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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	9	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2-7-1874	196 .

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
17th June 1874.*

No. 138. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1874, No. 1362:—

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Red Hills, 24th April 1874, No. 172:—

As directed in Board's Miscellaneous No. 1584, of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to offer my remarks on G. O., Public Works Department, No. 451, dated the 23rd February last, publishing Colonel Moberly's letter, No. 2380, of the 26th January 1874, though I have little to add beyond what the Board are already well aware of.

2. The various works under "Petty Construction and Repairs," among which the item "Clearance of Salt-channels" frequently occurs, had, under the Rules, to be executed by the Revenue Department; but the work always had to be measured and certified to by the Department of Public Works before payments were made, which led, as stated by Colonel Moberly, to a good deal of direct correspondence between the Collector and the Range Officer, which did not pass through the Superintending Engineer's office, as, strictly speaking, should have been done: the case of these salt works, however, is peculiar.

3. This arrangement, moreover, did not work satisfactorily, and several references were made to the Board in Mr. Blair's time regarding payment for works for which the Canal Officers declined to certify. After some consultation between Mr. Harington and myself an arrangement was come to which had the Board's approval (*vide* Proceedings, No. 3694, dated 28th August 1871). A skilled Overseer, nominated by the Range Officer but paid out of funds from "Petty Construction and Repairs," was appointed and prepared the estimates, supervising their execution, completion certificates being granted by the Range Officer, as usual, for all works up to date of Board's order. *500 only.* After the entertainment of this Overseer things worked smoothly.

4. As regards paragraph 3 of the District Engineer's letter, I have the honour to observe that the branch channel at Tiruporur is *not* a salt canal; but, even if it were, I do not see the force of his remark when saying "that the Revenue Department throw on us the difficult and disagreeable task of the salt canals (among which I think this line to Tiruporur is to be classed), and take up the road from Chingleput to Surappan's Choultry, which was clearly under this department," for the transfer of the road from Chingleput to Surappan's Choultry was made by the collective vote of the Chingleput Circle Board whereas the salt channels are entirely under the Collector, and the arrangement now subsisting was brought about by the latter and the Range Officer acting in concert.

5. The work of extending the Eastern Coast Canal to Tiruporur is not affected by G. O., No. 336, dated 12th March 1874, and can be executed by the Range Officer as the source of expenditure is not "Petty Construction and Repairs" but Canal funds, though I regret to have to add that the large allotments contemplated from the former for deepening the Northern Canal must, under existing orders, be executed by the Revenue Department, and I shall address the Board separately on the subject in view to the Government of India being requested to modify their ruling as it seems to me manifestly inadvisable and could never have been contemplated that works of such magnitude should be without responsible and skilled supervising agency.

Submitted to Government with reference to G. O., dated 2nd March 1874, Financial Department.

2. The Board concur in the Collector's remarks.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
17th June 1874.*

No. 139.

ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1874, No. 1015.

Communicated to the Public Works Department.

2. The Government will await the receipt of the further letter which the Collector of Chingleput promises to address the Board of Revenue on the subject adverted to.

(True Extract.)

W. M. Campbell
Acting Chief Secretary.

of the Public Works Department.

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*No. 2131
Revenue Department
Colt. of 1874
Madras.*

FINANCIAL.

To
THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated June, 17th.
Recd. 25 June 1874. Encl.

G. O., 17th June 1874, No. 1015.

JUNE
Nos. 138-139.

Secy. Secy.

to the Collector of Chingleput in regard to the order of government that the clearing and deepening of the canal should be carried out by agency other than the Public Works Department, communicated to that department; and the further letter which the Collector proposes to address the Board of Revenue on the subject of the execution of salt works, awaited.

*W. G.
25 June 1874*