

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2733	Press Mis.
<u>65-67</u>		
Dated	6 th	October 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2733 Wf

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th October 1869.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 65. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th August 1869,
No. 6,353.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 4th August 1869, No. 1,021.

In reviewing the Local Fund Budget for 1869-70, the Government have laid down* that "the endeavour of the local

* Government Order, 16th March 1869, No. 711, paragraph 4, communicated with Board's Proceedings, 3rd May 1869, No. 2,969. "officers should be to complete the roads

"now in progress before proposing new

† Paragraph 12.

‡ Letter to Board, dated 28th July 1869, No. 957.

"lines," and directed that "allotments

"works,† the progress of which is im-

"peded by want of funds." In obedi-

ence to these orders, I have already

proposed‡ a transfer of all the three un-

sanctioned works provided for in the

Budget of 1869-70, to meet some excess in sanctioned ones; but I presume that the above rule is not intended to apply equally in the case of bridging roads already opened to cart traffic, and completed in all other respects.

2. For a better appreciation of the effects of the above orders of Government, if applied to the bridging of roads in the present state of this district, I beg to solicit attention to the fact that South Canara is subject to a heavy monsoon during which all its sea-ports are closed for more than five months of the year, (June to October,) and almost all in-land traffic is at a stand-still. Consequently it is a matter of secondary importance that unbridged rivers should be impassable at a season of the year when scarcely anybody wants to pass over them, if in the trading season they are low and fordable. While rich parts of the district lie unopened out and more than one seaport remains inaccessible to carts from the interior, and branch feeders and connecting cross lines are required, it is I think of more importance to open fair weather roads than to stand still for years till we have fully bridged every road yet commenced. There are at present only eight main lines, of which four have been fully, and the rest only partially, bridged. The latter are, however, open to cart traffic during the fair weather, to which trading is almost entirely confined in this district.

3. Furthermore this district happens to be unusually overburdened with prior estimates for bridge-work. Between the months of June and October 1867 estimates, to an aggregate amount of Rupees 1,41,900, were submitted for sanction for bridge-work on five Local Fund lines in the district. At the time of their submission it was not anticipated by me that the mere circumstance of their being submitted at one time to suit the office convenience of the Public Works Department would involve the necessity of their being worked out before other works of importance could be taken in hand. I had meant that they should have no more than their fair share of the funds of the district, or I would never have counter-signed and forwarded all of them at one time, with the deliberate prospect of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th October 1869.*

swamping progress in all other directions for the space of about five years. Such, however, would be the effect of now applying the order of Government which was subsequently passed, and which, by reason of the accident of these estimates having been already sanctioned, might impart to them a priority of importance, as well as of mere date, and all new roads for the opening of the district would have to be postponed to them. Such an action of one general order of Government on the advancement of this district would be very much to be deplored, and was probably as little anticipated by the Government when passing the orders as by myself when forwarding the bundles of bridge-work estimates within a few months of my joining the district, and at my very first entry on the duties of an Acting Collector.

Aggregate amount of estimates sanctioned for bridge-work on five lines	Rs. 1,41,900
Expended up to 31st March 1869	72,100
	Rs. 69,800

* *17th* letter to Board, 28th July 1869, No. 157, submitting revised estimates.

† Original estimates have already been exceeded to the extent of Rupees 13,000 in the case of three bridges.

4. The amount of funds spent on bridge-work up to the end of past official year is shown in the margin, and the estimated and sanctioned amount still remaining* to be done, together with the amounts continually occurring in excess† of estimates, and emergently required for bridges which give way occasionally, will, if no other works are to be undertaken before its completion, absorb all the resources of the district for at least three more years, including the current one, and I cannot persuade myself that Government intended by their recent orders that all new works and improvements, however important and urgently required, should be effectually put a stop to throughout the district for such a period.

5. Under these peculiar circumstances, I would beg to submit for consideration whether, in fairness to the payers of Road Cess, all their funds can be used year after year exclusively on a few costly, and perhaps distant, bridges on lines which some of them never even see, while their chief requirements are fair weather roads open to cart traffic in the trading season. I venture to urge that it would be better for the general good of at least this district that a certain proportion only of the annually available funds should be set aside for the steady annual completion of the bridge-work, and the remainder left free to be arranged for in annual Budgets according to actual requirements. I would propose that from one-third to one-half only of the surplus funds, after providing for the regular maintenance allowances, be annually set aside for bridge-work, and the remainder for improving already opened but ill-traced roads, for continuing old lines, and for opening up important parts of the district now inaccessible to carts, with fair weather lines designed to be eventually converted into good roads and substantially bridged as money is available. The Board need be under no apprehension that new roads will be unduly multiplied, as the complete scheme called for in their Proceedings, dated 14th November 1867, No. 7,428, will be a sufficient check thereto.

6. As both the framing of the forthcoming Budget of District Road Fund, and the drawing up of the complete scheme alluded to in the preceding paragraph, depend on the applicability or otherwise of the Government Order in question to the present case, I beg to solicit the Board's early attention to this reference.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th October 1869.*

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. Government have directed generally that roads in progress should be finished before new ones are commenced. The Collector of South Canara shows clearly that if the roads which are finished, all except bridging, are to be bridged before new ones are undertaken the district will suffer.

3. The Board have no doubt that this is a case in which Government will allow the rule laid down by them to be relaxed.

4. Meanwhile the Collector may proceed to frame his Budget on the principle which he advocates.

No. 66. From Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coonoor, 6th September 1869, No. 94.

In paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, No. 6,353 of 24th August, the Revenue Board express their undoubted belief that Government will see fit to allow the rule which they have laid down for the preparation of Local Fund Budgets to be relaxed with reference to the Canara District, and in paragraph 4 they permit the Collector to frame his Budget without reference to that rule.

2. I respectfully submit that in such a matter, especially when the greater part of the outlay is to be incurred under his orders, the opinion of the Superintending Engineer should be taken by the Revenue Board, before proceeding to contravene standing orders on the representation of the Collector alone. As they have not so acted in this case, I have no alternative, but to submit direct to Government a letter and Draft Budget of the Collector of Canara, with my reply thereto and alternative Budget; on the comparative merits of which Budgets I request that their opinion may be given.

3. I have to object to Mr. Thomas' statements that the estimates for bridge-work which have been so systematically opposed by him (*vide* G. O., No. 261 of 24th January 1868, and accompaniments) were prepared in consultation with his predecessors, and after deliberate consideration with them of the more immediate wants of the district; my twenty-four years acquaintance with which gave me in their eyes more claim to consideration than he now affords me. I will not however add to the arguments I have addressed to Mr. Thomas himself, but content myself with urgently remonstrating against any reversal of the general policy both of the Local and Imperial Governments in the preparation of Budgets, in the case of the Canara District.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,

9th September 1869.

Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th October 1869.*

No. 67. ORDER THEREON, 6th October 1869, No. 2,733.

Local Funds, No. 2.

Civil Works.

THE Government concur with the Acting Collector of South Canara and the Board of Revenue in considering that the rule requiring the completion

of sanctioned roads before the construction of new roads is commenced may be relaxed in the South Canara District to the extent of sanctioning the expenditure upon new roads of a moiety of the balance available for new works, the other moiety being expended in completing the bridges on the roads already constructed.

2. The Superintending Engineer's letter with its enclosures will, however, be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for such consideration as they may deem proper, when preparing the South Canara District Road Fund Budget for submission to Government. The attention of Colonel Walker will, in the mean time, be drawn, through the Public Works Department, to Rule VII. of the Local Fund Rules issued with the G. O. under 4th March 1864, No. 392.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Ed. E. C. Shukler.

Completed

No. 7,428.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th November 1867.

1. The Board experience great difficulty in dealing with questions connected with the application of the District Road Fund, from their being very little information in their office regarding the present condition of the roads in each District.

2. It was intended that the Road Maps should give this information, but some of these Maps have not yet been received, and many even of those received are defective in this respect.

3. The Board resolve to request Collectors to place themselves in communication with the Superintending Engineers of their Divisions, and to prepare a memorandum on the defects of their existing systems of District communications, with reference to the state of the existing roads, or the entire absence of them.

4. With this information before them, the Collectors will have no difficulty in preparing a general scheme of Local roads for each District, and showing on a Map, in distinctive colours,

- (1.) Imperial roads completed and bridged.
- (2.) Do. completed but not bridged.
- (3.) Do. in progress.
- (4.) Do. projected.
- (5.) District roads completed and bridged.
- (6.) Do. completed but not bridged.
- (7.) Do. in progress.
- (8.) Do. projected.

5. It would be well that all the District roads should be either lettered or numbered in view to their being easily identified in future Budgets. Full details should be given of the maintenance allowance now granted for each completed road whether Imperial or Local, and of the amount of maintenance allowance likely to be needed for those roads which are in progress, or in contemplation, and the mileage of every road should invariably be stated.

6. With a scheme of this description on record in their offices, to which the approval of the Board had been accorded, the Collectors would prepare their Road Fund Budgets with care and precision; but if the annual expenditure of the large amount, now available from Local Funds, is to be made on no defined system, or in the desultory manner in which outlay from these funds has in some instances hitherto been made, the full advantage of the expenditure will certainly not be obtained.

7. Each Collector should draw up his proposed scheme of Local roads with reference to the probable annual receipts of his District Road Fund, and should bear in mind that the construction of roads will be of little service to the people, unless ample funds are annually set aside for their repair. The scheme should, therefore, provide for a large annual increase in the maintenance allowances, as the annual outlay on new lines increases the mileage to be kept in order, with a corresponding reduction in the expenditure on construction.

8. Probably, in most Districts the Headquarter stations of each talook are connected with each other by some sort of road, passable for wheeled-traffic, and these lines, with feeders to all important towns and villages, might, in the first instance, be put in thorough working order, leaving the cross country roads to be dealt with afterwards. In Districts provided with Railway communication, of course the first consideration should be to open up the produce-growing portions of the District, and to connect the principal towns and villages with the Railway stations.

9. The Board request an early reply to these Proceedings, and in submitting it with the necessary Maps, which, in addition to the information noted in paragraph 4 above, should show the position of each piece of road-work in regard to estimates and entry in Budgets, Collectors are requested to be specially careful to refer to all previous orders and correspondence in which any

Oct. 21 1869, *Alameda*.

REVENUE.

7.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated October 21.

Recd.

Secy.

G. O., 21 October 1869, No. 2,733.

CC10333.

1103. 65-67.

*Pro of the Board of Revenue
and the Board of Revenue*

Roads in South America.—Rule requiring the completion of sanctioned roads before the construction of new ones is commenced, related to the extent specified

road under consideration may have been mentioned, whether in regard to its entry in a Budget, its estimates, its construction, its maintenance, or its classification as an "Imperial" or "District" road.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. T. MAYNE,
Acting First Assistant.

To all Collectors.

Exd. J. Wright.

Requesting Collectors to prepare a memorandum, in communication with Superintending Engineers, on defects of existing system of District communications, and to submit a general scheme of local roads, with a Map giving particulars of both Imperial and District roads.

No. 7,428.

Dated 11th November 1867.
Received

To all Collectors.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

1867.

Department.

No. 2733.

Proceedings of the Madras Board
Under date the 6th Oct. 1869.

Read the following
papers.

Proc. of the B. of Rev.
Submitting letter from
Colls of South Canara re-
questing that rule laid down
by Govt, that construction of
roads should be completed
by local officers before proposing
new lines, may be relaxed in
case of road in dist requiring to
be bridged.

Subg Engr. 7th Div.
Forwarding the pro-
posed Budget of Local Funds
of the South Canara District
for 1870-71

R. 24 Aug 1869 A 1383.

6 Sep. A 94.

W. A.

A. A.

The Govt concur
with the Acting Collector
of South Canara and
the Board of Revenue
in considering that
the rule requiring the
completion

completion of sanctioned roads before the construction of new roads is commenced may be relaxed in the South Canara District to the extent of sanctioning the expenditure of a moiety of the balance available for new works upon new roads, the other moiety being expended in completing the bridges on the roads already constructed.

2. The Superintending Engineer's letter with its enclosures will however be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for such consideration as they may deem proper when

when preparing the South Canara District Road Fund Budget for submission to Govt. The attention of Col. Walker will in the meantime be drawn through the P.M. Dept to Rule VII of the Local Fund Rules issued with the G.O. under 1st March 1864 A 392.

For the
Commissioner
South Canara

14. F. H. B. P. R. D. S. 7.
21. R. O. S. 11

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