M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 917 Press Mis.

102-103

Dated 6th April 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 1,438.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th March 1869.

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kanginnellore, 15th January 1869, No. 7:—

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 12th September last, No. 6,722, I have the honor to submit a statement in the form therewith received, (to which have been added a few fresh columns for easy reference and comparison,) showing the several roads now in progress, the expenditure incurred on each from all Funds up to 30th November 1868, and the probable amount required to complete them or to place them in such a position that operations may be discontinued without loss.

2. This statement has been compiled for the most part from information obtained through the Superintending Engineer from the Officers of the Public Works Department entrusted with the execution of the works.

3. In many respects the information thus obtained is less complete than I could have wished, but the references already made have so greatly delayed the preparation of this statement, that I have thought it better to send it on as it is.

4. The Board will gather from the statement that a large sum of money is *immediately* required, if operations in the Northern and Southern Ranges are to be prosecuted on their present scale.

5. I am exercising with the utmost caution the discretionary authority conveyed in Government Order, dated 26th August 1868, No. 2,264, Revenue Department, but trust that the statement which I now submit may relieve me of some portion of this responsibility by enabling the Board to advise Government which particular works should be prosecuted, and to what limit in expenditure from Special Funds.

6. From the Progress Report received from the Northern and Southern Ranges, I find that the weekly number of laborers employed on the works in each averages 387 men and 316 women and children, and 7,108 men and 10,868 women and children respectively.

7. The north-eastern monsoon has again failed, and large numbers of the agricultural classes are thus once more thrown on the public purse for employment and the means of subsistence. Local Funds* are now so far exhausted that until the new Budget becomes available, they will not, even if they then do, afford sufficient employment to the laboring poor in the interval. It thus becomes a very grave question whether any of these works can be discontinued or reduced in their proportions without serious hardship to the industrious poor. The Board have before them my last Season Report showing the agricultural position of each talook in the district at this time.

* Balance on the 31st December 1868 was Rupees 9,331-9-9 on original and repair works.

8. The only conclusion which I can draw from the state of matters therein described, is that operations in the Southern and Western Ranges cannot be discontinued either wholly or partially for the next three months to come without serious hardship to the laboring poor in those parts.

9. As desired in the Board's Official Memorandum, No. 1,062, dated 7th October last, I beg to specify in the margin the orders and dates in which Famine grants were sanctioned on account of relief works in this district.

G. O., dated 10th December 1867, No. 2,945, Rev. Dept.
Do., do. 17th January 1868, „ 3,005, do.
Do., do. 22nd „ „ „ 178, do.
Do., do. 3rd March „ „ 743, do.
Do., do. 6th June „ „ 1,577, do.
Do., do. 26th August „ „ 2,264, do.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement of relief works.

WITH this letter the Collector of North Arcot submits a statement of the kind required by Government in Government Order, 12th September last, No. 2,372, showing the progress and present condition of the roads undertaken in that district during the scarcity of 1867 and 1868.

2. These roads have been constructed partly from Famine grants and partly from the Road Fund, and the financial condition of the latter has been materially affected by the extent to which its funds have been thus applied.

3. The Road Fund Budget of 1866-67 showed a balance at the commencement of the year of Rupees 5,456, and the receipts of the year were estimated at Rupees 56,800; the total being Rupees 62,256. The *actual* income of the year (balance included) was Rupees 73,511, and the actual expenditure was Rupees 66,211.

4. The original Budget of 1867-68 gave the estimated income as Rupees 73,200. A revised Budget was subsequently submitted which showed an estimated income of Rupees 1,29,184. The actual receipts of the year were only Rupees 72,854, while the expenditure was Rupees 98,632, the Fund being thus in debt to the extent of Rupees 25,778.

	Balance.	Income.	Total.
Original Budget	.....	73,200	73,200
Revised do.	27,815	1,01,369	1,29,184
Actual	7,300	65,554	72,854

5. In December 1867 the necessity of affording employment for the laboring classes became apparent, and Government authorised the Collector "to order, on his own responsibility, the immediate commencement of any works, the necessity of which may be established to his satisfaction,"

Government Order, 10th December 1867, R. D., No. 2,945.

and stated that they "would be prepared to sanction the provision of the necessary fund."

6. In their Proceedings of the 14th idem, No. 8,072, (paragraphs 8 and 9,) the Board strongly recommended a special grant of Rupees 50,000, for the rapid completion of those roads by which grain would be imported into the district from Madras, Mysore, and the adjacent districts. The Government approved of the proposal and sanctioned the grant, enforcing at the same time the importance of using a portion of the money for sinking wells along the roads in those localities where scarcity of drinking water is experienced.

Government Order, 17th December 1867, R. D., No. 3,005, paragraph 1.

7. The Road Fund of 1868-69 was estimated at Rupees 1,23,340.* In September last the Acting Collector reported† that owing to the large recoveries of arrears, the estimate might be raised to Rupees 1,30,000: deducting from this sum the debt above mentioned, the available income of the year may be taken in round numbers at Rupees 1,05,000, while the sanctioned expenditure is Rupees 1,22,850; so that as matters stand, the Fund has every prospect of closing this year with a debt of at least Rupees 20,000. The probability indeed is that the debt will be larger, as the Collector reports that on the 31st December last, the Road Fund balance was only Rupees 9,331.

	Rs.
* Balance	4,760
Income	1,18,580
Total...	1,23,340

† Dated 21st September 1868, No. 317, recorded in Board's Proceedings, 7th December 1868, No. 8,587.

Rupees ...	1,30,000
" ...	25,000
Rupees...	1,05,000

8. As already stated, the Government, in December 1867, granted Rupees 50,000 for grain roads. Some misapprehension occurred regarding the grant, but it was corrected in Government Order, 6th June 1868, Revenue Department, No. 1,577, when Government renewed the sanction and allotted a further sum of Rupees 50,000 on the Board's recommendation for the continued improvement of the grain roads. The Board had originally indicated these in a general way, but now particularise those in the margin, and to these it must be held that the grant of Rupees 1,00,000 applied.

1. Road from Tripatty Station via Kalastry to the Nellore frontier towards Naidupett.
2. Road from Coopum to Palmanair and thence by Poonganoor to the Cuddapah frontier.
3. Road from Conjeveram by Wandiwash to Tellar.
4. Road from Wandiwash via Chetput to Poloor with branches from Chetput and Poloor to Arnee.

9. The Board will show what has been done in regard to these particular lines, before taking up the numerous other works in progress.

10. The first in the list is the road from Tripatty Station via Kalastry to the Nellore frontier toward Naidupet, formerly regarded as a Trunk line. The estimate for this road is Rupees 69,040. The total expenditure on it has been Rupees 56,573 up to November 1868, and Rupees 14,860 seem to be required for its completion, though the Superintending Engineer speaks also of a supplemental estimate. The expenditure has been—

Rupees 9,000 from "Famine" Grants,
Rupees 31,573 from the Road Fund,
Rupees 16,000 from the Imperial Funds.

11. The second road is the one from Coopum to Palmanair and thence by Poonganoor to the Cuddapah frontier.

12. The estimate for this line as far as Poonganoor is Rupees 97,400. For the portion from Poonganoor to the Cuddapah frontier no estimate has yet been furnished, and the whole portion from Palmanair to the frontier of Cuddapah is now an Imperial line. On the first section, Cooppum to Palmanair, Rupees 9,639 have been expended from "Famine" grants, and Rupees 2,814 from the Road Fund, the aggregate being Rupees 12,483 out of the estimate (for this section) of Rupees 86,000. The sum reported to be still required is Rupees 52,836.

13. On the thirteen miles from Cuddapah to Poonganoor Rupees 5,276* have been spent from "Famine" and Road Funds, and Rupees 7,238 are still required.

	Rs.
* Famine Fund	2,500
Road Fund	2,776
	5,276

14. For the remaining nine miles from Poonganoor to the Frontier, the estimate is being prepared, the columns for expenditure are all blank, but the road is said to be open for traffic.

15. The third road is from Conjeveram by Wandiwash to Tellar. No estimate has yet been submitted. The expenditure has been Rupees 3,500 from Famine Funds and Rupees 65 from the Road Fund. The "formation" of the road is said to be completed, but no further particulars are given. As the road is thirty-eight miles in length, it is not likely that much more than a trace can have been made. The road was specially selected by the Board as enabling grain to reach this part of the district by the Madras Railway and the Tramway to Conjeveram.

16. The fourth road is the line from Wandiwash viâ Chetput to Poloor with branches from Chetput and Poloor to Arnee.

17. The estimate for the first section, Wandiwash to Poloor, is Rupees 26,000.

18. The expenditure has been Rupees 40,952, namely, Rupees 28,415 from the "Famine" and Rupees 12,537 from the Road Fund. To complete the road Rupees 20,983 are required on account of masonry works. The first estimate, it must be presumed, provided only partially for the road.

19. For the first branch, Chetput to Arnee, no estimate has yet been submitted. The expenditure has been (including a Tank bund) Rupees 36,274, namely, Rupees 19,022 from Famine and Rupees 17,252 from Road Fund grants, and Rupees 10,130 are needed for the completion of the road, which is seventeen miles in length.

20. The other branch was from Arnee to Poloor, but the Collector's statement shows only the portion from Arnee to Yettivedu junction, a distance of twelve miles. No estimate has yet been furnished. The total expenditure has been Rupees 23,640, namely, Rupees 23,018 from Famine and Rupees 622 from Road Fund grants, and Rupees 3,570 are required to complete it.

21. Thus it will be seen that on the roads particularised by the Board and approved by Government the total expenditure to November last was Rupees 1,78,763, and that Rupees 1,09,617 are still required to complete those in progress. A considerable portion of this last sum has doubtless since been spent.

	Rs.
Famine grants.....	95,094
Road Fund grants	67,669
Imperial grants	16,000
Total...	1,78,763

22. The special grants against this expenditure may be held to be the Imperial or Public Works allotment of Rupees 16,000, a contribution of Rupees 1,600 made by the Zemindar of Calastry, the two grants of Rupees 50,000 each made by Government on the Board's recommendation, and the Collector's assignment of Rupees 67,669 from the Road Fund. The aggregate of these sums is Rupees 1,85,269; but it must be remarked that the grant from

the Road Fund is excessive. The Board have already shown that the Fund has been involved in debt to the extent of certainly Rupees 20,000, and as the Government have in every instance responded to the applications of the Board and Collector with the utmost liberality, there was no excuse for thus overdrawing on the Fund. The assignments, according to the Board's books, for the roads above specified, aggregate only Rupees 27,100

Assigned from Road Fund			
No. 1...	5,000	.....	31,573
,, 2...	8,500	.....	5,620
,, 3...	3,100	.....	65
,, 4...	10,500	.....	30,411
	27,100		67,669

23. The Board now recommend that the expenditure already incurred on these roads, Rupees 1,78,763, be sanctioned, subject to the usual audit; that roads 1, 2 between Cooppum and Palmanair, and 4 (with its branches) be prosecuted to completion, for which a special grant of Rupees 1,05,000 is necessary; and that the Road Fund be reimbursed two-thirds of the expenditure on No. 1, or in round numbers Rupees 20,000.

24. The roads are all of great importance as the lines by which grain will come into the country. The failure of the north-east monsoon renders Nos. 2 and 4 especially valuable, as it is in the Western and Southern talooks, that the losses of the ryots have been heaviest; No. 4 has very probably been already completed. As to the proposed reimbursement to the Road Fund, the Board have only to remark that if it had not been for the scarcity and the consequent necessity of affording employment to the labouring classes, so large an expenditure would not have been incurred; and that had the Collector only represented the inability of the Fund to bear this expenditure, a special grant for relief would certainly have been made.

25. The heavy charge for maintenance in the North Arcot District leaves only Rupees 15,410 available for new works in 1869-70, and repayment of the debt above mentioned is practically impossible, either in the current or the ensuing year. In future the Collector must bear in mind that the Road Fund is not a Charity Fund, but must be expended with careful regard for the purposes for which it is raised. The Government have throughout declared and proved themselves willing to grant whatever funds may be needed for eleemosynary purposes. It is not the Board's intention hereby to cast any reflection on the District officers, who in the period under review had a great difficulty to cope with.

26. The Board will now take up the other roads undertaken during these years.

27. They are altogether twenty-six in number, as particularised in the enclosed list.

28. The total expenditure on these up to November last was Rupees 1,55,493, derived as follows:—

	Rs.
Famine Fund	99,999
Road Fund	48,494
Imperial Fund...	7,000

Eight have been completed and two others may be stopped. The sum required to complete the remainder is Rupees 1,00,270.

29. The Board recommend that the amount already expended be sanctioned, and that a further grant of Rupees 1,00,000 be now made for the completion of the roads still in progress. The Board consider the continuance of the works essential in the present condition of the district, and in fact they are being pushed on by the Collector under the discretionary authority vested in him by Government, in Government Order, 26th August 1868, No. 2,264.

	Rs.
For roads 1 to 4—	
Expended	95,094
Required	1,09,617
Re-payment	20,000
For roads in Memorandum—	
Expended...	99,999
Required	1,00,270
	4,24,980

* Rupees 96,163, after deducting the re-payment.
† Rupees 23,000.

30. The Board's recommendations thus involve a special grant of Rupees 4,24,980; adding to this the further expenditure from the Road* Fund and Imperial† grants Rupees 1,19,163, the total expenditure will amount to Rupees 5,44,143.

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

No. 102. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department:—

Directing that copies of all orders of Government affecting Hospital expenditure in the Civil Department be, in future, furnished to the Office of Examiner of Accounts, Medical Department.

(Here enter 22nd March 1869, No. 363.)

No. 103. ORDER THEREON, 6th April 1869, No. 917.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
22nd March 1869.

No. 174. Read the following letter from the Examiner of Accounts, Medical Department, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 9th March 1869, No. 2237.

As the charges appertaining to all Civil Hospitals at the Presidency are audited and compiled in this office, I have the honor to request that I may, in future, be furnished with a copy of all orders of Government affecting Hospital expenditure in the Civil Department.

2. I have hitherto made a special application for a copy to the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, on each occasion that an order was necessary to support a fresh charge, but that officer now suggests my making this application for the mutual convenience of both Departments.

No. 175. ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1869, No. 363.
This request will be kept in view.
(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Examiner of Accounts, Medical Department.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Veronne West
Rs. 1000.

Dated the 31st.

RECORDED