

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3056	Press Mis.
<u>328-329</u>	
Dated 26 th November 1886	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th November 1869.*

No. 328. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd November 1869 :—

Read the following letters :—

From the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Puttur, 16th September 1869, No. 1,231.

I HAVE the honour to forward my Local Fund Budget for the ensuing year 1870-71.

2. I have framed it on the principles advocated in my letter of the 4th August 1869, No. 1,021, and approved by the Board in their Proceedings, dated the 24th idem, No. 6,353.

3. I forwarded to the Superintending Engineer a scheme of my proposals, based on the above-mentioned principles, and plainly informed him that I had addressed the Board of Revenue as to the necessity for restricting the outlay on bridge-work in this district to about one-third or one-half of the funds available, after providing for regular maintenance, etc.; and that if an unfavourable order was received from Government, and their original order was to be strictly applied to this district also, the Budget would remain the same, with the exception that certain particularised works out of those proposed by me, would have to be foregone, and the amount set down for them surrendered to swell the expenditure on unfinished sanctioned bridge-work.

4. That officer, however, has not thought my proposed Budget worthy of his consideration, and has sent me instead Paragraph 2 of his memorandum, No. 37, dated 21st May 1868, and paragraph 2 of letter, dated 23rd June 1869, No. 14. a revised Budget of his own, in which he has thrown out all my propositions for new works, except one; and that one is, in reality, not mine, but his, as I had adopted it at his request previously expressed. In short, he will have no propositions but his own, *aut Caesar aut nullus*. He has even objected to a moderately increased allotment for the planting and maintenance of avenues. On this simple point his professional interference was surely not called for, and it is certainly mistaken; for trees, once planted in good holes, and fenced at some expense, must be maintained through two or three dry seasons by watering, or the money already laid out will be lost; and we have in the coming year to water in the dry season the plantings of the former as well as of the present year: hence, it follows that to plant and maintain a stated number of avenue-trees per annum on any system; the expenditure must necessarily be progressive for two or three years, till the trees planted in the first year are off our hands, and then the arrangements will go on steadily without any annual increase. I calculate roughly to plant about one thousand avenue-trees a year, and, considering that a great many of the way-farers have no other protection from sun by day and dew and moon by night, than the grateful shade of a tree by the road-side, as well as the other useful ends answered by avenues, I do not think the expenditure proposed under this head is excessive. If the Board think otherwise, I shall be thankful to be guided.

5. The Superintending Engineer's Budget is framed on principles directly opposed with those which I have advocated, and the Board have been pleased to

approve. I am at a loss, therefore, to see how I can come to an understanding with him, and obtain his countersignature, as desired in late orders of the Board. Neither do I exactly understand why the Board desire his countersignature; for, under the District Road Fund Rules, the Collector is, under the Board, the administrator of the Funds, and the Superintending Engineer's province is simply the executive with a power of objecting to any particular expenditure on professional grounds, and no other; and the ground for keeping this command of Funds in the hands of the one administrator of the district, would seem to be strengthened, now that they are chiefly contributed by those in whom he, of all persons, is most specially interested—his own ryots. There cannot be two administrators but one, and the other must needs be the professional executive. While thoroughly admitting, both in theory and practice, the extreme desirability of hearty co-operation and free consultation in the interests of the one Government we both serve, I do not see how this is possible with this Superintending Engineer, who, to say the least, is not kindly co-operative. Apart, also, from the respective suitability to the administration of a district of an Engineer or a Collector, I calculate that, in the last two years, I must have traversed a hundred miles in the district for every ten which the distant Superintending Engineer has been over, and must have spoken ten times as much with the people about their wants; and I almost invariably travel on horseback, that I may see the country. The Superintending Engineer's last annual visit to the district occupied considerably less than one month. I have consequently submitted this Budget without the countersignature of the Superintending Engineer for the double reason, that I venture to question the benefit of it, and that in any case it is impossible to obtain it.

6. To satisfy the Board that I desired to obtain it, I enclose a copy of my letter to him on the subject. His reply also annexed will give the Board his views. Though he had not received the Board's Proceedings, No. 6,353, dated 24th August 1869, when he wrote it, he must have received them long ere this, and could well have communicated with me in pursuance thereof, had he so desired. But he keeps to his own Budget.

A. Re-construction of the Uchisal Bridge on the coast-road...	Rs. 1,500
A. New trace from Mangalore to Mulky	1,500
A. Opening a line to connect Subramany with Trunk Road No. II.	3,300
B. Re-construction of Kurnad Bridge on the coast-road	970
A. Improved trace on the Jalsur and Kasargod road	2,000
B. Continuation of do. to river-side	300
B. Bridging and completing the new line of road from Mangalore to Manjeshwar, via Jeppu, coast-road	3,000
Widening Cumbla and Perdal road...	2,500
A. Improvement of Malpi and Udiipi road	1,500

9. Of these, I have reluctantly waived the new trace from Mangalore to Mulky, holding it in abeyance in deference to the Superintending Engineer's opinion; but I do not see that I can forego others without giving cause for just complaints from the Road-cess paying public, and doing injustice to the district.

7. The works proposed by me are shown in the margin. Of these, only one has, as above explained, been accepted by the Superintending Engineer. This is the widening of the Cumbla and Perdal line.

8. Those marked A. were provided for in the Budget of the previous years, and those marked B. were newly proposed by me in my list to the Superintending Engineer.

Kundapur to Wondore	...	...	Rs. 200	allowance proposed by me upon three roads. The first is a road newly opened at a cost of Rupees 400 in continuation of the Imperial line to Collur, and if not annually kept in repair after monsoon
Brahmawar to Pirdur	...	...	300	
Bantwal to Sarpadi	...	...	300	
Total	...	...	800	

injuries, it must soon again prove useless. The second was repaired in 1868-69 with an allotment of Rupees 400 in the Budget of that year. I have now reduced my provision against these two roads from 500, as given in my list to Colonel Walker, to Rupees 400, appearing in my present Budget under "Petty Repairs" in Part II. Though unavoidably abandoned at a time when there were no funds for maintaining them, they should no longer be entirely neglected. The third is a line of road in favour of which Colonel Walker has most strenuously contested from the days of Mr. Maltby to my own time. Though I could not but agree with Mr. Maltby in preferring the made-

road, via Mani, for cart-traffic, I find that to avoid the cost of crossing the ferry at Uppinangadi, where the Kurnadary is still unbridged, several thousand heads of pack-cattle per annum take the circuitous route from Uppinangadi, via Beltangadi and Punjalkotta, to Bantwal. For the use of these alone and not for carts I propose just to remove the obstructions in, and render passable the abandoned but direct line from Uppinangadi, via Sarpadi, to Bantwal. It will not only give the pack-cattle a direct route at the trifling expense of Rupees 200, but will relieve 34 miles of road—namely, the circuit from Uppinangadi by Beltangadi to Bantwal—of their wear and tear, and will amount to materially economizing the maintenance on those lines. I have thought well to retain this small item in spite of Colonel Walker's objection, and it finds its place under "Petty Repairs."

11. The small addition in repairs to the coast-road, objected to by the Superintending Engineer, is, in my opinion, necessary to keep it in proper order. I conceive I should be the best judge, having always been in charge of its repair, while the Superintending Engineer has never, to my knowledge, had anything to do with it. Some portions of it are much used for carts. The allotment gives only 21½ per mile, while other roads enjoy 50 per mile or upwards.

12. The Superintending Engineer proposes also to strike out the short line from Udiipi to Malpi, but the only objection he has ever made to it is, that the people of Udiipi have failed to make the voluntary contribution they once proposed to. They themselves very reasonably argue that, at the time they proposed to subscribe, they were not subject to Road-cess and Income-tax, and that the road should now be made for them out of these involuntary contributions. Malpi is the port of Udiipi, one of the most flourishing towns in the district, and the line connecting them is, in my view, one of the most pressing, and has been most strongly and repeatedly urged by the people.

Allotment for 1868-69	...	...	Rs. 1,690
Do. 1869-70	...	...	2,600
Proposed for 1870-71	...	...	3,000

13. The improvement of the Jalsur and Kasargod road he also wishes to omit, though he was formerly its advocate.

Extract from Superintending Engineer's letter, No. 54, dated 24th February 1869.

Paragraph 2.—“I should, therefore, greatly prefer spending the allotment of Rupees 1,500 for a new line from Mangalore to Mulki in the Budget of 1869-70, in the manner described in the accompanying letter from Mr. Sub-Engineer Fernandez—namely, in re-tracing such portions of the Jalsur and Kasargod road as require altering—with a view to the preparation of an estimate for making the line thoroughly practicable for cart-traffic. Its amount is not expected to exceed Rupees 6,000, including the Rupees 1,500 to be laid out on the trace and bridle-path.”

There is a long line of road, with one almost insurmountable declivity midway; and so steep is this portion of the road that it is deterrent to the carters, and therefore an injury to the whole line. The object is to re-trace this portion, and thus make the whole line fairly usable.

14. But while submitting this Budget for the approval of the Board, it is problematical whether any practical good will come out of my submitting it

and the Board sanctioning it, while the Superintending Engineer does not also agree; for, though he is doubtless bound, in theory, to execute any work thus sanctioned, in practice, it is otherwise, as he has always the power of delaying, and practically withholding estimates—a power which he has not been slow to exercise. While even rough estimates are withheld before sanction, and regular estimates after sanction, the control practically remains with the estimate-maker; and unless a remedy can be found for this obstructive policy, the making and sanctioning of Budgets is simply playing a solemn farce.

15. In apology for the slight delay which has occurred in the submission of this Budget, I beg to point out that I took the matter in hand in ample time, and had completed my part in it so long ago as the 16th August. The subsequent delay I must charge to the Superintending Engineer's opposing views, and the necessity for re-considering the Budget and writing this letter. The Board's new forms were also not received till the 13th, when the Budget had to be re-written.

From the same officer, dated Sampaji, 21st September 1869, No. 1,257.

I HAVE the honour to request that the Board of Revenue will be pleased to obtain the sanction of Government for a small allowance of Rupees 20 being given to the clerk who now performs the work connected with Local Funds in my Office, under the supervision of the Treasury Deputy-Collector.

2. Under the orders of the Board noted in the margin, it is the duty of the Head Accountant to look after this work; but the time and attention of this official is so much taken up by other and more regular duties, that, although he can well be required to have a general supervision over the Local Fund portion of the office-work under my own and the Treasury Deputy-Collector's orders, he can scarcely be expected to do full justice to the details of this important work, which have consequently to be entrusted to a separate clerk in the Office, especially as the work has been much increased of late.

3. The duty of keeping the Accounts and Registers connected with Local Funds, the amount of which has been latterly very largely increased by the addition

of the District Road-cess; that of preparing bills and orders to the talooks; checking the Accounts of subordinate officers; and carrying on the ordinary correspondence connected with this department; is sufficient to give one clerk in my Office full employment; and this duty is now performed by the First Vernacular Accountant, an active and experienced servant of my office, in addition to his own ordinary duties, without, however, any remuneration for this extra trouble.

4. In consequence of the addition made to the Local Funds by the Road-cess collections, the Government have lately sanctioned an increase to the executive staff of the Public Works Department, in addition to the ten per cent. allowance for supervision annually paid to them. The Board's Office Establishment has also been strengthened, and an allowance of 50 rupees a month was sanctioned to their Head Accountant for the additional work thrown upon him; and I observe that in some other districts of this Presidency the Collectors are allowed special establishments in their Offices on account of Local Funds.

5. The Board will not, therefore, I hope be inclined to deny a similar indulgence to this district; the collections and expenditure in which, on account of the Local Funds, are by no means insignificant.

6. Under these circumstances, I request that an extra allowance of Rupees 20 may be sanctioned for the clerk entrusted with the Local Fund Accounts in my Office, as his remuneration for the additional work devolving upon him.

7. If sanctioned, I propose to incur the above charge from the 1st instant.

THE District Road Fund Budgets for 1870-71, received with the first of the foregoing letters, are submitted for the approval of Government, with reference to paragraph 1 of their Order of the 16th March 1869, No. 711.

2. Part I. of the Budget appears to have been prepared agreeably to paragraph 1 of Government Order, dated 6th October 1869, No. 2,733, which relaxes the rule requiring the completion of roads in progress before new ones are commenced, and permits the expenditure of the available funds in equal proportions on new roads, and in bridging roads already constructed.

3. The Budget contains eleven works, with an aggregate allotment of Rupees 24,350, and a provision of Rupees 2,000 on account of Miscellaneous Public Improvements. The first three are sanctioned works, and are in progress.

4. An estimate for the fourth work, amounting to Rupees 8,500, is now before the Board, and will be shortly submitted for the sanction of Government. The sum of Rupees 1,825, entered as the computed expenditure, is that actually incurred in 1867-68 and 1868-69 in tracing and opening the road as a bridle-path under an estimate of Rupees 2,000, sanctioned in the Board's Proceedings of the 8th October 1867, No. 6,440.

5. An estimate for the sixth work is also before the Board, and will be disposed of in due course. It is for the re-construction of a masonry bridge, which is stated to have lately given way.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th November 1869.*

6. The remaining works, though unsanctioned, seem to have been selected with great care. The Superintending Engineer, as he has already informed Government, objects to the Budget on two grounds. One is, that it opens out new lines instead of bridging old ones. This has already been disposed of, and the alternative Budget, which Colonel Walker prepared, is sufficient in itself to show that his principle will not work well in South Canara. He proposes to spend all the money available for new works on one part of the district. Colonel Walker's second objection is, that too much is done for the coast-road, which he considers to be the most useless in the district. The Board do not concur in this opinion. They consider the coast-line essential to the completeness of the district-communications. On careful consideration, and after fully weighing Colonel Walker's arguments, the Board have resolved to leave Mr. Thomas's proposals undisturbed.

7. Part II. contains thirteen repair-works, with a total allotment of Rupees 13,000, and provisions of Rupees 500 and Rupees 1,970 on account of petty repairs and Miscellaneous Public Improvements. The several maintenance grants proposed are moderate, and call for no remark.

8. In the Abstract of Receipts and Charges, the expected income of the Fund is given as Rupees 56,500.

9. Under the head "Expenditure Proposed," there is a sum of Rupees 240 on account of establishment in the Collector's Office. It will be observed from the second letter, recorded at the head of these Proceedings, that the allotment is intended as an additional allowance, at Rupees 20 a month, to the First Vernacular Accountant, who is stated to be looking after the Local Fund Accounts, in addition to his own duties. If, as the Acting Collector states, the Local Fund Accounts and correspondence are sufficient to give full employment to a clerk, the Board are of opinion that a separate clerk should be entertained for the work, as is done in other districts, and accordingly sanction the entertainment of one on a salary of Rupees 20 per month from the 1st proximo.

10. The allotment of Rupees 70, proposed for the contingent charges of the Revenue Department, is reduced to Rupees 50, the scale fixed by the Board.

11. The proposed expenditure amounts to Rupees 56,480, which, deducted from the available assets of Rupees 56,500, leaves a balance of Rupees 20.

12. The Board beg to solicit the attention of Government to paragraph 14 of the Acting Collector's first letter, pointing out the difficulty experienced in obtaining estimates for works entered in the Budgets, for such orders as they may deem fit.

No. 329. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1869, No. 3,056.

Local Funds, No. 27.
Accounts.

THE District Road Fund Budget Lists of the South Canara District for 1870-71, submitted by the Board of Revenue, are approved. None of the unsanctioned works, entered in Part I., should be commenced before the estimates are submitted and sanctioned.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th November 1869.*

2. Paragraph 12 of the Board's Proceedings regarding the difficulty experienced in obtaining estimates for works entered in the Budget will receive consideration in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

That a Separate Clerk should be ⁹ entertained for the work, as is ^{5th} done in other Districts, and accordingly sanction the entertainment of one on a Salary of Rupees 20 per month from the 1st proximo -

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out the difficulty experienced
in obtaining estimates for works
entered

Don't. of {1869} Minutes.

REVENUE.

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THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

dec., dec., dec.

Dated November, 26th.

Recd.

Email:

G. O., 26th November 1869, No. 3,056.

NOVEMBER.

Hos. 328-329.

South Canara Local Fund Budget.—Estimates for 1870-71, submitted by the Board of Revenue, approved.

From Phos. at
9 Dec/49 Ch. 4.155.
Thom's 78-9 Dec
at 4 pm 49 Ch. 1195

entered in the Budgets, for such
orders as they may deem fit.

/ True Extract /

A. M. S. S. S.
For Sub-Secretary

The Acting Secretary to
Government

Revenue Department

with copies of 2 letters

and 9 enclosures

Copies of

C. M. S. S.

No. 2956

No. 2956

Rev. M. S. S.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Under date the 25th November, 1869.

Read the following

Proc. of the B. of Revenue

Submitting for approval
Road Fund Budget
of South Canara District
for 1870-71

No. 23 Nov 1869

Will

The District
Road Fund Budget
lists of the South
Canara District
for 1870-71 submitted
by the Board of
Revenue are approved.
None of the unan-
tioned works entered

entire
order

in part I should
be commenced before
the estimates are sub-
mitted and sanctioned.

100

Para 12 of the Board's
Pro: regarding the
difficulty experienced
in obtaining estimates
for works entered in
the Budget will re-
ceive consideration

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Sept 1884

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328-329

Carroll 185