M.R.O. 1—77,006—3-5-37.

(1) Number of pages 56.

(2) Date of repair 5-40.

(2) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 185 Press
~~Mis.~~

38-41

Dated 4—2— 1874.

29/30

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
4th February 1874.

Read the following papers:—

No. 38. From W. FRASER, Esq., C.E., District Engineer of Kurnool, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort St. George, dated Owk, 2nd December 1873, No. 877.

Printed with Collector's letter, dated 6th December 1873, No. 417.

I have the honour to forward, for your information, a copy of two letters* addressed to the Collector.

2. In G.O., No. 1222, dated 29th August last, the Government granted 5,000 Rupees from Provincial Funds for making a road from Owk to Koilakuntla as a famine relief work. As I had all arrangements made beforehand, the work was commenced immediately on the grant being made known, and all the distressed people were employed until about ten days ago, when the Overseer, finding that the grant was nearly expended, reduced the number of coolies to 220 men, women, and children. Intimation of this reached me on the 24th ultimo when I wrote letter No. 847 to the Collector. My second letter, No. 876, will explain itself.

3. It appears that the Tahsildar reported that a plentiful supply of rain had fallen, and it was supposed from this that no further relief was necessary; and I believe that a report to this effect was made to the Government. My two letters will show how the matter stands, and I trust that funds will be provided. The road is one that will be of great use, as there is a considerable amount of traffic between the villages.

4. There is plenty of grain in the market, and the prices are not unusually high. The grain, however, is nearly all imported from a distance. I have ridden through the cholum fields, and regret to report that the crop is very scanty, and that the yield will be small.

5. I trust that the action I have taken, and the responsibility I have assumed in proceeding with the work, will, under the circumstances, be approved of.

Transferred to the Financial Department, with reference to the under-mentioned Orders in that Department:—

G.O., No. 1222, dated 29th August 1873.
" " 1585, " 30th October "

FORT ST. GEORGE,
8*th December* 1873.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 39. From J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Kurnool, 6th December 1873, No. 417.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government, copy of a letter just received from the District Engineer, urging the necessity of continuing the famine works in the Koilakuntla Taluq, and of opening relief-houses for the infirm poor.

2. I recently visited the greater part of this taluq and its neighbourhood between the 13th and 21st ultimo. The immediate cause of the distress, which Mr. Fraser reports, appears to have been the partial stoppage of the work for want

of funds. This can, however, have lasted for only a very few days; for, on the 29th ultimo, I applied, as President of the Local Fund Board, to the Revenue Board* for a grant of Rupees 6,000, and, in anticipation of sanction, I wrote on the same date to the District Engineer, requesting him to continue the work. This letter probably failed to reach him, when he wrote his letter of the 1st instant, now submitted.

* Copy enclosed with enclosure.

3. I have requested the Deputy Collector at Peapally to go to Owk at once (to which place and its immediate neighbourhood distress is for the most part confined), and open relief-houses, wherever necessary, under the sanction conveyed in G.O., No. 1042, dated 26th September 1873, Revenue Department.

4. I may state that there is nothing in the reports of crime or public health from the Koilakuntla Taluq to cause any uneasiness or alarm. The only difficulty felt is to tide over the few weeks which remain till the harvest arrives. I shall again address Government for further funds, if necessary, after I receive the report of the Deputy Collector.

P.S.—Copy of this letter has been submitted to the Board of Revenue for information.

From W. FRASER, Esq., C.E., District Engineer, Kurnool, to J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Pasupula, 26th November 1873, No. 847.

I have the honour to inform you that the sum of 5,000 Rupees granted from Provincial Funds for the road from Owk to Koilakuntla is almost expended, and the number of coolies employed has consequently been reduced to 110 men and 110 women, which is about one-sixth of the whole number who are said to require work to enable them to obtain food. This information I received only today, and I send it to you at once.

2. The Overseer says that no work will be provided by the land cultivators until the middle of January next, at the earliest, when the growing crops will be harvested, and when also the cultivation under the Owk tank will commence.

It would seem that up to that time relief works should be provided, and that the amount required will be thus. The sum required per day is about 150 Rupees to give employment to the whole number requiring relief, and to pay for contingencies; this multiplied by fifty days comes to 7,500 Rupees.

I trust that you will be able to provide this amount, and enable me to proceed with the work, or else I must stop it at once.

3. I understand the Tahsildar says that because rain has fallen plentifully the relief work should cease. If the information I have received is correct this is a mistake; for plenty of rain will not enable the poor to buy food if there is no work for them to do; and I am credibly informed that there will be no agricultural work ready for them until the time mentioned above. The Overseer reports that hundreds of people are crying out for work; and I know that grain is still being largely imported from the Bellary District, and the neighbourhood of Pattikonda.

I shall be glad to have a reply on this subject by return of post.

From J. HOPE, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Kurnool, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kurnool, 29th November 1873, No. 439.

Referring to G.O., dated 29th August 1873, No. 1222, sanctioning a grant of Rupees 5,000 from the Provincial Funds for the construction of a famine road from Koilakuntla to Owk, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter just received from the District Engineer reporting that the money is nearly spent and requesting a further grant of Rupees 7,500. I returned only

yesterday from a tour through the Koilakuntla and the neighbouring taluqs, after inspecting the work done so far, and agree with Mr. Fraser in thinking that work should be found for the poor until the middle of January, when it is hoped prices will revert to the former level. The white jonna and other later crops sown in September and October are all looking well, but the loss of the early crops is still felt by the labouring classes, and when I was at Owk, on the 16th and 17th, large numbers of coolies who had been thrown out of work, owing to want of funds flocked to me complaining they could not find employment elsewhere. Under these circumstances, I have the honour to request the Board of Revenue will sanction the transfer of Rupees 6,000 from Allotment No. 5, "Widening road on the Nandikanama Ghaut" in the Local Fund Budget of the current year. In anticipation of sanction (which I beg may be sent by telegraph), I have requested the District Engineer to proceed with the work.

From W. FRASER, Esq., C.E., District Engineer, Kurnool, to J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Owk, 1st December 1873, No. 876.

In continuation of my letter, No. 847, dated the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that on Thursday last, the 27th, having heard that the people of Owk and the neighbouring villages were suffering greatly in consequence of the partial stoppage of the relief work, I made a forced march and arrived at Owk that night.

Early the next morning several hundred men, women, and children came to beg that they might be again put to work; and, during the day, the numbers increased by parties from the surrounding villages. They were in a very wretched condition, and, as I had then no other means of relieving them, I had food provided for the children and about 125 women.

2. There was no revenue official at Owk with whom I could consult except the reddy, who, as well as some ryots whom I sent for, confirmed the truth of the statements made in my letter noted above concerning the time at which agricultural work would be available for the non-ryot classes.

Before starting for Owk, I had written to request the Tahsildar, who was at Koilakuntla, to meet me, and he came in on Friday evening and remained until noon on Saturday. His report appears to have been misunderstood, as he declares that he was always of opinion that the road-work should be maintained, as a famine relief work, until the end of January at least. The testimony of the reddy and ryots, the unmistakable starved look of the people, and the decided opinion of the Tahsildar about continuing the relief work, decided me on taking on myself the responsibility of reemploying the people. On Saturday I marked out the line of road to the village of Singanapalli; on Sunday the people were enrolled according to their villages; and on this morning they were put to work. They will be paid every three days for a short time, when weekly payments will be resumed.

3. When enrolling the coolies I was obliged to reject many men and women who were too old and infirm, or too far gone in starvation, to be able to work; and many children who were too young or too weak to be employed. Many of these will be supported by those who have now got work; but there are from 80 to 100 old men, women, and children who must for about two months live on charity which appears to be now exhausted. The Tahsildar got subscriptions for a relief work at Owk where the poor were partially fed until the roadwork was commenced, when it was closed, and there is no chance of reopening it except under official pressure. The only thing to be done with these old men, women, and children was to feed them. This I have done and shall continue to do so long as I remain here; but what is to become of them when I go away? I would suggest that the new Sub-Magistrate, who is, I believe, to come here in two or three days, should be authorized to feed the really destitute until the harvest is gathered.

Today the number has been reduced to sixty-nine.

4. In my former letter I said that a sum of Rupees 7,500 would be required for fifty days. The number of coolies employed today is about 800, but more are hourly coming in; and, as they may be employed for more than fifty days, I would suggest that 10,000 Rupees should be provided. Under the circumstances a very fair amount of work is being given for the expenditure, and the road is much wanted.

No. 40. From W. FRASER, Esq., C.E., District Engineer of Kurnool, to J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Singanapalli, 16th December 1873, No. 910.

I have the honour to inform you that the coolies employed on the Owk (famine relief) road have, during the past week, numbered daily as follows:—

Men	607
Women	546
Boys and Girls	154
Total ...	1,307

They were paid on Sunday and yesterday evening for last week.

The Deputy Collector, Timmapah Pantulu, and the Tahsildar, who came here on Saturday, were, at my request, present when the coolies were paid for the purpose of turning out such as are unfit for work, and who should have food provided for them.

The number so turned out were—

Men	57
Women	64
Boys and Girls	8
Total ...	129

2. I would have turned out many more, but that the Deputy Collector was unwilling to feed any but those whose complete destitution could be proved. On this point we are not agreed. I am of opinion that it is better for the State, and cheaper, that those who are too young or too old, or too infirm to work, should be fed rather than be allowed to hamper the execution of a relief work by by their presence.

There are many who though healthy and of proper age for working have become so debilitated by want as to be too weak to work fairly. What I wish regarding these is that they should be well fed for ten days or so, when I would take on, again, such as had regained their strength; worked as they are now, and fed as they can be from the small pay they receive, they have no chance of getting strong. The Deputy Collector, however, is evidently unwilling to take upon himself the responsibility of acting in the liberal way which I have recommended, and which I consider absolutely necessary in the present case, for the preservation of the people. He has promised to open two relief-houses today—one at Owk and one here, Singanapalli.

3. I have marked out the road as far as Akamalla. In doing so, I adhered as much as possible to the present bandy-track; but it is impossible to avoid injury to the growing crops, and it is very unpleasant to be obliged to cut them down. This is one reason why I would like to reduce the number of coolies.

4. When at Akamalla I made inquiries as to whether that village or Alavakonda was the best one for the road from Koilakuntla to Tadpatri Railway Station to pass through.

Every one said that by Alavakonda was the best line, and the one most useful to the country. The Deputy Collector and Tahsildar are of the same opinion. I

do not know enough of the country to be able to give a reliable opinion; but I presume that those two officers, who know the country well, are right. Alavakonda is about two-and-a-half miles from Akamalla, and is half a mile nearer to Koilakuntla, so that if the road from Owk is brought through it, the whole distance from Owk to Koilakuntla will be increased by about two miles. It is necessary that it should be decided, speedily, which of these villages the road is to go through, as we shall have the earthwork finished to Akamalla by the end of this month.

5. During the past week I have seen the cholum fields about this village and up to and beyond Akamalla. I have the same remark to make as to the general scantiness of the crop, and I regret to say that in many fields blight has fallen upon it. The harvest work will not be general until about forty-five days more, unless I can succeed in persuading the ryots to cut down the grain before it is fully ripened.

—

Transferred to the Financial Department in continuation of previous correspondence forwarded to that department.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20th December 1873.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 41. ORDER THEREON, 4th February 1874, No. 185.

The action of the Acting Collector seems to have been judicious and sufficient, and is approved.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Kurnool.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of [illegible] Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

The ACTING COLLECTOR of KURNOOL

&c., &c.,

Dated February, 4th.

Recd.

G.O., 4th February 1874, No. 185.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 38—41.

Relief Works, Kurnool District.—The action taken by the Acting Collector for the relief of the distress prevailing in certain parts of the Kollikunta Taluq, approved.

No 847

District Engineer's Office.

Pasupula 26th November 1873

From,

The District Engineer

Kurnool.

To,

The Collector of

Kurnool

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the sum of 5 thousand Rupees granted from Provincial funds for the road from Owk to Koilagunla is almost expended, and the number of Coolies employed has consequently been reduced to 110 men and 110 women, which is about one-sixth of the whole number, who are said to require work, to enable them to obtain food. This information I received only to-day and I send it to you at once.

2 The Overseer says that no work will be provided by the land Cultivators until the middle of January next, at the earliest, when the growing crops will be harvested, and when also the cultivation under the Owk tank will commence. It would seem that, up to that time,

relief works should be provided, and
that the amount required will be thus.
The sum required per day is about 150 Rs
to give employment to the whole number
requiring relief, and to pay for contin-
gencies; this multiplied by 50 days comes
to 7,500 Rupees.

I trust that you will be able to
provide this amount, and enable me
to proceed with the work or else I must
stop it at once.

3. I understand that the Tahsildar says
that because rain has fallen plentifully,
the relief work should cease: If the infor-
mation I have received is correct, this
is a mistake; for plenty of rain will not
enable the poor to buy food, if there is
no work for them to do; and I am credibly
informed that there will be no agricul-
tural work ready for them until
the time mentioned above. The
Overseer reports that hundreds of
people are crying out for work, and
I know that grain is still being
largely imported from Bellary

Pattikonda.

(3 X 4)

I shall be glad to have a repl
on this subject by return of Post.

I have &c

/Signed/ William Fraser
C.E. District Engineer.

/True Copy/

L Akks
Ag. Collector

WF
VL

No. 439.

Kurnool Local Fund Board

Office. 29th November 1873.

From,

The — President L. F. Board

Kurnool

To,

The Secretary to the

Board of Revenue.

Madras.

Sir,

Referring to G. O. dated 29th August 1873 No. 1222 Sanctioning a grant of Rupees 5,000 from the ~~Provincial~~ Funds for the construction of a famine road from Koilakuntla to cork, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter just received from the District Engineer reporting ~~that the~~ money is nearly spent and requesting a further grant of Rs. 7,500.

I returned only yesterday from a tour through the Koilakuntla and the neighbouring Daluqs, after inspecting the work done so far, and agree with Mr. Fraser in thinking that work should be found for the poor until the middle of January, when it is hoped prices will revert to the former level. The white jowna and other

Rur 3/3905/73

Enclosure in Letter No 417 dated 6th December 1873 from the Collector of Kurnool to the Secretary to Government Revenue Department.

Letter No 849 dated 26th November 1873 from the District Engineer Copy of which was enclosed in Letter No 439 dated 29th idem from the President L. F. Board to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Rur 3/3905/73

Read 4th "
Rec'd 1/3
No 2450.

later crops sown in September and October, are all looking well, but the loss of the early crops is still felt by the labouring classes, and when I was at work, on the 16th and 17th, large numbers of coolies, who had been thrown out of work, owing to want of funds, flocked to me, complaining they could not find employment elsewhere. Under these circumstances, I have the honor to request the Board of Revenue will sanction the transfer of Rs. 6,000 from allotment No. 5 "widening road on the Nandikanama Chauti" in the Local Fund Budget of the current year. In anticipation of sanction, (which I beg may be sent by telegraph) I have requested the District Engineer to proceed with the work.—

I have &c.

(Signed) A. Bose

(True Copy.) President.

A. Bose

Enclosure in a letter No.
417 Dated 6th Decem
1873. from the Collector of K
to the Secretary to
Govt. Revt. Deparkt.
Fort Saint George

Rev 2/3505/73

From 4th February 1874 No 38
Letter from the President
of L.F. Board No 439
Dated 29th November 1873
to the Secretary to the Board
of Revenue. Madras.—

Fwd 1/3
No 2430

Villages. They were in a very wretched condition, and, as I had then no other means of relieving them, I thus food provided for the children and about 125 women.

2 There was no persons Official at Work with whom I could consult except the Reddy who, as well as some Ryots whom I sent for, confirmed the truth of the statements made in my letter noted above, concerning the time at which agricultural work would be available for the Iron-Rock Chapras.

Before starting for Work, I had written to request the Tasildar, who was at Kovilakuntla, to meet me, and he came in on Friday evening, and remained until noon on Saturday. His report appears to have been misunderstood, as he declares that he was always of opinion that the Road work should be maintained, as a famine relief work, until the end of January at least. The testimony of the Reddy and Ryots,

the unmistakable starved look of the people, and the decided opinion of the Tasildar about continuing the relief work, decided me, on taking on myself the responsibility of employing the people. On Saturday I marked out the line of road to the Village of Sanjamalapalli, on Sunday the people were enrolled according to their Villages; and on this morning they were put to work. They will be paid every 3 days for a short time, when weekly payments will be resumed.

3 When enrolling the coolies, I was obliged to reject many men and women, who were too old and infirm, or too far gone in starvation to be able to work; and many children who were too young or too weak to be employed. Many of these will be supported by those who have now got work; but there are from 80 to 100 old men, women and children, who must, for about two months, live on Charity, which appears to be now exhausted. The Tasildar got subscriptions for a relief work at Owk, where the poor were partially

fed

fed until the road work was commenced, which it was closed, and there is no chance of re-opening it except under official pressure: The only thing to be done with these old men, women, and children was to feed them: This I have done and shall continue to do, so long as I remain here; but what is to become of them when I go away? I would suggest that the new Sub Magistrate who is I believe, to come here in 2 or 3 days, should be authorised to feed the really destitute until the harvest is gathered: To-day the number has been reduced to 69.

4. In my former letter, I said that a sum of Rs 7500 would be required for 50 days: The number of coolies employed to-day is about 800, and more are hourly coming in: and, as they may be employed for more than 50 days, I would suggest that 10,000 Rs should be provided: Under the circumstances, a very fair amount of work is being given for the expenditure, and the road is much wanted

I have &c
(True Copy) (Signed) W. Fraser

No 910. District Engineer's Office
Camp Singanapalli
16th December. 1873.

From, The District Engineer,
Kamul.

To, The Collector of
Kamul.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Coolies employed on the Work (famine relief) road have, during the past week, numbered daily as follows.

Men	~~3,047~~
Women	~~2,669~~
Boys and Girls	~~912~~
Total	~~7,918~~

They were paid on Sunday and Yesterday evening for last week:

The Deputy Collector, Timmapa Pantalu, and the Tahsildar, who came here on Saturday; were, at my request, present when the Coolies were paid for the purpose of turning out such as are unfit for work, and who should have food provided for them:

The numbers so turned out were:-

Men	57.
Women	64.
Boys and Girls	8
	129

(2X9)

2. I would have turned out many more, but that the Deputy Collector was unwilling to feed any but those whose Complete destitution could be proved: On this point we are not agreed: I am of opinion that it is better for the State – and Cheaper – that those who are too young or too old, or too infirm to work, should be fed rather than be allowed to hamper the execution of a relief

work by their presence:
There are many who though healthy and of proper age for working have become so debilitated by want as to be too weak to work fairly: what I wish regarding these is that they should be well fed for ten days or so, when I would take on, again, such as had regained their strength: worked as they are now, and fed as they can be from the small pay they receive, they have no chance of getting

strong: The Deputy Collector, however, is evidently unwilling to take upon himself the responsibility of acting in the liberal way which I have recommended, and which I consider absolutely necessary in the present case, for the preservation of the people: He has promised to open two relief houses today; one at Owk. and one here, Singanapalli.
3. I have marked out the road as far as Akamalla: In doing

so I adhered as much as
possible to the present
Candy track; but it is
impossible to avoid injury
to the growing crops,
and it is very unpleasant
to be obliged to cut them
down: This is one
reason why I would like
to reduce the number
of Coolies.

14. When at Ākumalla
I made enquiries as to
whether that village or
Ālavakonda was the
best one for the road
from Kovelakuntla to
Tādpatri Railway Station

(25)

to pass through:
Every one said that
by Ālavakonda was the
best line and the one
most useful to the Country:
The Deputy Collector and
Tahsildar are of the same
opinion: I do not know
enough of the Country
to be able to give a
reliable opinion; but I
presume that those two
Officers, who know the
Country well, are right:
Ālavakonda is about
2½ miles from Ākumalla
and is half a mile
nearer to Kovelakuntla,

so that if the road from Owk is brought through it, the whole distance from Owk to Kovelakuntla will be increased by about two miles: It is necessary that it should be decided, speedily, which of these villages the road is to go through, as we shall have the earth work finished to Ākumalla by the end of this month.

5. During the past week I have seen the Cholam fields about this

village and up to and beyond Ākumalla: I have the same remark to make as to the general scantiness of the crop, and I regret to say that in many fields blight has fallen upon it:— The Harvest work will not be general until about 45 days more, unless I can succeed in persuading the Ryots to cut down the grain before it is fully ripend. I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obdt. Servt.

Sidy William Fraser C. E.

District Engineer

True Copy forwarded
for the information of
the Chief Engineer.

William Mackey C. E.
District Engineer

End C.S.

Enclosure in letter
No. 417 dated 6th Decr
1873 from the Actg
Collector of Customs
to the Secy to Govt
Rev: Dept.

Rev 1/3905/73

Proc: February/74 No 138

Copy of letter
No. 876 dated 1st Decr
1873 from the
District Engineer
Amherst.
Encl 1/73
No 3950.

23

Transferred to
Financial Deptt in
continuation of the
above correspondence
forwarded to that
Deptt unnumd.

Sd/ —

Commissioner of Rs
Secy to Govt
2nd Decr/73

C. 20/12
Rs 2501 Revl Cons

P. D. 1873 Collectorate
Dated Moulmein the 1st December 1873.
From, Capt. C. Mackey R.E.
To, The District Engineer
Amherst.
Memorandum
Sir: I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from the Collector of Customs, Amherst, No. 876 dated 1st instant, with enclosure, on the subject of the Telegraph Office at Kyaikkami, for your information.
I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,
Sd/ C. Mackey
Capt. R.E.
Executive Engineer.

Dated 16th December 1873
Received 20 " "
Answered 22 " "

Draw orders for information and disposal of a letter from the Collector of Customs, Amherst, No. 876 dated 1st instant, forwarding the annexed application of Babu Ramjee Das Bysack, Telegraph Signaller in the Kyaikkami Office, for leave on private affairs for one month and 15 days on full pay, with permission to visit Calcutta.

The Signaller is reported to be in debt to the extent of Rs. 200 and he requests leave in order that he may proceed to Calcutta and settle his affairs there.

The Executive Engineer reports that the Signaller's services can be spared during the period of his absence, and that he has no objection to his leave being granted.

Translation

(377

District Engineers Office

Camp Cwk

2d December 1873

No 877

38

From,

The District Engineer,

Kamul.

To,

The Secretary to Government

Public Works Department

Sir,

I have the honor to foward for your information a copy of two letters addressed to the Collector.

2. In G. O. No. 1,222 dated 29th August last the Government granted 5,000 Rupees from Provincial

funds for making a road from Cwk to Kovelakuntla as a famine relief work: As I had all arrange-ments made before hand, the work was commenced immediately on the grant being made known; and all the distressed people were employed until about 10 days ago when the Overseer, finding that the grant was nearly expended, reduced the number of Coolies to 220 Men, Women,

(33) 17

and Children: Inti-mation of this reached me on the 24th ultimo when I wrote letter No. 8417 to the Collector: My second letter No. 876 will explain itself.

3. It appears that the Tahsildar reported that a plentiful supply of rain had fallen, and it was supposed from this that no further relief was necessary; and I believe that a report to this effect was made to the Government: My two letters will show

how the matter stands and I trust that funds will be provided:

The road is one that will be of great use as there is a Considerable amount of traffic between the villages.

4. There is plenty of grain in the Market, and the prices are not unusually high: The grain, however, is nearly all imported from a distance: I have ridden through the Cholam fields and regret to report that the crop

is very scanty and that the Yield will be small.

5. I trust that the action I have taken, and the responsibility I have assumed in proceeding with the work, will, under the circumstances, be approved of.-

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obdt. Servt.
William Haley C. E.
District Engineer

E.S. Hly

District Engineers Office
Pasupula 26th November
1873

No. 847

From,

The District Engineer,
Kurnool.-

To,

The Collector,
Kurnool.-

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the sum of 5 thousand Rupees granted from Provincial funds for the road from Owk to Kovelakuntla is almost expended, and the number of Coolies employed has consequently been reduced to 110 men and 110 women, which is about one-sixth of the whole number who are

said to require work to enable them to obtain food :- This information I received only to-day and I send it to you at once.—

2.. The Overseer says that no work will be provided by the land Cultivators until the middle of January next, at the earliest, when the growing crops will be harvested; and when, also, the cultivation under the Owk tank will be commenced :—

It would seem that up to that time relief works should be provided, and that the amount required will be thus :— The sum required per day is about 150 Rupees to give employment to the whole number requiring relief, and to pay for contingencies; this multiplied by 50 days comes to 7,500 Rupees :-

I trust, that you will be able to provide this amount, and enable me to proceed with the work, or else I must stop it at once :-

3.. I understand the Tahsildar says that because rain has fallen plentifully, the relief work should cease : If the information I have received is correct, this is a mistake; for plenty of rain will not enable the poor to buy food if there is no work for them to do; and I am credibly informed that there will be no agricultural

work ready for them until the time mentioned above :- The Overseer reports that hundreds of people are crying out for work; and I know that grain is still being largely imported from the Bellary District and the neighbourhood of Pattikonda :—

I shall be glad to have a reply on this subject by return of post.—

I have the honor &c.
(Signed) William Fraser C.E.
District Engineer.-

(True Copy)

William Fraser C.E.
District Engineer.-

No 876

District Engineer's Office
Ook 1st December 1873.

From,

The District Engineer,
Kurnool.—

To,

The Collector,
Kurnool.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No 847 dated the 24th Ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that on Thursday last, the 27th, having heard that the people of Ook and the neighbouring Villages were suffering greatly in consequence of the partial stoppage of the relief work, I made a forced march and arrived at Ook that night :-

1 Enclosure to Letter No 876 dated 2nd December 1873.

From The Distt Engr
Kurnool

To The Secretary to Govt P.W.D.

DW 6582/73

Copy of Letter No 847 of 24th Nov 1873 to the Collector of Kurnool.—

Ook 27/11/73.

Early the next morning several hundred men, women and children came to beg that they might be again put to work; and during the day, the numbers increased by parties from the surrounding Villages: They were in a very wretched condition and as I had then no other means of relieving them I had food provided for the children and about 125 women.—

2.. There was no Revenue Official at Owk with whom I could consult except the Reddy who, as well as some Ryots whom I sent for, confirmed the truth of the statements made in my letter noted above concerning the time at which

X 45

agricultural work would be available for the non-Ryot classes:-

Before starting for Owk I had written to request the Tahsildar, who was at Kovelakuntla, to meet me and he came in an Friday evening and remained until noon on Saturday: His report appears to have been misunderstood as he declares that he was always of opinion that the roadwork should be maintained, as a famine relief work, until the end of January at least: The testimony of the Reddy and Ryots, the unmistakable starved look of the people, and the decided opinion of the Tahsildar about continuing the relief work, decided me on taking

on myself the responsibility of re-employing the people:- On Saturday I marked out the line of road to the Village of Sanganapalle, on Sunday the people were enrolled according to their Villages; and on this morning they were put to work:- They will be paid every 3 days for a short time when weekly payments will be resumed.—

3.- When enrolling the coolies I was obliged to reject many men and women who were too old and infirm, or too far gone in starvation, to be able to work; and many children who were too young or too weak to be employed: Many of these will be supported by those who have now got work; but there are from 80 to 100 old men,

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women and children who must, for about two months, live on charity, which appears to be now exhausted: The Tahsildar got subscriptions for a relief house at Owk where the poor were partially fed until the road work was commenced, when it was closed; and there is no chance of re-opening it except under official pressure: The only thing to be done with these old men, women, and children was to feed them: This I have done and shall continue to do so long as I remain here; but what is to become of them when I go away? I would suggest that the new Sub-Magistrate who is, I believe, to come here in 2

or 8 days should be authorized to feed the really destitute until the harvest is gathered:-

To-day the number has been reduced to 69.-

4.- In my former letter I said that a sum of Rupees 7,500 would be required for 50 days: The number of coolies employed today is about 800, but more are hourly coming in; and as they may be employed for more than 50 days I would suggest that 10,000 Rupees should be provided:- Under the circumstances a very fair amount of work is being given for the expenditure and the road is much wanted.-

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) William Fraser.-C.E.

District Engineer

(True Copy)

William Fraser C.E.

District Engineer

E.S.H.G. H.C

(43/X9

The Collectors action seems blame
worthy & is disapproved
Sec.

1873-74 P. W. D.

Enclosure No II
In a letter from
the Distt Engineer
Kurnool, No. 875
dated 2nd December
1873. —
P.W. 6560/73
From The Distt Engr.
Kurnool
To The Secretary to
Govt P. W. D.

Copy of a letter to
Collector on the Relief
Work in Koilakuntla
Taluk Finance No 2273 of 1873.

5B 3/4

Financial Department.

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PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
District Engineer, Kurnool, dated 2nd December 1873 No. 577
— do — do — dated 16th December 1873 No. 910
Ag Collector of Kurnool dated 6th December 1873 No. 817

Order thereon 4th Feby 1874.
No. 185.

The action of the
Acting Collector seems
to have been judicious
and sufficient and
is approved.

EB

To
The Acting Collector of Kurnool
Public Works Department
Asst Journal

62 Cts Ends

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Finc

To

The Agt Collector of
Kurnool.
&c
&c

Dated 4th July
Recd.
1874, No. 185.

Nos. 38-41.

Relief Works, Kurnool

Dt. The action taken by the Agt Collector for the relief of the distress prevailing in certain parts of the Koilkuntla taluq, approved