M.R.O. 1—52,400—28-11-59.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1879 Press Mis.

122-23

Dated 4-2- 18 [illegible]

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 14th September 1858.

No. 122. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Revenue Department, dated 9th September 1858 No. 1230.

Referring for the consideration and report of the officiating Chief Engineer, the suggestion of the Collecter of Bellary for affording relief to the people of that District by employing them largely on Public Works with a request, that he will submit an approximate estimate of the outlay likely to be involved in the measure.

(Vide Revenue Consultation, dated 14th September 1858, Nos. 23 @ 25.

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, No. 1899; dated 14th September 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing Extract be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 1230.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 9th September 1858.

Read the following Extracts from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting a letter from the Collector of Bellary, reporting the distressed state of his District consequent on the unfavorable nature of the season; and commending his suggestions for affording relief to the people, to the early and favorable consideration of Government. (Here enter 27th August 1858, No. 3276.)

Forwarding in continuation of the Board's Proceedings of 27th Instant, No. 3276, a letter from the Collector of Bellary reporting upon the unfavorable state of the weather in the Maduckseerah talook. (Here enter 31st August 1858, No. 3309.)

1. In the letters submitted with the above Proceedings of the Revenue Board, the Collector of Bellary brings to notice the unfavorable state and prospects of the season in his District, and recommends that the people should be largely employed on Public Works, not only to provide them with food, but to prevent their being driven by scarcity to gain a livelihood in lawless pursuits, an evil which Mr. Pelly apprehends in his later letter of the 26th August, notwithstanding that the general character of the people is to be honest. Mr. Pelly having taken a long tour to the east and south of his district, describes the appearance of the country in the following terms: "Instead of fields covered with crops and plains with green grass, all seemed a desert, and scarcely a blade of grass was to be seen. Ryots were yoking their bullocks to their large hoes to scrape together a little grass from below the surface for food, for their cattle. Numbers of cattle had been driven away from their villages to find fodder and water at distant places; and on the roads, drivers of cotton carts were purchasing straw for their bullocks at the rate of three bundles for two rupees, which generally could be purchased at the rate of from eight to four bundles for a rupee." His suggestion, supported by the Board, is therefore to commence work at once on the District roads and principal lines of communication, such as Trunk road No. 12, the Bellary, Gooty and Cuddapah road, the road from Bellary to the Mysore frontier by Culliandroog and Maduckscerah, &c., &c., 16 such communications being named in all; and further to increase the staff of Engineering Agency, which is reported by the Collector to consist only of the District Engineer himself and one single Executive Officer, viz. Captain Syme, for a district of 12,000 square miles. Mr. Pelly adds that officers are indeed placed on the roll, but that they are not at Bellary, being continually drawn away to Canara and other districts.

2. In his later letter of the 26th August, Mr. Pelly calls attention more especially to the condition of the Maduckseerah talook in the South, where the crops are in imminent danger, and recommends that his proposals for employing the people may be brought into operation at least in this talook, and in the other five Southern talooks, which it is presumed must have equally suffered, viz. Raidroog, Anantapoor, Dhurmaverum, Pennoogoondah, and Codecondah.

3. It would appear however from the foregoing, that the emergency for resort to the measures of relief suggested by the Collector of Bellary, has not yet arisen; but Mr. Pelly has done well to prepare for the contingency. So great an outlay however, as that most probably involved in the large measures proposed, will add to the embarrassed condition of the finances, and can only be authorized in the last necessity. The Government resolve therefore in the first place to refer Mr. Pelly's letters to the Officiating Chief Engineer for his opinion and early report, as to the best mode of directing any such extra labor, as that thought to be necessary in the district of Bellary, and in view to his furnishing an approximate estimate of the outlay likely to be involved. In considering this subject, Major Lawford will give his attention to para. 7 of Mr. Pelly's letter of the 20th August, where he affirms that the superintendence of all details in the entire district, is practically divided between the District Engineer and one single executive officer, all the others on the roll being withdrawn to other Districts.

(A true Extract,)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Officiating Chief Engineer
with M.S. copies of the Collectors 2 letters.
" Departments of Public Works.

No 122 Read the following letter from the Marquis of Carmarthen, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated Whitehall, 25th September 1789, No 230 -

Sir,

Sir Alured Clarke

Vide Lord Auckland's letter of 25th September 1789

No 123 Order thereon, 1st March 1790 Letter to Lt. Governor Clarke

Ordered that the foregoing Letter be recorded -

(Signed) J. Pownall

No. 1899
To be recorded
Fort Saint Vrain
14th September 1858

No. 122 & 123.

C. Works 1858 DeKalb
Counties Schools
No. 2126

Extract Mines Forestry
Revenue DeKalb

DeKalb 9th } September
Revenue 13th } 1858
No. 1221

Referred to the Commissioner of the Land Office
Office who responds the suggestion
of said Office and Works
for affording relief
to the people of that
District by employing
them largely on
Pub Works. unto a
request that he will
submit an estimate
of the Pub Works
likely to be wanted
in that section
to be recorded