No. 1
Date 17.
No. 4

M.R.O. 1—2-6-22-12-21.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 17 11 57

G.O. No. 2238 Press Mis.

Dated 15-6-22 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 15. Read the following letter from F. B. ELTON, Esq., Collector of Nellore; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 6th November 1857, No. 41.

SIR,

1. With reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date 20th October 1857, No. 1968, I have the honor to forward copies of a correspondence with the District Engineer, and earnestly to request that Government will allow the Revenue Department to furnish all the aid in their power to the Department Public Works, in order, during the short interval between this and the end of the monsoon, to endeavour to put the Tanks and channels in such a state of repair, as may enable the wet lands to be successfully cultivated.

2. A hurricane of extreme violence was experienced here on the night of the 1st Instant, and the following morning; the wind during the latter part being from the opposite quarter of the compass to where it was during the night, and of still greater force.

3. The District Engineer it will be observed estimates that the bunds of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tanks in the principal Nunjah Talooks have been breached, till detailed accounts have been received this is of course uncertain; but the greatest exertions are necessary to save the revenue.

4. I trust the urgency of the occasion will excuse my sending this direct, instead of through the Chief Engineer.

Letter from F. B. ELTON, Esq., Collector of Nellore; to Lieutenant JOHN MULLINS, District Engineer, Nellore, dated 31st October 1857, No. 268.

SIR,

With reference to para. 3 Extract Minutes Consultation under date 20th October 1857, I have the honor to request you will inform me whether the whole strength of your Department is able to carry out the necessary repairs to the works of Irrigation in this District, without the aid of the Revenue Officers.

2. The monsoon, as you are aware, has opened with extremely heavy rain, upwards of 30 inches having fallen at Nellore.

3. There is now a break, which it is of the utmost importance to take advantage of, in order that those tanks which have been breached should be promptly repaired, before the next burst, or at least before the opportunity of their being refilled is over for the year. Some channels also urgently require clearing, and many tanks require strengthening, or they may yet burst before the end of the monsoon, all this must as far as possible be done during intervals of fine weather between this and the 15th of December, or earlier, as after that period heavy rain is hardly to be expected.

4. I fear if the Government orders are carried out absolutely and without any modification, and the assistance which the Thasildars are, with your concurrence, now actually furnishing, be suddenly withdrawn, that there may be a very serious loss of Revenue.

5. I therefore propose that the sanction of Government should be applied for, to allow the Revenue Department to continue to aid in executing the repairs in such localities as the Collector and District Engineer may consider necessary, until the 31st of December next.

Letter from F. B. ELTON, Esq., Collector of Nellore; to Lieutenant JOHN MULLINS, District Engineer, Nellore, dated 3rd November 1857, No. 269.

SIR,

With reference to para. 1 of your letter of the 31st Ultimo, No. 2172 received this day, I have the honor to request, previous to making known to the several Thasildars the decision of Government, prohibiting their employment in the Superintendence of works under execution by your Department, that you will favor me with your opinion on the measure, in reply to my letter of the 31st Ultimo, No. 268, in order that, if necessary, I may refer the point for re-con-

and carried out absolutely and

sideration of Government, with further information as to its probable effect on the Revenue of the District.

Letter from Lieutenant J. MULLINS, District Engineer, Nellore; to F. B. ELTON, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated 5th November 1857, No. 2211.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letters Nos. 268 and 269, of the 31st Ultimo and 3rd instant, respectively, I have the honor to inform you that I am quite sure that the whole strength of this Department as at present constituted was quite unequal to the task of placing the irrigation works of the District in a state fit for this years, cultivation, even before the recent hurricane had breached, as I believe it has done, the bunds of $\frac{4}{5}$ths of the Tanks in the principal Nunjah Talooks, and in order to secure as much of the Revenue as possible, of the current Fusly, I consider that it is highly desirable and indeed necessary that the services of the Talook authorities should be allowed to continue available for the Superintendence of a portion of works, at all events until either the monsoon has entirely closed, or until the Department is once more placed upon an efficient footing.

2. It is my desire to carry out at the earliest possible moment, the directions of Government with regard to the entire separation of the executive of the Department Public Works from the Revenue Establishment, and had not the recent sweeping reductions of Establishment been made, I should have had at my disposal a body of men acquainted with their duties, and able to Superintend the energetic prosecution of the extensive repairs required, but under existing circumstances it would be Suicidal policy to carry out in its entirely a plan which however correct in principal, cannot be at present successfully carried out, without a very large increase of strength to the establishment as it now stands.

3. I am about preparing a statement shewing the present distribution of the establishment, the work that has to be done in each Talook, and the additional assistance that will be required for a period of at least 18 months. When this District was, in common with the rest of the Presidency, made subject to the reductions ordered by the Government of India, the state of the irrigation works, and the absolute necessity for a very large expenditure upon them were not sufficiently taken into account, and now that this necessity has been rendered so much more urgent than ever, by the events of the last few days, I feel sure that the Government will not decline to modify their previous orders to such an extent as may be necessary, to prevent the loss of a large Revenue and the consequent or rather concurrent distress which would result to many thousands of Ryots, who depend for their livelihood upon the produce of the irrigated lands of this District.

No. 16. ORDER THEREON, No. 2098; dated 13th November 1857.

The circumstances of the case are represented as so peculiar and so emergent by both the Collector and the District Engineer of Nellore, that the Government consent to the proposal made by Mr. Elton, that the most effective aid of the Collector's establishment shall be given to the Public Works Department in repairing the numerous works which have suffered in the late hurricane.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No 268

Nellore Collector's Office 31st October 1857

From F. B. Elton Esqr Collector of Nellore

To Lieut. John Mullins District Engineer Nellore

Sir

With reference to para 3 Extract Minutes Consultation under date 20th October 1857, I have the honor to request you will inform me whether the whole strength of your Department is able to carry out the necessary repairs to the works of Irigation in this District, without the aid of the Revenue Officers.

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4. I fear if the Government orders are carried out absolutely and

without any Modification, & the assistance which the Tahsildars are, with your concurrence, now actually furnishing, be suddenly withdrawn that there may be a very serious loss of Revenue.

5. I therefore propose that the sanction of Government should be applied for, to allow the Revenue Department to continue to aid in executing the repairs in such localities as the Collector & District Engineer may consider necessary, until the 31st of December next.

I have &c.

Signed F. B. Elton
Collector.

Kellee
3rd November 1857

No 269

From F. B. Elton Esquire
Collector of Kellee
To Lieut. John Imlins
District Engineer
Kellee

Sir,

With reference to para 1 of your letter of the 31st Ultimo No 2172 received this day, I have the honor to request, by means of making known to the General Tahsildars the decision of Government, prohibiting their employment in the superintendence of works under execution by your Department, that you will favor me with your opinion on the measure, in reply to my letter of the 31st Ultimo No 268 in order that, if necessary, I may refer the point for the reconsideration of Government, with further information as to its probable effect on the Revenue of the District.

I have &c.

Signed F. B. Elton
Collector

No 2211

From Lieut. J. Imlins
District Engineer
Kellee

To F. B. Elton Esquire
Collector of Kellee

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letters Nos 268 and 269, of the 31st Ultimo, and 3rd instant, respectively, I have the honor to inform you that I am quite sure that the whole strength of this Department as at present constituted was quite unequal to the task of placing the irrigation works of the District in a state fit for this year's cultivation, even before the recent hurricane had breached, as I believe it has done, the bunds of 4/5ths of the tanks in the principal Punjat Talooks, & in order to secure as much of the Revenue as possible, of the current Fusly, I consider that it is highly desirable and indeed necessary that the services of

of the Labour authorities should be allowed to continue available for the Superintendence of a portion of Works, at all events until either the Monsoon has entirely closed, or until the Department is once more placed upon an efficient footing.

2. It is my desire to carry out at the earliest possible moment, the directions of Government with regard to the entire separation of the Executive of the P. P. W. from the Revenue Establishment, and had not the recent sweeping reductions of Establishment been made, I should have had at my disposal a body of Men acquainted with their duties, and able to superintend the energetic prosecution of the extensive repairs required, but under existing circumstances it would be suicidal policy to carry out in its entirety a plan which however correct in principal, cannot be at present successfully carried out, without a very large increase of strength to the Establishment as it now stands.

3. I am about preparing a Statement shewing the present distribution of the Establishment, the work that has to be done in each Taluk, and the additional assistance that will be required for a period of at least 18 Months. When this District was, in common with the rest of the Presidency, made subject to the reductions ordered by the Government of India, the state of the Irrigation Works, and the absolute necessity for a very large expenditure upon them, were not sufficiently taken into account, and now that this necessity has been rendered so much more urgent than ever, by the events of the last few days, I feel sure that the Government will not decline to modify their previous orders to such an extent as may be necessary to prevent the loss of a large Revenue and the Consequent or rather Concurrent distress which would result to many thousands of Ryots, who depend for their livelihood upon the produce of the irrigated lands of this District.

Shane & Co

Signed/ John Mullins Lieut.
District Engineer Kellore

Kellore
5th November 1857

/True Copies/

W. Wilson
Collector

Nellore
Collector's Office
6th November 1857.

No. 41

From,

F. B. Elton Esquire
Collector of Nellore

To H. Forbes Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

1. With reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date 20th October 1857 No. 1968, I have the honor to forward copies of a correspondence with the district Engineer, and earnestly to request that Government will allow the Revenue Department to furnish all the aid in their power to the Department Public Works, in order, during the short interval between this and the end of the Monsoon, to endeavor to put the Tanks & Channels in such a state of repair, as may enable the wet lands to be successfully cultivated.

2. A Hurricane of Extreme violence was experienced here on the night of the 1st Instant and the following morning; the wind during the latter part being from the opposite quarter of the Compass to

where

1857

Copies of Correspondence with the District Engineer on the subject of carrying out certain Irrigation in the Nellore District with the Appendix to the Despatch

Dated 6th November 1857
No. 41

Copies of Correspondence with the District Engineer on the subject of carrying out certain Irrigation in the Nellore District with the Appendix to the Despatch dated 6th November 1857 No. 41.

Examined

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greater force.-

3, The District Engineer it will be
observed Estimates that the bunds of $\frac{4}{5}$ of the
Tanks in the Principal Nunjah Talooks have
been breached. till detailed accounts have been
received this is of course uncertain; but the
greatest exertions are necessary to save the Revenue.

4 I trust the urgency of the occasion will
excuse my sending this direct, instead of through
the Chief Engineer.-

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant.
J. W. Gilton.
Collector.

Cons: 20th Oct 57 Bdle B

P. Works.

1857 No 2213

From the Collector of Customs

To the Secretary to Government Fort St George

Dated 6th November 1857.

Recd 11th

In Further Cons: 1st June 58

1 Enclosure

No 41

Forwarding Correspondence with the District Engineer & requesting that Government will allow the Revenue Department to furnish all the aid in their power to the Department Public Works to carry out the repairs to the Works of Irrigation in this District &c &c &c

Fort St George 13th Nov 1857

From the Chief Engr

To the Collector of Customs

Dated 12th Nov 1857

Rec'd 13th

Copy with Encl to the Chief Engr 13 Nov 57

No 5416

No 2098

The circumstances of the case are represented as so peculiar and so emergent by both the Collector and the District Engineer of establishment that the Government consent to the proposal made by Mr Elton, that the most effectual aid of the Collectorate Establishment should be given to the Public Works Department in repairing the numerous works which have suffered in the late hurricane.

R. G.