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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3132	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	21-11-195	C876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st November 1876. No. 3,132.*

No. 401. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 23rd September 1876, No. 1,331:—

ABSTRACT.—*Relief Works in the Western Taluqs of the Bellary District.*—Confirming the Board's action in sanctioning the grant of Rupees 25,000 for —; awaiting the Collector's further report, and referring paragraph 3 to the Public Works Department for disposal.

No. 402. ORDER THEREON, 21st November 1876, No. 3,132.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 30.

THERE is nothing in the system of Public Works Accounts to prevent as frequent payments being made on any work as may be desirable, provided special agency is set apart for that work, and that agency constituted a disbursing as well as an executive agency. It only requires that the District Engineer and Range Officer shall recognize the emergency of the case, and make their arrangements accordingly, taking on themselves perhaps a slight responsibility in the first instance; which can be got rid off at once on application to higher authority.

2. Neither the District Engineer nor the Range Officer appear in this case to have apprehended the necessity for special arrangements and departure from routine. The latter has since been reported as totally unfit for range charge, and has been remanded by the Chief Engineer to the rank of Overseer.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Revenue Department.
„ District Engineer, Bellary.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd September 1876.*

No. 255. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1876, No. 2,382:—

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Hadgally, 11th September 1876, No. 342:—

In continuation of my letter, No. 282, dated 2nd ultimo, I have the honor to report that I have myself visited the western taluqs, and I regret to say that I find matters worse even than I had anticipated.

Vide Board's Proceedings, No. 2,007, dated 7th August 1876, and Board's Mis. No. 7,308, dated the 25th idem,

2. I enclose a sketch-map of the two taluqs of Huvinhadgally and Hurpunhully, in which the villages where distress exists are marked.

3. The first or dry crop was pretty generally sown in the month of June, in the early part of which month we were favored with showers of rain. Since then, however, except in a few localities, the fall of rain has not only been partial, but not sufficient, on any one occasion, to penetrate the soil. The tanks, excepting a very few in the south-eastern corner of Hurpunhully, are, large and small, dry. These few which do contain water received a supply in May and June.

4. The principal crop is cholum. It should by right be coming into ear this month. The stalk, however, instead of being six and eight feet high is stunted, sometimes two feet high sometimes a little more. But what is most grievous is, that just at this crisis, when if the grain formed, a return of some kind would be obtained, the blade is over a very large area drying up altogether.

5. No rain could do any good to fields where this state of things exists. The consequence of the absence of rain is that there is no field work going on at all; and although cholum is not sold as yet at a dearer rate than sixteen seers per rupee, yet those who are experienced say that distress is greater than it was in 1866, when grain was much dearer.

6. One reason for this is said to be that ten years ago the ryots had, on account of the high price of cotton then obtaining, more money in hand to fall back upon than they have now. However it is, the present distress affects all classes, not only the laboring classes. Goldsmiths are to be seen at the relief works, and in one instance a Village Reddy with all the members of his family was only too glad to be allowed to work. The general rate paid is one anna and a half for a man, and one anna for a woman.

7. I entered the taluq of Hurpunhully from the east and halted first at Chigatari. A relief work in the shape of a road through the village had been set in hand, and there were some seventy persons out of employ. At my door, a village a little to the north, work had also been put in hand for some fifty persons.

For the villages of Bennyhully, Band, Lolaishwaram and others, nothing had been then done, but road work was directed to be commenced.

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23rd September 1876.*

8. I then proceeded to Arsekerra and Oochingydroog, at which places and in the villages surrounding them I found the crops looking better. The tanks had a certain amount of water in them, and no great distress was visible.

9. But within a very few miles of these places, I came upon villages which the Tahsildar had previously reported to be in a sad plight—Raggy, Mussulwada, Teligi, Joladacutta, Wuddarahully, Doogawatty, Bakyeutty, &c. A well was being repaired at the first place, and at Doogawatty one was being dug. Road-work was going on at Teligi, to which place the laborers from neighbouring villages congregated. At Allagilwada well-work was going on.

10. At Hurpunhully itself, which has a large laboring population, the pressure was the greatest. Work in the shape of making roads in the village and filling up pits had been provided, but that was soon got through. The people are now employed in excavating a supply channel to the Hurpunhully large tank; it is expected that this may afford employment for a few weeks; but if the number of laborers increases in the ratio it has been doing, this too will soon be finished. I did not go to the kusbah myself, as there could be no doubt of the existence of distress there, and I had to get into the extreme south-western corner of the Hadgally Taluq, round the range of hills near Haluagal and Karrabaguly. I may mention, however, that when work was, on the 22nd July, first commenced at the kusbah of Hurpunhully, 150 persons presented themselves for employment, and by the last report, on the 9th instant, work has to be found for 1,100 persons.

11. The first village visited in the Hadgally Taluq was Hollal. Here some 320 people were employed in deepening a large bondam or reservoir. This work was commenced on the 28th July. When it is completed, a road is to be made to Mylar, a distance of some three miles.

12. The next stage brought me to Heerahadgally, about which place and Magalam the crops failed so completely last year. Work was commenced here on the 27th July. A road had been made in the village, a well had been deepened, and 590 persons were engaged, when I saw them, in deepening a "gunta," or small tank. When that work is completed, a road will be commenced towards Magalam, six miles off.

13. At Magalam things were very bad; people crowding to the works which had been commenced on the 23rd July. A road had been made from the village to the River Toongabudra, some three-fourths of a mile in length; another had been made in like manner to the point where the ferry is: and when I saw them, some 650 men and women were employed in making a road towards Heerahadgally, to meet that which is to be made from that place. Numbers of people from the surrounding villages are benefited by this work.

14. I then came on to this place, the head-quarters of the taluq. A road has been marked out from this to Holagondy, a distance of some four miles and a half. It was commenced on the 31st July with seventy-seven coolies. The next week they numbered 463, the next 367, the next 732, till now the number at work is 1,456. Of course the four miles and a half of road work was soon finished: and now a road to the bank of the River Toongabudra at Madalicutta, on the way to Moondrigy, is being marked out. This is a distance of seven miles. When this is

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23rd September 1876.*

finished, it is proposed to employ them on a large tank at Moodanoor, some two miles; hence, as it requires a good deal of earthwork.

15. I may mention that it has been impossible to furnish any of these gangs of laborers with tools. They, therefore, bring their own; the condition of being employed being that a man must have a pickaxe or a momaty and a woman a basket. They are only too glad to comply with this condition, even though they receive so small a remuneration; I have applied to the Department of Public Works for tools.

16. The willingness of the people to accept so small a remuneration is, I think, a test of the existence of real distress. Of course they clamour for more, but when told that they must be content, they submit immediately, only entreating that work may be continued to be provided for them till rain falls. The poor creatures are most grateful for the relief which is being afforded.

17. A grant of 12,000 Rupees was sanctioned in the Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, No. 6,417, dated the 28th July last. This has all been distributed and more besides. A sum of Rupees 2,000 was sent to each of the taluqs of Kudligi, Hurpunhully, and Hadgally, Rupees 3,800 were repaid to the District Engineer for the money he gave out of last year's grant for roads which was at his disposal, and a sum of Rupees 4,000 has now been sent again to each of the taluqs of Hurpunhully and Hadgally. A rough statement of the expenditure in two* taluqs up to date is

* For Hurpunhully will follow.

enclosed, and I beg most earnestly that a further grant of Rupees 25,000 may be made for the western taluqs.

18. I do not take into calculation at present the sums granted for the Sub-division, and for the Head Assistant's Division: as out of the Rupees 10,000 allowed for the former, Rupees 7,000 have or are being utilized, and out of the Rupees 7,000 allowed for the latter, arrangements have been made, as will be seen by my letter of to-day's date to the Board, for the utilization of between five and six thousands.

19. It may be asked what is being done upon the two lines of road under the charge of the Public Works Department, opened as so-called relief works last year, viz., from Humpasagar to Hollal, and from Oojiuny *via* Cottoor to Soovainhully. Coolies will not go in any number on these roads, because they say they only get paid when they are weeks and sometimes months in arrears. I have written to the District Engineer to ask what there is in the system obtaining in his department which causes this state of things, and asking him if he cannot remedy it. Meanwhile we cannot depend upon those roads as relief works in times of emergency, such as the present.

20. I beg to enclose copies of letters from the Deputy Collector in charge of the division, Venkatachellam Puntulu, lately received. He has been on circuit lately all through his division; and was only prevented doing this before, by my requesting him to undertake a special inquiry at Kudligi, into a case in which two Revenue Inspectors were charged with fraud in the execution of certain works carried on under the direction of the Local Fund Board of the Bellary Circle.

*Note
Extracted and
sent with Memo
No. 1161 of 3.10.76
to D. F. Bellary.*

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23rd September 1876.*

21. A statement prepared according to the form laid down in the Proceedings of the Board, No. 1,807, dated the 14th July last, is enclosed; but I do not pretend to say it is very accurate. Estimates are most uncertain things, prepared in the hurry they have to be made out, under present circumstances, by inexperienced persons.

22. The Tahsildars of the two taluqs, K. Venkoba Row and H. Ragavendra Row, are exerting themselves energetically at the present crisis, and the people evidently feel confidence in them; but it is hard work, for with their extended criminal powers, they must find it difficult to move about as much as they otherwise ought to do. If distress continues, I must ask for additional hands. At present funds are entrusted to the Reddy and Curnam of the villages where work is going on. Lists of coolies are kept as vouchers. It is absolutely necessary to make daily payments. These are superintended at the kusbali stations by the Tahsildar or Sheristadar, whoever may be present.

23. As yet distress is confined to the western portion of the taluq of Hadgally.

24. I beg to enclose letters from the divisional officer on the subject.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 6—Copies of Reports of Divisional Officers.

ENCLOSURE No. 7—Sketch-map.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 8 to 10.—Statements.

The above report as to the distress existing in the western taluqs of Bellary shows that it is becoming serious; and that if the north-east monsoon rains are not copious, work will have to be found in the coming dry season for many thousand people. The report will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The measures which the Collector has adopted to meet the present need seem judicious and are approved. He states that the sum of Rupees 25,000 is urgently wanted at once for relief works in these taluqs; and the Board resolves, in anticipation of the sanction of Government, to inform him by telegraph that that sum is at his disposal.

3. The attention of Government is called to the fact that the Public Works Department work is useless for relief purposes, because the officers of the department cannot disburse the hire of the laborers every day. The Board, however, are in favor of employing district officers as much as possible in the supervision of famine works, relieving them as far as this can be done of their ordinary routine duties. If matters get worse in Bellary it will be necessary to strengthen the district staff. Meanwhile it might be advisable to relieve the Tahsildars of their Magisterial work, and so set them free to devote themselves to supervising and organizing operations for famine relief. If the Collector thinks this necessary and feels the want of assistance, the Board will gladly support any arrangements he may propose to this end.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd September 1876.*

No. 256.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd September 1876, No. 1,331.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's action, in sanctioning the grant of Rs. 25,000 asked for by the Collector, is approved and confirmed. The Collector's further report is awaited.

2. Paragraph 3 will be disposed of in the Department of Public Works.
(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Financial Department.

Edw. F. R. Bantleman.

Q827-10-75 No 181.
 " 31-3-76 - 828.
 " 11-5-76 - 1171.
 " 28-9-76 - 1372 Rev. & Def.
 Che 7279 & 8111

P. W. 1878 Department
 P. 7083

Public Works in the Western Towns of the Bellary District.—Confirming the Board's action, in forwarding the report of Rs. 25,000 for—: and awaiting the Collector's further report; and returning the report to the Public Works Department for disposal.

SEPTEMBER.
 Nos. 255-256.

3rd September 1876, No. 1331.

Post September, 1876.
 Post Bellary B.

TO
 THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
 &c., &c., &c.

CONF. OF 1876
 REVENUE.

Memo: No. 1461 dated 3. 10. 76,
 (See extra para 9 of Collector's letter No. 342 dated 11. 9. 76 printed in Rev. Order No. 1331 dated 27. 9. 76. —)

In forwarding the accompanying Extract of para 19 of letter 342 of 11. 9. 76 from the Collector of Bellary, the Chief Engineer has the honor to request that an immediate report may be submitted as to why daily payments cannot be arranged for, the Range Officers and overseers being if necessary ordered to make their head quarters on the Roads while the distress lasts. It should be reported what funds are now in hand for famine relief works and on what portions of roads they have to be spent.

Sy. S. W. W.

Not accompanied.

D. Engineer Bellary with Extract

Ans 17-11-76.

No 3132 Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 21. 10. 76
 Read the following:—

Proc. of the Madras Govt. } (P.W. No. 1331 of 23 Sept 76)
 Revenue Department

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-viation from routine.

Apr 17-11-76.

She

The latter has since been
reported as totally unfit
for Range Charge; and
has been remanded
by the Chief Engineer
to the rank of Overseer.

C.M.W.

To the Rev. Secretary in the Hon. Secy.
St. George Bellary

Recd

Ms. No. 28-11-76

7083

Gobi. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Revenue Department

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G.O. 21st Feb. 1876, No. 5152

Mrs.

Public Works
Salary - Salary - Salary
on the subject of the pay -
- sent by P.W. officials
in account of -