M.R.O. 1—99,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1152	Press / Mis.
591-92 Dated	28-4-1869	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1152

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th April 1869.

No. 591. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th March 1869, No. 1,819 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Singarayakonda, 14th January 1869, No. 111.

In their Proceedings of the 19th March last, recorded in the Proceedings of Government of the 24th idem, Revenue Department, No. 753, the Board observed that they would be prepared to consider favorably any proposals that the Acting Collector might make with reference to the subscriptions raised by the inhabitants of Udayagiri to repair the aqueduct, which, in former days, furnished the town with a good supply of water, but now is in ruins.

2. In bringing these most praiseworthy efforts of the inhabitants of Udayagiri to the notice of the Board, the Acting Collector further reported that Rupees 1,325 had been promised to date, and that a plan and estimate were under preparation in the Department of Public Works.

3. When subsequently he handed over charge of the district to me, Mr. Boswell mentioned what had taken place, and that he had lately received a reply from the Superintending Engineer, stating that the proposed project would cost at least Rupees 12,000; but it was difficult to speak with precision till he had personally inspected the localities.

4. Mr. Boswell said that he did not think that the aqueduct could necessarily cost so much. He thought that the work might be done cheaper. And I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of the Board, what steps I have taken in the matter when I went to Udayagiri at the beginning of this week to settle the dispute about the proposed site for the new Cutcherry.

5. On my arrival, the people crowded round me, imploring me to let no further delay occur in bringing down the water. They pointed to their tank which, as usual, was nearly dry. They said that their wells were not much better, that there was another bad season coming on; they should be again distressed for water, when they had subscribed Rupees 1,700; and begging me earnestly to allow them to do the work themselves; they added that they did not doubt being able to complete the work if they had the management of it under the orders of the Tahsildar, and a sum, equal to their own subscriptions, were given by Government.

6. Fortunately the Range Officer, Mr. Plummer, who had taken the levels and prepared the plans on which the Superintending Engineer passed his opinion, had come to Udayagirri to meet me on the subject of the Cutcherry. With him I went carefully over the localities, plans in hand, and attended by the Tahsildar and the people. Mr. Plummer's estimate had amounted to Rupees 5,000 ;* but these estimates provided for iron piping and the carrying out the whole work in a very efficient but at the same time expensive manner. The Superintending Engineer's estimate of Rupees 12,000 is in like manner, I presume, a further development of completeness; but Mr. Plummer agreed with me that if the people themselves undertook the work, the rates he had taken as the basis of his estimate for labor, etc., would have to be materially lowered; those who command the labor would give it

* Or thereabouts.

cheaper when they gave it under their own directions and for their own benefit; and, in like manner, in the absence of the necessary means, contenting ourselves with cheaper arrangements than iron piping, Mr. Plummer agreed that the nullahs to be crossed might be efficiently disposed of with stone bridges, for which the materials were close at hand; and that if the towns' people subscribed Rupees 1,700, and a similar sum were given by Government, water might be brought within a thousand yards of the town; and into the town for some Rupees 2,000 more.

7. It would no doubt be better if we had Rupees 12,000 to spend on Udayaghirri to carry out the work in first-rate style; but half a loaf is better than no bread. The town is poor and half deserted. There are no funds from which so large a sum as Rupees 12,000 could be provided with fairness to the rest of the district; and under these circumstances, and with reference to the spirit shown by the people in coming forward to help themselves, and the long delay that has unfortunately occurred in disposing of their subscriptions, I took upon myself the responsibility of authorising them to proceed at once; and I promised that when their own subscriptions had been worked out, for the work done, a corresponding sum should be given from the Local Funds to be expended in like manner.

8. Mr. Plummer is to give them the requisite specifications. The work is to be carried out strictly in accordance to these specifications, under the direction of the Tahsildar; and as Mr. Plummer will be constantly at Udayaghirri, superintending the construction of the new Cutcherry, the whole of the work will have the benefit of his supervision as well.

9. The people further informed me that, if allowed to do the work, they would probably be able to raise further subscriptions. The pledge I have given will be held only to refer to the sum already subscribed, namely, Rupees 1,700; and when the work has been completed so far as these funds permit, the result will be reported for the orders of the Board, who will, I trust, approve of the steps taken thus far, and doubtless be disposed to grant any further encouragement necessary.

10. It is not known by whom the aqueduct was constructed; but it was in good order in the time of the Jupalli family, and when Syed Mustafa Ali Khan took the fort from Jupalli Lakshmana Row. It is about 3,753 yards in length, as shown in the Trigonometrical Map. The total fall is 550 feet; and for much of the way the old aqueduct built as it rounds the shoulder of the hill with brick and subsequently with stone is in good order.

11. Last April Mr. Plummer measured the stream when it was at its lowest, and found the supply then available about 14,000 gallons in the twenty-four hours.

12. Of the dam originally thrown across the stream where this aqueduct takes off, there is no trace; and the story told me on the spot of its destruction is illustrative of the history of the district. In the days of Syed Mustafa Ali Khan, who himself had taken the fort by force from the Jupalli family, the aqueduct was in good order; and when his son Syed Badarudeen Ali Khan Sahib succeeded to this jaghire, the aqueduct was still running, the town—a cool place—well supplied with water. But then the Nawab of the Carnatic heard of these advantages. He heard also that there was a strong fort as well as a nice town, and came to the conclusion

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th April 1869.

that he had better take them for himself. Badarudeen Ali Khan Sahib was in Nellore when the Nawab's intentions came to his knowledge. He at once returned to Udayaghirri; and making up his mind that the Nawab should not find the town so pleasant as he expected, he then and there gave orders for the works at the channel head to be utterly destroyed.

13. How far this version of the destruction of the dam may be true it is difficult to say; but a member of the family subsequently told me on my way here, that the Nawab of the Carnatic did come into the district and as far as Nandipadu on his way to take Udayagiri; and that Badarudeen would then retire into his fort and cut off the supply of the water to the town, is extremely probable. There is nothing to show that any difficulty in maintaining the dam led to the abandonment of the aqueduct. All that is required in this respect is to take proper precautions to prevent leakage.

14 It is said by some that the aqueduct was repaired again for a time in the days of Mustafa's grandson, Abdul Khader Khan Sahib, but this is not certain. And for the last century, at all events, the work we are about to repair has been in ruins, and the people of the town often in great want of water in consequence.

15. A copy of this letter shall be forwarded to the present Superintending Engineer, who will probably be soon visiting this portion of his charge, and will, I hope, then give us the benefit of his instructions on the subject.

SUBMITTED for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. In paragraph 4 of a letter, dated 14th March 1868, No. 796,* the Collector reported that the town's people of Udayaghirri were raising a voluntary subscription for the repair of an old ruined aqueduct which formerly brought a constant supply of water to the town from the Droog; and the Board expressed their readiness to consider favorably any proposals for making a grant-in-aid in favor of the project.

* Submitted for information of Government, with Board's Proceedings, dated 19th March 1868, No. 1,985.

3. The Collector now reports that upwards of Rupees 1,700 have been raised, and the work commenced under the management of the people themselves, the Collector having promised on behalf of Government a grant equal to the sum raised by subscription.

4. The aqueduct, the loss of which has had a most injurious effect on the prosperity of the town, appears to have been destroyed by violence a century ago. The existing ruins can, however, be utilised, and the work has been carefully examined both by the Range Officer and the Collector.

5. The people have evinced confidence and earnestness by raising a subscription which is liberal considering their means, and they have undertaken themselves to find the labor.

6. The estimate of the Superintending Engineer for repairing the aqueduct amounted to Rupees 12,000, and that of the Range Officer to Rupees 5,000, the difference being owing to the work being planned in a superior style by the former.

7. The Board approve entirely of the Collector's proceedings, and recommend that a special grant be made by Government from Imperial Funds in aid of

this undertaking, in the first instance, up to the amount mentioned by the Collector; and that with reference to the concluding part of paragraph 9 of Mr. Dykes's letter, further encouragement necessary to complete the project may be promised in the event of the villagers acting fully up to their undertaking.

No. 592.

ORDER THEREON, 28th April 1869, No. 1,152.

Miscellaneous.

THE Right Honorable the Governor in Council is willing to aid the towns' people of Udayaghirri in repairing the old ruined aqueduct, which formerly brought a constant supply of water to the town, and authorises a grant for the purpose from Imperial Funds. The voluntary subscription actually raised by the people is reported to have amounted to Rupees 1,700, and the payment of an equal sum from Imperial Funds is now sanctioned.

2. The Government will be prepared to grant a further sum of Rupees 800, if a like amount be subscribed by the residents of the place for completing the work.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Cont. of {1869} Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 28th.

Read.

And.

G. O., 28th April 1869. No. 1,152.

Pro. of the Bd of Revy 9th Jan 1873 & No 219.

APRIL.

Nos. 531-538.

Ruined aqueduct at Udayaghirri, in Nellore District.—Passing order on the subject of affording aid to the towns' people for restoring it.

Revenue Dept.

No. 1152.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
under date the 28th August 1868.

Read the following Report
from the Collector of Nellore
dated the 24th July 1868.

Recommending the
sanction of a special grant
from Imperial Funds
in aid of subscriptions raised by
inhabitants for repair of
the ruined Aqueduct
at Udayagherry in
Nellore District.

(Sd.) C. Hyde Baker
Secy. to Board of Revenue.

(Sd.) Alex. Mackenzie
Member Board of Revenue.

(Sd.) W. Elliot
Member Board of Revenue.

(Sd.) H. Stokes
Member Board of Revenue.

(Sd.) W. Oliver
Member Board of Revenue.

(Sd.) W. Taylor
Member Board of Revenue.

(Sd.) J. Sullivan
Member Board of Revenue.

(Sd.) Alex. Arbuthnot
Secy. to Board of Revenue.

True Copy

Rec'd 24 March 1869 No. 377-8

Revenue 1869. Oct.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

No. 1051.

PROCEEDINGS 17TH MARCH 1869, No. 1,819.

Rec'd 3 April 1869 Encl.
Received 5

Secy. No. 1152 - 28th Aug. 1868

MARCH.

No. 1,819.

Ruined Aqueduct—at Udayagherry in Nellore District.—Recommendation to Government to sanction a special grant from Imperial Funds, in aid of subscriptions raised by inhabitants for repair of,

Rec'd 16 March 1869 Ret.

amounted to Rs 1,900, and the payment of an equal sum from the ~~Local~~ Funds of that Dist. is sanctioned.

2. The Govt cannot now pledge themselves to make any further grant, but they will be prepared to give the subject their best consideration on the submission of the further report promised by the Dy Comr.

I should be disposed to ... the estimate ... Rs 5000 ... estimate ... should be available ... restore ... destroyed ... circumstances described ...

I would do this, but from what local funds can I spare it? Local funds are ...

to Govt of India Pol. Dept 29 Aug 1877
to Accts Genl
21 U.C. Govt Gaz

I would give 1700 in aid from local funds if such can legitimately be available & ~~I~~ would give for imperial funds the difference between 1700 and 5000. The amount of the town estimate. Of 1700 can be given from local funds then I would give Rs 1000 from Imperial Funds. The Govt are interested in the restoration of the place to its former prosperity. They have a great Mystery towards it as they have confis

the Zemindary
demand the
people of a resident
Collector who might
at any time call.
contributed to build
a work for the
benefit of his own
dwelling & neighbourhood

The Govt. will advance
at present for Imperial
purposes Rs. 1700 and will
be prepared to raise this
contribution to Rs. 2500.
if the local contributions
are increased by the
same amount