

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2549

Press
Mis.

572.573

Dated 30 — 10 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2549

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th October 1867.*

No. 572. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Works Department:—

Sanctioning expenditure incurred in excess of
the estimate for a Salt Cutcherry, Watch
Tower, &c., at Tranquebar, Tanjore District, } (Here enter 25th October 1867, No. 3,320.)
and authorizing to write off Rupees 16-2-6
to profit and loss.

No. 573. ORDER THEREON, 30th October 1867, No. 2,549.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. H. WILKINSON,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 3,320.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th October 1867.*

No. 557. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 8th October 1867, No. 996:—

1. I have the honor to report upon the Salt* works and Salt road† at Tranquebar, which I have lately inspected. The estimate for the former has been exceeded by Rupees 507-13-9, subject to

* Rupees 5,720, G. O. No. 578, dated 17th February 1866.

† Rupees 2,590, G. O. No. 259, dated 23rd January 1866.

a deduction of Rupees 16-2-6, which will be explained below, and the latter has been, or rather will be exceeded by Rupees 149-15-0. The former work has been completed and handed over to the Salt Department, and of the latter, the formation of a surface of clay over the sand-hill, on which a portion of the road runs, is still incomplete, and now that the country is under water, this portion of the work cannot be completed till January or February next.

2. In the accompanying abstracts, showing the expenditure on the various items included in the estimates, explanation is afforded as regards the excess on each particular item, which I need not, therefore, repeat here. I will only state, generally, that the cause of excess is attributable, first, to the great difficulty in procuring labor in the vicinity of Tranquebar; second, to the great objection the coolies have to work at the Tranquebar salt works, because they are situated in a low, feverish, salt swamp, where there is no shelter, and where no fresh water is obtainable. The latter has contributed in some measure to augment the cost of the masonry work; third, to the fact that the Railway Department, subsequent to the preparation of the estimate, increased the rate of carriage from 10 Annas to 1

Rupee per cubic yard for material conveyed for the Public Works Department from Tanjore to Negapatam or to intermediate stations; fourth, on account of a rise in the charges for bandy hire.

3. Mr. Supervisor Kinsella, who relieved Captain Hasted, appeared to be unable to separate the expenditure among the different works, and I therefore undertook the examination of the accounts; they were sufficiently clear for all the works but for that for the construction of the sluice, regarding the excess upon which I am not at all satisfied; it was one of the first works carried out, and was executed by departmental agency, and judging by the number of bricks and the quantity of chunam used, country or small sized bricks must have been used. The Overseer, Tiyyagaraja Pillay, who carried out the work, is dead, and it is now impossible to ascertain with accuracy whether a portion of the labor and of the material was not eventually transferred to the bridge work, for in the contract which was made, after Captain Hasted found that the work could not be carried out departmentally, a sum of Rupees 73-1-6 is deducted on account of chunam and cubes handed over to the contractor, and I am led the more to suppose that this was the case from the fact of the excess on the bridge work not covering the excess of the cost of conveyance of the stone from Tanjore.

4. The original entries in the estimate for the trench and platform and for Salt Cutcherry and watch tower were

* G. O. No. 578, 17th February 1866.

Rupees 4,430 and Rupees 925,* but it was eventually found necessary to provide 8 feet of foundations to the Salt

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25th October 1867.*

Cutcherry instead of 6 feet, and I hoped that the excess might be covered from the sundries in the estimate for the salt works, and did not, therefore, refer the matter again to Government.

Rupees 5,720.

5. The excess shown on the Salt Cutcherry and watch tower is Rupees 222-8-8; in this, however, is included a sum of Rupees 16-2-6 on account of bricks transferred to the solitary cells in the Jail, which were charged at Rupees 3-4-0 instead of Rupees 3-9-6 per 1,000; the completion certificate of this work having been submitted, I asked the Controller how this sum should be adjusted, and he states†

† No. 2,376, dated 18th September.

that as the addition of Rupees 16-2-6 will not cause an excess of 5 per cent. on the original estimate for the solitary cells the work may be brought again into the

Rupees 1,060.

Progress Report, or that Government may be requested to write off the amount to "profit and loss," and he recommends the latter alternative. I beg, therefore, that Government will sanction this sum of Rupees 16-2-6 being written off to "profit and loss."

6. On taking into consideration the other localities at which Salt Cutcheries and watch towers are required, I have come to the conclusion that the foundations of the Cutcheries must be laid some two or three feet below the surface of the platforms, and that eight feet of foundations are necessary, and also that owing to the difficulty of procuring fresh water, and to the distance from which bricks must be obtained, the rate for brickwork-in-clay must be increased from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ Annas per cubic foot, and I have altered the estimates accordingly to Rupees 1,034, in the entries made in the Budget of 1863-69 for Cutcheries and watch towers. I would observe that the Police complain bitterly of the floor of the Salt Cutcherry, which consists of earth well rammed, and ask for a brick-in-chunam floor, as they say, and that very truly, that the mud or clay floor being more or less impregnated with salt, becomes very damp after the fall of a shower of rain, and continues so for a long time; a sum of Rupees 64 is required to provide the floor with a brick-in-chunam covering, and I have referred the matter for the consideration of the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department.

7. The Salt Superintendent at Tranquebar asks for a platform along the side of the Vadi, to admit of bandies being loaded from the Vadi itself. This appears to be very necessary, though it was not asked for on the preparation of the original estimate; the Bandy Vadi provided in that estimate is some 250 yards from the Salt Vadi, and is used as a halting place for bandies. I have forwarded an estimate of Rupees 220 to the Deputy Collector, Salt department, for the platform asked for, and have requested him, if he can provide funds from the allotment in the Salt Budget of 1867-68, to execute the work through the agency of his own department; and as regards the earth-work in connection with all Salt Depôts, I think the Salt department should undertake the work, for the only method of carrying out such works economically or rapidly is by a levy *en masse* of the laborers in the neighbourhood through the agency of the Tahsildar. The Contractor for the Salt works at Tranquebar, though a wealthy Mirasidar, and with a large number of

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Pullers at his disposal has, I am sure, found the execution of the work anything but remunerative.

Rupees 507 13 6
 „ 16 2 6
 491 11 0

8. I beg that an allotment of Rs. 492 may be made for the completion of the Salt works from the Reserve or from the allotment for Civil Buildings, 'Minor New Works,' of which a sum of Rs. 1,631

is still unappropriated, and that provision may be made for the extra Rupees 160 required for the road, if not available from other sources, from the Rupees

G. O. No. 2,804, dated 11th September.

1,370-11-9 lately allotted from the balance of the "Income Tax Fund" to the Canal Works, leaving Rupees 1,210-11-9 to the latter, and augmenting the allotment for the approach to the salt platform at Tranquebar to Rupees 1,250.

Abstract showing the expenditure on the various items in the Estimate for the Road work sanctioned in G. O. No. 239, dated 23rd January 1866.

Name.	Estimated amount.	Expenditure.	Excess.	Remarks.
	RS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Bridges ...	1,220	1,204 7 11	74 7 11	This excess is due to the cost of conveying cut-stone from Tanjore, for which sufficient provision was not made in the estimate.
4 Tunnels ...	880	880 0 0	...	
Road work ...	490	575 7 1	85 7 1	Where the road passes over a sand heap for a distance of 532 yards, the estimate provides only Rs. 4-2-11 for levelling; much of the sand had to be cut away to a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ yard, and in some places hollows had to be filled, 2,32 $\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards of sand work have actually been carried out at a cost of Rupees 72-12-3. The rate allowed for earth-work was only 8 Pice per cubic yard, this was insufficient, and 10 Pice had to be given, and hence the excess. Work to the amount of Rupees 111-6-6 still remains to be done, but this is included in the Rupees 575-7-1 in column 3.

TANJORE,
 8th October 1867.

(Signed) R. F. OAKES, Captain, R. E.,
 Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th October 1867.*

Abstract showing the expenditure on the various items in the Estimate for Salt Works sanctioned in G. O. No. 578, dated 17th February 1866.

Name.	Estimated amount.	Expenditure.	Excess.	Remarks.
	RS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Trench and Platform.	4,378	4,459 1 5	81 1 5	This excess is due to the fact that the earth in some cases could not be conveyed from the trench to the Vadi, owing to the nature of the ground to be crossed.
Salt Cutcherry and Watch Tower.	977	1,199 8 8	222 8 8	This work was commenced on Amani, and the wood-work was purchased at Negapatam at a higher rate than was anticipated, the bricks prepared by the department cost Rs. 3-9-6 per 1,000, and had to be conveyed about four miles. It is very difficult to procure labor at Tranquebar, especially skilled labor, and the locality was unfavorable, being in a salt marsh and entirely without shelter or fresh water which had to be brought from a distance.
Sluices ...	365	569 3 8	204 3 8	The cause of the excess on this work is fully explained in the accompanying letter.

TANJORE,
8th October 1867.

(Signed) R. F. GALE, Captain R. F.
Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

No. 558. ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1867, No. 3,320.

ACCOUNT, No. 53.

1. Under the explanations afforded in this letter, the Government pass the expenditure of Rupees 507-13-9 which has been incurred in excess of the estimate of Rupees 5,720 for a Salt Cutcherry, Watch Tower, &c., at Tranquebar, and they authorize the sum of Rupees 16-2-6 referred to in paragraph 5 to be written off to profit and loss.

2. The transfers and appropriation of funds recommended in paragraph 8 are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signature)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Board.
Communicated to the
20 Oct 1867

Rev. 1867. *West.*
Pr. of *Coast* *Co.*
2936.

Proceedings of the
P. W. *West.*

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Dated 25th 3 Oct
Received 28th 1867.
H. 3320.

Sanctioning
Expenditure incurred in
excess of the estimate for
a Salt Catching. Watch
Tower. *H. & A. Tranguoba*
Sanjar District and
authorizing to write off
Rs. 16. 2. 6. profit and
loss.

'A' 2549. 30 Cts.

17. 572. 573.

With Order
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