

“Savana Grande Local Road Board”

On Wednesday afternoon last a meeting of the Savana Grande Local Road Board was held Mr. A. J. Sinkia, Chairman, presiding. There were also present, Messrs D. Mahabir, C. C. Soodeen, and Ram Addimoolah, with Mr. R. Dunbar Secretary, M. J. Mulloon, Road Officer, was in attendance. The minutes of previous meetings having been read and confirmed, the Secretary announced that the bye-election had been fixed to take place on the 13th instant.

A communication from Mr. E. Wilson-Jones on behalf of Sir Edward Tennant, Bart, was read, agreeing to grant for the use of the public the track of land used as a road from Lothians Estate through Inverness Estate, on the terms already spoken of.

Mr. Mahabir said that he had had an interview with the manager of Lothians Estate (Mr. G. C. Wyatt) who on behalf of his principles [*sic*] Messrs Dumoret agreed to abide by their promise to grant passage through Lothians and also to give the required gravel free for the making of the road. Mr. Gaul on behalf of Messrs Tennants had also agreed to loan their carts for a nominal rate for cartage of gravel for the road in question.

Mr. Wyat [*sic*], who was in attendance supported Mr. Mahabir’s statement.

It was agreed on the motion of Mr. Mahabir that the kind offers of Sir Edward Tennant and Messrs Dumoret be accepted with thanks. Agreed to.

A letter of Mr. Vincent Thompson with respect to his horse getting damaged by a bridge of the Board was read and referred to the Road Officer for further enquiry.

Respecting the Moriquite Bridge (Moruga) Mr. W. A. Rolston tendered an account for 320 dols., balance for extras &c., done and performed.

Mr. Mahabir said that he had had an interview with contractor Rolston and had gone into the matter fully and he had agreed to the figure being fixed at 259 dols. Since then he thought that Mr. Rolston would agree to 250 in full payment. There was certainly a great misunderstanding but it was better to come to an arrangement than go to the costly course of litigation. It was better to split the amount.

Mr. Soodeen said that as a member he knew nothing of the matter, till he saw the bridge.

Ram Addimoolah I no gree fo pay anythin! Who membah gree, gree. I no gree. Bridge sha’at, mus’ tak out hundred dollah. No use ta’k, I no ’gree. No use membah. All go see bridge an’ now change mout. Mister Mahabir, dat no day right.¹

After some discussion and a lengthy [*sic*] conference it was agreed to pay the contractor (Mr. W. A. Rolston) balance of 250 dols. in full satisfaction for the Moriquite Bridge.

Ram Addimoolah: I don ’gree, mark it in book, I don ’gree.

The Chairman (Mr. A. J. Sinkia) congratulated Mr. Mahabir on the part he had taken to arrive at a satisfactory agreement between the contractor and the Board.

Mr. Rolston: Not satisfactory to me. I accept this almost on protest. I don’t wish to soil Mr. Sinkia’s record with an action at law.

Mr. Soodeen: Our late Road Officer evidently got things muddled and compromised the Board in this matter.

Ram Addimoolah: I don’ ’gree mark it in book I don’ ’gree fo’ extra.²

After several applications had been read, Ram Addimoolah moved that Road Officer Mulloon’s

salary be raised by 30 dollars monthly and Secretary Danbar's salary by 10 dollars. This was referred for consideration to the next meeting. After a discussion on the requirements of Sancho Road, brought on by Ram Addimoolah, had been adjourned, Mr. Soodeen stated that it had been brought to his notice that, through some blunder the Board's men worked on the Warden's traces. He wanted to know who was to pay for that.

Mr. Mahabir: The Road overseer should have been there to show the gangs where to work.

Mr. FitzWilliam, with permission, said that it had been also brought to his notice that certain members entirely usurped the duties of the Road officer and Overseers hence confusion.

The Road Officer said that the occasion spoken of, he had asked Ram Addimoolah to despatch the gangs for him.

The matter here ended.

The Board then went into committee for appointing a Road Overseer in place of Alexander Murray, dismissed. Mr. Edgar Carter was appointed as from 1st inst., at \$50 monthly.

Note

The bridge referred to is probably the Moruga Spring Bridge, constructed in 1899 in the southern part of Trinidad near Princes Town. See Delon, Danielle. (2015). *Bridges of Trinidad and Tobago: Side by Side*. Woodbrook, Trinidad: Cacique Publications, pp. 14-21.

¹ 'I don't agree to pay anything! Whichever members agree, agree. I don't agree. The bridge is short [?], must take out a hundred dollars. It's no use talking, I don't agree. No use members. [?] All will see the bridge and now change their mouth [what they say]. Mister Mahabir, that is not their right.'

² 'I don't agree – mark it in the book [minutes] that I don't agree to [pay] extra.'