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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

12th September 1878, No. 1,488.

Read the following paper :—

No. 143. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th August 1878, No. 2,211.

Read the following letter from H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 13th July 1878, No. 638 :—

I have the honor to request that the Board will be pleased to pass orders as to the powers which should be entrusted to me of sanctioning expenditure in the Salt Department.

2. The powers of Collectors in respect of sanctioning estimates, &c., are noted in the subjoined statement so far as I have been able to ascertain them :—

STATEMENT showing the powers of Collectors to sanction Expenditure.

Standing Order.	Object.	Amount.	Conditions.
		Rs.	
207-S	Salt Works and Repairs	2,000	one-fourth the value of the building. If provision is made for the expenditure in the Budget, estimates exceeding Rupees 500 must be countersigned by the Superintending Engineer.
352-1	Petty Repairs of offices and pandals.	10	.....
352-1	Repair of office furniture and purchase of petty articles, such as padlocks, keys, &c., to replace those lost.	10	This is the maximum limit for the whole charge in a district in any one month.
57	Repairs to Irrigation Works	...	Within the highest year's revenue derived from the work during the preceding five years.
...	Works for the protection or immediate repair of works of irrigation, roads, bridges, or river banks *emergently* required in the *rainy season*.	No limit	To be executed by the Revenue Department in the absence of any competent member of the Public Works Department.

3. Collectors have also in their capacities of Presidents of Local Fund Boards and of Municipal Commissions considerable powers of sanction, unlimited, in fact, in the latter case save by the amount of the budget provision for the particular class of expenditure—a limitation which I know by experience is not very strictly adhered to.

4. Under the Act which has recently been passed, and which now awaits the sanction of the Governor-General, the powers of Collectors generally, in matters relating to the Salt Department, will be entrusted to me. This will include, I presume, the power of sanction conferred by the Board's Standing Order 207-S; but, to avoid objections by the Accountant-General and the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, I think it should be expressly declared that it is so.

5. I think also the powers conferred by the Board's Standing Orders Nos. 57 and 552-I should be expressly conferred on me.

6. There remain a number of objects expenditure on which, within such limits as the Board and Government may think right, I venture to think that I should be empowered to sanction, so that, on the one hand, correspondence about things of small importance may be reduced to a minimum, and, on the other, I may have a certain scope allowed me in the trial of experiments in such matters as manufacture, storage, covering, and the like. In the majority of such cases the rates of payment have been fixed by Government and are passed by the Accountant-General without question; and this arrangement I do not seek to alter. But I think that the operations of the department might in many cases be materially facilitated and improved if I had a discretion allowed me in a general way to expend a certain sum, which might be fixed at an annual maximum (say Rupees 10,000) upon such objects as I have instanced in excess of the formally sanctioned rates. Unless I have some such authority it will be difficult for me to carry out, from time to time, on the spot and without delay, such experiments and improvements as may suggest themselves to me on my visiting the salt factories in the districts.

7. Another large item of expenditure (and one which must for the next year or two be much larger) is that on weights and measures. With regard to this I would request that I may be allowed to authorize disbursements up to the budget limit. The Board will, I hope, be willing to trust me not to fritter away the Government money uselessly, or to make any large expenditure without their sanction. But when things are, to a great extent, in the experimental stage, it is of the greatest advantage to the officer in charge to be able to carry out experiments without the delay necessarily caused by writing for sanction. For instance, an idea the other day occurred to me whereby the greatest defect (in my eyes) of Grainger's Pan and the Cup Scales in use in the department could be removed—the defect, that is, that as at present set the Cup Scales could not be adjusted at all out of Multan, and Grainger's Pan Scales only by tying about them, here and there, bits of stone and old iron in a way that has always excited both reprobation for its inaccuracy and derision for its unsightliness. I have had my idea carried out, and my invention fitted to one machine of each kind, at the Public Works Workshop, and with a most successful result, for the machines can now be adjusted to an ounce, no matter how much they may have been worn. When I know the cost I will request the sanction of the Board, which I have no doubt they will be good enough to grant, and which I confess to having forgotten that I required before I got the work done. But I think it would simplify matters generally if no sanction was needed for such small items of expenditure as this will no doubt turn out to be. A small experiment may turn out a failure, in which case it is best, I think, not to double the loss by a waste of the time of the members of the Board.

THE Commissioner of Salt Revenue will of course in future exercise the powers conferred on Collectors by all the Board's Standing Orders in matters relating to salt. These are correctly enumerated in paragraph 2; that portion of Standing Order No. 57, however, which limits the execution of repairs to salt works under the Collector's sanction to the highest year's revenue during the preceding five years, may be considered as cancelled by Standing Order Nos. 207-6 and 207-8.

2. With reference to paragraph 6, the Board recognize the fact that existing orders will unnecessarily fetter the Commissioner as regards conducting experiments or executing improvements promptly where it may be necessary to increase sanctioned rates of payment for work in exceptional cases, or incur expenditure not provided for; they therefore support his application to be allowed to provide a reserve of say Rupees 10,000 in future budgets which he shall be at liberty to expend at his discretion in the manner indicated; in the current year he might be allowed to make allotments from general savings on the understanding that the budget grant is not exceeded. The sanction of Government is solicited to this course. The Board also think the Commissioner might be authorized to sanction transfers from one budget

head to another, and to make re-appropriations of allotments of the previous year which have lapsed from general savings in budgets of the current year. This will save reference to the Board in matters in which their control must be almost a mere formality.

3. As regards expenditure on weights and measures Collectors are now competent to indent on the Public Works Stores for machines, &c., within the limit of the budget grant, and the Board think that Mr. Bliss may be allowed to have experimental machines, &c., constructed without prior sanction subject to the same limitation.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 144. ORDER THEREON, 12th September 1878, No. 1,488.

Separate Revenue, No. 15.
Salt.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council is of opinion—

1*st*.—That for the proposed reserve in future budgets for the purposes stated in paragraph 6 of the Commissioner's letter, Rs. 5,000 and not Rs. 10,000 would be a sufficient limit to commence with.

2*nd*.—That the proposed experiments at the Public Works Workshop in connection with weighing machines, &c., should be reported on by competent officers before others are ordered.

of the foregoing Proceedings are approved and sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

No. 2,211.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 9th August 1878.

Read the following letter from H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 13th July 1878, No. 638 :—

I HAVE the honor to request that the Board will be pleased to pass orders as to the powers which should be entrusted to me of sanctioning expenditure in the Salt Department.

2. The powers of Collectors in respect of sanctioning estimates, &c., are noted in the subjoined statement so far as I have been able to ascertain them :—

STATEMENT showing the powers of Collectors to sanction Expenditure.

Standing Order.	Object.	Amount.	Conditions.
		rs.	
57	Repairs to Revenue Buildings ...	500	Provided the estimate does not exceed one-fourth the value of the building.
207-8	Salt Works and Repairs	2,000	If provision is made for the expenditure in the Budget, estimates exceeding Rupees 500 must be countersigned by the Superintending Engineer.
352-1	Petty Repairs of offices and pandals.	10	.....
352-2	Petty Repairs of furniture and purchase of petty articles, such as padlocks, keys, &c., to replace those lost.	10	This is the maximum ... whole charge in a district in any one month.
57	Repairs to Irrigation Works ...	...	Within the highest year's revenue derived from the work during the preceding two years.
...	Works for the protection or immediate repair of works of irrigation, roads, bridges, or river bunds *emergently* required in the *rainy season*.	No. limit.	To be executed by the Revenue Department in the absence of any competent member of the Public Works Department.

3. Collectors have also in their capacities of Presidents of Local Fund Boards and of Municipal Commissions considerable powers of sanction, unlimited, in fact, in the latter case save by the amount of the budget provision for the particular class of expenditure—a limitation which I know by experience is not very strictly adhered to.

4. Under the Act which has recently been passed, and which now awaits the sanction of the Governor-General, the powers of Collectors generally, in matters relating to the Salt Department, will be entrusted to me. This will include, I presume, the power of sanction conferred by the Board's Standing Order 207-8; but, to avoid objections by the Accountant-General and the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, I think it should be expressly declared that it is so.

5. I think also the powers conferred by the Board's Standing Orders Nos. 57 and 352-1 should be expressly conferred on me.

6. There remain a number of objects expenditure on which, within such limits as the Board and Government may think right, I venture to think that I should be empowered to sanction, so that, on the one hand, correspondence about things of small

unnecessarily be reduced to a minimum, and, on the other, I may have a certain sum allowed me in the trial of experiments in such matters as manufacture, storage, screens, and the like. In the majority of such cases the rates of payment have been fixed by Government and are passed by the Accountant-General without question; and this arrangement I do not seek to alter. But I think that the operations of the department might in many cases be materially facilitated and improved if I had a discretion allowed me in a general way to expend a certain sum, which might be fixed at an annual maximum (say Rupees 10,000) upon such objects as I have mentioned in excess of the formally sanctioned rates. Unless I have some such authority it will be difficult for me to carry out, from time to time, on the spot and without delay, such experiments and improvements as may suggest themselves to me on my visiting the salt factories in the districts.

7. Another large item of expenditure (and one which must for the next year or two be much larger) is that on weights and measures. With regard to this I would request that I may be allowed to authorize disbursements up to the budget limit. The Board will, I hope, be willing to trust me not to fritter away the Government money uselessly, or to make any large expenditure without their sanction. But when things are, to a great extent, in the experimental stage, it is of the greatest advantage to the officer in charge to be able to carry out experiments without the delay necessarily caused by writing for sanction. For instance, an idea the other day occurred to me whereby the greatest defect (in my eyes) of Grainger's Pan and the Cup Scales in use in the department could be removed—the defect, that is, that as they were cut Cup Scales could not be adjusted at all out of Madras, and Grainger's Pan Scales only by tying about them, here and there, bits of stone and old iron in a way that has always excited both reprobation for its inaccuracy and derision for its unsightliness. I have had my idea carried out, and my invention fitted to one machine of each kind, at the Public Works Workshop, and with a most successful result, for the machines can now be adjusted to an ounce, no matter how much they may have been worn. When I know the cost I will request the sanction of the Board, which I have no doubt they will be good enough to grant, and which I confess to having forgotten that I required before I got the work done. But I think it would simplify matters generally if no sanction was needed for such small items of expenditure as this will no doubt turn out to be. A small experiment may turn out a failure, in which case it is best, I think, not to double the loss by a waste of the time of the members of the Board.

The Commissioner of Salt Revenue will of course in future exercise the powers conferred on Collectors by all the Board's Standing Orders in matters relating to salt. These are correctly enumerated in paragraph 2; that portion of Standing Order No. 57, however, which limits the execution of repairs to salt works under the Collector's sanction to the highest year's revenue during the preceding five years, may be considered as cancelled by Standing Order Nos. 207-6 and 207-8.

2. With reference to paragraph 6, the Board recognize the fact that existing orders will unnecessarily fetter the Commissioner as regards conducting experiments or executing improvements promptly where it may be necessary to increase sanctioned rates of payment for work in exceptional cases, or incur expenditure not provided for; they therefore support his application to be allowed to provide a reserve of say Rupees 10,000 in future budgets which he shall be at liberty to expend at his discretion in the manner indicated; in the current year he might be allowed to make allotments from general savings on the understanding that the budget grant is not exceeded. The sanction of Government is solicited to this course. The Board also think the Commissioner might be authorized to sanction transfers from one budget head to another, and to make re-appropriations of allotments of the previous year which have lapsed from general savings in budgets of the current year. This will give relaxation to the Board in matters in which their control must be almost a mere formality.

3. As regards expenditure on weights and measures Collectors are now competent to indent on the Public Works Stores for machines, &c., within the limit of the budget grant, and the Board think that Mr. Bliss may be allowed to have experimental machines, &c., constructed without prior sanction subject to the same limitation.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Commissioner of Salt Revenue.

Encl. C. Howarth.

Revenue Department

No. 3686

1878.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

To

THE SECRETARY to GOVT.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
&c. &c. &c.

Dated August 1878.

Received 10th.

Read. 23rd

PROCEEDINGS, 9th August 1878, No. 2,211.

AUGUST

No. 2,211.

Salt Department.—Stating Board's views as to the powers to be entrusted to Commissioner of Salt Revenue of sanctioning expenditure in the , and supporting that officer's application to be allowed a reserve of about Rupees 15,000 yearly budgets.

11 Box 6

Mss 16,320
Box 1 Folder 2
84-5-112

1

Mary Ann Lee

Speaks in Hampton

Virginia [illegible] colleges

Dec 1865 —

Faculty of Spelman

Seminary in

Cincinnati — Lot of

Prejudice against

Judith Jarvis

Henry — Hill

FOR ORDERS.

2nd That the proposed experiments at the Public Works Workshop in connection with Weighing Machines &c. should be Reported on by competent Officers, before others are ordered.

3. Subject to these Exceptions, the Board approve in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Report, are approved and sanctioned.

9166

To Col. Oliver Dep. Adjutant Gen. Scotland
2 Ma. Commanding Royal Arty.
3 Ma. Chief Engineer Scotland
4 Ma. Secretary Ordnance Office
37 Ma. Public Works Office