M.R.O. 14–5,450–22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 777 Press Mis.

53-57

Dated 3 – 6 – 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

777/3-4-67

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

No. 53. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Madura respecting the customary labour exacted from the villagers in that district. } (Here enter 29th March 1867, No. 986.)

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 3rd April 1867, No. 777.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 725. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th March 1867, No. 1,589.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 10th December 1866, No. 408:—

1. In obedience to the order of the Board, conveyed in the latter part of paragraph 2 of their Proceedings, dated the 28th September 1865, No. 6,097, I have the honor to report that the customary labour exacted from the villagers in this district is of the description laid down in the Circular of the Board, dated the 6th April 1861, No. 1,778; but however the Department of Public Works applied to me on several former occasions to collect from the ryots the cost of repairs made to irrigational works, amounting to 25 Rupees and under, under the authority of the Chief Engineer's Circular, dated the 25th December 1860, No. CXXXI., which is based on the Government Order in the Public Works Department, dated the 20th July 1859, No. 1,747. The above repairs for which the ryots were made to pay, were closing breaches, repairing tanks, and all minor works of conservancy and repair.

2. In certain instances, the Department of Public Works actually refused to frame estimates for certain works, (other than those mentioned in the above Board's Circular,) the cost of which seemed to be less than 25 Rupees each. This rule, therefore, pressed very hard on the ryots in the Melur and Dindigul talooks, where there are numerous small Government tanks, the revenue of which is in many cases less than 100 Rupees. To charge the cost of all repairs up to Rupees 25 to the ryots thereof would in each case be tantamount to raising the assessment. It was to this indiscriminate exaction of labor, or its cost without reference to the nature of the work, that I objected to in paragraph 8 of my Report to the Board, dated the 8th July 1865, No. 165.

3. But of late, on my remonstrance, the Department of Public Works do not call upon me to levy the cost of such works; however it will be advisable to move the Government to modify the above Chief Engineer's Circular, which is taken to mean that repairs to all minor works of irrigation should be executed at the expense of the ryots.

4. Mr. Ryves first insisted on the enforcement of the above rule, but afterwards relaxed his demand; but his successor Lieutenant-Colonel Moberly revived the practice, and therefore, as long as the order remains undisturbed, the enforcement of the rule will be sought for by every Engineer coming across the order.

---

1. Submitted for the orders of Government, in the Department of Public Works.

2. The Board are of opinion that the Circular, to which the Collector refers, should be cancelled, if still in force. They are under the impression that the proposal to prescribe a precise money limit in regard to *Kudi Muramut*, (customary village labor,) was deliberately disallowed by Government.

3. Mr. Levinge should have reported what steps he had taken to induce the villagers to consent to the payment of an irrigation cess.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th March 1867.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

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

18th March 1867.

No. 726. ORDER THEREON, 29th March 1867, No. 986.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 77.

The rules of the department contemplate that the performance of only those minor works of conservancy and repair which are sanctioned by local usage should be required of the village authorities, and the Collector is the officer who is supposed to define the works which are to be thus executed. Some of the most usual of these are described in paragraph 25 of Chapter XI. of the Public Works Code, and are also given at page 35 of the Board's Standing Orders, and it was evidently not intended that *all* repairs to minor works of irrigation, without reference to their nature, should be carried out by village labour. The Government agree with the Board that it is undesirable to prescribe a precise money limit, and the Chief Engineer's Circular of the 26th December 1860 will accordingly be considered cancelled.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Superintending Engineers.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rec'd 1867. Nov. 5th.
Pro of Gabt. for April
Nt. 86.

Proceedings in the
C. M. Nov. 5th ——

Dated 29th March
Received 1st April
1867 ——
No. 986 ——

1. Forwarding address
Rec'd Pro: Secretary
Letter from the Collector of
Madura respecting
the Customary Labor exacted
from the Villagers within that
District. -

RECORDED.
No. 777

N. 53 & 54

3rd April 67.