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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue.....DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	267.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19-2-1875	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/207

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th February 1875.*

No. 232. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd January 1875, No. 132:—

Read the following letters:—

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 25th November 1873, No. 550.

In reply to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 20th September last, No. 1,890, forwarding the Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, dated the 19th August last, No. 2,058, and their order thereon in the Revenue Department, dated the 23rd idem, No. 154, I have the honor to report that the whole expenditure—receipts being *nil*—on these branch channels, is connected with the Salt Department, they are used for the double purpose of communication between the salt-pans and the main canal, and for irrigating the pans themselves. The expenditure on these branch channels cannot be looked upon as being on works of permanent utility, but on pure maintenance, indeed, construction would be a more appropriate term, for after a heavy monsoon, they almost require to be re-excavated. Any one who knows the swampy nature of the low-lying salt tracts, through which these branch channels run, will not be surprised at this. On this point, I beg to refer to paragraph 4 of an explanation, called from the Salt Deputy, No. 782, dated the 12th instant, copy of which is enclosed.

2. I will now, with the permission of the Board, offer a few remarks on Mr. Grose's letter, No. 1,044, published in the Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, quoted above, which might lead to mis-conception, and seems to have been written without thoroughly apprehending the subject.

3. As regards paragraphs 1 and 2, I must observe that the cases of the main canal and the branch channels are not at all analogous, for the reasons above stated. Be the rates what they may, however, on these branch channels, they had the approval of the District Engineer, or Superintending Engineer, who himself countersigned the estimates after they had been checked by the Range Officer in charge of the canal, and the latter, further, prepared all estimates which amounted to more than 500 Rupees. Of this fact, however, the District Engineer, though expressing his surprise at the expenditure, seems to be aware.

4. As regards paragraphs 3 and 4, I need only draw attention to the correspondence noted in the margin, to remind the Board of the circumstances under which the Overseer in question was appointed, and the difficulties then existing which have since ceased almost altogether. This Overseer, though nominally under the Collector, is really under the Range Officer, and it is for this reason that the latter officer has been consulted before making such appointment, and this brings me to paragraph 5. The Maistry, I am spoken of as having "drawn away" from the Department Public Works to the Revenue Department, was working under Mr. Harington, then in charge of the canal, who particularly recommended him to me as admirably fitted for the post, and suggested his appointment as Overseer.

5. I may mention here, that I am making arrangements to invite tenders, publicly, for the execution of works under Petty Construction and Repairs, in

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th February 1875.*

1874-75, by a notification in the *District Gazette*. Such tenders will be called for, after the estimates have been duly prepared, in the usual way, and the lowest, if below the estimate, can then be accepted, provided the tenderer is known to be solvent; and in selecting from tenders, due consideration will be given to the instructions contained in Board's Proceedings, dated 17th September 1873, No. 1,859.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From D. V. NARASINGA ROW, Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Madras, 12th November 1873, No. 782.

With reference to your docket of the 6th ultimo, No. 1,999, and paragraphs 1 and 2 of Colonel Moberly's letter of the 23rd July last, recorded in G. O. (herewith returned) of the 19th August 1873, No. 2,058, I have the honor to state, that the branch channel in this district extends to a distance of more than forty miles. These channels have been excavated for a double purpose, viz., to convey the salt scraped in each salt manufacturing pan from the divisions to the Madras Kotaur, and to irrigate the pans for production of salt. The annual revenue amounts to about 21,84,506 Rupees on an average.

2. In the Board's Circular Order No. VII. of 1872, I am not empowered to prepare estimates or to examine the correct execution of works above 500 Rupees. I am to point out the requirements of the department, and the works are estimated by the Executive Officers of the Department Public Works, costing more than Rupees 500 each. The estimates so prepared when sanctioned are forwarded to this office. This department has to carry out the works in accordance with the estimates, and the necessary bills, together with the measurements taken by the Overseer of the works, are forwarded to the Range Officer for the estimation of the work, and countersigned by him. Of course, payments are made by this office when bills are passed. I believe that it is unnecessary to offer remarks as to the amount of responsibility imposed upon me in the preparation of estimates, and I cannot, under the circumstances, make any alteration in the estimates framed by the professional officers.

3. The budget estimate, under Petty Construction and Repairs, has to be submitted to the Board in consultation with the officers of the Department Public Works, in reference to the Board's Standing Order No. 207. Since I joined this district, I have submitted the above estimates to the Range Officers twice, and my estimated amount was raised on the two occasions.

4. The branch channels are generally higher than the main canal. During the monsoon the channels in question are more silted than the main canal, in consequence of the rain water from the surrounding villages on the west and east, as well as the surplus water from the Cortelliaur branches, the Ponnery River, and water-courses flow through our branch channels into the main canal, consequently they are cleared annually as in other districts.

5. In paragraph 2 of his letter, Colonel Moberly alludes to the high rate allowed for salt channel clearances, and the supervision. I respectfully venture to point out that the estimates for these channels are prepared, as noted above, by the Executive Officers and countersigned by the District Engineer, Colonel Moberly, who now complains of the high rate (has countersigned all the estimates for clearing the salt channels (one, to be returned, of them is sent for your perusal). If he considered the rate high, a reduction could be made when the estimates passed through his department. As the duties of preparing estimates and finally passing the bills for payment do not devolve upon me, but are entrusted to the Department Public Works by whom the complaints have now been made, I suppose an explanation for having allowed high rate should be called for from the officers of the Department Public Works.

6. I am to add further, that I have been in charge of this department for the last fifteen months, and that the works of one year only have been carried out under my supervision.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Acting Collector.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th February 1875.*

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 31st March 1874, No. 121.

In reply to the Board's official memorandum, No. 1,926, dated 12th December 1873, I have the honor to forward a statement, showing the extent to which works under Rupees 500 were estimated for, and executed during the current year by the Revenue Department.

2. The full amounts will be expended within the official year, and are therefore so entered.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., dated 23rd August 1873, No. 154, Revenue Department.

2. Mr. Barlow explains that the case of the salt branch-channels is not analogous to that of the main canal, and the rates of maintenance allowed to the latter cannot be compared with the cost of the upkeep of the former. These channels run through low-lying swampy salt tracts, and, after a heavy monsoon, they require to be excavated almost anew. It must also be remarked that branch channels are all narrow and liable to be silted up sooner than the main canal. Whatever be the nature of the work, the Revenue Department does not appear to be solely responsible for the heavy cost adverted to by Colonel Moberly. The works for upwards of half the channel clearings in 1872-73, as well as in the previous years, were made by the Executive Engineer. The works were finally examined and completion certificates granted by the Executive Engineer.

3. Mr. Barlow has this year advertised, inviting tenders for executing salt works, and he will be requested to report the result.

4. The Overseer referred to by Colonel Moberly is paid from the estimates of the works, provision being made for superintendence at 5 per cent. of the cost. The circumstances under which he was employed are detailed in the Board's Proceedings, dated 28th August 1871, No. 3,694.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 233. ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1875, No. 267.

Miscellaneous.

THE explanation afforded by the
Collector is satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. W. H. French.

No. 132.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd, January 1875.

Read the following letters:—

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 25th November 1873, No. 550.

In reply to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 20th September last, No. 1,536, forwarding the Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, dated the 19th August last, No. 2,058, and their order thereon in the Revenue Department, dated the 23rd idem, No. 154, I have the honor to report that the whole expenditure—receipts being *nil*—on these branch channels, is connected with the Salt Department, they are used for the double purpose of communication between the salt-pans and the main canal, and for irrigating the pans themselves. The expenditure on these branch channels cannot be looked upon as being on works of permanent utility, but on pure maintenance, indeed, construction would be a more appropriate term, for after a heavy monsoon, they almost require to be re-excavated. Any one who knows the swampy nature of the low-lying salt tracts, through which these branch channels run, will not be surprised at this. On this point, I beg to refer to paragraph 4 of an explanation, called from the Salt Deputy, No. 782, dated the 12th instant, copy of which is enclosed.

2. I will now, with the permission of the Board, offer a few remarks on Colonel Moberly's letter, No. 1,044, published in the Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, quoted above, which might lead to mis-conception, and seems to have been written without thoroughly apprehending the subject.

3. As regards paragraphs 1 and 2, I must observe that the cases of the main canal and the branch channels are not at all analogous, for the reasons above stated. Be the rates what they may, however, on these branch channels, they had the approval of the District Engineer, or Superintending Engineer, who himself countersigned the estimates after they had been checked by the Range Officer in charge of the canal, and the latter, further, prepared all estimates which amounted to more than 500 Rupees. Of this fact, however, the District Engineer, though expressing his surprise at the expenditure, seems to be aware.

4. As regards paragraphs 3 and 4, I need only draw attention to the correspondence noted in the margin, to remind the Board of the circumstances under which the Overseer in question was appointed, and the difficulties then existing which have since ceased almost altogether. This Overseer, though nominally under the Collector, is really under the Range Officer, and it is for this reason that the latter officer has been consulted before making such appointment, and this brings me to paragraph 5. The Mais-try, I am spoken of as having "drawn away" from the Department Public Works to the Revenue Department, was working under Mr. Harrington, then in charge of the canal, who particularly recommended him to me as admirably fitted for the post, and suggested his appointment as Overseer.

Colt. of 1875: 211007
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February 1975

G. O. 1346, February 1875, No. 267.

REPUBLICAN
Nov 21/22/23.

General Remarks of Post Office Canal in Chingleput District.—Considering the explanation given by the Collector regarding the expenditure in connection with the — satisfaction.

5. I may mention here, that I am making arrangements to invite tenders, publicly, for the execution of works under Petty Construction and Repairs, in 1874-75, by a notification in the *District Gazette*. Such tenders will be called for, after the estimates have been duly prepared, in the usual way, and the lowest, if below the estimate, can then be accepted, provided the tenderer is known to be solvent; and in selecting from tenders, due consideration will be given to the instructions contained in Board's Proceedings, dated 17th September 1873, No. 1,859.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From D. V. NARASINGA ROW, Deputy-Collector in charge of Salt, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Madras, 12th November 1873, No. 782.

With reference to your docket of the 6th ultimo, No. 1,293, and paragraphs 1 and 2 of Colonel Moberly's letter of the 23rd July last, recorded in G. O. (herewith returned) of the 19th August 1873, No. 2,058, I have the honor to state, that the branch channel in this district extends to a distance of more than forty miles. These channels have been excavated for a double purpose, viz., to convey the salt scraped in each salt manufacturing pan from the divisions to the Madras Kotaur, and to irrigate the pans for production of salt. The annual revenue amounts to about 21,84,506 Rupees on an average.

2. In the Board's Circular Order No. VII. of 1872, I am not empowered to prepare estimates or to examine the correct execution of works above 500 Rupees. I am to point out the requirements of the department, and the works are estimated by the Executive Officers of the Department Public Works, costing more than Rupees 500 each. The estimates so prepared when sanctioned are forwarded to this office. This department has to carry out the works in accordance with the estimates, and the necessary bills, together with the measurements taken by the Overseer of this department, are forwarded to the Executive Range Officer for the estimation of the works and countersignatures to the bills. Of course, payments are made by this office when bills are passed. I believe that it is unnecessary to offer remarks as to the amount of responsibility imposed upon me in the preparation of estimates, and I cannot, under the circumstances, make any alteration in the estimates framed by the professional officers.

3. The budget estimate, under Petty Construction and Repairs, has to be submitted to the Board in consultation with the officers of the Department Public Works, in reference to the Board's Standing Order No. 207. Since I joined this district, I have submitted the above estimates to the Range Officers twice, and my estimated amount was raised on the two occasions.

4. The branch channels are generally higher than the main canal. During the monsoon, the channels in question are more silted than the main canal, in consequence of the rain water from the surrounding villages on the west and east, as well as the surplus water from the Cortelliaur branches, the Ponnery River, and water-courses flow through our branch channels into the main canal, consequently they are cleared annually as in other districts.

5. In paragraph 2 of his letter, Colonel Moberly alludes to the high rate allowed for salt channel clearances, and the supervision. I respectfully venture to point out that the estimates for these channels are prepared, as noted above, by the Executive Officers and countersigned by the District Engineer. Colonel Moberly, who now complains of the high rate, has countersigned all the estimates for clearing the salt channels (one, to be returned, of them is sent for your perusal). If he considered the rate high, a reduction could be made when the estimates passed through his department. As the duties of preparing estimates and finally passing the bills for payment do not devolve upon me, but are entrusted to the Department Public Works by whom the complaints have now been made, I suppose an explanation for having allowed high rate should be called for from the officers of the Department Public Works.

6. I am to add further, that I have been in charge of this department for the last fifteen months, and that the works of one year only have been carried out under my supervision.
(True Copy.)

Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Acting Collector.

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 31st March 1874, No. 121.

In reply to the Board's official memorandum, No. 1,926, dated 12th December 1873, I have the honor to forward a statement, showing the extent to which works under Rupees 500 were estimated for, and executed during the current year by the Revenue Department.

2. The full amounts will be expended within the official year, and are therefore so entered.

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SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., dated 23rd August 1873, No. 154, Revenue Department.

2. Mr. Barlow explains that the case of the salt branch-channels is not analogous to that of the main canal, and the rates of maintenance allowed to the latter cannot be compared with the cost of the upkeep of the former. These channels run through low-lying swampy salt tracts, and, after a heavy monsoon, they require to be excavated almost anew. It must also be remarked that branch channels are all narrow and liable to be silted up sooner than the main canal. Whatever be the nature of the work, the Revenue Department does not appear to be solely responsible for the heavy cost adverted to by Colonel Moberly. The estimates for upwards of half the channel clearings in 1872-73, as well as in the previous years, were made by the Executive Engineer. The works were finally examined and completion certificates granted by the Executive Engineer.

3. Mr. Barlow has this year advertised, inviting tenders for executing salt works, and he will be requested to report the result.

4. The Overseer referred to by Colonel Moberly is paid from the estimates of the works, provision being made for superintendence at 5 per cent. of the cost. The circumstances under which he was employed are detailed in the Board's Proceedings, dated 28th August 1871, No. 3,694.

(True Copies and Extract.)

H. P. S. S. S.
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with one original statement, and Board's Proceedings,
dated 28th August 1871, No. 3,694.
To the Collector of Chingleput.

Ed. W. H. French.

No. 3694.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 28th August 1871.

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapat, 17th August 1871, No. 382:—

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the consideration and orders of the Board, copy of a letter from the Deputy-Collector in charge of the Salt Department, applying for the services of an Overseer on 60 Rupees, per mensem, to assist in carrying out the works of Petty Construction and Repair, entrusted to him for execution, and to state that, under the circumstances explained, the arrangement proposed seems highly desirable.

2. The Board are aware, that under the recent orders of the Government of India, all works which are included in the Civil Budget, are required to be undertaken by the Revenue Department, the Public Works Officers only giving such advice and aid as may be required of them, and making the final valuation when the work is completed.

3. The works under "Petty Construction and Repair" in this district, besides involving a large outlay, are spread over the various Salt Stations; and it frequently happens that they require professional skill in their execution, but being carried out by the Revenue Department, the Deputy-Collector is obliged to give them on contract to unprofessional men, and trust mainly to his Superintendents, who are also not skilled Engineers, for their proper execution, as he cannot inspect them all himself while in progress.

Under these circumstances, I am convinced that the works are not as efficiently executed as they should be, or as would be the case, under professional supervision. I also beg to draw the attention of the Board to the Deputy-Collector's remarks at paragraph 2 of his letter, and to state that the present arrangement does not work well in my opinion.

Overseer's services, will be required for only six months or so in the year; a department for this period, as proposed by the Deputy-Collector. Provision can be made in the estimates, and this a percentage for supervision in the estimates, and this arrangement promises to arrange for the cost being met from the amounts already sanctioned.

6. Even should it be found necessary to engage the services of an Overseer for the whole year, I would still strongly recommend the appointment, as being an arrangement which I am satisfied will be found in the long run really economical.

7. As the working season has far advanced, I solicit the favour of early sanction.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From P. CHENTSAL ROW, Deputy-Collector in charge of Salt, to the Acting Collector of Chingleput, dated Madras, 4th August 1871, No. 432:—

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your approval, a proposal for efficiently carrying out in the Revenue Department the execution of salt works entered under "Petty Construction and Repairs" regarding which there has been of late so much complaint from the Engineer's Department.

2. As present the Deputy-Collector simply selects the contractor and insists on his completing the work within a specified time. Beyond this, he does not do anything to see that the work is properly executed, nor is it indeed possible for him to do so without extra establishment. The Contractors are not, as a rule, professional men, and the Engineers do not inspect the works till after the work has been completed and the Contractor's Bills submitted to them. The consequence is very unpleasant. The Contractor's Bills nominally countersigned by the Deputy-Collector, and the final valuations of the works, as made by the Engineer, widely differ.

3. To avoid all such differences in future, and to secure efficient execution of the works, I propose to appoint one professional Overseer, or more if necessary, on 50 or 60 Rupees a month, and carry out the execution of the works under his immediate inspection and orders, his pay

4-10 23 August 1871

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Resd 1875. ad 170

BOARD of REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 22ND JANUARY 1875, No. 132.

210 385

Encl. 2

Received 22 July 1875

JANUARY.
No. 132.

East Coast Canal—in Chingleput District.
Letter from Collector reporting that the whole expenditure on branch channels of—is connected with Salt Department, and offering certain remarks on Colonel Moberly's letter published in G. O. Public Works Department, dated 18th August 1873, No. 2,058, in regard to the large amount spent by the Salt Department on these channels, submitted to Government.

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14 Salt Department Revenue Br. 30 Feb
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19 February 1875

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The Collector is satisfied

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being paid out of the several estimates of works executed. The Overseer will be directly responsible to the Deputy-Collector and will also be in communication with the Executive Engineer and receive his advice and orders occasionally.

4. I spoke to the Executive Engineer, Mr. Harrington, on the subject, and he quite approves of my proposal. He told me that he would be able to give me a good Overseer that understands the work well for 50 Rupees a month, and is further of opinion, that under the arrangement now proposed, the work will be well done and there will be no cause for complaint.

5. We spend in the Salt Department 25,000 Rupees a year in the execution of repairs or new works, and with about 3 or 4 per cent. of the sum spent for supervision, the works can be executed satisfactorily. I do not mean to employ the Overseers throughout the year, but only for about six months, during which period only their services will be required.

6. The cost of supervision will be provided for in future estimates, but for this year I can arrange for the cost being met from the amounts already sanctioned.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Acting Collector.

The Deputy-Collector's proposal is sanctioned.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Chingleput.

Ed. G. A. Terton.

1871.
Board of Governors
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 28TH AUGUST 1871, No. 3,694.

Encl.

Received.

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AUGUST.
No. 3,694.

Order for Sale Department—in Chingleput District to assist Deputy Collector in carrying out works of Petty Construction and Repair entrusted to him for execution.—Proposal for employment of, on 60 Rupees per mensem, for a portion of each year, sanctioned.

Sept 26/71

8/11/71 F. A. S. S. S. S.