M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1012	Press ~~Mis.~~
64-65	
Dated 3 — 5 — ~~19~~ 1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd May 1867.

No. 64. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Requesting to issue orders for the transfer, to the Public Works Budget, of the provision made in the Civil Estimates of the current official year for the maintenance and conservancy of irrigation works. } (Here enter 3rd May 1867, No. 1,334.)

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 3rd May 1867, No. 1,012.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered accordingly that the undermentioned provisions in the Revenue Budget under the head of "Petty Construction and Repairs" be transferred to the Budget of the Department Public Works. The Accountant General will issue the requisite instructions to Collectors on the subject :—

	RS.
Vizagapatam	41,000
Tanjore	1,25,000
Madras	98,000
North Arcot	66,000
Nellore	45,000
	3,75,000
Irrigational Conservancy Establishments.	14,243
	3,89,243

2. The Board of Revenue will report whether the small sum of Rupees 2,940, provided by them for the Niranicum establishments under "26, Miscellaneous," needs also to be transferred.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Accountant General.
,, the Revenue Board.
,, the Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 3rd May 1867.

o. 86. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

(Here enter 26th April 1867, No. 2,561.)

o. 87. ORDER THEREON, 3rd May 1867, No. 1,334.

IRRIGATION, No. 8.

1. In pursuance of a suggestion made by the Government of India to transfer the maintenance of petty irrigation works from the control of the Public Works Department to that of the Civil authorities, and in expectation that in the event of all repairs which were regarded in the light of landlord's improvements being separated from the really Imperial Public Works charges and placed under the Revenue Administration to which they properly belonged, the Imperial Public Works grant would be relieved of a large proportion of charge which would thenceforward be provided in the Revenue Budget, the Government, in this department, directed that, as an experimental measure, the maintenance of all irrigation works in the Tanjore, Madras, North Arcot, Nellore, and Vizagapatam Districts should be transferred to the Revenue Department from the 1st April 1867, the necessary provision for the purpose being included in the Budget of that department.

2. Subsequently, however, the Government, considering that the maintenance of the various anicuts and channels leading from them, as also of other works of magnitude for the proper conservancy of which professional skill was essentially needed, could not be efficiently undertaken by the Revenue Department, requested the Board and the Collectors of the districts concerned to submit their opinions on the classes of works which they would recommend to be handed over to the Revenue authorities, and those which should continue under the Public Works Department, and they also required those authorities to report on the manner in which the examination of, and check on, works of the former class should be conducted by the Officers of that Department.

3. The paper recorded at the head of these Proceedings supplies this information, and from it the Government observe that both the Board and the Collectors concerned are agreed as to the impolicy of transferring to the Revenue authorities the care of anicuts and other works of magnitude upon which the interests of several villages and indeed of large tracts of country depend. The Board express their belief that any advantage which a Collector's local influence may give him will not compensate for the absence of the more essential element of professional skill, which, when brought to bear upon the works, must ensure their being carried out more substantially than if intrusted to non-professional agency, and, suggesting that the Collectors should only take over agricultural earthwork and masonry repairs of no special importance or difficulty, and estimated to cost not more than 250 Rupees, they proceed, in paragraph 14 of their Proceedings, to sketch the plan of operations recommended. The Board remark that the experiment is one of considerable importance, and that the chances of its success should not be diminished by the Revenue Department undertaking more than it can reasonably be expected to accomplish, especially as its failure may also involve very serious loss to the State.

4. The Board consider that the smallest establishment which will be required in each district to carry out the scheme will cost Rupees 13,596 annually, or a

little less than 12 per cent. on the outlay by the Collector's department in Tanjore, and as the money to be expended by that department in the other districts will be much below what it will be in Tanjore, the rate of per-centage on the outlay will be proportionately higher.

5. As regards the checks to be exercised, the Board consider that the examinations of works under 250 Rupees should be conducted by the Revenue Officers, and all above that by the Department Public Works, the power of examination in the latter case being restricted to Officers of the grades of Assistant or Executive Engineer.

6. Having suggested, in accordance with their instructions, the arrangements which appear necessary to give effect to the transfer, the Board express the very grave doubts which they entertain as to the success of the measure. They consider that the duties which now devolve on the District Revenue Officers are unquestionably so heavy as to engross their whole time and attention. The various administrative changes which have recently been introduced, have, it is stated, added vastly to the duties and responsibilities of those Officers, while the establishments at their disposal have been reduced to a minimum. The present is further considered a most inopportune time for carrying out the proposed transfer, owing to the numerous changes in the staff of the districts selected, and it is alleged that not one of the European Officers, and probably but few of the native officials in the grade of Tahsildar, have any acquaintance with the system which it is now sought to revive. On a consideration of the whole subject, the Board have come to the conclusion that the transfer is not desirable, for, while it would not afford any appreciable relief to the Public Works Department, or reduction of its cost, it could not be carried out without an addition to the Revenue Establishments, nor without hampering the Civil authorities, who are already burdened with their own legitimate duties.

7. The Board have thus been unable to devise any plan which, by relieving the Department Public Works of a large share of the work which it has now to perform in connection with irrigation repairs, would lead to a reduction in the cost of the Public Works Establishment. On the other hand, it is clear that if only minor works of the description of those referred to by the Board be intrusted to the Revenue Department, the Public Works Establishments must necessarily be maintained at their present strength, while large and costly establishments will be required by the Revenue authorities to undertake even the very inconsiderable quantity of work of which it is proposed to relieve the Department of Public Works. Moreover, as pointed out by the Board, the measure will necessarily create a competition for labour between the two departments in the same field, and thus prevent the economical execution of work. It will further be apt to give rise to complications between those departments by raising difficulties in the way of the adjustment of charges when there may be a difference of opinion regarding the work performed.

8. Under all these circumstances, the Government concur with the Board in considering it inexpedient to disturb existing arrangements; and, as the object the Government had chiefly in view of relieving the Public Works Budget of a charge which they consider should properly fall upon revenue seems not likely to be attained

by the proposed change, His Lordship in Council is pleased to direct that the Orders noted in the margin be cancelled, and that the charge of the maintenance of all irrigation works continue, as heretofore, under the Public Works Department. In anticipation of the sanction of the Government of India, orders will be issued in the Revenue Department for the transfer to the Public Works Budget of the provision made in the Civil Estimates of the current official year for the maintenance and conservancy of irrigation works.

G. O. No. 3,408, 25th October 1866.
" " 3,409, " " "
" " 3,458, 31st " "

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers, 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 6th Divisions.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.
" Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.

Rd. S. T. Augustin.

Rec'd 1867 Sept'r
Pro. " of Govt for May
No " 1155.

Pro:, P.W. Depart"

Dated 3d " May
Rec'd " " 1867, No "
1,334.

No 1012. 3. May

Requesting to issue orders for the transfer, to the Public Works Budget, of the provision made in the Civil Estimates of the current off" year for the maintenance & conservancy of irrigation works in certain Districts.

With Order-

Pro. of the Board of Revn
of 19 July 67 No 1938.

N. 64 865