

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2884

Press
Mis.

Dated 5 9 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th September 1866.*

No. 98. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Saidapet, 29th August 1866, No. 167 :—

1. The Proceedings of the Government in the Revenue Department, No. 1,861, dated the 25th ultimo, directed the commencement of the works projected by Mr. Fraser for supplying the town of Madras with water from the Cortilliar river, and had in view the providing of labor for the able-bodied poor suffering in this District from the prevailing scarcity.

2. As soon as the order appeared, Mr. Fraser took measures to put the works in hand, and on the 8th instant a Notification was issued in the District Gazette inviting distressed persons to offer themselves for employment on the works.

3. The Relief Committees in the town were kind enough to issue labor tickets to such able-bodied indigent persons as applied to them for assistance, and the bearers of such tickets were at first sent to the Spur tank. One hundred and fifty of them are employed there and northwards, in clearing the line of the works of brushwood, and the remainder, upwards of 100, are engaged on the excavations going on at the Red Hills. In all between 200 and 300 of the suffering poor of Madras are laboring on the works. They have come in slowly and by degrees, and first began to make their appearance on the 13th instant, when eighteen presented themselves to Mr. Fraser. They are almost all of the Musselman class, and are unaccompanied by their families.

4. Besides these laborers, there are other people employed under the Notification. Mr. Fraser and I were at the Red Hills on Monday. We found that between 400 to 500 laborers had come upon the works there from the surrounding country, and while we were on the spot some 200 more must have applied for employment. These individuals, consisting of men, women, and children, of the agricultural laboring classes, wore the ordinary appearance of such classes, and had neither a pinched nor a squalid air. They flocked in to the works on account of the wages offered them, which exceed the wages they can earn in their own villages by 10 Pice per diem for a man, and something equally large for a woman and for children.

5. Mr. Fraser and I satisfied ourselves that these villages were not absolutely in want of food. We found that the first arrivals amongst them had been working on credit, and that none were anxious to receive their wages daily. The circumstance convinced us they had means of support of their own, and merely came to the works because they gained more at them than at their homes.

6. In this condition of affairs, I have the honor to solicit the instructions of Government. It seems both to Mr. Fraser and to me that as the laboring population in the villages about the Red Hills is not destitute of resources and of food, the present system of an arbitrary tariff for labor might be abandoned, and a reversion made to the ordinary means of carrying on public works. We think that, for the present, the reward for labor might be left to be governed by the state of the labor market, and that Mr. Fraser might at once be authorized to let out his works to contractors in the usual manner, merely binding those persons to take on all laborers who offered themselves for employment.

Minutes of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
5th September 1866.

7. In this way we believe the works will be better executed, and more expeditiously carried on than can be the case if the laborers are paid by Government directly, while at the same time means of subsistence will be secured for all those who are really in want.

Transferred to the Department Public Works.

30th August 1866.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 99.

ORDER THEREON, 5th September 1866, No. 2,820.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 20.

Looking to the very favorable change which has lately taken place in the prospects of the season, and seeing the prospects amongst the laboring classes, the Government concur with the Acting Collector of Madras that it is no longer necessary to carry on the Madras Water Works Project in an exceptional manner, and they accordingly authorize Mr. Fraser to revert to the ordinary mode of executing works of that description.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government

To W. Fraser, Esq., Special Executive Engineer.
To the Collector of Madras

Revenue Dept.
Revenue Dept.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Madras Collector's Office

Madras 29th August 1866

No. 167
From

J. A. Cochrane Esq.
Collector of Madras

A. J. Arlath Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir
The Proceedings of the Government in the Revenue Department No. 1864

dated the 25th ultimo directed the commencement of the works projected by Mr. Fraser for supplying the town of Madras with water from the Corvallis River and had in view the providing of labour for the able bodied poor suffering in this District from the prevailing scarcity.

2. As soon as the order appeared Mr. Fraser took measures to put the works in hand and on the 8th instant

a Notification was issued in the District Gazette inviting distressed persons to offer themselves for employment on the works.)

3. The Relief Committee in the town were kind enough to issue labor tickets to such able bodied indigent persons as applied to them for assistance and the bearers of such tickets were at first sent to the spur track. One hundred and fifty of them were employed there and went on in clearing the

line of the works of breadbasket and the remaining upwards of 100 are engaged on the excavations going on at the Red Hills in Swatland. 200 & 300 of the suffering poor of Madras are laboring on the works. They have come in slowly and by degrees and first began to make their appearance on the 13th Instant when 18 presented themselves to

Mr. Fraser. They are almost all of the Kusselman class and are unaccompanied by their families. 4. Besides these laborers there are other people employed under the notification. Mr. Fraser and I were at the Red Hills on Monday. We found that between 400 to 500 laborers had come upon the works there from the surrounding country and while we were on the spot some 200 more must have applied for employment. These individuals consisting of men women and children of the agricultural laboring classes were the ordinary appearance of such classes and had neither a finched nor a squatted air. They flocked in to the works on account of the wages offered them which exceed the wages they can earn in their own villages by 10 pice per diem for a man, and something equally

equally large for a woman and for children.

5. Mr. Fraser and I satisfied ourselves that these villages were not absolutely in want of food. We found that the first arrivals amongst them had been working on credit and that none were anxious to receive their wages daily. The circumstance convinced us they had means of support of their own and merely came to the works because they gained more at them than at their homes.

6. In this condition of affairs, I have the honor to solicit the instructions of Government. It seems both to Mr. Fraser and to me that as the laboring population in the villages about the Fild Hills is not destitute of resources and of food the present system of an arbitrary tariff for labour might be abandoned

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7. In this way we believe the works will be better executed and more expeditiously carried on than can be the case if the labourers are paid by Government directly while at the same time means of subsistence will be secured for all those who are really in want.

I have the honor to be
Your most Obedt Servt
H. Cockeley
M. Collector

Public Works Department.

No. 2810

PROCEEDINGS of the **MADRAS GOVERNMENT**
Under date the 5th Sept. 1866
Read the following

(Here enter No. 167 dated 29th Augt 1866)

From
The Acting Collector
of Madras

Looking to the
very favorable change
which has lately taken
place in the prospects
of the season, and se-
eing that there are no
indications of destitution
amongst the labouring
classes, the Govern-
ment concurs with the
Acting Collector of Madras
that it is no longer ne-
cessary to carry on the
Madras Water works
project

W.D.M.

Dec 25 July 1866 No. 503-
17 Augt. - 148-449

Transferred to
the B.P.M.
& B. & C.

with August 1866

McKen

St. Paul

Dec 25 July 1866 No. 503-
17 Augt. - 148-449

The Secretary
to Government

The Acting Collector
of Madras

of

to the Secretary
of Madras

August 1866

1866

may be better over-
-sight by Council
than by present

1866-503-449-166

project in an exceptional manner, and they accordingly authorize Mr. Fraser to revert to the ordinary mode of executing works of that description.

P. W. 186 . Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated

[Signature]

*Five copies despatched to the
Collyer & Fraser, 8th September.*

*To
Mr. Fraser, Esq.
Special Engineer*

*Collyer of Madras!
Revenue Dept.
Board of Revenue
Sept 5th 1866*

[Signature]

Sept 7th 1866

14

JW 1886 Depnt.
Secy of Govt for September

N^o 2820

Secy of the Madras Govt.
D^y 5th September 1886.

Instructions
issued for the execution
of Madras Water Works
Project by the ordinary
means of carrying on
Public Works of that
description.

A 98.99.