M.R.O. 14 -5,450—22-10-26.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 36	Press ~~Mis.~~
70-71	
Dated 7—1—	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

7p3

No. 70. Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Anantapur, 14th December 1866, No. 89 :—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 3,293, dated 5th December 1866, paragraph 1, authorizing me, in anticipation of sanction, to advance from Famine Funds Rupees 15,000, which, it is observed, will be supplemented on receipt of estimates for future probable relief, I have the honor to request information as to whether a specific grant is to be made of these and other similar sums on demand for the repair of breached works, which may be sent in by the Department Public Works, (I observe that estimates are not yet submitted,) or whether merely employment, at famine rates, is to be held out to the unemployed to engage in these works. In the first case, if the works are to be repaired on estimate, and under the control of the Department Public Works, the specified allotment will have to be made to that department, who will carry out the work as per estimate, making their own selection of qualified persons to perform it. If, on the other hand, the work is to be done by persons employed by the Revenue Department, under the rules for famine work relief, excluding none who are able to work, and paying them a subsistence rather than a remuneration wage, it is doubtful whether the scheme will answer, as irrigation works to be properly done must not be subject to the fluctuation of persons taking or leaving work, according to their necessities; and if the work is done on the famine relief principle, it is doubtful whether the result will be satisfactory. I do not think that this is the time to undertake irrigation works for famine relief, now that cultivation is resuming its normal condition, nor do I think the famine relief system is that adapted for works which, if begun, should be completed.

2. I hope ere soon to close the extraneous relief which was efficacious in the months of August and September, and has become gradually less necessary, as the season since October has improved. In consequence of fuller, in fact, I may say, of normal employment being, if not immediately, at least very soon available, and of the fall of prices to a former level, I am now looking forward to closing famine works; and the commencement at this time of famine work in irrigation repairs will tend to postpone the closing of accounts of expenditure.

3. It is desirable that the time of the Revenue servants should not longer than necessary be taken up with the employment and payment of large bodies of laborers.

4. Already four months, nearly five, and, before done, perhaps six months, will have passed in the performance of these extra duties imposed on them by the necessity of the case; but so soon as that necessity is over, I think that estimates for the repair of irrigation works should be prepared, and these works undertaken in the usual manner.

5. The road work, which was the work undertaken, existed everywhere; and many or few, according to the number offering, could be employed.

6. The repair of irrigation works limits the relief to particular spots, where tanks may have breached; and these may not be the places where relief is wanted. The question referred for solution is, whether the sums in the letter

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th January 1867.

adverted to are to be specific grants from the Relief Fund to the Department Public Works, or problematical expenditure in the case of requirement.

7. Copy of a letter to the Superintending Engineer, on the payment of famine coolies on trunk roads, is enclosed.

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 7th January 1867, No. 36.

Land Revenue.

1. The grants in question were intended to be "specific," it being of consequence that the repairs should be executed without delay, as they would both afford employment and increase cultivation.

2. The Collector's views regarding remuneration for famine works are correct, the wages of such labor should be so fixed as to afford subsistence only. As distress passes away and employment in their ordinary avocations becomes available, the number of persons requiring employment on public works and willing to accept it on subsistence wages, will steadily diminish, and the works originally commenced solely to afford relief to this class must then be completed by means of ordinary labor at ordinary wages.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

o the Collector of Bellary.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

7

No 89

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
Camp Anantapur
14th December 1866

From,

A. Wedderburn Esquire,
Collector of
Bellary.

To,

J. D. Sim Esquire,
Secretary to Government Revenue Department
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 3293, dated 5th December 1866, Para 1, authorising me in anticipation of sanction to advance from famine Funds Rupees 15,000, which, it is observed, will be supplemented on receipt of estimates for future probable relief, I have the honor to request information as to whether a specific grant is to be made of these, and other similar sums, on demand, for the repair of breached works, which may be sent in by the Department Public Works, (I observe that estimates are not yet submitted) or whether merely employment at famine rates, is to be held out to the unemployed, to engage in these works. In the first case, if the works are to be repaired on estimate & under the control of the Department Public Works, the specified allotment will have to be made to that Department, who will carry out the work as per estimate, making their own selection of qualified persons to perform it. If, on the other hand, the work is to be done by persons employed by the Revenue Department, under the rules for famine work relief, excluding none who are able to work, and paying them a subsistence rather than a remuneration wage, it is doubtful whether the scheme will answer, as irrigation works, to be properly done, must not be subject to the fluctuation of persons taking or leaving work, according to their necessities, and if the work is done on the famine relief principle, it is doubtful whether the result will be satisfactory. I do not think, that

this

No 1910

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

Camp Chinnatoor 13th December 1866

From,

J. Wedderburn Esquire,

Collector of

Bellary.

To,

Major D. A. McBerly.

Superintending Engineer 3rd Division

Bellary.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 5th December 1866 No. 2693 this day received I have the honor to inform you, that from my own observation and from reports received from my Assistant I found that the plan proposed by you of paying the famine coolies weekly by a Civil Department was not working satisfactorily, that the people complained of the delay in the receipt of their wages, that only some a small proportion and those specially selected, of the destitute were taken on and that the rest were refused employment under these circumstances, I requested matters to return to their former position.

2. The object of famine relief is to provide subsistence for such persons as cannot find it elsewhere the consequence is that all who come and can work must be taken, and none rejected. If famine that such wages should be less than 5 annas per day

This is the time to undertake irrigation works for famine relief, now that cultivation is resuming its normal conditions; nor do I think the famine relief system is that adopted for works which, if begun, should be completed.

I hope we soon to close the extraneous relief, which was efficacious in the months of August, and September, and has become gradually less necessary, as the season since October has improved. In consequence of fuller, in fact I may say, of normal employment being, if not immediately, at least very soon, available, and of the fall of prices to a former level, I am now looking forward to closing famine works, and the commencement, at this time, of famine work in irrigation repairs, will tend to post-pone the closing of accounts of expenditure

It is desirable, that the time of the Revenue servants, should not, longer than necessary, be taken up with the employment and payment of large bodies of labourers.

Already four months, nearly five, and before done, perhaps six months, will have passed in the performance of these extra duties imposed on them by the necessities of the case; but so soon as that necessity is over, I think that estimates for the repair of irrigation works should be prepared, and these works undertaken in the usual manner.

The road work, which was the work undertaken, existed every where, and many or few, according to the number offering, could be employed.

The repair of irrigation works invite the relief to particular spots, where tanks may have breached; and these may not be the places where relief is wanted. The question referred for solution, is whether the sums in the letter adverted to, are to be specific grants from the relief fund to the Department Public Works, or problematical expenditure in the case of requirement

A copy of a letter to the Superintending Engineer, on the payment of famine coolies, on Trunk roads is enclosed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant.

J. Wedderburn

Collector

S. Narasayya

of ordinary unskilled labour, but sufficient for maintenance. The means, rates found sufficient when grain sold at 8 measures per Rupee, were in excess of ordinary agricultural wages, when grain sold at two or three times that quantity for the Rupee. The effect was to cause an undesired em-
-igration from other and more useful employment, of which agriculture is the most important, and increasing at this time. When agricultural or other employments fail, a subsistence is held out to the unemployed, which subsistence, in my opinion should not be the full wages of labour under a Relief system, when carried on by persons working under a less rigid system.

3. If you remain of opinion that the Em-
-ployment of famine coolies at Department Public Works rates, should form the subject of a changed grant then on receiving the orders of Government to that effect, I shall be ready to hand over to you whatever amounts are annually appropriated for a particular work.

4. I consider that the Fall of Prices indicates such a decrease of distress as to warrant the belief that a Reduction in the number of those employed may safely be made. The progress of agricultural operations, shown by the cultivation reassuming its

its normal extent, is also apparent; and the demand for agricultural labour, may be assumed as a necessary consequence.

5 ..... In regard to the details of road works, you can give such directions as appear to you best, on the lines, subject to your supervision. Where granite can be found it is near cotton and as to be a better and cheaper material to use, than unfaced stones. I have the same desire as yourself. That the work should be done in a lasting, and economical manner. I have had a large number of stone breaking hammers prepared for use, which can be wielded by persons of less than able bodied strength. A certain material to fill ruts and, will, I think, be a useful employment for many of the infirm able bodied, who will thus earn a subsistence. Many of the main roads are, as yet, unfinished, the cultivation of the material which is the more extensive process, will facilitate the operations of your department hereafter, and render more effica-
-cious the maintenance grant.

6. Should you consider it necessary to address Government on the subject of the wages to be fixed by the Revenue Department to coolies employed under the supervision of the Collector

Rev.

1866 DEPARTMENT
From Proof of Govt for January
The Collector of
Bellary.

To,
The Revenue Secretary
to Government
Madras

Dated 14 } December/66
Received 19th }

No. 69

Enclosure.
No. 36- 7th Janry
With reference to the
Government-Proceedings
No. 3293 dated 5th Decem-
ber 1866 requesting in-
formation as to whether
a specific grant should be
made of three rotten cocoa-
nuts or demand for the
same should be waived

Rev. 5th December/66 No. 42+43

Reported to England
By 11th January No 1 of 1867. M.G.

No. 36.
Labor at ordinary wages -
108
No. 7th Day 67.

1 Fort Collectorate of Bellary Desp
14 Mr Board of Rev
6 Mr Madras Revenue Mr
31 Mr Gazette

No. 70 of 71