M.R.O. 14-5,450—23-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2163 Press ~~Mis.~~

246. 247

Dated 13 — 5 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 246. Read again G. O., dated 22nd August 1867, No. 1,966, Revenue Department.

Read also the following letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 5th September 1867, No. 5,766 :—

1. I am directed by the Board of Revenue respectfully to request a re-consideration of the Order of Government, dated 22nd ultimo, No. 1,966, as it involves a question of principle, and not anticipating an adverse decision, the Board did not so fully explain the circumstances of the case as they otherwise would have done.

2. The Collector of the Godavery District brought forward a project for making a road from Jaganaikpoorum to Covoor, and at the same time supplying the former place with water, the bridge being in fact an aqueduct. He remarked that he now recommended the scheme, as the necessary funds, Rupees 14,220, could "*be provided from the collections of Road Cess.*"

3. The Board requested Mr. Fraser to explain the grounds upon which he considered the latter part of the project chargeable on this Fund, and to state how much of the whole estimate was due to its inclusion.

4. He replied that Rupees 8,078 was the portion of the estimate due to the project, and that he recommended the work being done at the expense of the Road Fund, because he "*could not see how otherwise the funds were to be obtained,*" and that he had "tried to get subscriptions for this purpose in Jaganaikpoor, and the utmost *promised* was 500 Rupees."

5. Had the Board found that a supply of good water could be provided at a reasonable addition to the cost of the road, and that the people who were to benefit thereby were willing to contribute a fair proportion of the outlay, they would have readily entertained the Collector's proposal; but when it appeared that while the road and bridge would cost only Rupees 6,133, the water project would cost Rupees 8,087, and that the people could be got only to *promise* Rupees 500, or less than one-sixteenth, they submit that they would not have been justified in assenting to the Collector's proposal.

6. Jaganaikpoorum is a suburb of the wealthy town of Cocanada, and is within Municipal limits. The residents have, therefore, the means of raising such funds as may be required for Municipal objects. The supply of water for domestic purposes clearly comes within this category, and as Government are aware the people of Kurnool have gone to considerable expense to secure a supply of water for their town, and pay a large annual sum to the Irrigation Company for it, entirely out of their Municipal Funds, the Board submit that the residents of the far wealthier town of Cocanada have no claim to be relieved of fifteen-sixteenths, or ninety-four per cent. of the expense of a similar benefit for their town. Referring to the Gazette, the Board find that notwithstanding its size, populousness, and comparative wealth, the entire sum which the residents of the united town of Cocanada (Jaganaikpoorum included) purpose to raise under the Act in 1867-68 is only 13,500 Rupees. The Board give in the margin the Municipal revenue of the other chief towns of the Presidency, and they submit that the contributions of the people of Cocanada are not proportionate to their well-known means, and certainly not such as

	Rs.
Cocanada	13,500
Vizagapatam	23,516
Masulipatam	14,685
Nelloro	14,595
Kurnool	15,297
Cuddapah	17,853
Bellary	33,751
Cuddalore	27,201
Tanjore	38,900
Combaconum	31,000
Negapatam	36,000
Tinnevelly	12,000
Mangalore	12,255
Madura	36,000
Trichinopoly	60,000

N. B.—These sums are all exclusive of the contributions of Government.

give them a claim to a grant from other sources of a sum exceeding half their contributions.

7. The principle to which the Board have alluded is that laid down in Government Order, dated 20th June 1859, Revenue Department, No. 813. It was therefore determined, pending the introduction of Municipal institutions, and as an encouragement for their introduction, that grants—*equal in amount to local contributions*—should, "for the present," be made from Local Funds for Local and Municipal purposes, and appropriations are annually made in the Local Funds accordingly. The principle is a sound one, and the Board deprecate such a departure from it, as the present decision of Government involves. They have, they trust, shewn that the people of Jaganaikpoorum have no *special* claim to such extreme liberality, whether their collections under the Act, or their promised contributions to this particular work, be considered, and they may remark that their decision involves no injustice to the residents, and does not deprive them of anything to which they are entitled, for they are quite at liberty, at their own expense, to adapt the bridge to their own purposes.

8. The Board would submit that whatever advantage inland traders may derive from the water project may very well be granted gratuitously by the townspeople, seeing that these traders have to pay tolls on entering the town, though the roads were not made at the expense of the Municipality. Of the total revenue of Rupees 13,500, above given, Rupees 2,000 are to be raised by tolls on roads, and Rupees 2,400 by charges at landing places. In truth, however, the benefit to inland traders will be very trifling indeed, compared with the advantage to the townspeople.

9. In paragraph 2 of their Order, Government have reminded the Board that the Road Fund "includes many items which are in no sense a charge on the land and borne solely by the ryots." The Board have not overlooked this circumstance, and it is from this source that such grants as those mentioned in paragraph 7 are made. In the Godavery Budget for 1867-68, these extra items amount to Rupees 35,600, as shewn in the margin.

	Rs.
Ferry rents	12,000
Pound Fund	9,000
Grass rents	13,000
Avenue clippings	600
Miscellaneous...	1,100
	35,600

10. The Board submit that the three first are not items to which the residents of Cocanada are likely to have contributed, and that the ryots are taxed to the extent of Rupees 2,40,000 so heavily for roads which greatly benefit the towns also, have a stronger claim on the liberality of Government. There can be no doubt that the money could be laid out far more beneficially for the ryots and inland traders, in building choultries and sinking wells along the chief lines of road; but the Board may remark that, large as the income of the Road Fund looks, there will be ample need for it, as, owing to the character of the country, and its intersection by canals, the expense of road-making is extremely heavy.

11. The Board trust that, under the circumstances now explained, Government will re-consider their decision.

No. 247. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1867, No. 2,163.

Local Funds, No. 10.
Civil Works

1. The Government do not gather clearly from the papers that the cost of the road *and bridge*, if the latter be *not* adapted for passing water across the stream, will be only Rupees 6,133 out of the total estimate of Rupees 14,220. Mr. Sage's letter is not conclusive on this point, and it appeared to Government that if a girder bridge is necessary for the cart traffic, it would be bad economy to lose the opportunity offered of conveying drinking water to the town at the same time, and doubtless at much less cost than if the latter project be carried out separately.

2. The Board will obtain further definite information from the Collector on this point.

3. If the Government are correct in assuming that to combine the aqueduct with the girder bridge will really add only a comparatively small sum to the cost of the road and bridge project, it seems certainly desirable that the original scheme should be carried out.

4. The Government would not object to the condition of a contribution from the townspeople being waived, and a charge made for the water supply for the benefit of the District Road Fund, unless the residents are prepared to pay one-half of the additional cost that the combination of the aqueduct with the bridge will entail.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2168.

13th Sept 67.

Read application 3rd
Do 22nd Augt 67.
Do 1865 160

Read Clerk the Justices
Do letter of Surveyor
Do 5 & 6

Clerk forward Application
Clerk forward to Surveyor
Post the cost of the 2nd
Bridge & the Letter
to be advertised for
tenders twelve weeks
the Stream - with Cost
which Do 633. and
the Road Estimate
of £46220 - to
Sligo letter to be
in Surveyor on this
point - & to Superin

the continuation of
the agency of this
Entail.

L.B.

14 Copies Letter Ds & Rev. Dept. 14
21 ——— Dr Dept.

Revenue 1867 Sept.
Pro of Govt for Septr
5+

N: 2163.

Pro of the Madras Govt
of 13 September 1867

Rd Board of Revenue 27
25 October 1867 No. 2952

No 246-247