M.R.C. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1126 Press Mis.

560-541

Dated 27 th. April 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th April 1869.

No. 540. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1869.

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th April 1869, No. 59:—

In paragraph 8 of my letter of the 16th ultimo, No. 48, published in Board's Proceedings of 22nd idem, No. 1,968, I informed the Board that one of my Assistants was about to proceed on a tour through the southern part of the district to inquire into the condition of the laboring classes and the prospects of the season generally.

2. Mr. Campbell proceeded through Pulladum, the north-eastern part of Oodoomulpettah, the western and southern villages of Dharapoorum, and the south-western portion of the Caroor Talook. A copy of his report is enclosed for the information of the Board.

3. It will be observed that with the exception of the southern part of Caroor, and the south-eastern villages in the Dharapoorum Talook, the season, although unfavorable, cannot be said to have been unusually unpropitious. Many of the laboring population have temporarily emigrated in search of work to other parts of the district, and those that remain, find work on the roads, and in the nunjah villages of the talook. As there is in all years, but little demand for labor at this season, I am not disposed to consider that the present condition of the people is unusually unfavorable, and agree with Mr. Campbell in considering that no present interference in that part of the district is necessary.

4. The condition of the laboring population in parts of the Caroor and Dharapoorum Talooks is more unfavorable, but even in these villages, I do not consider that any special relief works are at present required. I intend, however, to proceed to the Caroor Talook in a few days, and will at once report to the Board, should I see reason to change my present opinion.

5. I have consulted with Captain Gosling, Deputy Conservator of Forests, as to the amount of employment he could give laborers at the timber slip at Kotoor. He is ready to take any number of coolies at piece-work, and I have had his advertisement printed, and copies distributed to the villages in which labor is least in demand. As prices are comparatively low in the Pollachy Talook, there will be no danger in promoting a temporary emigration to that part of the district.

6. There is no doubt that the laboring population must be badly off at this season of the year, and as many may, owing to the distance, be unable or averse to respond to Captain Gosling's offer of labor, I have, with the approval of the Superintending Engineer, (copy of whose letter is enclosed,) the honor to request the sanction of the Board to the following arrangement, which will, I think, suffice to help the laboring poor to tide over the present slack season.

7. We propose to push on as fast as possible the works not requiring skilled labor, which have been sanctioned in the Budget of the current year. The marginal Statement shows the allotments out of the Local Fund Budget for works in the sub-division. The Board will observe that Rupees 19,500 are sanctioned for bridges and Rupees 5,600 for the Somanore Railway feeder. It is out of these sums that we propose to transfer Rupees 14,600 to other works.

	Rs.
Constructing bridges between Aravacoorchy and Madura frontier.	5,000
Do bridge across Ooppar river	5,500
Do. do. across Undama river	4,000
Do do. across Nungarajee river	5,000
	19,500
Do. road from Oodoomulpottah to Tirpoor	15,000
Somanore Railway feeder	5,600
Repair of roads	1,5490
	55,590

8. In addition to its being impossible to proceed with the bridges at once, bridges require skilled more than unskilled labor, and we should not be able therefore to provide sufficient work for the laboring population. As the Somanore Railway feeder was completed last year, we shall not require this year's allotment, which appears to have been entered in the Budget in the Government Office.

9. We propose to expend the sum of Rupees 14,600, which we shall obtain by postponing the marginally noted works, in the maintenance of the roads lately transferred from Imperial to Local Funds. As these roads are not situated in any particular part of the district, while our proposal to expend the above sum on their main-

	Rs
Undama Bridge	4,000
Unganjee Bridge	5,000
Somanore Railway feeder	5,600
	14,600

tenance will not induce a rush of laborers to one place, we shall be able to provide labor for those who are really in want of work. We have been obliged to reduce their former maintenance allowance by one-half, except in the case of the Pothanoor Railway feeder, which, as Colonel Walker observes, requires the former allotment.

10. The Board are aware that these roads were transferred from Imperial to Local Funds after the submission of our Local Fund Budget, and therefore, while the usual allotment for their maintenance was struck out of the Imperial Budget, no provision for their repair was made in that for Local Funds.

11. I am aware that the Board in their Proceedings of the 28th March 1868, No. 2,316, ruled that no transfer of funds from new to repair works could be made, but I am induced to request that they may be pleased to make a special exemption in the present instance, first, on the ground that by so doing employment will be given to the laboring poor at a period of the year when they are greatly in need of it, and secondly, because without such a transfer we shall not be able to keep in repair the roads recently transferred without trenching on our reserve, which would not moreover suffice for the work.

12. I beg to enclose, for easy reference, a Statement showing the items sanctioned for execution by the Department of Public Works in the Local Fund Budget, the works we propose to cancel, and those on which we propose to expend the sums thus obtained. I beg that these proposals may receive the Board's sanction at an early date.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From L. A. CAMPBELL, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Coimbatore, dated 24th March 1869.

I HAVE the honor to report that in accordance with your instructions conveyed in your letter No. 182, dated 15th March, I have made a tour through those parts of the Sub-Collectorate indicated by you.

2 Starting from Pulladum, my halts were as follows:—

Periaputty and Gudimangalum in the Oodoomulpettah Talook, Connapuram, Dharapoorum and Moolanoor in that of Dharapoorum, and Chinna Dharapoorum and Caroor in that of Caroor.

The Tahsildar of each talook went with me through it.

3. To ascertain the state of the laborers, wells, etc., I sent for and conversed with the Monigars and principal ryots of the following villages, namely:—

Kooppampolliem, Poolavadi, Periaputty, Aumandakavu, Komarapolliem, Navanari, Marathoor, Moolaraputty, Koundaputty, Kotamungalum, Sowaraputty, Gudimungalum, Authookanuthaputty, Vadagapolliem. } Oodoomulpettah.

Gannapathy, Poothoor, Poonapooram, Pallakovil, Poonnivady, Nallampolliem Shengarandampolliem, Moolanoor, (40 hamlets) Peddumputty, Kannivadi, Periyamarathoor, Chinnamarathoor ... ... } Dharapoorum.

4. From all, with the exception of the two last, the report was the same. "We are employing this month about one-half the number of laborers we used to do three years ago, and fewer even than we did last year." To take a few instances.

Oodoomulpettah Talook.

Name.	Villages.	Assessment.	No. of laborers.		
			1867.	1868.	1869.
Narrainsawmy Naik	Poolavadi.....	200	20-5	12	4
Karapana Gounden.....	Aumundakadum	150	15	10	4
Genna Naik	Kotamungalum	170	15	12	7
Valappa Naik.....	Gudimangalum	170	15	10	5
	Dharapoorum Talook				
Natchiappa Gounden.....	Ganaputty	240	13	10	5
Davashigamony Gounden	Ponapuram	600	20	20	10
Komara Gounden	Moolanoor.....	350	15	10	6
Karappana Gounden	Peddumputty	150	8	6	3

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th April 1869.

5. Near Periaputty and the north-west of Oodoomulpettah Talook the laborers have gone to the west, to Pollachy and Annamalai, where they are supposed to be picking cotton. Further on, there is work for them on the road and in the Nunjah villages. In the border villages of Dharapooram Talook they were similarly employed; near Moolanoor and in the hamlets and villages on the southern side they have found work in the Madura District, chiefly, I was given to understand, in the Periakolum Talook. In some cases they take their families with them, in others, return occasionally to their villages with their earnings. This, it seems, has been their custom for the last two or three years. In November they will return expecting to get work, in the North East monsoon.

6. I excepted above, the villages of Peria and Chinnamarathoor, Moothugounden and Alagagounden, both paying 500 Rupees assessment, appeared from these villages and reported that they were employing their usual number of laborers and that the people had plenty of food and the wells sufficient water.

7. I visited several villages and hamlets on and about the line of road, and from casual conversation with those who fell in our way, I believe that the statements of the ryots recorded by me are substantially correct.

8. Through all these parts water is very scarce, and the wretched state of the thatch on many of the houses shows what a valuable commodity Cumboo must have been the last two or three years. The wells in and about Periaputty in Oodoomulpettah and Poonapuram, in Dharapoorum, I specially noted as few in number. Some dry and the rest ill-supplied.

9. Nothing, however, that I saw and nothing that I heard led me to believe that in either of these talooks there is present need for relief works.

Caroor Talook.

10. In this talook, Ryots and Monigars from the following villages were examined, namely, Goodaloor, Tennalai, Kodanthoor, Chinna Dharapoorum, Nanjakalacoorchy, Toombivady, Pavithrum Latchmeenarainasamoodrum, Aundamkovil, Velliarai, Vetamungalum, Kodiur, Ooppidimungalum:—

Name.	Village.	Assessment.	NUMBER OF LABORERS.		
			1867.	1868.	1869.
Tirumalakuppa Gounden	Goodaloor	200	15	12	10
Venkatakuppiyan and Kooppiyan.	Chinna Dharapoorum, Tokkuputty, Tirumalai and Goodaloor, Rajapuram, and Nunjakalacoorchy.	500	a few less		...
Palani Gounden	Vellianai.....	150	10	7	3
Komarasawmy Gounden	Vetamungalum	80	7	5	3

11. From this it will be seen, that here also there is less demand than usual for labor among the cultivators. A tone of depression also was noticeable in the information given regarding certain villages, chiefly those in the Aravacoorchy Division. In Kodiar, the poor gain a livelihood by fetching and selling firewood. The competition is so keen, that a bundle usually priced from 2 to 3 annas is now to be bought for 6 Pies. It was even said that some persons in the villages of Kodandoor and Toombivady were asking for Kanjee Venkatakuppiyan and Kooppiyan, who are men of considerable means and from the distribution of their punjah holdings are in a position to give an opinion, told me that the poor were worse off than in any year since 1866-67, when relief was given, and that unless rain comes during the next month, there will be great distress.

12. In other parts, however, it is not so. Those living near nunjah villages can mostly get work. Those towards Koodamoody and near the line of rail obtain constant employment, while those near the Trichinopoly and Madura Districts find work in them.

13. On the breach in the Thadumpolliem tank, I saw some seven hundred coolies at work. The majority were women. Inquiries among the men showed them to be a mixed class. A few, petty landholders, more field laborers, and the rest, regular coolies. The Department of Public Works Maistry said that he had to turn away many applicants, and that the men came for two and a half annas in place of three annas, as in last year.

14. In all three talooks the cry is for rain, give them rain during the next month or two and all will be well. They will re-employ all their old hands, their wells will have water and their cattle that grass, of the want of which, their lean sides give lamentable evidence.

15. I think that the Aravacoorchy Division should receive attention, and that there in Caroor generally, with the contiguous portions of Dharapoorum, it would be well to carry on now any road repairs and other works that may be in contemplation. I do not think any special work required; but I would recommend that the people employed should be paid at short intervals, if possible, daily.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Acting Collector of Coimbatore, dated Coonoor, 31st March 1869, No. 186.

I HAVE the honor to forward a List of roads transferred from the Imperial to the District list, and three Circulars respecting them, which I have addressed to Range Officers, to be circulated, if you approve of the same. They are drawn up with reference to your wishes that employment might be given to the laboring classes as much as possible, which can be thus afforded more readily than on the bridge work which I propose to postpone. You will observe that I have cut down the Maintenance Allowances one-half, or from Rupees 110 to Rupees 55 per mile, except on the Pothanoor Railway Feeder, which requires the double allotment of Rupees 220, (Rupees 3,740 being already provided in the Budget,) and on which an equivalent amount of tolls is collected.

1 Memorandum.
3 Circulars, with memorandum.

2. Funds might be raised for these Maintenance Allowances without cancelling any new works, if sanction were obtained for my proposal to levy tolls at the Bhowany bridge, near Bhowany, the Madura Frontier bridge, near Oodoomulpettah, and the Tiroopoor bridge.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Collector.

Memorandum of roads in Coimbatore District transferred from the Imperial to the District List and of their former and proposed Maintenance Allowances.

Names of Work.	Former.	Proposed.
	RS.	RS.
Oodoomulpettah by Dharapoorum and Chinna Dharapoorum to Caroor	6,600	3,300
Pothanoor Railway station to foot of Coonoor Ghaut	3,740	3,740
Caroor Railway station to foot of Coenoor Ghaut	10,450	5,225
Coimbatore by Pulladum to Konghiem	4,620	2,310
Tirpoor by Pulladum and Periaputty to Oodoomulpettah	4,400	*
Total...	29,810	14,575

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R. E.,
Suptg. Engineer, 7th Division.

COONOOR,
31st March 1869.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Collector.

* Struck out, the same being already provided in the Local Fund Budget.

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th April 1869.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Statement showing the Items in the Local Fund Budget sanctioned for execution by the Department of Public Works, the works which are proposed to be cancelled, and those on which it is proposed to expend the sums thus obtained.

Number in the Budget.	Description of Works.	Amount of grant in the Budget for 1869-70.	Total.	Remarks.
	New Works.	RS.	RS.	
333	Constructing road from Oodoomulpettah to Tiroopoor	15,000	...	
334	Do. Somanore Railway feeder.	5,600	...	Work completed in 1868-69. The Budget provision for 1869-70, to be cancelled.
395	Constructing bridges between Aravacoorchy and Madura Frontier	5,000	...	
396	Constructing bridge across Ooppar near Dharapoorum	5,500	...	
397	Do. bridge across Nungarajee river at Aravacoorchy	5,000	...	To be cancelled.
398	Do. bridge across Undama River at Kunnivady	4,000	...	Do. do.
	Repairs.		40,100	
	Road from Aravacoorchy to Madura Frontier	3,500	...	
	Do. from Coimbatore to the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut	3,740	...	
	Minor Repairs to roads	17,380	24,620	
	Deduct Items to be cancelled...	0	64,720	
334	Somanore Railway Feeder	5,600	...	
397	Nungarajee Bridge	5,000	...	
398	Undama Bridge	4,000	14,600	
			50,120	
	Add roads transferred from the Imperial to the Local Fund List, to be now provided:—			
	Maintenance Allowance for the road from Oodoomulpettah to Caroor by Dharapoorum and Chinna Dharapoorum	3,300	...	Former allowance for this road was Rs. 6,600
	Do. do. from Pothanoor Railway Station to the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut	3,740	...	
	Do. do. from Caroor Railway Station to the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut	5,225	...	Do. do. 10,450
	Do. do. from Coimbatore to Konghiem	2,335	...	Do. do. 4,620
			14,600	
	Total.....	...	64,720	

COIMBATORE,
6th April 1869.

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th April 1869.

FROM the report of the Collector and his Assistant, the Board are satisfied that no Special Relief Works are called for as yet in Coimbatore.

2. The Collector proposes, with the concurrence of the Superintending Engineer, certain transfers of Local Fund to works, which, while necessary on general considerations, are also by their position adapted for affording employment in localities where it is desirable to provide work, but as these proposals involve the transfer of fund from the head of "New Works and Repairs," as particularised hereunder, the Board resolve and request that Government will accord their sanction.

Item No.	From New Works in the Budget of 1869-70.	Allotment.		To repair works transferred from Imperial to Local Fund list.	Allotment.
		RS.			RS.
166	Constructing bridge across Nungarajee river at Aravacoorchy ... ... To be postponed.	5,000	1	Maintenance allowance for the road from Oodoomulpettah to Caroor by Dharapoorum and Chinna Dharapoorum	3,300
167	Do. bridge across Undama river at Kannivady. To be postponed.	4,000	2	Do. do. from Pothanoor Railway station to the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut ...	3,740
168	Road connecting Somanore Railway feeder with the Trichinopoly road ... ... Completed in 1868-69.	5,600	3	Do. do. from Coonoor Railway station to the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut ...	5,225
			4	Do. do. from Coimbatore to Kongiem	2,335
		14,600			14,600

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

No. 541. ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1869, No. 1,126.

Miscellaneous.

UNDER the circumstances reported, the transfer of Rupees 14,600 from "New Works" to "Repairs" in the Local Fund Budget-Estimate of charges for the Coimbatore District, is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

5.

No 1220

8th 1126.

Under the circumstances reported the transfer of Rs 14600 from "New Works" to "Repairs" in the Local Fund budget estimate of charges for the Coimbatore District is sanctioned

27th April 69.

11 Copies to Mad Dep 28
6 " New Zeal "
26 " Ass Deputs