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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3 117	Press
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Dated	20-11	18 26.
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th November 1876. No. 3,117.*

No. 371. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 30th October 1876, No. 1,530:—

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th October 1876, on letter from the Acting Collector of Nellore, dated 24th October 1876, No. 2,948, reporting on the state of the season in his district.

Extract from a letter from the Acting Collector of Nellore, dated 24th October 1876, No. 2,498.

5. "As to work, of course there is hardly any agricultural labor, and but little of Department Public Works operations in the western taluqs especially for ordinary coolies. Moreover, the Pennair anicut works at Nellore have been recently stopped for want of funds, thereby throwing out of employment a large number of coolies living in or near the town of Nellore. The Municipality of that place is giving a little more work than was formerly the case through having its roads mended by free, instead of by convict, labor; but its resources are small, there not being much more than Rupees 1,000 available for road-mending. The District Engineer is giving all the employment he can upon the East Coast Canal, and there is work for the present in connection with the Pennair embankment, and Irrigation works in the Pennair Delta.

"The part of the district where most hardship is reported is the west centre, embracing Udayagiri and part of the Atmakur and Kavali taluqs. I fear too that the Addanki Range and the Kanigiri taluq similar to or rather worse than Udayagiri in its general features of sterility at any time, and the Venkatagiri Zemindary tracts both in the south-west and north-west of the district are very badly off, and unless a timely fall of rain occurs, relief works will be necessary for them. I am in correspondence with the Sub-Collector and the Dewan of Venkatagiri on the subject. But I am happy to record that hitherto we have not had more than hardship, and not starvation or actual famine.

"Cholera is still lingering about the district, but the fatalities from it have much diminished in the course of the past few weeks."

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

RECORDED.

2. Paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter will be referred to the Department Public Works with a view to the increased employment of labor on the work indicated being ordered.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

No. 372.

ORDER THEREON, 20th November 1876, No. 3,117.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 25.

RECORDED, with reference to G.O.,
No. 3,043, dated 13th November 1876.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.

- " Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
- " Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
- " Revenue Department.
- " Financial Department.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

25

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th October 1876.*

No. 277. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th October 1876:—

Read the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nellore, 24th October 1876, No. 2,948.

I HAVE the honor to report on the state of the season and the relief works in this district.

2. With the exception of some showers up to August and a good fall at the end of that month, we had no rain from the south-west monsoon and but little water in the Pennair. Now we have entered upon the time for the north-east monsoon, and up to date there is hardly the faintest sign of its approach. In fact, judging from the extreme dryness of the atmosphere and the comparative coolness at nights, many, whose experience is entitled to consideration, are doubtful whether rain may not be indefinitely delayed.

3. The condition of the country immediately around Ongole is favorable, the dry crops there being in a flourishing condition. But throughout the rest of the district the state of agriculture is very backward, the acreage under tillage for the month of September 1876 being less by acres 54,206 (assessed at Rs. 98,983) than that for the corresponding period in 1875. And what crops there are, are more or less in bad condition or withering. This applies both to paddy in the south-east and to Aruga, lamp-oil, cotton, and indigo in the west; cholam and raggi (under wells) have not yet been sown; the suzza harvested from well cultivation was very poor.

4. The condition of the cattle is most pitiable from want of pasturage, and if we have no rain shortly, there will be a great mortality amongst them; and I fear the temptation to Mahomedans and Pariahs to eat their flesh may lead to disease amongst the population. Those cattle in the north-west of the district which had been driven to the Nallamalla Hills in the Kurnool District for pasturage have been brought back on account of an outbreak of cattle-disease in that locality.

5. As to work, of course, there is hardly any agricultural labor, and but little of Department Public Works operations in the western taluqs, especially for ordinary coolies. Moreover, the Pennair anicut works at Nellore have been recently stopped for want of funds, thereby throwing out of employment a large number of coolies living in or near the town of Nellore. The Municipality of that place is giving a little more work than was formerly the case, through having its roads mended by free, instead of by convict, labor; but its resources are small, there not being much more than Rs. 1,000 available for road-mending. The District Engineer is giving all the employment he can upon the East-Coast Canal, and there is work for the present in connection with the Pennair embankment and irrigation works in the Pennair Delta.

The part of the district where most hardship is reported is the west centre, embracing Udayagiri and part of the Atmaxur and Kavali Taluqs. I fear, too, that the Addanki Range and the Kanigiri Taluq, similar to or rather worse than Udayagiri, in its general features of sterility at any time and the Venkatagiri Zemindari tracts, both in the south-west and north-west of the district, are very badly off, and unless a timely fall of rain occurs, relief works will be necessary for them. I am in correspondence with the Sub-Collector and the Dewan of Venkatagiri on the subject. But

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Cholera is still lingering about the district, but the fatalities from it have much diminished in the course of the past few weeks.

6. **RELIEF WORKS, Kavali.**—With reference to my letter, Extra No 1, of the 25th August 1876, the road-work at Kaligiri and other minor works in that neighbourhood have been carried on since the beginning of September under the supervision of the Head Assistant Collector and the Tahsildar, and some Rs. 3,500,*

* Out of the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by Government (vide Board's Proceedings, No. 7,509, of the 4th September 1876).

lector, Mr. Power, has just gone out to take charge of the works in this neighbourhood, so as to relieve Mr. Underwood for other duties.

7. **Udayagiri.**—After visiting the Kavali Taluq, as related in my letter, Extra No. 1, of the 25th August 1876, I proceeded to Udayagiri. A then recent fall of rain

† i.e., at the end of August.

for relief work at Udayagiri, where the construction of the new taluq cutcherry is still going on, though there were then as usual a large number of poor Mahomedans unemployed. Recently, however, the Tahsildar has represented the necessity for help near Seetaramapuram, 17 miles north-west of Udayagiri Cusbah, and I have

‡ Out of the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by Government.

construction. The Head Assistant Collector will also proceed thither as soon as he can leave his other work. It may be necessary, also, to give further work on the Duttaloor-Nandipaud road shortly.

8. **Atmakur Taluq.**—There was a cry for work when I reached Atmakur from Udayagiri in the beginning of September, and I arranged with the Tahsildar that, should the season continue unfavorable for a fortnight longer, relief works should be started from about the 26th September, as by that time a real necessity would arise for such work. The employment selected by me as being the most suitable and profitable to Government was the clearing and deepening of the supply-channel of the Atmakur tank. The Board are aware that the improvement of this reservoir has been the subject of discussion for many years. The wet cultivation under the tank has been gradually falling off, and the people complain of its diminution as compared with that when the locality was under the management of the Jaghiredar of Udayagiri. Opinions have differed as to the best plan of improving the water-supply; some engineers preferring a new channel, while others (including, I think I may write, the present District Engineer) are in favor of improving the present channel and its anicut. At any rate, a new channel may cost some Rs. 70,000, and would not be completed probably for some two or three years. I purpose expending Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000 upon our present work according as the season may become more favorable or not; and I trust that this expenditure will not only prove an undoubted suitable means of relief, but also be pecuniarily profitable both to the State and to the ryots of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th October 1876.*

Atmakur. The work is being carried on under the supervision of the Head Assistant Collector and the Tahsildar. I have also sent out a clerk (formerly a Sub-Magistrate and Deputy Tahsildar) and an Accountant of my Office to assist Mr. Underwood. The expenditure up to the present time will be about Rs. 2,500, and will amount to Rs. 4,000 during the fortnight probably.

9. **Gudur Cusbah.**—The want of water has been most grievously felt at this town for some time past. I have, therefore, sanctioned Rs. 400 for improving the water-ponds there as a matter of urgent necessity.

10. Our probable expenditure up to the next fortnight, then, out of the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by Government is as follows:—

	Rs.
1. Kaligiri	3,500
2. Udayagiri	1,000 or 2,000
3. Atmakur	4,500
4. Gudur	400
	<u>9,400 or 10,400</u>

The Atmakur channel-work, under any circumstances, will require some Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,500 more to be spent upon it, so as to finish it satisfactorily.

11. With no immediate prospect of the break of the north-east monsoon, I am therefore compelled to ask for a further grant of Rs. 25,000 to carry on the works noted above to the beginning of December.

Viz., say roughly at works 1, 2, and 3—

1000 coolies (men) at 2 As. 2,000 Annas =	218	12	0	per diem.
1000 " (women and boys) at 1 A. and 6 Pies, 1,500 Annas =	1,531	4	0	per week.
For three weeks...	4,593	12	0	
" five "	22,968	12	0	

ber, and to have ready for expenditure in case distress is reported from other parts of the district, including the immediate neighbourhood of Nellore. I propose to reserve Rs. 1,000 for the relief of any special isolated cases of distress (in the case of old age, sickness, &c). I need hardly add that the money sanctioned will not be expended, except upon the same urgent necessity continuing which now exists. The most strenuous efforts have been made to admit none to work but the really poor, especially those of the "coolly" as distinguished from the "ryot" class, in the belief that the latter, as a rule, could struggle on with the help of their property as security for advances and of their own stock of food-grains.

12. But we have another difficulty threatening us besides want of money, viz., extremely high prices and a want of grain. The most recent quotations for paddy in Nellore are as follow:—

	Rs.
1st sort Paddy per putty	54
2nd sort do	48

In giving work, therefore, we must fix rates proportioned to the high prices of grain. This is being exported in very large quantities to Cuddapah, and the merchants will hardly sell retail to local purchasers, even in the town of Nellore itself. Should our prospects continue so bad as they are at present, and should the merchants, whether from real want of stock of grain, or from a desire to retain the same in their hands for some months more, refrain from selling, I shall propose to set aside theories of political economy which will lead only to starvation or riot, and solicit the Govern-

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th October 1876.

ment to enter the market with their capital and import grain into this district from the northern and eastern parts for sale at a reasonable profit. A suitable agency exists here for the work in the presence of two European merchants with whom probably Government could make arrangements advantageous alike to them and to the public at little loss to the State, and without interfering in a very conspicuous manner with the mercantile community.

13. With my present proposals, I hope the poor of the district may be maintained till the 1st of December. Should the season still continue unfavorable, then I shall have to ask for further and large grants for opening up the roads of the western taluqs and also for the services of two or more special Public Works Department subordinates, as the present Department Public Works staff of the district is already over-worked, though giving what assistance they can. I purpose addressing the Board again on this subject in the course of a fortnight.

14. In conclusion, I record, with much pleasure, the activity and energy shown by the Head Assistant Collector Mr. Underwood and by the Kavali Tahsildar Bashica Charry in connection with relief works.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board sanction a further sum of Rs. 5,000 which will enable the Collector to meet any emergency which may arise; but they think Mr. Sharp takes an unnecessarily gloomy view of the situation in Nellore. There is no reason why the district should not yet receive a favorable monsoon and yield an average harvest. The suggestion that Government should soon enter the market and import grain into the district is one which cannot for a moment be entertained.

3. The attention of Government is requested to the fact (paragraph 5) that large public works have been stopped owing to absence of funds. Funds ought not to be wanting for the prosecution of a work of such importance as the Pennair ancient restoration.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 278.

ORDER THEREON, 30th October 1876, No. 1,530.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

2. Paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter will be referred to the Public

Works Department, with a view to the increased employment of labor on the work indicated being ordered.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Extract from a letter from the City Collector of Nellore dated 27th October 1876 No. 2498 and filed in Board Proceedings dated 27th October 1876 regarding state of season in Nellore district.
18th October 1876
My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the Board of Revenue for their consideration.
I have also the honor to inform you that the Board of Revenue have decided to sanction a further sum of Rs. 5,000 for the purpose of meeting any emergency which may arise.
*I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours faithfully,
H. E. Stokes,
Acting Secretary.*

The East Coast Canal and there is work for
the present in connection with the Pennair em-
bankment, and irrigation works in the Pennair
delta.

The part of the District where most
hardship is reported is the west centre embracing
Udayagiri and part of the Atmakur and Ha-
vali Taluqs. I fear too that the Adambki Range
and the Kanigiri Taluq similar to or rather
worse than Udayagiri in its general features
of sterility at any time, and the Venkatagiri
boundary tracts both in the South West and
North West of the District are very badly off, and
unless a timely fall of rain occurs, relief
works will be necessary for them. I am in
correspondence with the Sub Collector and the
Deewan of Venkatagiri on the subject. But
I am happy to learn that hitherto, we
have not had more than hardships, and
not starvation or actual famines.
Cholera is still lingering about
the District but the fatalities from it have
much

much diminished in the course of the
past few weeks.

/ True Extract /
J. S. [Signature]
Secy. to Govt.

Exd. N

At the same office
in the house
on 1st Decr 7860

Handwritten note

Handwritten note

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue dated 27th October 1876, on letter
from the Dy. Collector of Nellore dated 24th
October 1876 No. 2948, reporting on the state
of the Madras in his district

Order thereon 30th October 1876 No. 1530

2. Recorded
1. Para 5 of the Collector's letter
will be referred to the Department Public Works
with a view to the increased employment of
labor on the work indicated being ordered.

Handwritten notes in margin

True Extract
[Signature]

The Department Public Works
with Extract from para 5 of the Collector's
letter

Ext: 27

Handwritten signature: J. J. [illegible]

Revenue Department

Noted 20th October 1876. S. 1430

Lincoln, Qu.

Forwards Extract
of letter from the Sp. Collector
Hollon, regarding the State
of the season, with a view
to the increased employment
of labor on the work indicated.

№ 3117 д/20-11-1978

Remains with wife

Go W 3043 dated 13.

November, 1870


 May 11/11

Ans: 14-11-76

with order

1870

Genl. of 1870

PUBLIC WORKS.

To P. S. Mallone

21-11

Encl.

C. C. 25th Nov 1870, No. 317

25th Nov 1870

sent no 11/12

Comr. Ancient. Exten.
Genl. Mallone, Esq.

Res. Deane dep. fr.
Boarding Extract from the
being collected before, re.
and say that the Genl. on
may be proceeded
at a further Relief
1870, recorded