

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	643	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
¹⁷⁶⁻⁷⁵ Dated	12-3-	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 174. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th February 1868, No. 1,371.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 5th February 1868, No. 290 :—

1. I have the honor to forward, herewith, copy of a letter from the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, with reference to the grants available for works on which sufferers from scarcity in this district could conveniently be employed. Colonel Winscom states that Rupees 81,000 only are available for works in the neighbourhood of the tracts, where scarcity, if there is any, is most likely to prevail, and he shews that, at Rupees 5 a month for each laborer, this would only support 1,800 men for nine months, whereas he considers, that if we are to be ready to meet a famine, we ought to be prepared to support 15,000 persons at least for the same period, for which an allotment of Rupees 6,75,000 would be necessary. It will be remembered that, in the Bellary famine of 1854, as many as 81,000 and 97,000 persons were employed at one time on charity roads, and sixteen lacs of Rupees were expended in this manner.

2. I am glad to say that I do not anticipate, at present, anything like a famine in the Nellore District. The want of water is most severely felt in the Western Talooks. If the dry crops, on which the great bulk of the people depend, should perish to any large extent, there will, doubtless, be a prevalence of high prices for some time, and as the poorer classes will also be thrown out of employment, in the absence of harvesting and other agricultural operations, it is desirable, however, that we should be in a position to open relief works to assist them in tiding over a period of temporary difficulty. As Colonel Winscom points out, it is better to begin to spend money early on re-productive works, than to defer operations till the money has to be lavishly poured forth, simply in feeding the distressed poor. The question of providing funds in time to meet an emergency like this, should it occur, is one, therefore, which demands present consideration, but it is one with which Government will have to deal considering the relative wants and claims of all the several districts which are at present threatened. Should no necessity hereafter arise, the money will not be expended, but if possible it ought to be made available, and sanction given temporarily to employ any number of people at once who may be driven to seek work on the roads.

3. I propose, in communication with the Department of Public Works, to publish, from time to time, how many laborers are required upon the different works, which have been sanctioned in the district. According to the number of applicants we shall then be able to gauge the actual condition of the people, and gradually feel our way to start new works, as the demand for employment increases.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th March 1868.

From the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Acting Collector of Nellore, dated 3rd February 1868, No. 125.

The following are the grants in the Budget of 1868-69, for works on which sufferers from famine could be conveniently (as regards proximity to the famine-stricken localities) employed:—

Road from Sungum to Kaligiri	Rs.	4,000
Dornal road to Oodiagiri	3,500	
Nellore to Somaisweram	3,000	
Manubrolu to Podalakur	1,500	
Portion of grant for road from Madras to Cuttack (30,000 Rupees) for Calinganali bridge, say	15,000	
Improvements to Sarvapalli project, (portions)	75,000	
Chennur Tanks, say	6,000	
Total...	98,000	

being for twelve months at the rate of 8,166 Rupees per mensem.

2. If we suppose that 81,000 Rupees can judiciously be spent in the first nine months of the official year, (during which time want is likely to be most felt,) there will be 9,000 Rupees available for each of those nine months, and if 5 Rupees per mensem be taken as the needful earnings of each laborer, (certainly not less will suffice in famine time,) only 1,800 men can be provided for. It is quite evident, therefore, that the present grants are far from likely to meet the wants of the famished community.

3. What numbers may resort to the Public Works Department for employment it is difficult to say, but judging from the accounts of former famines, I think we ought to be in a position to give work to at least 15,000 people, or, in other words, to spend 75,000 Rupees per mensem for the next nine months. If so, an allotment of Rupees 6,75,000 should be available, and an establishment for conducting advantageously such an expenditure.

4. Rupees 81,000 may be taken as already provided as above shewn, and I would now, after careful consideration, state, that, if necessary, a further grant of 5,94,000 may be expended; thus—

Gudur and Venkatagiri road...	Rs.	Affording employ to
Nellore and Somaisweram road	25,000*	500 people per month.
Nellore road to Cuddapah by the Dornal Pass... ..	40,000*	900 "
Road from Podalakur to Manubrolu... ..	45,000*	1,000 "
Do. from Oodiagiri to Kaligiri	10,000*	225 "
Do. from Rapur to Venkatagiri	10,000*	225 "
The Sarvapalli project... ..	5,000	110 "
Eastern Coast Canal	1,00,000*	2,200 "
Sangam project	1,20,000*	2,600 "
Minor roads	2,25,000*	5,000 "
Minor Irrigation Works	10,000*	225 "
	4,000	110 "
	5,94,000	13,155 "
Additional ..	1,800	already provided for in the Budget of 1868-69.
	14,955	

5. The estimates for all the works marked with an asterisk are ready. That for the Sangam project will be ready about June next, and if the arrangement of the head-works near Sangam is determined on by Colonels Strachey and Anderson, whom I daily expect here, the work as a famine relief measure may well be commenced. The probable cost of the Sangam scheme will amount to about thirteen lacs, and as the excavation and earth-work will be very great, and it is not far from the Oodiagiri and Rapur talooks, it will be a very convenient work for the purpose.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th March 1868.

6. You will note I have only allowed 4,000* Rupees for minor irrigation works, such as repairs of tanks, &c. My reason for so doing is because such vast works being in progress, it will be quite impossible for this department to efficiently supervise petty scattered works. The chance we have of preventing wasteful expenditure will be by centralizing works as much as possible.

7. Of course if necessity enforces the execution of the works as suggested, suitable establishments for their supervision must be provided. The Sarvapalli project, the Eastern Coast Canal, and Sangam project will require each one Engineer Officer of experience to work under the Range Officers; whilst three or four smart Officers from the Staff Corps (if possible men who have been formerly employed in the Department of Public Works) will be required for superintending the minor road works. This is imperative, as an experienced subordinate staff of Supervisors, measurers, &c., is not obtainable at present even for the current Public Works, and they will have to work under great disadvantages.

8. Should Government sanction this proposed expenditure before the end of March, it may be expected that a very large amount of money, which otherwise probably will be expended in feeding the famished poor, will be advantageously employed in giving them re-productive labor as their vital energies are so exhausted, that work will be impossible to them.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.
2. The Board are disposed to concur with the Collector. The experience of scarcity of 1866 shews that it is rarely necessary to provide labor, beyond the actual demand of a district, for more than, say, 4,000 people, but they trust that in this may not be necessary for Nellore.
3. Several of the works named by the Superintending Engineer, are, however, chargeable to the Road Fund, and the Acting Collector should report whether the allotments for them, in the Budget of 1868-69, may not with advantage be increased. Such grants, however, as Colonel Winscom proposes are quite beyond the means of the Road Fund, and if, unfortunately, it should prove necessary to push on the works to prevent distress, which, however, the Board do not anticipate will be the case, the Board will be compelled to apply to Government for a special grant of Rs.

175. ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1868, No. 643.

Miscellaneous.

The Government observe that in his letter of the 15th ultimo, written ten days later than that now submitted by the Board, Mr. Boswell reported that the demand for labor was sufficient to give suitable employment to as many as were likely to seek it. They trust, therefore, such additional allotments as may be available from the Road Fund Budget for 8-69 will be sufficient to supply employment for the people in Nellore. The Government will, however, be ready to sanction special grants if necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

be Board of Revenue.

S. T. Augustin.

22-6-63.

The Government desire that in his letter
of the 15th ult., ^{written} ten days later than that
now submitted of the Board, Mr. Russell
reported that the demand for labour was
sufficient to give profitable employment
to as many as were likely to seek it, and
that therefore that such additional allot-
ments as might be available from the
Road Fund Budget for 1868-69 will be
sufficient to supply employment for the
people in Malwa. The Government
will however be ready to sanction
special grants if necessary.

4th Mr. R. of Rev. Secy to Govt. 12th March 1868

Reported to England,
No. 14 Mis
17/2/68

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