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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 265

Press
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511-512

Dated 24-1-1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th January 1868.*

No. 511. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Revenue Department :—

Requesting to be furnished with the Superintending Engineer's opinion on the proposals submitted by the Collector of Coimbatore in connection with the Nilamboor tank and Kaniampolliem channel, and sanctioning a grant of Rupees 10,000 for the construction of a road from the Tirpoor Railway Station to Oodoomulpett2. } Here enter 18th January 1868, No. 161.)

No. 512. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1868, No. 265.

IRRIGATION, No. 29.

Communicated to the Acting
Superintending Engineer of the 7th
Division, who will obtain and submit

Colonel Walker's views on the subject of paragraph 1.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 7th Division

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st January 1868.*

No. 320. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th January 1868 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 10th January 1868, No. 5.

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of the Board of Revenue, that the season in Coimbatore is a bad one, and that the crops, wet and dry, have consequently suffered. In the early part of October there was a good fall of rain, and things promised well; many lands were ploughed and sown, and others were prepared for the seed-grain, but since about the 16th of that month there has been little or no rain in many of the talooks, and the consequence is, that some lands were left waste, whilst others have yielded no crop, and many lands have not given more than half and one-quarter of their usual produce. These remarks apply chiefly to dry lands, but I regret to add that many lands under tank and river irrigation have also suffered, and that the crops on them have withered. The Noyel river, which derives its supply of water from the Bolampetty hills during the south-west monsoon, has been worst off.

2. The parts of the district which have suffered most are the Coimbatore and Pulladum Talooks, a portion of the Darapuram and Oodoomulpettah Talooks, the western part of the Perindoray Talook, the north-east part of the Pollachy Talook beyond the influence of the south-west monsoon, a portion of the Collegal Talook, and about forty villages in the north-west part of the Suttimungalum Talook.

3. There is reason to believe that in none of the above parts of the district have the ryots got more than one-half of their dry crops.

4. The talooks which have suffered most are Coimbatore and Pulladum, and of these two Pulladum is worst off. In it the ryots have lost most of their dry crops.

5. Under these circumstances, I consider there are strong grounds for making considerable remission of the Government demand on dry and wet lands.

6. Of course, on those dry lands cultivated by means of wells no remissions are required. I however propose that on all dry lands left waste, seventy-five per cent. of the assessment shall be remitted. It may be urged that the whole assessment should be remitted, but it is to be remembered that on waste dry lands the expenses of ploughing and cost of seed have not been incurred, and that the ryots have also had the grazing of them for their cattle and sheep. On the dry lands on which the crops have withered, and which have yielded not more than half and one-fourth of their usual crops, I propose that a general remission of twenty-five per cent. shall be made. With the exception of Coimbatore and Pulladum, this remission will not have to be made generally throughout all the talook, but in such villages as have suffered most. It will be the duty of those making the Settlement to ascertain the villages and groups of villages in which the greatest loss of crop has taken place. A general remission in such villages is the only course that can be conveniently followed. To attempt through the subordinate agency

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in the talooks to look into individual cases, would be useless, and end in the ruin of many of the Government servants.

7. On a rough estimate the remission on dry waste lands will amount to Rupees 85,000, and on lands the crops on which have withered (Shavy) to Rupees 1,60,000.

8. On the wet lands it is estimated that the remission on waste and shavy lands will amount to not less than Rupees 70,000. The total remission on dry and wet lands will thus, according to the present estimates, amount to Rupees 3,15,000, and I request the Board will be pleased to sanction the course of proceeding above proposed in the Settlement about to be commenced, and issue instructions at an early date. The district has steadily improved within the last few years. In the past official year the largest revenue on record was collected, although in 1865-66 Rupees 2,51,000 were under the sanction of Government knocked off the permanent revenue. All this is indication of prosperity, and it requires but the fostering care of a generous Government to insure its continuance. I trust, therefore, that the Board will not hesitate to sanction remissions on the principles advocated above. Whatever their amount may be, Government is sure to benefit in the ratio of its justice and liberality. I have never yet seen Government suffer from being liberal to the ryots, but I have frequently seen the ryots suffer from the illiberality of Government.

9. From the above, it will probably be concluded that the condition of the people is very bad. Bad it certainly is, but not nearly so bad as at first sight it appears. In the first place it should be remembered that many of the ryots have, in addition to their *bonâ fide* dry lands, other dry lands irrigated by means of wells, and that most, if not all, of these lands have yielded one and two crops of produce sufficient to keep their owners from great distress; still it must not be forgotten that a year like the present trenches greatly on their means, and forces many of them to incur debts, which it may take them years to get over. Coimbatore is now connected by rail with the sea-board in the east and west, and is but a few hours from Tanjore, which already is sending grain into the country. It is thus apparent that as long as the people have money, they may suffer distress, but that famine will be kept from their doors. I confess I do not anticipate anything like famine. Distress there may probably be in parts, but there will be no difficulty in meeting it should it rise. With two rail-roads running east and west and north and south through a great part of the district, and with the means of information available, we can anticipate any expected distress, and set works on foot for the benefit of the people.

10. For the relief of the poor in Pulladum and Suttimungalum Talooks, I recommend that I be allowed at once to set on foot two works. The works proposed will be re-productive, and I request that they may be carried out solely under the Revenue Authorities. The work in Pulladum is the clearing out of the silt in the Neelamboor tank. The Tahsildar, with whom I discussed the subject the other day, is of opinion that if Rupees 5,000 are placed at his disposal, he will be able to

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give employment to a large body of poor people, and to restore a fine tank which has become comparatively useless. The

				RS.	A.	P.	
* For Fusly	1272	...	...	522	1	7	ayacut of the tank is Rupees 1,640.
Do.	1273	...	...	526	11	0	For the last five years* it has not yielded
Do.	1274	...	...	526	11	0	more than Rupees 537-0-10 per annum,
Do.	1275	...	...	526	11	0	and it is contemplated that by the
Do.	1276	...	...	583	1	9	expenditure of the above-named sum,
				2,685	4	4	it will at once yield Rupees 1,640 per
Average beriz per anna.				537	0	10	annum, in addition to restoring the

springs of all the wells in the adjacent country.

11. The work in Suttimungalum Talook is the repair of the Kaniampolliem anicut channel, for this work Rs. 3,000 will be required. I would refer the Board to my letter, dated 20th March 1866, No. 76, for an account of the state of this work. The repair of the anicut is also emergently required, but this should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works, and, if possible, at once. If these works are sanctioned, the poor shall be employed on them, and accounts of the work done shall be duly submitted. In the event of any further works requiring to be undertaken, I shall recommend the construction of the road from Tirpoor Railway Station through Pulladum and Pareaputty to Oodoomulpettah. This road runs right through the country which has suffered most from want of rain, and is much required. It passes through parts of Pulladum, Darapuram, and Oodoomulpettah Talooks, so that works on it could be conveniently managed by the Tahsildars of the respective talooks.

12. Copy of a letter from Mr. McQuhae, Sub-Collector, on the condition of the sub-division, and the remissions he proposes, is forwarded for the information of the Board, and I shall be glad if the large remissions proposed by him are authorized in any very special cases; for instance, in villages in which there are no lands irrigated from channels or wells, and in which it is clearly established to the satisfaction of the European settling Officer that the crops have yielded a minimum of produce.

13. I might have written earlier to the Board, but deferred doing so until I felt satisfied that I could place before them a fairly correct estimate of the condition of the district and people.

No. 321. From the Sub-Collector of Coimbatore, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Coimbatore, 7th January 1868, No. 3.

In reply to your letter of the 11th December 1867, No. 488, I have the honor to state my opinion that remission on Punjab land will be necessary in most parts of the Darapuram Talook, and perhaps in some villages of Caroor and Oodoomulpettah also. The Tahsildar of Caroor reports that in some places a full Punjab crop has been obtained, and in others a half crop, and he considers remission unnecessary. The Tahsildar of Oodoomulpettah makes a similar report. In Darapuram the season appears to have been more unfavorable, and the Tahsildar recommends a remission of three-fourths of the assessment on Punjab waste and ten per cent. on cultivated Punjab. The season has been very unfavorable, and those villages where there is no Punjab, and few wells must have suffered severely. I would, therefore, recommend that the settling Officer be permitted to determine in what villages remission is necessary in all three talooks, and I think that Rupees 40,000 will be sufficient for the sub-division. The remission where granted should, I think, be at

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21st January 1868.

least fifty per cent. on waste and thirty per cent. on cultivated Punjab. I do not think that a lower rate of remission will give any real relief to the ryots.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board authorize the Collector to apply the remission rules to the dry lands of the district in any villages in which this course may appear to be necessary, i. e., the full assessment will be remitted on all dry lands left waste, and a per-centage remission on all lands, the crops of which have not yet reached maturity. The Board would also fix this latter remission at fifty per cent. of the assessment, though should the Collector think fit hereafter to recommend the remission of a still large proportion, the Board will be prepared to do so. This remission should be granted on the same principles as those on which the remissions for withered crops on wet lands are now allowed, (See Standing Order No. 137, paragraph 6,) and without any attempt to estimate individual losses.
3. The Board also resolve to request the Government to make a special grant of Rupees 20,000 for the purpose of carrying out the three works referred to by Mr. Grant, in the manner proposed. It is very desirable that the road from Tirpoor to Oodoomulpettah should be commenced, and there are at present no funds available from the Road Fund.
4. With advertence to the G. O., under date 23rd April 1866, No. 1,266, Public Works Department, the Board presume that the proposed clearing out of the Kaniampolliem channel meets with the Superintending Engineer's approval.

No. 322.

ORDER THEREON, 21st January 1868, No. 161.

Miscellaneous.

1. Before sanctioning any expenditure on the Nilamboor tank or the Kaniampolliem channel, the Government desire to receive the remarks of Colonel Walker, the Superintending Engineer, on the Collector's proposals.
2. They authorize the Collector to set in hand at once the road from Tirpoor Railway Station to Oodoomulpettah as a special relief work, and sanction a present grant of Rupees 10,000 for the work.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.
,, the Department Public Works.
,, the Accountant General.
,, W. Robinson, Esq.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Read the following

In Board of Revenue -

Submitting for information of Govt report of Collyer of Coimbatore on the state of the season & crops in dist & requesting that a spl grant of Rs 20,000 may be sanctioned for the purpose of carrying out certain works and authorizing Collector to apply the remission rules to the dry lands of the district in any villages in which this course may appear to be necessary.

(Here entered 18th Jan'y 1868)

Order thereon 21st January 1868 No 161

Before sanctioning any expenditure on the Nilamboor tank or the Kaniampolliem channel, the Govt desire to receive the remarks of Colonel Walker, the Supy Engineer, on the Collector's proposals.

They authorize the Collector to set in hand at once the road from

from Sirpoor Railway station
to Doodumulla as a special
Relief Work and sanctioned
present grant of Rs 10,000 for the
work.

(Encl extract)

And

Secy to Govt -

To The Public Works Department -

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Dick

25/10/2015

Command to the
Ag Supply Bureau of the
Y. B. Co., who will deliver
and submit to the
Waltham Bureau in the
subject of present.

"worked with the Supp.
Engineer's opinion on the
proposals submitted by the
Collector of Coimbatore in
connection with the Sil
"amboor tank and Tanam
"William Charuvel and
sanctioning a grant of Rs 1000
for the construction of a road
from the Suboor to Pottan
"Pottanmulla."

26 June 1892 }
 27 July 1892 }
 28 Aug 1892 }

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P-C-a 29/68

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