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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2578	Press / ~~Mis.~~
537-38	
Dated 22. 8	1857.

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43

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 22nd August 1867.

No. 537. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department:—

Sanctioning, with remarks, the expenditure incurred on Famine Relief works in the Bellary District. } (Here enter 19th August 1867, No. 1,929.)

No 538. ORDER THEREON, 22nd August 1867, No. 2,578.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 69.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th August 1867.

No. 364. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd August 1867, No. 4,975.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th July 1867, No. 127 :—

1. I have the honor to report on the expenditure of the relief funds, which were sanctioned at my request on the dates as per margin, for the purpose of affording employment to the able-bodied poor during the late distress which the failure of the south-west monsoon of 1866 entailed upon this district.

31st July	1866...	...	Rupees	50,000
31st August	,, ...	...	,,	5,000
5th Sept.	,, ...	...	,,	25,000
7th do.	,, ...	...	,,	20,000
26th do.	,, ...	...	,,	1,00,000
20th Nov.	,, ...	...	,,	50,000
22nd Dec.	,, ...	...	,,	1,50,000
8th May	1867...	...	,,	50,000
				4,50,000

2. Besides the Railway works proceeding, on my arrival in this district, in the end of June 1866, in the eastern talooks, where, on the cotton soil, there had been a considerable failure of the dry crops and distress among the poorest classes, as reported by my predecessors, there was a large sum of about 70,000 Rupees available for the repairs of Imperial roads, to be spread over 500 miles of territory, besides Rupees 17,800 of local road funds. It was considered proper, in the first instance, in the beginning of July, to push on this expenditure, while preparing plans to submit to Government, for an extended scheme of village roads to be carried out, in the event of the south-west monsoon proving a failure, in the ensuing months.

3. Local charity was, on my arrival, at once stimulated by an appeal for the relief of the poor incapable of work, and this was to a great degree successful. 7,000 persons were relieved in the town of Bellary in July, chiefly at the expense of a cotton merchant, by name Kardapah. Very large sums were subsequently expended by opulent merchants in other parts of the district, and the private charity locally contributed during the distress amounted, so far as could be officially ascertained, to Rupees 48,000. In addition to the local contributions, sums were received from Madras in the beginning of August, small at first, but subsequently largely increased in amount, when the funds increased, and the necessities of other districts abated.

4. The sums obtained from Government for the relief works were periodically applied for, as the necessities of the case and the state of the season appeared to require. The largest number of people at any time employed amounted to about 21,700, of whom a great proportion were women and children. From five to six thousand of these laborers were under my personal supervision, and from their appearance during the worst part of the season, I was led to the belief that they had in no great degree physically suffered from the effects of the dearness of grain.

5. My Acting Sub-Collector, Mr. Foster, had a general supervision of the works executed in his division ; Mr. Lilly in the Head Assistant's division ; the Deputy Collector in Gooty and Tadpartri ; Mr. McCarthy, in Alur and Adoni, on his arrival, superintended work ; and in Raidrug, Mr. Buick was deputed to examine and report on works carried out by the Tahsildar.

6. The expenditure in each talook was regulated by the number of persons applying for work. Strict orders were given that no person capable of work should

be refused, the object being rather relief than efficient work, which would have been promoted by selection.

7. Yet although a great portion of those employed consisted of women and children, the work executed was by no means unsatisfactory. The collection of stones from the fields and breaking them contributed, in a great degree, to the improvement of roads formerly devoid of stone metal. None were unable to carry small baskets of stone, or to wield light stone-breaking hammers, while the adults excavated gravel pits, and did the heavier work.

8. The Superintending Engineer gave instructions to his subordinates to afford assistance in laying out the line of roads, and by directions as to road-dams. Some men of the Sapper Company, and European pensioners in Bellary, were also employed as Overseers.

9. In the more distant talooks, the Tahsildars, with the aid of their Revenue Inspectors, organized gangs, who were paid by daily wages.

10. The rates of wages were first fixed at 3, 2 and 1½ Annas per day, for men, women, and children, respectively. This rate continued from August till December, when the very great fall of prices seemed to indicate a reduction to 2, 1½, and 1 Annas, respectively, which was accordingly made. The effect of the reduction of rates, together with the return of cultivation, led to a decrease of the able-bodied men who sought more profitable wages and more laborious work, but it did not affect the number of the women and children.

11. In arranging a scheme for the employment of the poor in July of last year, the Superintending Engineer and I agreed that, in order to extend the benefits of relief over as large an area as possible, and to bring the relief to the doors of the people, we should first improve the lines of communications, connecting the head station of each talook with the adjoining one. A great number of villages is found on such lines, and the people thus found work and returned to their homes for the night. They were paid on the spot at the end of each day's work. There was a dislike to go far from home, and the absence of timber in this district made it very difficult, even had it been desirable, to organize temporary camps on the roads for the shelter of the people. Although the roads made by famine labor may, therefore, not be all completed to their intended termini, yet every mile improved is, so far, an advantage to traffic, and a saving in future outlay.

12. The accompanying Map* will shew the lines made, the new parts being colored red, and those improved blue.

* Sent by bangby.

13. When increasing distances to which roads have been carried from villages rendered road-work more laborious and less profitable, we expended funds in the improvement of Cusbah towns and large villages, removing walls, filling up ditches, and making road-ways and streets. Noxious vegetation, such as prickly-pear, was uprooted and buried. In some large towns, latrines were made, some wells were dug, and others cleared out.

14. The digging of a well, although much required, is however a lottry; the expense is certain, but in some, in Alur talook, on the cotton soil, the water found was brackish.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th August 1867.

15. While district roads engaged our first attention, both to avoid confusion with the ordinary expenditure by the Department of Public Works on the Imperial lines, and to extend the system of relief, the Imperial lines were subsequently cared for, and a supply of stone metal for the repairs of these lines was broken, and stored on the road sides.

16. I have inspected about 350 miles of Imperial and District roads repaired and made, and am able to state that they have been much improved. The extra three lacs of Rupees spent on them during the famine may, therefore, be considered as an extension of the ordinary maintenance grant for communications.

17. Of works not connected with the formations and repair of roads, the most important executed was the Alipur channel, devised as a feeder to Fischer's tank on the west of the Cantonment. The channel was taken as far as the fifth mile-stone on the Dharwar road.

18. Annexed is an abstract, and enclosed is a detail of the various works executed and of their cost, which, with the assistance of the Map, it is hoped, will afford the requisite information.

ABSTRACT.

		Miles.	Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Roads newly made	261	1,82,826	1	8
2.	Do. improved	216	1,36,990	0	1
3.	Wells dug and cleaned	No. 21	5,775	11	11
4.	Pits for trees		314	0	8
5.	Channel dug, 1		13,074	9	9
6.	Chuttrums built, 6...		4,247	2	0
7.	Reservoirs cleared or improved, 6		12,333	14	8
8.	Towns and villages improved, 41		64,523	10	7
9.	Irrigation works repaired by Collector's Department. 6,661 11 8 Paid to Department Public Works for a similar purpose, *vide* G. O. No. 36, 7th January 1860 ... ... 14,934 0 0	... ...	21,595	11	8
	Miscellaneous.				
10.	Tools		5,659	5	0
	Plan of Bruce Pettah for Sanitary Commissioner...		200	0	0
		Total ...	4,47,540	4	0
		Balance ...	2,459	12	0
		Grand Total...	4,50,000	0	0

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—List of Famine works executed up to 31st May 1867.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Map.

1. Submitted to Government.

2. The operations of the Collector appear to the Board to be quite satisfactory.

3. Measures should now be adopted for allotting sufficient sums from the Imperial and Local Road Funds for the early completion and proper maintenance of the works appertaining to them, respectively.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th August 1867.

No. 365. ORDER THEREON, 19th August 1867, No. 1,929.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government concur with the Board in considering the Collector's proceedings as reported, to have been judicious and satisfactory.

2. Formal sanction is granted for the expenditure of Rupees 4,47,540-4-0 on Famine Relief works as detailed, up to 31st May 1867. The Government infer that the works were discontinued from that date.

3. They desire that the Collector will convey to the native merchant Kardapah, whose liberality to the distressed is mentioned in paragraph 3 of his letter, the expression of the high appreciation by Government of his generous exertions.

4. These papers will be forwarded for the information of the Secretary of State.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with two Enclosures.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

30 Papers sent —

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To

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Lieut Cont Wks
Cuddapah
Engineer's Office
Dated 3 Oct 1867
Received 22nd ditto
No 2578
Sanctioning
Rs 4534-538

P.W. 1867 Dept
Pro: of Govt for Engrs
No 3126.
Pro: of the Madras Govt
Revenue Dept

Dated 19 August 67
Received 22nd ditto
No 1929

Sanctioning, with remarks, the Expenditure incurred on Famine Relief works in the Bellary Dt.

No 2578 - 22nd Augt 67
Write out Order