

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2376 .	Press ~~MHS~~
<u>294-95</u>		
Dated	19 th August-	1869 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 294. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Revenue—Forests,) dated Simla, 17th July 1869 No. 10 :—

Rules respecting entry of grants for roads and other communications in the Forest Budget.

READ again—

Public Works Department Circular, No. 23-F., dated 19th October 1867.

Public Works Department Memorandum to Financial Department, No. 89-F., dated 18th February 1869.

Public Works Department Memorandum to Government of Madras, No. 142-F., dated 13th March 1869.

Read also—

A letter from the Government of Madras, No. 1,503, dated 23rd May 1869.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Government of Madras explain their objections to the principles laid down by the Government of India on the subject of forest roads, and the rules under which grants from the forest revenues may be made for roads and other means of communication. In the Madras Presidency contributions have hitherto been sanctioned from forest funds, whenever the convenience of the Forest Department was one of the declared grounds on which the construction of a road is undertaken.

2. The Governor-General in Council cannot accept this principle as one that should be generally followed. The result would be, that the forest estimates would be burdened with charges for roads in all parts of the country which might be useful to the Forest Department, but over which the forest administration would have no control, and which would be mainly required for general traffic, and the cost of which should properly be charged either to the Public Works grant or to Local Funds.

3. The practice of making grants in the Forest Budget-Estimate for the construction of roads, bridges, and communications generally, which have the character of imperial or district works, is based on a misconception of the essential aim and utility of the departmental sub-division of the public outlay and income. The forest revenue is a part of the general income of the State, and is no more, and no less properly liable to contribute to the making of roads than any other similar source of income. The separation of the forest revenues and charges from other parts of the public receipts and expenditure has been made to secure a better control over the operations of the forest administration ; and the main object of the Forest Budget is to collect and review all the items of revenue realised through the forest officers, and all the items of expenditure incurred through them. So far as roads and the like are carried out by forest agency, and for forest purposes, the needful grants for such works properly fall into the forest estimates. But beyond this, there is no propriety in making charges for communications appear in the forest accounts ; and to permit mere contributions to the funds disbursed by other branches of the administration for such objects to appear as charges under the head of forests, is contrary to all financial principle and subversive of proper regularity. It is a complete misconception to regard the forest revenues as credited in the departmental Budget, as a separate fund from which the Local Government can distribute money to aid in the prosecution of works of general utility. The

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grant of public money available for these purposes is made under the head of Public Works, and it must be exclusively under that head of outlay that all charges for communications not primarily required for the forest administration, and carried out under its control, must be made to appear.

4. The Government of India therefore requests that for the future, proposals for grants in the forest estimates shall be strictly limited to works of the following classes:—

First,—Roads within the forests that are not portions of imperial or district roads, and that are made with the specific object of facilitating the working and protection of the forests.

Second,—Such roads leading to the forests as may be constructed primarily with the view of serving for the export of timber or other forest produce, or of facilitating access to the forests.

Third,—Other works to facilitate communications will be treated on the same general principles.

5. Forest funds shall not be contributed towards the construction or maintenance of works other than fall within the above category, except with the special sanction of the Government of India.

6. As regards the rules under which public funds may be expended by the Forest Department on roads and other communications, it will suffice to recapitulate the orders which have already been passed in this respect.

By paragraph 11 of Forest Standing Order, No. 5 of 1867, it is required that all items under the Forest Budget sub-head of communications exceeding Rupees 5,000 shall be entered separately in the Budget-Estimate. And in paragraphs 10 and 11 of Public Works Department Circular, No. 23-F., of 19th October 1867, it has been prescribed that for communications and all other larger works the cost of which is estimated to exceed Rupees 5,000, a separate detailed report or estimate shall be submitted to the Government of India, explaining the particulars of the work proposed; that in the case of roads, canals, and similar works, which admit of the employment of the forms of estimate in vogue in the Public Works Department, these shall be used; and that in all cases these reports on projects shall be accompanied by needful maps and plans, and by a detailed specification of what is proposed to be done; lastly, that such projects shall as far as practicable be submitted to the Government of India for sanction in anticipation of the Budget-Estimate.

7. The principles and rules explained in this Resolution will henceforth be of general application in all parts of India, and may, it is requested, receive due attention in the preparation of the Forest Budget for the coming year.

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
N.-W. Provinces.
Punjab.
Oudh.

Central Provinces.
British Burmah.
Mysore.
Coorg.
Hyderabad.
Central India.
Rajpootana.

ORDER.—Ordered that this Resolution be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance, and to the Financial Department for information.

(Signed) R. STRACHEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department.

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No. 295.

ORDER THEREON, 19th August 1869, No. 2,376.

Forests, No. 18.

COMMUNICATED to the Acting Conservator of Forests for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Erd. E. C. Shunker.

91-2376

W.D.

C. to the U. S. Conservator of Forests
for information and guidance

W.D.
19- Aug 1899

to the U. S. Conservator of Forests

Re: Forests of Oregon

Rules respecting entry of grants for Roads and
other Communications in the Forest Budget.

1899