M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1848	Press Mis.
349-50 Dated	23-11-	1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 349. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th November 1870:—

Read Local Fund Budget-Estimates for 1871-72 of the Salem District, dated 8th October 1870.

Read also the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 18th October 1870, No. 110.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received from the Collector of Salem a letter, dated 7th October 1870, No. 131, requesting me to forward to you direct, and duly countersigned, the accompanying papers, viz., Parts I. and II. of the District Road Fund Budget for 1871-72, together with the road map of that district, and with the further request to distinguish on this map the roads completed, those in progress, and those contemplated.

1 Budget Part I.
1 ,, ,, II.
1 Road map.

2. In the Board's Circular Memorandum, No. 6,352, dated 24th August 1869, it is ruled that "Parts I. and II. of the District Road Fund Budget should be carefully prepared in consultation with Superintending Engineers, who should countersign them."

3. But nothing appears further from the intentions of the Revenue Department in the Salem District, than to act up to that order. To consult this department about the propriety of constructing a new road in any part of the district is about the very last thing they would think of doing. They appear to consider that what they recommend must be unquestionably, and beyond all manner of question or doubt the thing.

4. The result is that my counter-signature in regard to its being in any way an index of my approval of the works contemplated is a mere farce. While, if on the other hand I withhold it, I become so to say obstructive.

5. Under these circumstances, I take the conciliatory step of counter-signing as requested Parts I. and II., and filling in, as far as lies in my power, the information required for the plan, and I forward them with the following remarks:—

6.—As regards Part I., the whole of the works in which are to be carried out by the Revenue Department. Who is to trace out these roads? And what kind of road is to be made for the prices stated? To talk of "constructing new roads," at the calculated rates of Rupees 150 or Rupees 200 per mile is rather a stretch of language, for at these rates but little more than a mere track, with its side drains, can be opened out.

B.—Item No. 2.—The direction of this road not being known, it cannot be shown on the plan.

C.—Item No. 6.—The actual length of this road will be nearer ten miles than six as stated.

7. Part II.—*A. Item No.* 16.—The entry of an imperial road in the Local Fund Budget is in opposition to the Board's orders.

B.—Items Nos. 37, 51, *and* 59.—As the sites of these roads are not known, I am not able to show them on the map.

C.—Items Nos. 86 *and* 92.—The lengths of these two town roads are not stated, so it is not clear what mileage rate is taken up.

8. I have, in conclusion, to observe that I have not attempted to show on the map, as requested by the Collector, the lines in progress; and I think that, in the absence of any kind of information on the subject afforded me by that gentleman, under whose orders these works are proceeding, it is a little too much to expect that I should allow the time of this department to be taken up in collecting this information when he might so readily inform himself of the same.

THE Board resolve to submit, for the approval of Government, the District Road Fund Budget, with reference to paragraph 1 of their Order of the 16th March 1869, No. 711.

2. Part I. of the Budget contains seven items, with an aggregate allotment of Rupees 6,650. These are fresh proposals, and estimates for them are promised. The Board have added two new works as per margin. They appeared in Part II. of the current year's Budget, but were struck* out, as they were reported to be improvements to existing cart-tracks. The Board share in the surprize expressed by the Superintending Engineer that new roads can be made at Rupees 150, or Rupees 200 a-mile, and request the Collector to report what sort of roads can be made for this sum. He will also report whether the system of internal communications is so complete as to warrant an expenditure of Rupees 30,000 on avenues, whilst only Rupees 6,650 is proposed for new roads.

Road from Sevapett to join the Omalur road.
Do. from Gogay to join the Trichinopoly road.

* Board's Proceedings, dated 21st October 1870, No. 6,259.

3. Part II. exhibits ninety-three items, with a total assignment of Rupees 93,810. This list has not been arranged with sufficient care. The entries are not in the same order as in the current year's printed general Budget, nor have the Board's instructions in regard to some of them been attended to. The lengths of several of the roads differ from those given in the current year's Budget, and the cause of the differences is not explained. The Board desire the Collector to report on this point.

Suramungalam to Hustampatti, 3 miles.

† *Vide* paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings dated 21st October 1870, No. 6,259.

4. The allotment for Item No. 8 is given as Rupees 1,000, but the Board have reduced† it to Rupees 600. The correct amount has accordingly been inserted.

5. Item No. 16 is a portion of an imperial road, as the Superintending Engineer points out. In paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, dated 16th October 1869, No. 7,718, the Board disallowed the item, and subsequently desired‡ the Collector to arrange with the Superintending Engineer for the maintenance of the road from the allotment for it in the current year's Public Works Budget. The item is, therefore, again disallowed.

Salem and Trichinopoly road allotment, Rupees 900.

‡ *Vide* paragraph 1 of Board's Proceedings dated 6th August 1870, No. 5,196.

6. Item No. 17* is the road from the town of Salem to the Suramungalam railway station. This item was disallowed when reviewing the current year's Budget, as it appeared from the papers recorded in G. O., Revenue Department, dated 3rd September 1867, No. 2,052, that only one and-a-half mile of the road should be maintained from the Road Fund. The Collector, in reply,† stated that the limits of the Salem Municipality had been so curtailed that instead of one and-a-half two and-a-half miles of the road are outside the limits. The Board thereupon sanctioned a grant of Rupees 1,700. The rate per mile is Rupees 680, which is enormous, but the late Collector considered it necessary in consequence of the heavy and constant traffic that is carried along it. As the traffic must be chiefly from the town to the railway station, and as the Municipality levy a toll on the road in question, the Board are of opinion that they should be called upon to keep the road out of their funds, as was ordered‡ in the case of the road from the town of Vellore to the railway station at Katpadi, distance three and-a-quarter miles. The Collector will report the amount of the tolls.

* Length 2½ miles, at 608 Rs. a-mile, Rs. 1,700.

† Paragraph 3 of his letter, dated 17th January 1870, No. 11, recorded in Board's Proceedings dated 6th August 1870, No. 5,196

‡ *Vide* G. O., P. D., dated 11th May 1869, No. 610.
" 18th May 1870, No. 651.
" 8th Aug. " " 988.

7. The maintenance of the road from Oossoor to Adamancotta is divided into three parts, and shown in three§ different places. The Board have shown the three items as one (No. 23) in accordance with the current year's printed Budget.

§ Items 23, 38 and 49.

8. In the case of the sixty-seventh item, the rate per mile in the current year's Budget, viz., Rupees 100 is double That of the seventy-sixth item¶ has also been raised from Rupees 100, to Rupees 150. The necessity for the increased rates should have been explained. The Collector will now supply the omission.

Road from Teertamalai to Kottapatti, 15 miles, at Rupees 200 per mile, Rupees 3,000.
¶ Paramutty and Veyloor road, 4 miles, at Rupees 150 per mile, 600 Rupees.

9. The allotments for petty repairs appearing in four different places have been clubbed together, and shown as one item.

10. In the Abstract of Receipts and Charges a sum of Rupees 1,55,800 is shown as the available assets of the year.

11. An allotment of Rupees 6,000 is proposed for Miscellaneous Public Improvements as follows:—

	RS.
For the purpose of sanitary association in the several taluqs of the district	5,000
For sinking wells and other purposes	1,000
Total...	6,000

similar items appear in Part I. of the current year's Budget; but the mistake of entering them in the Abstract Statement, which was pointed out in reviewing the Collector's lists, is again repeated. The necessary transfers have been made by the Board.

12. There is an allotment of Rupees 30,000 on account of road-side avenues, which is unusually large and unprecedented. No information is given as to whether it is intended for avenues on both local and imperial roads, or how much for the formation, and how much for the maintenance of avenues. The attention of the Collector is drawn to the Board's Circular Proceedings of the 15th Septembe. 1870, No. 5,743, in which is embodied the orders of the Government of India ruling that the outlay on road-side avenues should be charged to the Public Works allotment or Local Funds, according as it is incurred on an imperial or a local road. If any portion of the assignment in question is intended for avenues on imperial roads, it should be excluded. Avenues are a most expensive improvement, and the Board believe it would be better for the Collector to call in the assistance of the Public Works Department, and get new roads made instead of planting trees on old ones. The Collector will revise the proposal with reference to these remarks, and furnish a list showing how the allotment is proposed to be spent. Pending the receipt of this information, the allotment is disallowed.

13. The cost of the revised Petty Establishment, sanctioned* for the general supervision of Road Fund Works, is given as Rupees 3,600, made up as follows:—

* In Board's Procs., 6th Aug. 1870, No. 5,196.

						RS.	RS.
9	Maistries,	at 20 Rupees	each per mensem for one year			2,160	
4	,,	at 15	,,	,,	,, ...	720	
1	Maistry,	at 10	,,	,,	,, ...	120	
						——	3,000
1	Clerk,	at 35 Rupees		,,	,, ...	420	
1	do.	at 15	,,	,,	,, ...	180	
						——	600
					Total...		3,600

Thus the cost of Petty Establishment is only Rupees 3,000. The remainder Rupees 600 is for establishment kept up in the Collector's Office. The necessary alterations have accordingly been made.

14. The total proposed expenditure amounts to Rupees 1,23,030, which, deducted from the available assets of Rupees 1,55,800, leaves an unappropriated balance of Rupees 32,770.

15. With reference to the remarks made by the Acting Superintending Engineer regarding the selection of new roads and the preparation of their surveys and estimates, the Board have only to refer that officer to the G. O., Public Works Department, of the 12th November 1869, No. 3,636, which disposed of a similar reference from Colonel Foord, his predecessor. There is, however, considerable force in his remarks, and the Collector's attention will be called to them.

16. At present the Revenue Department has charge of nearly all the local roads, and the Petty Establishment, sanctioned for their general supervision, which is under the sole control of the Collector, ought to be able to prepare surveys and estimates of roads, and to note them in the District Map without seeking the

assistance of the Public Works Department. The original sanctioned scale of Petty Establishment for the district was as follows:—

			RS.
3	Range Overseers, at 60 Rupees each	... ...	180
6	Maistries, at 20 Rupees each ...	... ...	120
			300×12=3,600

The Overseers, in particular, were intended for the preparation of surveys, plans, and estimates, and for the exercise of general supervision both of works in progress and of accounts. The Maistries now entertained do not seem to possess the necessary qualifications for the purposes above stated, and the result of this is, that very few new works are undertaken for want of plans and estimates, and a large surplus balance is left idle at the close of each year.

17. Under the above circumstances, the Board resolve to direct the Collector, in consultation with the Acting Superintending Engineer, to procure three duly qualified men as Local Fund Overseers, and entertain them from the date they may be available for employment, reporting that he has done so for the information of the Board.

18. Mr. Longley will be requested to give his best attention to the system of local communications, and to submit the long-delayed report on their present state, and on the new roads required as soon as he is sufficiently acquainted with the district.

No. 350. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1870, No. 1,848.

Local Funds, No. 21.
Accounts.

IN order to obviate delay in the preparation of the General Local Fund Budget, the Government sanction the Salem Budget (Road Fund) as passed by the Board, but they think it very desirable that it should be revised by the present Collector.

2. The Government observe that the papers are all signed by the Acting Sub-Collector in charge, and the somewhat unsatisfactory manner in which the Budget has been prepared may probably be attributed to the fact of its having been left incomplete by the late Mr. Pochin and despatched before Mr. Longley's arrival.

3. The whole of the new works proposed appear to be situated in the Sub-Collector's and Head Assistant's divisions, and it is not to be expected that Mr. Price could have made himself acquainted with the requirements of the rest of the district.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd November 1870.

4. The Government do not doubt that the Collector and the Acting Superintending Engineer will work in harmony to promote the most effective administration of the fund.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

No. 1818

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 2 November 1870.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submitting for approval Road Fund Budget of Salem District for 1871-72. } M.S. 19 the November 1870.

In order to obviate delay in the transaction of the General Local Fund Budget, the Lords sanction the Salem Road Fund Budget (Mad. Dist.) as framed by the Board, but they think it very desirable that the Collector should be advised by the Government

The

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 23rd.

Read. *Encl.*

G. O., 23rd November 1870, No. 1,818.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 349-350.

Salem Road Fund Budget-estimates for 1871-72 sanctioned as passed by the Board of Revenue, and orders passed with reference to their revision by the present Collector.

2. The Govt observe that the papers are all signed by the Aff. Sub Collr in charge, & the ~~consequent~~ unsatisfactory manner in which the Budget has been ~~prepared~~ framed ~~drawn~~ probably be attributed to the fact of its having been left incomplete by the late Mr Pochin & despatched before Mr Longley's arrival.

3. The whole of the New Works proposed appear to be situated in the Sub Collectors & Head Assistants divisions, and it is not to be

expected

expected that Mr Price could have made himself acquainted with the requirements of the rest of the District.

4. The Govt do not doubt that the ~~Assistant~~ Collector & the Aff. Supg Engineer will work in harmony to promote the most effective administration of the funds.

I would omit or modify - as it may be held to imply a censure on the late Mr Pochin - Cabt R. is invited On reading. J. D.S

I should think the alteration of the kind - Mr Pochin had probably not taken the matter in hand before his last illness - J.B.

J. D.S

Mr Nippy to be Bd Please write to Govt Dept 25 Copies to Govt Dept 28

21 Dept

Circle