M.R.O. 14—12,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 202 Press ~~Mis.~~

426 427

Dated 19 — 1 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th January 1867.

No. 426. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Sanctioning estimate for constructing a road from Pondicherry to the Mercanum Salt Pans, in South Arcot District. } (Here enter 10th January 1867, No. 80.)

No. 427. ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1867, No. 202.

Separate Revenue, No. 20.
Salt.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 80.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th January 1867.

No. 166. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Cuddalore, 15th December 1866, No. 156:—

1 Survey Plan.
1 Abstract Estimate.
1 Specification.
1 Traffic Return.
1 Copy of letter from the Collector of South Arcot, with one from the Governor of Pondicherry.

1. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Proceedings in the Revenue Department, recorded in G. O. No. 1,410 of the 26th May 1865, I have the honor to submit, for the sanction of Government, an estimate of Rupees 49,000, accompanied by a survey plan, specification, and traffic return, for making a road from Pondicherry to the Mercanum salt pans, in the South Arcot District.

2. The whole length of the proposed road is 19 miles. For the most part it will follow the present track, except in places where the track is crooked. For three miles and 6½ furlongs, from its southern extremity at the Sawyer gate near Pondicherry, the road will pass over the English territory; then for 2½ miles over the French territory; and again for the remaining portion through the British territory. The road will be a second class one, having on each side a margin of five or three yards width of land, according to the nature of the soil through which it passes, for an avenue, &c. No large bridges are required, as the drainage of the country on the one side goes to the sea by the back-water north of Mercanum, and on the other side by the Ginjee river on the south of Pondicherry. The country is flat and sandy, and the present traffic is a little under 100 carts daily. The object of constructing this road is (as was set forth in Mr. Clarke's Report on the Salt pans of this district) chiefly to increase the sale of salt at the large depôt at Mercanum; and it will, moreover, improve that part of the district and benefit the several villages that are near it.

3. The cost of the portion of the road that passes through the French territory is estimated at Rupees 3,170. The Government will observe, from the accompanying copy of a letter from the Collector, that the Pondicherry Government are unwilling to undertake it at their own expense, and consequently the whole charge for the work will have to be borne by the British Government.

4. The cost of this road was at first roughly estimated at a lac of Rupees, but the Sub-Engineer in charge of the range having since succeeded in discovering a good gravel quarry within the French limits, the distance for cartage is reduced, and the estimated cost of the road is now only Rupees 49,000. The rates allowed in the estimate are appropriate, and those prevailing in the district.

5 The survey plan is prepared in book form, that was much in use in the old Road Department. The scale is eight inches to a mile. Each leaf of the book contains a length of one mile and one furlong, and the last furlong is regularly repeated on each following leaf.

6. The project has been entered in my Budget for 1867-68.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 10th January 1867.

No. 167. ORDER THEREON, 10th January 1867, No. 80.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 40.

12th May 1865, No. 1,001.

1. In reviewing Mr. Clarke's Report on his inspection of the salt works in the South Arcot District, the Government, in the Revenue Department, recognized the expediency of constructing a road between Pondicherry and Mercanum, a distance of 19 miles. This line is chiefly used by traders, who having brought produce from the westward dispose of it at Pondicherry and proceed to Mercanum for a return load of salt. The quantity of salt thus sold is computed at 78,650 Indian Maunds a year, representing a net revenue of Rupees 1,08,144. The Government were satisfied that the formation of a good road would create an impetus to the sales of salt at Mercanum, and they were of opinion that the consequent increase of revenue would fully justify the expenditure of even so large a sum as a lac of Rupees, which was approximately estimated to be the cost of opening the line. The Superintending Engineer was accordingly instructed to prepare and forward the necessary estimates for entry in the Budget.

2. In pursuance of this requisition Colonel Foord now submits an estimate of Rupees 49,000, and explains that the discovery of a good gravel quarry at a convenient distance has led to a considerable reduction in the cost of conveying metal, which formed the largest item in the original approximate estimate. About 2¾ miles of the proposed road will traverse the French territory, and the cost of this portion is estimated at Rupees 3,170, but, from the accompaniments to the Superintending Engineer's letter, it appears that the French Government are unwilling to bear any portion of this expense, although, on the opening of the line, they are prepared to maintain in repair 2¾ miles of road commencing from Cotacoopum.

3. The Government sanction the estimate of Rupees 49,000; but the Budget of 1867-68 having been closed, the postponement of the work till the ensuing year seems unavoidable, unless, with the sanction of the Government of India, funds can be allotted for it from the Reserve after the 1st April next, a matter which will be considered with the demands of Superintending Engineers for funds from that source.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division,
With one Survey, one Specification, and one Traffic Return.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.
" Revenue Department.

Encl. S. T. Augustin.

No. 202.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue

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Proceedings in the
S. P. Vaipart. —

Dated 10th } Jay
Received 15th } 1867.

No. 80.

Sanctioning Es-
timate for constructing
a road from Pondicherry
to the Mercaumna Salt
pans, in South Arcot
District. —

No. 202 - 19th January

With order L

For. 12th May 65 N° 231-232
" 5th June - - 64-65

N° 426 to 27