Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st March 1871.

No. 288. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th February 1871, No. 869:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 14th December 1870, No. 417.

I HAVE lately had on my mind the unsatisfactory state of the repairs of the roads undertaken by the Revenue Department, and feeling it was necessary, before any measures could be adopted on the subject, for me to examine personally as many of these roads as possible, I lately made a tour in the Nandikotkur Taluq, and inspected all the roads connected with the canal-crossings.

2. On the 22nd November I inspected the road from Pudur bridge to Bapankotkur (No. 191). I found it overgrown with grass, and here and there patched up with large stones. It had been breached in many places by the rain, and no repairs to the breaches had been made.

3. On the 23rd November I rode with Mr. W. Fraser, Range Officer, from Nandikotkur over the road to Allur. The road was so bad that we could not take our horses out of a walk. The only repairs apparent were a few large stones strewed carelessly about, and a few heaps of gravel on the sides. The road goes to the east of the village of Allur, but the aqueduct to which it should go is several hundred yards on the west of the village. This aqueduct was intended as a canal-crossing, but as it was intended also for the passage of water from a hill-stream and a pathway, or any means for the passage of traffic having been afforded, it is perfectly useless as a crossing, and in its place a second class bridge should be constructed.

4. From Malyala to this Allur road another road joins. Its condition is precisely similar to that of the Allur road.

5. On the 25th November I rode along the road from Nagatur towards Bijinivemula. This road only goes towards the village, and breaks off where it is most wanted to assist traffic over a hill-stream, quite impassable during the rains. The repairs on this road are very badly done.

6. On the 26th November I went over the Morakonda road, which is on the north-west side of a second class bridge made by the Company over the canal. The repairs on it also are very badly executed. This road leads really no where.

7. On the 27th I inspected the road from the Muchumarry culvert to the village. This road is perfectly useless, and the repairs to it bad. The culvert is inaccessible, a human being cannot pass through it; it is very low, and in it there is loose mud, several feet in depth. The canal here cuts off about 3,000 acres of the cultivated land of the village from the village-site, and were it not for the breaches which have taken place every year, the ryots would not have been able to cultivate this land, because they would have no means of crossing the canal to get to it. The Company should be compelled to construct here a second class bridge for traffic of all kinds.

8. On the 28th I saw the road from the culvert at Pagadala, which runs towards Sunkarnenipalli. The road has its commencement about six feet abruptly above the way, from the flooring of the culvert, and in its present state is perfectly useless, and the expenditure of money for its repairs a mere waste.

9. On the 1st December I inspected a bit of road made parallel to the canal at Kambalapally. At one time it was intended to have had a crossing here, but as there is one at Pamlapad, and another at Yerragudur, the project was abandoned. The maintenance of this bit of road from nowhere to nowhere is perfectly useless.

10. On the 2nd December I saw the road from Tarigopalla to Paramunchala (No. 192). It has been entirely washed away in a great many places, and has been so badly laid out that it will be necessary to make an entirely new road. Repairs on the remaining portion now are useless.

11. The road No. 194 from Imperial Road XVII. to Kalwa, I inspected on the 6th and 7th December 1870. Generally this road is in good order, but has been cut through by the rain in some two or three places. One part of it near Kalwa has been so badly laid out over a hill that the traffic has deserted a long stretch of the road, and made a way for itself.

12. The state of the road connecting Nandial with the Imperial road is described to me by Mr. Gribble as wretched, and when I last saw it, it appeared to me that those who repaired it, were thoroughly ignorant of doing anything further than throwing on it stones and gravel.

13. Roads Nos. 185, 189, and 190, are maintained by the Revenue Department, but their condition is most unsatisfactory, and Mr. Fraser reported their unsatisfactory condition to the Superintending Engineer. I saw these roads in July and August, and can testify to the correctness of his report. The Deputy-Collector in whose division they are, does his best to keep them in order, but is at present most anxious to be relieved from a charge which he does not understand.

14. The Ramalkota road (No. 188) is not well maintained; when I saw it in July, it was overgrown in places with jungle-plants, and covered with large stones.

15. My desire is that the Revenue Department should be entirely relieved of the charge of maintaining any roads at all. The department does not understand the work, and has certainly not sufficient time to pay enough attention to it.

Year after year I have entered in my Budget certain amounts to be expended by the Revenue Department, quite in opposition to the views of the Superintending Engineer, because Government and the Secretary of State appeared anxious that the Revenue Department should do as much of the Local Fund road maintenance as possible, but I have never considered the arrangement an advantageous one. And in my replies to queries from the Public Works Commission, I expressed an opinion that all works and their maintenance should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works alone.

I have done my best, and all the officers under me have done their best to carry out the wishes of Government, but I regret to say, the result is a complete failure.

I have therefore the honour to request that, during the future years, all the maintenance grants in the Budgets allowed to the Revenue Department may be transferred to the Public Works Department.

16. I find also that in the Budget for 1870-71 the maintenance of roads is only undertaken by the Revenue Department in Ganjam, Kurnool, Madura, Coimbatore, Salem, Canara, and Malabar, and in all the other districts it is carried out by the Department of Public Works.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st March 1871.

17. The Department of Public Works should be left to its discretion regarding the roads to the canal-crossings, for some have been made where they are not required, and others have been badly laid out, and will require re-construction.

18. I have also the honour to request the Board to bring to the special notice of Government the very great need there is at Allur (paragraph 3) and Muchumarry (paragraph 7) for second class bridge as a crossing for traffic of all kinds on account of each of those villages.

It is quite clear from this letter that the Revenue Department in Kurnool has not succeeded in superintending the repairs of roads, but it is not equally clear that they have done their *best*. There is nothing peculiar in the circumstances of Kurnool to prevent its Revenue-officers from performing this very simple portion of their duties.

2. As matters stand the Board have no alternative but to direct the transfer of all the Kurnool maintenance grants to the Public Works Department. The amount entered in the Budget of 1871-72 as administered by the Revenue Department is Rs. 5,570, and the Accountant-General will be requested to add this sum to the Public Works allotment.

3. The Board will await the advice of the Superintending Engineer before cancelling any of the grants or modifying them.

4. The subject of canal-crossings is a separate one, and if the Collector has anything to add to what he has already said about it, he should report separately.

5. These proceedings will be submitted to Government.

No. 289. ORDER THEREON, 21st March 1871, No. 501.

Local Funds, No. 5.
Account.

COMMUNICATED to the Department of Public Works.

2. The Government regret to receive so unsatisfactory a report, and concur in opinion with the Board that there is nothing in the circumstances of Kurnool to excuse exceptional failure to employ Local Funds usefully, if the officers immediately concerned take a real and intelligent interest in the work. The Government would, however, be glad of some assurance that the state of things described by Mr. Chase *is* really exceptional, and they desire that the Board of Revenue will call on all Collectors, in whose districts local road maintenance allowances are laid out by the Revenue-officers, to report how the system works, and whether the actual results are such as to render its continuance, or the transfer of the work to the Public Works Department, the preferable arrangement.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Copied
18/11/11

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Revenue Department

No. 501

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 21st March 187

Read the following ~~letter~~ Report of the Board of Revenue

Directing transfer to D.P.W. maintenance fronts of Local Fund Roads in Tinnevelly in favor of Rev. Department

} M.G. 27 Feb. 1871 & 869

Communicated to the Department Public Works

2. The Govt regret to receive so unsatisfactory a report, and concur in opinion with the Board that there is nothing in the circumstances of Tinnevelly to excuse exceptional failure to employ Local Funds usefully, if the Officers

officer immediately
concerned take a real
and intelligent interest
in the work. We feel
would however be glad
of some assurance that
the state of things de-
scribed by Mr. Blase
is really exceptional,
and they desire that
Board of Revenue
call on all Collectors
in whose district Local
Road maintenance
allowances are laid
out by the Revenue officer
to report how the system
works, and whether
the actual results are
such as to render it con-
tinuance or the transfer
of the work to the P.W.D.
the preferable arrangement.

L.D.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st March 1871.

No. 290. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 20th February 1871, No. 2,642 ;—

I HAVE the honour to forward the documents as per margin, relating to the planting up of padukay lands on the banks of the Cauvery and other planting operations for the supply of railway fuel in the Trichinopoly and Tanjore Districts.

1 Progress Report from Lieutenant Walker, No. 602-13, dated 10th February 1871.
1 Statement showing the padukay lands in the Trichinopoly and Kalatalai Taluqs.
1 Copy of letter, No. 847, dated 23rd December 1870, from Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, Tanjore, to Lieutenant Walker.
1 Copy, No. 29, dated 11th January 1871, from the Acting Collector of Tanjore to Lieutenant Walker.
1 Copy, No. 15, dated 28th January 1871, from Acting Collector of Trichinopoly to Lieutenant Walker.
1 Copy, No. 598-9, (R) of February 1871, (without date) from Lieutenant Walker to Collector of Trichinopoly.
1 Letter, No. 600, dated 10th February 1871, from Lieutenant Walker to the Conservator of Forests.
1 Map from Negapatam to Caroor.

2. By Lieutenant Walker's report it will be seen that about 1,100 acres of padukay land are available on the banks of the Cauvery in the Trichinopoly and Kalatalai Taluqs, and that both the Superintending Engineer and the Range Officer are strongly in favour of planting up these tracts. The soil is favourable, and the sites are close to the line; and there is every prospect of our being able to form plantations that will be a success.

3. Of the area in question, about 370 acres are in the Trichinopoly Taluq, close to the railway station of Elambanore, nine miles from Trichinopoly, and the whole is Government waste; the rest of the acreage is in the Kalatalai Taluq, 616 acres of which are Government waste, with 133 acres of puttah land intervening, which latter it will be necessary to purchase; but the compensation will be moderate, as the land is all waste; I request, therefore, the sanction of Government for at once taking up the whole of these 1,100 acres, with a view to the tracts being fenced in, and prepared for the planting season.

4. In addition to these 1,100 acres, there are 264 acres of joint puttah padukay land which Lieutenant Walker thinks may be planted to advantage. I request sanction for the Collector to purchase up this tract also, if he finds he can do so at a moderate rate.

5. There is more land of the same nature available on the north bank of the Cauvery and on the north and south banks of the Coleroon; but as this has not as yet been properly inspected, it will form the subject of a future report.

6. Close to the station of Trichinopoly there is a tank and tank-spread, known as the Yeddamallay Putti tank. The Madura line is to cut right through this, and the irrigation will be destroyed. Lieutenant Walker and the late Collector both agreed in thinking it a favourable site for a plantation, and I visited the spot myself. Deducting the ground that will be required by the railway, there will be a balance of about 200 acres, of which fifty belong to Government, and the remaining 150 can be purchased at a moderate compensation. I request sanction for taking up this tract, if the Collector can arrange it on favourable terms. There is already a small Local Fund nursery on the spot which the Collector has promised to hand over.