M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1064 Press ~~Nis.~~

405-06
Dated 19-6-1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th April 1869.

No. 405. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th March 1869, No. 1,735:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 4th February 1869, No. 365, Public Works Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Irrigation.*—Passing orders on papers relative to the development of irrigation of the river Tambrapoorny and its tributaries in the Tinnevelly District.

WITH reference to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the above Government Order the Board beg to submit the following explanation.

2. Mr. Puckle's letter was one of those forwarded in accordance with Board's Proceedings, 18th November 1867, No. 7,514, which called upon all Collectors to report upon the wants of their districts in respect of irrigation works, giving lists of hopeful projects, comparing the ayacut with the cultivation under existing works, and contrasting the revenue derived from irrigated lands with the outlay on the sources of irrigation.

3. The Board did not intend to treat these reports as containing the final conclusions of the Revenue Department as to what works should be undertaken in each district, but as compressing into a small compass facts, from which might be argued the expediency or inexpediency of further expenditure on agricultural works, and the relative advantages of particular projects, whenever the occasion for such deliberations might arrive.

4. The Reports were communicated to Government in order that their attention and that of all Public Works Officers might be attracted to the subjects treated of in them; but it was not in any case thought necessary to discuss the projects recommended by Collectors, many of which cannot be undertaken for many years, in detail. The manner in which Government received the reports from South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Kistna, and Godavery, all of which were submitted before the one from Tinnevelly, was not such as to lead the Board to believe that Government had mistaken their intention in calling for them or submitting them, or that Government would wish them to be reviewed so thoroughly as to fit them for immediate disposal.

5. Mr. Puckle's report was received in March. The Board at first intended to await the receipt of the replies from all Collectors, and send them in a complete file to Government. When they had decided to send them in singly, it came to their knowledge that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation was in Tinnevelly, and engaged in investigating many of Mr. Puckle's projects; and they waited in the hope that further light would be thrown on the subject. In the meantime, the original copy of the letter had, by an accident which will occasionally occur in spite of every precaution, been mislaid.

6. The Board have already explained generally why, in submitting these reports, they recorded but brief remarks. In the case of Mr. Puckle's report there were special circumstances which induced them to imagine that any lengthened comment from them would be superfluous.

7. The Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 28th September, which were before the Board when their Proceedings were passed, showed that the Superintending Engineer of the Division, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, who indeed had, when he visited the district, been furnished by the Collector with a copy of this very report, and the Government were all cognisant of the fact that Mr. Puckle had brought forward these projects. In fact, Colonel Wilkinson specially notices some of the works in his report, and of the others says generally that the only way of dealing with these projects was to place the entire system of irrigation from the Tambrapoorny river under the charge of a Special Officer. He accordingly proposed a re-distribution of the Ranges of the district, so as to constitute the Tambrapoorny system into a separate division, and asked for three additional Executive Officers. The Range Officer, he remarked, would "then be in a position to say where the channels could be extended or required repairs and improvements, and where new reservoirs could be constructed for the storage of the flood-waters".

I. Papanassam reservoir... ... para. 12.
III. Sivilpari anicut .. .. ,, 11.
IV. & V. Murdur anicut and channels ,, 13-20.

8. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation supported the proposed re-distribution of Ranges, and recommended that, "with a view to these and other improvements being made the subject of inquiry and report," an Assistant Engineer should be employed with a staff of Surveyors. The Government expressed themselves prepared to take into consideration any recommendation which the Superintending Engineer might make for the re-arrangement of the Ranges, so as to constitute the irrigation works under the Tambrapoorny into a separate charge, but were not disposed to apply to the Government of India for the large addition to the permanent Executive Establishment sought by Colonel Wilkinson. They finally directed the Superintending Engineer to take an early opportunity, after the Tambrapoorny Irrigation Range had been constituted, of reporting what special or temporary establishment would be necessary to enable the Range Officer to prepare and submit definite proposals, accompanied with plans and estimates, for the improvements referred to by the Chief Engineer.

9. With these papers before them the Board submit that it was not unnatural that they should have received the impression that a lengthy report from them was unnecessary. The Government were already acquainted generally with the proposed improvements, and had adopted the measures which they considered necessary and proper to admit of the projects being brought before them by competent professional Officers, in a manner to admit of their execution being undertaken in due course.

See also Government Order, 8th October 1868, No. 3,177, Department of Public Works.

10. With regard to Mr. Puckle's "proposals for the employment of peculiar executive agencies and resources in carrying his projects into effect," the Board remark that they opened up a question which was already before them in various forms, and which they did not consider ripe for discussion.

11. The Board would be much concerned if the brevity of their Proceedings were regarded by Mr. Puckle as implying any want of appreciation of his laudable exertions for the improvement of his district, or were likely to act as a discouragement in the future. The Board, when laying before Government Mr. Puckle's proposals for the restoration of the Streevigoontum anicut, towards the expense of which work he had induced the people to subscribe a large sum, recorded their obligation to him for bringing the project forward. They entertain a very high opinion of Mr. Puckle's ability, zeal, and industry, and have repeatedly recognised the valuable services he has rendered to the district.

Board's Proceedings, 29th August 1867, No. 5,610.

12. In the concluding words of the Order, Government remark that they have "a right not only to expect from the Board reasonable promptitude in the despatch of business, but also such reflections and arguments on the topics submitted as may aid Government in maturing a definitive opinion." The Board have above explained the cause of delay and of the conciseness of their remarks in this particular instance. They do not see in what way they could have aided Government in arriving at a definitive opinion, for as Government have themselves remarked in paragraph 3, what is required is "professional scrutiny." Generally, the Board venture to think that they are not amenable to the charge of submitting matter to Government in a crude or defective state. The work in their Office has, as Government are aware, increased very greatly of late years.

Letter to Government, 24th February 1869, No. 1,261.

13. During the year, too, the Board had to deal with several subjects of an unusually important and laborious nature, and two of their number were absent on special duty. It was only during five months of it that all the Members were present in Madras. Every Member holds moreover some subsidiary ex-officio appointment in addition to his regular work.

14. These circumstances, the Board respectfully submit, have not, in the present instance, received the consideration which may fairly be claimed for them.

No. 406. ORDER THEREON, 19th April 1869, No. 1,064.

Irrigation, No. 12.

HIS Excellency in Council willingly admits that, as a general rule, the work of the Board is carefully and ably performed; but he still thinks, with reference to the particular case under notice, that the report of the Collector of Tinnevelly on the irrigation capabilities of his district was of such a very special and interesting character that it merited more special and detailed notice than the Board accorded to it, and that it ought to have been laid before Government at an earlier date.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Sanction

Revenue Department

Memorandum

In proposing to place the Neddiwattum and Pyeiva Plantations under one Assistant Superintendent, Mr. McIvor applied for an increase of Rs. 25 to the salary of that Assistant on account of the additional work which the measure involved. He added also that one Superintendent would be able to perform the whole work as a road connected the two plantations. —

Sanction

From Superintendent Chinchona Plantations dated 16th Nov. 1865, No. 97. —

N.

Rec'd 15th Feb. 1866.

sanction was accordingly granted for fixing the Assistant's Salary at Rs. 150 in lieu of Rs. 125 per mensem.

Order dated 13th December 1866 No. 3,355.

"Mr. Dawson has accordingly had charge of the two Plantations for 3 years on the higher salary, and he kept a horse during that time to enable him to ride from one plantation to the other. The additional 25 Rs. was very probably intended for the horse allowance, although it was not expresely so stated. But as Mr. Dawson's "family expenses are increasing every year" he finds "it a difficult matter to meet this expense out of" his salary. He therefore applies for the horse allowance and Mr. McIver in supporting this application proposes 30 Rs. for the purpose and requests sanction for it.

Orders are requested.

Mr seem bone to be a matter on which the Govt. or the Medl. Board should express an opinion. I shall be glad to call it, presuming his general submission includes an occasional visit to the plantations

A.P.A.

A.P.A.

A.P.A.

Memo

Memo Allowance
for Apptt Sept. 1st
Att. Administrative

dis[illegible] I would like that
to be posted under "too late"
and "insufficient" which come
from age or application for
Staff Nurses promotion, are
fairly applicable.

D.P.A.

I would not recall the remarks
passed at the end of the Board
in regard to Mr Barkle's paper.
I think that it does one for
[illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] careful consideration
and merited prompt &
considerate treatment. I compare
[illegible] considering the ability

10[illegible] No 1064 [illegible] 1

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Under date the 19th April 69
Read the following Pro:
of the Bd of Rev: Dept: 1735

4 8 15

The Rt Hble the
Gov: in Council readily
acknowledges that the
Board of Revenue are
not amenable to the
charge of generally
intermitting matters to
Govt in a crude or
defective state; but he
must adhere to the opinion
already expressed in the
G. O under reply by
the Board, in regard
to the particulars now
under consideration

Wm.

A. J. A.

Wm Lambert Esq
Madras
1769

I must say
"H. E. in C. will chiefly admit
that as a general rule
the work of the Board is
carefully & ably performed
but he still thinks with
respect to the particulars

For Orders

of the Board
especially cannot
forget the
superintendency
which I do think
that on one occasion
questions are [illegible] omitted
to Govt for Orders
handled. There was a
case of the Fort House
Wm Dudley concern
the right to Rerapidar
to compensation for
ornamental waste
taken up by Govt
in making Roads for Ft

Lower minister notice
that the report of the
Select Committee
on the Jurisdictional capabilities
of this District and of
such a way special
& interesting character
that it would be
special & detailed
notice than the Ordinary
circular & it, and
that the report & accompanying
bill can be printed
at an early date.

14 Copies Sent to Rep Rivers Dept 20

Papers in the above

Papers

27/2

12/29/84

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