's Canal and north of the Elephant Gate bridge into a Salt platform with roads, gates, covered drain, guard-houses, &c., Rupees 6,478.

89.—Converting do. on the east of do. and south of the Basin bridge into a Salt platform, Rupees 16,708.

hasty and careless manner in which the estimates have been prepared in the Collector's Office has compelled them to address Government on the subject no less than

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four times. They hope that the Collector will, in future, avoid such confusion as far as possible, by communicating freely and directly with Mr. Fraser, and by maturing his proposals before sending them in for sanction.

No. 249.

ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1868, No. 402.

Separate Revenue, No. 6.

Salt.

1. The Government sanction the revised list of works submitted in the above Proceedings on the understand-

ing that the total Budget grant for "Petty Construction and Repairs" is not to be exceeded, and that the surplus allotment for the Madras District must be met by savings elsewhere.

2. The Collector must be given distinctly to understand that such repeated revisions cannot be permitted in future, and that additional works must be provided for by the re-allotment of the grant for his own district, or be postponed to the following year, unless caused by some unforeseen accident.

3. It would be well for the Board to direct Collectors at once to establish Registers from which their Budgets may be subsequently prepared, and in which works may be entered as their necessity becomes apparent for subsequent inclusion in the list of works to be executed from the grant under "Petty Construction, &c.," or from Local Funds.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 402

Ref: Letter to
Miss [unclear] in
the above [unclear] on the
understanding that the [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] is not to be
exceeded. That the [unclear]
allowment for the [unclear] [unclear]
must be met by [unclear]
[unclear].

Ref: Letter
from [unclear] [unclear]
that such [unclear] [unclear]
cannot be [unclear] in
future & that [unclear]
must be provided for by the
allowment of the [unclear]
for his own [unclear] or his
provision & the following
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

W. H.
W. H.
W. H.

imprisoned accident.

That the call for
to the 1st of Dec. 1864 at
our established register
from the King's Budget may
be subsequently prepared
the 1st of Dec. 1864 the return
as this meeting becomes
apparent for subsequent
inclusion in the list of works
to be executed from the
grant under "the 1st of Dec.
1864" or from local funds.

14 Copies of the 1st of Dec. 1864

6 Copies of the 1st of Dec. 1864

21 ——— S. S. S. V.

L.R.

20 September/67 No 335-37
10 October 216/17
25 534/531

Rev = 1868
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 8th
Sept 8th } February 1868
Feb 10th }
2 Encls M26. No

Submitting for sanction
of Govt - a finally revised
list of works to be exe-
-cuted under Madras
allotment for Petty
construction and Repair
of Salt works during
1867-68-

No 248 & 249

No 402-12 Feb