

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd May 1871.*

No. 285. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th April 1871, No. 1,726 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Repalli, 21st March 1871, No. 912.

I RECENTLY had occasion to refer to the Superintending Engineer certain letters which had passed between the Executive Engineer, 1st Range, and myself, with arziys and letters from the Tahsildar of Repalli and the Taluq Overseer, in regard to an estimate, amounting to Rs. 23-10-0, for repairing the embankment of the Ravi Anantavaram channel in Repalli Taluq.

2. The villagers decline to execute the repairs, as they do not benefit by the channel. The Taluq Overseer is of opinion that they should be compelled to execute the repairs, as they use the road across the channel-embankment, and thereby wear it down. The Range Officer gave a carefully guarded opinion that "the path referred to is not purely a *public* one." The Tahsildar reports that this is the ordinarily resorted to road from Repalli to Avinigedda, and is much used for general traffic as well as by the villagers of Ravi Anantavaram.

3. In writing to the Superintending Engineer I expressed my opinion that all such repairs should be executed out of Local Funds, and should not be imposed on the inhabitants of villages through which a road passes, and I requested that he would be good enough to issue instructions accordingly in the matter.

4. Colonel F. J. Moberly, in a letter, dated 7th March 1871, No. 353, simply replies that the subject of the maintenance of crossing of channel-banks, etc., is, on my reference in the case of Chandole, under the consideration of Government, and remarks that though in the Kistna District, owing to the great demand for labour on Imperial works, the Local Funds have accumulated largely, and we have the means of meeting their demands by villagers to be relieved of their petty charges, yet he presumes that if it be allowed in one district, it can scarcely be refused in another. He thinks it advisable, therefore, to defer any act which may afford a precedent until the Government settle the principle on which the local officer should allow or refuse any claim.

5. The question in regard to the Chandole road was raised in my letter to the Board, dated 13th April 1870, No. 1,788, embodied in the Board's Proceedings, dated 6th August 1870, No. 5,202, on which Government passed Order, dated 13th September 1870, No. 1,452. The question is an important one. It rests with the Collector, I believe, to define in each district what is customary labour, and though it may be held incumbent on residents in a village to keep in repair, the spot where a channel-embankment is crossed by a purely local path used only by the villagers, I cannot suppose that they are to be held responsible in the same manner where a public road which has considerable traffic passes through the limits of that village. It might be argued as a sequence that villagers are likewise responsible for all petty repairs to any road passing through their village, and so in time the up-keep of district roads to a considerable extent might be shifted to the demands of customary labour. The Board of Revenue have recently suggested the execution of village roads by allotments from the District Road Fund. Where there are ample funds provided by the local cess, I think it is most inexpedient

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and undesirable to stretch the requirements of customary labour for the maintenance of any line of road which is used for general traffic.

As the Superintending Engineer states that the general question is before Government, this letter will be submitted for their orders. In the particular case which Mr. Boswell refers to, the Board think the expenditure should be borne by the Road Fund.

No. 286.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd May 1871, No. 898.

Local Funds, No. 9.

Civil Works.

The Government approve the Board's proposal that in the case under notice the expenditure connected with repairing the embankment should be borne by the Road Fund.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the *22 May*, 1871.

Read the following *Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.*

*Submitting for orders letter from
Collector, passing remarks regarding pro-
posed repairs to Embankment of Ravi
Anantavaram channel, with opinion
that repairs should be executed from
Road Fund.*

(G. O. 25 April 1871 No. 1726.)

*The Government approve
the Board's proposal that in the
case under notice the expenditure
connected with repairing the embank-
ment should be borne by the
Road Fund.*

J. H.

*14 To the Board of Revenue
24 To the Public Works Department
6 To the Accountant-General*

S. M. B.

Ms. 283-286

8/16 2/113

1871
Ym. In upriver of
Sunkhewahut Creek
Chautauque and Chautauque
and in Ketchikan Dist.

Chautauque

18 May 11 Riq