

(1) Number of pages 18

(2) Date of repair 27-12-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer CF

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Page
	<u>18</u>
Dated	18-12-38

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of January 1860.*

No. 36. Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Head Assistant Collector of Nellur; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Vadagiri, 29th December 1859.

In accordance with the order of Government, No. 2962, dated the 21st instant, I have the honor to forward you, for the information of Government, the following brief statement of facts in explanation of my conduct in issuing an order during the month of November 1858, prohibiting the exportation of grain from the ports of Negapatam and Nagur.

2. The floods caused by the excessive quantity of rain that fell in the district of Tanjor during the month of November 1858, were productive of many disasters, amongst the chief of which was the great damage done to most of the main lines of road, whereby all communication was cut off between the various chief towns of the district, the grain dealers and marchants at once closed their shops and resolutely refused to sell rice to the multitudes that beset them daily with applications for food. They persevered in this line of conduct for some time, and eventually the populace of several of the largest towns rendered desperate by hunger, committed serious grain riots, in one instance attended with loss of life, as well as much property of all kinds.

3. The towns of Negapatam and Nagur were cut off so completely from the interior of the country by the floods, that on one occasion for a whole week no tappal was despatched or received, and even when the floods did abate slightly, the roads were perfectly impassable so that no grain from the surrounding villages could be brought into the market.

4. As in other places the Nattucottay chetties closed their grain godowns and obstinately refused to sell to any one on any terms, the stock in trade of the petty retail dealers, of course dependant for supplies upon the wholesale merchants, was soon exhausted, and the inhabitants of both of the towns suffered severely, after a few days the streets of Negapatam became crowded with strangers from the different villages along the sea coast who had made their way in the hope of being able to buy grain; disappointed in their expectation and literally starving, these people were difficult to keep in order and a source of considerable uneasiness, particularly to the grain merchants, who had stated openly that they only waited for the tempestuous weather that then prevailed at sea to moderate, when they intended to export the whole of their very large stock of grain to the Ceylon market.

5. As soon as this intention of theirs was generally known, the great mass of inhabitants of the two towns became much excited, threatening placards were posted at night on the street walls and even on the Custom House doors, denouncing the merchants by name and inciting the people to plunder their godowns as had been done elsewhere in the district. A deputation of the chief merchants visited me and applied for protection of their stores and property, in the shape of peons or sepoy to be posted at their shops which they still refused to open, I had several interviews with them and as they continued firm it became at last a matter of very serious consideration what was to be done to preserve the peace of the town, and at the same time supply the population with food for a short time. The grain ships expected from Kakinada did not arrive, and little or no grain could be got in the district supposing the state of the roads permitted its being brought into the town. The rice godowns were surrounded night and day by large crowds of people who were rapidly becoming less amenable to control, and more clamorous in their demands.

6. Under these circumstances, after much consideration, I resolved, as a last resource, to issue an order that for the reasons above given, no grain should be exported until a supply should be received in the town either by sea or land. I wrote the same day a full report of the whole matter to Mr. Phillips, and the day but one after, (so far as I can remember at this length of time), I received a demi-official letter from him, requesting me to lose no time, in withdrawing the order I had mentioned, as the principle was objectionable although no doubt my position was one of considerable difficulty.

7. In the interval that took place between my writing to and hearing from Mr. Phillips, (then at Vellam,) I had persuaded several of the chief merchants to open their shops and sell grain to the people, this was done under my personal inspection and under the guard of a num-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of January 1860.*

ber of peons and a small party of sepoys; a considerable quantity of paddy had been sold in this manner before Mr. Phillips' letter arrived; *I at once* rescinded the order in question, it had not been then issued more than three or four days, and no instance had occurred of a necessity to enforce it, as owing to the unsettled state of the weather, no vessels dared approach the shore or put out to sea, and no grain was, I believe, exported until the commencement of the present year, when the weather had moderated.

8. Before that time several vessels arrived with paddy, most of which was sold by retail under my own inspection and protection, for the rush of eager purchasers was so great that the merchant was afraid to open his doors.

9. I have thus endeavoured to shew as succinctly as possible the pressure at that time bearing upon me, I had the responsibility of preserving the peace of two large towns then in a state of much excitement, with the example before my eyes of what had just occurred in other places in the district where the grain merchants had to the last persisted in their infatuated determination not to sell; information had been made, (I am not aware on what grounds) to the Officer Commanding the 34th Regiment N. I. at Trichinopoly, that the detachment stationed at Negapatam was dissatisfied and unruly, consequently, I felt somewhat doubtful as to the amount of assistance I could expect in case of a disturbance in the town, and I respectfully trust that Government will be of the opinion that acting as I did, I was exerting myself to the best of my ability and adopting only what appeared, under the circumstances, to be one of the best and readiest means of tranquilising public feeling.

10. In conclusion, and in support of what I have stated, I may mention that considering my absence from Negapatam, even for a single day, inadvisable, Mr. Phillips objected to my attending the examination of Assistants that was held at Kumbakonam in December, and my examination was deferred for that reason until January. For six days preceding and subsequent to my order now under explanation, I was constantly in the streets of the town endeavouring to quiet the crowds of people; pickets of sepoy's also were posted at night in the street where the grain shops were situated and near the Custom House.

11. Absence from Nellur prevents my referring to such papers as I have for the dates, &c., that might, perhaps, have rendered my explanation plainer and more full.

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1860, No. 174.

In this letter Mr. Whiteside explains the circumstances under which, when acting Head Assistant Magistrate of Tanjūr, he prohibited the export of grain from Negapatam and Nagūr.

2. The Government have considered all that Mr. Whiteside urges in excuse in vindication of his proceeding. They admit that he was in a position of difficulty; but not only was the course which he took illegal, it was also unsound and indefensible in policy. Nothing is more certain than that the one essential to the fullest and freest supply of any article, is confidence on the part of the dealers that their property will be protected, and that their control over it will not be interfered with. Any act tending to shake that confidence, though it may seem adapted to remedy a temporary inconvenience, is certain in reality to have an injurious effect.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

To the Hon. Secy of the Interior
 Washington
 29th December 1857
 From Lt. A. H. Revere Regt
 Genl. of Artillery & Director of Artillery
 Fort O. Randall Regt
 Director of Government
 Fort Saint George
 In accordance with the orders
 of Government I enclose the 1st
 and 2nd annexes hereto to forward
 you for the information of Government,
 the following brief statement of facts
 in explanation of our conduct in carrying
 on our operations the month of December
 1857 involving the destruction of 1000
 from the ports of Santa Helena & Anize.
 2. The goods caused by the excessive
 quantity of rain that fell in the district
 of Anize during the month of December
 1857 were produced by heavy rain,

amongst the chief of the tribe, the
great damage done to most of the
main lines of trade, & nearly all com-
munication between the various chief towns of the nation.
The grain dealers in various places
closed their stores & refused to buy or
to sell rice to the natives, & the
boats from each side refused to
go on. They remained in this state
of conduct for some time, & until
the business was nearly at a standstill.
Some persons in each of the
councils & divisions were sent to
mediate between the two sides, &
after much discussion, and some
of the towns of each nation
have now sent representatives
from the interior of the country to
the floor, & have been seen
for a while, and the business

despatched a reinforcement, and were
when the floods did not slightly
the work more perfectly impassable
so that no grain from the surrounding
villages could be brought into the
market.

4. In other places, the Russian
collection, close to their main po-
stons & systematically refused to sell to
anyone on any terms, the shore in
the rest of the delta being entirely
of course dependent for supplies
upon the Asiatic merchants, who
soon exhausted, & the inhabitants
of both of the towns suffered severely,
after a few days the streets of
Kasablan became crowded with
strangers from the different villages
along the sea coast who had sought
their way in the hope of buying the
few grains & supplies that were

expectation & literally starving,
these people were difficult to buy
in order a source of considerable
uneasiness, particularly to the
main merchants. The latter stated
plainly that they only wanted for
the American market but their
position seemed to be desperate,
since they intended to export the whole
of their very large stock of grain
to the Sydney Harbour.

Dr. Williams's intention of
leaving was generally known. The
great mass of inhabitants of the
two towns became much excited,
threatening placards were posted at
night on the street walls &
even on the Custom House doors,
denouncing the merchants for causing
the people to plunder
their provisions and to burn houses.

elsewhere in the District. A
deputation of the chief merchants
visited me & offered for protection
a large store of property in the shape
of provisions to be posted at
their own risk which they still refused
to give. I had several interviews with
him & he continued to insist that he
came at this a matter of mere business
consideration which would be done
in view of the peace of the town
& at the same time supply the popula-
lation with food for a short time.
The grain ships which from Calcutta
did not arrive, & little or no grain
could be got in the District supposing
the state of the roads permitted
it being brought into the town. The
rice granaries were surrounded night
& day by large crowds of people
who were rapidly becoming more

[illegible]

receiving from the President, had a
 letter from the President, and several
 of the chief were for to show this
 side of the matter to the public, for
 one or two under the general impression
 of the President, for a number of
 years, and a number of years, and
 a considerable quantity of money
 in a very solid and true manner.
 before the President, after several
 of the President, and the President in
 question, in the case of the President
 and more than for a long time
 and the President, and the President
 necessary to enforce it, and the
 of the President, and the President
 no President, and the President, and
 a case of the President, and the President
 was the President, and the President
 and the President, and the President
 of the President, and the President
 of the President, and the President

8. I have had some of the
merchandise which was
of which was sold by retail under
my own inspection & selection, for
the retail dealer was a man
so great that he was able to
raise a good deal of money
9. I have had some of the
as well as the other, but I have
at that time having a large number
and the other, but I have
the price of the large number
in a state of much excitement
the example before me, and
the price of the large number
in the District, and the price
there has been a large number
in this instance a determination
not to be. Information has been
made, and it was on that
point of the case, and the

10. I have had some of the
that he has been able to
large number of the large number
and the other, but I have
the price of the large number
in the District, and the price
there has been a large number
in this instance a determination
not to be. Information has been
made, and it was on that
point of the case, and the

Remained in December and
my examination was deferred for
that reason until January. In
the preceding I anticipated to my
order now under explanation. I
was constant in the study of the
town encircling to guard the borders
of people, and so the village was more
partially at night in the dark night.
The main side more extensive and
near the Castle tower.

11. A House from the House. I have
my reference to the house and the
for the date. He that night perhaps
have rendered a my explanation clearer
and more full.

Thank the donor to be.
Yours most Obedient

Head Assistant Collector

D.W. Dept

2/10/74

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 23rd January/60.

Read the following letter
from W. S. Whiteside Esq
Head Asst. Col. of Madras

Explaining the circumstances
under which he issued an order
prohibiting the exportation of
rice from Negapatam and
Tanjore.

(Here enter 29. Dec. 59 etc.)

In this letter Mr

Whiteside contains the cir-
cumstances under which,
when acting as Asst. Comm.
of Tanjore, he prohibited
the export of grain from
Negapatam & Tanjore.

2. The Govt. has since
considered & all that
Mr. Whiteside urges in ex-
cuse or vindication of
his conduct proceeding they
admit that he was in a
position of difficulty; but
not only was the course
which he took illegal, it

W
Cg
W

S/M

Cons. 31st December 1874

23rd Jan 1860
Cons. 31st Dec 1874

1860

Cons. 31st Dec 1874

Cons. 31st Dec 1874

Cons. 31st Dec 1874

Cons. 31st Dec 1874

Cons. 31st Dec 1874

Cons. 31st Dec 1874

96. 2/10

Cons. 31st Dec 1874

Cons. 31st Dec 1874

was also measured & inde-
fensible in policy. Nothing
is more certain than that
the one essential to the fullest
freedom of any article,
is confidence on the part
of the dealer that their
interests will be protected &
that their control over it
will not be interfered
with. any act tending
to shake that confidence,
though it may seem adapted
to remedy a temporary
inconvenience, is certain in reality
to have as
injurious ~~an~~ effect.

Copies
To the Board of Directors
and to W. S. Whitcomb Esq.

W. S.

- (1) பக்ஷங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை _____
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள _____
 (3) ஆதாரங் குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் _____

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

Pwd. 1860 குறை

அரசாணை எண்.	175	அச்சம்
மு. கோப்புத் தாள எண்.		பலவகை
38-39		
நாள்:	23-1-1860	190

மாடிக்கலோ கணபதி கையாளலோ காப்பகம்.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Inspector _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

GO. No.	Dist.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of January 1860.*

No. 38. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated 7th January 1860, No. 8894.

In my letter, No. 6499, dated 25th October 1859, sanction was requested for an additional sum of Rupees 3,180, for repairing the Ariyalur Kallagdi road in the Trichinopoly District, and in their Proceedings, No. 2593, dated 4th November 1859, the Government authorized the amount to be disbursed from the general funds at the disposal of the District Engineer for the current year.

2. The amount Rupees 3,180 was made up as follows.	Rs.
Amount of estimate submitted	6,080
Deduct.	Rs.
Maintenance allowance for 1858-59	745
Do. for 1859-60	745
Amount sanctioned in March 1859	1,410
	<u>2,900</u>
Balance required Rupees.....	<u>3,180</u>

3. The District Engineer now reports, however, that the sum for which sanction has been obtained is not the correct one, Rupees 3,600 made up as follows, being the amount required in addition to a sum of Rupees 2,480, which has been already expended in excess of that authorized, viz. Rupees 2,900.

Maintenance allowance for 1858-59	Rs. 745
Do. 1859-60	745
Estimate sanctioned in March 1859	1,410
Do. last submitted	6,080
	<u>Total Rupees 8,980</u>
Deduct expenditure already incurred	5,380
Balance still required.....	<u>3,600</u>

4. The amount of expenditure already incurred on this road was given by the District Engineer at Rupees 4,736 (the sum mentioned in the 5th paragraph of my letter, No. 6499,) in his letter, No. 700, dated 10th October last; but Captain Moberly now corrects the sum to Rupees 5,380 above deducted.

5. Under these circumstances, I have the honor to request the sanction of Government to the aggregate amount of Rupees 6,080, Rupees 2,480 of which have been already expended in excess of the sum sanctioned, and the balance Rupees 3,600, is required to complete the work.

No. 39. ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1860, No. 175.

With his letter of the 25th October 1859, the Chief Engineer submitted for sanction an estimate of Rupees 6,080 for the repair of the Ariyalur and Kallagdi road in the district of Trichinopoly, which in accordance with his recommendation was sanctioned under date the 4th

November No. 2593 in supersession of a former estimate of Rupees 1,410.* From his present letter it appears that the larger estimate was intended by the District Engineer to be in addition to the sanction of Rupees 1,410.

2. Resolved, therefore, that the order 4th November 1859 No. 2593 be cancelled, and that the estimate of Rupees (6,080) six thousand and eighty be sanctioned as now applied for. Rupees 2,480 of this sum have already been expended, the difference Rupees 3,600 will be drawn from the general funds at the disposal of the District Engineer for the current year.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

N^o 8894

Postal Office of P. H.
Sept. 1860
7th January 1860

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary

to Government P. H.

Sir,

In my letter N^o 6499 dated 25th
October 1859, sanction was requested for an additional
sum of Rupees 3180 for repairing the Navigation Kallagade
roads in the Chichinopoly District, and in their Proceedings
N^o 2893 dated 4th November 1859 the Government
authorized the amount to be disbursed from the
General funds at the disposal of the District Engineer
for the current year.

2. The amount Rupees 3180 was made
up as follows. —

Amount

Amount of Estimate submitted Rupees 6080
Deduct

Maintenance allowance for 1858/59 - 745
do - for 1859/60 745

Amount sanctioned in March 1859 - 1410
2900

Balance required Rupees 3180

3. The District Engineer now reports however that the sum for which sanction has been obtained is not the correct one Rupees 3600 more or less as follows, being the amount required in addition to a sum of Rupees 2480 which has been already expended in excess of that authorized vizt Rupees 2900.

Maintenance allowance for 1858/59 Rupees 745
do - 1859/60 - 745

Estimate sanctioned in March 1859 - 1410
do last submitted - 6080

Total Rupees - 8980

Deduct expenditure already incurred Rupees 5380

Balance still required Rupees 3600

The amount of expenditure already

incurred

incurred on this Road was given by the District Engineer at Rupees 4736 (the sum mentioned in the 5th Para of my letter No 6499) in his letter No 400 dated 10th October last, but Captain Cloberry now corrects the sum to Rupees 5380 above deducted.

5. Under these circumstances I have the honor to request the sanction of Government to the aggregate amount of Rupees 6080, Rupees 2480 of which have been already expended in excess of the sum sanctioned and the balance Rupees 3600 is required to complete the work.

Office of Mr. [unclear]
[unclear]
January 1860

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

[Signature]
[unclear]
[unclear]

[Signature]
Chief Engineer

P. 12

10/17/5

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 23rd July 1860

Read the following
letter from the Chief
Engineer.

Sanctioning the sanction
of Government for repairing
the Arigalur Nallagudi road
in the District of Chingleput
amounting to Rs 3500
(Here enter 1 Aug 60 1860)

With his letter
of the 25th Oct. 1859, the
Ch. Engr. submitted for
sanction an estimate
of Rs 6000 for the repair
of the Arigalur and
Nallagudi roads which
in accordance with
his recommendation was
sanctioned under date
the 4 Nov. 1859 Rs
in pursuance of a former
estimate of Rs 1400
from his present letter

Sanctioned 10th Mar. 1859 Rs 600

10th Mar. 1859 Rs 55-54

10th Mar. 1859 Rs 55-54

10th Mar. 1859

10th Mar. 1859

10th Mar. 1859

10th Mar. 1859

10th Mar. 1859

10th Mar. 1859

10th Mar. 1859

it appears that the
larger estimate was
intended by the Dist.
Engr. to be in addition
to the sanction of Rs 1400.

2. Resolved, therefore,
that the order & No 59,
Rs 2593 be cancelled
and that the estimate
of Rs 10000/- ^{ten thousand}
and eighty be sanctioned
as now applied for.
Rs 2500 of this sum
have already been ex-
pended. The difference
- Rs 3000 - will be drawn
from the general funds
at the disposal of the
Dist. Engr. for the current
year.

JP

To the Secy.

10 Copies - Secy Engr.

Depy Secy

